



The Structural Engineers Association of South Carolina

September 1, 2005 Update

Website

The website is 95% complete. I apologize for not having it done by today as I had planned. My student is working hard making the final changes to the site and we will then upload it and provide you with the web address. It will contain bylaws, a proposed mission statement, membership information, local chapter links, news and events, and a calendar for the Fall Session. It looks like it will be 7 to 10 days until it is ready. Thank you for your patience.

SPECIAL INSPECTIONS - BEST PRACTICES: A Guide to Special Inspection Application, Policy, and Enforcement

Our draft SI document is also around 95% complete. In approximately one week, I will send it out to the SI committee. The general membership will receive a copy of committee document for additional comments and approval at a date yet to be determined. The current draft is about 30 pages of text and contains (in my opinion) the most thorough explanation of special inspection requirements for our state.

Alex Tomanovich, PE, may develop our Special Inspection forms in Excel Format. I am sure that those of you familiar with his programming realize how great this would be. He is waiting for John and I to send a complete list of special inspection tasks for all materials to him so that he can begin working on it. Thanks Alex.

News

North Carolina to waive special inspections?

Yes and no. Keep in mind that the current North Carolina Building Code (IBC 2000 Modified) already gives permission to jurisdictions in North Carolina to waive special inspections and many choose to do so. An ad hoc committee voted last week to waive special inspections for most of the general building stock in North Carolina. The 2006 NC Building Code (IBC 2003 modified) will read as follows.

1704.1 General.

Where application is made for construction as described in this section, the building official, at the official's discretion (unless excepted below), may require the owner to employ one or more special inspectors to provide inspections during construction on the types of work listed under Section 1704. The special inspector shall be a qualified person who shall demonstrate competence, to the

satisfaction of the building official, for inspection of the particular type of construction or operation requiring special inspection. These inspections are in addition to the inspections specified in the North Carolina Administrative Code and Policies. The following exceptions apply to all special inspections referenced in Chapter 17.

Exceptions:

1. Special inspections are not required for work of a minor nature or as warranted by conditions in the jurisdiction as approved by the building official.
2. Special inspections are not required for buildings and other structures with Building Classification Categories I or II (Table 1604.5) that are not high rise buildings (i.e., special inspections are required for high rise buildings).
Footnote "a" does not apply to this exception.

I was invited, but unable to attend the meeting in Raleigh last week; however, I have spoken in detail with both Eddie Prince, AIA, Esquire, Director of Special Inspections for Mecklenburg County, and Thomas Avery, PE, Chair of the ad hoc committee on special inspections and North Carolina Building Code Council member. In summary, the committee decision was based on a conclusion that special inspections were not working in North Carolina. Although not based on a study of any kind, contractors were concerned that special inspections were costing 1-4% of the total construction cost and that good contractors were being penalized for the poor construction of bad contractors. Structural engineers were not represented at the meeting and it appears that the only reason that certain "important buildings" will still have special inspections is due to the presentation by Mecklenburg County representatives to keep special inspections in place. In my opinion, the change may be based on poor special inspection practices and a lack of education on how things should be done. I believe that our SI document will help keep us from reaching a similar conclusion. It is important to remember that special inspections are for the general building stock and not "special buildings". Also, special inspections are not intended to duplicate a contractor's inspections. There are very few new inspections required and any realized additional costs incurred by the contractor should be due to mistakes caught by the special inspector and not the practice of special inspections itself. The contractor should (in theory) be able to plan the special inspections just as he or she did prior to Chapter 17.

Salary and School Ranking Survey to be Performed?

Paul Wood, PE, has agreed to create a draft salary survey form for our use. He and/or I will present the results of the survey at our annual meeting next summer (see SEA of SC website for more information). The survey will be more comprehensive than the survey performed by SEA International and will also consider engineering fees as a separate item. Paul has also agreed to draft an undergraduate and graduate school ranking survey form for our use as well. This will help students decide where to go to school based on SC employer input. I know this will be great for my students at The Citadel that are considering graduate school.

