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**From Sally's Wrath
to Scenic Path:
The Pensacola
Bay Bridge Story**

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KELLIE KIMBALL
CSDA President



The CSDA recently concluded a successful management conference in Hawaii, located on the beautiful island of Kona. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who attended, and for those who couldn't make it, we look forward to welcoming you soon. Participating in CSDA events and attending our conferences is paramount to fully leveraging your membership benefits.

While our Board and committees work tirelessly to better our industry by developing best practices, toolbox safety tips, and training programs for operators, management derives unparalleled value from networking within the association. Our community of leaders, owners, and managers warmly welcomes new faces, fostering an exchange of invaluable insights on personnel management, project execution, and business growth strategies, including opportunities for revenue expansion and potential acquisitions of personnel, policies, equipment, and trucks.

In Hawaii, our speakers addressed a spectrum of relevant topics, equipping attendees with actionable knowledge to fortify their companies for the challenges of 2024. As I write this, I am looking forward to convening in Pittsburgh for our Summer quarterly meeting. During this gathering, 'Hard Hats to Helmets' will host a lunch and learn session focusing on the crucial role of safety helmets in the field.

Our September meeting takes place in Tuscan, Arizona, featuring the highly anticipated CSDA member golf tournament. Finally, in December, we're heading to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where we'll have the opportunity to visit and tour Vacuworx.

Please visit the CSDA website for details on our quarterly meeting schedule. Making connections at these meetings is the number one reason why I attend. Through connections, I am building myself and my company a pipeline of information of invaluable knowledge.



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CONCRETE CASES



Port of Progress: Charting New Waters for the Galveston Cruise Industry



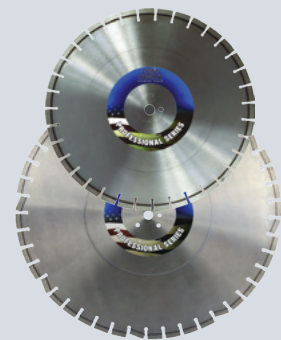
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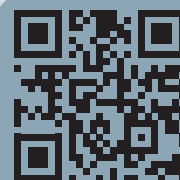
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PORT OF PROGRESS:

CHARTING NEW WATERS FOR THE GALVESTON CRUISE INDUSTRY

Ranked as the fourth busiest US cruise port in the nation, the Port of Galveston continues to grow and break records. Situated on the sandy shores of the Texas Gulf Coast, the Port of Galveston is the second oldest port in the Gulf of Mexico. The port has seen tremendous growth, investment, and activity over the last two decades. Much of that growth can be largely attributed to the cruise line industry.



Twenty-three years ago, Galveston was home to just one home-ported cruise ship – the Carnival Celebration. Due to the convenient and easily accessible location of the Port of Galveston, today the port sets records for sailing, with five cruise lines attracting over 1 million cruisers annually, bringing a staggering \$2.1 billion in economic activity and 27,000 jobs to the region.

In 2023, it was announced that the Port of Galveston would soon become home to Carnival’s newest Excel-class cruise ship, the Jubilee. With the arrival of a ship the size of Jubilee, the Galveston Wharves undertook a \$53 million improvements project to prepare Terminal 25 for the ship’s arrival. Due to the massive size of the Jubilee, Terminal 25 required expansion and fortification to support the Jubilee’s berthing and mooring needs.

Texas Gulf Construction Company was selected as the General Contractor for the project and contracted Holes Incorporated to assist with removal of concrete and piers from the original terminal.

Holes Incorporated was contracted in June of 2023 to cut and remove over 1 million pounds of concrete pier decking and pilings. The largest portion of concrete deck removed measured 240-feet long by 12 to 14-feet wide, with varied depths up to 24-inches thick. The project also included the removal of existing bollards, and cuts for new mooring ties.



The largest portion of concrete deck removed measured 240-feet long by 12 to 14-feet wide, with varied depths up to 24-inches thick.

The concrete removal methods implemented had to protect and ensure the integrity of the remaining concrete. While, an alternative could have been the jackhammer method, the use of jackhammers would have severely compromised the integrity of the remaining concrete and would have caused debris to fall into Galveston Bay – posing a substantial risk for other ships, as well as the environment.

Adding to the complexity of this job was the fact that the project was situated over the open waters of Galveston Bay – posing structural, safety and environmental challenges. The contracted scope had to be completed while the heavily traveled port remained operational for all other cruise, cargo, and passenger ships.

The concrete sections removed by Holes would be replaced with a stronger, fortified pier to accommodate a new ‘people mover’, dolphin platforms, fenders, bollards, pile repair, and dolphin leveling.

To accomplish the large 240-foot concrete span removal, the Holes team cut 17-foot sections of concrete pier (with zero overcuts), and core drilled holes in each section to allow for rigging and crane lift out. Each section weighed approximately 75,000 pounds. In addition, 230 concrete piles, measuring 18-inches by 18-inches had to be cut at, or 5-feet below the waterline, which required a dive team. To avoid water contamination Holes used diamond wire and to prevent water obstructions, each pile was safely secured with strappings and lifted out by crane.

In all, the Holes Incorporated team core drilled 35 two-inch holes that were 24-inches deep, 21 two and a half inch holes that were 48-inches deep, and 66 four-inch holes that were 24-inches deep. Holes Incorporated slab sawed 480-feet of 24-inch-thick concrete, and wire sawed 700 square-feet of concrete. All concrete removed totaled approximately 1.3 million pounds. The following equipment was used to tackle this job:

- Hilti DSW 3018-E Wire Saw
- Hilti Wall Saw DST20 Cut Assist
- Diamond Products Slab Saw CC6571
- Diamond Products Core Cut 7200
- Husqvarna 7000D
- Case Mini-Excavator,
- John Deere Skid Steer Loader
- Dixie Diamond Wire,
- Cardi 6 Speed
- Shibuya Core Drills 405 Pro



There were several factors complicating this project. Due to the location of the project, each team member was required to meet security clearance and possess a TWIC card. The team also had the challenge of working around the cruise terminal schedule so as to not disrupt other ships embarking or disembarking from the port.

They were also challenged with environmental issues including extreme summer temperatures. They had to overcome the safety hazards that come along with working above open water, which required team members to wear working life vests whenever within 6-feet of the water. Compounding challenges included a congested worksite with cranes, work schedules, increased manpower needs, diver communication challenges, and water hazards such as snakes. All of this had to be addressed and accomplished within a tight 6-month completion schedule.

To ensure all of these challenges were met, it was important to lay out the parameters before any work began. The Holes team held a pre-job Job Safety Analysis (JSA) with the general contractor before meeting with the operators to review scope and safety precautions. The team internally discussed and confronted the potential hazards that could come with a congested jobsite, working around water, open holes from section removal (fall hazards), and slipping concerns due to slurry.

To address the challenge of working around water, each employee who worked within 6-feet of the water's edge was required to wear life vests. Barricades were placed around open holes to prevent incidents caused by falling into the water. Lastly, slurry was swept out of the way to disperse and prevent slipping hazards.

The Holes team accomplished a very challenging job in a short six-month timeline. The client was very pleased with the outcome and how each project participant came together to overcome the multiple challenges that were presented by the scope and jobsite.

As a proven industry leader, Holes Incorporated has built a reputation for getting the job done efficiently, correctly, and on time, with a responsive, skilled, and knowledgeable team. Through the work on this project, Texas Gulf Construction is now a repeat customer, depending on the Holes Incorporated team for their most challenging and complex concrete removal projects, including Cruise Terminal 3 and the Royal Caribbean Pier 10 rehabilitation. Due to the combined efforts of the project team, the Port of Galveston is now home to the world-renowned Carnival Jubilee.



COMPANY PROFILE

Since 1972, Holes Incorporated has been providing customers with state-of-the-art concrete cutting, sawing, drilling, scanning, lift out, load and haul, and pour back services. Working on some of the most complex projects in the nation and internationally, Holes Incorporated delivers work ethically, safely and cost effectively to their clients. Our team of 60 employees can be found throughout our three branch locations (Houston, Beaumont, and Corpus Christ). Holes Incorporated has been a member of CSDA since 1979.

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CSDA Contractor

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Methods Used:

Core Drilling, Wire Sawing, Slab Sawing

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HEAT STANDARD

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is in the process of developing an occupational heat standard. Until recently, the process to cite employers for heat related injuries or illnesses was through the general duty clause, section 5(a)(1) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, which requires employers to provide a safe and healthy workplace. OSHA is creating a standard specific to working in hot conditions (indoor and outdoor) to clarify the employers' obligations to protect workers more effectively in these conditions.

On October 27, 2021, OSHA published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings (86 Fed Reg 59309). The background for this effort was based on heat being the leading cause of death of weather-related phenomena. They also state in the background for this document that heat can complicate existing health problems like asthma, kidney failure and heart disease.



