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MARK DESCHEPPER,
CSDA President



Building the Future of CSDA - Together

It is with great honor that I get to step into the role of President of the CSDA. I would also like to welcome our new Board Members and look forward to working with them throughout the year. As the first GPR contractor to head the association, I have seen firsthand how quickly our industry has changed and evolved, and how quickly our association must evolve with it.

Over the years—most of them as an owner-operator—I've learned just how essential precision, innovation, and, above all, a strong professional community truly are to running your business. The CSDA has long been a respected leader in promoting safety, standards, and education. Now, I believe we have an opportunity, and a responsibility, to expand our support for members in even more meaningful ways.

My primary focus as President will be to enhance the services and resources we provide to our members. I want to make sure that whether you're an owner-operator, or a well-established company servicing your customers through multiple locations, you feel the benefit of your CSDA membership.

Here are a few of the initiatives I'm particularly excited about:

- Expanding our training and certification and making our courses more accessible
- Introducing new resources that help members create or improve their own internal processes
- Strengthening our advocacy efforts, ensuring our collective voice is heard when it comes to safety, standards and best practices

One of the things I'm especially passionate about is bridging the gap between traditional sawing and drilling services and the growing field of scanning and imaging. There is tremendous potential for synergy, and I want CSDA to be the platform that helps our members diversify and stay competitive as technology advances.

In the months ahead, I will be reaching out to various members to understand what value the CSDA can provide for our members. I want to hear from you—what's working, what's not, and how we can better support you in your day-to-day challenges and long-term goals.

This isn't just about a new chapter for CSDA. It's about building a stronger, more connected future for all of us in this industry. I'm excited to lead, but more importantly, I'm excited to listen, collaborate, and grow alongside each of you.

Thank you for your trust.

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**Rebuilding the Skyline:
Con-Cor's High-Stakes
Role in Milwaukee's
Tower Revamp**



**Pushing the Boundaries
of Demolition: How
Remote-Controlled
Robotics Transformed a
Breakwater Project**



**Transforming a Landmark: Holes
Brings Life to the Kirby Interchange
Life Science Park**

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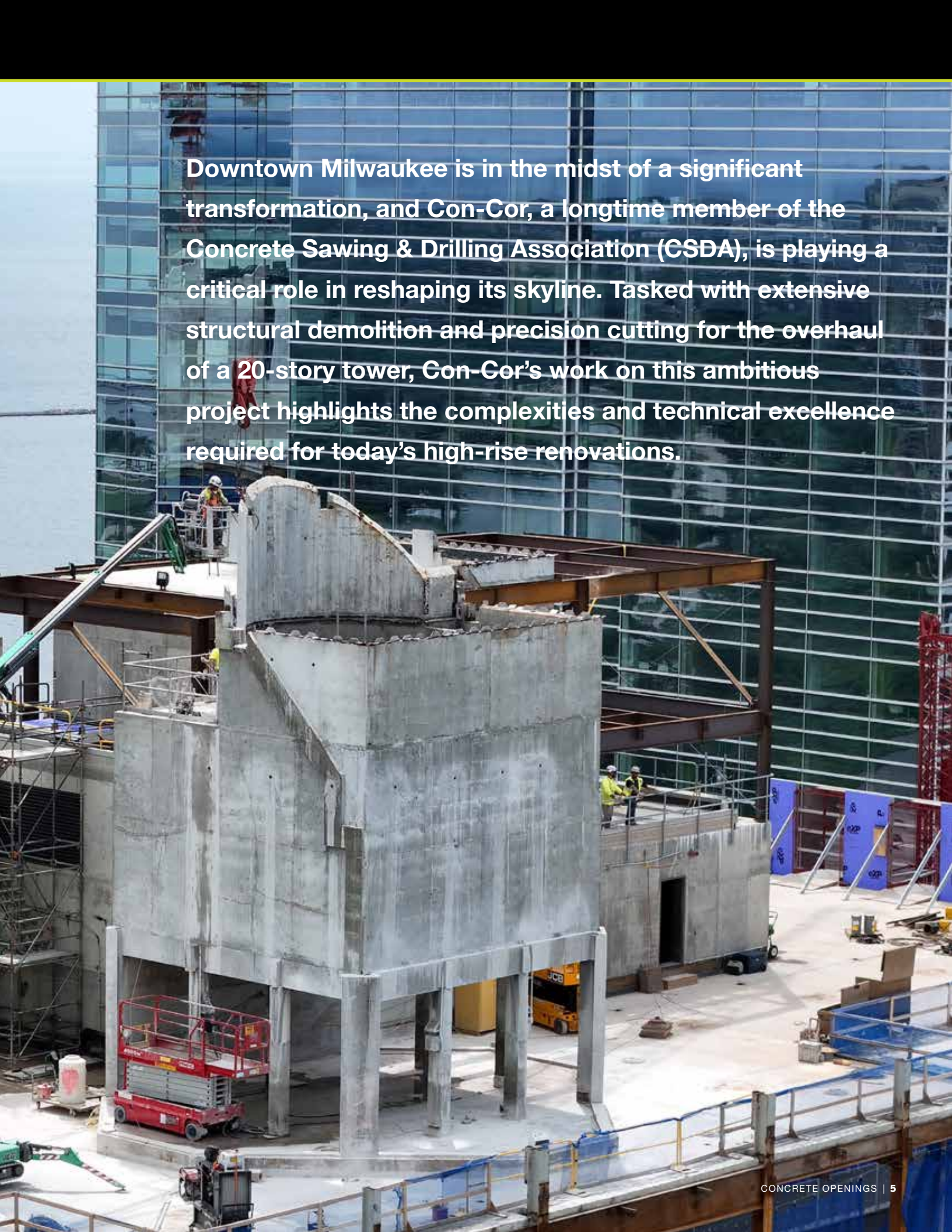


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REBUILDING THE SKYLINE: CON-COR'S HIGH-STAKES ROLE IN MILWAUKEE'S TOWER REVAMP



Downtown Milwaukee is in the midst of a significant transformation, and Con-Cor, a longtime member of the Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association (CSDA), is playing a critical role in reshaping its skyline. Tasked with extensive structural demolition and precision cutting for the overhaul of a 20-story tower, Con-Cor's work on this ambitious project highlights the complexities and technical excellence required for today's high-rise renovations.



The downtown tower renovation project—one of the firm's largest ongoing undertakings—involves extensive interior and rooftop demolition, all while maintaining strict safety and sustainability standards.

The 20-story structure is being completely reconfigured and re-skinned to match the appearance of an adjacent 30-story glass tower. Con-Cor has been working on this project for over a year and is responsible for wall and wire sawing, slab removal, coring for mechanical upgrades, and structural modifications across nearly every level of the building.

The original marble façade of the building was removed and crushed. At the owner's request, 90% of the building's materials are being reused or recycled—a demanding sustainability goal that continues to shape Con-Cor's approach. Much of the marble has been combined with concrete for recycling.

Gilbane and CG Schmidt are leading the general construction efforts, with Con-Cor serving as a key demolition and cutting contractor throughout the tower phase, which is expected to conclude in 2027.

"This isn't just demolition—it's structural surgery," said Dean Damato of Con-Cor. Crews began by modifying every floor to reflect the oval-shaped floors of the adjacent building. They then saw cut all of the old mechanical concrete pads—50 to 60 in total—from former escalators, transformers, and other mechanical equipment.

Inside the tower, nearly every floor has undergone some degree of cutting. From doorway and stairwell openings to floor penetrations for new systems, Con-Cor has drilled over

1,500 core holes throughout the structure and sawed away thousands of feet of wall. They also created multiple man doors and large mechanical room openings while protecting sensitive equipment and electrical systems. In one below-grade mechanical room, the team surrounded the area with core holes for vibration sensors and used plywood, foam, and rubber barriers to prevent water intrusion—successfully safeguarding critical infrastructure through careful planning and execution.

On the roof, Con-Cor removed three EVAP systems, ranging from 12 to 18 inches thick, by cutting them into crane-liftable sections. Each section had to be sized precisely to minimize stress on the tower crane. This phase, which took approximately two months, involved three wall saw crews working to reduce the roof to a 9-inch deck—paving the way for expanded office space and the construction of a new penthouse. To contain runoff, the crew ballooned all roof drains and created large slurry containment zones. Continuous vacuuming ensured no material left the roof.

To perform this extensive work, Con-Cor deployed a range of advanced tools built for precision and efficiency. Wall and flat sawing utilized Husqvarna and Core Cut walk-behind saws. Wall sawing relied on high-cycle Husqvarna and Diamond Products units and hydraulic systems. Wire sawing utilized multiple Diamond Product hydro stress hydraulic saws. Coring operations incorporated Hilti 480 volt electric drills. ICS chainsaws were used for square-cut penetrations, while certified rigging systems and hoist points—often core drilled—were engineered with daily load and angle calculations to ensure safety and accuracy.

Safety remained paramount on the tower site. Crews operated under a 100% fall protection policy, with daily harness inspections. A dedicated rigging team met each morning to review weather conditions, crane operations, and floor accessibility. Throughout the day, teams stayed in constant radio communication—critical when lifting up to 17,000 pounds of concrete from the roof. During high wind events, crews secured precut slabs for removal once safe conditions returned. Out of the 11,117 tons of concrete removed to date, 2,780 tons came from the roof alone.

Con-Cor's efforts to minimize impact while maximizing precision are evident throughout the project, from rooftop slurry containment and vibration monitoring to the construction of protective barriers around elevator shafts.

As the project progresses, Con-Cor's scope has expanded. "The scope grew as we proved our capabilities," said Damato. The company has since been awarded additional contracts for road and infrastructure work around the site, thanks to its versatility and performance.

One of the most demanding tasks involved creating a four-story atrium by removing large sections of the tower's lower levels—requiring extreme precision to maintain building integrity. Throughout, Con-Cor has adapted to changing timelines, crane schedules, and in-progress architectural redesigns. "It was a good, challenging project,"



said Damato. “It made our guys even better than they were—and they were already good.”

The project remains on time and on budget, a testament to careful planning and Con-Cor’s agile execution. With the tower slated to reopen in 2027, Con-Cor continues to work alongside other trades to meet evolving demands in a fast-changing urban environment.

What began as a concrete cutting assignment has grown into a showcase of structural expertise and collaborative problem-solving. From rooftop rigging to basement-level coring, Con-Cor’s work on the Milwaukee tower renovation demonstrates that concrete cutting isn’t just demolition—it’s a cornerstone of modern construction.

COMPANY PROFILE

Con-Cor Company, Inc. is a Professional Concrete Sawing and Drilling Company. Contractors have turned to our family-owned business as Wisconsin’s first and finest Concrete Cutting Specialists since 1959. Headquartered in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, Con-Cor is comprised of people who are dedicated, highly skilled, motivated, and committed to excellence. Con-Cor prides itself on being the Sawing and Drilling Company that can successfully complete your most difficult jobs on time and under budget. Con-Cor provides their operators with the newest equipment in the industry and use the newest cutting techniques and tools as they become available. Con-Cor is a member of the Concrete Sawing and Drilling Association, as well as many local trade organizations. We have Certified CSDA Operators, and all our operators are OSHA 30 certified. Con-Cor has been a member of CSDA since 1988.

If you’re looking for Sawing and Drilling Equipment, Con-Cor carry only the best products in the construction Industry. Our product lines include STIHL, Honda, Husqvarna, and Wacker as well as other top construction industry brands. We stock only the highest quality products that will help you complete your jobs more efficiently and increase your productivity. Con-Cor Co. also has a full repair department, as well as parts for everything we sell and more.

