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President's Page

MARK DESCHEPPER
CSDA President

As we move into the spring of 2026, it's an exciting time for the Concrete Sawing and Drilling Association. Our industry continues to evolve, and with that evolution comes new opportunities for CSDA to strengthen the support we provide to our members.

One of the most important developments this year is the addition of our new Executive Director, **Georgia Foley**. On behalf of the Board and our entire membership, I want to extend a warm welcome to Georgia as she steps into this role.

Many in our industry may recognize Georgia from her time as Executive Director of the Specialty Tools & Fasteners Distributors Association (STAFDA). Her experience leading a successful industry association and working closely with contractors, manufacturers, and distributors across the construction supply chain brings valuable perspective to CSDA. That background will also help our management company, **Frontline**, as we work together to implement several initiatives designed to strengthen and expand the value of CSDA membership.

A key focus for 2026 will be continuing to build on the benefits available to our members. CSDA has long been recognized for its commitment to safety, standards, and professional development, and we want to ensure that membership continues to provide practical value to companies across the industry.

Another priority will be improving access to CSDA's training and education resources. Our training materials and certification programs remain one of the association's greatest strengths. As we move forward, we are exploring ways to make more of that content accessible through improved online platforms, giving members and their teams greater flexibility to engage with training and reinforce the standards that define our industry.

These efforts are intended to complement—not replace—the hands-on instruction and in-person connections that make CSDA events so valuable. By combining traditional training with more accessible digital resources, we can better support our members while helping introduce the next generation of professionals to the industry.

With Georgia's leadership, the support of Frontline, and the continued involvement of our members, I am confident that CSDA will continue to grow and deliver meaningful value to our community.

Thank you for your continued support of the association.

Warm regards,
Mark DeSchepper

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HOLES INCORPORATED: SETTING THE BAR FOR PRECISION AND SAFETY ON THE IAH TERMINAL B UNITED CLUB PROJECT

Technical Excellence for a High-Profile, Large-Scale Airport Project

Holes Incorporated took on a demanding and wide-ranging scope for the IAH Terminal B United Club project. Tasked with concrete scanning, coring, sawing, and pour-back across a massive 54,000 square feet of mezzanine-level space, the company responded with the expertise and coordination required for such a high-visibility project. As United's largest club to date—set to open in fall 2026—this undertaking demanded not only technical skill but also careful collaboration among multiple trades and precise management of site logistics. Holes Incorporated's ability to maintain progress while upholding strict safety standards in a dynamic environment was pivotal to the project's overall success.

The work site featured extensive glass installations, tight working conditions, and active construction zones with high traffic, requiring heightened awareness from all crews. Within this environment, Holes Incorporated performed GPR scanning at 960 locations, cored more than 1,000 holes for MEP contractors and beverage lines, executed saw cuts for plumbing trough drains, and managed major pour-back operations for 529 counter sinks and floor drains. The scope also included constructing eleven transformer pads and five large reverse osmosis system pads, each requiring specialized attention to detail and quality, all within a schedule that began with the club's closure in January 2025 and is set to conclude with its reopening in fall 2026.

Demolition Methods and Safety Leadership

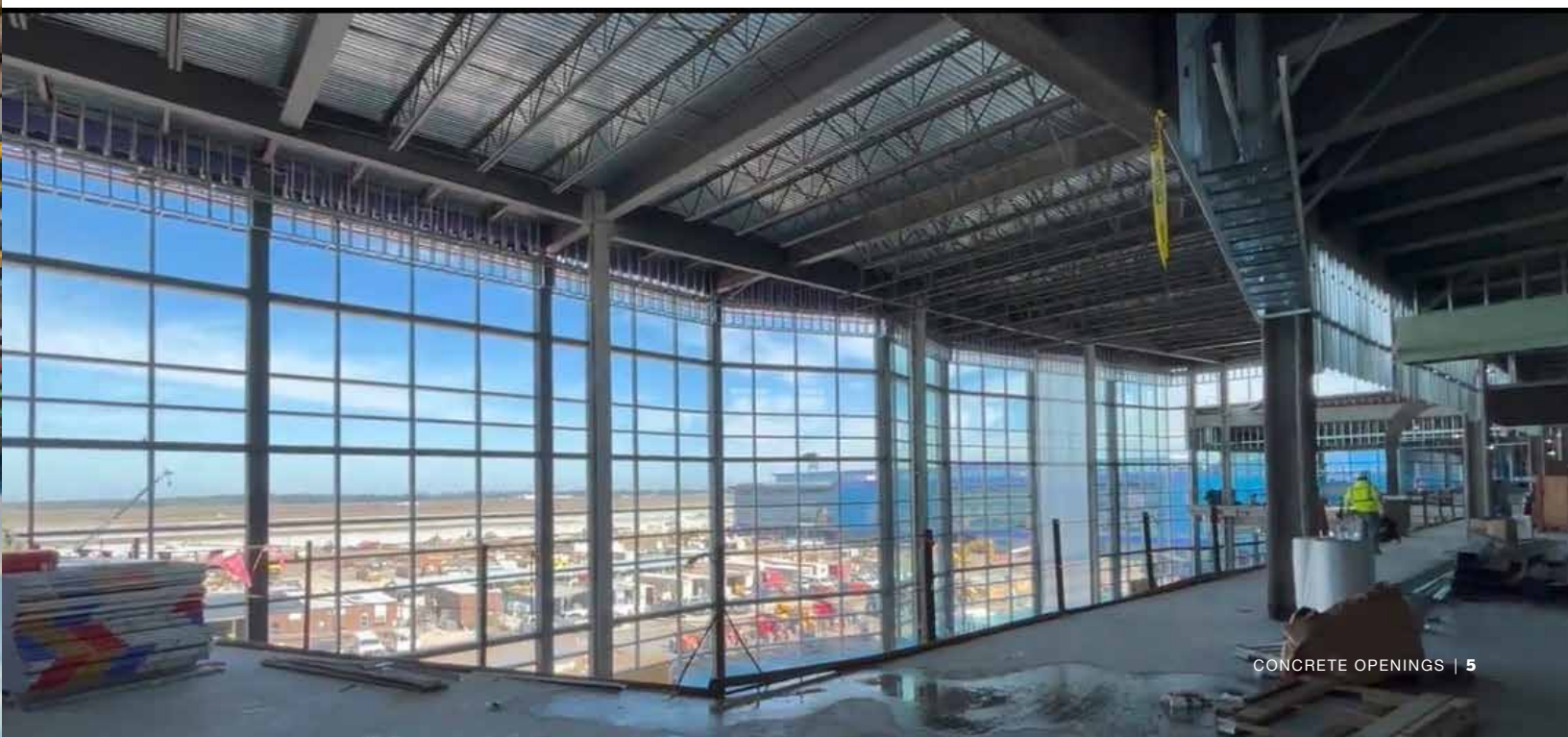
Holes Incorporated deployed advanced Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) scanning technology to thoroughly map over 960 locations before beginning coring and saw cutting activities. This careful mapping was crucial for minimizing the risk of striking embedded utilities or compromising structural integrity. By investing in detailed pre-demolition scans, Holes ensured that their demolition process would be safe and error-free, particularly for all mechanical, electrical, plumbing (MEP), and food service line penetrations. This technical process also provided project partners with highly accurate data and layout, supporting seamless integration of new systems, and minimizing potential disruptions.

More than 1,000 holes ranging from 3 to 20 inches in diameter were cored for MEP and beverage systems. Holes Incorporated adhered to strict slurry and dust containment protocols, which were especially critical given the presence of terrazzo flooring and active work zones below. The containment measures prevented dropped cores and contamination— a critical requirement in a setting where cleanliness and safety could not be compromised. These practices showcased Holes Incorporated's dedication not only to technical accuracy but also to maintaining a safe and clean environment throughout construction.

Saw cutting and chipping operations were carried out for plumbing trough drains, with crews chipping down to the pan decking as required. These troughs, typically 4 to 5 feet long and 2 feet wide, demanded precision and care. The pour-back process restored the structural integrity of the floors, accommodating 529 counter sinks, floor drains, and sleeved lines. This ensured that the finished space was not only functional but also safe for future occupants and workers.

The project also included forming and pouring 11 transformer foundations, each ranging from 4 x 4 feet to 5 x 4 feet, with a slab thickness of 6 inches. Additionally, Holes Incorporated constructed a reinforced concrete pad for the Reverse Osmosis system, measuring 14 feet long by 4 to 6 feet wide by 5 inches thick. These specialized pads were essential for supporting heavy equipment and maintaining operational reliability in the new club.

In constructing these specialized pads for heavy equipment—including transformer and Reverse Osmosis system pads—



Holes Incorporated demonstrated their ability to meet precise dimensional requirements and uphold stringent quality standards. Their attention to detail and commitment to durability ensured that the infrastructure was built to last, supporting the critical systems of the United Club.

Overcoming Challenges with Safety as the Priority

The project posed numerous challenges, including congested work areas, single-point access via buck hoist, offsite parking, coordination among multiple trades, and the necessity for slurry containment. Holes Incorporated tackled these obstacles with proactive safety measures and strategic planning. OSHA-compliant hole covers were installed at every opening to prevent accidents, and robust communication protocols ensured all subcontractors stayed informed and aware of potential hazards. This approach reduced risks in complex, multi-level work zones and fostered a culture of safety.

Furthermore, the project team encountered a continuous requirement for adaptive solutions, as revised specifications and updated industry standards were introduced throughout construction. Holes Incorporated's flexibility and rapid response to evolving project requirements played a vital role in maintaining compliance and upholding the highest safety and quality benchmarks. Their ability to adapt to changing conditions ensured that construction continued smoothly, even when faced with unforeseen challenges or updates.

