


For the concrete masonry and hardscape industry

CM NEWS

Volume 37 Number 6 July 2007

A portrait of U.S. Senator Susan M. Collins, a woman with short dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue blazer over a red top and a pearl necklace. An American flag is visible in the background on the left side.

“The small businesses of the concrete industry have contributed significantly to America’s historic vitality and economic success, and are essential to keeping our nation strong, forward thinking, and entrepreneurial.”

U.S. SENATOR SUSAN M.

COLLINS (R-ME)

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**Grant Brings CM to
Student Architects
at NC State.
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NCMA Midyear Meeting July 25-29, 2007



**Meet Sen. Susan Collins
at the PAC reception.**



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Conventions Department
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On the cover: U.S. Senator Susan M. Collins (R-ME) is slated to attend the 2007 NCMA Midyear Meeting, July 25 to 29, in Boston. To plan your attendance, call the Meetings and Convention's Department at 703-713-1900.

July 2007

CM News publishes Mark Hogan's "President's Message," beginning with this issue. Previously his message arrived loosely in your monthly mailing packet.

Look for Mr. Hogan on page 4 of CM News each month.



Sustainable Concrete Products for Structures and Hardscapes

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President's Message

The Value of a Joint Concrete Industry Trade Show

by Mark Hogan, President of NCMA

Tradeshow are a very effective forum for conducting industry business, education, building relationships, introducing new technologies and equipment, sharing ideas, and discussing industry issues. When combined with an annual convention, where education and certification programs are offered, and social events and plant tours are conducted, the experience can be a great investment for everyone in the industry. The cost of conducting equipment tradeshow and annual conventions is formidable, as well. Delivering value to industry professionals, including production personnel, sales representatives, managers, and owners justifies the cost and attracts more exhibitors with expanded exhibits. Partnering within an industry further capitalizes on the investment in an industry tradeshow.

For more than 50 years, NCMA has partnered with other concrete and masonry-related associations in joint industry trades shows. Throughout that period, the size and popularity of these joint industry trade shows have expanded in terms of exhibit space and attendees. The introduction of the Masonry Expo in 1989 began a 10-year partnership that included seven masonry-related organizations. Most recently, NCMA joined with other precast concrete, paver, pipe, and industry organizations in the Manufactured Concrete Products Exposition (MCPX). As MCPX winds down its successful six-year run in 2008, we are looking ahead to creating the next great joint trade show.

We should all take a moment to consider what is best for the “greater good” of our industry—many smaller satellite trade shows, or a single joint industry-wide trade show? This is an important decision for our industry that requires careful consideration.

NCMA's leadership is committed to expand on the success of past events and continue this tradition of a joint trade show that includes every association, center, institute, and society involved in concrete and masonry—including producers, contractors, and installers of block, brick, SRW, pavers, pipe, precast, aggregate, cement, and all other components of the industry. A lot has changed in the concrete industry over the past few decades. Yet one constant has been the value to our industry by a joint trade show that delivers the highest return on investment for the participating organizations, attendees, and exhibitors. The joint trade show provides a venue that brings all of the players together at one location to conduct business.



The successes of these previous events have been based on satisfying both the exhibitors and the exhibitors' customers (show attendees). High levels of satisfaction were achieved by providing a venue that facilitated business discussions between vendors and purchasers, which culminated in elevating the attractiveness of the event and maximizing the trade show experience for both attendees and exhibitors. The involvement of several concrete and masonry organizations—coming together in a very close and cooperative working relationship—helped drive the success of a joint trade show and foster cross pollination between different components of the industry.

A joint industry trade show should be the premier combined industry trade show for concrete and masonry products, and should be one that encourages all associations representing concrete or masonry to be involved in promoting the identity of participating associations through customized registration, a show guide, signage, and exhibitor pavilions; and be promoted to all producers, suppliers, contractors, and anyone else involved in the concrete and masonry industry.