On April 8, 2022, OSHA launched a National Emphasis Program (NEP) on Outdoor and Indoor Heat-Related Hazards, CPL 03-00-024. Unless it is canceled or superseded, it will remain in effect until April 8, 2025. The OSHA compliance safety and health officers (CSHOs) shall open or refer a heat related inspection for hazardous heat conditions observed, recorded in the OSHA 300 logs or 301 Incident Reports, or if a worker brings to their attention hazardous heat conditions such as workers in high temperature conditions without adequate training, acclimatization or access to water, rest, and shade. The CSHO will also be required to inquire from the employer if they have a heat hazard prevention program in place on days when the heat index is expected to be 80F or above.

On May 3, 2022, OSHA held a stakeholder meeting and on June 20, 2023, in accordance with the requirements of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA), OSHA convened a small business advocacy review (SBAR) panel through a series of video conferences.

Here is a quick summary of what we know as far as an update to this proposed heat standard and what OSHA plans to be doing during heat related inspections:

- **The standard could cover all workers within General Industry, Construction, Maritime and Agriculture.**
- **The proposed Heat Injury and Illness Program looks to have a written plan/procedures for:**
 - Identifying when heat hazards exist, including monitoring environmental conditions, identification of work practices and external factors that increase the likelihood of heat related illness.
 - Procedures for implementing engineering and administrative controls based on the OSHA hierarchy of control. Examples include provisions of drinking water, rest breaks, providing cool down areas, acclimatization protocols for new or returning workers and supervision of workers of heat related illnesses.
 - Procedures for when workers have symptoms and emergency response procedures.
 - Training
 - Selection of designated individuals to oversee and supervise the program.
- **Proposed employer responsibilities in outdoor work settings include:**
 - Monitoring weather condition to determine heat hazards.
 - Calculate the heat index (ambient temperature and humidity) as close as feasible to the jobsite.

When relying on forecasts OSHA could expect the following:

- Controls to be implemented for the entire day when the heat index of ambient air is forecasted to reach the triggered levels.
- When relying on jobsite monitoring OSHA would allow controls to be implemented during defined periods of time.
- If workers are required to wear FRC or vapor barrier clothing, OSHA is considering that high heat procedures be put in place.
- **Engineering controls include cool down areas, cooling measures such as fans and water misting, shade (tent, pavilion, or natural shaded area), air-conditioned space such as a company vehicle or air-conditioned room, shielding from heat generated sources, insulation for heat source or a combination of these.**
- **Administrative controls include providing cool drinking water as close as practical to the work area (workers should have 1 quart/32oz of water per hour during entire work shift), multiple breaks for workers to drink water and rest in shaded area, and potentially include electrolyte drinks along with the water.**
- **Develop an acclimatization protocol based on work tasks, PPE, and environmental risk factors.**
- **Training to include heat stress hazards, heat injury and illness, risk factors, common signs and symptoms, proper precautions, location of cool down areas, water consumption, rest breaks, acclimatization program, environmental monitoring, locations of written materials and supervisory responsibilities.**
- **Record keeping including environmental monitoring data, record of heat related illnesses and an accurate record of heat acclimatization for new and returning workers.**



From Sally's Wrath to Scenic Path:

The Pensacola Bay Bridge Story

The Pensacola Bay Bridge, also known locally as the Three-Mile Bridge, runs between downtown Pensacola and Gulf Breeze, Florida.



It carries six lanes of U.S. Highway 98 as well as a ten-foot pedestrian/bike lane across Pensacola Bay and is known for its beautiful scenic views of the gulf. The bridge is dedicated to General Daniel James Jr., a fighter pilot in the United States Air Force who, in 1975, became the first African American to reach the rank of four-star general in the US Armed Forces.

The Pensacola Bay Bridge was built to completely replace the Sen. Philip D. Beall Sr. Bridge, which had been deemed structurally deficient several years earlier. The new bridge, budgeted at \$595.6 million, was built directly west of the old. General contractor, Skanska, began work on the project in 2017.

Unfortunately, in 2020, Hurricane Sally wreaked havoc on the process causing at least 8 months of delay. Four of the contractor's barges got loose and struck the bridge causing significant damage. Traffic had to be rerouted to a completely different area. The hurricane's damage necessitated a major change in plans, shifting everyone's focus on repairing the new structure.



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This comprehensive project began with drilling 10' deep holes on top of the pile caps. Using the Diteq TS403, the team was able to accomplish the first part easily. Next, using GSSI's radar technology, the team scanned various parts of the new bridge, laying out the rebar to drill test holes.

IDS then moved onto the old bridge. Using Diamond Product Diesel CC7574DK, they flat sawed all the decks before core drilling the pick holes. From there they moved to wire sawing the piles and columns under the bridge deck. Diamond Product WS25 w/control box was chosen to complete this part of the job.

One of the more interesting elements of this project included an environmentally friendly component. Neither Pensacola nor Gulf Breeze wanted bridge debris wafting about the gulf so IDS could not let the pieces of the old bridge simply fall in the water. Instead, the pieces were cut into manageable chunks and used elsewhere to create an artificial reef.

An artificial reef is a man-made structure, mostly deposited in an area of water with a featureless bottom, designed to attract, promote and advance marine life to that particular area. Artificial reefs are not dumping grounds for garbage but carefully placed using such things as decommissioned oil rigs, shipwrecks and, of course, concrete.

While working on the old bridge, Hurricane Sally came in with force. The four loose barges caused considerable damage to the new bridge. Everything shifted. IDS was now tasked with helping to demo the bad sections. Brock 100 & 200 was used on the damaged sections of the new bridge deck before wire sawing the bad piles and columns. The new bridge was complete before returning to the old structure's demise, culminating in underwater wire sawing at the bridge's heart.







Hurricane Sally was not the only obstacle. Planning was a critical component. Equipment could only be transported in and out by boat or barge. Most of the work was done off a barge or on a pile cap. It was important to account for everyone, making sure no one was left on a pile cap or to determine an area to be fully clear before proceeding with any demolition. Regular lightning storms were a significant safety issue as workers had few safe places to be.

Yet even with all these setbacks, plan changes and safety concerns, IDS proved to be both reliable and efficient. For each portion assigned, IDS either completed that section within the time given or sometimes even ahead of time. Every cut, every drill, was executed with precision and efficiency, contributing to the project's timely completion.

Spencer Radcliff of IDS stated "This was the biggest bridge the company had ever taken on. We were very satisfied with everything we were able to accomplish on this job."

The satisfaction derived from this endeavor is a testament to their capabilities and commitment. In overcoming adversity, they not only fulfilled our contractual obligations but also aided in restoring vital infrastructure post-disaster.

"We were also glad we were able to step up and help get the bridge back up and running after the hurricane damaged the new bridge."

Skanska's decision to entrust IDS with this monumental project underscores their reputation for timeliness and reliability, cementing their standing as industry leaders.

COMPANY PROFILE

With over 30 years of industry expertise, IDS stands as a beacon of excellence in construction services. With offices spanning across Pensacola, FL, Montgomery and Birmingham, AL, our team boasts the skills and resources to tackle projects of any magnitude. IDS offers multiple services that can help aid in a demolition or remodel project. There is no job too big or too small for IDS to handle. We offer demolition, concrete cutting, GPR and radar imaging, removal and disposal, and dumpster rentals. As we reflect on this chapter in our company's history, we do so with pride, knowing that each bridge we build, each obstacle we overcome, serves as a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence. We strive to be the company you can depend on time and time again.

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Methods Used:

Core Drilling, Wire Sawing, Hand Sawing, Slab Sawing, Demolition



Sleep is a **SAFETY Issue** and other Annoying **HABITS**

Maybe that show last night was too intriguing and you stayed up to watch it. Or maybe your to-do list is overflowing, and you felt the need to finish a project. No matter what is going on right now, sleep is a fundamental pillar of health and not something to be pushed aside. As a matter of fact, adequate sleep is paramount for safety and performance, especially to those operating any type of machinery.

Sleep deprivation impairs judgment, reaction time, and vigilance, increasing the likelihood of accidents and injuries on the job site. Prioritizing sufficient sleep helps you stay alert, focused, and attentive to potential hazards.

Sleep is also essential for optimal cognitive function, including memory retention, decision-making, and problem-solving abilities. Your job requires sharp mental faculties to navigate complex tasks and ensure precision in your work. Lack of sleep will affect your ability to be on top of your game.

Plus, sleep plays a crucial role in muscle recovery and repair. After a day of strenuous labor, adequate sleep allows the body to recuperate, reducing the risk of injuries and promoting overall physical health.

Getting proper sleep isn't the only habit you should be prioritizing. Proper hydration is essential for maintaining health, performance, and safety. Adequate hydration helps regulate body temperature and prevent overheating during strenuous tasks.