In summary, Holes Incorporated's strong commitment to technical excellence, safety, and collaboration was central to the success of the IAH Terminal B United Club project. Their ability to navigate the unique demands of a high-profile airport environment—delivering precise demolition, concrete modification, and specialized construction under challenging site conditions—sets a new standard for the industry. Through proactive planning, advanced technology, and a relentless focus on safety, Holes Incorporated not only met but exceeded expectations, ensuring the project's progress and establishing themselves as a trusted partner for complex, large-scale commercial initiatives such as the IAH Terminal B United Club.

The company's legacy of reliability and innovation continues to grow, propelled by their willingness to embrace new technologies and adapt to evolving industry standards. At IAH Terminal B, their involvement was not merely technical—it was transformative. Holes Incorporated's approach to safety, from OSHA-compliant covers to rigorous communication, was integral to the well-being of every worker onsite. Their technical expertise, demonstrated through advanced GPR scanning and precise coring, safeguarded the structure and

utilities, supporting the installation of critical systems for United's newest and largest club.

Moving forward, Holes Incorporated remains committed to delivering excellence on every project, large or small. Their work at the United Club stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a company prioritizes safety, precision, and teamwork. As airports and commercial facilities continue to demand higher standards and more complex solutions, Holes Incorporated is ready to meet those challenges head-on, providing the expertise and dedication needed to ensure successful outcomes.

The IAH Terminal B United Club project not only showcased their technical abilities but also highlighted the importance of collaboration and adaptability. By working closely with general contractors, MEP teams, and other stakeholders, Holes Incorporated ensured that every phase of the project was completed safely, efficiently, and in accordance with the highest industry standards. This spirit of partnership and mutual respect is a hallmark of their approach and a key reason why they are trusted for critical, high-profile jobs across the region.

Ultimately, the successful completion of this project reflects Holes Incorporated's role as an industry leader, setting the bar for precision and safety in concrete demolition and modification. Their legacy will continue to influence future projects, inspiring teams to aim higher and build safer, more reliable structures for years to come.

COMPANY PROFILE

Since 1972, Holes Incorporated has been providing customers with state-of-the-art concrete cutting, sawing, drilling, scanning, lift out, load and haul, and pour back services. Working on some of the most complex projects in the nation and internationally, Holes Incorporated delivers work ethically, safely and cost-effectively to their clients. Our team of 70 employees can be found throughout our three branch locations (Houston, Beaumont, and Corpus Christi). Holes Incorporated has been a member of CSDA since 1979. Holes was awarded the 2025 ASA Subcontractor of the Year and is also an ABC Eagle Recipient and Top Performer.

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GEORGIA FOLEY
CSDA Executive Director

Hello *Concrete Openings* readers!

It is a pleasure to be CSDA's new Executive Director! I joined CSDA and the Frontline team on January 1, but I'm no stranger to our industry and CSDA. Since 2000, I've been the CEO of the Specialty Tools & Fasteners Distributors Association (STAFDA). It is an international association of wholesale distributors, manufacturers, and independent rep agents serving the light construction/industrial channel. STAFDA has 35 different product categories ranging from hand tools to safety, power tools to generators, and abrasives to diamond blades. Any type of product used on a job site, STAFDA distributors sell.

STAFDA and CSDA have long operated in parallel lanes, with several manufacturers active in both associations. Over the years, I've built relationships with many industry leaders and had the opportunity to discuss the same challenges many of you face — including generational transitions in family-owned businesses.

What makes CSDA and STAFDA so unique is the entrepreneurial spirit of family-owned business owners! People who genuinely care about their employees, personalized customer service (and going the extra mile), along with the constant desire to expand and grow their business. It's the ability to be nimble and react to situations by quickly addressing them that makes independent businesses thrive.

However, in recent years, private equity money, countless mergers & acquisitions, and a steady stream of retirements have diminished the original STAFDA members' entrepreneurial spirit.

This macroeconomic shift put great pressure on our staff. It was just myself and one other person, and with 1,900 members, I needed to get STAFDA in a safer place. I reached out to Frontline Co. in April 2025 about managing the association to alleviate pressure on us. Frontline took over STAFDA management on January 1, 2026, but in October 2025, Frontline owner, Kim Robinson, approached me about the role of executive director at CSDA and I readily agreed! What a wonderful opportunity to work with leaders in the industry I love!

I want to thank all the CSDA members I've met at World of Concrete and at the Canadian Concrete Expo for giving me such a warm welcome! I'm currently calling members to introduce myself, so if I haven't chatted with you yet, I will shortly.

Warm regards,
Georgia Foley

How to Avoid Common Cutting Mistakes

In our In the concrete cutting and drilling industry, precision is critical. Even minor mistakes can lead to costly rework, project delays, and potential safety hazards. Avoiding these issues requires a disciplined approach that combines planning, proper equipment selection, and skilled execution.

One of the most common mistakes is inadequate pre-job planning. Before any cutting begins, crews should carefully review project specifications, confirm measurements, and identify embedded utilities or structural components. Overlooking these details can result in misaligned openings, damage to surrounding structures, or the need for costly corrections. Taking the time to plan thoroughly helps ensure the job starts—and stays—on the right track.

Selecting the right equipment is equally important. Different materials, such as reinforced concrete, asphalt, or masonry, require specific blades and cutting methods. Using the wrong blade can reduce efficiency, create uneven cuts, and increase wear on both the tool and the equipment. Industry guidance from organizations like CSDA emphasizes the importance of matching tools and techniques to the application, helping contractors achieve more consistent and reliable results.

Operator technique also plays a significant role in avoiding mistakes. Applying too much pressure, cutting too quickly, or failing to maintain a steady feed rate can compromise both accuracy and equipment performance. Allowing the blade to operate at its intended speed not only produces cleaner cuts but also extends the life of the equipment. Skilled operators understand that consistency and control are key to achieving high-quality outcomes.

Routine equipment maintenance is another essential factor. Worn blades, misaligned saws, or insufficient cooling systems can all negatively impact performance and safety. Regular inspections and timely maintenance help prevent unexpected issues on the jobsite and keep operations running efficiently.

Safety and communication should never be overlooked. Adhering to standards set by OSHA ensures that proper procedures are followed, reducing the risk of accidents. Clear communication among crew members further supports accuracy and efficiency, ensuring everyone is aligned on project goals and execution.

By focusing on preparation, proper technique, and industry-backed best practices, contractors can avoid common cutting mistakes, improve productivity, and deliver consistent, high-quality results.

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What the Supreme Court's Tariff Decision Means for Construction Costs

Christian Dewhurst and Jackson Moore

This article serves as a breakdown on the potential effects of the Supreme Court's recent decision to strike down President Trump's blanket tariffs as well as to provide an update to our previous blog post on the topic of materials pricing in the current landscape.

The health of the American construction industry continues to be shaped by the cost and availability of construction materials. Data from the final months of 2025 shows a steady year-over-year increase in material pricing for construction projects regardless of sector. These rising costs appear to be due in part to the tariffs imposed on foreign imports. Although the Supreme Court recently struck down most of those tariffs, the Trump administration swiftly responded by implementing a new round of 15% tariffs, leaving construction industry stakeholders with continuing uncertainty regarding the future pricing of imported materials.

Many industry participants who briefly hoped that the Supreme Court's ruling would help reduce project costs may need to temper their expectations. With the administration already testing the bounds the Court's decision, concerns about continued price increases and the possibility of additional payment disputes in the industry have only been made stronger. This article will advise industry participants about certain legal tools, such as contract drafting and lien rights, which can best position them to navigate these payment disputes.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PRICING TRENDS AND OUTLOOK

According to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, prices for non residential construction materials have increased by 3.2 percent over the past twelve months. Some categories have experienced significantly higher spikes. Steel mill products, for example, have risen by 17.0 percent. Construction machinery and equipment have increased by 5.6 percent, and concrete products have risen by 2.0 percent over the same period. The chart below provides a more detailed breakdown of the impact on various commodities:

Producer Price Index December 2025

	1-Month % Change	12-Month % Change	Change Since Feb 2020
Inputs To Industries			
Inputs to construction	-0.6%	2.8%	42.4%
Inputs to multifamily construction	-0.3%	2.8%	43.0%
Inputs to nonresidential construction	-0.7%	3.2%	43.5%
Inputs to commercial construction	-0.3%	4.4%	46.1%
Inputs to healthcare construction	-0.3%	4.2%	45.6%
Inputs to industrial construction	-0.5%	4.0%	41.4%
Inputs to other nonresidential construction	-0.7%	3.0%	42.8%
Inputs to maintenance and repair construction	-0.7%	2.5%	40.0%
Commodities			
Adhesives and sealants	0.0%	3.3%	40.4%
Brick and structural clay tile	0.0%	1.6%	33.1%
Concrete products	0.6%	2.0%	43.7%
Construction machinery and equipment	0.8%	5.6%	37.5%
Construction sand, gravel, and crushed stone	0.6%	6.1%	50.8%
Copper wire and cable	4.6%	22.3%	71.7%
Crude petroleum	-2.7%	-14.8%	19.0%
Fabricated structural metal products	0.2%	8.7%	65.8%
Gypsum products	0.0%	0.5%	49.1%
Hot rolled steel bars, plates, and structural shapes	0.8%	12.1%	55.5%
Insulation materials	1.0%	0.2%	47.1%
Iron and steel	5.2%	12.3%	54.8%
Lumber and wood products	0.1%	-0.4%	25.3%
Natural gas	34.8%	8.8%	96.9%
Plumbing fixtures and fittings	2.6%	9.0%	30.0%
Prepared asphalt, tar roofing and siding products	-0.9%	0.6%	44.4%
Softwood lumber	-0.5%	-8.2%	8.9%
Steel mill products	6.8%	17.0%	66.4%
Switchgear, switchboard, industrial controls equipment	0.9%	10.9%	65.3%
Unprocessed energy materials	5.5%	-7.4%	50.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Associated Builders and Contractors

While the full impact of the recent Supreme Court decision on materials pricing is not yet known, it is likely the case that the new round of tariffs will resemble the tariffs imposed on China during the first Trump administration. New tariffs implemented under the Trade Act of 1974 have certain important limitations: (1) they are capped at 15%; and (2) may only be imposed for 150 days unless extended by Congress. For a more detailed discussion on those tariffs, please read our colleague Patrick Kelly's blog on the topic.

