

Newsletter Issue: April 2026



Upcoming Webinar: State Water Heaters Speaker Dan Costa Apr. 27th 2026 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Dan, will cover water heaters and issues to inspect.

INDUSTRY HEADLINES

Waive Inspections Catch the Attention of State Governments

This article discusses growing concerns among real estate professionals and state lawmakers about buyers and sellers choosing to **waive home inspection contingencies** in competitive housing markets. REALTOR® associations and legislators are paying closer attention to this trend, as it can leave buyers vulnerable to costly hidden defects and undermine the traditional home inspection process. [Click Here](#)

Inspector Story of the Month

I inspected a home in New Britain, Connecticut. The heating system was converted from oil to gas 20 years ago. The photo is showing a puff back from the old oil system. The home was never cleaned. Jim



Takeaway for Inspectors

- **How to Identify.**
 1. Black, powdery, or greasy soot around the burner housing, access doors, or inspection ports
 2. "Shadow" marks on nearby walls or ceilings
 3. Soot accumulation that looks like it was "blown" outward
- **Document and explain.** Clear notes and photos help your clients understand what you saw — and why it matters.
- **Limitation of Inspection.** Document, Document, Document.

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

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Industry Expansion in New England

LaunchPad Home Group, a national provider of residential inspection services, announced its expansion into the Northeast with the **acquisition of two well-established New England inspection firms: RJ Home Inspections (Greater Boston) and Sherwood Inspection Services (Connecticut).** This reflects industry consolidation and growing corporate interest in the region's inspection market.



Gas/Electric Packaged HVAC Units — Trane & American Standard

- Certain **gas/electric packaged HVAC units** sold under Trane and American Standard brand names were recalled due to a **fuel gas valve defect** that can open unexpectedly, causing a **gas leak and fire hazard.**
- Owners are advised to **stop using the heating mode** and schedule a free inspection and repair. [Link](#)

Combi Boilers — IBC Technologies (Burn Hazard)

- CX Series combi boilers (various models) were recalled due to a **burn hazard** when certain internal mixing components fail or operate unpredictably.
- Free in-home fixes are offered. [Link](#)

HTP-Brand Elite Ultra Boilers

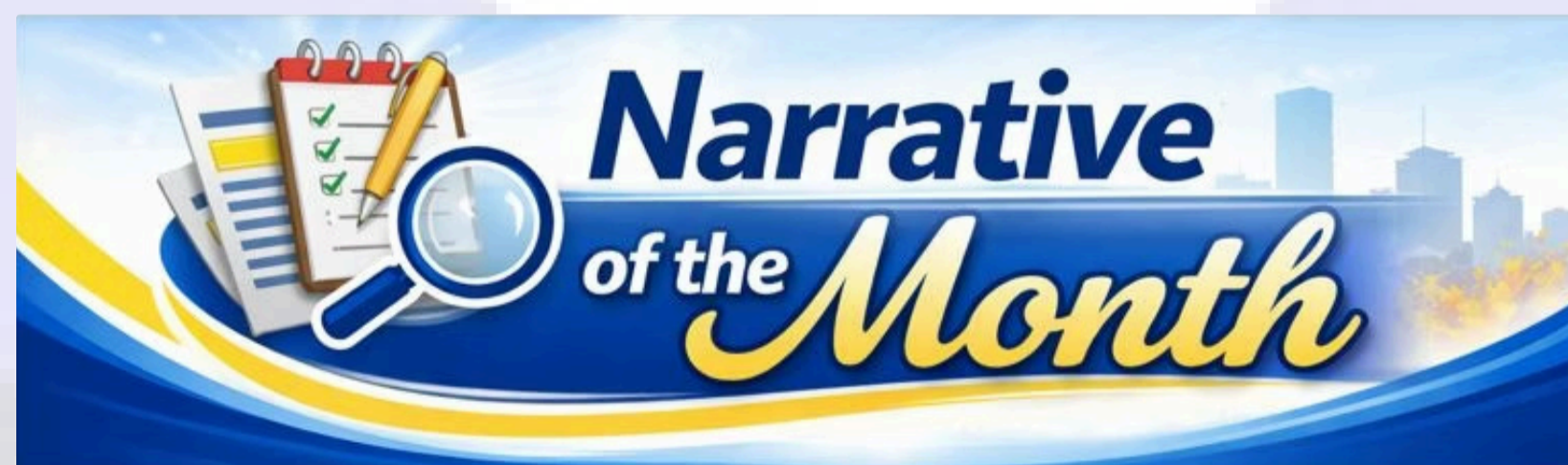
- HTP residential wall-mounted gas boilers (ELU Elite Ultra) were recalled due to **fire and carbon monoxide poisoning hazards** — free repair is available. [Link](#)

VESTA.DS VST Gas-Fired Tankless Water Heaters (2025/2026)

- VST-brand residential tankless gas water heaters were recalled due to **cracked exhaust ducts** that can allow combustion gases (including CO) to leak into the home — posing a **carbon monoxide poisoning risk.**
- Approximately **36,700 units** are affected, and owners are urged to **stop use and get free repair.** [Link](#)

Tips for Inspectors

- **Recalls.gov & CPSC.gov:** Always encourage clients to check the *U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) recall listings* and Recalls.gov for the most up-to-date safety notices.
- **Record model + serial numbers:** Take photos of data tags during inspection — having that info makes recall lookups far easier for the client.
- **Focus on CO risks:** Many HVAC/boiler recalls center around **carbon monoxide hazards**, which is a key safety concern you can emphasize in reports and client education.



HOME INSPECTION NARRATIVE: PUFF BACK EVIDENCE

Observation:

Evidence of soot accumulation was noted around the heating system, wall and ceilings consistent with a prior puff back event.

Implication:

A puff back can disperse soot, combustion byproducts, and oily residue into the living space, which may indicate improper burner operation, delayed ignition, or poor system maintenance.

Recommendation:

Recommend evaluation and cleaning of the heating system and venting components by a licensed HVAC technician, and correction of the underlying cause before further use.

Limitation:

The inspector cannot determine when the puff back occurred or whether repairs have been made since the event.

FROM THE DESK OF STAN BAJERSKI

Winters End

As winter winds down and we look ahead to spring, this is an important time for home inspectors to stay vigilant. The changing season brings melting snow, shifting temperatures, and the first signs of exterior wear that may have developed over the winter months. Spring inspections often reveal issues such as roof damage, ice-dam effects, foundation cracks, and moisture intrusion—making it a prime opportunity to help homeowners identify concerns early. With the new season approaching, inspectors can look forward to increased activity and the chance to ensure homes are ready for the months ahead.

by Cornerstone Home Inspector Education Center