



The Voice

September 2020

CONTENTS

- Executive Committee - Making Mental Health a Priority
- Executive Director - Death in Yosemite
- Technical Director - How to Search for Products
- Decorative Concrete Council - Many Ways to Achieve White Concrete
- Decorative Concrete Council - The Blessing of Going Virtual
- Safety & Risk Management Council - COVID-19 and Morale
- NRMCA - Concrete Tracker
- Webinars

Construction Safety Week Sept. 14-18, 2020 Built on Safety

[Website](#)
[Toolbox Talks](#)

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

ASCC Virtual Annual Conference
September 21-25, 2020

[Registration](#)
[Committee Meetings](#)

Welcome New Members

- JSP Safety, Inc., Huntersville, NC
- MAX USA Corp., Plainview, NY
- MEGASLAB, Marietta, GA

Welcome back, Hapax, Norfolk, VA

Message from the Executive Committee

Making Mental Health a Priority
Mario Garza, Vice President

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. As we enter into the sixth month of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, mental illness needs to be a focus for all. The new

stresses to our industry and employees can be overwhelming to manage. Employee health and safety, business financial health, and job security have all been weighing heavily on the industry. It is important that we are looking to our teams, and ourselves, to make sure we are making mental health a priority. We must work to remove the stigma surrounding the topic of mental health.

Personally, I have found the six months of “work from home” surprisingly difficult to deal with. For many of us, our success has been defined on the ability to build high performing teams. For the individuals that are working exclusively from home, that ability to socialize with teammates has been limited to phone calls and video conferencing. The technology-only environment can be a breeding ground for loneliness and disconnect an individual from their purpose within the team. “Work From Home Fatigue” has been used by health organizations to define the reality facing a lot of our remote workers.

I am fortunate to be part of an organization that engaged mental health early in the pandemic, providing employees with training opportunities like “Mindfulness Mondays” to teach mindfulness as a technique to deal with the stress. My hope is that we will all take a moment to assess our own mental health, and then take a moment to engage our teams and evaluate our team’s mental health. There are many tools available to support organizations in these efforts. Two of my favorites are the *Headspace app*, and the book *Wherever You Go, There You Are*.

If you or someone you know is in an emergency, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) or call 911 immediately.

Executive Director's Message

Death in Yosemite Bev Garnant

I know many of you are saying, “Bev, what happened to your summer reading list?? Here I sit, library card in hand, and no recommendations for what I should be checking out.”

So, one thing I’m reading this summer – and it’s taking the summer to plough through – is the 608-page doorstop, “Off the Wall: Death in Yosemite,” by Michael P. Ghiglieri and Charles F. Farabee, Jr. In the hopes of saving future visitors to the National Park from accidents, Ghiglieri and Farabee have compiled a comprehensive canon of deaths in the park since roughly the 1920s, some earlier. The book is divided by causes/types of accidents, including waterfalls, base jumping, climbing of course, hiking, vehicular, drowning, flora and fauna, freak accidents and more.

The authors recount detailed descriptions of many of the accidents, and the Search and Rescue (SAR) operations that followed. At the end of each chapter they provide a more complete list of those who perished in a particular way, with names, ages, dates and a brief synopsis. It might come as no surprise that the majority of those who try something foolhardy or cut corners leading to serious injury or worse, are men, and of that group, young men. I know of one middle-aged man who could have easily been included in this book had it not been for a guardian angel on his shoulder that day. Name omitted to protect the foolish (and a few other words that come to mind).

All kidding aside, September 14-18 is Construction Safety Week. Most of you have a significant number of that demographic on your payroll. Though this week should be no different from any other, it does give us a specific time to pause and consider what we’re doing and what we could do better to raise the safety bar just that much higher. I hope many of you have plans for the week to recognize your efforts and call attention to the grave importance of the hazards of our jobsites.

If you have not or you need to do it again, please consider:

- Making the change from hardhats to the much safer helmets
- Calling the safety hotline for an expert answer
- Being the jobsite leader for safety precautions, practices and follow-up
- Scheduling regular site visits from company owners/CEOs

- Organizing an inhouse Safety Committee, with representation from all facets of your company

National Parks have to rely on signage and random interaction with National Park Service personnel to keep visitors safe. We, on the other hand, have the opportunity everyday to talk to and encourage our workforce. Let's make the most of it.

