

WRMCA SCOOP

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44th Annual Concrete Design Award Winners

The Concrete Design Award ceremony took place on Thursday, January 29th at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This year's award-winning projects exemplify innovative design in concrete for a diverse range of projects in Wisconsin.

For the 44th Annual Concrete Design Awards, eighteen projects were highlighted representing winners that included owners, architects, engineers, contractors, and ready mixed producers.

To view the award's presentation, click [here](#).

To view a summary of each project, click [here](#)

See the full list of winners on pages 8-9.

The Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association, Euclid Chemical, Graymont, Oshkosh Corporation, Peters Concrete, Premiere Concrete Admixtures, Schmitz Ready Mix, Verrette Materials, Wingra Redi-Mix, & the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Concrete Institute cosponsored the annual award program.



Special thanks to Cornerstone Concrete and Todd's Redi-Mix for making the plaques. Thanks to Rick Ross and Aaron Peterson for handing out the plaques.



ASSOCIATION NEWS

2026 Scholarship Golf Outing

The 27th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing will be held on Thursday, June 18th at Trapper's Turn in Wisconsin Dells. Registration will begin at 9:30 am at Trappers Turn Golf Club with a shotgun at 11:00 am. The outing will conclude with a reception, appetizers, and raffle. A brochure with sponsorship, registration, and other details to follow. For more information, please contact Kim at knovak@wirmca.com.

2026 ACI Certification Classes

ACI Grade 1 Class Thank You

Thank you to Schmitz Ready Mix for hosting the February 11th ACI Grade 1 Class. There were 20 students in attendance. Thank you to the chief examiner, Greg Schmidt. Thank you to the examiners: Andy Davis of GESTRA Engineering, Andrea Breen, Jeff Madsen, and Matt Scriven of Schmitz Ready Mix, Karl Castello, Tom Barnes and Greg Moss of Intertek PSI.

Thank you to GeoTest for hosting the March 10th ACI Strength Testing Class. There were 19 students in attendance. Thank you to the chief examiner, Greg Schmidt.

Thank you to Northern Lakes Concrete for hosting the March 12th ACI Grade 1 Class. There were 25 students in attendance. Thank you to the chief examiner, Greg Schmidt. Thank to the examiners: Justin Hoffman, Taylor Cooper, and Timothy Fox of Northern Lakes Concrete and Paul Dahl of Peters Concrete.

Thank you to MCC for hosting the April 2nd ACI Grade 1 Class. There were 21 students in attendance. Thank you to the chief Examiner, Greg Schmidt. Thank you to the examiners: Paul Dahl of Peters Concrete, Cael Large of FRC/QCS, Matt Scriven of Schmitz Ready Mix, Tim Hendrickson of MCC, Nick Porter and Jesse Strebelski of Carew Concrete.

Class Information & Dates

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.

June 4th in Fond du Lac at Carew Concrete & Supply

If you carry a current ACI Concrete Field Testing Technician – Grade 1 certification, please be an examiner for the 2026 classes. Contact Cherish at 608.235.1430 or cschwenn@wirmca.com.

ACI Concrete Flatwork

Thank you to John Lee for teaching the February 24th class at Cemstone Ready Mix in River Falls. Thank you to Cemstone Ready Mix for hosting the class. There were 16 students in attendance.

Thank you to Tom Geary for teaching the March 12th class in Wausau. There were 15 students in attendance.

WRMCA Events

WRMCA & NRMCA Bring Leadership Training to Lambeau Field

WRMCA partnered with the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA) February 3–5 to host 46 learners at Lambeau Field, the storied home of the NFL’s Green Bay Packers, for NRMCA’s *Think Like an Owner* and *Supervisor* courses.

The courses were delivered over a three-day period. Bob Capasso served as lead faculty for *Think Like an Owner*, while Jeannette Munroe and Cassie Krause facilitated the *Supervisor* course.

Course topics ranged from economic profit to managing multiple generations in the workplace.