On the flipside, dehydration can lead to fatigue, muscle cramps, and reduced endurance, compromising performance and productivity on the job. By staying hydrated, you sustain your energy levels and maximize efficiency throughout the workday.

Chronic dehydration can contribute to various health issues, including kidney stones, urinary tract infections, and electrolyte imbalances. Prioritizing hydration supports overall health and well-being, reducing the risk of long-term health complications.

It's an easy habit, when you are tired and/or thirsty on the job, to reach for an energy drink. Keep in mind, per the CSDA Toolbox Safety Tip #206, energy drinks contain caffeine, sugar, and other stimulants that can ultimately cause dehydration as well as restlessness, headaches, nervousness, and in worse case scenarios, seizures, heart arrhythmias, and hospitalization. Water is your best for staying hydrated throughout the day.

Another habit that is good for you but often overlooked is regular exercise. Being consistent with your physical activity, outside of work, helps strengthen muscles and increase endurance. It also helps with flexibility, minimizing the chance of strains and sprains on the job.





Exercising also releases endorphins. Endorphins are hormones which, when released, help lift your mood, improve your sense of well-being and reduce stress. Reducing stress is vital to job performance too. Stress not only makes it difficult to focus but, over time, can lead to high blood pressure and increases one's risk of cardiovascular disease. Exercise helps to mitigate all of that.

While it might be annoying to think about changing your routines to get more sleep, drink more water, and exercise, there are a few slight changes that you can implement quickly that will get you started on the right path.

One path to better sleep is to limit your screen time for at least thirty minutes before you wish to fall asleep. The blue light emitted by electronic screens can interfere with the body's natural sleep-wake cycle. And try to create a bedtime routine to help signal to your body that it is time to sleep. Lastly, do not eat a heavy meal right before bedtime. If hungry, opt for a light snack of nuts or cheese instead.

To stay hydrated, it is recommended you drink 44 ounces (about 1.25 kg) of water each day. If you can't quite give up the morning coffee, switch to decaffeinated. Or start with half decaf and half caffeine and slowly work your way to fully decaffeinated. Remember, caffeine can cause dehydration. And add some fruits and vegetables to your diet, especially those with a lot of water content.

If you don't feel like you have the time for a full workout, opt to take the stairs. Stretch while you are waiting for something, like pumping gas. You do not need a full hour to get some health benefits. Take a ten minute walk each day instead.

These are minor changes you can start to make today that will improve your work performance in the long run. But habits can take a little while to form. So don't get down on yourself if you forget to do something here or there. It is okay to miss a day and just pick up where you left off tomorrow.

Eventually, you will not only have formed some new healthier habits, but you will also feel a sense of accomplishment which is a mood booster. And you will be an inspiration to those around you. So, with a few small changes, you can increase your job performance by sleeping better, staying hydrated and increasing your exercise.





THE SPIRIT OF OHANA STRONG AT CONFERENCE

Nestled amidst the azure waters of the Pacific Ocean, Hawaii's lush landscapes and vibrant culture provided an idyllic backdrop for CSDA's Annual Conference. Attendees were treated to a week's worth of inviting dialog, informative meetings, business-building education, and engaging networking events.

We kicked off the week with our committee meetings. Participants celebrated the successes of this past year and exchanged ideas for the future. Committee meetings are an excellent opportunity for everyone to be heard and to help shape the organization. The board meeting also fostered great conversations. This was the last board meeting for four of our members. We thank Bob Crowther, Donna Harris, Jeff Keeling and David Perkins for their dedication and hard work. Later in the week we welcomed our new directors, Scott Brown, Craig Caliva, Rick Glidewell, Justin Hendricks, Dani Planto and Brian Wnuk.

Following the committee meetings, the ever-popular golf tournament did not disappoint. Golfers enjoyed breathtaking scenery while soaking up the sunshine. And a little competitive banter made for some good-natured fun.

The heart of the conference began mid-week. CSDA kicked off the education portion with a cultural keynote. Grayson Hai Kelly provided insights into the Hawaiian people, their culture and how we could bring the Aloha spirit with us everywhere.

Bill Fisher's State of the Industry: 2024 Trends and Outlook captivated the audience by providing essential information necessary for making good industry-related decisions for the next year. Business owners also gleaned important company insights from our other speakers. Cyber security, in-the-field electrical insights, new opportunities to branch out your services, and the latest GPR technologies were among the important touch points of the conference.

Back by popular demand was Brian Wnuk of West Coast Cutting & Coring Group LTD, highlighting another unique case. Brian did not disappoint. Attendees found his presentation riveting as he discussed the challenges of a job on a Siberian oil rig.





Learning from the experiences of others is a key component to our members' success. At each conference, our attendees gather to discuss important industry topics during our round table session. This year, discussions revolved around technology and how we can utilize specific technologies to make our jobs easier and more efficient. Through the sharing of experiences and ideas, participants walked away with many useful tips.

The conversations continued into the evenings as well. As the sun slowly sank into the ocean, it painted a colorful backdrop for this year's President's Reception. First time attendees were welcomed heartily into the mix with friendly conversation and much laughter.

The Manufacturers Luau was a resounding success. Luau means 'feast,' but in Hawaii, it stands for so much more. It highlights native customs and the Aloha spirit – a warm sense of welcome. This was evident. Delicious Hawaiian cuisine delighted palettes while local musicians played the traditional tunes of the island. Dinner was followed by an amazing cultural display of dancing, singing and a fire performance by a two-time world champion. Even some of our attendees showcased their hula skills.



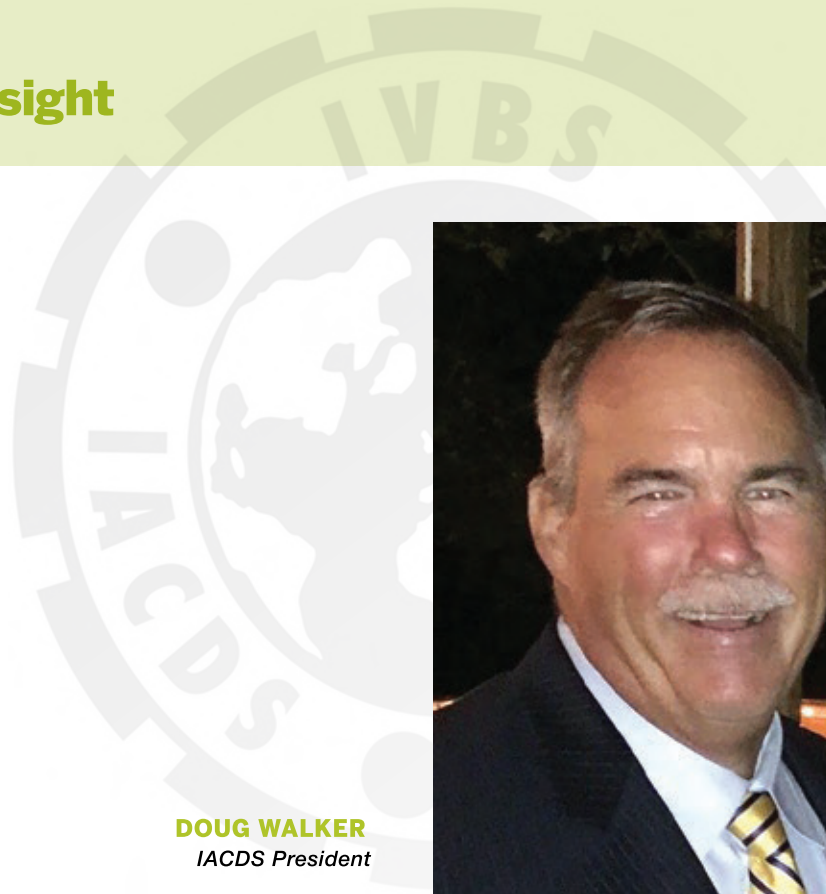
The conference ended with the annual Gala. Rick Glidewell was stunned to receive the first ever Outstanding Achievement Award. Each committee chair nominated a standout from their committee and Rick's was nominated multiple times. The Lifetime Achievement Award winner was also announced, Jim Dvoratchek's daughters provided beautiful insight into their father and his accomplishments as they presented him with this well-deserved award.

New this year, and perfect for Hawaii's eco-friendly mindset, was the CSDA conference app. Everything attendees needed was right at their fingertips. Switching to the app not only helped the environment by using less paper, but it also provided real-time updates and allowed fellow attendees to interact with each other and share photos.

Overall, this year's conference successfully weaved culture, education, and collaboration together in a beautiful, relaxed setting. Attendees left feeling invigorated and inspired as they brought home innovative ideas to build a better future.



IACDS President's Insight



DOUG WALKER
IACDS President

So, it is that time of year when the concrete cutting industries really starts to get rolling. Have we done everything we could to get ready for the season? Have we prepared our equipment? Are our trucks ready? Have we done all the training for our employees to have a successful season?

