



# eNewsletter



Fall 2016

November 1, 2016

## OPCA Board

- President  
Tim Gahm
- Vice President  
Dean Wolosiansky
- Secretary/Treasurer  
Julie Stewart
- Producer Trustee  
Lou Richmond
- Trustee at Large  
Jesse Wingert
- Associate Trustee  
Floyd Crooks
- Past President  
Mike Foust

### Coming January, 2017!

## OSHA 10-Hr Class Training Event

OPCA will host the OSHA 10-Hour Class for General Industry on Thursday and Friday, January 26-27, 2017, at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Conference Center in Mansfield, Ohio. This class is essential for anyone who works as a producer or supplier in the precast industry. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive an OSHA 10-Hour Card, which is an indicator to OSHA that you understand the importance of supporting a safety culture in your workplace. It can help you to identify and reduce injury risks, ultimately reducing your Worker's Comp claims. This class is not offered by NPCA, but when completed along with the NPCA 4-Hour Class, it can be submitted for PQS II-Safety Certification.

The OSHA 10-Hour Class will run 9:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m. on Thursday (lunch provided), and 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on Friday (breakfast provided). The curriculum will include lecture, video, interactive Q&A and group work, taught by two instructors. Sam Lines, OPCA Executive Director, will be the lead instructor. Early-Bird prices for the 2-day class will be offered through Monday, December 16, 2016: \$119 for members and \$159 for non-members. Discounted guest rooms will be available Thursday night: \$99 for single and \$109 for double-occupancy. A minimum of 15 registrants will be required to proceed with the class. Watch for official registration materials in your mail soon!

### Save these 2017 Dates!

Jan. 26-27  
OSHA 10-Hour Class  
Mansfield

March 2-4  
OPCA at  
The Precast Show  
Cleveland

March 20-21  
Annual Conference  
Columbus

## OPCA Annual Conference 2017

Mark your calendar for Monday-Tuesday, March 20-21, 2017! Our annual conference will meet again at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Dublin, OH. Our association has reserved the 5,000 square foot ballroom and another classroom to allow for two tracts of educational sessions occurring simultaneously. As with last year, we plan

to offer ODH Continuing Education Units for the courses presented, which provides added value for an exceptionally low cost of attendance. Sponsorships and exhibitors will be needed and welcome again this year. Registration packets will be mailed in January. Hope to see everyone there!

## Membership News

At their annual Fall meeting in September, the OPCA Board of Directors voted unanimously to hold 2017 membership dues at the current rates.  
 Producer Members-\$500;  
 Associate Members-\$300;  
 Professional Members-\$75.

Our membership rates are an exceptional value, compared to other state/regional precast associations.

**Thank you to all our loyal members!** Renewal invoices will be mailed the end of December.

**We're on the web!**  
[www.ohioprecast.org](http://www.ohioprecast.org)

# New Members—Here we Grow Again

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association welcomes another new Associate Member, **EZG Manufacturing**. Located in Malta, Ohio, just west of the Muskingum River, EZG (trade name for EZ Grout Corporation) is a leading equipment manufacturer for the masonry, fencing and construction markets. Specifically for our

industry, they produce the Precast Hog, a delivery system designed for precision placement and flow control. The unit can be customized to suit specific needs, and powered by gas, electric or hydraulic motor. Abigail Sweeney is the their contact, and the website is [www.ezgrout.com](http://www.ezgrout.com).

## Tech Talk - Release Agents: Seasoning by Bob Waterloo

### **SEASONING MY FORMS? WHY?**

Seasoning of metal forms and pipe pallets is often one of the most important aspects that is often overlooked in the precast and pipe industries.

#### **What exactly is seasoning?**

Seasoning is the formation of a metallic oleate on your forms. This metallic oleate will prevent the neutralization of the reactive portion of your release agent. The metallic oleate is formed when the fatty acid in the release agent reacts with the bare metal of the form. The residue this reaction forms fills the microscopic hills and valleys on the form surface with a "wax like" coating. If the form is not seasoned, the chemical reaction of the bare metal and form release will neutralize the fatty acid in the release agent. This in turn leaves little or no fatty acid available to react with the free lime in the concrete to break the bond between the concrete and the form. Using a quality Seasoning Agent will provide enough fatty acid to react with bare metal on the form while having plenty of fatty acid left to react with the free lime in the concrete. This gives a clean release on the first pour.

