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April 2011

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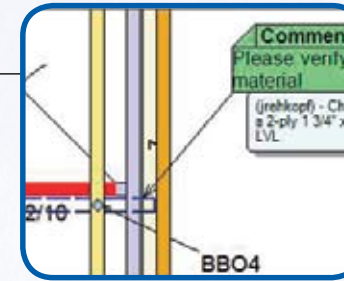
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#### On the Cover:

Special thanks to Dave Mitchell (Engineered Building Design, L.C.) for this stunning shot of the Grand Canyon.

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The mission of *Structural Building Components Magazine (SBC)* is to increase the knowledge of and to promote the common interests of those engaged in manufacturing and distributing structural building components. Further, *SBC* strives to ensure growth, continuity and increased professionalism in our industry, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. *SBC's* editorial focus is geared toward the entire structural building component industry, which includes the membership of the Structural Building Components Association (SBCA). The opinions expressed in *SBC* are those of the authors and those quoted, and are not necessarily the opinions of Truss Publications or SBCA.

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It's easy to show some restraint.



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Simpson Strong-Tie continues to look for ways to simplify the installation of wood and cold-formed steel trusses. Our new line of spacer restraint, diagonal bracing and hip-end purlin connectors are designed to eliminate steps that add time and expense to the job. The adjustable AHEP connector is a structural purlin that also serves as lateral restraint. It attaches at the leading edge of step-down hip trusses and eliminates the need for drop top chords and fillers. The TBD22 diagonal truss brace offers a time-saving alternative to traditional diagonal bracing. The TSBR and S/TSR truss spacer restraints capture the on-center spacing of wood and cold-formed steel truss chords and webs, and laterally restrain truss members, allowing quicker, easier and safer installations.

For more information about these connectors and all of our truss solutions, call (800) 999-5099 or visit [www.strongtie.com/truss](http://www.strongtie.com/truss).



## Editor's Message

### Testing Fosters Sustainability, Collaboration & Risk Management Strategies

by Joe Hikel

SBCRI can help develop sustainable building methods and has risk management benefits.

We are blessed to be involved in an industry that is innovative in nature. We have also invested in a very valuable industry tool that promotes that innovation. It hasn't been long since trusses themselves were a new idea, and the future is bright using technology to solve structural problems in building design for housing in a variety of creative ways. The SBCRI testing facility in Madison is that tool. In the past several years that the facility has been up and running, the staff has become more efficient at producing value-added results for both the industry and its proprietary customers.

The vision SBCA had when the idea of a testing facility was conceived was to leverage the testing results into a better understanding of load paths through structural building components and to use that knowledge to create methods to value engineer structures for our customers. Components have been developed using single element design logic since their beginning in 1952. There is a feeling that the next advancement of our industry will be due to greater understanding of the concepts surrounding system performance and taking advantage of these within component design software for both walls and roofs. One of SBCA's goals in developing SBCRI was the ability to test full scale systems and to use the results to optimize wood fiber and connector plate performance and revise the design requirements accordingly to create greater value in the components we sell. Isn't that the epitome of green? We should develop sustainable best practices for construction that help us use the resources at our disposal the best way we can in order to be good stewards of our environment.

As the facility has evolved, unexpected value has been created in areas we never imagined. An example is the collaboration of our association and our vendors, the lumber producers, on the subject of design values. I recently attended a meeting between component manufacturers, connector plate suppliers, and lumber producers after an issue came up during system testing. It was a very productive meeting that outlined the necessity of the entire supply chain to work together to solve industry challenges. In my 34 years in this industry, that meeting is the first example I know of where representatives of the entire supply chain met to resolve issues as a team.

SBCRI is a great tool to use as part of a risk management strategy as well. There have been several lawsuits defended using the facility to replicate failures that have occurred in the field, saving component manufacturers substantial claims in product liability and construction defect cases. You can read about one of these examples on page 16. Most of us don't think about these situations until they happen. It is great to have the peace of mind that there is a support system in place for us in a time that could cost us our companies if the wrong outcome occurs.

