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- 5 HVAC Emergencies

**2025  
Meeting Dates**

## 2025

### March 12<sup>th</sup> (Wed.)

Board Mtg & Gen. Mtg.

#### TOOL TIME

#### “New COOL Stuff”

Speakers: HBB Pro  
R.A. Benedict Sales Co.  
Rosedale Technical College

### April 10<sup>th</sup>

Board Mtg & Gen. Mtg  
**Mueller Streamline Co.**

Speaker: Matthew  
Barbour

Place: TBD

### May 8<sup>th</sup>

Board Mtg & Gen. Mtg  
**ACCWPA Apprentice  
Graduation**

Speaker: TBD

Place: TBD



*The mission of the Air Conditioning Contractors of Western PA is to assist its members in managing their companies more efficiently, therefore becoming more profitable, together with increasing their exposure and credibility within the community.*

## ACCWPA March 12, 2025

# TOOL TIME!

## “New COOL Stuff”

HBB PRO - Bruce Houck

R.A. Benedict Sales Co – Andy Benedict

Tour of ACCWPA’s Apprenticeship School!

## Wednesday, March 12th

**Rosedale Technical College**

215 Beecham Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205-9791

“The Shoebox” meeting room.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US!!!

**ACCWPA is the Professional Alliance  
designed exclusively for today’s HVAC/R  
Contractor!**



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Air Conditioning Contractors Western Pennsylvania

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PITTSBURGH.....	952 Noblestown Rd. ....	412-922-0500
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# ACCWPA

Air Conditioning Contractors Western Pennsylvania

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Next General Meeting - \$90.00

## 5 HVAC Emergencies & How to Avoid Them

Do you suspect that your building may be having heating or ventilation problems? Whether you are experiencing issues now or are working on HVAC emergency planning, learning to identify common problems in your HVAC system can help you be more proactive to your facility's climate control needs.

### 1. Refrigerant Leak

Air conditioning systems use refrigerant to absorb heat and provide your system with cooled air. The refrigerant lines run between the compressor in the outside unit and the evaporator coils in the indoor unit. A leak in this line would cause a loss of refrigerant which could have a negative impact on your system. It will start running more frequently because it is not reaching the cooled ambient temperature that would trigger it to stop. This could cause your compressor to overheat or even burn out. Ice buildup on your lines and coils could cause system damage as well.

Signs of a refrigerant leak may include:

- The air coming from the vents is not as cool as it should be
- System is overrunning.
- Ice buildup on refrigerant lines
- Refrigerant lines are hissing.

Routine checks of your coils, refrigerant lines and compressor can help spot a leak before it causes damage to your system and in some cases prevent a leak before it starts. If you suspect a leak, you can use refrigerant leak detection to help identify the source before it worsens.

### 2. Clogged Lines

Air conditioning units build drain lines into the system to drain off water from the evaporator coil. Water can accumulate from the condensation that occurs naturally by the air conditioning process. Sometimes these drain lines can become clogged or blocked, which can cause a water backup into or around your system. A backup could mean serious water damage, especially if the clog goes unchecked for a long time. This isn't just water damage to your system, but water damage to your building as well.

Signs of a clogged drain line may include:

- Water leaking from indoor unit.
- Dampness in the air
- Mold or rust on or near the unit

Inspect your drain pan and the area around your indoor unit on a monthly basis. Annual flushing of the drain may help prevent clogs before they begin and help keep your system running properly.

### 3. Ventilation Problems

Common ventilation problems are often found in the air ducts. Items creating blockages in your facility's ductwork will prevent your heated or cooled air from distributing properly throughout the building. Causes of blockages in ducts include loose or fallen insulation and dirt, or dirty coils and filters. Ducts can also become damaged and leak conditioned air, making the system less effective overall. It is also possible for your vents to become blocked. Blockages are often caused by a piece of furniture or equipment being placed on or in front of the vent, though it is possible for debris to get stuck in the vents and cause an obstruction as well.

Signs of duct problems may include:

- Uneven temperatures among your facility's space
- Unit running more than usual
- Lower overall indoor air quality

Continued on page 5

ACCWPA  
Corner



*Integrity is the  
essence of  
everything  
successful.*

**PEACE, LOVE  
and JOY  
thru out 2025!**

SmartWords  
One Kind  
Word can  
change  
someone's  
entire day!

**Inspiration**





## Not a Contractor or Associate member?

We'd love to serve you, too.