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Spurring Imagination: Highlights from the 2025 CSDA Annual Conference

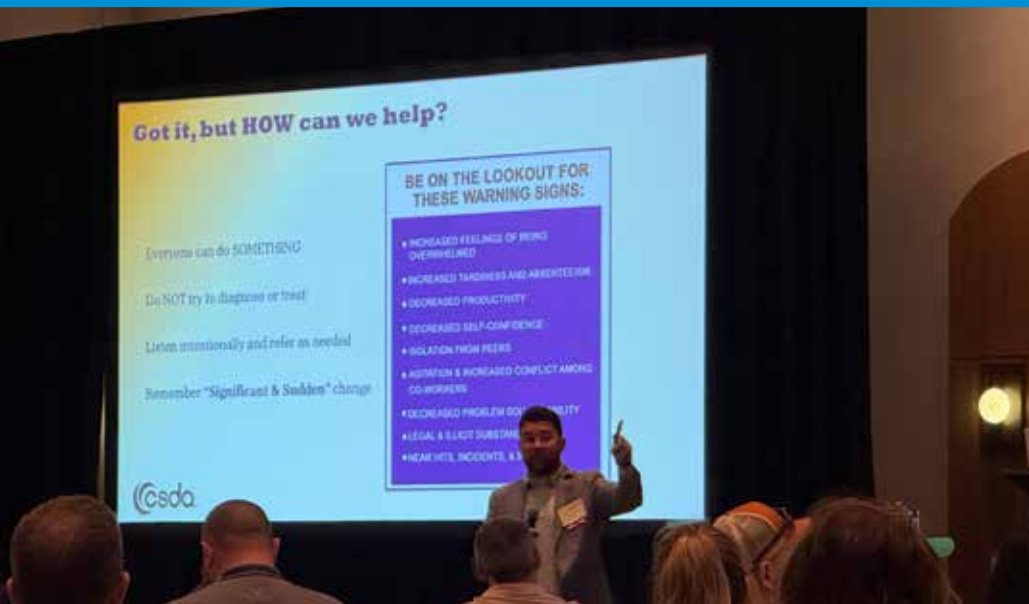


Set against the vibrant backdrop of San Antonio, Texas, the 2025 CSDA Annual Conference was more than just a gathering—it was a launchpad for innovation, creativity, and collaboration. With the theme “Spurring Imagination,” this year’s event energized attendees to think boldly about the future of the industry, their companies, and the association itself.

The week kicked off with a major milestone: the unveiling of CSDA’s newly updated strategic plan. With a renewed focus on education, member services, and industry advancement, the plan set the tone for a week filled with purposeful dialogue and action. The Member Services and Education Committees met to align goals with the new plan, then broke into working groups tailored to specific priorities. Attendees were encouraged to join the group that best matched their interests and expertise, sparking lively collaboration. Each group developed a game plan and timeline to hit the goals set by the Board—laying the groundwork for sustained progress in the year ahead.

Of course, there was time for fun as well. More than 30 attendees took part in the annual golf tournament at The Quarry, a uniquely challenging course nestled in the Texas landscape. Under the warm sun, attendees bonded over birdies, bogeys, and a bit of friendly competition.

The conference kicked off with an energizing keynote by Ted Turner of Executive Leadership Coaching, LLC. Turner encouraged attendees to break free from conventional thinking and embrace imagination as a tool for reimagining leadership—whether on the construction site or in the boardroom. In a more intimate workshop later that day, he guided a smaller group through meaningful dialogue, leaving participants with practical strategies for personal and professional growth.



Bold Thinking, Deep Connection, and Energized Planning



"The 2025 CSDA Annual Conference was more than just a gathering—it was a launchpad for innovation, creativity, and collaboration."

Education remained a strong focus throughout the week. Ryan Rindlisbacher returned with a deep dive into cybersecurity, stressing the critical need for proactive measures to protect organizational assets. Experts from a prominent financial institution shed light on emerging fraud schemes and effective countermeasures. Meanwhile, Bill Fischer and Mark DeSchepper delivered their much-anticipated annual economic outlook, offering valuable insights into how market trends may shape the construction industry in the coming year.

Day two took a powerful and emotional turn. Keynote speaker Zeke Smith tackled the urgent topic of suicide in the construction sector, sharing eye-opening statistics and providing clear, actionable approaches to support mental health in the workplace. A standout panel featuring Kellie Kimball, Nolan O'Neil, Rick Glidewell, and moderator Craig Caliva explored how training, safety, and workforce development intersect. Their shared message: investing in people drives long-term success. Mike Orzechowski inspired the crowd to become more engaged in the association's mission, while Drew Peterson of Typhoom introduced the concept of microlearning—a powerful method to improve knowledge retention and reinforce a culture of safety across teams.

Friday's agenda was all about innovation. Brian Wnuk and John Robinson discussed how custom equipment solutions have dramatically improved safety and efficiency on their job sites. Ty Conner wrapped up the roundtables with an engaging session on workplace culture, offering creative strategies for recognizing and retaining top talent by meeting employees where they are.

One of the conference's most talked-about moments came from Mitch Sprague, who captivated the audience with the remarkable story of how his team orchestrated the relocation of a nearly forgotten mural by iconic artist Keith Haring. The tale of this unique preservation project—equal

parts creativity, logistics, and cultural stewardship—was a testament to problem-solving at its finest. (Read the full story in our previous issue.)

The event concluded with the State of the Association address, celebrating the growth and momentum CSDA has achieved during its transition to a new management model. Members recognized outgoing board members for their service and welcomed the incoming leadership team: Mark DeSchepper as President, Bill Fisher as Vice President, David Perkins as Secretary-Treasurer, and Kellie Kimball as Immediate Past President.

Two of CSDA's most dedicated members were also recognized. Dan Foley received the Outstanding Achievement Award for his tireless volunteer efforts and support of the membership committee. Weldon Birch, a legend in the industry, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. At 81, Weldon continues to play an active role in the company he founded. He gave a heartfelt interview during Tuesday's President's Reception and was presented with the award by his son, Sean Birch, during Friday's gala. (You can read more about Weldon's remarkable story on page 24.)

Beyond the sessions, the conference buzzed with networking events, poolside chats, and San Antonio excursions. Whether soaking up the sun or soaking in ideas, there was something for everyone—and a renewed sense of purpose in every corner.

As we reflect on a week of bold thinking, deep connection, and energized planning, it's clear: the 2025 conference truly spurred imagination. And with Florida set to host next year's gathering, the momentum is just beginning.

Stay tuned—details for the 2026 CSDA Annual Conference are coming soon!





What is Our Safe Staffing Level? OSHA and Legal Liabilities

| Adam R. Young and Mark A. Lies II



OSHA duty officers around the country routinely field complaints from employees and labor unions alleging workplaces are understaffed and unsafe. Unions often dispute staffing levels, complaining that employers have insufficient bargaining unit members and insufficient members with seniority. Individual complainants allege that they are left to work alone, have no backup in case of emergency, or are at enhanced risk of accident or workplace violence.

OSHA duty officers normally tell complainants that there are no written regulations addressing safe staffing levels, and that it is not unlawful to work alone. But employers would be wise to consider staffing levels to protect employees from recognized hazards. In many situations, appropriate staffing can reduce risks of accidents and slow-developing injuries, and ensure employee safety and emergency response. Accordingly, understanding of issues relating to safe staffing levels can be key to minimizing risks to OSHA citations and other legal liabilities.

OSHA AND LEGAL LIABILITIES

Under the OSH Act's General Duty Clause (section 5(a)(1)), employers must provide a workplace free from any recognized hazard likely to cause death or serious physical harm. For OSHA to cite an employer under the General Duty Clause, the hazard must be recognized by the employer or in the industry. Where insufficient staffing is recognized to expose employees to hazards, employers face liability for Serious or Willful OSHA citations. Recognized hazards principally exist where staffing levels render employees unable to perform critical safety tasks. Further, injuries to employees resulting from alleged understaffing could result in workers compensation claims. Injuries to non-employee workers could result in tort claims, alleging negligence and a failure to meet the standard of care of a reasonable employer.

Though there is no criminal liability for a willful violation brought under the General Duty Clause, a willful violation of a specific regulation resulting in a fatality can result in criminal prosecution punishable with six months in federal prison. State governments occasionally also prosecute employers (and managers) for a range of criminal violations relating to deaths in their workplaces.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PSM FACILITIES

Complex facilities require minimum staffing levels to ensure appropriate response in the event of natural disasters and major emergencies. Storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes typically require minimum available staffing to prevent further damage and catastrophes. Implicated OSHA standards include the following:

- a. Under OSHA's Emergency Action Plan regulations (29 CFR 1910.38(c)), employers are required to have procedures for evacuation and operating critical plant components

- during an emergency. Employers must have adequate personnel to facilitate an emergency response, as necessary.
- b. Where employers utilize their own team for emergency response, the team must be adequately staffed to perform evacuations, firefighting, or chemical spill responses.
- c. Under the Permit-Required Confined Spaces standard (29 CFR 1910.146), staffing must be adequate for all roles to be present (entrant, attendance, and entry supervisor), and an entry-rescue team (if required).
- d. For facilities governed by the Process Safety Management (PSM) standard (29 CFR 1910.119), the regulations require staffing to perform tasks safely and maintain process safety information, procedures, training, and emergency planning. Insufficient staffing levels can constitute a PSM violation where it creates unsafe conditions that make a chemical release more likely.
- e. After an accident, an employer may need to contact emergency services, immediately investigate the facts of the accident, and provide clear direction to emergency responders to ensure they know where to go and how to protect themselves from any hazards. Insufficient staffing may render the employer unable to provide that assistance.
- f. In addition to staffing levels, employers should take into account the need for adequate supervision for the employees working. Supervision shortages most often occur during off-shifts.

FATIGUE, OVERWORK, AND WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

Insufficient staffing can result in employees working extended shifts. Overworked employees could lead to wage and hour violations, including under the FLSA and state laws. Extended hours can result in employee fatigue and a declining quality of decision-making that results in greater exposures to hazards. Employers may also face the following hazards:

- a. Understaffing can contribute to ergonomic hazards, to the extent that employees attempt to lift heavier loads or move heavier equipment that would normally require a team effort.
- b. Employers operating heavy equipment may lack "spotters" and may be unable to complete tasks efficiently or safely.
- c. Lower staffing levels in many environments, such as retail environments and healthcare, can result in increased risks to workplace violence (often addressable with security staffing in particular)
- d. Employers may be choose to address these issues with elimination or engineering strategies, to minimize employee exposure to safety hazards.

WHERE TO FIND STAFFING LEVELS

Optimal safe staffing levels and ratios vary significantly based on the industry, the size of a worksite, the complexity of operations, type of equipment, and severity and probability of workplace

hazards. Safe staffing levels can be determined in part by a job hazard assessment by a qualified safety professional, in consultation with industry standards and Original Equipment Manufacturer recommendations. Benchmarking is often available from industry organizations and consensus standards.

Failure to comply with industry consensus standards can create OSHA General Duty Clause liability, as OSHA often relies on industry standards and industry recommendations as bases for an alleged “recognized hazard” in the industry.

ENGAGE QUALIFIED OUTSIDE OSHA COUNSEL

Because of these many legal liabilities, it is essential for employers to engage a qualified attorney experienced in OSHA compliance. If you have an accident or OSHA opens an inspection, experienced OSHA counsel can be integral to defend the employer and conduct proper OSHA inspection management. Improperly managed inspections can result in avoidable civil and criminal liability. Please contact the authors for more information.

