



INSPECT THIS



President's Message

We enter our 11th year on solid footing, with the award of several long term jobs that should keep most of us busy through 2006. We're off to a good start with the newly awarded superstructure at 300 Spear Street, with inspections performed by **Sherri Kowalski** and **Ed Putman**. The project presents a great opportunity to develop a lasting relationship with our client, Tishman Speyer.

We were also recently awarded work at the new Kaiser Vacaville template hospital, which is projected to go well into 2008. Currently, **Keith Ecker**, **Sean McCarthy**, **Angela Nygard** and **Joshua Mancheca** are on the jobsite daily, with **Meo Bradford** performing welding inspections. Meanwhile, **Bob Evans** is managing 690 Market in the city.

The Wellness Center at City College of San Francisco is well under way, with **Danny Nuelle** performing soils inspections. Steel fabrications have started up in Utah under the watchful eye of **Kevin Carpenter**, who will supervise **Drew Coffman** and **Scott Croff**

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MAXIMUM DROP HEIGHT OF CONCRETE

Article reprinted courtesy of the California Council of Testing and Inspection Agencies. More information and articles can be found at <http://www.cctia.org>

Where in the UBC does it state the maximum drop height of concrete? The closest code sections I can find in 1905.10 that just states to deposit the concrete as close as possible to final position.

11/05 - Response prepared by Greg Ruf, Managing Engineer - San Francisco Bay Area Operations, Krazan & Associates

The short answer to your question is that there is no UBC limitation on the maximum drop height of concrete during placement. Although factually there is no UBC requirement to limit concrete drop height, there are implied practical limits. The Code refers to the issue of concrete segregation during conveying and depositing of concrete. In referencing UBC Section 1905.10 you correctly cited the Code but left out an important element of the Code provision. Section 1905.10 states "Concrete shall be deposited as nearly as practical in its final position to avoid segregation [emphasis added] due to rehandling or flowing." Section 1905.9.2 states "Conveying equipment shall be capable of providing a supply of concrete at site of placement without separation of ingredients..." These two provisions show intent to maintain concrete quality to the point of final deposit by preventing or avoiding separation of materials. Experience has shown that free falling of concrete through close spaces with obstructions, such as reinforcing steel and embeds, can cause segregation of concrete. Based on this experience and the absence of specific limits on free-fall drop heights in the UBC, a specific provision was added to Title 24 of the California Building Code. CBC Section 1905A.10.9 states "In depositing concrete in columns, walls or thin sections of considerable height, concrete shall be placed in a manner that will prevent segregation... unless otherwise approved by the enforcement agency, the unconfined vertical drop of concrete... to the placement surface shall not be greater than 6 feet (1829 mm)." The American Concrete Institute also addresses placement of concrete in several publications, including ACI 304R-00, which states that "... if forms are sufficiently open and clear so that concrete is not

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Bob Joakimson

In the pilot's seat of a C-5A at Travis Air Force Base.



INTRODUCING BOB

For those of you that haven't met me, I am Bob Joakimson, and I joined ISI as Operations/Project Manager in January. I am so happy and excited to be a part of this great organization. I look forward to meeting and working with each of you in the following months. I expect this to be the best year in ISI's history and intend to work hard to make that happen.

My History:

I reside in Concord and have a wife and three almost grown kids. I have two Bachelor's degrees, one of which is in engineering, and I am currently enrolled in a Master's of Civil Engineering program. I worked as an inspector starting with the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Sixth Army Headquarters. After leaving the Army, I worked as a general contractor; I also worked as a special inspector for Smith-Emery and an Operations Manager for ENGEO Incorporated, and Coverall Engineering. After hearing about ISI and their wonderful staff, I decided this was the place to be. Some of my favorite projects include: Pacific Bell Park, Monterey Bay Aquarium, and Windemere in San Ramon. I am active with the Boys Scouts of America, I've "run" Bay to Breakers for the last 22 years, and I love wine tasting.

Philosophy:

Client Service is everything. Any testing lab can provide "a body" to provide special inspections. Those are the "Walmart" labs. I want ISI to be the "Nordstrom" lab. Our service and staff must be so high quality that our clients think only of us for their testing

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INSPECTOR CHARTS NEW TERRITORY WITH CELL-CRETE

Always on the lookout for new technology, ISI completed its first inspections of Cell-Crete this year, led by special inspector **Scott Nickerson**. Cell-Crete, an extremely porous, light weight concrete, is typically used for drainage on flat roofs or fire ratings on roofing. Its high air content and lack of aggregate make it a lighter, cheaper alternative to the concrete.

Scott performed inspections of Cell-Crete at 235 Berry Street, a new 7-story 194,000 sq ft condominium building owned by Signature Properties. Signature's spec books indicated usage of Cell-Crete due to the building's Conxtech structure, which required fire-rating. Scott inspected the Cell-Crete for adhesion and strength.

Although Cell-Crete has been around for the last five years, ISI's competing construction inspections companies have only recently begun performing inspections on it. Scott took the initiative to thoroughly research the subject, pulling the ASTM'S and seeking the manufacturer's recommendations. From there his expertise gained from five years of experience with inspections guided the way.

"It's a very simple inspection, but if you don't know what you're doing, it can be very difficult," Scott revealed.

Tobin Gaut, the supervising inspector on the job, was full of praise. "Scott did a really good job on this project. He investigated [Cell-Crete] and fully took care of it."

