

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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STCA Update

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Accounting for Proper Field Safety by Kirk Grundahl

Safety awareness shouldn't end when your product leaves the plant. Read on for more information about how you can better educate installers for increased safety on the jobsite.

All of the care and quality involved in the design and manufacture of steel components can be jeopardized if the components are not properly handled, erected and braced. A major cause of erection and installation accidents is failing to take into account proper handling, installing and bracing safety practices. The erection of steel components requires, above all, careful planning and communication between the Erection/Installation Contractor, installation crew and the crane operator. To facilitate that communication, STCA has developed a series of field safety educational items as follows:

JBSITE WARNING POSTER

11" x 17" Warning Poster features engineered illustrations on proper techniques for unloading, storing, lifting, erecting and bracing steel trusses.



A great way to ensure good communication, used by several component manufacturers, is to

place the truss placement diagram on the back of the Jobsite Warning Poster. This helps to ensure that information is seen and read, thereby increasing jobsite knowledge and enhancing safe jobsite practices. This approach, combined with the use of pertinent warning tags, ties all of the safety information together and helps it to be seen and acted upon.

STICKER TAGS

Concentrated Load Here: Place this tag at the spot where a truss is to support a concentrated or point load.

Bearing Location: Place this tag at the spot where additional or interior bearing supports should be located under the truss.

Permanent Lateral Bracing Required: The tag indicates that one or two lateral braces may be required on the tagged member and instructs the installer to look for more information on the truss design drawing.

Do Not Cut, Bend or Alter Truss Members: This tag emphasizes that trusses should not be cut or modified in any way.

Do Not Weld: The tag warns against the altering of trusses by welding.

Warning!: This tag emphasizes that trusses are unstable until properly braced. It urges the installer to consult the jobsite package for temporary bracing information.

Do Not Use Damaged Trusses: This tag warns against using trusses that are damaged and urges the installer to call the manufacturer for repair information.

TOP - This Side Up: This tag reduces the chance that parallel chord trusses will be inadvertently installed upside down.

Every project has different site conditions that can have a specific affect on the erection process. STCA's information is just one piece of the installation puzzle. Everyone on the job needs to proactively understand the overall installation plan and the intended bracing requirements for a safe, efficient and accident-free jobsite.

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