A joint industry trade show provides all of the participating organizations, exhibitors, and attendees increased attendance through combining conferences and trade shows; increased “buying power” with hotels and convention centers; increased visibility by drawing a much larger audience; and decreased costs of marketing, travel, and other related expenses. But most importantly, a joint industry trade show brings all of the players together—at one time and in one location—to cross pollinate, conduct business, and address industry issues.

The NCMA leadership looks forward to your continued involvement in launching the next great joint trade show in 2009!

National Concrete Masonry Association
FOUNDATION

Grant Gives Students Chance to Explore Concrete Masonry.

Adams Products has supported the project since its inception.



In partnership with Adams Products Company (a division of Oldcastle APG South Inc.) and the North Carolina State University College of Design's School of Architecture, a grant from the NCMA Education and Research Foundation provides young designers the opportunity to explore the benefits of concrete masonry in residential architecture.

Under the supervision of professor Georgia Bizios, graduate student researchers at NC State study architectural precedents and examine current building challenges. Learning from these inquiries, they prepare design development drawings for a middle-income American home, incorporating concrete masonry products in architectural, structural, and landscaping applications. The resulting design will be published for public use, and may serve as the basis for the construction of a demonstration home on the campus of NC State at Raleigh.

Butch Hardy, David McQueen, and Frank Werner at Adams Products have been instrumental in supporting the
continued on page 9

Frank Werner of Adams Products Company and NC State professor Georgia Bizios discuss design ideas for the concrete masonry house.



NC State architecture graduate students Marshall Dunlap, Michael DeMonaco, Geoffrey Barton, and Jon Hindman get a crash course in concrete masonry construction techniques. The wall mock-up was part of a research effort regarding window detailing.

Mason's Skills "Unmatched"

A young Tennessean shines among a family of masons.

Speaking of his recently graduated student, masonry instructor Steve Cheatwood wrote, "I just can't express how I feel about this young man."

Mr. Cheatwood later described Dustin Daniel as someone "he would match against anyone in just hard work and good attitude." In addition, Mr. Cheatwood says, Daniel was liked by everyone in school.

Mr. Daniel and his older brother now work for their father at Daniel's Masonry in Ethridge, Tenn. In spite of growing up in a family of masons, the youngest Mr. Daniel worked extremely hard at learning and honing his masonry skills, learning from both his father and from Mr. Cheatwood, who instructed him for four years in the Lawrence County High School masonry program.

"He was a stellar student," Mr. Cheatwood says, who lives in nearby Lawrenceburg. "He always had a knack for [masonry], but that wasn't enough for him. He worked hard at it. He took his projects seriously; but most importantly, his work ethic stood out."

Mr. Daniel never shied away from competitions, Mr. Cheatwood reports. "He loved the competitions. He was never nervous. He was so confident."

"It was a lot of fun to attend the national masonry competition last summer as Dustin's sponsor," says Mr. Cheatwood. "Dustin's older brother competed in union apprenticeship; and, as a youngster so did I. The difference was that after I won the Tennessee state competition, I got married



Mason Dustin Daniel and instructor Steve Cheatwood

and didn't attend the national contest. Through Dustin, I got to see what I missed!"

"His confidence never ceased to amaze me. Where I was a nervous wreck, Dustin was calm, always under control. I never saw him in a contest where he didn't feel that he should earn the first place prize."

Mr. Cheatwood concluded, "Dustin and his family are very close. It's so enjoyable to see good families in the trade. It's so good to see such good work in the trade. Daniel's Masonry does top-of-the-line work. They are immaculate bricklayers." ■

"I never saw him in a contest where he didn't feel that he should earn the first place prize."

Steve Cheatwood, masonry

instructor at Lawrence County High School, Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

Florida Competition Yields Two of the Best.

Young woman is tough contender at masonry competitions.