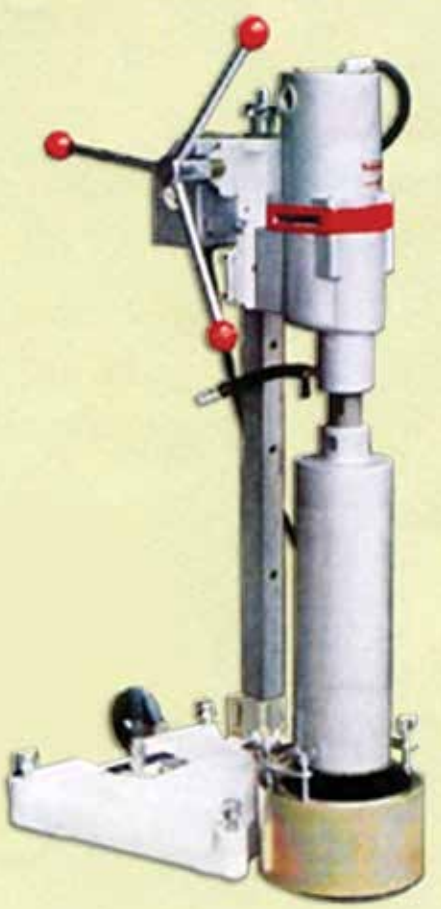


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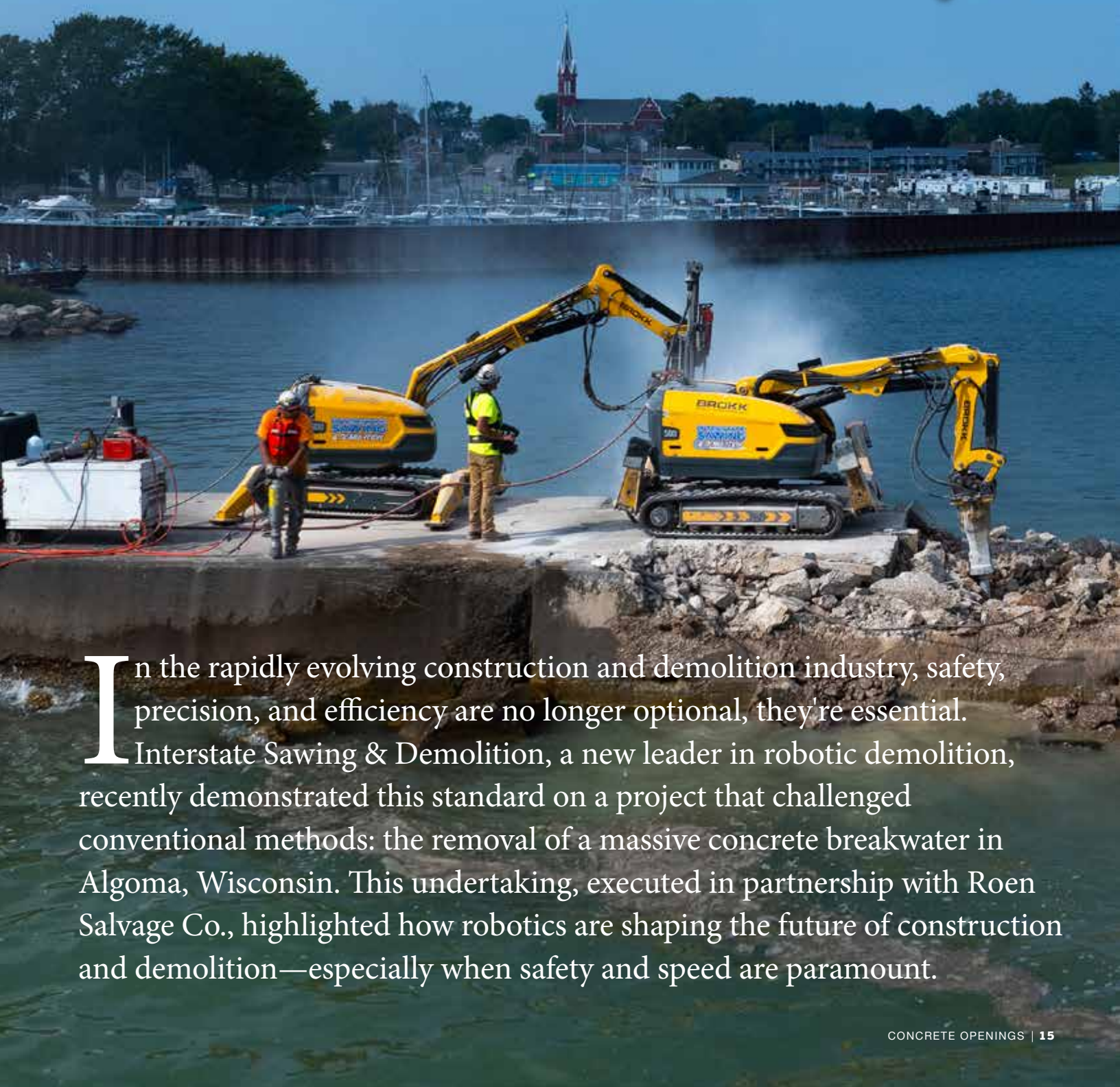
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Pushing the Boundaries of Demolition: How Remote-Controlled Robotics Transformed a Breakwater Project



In the rapidly evolving construction and demolition industry, safety, precision, and efficiency are no longer optional, they're essential. Interstate Sawing & Demolition, a new leader in robotic demolition, recently demonstrated this standard on a project that challenged conventional methods: the removal of a massive concrete breakwater in Algoma, Wisconsin. This undertaking, executed in partnership with Roen Salvage Co., highlighted how robotics are shaping the future of construction and demolition—especially when safety and speed are paramount.



The original breakwater, constructed over a century ago, had begun to deteriorate. Years of exposure to salt, water, and harsh weather had left it compromised. Roen Salvage initiated the project with a traditional excavator but quickly realized that progress was far too slow—just 20 feet of concrete were being removed per day. With a tight deadline and winter approaching, they needed a solution fast.

From the outset, Interstate brought a new level of efficiency to the project, utilizing specialized remote-controlled robots from brands like Husqvarna and Brokk. Unlike traditional equipment, these machines are built specifically for demolition, allowing greater precision, power, and safety.

“An excavator is built for digging,” Haley Long, with Interstate Sawing & Demolition explained. “These robots are designed from the ground up for demolition—it makes a big difference.”

Once deployed, Interstate’s team ramped up production to 150 feet of removal per day, a pace that not only met the deadline but exceeded it. The team was so efficient in their work that they had to temporarily pause the work they were doing to let the pile-driving team catch up, as they couldn’t have too much open space next to the water.

The robotic demolition process followed a precise, repetitive, and efficient sequence along an 8 feet wide break wall next to Lake Michigan. It began with drilling 15-inch deep, ¾-inch diameter



holes in 20-foot increments using a Brokk 300. Once drilled, concrete splitters were inserted into the holes to fracture the thick concrete, helping reduce stress on the structure and minimizing shockwaves. A Brokk 500 robot then broke off the top 2 feet of the 12-foot-thick wall. This process was repeated section by section, with the robots operating from multiple angles that would have been impossible for standard equipment to reach. The final step was to load the concrete debris onto a barge for safe disposal. Using excavators, the pieces were efficiently loaded, minimizing any risk of environmental disruption during the removal process.

Safety has always been a cornerstone for Interstate, and this project was no exception. With just 8 feet of working space along the break wall and deep water on one side, planning was crucial.

“Pre-planning is everything,” said Long. “You can’t afford a misstep when you’re working with heavy equipment in confined, high-risk environments.” The robots’ remote capabilities were particularly valuable here. Unlike traditional machinery, there was no operator that had to sit on the machine; this eliminated the risk of falls or submersion for team members. Additionally, everyone on site wore life jackets and adhered to strict PPE protocols, ensuring that even in a high-hazard zone, safety remained top priority.

Not only was the pre-planning vital to making this possible, but it was important to have highly experienced members of the team working with the robots to ensure that there were no issues during operation. Interstate’s commitment to safety is shown in their numbers: zero lost-time injuries since 2008 and one of the

lowest Experience Modification Rates (EMR) in the industry.

Due to Interstate’s preplanning and efficiency using robots, in just nine days, their team removed over 420 tons of concrete. Their approach didn’t just save time—it saved the project. Roen Salvage was able to proceed with the installation of a new steel structure before the cold weather arrived.

Interstate Sawing & Demolition specializes in providing these unique services, such as working in confined spaces and they thrive in solution jobs. They pride themselves on the work they do with these unique projects, but also the relationships they build with clients. The team at Interstate Sawing & Demolition impressed the client so much that they are continuing to work with the team and have asked them to support additional projects following this one.

“We prove ourselves to the customer and that’s all we can ask for,” Long stated. “Keeping our customers happy and keeping every job as safe as possible.”

Interstate Demolition’s success in Algoma is more than just a project win—it’s a glimpse into the future of construction. As demand grows for safer, faster and smarter demolition solutions, companies like Interstate Sawing & Demolition are setting the bar.

Their formula is simple: invest in the best technology, prioritize the health and longevity of their workforce, and never stop improving. “We want our guys to be able to retire healthy and pain-free,” said Long. “That’s why we believe in robotics.”

As this project proved, robots aren’t just efficient—they’re essential.



COMPANY BIO

Interstate Sawing and Demolition is the leader in concrete cutting/sawing, confined space demolition, and excavating. Interstate Sawing and Demolition offers a wide array of knowledge, experience, specialty services and innovative ideas.

Since 1996 Interstate Sawing has been servicing customers like you with the highest quality construction materials, equipment, and services available. Let us help make your company’s dreams and goals a reality on your next project.

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Transforming a Landmark: Holes Brings Life to the Kirby Interchange Life Science Park

The Brewer Construction Transwestern Kirby Interchange Life Science Park project in Houston, Texas, is a pioneering development tailored to meet the evolving needs of the city's thriving life science market. Brewer Construction led the interior build-out of a 17,000-square-foot office building into three cutting-edge tenant suites. Designed for researchers, scientists, and entrepreneurs, the facility includes state-of-the-art laboratories, hard-wall offices, conference rooms, and collaborative workspaces. This innovative build-out is set to become a central hub for life science advancements in Houston.



Holes Incorporated played a vital role in transforming the site, completing a comprehensive turnkey project that involved civil and site improvements meeting both City of Houston regulations and the client's expectations. The scope included the removal and replacement of outdated sidewalks with new ADA-compliant pathways, as well as concrete cutting and removal to support underground plumbing installation. Holes also drilled and poured piers for canopy footings, replaced brick walls with CMU and stucco finishes, and installed a new generator foundation.

The complexity of this work demanded precision concrete cutting, particularly when addressing a sinking slab. Using advanced cutting methods, Holes achieved clean perimeter cuts to ensure a seamless tie-in for the new concrete slab while minimizing structural disruption. Strategic demolition practices and debris management enabled the team to maintain cleanliness and safety standards despite limited access and multiple trades working concurrently.

Rather than using traditional demolition methods like jackhammers, Holes opted for diesel slab saws equipped with diamond blades. This approach produced cleaner cuts, maintained slab integrity, and eliminated silica dust exposure, promoting a safer working environment. The use of diamond tools also ensured dimensional accuracy and reduced disruption to ongoing operations.

To complete the job, Holes undertook a series of sequential tasks. Exterior

demolition began with the phased removal of 7,956 square feet of sidewalk and ADA ramps surrounding the building. Interior slab cutting and demolition were performed to accommodate plumbing trenches, followed by backfilling, compaction, rebar installation, and concrete pour-back. The team also removed 6,500 square feet of landscape gravel and existing courtyard surfaces to prepare for canopy footings and sidewalks. New sidewalks were installed to replace all removed exterior pathways.

Structural work included drilling 3-foot-diameter piers for canopy footings, core drilling and augering for generator bollards, and constructing a new generator foundation. In the courtyard, Holes demolished two sections of brick wall, replacing them with a new CMU wall with stucco and a re-angled brick wall to improve layout and aesthetics. Additional footings and a new 700-square-foot sidewalk completed the upgraded exterior.

Tight site conditions required careful planning. Debris had to be removed through a single 10-by-10-foot door using a skid steer and backhoe, all while avoiding damage to windows just four inches from the slab edge. Low ceilings and wet conditions from heavy rain further complicated operations. Holes addressed the water issue with pumps and used Portland cement and lime to stabilize the soil for pour-back.

Throughout, the Holes team maintained close coordination with Brewer Construction and other subcontractors. This ensured efficient scheduling, access, and resource allocation. Temporary ramps and protected pathways allowed half of



the building to remain open and operational during construction.

Safety was a top concern from the outset. The enclosed shell environment had limited ventilation, so Holes brought in air scrubbers, monitors, and air movers to maintain air quality. The team also installed handrails and slip protection in high-traffic areas to safeguard both workers and building tenants. Before starting any task, operators completed Job Safety Analyses (JSAs) and maintained clean, organized work zones.

Precision equipment was a key to success. Holes used slab saws like the Core Cut CC6560 and Husqvarna FS 6600, along with a Mack dump truck, John Deere backhoe and skid steer, a Caterpillar 313F excavator, a Broderson drop hammer, a Cardi core drill, concrete trucks, overhead and ground pumps, and Husqvarna air scrubbers and movers. This machinery enabled the team to complete 7,956 square feet of exterior ADA upgrades, 7,140 square feet of interior slab work, 336 square feet of trenching, 22 canopy footings, and two wall replacements. The team also demolished and rebuilt a 37-by-8-foot concrete slab for the generator, installing 11 protective bollards.