Free Falling Concrete Continued ...

disturbed in a vertical fall into place, direct discharge without the use of hoppers, trunks, or chutes is favorable." In summary, though not specifically limited, drop height has been shown to have practical limits based on the conditions where the concrete is being placed. The drop height should be limited to that where concrete quality can be maintained and segregation is prevented.

CELEBRATING THE SEASON

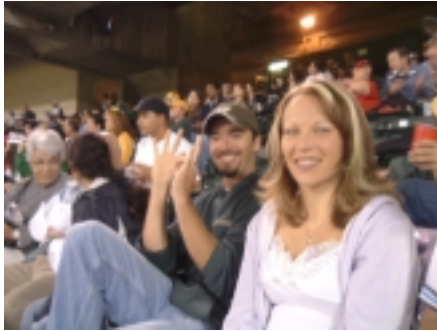
A big thank you to the inspectors and staff who made ISI's 2005 Holiday Party such a success. Held at the Harbor Bay Community Center in Alameda, the celebration's delicious food and excellent prizes made it worth the



Ring in the holiday season with Winnie Solis, Steve McAlvey and Steve's girlfriend Christy Towns at the ISI holiday party, December 2005.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

ISI honors employees with a night with the Oakland A's



Ed Putman and Courtney Childers get ready to play ball.



Rory Shortreed, Sabine Busch, Sven van der Sluis, and Sherri Kowalski enjoy the game.



A beautiful night at the Colliseum.

President's Message Continued ...

in the SME shop. Oakland Airport's Terminal 2 Extension roadway project for Turner Construction will continue to require our soils inspection/testing services through at least the end of the year.

In addition, we have two exciting condo projects which should continue until March of this year, as well as 235/255 Berry. Sometime soon we will return to the San Francisco Airport to provide welding inspections on column jackets. In May we will start the SAS foundation pile splice welding inspections on the New Bay Bridge for KFM. The connection plate welding is scheduled to start within the year. The outlook is promising that we may be doing some work on the SAS tower; we'll find out for sure at the March bid opening with Caltrans.

As you may have noticed, ISI hired a number of inspectors throughout 2005 to supplement our inspection staff. Please extend a warm welcome to: **Angela Nygard** (concrete, water proofing), **Meo Bradford** (structural steel), **Scott Croff** (structural steel/UT), **Christian Downs** (lab assistance), **Artin Hovanesian** (soils), **Robert Luebker** (ACI, nuclear gauge), **Steve McAlvey** (concrete, soils), **Adriana Navarro** (concrete, soils), **Dax Silva** (lab assistance), **DaMarko Martin** (lab

assistance) and **Kevin Young** (concrete, soils). **Joshua Menchaca** and **Danny Nuelle** are participating in the O.E. apprenticeship program.

At the office we've added **Winnie Solis** to assist with cost estimating, report reviews, above ceiling inspections, and as-needed inspections. **Clarence Wong** is also providing engineering support. Winnie's wife, **Eva Solis**, is also assisting us on a part-time basis by typing reports from home. Recently, we have been joined by **Bob Joakimson**, formerly of Engeo & Coverall. (See his bio in this issue!)

On a celebratory note, I want to thank all of you who fought traffic and rain on a Saturday to attend our Holiday Party, December 17, 2005. It was a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season, and I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

Going forward the outlook is very positive for 2006. All of you who have contributed by keeping our clients happy need take credit in our success.

Thanks and Happy Belated New Year! Gung Hay Fat Choy!

—Leslie Sakai

Introducing Bob Continued ...

and inspection needs. This requires identifying and taking care of our clients' needs and concerns. Most are "no brainer" items.

Show up on time and be ready to work. Solve—don't create—problems. Follow up on client scheduling. If there was a rebar check on Wednesday, check if the client scheduled a pour on Thursday. If the client didn't schedule a pour, call the client to find out when the pour will take place, and let dispatch know. If the client forgets to schedule a pour and calls in a panic at 7am, reassure them that we will get the pour covered as soon as possible. Then make it happen, even if it means sending an engineer from the office.

There will be times when a client asks us to perform a service that we do not provide. Instead of saying, "Sorry, we don't provide that service," say, "We don't directly offer that service, but we will arrange for another company to provide that service for you." This may seem strange, but we want our clients to think only of us. Our clients must know that if they have a service request they only need to call us to have it filled. It works!

Goals:

- **Make Inspection Services, Inc. the "Lab of Choice" in the Bay Area.** I want our service to be so much better than any other lab that no client would ever consider anyone else, regardless of the price.
- **Make Inspection Services Inc. the "Employer of Choice" among Special Inspectors.** I want ISI to be such a great place to work that no one would ever want to work for anybody else.
- **Add 20 new certifications to our Inspector matrix.** To make that happen I will conduct classes in DSA Pneumatically Placed Concrete, DSA Masonry, ICC Post-tensioning, ICC Masonry and encourage inspectors to sign-up for the AWS-QC1 classes.

Sincerely,
Bob Joakimson

AFTER HOURS ...



Sven van der Sluis (far right) pedaled hard in the annual Waves to Wine cycling event. All donations benefited the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Karen Casazza from Accounting got cozy with Charles and Camilla when the Royals toured San Francisco on November 5, 2005.



Danny Nuelle and Courtney Childers welcomed Ivy Ann to the world on December 25, 2005.

MISSION STATEMENT

ISI's mission is to assure project quality compliance to facilitate the process of occupancy certification in the interest of the client and public safety.



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