WRMCA Partners with Skate4Concrete to Engage Educators

WRMCA partnered with Skate4Concrete at the Wisconsin Technology Education Association Conference on March 5 at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells to introduce teachers to its certification program. Twenty educators from across the state signed up to learn more about the initiative and how it can be incorporated into their classrooms.

Crystal Howard of Skate4Concrete is hosting a series of three virtual sessions for participating teachers. As an added incentive, attendees will be entered into a drawing to receive a free mini skatepark.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AB 453 Becomes Law and Will Reshape Residential Development By Peter Kammer, WRMCA Governmental Affairs

The Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association (WRMCA) recently joined Governor Evers for the signing of AB 453, which will ease residential development. The ongoing housing shortage has been a key issue that the Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association has been working to address in recent legislative sessions. This new law, supported by WRMCA and others, reduces hurdles to residential development. The lack of residential development —marked by rising home prices, limited inventory, and growing workforce constraints—has driven policymakers to pursue supply-side reforms. Among the most significant is Assembly Bill 453 (AB 453), often referred to as “Truth in Planning” legislation. Designed to streamline local development processes and align planning with execution, the bill introduces structural changes that could meaningfully expand residential construction across the state. WRMCA thanks State Representative David Armstrong of Rice Lake and State Senator John Jagler of Watertown for their work drafting and passing this legislation.

Aligning Plans with Reality

At the core of AB 453 is a requirement that local zoning ordinances align with municipal comprehensive plans. Historically, Wisconsin communities have been required to maintain long-term comprehensive plans outlining where and how development should occur. However, zoning decisions—especially rezoning requests—have not always followed those plans, creating uncertainty and delays for developers.

AB 453 closes that gap. If a developer proposes housing in an area designated for residential use in a comprehensive plan, local governments must generally approve the rezoning request. In cases where the comprehensive plan itself is insufficiently detailed, the bill allows for automatic rezoning to the least restrictive classification.

Benefit: This creates a more predictable regulatory environment, reducing one of the biggest barriers to housing development: discretionary local approval processes.

Increasing Housing Supply and Affordability

The bill is widely viewed by housing advocates as a supply-side reform. By making it easier to build in areas already identified for growth, AB 453 is expected to increase the volume of new housing construction.

Supporters argue that increasing supply is essential to stabilizing or reducing housing costs. The legislation is explicitly framed to “increase housing supply” and “make homes more affordable.”

Benefit: Over time, more consistent and higher housing production can ease upward pressure on prices and rents, particularly in high-demand regions.

Article continued on Page 5.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Long-Term Planning Requirements

AB 453 also strengthens requirements for comprehensive plans themselves. Municipalities must now specify where and at what density residential growth will occur in five-year increments over a 20-year horizon.

Benefit: This forces communities to proactively plan for growth rather than react to development proposals, improving coordination between infrastructure, land use, and housing needs.

Expanded Use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

The bill includes provisions related to Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), a key economic development tool. It extends the allowable lifespan of certain TIF districts for housing-related investments and clarifies eligible uses tied to residential development.

Benefit: Municipalities gain additional financial flexibility to support housing infrastructure—such as roads, utilities, and site preparation—making projects more financially viable.

Streamlining Development Processes

More broadly, AB 453 is part of a package of housing bills aimed at reducing regulatory friction. It simplifies and standardizes aspects of rezoning and planning consistency, making the development process more transparent and efficient.

Benefit: Lower administrative complexity reduces costs for developers, which can translate into more projects and potentially lower home prices.

Balancing State Direction and Local Control

While AB 453 strengthens state-level requirements, it still preserves local control over where growth occurs—through the comprehensive planning process. Municipalities retain authority to determine appropriate locations and densities, but once those decisions are made, they must be followed.

Benefit: This hybrid approach maintains local planning autonomy while ensuring that adopted plans are actually implemented.

AB 453 represents a significant shift in Wisconsin's approach to residential development. By aligning zoning with comprehensive plans, reducing discretionary barriers, and enhancing financing tools, the bill aims to create a more predictable and efficient development environment.

