

The Masonry Society

Sustainability E-News

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SPONSORED EDITION

From the Editor

It seems like we just absorb the news of one major storm and another tragedy strikes. My heartfelt prayers and concern go out to all who were affected by the recent disasters. As an engineer, I always look for the lessons to be learned in such situations, and masonry has a positive story to tell in the stories below. Check out the links below for the dramatic news and images of masonry safe rooms surviving direct hits by recent tornadoes and the sad images of the 6-story wood building in British Columbia destroyed by fire. Construction and codes are always a balancing act between costs and performance. The recent events are a reminder that affordable masonry construction can provide economical and sustainable solutions.

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SURVIVING DISASTERS

Safe Rooms to be in Demand after Deadly Tornado

The EF-4 tornado that made its way through Tuscaloosa, Ala., on April 27 leveled block after block in the Forest Lake neighborhood, but on 16th Street East, a closet stands defiant amid the rubble. This closet, though, is a safe room built to withstand, and it's expected more will be built as Tuscaloosa, Ala., recovers. "You could come out here and see this plain as day for 2 miles as being the only structure standing here," said William Blakeney with Blakeney Construction, who built the safe room for his grandparents. Read [More](#).

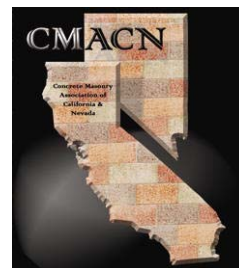
Fire Highlights Concern over Proposed Changes to Building Code

Recent fires in homes with midrise wood frame buildings have brought into focus the issue of fire safety in residential neighborhoods. The Richmond, British Columbia, fire on May 4 is a case in point. The blaze broke out quickly, burning down the two six-story buildings that were still under construction, and imperiling the neighborhood. According to news stories, the massive fire burned for more than five hours before being brought under control. No lives were lost, but the danger underscores the need to re-examine the recent decision in British Columbia to allow midrise wood frame construction, instead of the long-required fire resistant masonry materials such as concrete block. Recent proposed

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changes to the Ontario Building Code and to the National Building Code, that would allow wood frame buildings over four-stories in other regions of Canada, are being strongly opposed by the masonry industry as dangerous to human life. Read [More](#).

PRODUCT NEWS

Lots of news with new products and changes to ASTM standards under development. ~Tina

NCMA Releases Performance Guidelines for CMU

As a standard, ASTM C90 is written to apply to the majority of concrete masonry products produced. It cannot, however, apply to all products in all situations. Recognizing these limits in current ASTM standards, NCMA has developed a series of guidelines that set recommended assessment and performance criteria for producers considering the use of alternative materials in concrete masonry unit production. These guidelines, which are available for [download here](#), provide producers with the background and tools necessary to assess the impact a substantial change to the materials used to produce a concrete masonry unit may have on the performance of such units when in service.

Workshop on Implications of ASTM E60 Standards on Sustainability for Cement and Concrete

Sponsored by ASTM Committee C01 on Cement on June 14, 2011 at the Marriott Anaheim in Anaheim, CA, the "Workshop on Implications of ASTM E60 Standards on Sustainability for Cement and Concrete" will look at the activities of ASTM E60 Committee on Sustainability as they relate to cement and concrete. Information on the workshop is posted on the Symposia/Workshops webpage. You may register to attend the workshop at <http://www.astm.org/c01work0611.htm>.

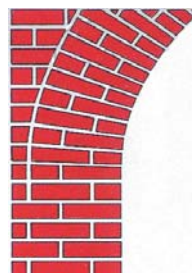
Ohio Brick Maker Recycles Byproducts into "Green" Bricks

Belden Brick Co. officials are expecting the new "green" aspects of recycled materials in their products will help the company build an even stronger future. The company recently received a \$250,000 Market Development Grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to acquire a pulverizer. [Click here](#) to read more.

