



Green Capacity Building

Background:

A firestop, or fireblock, is a passive fire protection system of various components used to seal openings and joints in fire-resistance rated wall and floor assemblies. Unprotected openings or plumbing and electrical penetrations void the fire-resistance ratings of floors and walls, allowing spread of fire past the limits of the fire safety plan of the entire buildings. Firestops are designed to restore the fire-resistance ratings of wall and floor assemblies by impeding the spread of fire through the opening by filling the openings with fire resistant materials. Chick Of All Trades is currently providing firestop and acoustical caulk services at the Edith Green / Wendell Wyatt Modernization Project in downtown Portland.

Chick Of All Trades is a **woman and minority-owned business** created in 2005 by Val Solorzano. Her original goal was to help homeowners with small home improvement projects. Since then, the company has grown and while much of the focus today is on weatherization upgrades for homeowners and firestopping, Chick of All Trade's has another division called C.O.A.T. Flagging that specializes in traffic control and flagging for contractors.

How the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Project Helped:

As the project was beginning, Howard S. Wright recognized the firestopping scope for the electrical and mechanical subcontractors on the EGWW project as a good small business opportunity. EGWW team members were already aware of Val Solorzano's strong reputation for providing traffic control and weatherization services in the Pacific Northwest construction industry. When approached about the idea of adding a new construction service to Chick Of All Trades repertoire, Val eagerly jumped at the opportunity. Howard S. Wright, Dynalectric, and McKinstry coached and mentored Val along the way including introductions to products and vendors.

Chick Of All Trades has hired 5 new employees to perform fire caulking work and has trained 1 existing employees, including Val, in this skill. Most are still employed.



Val Solorzano, owner and founder of Chick Of All Trades & C.O.A.T. Flagging.

Chick Of All Trades has developed business relationships with many new vendors through this venture. Two of which used specifically for this project are:

- 3M, a Fortune 200 corporation headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota, manufactures the fire proof materials and caulking systems used by Chick Of All Trades at EGWW.
- Acme Construction Supply is 3M's distributor in Portland and is a local family owned business. Both vendors will continue to be used as suppliers and training resources.

The Results:

Chick Of All Trades is now bidding and performing firestop services on commercial construction projects in the Pacific Northwest.

FAST FACTS

Project: Renovate GSA's Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt federal building creating a high performance green building consistent with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) intention.

Location: Portland, Oregon

Impacts: Opportunity for local small businesses, workers, families, commuters, and students.

Contract Value: \$219,277

Company: Chick Of All Trades, Firestopping, Weatherization, and Traffic Control, (503)-467-6386
www.chickofalltrades.com

Partners: Howard S. Wright, SERA Architects, McKinstry, Dynalectric