It shouldn't be a surprise if Floridian Tyler Prescott closely spent part of his time at the SkillsUSA Championship recently studying the North Carolina team's work. Mr. Tyler, who just finished his junior year at Menendez High School near St. Augustine, took first place in the high school category at the Florida State Skills Competition. Along with his masonry training, Mr. Tyler has learned that North Carolina is the state to beat.

"They're *the* masonry state. We have a healthy rivalry," says Al Herndon, apprenticeship representative for Florida's Masonry Education Foundation.

Through regional and state competitions, and efforts to woo an increasing number of schools, Florida's masonry industry is building its future workforce, Mr. Herndon says.

"Our goal is to get these kids into our apprenticeship program when they graduate from high school," he says. "But you've got to let them see the big picture of what the industry is and what it does. If you just tell them they're going to haul around brick and block all day, you're not going to get many takers."

Four schools with masonry programs belong to Mr. Herndon's Northern Florida Region. Students like Tyler first compete in a regional contest. The winners go on the statewide competition, including students from three high schools in central Florida that are being organized into their own region.

Not all schools with masonry program join Florida Skills, Mr. Herndon says. But membership is a requirement to compete. He's been trying to get the Bradford Union Technical Center's program to join for years. It finally did and its students competed for the first time this year.



Renae Cooper

"But you've got to let them see the big picture of what the industry is and what it does. If you just tell them they're going to haul around...block all day, you're not going to get many takers."

Al Herndon, apprenticeship representative for Florida's Masonry Education Foundation



Al Herndon of FMEF presented awards recently to masons Renae Cooper and Tyler Prescott. Just six points separated Renae Cooper from first-place winner Tyler Prescott.

"It certainly paid off for them," Mr. Herndon says.

Bradford Union students Renae Cooper and Cody Rodgers took second and third place, respectively, in the high school competition. Just six points separated Ms. Cooper from first-place winner Tyler Prescott.

"Renae's smart and she's got skills," Herndon says.

Before last fall, the 17-year-old from Lake Butler, in northeast Florida, hadn't given masonry a thought. It was her church that provided the inspiration.

"There's a regional building committee at my congregation, where 100 to 200 people build a complete "kingdom hall" in a weekend," she says. "The more I did, the more I loved it."

A local contractor saw Ms. Cooper's work at the State Skills competition and gave her his card, saying "If you want a job, call me." She did, and will work for the contractor this summer. "My goal now is to be a certified journeyman mason," she says.

Ms. Cooper just graduated from high school, and won't be eligible to compete again in the SkillsUSA high school category. But Tyler Prescott has another year in school. So this year may have been only a test run. Chances are, he'll be back next year. ■

New Sales Director



Ron Churchill is the new sales director of the association's Sales and Marketing Department. In this newly created position, Mr. Churchill develops, implements, and manages sales programs designed to enhance and grow the success of Associate Members. He has been a sales professional for 25 years, most recently a vice president for the Association of Services Management International in Fort Myers, Florida. Reach Mr. Churchill at 703-713-1900 or rchurchill@ncma.org.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity to join the NCMA team, and help expand the sales and relationship programs for exhibit booths, sponsorships, advertising, testing services, and other related Associate member programs," comments Mr. Churchill.



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NCMA FOUNDATION

continued from page 5

project since its inception, and the company has matched the foundation's financial support. This collaboration highlights the goals of the NCMA Education and Research Foundation, advancing and supporting the industry and the public interest through research and education programs. By encouraging young designers to consider concrete masonry early in their careers, the foundation serves the industry for years to come. ■

An early schematic model of the concrete masonry house highlights architectural, structural, and landscape applications.



NC State student designers Michael DeMonaco, Jon Hindman, Sang Eun Lee, and Geoffrey Barton review early concepts for the concrete masonry house.

TEK 1-1E ASTM Specifications for Concrete Masonry Units.