How to Search for Products

Bruce Suprenant, Technical Director

Recently two Hotline inquiries were looking for concrete repair products; one project in Iowa and one in Colorado. They were looking for products to recommend to the owner and architect/engineer for approval. There are many different repair products on the market for a variety of uses in different durability requirements. One of my favorite recommendations is to use a product approved by the Department of Transportation (DOT) in the state where the work will occur. The DOTs have an engineer review each product prior to granting approval. For concrete repair, I like to use DOT approved bridge deck repair products. For repair of parking lots, driveways and sidewalks, the bridge deck repair is overkill, but it always gets approved. Most DOTs approve multiple products from different manufacturers so you can consider a product that you are familiar with.

As an example, here is a search for concrete repair/patching products on the Colorado Department of Transportation Approved Products List (APL).

Approved Products List				
Search by Category				
New Search Search another Category				
Category	Subcategory	Base category		
Concrete	Repair/Patching	Bonding Agent		
Form	Product Name	Material Code	Manufacturers	Producer/Supplier Code
595	2728	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	2476	401.09.01.00	Garco, Suncast, Concrete	08N00908
	2783	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
Category	Subcategory	Base category		
Concrete	Repair/Patching	Class DR (Prepackaged)		
Form	Product Name	Material Code	Manufacturers	Producer/Supplier Code
595	4184	401.09.01.00	Dulux, Concrete	08N00904
	4185	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete), Concrete	08N00908
	4086	401.09.01.00	CS, Concrete, Suncast, Concrete	08N00908
	4143	401.09.01.00	US, Concrete, Suncast, Concrete	08N00908
	4072	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
Category	Subcategory	Base category		
Concrete	Repair/Patching	Rapid Set, Horizontal		
Form	Product Name	Material Code	Manufacturers	Producer/Supplier Code
595	2062	401.09.01.00	Dulux, Concrete	08N00904
	2024	401.09.01.00	Dulux, Concrete	08N00904
	4303	401.09.01.00	Dulux, Concrete	08N00904
	4320	401.09.01.00	Dulux, Concrete	08N00904
	2059	401.09.01.00	Rapid, Concrete, Concrete, Concrete	08N00902
	4083	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete), Suncast, Concrete	08N00908
	4348	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	2132	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	2083	401.09.01.00	Garco, Suncast, Concrete	08N00908
	4086	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	2047	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4083	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4082	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4081	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4080	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4079	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4078	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4077	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4076	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4075	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4074	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4073	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4072	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4071	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4070	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4069	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4068	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4067	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4066	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4065	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4064	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4063	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4062	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4061	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4060	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4059	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4058	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4057	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4056	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4055	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4054	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4053	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4052	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4051	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4050	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4049	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4048	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4047	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4046	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4045	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4044	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4043	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4042	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4041	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4040	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4039	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4038	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4037	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4036	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4035	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4034	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4033	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4032	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4031	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4030	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4029	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4028	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4027	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4026	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4025	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4024	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4023	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4022	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4021	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4020	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4019	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4018	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4017	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4016	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4015	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4014	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4013	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4012	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4011	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4010	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4009	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4008	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4007	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4006	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4005	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4004	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4003	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4002	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901
	4001	401.09.01.00	US, Inc. (Concrete)	08N00901

Also don't forget to consider using the ASCC Contractor Email Forum. You can ask other contractors what products they have successfully used or even ask them about how contractor friendly a specific product is.

Finally, don't forget ASCC associate members that are manufacturers, distributors or suppliers of products. Many attend ASCC events and understand concrete contractor needs.

Decorative Concrete Council

Many Ways to Achieve White Concrete
Chris Sullivan, Decorative Concrete Specialist

I wanted to share a recent question that came in to the Decorative Concrete hotline that I found interesting. A member was asking for options to achieve white, or at a minimum, lighter colored concrete, without using white cement. Light colored paving has become popular, as light reflectance and brighter, cleaner colors are trending. The fall back has always been to replace gray cement with white cement. While it sounds easy, the cost can be prohibitive. Most ready-mix producers do not silo white cement, which means using bagged cement, increasing labor and overall cost per yard significantly. In most cases the per yard cost increase is enough to value engineer the project back to gray.