Consider this analogy:

Fishermen always have a favorite cast metal (iron) frying pan. It is never cleaned with a metal scouring pad. Why? Because the frying pan is "seasoned." If a new frying pan is purchased, the first thing they do is put some lard (an example of a fatty acid) in the pan and "bake" it at a high temperature for a couple of hours. This results in the pan being "seasoned."

This seasoning is also what occurs with your mild steel forms and iron pallets/headers.

Once the form/pallet is seasoning, the reactive portion of the form release is ready to go to work. The reaction of

the (typically) fatty acid and the free lime on the surface of the concrete is a non-violent chemical reaction, known as neutralization or saponification, which results in the formation of a metallic soap. This metallic soap allows easy release of the casting from the form and also helps reduce bug holes by allowing free air to rise more easily on vertical surfaces.

While there are a HUGE number of fatty acids on the market, look for those that are specifically designed for precast and pipe producers to react quickly in forming the metallic oleate. Future applications of high-quality Form Release Agents then give excellent release and leave forms clean. Seasoning is especially important with new forms/pallets after the protective coating (if any) has been removed or worn away. Nothing is more upsetting than seeing sledge hammers used on a new form that is sticking to the casting. One or two applications of a premium Seasoning Agent will season your forms quickly and give easy release and clean your forms.

Welding, sanding, and wire brushing of forms will destroy the metallic oleate. All that is necessary is to re-apply the premium Seasoning Agent to the area in question to re-season the metal.

For additional information, go to the NPCA website and reference "Care and Seasoning of Metal Forms and Rings", *MC (magazine)*, January/February 2007. <http://precast.org/2010/05/care-and-seasoning-of-metal-forms-and-rings/>

Bob Waterloo is the Technical Sales Manager, Concrete Release Agents, Hill and Griffith Company, Indianapolis, IN. [bwaterloo@hillandgriffith.com](mailto:bwaterloo@hillandgriffith.com)

**Attention OPCA Members! Do you have an idea for a Tech-Talk Topic? Please contact us at [info@ohioprecast.org](mailto:info@ohioprecast.org). Articles must be technical in nature and pertinent to the precast industry. Product or brand names must be omitted. Contact information is permitted.**

# The Precast Show is coming to Ohio!



The largest precast-specific Trade Show in North America is coming to the Huntington Convention Center in Cleveland, March 2-4, 2017. The Precast Show is the National Precast Concrete Association's largest annual event, with a host of our industry's suppliers and equipment experts all under one roof.

As an affiliate member of NPCA, Executive Director Sam Lines and Assistant Director Toni Thompson will

represent OPCA at the Affiliates Meeting on Friday, March 3, to learn and share information among peers in the state/regional associations. In addition, we will host a welcome table next to the registration area to greet all Precast Show attendees, including our own OPCA members and our affiliate association representatives in attendance. More information about our participation in the event will be coming in January. Click on the logo above for The Precast Show website.

## More from NPCA

### Did you know?

Since 1989, the NPCA Foundation has provided scholarships to more than 100 students enrolled in civil engineering, architectural and construction-related curricula. Scholarship opportunities are available for

students pursuing degrees related to the precast concrete industry. The NPCAF scholarship deadline is March 20, 2017. If you have questions or would like more information, click [here](#) or contact Marti Harrell, Director of Education and Training and Executive Director of NPCAF at 800-366-7731.

## ***Safety Update*** Elevated Work Practice: *What you need to know*

By Sam Lines

When I was young, I thought I could do about anything and not get hurt. My level of risk was high, and sometimes I did get injured, but because I was young, I healed quickly. Now that I have hit the half century mark, all of the things I did in my youth are catching up to me. Old Arthur is making a home in many of my joints. Maybe if I had not taken so many risks then, I wouldn't hurt as bad now.

Mike was a good worker for Hartford Concrete Products. He started working there right out of high school 20 years ago. Mike has leaped from form to form hundreds if not thousands of times in the two decades. But today was not his lucky day. As he leaped, this time onto the floor, he landed on a piece of concrete debris and fell. Mike broke his hip, and at just 48 years of age, he needed a hip replacement.