Last but not least, the facility can be used by individual companies on a proprietary basis to develop new products to keep all of us at the forefront of providing value to our customers. We need the ability to leverage our manufacturing expertise and harness our creative ideas to provide structural solutions that do not exist today. Testing the assumptions we make as new product developers is an essential strategy in the rapid advancement of our industry. New products bring differentiation and give our businesses the ability to add value and decommo-ditize our business models.

Continued on page 8

#### at a glance

- ❑ SBCA's vision for a testing facility is to create new methods to value engineer structures.
- ❑ Finding out about load paths through building components has been the focus of SBCRI's work.
- ❑ The ability to do forensic testing in SBCRI is a useful risk management strategy.



# BCMC Build Kicks Off Fundraising Campaign

The BCMC Build Committee fundraising campaign for the September event is underway! This year, we will partner with Habitat for Humanity Indianapolis to give two Indianapolis families the dream of homeownership. The Committee is currently working with Habitat to confirm construction plans and site selection.

Fundraising Chair Jay Halteman said, "Far from a catch phrase, Building the American Dream is our passion and livelihood. This year in Indianapolis we look forward to greater opportunities for the components community to donate in the form of time, money and materials and at a level that is suitable for companies large and small."

There are four sponsorship levels: Hero (\$5,000), Partner (\$2,500), Friend (\$1,500) and Supporter (up to \$1,000). Sponsors at each level will enjoy a variety of promotional opportunities.

Hero and Partner level sponsors (\$5,000 and \$2,500 respectively) who donate by April 30 get first choice of an in-kind material donation. For more information about the perks available for Hero, Partner, Friend and Supporter sponsors, visit [bcmcbuild.com/donate](http://bcmcbuild.com/donate). The online contribution form is up and ready!

The Committee is also planning some special fundraisers during BCMC week, September 19-23. Stay tuned at [bcmcbuild.com](http://bcmcbuild.com) for announcements!

Contact Trish (tkutz@qualtim.com) with any questions about donations. **SBC**

## Editor's Message

Continued from page 7

We develop technological solutions for structural problems using sustainable, renewable resources to provide shelter. SBCRI is a powerful tool in bringing our new product solutions to market. I can't think of a business I would rather be in. I wish everyone a prosperous building season. **SBC**

*SBC Magazine encourages the participation of its readers in developing content for future issues. Email your thoughts and ideas to [editor@sbcimag.info](mailto:editor@sbcimag.info).*

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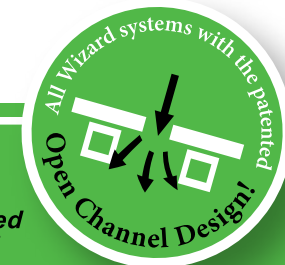
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### Contractors' common truss installation questions

Whether it is new appliances or structural building components, installations can be confusing. The following questions are from building officials or contractors regarding truss installations. As you can tell from the responses, most answers can be found in *BCSI: Guide to Good Practice for Handling, Installing, Restraining & Bracing of Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses*.<sup>1</sup> *BCSI* is the guide that provides the installation instructions for structural building components and is available in an all-inclusive booklet or in individually summarized sheets.

**Question:** As a carpenter for many years I have noticed homes built with trusses are not properly braced while they are being installed (in my opinion). How do carpenters know how to install trusses safely? Is there a guideline to follow? What about guidelines for steel trusses?

**Answer:** Yes, there is a lot of useful information framers and carpenters can use to install trusses safely. SBCA, along with the Truss Plate Institute (the association representing metal connector plate manufacturers), saw the need to format the temporary bracing requirements of metal plate connected wood trusses into a digestible resource for contractors (and home owners)—the *BCSI* book was the answer.

BCSI aims to present bracing guidelines in a clear and concise manner with as few words and as many color-coded graphics as possible. The topical *BCSI* Summary Sheets were created to provide another avenue to get installation material distributed to a larger audience. The industry also provides a specific bracing guide for cold-formed steel trusses—*CFSBCSI*.<sup>2</sup> Both *BCSI* and *CFSBCSI* are or will be referenced in the International Codes.<sup>3</sup>

SBCA has also created the Tech Note<sup>4</sup> “What Should Constitute a Truss Submittal Package?”<sup>5</sup> with information component manufacturers should provide with every truss delivery. Many SBCA members provide a JOBSITE PACKAGE<sup>6</sup> that includes many of the *BCSI* Summary Sheets with every single job they ship.