Now that it is law, it encourages increased housing supply, improved affordability, and a more coordinated approach to growth—key outcomes for a state grappling with a persistent housing shortage.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Conner Funk Son of Mike Funk, MCC, Inc.



Concrete is everywhere. It forms the roads we drive on, the sidewalks we walk across, and the buildings we step into every day. In fact, it is the second most used material on Earth, only behind water. Its strength, durability, and versatility make it the foundation—literally and figuratively—of modern life.

Beyond shaping the physical world, concrete shapes the economy. The industry represents billions of dollars and millions of jobs, supporting families across the globe. For me, this connection is personal. My father has worked in the concrete industry for years, and his dedication has provided for our family. Watching him pour his effort into long days on the job has shown me not only the economic importance of concrete, but also the determination, resilience, and pride that the industry requires.

I have experienced this work myself. When we poured our driveway, I helped my father from start to finish. I quickly realized how demanding the process is: hours of preparation, teamwork, and precision, all for a material that begins soft and adjustable but rapidly hardens into something lasting. That day, I understood that concrete is more than just a material—it's a metaphor for hard work that becomes the foundation for something greater.

The lessons I have learned from concrete and the industry around it go beyond construction. They represent the values I carry with me: the importance of hard work, the stability that comes from persistence, and the gratitude I feel for opportunities created by others' dedication. Every time I walk on a sidewalk, drive down a road, or step inside a building, I am reminded of the countless people who make that possible—people like my father.

Concrete may be taken for granted, but I see it differently. To me, it represents strength, opportunity, and the foundation of not only the world's infrastructure but also my family's livelihood. I am grateful for what the concrete industry has provided, and I aspire to carry forward the same work ethic and resilience it has instilled in me.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Camden Portman

Son of Ryan Portman, CGC, Inc.

Since the beginning of my life, I have always known that I wanted a life similar to my father's. Growing up, I watched how much he genuinely enjoyed his work, and how he talked about his projects, the people he worked with, and the satisfaction he found in solving problems that mattered. Seeing that level of fulfillment every day had a strong influence on me, and I knew early on that I wanted a career where I could feel that same sense of purpose.



Fortunately, the first major step in that direction came during the summer after my freshman year of high school, when I was offered the opportunity to work in the lab at Construction Geotechnical Consultants Incorporated (CGC Inc.). For that summer, along with the two that followed, I worked full-time as a civil engineering technician assistant. My duties included testing concrete, grout, and mortar, logging these test samples into the company's system, as well as general upkeep and organization of the lab.

The experiences that I have been exposed to as an employee of this company are unlike anything I have experienced. I have met such a large variety of people, from many different backgrounds and lines of work, and I have come to realize how generally large and connected the concrete workforce is. I've met concrete truck drivers, civil engineering field technicians, professionals certified in nuclear soil density testing, and so many other amazingly skilled individuals. All of these different individuals have had so many positive experiences in the concrete industry, and have influenced the type of worker I am currently, and would like to become in the future.

The opportunity to work as a technician's assistant in this company has built and shaped myself into the person I am today. From improving my time management skills to making increasingly meaningful contributions in the workplace, there is no doubt in my mind that this experience was necessary for me as a person. When I first started, the main issue that I faced was getting myself on a sleep schedule that would allow me to get the sleep I needed in order to function fully the next day. I had to learn to prioritize sleep over many other things, and eventually led me to find the schedule that worked best for me. As time went on, many other problems presented themselves, and as these problems progressed I became exponentially better at dealing with them quickly and concisely. This ability to be adaptable to situations, as well as problem-solving, is one of the many abilities that were built upon in my time here.

Overall, my involvement in the concrete industry has both built me up as a person, and has made a profound impact toward becoming the person I aspire to be. I would wish the experience that I have had on anyone who is considering entering any work connected to civil engineering or any concrete-based career in general.

CONCRETE DESIGN AWARD WINNERS

Agricultural: Trillium Hill Farm

Owner: Trillium Hill Farm
Concrete Supplier: Carew Concrete & Supply Co., Inc.
Architect/Engineer/Contractor: Bayland Buildings
Engineer: JE Arthur and Associates, Inc.

