



# eNewsletter

Fall 2014

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## Plant Prospective by Jeff Allen

As the holiday season approaches we have many things to be thankful for; family, friends and health to name a few. I hope everyone has experienced an uptick in volume this summer as our economy continues to improve ever so slowly. The increase in new construction hopefully has kept your plants humming along. The OPCA newsletter has provided many interesting topics over the years and I have often wondered how many of these articles are shared with your production team members? Many of the articles that catch your eye are read with interest and then deleted.

Many of us have a Facebook page or a LinkedIn account; how often have you read something you find interesting and then you “Share”? As a suggestion, consider incorporating the OPCA eNewsletter articles that are relative to your plant’s production capabilities into you weekly safety meetings. It provides the team with some food for thought and can provide explanations as to why we do what we do. It provides a forum for Q&A within your team and could identify a hidden gem within your workforce.



For example, not too long ago there was an article on steel placement. I am sure many of you read that article and found it to be interesting. Sharing that with your production team will set the wheels in motion and you might be surprised by the number of questions you receive.

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## SAVE THE DATE: 2015 Annual OPCA Conference

The annual OPCA Conference will be held on **MARCH 30-31, 2015**. The conference will be held at the Hilton Columbus/ Polaris. A flyer and registration package will be mailed / emailed to all members in late January 2015. If you have an idea for a topic to be presented at the conference, and/or if you have a presenter to suggest, we welcome your comments. You can send your input to [info@ohioprecast.org](mailto:info@ohioprecast.org).



## Water is Water, not Waste...Conserve our precious resource

For many precast concrete companies, 2014 has been a year with hope and promise of a new and better market for our products. Concrete products are the most cost effective means of providing infrastructure for the conveyance of water and wastewater anywhere in the world. While we enjoy the benefits that improved sales means to our industry, we should also stop and give some thought to the higher purpose for the product that we supply.

Clean potable water is considered by many to be the most limited resource on this planet. In the United States, we take for granted the access we have to potable water, often at the risk of not managing this resource with a scarcity mindset. In the Midwest, there is ample water, but in the southern and western states, where a severe drought exists, the fresh water reservoirs, such as Lake Mead, have been reduced to alarming levels. (see [LakeMead](#))

The moral of this story is that water is water, not waste. On a planet that has an abundance of water, we have a need for better management of this water. This brings me to the higher purpose of our industry: providing products for the management of the earth's most precious resource. Fresh Drinking Water.

There is an organization whose sole mission is to promote best management practices of water resources through education. Wastewater Education 501(c)3 is a non-profit organization with a national outreach to educate people, and their elected officials, that all water is water, not waste! For information on the resources that are available to our members and stakeholders, visit their webpage [HERE](#).

## 2015 Membership Renewals

Membership renewals will be mailed out by the end of 2014. The invoices will be dated 1/1/15 with a 30 day term for payment. If members have not returned their invoice with the 2015 dues payment by the end of January 2015, the Board Treasurer will send reminder letters to these member companies. Per the association by-laws, any member who remains in default after February 28, 2015 will be in suspension of their membership.

Rates for 2015 will remain the same as 2014. Producer Member: \$500; Associate Member: \$300; Professional Member: \$75.

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## Plant Prospective Continued...

Many times, when in the heat of battle, the workup heads to the shop and it is assumed that there is complete understanding. There is no doubt that the production team knows how to read and build the structure from the workup. But do they understand why that particular structure requires specific amount of coverage?

Think about the specific cover requirements that are required to build a box culvert per ASTM C-1577. Consider sharing the effect that the proper steel placement has while in compression and tension and the role the reinforcing steel plays in the culvert carrying the designed load. Discussing the fundamentals of precast with your team does not need to be complicated. Making sure that everyone understands the basics of precast and communicating "why" will go a long way.

Knowledge is a powerful tool, and we need to equip our employees; our success and failure is a team effort. As we head into 2015 and gear up for the spring push, let's take a few minutes and be sure everyone is on board and understands the importance of their role in your company's success.

*Jeff Allen is a Sales Representative for Concrete Sealants, Inc. Jeff's sales territory includes the southern half of Ohio. Before joining Concrete Sealants, Jeff worked in several precast plants from 1985 through 2014. Jeff is currently serving the precast industry as a committee member of the NPCA Quality Assurance Committee.*

## OSHA Announces New Reporting Requirements for 2015

Sept. 11, 2014

### OSHA announces new requirements for reporting severe injuries and updates list of industries exempt from record-keeping requirements

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration today announced a [final rule](#) requiring employers to notify OSHA when an employee is killed on the job or suffers a work-related hospitalization, amputation or loss of an eye. The rule, which also updates the list of employers partially exempt from OSHA record-keeping requirements, will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2015, for workplaces under federal OSHA jurisdiction.