As stated in the Tech Note, the standard JOBSITE PACKAGE is a tool that helps component manufacturers assist contractors in understanding *ANSI/TPI 1-2007* and building code requirements, and provides the contractor with important standardized installation and safety information with every jobsite delivery. This consists of the following documents in a zippered plastic bag:

- Information for Framers insert
- Cover Sheet: English/Spanish warnings on the front and some of the *ANSI/TPI 1-2007* design responsibilities on the back.
- TTB Checklist for Handling and Installing
- Four *BCSI* Summary Sheets:
  - *BCSI-B1*: Guide for Handling, Installing, Restraint & Bracing of Trusses
  - *BCSI-B2*: Truss Installation & Temporary Restraint/Bracing
  - *BCSI-B3*: Web Member Permanent Bracing/Web Reinforcement
  - *BCSI-B4*: Construction Loading

The documents emphasize a consistent message: Proper truss handling, installing, restraining, and bracing are crucial for consistent jobsite safety and acceptable structural performance. In the future, the industry is committed to making *BCSI* guidelines more effi-

by Ryan J. Dexter, P.E.

cient by testing at the Structural Building Components Research Institute (SBCRI).<sup>7</sup> Our goal is to find ways to design bracing so that much of the temporary bracing required to install trusses safely can be used as permanent bracing. This will allow bracing to be installed only once, minimizing cost and material use. We are hopefully that it will also enhance performance reliability.

**Question:** Are there any installation tolerances for where trusses should be set?

**Answer:** Yes, these are found in *BCSI*. B1 states:

The spacing of Trusses along bearing support must be within +/- 1/4" of plan dimension. Field conditions that force spacing beyond this tolerance shall be reviewed and approved by the Building Designer and Truss Designer.

This tolerance is a one size fits all tolerance. As such the focal point is on installing the trusses at their designed on center spacing. Most roof trusses are designed at 24" on center while floors are usually designed at 19.2" or 24" on center. Check the truss placement diagram for the assumed location of each truss; there may be additional positioning tolerance for some trusses.

If you cannot install the trusses within the small “one-size-fits-all” tolerance of 1/4", you should check with your component manufacturer. Many times, the truss can be shifted without the need to repair it, but you should always have the component manufacturer check the design to see if this is possible. **SBC**

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## Exhibitor Tasks for April:

- ✓ Reserve booth space by May 1, the Early Bird deadline to save!
- ✓ Plan the topic for a session in your booth to educate a captive audience.
- ✓ Have your customers mark their calendars.



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<sup>1</sup> [www.sbcindustry.com/bcsi.php](http://www.sbcindustry.com/bcsi.php)

<sup>2</sup> [www.cfsc.sbcindustry.com/cfsbcsi.php](http://www.cfsc.sbcindustry.com/cfsbcsi.php)

<sup>3</sup> *BCSI* is referenced in the 2006, 2009, and 2012 IRC and *CFSBCSI* will be referenced in the 2012 IRC.

<sup>4</sup> The goal of SBCA Tech Notes is to clarify code issues and help educate the marketplace for component manufacturers: [www.sbcindustry.com/technotes.php](http://www.sbcindustry.com/technotes.php).

<sup>5</sup> [www.sbcindustry.com/TrussSubmittalPkg.pdf](http://www.sbcindustry.com/TrussSubmittalPkg.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [www.sbcindustry.com/jobsite.php](http://www.sbcindustry.com/jobsite.php)

<sup>7</sup> [www.sbcricri.info](http://www.sbcricri.info)

### at a glance

- Sending a Jobsite Package with each truss delivery is a good way to share safe installation and bracing recommendations with framers.
- In the near future, SBCA is committed using SBCRI testing to optimize *BCSI* guidelines.
- We hope to change bracing design by combining temporary and permanent bracing into one step.
- Information about installation tolerances can be found in the B1 Summary Sheet.