Commercial: 333 N. Water Street

Owner/Developer: Hines
Concrete Supplier: Riv/Crete Ready Mix
Architect: SCB
Engineer: Magnusson Klemencic Associates
Concrete Contractor: VJS Construction Services

Concrete Overlay: Jewelers Mutual Park

Concrete Supplier: MCC, Inc.
Contractor: Milis Flatwork

Decorative Commercial : Ozaukee Country Club Pool

Owner: Ozaukee Country Club
Concrete Supplier: Riv/Crete Ready Mix
Architect/Engineer/Contractor: Nord Construction

Decorative Residential: The Ranch

Owners: Jon & Sandy Bushman
Concrete Supplier: County Ready Mix
Landscape Architect: Alchemy Concrete Inc.

Education & Healthcare: Froedtert Parking Blue

Owner: Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin
Concrete Supplier: Riv/Crete Ready Mix
Architect: Eppstein Uhen Architects
Engineer: GRAEF
Contractor: C.G. Schmidt

Industrial: First Supply – Joe Poehling Distribution Innovation Center

Owner: First Supply
Concrete Supplier: Croell Inc.
Architect: MSI General Corporation
Contractor: Milis Flatwork

Municipal: ATW Airport Terminal Concourse Expansion

Owner: Appleton International Airport
Concrete Supplier: Carew Concrete & Supply Co., Inc.
Architect/Engineer: Mead & Hunt
Contractor: Miron Construction

Other: ONE 09

Owner: Quad Capital Partners
Concrete Supplier: Wingra Redi-Mix
Architect: Potter Lawson
Engineer: Fink Horejsh
Contractor: J.H. Findorff

Parking Lot: Amerilux

Owner: Amerilux
Concrete Supplier: MCC, Inc.
Architect: Keller
Engineer: Mach IV
Contractor: Absolute Concrete

Public: Centennial Park Splash Pad/Playscape

Owner: Village of Waunakee
Concrete Supplier: Advanced Concrete, Inc.
Architect/Engineer: Parkitecture + Planning
Contractor: Parisi Construction

Sustainable: Peterson Family Dairy – Digester and Lagoon

Owner/Developer: Vanguard Renewables
Concrete Supplier: Cemstone Ready Mix
Civil Engineer: MSA Professional Services
Engineer: Excel Engineering
Contractor: JP TANK, INC.
Project Manager: MBA Energy & Industrial



CONCRETE DESIGN AWARD WINNERS

Tilt-Up: Freedom Concrete Plant

Owner & Concrete Supplier: MCC, Inc.

Architect: Perspective Design, Inc.

Engineer: Innovative Tilt-Up Design LLC

General Contractor: C.E. Doyle

Contractor: Milis Flatwork

Special Mention: Lunda Construction

Southwest Region: The Golden Eagle

Owners: Scott & Lindsey Witthun

Concrete Supplier: Schmitz Ready Mix

Contractor: D. Lalicata Concrete Contractors Inc.

Southeast Region: Alto-Shaam Warehouse Expansion

Owner: Alto-Shaam

Concrete Supplier: Riv/Crete Ready Mix

Northeast Region: RGL Building 62

Owner: RGL Logistics

Concrete Supplier: MCC, Inc.

Architect/Engineer: Alliance Construction and Design

Contractor: Absolute Concrete

North Central Region: Legacy Plaza at Zenoff Park

Owner: Stevens Point Softball Association, Inc.

Concrete Supplier: County Ready Mix

Landscape Architect: Alchemy Concrete Inc.

Northwest Region: Lucette Brewing Company

Owner: Lucette Brewing Company

Concrete Supplier: Cemstone Ready Mix

Engineer: John Lee, P.E., Cemstone Companies

Contractor: Atlas Specialty Contracting

Sales Representative: Bob Biederman



WORKSHOP REVIEW

WRMCA Technical Workshop Recap

The 25th Annual Technical Workshop took place January 29th -30th at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells with about 190 attendees. **Day 1 sessions:** Message Received. Or was it? – Jessica Kemp, BARD Materials; The PreSlab Meeting: Proper Planning Leads to Success – Bryan Birdwell, Structural Services; Slag Cement as a Strategic Tool for Decarbonizing Concrete – Scott Kelly, Ozinga Cement, The Value of Technician Certification and Laboratory Accreditation – Greg Schmidt, GeoTest & Andy Wendt, Terracon and Contractor Roundtable – Tom Geary, Parisi Construction. The evening included a reception, dinner, and the Concrete Design Awards.



