

Florida Wind Provisions Courses a Success!

The continuing education department of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) provides exceptional learning experiences. Typically, the continuing education seminars cover a specific topic and run two full days. The instructors are always well-qualified professors or practitioners, and the handouts and learning aids are carefully planned. But not all engineers can afford the financial and time commitments associated with these seminars.

That is why the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) is augmenting these exceptional seminars with high-quality one-day courses that cost less than \$200. As a trial for this program, SEI worked with the International Code Council to produce two full-day classes on the Florida Wind Provisions in Largo and Fort Lauderdale, Florida in April.

The courses were a great success! Charlie Everly of Code Technology Inc. covered the ASCE 7 wind provisions in the morning, and Eric Stafford of ICC covered additional provisions from the Florida Building Code in the afternoon.

The audience included engineers, building code officials, inspectors, architects and designers. This class was unique because it allowed time for the different groups to discuss the standard and code among themselves in guided discussions throughout the day.

The class covered topics such as the differences between enclosed, partially-enclosed and open structures; exposure categories; the directionality factor; wind-borne debris regions; and protected versus unprotected glazing. The speakers also discussed what the standard doesn't explicitly cover, and provided some options for dealing with these types of situations.

As with any initial endeavor, we had lessons-learned that we will apply to the next set of classes. We will fine-tune the program, iron out some small logistical problems and establish a better structure for the guided discussions in future workshops.

If your local structural group would like to help us bring a similar class to your locale, or if you have any suggestions for future seminars, please contact Sue Richardson at suerichardson@asce.org.

Support from the local structural community is an important factor to the success of these seminars, and we would like to work with you to bring high-quality, low-cost education to your area.

Designing Structures for Fire Conference

September 30 - October 1, 2003
Radisson Plaza Lord Baltimore, MD

Co-sponsored by SEI and the Society of Fire Protection Engineers

This one-track, 2 day conference serves as a forum for exchange of information about recent advancements among practicing engineers in structures, fire protection and materials, researchers, architects and regulators. If you have any questions, please contact the secretariat at seiconferences@asce.org.

For more information and to register, visit the conference Web site at <http://www.sfpe.org> under the Education & Special Events tab.

New Publication Now Available!

Recommended Practice for Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Products for Overhead Utility Line Structures

Advancements and innovations in FRP and process technologies have resulted in lightweight high-strength FRP materials that are more cost-competitive with traditional construction materials such as wood, steel, and prestressed concrete. In addition to a description of the advancements and innovations, the differences in performance between FRP structures and wood, steel, or prestressed concrete are also explained.

The manual recommends and provides suggested guidelines for performance-based tests for all FRP poles. It also discusses factors that could affect the performance of FRP poles after installation, suggests field inspection methods, and provides basic maintenance and field repair techniques that can be used to extend the life of FRP poles: Environment, UV Radiation, Temperature, Moisture, Ice and Snow Accumulations, Fire, Chemical Exposure, Biodegradation, Mechanical Fatigue, and Electrical Stress and Leakage Current.

For more information or to order this book, call the ASCE publications department at 1-800-548-2723 or go to <http://www.pubs.asce.org>.

Innovative Applications of Finite Element Modeling in Highway Structures

1st National Workshop

August 20-21, 2003 • New York City, NY

Jointly sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and University Transportation Research Center (UTRC), and co-sponsored by SEI, this national workshop promotes the power of finite element analysis in highway structures applications. The diverse program is designed so that transportation department officials, practicing engineers and researchers can exchange knowledge and experience about finite element modeling and structural mechanics, and a network among analysts can be established. With two full days of presentations featuring innovative solutions to challenging problems, you will find this workshop to be both informative and exciting.

Please visit the UTRC website at <http://tid1s0.engr.cuny.edu/utrc/html/events.html> for updated information on the workshop, or send email to waider.wong@fhwa.dot.gov to add your name to the mailing list.

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