



Building Code Vigilance

One of PCI's major responsibilities is to maintain vigilance with respect to building codes.

In its recent bulletin entitled "Sprinklers and Tradeoffs," PCI has been effective in forcefully calling attention to over-reliance on sprinklers for fire safety. Through its publication entitled "The Fire Fighter," PCI has also improved the perspective of designers and specifiers on the relative fire resistance of prestressed concrete as compared to other materials. But fire safety is only one area where building code initiative is needed by PCI.

Especially important is the need to study code requirements governing the relative structural integrity of competing floor, wall, and roof systems as compared to precast/prestressed concrete. PCI must also monitor the work of the federally sponsored Applied Technology Council on a national code for aseismic design. At the same time, we must intensify PCI's effort to assure that the prevailing codes used for the design of precast/prestressed concrete have kept pace with the state-of-the-art.

A joint committee of TAC and Marketing has been proposed to examine codes for competing systems, as well as to recommend an aggressive program relative to codes governing the design of precast and prestressed concrete. The PCI Board has also passed a resolution to provide strong support for ACI Committee 550 in its effort to prepare a new chapter on precast concrete for the ACI Building Code.

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