Day 2 sessions: PLC & How to Work With It – Gary Hall, Prairie Materials, AI in the Ready Mix Industry – Ben Rabchuk, Command Alkon, and Agency Updates – Tirupan Mandal & Aleks Graff, WisDOT; Leslie Ashauer, WCPA; Steve Becker, NRCS; & Luke McHugh, NRMCA.

Thank you to We're Partners sponsors for hosting the reception and to the Technical Committee for all of their hard work. Thank you to St Marys Cement for sponsoring lunch. **Mark Your Calendars** - the 2027 Technical Workshop will be held January 28th-29th at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

WRMCA OES Workshop Recap

The 22nd Annual OES Workshop took place January 28th -29th at the Kalahari Resort with 33 attendees. The workshop began with the *2025 Fatal Gram Review & Update on MSHA's Silica Rule* presented by Pete Zagar of Wingra Stone & Redi-Mix. George Gruetzmacher of WisCon spoke on *Hearing Loss Is More Than Just How Loud It Is* and *Workplace Health OSHA & EPA*. This is the first workshop we have had DOT Inspectors Colton Field & Andy Rau conduct an on-site truck inspection. *Clearinghouse & Safety* was presented by Jake Dugger of Foley. Chad Kaster of Acuity & Jake Pederson of USI presented on *How CSA Scores, CAB Reports, & Inspection Violations Impact Insurance*. Heidi Bohl & Traci Tauferner of Advanced Industrial Medicine presented on *How to Prevent OSHA Recordables and Keep Employees at Work*. *MSHA Safety* presented by Dave Vriezen, State Mining Inspector of the WI Department of Safety and Professional Services. An *Environmental Update* was given by Josh Davenport of Tetra Tech. The *Federal Government Affairs Update* was given by Andrew Tyrell of NRMCA.



Thank you very much to the We're Partners members who sponsored the workshop's happy hour. Thank you very much to the dedicated OES Committee members for organizing another successful workshop! **Mark Your Calendars** - the 2027 workshop will be held February 18th-19th at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

2026 CONVENTION RECAP

The WRMCA/IRMCA Biennial Convention was held March 15th–17th at the Scottsdale Resort & Spa in Scottsdale.

The convention kicked off with a reception on Sunday evening. Monday's sessions featured *Promotion Tools & What's New at NRMCA* presented by Donn Thompson (NRMCA) and *Accelerating & Automating Testing of Cement-Based Materials: From Days to Minutes* presented by Professor Nishant Garg (University of Illinois). Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in a cornhole tournament or take a UTV ride in the afternoon.

Tuesday's sessions included *Teamwork & Leadership* presented by Rich Sutter, former NHL player, and *Mental Health Awareness & Support* presented by Cassie Krause (Carew Concrete & Supply). In the afternoon, attendees could choose to golf or relax by the pool, followed by a closing reception.

Congratulations to the winning golf teams:

Group 1: Deb Carew, John Carew, Jeff Fortner, and Tyler Raleigh

Group 2: Mike DeJong, Evan Gettig, Joe Hahn, and Mike Rickerson

Special thanks to the following convention sponsors:

Breakfast Sponsors: Champion Concrete, Peters Concrete, St Marys Cement, and Wisconsin Cement

Reception Sponsors: Amrize, Capitol Ready Mix, Carew Concrete & Supply, Chryso, Command Alkon, Graymont, Kienstra, Oshkosh Corporation, Premiere Concrete Admixtures, Roland Machinery, Roman Cement, Shumaker Industries, Sika Corporation, Truck Country, Wingra Redi-Mix, and Z Mix USA

