



NCSEA News

National Council of Structural Engineers Associations

Structural Engineers Emergency Response (SEER) Committee

Background and Overview of the SEERPlan

Chad Fischer, Engineering Systems Inc., SEER Committee Secretary

Structural engineers have been involved with emergency response programs for some time. Engineering emergency response programs range from search and rescue programs, in which structural engineers assist emergency response personnel, to emergency structural assessments that allow people to return to their property as soon as possible. The majority of these programs are concentrated on the West Coast, where they were quickly developed because of the frequent occurrence of earthquakes. Structural engineers there have had the chance to reassess their programs many times over. Their experience proved valuable and useful in the aftermath of the September 11 manmade disaster.

To make engineering emergency response programs even more effective in the future, NCSEA created a Structural Engineering Emergency Response (SEER) Committee in November 2001. The charge to the committee was to develop a uniform framework for emergency response engineers, so that responders from different areas of the country would be able to uniformly assist, without having to relearn inspection protocols and procedures. The SEER Committee's plan is based on emergency structural assessments. Since the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) already has a sophisticated national search and rescue program that includes structural engineers, the committee was careful not to duplicate this effort. The primary goal of the resultant SEER plan was to provide post-disaster emergency structural assessments; and, the secondary goal was to provide site specific information to FEMA search and rescue teams.

Disasters requiring emergency response from structural engineers typically include hurricanes, tornados, floods, earthquakes and, now, terrorist attacks. Since some of these disasters require an immediate response from local engineers, the SEER plan was designed for use by state structural engineering associations to create a local SEER committee. NCSEA will help local associations not only develop their own programs, but also coordinate volunteer efforts, should the need arise.

The final work product of the NCSEA SEER Committee is a document titled the SEERPlan. The SEERPlan is divided into three sections: Organizational, Response, and Reference Information. The first section includes chapters on soliciting volunteers, credentials and job descriptions for the various levels of volunteers, staffing requirements, and key positions required to develop a local SEER committee. The Response section addresses issues associated with post-disaster assessments. It includes guidance on organizing and staffing a field office or control center, and managing assessment teams. The final section, Reference Information, provides information on topics such as Good Samaritan laws, legal and insurance issues, personal safety and equipment, and coordination with other emergency response personnel. Also included is an extensive list of reference documents, forms, and organizational contacts.

The importance of the organizational and pre-planning stages cannot be overstressed. Once a disaster occurs, it is very difficult to solicit volunteers and set up phone trees. Instead, the emergency management staff should be spending their time effectively managing the response. A well-organized plan will result in a well-prepared response.

Since major disasters tend to be infrequent events, it is crucial to keep regular contact with volunteers. Testing phone trees and email lists, and sponsoring training programs and seminars, is a good way to keep interest stimulated. We can never be too prepared. When a structural engineering response is requested, the time spent on organizing and training will pay off. The NCSEA SEERPlan will provide NCSEA Member Organizations with the tools required to establish an efficient emergency response plan. The effectiveness of the plan will ultimately depend on the association and their members' attention to the details.

NCSEA's 2003 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Denver, Colorado

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AISC Steel Solutions Center	Research Engineers International
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**National Council of Structural Engineers Associations
Eleventh Annual Conference ♦ Denver, Colorado ♦ October 23 - 25, 2003**

Earth, Wind & Snow: Challenges from Mountain and Plain
Preliminary Program Highlights



Keynote Address: Architecture and Engineering: A Narrative of Broad Experience and Insight

John Anderson, FAIA - Anderson Mason Dale Architects

Modeling in Three Dimensions - The Future Design and Construction Tools

Trailer Martin, SE - John A. Martin Associates
Jason Lien, PE - Rocky Mountain Prestress, Inc.

Heave and Plunge - Two Case Studies of Failed Drilled Shaft Foundations in the Denver Area

James R. Harris, PhD, PE - J.R. Harris and Company

Wind Engineering Applications in Mountainous and Special Wind Regions

Jon A. Peterka, PhD, PE - Cermak Peterka Petersen, Inc.

Snow Loads Panel Discussion

Richard J. Cunningham, PE S.A. Miro, Inc.
Jeffrey L. Tirey, PE Tirey & Associates, P.C.
David Grandpre, PE C.A. Pretzer Associates, Inc.

A Guide to the Specification for Architecturally Exposed Structural Steel

Jack Petersen, PE Martin/Martin, Inc.
William G. Zimmerman II, PE Zimkor Industries, Inc.

National Building Design Coalition Report

Michael Tylk, SE - NCSEA Past President

Friday lunch sponsored by AISC

Featured presentation: *Steel Crazy After All These Years*
Charles J. Carter, SE, PE American Institute of Steel Construction

Saturday Breakfast sponsored by Research Engineers International

Featured presentation: *Modeling, Analysis, Design and GA Drawings under an Integrated Building Information Management System*
Ben Parikh, REI and Tekla

Saturday lunch sponsored by PCA

Featured presentation: *Efficient Concrete Structures*
David N. Bilow, SE, PE Portland Cement Association

CASE Report: *Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents*

Tom Wosser, SE

Report on Code Developments

Jim Delahay, Code Advisory Committee Chairman
Melvyn Green, Subcommittee Chairman, Existing Buildings/Structural Retrofit
John Loscheider, NFPA Technical Coordinating Committee Representative

Private Tours and Dinner in the Mountain Ranch Club at Coors Field

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Firm _____

Address _____

Companion _____

Phone (_____) _____

Fax (_____) _____

Email _____

Delegate from _____
Member Organization

Member Registration - \$495 per person

Registration fee includes Thursday evening Welcoming Reception, Professional Program, Trade Exhibits, breakfast, lunch and refreshment breaks on Friday and Saturday, Friday evening tour and dinner at Coors Field and Saturday evening dinner at the Closing Awards Banquet.

Companion Registration - \$225 per person

Companion fee includes Thursday evening Welcoming Reception, Friday continental breakfast, Friday evening tour and dinner at Coors Field, Saturday continental breakfast, and Saturday evening dinner at the Closing Awards Banquet.

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ Visa MasterCard American Express

Disability Requirements? _____

**If paying by check, mail check payable to NCSEA, with this completed Registration Form, to:
NCSEA · Suite 2010 · 203 North Wabash Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60601.**

If paying by credit card, fax this completed Registration Form to NCSEA at 312-372-5673.

Discounted airfares are available for travel to and from Denver on United or United Express between October 19 and October 29, 2003. Receive 5% off the lowest applicable discount fare, or 10% off the unrestricted coach fare. **An additional 5% discount will apply when tickets are purchased at least 30 days in advance of your travel date.** To receive these special fares, you or your travel agent must call the United Airlines Meeting Reservations Center at 800- 521-4041 and refer to Meeting ID 516BG.



Marriott Denver City Center

1701 California Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Reservations:

Call the Marriott Reservations Center at 800-228-9290, or call the hotel directly at (303) 297-1300, or visit www.Marriott.com and use Group Code SEASEAA

Single or Double Room Rate: \$139 plus 13.45% tax

Mention NCSEA to receive this special room rate.

This room rate is guaranteed only through September 30, 2003.