The project was completed on time and within budget. Holes' performance led to follow-up contracts with the client, including the Koch Modular, Siemens Canopy Footings, and Transwestern 02 projects. This success is a direct result of Holes' precision execution, strong coordination, and a culture of safety and reliability.



From the start, Holes and Brewer Construction worked in lockstep. Holes' dispatch team ensured the right operators were assigned to each phase. On-site teams conducted JSAs daily, communicated issues proactively, and maintained rigorous safety standards. Behind the scenes, project managers provided timely documentation, coordinated with the client, and facilitated seamless transitions between tasks.

Ultimately, Holes delivered every scope to spec, enabling the new tenants to move in on time. The project showcases Holes Incorporated's ability to lead complex, high-stakes construction efforts from start to finish with confidence and professionalism.

Holes Incorporated was selected for this project because of its reputation for safety, skill, and independence. With decades of experience and a team that doesn't require micromanagement, Holes is a contractor clients can rely on to deliver accurate, timely results with minimal oversight. According to Brewer Construction, Holes maintained an impeccable safety record throughout this high-risk job, completing it without a single recordable injury.

Based in Houston, Texas, Holes Incorporated is a women-owned, family-operated business with over 50 years of experience. The company specializes in concrete cutting, drilling, demolition, removal, and restoration. With a dedicated fleet of equipment and an experienced team, Holes serves commercial and industrial markets, offering turnkey services with a commitment to safety, ethics, and excellence. As a proud member of the Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association



(CSDA), Holes has earned industry recognition, including the Excellence in Construction award and the STEP Diamond safety award. With a legacy of innovation and integrity, Holes continues to be a trusted name in concrete solutions across the region.



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 Christi). Holes Incorporated has been a member of CSDA since 1979. Holes was awarded the 2025 ASA Subcontractor of the Year.

RESOURCES

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Brewer Construction

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New IACDS President



RODERICH BRAUN

IACDS President

Since 2018 I have been involved in the International Association of Concrete Drillers and Sawers, IACDS. Now, it is a pleasure to write this editorial as the new IACDS President.

I want to express my gratitude to the IACDS Board of Directors for their trust in me in representing the association. Furthermore, I want to thank the IACDS secretary team for their excellent work, which is a big support for me. Also, I extend my thanks to Douglas [Walker] for the smooth transition of leadership. In addition, I want to express my gratitude to everybody at IACDS for the contribution to our industry, for connecting with each other, for the exchange of ideas, for overcoming barriers, for working on solutions together in a cooperative way.

I intend to visit all National Associations, which can be viewed as the cornerstones of IACDS, engaging with key industry stakeholders, and cultivating relationships with its members and potential new members. I will start with the Swiss Association, at their annual meeting. My objective is to broaden and strengthen the IACDS community on a global scale, to foster a positive mindset, and to advance together as a team.

The recently concluded Annual Meeting during Bauma was another valuable and enriching experience for the participants. The event was characterized by substantive discourse and the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues from the industry. Moreover, we had the privilege of acknowledging the exemplary quality of the products and projects submitted at the Diamond Award Ceremony. Furthermore, it is a pleasure to highlight the publication of the Yearbook 2024/2025, which comprehensively documents the activities and projects undertaken over the past two years.

Our focus now transitions to the future, with particular emphasis on the forthcoming Annual Meeting and networking event, scheduled to convene in Edinburgh in 2026.

Thank you.

HONORING A LEGACY:

WELDON BIRCH RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association (CSDA) recently honored Weldon Birch with its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing a career marked by vision, perseverance, and exceptional contribution to the industry. Birch reflected on the path that led to this distinguished moment.

"I am very pleased and humbled by the award," Birch shared. "It's really nice to get something from your peers for a lifetime of effort and reward within our industry." For Birch, the award isn't just a personal accolade, it is a collective acknowledgment from those who understand the work, dedication, and resilience the industry demands.

Birch's journey began in earnest in 1970, just four years into his career. That year, his boss, Hollis Lesur of American Concrete Sawing, invited him to an informal meeting in Los Angeles—the genesis of what would become CSDA. There, Birch met the pioneering figures of the industry: Leroy Penhall, Ed Dempsey, Al Schuman, and others.

"I was so impressed by their achievements and innovation," Birch recalled. "I set my goals to make it even better, and I think many of those goals are now commonplace in our industry today."

Building a lasting career wasn't without its challenges. "There are so many obstacles, it's hard to pick which were the toughest," he admitted. Launching a business in 1975 was a feat of its own. Through the years, it was the influence of competitors, the support of family, and a relentless work ethic that carried him through.

"My personal ability to handle almost any crisis and figure out a way to solve it was a big part of our success," Birch said. He also emphasized the importance of building and maintaining a strong team. "Our success always depended on a happy and competent workforce, and I never forget who got us here today."

Looking back, Birch credits many mentors, including early bosses and especially his father, affectionately known as "The Colonel." "He taught me respect for the hard work

and persistence it takes to be successful and be humble." He also drew inspiration from the pride his employees took in their work. "That pride makes every bit of the hard work worth it."

With decades of experience, Birch is candid about the lessons learned. "Oh sure, there are things I would have done differently". He reflected on the missed opportunities to develop auxiliary businesses, like an internal repair shop or dedicated admin office,

that could have both supported the core operation and generated additional income. Birch goes on to talk about how trying to oversee all of that while running a cutting operation is a distraction, and it is something he'd approach differently if he had the chance.

The Lifetime Achievement Award not only honors Birch's career—it underscores the lasting impact he's had on the industry and those around him. His story is one of dedication, innovation, and deep appreciation for the people who make success possible.





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Uncovering the Hidden Secrets of Concrete:

What GPR Can (and Can't) Reveal

| Katelyn Gennuso, Ph.D.

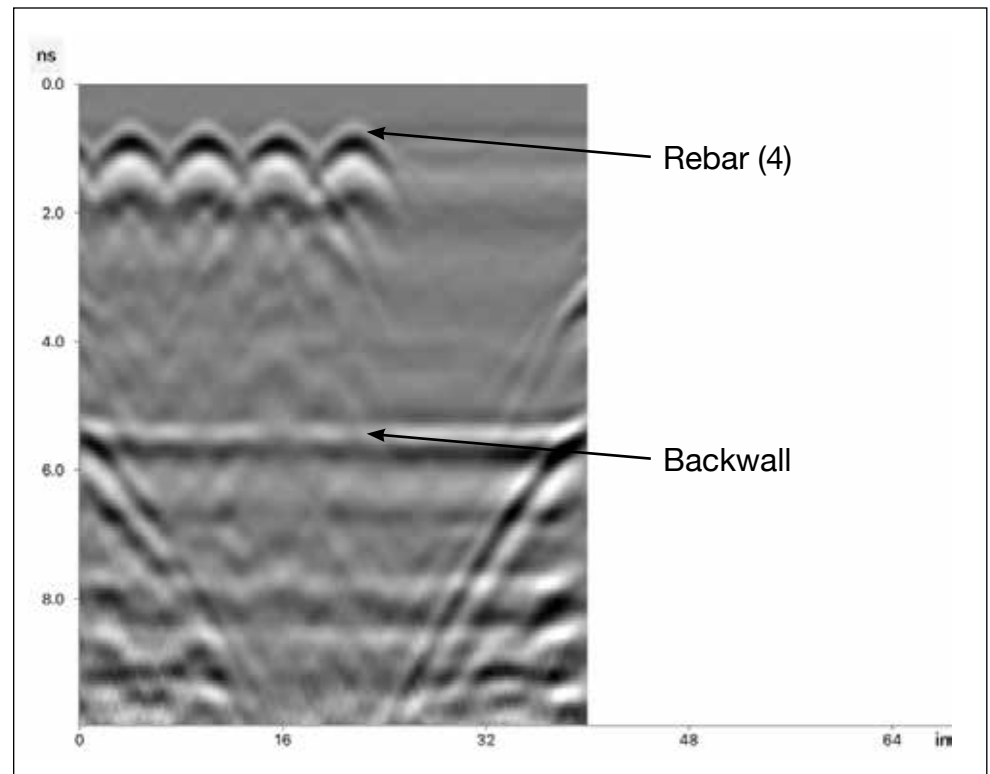


Tech Talk is a regular feature of Concrete Openings magazine, focusing on equipment, maintenance and technical issues of interest to concrete cutting, polishing, and imaging contractors. Readers wishing to have a particular subject addressed can send their suggestions to editor@concreteopenings.com.

Ground penetrating radar (GPR) has quickly become a popular non-destructive method for concrete investigations due to its range of industry uses, from simple hit prevention to structural capacity analysis. GPR is the ultimate tool for object mapping in reinforced concrete, producing clear images of metal objects such as rebar or post-tensioned cables. GPR works so well at mapping reinforcement that sometimes the limitations on what it can and cannot find are forgotten. This can lead to incomplete information on what lies in the concrete. It is important to recognize the science behind a GPR scanning device to understand its capabilities and limitations, and what it can do for the operator.

GPR devices consist of one or more antennas containing a transmitter and receiver. The transmitter emits electromagnetic waves into the concrete and when the waves encounter material boundaries, a percentage of wave energy is reflected and received at the antenna. Reflection times and energy are recorded and when data is collected over a distance, a cross-sectional image of the concrete is made (Figure 1). Objects often display as hyperbolas, because as the device moves closer to the object, the arrival time of the returning wave decreases. When the device is directly over the object, the arrival time is the shortest it will be, which creates the hyperbola peak. As the device rolls

away, the arrival time increases, and the second half of the hyperbola is formed. If the object is not a single point but constant over the scan length, like the opposite side of the concrete



(backwall), there is no hyperbola formed. Instead, a constant reflection arrival time appears like a band on the cross section.

While waves reflect when encountering a material boundary, the crucial point is that wave reflection depends on a single material property — dielectric constant. Dielectric constant, or relative permittivity, is how well a material conducts electricity.

Figure 1: Typical GPR image, called radargram, with rebar and backwall

Concrete typically has a value range of 7 to 12, depending on the mix design and water content. If the radar wave intersects with a material that has a significantly different dielectric constant as it travels through concrete, a portion

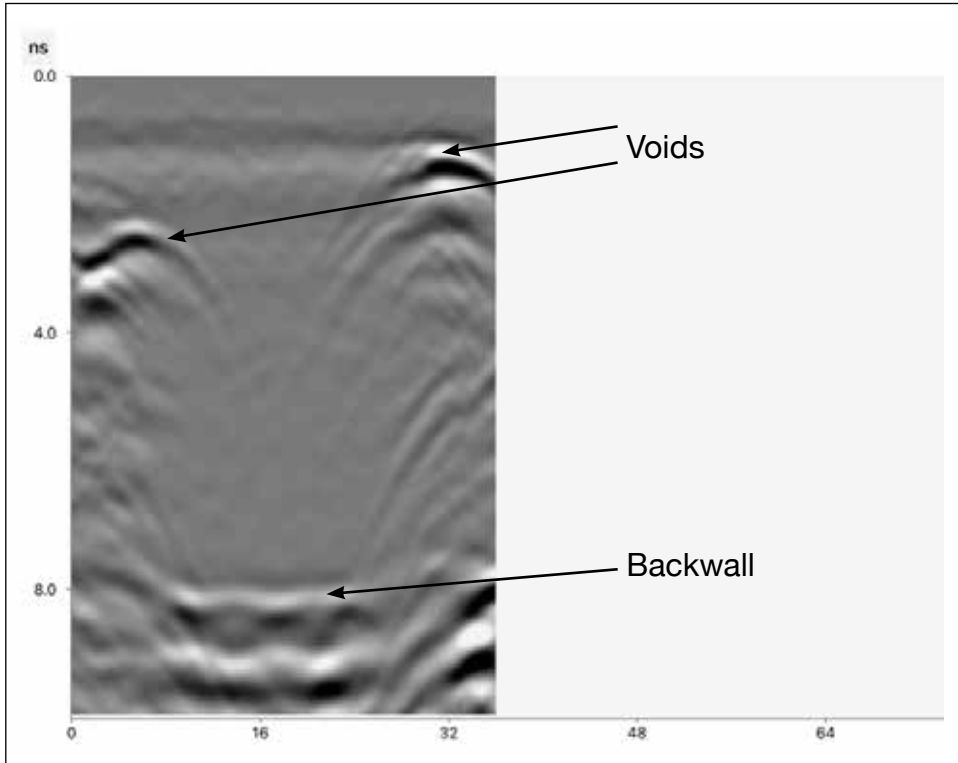


Figure 2: GPR scan showing air in concrete

of the wave energy will be reflected based on the extent of the difference. Metals are a fantastic electrical conduit and have an infinite dielectric constant. This infinite difference is the reason for the strong return signal and clear hyperbola for steel reinforcements such as rebar.