We're Partners Sponsors: Acuity, American Engineering, Amrize, AON, Axley Attorneys, Ash Grove, Badger State Equipment, Brooks Tractor, Buzzi Unicem, Chryso, Command Alkon, Euclid Chemical, Fabick Cat, FESCO Direct, FRC/QCS, GeoTest, GESTRA, Great Lakes Cement Promotion Council, Insight FS, Lannon Stone, M3 Insurance, Mapei, Master Builders Solutions, Oshkosh Corporation, Ozinga, Premiere Concrete Admixtures, Quest Civil Engineers, Quikrete, Roland Machinery, Shumaker Industries, Sika Corporation, Sky Systemz, Solomon Colors, Steve Reiff, St Marys Cement, Terex, and Wisconsin Cement

A big thank you to Lane Kimble from WTBA for capturing photos at the convention!

Here is a link to view the photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/eqRkzKVMBRUnN25e8>.



2026 MIXER DRIVER CHAMPIONSHIP

Trucks, obstacles, skill, and a great day of competition – you won't want to miss this exciting event! WRMCA member mixer drivers will compete in a best-of-the-best competition.



DATE: Saturday, August 1, 2026

TENTATIVE TIME: Noon - 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Timber Rattlers Stadium, 2400 N Casaloma Drive, Appleton

Drivers will compete in driving skills, abilities challenges, and a pre-trip truck inspection.

Click [here](#) to view a description of the course challenges. Click [here](#) to view a highlight video from the 2025 Mixer Driver Championship.

Trophies and cash prizes will be given awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. 1st place will also receive a traveling chute (courtesy of Oshkosh Corporation) and funding toward the national championship. Medallions will be given out for completing select challenges. The champion will go on to compete at the NRMCA Championship in October in Nashville, TN (the winner's company must be a member of NRMCA to compete).

DRIVER REGISTRATION

The entry fee is \$200 per driver, including three family members and the NRMCA Mixer Driver Manual. \$20 per person for additional family members. WRMCA member companies must register its driver(s). Drivers may not register independently.

Click [here](#) to register. **The deadline to sign up is June 15, 2026.** Producers - click [here](#) to download a flyer that you can use to promote the event.

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION

Registration is \$20 per person to attend the championship. Click [here](#) to register.

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Click [here](#) to sign up to help set up, tear down, check-in, and course stations.

SPONSORSHIP

To make the championship a great event, we ask you to join us as an official sponsor. Sponsorships include Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

Click [here](#) for sponsorship details. Click [here](#) to sign up as a sponsor.

We appreciate your support in making this year's Mixer Driver Championship a huge success!

Contact Cherish at cschwenn@wirmca.com with questions.

WRMCA SPONSORED WEBINARS

My Concrete is Goofy Looking...Does it need to be repaired?

Date/Time: April 15, 2026, Noon

Register: <https://cvent.me/qKWeGI>

Cost: Free

Presenter: Jacob Borgerson, PhD, PE, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

Description: Concrete placement and finishing defects raised by a member of the project team may indicate a greater (unobserved) structural concern, a long-term durability issue, or simply an aesthetic problem.

Topics will include: honeycombing, form leakage, plastic shrinkage cracking, and others. This presentation will discuss the causes of these concrete defects, techniques for evaluating them, approaches for mitigating them, and methods for repairing defective concrete.

AIA
Approved Continuing Education

APR 15, 2026
12:00-1:00 PM CT

MY CONCRETE IS GOOFY LOOKING... Does it need to be repaired?!

Presenter
Jacob L. Borgerson, PhD, PE
(Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.)

CONCRETE STRUCTURES WEBINAR SERIES

Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association

A \$182 Billion Reality: Insurance Meets Resilient Construction

Date/Time: June 17, 2026, Noon

Cost: Free

Register: <https://cvent.me/yENzy2>

Presenters: Carole Walker (Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association) and Jim Schneider, LEED AP (PCI Mountain States)

Description: Commercial property owners face an unprecedented convergence of challenges: extreme weather events caused \$182 billion in damages across 27 billion-dollar disasters in 2024 alone, while insurance premiums skyrocket and material costs continue climbing.

