IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 3
Message from the President

PAGE 4
2020 APA Virtual Conference

PAGE 6
Making Offices and Construction Sites Safer
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CONTENTS
2020 APA Virtual Conference
Sign up today!

Safer Workplaces
Making Offices and Construction Sites Safer from the SARS-CoV-19 Virus

Kiley’s Corner
Tools of the Trade

DEPARTMENTS
President’s Message

ISSUE 2 - VOLUME 66
ARCHITECTURAL PRECASTER
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Tim Michael, Advanced Architectural Stone

Unfortunately, the “interesting times” we find ourselves in forced us to cancel the in-person Annual Convention in Nashville, however, we have a great abbreviated Annual Virtual Conference that we hope will allow an even broader spectrum of APA Certified Plants to participate in the convention. On Friday September 25, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (EDT) we will hold our Annual Convention Virtually. It is our hope and expectation that plants will use that opportunity to host a “Lunch and Learn” for their staff (or “Breakfast and Learn” for those on the west coast). Those who hold APA certifications will receive 2 CEU’s for participating.

The session will feature an overview of the new ACI Guide for Design & Construction of Architectural Precast. This guide, just issued by ACI earlier this year outlines the responsibilities of Designers, Contractors & Precasters at various stages of the process from design to receiving a C.O. The presenter will be Donald Meinheit, a Principal with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE Chicago) who sits on the ACI Committee 533. In addition, we’ll have the APA 2020 Awards for Excellence presentation where we will recognize the beauty, quality and craftsmanship of the work produced by APA Certified Plants.

We are forging ahead with planning for the 2021 Spring Workshop, which will be a Patching and Finishing Program in the Washington D.C. area. Please mark your calendars for April 23-26, 2021. More details will be on the website soon!

I hope that you, your families and employees are well during the pandemic.

Tim Michael

JOIN US IN 2021

2021 APA ANNUAL CONVENTION • OCTOBER 8-11
Renaissance Nashville Hotel | Nashville, Tennessee
Bring Your Team to the 2020 APA Virtual Conference!
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM EDT

The 2020 Annual Conference has been revamped in a way that will allow even more APA Certified Plants to participate!

**STEP 1: REGISTER**
Its’ complimentary for APA plants!

**STEP 2: PLAN**
Consider using the opportunity to host a “Lunch and Learn” for your staff (or “Breakfast and Learn” for those on the west coast).

**STEP 3: INVITE**
Invite as many of your team members that will benefit.

**STEP 4: EARN CEU’S**
Receive 2 CEU’s for participating.

### THE PROGRAM

| Speaker: Donald Meinheit, Principal, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE Chicago) |

| 2020 APA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE & DESIGN & MANUFACTURING |
| The 2020 awards recognize the beauty, quality and craftsmanship of the work produced by APA Certified Plants. |

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

| 11:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. | WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS |
| Tim Michael, APA President |

| 11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. | GENERAL SESSION: The New ACI Guide for Design & Construction of Architectural Precast – What Does It Mean for Designers, Contractors & Most Importantly Precasters? |
| Speaker: Donald Meinheit, Principal Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE Chicago) ACI Committee 533 Member |

| 12:10 p.m. – 12:25 p.m. | APA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & ELECTIONS |
| Tim Michael, APA President |

| 12:25 p.m. – 12:55 p.m. | APA AWARDS PRESENTATIONS: 2020 APA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE & DESIGN & MANUFACTURING |
| Phillip White, APA Education Chair |

| 12:55 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | CLOSING REMARKS |
| Tim Michael, APA President |

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**
APA MEMBER BENEFIT: HR & EMPLOYMENT HOTLINE

As valued association members of the Architectural Precast Association, you have unlimited access to a complimentary HR & Employment HOTLINE through our partnership with Seay Management Consultants. This HR & Employment HOTLINE is available to you at NO COST and will provide answers to your human resources, personnel management and employment related questions.