Anglo American Transforms Gypsum Byproduct into Bricks



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Anglo American is transforming the gypsum that is a byproduct of its water reclamation operation in South Africa into bricks for homebuilding. The company's water reclamation plant purifies water for drinking -- and now also provides the raw material for gypsum-based bricks that have already been used to build 66 homes. Read more at [The Guardian \(London\)](#).

Portable Block Machine Holds Promise for Developing World

A portable brick- and block-producing machine holds promise for the developing world. The machine mixes concrete and can generate 180 square feet in bricks or blocks in about an hour, says inventor Gary Troke. Troke says his invention could help Haiti rebuild or bring development to remote villages in Afghanistan in this [Ottawa Citizen \(Ontario\)](#) article.

"ThermaPaver" Converts Concrete Pavers into Energy Producers

A New Hampshire company has invented a way to capture the heat that emanates from concrete rooftops, pool and deck patios, plazas and sidewalks. The "ThermaPaver" by Therma-HEXX is an insulated aluminum heat exchanger sized to match concrete and stone pavers. The ThermaPaver converts a "simple block of concrete into a productive, green, manageable building component," said company owner Robert Barmore. Read more at [SeacoastOnline \(Portsmouth, N.H.\)](#).

GreenWizard and Building Systems Design Form Collaborative Partnership

GreenWizard® Inc., and Building Systems Design, Inc. (BSD), today announced they have entered into a collaborative partnership to investigate the opportunities for developing cross-platform tools for the identification, analysis, and specification of green and LEED-oriented building products. Read [MORE](#).

New Environmentally-Friendly Building Panels

The world's leading producer of aluminum, Alcoa, has just introduced a new building technology that could change the face of architecture throughout the world according to this [article](#).

GREEN BUILDING NEWS

7 Green Buildings from Across the Globe

Seven green buildings from across the globe showcase the latest energy-efficient designs,



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including One Bryant Park in New York and the Gherkin in London. The Gherkin tower uses 50% less energy than a conventional office building, while One Bryant Park, which had LEED-Platinum certification, conserves millions of gallons of water every year through waterless urinals. Read more at FastCompany.com.

Green Wars: Two 'Living Buildings' Battle for Sustainable Supremacy

In the sustainability game, two proposed multi-story "living buildings" take sustainability to the urban environments of Portland and Seattle. Read [more here](#).

IGCC Code Hearings Wrap Up

IGCC code hearings ended May 21, 2011. To learn more about what went on visit <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/IGCC/Pages/default.aspx>.

Maryland Approves IGCC for Statewide Use

In April 2011, Maryland's legislature passed a bill adopting the International Green Construction Code (IGCC) as an option for use by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and local governments effective March 1, 2012. Read more at [here](#).

Phoenix Plans to Implement its Own Green Building Standards

Phoenix will introduce its own environment-friendly construction code on July 1, which will enable developers and homeowners to obtain green certifications for their projects without having to apply for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The city's green construction standards are similar to LEED and will award points for energy efficiency, reflective roofs, use of recycled building materials, building near mass transit and more. Read more at [The Arizona Republic \(Phoenix\)](http://TheArizonaRepublic.com).

Key Energy Data Hit Hard by Federal Budget Cuts

The U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) [recently announced](#) their decision to not release the results of the 2007 Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS), and to halt work on the 2011. This survey is among the few resources available that track building energy consumption. As a result, [ASHRAE Urges Congress to Continue Funding for Important Building Data Survey](#).

EDUCATION

Just a reminder that the Spring Meetings of TMS and the 11th North American Masonry Conference are this week into next. Committees, including the Sustainability Committee will be meeting on June 3, immediately prior to the (NAMC). Check out the links below for more information. ~Tina

For information on the upcoming meetings of The Masonry Society, click [here](#).

The [11th North American Masonry Conference](#) will be held on June 5-8, 2011 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The themes of the conference include masonry in seismic regions and green technology.

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