# Business Connection Made Through SBCA Spurs Grand Canyon Hike

by Libby Maurer

“When you see it in person, there’s so much more depth to it than you can ever imagine from seeing pictures.”

—Jess Lohse

group 6



“Group 6” is one of seven Business Solutions Groups that meet monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly via SBC Connection. Component manufacturers who are interested in joining a group fill out a short questionnaire to get started. Groups are organized by interest areas and geographic location to make sure there are no competitors. Each group decides when and how often they will meet, what topics they want to discuss, etc. Meetings can touch on a wide range of issues, such as raw material costs and buying practices, economic conditions and expectations for market growth, health care and benefits, production and sales training, typical design take-offs, business management best practices and building codes to name a few.

Interested in joining? Contact Anna (astamm@qualtim.com or 608/310-6719) or visit [sbcindustry.com/bsg](http://sbcindustry.com/bsg).

**W**hen Gary Weaver, Dave Mitchell and Jess Lohse were on their Business Solutions Group (BSG) teleconference in January, they thought they’d be talking about usual topics like tracking leads and expectations for market growth. By the end of the call, they were talking about hiking the Grand Canyon—together.

Gary (Timber Tech Texas, Inc.), an avid Grand Canyon hiker, had arranged a similar hike after BCMC 2009. Incidentally, Gary and his fellow BSG members first met in person during that show in Phoenix, too. “We’d talked twice by phone, and we wanted to put a name with a voice,” he said. He refers to them as Group 6 because they were the sixth SBCA group to form. “We met at the SBCA booth, and Gary invited us to join his hiking group the next day. I couldn’t go because I had a plane to catch,” said Dave (Engineered Building Design, L.C.). Jess didn’t go either. “But I’ve been kicking myself ever since,” he said. Gary promised them that the next time an SBCA meeting was scheduled in Phoenix, he’d organize another hike.



Jess Lohse, Dave Mitchell and Gary Weaver stop to take in the view at Skeleton Point on their way down South Kaibab Trail.

A year-and-a-half later, near the end of the group’s January phone meeting, Jess asked if anyone was attending the OQM in Phoenix. It just so happened Gary was not only attending the meeting, but also in the process of organizing another hike! Dave and Jess were both very interested in joining him. “I immediately thought it would be a great chance to get to know each other better,” said Jess (Rocky Mountain Truss Co.). Unfortunately, two other members of Group 6, Mike Ruede (A-1 Roof Trusses) and Craig Anderson (Trussworthy Components, Inc.), weren’t able to join them. When Gary extended the invite to the rest of the SBCA membership, Carl Schoening (Eagle Metal Products) decided to come along as well.

They began on South Kaibab Trail on the south ridge of the Canyon at 5:30 a.m. on Monday morning, February 21. The temperature was about 10 degrees; it was a rare, windless day. They used head lamps to see the snow-covered trail until dawn broke near 7:00 a.m. Dave remembers they were the first group on the trail that morning, and within three miles the snow began

to melt. Throughout the day, the hikers encountered snow, ice and mud on the trail as the temperature warmed to about 55 degrees toward the bottom of the Canyon and then back down into the 20s at the top. Once they reached the bottom of the Canyon, they took a lunch break and followed

Continued on page 14

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Carl nearing the bottom. The hikers experienced a 40° temperature difference from the top to the bottom of the Canyon.

### Business Connection Made Through SBCA Spurs Hike

Continued from page 13

Bright Angel Trail back up to the top. "It was very strange to start in the snow, go down to where there's no snow and then back up to snow," said Dave. He and Jess emerged at around 4:30 p.m., then Carl at 5:30 p.m. and finally Gary at 7:00 p.m. after hiking a total of 16 miles.

Just how boundless is 16 miles at a 20-degree slope? Imagine stacking the stairs of five World Trade Center towers together, and then climbing them down and up again in the same day. "When you see it in person, there's so much more depth to it than you can ever imagine from seeing pictures," Jess said. Although he, Dave and Carl had never done a challenging hike before, Gary was blown away by their strength.