The announcement follows preliminary results from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' [2013 National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries](#)\*.

"Today, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 4,405 workers were killed on the job in 2013. We can and must do more to keep America's workers safe and healthy," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez.

"Workplace injuries and fatalities are absolutely preventable, and these new requirements will help OSHA focus its resources and hold employers accountable for preventing them."

Under the revised rule, employers will be required to notify OSHA of work-related fatalities within eight hours, and work-related in-patient hospitalizations, amputations or losses of an eye within 24 hours. Previously, OSHA's regulations required an employer to report only work-related fatalities and in-patient hospitalizations of three or more employees. Reporting single hospitalizations, amputations or loss of an eye was not required under the previous rule.

All employers covered by the [Occupational Safety and Health Act](#), even those who are exempt from maintaining injury and illness records, are required to comply with OSHA's new severe injury and illness reporting requirements. To assist employers in fulfilling these requirements, OSHA is developing a [Web portal](#) for employers to report incidents electronically, in addition to the phone reporting options.

"Hospitalizations and amputations are sentinel events, indicating that serious hazards are likely to be present at a workplace and that an intervention is warranted to protect the other workers at the establishment," said Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health.

In addition to the new reporting requirements, OSHA has also updated the [list of industries](#) that, due to relatively low occupational injury and illness rates, are exempt from the requirement to routinely keep injury and illness records. The previous list of exempt industries was based on the old Standard Industrial Classification system and the new rule uses the [North American Industry Classification System](#) to classify establishments by industry. The new list is based on updated injury and illness data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The new rule maintains the exemption for any employer with 10 or fewer employees, regardless of their industry classification, from the requirement to routinely keep records of worker injuries and illnesses.

For more information about the new rule, visit OSHA's website at <http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping2014>.



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*Working together...work safely if everyone is moving forward together and taking responsibility for their safe work environment then our safety takes care of itself.*

<http://www.safetyrisk.net/safety-slogans/>

## Ohio Precast Concrete Association

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**We're on the web!**  
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## OUR PURPOSE

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association (OPCA) is a group of producer members and associated industries cooperating together as an association. The intent being to bring pertinent issues and information that impact the Precast Concrete Industry, to the attention of government agencies which participate in the origination of these issues.

The OPCA is interested in assisting these agencies by providing expert advice and counsel in the development of regulations involving the industry and the general public.

The OPCA producer and associate members whose products and services range from the construction of buildings and highways to the manufacture of precast concrete products for the treatment of commercial and residential waste water. The OPCA member products and services affect the lives of nearly every Ohioan on a daily basis.

Some specific areas of interest being pursued by the OPCA are as follows:

The introduction of new sewage guidelines relating to the specific construction and operation of home waste water treatment products (septic tanks, aerators, etc.) by the Ohio department of health and the Ohio EPA.

The introduction of programs and policies relating to the testing of materials and products being used on Ohio Department of Transportation projects.

The development of quality control procedures and inspections services training by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association will be expanding its' scope of interest as membership roles grow and diversify. The need for input, regarding issues and regulations which effect the large segment of the public which it serves, comes to the forefront.

# OPCA Member Companies

## PRODUCER MEMBERS

E.C. Babbert, Inc.  
Everly Concrete Products, Inc.  
Hanson Pipe and Precast  
J.K. Precast, LLC  
Lindsay Precast  
Mack Industries  
Norwalk Concrete Industries  
Premier Precast Products  
Quaker City Septic Tanks, LLC  
Scioto Valley Precast  
Sickels Septic Tanks, Inc.  
Spoerr Precast Concrete, Inc.  
Stiger Precast, Inc.  
Uniontown Septic Tank, Inc.

United Precast, Inc.

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A-lok Products, Inc.  
A.L. Patterson, Inc.  
Blackthorn, LLC  
Champion Pump Company  
Concrete Sealants, Inc.  
EJ USA, Inc.  
EMH, Inc.  
Engineered Wire Products, Inc.  
Essroc Cement Co.  
Euclid Chemical  
Gotham Staple Co., Inc.  
Hamilton Kent, LLC  
Hill and Griffith Company

Infiltrator Systems, Inc.

Jet, Inc.  
Mixer Systems, Inc.  
Ohio Electric Control, Inc.  
Polylok, Inc. / Zabel Environmental  
Premiere Concrete Admixtures, LLC  
Press-Seal Gasket Corporation  
Sika Corporation  
St. Mary's Cement  
Tuf-Tite, Inc.  
W.P. Hilts & Company  
**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS**  
Concrete Engineering Solutions  
Delta Engineers, Architects & Land Surveyors