The trucks and equipment are the easy part, training is not so easy. Many countries around the world have specific training programs and different versions of employee certifications. The UK has its own system, Germany has its program, as do Switzerland, Sweden and Japan. The United States has programs, but there is no requirement for certifications. While these programs may be very similar, they are also as diverse as the countries themselves.

The only thing is that none of these companies are required to have staff with specific training and certification for sawing and drilling. What is a certified worker? Essentially, someone who has received specific training and has passed a series of tests, both practical and theoretical. It's an assessment of whether your business practices demonstrate professionalism or if it's just a company with the owner running around in a truck doing what he or she thinks is right. No training, no insurance, just cheap prices with even cheaper work.

The IACDS is calling for all companies worldwide to have their employees trained and certified. This would impact on companies' credibility and be an added value for their workforce. In those countries with national associations such as the CSDA, the programs will be coordinated through them.

Companies would need to demonstrate their ability to meet a standard set by all countries, basically showing who is a Pro and who is a Joe. The requirements would be how much training do you have, what are your maintenance programs, what are your office practices, even what are your environmental practices.

While all of this is a great idea, the one big problem would be for each country to buy into this type of program. Each country would have to agree to this type of program, after that, the specifiers and owners of the work would have to agree to require this type of program. This is where the rubber meets the road. If you do not have jobs requiring this type of program, then the workers' certification is meaningless.

Personally, I have run into this in the US. My company pushed the program to the limit, taking a year to become the only Level 1 company in the country. I was very proud of doing this, but it did not mean anything in the long run. What it did was show the weaknesses we had as a company and fix them, making us a better and safer company.

So, what we learned is that unless we can get the specifiers or owners to buy in and require certified companies with trained personnel on their job sites, rather than something cheap, companies will consider whether it is worthwhile to train their employees or not. Please remember the kid that cleans your pool in the summer needs to have a CPO - Certified Pool Operator - and the company needs to be certified also.

I believe this an important program and we need to get it done before we have the government of our countries come in and tell us how to run our companies, which is the last thing any of us need. Just my thoughts.

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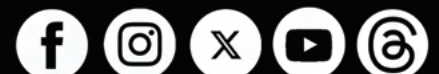
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A Strategic Approach to Workplace Safety

In an industry where safety is paramount, the Concrete Sawing and Drilling Association (CSDA) has taken a significant leap forward with the introduction of its new Safety Management Plan. This comprehensive guide is set to replace the old Safety Manual, marking a new era of safety protocol management within the concrete sawing and drilling industry.

The new CSDA Safety Management Plan is not just an update; it's a complete overhaul, meticulously developed in collaboration with a professional safety company. This collaboration has ensured that the plan is infused with the latest safety best practices and adheres to current industry standards, providing CSDA member companies with a robust framework for managing safety in their operations.

Understanding that each company has unique safety challenges, the new management plan is fully customizable. This key feature allows member companies to adapt the plan to fit their specific needs, ensuring that the safety protocols are not just a box-ticking exercise but a set of practices that resonate with the day-to-day realities of their work.

For companies looking to update their safety measures, the CSDA Safety Management Plan serves as a ready-to-use template. Companies can adopt the plan in its entirety or select elements that align with their existing safety strategies. This modular approach eliminates the need to "reinvent the wheel," saving valuable time and resources while maintaining a high standard of safety.



The benefits of implementing the CSDA Safety Management Plan are manifold. Companies with a comprehensive safety plan report reduced workplace accidents, compliance with regulations, increased operational efficiency, enhanced reputation, improved employee satisfaction, better insurance premiums, and reduced accident-related costs.

In addition to the Safety Management Plan, the CSDA has also updated their Safety Handbook. This essential resource has been revised to align with the new safety standards and practices. To enhance accessibility, members will receive a QR code that can be placed in their fleet vehicles. Operators on site can simply scan the QR code to instantly pull up the handbook and reference the necessary safety protocols. This innovative approach ensures that safety guidance is always within reach, supporting operators in maintaining the highest safety standards.

The CSDA is fully invested in the safety of its member companies and demonstrates this through the Commitment to Safety pledge. Member companies are encouraged to sign on to this pledge as a public declaration of their dedication to creating a safe working environment. By taking the pledge, companies send a clear message to their workers and clients about their focus on safety.

As a token of this commitment, companies that sign the pledge will receive an electronic badge for their email signature, a certificate for their office, and a set of hardhat/helmet stickers. The Commitment to Safety pledge and its accompanying symbols of dedication are more than just emblems; they are a promise to uphold the highest safety standards, reflecting a culture where safety is ingrained in every action.

With these new tools, CSDA proves once again that they embrace a culture of safety and is dedicated to providing tools that help pave the way within the industry.

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Empowering Women in Construction: THE PPE CHALLENGE



In the dynamic world of construction, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is paramount to ensuring safety on job sites. However, there has been a persistent issue with providing properly fitting PPE, particularly for women in the construction industry. As women increasingly contribute their skills and expertise to this traditionally male-dominated field, it is crucial to address the challenges they face in obtaining PPE that fits correctly.

PPE serves as a crucial line of defense against workplace hazards in construction, including falls, electrical shocks, and impact injuries. Ill-fitting gear not only compromises safety but also undermines productivity. Properly fitting PPE is essential for ensuring that women in construction can perform their tasks safely and efficiently, without the hindrance of poorly designed or oversized equipment.

However, the industry's pace in adapting to the specific needs of women, particularly regarding PPE, has been less than stellar.

Much of the issue lies in the limited availability of PPE designed for women. Historically, manufacturers have tailored gear towards male body types, which has left female construction workers with a scant selection of safety harnesses, gloves, and work boots that fit properly. This lack of options is more than an inconvenience; it's a barrier to safety and performance on the job. The diverse body shapes and sizes of women are not adequately accommodated by the one-size-fits-all equipment that's readily available. This can lead to gear that's either uncomfortably large or dangerously small, neither of which is acceptable when safety is on the line.

The consequences of ill-fitting PPE are not trivial. Safety concerns arise when women are forced to work with gear that doesn't fit. Gloves that are too loose can reduce dexterity, increasing the risk of accidents during tasks that require precision. Safety harnesses that don't fit correctly may fail to provide the necessary fall protection, exposing workers to the risk of severe injury.

Compounding these challenges is a lack of awareness among employers and safety managers about the importance of properly fitting PPE for women. Without recognition of the problem, the cycle of inadequate protection continues, undermining efforts to make the construction industry a safer place for everyone.

Comprehensive training programs should emphasize the importance of properly fitting PPE and educate both employers and employees on identifying suitable gear for women. Heightened awareness of the issue can foster a culture of safety that prioritizes the well-being of all workers, regardless of gender.



As awareness increases, PPE manufacturers, industry associations, and regulatory bodies have the opportunity to develop and promote gender-inclusive designs that cater to the specific needs of women in construction.

Women, too, play a vital role in advocating for their safety and raising awareness of the challenges they face in obtaining properly fitting PPE. Encouraging greater representation of women in safety committees and leadership positions can amplify their voices and drive positive change within the industry.

As the industry evolves, it's imperative that the needs of all workers are met with the seriousness they deserve. Addressing the PPE disparity is not just about comfort—it's about ensuring that every construction worker, regardless of gender, has the protection they need to do their job safely and effectively.






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Tech Talk is a regular feature of *Concrete Openings* magazine, focusing on equipment, maintenance and technical issues of interest to concrete cutting, polishing and imaging contractors. Readers wishing to have a particular subject addressed can call or email CSDA with their suggestions at 217-528-3275 or editor@concreteopenings.com.



Power and Extension Cord Maintenance

Power and extension cords are one of the most abused and overlooked aspect of our daily work. These are used for various purposes throughout the jobsite however, due to their nature they are stretched out and laying on the ground. This leaves them susceptible to damage due to being dragged or ran over causing chaffing or cutting of the outer layer as well as damage to the internal conductors, plug ends, ground prongs and/or internal plug connections.

Power and extension cords will continue to be a huge part of the construction business and when working with electric powered tools it is vital that the voltage being supplied through these power cords is sufficient to properly run the tools especially when working with generators and jobsite power sources.

Poor power and extension cord maintenance is one of the top causes for damaged or improperly working tools. Furthermore, it is important to ensure you are using the appropriate power cord and properly sized extension cords and connection ends. This depends on the following variables.

Voltage Rating 110-volt, 220-volt, 480-volt, etc.

Ampere Rating 15-amp, 20-amp, 30-amp, 50-amp, 60-amp, etc.

Gauge Rating 12-gauge, 10-gauge, 8-gauge, 6-gauge, 4-gauge, etc. (Larger the gauge the smaller the conductors)

The distance from the power source also has a huge impact on the size or gauge of the power cord extension needed for the specific task due to voltage drop. Southwire has a nice voltage drop calculator online. Voltage Drop Calculator | Southwire.