Although they operate in three very different markets, these BSG Group 6 members are committed to maintaining the relationships they've developed through SBCA. In

fact, coming from three different states is an advantage according to Jess. "The competitive tension that can sometimes be present at chapter meetings is gone. We can talk more specifically about business issues without being guarded." One of the topics he's found most useful is comparing material buying practices.

Gary pointed out that while some of what they discuss may seem like small issues, they make a big difference in an operation. "One of our recent topics was how many different connector plate sizes to stock. Seems small, but it really helped me out."

Commiserating about how to handle the challenges of a down market is another big bonus of participating. "We've all had to make cutbacks and tough management decisions; there's comfort in knowing that others are doing the same things," Gary said.

Jess said he learned early on in his life that shared adversity creates a bond, which is how he describes the camaraderie he feels with members of BSG Group 6.

Although the beauty of their surroundings and physical challenge of the hike took most of their attention, they discussed a bit of business here and there. "I was pretty overwhelmed by the view and scenery. It was hard to focus on business," said Jess.

Gary said he's been in the industry long enough to know that simply getting to know other business owners helps him. "Some people bond on the golf course—I've seen that at the TMAT [Texas Chapter] meetings. Others bond over a meal. In this case, preparing for the hike and going on this adventure together bonded us."

Their experience shows that the work of furthering the industry or improving your business doesn't always happen inside a meeting room. Sometimes the most important work is done on the trail. **SBC**

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# CM Found Not at Fault in Negligence Case



Top chord lateral restraint is visible in the photos above.

## SBCRI Provides Testing Services to Disprove Product Defect Claims

by Kirk Grundahl, P.E. & Libby Maurer

*Without the ability to perform proprietary testing in SBCRI, the outcome of this case could have been much different.*

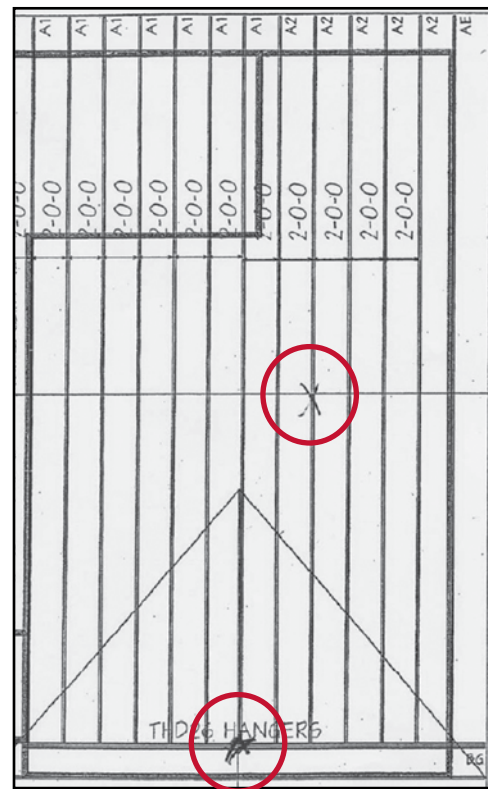
**T**russ collapses and the accidents that result from them can be devastating. When a case goes into litigation, proving negligence can become a matter of one expert opinion versus an opposing expert opinion. Thankfully, modern science and technology help us generate data to make compelling cases to either prove or disprove allegations in a court of law. In the same way the medical field uses DNA testing, the building industry now has SBCRI to provide facts to determine what really took place in the event of a product claim against structural building components or relating to frame construction of a particular project. This very real case demonstrates SBCRI's power and effectiveness.

### The Accident

A three-man framing crew was setting roof trusses at the jobsite of a new single family home in the Midwest. One man was nailing in top chord lateral restraint near the ridge of a truss, while the other two men end-nailed the truss to the wall on one end and the girder truss on the other end, while also walking on the bottom chord to install top chord lateral restraint. While the men moved to the next truss in the sequence, truss "A2" fell and the worker on the ridge also fell roughly 20' to the concrete garage floor below. He died on impact.