Accidents can be life altering as was the case for Mike. Slips, trips, and falls amount to 15% of all fatalities in the workplace. This is second only to motor vehicle accidents. In the factory, fall protection is required when a worker is four feet or more above the floor. In construction, the requirement begins at six feet above the ground. OSHA has comprehensive requirements for providing a safe working environment to prevent falls.



In the precast industry, the top of a form is usually higher than four feet off the floor. Also, setting up finished units such as a septic tank will often place the employee in an environment of being above the maximum permissible height. Every workplace is required to have a Job Safety Analysis (JSA) on hand of the tasks performed in every job category. In this JSA, the risk level and abatement means must be identified. Employers are required to provide a safe and healthy work environment where the 1910 codes for health and safety are the minimum protection.

There are too many situations to address each and every one in this article. It is important that every precast manufacturer have a knowledgeable person on staff to interpret the regulations and create a plan for compliance. Small manufacturers can work with a consultant, and Ohio manufacturers who pay premiums to the Ohio BWC can receive free consultations from them. Attending an OSHA 10-hour safety course is also a valuable benefit (see cover article).

1 <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/walkingworkingsurfaces/>

2 <https://www.osha.gov/stopfalls/index.html>

## Ohio Precast Concrete Association

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## OUR PURPOSE

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association (OPCA) is a group of producer members and associated industries cooperating together as an association. The intent being to bring pertinent issues and information that impact the Precast Concrete Industry, to the attention of government agencies which participate in the origination of these issues.

The OPCA is interested in assisting these agencies by providing expert advice and counsel in the development of regulations involving the industry and the general public.

The OPCA producer and associate members whose products and services range from the construction of buildings and highways to the manufacture of precast concrete products for the treatment of commercial and residential waste water. The OPCA member products and services affect the lives of nearly every Ohioan on a daily basis.

Some specific areas of interest being pursued by the OPCA are as follows:

The introduction of new sewage guidelines relating to the specific construction and operation of home waste water treatment products (septic tanks, aerators, etc.) by the Ohio department of health and the Ohio EPA.

The introduction of programs and policies relating to the testing of materials and products being used on Ohio Department of Transportation projects.

The development of quality control procedures and inspections services training by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association will be expanding its' scope of interest as membership roles grow and diversify. The need for input, regarding issues and regulations which effect the large segment of the public which it serves, comes to the forefront.

# OPCA Member Companies

## PRODUCER MEMBERS

Carey Precast Concrete  
E.C. Babbert, Inc.  
Encore Precast, LLC  
Everly Concrete Products, Inc.  
Forterra Pipe and Precast  
J.K. Precast, LLC  
Lindsay Precast  
Mack Industries  
MW Concrete  
Norwalk Concrete Industries  
Portage Septic Tank  
Premier Precast Products  
Quaker City Septic Tanks, LLC  
Scioto Valley Precast  
Sickels Septic Tanks, Inc.  
Spoerr Precast Concrete, Inc.  
Stiger Precast, Inc.  
Uniontown Septic Tank, Inc.  
United Precast Industries, LLC  
USA Precast Concrete, Ltd.

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A-lok Products, Inc.  
A.L. Patterson, Inc.  
Blackthorn, LLC  
Champion Pump Company  
Concrete Sealants, Inc.  
EJ USA, Inc.  
EMH, Inc.  
Engineered Wire Products, Inc.  
Essroc Cement Co.  
Euclid Chemical  
EZG Manufacturing  
GCP Applied Technologies  
Gotham Staple Co., Inc.  
Haarup North America, Inc.  
Hamilton Kent, LLC  
Hill and Griffith Company  
Infiltrator Systems, Inc.  
Irving Equipment, LLC  
Jet, Inc.

M.A. Industries

Mixer Systems, Inc.

Ohio Electric Control, Inc.

Polylok, Inc. / Zabel Environmental

Premiere Concrete Admixtures, LLC

Press-Seal Corporation

Sika Corporation

St. Mary's Cement

Tuf-Tite, Inc.

W.P. Hilts & Company

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Concrete Engineering Solutions

Delta Engineers

Knight Insurance, Matt Werner