



CASE to Expand Risk Management Program

What hath the trial attorneys wrought?

The insurance market is hardening. The number of insurance companies offering liability insurance to structural engineers is dwindling. Lawsuits continue to plague the industry. The leading structural engineering firms in the country decided they must act. Consequently, the formation of the CASE Risk Management Program (RMP). What do they intend to do? First, rally the troops. A group of former SERMC members gave overwhelming support to an RMP at a meeting in Colorado Springs, including the willingness to support the efforts of the new group financially. Contributions will be solicited throughout the industry... but they will not be without benefit. Among the tools that are planned for the risk management toolkit are:

- A Convocation
- A database of claims information
- A web site
- Lists of defense attorneys
- Lists of expert witnesses
- A national effort to push tort reform
- A technical peer review program
- Publications
- Closed claims evaluations
- Loss prevention seminars

All specifically designed for structural engineering firms.

Planned is the first annual day and a half Convocation, not unlike previous SERMC Convocations, on November 5-6 of this year to kick off this effort. The

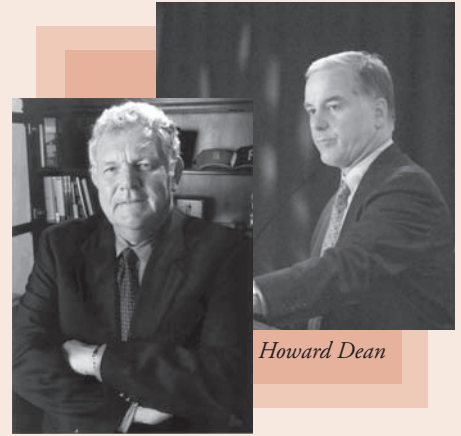


program is specifically designed to address the real problems faced by structural engineering firms, like minimizing risk on a condominium project. But the organization will be more enduring than just this event. Its vision is to reduce the cost and frequency of claims against structural engineering firms.

Its purpose is to enhance risk management, loss prevention and claims management techniques of the structural engineering profession. It will have its own website, which will be a portal to a plethora of risk management information including defense attorneys, expert witnesses,

preferred insurance providers and a database of public information on court cases involving structural firms. It will produce a stream of publications and other programs already planned to help you.

If you are interested in becoming a "Founding Donor" of the CASE RMP and the various contribution levels, email a message to the CASE executive director ebajer@acec.org and someone will contact you. Benefits will include not only those items mentioned above but additional recognition in CASE activities and a link to your firm on the new RMP website. ■



William Bennett

Howard Dean

"The Maine Event" It's Dean Vs. Bennett

William Bennett, a standard-bearer for the Conservative movement, and Howard Dean, who energized Liberals during the Democratic Presidential primary, will debate each other at "The Maine Event" – ACEC's Fall Conference in Portland, Maine, on September 30.

This debate – one month before the Presidential election – will give ACEC members a front-row look at competing political platforms.

Bennett served under Presidents George H. W. Bush and the late Ronald Reagan. Dean was Governor of Vermont before seeking the 2004 Democratic nomination for President.

The Fall Conference will also feature a full complement of business programs, educational seminars, PAC events, and social activities. Breathtaking fall foliage tours, an authentic lobster-bake, and charming New England ambiance complete the picture. CASE will be presenting a program on "Performance Specification Design Responsibility"

Preliminary hotel and Conference information is available at www.acec.org.

Convocation for Structural Engineering Firms

Save the Date!

November 5-6, 2004 at the offices of the American Society of Civil Engineers in Reston, VA.

Attendance will be limited.

The day and a half program will include sessions on reducing risks in condo work, the six prescriptions for success, why do slab-on-grades crack, indemnity and limitation of liability clauses, how to read them, deal makers and deal breakers in contracts. Registration is \$150. For more information contact Ed Bajer at CASE, ebajer@acec.org or Jim Rossberg at the Structural Engineering Institute, jrossberg@asce.org. ■



OSHA Fact Sheet

Revised Steel Erection Standard

(Go to www.osha.gov for more detailed information)

Site Layout and Construction Sequence

- Requires certification of proper curing of concrete in footings, piers, etc. for steel columns.
- Requires controlling contractor to provide erector with a safe site layout including pre-planning routes for hoisting loads.

Site-Specific Erection Plan

- Requires pre-planning of key erection elements, including coordination with controlling contractor before erection begins, in certain circumstances.

Hoisting and Rigging

- Provides additional crane safety for steel erection.
- Minimizes employee exposure to overhead loads through pre-planning and work practice requirements.
- Prescribes proper procedure for multiple lifts (christmas-treeing).

Structural Steel Assembly

- Provides safer walking/working surfaces by eliminating tripping hazards and minimizes slips through new slip resistance requirements.
- Provides specific work practices regarding safely landing deck bundles and promoting the prompt protection from fall hazards in interior openings.

Column Anchorage

- Requires 4 anchor bolts per column along with other column stability requirements.
- Requires procedures for adequacy of anchor bolts that have been modified in the field.

Beams and Columns

- Eliminates extremely dangerous collapse hazards associated with making double connections at columns.

Open Web Steel Joists

- Requirements minimizing collapse of lightweight steel joists by addressing need for erection bridging and method of attachment.

- Requirements for bridging terminus anchors with illustrations and drawings in a non-mandatory appendix (provided by Steel Joist Institute).
- New requirements to minimize collapse in placing loads on steel joists.

Systems-Engineered Metal Buildings

- Requirements to minimize collapse in the erection of these specialized structures which account for a major portion of steel erection in this country.

Falling Object Protection

- Performance provisions that address hazards of falling objects in steel erection.

Fall Protection

- Controlled decking zone (CDZ) provisions to prevent decking fatalities.
- Deckers in a CDZ and connectors must be protected at heights greater than two stories or 30 feet. Connectors between 15 and 30 feet must wear fall arrest or restraint equipment and be able to be tied off or be provided another means of fall protection.
- Requires fall protection for all others engaged in steel erection at heights greater than 15 feet.

Training

- Requires qualified person to train exposed workers in fall protection.
- Requires qualified person to train exposed workers engaged in special, high risk activities.



CASE In Point

CASE is a part of the American Council of Engineering Companies

