

TRAINING & EVENTS

NEW HIGH WIND COMPANION GUIDE AND TRAINING FOR GULF COAST

To help builders and code officials with the rebuilding effort in the Gulf Coast, Simpson Strong-Tie® is introducing our *High Wind Framing Connection Guide* (HWFCG). This guide is meant to be a companion piece to the AF&PA *Wood Frame Construction Manual for One- and Two-Family Dwellings* (WFCM). The WFCM is an ANSI-approved document that provides engineered and prescriptive design requirements for wood frame construction used in one- and two-story homes. Simpson's companion guide is designed to save code officials and contractors time by offering detailed prescriptive solutions for meeting uplift and lateral load requirements in areas with wind speeds of 100 to 140 mph. For example, for the uplift load path, specific connectors are recommended for each location from the roof to the foundation. Detailed shearwall designs and lateral connections are provided to resist lateral loads. To request a copy, go to www.strongtie.com and click on Literature.



Simpson is also providing training workshops throughout the Southeast on proper connections for high wind resistant construction. For class listings, visit www.strongtie.com and click on Training. ■

CODE CORNER

PROGRESS UPDATE ON ICC COMMITTEE WORK

In August, two ICC committees worked on tasks that will significantly impact the structural requirements of the IBC and IRC. The ICC Wall Bracing Ad Hoc Committee reviewed all the code change proposals to the IRC that related to wall bracing in Chapter 6. The ICC Consensus Committee on Hurricane Resistant Construction also met and voted to issue a draft of the ICC Standard for Residential Construction in High Wind Regions.

Revisions to IRC Wall Bracing Requirements

Not many would dispute that the wall bracing requirements in the IRC are difficult to understand and enforce. This year, there were 59 code change proposals to Sections R602.10 and R602.11 (RB179-RB237)—compared to the last change cycle where there were only seven (RB163-RB69).

Because of the confusion surrounding this section and the large number of conflicting code changes, the ICC Board of Directors appointed an ICC Wall Bracing Ad Hoc Committee to review the proposed code changes, make their recommendations to the IRC Code Change Committee and provide a general revision to this section.

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NEWS UPDATE

TERRY KINGSFATHER NAMED PRESIDENT OF SIMPSON STRONG-TIE



On August 1st, Terry Kingsfather assumed his new role as president of Simpson Strong-Tie. Terry, who has been a part of the leadership team for several years, has been with Simpson since 1979. "We feel Terry is

a great choice for this position," said Tom Fitzmyers, CEO. "He has broad experience and industry knowledge that will enable him to successfully lead the company in the years ahead."

Terry's career with Simpson began 27 years ago as an outside sales representative in the Pacific Northwest. Based in Portland, Terry consistently led his branch in territory sales growth. In 1985, Terry was promoted to regional sales manager. In this position, Terry pioneered territories in the Northwest, Canada and Alaska, building a strong and loyal customer base. He also hired and trained salespeople and merchandisers, and helped with product development and introductions.

In 1997, Terry helped introduce the new Anchor Systems product line. A year later, Terry came out of the field and joined the Home Office in California as the marketing manager for Anchor Systems. In 2003, Terry was promoted to vice president and general manager of Anchor Systems.

Terry replaces Steve Lamson who announced that he would retire in 2007. Steve very ably served as president for six years and has been with the company since 1989. "Steve has been a fundamental part of Simpson's success," said Fitzmyers. "While Steve is retiring, many of his ideas are embodied in the systems we use today and that will help sustain us in the future." ■

CODE CORNER *(continued from page 1)*

PROGRESS UPDATE ON ICC COMMITTEE WORK

The committee recommended several important revisions, including a rewrite of the wall bracing section. Two similar proposals were submitted, however, the committee recommended approval of RB179 over RB180. Proposal RB179 was based on the work of a group led by Dr. Dan Dolan from Washington State University.

