



Statement from the Minnesota Structural Engineers Association

We are deeply saddened by the death of George Floyd, and we condemn the systemic racism which led to his death.

As licensed professional structural engineers, we are charged by the State of Minnesota to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. This promise extends to all members of our community. That people of color in our community fear for their health, safety, and welfare for any reason flies in the face of that charge and cries out for correction.

Barriers to accessing the structural engineering field for people of color are present to this day, erected through centuries of systemic inequity and racism. As a predominantly White profession, our own inactions and complacency have served to keep these barriers in place.

We are committed to taking immediate action to dismantle these barriers and make lasting change. We pledge to educate ourselves and listen first. In contrast to the calculated approach we take in our professional lives, we understand that the world is not a textbook problem to be solved with pencil and paper. We must expand our thinking to grasp broader realities, learn new behaviors, and unlearn poor habits.

We will be present and courageous. As a first step, the Minnesota Structural Engineers Emergency Response (MNSEER) committee is offering support to the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis to evaluate the safety of buildings that were damaged. Many of our member firms are offering staff volunteer time off to help repair their communities. We intend to continue as a regional leader in the Structural Engineering Engagement and Equity (SE3) initiative, which examines the barriers faced by people of color and other underrepresented groups, as they navigate the structural engineering industry.

We pledge to work as a community. We will continue to work with other organizations in the design community to promote and encourage people of color to join and excel in our industry. We will actively seek new opportunities to utilize our platform, and we will continue to coordinate our activities with other allied organizations within the design community in order to create opportunities that encourage people of color.

We will help rebuild a community that serves all its members. As structural engineers, we realize that it is sometimes necessary to tear down a building to its foundation to build something better. Similarly, we hope the death of George Floyd, the community's grieving, and the physical destruction will be a catalyst for positive change, and the beginning of a new foundation for the long path to eradication of racism. So let's work towards a better future, this time with a stronger foundation.

Minnesota Structural Engineers Association

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