

WRMCA SCOOP

4th Quarter • December 2024 • www.wrmca.com • info@wirmca.com

2025 WRMCA Annual Convention

February 26-28, 2025 - The Trade Hotel, Milwaukee, WI

The annual convention will begin with a reception and dinner on Wednesday, February 26th. Sessions and a reception will be held on Thursday, February 27th concluding with sessions the morning of Friday, February 28th.

The Trade Hotel

Room Rates: \$215 a night plus taxes Click [here](#) to make reservations. Click [here](#) to view the hotel.



Registration fee is \$425 for full, \$325 for guest, and \$300 for Thursday only. Sponsorships are available for breakfast, lunch, and dinner at \$350 each.

Click [here](#) to register and sponsor. **Thank you to Badger State Equipment, Digital Fleet, Peters Concrete, & Terex for sponsoring.**

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, February 26th

5:00-6:00 pm Reception
6:00-8:00 pm Dinner

Thursday, February 27th

8:00-9:00 am **Registration & Breakfast**
9:00-10:00 am **Leadership Today** – Jessica Kemp, BARD Materials
10:00-11:00 am **Economic Update** – George Reddin, FMI
11:00-11:15 am **Break**
11:15-Noon **The Future of the Use of SCM's in Concrete** – Rusty Owings, Holcim
Noon-1:00 pm **Lunch**
1:00-2:00 pm **AI in an Ever-Changing World** – Ben Rabchuk, Command Alkon
2:00-3:00 pm **Government Affairs Update** – Andrew Tyrell, NRMCA
3:00-3:15 pm **Break**
3:15-3:45 pm **WRMCA Legislative Update** – Peter Kammer, WRMCA
3:45-4:00 pm **Award Recognition**
4:00-6:00 pm **Reception**

Friday, February 28th

8:00-8:45 am **Breakfast**
9:00-10:00 am **Workforce Development: Strategies for All Ages and Stages**- Amy Numbers, AOE
10:00-11:00 am **Concrete Parking Lot Promotion** - Jason Kruger, WRMCA
11:00 am **Adjourn**

ASSOCIATION NEWS

WRMCA Welcomes New Members

- Allen-Villere, M&A services, <https://allenvillere.com/>
- Cemstone Ready Mix, Ready mixed concrete & aggregates, <https://cemstone.com/concrete/ready-mix-concrete/>
- Sysdyne, Software, <https://sysdynetechnologies.com/>
- Tetra Tech, Consulting and engineering, <https://www.tetratech.com/>
- West Dunn, Legal services, <https://www.westdunn.com>

Register for the 2025 Technical Workshop

The WRMCA Annual Technical Workshop will be held January 30th-31st at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

Registration is now open for the 2025 Technical Workshop. Click [here](#) to register. The schedule of events is on page 6.

Topics include Slab Tolerances & Elevation Control, Portland Limestone Cement & How to Work With It, 1L Cements: A Contractor's Perspective, Concrete Cracking - Why & How to Prevent It, Are You a Manager or a Leader?, and WisDOT 2025 Updates.

Reservations can be made by contacting the Kalahari Resort at 877-253-5466, ask for the WRMCA rate of \$139 available January 29th-31st or click [here](#) to book online.

Please contact Cherish at cschwenn@wirmca.com for additional details.

Register for the 2025 OES Workshop

Please share the OES Workshop details with your Operations, Environment and Safety personnel.

The 2025 WRMCA OES Workshop will take place February 20th & 21st at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Click [here](#) to register. The schedule of events is on page 7.

Reservations can be made by contacting the Kalahari Resort at 877-253-5466, ask for the WRMCA \$160 room rate available February 19th-21st, or click [here](#) to book online.

The workshop agenda is attached with a variety of topics on Operations, DOT changes, WDNR sampling requirements, silica testing, worker comp, the Smith System, and mental health. Including speakers from MSHA, OSHA/WISCON, NRMCA, insurance companies, a law firm specializing in the Silica Rule changes and fellow producer members.

Please contact Kim at knovak@wirmca.com for additional details.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

WRMCA Concrete Field Testing Certification

WRMCA is hosting an ACI Concrete Testing Technician - Grade 1 Program on Thursday, February 6th at the Hyatt Place Milwaukee West, 11777 West Silver Spring Drive, Milwaukee and Riv/Crete Ready Mix.