Some other common materials found in concrete are air and plastic. Air can either be the opposing side of an elevated slab or a substantial internal defect like a lack of consolidation, honeycombing, or delamination crack. Air has a dielectric constant of 1 so the reflection is weaker than metals but is often still visible on the scan. However, these reflections are rarely clean hyperbolas. The opposing side of the concrete will

appear as a banding as discussed previously. A void is rarely nicely shaped, and the hyperbola will more likely appear distorted (Figure 2). Plastic is commonly used for electrical conduit and has a dielectric constant of about 4. The difference between concrete and plastic is much smaller than other materials and is more difficult to pick out of a GPR scan due to its weak signal.

Dielectric constant is also the reason GPR can estimate object depths if calibrated correctly. Consider the equation below for the propagation velocity of a wave. Arrival time is measured by the device, and speed of light is a known value. If the dielectric constant is estimated, either by using hyperbola matching or calibrating off a known depth, the depth of any object can be calculated. Since the dielectric constant of concrete has a large range, it is important to calibrate for different concrete mixtures.

Equation 1:

$$v = \frac{d}{t} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\epsilon}}$$

Where;

v is the velocity of the wave

d is the distance to object

t is the arrival time

c is the speed of light

ϵ is the dielectric constant.

The water content of concrete can also affect the dielectric constant and should be calibrated for. Water has a dielectric constant of 81, which is much higher than concrete. When concrete is saturated, the dielectric constant of the system increases and the water will scatter the wave energy. This creates blurry images that are difficult or impossible to interpret. GPR should not be used on fresh concrete,

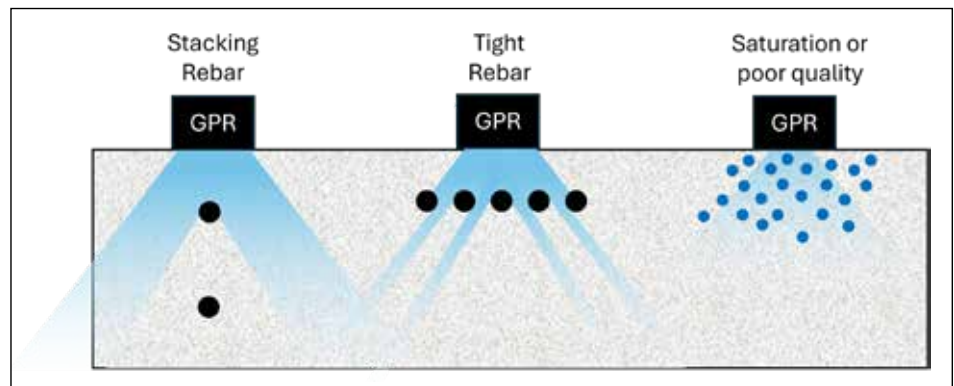
as the technology is significantly limited until the concrete is fully cured and the water content lowers.

GPR visualization depth depends on several factors, including those related to the structure, concrete, environment, and GPR device. Metal objects reflect 100% of the wave energy, meaning the metal object will appear clearly, but nothing below the metal will be seen. This can be a problem for visualizing stacked rebar or objects running below the rebar grid (Figure 3). This is a major problem with steel fiber reinforced concrete because the fibers will not allow the waves to pass, so there will be no visual depth penetration. Tight spacing of rebar can also be a problem where the wave does not have the space to pass through a grid effectively (Figure 3). Again, this can disguise any underlying objects including the backwall, making thickness measurements difficult. Some GPR devices can perform cross polarization, which rotates the antenna orientation so that more wave energy can pass beside an object. This results in a hyperbola with shorter tails for metal objects but can allow for a cleaner backwall.

Additional factors determining potential depth penetration are the saturation and quality of concrete. When GPR waves interact with the water, energy is lost, and depth penetration is reduced (Figure 3). With low-quality concrete there are more voids and cracks present, each with an additional boundary to cross and corresponding energy loss due to the reflection. The worse the concrete quality, the less depth penetration will be achieved.

There is some control available for depth penetration. When the transmitter emits electromagnetic waves, it is at a specific frequency, determining the number of waves

occurring in a set period. This defines the resolution of the image. The higher the frequency, the better the resolution, but the shallower the depth penetration. Lower frequencies do not have crisp resolution but can image



deeper objects. Some devices allow the user to choose the desired depth penetration by having multiple antenna options, each with a specific pulsed frequency. A newer method, called step frequency continuous wave, instead provides an ultrawide range of frequencies so that both resolution and depth penetration are achieved.

GPR is an excellent method for object mapping in the concrete industry. However, it is important to understand the limitations of the device, as well as the quality and condition of the concrete, to increase confidence in a scan. Calibrating the dielectric constant each time there is a change in concrete is critical for accurate depth estimations. Consider the quality and environment of the concrete to ensure the concrete is dry enough for a proper scan and to obtain desired depth penetration. Also, the chosen antenna frequency, either pulsed or step frequency, is important when prioritizing resolution or depth penetration.

Figure 3: Factors limiting GPR imaging



Katelyn Gennuso, Ph.D. is a Solutions Consultant for CSDA member Proceq – A Screening Eagle Company. She has a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Pittsburgh, focusing on concrete pavements. Katelyn is a civil engineer experienced in the technical aspects of non-destructive testing, often in the analysis of concrete structures.



The Evolution of Head Protection:

| Joe Brandel

Mips

What Has Changed and Why it Matters

The history of head protection on the jobsite dates back over 100 years, with the “Hard Boiled Hat” made of steamed canvas and glue. Over time, they evolved into what we now call Type 1 hard hats—molded plastic shells with suspension systems. Type 1 hard hats were used extensively during the construction of the Hoover Dam in the 1930s. These were designed primarily to protect against direct linear impacts to the top of the head and can lead to focal injuries. But the problem is that the dangers on construction sites have evolved too, and protective gear has not kept up. In fact, for almost 100 years, the Type 1 design has remained largely unchanged.

Construction is one of the most dangerous industries in the United States¹. In particular, workers are exposed to dangers such as falling objects and slips, trips, and falls, which can result in serious consequences including traumatic brain injuries (TBIs). For concrete workers specifically, the combination of heavy equipment, falling debris, and challenging work environments creates a perfect storm of head injury risks. When workers fall or get struck by falling objects, the impact often occurs at an angle—exposing the brain to rotational motion. This is particularly dangerous and hard to protect against, and traditional hard hats were not built with that in mind.



The Missing Piece: Understanding Rotational Motion + Its Risks

Most accidents on construction jobsites do not occur in a straight line but at an angle. These accidents expose the brain to rotational motion, which can cause more severe brain injuries than linear impacts.

Despite the risk that rotational motion poses, currently, the majority of traditional modern-day helmets are only developed and tested to withstand the force of linear impacts, and can lead to focal injuries, including contusions and fractures. While this type of impact is also dangerous, when it comes to TBIs, the brain is typically more sensitive to rotational motion than linear motion. Concussions caused by rotational motion occur at lower levels of energy than in cases involving linear motion². That is, even impacts that may seem light can lead to concussions and brain trauma when rotational motion is a factor.

The Importance of a Helmet Built for the Job at Hand

Unlike Type 1 helmets, Type 2 helmets are built to protect impacts to the front, back, and sides of the head, and many are even incorporating a rotational motion mitigating system. For example, one system allows an inner layer inside the helmet to move slightly relative to the head during an impact,

with the intention to redirect the rotational force away from the head, thereby lowering the risk of injuries such as concussions and TBIs.

Type 2 helmets also often include key safety features like chin straps, which traditional hard hats usually lack. Chin straps can play a crucial role in safety because they help keep helmets secure even when a worker falls or is hit. Without a chin strap, a helmet can fly off mid-incident—offering no protection when it's needed most.

Barriers to Adoption

The dangers are clear. But many workers are still using outdated head protection not suited for the job at hand, or even no protection at all. In 2023, a Bureau of Labor Statistics survey reported that 84% of workers who suffered head injuries weren't wearing any head protection at the time³. And according to a recent study from The International Safety Equipment Association and J.J. Keller & Associates Inc, 75% of workers have issues wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), with 56% not wanting to wear it and 48% believing it's not needed⁴.

There is an educational problem. Workers need to understand that the risks of TBIs are a real danger on job sites every day. By educating workers about the difference between Type 1 and Type

2 helmets, along with what additional safety features are available, workers will be able to make informed decisions about their safety.

Adopt. Educate. Lead.

Construction is an inherently dangerous industry, and it will never be completely risk-free. But workers are entitled to better protection from the risks. Increasing safety means selecting a helmet built not only for purpose but also choosing one that has additional advantages. It also means educating everyone on site about the importance of safety, from workers to project managers to owners. The future of head protection already exists. Now, it's time to take advantage of it.

¹ <https://www.invictuslawpc.com/most-dangerous-jobs-osa/>

² Kleiven, S (2007). “Predictors for traumatic brain injuries evaluated through accident reconstructions,” *Stapp Car Crash J*, vol. 51, pp. 81–114, Oct. 2007.

³ <https://www.constructioncenterofexcellence.com/toolbox-talks/head-protection#:~:text=Hard%20hats%20in%20construction%20are,were%20not%20wearing%20head%20protection.>

⁴ <https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/26637-employers-weigh-in-on-why-workers-wont-wear-ppe#:~:text=Although%207%20out%20of%2010,said%20in%20a%20press%20release.>



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Dixie Diamond Manufacturing Returns to its Roots Under New Ownership

Dixie Diamond Manufacturing (formerly DDM Concut) is proud to announce new ownership! Dixie Diamond was acquired by The Armor Group in November 2024. Since the closing of the transaction the Dixie team has implemented several new initiatives, including restoring the brand name from DDM Concut back to its roots as Dixie Diamond. All manufacturing will continue at the Dixie Diamond plant in Lilburn, GA, with sales and product distribution at the nearby Tucker, GA facility. Products will continue to be available nationwide.

New ownership remains committed to delivering the high-quality blades, core bits, wire, and parts that have made Dixie Diamond a household name in the diamond tool industry since 1946. “Dixie Diamond has always done the hard part very well – and that is providing high quality products at a competitive price,” says National Sales Manager, Andy Dorger, who comes from the new ownership team. “It’s executing on the little things that can elevate Dixie to its full potential. That means top notch customer service, an expert sales team, and unrivaled engineering and production expertise. We know what Dixie Diamond is capable of, and we can’t wait to deliver on it. Give us a call any time.”

With over 75 years of expertise, The Armor Group, Inc. is an ISO 9001:2015-certified company offering diverse metal fabrication products and services across a variety of industries. Headquartered in Mason, OH, and with facilities across the U.S. and Asia, Armor’s international footprint includes over 475,000 square feet of manufacturing space to support its growing operations.

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Diamond Concrete Sawing Names New Director of Operations

Diamond Concrete Sawing is pleased to announce the appointment of Brian Luce as its new Director of Operations, a strategic leadership role designed to support the company’s continued growth and operational excellence across its expanding Midwest service network.

Brian has over 18 years of hands-on experience in construction operations, project management, and team supervision. His background includes key leadership positions with companies such as BCI Construction, Bully’s Concrete, and Schepers Concrete Construction. A proven team leader and operations expert, Brian has successfully overseen large-scale field operations, developed major project schedules, streamlined workflows, and driven exceptional customer satisfaction while maintaining rigorous safety and quality standards.