Hundreds of employee questions arise in day to day business and almost every one of them can be different – questions about COBRA, FMLA, EEOC, ADA, and so many others. Sometimes a simple question can turn into a complicated or costly concern if it’s not handled properly.

When you have a question and need an accurate, straight forward answer, simply contact Seay Management Consultants and identify yourself as an APA member.

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E Pluribus Unum—out of many, one. It is the Latin motto the United States adopted in 1776 to signify the joining of states to form one national government. At the time it was a difficult concept for people to accept because it meant that states and individuals would have to give up some their personal rights to serve a greater cause. Today the threat to life posed by the SARS-CoV-19 Virus brings the E Pluribus Unum concept back into sharp focus as the country and its people consider their personal rights versus their responsibility to others.

As social beings this pandemic preys on our natural instincts to be close to friends and family and it challenges our ability to work and earn a living. As time passes it is hard to know if the first tool for fighting a pandemic; distancing ourselves from one another, is working. There are a huge number of victims and the end is not in sight. The end, when it comes, will be the development of an effective vaccine, the tool that will end the threat of the pandemic.

Construction is regarded as an essential industry in many states and it is currently challenged to keep workers safe on the jobsite. “Social distancing” (distancing)—the current term being used and the first line of defense—requires workers to be a minimum of 6-feet apart. But construction, especially concrete construction, often requires teams to be much closer together for some work functions so other measures become important. Here is how work on construction sites is being made safer.

How the SARS-CoV-19 virus spreads
Rick Stevens, an Associate Laboratory Director for Computing, Environment and Life Sciences at the Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont, Illinois, says the SARS-CoV-19 virus is a member of the SARS Coronavirus family and is one-thousandth the width of a human hair (100 nanometers). Scientists have established that the virus originated with bats and moved to a secondary host, possibly Civet Cats or Pangolins, before making the jump to humans. The virus has an RNA (ribonucleic acid) structure—as opposed to a DNA structure—it isn’t alive and requires a host in order to multiply. A major advantage that RNA viruses have is being able to multiply quickly once they occupy a host. Each virus is capable of generating 1300 viruses over a 10 hour period.

By Joseph Nasvik
SARS-CoV-19 viruses reside in droplets of water and do not survive outside that environment very long. They spread between humans primarily in droplets of water that move through the air from one person to another when they breathe, talk, shout, sing, cough, or sneeze. Erin Bromage, an Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, states in his May 6, 2020 article “The Risks—Know Them—Avoid Them” says that the virus causing COVID 19 is similar to SARS and MERS viruses. It’s estimated that in order for a person to become infected they must be exposed to approximately 1000 virus particles in order for an infection to take hold (other research suggests the range is 300 to 3000 virus particles needed to start an infection). This could happen if you inhaled them all in one breath, inhaled 100 viral particles in 10 breaths, or 10 viral particles in each of 100 breaths.

The formula for the successful transmission of COVID 19 is equal to the amount of exposure to the virus multiplied by amount of time of the exposure. Here are examples of differing amounts of exposure:

- A single breath can release 50 to 5000 droplets of water of various sizes traveling at low velocity. Average breathing through ones nose creates fewer large droplets and most of them fall to the ground quickly. Also, fewer viruses residing low in the lungs are expelled, further reducing the amount of virus emitted. For example, if 20 copies of the virus were expelled each minute it would require 50 minutes for another person to be infected.
- Speaking increases the production of respiratory droplets by ten times, which could mean 200 copies of the virus are expelled per minute. At this rate it would require people speaking face to face only 5 minutes to receive the required dose.
- A single cough can release as much as 3,000 droplets traveling as fast as 50 mph. Most droplets are large and quickly fall onto surfaces but smaller ones can travel across an average room in just a few seconds.
- A single sneeze can release 30,000 droplets traveling up to 200 mph, easily contaminating an entire room. These droplets may contain as many as 200 hundred million virus particles, including viruses from the deep lungs. The smallest of these droplets (see https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/05/27/science.abc6197 for information about aerosols) can remain airborne several minutes so one can be contaminated even though you aren’t standing near the person or when they leave.