There have been a number of significant changes in ASTM specifications for concrete masonry units within the past year. ASTM C90 has changed the face shell thickness requirements for concrete masonry units, with a width over 8-inches (203-mm), and there is a completely new standard on concrete facing brick, ASTM C1634. TEK 1-1E ASTM Specifications for Concrete Masonry Units summarizes these major changes plus a number of others. Additionally, the TEK now identifies which editions of the ASTM documents are referenced in the 2003 and 2006 editions of the International Building Code and identifies the differences between them.

Make sure that you and your customers are up to speed on the latest concrete masonry standards by distributing this TEK to architects, engineers, residential designers, contractors, building officials, and inspectors in your area. To order copies of the publication, call NCMA at 703-713-1900.

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"Building Partnerships for the Future!"

The Industry Salutes Dr. Russ Brown

Dr. Brown is a founding member of the Masonry Society, former chairman of ASTM International Committee C15, and has published more than 40 papers.



“A real asset to the masonry industry...”

Russell H. Brown, Ph.D., recently retired from a 36-year career in education and research in concrete masonry, most recently chairing the Civil Engineering Department at Clemson University, South Carolina.

Most of Dr. Brown’s career has been dedicated to the advancement of masonry as a building material. Highlights of his dedication are his role as a founding member of the Masonry Society, former chairman of ASTM International Committee C15 Manufactured Masonry Units, and nearly 30 years of service on the Masonry Standards Joint Committee (MSJC). He has published more than 40 papers in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings related to masonry research projects, and he was a peer reviewer for many others.

“Dr. Brown is a real asset to the masonry industry,” states Paul LaVene, executive director of the Carolinas Concrete Masonry Association. Mr. LaVene, who is most supportive of Dr. Brown’s efforts, organized the first of many successful seminars on the new software. “Dr. Brown is an engineer with a real sense of humor who knows how to present a program in a very engaging way,” adds Mr. LaVene with a smile. “And retirement certainly hasn’t slowed Dr. Brown down. We used to have to schedule our seminars around his classes. Now we have to schedule them around all the other seminars he’s conducting across the country.”

Masonry Designs System Software

As impressive as Dr. Brown’s accomplishments are in the field of masonry education, research, and advancement of the profession, what has earned him this tribute in CM News is his passionate leadership in the development and distribution of Masonry Design System Software, a structural design program.

“Retirement certainly hasn’t slowed Dr. Brown down. We used to have to schedule our seminars around his classes. Now we have to schedule them around all the other seminars he’s conducting across the country.”
comments Paul LaVene, executive director of the Carolinas

Not only was he department head, Dr. Brown maintained a full teaching schedule and was very active in masonry codes, standards, and research.

Version 1 in 1998

In 1998 Dr. Brown and Dr. James K. Nelson, a colleague from Clemson's Department of Civil Engineering and now Dean of Engineering at the University of Texas at Tyler, submitted a proposal to NCMA to develop a structural concrete masonry design software program, based on the predominant codes and design standards in use at the time.

The NCMA Education and Research Foundation supported its development through Lenchuck Scholarships and grants to six Clemson graduate students. They were tasked to complete a thorough verification of the results produced through the new program. Dr. Brown supplied the structural engineering expertise to the development team, Dr. Nelson the programming, and students the task of verification. These students have since graduated, and have successful careers as design professionals. Because of their involvement with this program, they have a strong background in masonry.

Drs. Brown and Nelson freely admit that the development of the first release of the software program in 1998 proved much more difficult than they had ever imagined. "They quickly realized that to write source code based on the building code that they had to first decipher all of the inconsistencies in the code," states NCMA director of technical publications Dennis Graber, who worked closely with the professors throughout the development process.