There are other options that do not carry the cost of white cement and can produce a light-colored paving. First is color hardener. Applied to the surface of plastic concrete, color hardener permanently changes the color. Another option is titanium dioxide white pigment (TiO₂) at 3% to 5% loading, based on the weight of cement. This equates to 16 – 28 lb. of pigment in a standard 4000 psi mix. Depending on how dark the gray cement, using titanium dioxide will produce anywhere from a light gray to an off white. The last option does involve using white cement, but only 25% - 50% of the total cement loading. This still adds cost, but in certain cases produces a light enough color to be acceptable to the client without the full incremental cost increase.

If none of these options work, white overlays, or tinted sealers or coatings may provide a solution once the concrete has cured. If light colored concrete is the desired result there are multiple ways to achieve the look without breaking the bank.

I encourage you to utilize all the technical hotlines provided by ASCC. These are a valuable benefit available to members only. You can reach the DCC Decorative Hotline via phone at 303-570-7374 or email at csullivan@asconline.org.

The Blessing of Going Virtual **Karen Keyes, DCC Council Director**

My parents taught me repeatedly to look for the blessings in the hard times. Currently the news is bombarded with viruses, politics, and riots. It's hard not to get swept up in it all. Back to what my parents taught me – there are hidden blessings amongst all of this. We can talk about workforce development, establishing systems, and more. But right now, as decorative concrete contractors and ASCC members, I see a big blessing in the Annual Conference being virtual. Yes, I am going to miss seeing many of you face-to-face. I hate that part of it. However, I am so excited about the potential to have more people involved. Every year one of the common complaints from smaller decorative concrete contractors is that they can't afford to attend the conference because of time and money. The blessing in disguise this year is with everything going virtual, it's cheaper and easier to pop in to see what all the fuss is about. I have been fortunate to attend the Annual Conference in person and always come back recognizing the value I received. But until you experience it yourself, it's hard to fully grasp. I encourage that if you aren't registered to attend the conference, do it, and commit some time in your schedule to attend. There's this cool feature in virtual meetings that if you absolutely have to take a call from your foreman or client in the middle of the meeting – you can mute it and take care of urgent business. Take advantage of this year "away" and check out what the conference has to offer. The awards program had a record number of entries this year and will be an event worth checking out. The speakers are industry experts worth learning from, and the roundtables always offer valuable insights from other contractors on how they are handling current issues. Although I won't be able to actually shake your hand at this meeting, I do look forward to seeing everyone there next week!

Safety & Risk Management Council

COVID-19 and Morale - Cutting Through the Numbers **Joe Whiteman, Director of Safety Services**

As we continue to navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, morale is certainly taking a toll among our workers. I suspect the big contributor comes from the litany of news coverage surrounding the pandemic. Look at the way the statistics are being reported. They sound horrible, and if you only catch a few minutes a day, it makes sense that the pandemic is having a tremendous negative influence on morale. We have done well by educating workers what is required when it comes to safe work procedures, hygiene, housekeeping and early detection

through communication and preventative steps. These efforts have had a positive impact on reducing exposure and minimizing impact. At the end of the day, morale is still taxed due to the overwhelming barrage of hyper-sensationalized statistics found on our favorite channels.

Let's talk about those statistics, that is, where we can make a positive impact with our employees to help build confidence and alleviate some of the stress. The truth is, the statistics are looking better every day. On the news, we hear that the elderly are most susceptible to dying from the coronavirus. Although this statement is true, what you don't hear very often or at all, is that of those who have passed from COVID-19, the majority were older than 65 and, were also suffering from comorbidities or underlying health issues, as stated by the CDC. Sure, that is an unfortunate statistic. However, knowing that, we can place greater focus on what we do, where we go, and who we interact with, to ensure we take proper precautions for those who fall into that category.

Another statistic on the CDC website is that the U.S. has a population of a little more than 331,000,000. The death rate for those 55 years or older is .002 % and for those ages 13-54 is .0003. So, what do those numbers tell us? True, it looks terrible when you see that so many people in those age groups have passed from COVID-19. But what if I told you that overall, you have a 99.96% chance of survival? When you parse the statistics from a different perspective, you can either put a very bad outlook on things, or, in a context where things are better than the way they are represented. The same can be applied to new daily case rates. Positive tests as of August was 5,888,400 or 9%. Or, you can contrast that with the negative test rate was for the same period which was 59,867,907. That is a 91% negative test rate, certainly a number you will most likely not hear on the news.