BROADER CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IMPLICATIONS

Higher materials costs influence profitability across virtually every type of project. Contractors working under fixed price agreements are especially vulnerable because any increase in material costs between the time a bid is submitted and the time materials are procured can significantly chisel away at already tight margins. From the owner's perspective, rising prices could force difficult decisions about whether to delay a project, reduce its scope, or purchase substitute materials. Many owners may choose to pause

large projects until the material pricing market improves or at least provides greater predictability.

Inflation also plays a role in the decision making of industry members. Although the Federal Reserve has cut interest rates in an effort to stimulate spending and counteract inflation, inflation continues to steadily rise at the national level. Even with the benefit of lower borrowing costs, contractors, developers, and public entities must still account for elevated material costs and the unpredictability associated with tariffs. In many cases, the relief offered by lower interest rates may be partially or fully offset by the cost increases caused by reduced supply and muted competition. To summarize, although financing may become more accessible, procurement will likely remain expensive and difficult to forecast. For a more detailed breakdown on how inflation and interest rates affect the construction industry, particularly in Texas, check out our previous blog post on the topic.

THE ROLE OF CONTRACTS IN REDUCING EXPOSURE TO MATERIAL PRICING UNCERTAINTY

The complexities of the current market continue to demonstrate that careful contract drafting at the outset of a project is one of the most effective ways to mitigate risk. This point is worth reiterating from our prior articles because the challenges associated with tariffs, inflation, supply chain disruptions, and fluctuating interest rates are now a routine part of project planning.

For example, a supplier uneasy about the potential for tariffs to drive up material costs might negotiate a price-escalation clause. A price-escalation clause ties the contractor's pricing to an external benchmark (such as an index or published average price) so the contractor is not forced to absorb dramatic and unanticipated cost increases that occur after the bid is submitted but before materials are procured. These clauses also serve to transparently inform the project owner or general contractor how material pricing variables may impact project costs so each party can budget and plan accordingly and not be caught off guard in the event of unexpected market shifts.

Owners, contractors, and suppliers should also consider incorporating a materials availability clause. These, like price escalation clauses, can function similar to a narrowly tailored force majeure provision. This clause establishes agreed-upon procedures and remedies if an uncontrollable event, such as a tariff surge or global supply chain disruption, makes procurement of essential materials commercially impracticable or impossible. By addressing these risks in advance, the parties reduce the likelihood of disputes and create a path for dealing with these ever-increasing circumstances.

As a final example, an "excusable delay" provision is another safeguard for material suppliers and contractors. These clauses normally protect a contractor from liability by shielding them from delay damages when performance is hindered by unforeseen events, such as global material shortages, tariff-driven supply disruptions, or other circumstances beyond their control. Typically, such provisions grant the contractor additional time to complete their work without penalty. Parties should expressly define what they agree amounts to an excusable delay. This upfront step can help each party avoid costly legal disputes over whether delay damages are excused or unexcused. As the industry will recall, these types of shortages on electrical

components, steel, lumber, and other essential materials were especially prevalent during COVID, as were delays caused by labor shortages and COVID protocol inefficiencies. Excused delay provisions were particularly helpful, in some circumstances, to shield affected contractors, subcontractors, suppliers from liability.

Ultimately, there is no silver bullet contract clause to guard against uncertainty. Every project presents its own unique challenges, and suppliers, contractors, and project owners alike should take advantage of contract clauses to mitigate the risks associated with unpredictable material costs. Even small adjustments to the contract can make a huge difference between a manageable challenge and a costly legal dispute.

PROTECTING PAYMENT THROUGH LIEN RIGHTS

As this article has illustrated, when material prices climb and project costs escalate, suppliers and contractors face increased risk of nonpayment for their goods and services. In addition to the contractual and related traditional legal remedies, Texas law offers protections through its mechanics and materialmen's lien statutes.

Anyone who has spent time in the construction industry knows the frustration of watching AR balloon on a project where payment feels like a lost cause. Thankfully, Texas lien law provides a safety net.

A mechanic's lien allows contractors and material suppliers to assert a legal claim against the property where work was performed, or materials were delivered. This remedy significantly improves the likelihood of receiving payment.

To have a valid mechanic's lien in Texas, a supplier or contractor must jump through certain procedural hoops. First, a pre-lien notice must be sent to the property owner and general contractor, informing them of the unpaid debt. Next, a lien affidavit must be filed in the real property records of the county where the work was performed. Finally, notice of the recorded lien must be sent to the relevant parties. Each of these steps is subject to strict deadlines based on when the work was completed or materials were delivered. Failure to meet these deadlines can result in an unperfected lien, significantly weakening the supplier's or contractor's ability to enforce payment.

Because lien laws vary by jurisdiction, it's essential for suppliers and contractors (especially those operating across state lines) to understand the specific lien perfection requirements where they do business. While Texas's lien statutes can be complex, those who take the time to comply with them are far better positioned to recover what they're owed from delinquent owners, developers, or contractors.

CONCLUSION

Tariffs, inflation, and rising material costs present real challenges, but contractors, suppliers, and developers are not without tools to manage risk. By carefully drafting contracts and leveraging lien rights, industry participants can protect their interests and continue building with confidence in this evolving market.

Cutting at the Top:

Wall Cap Removal Enables Loyola University Rooftop Expansion

As part of a broader campus enhancement initiative at Loyola University Chicago, an existing top-floor outdoor common area was expanded to create additional usable space for students and faculty. The project called for the precise removal of structural concrete wall caps that formed part of the perimeter of the elevated gathering space. In total, five wall cap sections were removed, requiring approximately 60 linear feet of cutting at depths reaching 8 inches. The work had to be performed carefully to preserve the integrity of the existing structure while maintaining strict safety controls on an active university campus.

The outdoor common area is located on the upper level of the building and serves as a shared space for students, faculty, and campus visitors. The expansion project aimed to increase the usable footprint of the terrace while maintaining the building's architectural continuity and structural stability. To achieve this, the existing concrete wall caps had to be removed to allow for the vertical and lateral extension of the space. Because the structure remained in use during construction, the contractor and cutting team needed to coordinate closely to minimize disruption while maintaining safe working conditions for both workers and the campus community.

From the outset, the project required careful planning and coordination among the general contractor, structural engineers, crane operators, and the concrete cutting team. Structural drawings were reviewed in detail to identify reinforcement patterns, structural tie-in points, and the safest sequence for removing the wall cap sections. Lift planning was also critical, as each section of concrete needed to be cut to a manageable size and removed by crane without placing unnecessary stress on the structure or creating hazards for workers below.

To complete the work, the crew utilized a combination of diamond wire sawing and wall sawing techniques to create precise cuts through the reinforced concrete wall caps. Diamond cutting methods allowed the team to separate the concrete sections in a controlled manner while maintaining tight tolerances. These techniques are particularly effective in structural modification projects because they produce smooth, accurate cuts with minimal vibration. This helped ensure that the surrounding structure remained stable and undamaged throughout the removal process.

The cutting process began with careful layout and verification of the cut lines. Each section of wall cap was measured and marked to engineering tolerances to ensure that the cuts aligned with the structural requirements for the new expansion work. Once the layout was confirmed, the cutting equipment was mobilized to the rooftop work area. Because of the elevated location, staging space was limited, requiring the team to carefully organize equipment, rigging hardware, and safety systems before beginning operations.

Wall saws were used to make the primary vertical and horizontal cuts needed to define each removable section. In areas where additional access or flexibility was required, diamond wire sawing provided an effective solution for completing the separation. The combination of these cutting methods allowed the crew to produce clean, controlled cuts through heavily reinforced concrete without causing unnecessary stress to adjacent structural elements.

After each section was fully cut free, it was prepared for removal using a coordinated rigging and lifting process. Rigging points were established on each piece, and the cutting team worked directly with certified crane operators to guide the lifting operations. Once secured, the concrete sections were carefully hoisted from the rooftop and lowered to a designated ground-level staging area for

disposal. Each lift required clear communication between the crew members on the roof and the crane operators to ensure safe and controlled handling of the concrete pieces.

The decision to use diamond cutting technology played a key role in the project's success. Diamond tools provided the precision required for structural modification work while significantly reducing vibration compared to traditional demolition methods. This reduced the risk of micro-fracturing or unintended damage to the remaining structure. The clean cuts produced by diamond saws also created defined edges that simplified rigging and allowed each section to be lifted safely by crane.

Alternative demolition approaches, such as jackhammering or impact breaking, were considered during the planning stage but ultimately ruled out. While these methods can be effective in certain situations, they would have introduced higher levels of vibration and noise, along with less predictable break patterns. The resulting dust and debris would also have increased the potential for disruption on the active campus. Given the structural nature of the work and the need for crane-assisted removal, diamond cutting provided a more controlled and efficient solution.

The project was further complicated by winter weather conditions. The work was performed during cold temperatures and exposed rooftop conditions, where wind and occasional snow accumulation added to the operational challenges. Cold weather can create slip hazards and affect both equipment performance and worker safety, so the crew implemented additional precautions to maintain a safe job site.