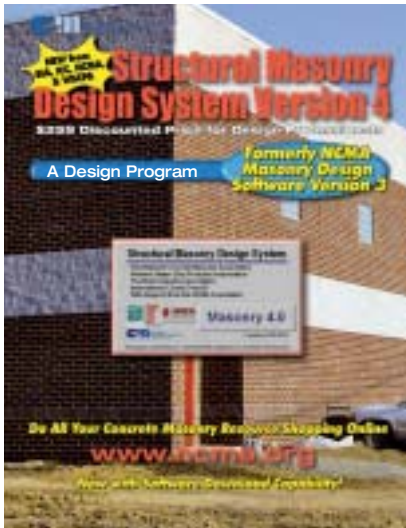
Thus, evolved one of the greatest unforeseen benefits of the software development program—identification of needed improvements to masonry design standards. "We spent countless hours debating necessary assumptions to bridge between gaps and conflicting requirements within the code," adds Mr. Graber. As a result, NCMA staff and the authors collaborated with the Masonry Standards Joint Committee, leading to a better design standard.



The Masonry Society executive director Phil Samblanet recognizes Dr. Russ Brown as an honorary member.

We used to have to schedule our seminars around his other seminars he's conducting across the country,"
Concrete Masonry Association.

“To write source code based on the building code, the code,” remarks NCMA technical publication director I



Notable masonry structural software statistics:

1. Four software versions released
2. 10,000 software copies distributed
3. 100-plus seminars based on the software
4. 3,500 seminar participants educated

Version 2 in 2000

Beginning with the release of Version 1 in 1998 as a purely lintel design software and expanding to include out-of-plane wall design with Version 2 in 2000, designers were now able to accomplish in minutes what previously took them hours to complete.

Version 2 includes:

- Lintel design—masonry and pre-cast concrete.
- Evaluation of masonry wall sections, loaded in the out-of-plane direction, using allowable stress design for both reinforced and un-reinforced masonry.
- Printed output, enabling comparison to hand calculations and submittals.
- Automatic plotting of a family of interaction diagrams to assist in achieving a most economical solution.
- Spacing of vertical reinforcement up to 10 ft. on center.
- Full or partial grout.
- Cantilevered, pinned-pinned, and fixed-pinned wall design.

This was the first known masonry software, taking into account axial compressive forces that augment flexural capacity to resist lateral loads. The flexural capacity is greatly increased by the axial loads, as shown in Figure 1. As all walls have some axial load due to at least the self-weight of the walls, much more efficient designs were now possible.

Version 4.1 just released

The Brown-Nelson Tandem did not rest on its laurels after these first two releases. As standards continue to evolve and additional desirable software features were identified, the developers continued their efforts to supply more releases of the software.

The latest, Version 4.1 includes these added features:

- Strength design
- MSJC 1995, 1999, 2002, 2005; IBC 2000, 2003, and 2006 designs
- IBC alternative basic load combinations for allowable stress design (ASD), permitting one-third stress increase in ASD
- Shear wall design, including interaction diagrams
- Clay masonry design
- Column design, including interaction diagrams
- 14- and 16-in. concrete masonry
- Customized face shell and web thicknesses
- Bar development and splice lengths
- Out-of-plane deflection under service loads
- Stirrups for lintels

they had to first decipher all of the inconsistencies in the

Dennis Graber

Version 5 under development

Even before completing the current version 4.1, Drs. Brown and Nelson mapped out strategies for Version 5 of the software—updating to 2008 MSJC and 2009 International Building Code (IBC), plus pilaster design and beam design. In the nine years since its first release, this program has accomplished more for the concrete masonry industry than most could imagine—more efficient masonry designs, better educated design professionals, improvements to design standards, and unifying masonry industry efforts.