### Additional relevant facts:

- The truss system was braced better than most (see bracing in photos above).
- Hangers were not used to attach the common trusses to the girder truss spanning the garage walls. Three 16d nails were used to attach each carried truss over the garage to the girder.
- The trusses were built with #2 Southern Pine chords. Truss A2 fell to the concrete floor and broke at two visible knots along the bottom chord.
- Worker 1, positioned at the truss ridge, weighed approximately 240 lbs.
- The truss manufacturer provided an SBCA jobsite package with the truss delivery.
- The BCSI documents delivered in the jobsite package state on several occasions that appropriate hangers should be used in accordance with the truss manufacturer's instructions prior to truss installation. (See sidebar for specific language.)



Worker 1 was positioned at the ridge of the truss (top circle in red). Worker 2 (lower circle in red) was installing carried trusses with 3-16d nails through the single ply girder bottom chord. (It was intended to be a 2-ply girder, and the second ply was going to be added later.) When truss A2 fell straight down to the ground, Worker 1 fell with it and died.

## Warning Language Found in BCSI

The fact that Heartland sent an SBCA Jobsite Package with its truss delivery was critical in this case. SBCA recommends that component manufacturers send—at minimum—a standard SBCA jobsite package with each delivery. It contains these BCSI documents: Jobsite Package Cover Sheet, Checklist for Handling & Installing Trusses, BCSI-B1, BCSI-B2, BCSI-B3 and BCSI-B4. Among other important safety warnings, they contain language informing the framer to be certain that hangers are properly installed before installing the trusses, including:

- "Refer to the Construction Documents or the Truss Placement Diagram (if/when required by Contract) for the hanger locations. Hangers shall be correctly attached. Refer to hanger manufacturer's specifications for installation information."
- "All anchors, hangers, tie-downs, and bearing ledgers that are part of the supporting structure shall be accurately and properly placed and permanently attached before Truss erection, installation begins. Properly connect the Truss to each support."
- "Warning! The structure is not structurally sound, stable or safe until all the hardware, restraints and Bracing are properly installed."
- "Are all required hangers, angle clips, tie-downs, and restraint/bracing materials onsite and located where they will be readily accessible when needed? Obtain all materials or parts prior to starting the Truss erection process. Do not attempt to 'make do' without all required materials. Jobsite safety has no room for shortcuts."

## The Suit Against Heartland

The victim's wife and family sued Heartland Wood Products, the truss manufacturer, for negligence. The victim worked for his father's construction company and was also framing his own new house at the time of the accident.

The Plaintiffs alleged that the truss that failed was "in a defective condition [and] unreasonably dangerous when put to a reasonably anticipated use at the time it was designed, manufactured, sold and distributed by [Heartland]." In addition, the Plaintiff alleged that the truss was not designed or manufactured with adequate strength, and that Heartland failed to properly inspect it before use.

The Plaintiff also sued Heartland for product defect, claiming that the roof truss was "defective and [in an] unreasonably dangerous condition in that it did not have adequate strength for its reasonable foreseeable use due to the excessive amount and size of knots in the wood." They alleged that the truss failed because the knots along the bottom chord (see photo below) weakened the truss, broke and caused the truss to fall to the ground.

The Plaintiff sought damages exceeding \$2 million.

Continued on page 18

Below: Truss A2 cracked in the bottom chord. The Plaintiff's expert alleged a knot in the same location broke and caused the collapse.



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Jobsite photo shows spot where truss pulled away from nails and fell away from the girder truss. SBCRI's challenge was to construct a set-up that precisely replicated the jobsite conditions and what was the likely occurrence and result.

### CM Found Not at Fault in Negligence Case

Continued from page 17

Defendant Heartland Wood Products sought SBCRI's testing services to define the facts of the case: 1) The truss falling in the manner that it did, straight down to the ground, was not a typical truss falling mode during the installation process, and 2) even if the bottom chord broke at a knot, as alleged by the Plaintiff, the truss would not fall in the manner that it did.

