Comparison of Structural Performance of Multi-Story Buildings Under Extreme Events


In addition, a historical survey on the performance of multi-story buildings under normal fires is presented for comparison to these extreme events.

“This document is important because it clarifies issues in an honest way and demonstrates that all materials are equally safe when designed properly and in accordance with today’s building codes,” according to Charles J. Carter, Chief Structural Engineer of the American Institute of Steel Construction.

Copies of the 60-page document can be downloaded by AISC members and ePubs subscribers at no charge by visiting www.aisc.org/epubs and clicking on “Other Resources.”

11th International Symposium on Tubular Structures: Call for Papers

The Subcommission for Welded Tubular Structures XV-E of the International Institute of Welding (IIW) has named the University of Toronto as host of its 11th International Symposium on Tubular Structures (ISTS 11). The Symposium will take place August 31 to September 2, 2006 in Quebec City, Canada. The Symposium coincides with the 59th IIW Annual Assembly, August 27 to September 2, 2006, also to be held in Quebec City.

Prospective authors are invited to submit abstracts of 300-400 words (in English) before July 4, 2005. Notification of provisional acceptance will occur by September 30, 2005. Proceedings of the Symposium will be published in a single-volume, hard-bound book. All abstracts, papers and oral presentations are required to be in English. No simultaneous language translation will be provided.


For more preliminary registration or more information, please visit the 11th International Symposium on Tubular Structures web site: www.ists11.org.

AISC Seminars: Coming to a City Near You!

In 2005, AISC will continue to offer its popular seminars Fire, Blast, and Progressive Collapse, Field Fixes, and Bolting and Welding, as well as two new seminars: Steel Design After College and Seismic Braced Frames—Design Concepts and Connections. As always, leading industry experts will serve as featured speakers for each of the seminars.

AISC will once again offer its successful “Bring a Buddy” program. Each paid registrant can bring one colleague for only $100 more. And, all AISC continuing education seminars offer CEU credits!

The 2005 seminar schedule is available in the ad on page 10 of this magazine.

New in 2005 is the ability to register online and save $5 off the registration fee. Visit www.aisc.org/seminars to register or to obtain more information.
Leaders of the steel, concrete, glass and cladding, flooring, and general contractor industries met in St. Louis, MO to discuss solutions to tolerance incompatibility conflicts at the Inter-Industry Working Group on Construction Tolerance Incompatibility Issues, February 17-18, 2005.

The event was organized and hosted by the American Society of Concrete Contractors and co-sponsored the American Institute of Steel Construction, the American Concrete Institute, Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, and several other construction industry associations.

Speakers representing many factions of the construction industry addressed tolerance issues related to their phases of the construction process.

Almost all emphasized that education and communication early in the design stages can effectively prevent tolerance incompatibility—and expensive fixes.

“Tolerances have to be coordinated every time, for every job like it’s the first time it’s been done,” said Charles Carter, AISC’s Chief Structural Engineer. “For concrete and steel to meet with success, it has to happen in the design phase, not in the construction phase.”

Inconsistencies between industry tolerance specifications were noted as problematic, as well. For instance, AISC tolerances for positioning of weld plates embedded in cast-in-place concrete are +/-1", while the American Concrete Institute specifies +/-1/16".

“We need to agree upon achievable tolerances,” said Bruce Suprenant, president of Concrete Engineering Specialists.

Attendees suggested inter-industry efforts to coordinate standards, as well as launching joint efforts to educate architects, general contractors, and other project team members through published articles and association partnerships.

“We need to join forces and say, it’s not our problem, it’s not your problem. It’s an issue, and it needs to be dealt with,” said Martin Murdoch of the Floor Covering Installation Contractors Association.

—by Lena Singer

Got news? Send your news items for Modern Steel Construction to Keith Grubb (grubb@modernsteel.com) or Lena Singer (singer@modernsteel.com).

AISC’s Adopt-A-School Program began four years ago and has grown into a very successful program. The participation of steel fabricators with local universities introduces faculty and students to the steel industry, thus providing a mutually beneficial relationship. There are currently 137 universities “adopted” by 152 fabricators.

AISC’s University Relations Department has created an Adopt-A-School program booklet describing the activities that fabricators can initiate or participate in with their adopted university, such as plant tours, advising ASCE student chapters, participating with their university in the Student Steel Bridge Competitions, etc. These relationships have proven to be a valuable asset to students and fabricators alike.

Visit www.aisc.org and click on “Learning Opportunities” and then select “University Programs” to find lists of adopted universities and universities available for adoption.

For more information, contact Fromy Rosenberg, P.E., Director of University Relations, at rosenberg@aisc.org (312.670.5408) or contact Megan Maurer, University Relations Coordinator, at maurer@aisc.org (312.670.5418).

The inaugural Structural Engineers’ Buildings Conference & Expo, sponsored by Structural Engineer magazine, is the first national event dedicated exclusively to helping structural engineers win and successfully complete projects involving the design and construction of buildings—from residential, multi-purpose, and commercial buildings, to institutional and industrial buildings.

The two-day expo, held December 1-2, 2005 at the Fairmont Hotel in Chicago, will bring together the entire structural engineering team to learn from the industry’s leading experts, as well as from their peers, in an educational, practical program emphasizing technical design and analysis, the latest array of codes, and project management skills.

For more information, contact Michael Scheibach, Ph.D., Conference Director, at 816.350.2049 or via e-mail at mscheibach@zweigwhite.com. Visit www.gostructural.com for more information.