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# Editor's Message

## You Cannot Turn Back Time

by Bob Becht

Let WTCA help you set  
 a foundation for a safe operation  
 and safe jobsite.

The process guy that I am, I've had some innovative ideas about maintaining a clean, safe plant in my career. A couple years ago I found a new use for my digital camera: snapping pictures of safety hazards in the plant. I use the shots to point out ways we can improve shop safety through housekeeping. You can read more about this idea in the April 2005 **Safety Scene** column.



Another way we make safety a priority is by participating in WTCA's Operation Safety Program. Fifteen years ago I began developing our company's safety program. Thousands of hours and dollars later, we have a great program. Just think how much easier it would have been for us to just buy WTCA's Operation Safety Program. I could have saved all that time and money. Operation Safety is a great program that you can implement today and save yourself and your company a lot of time and money.

When we talk about safety in this industry, we can't forget about jobsite safety. Things like jobsite injuries and truss collapses are often avoidable with the proper tools and education in place. That's why we developed a program we call our Safe Truss Partnership. The idea behind it is to set the stage for a dialogue with builders, framers, truss installers, crane operators, engineers, building officials, other truss plants, WTCA, and Chambers Truss employees and others about truss collapse prevention.

**I'd like to reinforce one of the reasons WTCA exists—to help improve safety and protect against injury or loss of life on the jobsite through the products like BCSI and the Jobsite Package. Being able to reference standard industry information in this area has very real benefits to all component manufacturers.**

### at a glance

- ❑ While walking though the shop, take digital pictures of safety hazards to show at the next safety meeting.
- ❑ Component manufacturers will save time and money with WTCA's Operation Safety program.
- ❑ Chambers Truss created an educational program for builders about proper installation and bracing techniques.

The way it works is we invite customers and/or installers to the plant for a presentation we created about proper installation and bracing techniques. We have braced models on hand to demonstrate the correct bracing techniques to use on regular and long-span trusses. The Safe Truss Partnership has been rewarding for our employees, and our customers genuinely appreciate our attention to safety.

And of course, we reinforce the topics covered in these meetings with a jobsite package sent with every job we supply. To those manufacturers not providing jobsite packages, I can't recommend strongly enough that you start immediately. We have a motto around here: You cannot turn back time, but you can prevent truss collapse. This is not just talk.

The Safe Truss Partnership has prevented collapses. Truss installers have been overwhelming positive. Believe it or not, they can be taught! One session I gave to

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a contractor and his installer was for a 72' scissor truss job. I went to the job during installation and saw that the trusses were in failure and about to collapse. I told the installer, but he was not convinced. I then went to the contractor's superintendent. The superintendent was convinced because of what he had learned at the Safe Truss Partnership and insisted that the trusses be braced. It prevented a major collapse! The only way to protect yourself from the lawsuit that usually accompanies a collapse is to prevent the collapse. More importantly, you can save truss installers from injury or worse.

WTCA's B-Series installation documents are great—send them out with every job. But back them up by talking to the installers about them. When one truss installer told me at the end of a Safe Truss Partnership session that after setting trusses for 20 years (and a few collapses), he thought he knew how to set trusses but now he knew better, it made my day and year. Teaching safe truss installation is great; try it—you'll like it!

Finally, I'd like to reinforce one of the reasons WTCA exists—to help improve safety and protect against injury or loss of life on the jobsite through the products like BCSI and the Jobsite Package. Being able to reference standard industry information in this area has very real benefits to all component manufacturers. I encourage you—in good times and in bad—to use WTCA and these materials to benefit and protect your business. **SBC**

*SBC Magazine encourages the participation of its readers in developing content for future issues. Do you have an article idea for a future issue or a topic that you would like to see covered? Email your thoughts and ideas to editor@sbcmag.info.*

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## STRUCTURAL BUILDING Components™ THE FUTURE OF FRAMING

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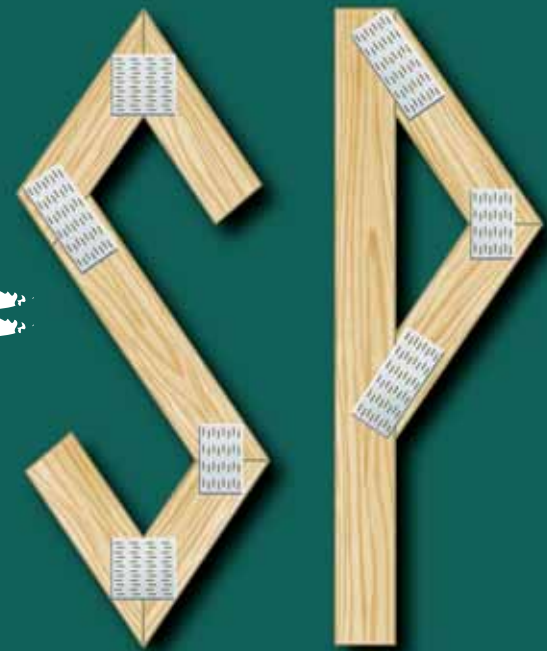
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