Dr. Brown as teacher

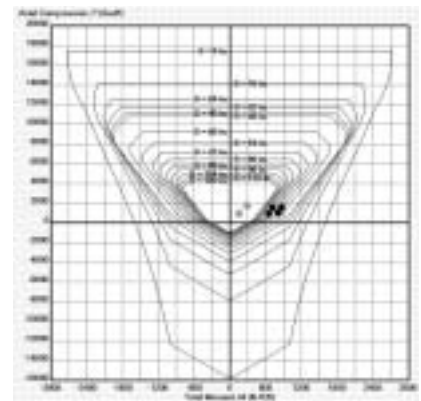
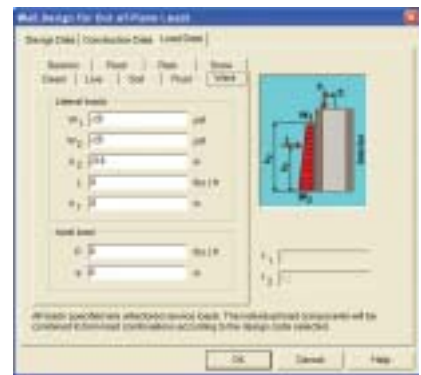
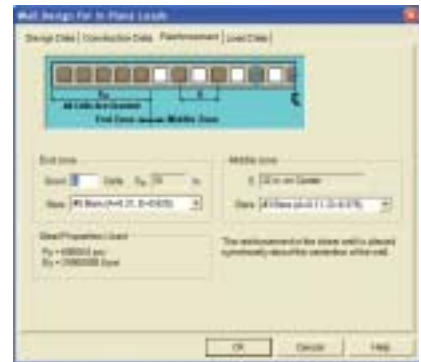
Dr. Brown spent the first five years of his teaching career at Georgia Tech, followed by two years at the University of Houston. The last 29 years were at Clemson University, 17 of which were as chairman of the Civil Engineering Department. In addition to the very demanding rigors of department head, Dr. Brown maintained a full teaching schedule and was very active in masonry codes, standards, and research. His accomplishments are:

- Introducing masonry design into the curriculum at Clemson, 1978.
- Hosting the first University Professors Masonry Workshop at Clemson, 1978. Today, the annual event is sponsored by the Masonry Society, rotating to schools across the country. The purpose is to arm architectural, engineering, and building construction professors with the necessary teaching aides and skills to initiate and maintain masonry curricula at major universities.
- Hosting the ninth North American Masonry Conference at Clemson, 2004.
- Chairing the Flexural and Axial Load Subcommittee of MSJC for two code- change cycles, 2002 and 2005.
- Achieving recognition from the Masonry Society as honorary member, 2006; a fellow, 2005; and as Scalzi award recipient for a career dedicated to masonry research, 1995.
- Achieving recognition from ASTM International as a fellow and honorary member, and former chairman of the Committee C15 Manufactured Masonry Units.
- Coauthoring the textbook Reinforced Concrete Design with Jack McCormac.

Dr. Brown today...and tomorrow

In addition to conducting a multitude of seminars and putting the finishing touches on Version 4.1 of the software, Dr. Brown still found time to ski 48 days this past winter at his second home in Keystone Colorado, and makes nearly daily mountain bike trips at Keystone and at his permanent home in Clemson. Dr. Brown has three daughters and seven grandchildren with whom he enjoys spending time. His wife Randy is a constant companion, and accompanies Dr. Brown to many of his seminars and conferences.

Even though Dr. Russell H. Brown has retired from his days as a professional educator, the industry continues to benefit mightily from his contributions. NCMA heartily salutes Dr. Brown, and looks forward to working with him as a valuable driving force in continuing education for design professionals, delivery of superior masonry design tools, and activity in the codes and standards arena. ■



Commercial Construction Show Attracts 3,000.



The Commercial Construction Show in Chicago in May was the first of its kind—combining three distinctly different expos to serve the needs of architecture, construction, facilities management, and maintenance professionals in retail, healthcare, and hospitality construction industries. NCMA's message to 3,000 attendees focused on the importance of building with concrete masonry to avoid disasters from hurricanes, tornadoes, and fire. More than 250 companies displayed their products and services and NCMA netted 90 leads. The Commercial Construction Show 2008 is held from June 3 to 5 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando.