Also beaten like a drum is the total COVID case count which is currently at 6,248,989. I agree, it sounds terrible. What is not mentioned however, is that of those cases, 3,818,249 people have fully recovered, leaving a little over 2,500,000 people with varying levels of COVID-19. That is a number that is rarely mentioned on the news. Yes, people have died. Yes, more have, or may contract the virus. I am not here to say otherwise. What I am saying is we can do better when we discuss the effects of this pandemic. We can present it in a way it in a way that paints a more realistic picture, and not the apocalyptic picture many have been led to believe. Take your time, familiarize yourself with the CDC website and look at the numbers for yourself. Communicate with your employees and discuss these statistics in a context that is easier for all to understand. It will help relieve a lot of the misconceptions surrounding this virus that are taking a toll on the morale of our workers.

NRMCA - Concrete Tracker

ConcreteTracker™ Is Looking for Concrete Projects

The NRMCA Pave Ahead and Build With Strength teams are asking for your help in locating existing concrete parking lots, trails, streets and roads, and buildings to populate their interactive website, [ConcreteTracker.org](https://concretetracker.org).

"One of the most common concerns we hear from owners and engineers is that no one wants to be first to try something they may consider new," said NRMCA Senior Vice President, Local Paving, Phil Kresge. "With ConcreteTracker.org, we have created a repository of concrete building and paving case studies from across the country. Building owners, developers, architects, engineers and others interested in seeing a concrete building or paving project near them can search the ConcreteTracker™ map and find more information."

Kresge explains that it is important to note that these are not just new projects. "We'd love to capture every project built and/or paved with concrete, and current/recent projects are an easy place to start," he said. "But imagine the impact that a 20 or 25-year old concrete parking lot would have by being included in the collection. It is 'living proof' that concrete is the choice for longevity and durability."

If you have a concrete building or pavement you would like to add to ConcreteTracker™, click [here](#). Provide as much detail as possible and feel free to provide photos and/or links to in-house promotional articles about the project.

For more information, contact Phil Kresge at pkresge@nrmca.org.



Jason Sisk, safety director at ASCC member Wayne Brothers, Davidson, NC, has been named the 2020 Safety Professional of the Year by the American Society of Safety Professionals, Tarheel Chapter. He also earned his Certified Safety Professional designation which is the highest professional safety designation available. Outstanding achievements Jason!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS!



DCC Project Awards Submission Now Open

To view the awards brochure and see more information about submitting online, [please visit our website.](#)

Upcoming Webinars

October 14, 2020

Embodied Carbon

Michael Cropper, Thornton-Tomasetti

November 11, 2020

Hardhats to Helmets

Scott Greenhaus, STRUCTURAL and Seth Randall, Clark Construction

December 9, 2020

Polished Concrete - How to Get What You Specify

Tom Collupy, Solomon Colors

January 13, 2021

Concrete Overlays of Existing Asphalt Surfaced Streets & Parking Lots

Jon Hansen, NRMCA

Webinars begin at 3 pm Central

[Register Here](#)

HOTLINE QUESTIONS			
CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION	POLISHED CONCRETE	SAFETY & INSURANCE	DECORATIVE CONCRETE
800-331-0668	844-923-4678	833-281-9602	888-483-5288
Bruce Suprenant ascchotline@asconline.org	Chris Sullivan csullivan@asconline.org	Joseph Whiteman jwhiteman@asconline.org	Chris Sullivan csullivan@asconline.org
ASCC members have access to these toll-free numbers for assistance.			

American Society of Concrete Contractors
 2025 S. Brentwood Blvd., Ste. 105
 St. Louis, MO 63144
 314-962-0210 or 866-788-2722
asconline.org

*This email was sent to '@@username@@" from American Society of Concrete Contractors (ASCC).
 If you wish to stop receiving email from us, you can simply remove yourself or change your settings by visiting:
 @@unsubscribe_url@@"*