Brian will report directly to Ed Drozdowski, Diamond’s COO, in his new role, while overseeing field operations, dispatch coordination, compliance, and service delivery across Diamond’s multi-site network. He will also play a central role in ensuring DOT and OSHA compliance, enhancing team performance, and maintaining strong client relationships.

“We are thrilled to welcome Brian Luce to our leadership team,” said Drozdowski, “His strong work ethic, industry expertise, and commitment to safety and quality align perfectly with our mission to deliver projects on time, on budget, and with the utmost care for people and property.”

About Diamond Concrete Sawing

Founded in 1974, Diamond Concrete Sawing is a trusted leader in the concrete sawing and cutting industry. The company offers advanced services in concrete sawing, demolition, utility locating, and ground penetrating radar (GPR). With five decades of experience, state-of-the-art equipment, OSHA-certified technicians, and an unwavering focus on safety, Diamond is the go-to partner for clients seeking consistent, efficient, and on-time results.

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Construction leader launches new initiative to highlight apprenticeships in construction

One of the leading female figures in UK construction has launched a new initiative to highlight the range of roles on offer to apprentices, by telling the stories of those already inside the industry.

Julie White, the managing director of D-Drill & Sawing and the chair of Build UK, is speaking to apprentices within her own company and others across the supply chain to showcase the wide range of opportunities that construction offers.

Julie has been an advocate for training and apprenticeships for well over a decade, with D-Drill's team being made up of more than 80 per cent of staff who have been through an apprenticeship. Julie, herself, has also completed one!

Now, in her new web-based feature called 'The Real Apprentice - You Are Hired', Julie is putting a spotlight on real people in the industry.

She said: "Anyone who knows me, knows I'm passionate about two things! The wonderful world of construction - and bringing through the next generation of workers.

"Construction and the very niche industry of diamond drilling and concrete sawing have been part of my life from since I can remember as my dad, Peter, ran D-Drill for many years having started the business in 1967 before I bought the company in 2008.

"I think that's why it's so embedded in my life.

"Yes, D-Drill is my business but the reason it gets me out of bed every day is I know what we are doing has a positive impact on the world. Without construction, there'd be no houses, hospitals, roads or schools. No offices, factories, shopping centres or warehouses. Come to think of it, there wouldn't be much at all.

"That is why I have thrown myself into supporting the industry and speaking out for it whenever I can and, hence, why I am so proud to be chair of Build UK during its tenth anniversary year.

"Build UK is the largest trade body for the whole industry, covering tier one contractors through to associations covering individual, specialist trades within the sector.

"One of the biggest issues that has been identified across construction is the need for more people to come into the industry - 50,000 new entrants a year, in fact.

"That is why Build UK staged Open Doors, where sites and places of work opened up to the public in March, and that is why I am so proud that we attracted more than 7,000 visitors across the country.

"It's also why I've decided to pursue some great stories of my own by talking to apprentices at different stages of their career in the industry in a new series called: The Real Apprentice - You Are Hired!

"I've been chatting to some of D-Drill's own apprentices but also hearing from people at other companies in the industry to find out why they decided this was the path they wanted to take, how they are finding it and what their aspirations are for the future."

For More Information

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Website: www.d-drill.co.uk/news



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ACI Foundation Unveils New Process for Identifying and Funding Research & Innovation Initiatives

The ACI Foundation is excited to announce a significant transformation in its approach to funding and supporting research and innovation within the concrete industry. This new format aims to provide balanced support for both defined and undefined research, ensuring a broader engagement to identify critical industry needs, and prioritizing essential solutions for challenges that affect the entire sector.

The ACI Foundation invites members of the ACI community and the global concrete industry to submit project ideas related to innovation, research and technology. We are particularly interested in initiatives addressing ACI Technical Committee needs, supporting emerging technologies, and expanding the understanding and application of concrete materials, structures, and construction methodologies. From small-scale projects to comprehensive multi-year initiatives, we are dedicated to supporting a wide array of project endeavors.

"By adopting a more flexible funding model, we hope to foster innovation throughout the concrete industry," stated ACI Foundation Executive Director Ann Masek. "This approach will empower the ACI Foundation to address industry wide challenges and support emerging technologies."

Project ideas may be submitted at any time throughout the year, with reviews, assessments, and funding decisions made according to an annual schedule. Our strategic approach allows us to offer varied support, including funding stakeholder meetings, and assistance in developing business plans or roadmaps.

The ACI Foundation may also create and post requests for proposals (RFPs) based on defined topics. Proposals will be evaluated based on their relevance, potential impact,

supplementary support, overall quality, and the capability of the research/project manager.

For more details about the new process, how to engage in it and instructions on submitting your project ideas, please visit <https://www.acifoundation.org/research/solicitations.aspx>

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

Contact: Stacey McCann

Tel: 248-848-3758

Email: stacey.mccann@acifoundation.org

Website: www.acifoundation.org



Anna Christine Sgro appointed President of Yanmar Compact Equipment North America

Effective April 14th, 2025, Anna Christine Sgro has been appointed president of Yanmar Compact Equipment's North American region. In her new role, Sgro will focus on enhancing organizational integration, improving financial performance and driving customer success through innovative product and service development. Together with her team, she aims to establish Yanmar CE as a leader in the compact equipment industry in North America.

Sgro brings with her a wealth of relevant construction and industrial experience, spanning general and product management, aftermarket support, digital transformation and strategy. In her most recent role, she served as president of Reesink Canada Holdings, where she led strategic growth initiatives in the agriculture, construction and complementary equipment sectors. Her earlier career included senior executive roles at prominent global organizations such as Volvo Financial Services, Volvo Construction Equipment, Strongco Equipment and Ritchie Bros, as well as leading the Global Caterpillar Alliance.

Sgro joins Yanmar CE's global leadership team, reporting to José Cuadrado, the company's Global CEO.

Commenting on her appointment, Sgro says: "I am honored to join a company with Yanmar CE's rich heritage and reputation. The values of product quality and innovation that have made Yanmar CE globally respected will remain central to our mission in North America. As always, we will focus on delivering value to our customers and dealers."

José Cuadrado, Global CEO of Yanmar Compact Equipment, adds: "North America is a vital driver of our global business, and I am confident that under Anna's leadership, Yanmar CE will have a positive catalyst for change, supporting the interests of customers, dealers, suppliers, employees and the wider community."

Sgro holds a degree in economics with a minor in political science from York University, Toronto, Canada, and post-graduate studies at Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management, in the U.S.

For more information, please visit www.yanmar.com/global/about/.

For More Information

Contact: Ben Karkela

Tel: 218-322-4180

Email: ben_karkela@yanmar.com

Website: www.yanmar.com/global/about/



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The ACI Foundation's 2025-2026 Fellowship and Scholarship Recipients

[Farmington Hills, MI] – [April 15, 2025] The ACI Foundation is excited to announce its 2025-2026 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; and paid travel expenses and attendance fees to two ACI Concrete Conventions. 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 400 students.

This year the ACI Foundation was able to award 28 fellowships and 15 scholarships to students from 35 different institutions.

The online application process for the ACI Foundation's 2026-2027 Fellowships and Scholarships will open on July 1, 2025, and close on November 1, 2025, 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](https://www.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

Contact: Stacey McCann

Tel: 248-848-3758

Email: stacey.mccann@acifoundation.org

Website: [acifoundation.org](https://www.acifoundation.org)



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One of Construction’s ‘Diamonds’ Praised for Her Impact

Julie White, the managing director of D-Drill & Sawing – which has offices across the UK – has stepped down as chair of the Drilling & Sawing Association (DSA) after leading the organisation through an unprecedented period for the industry.

During her six years, Julie put skills and training at the heart of her work with the DSA, leading to a series of notable achievements including more than 250 Level Two apprentices being trained through the association.

She was also instrumental in ensuring the DSA opened up its training centre in Nottingham to the public as part of Build UK’s annual Open Doors event, which sees construction sites, workplaces and training facilities open for visits by students and members of the public. In 2025, the event smashed through the 7,000 mark for visitors across the country.

Julie, who is currently chair of Build UK and will remain on the DSA board, has also used her time in office to help develop international standards around training and accreditation which have been adopted by the industry’s global body – the International Association of Concrete Drillers and Sawers (IACDS).

Not only that, she helped to steer the DSA and its members through the uncertainty of Covid-19, chairing virtual meetings to help keep businesses informed on the latest guidance and legislation.

Joel Vinsant, the general manager of the DSA, said: “Julie is an industry diamond and we are delighted that she will be remaining on our board after six years as a tireless chair.

“Julie is passionate about skills across construction and particularly in our specialism of drilling and sawing, following in the giant footsteps her father, Peter, left behind.

“Over the past six years, she has done everything she can to drive up standards and to enhance the profile of our industry to encourage more people to join.

“It was also a very uncertain time and Julie provided positive leadership when businesses really needed it. It’s been an incredible stint as chair!”

Julie said: “I am proud and passionate of every part of construction but particularly diamond drilling and sawing. My dad was a pioneer in many ways when it came to recognising us as an industry and in starting to implement the standards we see today.

“I’ve tried to carry that forward and ensure that we are bringing through the next generation of our workforce so that the industry can thrive long into the future.

“I’m grateful to everyone who has supported and worked with me as chair, including Joel and Andy Wheeler – and I will continue to offer all of my energy and passion to the board as we move forward.”

Further initiatives that Julie has helped to lead are the introduction of a Tool Box Talks Directory, an online training portal, updating of the code of safety working practices and improving the administration of the CSCS card system.

For More Information

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Website: www.d-drill.co.uk





Get Ready for Safe + Sound Week: Show Your Commitment to Workplace Safety

August 11–17, 2025 | A Nationwide Celebration of Safer Workplaces

Mark your calendars—Safe + Sound Week is just around the corner, taking place from August 11 to 17, 2025. This annual nationwide event celebrates the successes of workplace safety and health programs while offering an opportunity for organizations to recommit to keeping workers safe.

Whether your business is just beginning to build a safety program or has a well-established one in place, Safe + Sound Week is for everyone. The event is designed to be simple, engaging, and meaningful—making it easy for businesses of all sizes and sectors to participate.

Registration opens in July, but now is the time to start planning your activities. Visit OSHA's Safe + Sound Week website (www.osha.gov/safeandsoundweek) for planning resources and tips to get involved.

Step Up with the “3 in 30” Challenge

Lead by Example—One Action at a Time

One of the key ways to participate in Safe + Sound Week is the “3 in 30 Challenge,” which invites managers and leaders to take three safety-related actions in 30 days. This challenge is about more than just checking boxes—it's a visible demonstration of leadership's commitment to creating a safe and healthy work environment.

Employees notice when safety is taken seriously, and taking the challenge is a great way to reinforce your organization's values.

CSDA Has Your Back

Tools, Tips, and an Extra Bonus Action

The Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association (CSDA) is stepping up to support the industry before, during, and after Safe + Sound Week. By the time registration opens in July, CSDA will provide materials to help you easily complete three challenge actions—plus a bonus action for those ready to go the extra mile.

But you don't have to wait. CSDA already offers valuable safety resources available now to members, including a customizable safety manual designed to be tailored to your company's specific operations and needs. Developed in collaboration with a professional safety firm, this manual provides a strong, adaptable foundation for your safety program and will be reviewed and updated annually to keep it current and effective.

Your participation in Safe + Sound Week—and use of CSDA's resources—not only strengthens your safety culture, but also builds trust with your team and industry peers. Plus, it's your chance to earn the official OSHA Virtual Challenge Coin, a symbol of your leadership and credibility in the safety space.

Visit www.csda.org in July to download your challenge tools and let us be your go-to safety resource during Safe + Sound Week—and beyond.