Because the SARS-CoV-19 virus is relatively new on the scene scientists and epidemiologists are scrambling to learn as much as they can. However, some of what is known about the behavior of related viruses such as SARS helps. The primary way the disease spreads is by persons breathing contaminated droplets of water containing virus particles. We also know that the SARS-CoV-19 virus can exist for varying lengths of time depending on surfaces—shorter amounts of time on hard, non-porous surfaces and longer periods on absorbent ones. Less is known about how many cases develop by touching these surfaces but the Center for Disease Control (CDC) currently recommends acting on the side of caution.

The greatest risk for infection, approximately 90% of cases, occurs indoors and in enclosed spaces. The highest risk for catching the disease is at home, in the workplace, on public transportation, at social gatherings, and at restaurants. But outbreaks resulting from shopping for groceries for instance are few because the contact time between people is so short, except for cashiers who have brief contacts with people all day long.

Unlike many other viruses people exposed to the COVID 19 virus typically don’t show symptoms for the first 2 to 11 days after contracting the disease and a few people never experience symptoms. During this critical time period people can spread the disease without their knowledge.

The tools for fighting pandemics
For public health professionals who focus on fighting pandemic diseases there are four basic tools of the trade: social distancing, testing, tracing, and modeling. Keeping people separated from one another is the major first step in preventing the wide spread of the disease. Distancing has been a tactic for preventing

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communicable diseases from spreading for thousands of years, often with the diseased person being separated from the group. But when it isn’t known who has the disease, the first preventative measure involves isolating each person from every other person.

Developing accurate tests to quickly determine who has been exposed and who hasn’t followed by tracing makes it possible to quarantine only the sick. By tracing and quarantining everyone they were in contact with the spread of the disease can be limited. Iceland, for example, has tested all its citizens, quarantined those exposed, and effectively used tracing to keep COVID-19 death counts close to zero.

Modeling

There are hundreds of models around the world designed to predict pandemic movement, some being more detailed than others. The goal is to give decision makers information about how a pandemic will grow and move based on people’s behavior so they can make informed decisions with an understanding of the consequences. Modeling is the hope for the future because we have the technology now to make accurate predictions—super-fast computers, statistics, algorithms, and big data. Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, Illinois is developing a model using their large open-science super-computer to process trillions of bits of information to develop accurate models for predicting and managing pandemics.

Jonathan Ozik is a computational scientist at Argonne and is part of a team developing a simulation model funded by the Federal Department of Energy called “CityCOVID.” It’s a city-scale model that includes all the individuals making up the synthetic population of a city, a population that statistically matches the real population of a city. The individuals, or “agents,” interact with other individuals based on their hourly activity schedules and can be infected through interactions with individuals who have COVID-19. The model provides the ability to run large numbers of detailed “what if” scenarios on the Argonne supercomputer to understand the consequences of implementing different public health interventions before they are rolled out to the real population. Ozik says they are searching through the complex behaviors of their model to uncover patterns. “Using the City of Chicago and its population of 2.7 million people (this doesn’t count suburban areas) we are able to discover how COVID-19 spreads through the city and to create realistic population-level forecasts of future COVID-19 cases and resource requirements,” he says.

Argonne is in the process of extending CityCOVID such that it can be applied to anywhere in the world but right now their predictions and what if scenarios are being provided to the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois. For example, the mayor and governor can make decisions about phasing the return to work in various industries with better knowledge of the consequences; how many new COVID-19 cases will result, how many will need hospital bed space and how many will die as a result.

CDC Recommendations

As a non-regulatory agency the CDC makes recommendations which are discretionary and not mandated. But contractors are mandated by other agencies of the government such as OSHA (see CDC guidance recommendations for construction at https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/construction.html ) who use CDC’s recommendations. In addition, unions and sometimes owners of construction sites can also require that contractors provide safe work conditions based on CDC recommendations. For more information visit the CDC guidance for businesses and employers website https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html.