For safety reasons and to prevent bodily injury always perform the cord inspections when disconnected from the power source. Also wear gloves to help prevent injury to the hands when inspecting the full length of the cable. If any defects, smashing, pinching, chafing, cuts, tape of any kind are found on the length of the cable the tape must be removed and these areas must be inspected carefully.

Ensuring your cords stay in good working order requires continual inspections. OSHA requires a daily visual inspection check, a quarterly continuity check for cord integrity and ground fault check for GFCI devices.

The chart for determining proper cable resistance of various gauges of cables can be found online. DC Copper Cable Resistance Chart (philatron.com)

Performing an Ohm test on the cable is a way to determine if there are any issues internally without cutting open the outer shell of the cable. For instance, the DC copper ohm resistance for 1000ft of 10-gauge cord is 1.02 ohms or .102 ohms for 100ft. at 70 degrees. When checking for cord integrity you should have the same resistance in each of the four conductors of a 10AWG-4 Conductor Cord.

The conductors of the cords should be a bright copper in color to achieve the least resistance for the electrical current to flow through. However, once the soft outer shell of the cord is damaged and the insulation on the wires inside are damaged, water could intrude and cause corrosion to the conductors. (SEE IMAGE A) Corroded conductors are like a kink in a water hose and do not allow the proper amount of flow, but in this case instead of water its electrical current. The increase of resistance in the conductors results in equipment issues, increased ampere draw and heating of the cable.



IMAGE A – CORRODED CONDUCTORS

This resistance buildup happens over a period, so if the mandated inspection intervals are performed a cord should never get to the point of causing electrical shorting or equipment failures. In addition to corrosion, the expansion due to radiant heat from lying in the sun on hot asphalt can also increase the resistance of an electrical cord.

Tape (SEE **IMAGE B**) is not an OSHA qualified way to fix (SEE **IMAGE C**) a damaged power cord. Tape of any kind only hides the imperfections and will let moisture to enter the outer shell of the extension cord. This over time will wick up the entire length of the cord. Only approved heat shrink tubing applied per its instructions is one of the only acceptable methods for correcting outer shell damage of the cord.



IMAGE B – ELECTRICAL TAPE IS NOT APPROVED



IMAGE C – CUT OUTER SHELL AND SMASHED CONDUCTORS



IMAGE D – OVERHEATED DUE TO CORD REEL

Power cords when energized should never be utilized rolled up on a cord reel or in a coil lying on the ground. Due to the current flowing through the cord an inductive magnetic field is created. When the cord is rolled up the magnetic field compounds and can greatly increase the temperature of the cord, which then increases the resistance. This then spirals and can cause the cord to take on the corkscrew effect damaging the cord and be a source of electrical fires. (SEE **IMAGE D**.) All cords regardless of how much is needed must be removed from the reel and laid out on the ground not in a coil to help prevent these effects.



IMAGE E – CORD NOT IN RESTRAINT IMPROPER INSTALLATION

Plug connections are another area that encounter a lot of abuse and wear from dropping, dragging, being ran over or incorrect installation. The soft outer shell of the cable should be completely inserted into the cord restraint of the receptical. (SEE **IMAGE E** & **IMAGE F**) Incorrect installation as shown in image E causes stress on the wire connections inside the plug leading to loose or disconnected wires. Instances like this can cause electrical shorting, fires, equipment damage or personal injury.



IMAGE F – CORD IN RESTRAINT PROPER INSTALLATION

Utilizing the properly sized cord ends and correctly sized power cord is vital in the correct connection of the wires into the cord end. This image (SEE **IMAGE G** & **IMAGE H**) shows an 8-gauge cord and a 30-amp 480 plug end. All the copper wires from the 8-gauge cord are not able to be fully inserted into the 30 amp plug due to the Cross Section or size of the wire.

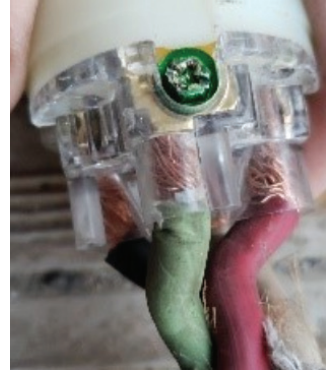


IMAGE G – IMPROPER GAUGE WIRE FOR 30 AMP PLUG



IMAGE H – RESULT OF IMPROPER INSTALLATION

Cutting off multiple strands of the copper wires to get the wire to fit into the plug is not recommended. If an 8-gauge cord is required based on voltage and ampere requirements or distance from the power source because of the tool being operated, then also a larger sized cord end with a higher ampere rating will be needed that will accept the larger sized cable.

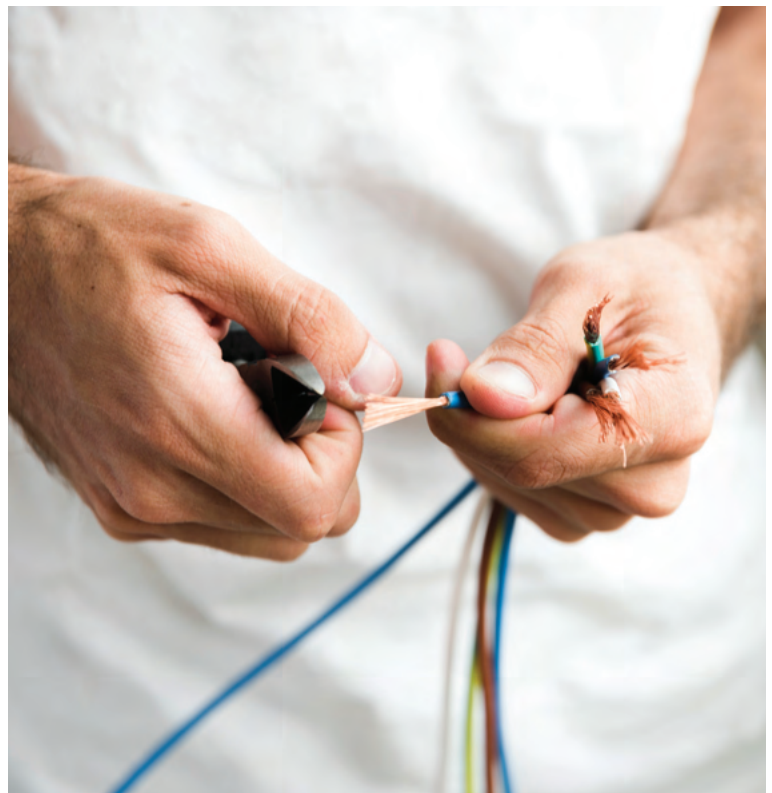


Image I (SEE **IMAGE I**) shows how the wires are twisted and not fully inserted into the connection. What it also depicts is that 1 strand is sticking out of the insulated area of the connection point. This can cause a short possibly over to another conductor or even to ground.

Image J (SEE **IMAGE J**) shows a properly inserted wire with no strands exposed or sticking out of the insulated area of the cord end. All screws that secure the wires into the cord ends must be tightened.

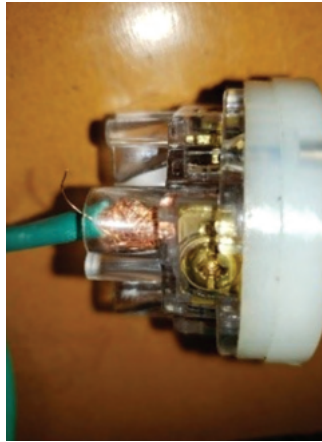


IMAGE I – INCORRECT WIRE INSTALLATION



IMAGE J – CORRECT WIRE INSTALLATION

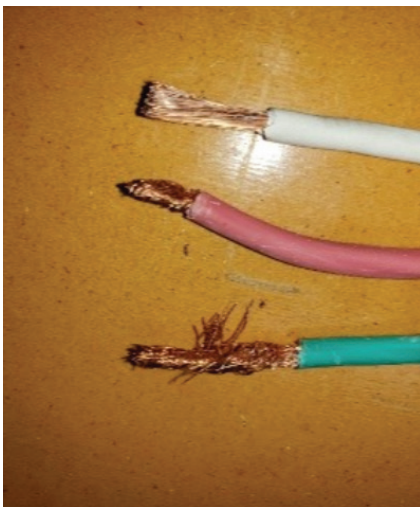


IMAGE K – CORRECT WIRE PREPARATION

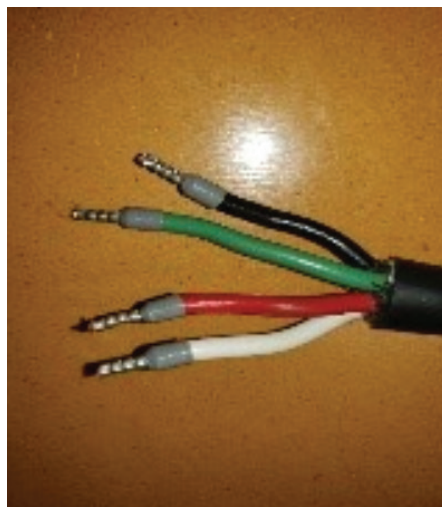


IMAGE L – TERMINAL ENDS

Preparing the wire (SEE **IMAGE K**) to be inserted into a plug connection is important to ensure that the wire is fully inserted. The white wire in Image K depicts correct insulation removal and wires are not twisted. For optimal results terminal ends (SEE **IMAGE L**) can be placed onto the wires. Most electrical receptacles have a wire strip gauge molded into the side of the plugs for ease.