Based on knowledge of structural engineering and pictures Robert MacGillivray (President of Heartland) took at the jobsite after the accident, he knew the Plaintiff's allegations could not be correct. The challenge, however, was providing definitive proof that would convince a jury.

Having owned Heartland since 1993, MacGillivray has sent a Jobsite Package with every truss order. "I saw a near-collapse in a horse barn once [before I owned a truss company]. The trusses had not been braced properly. I wondered if the truss supplier had protected itself by providing proper safety guidelines. I've never forgotten it," he said. The experience made such an impression on him that he insisted on protecting his own company. "People tend to think this will NEVER happen to them, but that's the reason it's so important. It can happen and you better be protected when it does." He knew that being able to prove the framing company had received a Jobsite Package was one of the keys to convincing the jury his company was not negligent.

Certain that his company was not liable for the accident and that it protected itself with a Jobsite Package, MacGillivray was not afraid to go to trial. In fact, he welcomed it. "I'm a firm believer that the truss industry has good documentation and I felt like we ought to stand behind it. I knew we didn't do anything wrong. I knew we were going to be absolved of any wrong doing."



The A2 truss that broke in the field

### SBCRI Test Plan

To disprove the negligence claim, SBCRI defined a test plan to determine the likelihood of an accident if trusses were installed in accordance with standard industry practice as outlined in BCSI. The goal was to create an exact replica of the jobsite scene in the lab.

The roof system was assembled with the three truss types in the home. The one girder truss (BG) 24'-4" long with a 8-12 pitch was set first and properly braced (in accordance with standard industry practice) to the ground.

Next, seven 3-point bearing common trusses (A1) 39'-1/2" long with a 7-12 pitch and three 2-point bearing common trusses (A2) 39'-1/2" long with a 7-12 pitch were set and properly restrained. (See photos above.)

SBCRI performed three tests to single out the cause of the failure and to demonstrate what happens when the common trusses were secured with hangers to the girder truss as intended. Each test was filmed so that the results could be shown to the jury.

Continued on page 20

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## CM Found Not at Fault in Negligence Case

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### Test 1:

This was an exact replication of the conditions in the field. The second A2 common truss was end nailed into a girder and was not secured with a hanger. SBCRI used three lab staff to simulate the actual worker loads that were applied in the field to recreate the jobsite scene.



SBCRI lab staff members were used to simulate loads on A2.

During the test, the truss fell straight down from the girder truss. It was then clear exactly what had happened on the jobsite—the wood at the heel of the truss had split due to nail edge distance, and then pulled away from the 3-16d girder nails. The truss failed just like it failed in the field. The test showed that the failure occurred because of the missing hanger that should have been used to attach A2 to the girder.



A2 fails when the truss pulls out from the two end nails girder during Test 1. No hanger is present. Compare to jobsite failure in photo below.



Damage to the actual truss on the jobsite. It shows splitting at the end of the bottom chord.

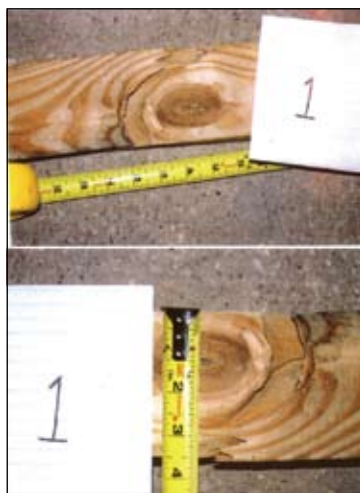


The end of truss A2 used in SBCRI shows splitting.

### Test 2:

The goal of the second test was to show that if the trusses had been installed properly—with hangers installed before end-nailing the trusses to the girder—there was no possible way A2 could have fallen as a result of a lumber knot or two breaking in the bottom chord. The Plaintiffs brought in an expert to give testimony in support of the evidence.

The expert testified that “a combination of the knot and the cross-grain in and around the knot contributed to the cause of truss failure.” He said that had the bottom chord been constructed from a piece of wood without cross-grain and without strength reducing characteristics, the truss would not have failed. He also believed the bottom chord failed first and then initiated the full failure.