The cost for WRMCA members is \$500 and \$700 for non-members. Classes are limited to 30 people. To register for any of the ACI classes, go to

The training course offers instruction in the fundamentals of concrete testing procedures. Emphasis is placed upon practical information and skills which will help quality-control and testing personnel do their jobs more efficiently to ensure consistent, quality concrete, and reliable test results. Testing includes a classroom session followed by a field test session.

If you carry a current ACI, Concrete Field Testing Technician—Grade 1 certification, please be an examiner for the 2025 classes by contacting Kim at knovak@wirmca.com.

Additional ACI Grade 1 Dates are:

- March 20th in Eagle River at Northern Lakes Concrete (limited to 20 students)
- April 10th in Green Bay at NWTC and Carew Concrete
- May 15th in Fond Du Lac at Carew Concrete
- June 5th in Madison at Wingra Redi-Mix

Click [here](#) to register

WRMCA Strength Testing Certification

The **WRMCA** is sponsoring an ACI Laboratory Technician Concrete Strength Testing Technician Certification Course and Informational Seminar on February 24th. The certification will be held at American Engineering Testing, 4203 Schofield Avenue, Suite 1 in Schofield.

Certification Level

Concrete Strength Testing Technician is an individual who has demonstrated the knowledge and ability to properly perform, record, and report the results of four basic ASTM laboratory procedures related to the determination of concrete compressive and flexural strength.

Scope & Knowledge

The program requires a working knowledge of the following ASTM Standards:

C617-Capping Cylindrical Concrete Specimens

C1231-Unbonded Caps for Concrete Cylinders

C39-Compressive Strength of Cylindrical Concrete Specimens

C78-Flexural Strength of Concrete

Click [here](#) to register.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

WRMCA 15th Annual Pheasant Hunt

The 15th Annual WRMCA Pheasant Hunt held on December 6th was a success with 12 teams participating in the event. A special thanks to Pheasants@Large and Dan Large for hosting the event. Thank you to the event sponsors: Carew Concrete & Supply, Forta, FRC, GeoTest, MCC, Premiere Concrete Admixtures, Riv/Crete Ready Mix, Schmitz Ready Mix, Sika Corporation, St. Mary's Terracon, Wingra Redi-Mix, and Zignego Ready Mix. Congratulations to the winning team consisting of Rill Banks, Orilius Banks, Bryan Brinyarik, Phillip Lesley, Jason Redding, and Terry Winders.



OES Annual Safety Awards 2024

The WRMCA OES Committee is pleased to again announce the annual safety award contest. Please fill out the information for each individual operations. All information will be kept confidential and destroyed upon verification of the safety award presentation.

The safety award program is established to recognize those individual plant locations that have exceptional safety records. All plants that achieve a record (based on frequency and severity rates) below the industry average will receive a certificate of recognition. The plant that has the best record within the nomination category will receive a plaque.

“Best in Class” winners will be announced, and plaques will be awarded at the Annual OES Workshop. Click [here](#) for the form. Please return the nominations by **February 15th**.

WRMCA Website Advertising

The WRMCA is offering an opportunity for the first half of 2025 for members to advertise their company on the WRMCA website. A rotating 1455 x 180px ad will run on the site during a 6-month period of time. The cost to place an ad is \$250. If you are interested in placing a banner ad, please sign up by contacting cschwenn@wirmca.com by **February 15th**.

Save the Date - 2025 Scholarship Golf Outing

Registration will begin on Friday, January 13th at 10:30am at Wild Rock located at 856 Canyon Road, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. Lunch will be available at 11:00am. The tournament format will be best ball. The golf outing will conclude with a reception, dinner, and raffle. For questions, please contact Kim at knovak@wirmca.com.

Save the Date WRMCA 2024 Mixer Driver Championship

We are excited to announce that the Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association will be holding its 2nd Mixer Driver Championship on Saturday, August 2nd at the Timber Rattlers Stadium in Appleton. Sponsorship information will be sent soon. If you are interested in joining the driver championship committee, please contact Cherish at cschwenn@wirmca.com.