VOLTAGE CHECKS

The power being supplied should always be confirmed with the use of a voltage meter to ensure each phase of power is sufficient to properly and efficiently run the tool. There are two ways to confirm the voltage is correct and both should be followed to verify that the ground and each phase is within tolerance.

High Ampere draw causes heat buildup in the equipment and can burn up motors and other components. The Ampere draw can be checked on the control panels of the generators or with a clamp on voltage meter. If you use a clamp on voltage meter just clamp, it over one of the 3 legs of power and set the meter on amperes.



To ensure a safe and more productive day and to better prevent bodily injuries, equipment damage and/or downtime, monthly power cord inspections and voltage checks are vital.

When performing any task, it is your responsibility to inspect the cords and connections as well as the power being supplied prior to connecting any tool to a power source.

Always disconnect the power source prior to taking any power connections apart. Failure to do this can lead to very serious bodily injury, death and/or expensive equipment damage. (SEE **IMAGE M**)



IMAGE M



IMAGE N

Plug connections are not waterproof. (SEE **IMAGE N**) Water and slurry intrusion will cause connection issues, possible shorting, electrical fires or personal injury when handling the plugs. Always use mating plug connections from the same manufacturer for proper water resistance and locking of the plugs when put together.

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5 Top Causes of Ladder Incidents and How to Prevent Them

Ladder violations always are among the highest OSHA jobsite citations, so it's critical that contractors know the common causes of ladder incidents and how to safeguard against them, said Eric Blankinship, senior product manager for Werner, during an American Ladder Institute webinar kicking off National Ladder Safety Month in March.

These citations included improperly extended ladders, use in unintended purposes, use of the top of the ladder as a step, a lack of three points of contact and use of broken ladders, Blankinship said.

Here are the five most common causes of ladder incidents and how to avoid them:

1

MISSING THE LAST STEP OF THE LADDER WHEN CLIMBING DOWN.

Blankinship emphasized the need to exercise caution when climbing down a ladder, always face the ladder when climbing up or down and to not skip steps. "When you believe that you're on the bottom step, take a look down to confirm while maintaining your grip on the rails as you climb down before you put your foot down on the ground," Blankinship said.

2

OVERREACHING WHILE ON THE LADDER.

When working on a ladder, keep your center of gravity and body between the side rails. If you can't easily reach the project area once you've ascended the ladder, climb back down and move the ladder closer to the project space. "We like to say, 'Keep your belt buckle inside the rails,'" he suggested.

3

THE LADDER WAS NOT THE RIGHT SIZE FOR THE JOB.

One of the factors in determining the right ladder for the job is length. A good rule of thumb when selecting a ladder is to calculate the user's maximum reach height, which is about four feet higher than the height of the ladder, Blankinship explained.

4

THE LADDER WAS NOT ON FIRM, LEVEL GROUND.

Clear trash, construction materials and other obstructions away from the base and top of the ladder. The base should be safely secured to prevent accidental movement, or you can use a ladder with nonslip feet or add outriggers or levelers to the bottom of an extension ladder to increase the footprint. "Extension ladders are often used outdoors, so make sure you've used the toe picks correctly, you're sunk into solid ground and that you step on the bottom rung to make sure it's good before you climb," he said.

5

THREE POINTS OF CONTACT WERE NOT USED WHEN CLIMBING THE LADDER.

Always maintain contact with two hands and a foot or two feet and a hand when climbing up or down a ladder to ensure you maintain balance. Keep an eye out for our next ladder safety article, addressing how to choose the correct ladder for your job.

Article reprinted with permission from WOC360, Apr 23, 2024 edition.

Kaitlin N Schuler, Editor
Infrastructure & Construction, Informa Markets



The ACI Foundation's 2024-2025 Fellowship And Scholarship Recipients



The ACI Foundation is pleased to announce its 2024-2025 fellowship and scholarship recipients. The ACI Foundation is a non-profit subsidiary of ACI that promotes progress, innovation, and collaboration in the concrete industry through strategic investments in ideas, research, and people to create the future of the concrete industry.

All Fellowship recipients receive a **\$10,000 (USD)** educational stipend; paid travel expenses and attendance fees to two ACI conventions; and assistance in finding an industry mentor. All Scholarship recipients receive a **\$5,000 (USD)** educational stipend.

Since the inception of the Foundation's Fellowship program in 2008, the ACI Foundation has provided financial support, mentorship, and internship opportunities to over 330 students.

This year the ACI Foundation was able to award 29 Fellowships and 15 Scholarships to students from 35 different Institutions.

The Online Application process for the ACI Foundation's 2025-2026 Fellowships and Scholarships will open on July 1, 2024, and close on November 1, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EST

ACI Foundation Fellowship and Scholarship awards are made possible through generous contributions by donors from the concrete community. Together, the Foundation and its supporters are strengthening the concrete industry by supporting students entering a professional career in the field of concrete. The ACI Foundation is leading the way to ensure a sustainable, successful future of the concrete industry by intentional and focused investments in ideas, research, and people. Additional information about each fellowship and scholarship is available at acifoundation.org/scholarships.

The ACI Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports a wide range of research and educational initiatives that contribute to keeping the concrete industry at the forefront of technological advances in material composition, design, and construction. We engage with industry partners, invest in students and research, share knowledge, and provide programs to encourage innovation and new technology. The American Concrete Institute established the ACI Foundation in 1989 to promote progress, innovation, and collaboration in the industry.

For More Information and a List of Recipients
Contact: Stacey Mccann
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Justin King

We are excited to announce Justin King has joined the ICS Sales Team. With 15 years of experience in the concrete cutting industry, Justin brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his role as Regional Sales Manager. His background will be invaluable in driving success and growth for ICS, Merit and Pentrunder to professional concrete sawing and drilling contractors in the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado.

For More Information
Contact: Scott Brown
Tel: 503-708-8048
Email: Scott.Brown@OregonTool.com
www.icsdiamondtools.com



Andy Weyrens

We are delighted to announce Andy Weyrens has joined ICS as a Regional Sales Manager. Andy's expertise positions him well to represent ICS, Merit and Pentrunder to the professional concrete sawing and drilling contractors in both Texas and Louisiana. To contact Andy, please email **Andy.Weyrens@OregonTool.com**

For More Information
Contact: Scott Brown
Tel: 503-708-8048
Email: Scott.Brown@OregonTool.com
www.icsdiamondtools.com



Brad Mushinsky

We are pleased to announce Brad Mushinsky has joined ICS as a Regional Sales Manager, responsible for the sales of ICS, Merit and Pentrunder. With over 20 years of experience in construction sales, Brad's depth of knowledge and expertise is a valuable asset to the professional concrete sawing and drilling contractors in Florida. To contact Brad, please email **Brad.Mushinsky@OregonTool.com**

For More Information
Contact: Scott Brown
Tel: 503-708-8048
Email: Scott.Brown@OregonTool.com
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Ann Guiberson Named Next TMS Executive Director

The Masonry Society (TMS) proudly announces the appointment of Ann Guiberson as its next Executive Director.

Guiberson will succeed retiring director, Phillip Samblanet. She was selected after an extensive search with over 100 applicants based on her knowledge and experience which will be instrumental in leading TMS in the coming years. She is an accomplished Executive Director with a solid foundation in association resource development, community engagement, and strategic leadership.

Guiberson brings more than 28 years of experience working with nonprofit membership organizations. Previously, she served as president & CEO of the Associated Builders & Contractors - Rocky Mountain Chapter. She was also the executive director of the American Water Works Association - Rocky Mountain Chapter. Additionally, she spent fourteen years as the northeast regional affairs director for the United States Golf Association.

During her time serving nonprofits and associations, she developed expertise in strategic communications, educational leadership, administrative management, and governance. Guiberson received both her Master of Education, Educational Administration and her Bachelor of Science, Education from the University of Nebraska. She holds certificates in Leadership Essentials and Financial Success for Nonprofits from Cornell University. Purdue University has recently awarded her a certificate in Project Management.