The committee also recommended a significant revision to the requirements for continuously sheathed structures. Previously, all exterior walls had to be completely sheathed with wood structural panels in order to take advantage of the narrower walls allowed under this section. The new recommendation allows for just a single wall line on a single floor level to be completely sheathed in order to use the continuous sheathing method on that wall line. At the corners, a minimum of 24 inches of the perpendicular walls must also be sheathed. An 800 pound holdown will be permitted as a substitute for this return wall.

Proposed code changes from Simpson Strong-Tie® and APA—The Engineered Wood Association were also reviewed. The changes relate to the use of 6:1 aspect ratio narrow wall bracing panels. APA's code proposal expanded the use of these narrow panels beyond where it is currently allowed—in low seismic zones directly adjacent to garage door openings. Simpson's proposal requires the addition of a 3,000 pound holdown to anchor the ends of these panels, since testing has shown that the 6:1 narrow portal is not equivalent to other bracing methods currently

allowed in the IRC. This holdown decreases the deflection of the narrow panel, so it more closely matches the deflection of panels currently allowed by the IRC, and reduces the impact of common misinstallations.

Since there are still technical issues that have not been resolved regarding the testing of shearwalls and braced wall panels, the ICC ad-hoc committee recommended that both proposals be denied at this time. Simpson is working with the committee to help resolve the technical and non-technical issues surrounding the wall bracing section.

New High Wind Standard

The ICC Consensus Committee on Hurricane Resistant Construction recently completed and voted to issue a draft of the ICC Standard for Residential Construction in High Wind Regions. This document offers prescriptive construction solutions for wood frame, cold-formed steel, masonry, and insulated concrete form residential structures in wind speeds from 100 to 150 miles per hour. It is intended to replace the SBCCI Standard for Hurricane Resistant Residential Construction (SSTD-10) that is currently referenced in the IRC and IBC.

As currently written, the document references the American Forest and Paper Association *Wood Frame Construction Manual* for wood construction, and the American Iron and Steel Institute *Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing, Prescriptive Method for One*

and Two Family Dwellings (COFS/PM) for steel framing. The standard will contain prescriptive foundation methods for use with these manuals. In addition, the document will devote a chapter describing how to build masonry and insulated concrete form buildings in high wind regions. Separate chapters will cover exterior wall coverings, roofing, and windows and other openings.

The new standard is scheduled to be released for public comment at the end of October. The release will be publicized on the ICC website, the ICC magazine and in the ANSI Standards Action publication. The public will have at least 45 days to review the document and make comments. The committee plans to meet in January to review the public comments, and issue a Public Comment Report. The public will then have at least 30 days to submit additional comments. The final committee meeting is scheduled for April, with the ICC Standard available in June, 2007.

The committee has worked very hard to put this draft together, and is looking for comments on their work. Watch for the posting of the document and let them know your views. ■

Code Corner is written by Simpson Strong-Tie engineer, Randy Shackelford, PE. When he's not attending code hearings, he can be reached at rshackelford@strongtie.com.

SIMPSON SUPPORTS BIA-HAWAII'S NEW TRAINING FACILITY

In an effort to promote construction quality and training, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii) is constructing a new training facility focused on improving Hawaii's labor force. Located on the island of Oahu, the new 23,000 square foot Construction Training Center of the Pacific will educate individuals working in the construction field and help recruit others to the industry.

Karen Nakamura, CEO of the BIA-Hawaii, said the facility will have a positive impact on Hawaii's economy. "We lost 50 percent of our licensed contractors during the building recession in the 1990s. Our goal is to address the significant demand for qualified people in the construction industry while giving the residents of Hawaii the opportunity to increase their earning potential and develop a career path."

The training program will offer basic math and construction communication courses as well as classes from experienced members of the local construction community. BIA-Hawaii is also teaming with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), high schools and community colleges to provide students access to information about the construction industry and the types of jobs available.