Useful CDC recommendations for contractors and businesses adopting their own company guideline policies include:

- Employers should have a COVID 19 response plan to protect workers.  
- Workers should notify their employer if they are experiencing COVID 19 symptoms and stay home. They shouldn’t return to work until criteria determined by their employer, healthcare providers and state and local health departments are met.  
- As per the CDC, workers should notify their
supervisors if they have a family member with COVID 19 living at home.

- Contractors should limit contact between employees and maintain 6-foot distances between them as much as possible. The number of workers sharing small areas such as spaces under construction, elevators, trailers, and vehicles should be limited if possible.
- Workers should wear cloth face coverings where social distancing space isn’t possible. Cloth coverings shouldn’t be substituted for respirators where they are recommended or required.
- Frequently touched surfaces should be regularly cleaned and disinfected. On job sites this includes shared tools, machines, vehicles, handrails, door knobs, and portable toilets. Cleaning should be done periodically throughout the workday and also before and after every shift and after anyone uses your vehicle or workstation.
- Tool sharing should be limited if possible.
- Workers should wash their hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Contractors should supply handwashing stations with clean running water, soap and disposable towels or conveniently placed hand sanitizer stations.
- Workers should clean their hands before and after work shifts and breaks, after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing, after using the restroom, before eating, before donning and after removing work gloves, after putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings, before donning or doffing eye or face protection (safety glasses, goggles, face shields) and after touching objects that have been handled by others.
- Use disposable tissues when you cough, sneeze, or touch your face.
- Employers should provide workers with the basic facts, accurate information about COVID 19, how it spreads, and what the risks are, and explain protective measures in place.  
- Employers should limit face-to-face contact by limiting meetings, using internet training options, and teleworking when possible.

A WORD ABOUT AEROSOLS

The word “aerosol” is currently being used more by the media to describe the smaller droplets created when people (and animals) exhale. Aerosols are defined as droplets that are smaller than 5 microns in size. Non-aerosol droplets include anything larger than 5 microns. All droplet sizes can contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus as well as other viruses.

Aerosol droplets are formed in the very small airways of the lower lung during normal breathing processes. They consist of moisture combined with mucus and surfactants and because they are so light can remain airborne for several hours. This can be especially dangerous in closed environments with reduced ventilation.

Cloth face coverings can trap droplets larger than 5 microns but only N-95 breathing masks can trap aerosol droplets down to about 1 micron in size. Droplets less than 1 micron essentially cannot be trapped by masks.

Recent research suggests that the smallest aerosol droplet sizes can contain 1 virus while large droplets created by rapid exhalation can carry many. But there are many more aerosol droplets created than larger sizes so the risk of infection is higher, especially because aerosols can remain airborne for so long.

- Employers should consider increasing the distance between employees by staggering work schedules, limiting access to work areas such as trailers, break areas, rearranging tables and chairs in office areas, and reducing the number of workers at meetings.

Cloth Face Coverings

CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings (see https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html) in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas where there is

continued on next page
significant community-based transmission of COVID-19. When cloth masks are worn all day or to a location where the wearer may have been exposed, they should be washed with soap and water before their next use.

Cloth face coverings are NOT surgical masks or respirators and are not appropriate substitutes for them in workplaces where masks or respirators are recommended or required.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
Due to the shortage of N95 respirators some contractors are using KN95 respirators. They are made in China and in most ways are considered equal to N95 respirators. KN95 respirators are generally recommended for occupational use in situations that would typically require an N95. However, if you elect to buy KN95s, be careful to choose a reputable supplier because there are products on the market that don’t meet the standards they claim to meet and come with exorbitant price tags. The CDC has a recorded webinar (see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7tVnjrmAmc) with information about what to look for when purchasing respirators from international sources. Respirators, including N95s and KN95s, should be incorporated as part of a regular respiratory protection program, which includes fit testing, to protect against occupational respiratory hazards.