Ann Guiberson, the incoming Executive Director of TMS, expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "I am honored to join The Masonry Society as the new Executive Director. I am eager to work collaboratively with the TMS board of directors, staff, members, and stakeholders to further the Society's mission and enhance its impact." Guiberson will officially start as TMS's Executive Director on May 15th. She will work with Samblanet to transition into the position and collaborate with staff, members, and colleagues.

Ann Guiberson



David McLean, who led the Search Committee for TMS and currently serves as TMS president, stated "We are excited to welcome Ann to our TMS family and to work with her on leading the Society in the coming years. He notes, "During Samblanet's twenty-five plus years at TMS, we have built a strong and vibrant Society that has accomplished much, and TMS is poised to grow even more effective in the years to come. We look forward to working with Ann to advance the Society's mission."

About The Masonry Society (TMS)

Formed in 1977, TMS is an educational, scientific, and technical society dedicated to the advancement of scientific, engineering, architectural, and construction knowledge of masonry. TMS is a not-for-profit, membership-driven organization that gathers, correlates, and disseminates information for the improvement of the design, construction, manufacture, use, and maintenance of masonry products and structures. TMS develops standards, guides, and other resources, educates through seminars, workshops, conferences, and collaborates with the construction industry, design profession, and other leaders desiring to see a better and more resilient built environment. For more visit masonrysociety.org.

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Safe + Sound Week is August 12-18, 2024

Safe + Sound Week is a nationwide event held each August that recognizes the successes of workplace health and safety programs and offers information and ideas on how to keep America's workers safe. This year Safe + Sound Week will provide resources for businesses on mental health and wellbeing. These materials will be posted before the start of Safe + Sound Week.

Why Participate?

Successful safety and health programs can proactively identify and manage workplace hazards before they cause injury or illness, improving sustainability and the bottom line. Participating in Safe + Sound Week can help get your program started, energize an existing one, or provide a chance to recognize your safety successes.

Who Participates?

All organizations looking for an opportunity to recognize their commitment to safety are welcome to participate. Last year, more than 3,300 businesses helped to raise awareness about workers' health and safety!

For more information: <https://www.osha.gov/safeandsoundweek>.

American Concrete Institute Releases 2024 ACI Collection of Concrete Codes, Specifications, and Practices

The American Concrete Institute has released the 2024 ACI Collection of Concrete Codes, Specifications, and Practices. The ACI Collection is the most comprehensive and largest single source of information on concrete design, construction, materials, and repair, with over 50 codes and specifications and more than 200 practices – including all guides and reports.

The ACI Collection features ACI 318 “Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete,” ACI 301 “Specifications for Structural Concrete,” ACI 562 “Code Requirements for Assessment, Repair, and Rehabilitation of Existing Concrete Structures,” and ACI 440.11 “Code Requirements for Structural Concrete Reinforced with Glass Fiber-Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) Bars.”

The 2024 version includes dozens of newly published documents ranging from codes on fiber-reinforced polymer to guides for concrete rehabilitation, shotcrete, and much more. Additional categories in the ACI Collection include concrete materials, properties, design, construction, reinforcement, specialized application, repair, structural analysis, and innovation, plus popular topics such as slabs, formwork, and masonry.

Through an online digital subscription, users can access the most up-to-date version of all ACI documents, plus every new document as soon as it is published. Additionally, the ACI Collection Online includes access to current and historical versions of ACI's codes and specifications, along with versions in both inch-pound and SI units. The online subscription is specifically designed for individual users, with features such as single-word title and full text search capabilities, plus access from any location with an internet connection. The collection is also available as a USB drive or a nine-volume set of books. Special online access for multiple users, entire offices, and large multi-national companies, is also available.

To subscribe or order, visit concrete.org/store.

For more information, contact:
Jose Carrasco
Marketing
248-848-3160
Jose.Carrasco@concrete.org

Calendar of events

September 4–5, 2024

Fall Quarterly Meeting
New Member Golf Outing, Sept 5
Lowes Ventana Canyon Resort
Tucson, AZ
Tel: 217-528-3275
Email: info@csda.org

September 30–October 4, 2024

101 Training
ICS/Oregon Tool
Portland, OR
Tel: 217-528-3275
Email: info@csda.org

November 4–8, 2024

201 Training
St. Petersburg, FL
Tel: 217-528-3275
Email: info@csda.org

January 20-23, 2025

World of Concrete
Las Vegas, NV
Website: www.worldofconcrete.com

February 12-13, 2025

Canadian Concrete Expo
Toronto, ON
Website: www.canadianconcreteexpo.com

March 9-15, 2025

CSDA Annual Conference
San Antonio, TX
Email: info@csda.org

CSDA Honors Two-time President

Congratulations to Jim Dvoratchek, winner of the 2024 CSDA Lifetime Achievement Award. Jim is a two-time CSDA president and the only president to serve two non-consecutive terms.

In a moving speech by his daughters, Emily Hammer and Corrie Krula, the girls highlighted the life lessons they have learned from their father, which have shaped them into auspicious successors for the business Jim started back in 1979. Jim, now retired as CEO of Hard Rock Concrete Cutters Inc. (IL, IN), was honored to be the recipient of this award, CSDA's highest honor, thanking his family and especially his wife, Jeanine, and acknowledging what a large role CSDA has played in his life.

CSDA also recognized Rick Glidewell, Hilti, Inc. as the winner of the 2024 Outstanding Achievement Award. This award recognizes the efforts of one dedicated volunteer each year. Rick was nominated by multiple committee chairs for his commitment to CSDA. Rick was also elected to the CSDA Board of Directors.

Congratulations to both Jim Dvoratchek and Rick Glidewell for honors well-deserved.

IACDS Diamond Award Submissions Happening through December



The International Association of Concrete Drilling & Sawing is taking applications for its prestigious Diamond Awards. The IACDS Diamond Award is an internationally recognized competition for the concrete sawing and drilling industry.

This edition, like the ones before, has two categories, jobs and products, to showcase the expertise of the contractors and the innovation of manufacturers. Any company that carries out concrete drilling and sawing works or manufactures concrete drilling and sawing equipment, whether they are IACDS members or not, can submit their entries.

On this occasion, the Diamond Award ceremony and the IACDS Annual Meeting 2025 will take place on April 10th, during the BAUMA 2025 trade fair in Munich, Germany.

The deadline to submit your entry is December 31, 2024. The application and more information can be found at <https://www.iacds.org/activities/diamond-award-2025#submissions>





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OSHA Creates Regions to Reflect Changing Demographics and Areas of Need

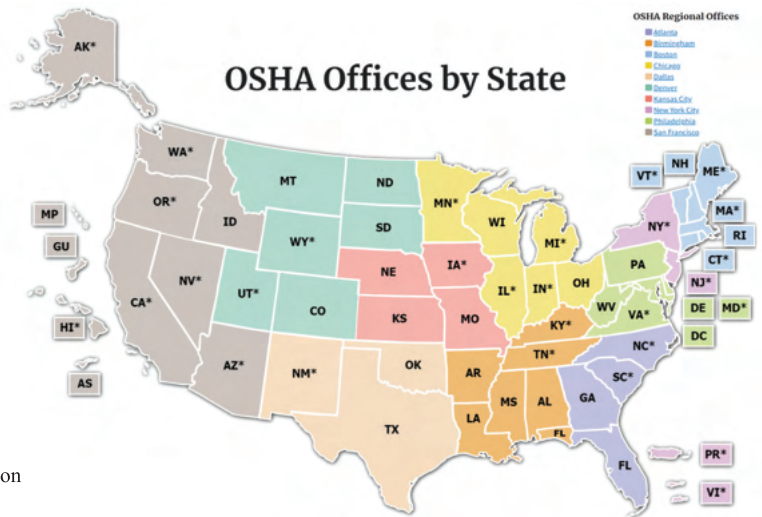
The Department of Labor today announced strategic changes to the structure of its Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s regional operations designed to direct its resources effectively and make the agency more resilient. The changes include the creation of a new OSHA regional office in Birmingham, Alabama, overseeing agency operations in the state, and those in Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee as well as the Florida Panhandle. The Birmingham Region will address the area’s growing worker population and the hazardous work done by people employed in food processing, construction, heavy manufacturing and chemical processing.

OSHA is also planning to merge Regions 9 and 10 into a new San Francisco Region to improve operations and reduce operating costs.

As part of the changes, the agency will also rename its regions to associate them by geography, rather than its current practice of assigning numbers to regions. As such, the area OSHA calls Region 4 will be renamed the Atlanta Region with jurisdiction over Florida, excluding the Panhandle; Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The current Region 6 will be renamed the Dallas Region and have jurisdiction over workplace safety issues in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

The composition of OSHA’s other regions will remain the same. When completed, the agency’s regions will be renamed as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| REGION 1 Boston Region | REGION 6 Dallas Region |
| REGION 2 New York City Region | REGION 7 Kansas City Region |
| REGION 3 Philadelphia Region | REGION 8 Denver Region |
| REGION 4 Atlanta Region | REGIONS 9 AND 10 San Francisco Region and Birmingham Region |
| REGION 5 Chicago Region | |





“The changes reflect the nation’s demographic and industrial changes since the passage of the OSH Act and will allow our professionals to better respond to the needs of all workers, including those historically underserved,” explained Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Doug Parker. “With a stronger enforcement presence in the South and more consolidated state oversight and whistleblower presence in the West — an area dominated by states that operate their OSHA programs — we can direct our resources where they’re needed most.”