Photos of expert witness exhibits submitted as evidence during the trial.

To disprove the expert’s testimony, the bottom chord of A2 went through a series of “modifications” at two different locations in the bottom chord, each representing a knot in the original truss.

First, the trusses were properly installed and braced per BCSI.



Next, three men were positioned at the top of the truss (as shown in photo above), representing three times the load at the peak of the truss on the jobsite. Two additional men stood on each bearing end of the truss. This is where they stood on the jobsite when installing temporary bracing. With the load of five men on the truss, it did not fail.



Then to simulate the broken knot area, a hole was cut in the bottom chord of A2. The same five men climbed onto the truss. No failure.

Then a cut was made through the bottom chord of the first “knot” and loaded with five men. No failure.

Finally, the bottom chord was cut all the way through at the “knot.” Again, the truss did not fail.

The process of creating a hole, making cuts straight through the chord, and loading the truss with five men was repeated to simulate the second knot in the bottom chord. As with the previous set of tests, the truss did not fail. In each of the cases, the truss never failed to support the load that was applied to it.

### Tests & Jobsite Package Hold Up in Court

Heartland’s attorneys presented video and pictures from the SBCRI tests to the jury. The clear visuals from the tests and the summarized results created a very real-life picture of how the accident on the jobsite occurred.

In his testimony, the Plaintiff (owner of the framing company) acknowledged having received the SBCA Jobsite Package. In fact, he noted he’d seen it on other Heartland jobs too. “I wasn’t surprised. There was no way he could deny it,” MacGillivray said.

The jury deliberated for less than 40 minutes before reaching their verdict: 11 to 1 in favor of Heartland. “Our duty to inform is paramount in this industry,” said MacGillivray. “This and SBCRI testing quite frankly saved my company in this case. Both were crucial elements in allowing the facts to speak clearly for us in this case.” They found the Plaintiff and the Deceased each 50% at fault.

MacGillivray hopes component manufacturers will learn from his experience. “SBCA has done a very thorough job in describing the recommended safety practices. We need to use the tools available to us. It’s tragic that a man died on this job. There’s no doubt in my mind he would still be alive today had the crew followed the recommendations in BCSI and common sense carried truss/girder framing practices.” **SBC**



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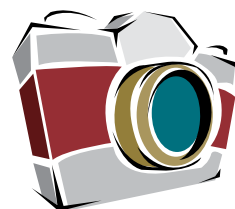
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The ground may be frozen solid and covered with a blanket of snow, but that hasn't slowed the structural building component manufacturers in Iowa. The Iowa Truss Manufacturers Association (ITMA) held their annual Legislative Breakfast in the state capitol building in Des Moines last month. They spoke with their state lawmakers about issues ranging from construction lien laws to licensing requirements for plumbers, electricians, and home inspectors.

ITMA has also been fighting a new building code provision being proposed in Iowa City. Based on a change included in the 2012 IRC model code, it would require gypsum to be installed in certain light-weight floor construction. The most significant concern with this provision is that it includes an exception for floor joists consisting of nominal dimensional lumber measuring 2 inches by 10 inches or greater. In cooperation with SBCA, ITMA President David Mitchell led the chapter to create a coalition of stakeholders to fight the inclusion of this provision. SBCA has drafted a series of documents outlining the industry's concerns regarding the gypsum requirement in the 2012 IRC model code. To view them, go to [sbccindustry.com/fireinsights.php](http://sbccindustry.com/fireinsights.php). **SBC**



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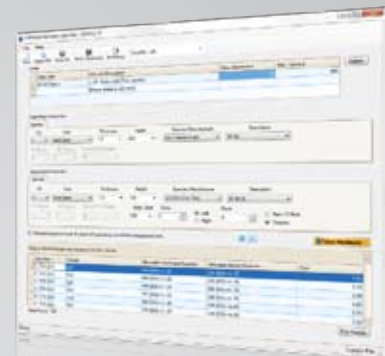
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