

Newsletter Issue: September 2026



Upcoming Webinar: Attic Ventilation
September 1st 2026 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

By the end of this course, home inspectors should be able to:

1. Identify common attic ventilation systems and components.
2. Understand the basic building science behind attic ventilation.
3. Recognize signs of poor, blocked, inadequate, or improper attic ventilation.
4. Understand how ventilation affects moisture, heat, roof performance, insulation, and indoor air quality.
5. Report attic ventilation concerns clearly, accurately, and within the scope of a home inspection.

INDUSTRY HEADLINES

One of the most significant changes in 2026 occurred in Utah. The state created a new **Private Home Inspector license classification**, with applications becoming available on May 1, 2026. Applicants must hold an active national certification from an approved organization, such as the American Society of Home Inspectors, the International Association of Certified Home Inspectors or the International Code Council. Applicants must also document at least \$500,000 in general liability insurance and \$500,000 in errors and omissions insurance.

 Inspector Story of the Month

During a recent home inspection, tubing consistent with an underground oil storage tank was observed. Although the presence of fill or vent piping does not confirm that a tank remains underground, it may indicate a previously installed or abandoned tank. Buyers should consult local records and have the property evaluated by a qualified oil-tank or environmental specialist before closing, as leaking tanks can result in costly soil contamination and cleanup. Jim



Takeaway for Inspectors

- You may not come across this issue very often, but as home inspectors we expect the unexpected.

As home inspectors, we don't just check boxes — we protect people, one observation at a time.

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Inspection software leadership change — July 8, 2026

Chris Schuld, one of the original founders of Inspection Support Network, returned to lead engineering across several major inspection platforms, including ISN, Palmtech and Home Inspector Pro. The announcement suggests continued investment in automation, reporting software and AI-assisted inspection workflows.



Two recalls you want to know about.

1) DuraTrac Stainless-Steel Gas Connectors

Approximately 196,800 DuraTrac stainless-steel gas appliance connectors were recalled on March 26, 2026, because a manufacturing defect could allow gas to leak and create a fire hazard. The recalled connectors have a yellow DuraTrac label, state “Made in Thailand,” and have CSA file number 259973 engraved on the flare nuts. Manufacturing codes associated with the recall include 24D, 25A, 25B and 25C. Inspectors should avoid moving or disturbing flexible gas connectors and recommend evaluation by a qualified gas-service professional when identification markings appear to match the recall.

2) VST Tankless Water Heaters

VESTA.DS recalled approximately 36,700 VST gas-fired tankless water heaters because the internal exhaust duct can crack and allow combustion gases to enter the home, creating a serious carbon-monoxide hazard. The recall includes certain VT, VR and VR Plus series units sold from May 2017 through July 2025. The manufacturer received 33 reports of cracked exhaust ducts. Inspectors who observe one of these water heaters should record the model and serial numbers, verify that functional carbon-monoxide alarms are present and recommend confirmation of the recall status and repair by a qualified technician.

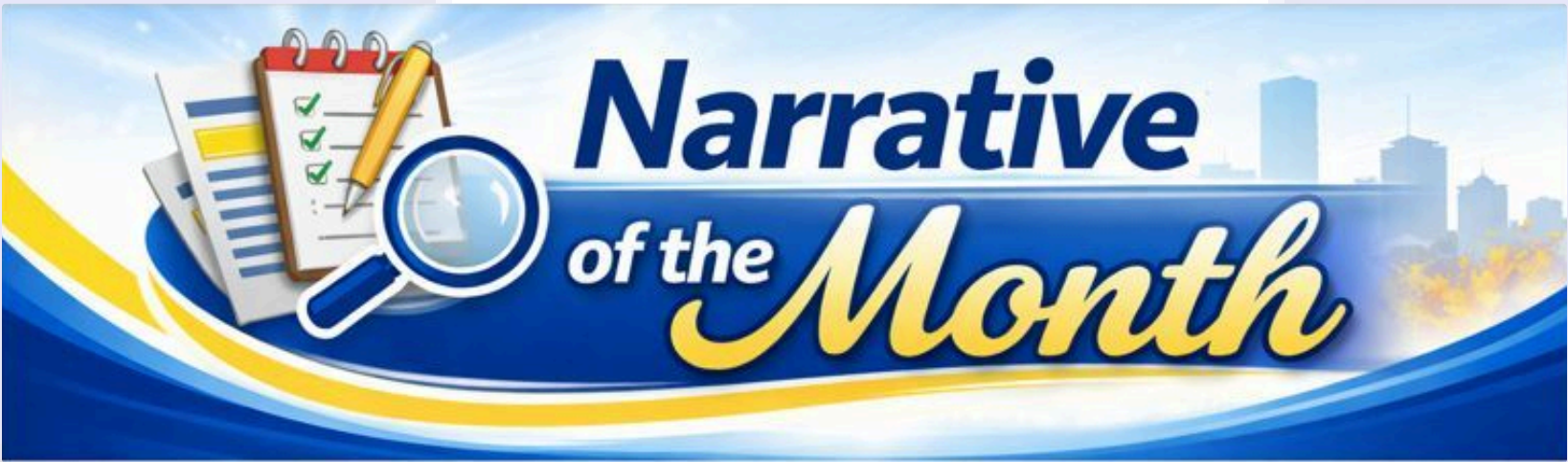
Inspector takeaway: Home inspectors are not required to determine recall status, but when a recalled brand or model may be present, it is good practice to document the data plate, recommend the client verify the model and serial number with the manufacturer or CPSC, and recommend evaluation/repair by a qualified HVAC or plumbing contractor.

Law Webinars

We are proud to offer the **Connecticut, New Jersey and Rhode Island Law and Regulations Webinar**, these state-approved continuing education course designed specifically for licensed home inspectors. Credits that home inspectors must earn to maintain their license. [Purchase Now](#)

Save the Date!

Cornerstone Home Inspector Education Center will hold its **In-Person Law Seminar on January 6, 2027**. Additional information regarding the location, schedule, registration, and continuing-education credits will be provided soon.



HOME INSPECTION NARRATIVE: Possible Underground Oil Tank

Observation: Tubing consistent with the fill and/or vent piping of a possible underground oil storage tank was observed at the property.

Implication: The presence of this tubing may indicate that an underground oil tank is currently present or was previously installed and abandoned. Underground tanks can leak and may result in soil contamination, environmental concerns, and significant removal or remediation costs.

Recommendation: I recommend reviewing available municipal and property records and having the area evaluated by a qualified oil-tank removal or environmental contractor before closing. Further investigation may include tank locating, soil testing, and confirmation that any abandoned tank was properly removed or closed in accordance with applicable requirements.

Limitation: The presence, location, condition, and contents of any underground tank cannot be confirmed as part of a visual home inspection.

FROM THE DESK OF STAN BAJERSKI

Old Homes

New England’s older homes also continue to create unique challenges for inspectors. Common concerns include outdated electrical systems, aging plumbing, older heating equipment, foundation movement, moisture intrusion, buried oil tanks and previous renovations that may not meet current standards. Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut were recently identified among states where buyers may face an elevated risk of hidden property defects, largely because of older housing and harsh seasonal conditions.

The takeaway for inspectors is clear: remain current with state standards of practice, maintain detailed inspection agreements and reports, and continue explaining the value and limitations of a visual inspection. As regulations and real estate practices evolve, knowledgeable and properly trained inspectors will remain an essential part of protecting New England homebuyers.