The primary purpose of a mask is to stop droplets of water containing the virus. Virus particles by themselves are too small to trap in the filtering material of the mask. Wearing a mask protects others from inhaling droplets of water containing the virus expired by the wearer as they breathe, talk, shout, sing, cough, or sneeze. Others wear their masks to protect you.

N-95 quality masks also offer some protection to the wearer from bioaerosols such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and pollen if they are fit carefully around the nose and mouth. They should be replaced when they are physically damaged, there is increased breathing resistance, or for other hygiene issues.

Some contractors believe that using face shields can be a substitute for breathing masks. While these shields can block splashes or sprays, they do not provide respiratory protection. But the shields can be easily cleaned and reused. They aren’t currently rated as a replacement for face masks or respirators. Therefore, if they are used, they should be considered as an additional protection.

For more information about each of these three different tools, see the CDC infographic on facemasks and respirators at https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/pdfs/UnderstandingDifference3-508.pdf and the CDC’s information about cloth face coverings.

How One Contractor is Making Their Jobsites Safer
Mark Stadalsky, the Vice President of Lindblad Construction located in Joliet Illinois says his company specializes in industrial concrete in several states, serving the pipeline industry, electrical power distributors, and heavy industrial companies. In Illinois construction is considered an essential industry so Lindblad has been able to work throughout the pandemic. Stadalsky says they became very curious when news of the COVID 19 pandemic first appeared and decided it would become a major threat to the construction industry and their workforce. So the company’s management, safety experts, and consultants engaged in six weeks of collaborative discussions to work out a company protocol guideline with carefully defined pathways they could use as a guide to help them decide how worker health issues should be treated. For example, if an employee called in to say they were ill but didn’t have COVID 19 symptoms the company protocol defined a pathway to follow. If an employee had COVID 19 symptoms but hadn’t been tested there was another defined guideline. If an employee tested positive for COVID 19 then the procedures for what to do next would be followed.

Lindblad also correctly predicted early-on that wearing breathing masks would become mandatory so they bought a supply of N-95 masks before they were scarce and then explored possible sources for securing a steady supply of KN-95 masks. At the same time the company hired people to make cloth masks for use by all employees in the company.
Some of Lindblad’s clients specify how workers on their jobsites will be protected with regards to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and Lindblad provides what they specify so long as it meets their protocol. “For example, one of our clients requires workers to wear N-95 or KN-95 masks instead of cloth masks so we follow their requirements,” he says.

Lindblad protocol includes the following:

• They developed a network of guidelines for their office staff.
• In their construction yard everyone must wear a mask.
• As much as they can, workers on jobsites distance themselves from others.
• On jobsites Lindblad regularly cleans all touch points and common areas.
• They have fulltime and part time safety inspectors in the field at all times.
• During the first six weeks of the pandemic they sent out a daily COVID 19 message designed to give workers accurate information and put them more at ease
• They provide daily wellness checks for all employees and send them home if symptoms dictate.
• They are in the process of planning for the possibility of a fall pandemic.

Where to Get Help
Working out a plan for increased jobsite safety with regards to pandemics is a complex process. There are guidelines from the CDC, OSHA mandates and legal requirements, state governments, and local Health Department requirements.

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) is a contractor resource. Mike Hampson, the Executive Secretary for Chicagoland AGC, a chapter of AGC of America, says they listen to members needs to gather information about their situations and what they are doing. They provide their members with information from their national office as well as from the CDC and OSHA requirements for PPE gear. They host conference calls each week so that contractors can learn from each other and they conduct webinars to provide additional information to members. They can offer labor leader and a legal staff help too.

The American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC) also hosts a weekly on-line meeting for their members representing both large and small companies so they can learn from each other and discusses common issues. Discussions focus on how to maintain distance on jobsites, work remotely, rules for eating and drinking on the job, health checking workers, stagger work schedules, overheating concerns related to wearing masks as summer temperatures increase, managing jobsite owners who don’t observe the requirements and put employees at risk, using new technology such as UV-C lamps to kill viruses, maintaining emotional fitness, using face coverings versus breathing masks, and developing company guideline statements.