Daily safety inspections were conducted to identify potential hazards before work began each morning. Snow and ice were cleared from walking and working surfaces, and de-icing materials were applied as needed to reduce the risk of slips or falls. The crew also utilized cold-weather personal protective equipment, including insulated gloves and slip-resistant footwear, to ensure workers could perform their tasks safely despite the harsh conditions.

Because the work was performed at elevation along the building's perimeter, fall protection was a critical component of the project's safety plan. Crew members were equipped with full-body harness systems connected to retractable self-retracting lifelines (SRLs). These systems were anchored to engineered attachment points to provide continuous fall protection while allowing workers the mobility needed to operate cutting equipment and manage rigging operations.

Controlled access zones and perimeter barricades were established to protect both workers and pedestrians below. The active campus environment required careful coordination to ensure that crane lifts and rooftop activities did not interfere with daily campus operations. Dedicated signal personnel were assigned to communicate directly with crane operators, ensuring that each lift was executed safely and according to plan.

Despite the environmental and logistical challenges, the project progressed efficiently through careful planning and strong coordination between all parties involved. The cutting team maintained a disciplined workflow, ensuring that each section was cut, rigged, and removed in the correct sequence to support the overall construction schedule.

The Campus Wall Cap Expansion Project was ultimately completed safely, on schedule, and within the required engineered tolerances. The precision provided by diamond cutting methods allowed the existing structure to remain intact while creating clean tie-in surfaces for the next phase of construction. The removal of the wall caps enabled the successful expansion of the outdoor common area, providing Loyola University Chicago with additional space for students and faculty to gather and interact. This outcome reflects the team at Hard Rock Concrete Cutters' ability to execute complex structural modifications with a high level of coordination, attention to detail, and field expertise.

Projects such as this highlight the value of specialized concrete cutting techniques in complex structural modification work. In environments where safety, precision, and minimal disruption are essential, diamond cutting offers a reliable and controlled approach for removing structural concrete elements. By combining advanced cutting technology with careful planning and experienced operators, the Hard Rock Concrete Cutters team was able to successfully support the university's expansion efforts while maintaining a safe and efficient jobsite.

COMPANY BIO

Since 1987, Hard Rock Concrete Cutters has been delivering the precision cutting and reliability the construction industry depends on. Our highly skilled union Laborer, Electrician, Plumber, and Sprinkler Fitter technicians take on complex saw cutting and coring work across both the private and public construction markets.

With 40+ service trucks, 24/7 logistics support, and a reputation for getting it done right, we give contractors the confidence to meet the toughest specs and timelines. Our fleet delivers the ability to core drill 60" in diameter, wall saw 36" deep, diesel saw 32" deep, and electric saw 18" deep.

By leading with integrity, owning the outcome, and remaining solutions focused, we hold ourselves accountable on every project—because at Hard Rock, we strive to be the standard.

RESOURCES

General Contractor
Power Construction

CSDA Contractor
Hard Rock Concrete Cutters

Website
www.hardrockconcretecutters.com

Contact for Story: Kevin Coakley
Email: Kevin@hrccinc.com
Tel: 847-850-7717

WORLD OF CONCRETE®

Building Better: **Innovation, Excellence,** and **Education** at **World of Concrete**

The World of Concrete 2026, held January 20–22 at the Las Vegas Convention Center, once again reinforced its status as the premier gathering for concrete and masonry professionals. Featuring more than 1,300 exhibitors, the event showcased the latest innovations and emerging industry trends while attracting 47,440 registered attendees.

The Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association (CSDA) maintained a strong presence in Central Hall, welcoming both current members and prospective members to its booth. The space served as a key destination for networking, providing answers to industry questions, and highlighting the benefits of partnering with CSDA members. Visiting contractors were able to gain insight into how these relationships can contribute to long-term business success.

A major draw of attending WOC is the chance to connect with others in the industry, and the CSDA booth became a focal point for those interactions. It offered a dynamic environment for sharing ideas, addressing common challenges, and building new professional relationships. In addition, this year's event included CSDA's annual membership networking event at the Davidoff Cigar Bar, where members enjoyed a more relaxed setting to network and unwind.

While the show floor at the World of Concrete 2026 spotlighted the latest tools and technology shaping the industry, the *Concrete Openings* Awards turned the focus to the contractors behind the work—those applying that innovation in the field under real-world conditions.

The annual awards program recognizes companies that consistently push beyond standard expectations, tackling complex scopes, adapting to challenging environments, and delivering results defined by precision and planning. These are the projects that not only solve immediate construction challenges but also leave a lasting mark on the built environment.

At its core, the program is about more than finished work—it's about the people, problem-solving, and craftsmanship that make these outcomes possible. Each winning project reflects a combination of technical expertise and on-the-ground experience, highlighting what can be achieved when skill and strategy align.

This year's honorees once again demonstrated excellence across a range of demanding categories:

Building Construction Category

Renovation within existing structures requires a careful balance between modernization and preservation—an area where CSDA contractors continue to excel.

The 2025 Building Construction Award recognized a major seismic upgrade to the historic Salt Lake Temple, completed in partnership with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. By incorporating advanced base isolation systems, the project team significantly improved the structure's seismic resilience while preserving its historic character.

West Coast Cutting & Coring Ltd., based in New Westminster, British Columbia, was honored for its role in delivering this technically demanding and highly sensitive project.

Infrastructure Renovation Category

Infrastructure work often brings together some of the toughest conditions in the industry—aging structures, heavy reinforcement, and unpredictable environments that demand both precision and adaptability.

This year's winning project involved the removal of a deteriorating, century-old breakwater in Algoma, Wisconsin. By deploying remote-controlled robotic equipment, the contractor was able to improve safety while increasing efficiency and maintaining tight control over the demolition process.

Interstate Sawing and Demolition, headquartered in West Bend, Wisconsin, earned recognition for its forward-thinking approach and strong project execution.

Industrial Renovation Category

In industrial settings, time is often the most critical factor. Projects must be completed quickly and accurately to minimize disruption to ongoing operations.

The 2025 award in this category highlighted selective demolition work on a 312-foot-long exterior

precast wall as part of a 94,000-square-foot facility expansion. The project underscored the value of combining experienced crews with advanced cutting technology to deliver efficient, high-quality results.

Northwest Corp., based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was recognized for its disciplined execution and commitment to excellence.

Roads, Bridges & Airports Category

As transportation infrastructure continues to age, the need for efficient, high-precision repair methods has never been greater—and modern diamond cutting systems are playing a key role in meeting that demand.

This year's award-winning project took place inside Pittsburgh's Mt. Washington Transit Tunnel, a critical corridor for both bus and light-rail traffic. Working within tight space and ventilation constraints, the crew maintained productivity and safety by segmenting a 15-inch-thick reinforced roadway into manageable sections.

Matcon Diamond Inc., headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was honored for its ability to deliver high-performance results under challenging conditions.

> *"Contractors are not only celebrating excellence—they're building it, ensuring the industry continues to move forward with skill, innovation, and purpose."*

Taken together, this year's winners reflect the evolving capabilities of the concrete cutting and demolition industry. From historic preservation to critical infrastructure, these projects demonstrate not only technical advancement, but the expertise and adaptability required to put those advancements into practice.

If the *Concrete Openings* Awards put a spotlight on what the best in the industry can achieve, the next question naturally follows—how do contractors get there?

At the World of Concrete 2026, the answer wasn't just on display—it was being taught. The Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association (CSDA) balanced recognition with education, offering hands-on training designed to help contractors sharpen their skills and stay competitive in an increasingly demanding market.

This year's lineup featured two certification courses that drilled into the business and management side of the trade, areas that often make the difference between getting the job and making it profitable.

How to Prepare Estimates that Win Jobs brought attendees back to the fundamentals of estimating, but with a practical, real-world edge. Over two days, participants worked through the true cost of a job—learning how to break down expenses, build reliable estimating models, and compare projections to actual performance.

For those further along in their careers, *Cutting Through Complexity: Managing Sawing & Drilling Projects* took a broader view. This full-day course walked through the lifecycle of a project, from early-stage planning to final closeout.

Together, the courses underscored a key theme running throughout WOC—success in this industry isn't just built on equipment or technique, but on the ability to plan, adapt, and execute at a high level.

From the energy of the show floor at the World of Concrete 2026 to the recognition of standout projects and the emphasis on continued education, one message came through clearly: the concrete cutting and drilling industry is evolving on every front. Through the leadership of organizations like the Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association, contractors are not only celebrating excellence—they're building it, ensuring the industry continues to move forward with skill, innovation, and purpose.

Next stop: BeBoSa

RODERICH BRAUN
IACDS President

There are many reasons to come to BeBoSa. One year after Bauma, the BeBoSa trade fair traditionally takes place in Germany. Many Bauma exhibitors from Hall A1 exhibit again, and many concrete drilling and sawing service providers take the opportunity to exchange ideas with machine manufacturers. It is also where our industry meets again.

The BeBoSa trade fair is different from Bauma. Consequently, BeBoSa is a trade fair tailored to our industry. While Bauma, the world's largest trade fair in terms of floor space, exhibits a very wide range of products, BeBoSa exclusively showcases products from our concrete drilling and sawing industry.

The annual general meeting of the German Concrete Drilling and Sawing Association (FBS) also takes place during BeBoSa. As a national association, FBS is part of the international association IACDS. There will also be a meeting of the VDMA (German Engineering Federation), which also promotes the interests of our industry.

As IACDS President, I had the great pleasure of attending last year's Annual General Meeting in Augsburg, and it was a very successful and professional event, as well as a good opportunity to see old friends again and meet new ones. I also recently had the opportunity to participate in a meeting of the VDMA in my home region of Upper Austria.

