

# TECHNICAL SERVICES BULLETIN

## REPAIRING DAMAGE/DEFECTS IN THE 2 ½ HOUR ME AREA SEPARATION FIREWALL SYSTEM

The 2 ½ hour fire rated ME Area Separation Firewall System was released to the industry in March 2022 as a way to isolate sound and protect from fire two (2) separate living units in townhomes, twin homes, duplexes, condominiums and apartments. At times during the installation of the ME ASF system, mistakes are made or damage occurs to this assembly, and for that reason American Gypsum performed a full scale fire test per ASTM E119, with repairs to defects in this wall system. (Report - WFCi 21080)

Below is one of the defects that was built into American Gypsum's ME Area Separation Firewall System (UL design V344), and if needed how to successfully repair it in the field to ensure that the 2 ½ hour fire rating is preserved.

<b>DAMAGE OR DEFECT:</b>	<b>CORNER DAMAGE TO 1/2" M-BLOC® EKCEL® TYPE X with MOLD &amp; MOISTURE RESISTANCE</b>
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**ISSUE:** At times during installation of the 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard with Mold & Moisture Resistance panel(s) into the ASW framing system, a corner of a panel or panels will sustain damage which is ignored or not detected by the installers. This damage will compromise the integrity of the 2 ½ hour fire rating.

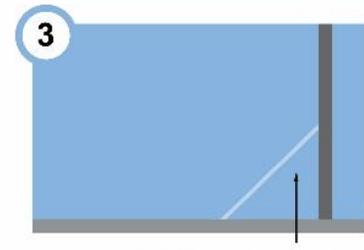
- REPAIR:**
- ❑ Cut out the damaged corner of 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard (out of no more than 2 panels, and no greater than 7" in height & width)
  - ❑ Cut out a replacement piece(s) of 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard to fill the voided area, and insert into the ASW framing system. There is an allowance for up to a 1/2" gap between the replacement piece and the originally installed panels. It may be necessary to flatten the C-Runner bottom track to insert replacement piece(s), and then push track back into place.
  - ❑ Fill any gap - up to 1/2" in width, with 3M Fire Barrier Sealant CP 25 WB+ fire caulk
  - ❑ Place a minimum 12" x 12" piece of 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard over the damaged area.
  - ❑ Attach one (1) side of the drywall patch to the vertical H-stud with 1-1/4" drywall screws, with bottom drywall screw placed approximately 2-1/2" above bottom of the wall
  - ❑ Along top and bottom edges of this patch secure with 1-1/2" Type G laminating screws, spaced 6" o/c to the 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard.
  - ❑ Once drywall patch is in place, apply fire caulking around its perimeter.



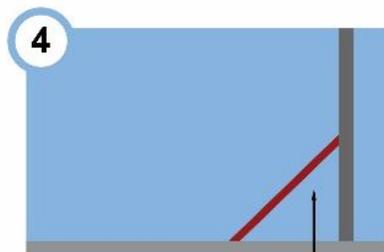
1  
Damage to corner of  
1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard



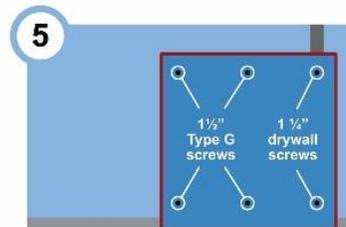
2  
Cut out and remove damaged area  
(no more than 7" in width & height)



3  
Insert cut piece(s) of 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel  
Type X wallboard into the voided  
area, with no more than a 1/2" gap



4  
Fill gap with 3M Fire Barrier Sealant  
CP 25WB+ fire caulk



5  
Place minimum 12" x 12" drywall patch  
of 1/2" M-Bloc Ekcel Type X wallboard  
over area, securing with screws and  
apply 3M Fire Barrier Sealant CP  
25WB+ to perimeter