INDUSTRY NEWS

SICK North America Campus and the Future of Concrete Construction

Date: Wednesday, February 19th

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Presenters: Hailey Arterburn (Thornton Tomasetti); Josh Edwards (AVR Inc.); Matt Smith (Meyer Borgman Johnson); and Nate Weingart (Ancoats)



Description: Utilizing the SICK North America Campus project as an example, this presentation will include practical suggestions on how to use EPD's on a project. Presenters will provide information about where the embodied carbon can come from on a large commercial construction project and how to lower that carbon footprint. Presenters will share their insights on having project level conversations about embodied carbon and global warming potential that will lead to a successful project. Presenters will also provide specification requirements for performance mix designs and EPD's.

Click [here](#) to register.

NRMCA Seeks Nominations for 2025 Concrete Innovations Awards

NRMCA through its [Build With Strength](#) and [Pave Ahead](#) initiatives is seeking nominations for the 2025 Concrete Innovations Awards. The award program recognizes outstanding achievement in concrete design and construction. Innovative projects are awarded for outstanding performance while lowering environmental impacts, including embodied and operational carbon footprint.



Buildings and infrastructure projects substantially designed and built using concrete in the United States in the last five years are eligible. Projects must demonstrate improved performance and sustainability. An NRMCA member company must have been involved in supplying products or services to the project. Areas of excellence include advanced quality control, innovative cements, supplementary cementitious materials, admixtures, aggregates, recycling methods, carbon capture and sequestration technologies, and measurement tools or innovative designs that improve performance and sustainability.

*Nominees are now being accepted [here](#); the deadline for nominations is **January 31st**. For more information, contact Lionel Lemay at llemay@nrmca.org or 847-922-7995.*

WRMCA TECHNICAL WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

WRMCA Technical Workshop

January 30-31, 2025

Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells

Thursday, January 30th

11:15am – **Registration**

12:00pm – **Lunch**

1:00pm – **Slab Tolerances and Elevation Control - Are your Slabs Really Flat?** – Bryan

Birdwell, Structural Services

2:00pm – **Break**

2:15pm – **PLC & How to Work With It** – Gary Hall, Prairie Materials

3:15pm – **Break**

3:30pm – **1L Cements: A Contractors Perspective** – Matt Popoff, Popoff Inc.

5:00pm – **Social Hour**

6:00pm – **Dinner & Concrete Design Awards**

Friday, January 31st

7:45am – **Breakfast**

8:30am – **WisDOT Update** – Tirupan Mandal & Aleksandra Markovic, WisDOT

9:30am – **Break**

9:45am – **Concrete Cracking – Why & How to Prevent It** – Rusty Owings, Holcim

10:45am – **Break**

11:00am – **Are You a Manager or a Leader?** – AJ Gajdosik, Acuity Insurance

12:00pm – **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

WRMCA OES WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

WRMCA 21st Annual OES Workshop February 20th & 21st, 2025 Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells

Thursday, February 20th

9:30am – **Welcome**

9:35am – **How to Plan for Compliance with MSHA's Upcoming Silica Rule**
– Margaret Lopez, Shareholder and Workplace Safety Lawyer, Ogletree Deakins

10:35am – **Break**

10:45am – **How to Test for Silica** – George Gruetzmacher, WisCon Program

11:15am – **Benefits of Using the Smith System** – Cassie Krause, Carew Concrete & Supply

11:45pm – **Lunch**

12:30pm – **DOT Regulatory Update** – Jeff Swan, Acrisure Midwest

1:30pm – **Heat Stress: The Ongoing OSHA FOCUS**
– George Gruetzmacher, WisCon Program

2:15pm – **Break**

2:30pm – **Mental Health** – Cassie Krause, Carew Concrete & Supply

3:30pm – **Communication in Construction** – AJ Gajdosik, Acuity Insurance

4:30pm – **2024 Plant Safety Awards**

4:45pm – **Happy Hour at the Brew Pub**

Friday, February 21st

7:30am – **Breakfast**

8:30am – **Workers Comp 101** – Chad Kaster, Acuity, & Jake Pederson, USI

9:30am – **Environmental Update: Nonmetallic Mining Permit Lab Analysis & Sampling, WDNR Changes, CPO Permit Changes & BMP's**
– Josh Davenport, Tetra Tech, & Kim Novak, WRMCA

10:00am – **Break**

10:15am – **Federal Government Affairs Update** – Andrew Tyrell, NRMCA

11:15am – **MSHA - Highwall Safety, Blasting Safety, Danger of Abandoned Mines**
– David Vriezen, MPA, Wisconsin State Mining Inspector, Department of Safety & Professional Services

12:00pm – **Workshop Concludes**

NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

Volume 5, Issue 12



Walking, Working Surfaces – Watch Your Step!