Coming Pandemics
Some models predict another pandemic in the fall, the result of people going back to work and relaxed restrictions. The annual influenza season will add to the number of people sick too. Planning for that is underway at all levels and hopefully the U.S. will be better prepared.

Why viruses exist at all is a question. There are millions of types and there is no hope of ever eradicating all of them—they will challenge us forever and the COVID 19 threat will remain until an effective vaccine is discovered.

The only way to completely stop a pandemic like COVID 19 is to develop an effective vaccine. Until there is an effective vaccine available the construction industry’s responsibility is to minimize the loss of life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Joe Nasvik was a concrete contractor in the Chicago area for almost 20 years. He was also an editor for 20 years, writing for Concrete Construction magazine, the Concrete Contractor magazine, and Concrete International. His articles include a wide range of topics and issues that concern the concrete industry.
WHAT DO I DO IF MY EMPLOYEES ARE AFRAID TO COME TO WORK?

The FFCRA and associated legislation were passed by Congress so quickly that many of the employment and HR issues were unclear, ambiguous, or, in some cases, unaddressed. Seay Management Consultants has observed, “They created the rules but are still working on the rule book!” The Department of Labor has clarified some of these issues so we have a better understanding of how management applies these benefits to certain situations. The three specific benefits are:

- Up to 80 hours of paid sick leave for employees who experience certain COVID-19 events.
- An additional 10 weeks of extended FMLA for employees with children whose school or daycare is closed or is otherwise unavailable.
- Extended unemployment compensation, for those employees who qualify.

There is still some confusion about how to respond to employees who refuse to come to work owing to one of two reasons:

1. The employee who is afraid that they (or their child) will contract the virus, even though he or she does not actually have any symptoms of it.
2. The employee claims that he or she can receive more money on unemployment than by working.

Case #1 – Fear of Coming to Work
In the first case, the regulations are clear that the paid sick leave benefits apply only to those employees who qualify for one of the six COVID-19 events, as specified on the FFCRA poster. Neither fear of contracting the virus nor being in a non-specific “at-risk” group qualifies an employee for the sick pay or extended FMLA benefits. If an employee refuses to come to work under either of these circumstances, this is a voluntary quit on the part of the employee, with no good cause attributable to the employer. The employee should not be eligible for unemployment benefits.

On the other hand, on the basis of Best Practices, a specific “at-risk” employee situation could fall under the ADA regulations so it may be a good idea to try to make “reasonable accommodation” to high-risk employees, such as moving the employee to a different job or location or allowing the employee to use accrued vacation time. Also, it is possible that an employee may qualify for unpaid FMLA, due to a serious health condition.

Special Alert – Washington State has issued regulations requiring specific attention to high-risk employees when requested by the employee, and continuation of health insurance until the employee is “deemed eligible” to return to work. Some other more progressive states may follow suit. We will continue to follow this phenomenon but do not expect it will be widespread.

Case #2 – Refusing to Come to Work Because of High Unemployment Compensation
An employee does not have the right to refuse to come to work just because he or she can receive more money from unemployment compensation than from actually working. If you have work for the employee, and if the employee refuses to come to work, then this is a voluntary quit on the part of the employee, with no good cause attributable to the employer. Employees who refuse to work under these circumstances are not eligible for unemployment compensation. You should inform the employee of this fact and, if he or she continues to refuse to come to work, you should notify your local
unemployment office. On a level playing field, this employee would not have a job at your company and would not receive unemployment compensation.

The additional $600 federal unemployment compensation expired on July 31, 2020.

In a recent August 8th memorandum, President Trump has offered $300 per week in additional federal unemployment benefits for states that agree to contribute $100 of their own funds. The program, referred to as Lost Wages Assistance (LWA), is funded through FEMA’s Disaster Relief Fund. The benefit would be paid to eligible individuals beginning with weeks of unemployment ending on or after August 1, 2020, through no later than December 27, 2020.

