

DIFFERING VIEWS

How do you evaluate risk on your construction jobs when tragedies, such as the F5 tornado that hit Joplin, Mo., can occur?

→ The perspective that “the villain here wasn’t the building” is spot on. It is important to note that 4000 to 8000 buildings were destroyed in Joplin. This included buildings of steel-framed construction, of CMU construction, and of wood construction in addition to concrete wall construction. See the report by National Institute of Standards and Technology at http://go.hw.net/cc-nist_joplin for a thorough survey of buildings damaged. Despite the tragedy in Joplin,

there are countless examples of concrete wall construction, including tilt-up, that have withstood high-wind events.

— David Tomasula, PE, LJB Inc.

→ Clearly the Joplin tragedy is hard to fathom. It would be impossible to second guess Mother Nature’s forces as an engineer. With forces nearly 200% of normal storm conditions, no engineer in America would have foreseen these conditions nor could they have

reasonably allowed for it. Engineers manage out all the risk possible within the conditions they are presented. Mother Nature just offered up far more fury than any professional could have anticipated. The construction technique used to build this structure is one of the most highly respected and resistant system available today, just not ready for an F5 in any case.

—simmonsrr

→ I understand the comments in regard to the Joplin area. However, the same construction method was used by Home Depot to construct numerous stores in the south where tornadoes are very common. I see a design deficiency due to wanting to save construction money.

—dagwod

Tell us your thoughts.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Ken Hover,
Just read your June article, "Managing Concrete Test Data." It was great.
Being on the inspection/testing side of the industry, your comments are welcome.
Thanks,

—Chuck Starnes,
Director, Technical QA/QC,
Froehling & Robertson Inc.,
Richmond, Va.

FACEBOOK

Looking forward to seeing "We Are CC," Bill!

—JIM PETERSON

TWITTER

Who knew rebar production was so interesting? "From Old Cars Comes Rebar."

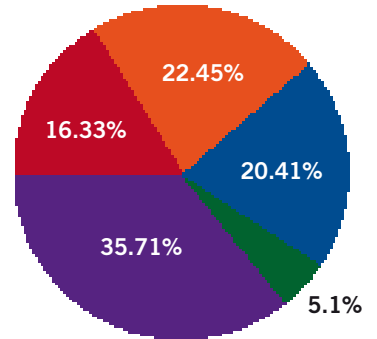
—@HDRARCHITECTURE

Wish @ConcreteConst had mentioned importance of beadblasting off tilt-up release compounds 4 Concrete in Ed article [which appeared in June]

—@EVAN_ADAMS

QUICK POLL

What average margin are you getting in 2011?



- Less than 3%
- 3% to 5%
- 5% to 10%
- 10% to 15%
- More than 15%

Go to www.concreteconstruction.net to view the reader responses to this question.



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