Walking, Working Surfaces and the Ready Mixed Concrete Industry

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), slips, trips and falls are the leading cause of workplace accidents. During the winter months, this reality is heightened by more slippery, wet and icy walking and working surfaces, especially at ready mixed concrete plants. To reduce and ultimately eliminate slips, trips and falls, and the injuries and costs associated with them, producers should take just a few minutes to assess their operations and any liabilities.

What to Know About Walking, Working Surfaces

Ready mixed concrete plant employees should review procedures for walking, working surfaces and fall protection on a regular basis. Reviews should include regular inspections followed by any necessary fixes, changes or updates to surfaces. As well, any necessary training should be conducted regarding different walking, working surfaces changes, updates, and personal protection equipment (PPE) needs. Regular walking, working surfaces assessments should include indoor and outdoor areas, ground level, elevated work areas, stairs, and all ladders. For elevated surfaces, as per OSHA, fall protection is required when: workers are four or more feet above the ground or another level; there is danger of falling into hazardous equipment or materials; and any other situation identified by either OSHA or plant management. If fall protection is needed, OSHA employs a hierarchy of fall protection, meaning they'd rather see a hazard be engineered out first, then use of fall restraints, and then if neither of those can be employed, use of a fall arrest system. Keeping all walking, working surfaces clean, and clear of hazards is critical for preventing slips, trips, and falls. Be especially careful where walking surfaces are commonly wet such as at plant loading lanes, slump racks, truck washout areas and truck wash areas.



Walking, Working Surfaces Do's and Don'ts

- Think first before using walking, working surfaces
- Keep surfaces clean, and clear of hazards
- Utilize signage to identify hazards
- Conduct training when necessary
- Use PPE when required
- Correctly maintain walking, working surfaces, stairs and ladders
- Use 3-points-of-contact when using stairs and ladders
- Keep focused on footing and hand rails
- Limit slippery or icy surfaces:
- Keep surfaces dry
- Adhere to proper housekeeping
- Eliminate walking obstacles
- Spread sand and/or salt
- Use boot/shoe crampons or cleats
- Lay out anti-slip mats or treads
- Maintain proper lighting



Resources

NRMCA: [Plant Safety Video](#) | **NRMCA:** [Working Safely Around Mixer Trucks](#)
OSHA: [Fall Protection](#) | **OSHA:** [Fall Prevention Campaign](#)

Contact

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NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

Volume 6, Issue 1



Introduction to OSHA

OSHA and the Ready Mixed Concrete Industry

Created in 1970, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is the federal agency responsible for worker safety and health protection. OSHA encourages employers, such as ready mixed concrete producers, to reduce workplace hazards and implement safety and health programs. Similarly, OSHA develops, sets and enforces mandatory worker safety and health standards. Another aspect of these rules encompasses training requirements, and recordkeeping and reporting of injuries, illnesses and fatalities. OSHA also provides assistance to employers and employees to support safe work places. Additionally OSHA requires employers to establish methods for reporting non-compliance, and for employees to have the ability to report unsafe working conditions. Finally, not only does OSHA require employers to maintain a workplace free of hazards, OSHA also requires that employees follow OSHA requirements and their employers' safety and health programs.



What to Know About OSHA

OSHA requirements cover all private sector employees and their employers. These requirements and their enforcement are either under the jurisdiction of federal OSHA, or an OSHA-approved state safety program. Currently, 22 states operate OSHA-approved statewide safety programs. State approved programs are required to be at least as stringent as the federal standards. Common exceptions to OSHA coverage are federal employees, self-employed workers, immediate members of farm families, and workplace hazards that may be covered by a different agency (i.e., MSHA, Dept. of Transportation). Specific to the ready mixed concrete industry, concrete plants are covered under OSHA's "General Industry" standard, which in part, applies to manufacturing facilities. A common misconception is that concrete plants are covered under OSHA's "Construction Industry" standard since concrete is a facet of the construction industry. However, concrete plants are not construction sites, but rather manufacturing facilities according to OSHA. Both the General and Construction Industry standards have different safety requirements; using them incorrectly could risk OSHA non-compliance, resulting in fines. One of the best ways to determine what standards may be applied to a plant, and what hazards may exist, is to conduct a worksite survey - or rather a site walkaround. Examples of OSHA standards that generally apply to ready mixed concrete plants, in part, include fall prevention, machine guarding, respiratory protection, lockout/tagout, hazard communication, confined space, personal protective equipment, and powered industrial trucks, to name a few.

