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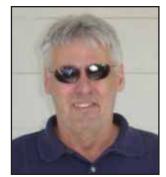


"When we won the SPIDA CSS saw at BCMC 2003, we were excited about the possibility for improvements in our production flow. With the proven track record of the CSS, we knew it was the right saw, and in fact, it has proven itself in our facility. Our experience with the saw has been so successful that we have since purchased two more SPIDA CSS saws." -Dave Motter, Tri-County Truss, Inc.



"We own three SPIDA CSS saws already, and we're so pleased with their versatility, we'll be purchasing another one this year. The CSS saws are perfect for jobs with smaller quantities of the same truss types and their quality is unmatched."

-Art Beebe. Trusses, Inc.



"We purchased our first SPIDA CSS saw four years ago, and have since purchased a second CSS. The CSS is perfect for all the custom work that we do because setup changes are automatic and quick. Plus, we love the fact that we have had no down time with either saw." -John Neatherton, R & K Building Supplies



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CSCI

Carbeck Structural Components Institute

Carbeck CD. Website Get **Facelifts**

by Emily Patterson

Various improvements make the organization's educational resources more user friendly and useful to the fire service.



at a glance

- Each module of the new educational CD presents the issues surrounding structural component performance under fire conditions in a fact-based way.
- ☐ The new format offers users the freedom to guickly and easily locate the topics they wish to learn more about and then customize their training by viewing only the modules that they wish to see.
- ☐ The CD makes a great giveaway to hand out at plant tours.

familiar face on the fire performance of wood trusses has a new look. The Carbeck CD has undergone a facelift, but a nip here and a tuck there has given the CD more than a new appearance. This trusted resource on the fire performance of structural building components now offers a slew of enhancements and additional features, to help presenters and individual users get the most out of this fire safety education tool.

Earlier this year, Carbeck Structural Components Institute (CSCI), the industry's nonprofit educational and research foundation, released the brand new version of its CD for the fire service. The new CD-Wood Truss Construction and Fire Performanceaddresses the facts surrounding the performance of metal plate connected wood trusses when fire strikes. Condensed from the original version into a more concise, easyto-deliver format, the CD offers a bevy of new features and presents content in a concise format that allows users to easily pick and choose the topics they wish to view. More than 500 CDs have already been distributed since publication in March 2006.

Just like its predecessor, Wood Truss Construction and Fire Performance focuses on educating firefighters with the goal of improving fire safety when it comes to structural building components. "This CD has a lot of good information that people can use in their own operations and in an educational setting," said Richard Brown, President of CSCI. "Over the years, so much negative information has been put out about trusses; the first CD went a long way to counteract that, and this latest version will go even further to help educate the fire service."

New Look, New Format

Modeled after the recently launched firefighter section of the CSCI website, www.fire.carbeck.org (which went live earlier this year), the CD organizes content into three main categories: Introduction to Wood Trusses, Fire Performance of Wood Trusses, and Information for Firefighters. These main categories are divided into modules; each runs about five to ten minutes in length and includes a downloads section with additional information and resources on the topics discussed within a module. The Wood Truss Construction and Fire Performance CD contains 18 modules in all and totals about three hours in length.

The CD updates were inspired in part by the Iowa Truss Manufacturers Association (ITMA), which has used it as a resource in its annual educational seminar line-up since 2002. "Feedback from firefighters in the field was 'we know building components as products; we need to know how they behave in a fire and how to fight them safely," said Ray Noonan, Jr., ITMA education chair.

Each module presents the issues surrounding structural component performance under fire conditions in a fact-based way. The CD references respected authorities on fire safety such as the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Report and includes information on testing conducted under ASTM International standards, and by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Phoenix Fire Department, Forest Products Laboratory, and other organizations.

The new format offers users the freedom to quickly and easily locate the topics they wish to learn more about and then customize their training by viewing only the modules that they wish to see. Presenters showing the CD to groups and individual users alike have the ability to choose the modules that meet their training objectives or view the entire CD.

Noonan said using Wood Truss Construction and Fire Performance to educate the fire service is very similar to the approach ITMA took to reach out to building officials, builders and framers several years ago. "We don't have the same bracing, installation and call-back issues since the chapter started hosting Truss Technol-

Continued on page 48

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Carbeck CD, Website Get Facelifts • Continued from page 47

ogy Workshops (TTWs) to educate the marketplace," he said. Noonan noted that building trusting relationships with the fire service will likely be a challenge, but expects the new CD will be an important tool in the process.

Brand New Features

Wood Truss Construction and Fire Performance also includes brand new features to help put users in touch with additional resources on the fire performance of wood trusses. The "downloads section" includes a comprehensive collection of all of the resources referenced in individual modules. The "links section" connects users to the websites of respected resources on fire safety and the fire performance of structural building components. Web links include: the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); Underwriters Laboratories; U.S. Fire Administration (USFA/ FEMA); Truss Plate Institute (TPI); and WTCA - Representing the Structural Building Components Industry.

Perfect Handout for Plant Tours

The Carbeck CD's new format and additional features makes it a great giveaway for component manufacturers to hand out at plant tours with members of the fire service. Modules are short enough to show during a tour or lunch break, or manufacturers can refer firefighters to individual modules to answer specific questions. To date, WTCA chapters in Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee and Texas have held, or are planning to hold, truss plant tours or training workshops for firefighters, using materials that Carbeck has created.

In February the Western Component Manufacturers Association (WCMA) hosted a group of fire service personnel for a plant tour of BMC West's Sherwood, OR plant. The tour proved to be a great way to bring to life the concepts presented in the new CD, which each attendee received in a component industry binder. Attendee Dan Smits of the Calumet City Fire Department noted, "The tour was a great way to better understand the truss product and more importantly to see the use of technology to maintain better quality control of their product."

Jeff Reynolds, a BMC West employee who led the tour, said it was apparent that the attendees were impressed to see the whole process—from design to fabrication to shipping. "Each member of the fire service expressed a great deal of interest in the truss manufacturing process. The tour was a great opportunity to show them first hand, the entire process from start to finish," said Reynolds.

WTCA Chapters continue to show interest in organizing truss plant tours for the fire service to provide a tangible link between the concepts in the new CD and the process behind building components prior to their installation on the jobsite. Stay tuned for a special series starting this fall covering component manufacturers' efforts to educate the fire service using the tools provided by CSCI.

CSCI Auction

To raise awareness about the new CD and to raise funds for CSCI's ongoing work, CSCI will hold an online fundraising auction at BCMC. The online auction will take place Wednesday, October 4 (12:45-5:30 pm), and Thursday, October 5 (10:30 am-4:30 pm). Bids can be placed online or at a computer in the BCMC booth. The winning bids will be announced at the end of each day. CSCI is currently accepting donations (such as novelty tools, sporting memorabilia, women's jewelry and collectibles) for the auction. Donors will be recognized for their generosity in the Carbeck Booth at BCMC, on the Carbeck website and in SBC. Visit www.carbeck.org to download a donation form or to view items up for auction. SBC

For details or to order the Wood Truss Construction & Fire Performance CD, visit www.carbeck.org or call 608/310-6705. For updates to the Carbeck Educational Series, visit www.fire.carbeck.org.

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