

# INDUSTRY MESSAGE



## Mechanical Insulation and Fire Protection

As I write this message, the residents of Maui are dealing with the devastation of their beautiful island, the result of deadly wildfires that whipped through the island in a matter of hours. Just a few months ago, in March, the National Insulation Association held its Annual Convention on Maui near Lahaina, the historic town and former capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom. We gathered with our colleagues and families to enjoy Maui's amazing beaches, to go whale-watching, to experience the culture and spirit of hospitality of the Hawaiian people, and to walk along Lahaina's charming Front Street. Today, we face the reality that Lahaina has been nearly burned to the ground.

As I take stock midway through my NIA Presidency, the wildfires on Maui are front of mind. I have been concentrating on my passions in this industry, telling my story. I have been focusing on the challenges of small business contracting, on energy conservation and decarbonization over the long term, on college basketball and family legacies. The distressing situation on Maui provides some perspective—and it is a reminder of how quickly things can change in the very short term, and how important fire prevention and suppression are to our society.

It likely will be a while before we fully understand how the Maui wildfires could have been prevented or mitigated. Although mechanical insulation may not be a major piece of the Maui story, fire protection is an important aspect of our industry. Mechanical insulation is a vital component of fire protection in buildings and can significantly impact the severity of fire damage. Many insulation products and installed mechanical insulation/firestopping systems assist with controlling fire endurance and spread, and, as such, provide valuable time for evacuation and response, saving lives.

It will be a long road to recovery for Lahaina and its residents, who so warmly welcomed us in March. NIA included ways to help Maui's residents in the August *E-News Bulletin*. Let's come together to support and assist them in this process. And as mechanical insulators, let's be vigilant in doing our part in protecting our structures and each other from future catastrophic fire events.

Let's be **Better Together**,

Laura Dover  
President  
National Insulation Association