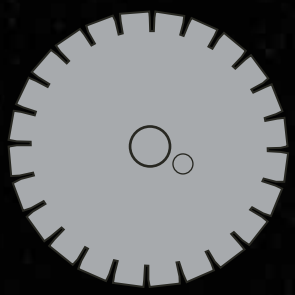
The Museum Association for Old Concrete Drilling and Sawing Machines (the only museum of its kind in the world) will also be present at BeBoSa again. This means that visitors will once again have the opportunity to learn about everything from the first wall saws and drill stands of yesteryear to the latest developments of today. I am also looking forward to welcoming a delegation from the Spanish concrete drilling and sawing industry, who will also be attending BeBoSa.

The annual general meeting of the international association IACDS will then take place in Edinburgh May 14-15. During this event, we will also present our new IACDS Yearbook 2026, which reflects the work of the international association and the achievements of our industry from an international perspective.

See you in Willingen,
Roderich M. Braun

BUILT TO DOMINATE THE CU

INTRODUCING THE M700-74D DIESEL FLAT



18 in - 42 in
45.7 cm - 106.5cm

17.5 in/44.5 cm Max Cut

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CARB COMPLIANT

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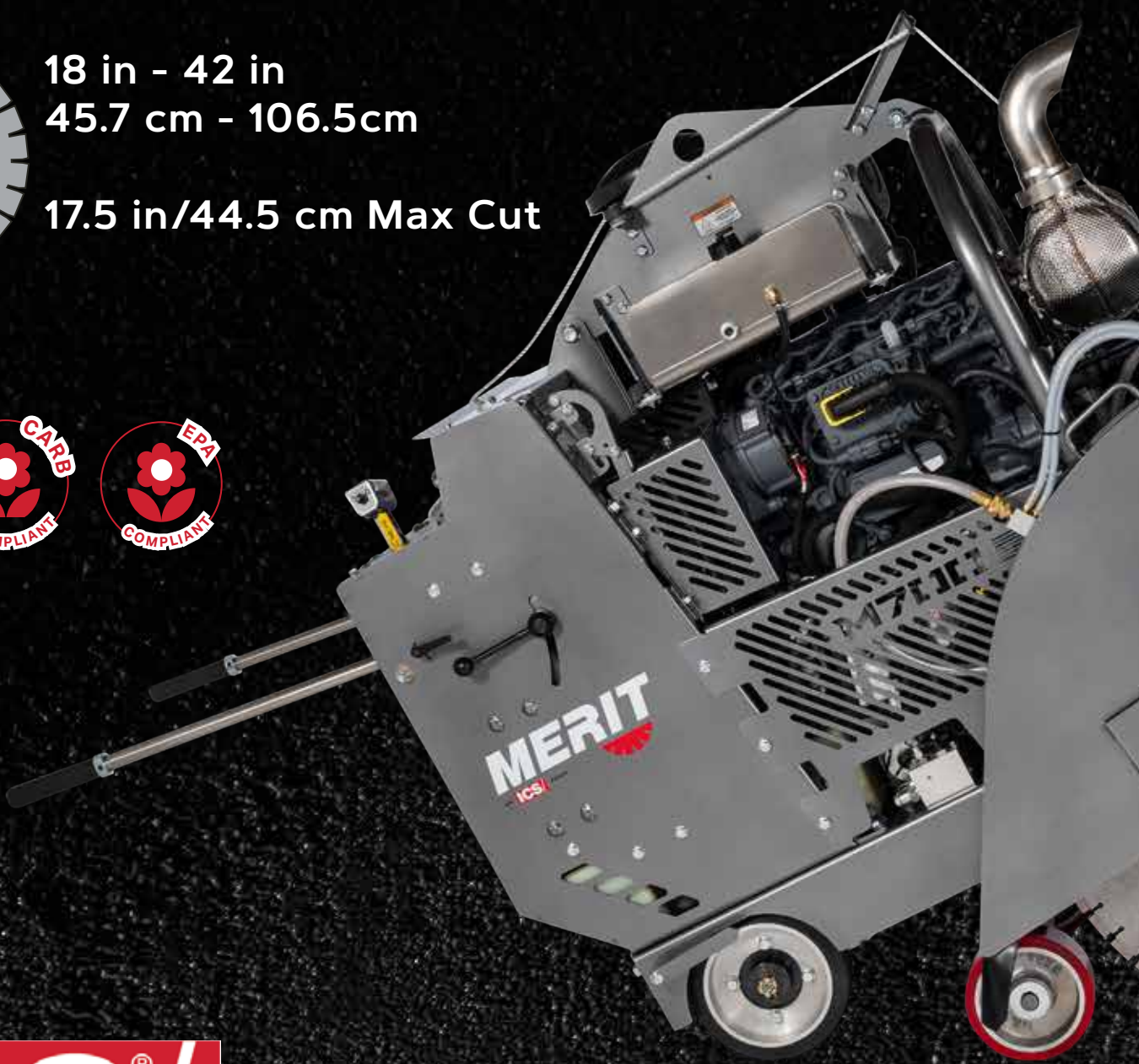

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Managing the Chaos: Project Management During Peak Season

Bobby Greenwood

The busy season in concrete cutting is not just about volume; it is about complexity. In a major metropolitan area like Chicago, where timelines are compressed, job sites are congested, and expectations are high, managing concrete cutting work becomes a constant exercise in preparation, communication, and adaptability. At Hard Rock Concrete Cutters, we perform hundreds of jobs every week, indoors and outdoors, throughout the Chicagoland area and often across the country. Success at that scale is not driven by equipment alone, but by disciplined project management built on strong relationships and thoughtful planning.

EVERY JOB IS CUSTOM

One of the realities of concrete cutting is that no two jobs are exactly the same. Even the "bread and butter" work, the projects performed every day, come with variables that can change the approach entirely. Floor thickness, access constraints, scanning requirements, noise restrictions, occupied spaces, and safety protocols all shape how a job must be executed.

Because of this, understanding the customer is critical. Project managers must know their customer's operation well enough to understand the job almost as thoroughly as the customer does. That level of familiarity allows the project manager to anticipate challenges, ask better questions, and deliver what the customer actually needs, not just what was written on the initial request.

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS ACROSS THE ENTIRE OPERATION

During peak season, project managers are constantly balancing multiple priorities. Customer expectations must be met; drivers need full and efficient schedules, and the office requires clear, accurate details so billing and invoicing can proceed smoothly. A breakdown at any point in that chain can create delays, confusion, and frustration.

Context also matters. Cutting concrete in an industrial park is very different from cutting concrete in a five-star hotel downtown. One environment may allow flexibility in access and timing, while the other demands precision, discretion, and a professional presence. In both cases, reputation is on the line, not only with the customer, but with general contractors, engineers, and site superintendents. When our trucks arrive on site, we want that moment to bring relief. The goal is for people to know immediately that the job will be handled properly.

Bobby Greenwood is a Project Manager with Hard Rock Concrete Cutters, where he has spent the past five years overseeing a wide range of concrete cutting operations across the Chicagoland area and beyond. His work includes managing projects involving electric sawing, coring, diesel sawing, and wire sawing in both commercial and industrial environments.

> *Project managers must be easy to reach, clear in their explanations, and quick to develop a plan using the new information.*

KNOWING THE JOB BEFORE YOU START

Strong project management begins long before a saw touches concrete. One of our guiding principles is to "cut it twice." The idea is simple: perform the job in your mind before performing it in the field. Think through setup, access, tooling, scanning, safety considerations, debris and slurry removal, and sequencing.

This mindset applies equally to planning. What will it take to complete this job correctly? Who is best suited for the work? Is this an opportunity to train someone under the right supervision? Asking these questions early reduces uncertainty and improves outcomes.

To support that process, we rely heavily on pre-job information. Customers are encouraged to send photos or videos, and when necessary, superintendents or project managers visit job sites ahead of time. That extra effort often prevents costly surprises once work begins.

ADAPTING WHEN CONDITIONS CHANGE

Even with the best planning, not every job goes as expected. A floor reported as five inches thick turns out to be fifteen inches thick. Engineers require scanning due to potential embedded electrical. A straightforward job suddenly takes much longer than anticipated.

These moments define effective project management. Anyone can schedule a job and hope everything goes perfectly. When conditions change, communication becomes the most important tool available. Project managers must be easy to reach, clear in their explanations, and quick to develop a plan using the new information.

Customers need updated timelines and pricing. The office needs to understand how schedules are affected. Other project managers need to know how resources may shift. Clarity and simplicity are essential when circumstances evolve.

WHY BAD NEWS HAS TO TRAVEL FAST

One core principle guides how we handle unexpected challenges: bad news has to travel fast. Problems that are hidden or delayed only grow larger. Transparency allows real solutions to be implemented quickly.

The worst scenario is when a customer believes an issue has been resolved, only to later discover they were not given the full picture. Trust is built by addressing challenges openly and early, even when the conversation is difficult.

THE REALITY OF PEAK-SEASON PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Managing concrete cutting projects during the busy season is demanding work. It requires attention to detail, strong customer relationships, deep job knowledge, and constant availability in an ever-changing environment. When those elements come together, complexity becomes manageable, and the work gets done the right way.

Filter Bypass Systems Are a Double-Edged Sword

Mike Orzechowski and Jan Byrresen

In our highly specialized CSDA trade, there is a renewed interest in hydraulic systems. The hydraulic system (power pack, tool, and hoses) is very durable and simple. A hydraulic system typically has the highest power-to-weight ratio, ideal for confined spaces and wet locations, and a lower cost of maintenance and repair compared to electric and fossil fuel standalone tools. Unfortunately, the one Achilles' heel of any hydraulic system is the cleanliness of the oil (which focuses on the filter). Most power packs in our industry have a bypass valve on the filters that can deceive the operator into believing everything is fine when the filter might be totally out of the circuit (on bypass). The phrase "out of sight, out of mind" may ring true, but it may also be the cause of unnecessary repair costs to a normally low-maintenance system.