For additional information visit

[www.accwpa.org](http://www.accwpa.org)

or call 724-687-7860

Email: [pforker@accwpa.org](mailto:pforker@accwpa.org)

### Additional reasons for membership are:

- Company membership applies to all employees of your firm.
- **NEW!! Contractors Free Associate Membership in Service RoundTable!!**
- Networking!!!
- Monthly meetings with informative presentations that benefit both the Contractor and Supplier.
- Relevant technical training and educational classes.
- 4-year Apprenticeship School with curriculum that is focused only on the HVAC industry!
- Monthly newsletters and email communications filled with industry information and updates.
- Insurance for member's company discount.
- Social Outings that everyone can participate
- And much more to come!



**Join today!**

**ACCWPA is the Professional Alliance designed exclusively for today's HVAC/R Contractor!**

## 2024\* - 2025

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Tom Baney – 412-920-6505



# 5 HVAC Emergencies & How to Avoid them

Continued from page 3

Before turning on your system, check your vent locations to make sure they are clear of obstructions. You can also remove the vent covers and perform preventive sight checks of your duct system to ensure it is clear of debris.

## 4. Electrical Problems

If your system is not running, it could be that there is an interruption in the electrical system somewhere. The first place to check is always your breaker; it is very possible your unit has blown a fuse. Contactors are also a frequent culprit for electrical problems. Sometimes the contactor may stick, keeping the unit running. Contactors can also become worn, which can prevent electrical connections from being made and the current from making its full circuit.

Signs of an electrical problem may include:

- System not turning on
- System running continuously
- Burning smell

Routine maintenance of your electrical components can help prevent electrical problems. It's important to regularly maintain your system by changing out worn parts and frayed or damaged wires.

## 5. Gas Leak

Of all heating problems, a gas leak can be the most dangerous. If your heating system runs on natural gas, you can be at risk for a gas leak. Leaks are usually caused by a crack or a break in the gas line. These should always be taken seriously and fixed immediately; gas leaks can and do cause explosions.

Signs of a gas leak may include:

- Smell of gas or rotting egg

Professional HVAC contractors should offer inspections that include checking your gas lines for potential hazards. Heading off a leak before it starts is the best measure of safety and success.

## Preventive HVAC Maintenance

Inspect your system annually, during the off-season, if possible, to make sure it is in its best running condition. Fixing heating problems or ventilation problems when the system is not in use can enable you to make any necessary upgrades without causing an interruption in your facility's climate-control needs.

Preventive maintenance can help the system achieve maximum efficiency, and as well as help you avoid replacing your HVAC system before it's necessary.

For more information about HVAC emergency prevention and services visit Grainger's Facility Services.

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# Misc. Info . . . .

Every Job is a

**SELF-  
PORTRAIT**

Of the Person  
who does it.  
Autograph your  
work  
with  
Excellence!

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will continue to be your local industry partner,  
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- ACCWPA Apprenticeship School
- Voice for the local contractors
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- Education opportunities for your technicians  
office staff
- Advocacy agenda promote contractor interest.
- Labor and HR legal advice before utilities
- Helping members to stay ahead of the curve
- 8 Monthly informative meetings



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Bruce Houck

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Andy Benedict

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215 Beecham Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205-9791

“The Shoebox” meeting room.

Watch for your March Newsletter for more information!!

## Upcoming Meetings!

### 2025

#### Meetings Schedule!

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Speaker: Matthew Barbour

Place: TBD

**May 8<sup>th</sup>**

Board Mtg & Gen. Mtg

ACCWPA Apprentice

Graduation

Speaker: TBD

Place: TBD

**June 12<sup>th</sup>**

Board Mtg &

**SOCIAL OUTING**

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Silence, Let  
Success makes  
the Noise!**



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## ACCWPA is the Professional Alliance designed exclusively for today's HVAC/R Contractor!

### Membership Advantages:

Networking with other contractors. This source of information is invaluable in handling problems within your own company. ACCWPA members help fellow members to be successful!



ACCWPA distributes ACCWPA Newsletters monthly to members and selected non-members, so that all those in the HVAC/R industry can keep informed of issues regarding our trade, and Chapter activities. We hope the non-members will see this newsletter as an example of the quality services that ACCWPA provide.

Contributions or suggestions can be emailed to [pforker@accwpa.org](mailto:pforker@accwpa.org)

ACCWPA is proud to be a Service Roundtable Affiliate Associate.



#### ACCWPA Upcoming Events

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**Graduation**

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Place: TBD

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