The LWA program may terminate before December 27th if:

- FEMA exhausts the $44 billion from the Disaster Relief Fund that Trump designated for the LWA program;
- The total balance of the Fund decreases to $25 billion; or
- Congress enacts legislation to provide additional Federal unemployment benefits.

States will have to develop a self-certification process with a timeline indicating a deadline of September 10 to apply for the LWA funding.

Remember if you have an employment issue or challenge and you need the right answer, right away, take advantage of the APA’s FREE HR Hotline for APA Members. The Seay Management Team gives the best HR advice available.

Call them at: 888.245.6272

This year’s workshop will focus on finishing and patching and will cover:

- New products, tools and methods
- Mix design development
- How to achieve different types of finishes in repairs
- Use of epoxy injection for crack repair/epoxy injection
- Getting and exact color match and much more
Welcome back, in this addition of the APA Precaster we will cover the tools of the trade for precast repair and cleaning.

Tools of the Trade for Repairing and Cleaning

By Kiley Marcoe, Metro Precast & Stone Services, Inc.

There are tools of the trade that we would be lost without. In this addition I will share the specialty tools that assure successful precast repair and cleaning.

Bush Hammer- A concrete bush hammer can be used to simulate sand blasting on small unfinished surfaces or to texture repairs on a sand blast finish. Available at Bon Tools and Kraft Tool Company

Hard cellulose sponge- Again a tool that we use every day and would be lost without is the hard cellulose sponge cut in half. We use this sponge to shape every repair that has an acid wash or light sandblast finish. Available at Toolsourcedirect.com 3M C31 Large Commercial Sponge

Trowel and Square- The most important tool we have in our mason bag is a 1” trowel and square. It is used to shape all small repairs and to apply the scratch coat to all repairs. It does take a little patience but once you master the trowel and square it will be a tool that you will use every day. Available at Bon Tools and Kraft Tool Company

Blue board Styrofoam- Blue board can be used as form work during precast repair, it is easily raked out making it much easier than wood to remove especially at joints. We also use blue board during re-facing to level and texture. Available at any contractor supply store or home repair center
Stitch ties/Patch ties - Patch ties are 3” helical bar mechanical anchors we use in all repairs larger than a baseball. Unlike wedge anchors patch ties can be installed very close to the edge of the panel. Available at Construction Tie Products

Topical Bonding Agent - A topical bonding agent that enhances the bond between the repair material and the original substrate, we use it on every size repair. Available at most contractor supply stores

Strip Seal/Peel Paste - A peelable bonding material used during epoxy injection to affix the ports and bridge the crack between the ports. Unlike gel epoxy that must be mechanically removed with a grinder a peelable material simply peels from the face of the precast without scaring. Available at ChemCo and Applied Technologies

Tile setters and Carbide stones: These stones are a perfect tool to assist in stain removal by rubbing the soiled area after applying the cleaning agent. The stones come in a variety of grits and colors to assure they do not scar or discolor the architectural precast. Available at Bon Tools and various tile supply stores

Until next time, Kiley Marcoe

Metro Precast & Stone Services, Inc.
http://www.metroprecast.com/
The following are considered approved continuing education opportunities:

- Attending an APA Educational Event  
  (max. 6 CEUs per event)
- Attending other industry events through another approved provider, such as CSI/NPCA/World of Concrete/AIA  
  (1 CEU earned for each 1 hour of education; max. of 8 CEUs per cycle)
- Review/Update Plant’s QC Manual  
  (1 CEU earned for each 1 hour of education; max. of 2 CEUs per cycle)
- Review Company Procedures  
  (1 CEU earned for each 1 hour of education; max. of 1 CEU per cycle)
- Review Case Study Articles  
  (1 CEU earned for each 1 hour of education; max. of 3 CEUs per cycle)
- Other training opportunities such as plant tours, site visits, lunch & learns, online training, OSHA courses, etc.  
  (1 CEU earned for each 1 hour of education; max. of 6 CEUs per cycle)

If you have any questions, please contact the APA office at 850.205.5637 or info@archprecast.org.