Many operators don't have a deep understanding of the filtration in their hydraulic power packs. Fortunately, a basic understanding goes a long way to preventing costly repairs. This tech talk will focus on some fundamentals, including sources of contamination and the associated repair issues, filter types, and ratings common in our industry. Specifically, we will highlight the problems solved and created by the bypass valves and the importance of regularly scheduled maintenance.

CONTAMINANTS

The hydraulic system is a closed-loop system. Theoretically, it should remain clean. Unfortunately, it does not. When working on a hydraulic system, the mental state of the technician should be that of a surgeon in an operating room. The workspace needs to be clean. Some of the contaminant particles that can cause catastrophic damage to a high-tolerance clearance zone between the internal parts of the system, like spool valves, can be 1-10 microns. In our industry, we are cutting and coring abrasive materials like concrete and rocks. The fine <10 micron particles, suspended in the hydraulic oil, can act as an abrasive fluid and wear away the tolerance on the metal-to-metal fits that are roughly the same size. The high viscosity oil is contained at very high pressures by these critical tolerances. The human eye can typically see particles that are larger than 40 microns (micron = micrometer = 1/1000 millimeter), so essentially these can be invisible contaminants that cause this damage.

In our industry, the oil viscosity, pumps, motors, and valves we typically use have a little more clearance, thus a more realistic critical filtering range would be about 25 microns. For the pressure booster pumps / high-pressure systems for rock splitters (10,000 psi), it is probably around 10 microns.

Larger contaminant particles over 80 microns (80 microns is about the diameter of a human hair) can cause sudden problems like jamming a pressure relief valve (PRV) open and suddenly dropping the working pressure of the operating tool. A single particle may not cause a problem, but when the particles start log jamming and binding together, they can create a sizeable obstruction to jam a valve.

Old, broken-down oil can be a contaminant. The sludge can have a high acid content (TAN=Total Acid Number) that can damage internal parts and seals. Low viscosity oil can cause a loss of performance and power transfer, as well as a loss of lubricity, which can increase heat and friction in the internal moving parts of the pumps and motors. Varnish in the oil can attract particles to create an abrasive wear surface.

There are internal and external sources of contaminants. Internal sources include the wear of tight-tolerance newly machined components or residual debris in the internal ports and cavities. There is a break-in period for new components that is part of most manufacturers' standard quality procedures, but in the high tolerances of mating parts in a hydraulic circuit can still have wear for several hours of use during the break-in period of a new tool. Other internal contaminants include wear from particulates in the fluid based on the location and type of filtration or the bypass system on the filter. Many systems incorporate a return line filter thus the debris particles can circulate through the entire system before seeing a filter for the first time.

External contaminants include things like the debris on the hose connections. It is important to wipe the hose connections clean from the slurry, mud, and dirt prior to connecting. Reusing oil can also introduce debris. Look inside the can and be certain it is clean inside, check the funnel and make certain the sprout is clean, check the transfer pump and make sure the hoses are clear. The most common external

Tech Talk is a regular feature of *Concrete Openings* magazine, focusing on equipment, maintenance and technical issues of interest to concrete cutting, polishing, and imaging contractors. Readers wishing to have a particular subject addressed can send their suggestions to editor@concreteopenings.com.

contaminants are from the cap on the reservoir used to check or add to the oil. Many times, the debris is caked on or around that cap.

A failure in one tool could contaminate the power pack and cause other tools that use that same pack to fail.

Excess heat also degrades the oil, and as the oil degrades, it can be the cause of more heat. Some systems use large reservoirs to dissipate heat, but with innovative engineering designs, some packs only need really small reservoirs (5-10x smaller) to maintain the same heat, thus changing the oil more frequently is more affordable, making it a beneficial option.

Some brands of oil, new in the barrel, are only filtered to 40 microns. Ideally, the oil should be filtered prior to adding it to the tank. Some packs have a feature on the fill inlet to have the oil go through the filter before being introduced to the tank. Unfortunately, it takes a longer time to fill, so the filter is frequently pulled until the tank is filled and returned after, thus defeating this feature.

Regardless of the source of the debris, once the system is compromised, it is important to clean the oil in a contaminated system by fully draining and flushing the system. This should include changing the filter/filter-element.

Mixing different types of hydraulic oils can sometimes lead to big problems. Never mix immiscible oils together. This is more common than we think in folks topping off the reservoir or connecting a tool or hose set from a pack using a different type of oil (i.e., biodegradable oil). Also, don't mix oils of the same classification that have different viscosities.

Water is another common contaminant. Water in the system from condensation in the tank can usually dissipate from the hot oil after the system is in operation for a short while. Excess water, however, can cause foaming, cavitation, pitting/micro-pitting, expedite the degradation of the oil, cause damage to the filter, cause loss of lubricity in the oil, and while present, can cause a loss of effective usable power in the tool during operation.

Water in the system can also collect in the filter media and not only repel full flow, but in freezing ambient temperatures, it can ice up to block most of the flow. Even just a little icing, combined with the thicker cold oil viscosity, can restrict the inlet. This is one reason the suction style filter/strainer can be problematic in freezing temps because it can starve the pump prior to any heat generated in the circuit to open it up, thus it can potentially burn out the pump.

TYPES OF FILTRATION SYSTEMS

There are different filtration systems based on where the filter is in the hydraulic circuit. In our industry, one of the most common for small power packs is the return filter. Basically, the filter is on the low-pressure return to the tank. Some use instead a pressure side filter just after the pump, or a suction inlet filter just before the pump. Some larger power packs use a kidney loop, which is essentially a separate circuit to pump oil from the tank through the filter and back to the tank, totally separate from the working hydraulic circuit.

The manufacturer engineers the system to match the filtration level with the requirements of the internal working components of the system. This can be a concern for homemade power packs that don't engineer the filter requirements properly.

There are two common styles of filter media: one is a depth filter, and the other is a surface filter. For small power packs, the filters are typically depth filters that have some filter media, and the pore/openings are in an average size range. The depth filters hold more contaminants, have a longer life, and are better with variable-sized particulates. The surface filters have absolute size pore/openings on the surface face only; thus, sometimes longer hot dog shaped slivers can snake through the small openings.

ISO code numbers	Type of system	Typical components	Sensitivity
23 / 21 / 17	Low pressure systems with large clearances	Ram pumps	Low
20 / 18 / 15	Typical cleanliness of new hydraulic oil straight from the manufacturer. Low pressure heavy industrial systems or applications where long-life is not critical	Flow control valves Cylinders	Average
19 / 17 / 14	General machinery and mobile systems Medium pressure, medium capacity	Gear pumps/motors	Important
18 / 16 / 13	World Wide Fuel Charter cleanliness standard for diesel fuel delivered from the filling station nozzle. High quality reliable systems General machine requirements	Injector valve and high pressure pumps/motors Directional and pressure control valves	Critical
17 / 15 / 12	Highly sophisticated systems and hydrostatic transmissions	Proportional valves	Critical
16 / 14 / 11	Performance servo and high Pressure long-life systems e.g. Aircraft machine tools, etc.	Industrial servovalves	Critical
15 / 13 / 09	Silt sensitive control system with very high reliability Laboratory or aerospace	High performance servovalves	Super critical

NOTE: The three figures of the ISO code numbers represent ISO level contamination grades for particles of >4µm(c), >6µm(c) and >14µm(c) respectively.

Sometimes the ISO 4406 code is listed for a hydraulic system. It specifies an oil cleanliness using a particle counting method that is based on three size ranges of particles (>4, >6 and >14 microns) per 100mL (237 mL is a cup of coffee) and is used to optimize machine life. The first number is always the largest since it includes particles in the other two size ranges. The third number is the larger, more destructive particle size range. In our industry, we use gear pumps and motors, so oil cleanliness is important but not rated as critical. For ISO 4406, a suggested range would probably be listed as 19/17/14. The 14 represents 2^14 particles counted that are over 14 microns, or 2x2x2x2x2x2x2x2x2x2x2x2x2x2, which is 16,384 particles over 14 microns. So based on this standard, 131,072 particles are in the >6 micron range and 16,384 particles are in the >14 micron range, thus in essentially a ½ cup of coffee sized sample of hydraulic fluid there are 114,688 particles that are >6 microns but less than 14 microns that although over time can slowly wear the inner working parts of the motor, they don't act fast (quite frankly they are not large enough on their own). In the range of over 14 microns, there are 16,384 particles in 100mL of oil in a healthy hydraulic circuit for the motors and pumps we use (similar to the permissible exposure limits, PEL we are familiar with, except these are applied to our machinery, not the humans). In normal use, the equipment is slowly worn out, but that is part of the life expectancy of the tool. Each of these particles is circulating in the system, and as they are filtered out, new ones replace them, some from normal operating wear. If a clean filter is not in the circuit, these numbers quickly grow to equipment damaging levels.

If the power pack has a magnetic drain plug on the tank to catch small metallic debris, it is also a filter and needs to be inspected from time to time and cleaned off if coated. If magnetized particulates are totally coating the surface, the outer ones are not securely attracted to the magnet. If they break away, the particle can be magnetized and collect other small Ferris particles to create a larger, damaging particle that might circulate through the entire system, causing damage on the path, before being captured by the return line filter.