July 26, 2025

Canadian Member-hosted Golf Outing

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British Columbia, Canada
Email: kyle@a-1concrete.com



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Email: info@csda.org



October 7-9, 2025

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Email: info@csda.org



November 11-13, 2025

201 Certification Training

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Clearwater, FL
Tel: 217-528-3275
Email: info@csda.org



January 19-22, 2026

World of Concrete

Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, NV
Website: www.worldofconcrete.com



February 11-12, 2026

Canadian Concrete Expo

Toronto, Canada
Website: <https://canadianconcreteexpo.com>



April 6-9, 2026

CSDA Annual Conference

Amelia Island, Florida

The History and Future of Diamond Recycling in Concrete Sawing and Drilling

| Dr. Bill Fisher – President, National Research Company and VP, CSDA

The concrete sawing and drilling industry has evolved dramatically over the past several decades, driven by technological innovation, global market dynamics, and increasing emphasis on sustainability. At the core of many of these changes is the material that enables the high-performance tooling professionals rely on every day: industrial diamond. While much of the industry now depends on synthetic diamond for cutting applications, diamond recycling programs have played a pivotal role in shaping the sector's past and offer a vital pathway to a more secure and sustainable future.

A Precious Material With Strategic Importance

Diamond, both natural and synthetic, is a strategic industrial material. Its hardness and thermal conductivity make it indispensable for cutting, drilling, and grinding in infrastructure, energy, and defense-related projects.

Within the concrete sawing and drilling industry, diamond-tipped blades and segments are essential tools.

Yet few outside the industry realize how dependent we are on synthetic diamond sourced from abroad. Today, over 95% of the world's synthetic diamond supply originates from China, a nation that is increasingly seen as a potential trade adversary. This

dependence introduces a significant risk to the supply chain. A disruption—whether due to geopolitical tensions, export restrictions, or trade disputes—could severely impact operations across the U.S. construction and infrastructure sectors.

This vulnerability has prompted a renewed focus on diamond recovery and recycling efforts. By reclaiming synthetic diamond from used tooling—particularly saw segments—the industry can reduce its reliance on foreign sources and secure a more resilient domestic supply chain.



The Role of Recovery in the Industry

Diamond recovery is not a new concept. Programs to reclaim diamond from used tooling began decades ago, driven initially by the high cost of natural diamond. Over time, as synthetic diamonds became more common, the recovery industry adapted to reclaim and repurpose synthetic crystals as well.



National Research Company (NRC), the only remaining large-scale diamond recovery provider in North America, has been a leader in this field since 1950. Originally focused on tungsten carbide and natural diamond reclamation, NRC evolved alongside the industry as synthetic diamond

gained dominance in the 1960s and 70s. NRC was an early partner with many members of the Concrete Sawing and Drilling Association (CSDA) and pioneered a cash-for-segments program that incentivized contractors to recycle spent tooling.

As diamond prices dropped due to international competition and government subsidies, particularly from China, many recovery operations shuttered. Virgin synthetic diamond became so inexpensive that recovery seemed economically unfeasible. However, those cost comparisons often ignored the performance and environmental advantages of reclaimed diamond.



Why Reclaimed Diamond Matters Today

Reclaimed diamond isn't just a cost-saving alternative—it's a performance enhancer. During the reclaim process, used diamond crystals undergo rigorous

classification and testing. This post-use screening process removes crystals affected by internal flaws, particularly those with metal inclusions that can degrade performance under high heat. The result is a higher-performing product that is less prone to heat-related breakdown during cutting applications.

Unlike virgin synthetic diamond, which can suffer from inconsistencies in crystal structure and inclusions, reclaimed diamond is known for its uniformity and superior quality. In many cases, it outperforms new material due to this enhanced screening and the natural wear that eliminates weak points. This makes reclaimed diamond especially valuable in high-demand applications like highway sawing, deep coring, and large-scale infrastructure projects.

Sustainability and Strategic Value

Beyond performance, recycling diamond segments supports broader sustainability goals. Reclaiming diamond reduces waste, conserves energy, and diverts valuable resources from landfills. But perhaps more importantly, the recovery process also reclaims strategic metal alloys used in segment bonding.

These metal alloys often include elements such as cobalt, tungsten, and nickel—minerals critical to national

infrastructure and defense. In an era of supply chain uncertainty and rising demand for electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, and advanced manufacturing, domestic sources of these minerals are in high demand. By reclaiming both the diamond and the metal matrix from used tooling, the concrete cutting industry contributes to a more circular economy and enhances national resource independence.

A Resurgent Market

Today, with increasing uncertainty in global trade, recovery is on the rebound. Contractors and manufacturers alike are recognizing that recycling isn't just good for the environment—it's also smart business. It reduces exposure to volatile pricing, ensures higher-quality inputs, and demonstrates a commitment to environmental stewardship.

NRC remains the premier provider of large-scale diamond and metal alloy recovery services in North America. With more than 75 years of experience, NRC is helping to lead the industry into a new era—one where economic security, performance, and sustainability go hand in hand.

Looking Ahead

As the concrete sawing and drilling industry looks toward the future, diamond recovery will play an increasingly critical role. It provides a safeguard against foreign dependency, a source of higher-performing materials, and a foundation for environmentally responsible operations.

By supporting and expanding diamond recycling programs, our industry not only preserves its legacy of innovation but also prepares for a more secure and sustainable tomorrow. It's not just about reclaiming a material—it's about reclaiming control over our future.



Certification



OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

CSDA's Operator Certification is a comprehensive three-day program combining detailed classroom instruction with essential on-slab demonstrations and evaluations of advanced concrete cutting techniques. Safety, proper equipment use and efficiency are all 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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Begin your quest at [CSDA.org](https://www.csda.org)






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.

A COMPANY MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA TO ACHIEVE ACCREDITATION :

- Meet the basic safety and insurance requirements of the industry
- Undertake sound operational and financial best practices
- Provide evidence it has taken part in basic training or certification programs to better its employees and the company as a whole
- Successfully pass a written application review

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Heat Safety on the Jobsite:



**Proven Practices
and**



**New Ways to
Beat the Heat**

How the Concrete Cutting Industry Can Stay Cool and Safe This Summer

When the temperatures rise, so do the risks. In physically demanding, high-exposure trades like concrete sawing and drilling, every summer brings renewed attention to the hazards of heat-related illness.

Here's a look at five tried-and-true methods that continue to serve the industry well—and five newer approaches that are changing the way contractors stay safe in the heat.

Five Tried-and-True Heat Safety Practices

1. Hydration, Hydration, Hydration

- Crews have long known that staying hydrated is the first line of defense against heat illness. Many contractors set up hydration stations and enforce scheduled water breaks to keep everyone on track. Experts recommend drinking about 8 ounces every 15–20 minutes when working in intense heat. Not only should you stay hydrated during the workday, but pre-hydration is also essential. Starting your shift already well-hydrated and continuing to hydrate after hours can prevent the compounding effects of dehydration day after day.

2. Shade and Breaks

- Access to shaded areas, whether under a canopy, trailer, or even a concrete overhang, provides essential relief. Combined with frequent breaks during peak sun hours (10 a.m.–4 p.m.), this simple practice remains a top safeguard.

3. Proper Scheduling

- Shifting work hours to early mornings or evenings helps teams avoid the worst heat. Staggering high-intensity tasks across the crew also allows workers to recover and stay safe.

4. Crew Awareness and Buddy Systems

- Many crews implement a buddy system where workers monitor each other for signs of heat stress. This team-first mentality helps catch symptoms early and ensures no one is left pushing through dangerous conditions alone.

5. Training and Toolbox Talks

- Regular jobsite safety meetings focused on heat illness symptoms and prevention reinforce awareness and empower workers to speak up. A trained crew is a safer crew.

Five New Strategies for Beating the Heat

1. Advanced Cooling Workwear

- New fabric technologies have transformed PPE. High-visibility shirts made from moisture-wicking, UV-protective material help regulate body temperature. Additions like phase-change cooling vests or evaporative cooling bandanas provide hours of relief with minimal bulk.

2. Wearable Health Monitors

- Some companies now use wearable tech (like armbands or clip-on sensors) that track body temperature, heart rate, or hydration levels. These devices can alert workers—or supervisors—before heat stress becomes an emergency.

3. Rehydration Science

- Products like Liquid I.V. or DripDrop deliver precise hydration with fast-absorbing electrolytes and vitamins. Crews report improved recovery and energy levels compared to water alone, especially during multi-day heat spells.

4. Ventilated Hard Hats and Neck Shades

- Updated PPE includes hard hats with integrated vents, sweat-wicking liners, and attachable neck capes that reflect sunlight and block UV rays. These upgrades can make a surprising difference in perceived temperature on site.

5. Heat Safety Apps and Forecast Alerts

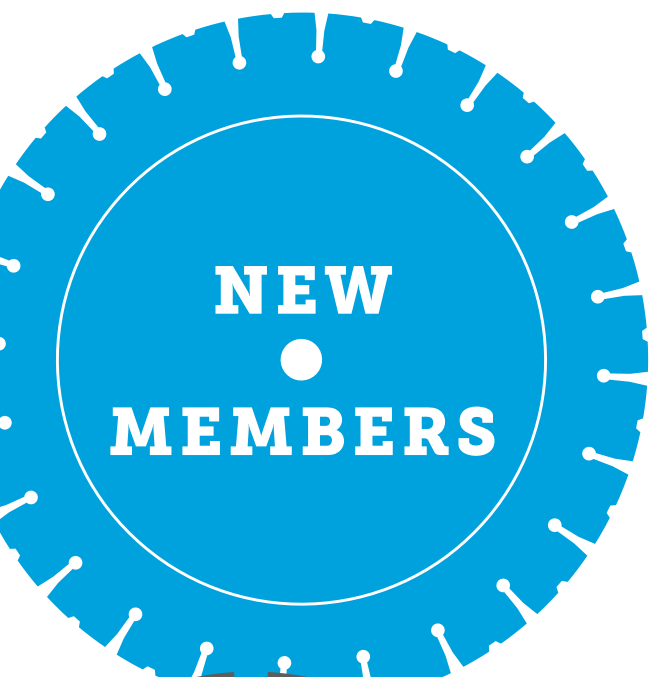
- Smartphone apps like OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool give real-time heat index readings and recommend actions based on risk levels. Some contractors are integrating these alerts into daily planning to determine break schedules and crew rotation.



The Bottom Line

As summer approaches, safety in the heat isn't just about staying cool—it's about staying smart, proactive, and prepared. Whether it's reinforcing the basics or embracing new technology and tools, concrete cutting professionals have more options than ever to protect their crews.

Your team's health is your productivity. By blending the lessons of the past with the innovations of today, we can build a safer tomorrow, one shift at a time.



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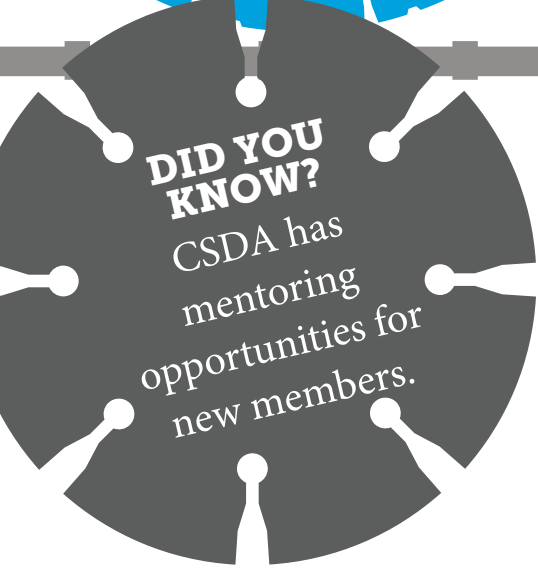
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Fort Pierce, Florida