Industry leaders like Simpson Strong-Tie are donating their time and money to help kick-start the construction of the new facility. Last June, Simpson presented the BIA-Hawaii with a \$25,000 check. "We are eager to help BIA-Hawaii and their effort to improve construction quality in Hawaii," said Dave Bastian, branch manager for Simpson's Southern California facility. ■

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

NORTHEAST

Engineers, Architects, Building Officials & Contractors
Rochester, New York Wednesday, November 15

SOUTHEAST

Building Officials & Inspectors
Jacksonville, Florida Thursday, November 9
McKinney, Texas Thursday, November 30

Designing for Multi-Story Wood Frame Construction
McKinney, Texas Friday, December 1

Check our website for upcoming classes covering design and construction in Gulf Coast rebuilding.

NORTHWEST

General Connector Technology – for All Audiences
Kent, Washington Wednesday, November 8

Authorized Stocking Dealers
Stockton, California Wednesday, November 15

Contractors, Builders & Developers
Stockton, California Wednesday, December 6

SOUTHWEST

Building Officials & Inspectors
Brea, California Thursday, November 9

Introduction to Simpson Anchor Systems
Brea, California Thursday, November 16

Contractors, Builders & Developers
Brea, California Thursday, December 7

2006 Connector Workshop
Bakersfield, California Thursday, December 14

For more information regarding workshop content and for a complete schedule, visit the Workshops and Training section of our website at www.strongtie.com/workshops.

SERVICE UPDATE

SPREADING THE MESSAGE OF STRUCTURAL SAFETY

In an effort to promote structural safety and proper building practices, Simpson Strong-Tie® is targeting homeowners and builders with several educational tools.

With the abundance of Internet resources available today, homeowners are much savvier about the building process. To meet this demand, Simpson Strong-Tie has stepped up the consumer section on its website to give visitors useful tips on building stronger, safer homes. The “For Your Home” area on the site includes the importance of building a home with a continuous load path, and suggested steps homeowners should take if they live in an area susceptible to earthquakes, high winds or other natural disasters.

Spreading the message of structural safety is of particular importance in the Gulf Coast region as rebuilding efforts heat up. Simpson has increased its training classes in Louisiana and Mississippi to help local builders and code officials get up to speed with new building codes. A concerted effort to educate homeowners is also underway to help those who are in the process of rebuilding or retrofitting their homes.

For the West Coast and other earthquake-prone areas, Simpson has released a new Seismic Retrofit Guide (F-PLANS06) to educate consumers about how earthquakes affect a home and what they can do to reinforce the structural frame of a house. The intent is to provide

eager do-it-yourselfers with step-by-step instruction on ways to retrofit their homes. For those not wanting to tackle this project themselves, the guide serves as an informative resource that will help them feel confident that their retrofit is done right. *(To request a copy, go to www.strongtie.com and click on Literature.)*

With continued efforts like these, Simpson hopes the message of structural safety will hit home. ■



50TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

SIMPSON'S ENGINEERED ART CONTEST



Simpson Strong-Tie® has spent the last 50 years designing and creating innovative products for our customers. Now, it's your turn! We are looking for your creative and artistic uses of our products. Your ideas and inspirations could earn you a two-night trip for two to New York City and tickets to the Museum of Modern Art.

This contest was inspired by our rendition of Michelangelo's David, also known as The Simpson Man. Long-time customer and architect Robert B. Klammer designed The

Simpson Man using a variety of our connector products. Barclay Simpson, our founder and an avid art collector, later commissioned an artist to create this life-sized statue.

Although your creative expressions need not be this elaborate, we'd like you to share your design ideas with us. Send in either an artistic rendering/sketch of your design or a photograph of your artwork to artcontest@strongtie.com by Wednesday, November 15th. Send your images in jpg format (8"x10" at 72 dpi or smaller please). To qualify you must include your full name, mailing address and telephone number with your entry. See our website for additional contest rules.

The top design will be chosen by Barclay Simpson. The winner and their submission will be posted on www.strongtie.com in early December. ■



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