



House Approves Wind Hazards Bill Multi-Agency National Windstorm Hazard Reduction Program Created

By a vote of 387 to 26, the House of Representatives approved H.R. 3980, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004. The legislation would create a coordinated, multi-agency National Windstorm Hazard Reduction Program modeled on the successful National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. The legislation would authorize the spending of up to \$67.5 million over three years.

The legislation represents five years of work on the part of ASCE and the ASCE-led Wind Hazards Reduction Coalition. The coalition includes organizations representing such groups as engineers, architects, builders and contractors, emergency managers, the insurance industry, material suppliers, meteorologists, relief organizations, universities and others. Additional information, including copies of testimony, can be found at: <http://www.windhazards.org>. Full text of the legislation can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov>

Reps. Randy Neugebauer (R-TX) and Dennis Moore (D-KS) led the effort to pass this bill in 2004, and Congressman Moore has been a driving force in creating a wind hazards reduction program with ASCE since the beginning. The effort received a boost last summer when Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), Chairman of the House Science Committee, agreed to formally consider a wind hazards reduction bill. The bill was approved by the House Science Committee in March.

During the debate on the bill, ASCE's work on the legislation was singled out



for praise by Mr. Neugebauer and Mr. Moore, as well as Chairman Boehlert (R-NY). In his comments, Chairman Boehlert stated, "Let me thank the American Society of Civil Engineers and the other groups that have guided us in drafting the bill. We did not just get in some closet someplace and say this is a problem, how do we deal with it. We invited opinion. We invited input; and as a result of all that, we were able to fashion something that is pretty darn good and I am proud of it".

The focus now shifts to the Senate where ASCE and the Wind Hazards Reduction Coalition have been working with a number of Senators to seek Senate passage of H.R. 3980 or a similar Senate bill. Coalition members are optimistic that Senate action is possible before the end of the 108th Congress. ■



IABMAS'04

The 2nd International Conference on Bridge Maintenance, Safety & Management

Note: One additional day – October 18
Previous schedule: October 19 – 22, 2004
Kyoto, Japan

The number of deteriorating bridges is increasing dramatically worldwide. Costs for maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of these bridges far exceed available budgets. Maintaining the safety of existing bridges by making better use of available resources is a major concern for bridge management. Internationally, the bridge engineering profession has taken positive steps in recent years to develop more comprehensive bridge performance measures, conduct better maintenance activities, and provide new forms of bridge management. It was therefore considered appropriate to bring together all of the very best work that has been done in the field of bridge maintenance, safety, management and cost at the Second International Conference on Bridge Maintenance, Safety and Management. The First IABMAS'02 was held in Barcelona, Spain, July 14-17, 2002. ■

All information is on the website at <http://civil.colorado.edu/IABMAS/>

Now available!

Snow Loads

A Guide to the Use and Understanding of the Snow Load Provisions

This guide provides a detailed, authoritative interpretation of snow load provisions of ASCE Standard 7-02, including examples of flat roof loads, sloped roof loads, partial loads, and all types of conventional drift loading. Readers will benefit from the frequently asked questions section, which addresses and demonstrates the correct implementation of the provisions of ASCE 7-02, such as unique snow loading cases and ways to mitigate drift loads on existing roofs due to new additions. ■

To order your copy, call 1-800-548-2723 or go to www.pubs.asce.org.



Bridge Security Committee

New Committee formed in the Technical Activities Division of SEI

SEI is forming a new Committee for Bridge Security. The purpose of the Committee is to develop strategies and criteria for the deterrence, disruption, and mitigation of potential terrorist attacks against bridges. Why a Bridge Security Committee? Terrorism against American citizens and assets is a real and growing reality. Terrorists choose targets not only to maximize human casualties, but also to impart economic consequences and shake public confidence. Thus, bridges are likely targets due to their almost unlimited accessibility and potentially high impact on human lives, economic activity, and public confidence. Are bridges structurally robust enough to resist a terrorist attack from explosives, high-velocity impact, or a myriad of other threats? If so, what can be done to lessen the chances of attack and harden a bridge against an attack? These are the difficult questions currently being asked of structural engineers and, regrettably, most have little training, experience, or reference material with which to answer them.

The Bridge Security Committee will endeavor to increase the state-of-knowledge in this area. It will collect and synthesize all pertinent information from the more mature building and military communities and, where possible, adapt it to the bridge security problem. It will identify shortcomings in the state-of-knowledge and develop strategies to fill the gaps. The Committee will address not only the structural aspects of bridge security, but also the other equally important approaches such as access denial, intrusion detection, and general deterrence methods.

The Committee will begin its work October 1, 2004 with Mr. James Ray of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center serving as chair. Those desiring to be a part of this exciting new Committee may apply for membership online at <http://www.seinstitute.org/committees/technical.cfm>.

Masonry Design & Detailing Seminar

Wednesday, September 8, 2004 Fort Lauderdale, Florida



Seminar Includes

- Reinforced masonry walls based on ACI 530/ASCE 5/TMS 402 (non-load bearing, load bearing & shear walls)
- Movement joints & masonry tolerances
- Lintels and beams
- Two examples showing the design and detailing of load bearing buildings
- Proper use of commercial computer programs
- Handouts with design examples
- Open question and answer session

Class Presenters

Learn about the design and detailing of masonry from two experts in the field.

David Biggs, P.E. is president of Ryan-Biggs Associates, a structural engineering firm located in New York and Pennsylvania. He specializes in the design, evaluation and restoration of masonry structures, forensic engineering, and the development of new masonry products. Mr. Biggs worked on the International Masonry Institute's "The Planning and Design of Load-Bearing Masonry Buildings," which is part of the Masonry Designers' Guide and NCMA TEK notes. He also chairs the Prestressed Subcommittee for the Masonry Standards Joint Committee (MSJC) and was a member of the ASCE-FEMA Building Performance Study team for the World Trade Center disaster.

H.R. (Trey) Hamilton, P.E., PhD is an Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Florida in the Department of Civil & Coastal Engineering. Mr. Hamilton's experience with masonry design and construction as a professional structural engineer and a professor makes him uniquely qualified to teach masonry design to engineers, architects, building officials and inspectors. Mr. Hamilton is the secretary of the MSJC's Prestressed Masonry Subcommittee.

Registration Details

Earlybird Registration ends Sept 1, 2004!

Fee:

By Sept 1st - \$175 Member SEI/ASCE/FSEA/BC Bldg Off; \$225 Non-Member
After Sept 1st - \$225 Member SEI/ASCE/FSEA/BC Bldg Off; \$275 Non-Member
(Registration fee includes coffee breaks and lunch)

Location:

Florida Atlantic University, 1515 West Commercial Blvd., Room 401,
Fort Lauderdale, Florida (One mile west of the I-95 Commercial Blvd. Exit)

Class Hours:

Sign-in at 7:30am, class runs from 8:00am until 5:00pm

CEUs:

The course is approved for engineers for 8 continuing education units.

Register on-line at www.seinstitute.org or fax your completed registration form to (703) 295-6361. For more information, contact Mary Ellen Saville at (703) 295-6195 or mesaville@asce.org. All FSEA members and Building Officials must register by phone, fax or mail in order to receive the discount. No refunds for cancellations after September 1.