MEMBER BENEFITS

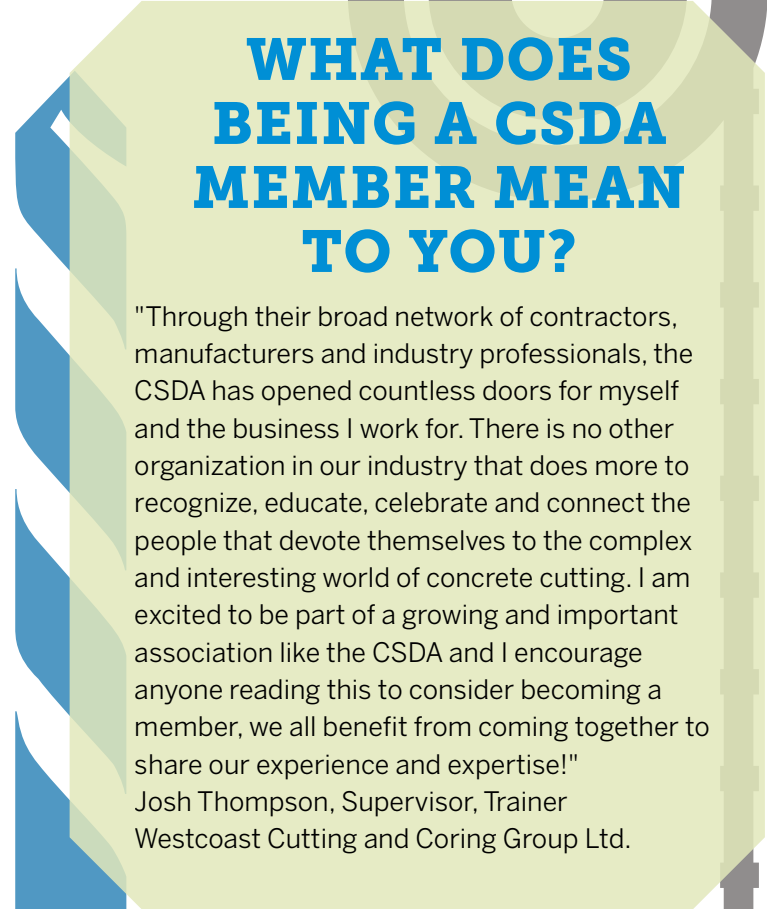


**DID YOU
KNOW?**
CSDA has
mentoring
opportunities for
new members.

TRAINING

OVER 4,000 INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN CSDA'S HANDS-ON TRAINING COURSES, CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS, ONLINE COURSE OPPORTUNITIES, LUNCH & LEARNS, AND CONFERENCE EDUCATION SESSIONS. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS KEY TO EMPLOYEE GROWTH AND SATISFACTION. UPSKILL YOUR STAFF ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS SUCH AS CUTTING DISCIPLINES, GPR TECHNIQUES, ESTIMATING, POLISHING, SAFETY AND MORE.

VISIT WWW.CSDA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE COURSES AVAILABLE NOW.



WHAT DOES BEING A CSDA MEMBER MEAN TO YOU?

"Through their broad network of contractors, manufacturers and industry professionals, the CSDA has opened countless doors for myself and the business I work for. There is no other organization in our industry that does more to recognize, educate, celebrate and connect the people that devote themselves to the complex and interesting world of concrete cutting. I am excited to be part of a growing and important association like the CSDA and I encourage anyone reading this to consider becoming a member, we all benefit from coming together to share our experience and expertise!"

Josh Thompson, Supervisor, Trainer
Westcoast Cutting and Coring Group Ltd.

JOIN CSDA TODAY!

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



Join us at "FORE THE WIN",
our annual Member Golf Outing
held during the Q3 Meeting

September 25, 2025

Lincolnshire Marriott Resort

Lincolnshire, IL

Tel: 217-528-3275

Email: info@csda.org

DUES SCHEDULE

Pricing: Contractors

GROSS SALES	NORTH AMERICAN CONTRACTOR	IMAGING OR POLISHING CONTRACTOR	INT'L. (NON-NA) CONTRACTOR
\$0 – 1M	\$795	\$795	\$500
\$1 – 2M	\$1,295	\$795	\$500
\$2 – 3M	\$1,995	\$1,595	\$500
\$3 – 5M	\$2,595	\$1,595	\$500
\$5 – 10M	\$3,295	\$1,595	\$500
> \$10M	\$4,150	\$1,595	\$500

ADDITIONAL BRANCH LOCATIONS

1-5 Branches	\$160 per location
6-10 Branches	\$110 per location
11-15 Branches	\$55 per location

Pricing: Manufacturers, Distributors & Affiliates

GROSS SALES	MANUFACTURER	DISTRIBUTOR	AFFILIATE*
\$0 – 1M	\$1,650	\$1,250	\$995
\$1 – 2M	\$2,050	\$1,550	\$995
\$2 – 3M	\$3,050	\$2,295	\$995
\$3 – 5M	\$4,900	\$3,625	\$995
\$5 – 10M	\$6,600	\$3,625	\$995
> \$10M	\$8,250	\$3,625	\$995

*Affiliate is a person, firm, corporation, society, government agency or other providing services to the concrete cutting, polishing and imaging industry

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.CSDA.ORG



For more information about CSDA membership, visit <https://csda.org/page/join>

Advertising and Readership

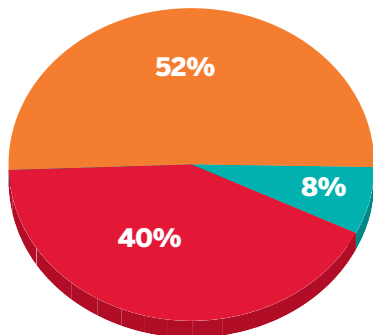
concrete openings



Who Reads the Magazine?

Concrete Openings reaches cutting, polishing and imaging contractors as well as specifiers of these services, including engineers, architects, general contractors and governmental agencies. Why waste your message on unnecessary circulation? Advertising in *Concrete Openings* guarantees a targeted audience of industry professionals.

READERSHIP BY PROFESSION



- Specifiers
- Contractors
- Manufacturers, Distributors

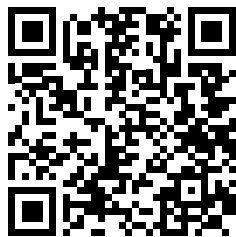
Target the Specialized Industry of Concrete Cutting, Polishing and Imaging

Advertising in *Concrete Openings* magazine is the only way to reach the specialty market of cutting, polishing and imaging contractors who work with concrete, asphalt or masonry because it is specifically targeted to this segment of the industry.

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF 

Not a Subscriber?

Get notified of each new digital issue when you sign up today!



CSDA members automatically receive three print copies to their main location.

CSDA Social Media

CSDA's social media pages are packed with all the latest news, updates, photos and videos from the association and *Concrete Openings* magazine. Look for exclusive content and become "friends" with others who are looking to network and promote the sawing and drilling industry. Join our fan base and stay in touch with the association through your PC, laptop or mobile device. Find direct links to these pages at www.csda.org



Circulation

Circulation 15,000+ minimum, per issue reaching both member and prospective member companies made up of contractors, manufacturers, distributors and affiliates + general contractors, engineers, architects and government officials who specify cutting, polishing and imaging.



How Do You Reach 15,000+ Concrete Industry Professionals?

Each issue of *Concrete Openings* is seen by more than 10,000 operators, equipment manufacturers and suppliers in the concrete cutting, polishing and imaging industry, and more than 5,000 specifiers of these services around the world.

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. And now with our digital versions, we can reach even more people!



Concrete Openings Website

Visitors to the *Concrete Openings* website can access our advertisers at the touch of a button!

As a compliment to your ad placement, we include a direct link to your website under each downloadable issue.

Advertisers

To receive additional information about products advertised in this issue, contact the vendors below.

PAGE	ADVERTISER	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL
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26-27	Diamond Products	Jim Palmer	1-800-321-5336	jpalmer@diamondproducts.com
22	Diteq - HYCON	Mike Orzechowski	816-447-6161	mikeo@diteq.com
14	Diteq - Shibuya	Mike Orzechowski	816-447-6161	mikeo@diteq.com
51	Diteq - Brute	Mike Orzechowski	816-447-6161	mikeo@diteq.com
Back Cover	Husqvarna Construction North America	Sarah Martin	913-222-9342	sarah.martin@husqvarnagroup.com
Inside Cover	Oregon Tool/ICS	Jessica Gowdy	800-321-1240	jessica.gowdy@oregontool.com
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DITEQ Corporation ♦ Lenexa, KS ♦ 866-688-1032 ♦ www.diteq.com

DITEQ BRUTE Notched C-50AXBRN 14", 16", and 17" Ring Saw Blades

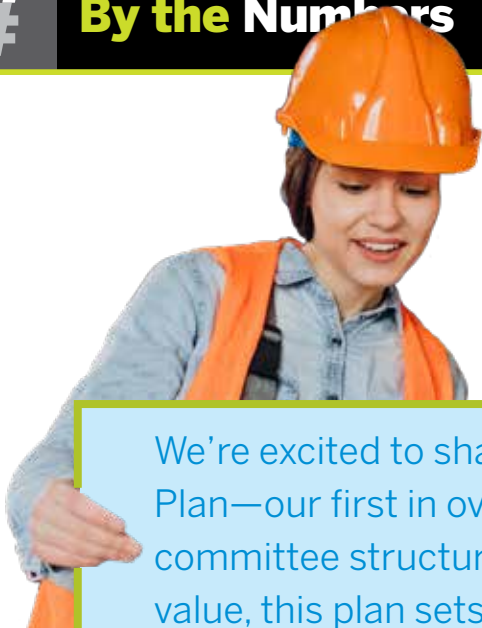
Our **G3 ARIX** advanced multi-layered diamond segments, with precisely distributed diamond particles, provide superior cutting capacity, extended lifespan, and smooth, rapid cutting



@diteqcorporation



DITEQ Channel



CSDA's Strategic Plan Refreshed

We're excited to share that CSDA has launched a refreshed Strategic Plan—our first in over a decade! With a new mission, streamlined committee structure, and a renewed focus on education and member value, this plan sets the course for an exciting future. Here is a sampling of the top initiatives that CSDA is taking on this year.

1. Intentional Training

Our hands-on 101 Training is now three days—efficient, impactful, and backed by CSDA's trusted focus on safety.

2. New Education

Plan now to attend CSDA's new full-day project management course—the ideal next step after How to Estimate to Win Jobs at World of Concrete.

3. Strategic Design

Fewer committees + focused working groups = an efficient and clear path forward; our working groups are specific, goal-oriented and focused on success.

4. Spanish Translations

CSDA is working on Spanish translations of the Safety Management Plan, the Safety Handbook and the Toolbox Safety Tips.

5. Digital Magazine

Concrete Openings successfully switched to digital; CSDA members continue to receive three print copies per main location.

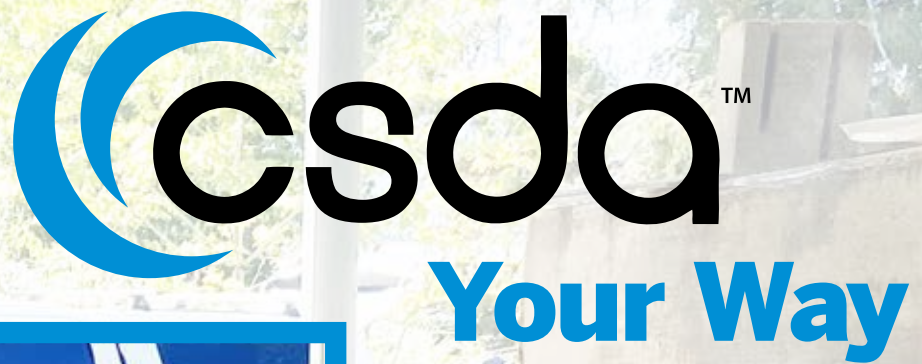
6. Condensed Conference

Our annual conference is stacked with education without compromising any of the fun.

7. Find a Pro

This new website feature puts the right cutting, drilling, or GPR professional at your fingertips - find a CSDA member in your area today!





At **CSDA**, we believe **every member is unique**. That's why our **benefits are customizable** to fit your business needs. Whether you're looking for **safety resources, business tools, networking opportunities**, or **professional growth**, **CSDA Your Way** allows you to select **what works best for you**.

Your business. Your benefits. CSDA, your way.

D1600 SERIES

A NEW GENERATION OF DRILL BITS



ELITE-DRILL™ 1610

Optimal for hard to medium-hard and high-density concrete. Compatible with the DM 1 PACE, DM 400 & DM 430 drill motors.



ELITE-DRILL™ 1620

Optimal for wide range of applications from hard, medium-hard and softer concrete. Same or better drilling speed compared to earlier drill bits, with up to 20% better life. Compatible with the DM 400, DM 430 & DM 700 drill motors.



ELITE-DRILL™ 1640

Optimal for abrasive concrete and concrete foundations. Compatible with the DM 400, DM 430 & DM 700 core drill motors.