This session brings together insurance industry expertise and innovative construction solutions to address the growing resilience gap in commercial buildings. Attendees will leave with concrete steps for implementing resilient construction practices that satisfy both insurance requirements and occupant safety while contributing to long-term financial sustainability.



2026 BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Vice-President - Todd Schulz, Schmitz Ready Mix

Secretary/Treasurer - Scott Behnke, County Ready Mix

Immediate Past President - Aaron Peterson, BARD Materials

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Jason Inda, MCC, Inc.

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Cory Pangborn, Bichler Concrete & Gravel

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Dan Large, FRC/QCS

Jake Miller, Wisconsin Cement

Keith Nault, Solomon Colors

Jose Nieto, Amrize

Rick Ross, Oshkosh Corporation

Affiliate Board Seat

Regional Committee Chairman

Region 1 (Southwest) - Dave Kepler, Buzzi Unicem; Aaron Peterson, BARD Materials; & Travis Wise, Wingra Redi-Mix

Region 2 (Southeast) - Hal Janke, Schmitz Ready Mix & Keith Nault, Solomon Colors

Region 3 (Northeast) - Brett Craig, Schmitz Ready Mix & Corey McLaughlin, Carew Concrete & Supply

Region 4 (North Central) - Scott Behnke, County Ready Mix & Erik Skowronek, Amrize

Region 5 (Northwest) - Matt Flynn, American Materials & Billy Haas, Sika Corporation

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Rick Ross, Oshkosh Corporation

Budget & Finance

Scott Behnke, County Ready Mix

Certification

Greg Schmidt, GeoTest, Inc.

Convention & Promotion

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Legislative & Membership

Keith Nault, Solomon Colors & Mike Tews, Schmitz Ready Mix

Mixer Driver Championship

Cassie Krause, Carew Concrete & Supply

Scholarship

Todd Schulz, Schmitz Ready Mix & Mike Tews, Schmitz Ready Mix

Operations, Environment & Safety

Chad Kaster, Acuity Insurance

Cassie Krause, Carew Concrete & Supply

Technical

Dan Large, FRC, LLC



WRMCA Board of Directors



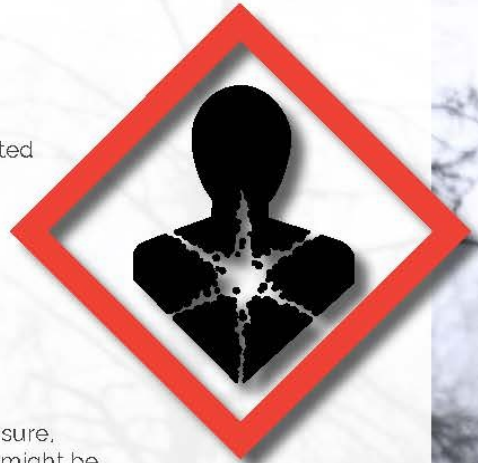
2026 President Travis Wise

NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative Volume 7, Issue 3

SILICA COMPLIANCE

Respirable Crystalline Silica

On June 23, 2018, the new respirable crystalline silica rule promulgated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), became effective. The rule, which covers ready mixed concrete plants, is intended to eliminate exposure to workers of respirable crystalline silica. According to OSHA, exposure to silica over a certain threshold and prolonged exposure can lead to respiratory health problems, including silicosis. The new standard requires employers to prevent worker exposure to silica.



Preventing Silica Exposure

In order to determine how to prevent and/or limit worker silica exposure, a concrete plant first needs to know what, if any, the exposure level might be. Determining an exposure level through an exposure assessment, can be completed by an industrial-hygienist, third-party testing group, mail-order testing kit, or a producer's insurance provider. Once an assessment has been performed, only then will a producer know what the exposure may be. If the exposure level is below a certain threshold, a producer may have little or no action to take. Exposures recorded over a certain threshold may require specific actions that could include regular testing and monitoring, creating a written exposure control plan, extra housekeeping, recordkeeping, signage, training, employee notification, new controls, a respiratory protection program and even medical surveillance.