NEW MEMBERS

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UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

To view the entire industry calendar, please visit: <http://www.ncma.org/online/industrycalendar.pdf>.

July

10 Masonry Alliance for Codes and Standards Fire Safety Task Group Meeting, Providence, RI, Comfort Inn, jthompson@ncma.org

11-12 Masonry Alliance for Codes and Standards Meeting, Providence, RI, Comfort Inn, jthompson@ncma.org

25-29 NCMA Midyear Meeting, InterContinental Hotel Boston, www.ncma.org

August

8 Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association Board Meeting, Lincoln, NE, info@nebraskaconcretemasonry.com

9 Masonry Institute of Tennessee Role of Masonry in Sustainable Design and LEED Seminar Memphis, TN, American Institute of Architects Memphis office, info@aiamemphis.org

September

11 Masonry Institute of Tennessee IT Role of Masonry in Sustainable Design and LEED, Johnson City, Carnegie Hotel, arenfro@xmat.com

11 Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association Board Meeting, Grand Island, info@nebraskaconcretemasonry.com

27-30 Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada Fall Conference, Napa Valley, CA, Villagio Inn and Spa, info@cmacn.org

28 Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada Design Awards Banquet, Napa Valley, CA, Villagio Inn and Spa, info@cmacn.org

October

1-3 ASTM International Committee E06 Performance of Buildings Meeting, Tampa, FL, Marriott Waterside, www.astm.org

5-9 American Society of Landscape Architects Annual Meeting and Expo, San Francisco, Moscone North Convention Center, www.asla.org

6-9 The Council of Educational Facility Planners 84th annual International Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Fairmont Royal York, mike@cefpi.org

9 Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association Board/Budget Meeting and UNL Arch Banquet, info@nebraskaconcretemasonry.com

11-13 NCMA Concrete Masonry Testing Procedures Course, Herndon, VA, www.ncma.org/meet/edu

15-20 NCMA Construction Specification Institute Technical Sales Course and C3M Certification Program, Herndon, VA, www.ncma.org/meet/edu

21 NCMA Executive Committee Meeting, Napa, CA, Siverado Resort, lkasabian@ncma.org

November

2 NCMA Concrete Products University Instructor Training Course, Herndon, VA, drozsa@ncma.org

5-8 NCMA Block and Landscape Products Sales Course, Herndon, VA, www.ncma.org/meet/edu

7-9 U.S. Green Building Council GreenBuild, Chicago, IL, McCormick Place West Building, www.greenbuildexpo.org

8-13 The Masonry Society Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, www.masonrysociety.org

13 Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association Board, Budget, and Election Meeting, York, info@nebraskaconcretemasonry.com

December

ASTM International Committee Meetings All in Tampa, FL, Marriott Waterside, www.astm.org

2-5 E05 Fire Standards Meetings

3-5 C09 Concrete and Concrete Aggregates Meetings

4-5 C27 Precast Concrete Products Meetings

4-6 C12 Mortars and Grouts for Unit Masonry Meetings

4-6 C15 Manufactured Masonry Units Meetings

5-6 C07 Lime Meetings

5-7 C01 Cement Meetings

12 Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association Board Meeting, Lincoln, info@nebraskaconcretemasonry.com

13-14 NCMA Segmented Retaining Walls Installer Train-the-Trainer Course, Herndon, VA, www.ncma.org/meet/edu

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S & S PRODUCTS



Ladder Safety

Ladders are common equipment.

Unfortunately, their use tends to bring many hazards. The safety rules applying to ladders are a combination of Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations and proven commonsense practices.

Proper duty rating

The first step to safe ladder use is choosing the appropriate ladder for the job. It is important to be sure the ladder has the proper duty rating to carry the combined weight of the user and any material being installed. The duty rating provides the ladder's maximum weight capacity. There are four categories of duty ratings established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI):

Type IA—These ladders have a duty rating of 300 pounds and are recommended for extra-heavy-duty industrial use.