BYPASS SYSTEMS IN FILTERS OR FILTER ASSEMBLIES

Many of the return line filters have a bypass valve to keep the system operating and minimize the back pressure. When the filter media is filling with debris, the pressure through the filter starts to increase, and at some point, it restricts the return flow to the tank. To solve this problem and keep the system operating, many filters have a bypass valve to kick in once the filter exceeds a certain point. On small power packs, it is only about 120 psi. The system will keep operating, but nothing is being filtered, and most operators would not know to check if the pack is on bypass.

Many of the return line filters have a bypass valve to keep the system operating and minimize the back pressure.

It is important to perform regular maintenance on the power pack to include changing the filter.

ACTION ITEMS

It is important to perform regular maintenance on the power pack to include changing the filter. Refer to the manufacturer's operation instruction manual for details on your specific power pack. Remember, unscheduled downtime is usually very expensive and inconvenient.

Be aware of new tools used on a power pack or a new power pack, in that hydraulic tools will usually have a break-in period until the high-tolerance machine parts fully wear-in to fully seat. Changing the filter sooner in this type of scenario might be a wise investment.

Mike Orzechowski is the Engineering Manager for Equipment at DITEQ. DITEQ has exclusive distribution for HYCON in the North American Market.

Jan Byrresen is the HYCON International Technical and Sales Manager.

Estimating for the Real World:
Inside Concrete Cutting and Drilling Projects

Pat Stepanski

Estimating is one of the most critical—and most challenging—components of the concrete cutting and drilling industry. Unlike many construction specialties, concrete sawing and drilling work is often performed in unpredictable environments where structural conditions, embedded materials, access restrictions, and safety considerations all influence time and cost. A well-crafted estimate protects both the contractor and the customer by setting realistic expectations and reducing the risk of surprises once work begins.

Concrete cutting and drilling is not simply about measuring linear feet or counting holes. Each project presents variables that require a combination of technical knowledge, experience, and on-site evaluation.

Concrete structures vary widely based on age, mix design, reinforcement density, and the presence of embedded materials such as rebar, post-tension cables, electrical conduit, or steel beams. These hidden conditions can dramatically affect production rates and blade wear. Good estimators know how to build allowances that protect against these unknowns while staying competitive.

Getting equipment to the work area is often more challenging than performing the cut itself. Tight mechanical rooms, high-rise service elevators, occupied healthcare facilities, and industrial plants can require creative planning. Estimators must evaluate:

- Distance from truck to cut location
- Power and water availability
- Ventilation needs for diesel equipment
- Additional personnel required for material handling or containment

A job that looks small on paper may require complex mobilization effort that drives costs.

Dust control, slurry containment, noise limits, and permitting can significantly impact the time and tools required. Many facilities—especially hospitals, data centers, and food processing plants—have strict protocols that must be planned and priced into the estimate. Choosing between wet vs. dry cutting, slurry management methods, or HEPA-filtered negative air systems all influence productivity and equipment selection.

Modern estimating has evolved beyond the rule of thumb production rates. Today's estimators rely on: Laser measuring devices, digital plans, and cloud based takeoff tools allow for more accurate measurements and faster turnaround.

Manufacturers and contractors track performance metrics for wire saws, wall saws, hand saws, core drills, and robotic demolition equipment. Using real-world production rates helps avoid overly optimistic projections.

These tools allow estimators to streamline proposals, maintain consistent pricing structures, track win/loss trends, and integrate cost data from completed projects back into future estimates.

Site walks paired with photographic records allow estimators and operations teams to align on expectations and ensure nothing critical is overlooked.

Despite advances in technology, estimating in the concrete cutting and drilling industry remains an art informed by hands on experience. Veteran estimators understand the subtle cues that differentiate a simple job from one that could go sideways. They know how long it really takes to core through high strength tilt-wall panels, how to anticipate equipment changeovers, and when to add contingency for potential blade bind or slurry disposal challenges.

Mentorship plays a key role in developing new estimators. Learning from seasoned operators and visiting job sites helps bridge the gap between theoretical production numbers and real-world performance.

Some of the most frequent mistakes in concrete cutting and drilling estimates include:

- Underestimating mobilization time—especially in secure, busy, or restricted facilities.
- Failing to account for equipment wear—diamond tools are costly, and heavy reinforcement can quickly increase blade and bit consumption.
- Not pricing safety measures—vacuum systems, barricades, spotters, and specialized PPE all add cost.
- Overlooking cleanup and disposal—slurry, dust containment, and debris removal often take longer than the cutting itself.
- Assuming ideal conditions—estimators must evaluate worst case scenarios, not best cases.

By proactively identifying risks and communicating assumptions clearly in proposals, contractors can maintain

> *By proactively identifying risks and communicating assumptions clearly in proposals, contractors can maintain profitability and build trust with customers.*

profitability and build trust with customers.

Accurate estimating is the foundation of every successful concrete cutting and drilling project. It protects margins, improves scheduling, enhances customer satisfaction, and ensures crews arrive prepared for the conditions they'll face. As tools and technology advance, the industry continues to refine its approach, but the core of good estimating remains the same: a blend of technical knowledge, real-world experience, and thoughtful planning.

Whether the project involves precision core drilling, structural wall sawing, wire sawing massive sections, or selective demolition in sensitive environments, a strong estimate sets the tone for safety, efficiency, and success.

Pat Stepanski has been the Vice President of Construction Operations at Holes Incorporated since 1979. During that time he had directed the planning, organizing, staffing, and control of field operations. He is a member of the Concrete Openings Magazine Editorial Review Committee and is based in Houston, Texas.

Cut-Rite Concrete Cutting Corp

To Our Loyal Friends and Customers

It's often said 'what goes around; comes around" and with that in mind I am sending this letter, to you our friends and customers, to say "Thank You" for the opportunity to have served you but also to announce the sale of Cut-Rite to ACE Concrete Cutting, LLC of Cumberland, RI.

Stanley Stowik, Jr.(Skip) was hired by me, right out of high school, over 40 years ago and he worked with me for 7 years. He left Cut-Rite to go out on his own and built a very successful concrete cutting company "ACE." Based in Cumberland, RI, Skip and his wife Debra are not only friends but have been respected competitors of Cut-Rite for a long time.

In many ways, it seems like yesterday but Cut-Rite enjoys being in its 49th year in business. There has never been a job too big or too small for us to handle and that will continue under the new ownership. It was my goal to transition the business one day and I am very happy to know that the quality work we have stood for will continue in that tradition.

It's time for me to take things a little slower and it's time to do the right thing for my loyal customers and crew. ACE is purchasing the company and retaining the Cut-Rite crew, the equipment and the same dedication to quality that has been my commitment since 1977.

So, let me wrap this up by saying what a privilege it has been to work for you and again, say Thank You, for your loyalty and dedication to us and our work. Deep down, I know you will miss my cheery personality! Please know that I never took your loyalty for granted and want to be certain you know how much that means to me, Elsie and this company.

You will be in great hands; I wouldn't have it any other way.

Our business phone number (401) 728-8200 has been transferred to Ace. Please give them a call for service.

Thank you,

Dennis P. Mello

Brokk Hires Training & Application Specialist to Serve Canada

Monroe, Wash. (March 18, 2026) — Brokk, the world's leading manufacturer of remote-controlled demolition machines, hired long-time Brokk operator Aaron Wilcox as a training and application specialist. Based in Ontario, Wilcox serves Brokk customers throughout Canada, providing on-site operator safety training and other aftersales support.

Wilcox joins a growing team as Brokk expands North American operations in Canada. In 2024, the company opened a new distribution center in Hamilton, Ontario, to streamline ordering and shipping for Canadian customers. Brokk continues to recruit talented industry veterans like Wilcox to further build in-country support and service.

"Aaron has spent most of his career with a control box in his hands," said Lars Lindgren, president of Brokk Inc. "He knows the ins and outs of the machines and how to work safely and effectively in different applications. Along with his deep knowledge, customers will appreciate his high-energy approach to ensuring they are up and running."

Wilcox's responsibilities include commissioning new machines, training operators how to maintain and safely operate demolition robots and providing other aftersales support, such as accessing spare parts.

He was introduced to Brokk demolition robots in the 1990s and has continued to work with the equipment for refractory demolition, on and off between shutdown jobs and long-term crane projects, for 25 years. He started his career working for a contractor who was an early adopter of the electric, remote-controlled technology. Wilcox's first position was as a safety watch for a Brokk operator, ensuring projects went smoothly, before progressing to becoming an operator himself. He has worked with a range of models, starting with historic models like the Brokk 150, right up to the newest generation, SmartPower+. Wilcox has also worked as a crane operator.

"Brokk machines have always had a piece of my heart. I've been working with them for decades, and they almost feel like an extension of myself," Wilcox said. "It's a privilege to go out to customer jobsites and teach them what I've learned over the years, so they can achieve excellent safety and maximum profitability."

For More Information
Tel: 647-615-0694
Email: aaron.wilcox@brokkinc.com
Website: www.brokk.com

101 and 201 Intensive Training Class hosted by Austin Enterprise

Fourteen industry professionals recently completed the 101 and 201 Intensive Training Class hosted by Austin Enterprise in Bakersfield, CA. The multi-day program combined classroom learning with extensive hands-on instruction, giving participants the opportunity to refine their skills in core drilling, slab sawing, hand and wall sawing, and wire sawing.

Seven students advanced through the 201 portion of the course and successfully earned their Operator Certification—an achievement that reflects both technical proficiency and a strong commitment to safety and best practices. Congratulations to all 14 participants for investing in their professional development and to Austin Enterprise for hosting a successful and impactful training experience.

Austin ENTERPRISE

Shibuya Raises The Bar On Auto Feeds

Shibuya, a leading manufacturer of core drill machines, has unveiled a groundbreaking new technology for automatic feeds with the AFS-P Pro model at the DITEQ outdoor booth during WOC 2026. The AFS-P is set to redefine the standards for automatic feeds in the industry. Current technologies range from basic feed systems to advanced features like load sensing and rebar detection.