Local Chapter Meetings

As promised, I have planned two lunch meetings for the Fall semester at each local chapter (12 total meetings). For convenience, this semester's official meetings will all be held at a Hilton affiliate hotel. It was easier for me to plan that way. The meetings are listed below. Note that all Fall meetings are set for Thursday at lunch. The local chapter officers can change this next semester if they wish. We will be electing local officers at the meetings. I have to give a definite head count for food. **Please let me know ASAP if you are coming to a chapter meeting (please note the specific meeting in the e-mail response to timothy.mays@citadel.edu).** The cost is what I expect to pay per head. Any money left over will go to the local chapter.

Date: September 15, 2005 (11 AM – 12:15 PM) – 1 Professional Development Hour

Chapter: Myrtle Beach

Location: To be announced

Speaker: Timothy W. Mays, Ph.D., P.E.

Presentation: Design and Retrofit Using Steel Plate Shear Walls (Theory and Application)

Cost: \$25

Date: September 22, 2005 (11 AM – 12:15 PM) – 1 Professional Development Hour

Chapter: Columbia

Location: To be announced

Speaker: Timothy W. Mays, Ph.D., P.E.

Presentation: Design and Retrofit Using Steel Plate Shear Walls (Theory and Application)

Cost: \$25

Date: September 29, 2005 (11 AM – 12:15 PM) – 1 Professional Development Hour

Chapter: Greenville

Location: To be announced

Speaker: Timothy W. Mays, Ph.D., P.E.

Presentation: Design and Retrofit Using Steel Plate Shear Walls (Theory and Application)

Cost: \$25

Date: October 6, 2005 (11 AM – 12:15 PM) – 1 Professional Development Hour

Chapter: Hilton Head

Location: To be announced

Speaker: Timothy W. Mays, Ph.D., P.E.

Presentation: Design and Retrofit Using Steel Plate Shear Walls (Theory and Application)

Cost: \$25

Date: October 13, 2005 (11 AM – 12:15 PM) – 1 Professional Development Hour
Chapter: Charleston
Location: To be announced
Speaker: Timothy W. Mays, Ph.D., P.E.
Presentation: Design and Retrofit Using Steel Plate Shear Walls (Theory and Application)
Cost: \$25

Date: October 20, 2005 (11 AM – 12:15 PM) – 1 Professional Development Hour
Chapter: Myrtle Beach
Location: To be announced
Speaker: Juan Caicedo, Ph.D.
Presentation: Health Monitoring of Structures (State of the Art Review)
Cost: \$25

Date: November 3, 2005 (11 AM – 12:15 PM) – 1 Professional Development Hour
Chapter: Columbia
Location: To be announced
Speaker: Juan Caicedo, Ph.D.
Presentation: Health Monitoring of Structures (State of the Art Review)
Cost: \$25

Date: November 3, 2005 (11 AM – 12:15 PM) – 1 Professional Development Hour
Chapter: Aiken
Location: To be announced
Speaker: Timothy W. Mays, Ph.D., P.E.
Presentation: Design and Retrofit Using Steel Plate Shear Walls (Theory and Application)
Cost: \$25

Date: November 10, 2005 (11 AM – 12:15 PM) – 1 Professional Development Hour
Chapter: Greenville
Location: To be announced
Speaker: Clemson Speaker
Presentation: To be announced
Cost: \$25

Date: November 17, 2005 (11 AM – 12:15 PM) – 1 Professional Development Hour
Chapter: Hilton Head
Location: To be announced
Speaker: Jason Hubert
Presentation: Two-Way Reinforced Concrete Slab Design (Theory and Application)
Cost: \$25

Date: December 1, 2005 (11 AM – 12:15 PM) – 1 Professional Development Hour
Chapter: Aiken
Location: To be announced
Speaker: To be announced
Presentation: To be announced
Cost: \$25

Date: December 1, 2005 (11 AM – 12:15 PM) – 1 Professional Development Hour
Chapter: Charleston
Location: To be announced
Speaker: Jason Hubert
Presentation: Two-Way Reinforced Concrete Slab Design (Theory and Application)
Cost: \$25