Type I—These ladders have a duty rating of 250 pounds and are manufactured for heavy-duty use.

Type II—These ladders have a duty rating of 225 pounds and are approved for medium-duty use.

Type III—These ladders have a duty rating of 200 pounds and are rated for light-duty use.

Because it is impossible to determine a ladder's rating by merely examining it, ANSI requires a permanent duty rating sticker on the side rail. A worker using a ladder must be certain it is rated for its intended purpose. Other factors in selecting an appropriate ladder are style and material from

which it is constructed. For example, an extension ladder should be placed against a surface to access a higher level; a stepladder should not be used for this purpose. Further, ladders constructed of metal, such as aluminum, must not be used when performing electrical work.

Ladders are essential and potentially dangerous.

However, the dangers can easily be minimized by using these simple common sense practices:

▶▶ Like all other equipment, ladders should be inspected before use. During daily inspection, steps should be cleaned of any grease, oil, mud, snow, or any other slippery material that could interfere with the worker's footing.

ANSI requires a permanent duty rating sticker on the side rail.

▶▶ Wooden ladders need to be checked for cracks or splits; fiberglass or steel ladders should be checked for bends or cracks.

▶▶ If a ladder is found to be damaged in any way, it must be tagged as "defective" and removed from service.

▶▶ When using a ladder, be sure the feet set on a firm, level, and dry floor. If it is necessary to use a ladder on uneven footing, the surface should be built up with firm material until the ladder is level.

▶▶ Ladders not on a stable or level surface must be secured to prevent accidental displacement.

▶▶ If it is necessary to put a ladder in a doorway, the door should be locked or at least blocked to prevent entry.

When climbing a ladder, the worker should face the ladder and hold onto rails using both hands. Feet should be placed at the middle of the steps to keep the weight balanced. When it is necessary to get tools or materials up a ladder, never carry them by hand. This shifts the body weight and prevents the use of both hands while climbing. The safe method to get equipment to the worksite requires use of either a tool belt/vest or hoist. Never overreach from a ladder or lean too far to one side. Overreaching is probably the most common cause of ladder falls. A basic rule is to always keep a belt buckle inside the rails of the ladder. Work should only be performed as long as the employee can reach the work area comfortably. When moving a ladder to a new position, descend the ladder; never move it by rocking it or pushing it from a supporting wall.

Never use a ladder when...

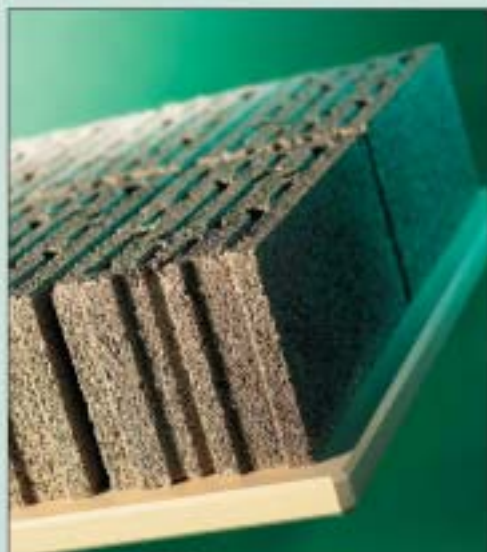
You are under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or when feeling sick or dizzy. Never leave tools on a ladder, because if they fall, they may harm the worker using the ladder or another standing in close proximity. Unless a ladder is specifically designed for use by two people, a ladder should only be used by one person at a time. ■

For more information about safety and OSHA compliance regarding ladders, consider the NCMA Block Plant Safety Software (\$150/plant/year for members; \$450/plant/year for non-members), which includes INTEC's onsite consultation and training services. Call NCMA at 703-713-1900 to order the software, or contact INTEC's Joe O'Connor at 607-624-7159 or joconnor@intecweb.com.

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