OSHA Do's and Don'ts

- Think first before enacting safety and health programs
- Determine what safety standards apply
- Inform workers about workplace hazards that exist
- Display official OSHA "Job Safety and Health - It's the Law" poster
- Train workers on OSHA compliance
- Maintain OSHA compliance
- Keep work areas clear of hazards
- Utilize signage to identify hazards
- Maintain injury/illness records
- Keep all records updated
- Provide medical testing when required



Resources

NRMCA: [Plant Safety Video](#) | NRMCA: [Preparing for an OSHA Plant Inspection](#)
OSHA: [About OSHA](#) | OSHA: [OSHA At-A-Glance](#)

Contact

Kevin Walgenbach: kwalgenbach@nrmca.org

5

Action Steps to Help Someone Having Thoughts of Suicide

We can all take steps to help prevent suicide. **Knowing the warning signs for suicide and how to get help can save lives.**

Here are 5 steps you can take to #BeThe1To help someone who is having thoughts of suicide:



1. ASK:

“Are you thinking about suicide?” It’s not an easy question to ask, but it can help start a conversation. Studies show that asking people if they are suicidal does not increase suicidal behavior or thoughts.



2. BE THERE:

Listening without judgment is key to learning what the person is thinking and feeling. Research suggests acknowledging and talking about suicide may reduce suicidal thoughts.



3. HELP KEEP THEM SAFE:

Reducing access to highly lethal items or places can help prevent suicide. Asking the person if they have a plan and making lethal means less available or less deadly can help the person stay safe when suicidal thoughts arise.



4. HELP THEM CONNECT:

Connecting the person with the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (**call or text 988**) and other community resources can give them a safety net when they need it. You can also help them reach out to a trusted family member, friend, spiritual advisor, or mental health professional.



5. FOLLOW UP:

Staying in touch with the person after they have experienced a crisis or been discharged from care can make a difference. Studies show that supportive, ongoing contact can play an important role in suicide prevention.

For more information on suicide prevention:
www.nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention
www.bethe1to.com



NIH National Institute of Mental Health

NIMH Identifier No. OM 24-4315
Revised 2024

EVENTS CALENDAR

WRMCA & Industry Events

Date	Event	Organization
January 14-16	CCSP Module III: General Business Knowledge	NRMCA
January 16	Board of Directors Meeting	WRMCA
January 20-24	World of Concrete	WOC
January 30-31	Technical Workshop	WRMCA
January 30	Concrete Design Awards Ceremony	WRMCA
February 3-7	Concrete Technologist	NRMCA
February 4	Physical Salt Attack on Concrete: Mechanisms, Influential Factors, and Protection	ACI
February 6	ACI Grade 1 Certification Class	WRMCA
February 13-14	Annual Concrete Pavement Conference	WCPA
February 19	SICK North America Campus and the Future of	WRMCA
February 20-21	OES Workshop	WRMCA
February 26-28	Annual Convention	WRMCA
February 24	Strength Testing Certification Class	WRMCA
March 4-7	Annual Convention	NRMCA
March 18	Technical Committee Meeting	WRMCA
March 18-21	Plant Manager	NRMCA
March 20	ACI Grade 1 Certification Class	WRMCA
March 30-April 2	Concrete Convention	ACI
April 10	ACI Grade 1 Certification Class	WRMCA
May 5-6	Dispatch 101	NRMCA
May 5-6	Supervisors Course	NRMCA
May 5-6	Think Like An Owner	NRMCA
May 15	ACI Grade 1 Certification Class	WRMCA
June 5	ACI Grade 1 Certification Class	WRMCA
June 13	Annual Scholarship Golf Outing	WRMCA
August 2	Mixer Driver Championship	WRMCA