



eNewsletter

Fall 2015

November 1, 2015

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SAVE THE DATE

The 2016 Ohio Precast Concrete Association Annual conference will be March 28-29, 2016 in Dublin, OH. Look for more details to follow in January 2016.

**PQS 1
Canton, OH
January 20-21, 2016**

**We're on the web!
www.ohioprecast.org**

Cloud Completes Journey on Bike

At the young age of 66 years, Retired Marine Sargent **Darryl Cloud** set out on a little bike ride to raise money for our veterans. The ride which began in San Diego, CA, on August 15, concluded over 2600 miles later on Paris Island, SC on October 28th.

The goal for Darryl is to raise \$90,000 for the Semper Fi Fund. The money will be used to purchase special off road wheel chairs for disabled veterans so that they might be able to enjoy recreation activities that most of us take for granted.

Donations can still be made to help Darryl reach his goal. Click on the link below to go to the fundraising site.

[**DONATE NOW**](#)



Babbert receives 2015 Yoakum Award

At the 50th annual National Precast Concrete Convention in Minneapolis, the associations highest honor, the Robert E. Yoakum Award, was presented to our very own **Chuck Babbert**. The Yoakum award is presented annually to an individual who has made a significant contribution to furthering the mission of NPCA and to advancing the precast concrete industry.

Congratulations Chuck!

Chuck is pictured on the right with his wife, Carolyn.



OPCA Hosts PQS Level 1 in Canton in January

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association will host the industry's premier education class live in Canton, OH on January 21-21, 2016. The two day course covers a broad scope of precast concrete topics including reinforcement, concrete materials, inspections, batching and mixing, and quality control.

The OPCA is offering this course to its members at over 50% off list price. The regular price for PQS1 is \$695 per person. The OPCA member rate is \$325 per person. If more than two persons from one member company register, the price is even lower. There is even a discount for non-members. Non-members save \$200

with a per person fee of \$495.

This course is not just for precasters either! Associate members who desire a better understanding of precast concrete operations will also benefit from this course. Successful completion of this class is the first step in becoming a Master Precaster.

The class will be held at the pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH. A variety of accommodations are available in the area. For more information on this course, and to register, go to www.ohioprecast.org. A link to the registration form is on the home page.

New rules becoming effective for septic tanks. Don't wait to get on the list!

January 1, 2016...

This is the date when the new sewage rules go into effect in the state of Ohio. These rules have been years in the making, and the Ohio Precast Concrete Association was represented very well during the entire process.

Now that the rules are in place, what does a precast plant need to know and/or do to comply?

The first thing that a precaster should do is review the new rules and the new application. These can both be downloaded from the association's website (www.ohioprecastconcrete.org).

Before an application can go through the review process, there are three elements that must be included. First, the application must be completely filled out. Next, any trade secrets need to be disclosed. The information in the application will become a public record accessible to anyone. If a precaster wants to have all or part of the submitted information remain confidential, this must be stated in the application and approved by the ODH Director.

The third element required is information on the septic tanks produced and sold by the manufacturer. The precast producer must identify their method for design and structural capacity for EACH model they produce.

Evidence of compliance with the elements of paragraph (H) of the rule must also be included.

Among the required evidence, This must include:

- Tank structure and physical design
- Materials, special claims, assembly, warranty, etc.
- Assurance review method for strength verification
- Assurance method for watertightness in design
- Field testing procedure for watertightness
- Installation instructions

Evidence of annual precast plant certification is acceptable for meeting the structural and watertightness requirements. Plants that are not certified typically use the product assurance review method. Under this method, testing to prove proof of performance with ASTM C1227 must be performed and a record signed and sealed by a registered professional engineer must be provided.

The proof of performance test is described in section H of the standard. It included watertightness testing using negative pressure (vacuum), along with additional weight being applied to the top of the tank. This is performed with the tank sitting on a bed of sand. Typically, the vacuum will be 4" of mercury for 5 minutes with zero loss of pressure, with a 2,000 pound object displaced uniformly over 4 square feet on the center of the tank.

Will it float? The answer is maybe.

At 150 pounds per cubic foot, it is difficult to imagine that concrete will float. But in fact, that is precisely the case. While the mass of concrete is about 2.4 times that of water, when concrete is used to form a hollow cube or cylinder, the total volume (area) of the unit must be considered when determining the potential for buoyancy.

Instead of drafting a new article on this subject, I want to direct you to resources that already exist. In 2013, the National Precast Concrete Association created a white paper on this topic. The white paper is available on the internet by clicking the link below. In addition to the

white paper, there is an excel spreadsheet that can be downloaded for the precaster's use in calculating the potential for buoyancy. The link to the spreadsheet is also shown below.

[BUOYANCY WHITE PAPER](#)

[BUOYANCY EXCEL SPREADSHEET](#)

Both of these products are resources from the National Precast Concrete Association. Go to: [TECHNICAL RESOURCES](#) for more information.

Precast Concrete Safety Update

OSHA Proposed Silica Rule

It is estimated that new standards would limit employee exposure to silica saving 699 lives each year. In addition, it is also predicted to reduce the number of silica related illnesses by 1,626 (Bloomberg).

What is silica, and why should a precast concrete plant be concerned?

“Crystalline silica is an important industrial material found abundantly in the earth’s crust. It is a mineral that occurs in several forms. Quartz, the most common form, is a component of sand, stone, rock, concrete, brick, block, and mortar. Many of these materials are used every day across a wide variety of industrial settings, including construction, mining, manufacturing, maritime, and agriculture” (OSHA).

In a precast plant, exposure to silica comes from the cutting, drilling, and grinding process. The dust that is created contains crystalline silica. OSHA Director Dr. David Michaels hopes to have a standard in place before President Barak Obama leaves office. And, even if there is no standard, Congress has provided OSHA with authority to use the “General Duty” clause to site companies failing to protect workers.

References:

Bloomberg, [OSHA is still working on Silica](#)
OSHA, [Crystalline Silica](#)

OSHA Crane Standards Update

The NPCA has a task group lobbying for the industry on crane standards. The following is a brief highlight of where this issue currently stands.

The issue is that OSHA's new crane training certification will go into effect on 11/10/17. The current exam contains load charts for much larger cranes than typically used in our industry. Crane operators in our industry are struggling with these exams because of these current load charts.

The NPCA Board of Directors discussed this at their recent board meeting, and they approved \$50,000 toward the development of a crane certification exam that is more relevant to the precast industry. The exam would be under the Crane Institute Certification program, and the NPCA Crane task force will lead the efforts to work with CIC on the new exam's development.

The next steps in this process include a request from the NPCA staff to the CIC for a proposal for the development of the exam. If the proposal meets the industry needs, the NPCA staff will then validate that the exam meets the OSHA criteria. Upon agreement with the CIC, the crane task force will create a group of subject matter experts to assist in the exam development. To participate as a subject matter expert, please contact Marti Harrell, NPCA's Director of Education and Training, at mharrell@precast.org.

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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
MW Concrete
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 Industries, LLC

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.
Knight Insurance, Matt Werner
M.A. Industries

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