



DATE: Tuesday, September 10, 2019

TIME: Breakfast & Registration: 7:00 AM
General Meeting: 7:30 – 8:00 AM
Presentation & Discussion: 8:00 – 9:15 AM

LOCATION: [Marriott Minneapolis West](#) (952)-544-4400
9960 Wayzata Blvd.; St. Louis Park, MN 55426
Located north and west of I-394 and Hwy 169

Please RSVP to: [David Oxley](#) via email: doxley@acecmn.org or fax to ACEC/MN: (952)-593-5552

FORMAT: Breakfast meeting – cost is **\$25 for members**, \$40 for non-members;
\$15 for unemployed members and \$10 for Students & those in YMG.

MEETING AGENDA:

I. INTRODUCTIONS – Greg McCool

II. TREASURER’S REPORT / AND ACEC UPDATE – Dave Oxley

III. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- A. MNSEA Steering Committee – Greg McCool
 - i MNSEER Committee – Douglas Fell
 - ii MNSEA YMG – Lauren Piepho
 - iii MNSEA Annual Seminar and Trade Show – Quoc Le
 - iv MNSEA SE3 – Lauren Piepho

IV. LIAISON UPDATES:

- A. NCSEA Delegate Update – Doug Woolf

V. OLD BUSINESS:

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION:

RISK MITIGATION FOR STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

John J. Lewis, PE | David H. Macdonald, PE | Douglas L. Fell, PE

There is no denying that the risk of catastrophic events, both natural and man-made, causing structural damage is on the increase in our country and around the world. The frequency and severity of damage due to these events has much of our country asking structural engineers for assistance in assessing damage and returning their communities to service. These catastrophic events can be due to, but are not limited to, events associated with: seismic activity, wind, precipitation, failing infrastructure, fire, and terrorism.

Structural engineers may find themselves responding to emergency situations occurring immediately in front of them, such as an accident involving a structure. More typically, they become contractually engaged through their business practice or are volunteering as either an individual or a business entity providing services to a community or private party after a catastrophic event. This presentation addresses the risks structural engineers face and possible risk mitigation available to them when offering their services.

The risk exposure for the structural engineer is not limited to the immediate emergency response as it occurs, but also when volunteering their services as emergency second responders and for other causes. Due to the unknown conditions at a catastrophic event and the number of parties involved, engineers often find themselves dancing through a legal minefield. It is definitely a case of “you don’t know what you don’t know”. This presentation will help identify the unknowns and what questions to have answered before getting involved. A panel of presenters including a representative from the MNSEA SEER Subcommittee on Risk & Mitigation, a representative from the NCSEA SEER Committee and an attorney will provide a broad perspective of the topic defining the risks and outlining possible methods of risk reduction. Topics covered will include: status of “Good Samaritan” laws, proper engagement of structural engineers with governmental agencies, liability management through the use of documentation, workers’ compensation (name varies by state) for volunteers, means of insulating firms from risks of engineers in their employ volunteering as private individuals; and other topics. This subject is gaining interest among structural engineers that want to provide their services, either voluntarily or under a normal business contract, while properly managing risk. It has been avoided far too long and is now in the forefront of discussion to define the risks and generate the appropriate tools to address them. This presentation will help attendees identify risks and present options to mitigate their exposure to liabilities. They will leave this event with a better understanding of how to conduct business and volunteer activities, as either an individual or as a business entity, in the future.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this program, the attendee will:

- Attendees will be made aware of their risk exposure when volunteering or contracting professional engineering services at catastrophic sites.
- Discuss legal protections available under current law.
- Identify steps engineers can take to mitigate both legal and physical risks during an emergency response.



10201 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 240, Minnetonka, MN 55305 952/593-5533



A Coalition of the
American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota

MNSEA Minnesota Structural Engineers Association



John Lewis is a professional engineer with over 40 years of experience designing a broad-spectrum of building structures ranging from industrial to institutional, to office and high rise residential in the lower 48 states. During his career, he has also provided structural engineering services to owners in response to emergencies.



David Macdonald has over 40 years of experience in structural engineering which includes all phases and types of structural building systems. He has served as project engineer for several projects that have won awards for unique and innovative design, such as the restoration of the Nicollet Island Pavilion that received a CUE award from the City of Minneapolis, the St. Croix Lutheran High School Chapel which was recognized by AIA Minnesota with an honor award, the adaptive reuse and addition to the Humboldt Mill in Minneapolis which won an AIA/MN honor award and a Minneapolis Heritage Preservation award, the restoration of the Swedish Institute Solarium which was recognized with an AIA/MN Heritage Preservation award. In 2008 David was very grateful to be honored by AIA/MN with a special award for "Outstanding skill and creative solutions for the architectural profession as a structural engineer." David was the engineer of record for the renovation of the Minneapolis Armory which received a grand award from ACEC Minnesota in 2019. David is a principal partner and co-founder of Mattson Macdonald Young, Inc. Structural Engineers.



Douglas L. Fell is a Professional Engineer with more than 40 years of structural engineering, design project management, and construction project management experience with projects from schematic design through bidding and construction. Doug has extensive experience in performing structural designs, evaluations and working in the areas of forensic engineering, legal case work/expert witness, insurance case work and emergency response cases. Doug has been involved with many structural emergency response projects throughout the United States, including those involving fires, floods, existing structure collapses, construction-related collapses, vehicular/construction equipment impact upon structures, storm-related damages to structures, and others. He has experience working with the ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives), CSB (Chemical Safety Board), OSHA (Occupational and Safety Health Administration), FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board), industry experts in various forensic fields, governmental agencies, attorneys, insurance companies, and contractors. Doug is known for his strong communication and organizational skills and close attention to detail.



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