OSHA plans to fully transition to its new regional structure later in fiscal year 2024. Once implemented, the agency’s regional maps and contact information online will be updated publicly.

For more information, contact:
Patrick Malone
malone.patrick.m@dol.gov
202-997-3512


Paloma Renteria
202-579-1643
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BROKK[®]

Brokk has opened a distribution centre in Hamilton, Ontario.

While Brokk has had a sales presence in Canada for more than 30 years, the new facility marks an expansion of its network. The new location will be run by Jim Bennett, who joined the Brokk team in Canada as warehouse and logistics manager. Bennett's responsibilities include managing products and assisting users and regional sales managers by providing parts support throughout Canada.

The new 4,000-foot Canadian distribution facility will house the full line of demolition machines with attachments as well as Aquajet hydrodemolition robots and parts inventory for both brands. The new centre will also offer Brokk and Aquajet demonstrations. Canadian users now have access to an in-country distribution centre and no longer have to wait for equipment to go through customs from the United States.

"Adding a distribution centre gets us closer to our Canadian customers and generally streamlines the ordering and shipping process," said Lars Lindgren, president of Brokk. "We're all excited to see what Jim will make of the facility and how it will help our customers in the Toronto area and beyond. He has a wealth of warehouse management experience and will closely monitor demand for Brokk and Aquajet products to ensure optimal stock."

Bennett has over 30 years of warehouse and logistics experience within the auto and construction sectors. He started working as a warehouse manager before working up to operations supervisor. His last two positions have been as a warehouse manager and warehouse supervisor before transitioning to his current role with Brokk.

"My whole career has been customer-driven, and that's what's so exciting about this role," Bennett said. "My vision aligns with Brokk's. The new facility will help meet our goal of providing Canadian customers with machines and parts from both Brokk and Aquajet."



Certification



OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

CSDA's Operator Certification is a comprehensive six-day program that combines detailed classroom instruction with on-slab demonstration and evaluation of advanced concrete cutting techniques. Safety, proper equipment use and efficiency are emphasized. CSDA certified operators are recognized industry-wide for their proficiency in the full range of sawing and drilling applications.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Successful completion of CSDA Cutting Edge, Slab Sawing & Drilling 101, Wall Sawing 101 or Wire Sawing 101
- Three years field experience (4,500 hours)
- Successful completion of 10-hour OSHA Construction Safety course
- No more than one lost-time injury within the last three years
- Unrestricted driver's license
- Negative drug test within 30 days of taking the course



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ACCREDITED COMPANIES

The CSDA Accredited Company Program is the first of its kind in the industry. This program has been created for cutting contractors to provide owners, architects, engineers, general contractors and government officials with a valuable pre-qualification tool that acknowledges sound business practices. It is available to all sawing and drilling contractors.

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MEMBER BENEFITS



FOCUS ON SAFETY

- CSDA is dedicated to the safety of everyone.
- The newly updated Safety Management Plan is a comprehensive document that is fully customizable for our members. Don't reinvent the wheel; start with our Safety Management Plan and build it out for your specific needs.
- Updated Safety Handbook now has a QR code. Operators will have safety information available at their fingertips, twenty-four/seven.
- The Safety Commitment Pledge shows that our members are committed to the safety of their employees. Sign the pledge and receive a certificate and a pack of stickers.
- Ask your safety officer to join our committee and help us develop the best programs for our members.

NETWORKING

The number one benefit for members has always been the opportunity to network with cutting professionals at the annual convention and quarterly meetings. This networking provides opportunities to forge new relationships and learn from other experienced professionals.

DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

The Association negotiates member benefit programs with national vendors like Staples, UPS and V-beltsupply.com in order to provide cost-savings opportunities for CSDA Members.



Join CSDA Today!

There is something for everyone when you become a member of the CSDA family.

Propel your business forward through member support and networking, online and in-person training opportunities, company recognition through awards and accreditation, and business tools to create efficiencies and success.

We are here to support you while propelling the sawing and drilling industry forward. Be a part of CSDA today.



DUES SCHEDULE

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\$1 – 2M	\$1,195			\$1,955	\$1,465		
\$2 – 3M	\$1,830	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,905	\$2,175		
\$3 – 5M	\$2,455			\$4,650	\$3,500		
\$5 – 10M	\$3,105			\$6,285			
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For more information about CSDA membership, visit www.csd.org or email info@csda.org.

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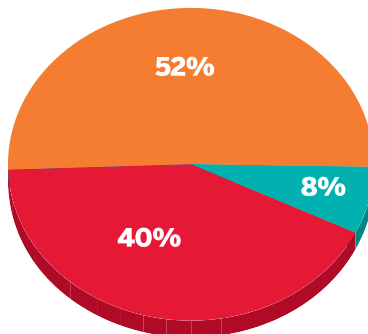
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Circulation

- 19,000+** Minimum, per issue
- 12,000+** Member and prospective member companies made up of contractors, manufacturers, distributors and affiliates
- 7,000+** General contractors, engineers, architects and government officials who specify cutting, polishing and imaging



Readership Per Issue

A poll of Concrete Openings subscribers revealed that 66% pass on their copy of the magazine to at least one other person, with almost 25% stating that the magazine is passed on to four or more people each issue. This translates to an average of four people reading each issue of the magazine for a total readership per year of approximately 60,000.



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Front Inside Cover 24,25	Diamond Products	Jim Palmer	1-800-321-5336	jpalmer@diamondproducts.com
35	Diamond Vantage	Troy Laidlaw	1-866-322-4078	TLaidlaw@diamondvantage.com
33	Diaquip	Nathan Shaw	0-161-406-0609	Sales@diaquip.co.uk
29, 39	Diteq	Mike Orzechowski	816-447-6161	mikeo@diteq.com
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CSDA Launches NEW Online Training Site!

Check out our updated Cutting Edge course—perfect for your new hires, operators with less than two years of experience or anyone who needs to learn more about diamond tools. The course is completely online and can be taken at the student’s own pace.

This course covers:

- Intro to Concrete Sawing & Drilling
- Cutting Edge
- Toolbox Safety Tips
- Jobsite Safety
- Silica Competent Person Training
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Visit csda.thinkific.com to learn more and sign up!



CSDA Committee Spotlight: Safety Committee



The Safety Committee is dedicated to creating awareness concerning safe operating practices in the concrete sawing and drilling industry. The committee provides recommendations, guidelines, and specifications for safe operating practices as a resource for CSDA members.

Each year the Safety Committee focuses on one or two specific initiatives. Throughout the year, they meet regularly to review and update safety resources available to CSDA members. They work closely with the other CSDA committees to make sure standards are consistent and up to date with manufacturer guidelines and OSHA regulations.

Last year they instituted the Commitment to Safety Pledge. CSDA member companies are invited to make this commitment to their employees. By signing on to this pledge, a company is telling its employees that the company is dedicated to employee safety. Since its inception last year, nearly a dozen companies have signed the pledge. Our goal is to have all contractor members sign this pledge. Contractor members who sign the pledge will be highlighted on the CSDA website, will receive a certificate that they can display in their offices, and will receive hard hat stickers for distribution to employees.

The committee also hired an outside safety consultant last year to review and update the CSDA Safety Manual. Recently completed, the updated manual, now called the Safety Management Plan, reflects current OSHA and industry

standards and will be updated annually to ensure it will always have the most current standards. It is available at no charge to members. The Safety Management Plan is fully customizable. **See page 26.**

Also updated was the Safety Handbook. The handbook is a shorter version of the Management Plan. Keep the essentials in front of your employees with the Safety Handbook QR code. Field workers can pull up the handbook at any point to check on safety best practices. CSDA Tip: Laminate the QR code and tape it to the dash of all your trucks.

To see the Safety Committee in action, sit in on our quarterly in-person meeting on September 5th in Tucson, AZ. At the June meeting, a safety-focused Lunch and Learn took place. Scott Greenhaus, from Hard Hats to Helmets, presented on the importance of helmets and was available afterwards for questions.

We encourage your company's safety officer or anyone interested in safety to join the committee and share your ideas.

To learn more about the Safety Committee and join as a volunteer, please reach out to us at info@csda.org or to Kristin Waters of Greene Concrete Cutting, Inc., and Chair of the Safety Committee.



**Let's work together
to shape the future of CSDA.**



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