Actions

Conditions that can prevent silica exposure and help maintain compliance:

- Think first
- Proper ventilation
- Wet methods for grinding, chipping, cutting, sweeping
- Isolation of dust creating activities
- Worker rotation
- Use of water trucks and/or sprinklers in plant yard
- Regular, proper housekeeping
- Minimize drum chipping
- PPE where appropriate (OSHA views PPE as the last line of defense)



Resources

For more information on silica exposure compliance please follow the links below:

- [NRMCA: Silica Guide](#)
- [OSHA: Crystalline Silica](#)

Contact

Kevin Walgenbach: kwalgenbach@nrmca.org



NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

Volume 7, Issue 4

LONE WORKER SAFETY



Lone Worker Safety

As the seasons turn from winter to spring and plants that may have been shuttered start to come back online, there may be more instances of “lone workers” that come into play, prompting safety considerations needing review. Unlike during normal ready mixed concrete operations, a greater number of employees may now fall into this category. Keeping workers safe and having a lone worker policy in place is vital to adhere to the Occupational Health and Safety Administration’s (OSHA) requirement to “provide a workplace free of recognized hazards.”



Lone Worker Safety Considerations

When considering how a concrete producer may need to address lone worker safety, it is first necessary to determine which employees are lone workers and which job functions may require lone working. The next step is determining how to make sure that a lone worker has some method of periodic contact, such as regular check-ins, radio checks, emails, texting, phone calls, etc., to ensure the well-being of each worker. These workers may also need to be evaluated to determine if they are suitable for lone working. Lone workers may also need additional training on their specific tasks and/or the recognized hazards, ensuring they are responsible for taking care of themselves and accounting for their own actions. Procedures for monitoring lone workers should be established, as well as who will be doing the monitoring (i.e., supervisor, coworkers). Lastly, a plan should be crafted for what happens in an emergency, and what role everyone plays. Outlining these various steps will protect the safety and health of all workers at a ready mixed concrete plant.

Actions

Considerations for lone worker policies and practices:

- Think first
- Determine hazards before working
- Communicate regularly
- Make sure someone knows where lone workers are
- Don’t cut corners and take the necessary time
- If it’s not known how to complete a task, don’t do it
- Utilize emergency panic technology if necessary
- If you get injured, stay calm
- Train employees on lone worker policies and practices

Resources

For more information on Lone Worker Safety please follow the link below.

- NRMCA: [Lone Worker Safety Program](#)

Contact

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EVENTS CALENDAR

WRMCA & Industry Events

Date	Event	Organization
April 9	MSHA Connection Session	WRMCA
April 15	Webinar: My Concrete is Goofy Looking...Does it need to be repaired?	WRMCA
April 28	Mixer Driver Championship Meeting	WRMCA
May 7	ACI Grade 1 Certification	WRMCA
May 13	Webinar: Durability 101	WRMCA
May 28	Board Meeting	WRMCA
June 4	ACI Grade 1 Certification	WRMCA
June 11	Legislative Committee Meeting	WRMCA
June 17	Webinar: A \$182 Billion Reality: Insurance Meets Resilience Construction	WRMCA
June 18	Annual Golf Outing	WRMCA
July 8	Webinar: Specs/Best Practices for Polishing	WRMCA
July 23	Board Meeting	WRMCA
August 1	Mixer Driver Championship	WRMCA
August 19	Webinar: AI Integration: Tools, Risks, and Opportunities	WRMCA
September 9	Webinar: Jointing Best Practices - Do's and Dont's	WRMCA
September 24	WRMCA Board Meeting	WRMCA
October 9	Clay Shoot	WRMCA
October 11-14	Concrete Convention	ACI
October 13	Technical Committee Meeting	WRMCA
October 15-18	ConcreteWorks	NRMCA
November 5	Board Meeting	WRMCA
November 20	Concrete Design Award Entry Deadline	WRMCA
December 3	Pheasant Hunt	WRMCA