The AFS-P has been developed using insights gained from experienced core drill operators engaged in both standard and deep core drilling operations. These operators usually establish a true aligned entry for the core bit before engaging the automatic feed at drilling speed. This critical step has been integrated into the new auto feed's electric circuitry. The AFS-P employs angle detection technology, allowing the system to optimize the rotational speed (rpm) and feed rate of the bit to ensure an aligned hole is established before ramping up to full power. This feature helps keep the bit centered in the hole, maximizes power transfer to the diamond segments, and minimizes friction loss from the sides of the bit.

As a result, Shibuya's new auto feed offers a fully automatic system that emulates the technique of a professional core drill operator from start to finish. For deep holes, the AFS-P also tracks core depth for multiple bit extensions.

For More Information
Contact: Mike Orzechowski
Tel: 816-447-6161
Email: mikeo@diteq.com
Website: www.diteq.com

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

CSDA's Operator Certification is a comprehensive three-day program combining detailed classroom instruction with essential on-slab demonstrations and evaluations of advanced concrete cutting techniques. Safety, proper equipment use and efficiency are all emphasized.

CSDA certified operators are recognized industry-wide for their proficiency in the full range of sawing and drilling applications.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Successful completion of CSDA's 201 Training or equivalent training
- Three years field experience (4,500 hours)
- Successful completion of 10-hour OSHA Construction Safety course
- No more than one lost-time injury within the last three years
- Unrestricted driver's license
- Negative drug test within 30 days of taking the course

ACCU-CUT CONCRETE SERVICES, INC.
Clearwater, FL

ACE AVANT CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.
Archdale, NC

ACE CONCRETE CUTTING, LLC
Cumberland, RI

AGGREGATE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Houston, TX

ANY CONCRETE CUTTING SERVICES
Fayetteville, AR

AUSTIN ENTERPRISE
Bakersfield, CA

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San Francisco, CA

CHESCO CORING & CUTTING, INC.
Malvern, PA

COBRA CONCRETE CUTTING SERVICES CO.
Arlington Heights, IL

CON-COR COMPANY, INC.
Menomonee Falls, WI

CONCRETE CUTTING & BREAKING CO.
Grand Rapids, MI

CONCRETE CUTTING SPECIALISTS
Freeland, MI

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San Antonio, TX

CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS REMOVAL, INC.
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CR MEYER
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College Park, GA

DYNAMIC CONCRETE CUTTING, LLC
Garner, NC

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Paola, KS

FINE CUT CONCRETE DRILLING AND SAWING LLC
Pleasant Hill, MO

FORRISTALL
Bradenton, FL

HAFNER & SON, INC.
Danielsville, PA

HARD ROCK CONCRETE CUTTERS
Wheeling, IL

HOLES INCORPORATED
Houston, TX

HOLES OF SAN ANTONIO, INC.
San Antonio, TX

INTERNATIONAL DRILLING & SAWING, INC.
Montgomery, AL

JACK DOHERTY CONTRACTING
Woburn, MA

KRAUS-ANDERSON CONSTRUCTION CO.
Minneapolis, MN

MAVO CONCRETE SERVICES, INC.
Superior, WI

M6 CONCRETE CUTTING & CORING
Wichita, KS

MAVO CONCRETE SAWING SERVICES INC.
New Brighton, MN

NEIL'S CONCRETE CUTTING, INC.
Taylorsville, UT

TRUE LINE CORING AND CUTTING OF MARYLAND, INC.
Baltimore, MD

WALKER CUTTING SERVICES
Hammonton, NJ

WESTCOAST CUTTING AND CORING LTD.
New Westminster, BC

ACCREDITED COMPANIES

The CSDA Accredited Company Program is the first of its kind in the industry. This program has been created for cutting contractors to provide owners, architects, engineers, general contractors and government officials with a valuable pre-qualification tool that acknowledges sound business practices. It is available to all sawing and drilling contractors.

A COMPANY MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA TO ACHIEVE ACCREDITATION :

- Meet the basic safety and insurance requirements of the industry
- Undertake sound operational and financial best practices
- Provide evidence it has taken part in training or certification programs to better its employees with a minimum of one CSDA Certified Operator or equivalent training
- Successfully pass a written application review

ADVANCED CONCRETE SAWING
St. Paul, MN, USA

AMERICAN GPR
Avondale, AZ, USA

AUSTIN ENTERPRISE
Bakersfield, CA, USA

COBRA CONCRETE CUTTING
Wheeling, IL, USA

CONCRETE CUTTING SYSTEMS, INC. (PA)
Philadelphia, PA, USA

CONCRETE RENOVATION, INC.
San Antonio, TX, USA

DIACORE CONCRETE CUTTING SPECIALISTS
Frenchs Forest, New South Wales, Australia

ECHO GPR SERVICES
Olathe, KS, USA

FINE CUT CONCRETE DRILLING AND SAWING
Pleasant Hill, MO, CA, USA

HARD ROCK CONCRETE CUTTERS
Wheeling, IL, USA

HARD ROCK CONCRETE CUTTING
Raleigh, NC, USA

HOLES INCORPORATED
Houston, TX, USA

INTERNATIONAL DRILLING & SAWING, INC. (IDS)
Montgomery, AL, USA

IN-PLACE MACHINING COMPANY, LLC
Blue Bash, OH, USA

INTERSTATE SAWING & DEMOLITION
West Bend, WI

MAVO CONCRETE SAWING SERVICES, INC.
Edgar, WI, USA

ONLINE CONCRETE CUTTING SERVICES PTY. LTD.
Seven Hills, New South Wales,, Australia

RECLAIM COMPANY, LLC
Fairmont, WV, USA

WALKER CUTTING SERVICES
Hammonton, NJ, USA

GPR CERTIFICATION

GPR Certification is for experienced GPR operators who have expanded their knowledge of the methods, theory and practical application of GPR imaging. Certified operators receive classroom and hands-on time with experienced instructors and representatives from leading GPR manufacturers.

A GPR CERTIFIED OPERATOR:

- Has shown proficiency in performing scans and reading and interpreting results
- Can select the appropriate GPR scanner for the job
- Passed a written and practical test
- Was issued a certification card upon completion of the class

ADVANCED CONCRETE CUTTING & CORING*
Charleston, SC

ADVANCE CONCRETE SAWING*
Saint Paul, MN

AMERICAN GPR SERVICES, LLC*
Avondale, AZ

ASAP CORE DRILLING & FIRE SAFETY, INC.
Lorton, VA

BREAK AWAY CONCRETE CUTTING INC.*
Coyote, CA

BROOKBANK CORE DRILLING & SAWING, INC.*
Waldorf, MD

CANADIAN CUTTING AND CORING LTD.
Toronto, ON CANADA

CITY SCAN CORP*
Bronx, NY

COBRA CONCRETE CUTTING SERVICES CO*
Arlington Heights, IL

CONCRETE CORING CO. OF CINCINNATI, INC.*
Cincinnati, OH

CONCRETE SCANNING AND IMAGING INC.
Mississauga, ON CANADA

CONCRETE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION*
College Park, MD

CONQUEST DEMOLITION*
Buda, TX

CORBUILT LLC
Waterford, CT

D & D DIAMOND CUTTING AND CORING*
Wainfleet, ON CANADA

DALY CONCRETE CORING LIMITED*
Courtice, ON Canada

DELTA CONTRACTORS & ASSOCIATES, LLC*
Owings Mills, MD

DIAMOND CONCRETE SAWING*
Grand Rapids, MI

DIXIE CONCRETE CUTTING CO., INC.*
College Park, GA

ECHO GPR SERVICES*
Paola, KS

FINE LINE SAWING & DRILLING INC.*
Newark, CA

HARD ROCK CONCRETE CUTTERS, INC.*
Wheeling, IL

HARD ROCK TECHNOLOGIES, INC.*
Prospect Heights, IL

HAYDEN WRECKING CORPORATION*
Washington Park, IL

HI-TECH CONCRETE CUTTING INC.*
Bolton, ON CANADA

HOLES INCORPORATED*
Houston, TX

IDS GEORADAR NORTH AMERICA*
Golden, CO

INTERNATIONAL DRILLING & SAWING, INC.*
Montgomery, AL

INTERSTATE SAWING & DEMOLITION*
West Bend, IL

IOWA WALL SAWING*
Independence, IA

JEM GPR*
Granger, IN

KENNEDY RICHTER CONSTRUCTION
North Charleston, NC

LOMBARDO DIAMOND CORE DRILLING COMPANY, INC.*
Santa Clara, CA

MAVERICK CUTTING AND BREAKING
Minneapolis, MN

MAVO CONCRETE SAWING SERVICES, INC.*
New Brighton, MN

METRO CONCRETE CUTTING & CORING, INC.*
Toronto, ON CANADA

MOORE CONCRETE CUTTING LLC*
Brentwood, NH

POWERPRO CONCRETE SPECIALTY SERVICES, LLC*
McAllen, TX

PREMIER LOCATES INC.
Toronto, ON CANADA

ROCK VALLEY CONCRETE CUTTING
Machesney Park, IL

SAFECORE SYSTEMS, INC.
Libertyville, IL

SCAN TEK GPR*
Davie, FL

TASMANIAN ASSET PROTECTION
Sandy Bay, TS AUSTRALIA

TEXAS CUTTING & CORING, LP*
Round Rock, TX

VERIFY LOCATING/SAF-CUT
Raleigh, NC

**** CSDA Member***

NEW MEMBERS

CONTRACTORS

DFW Concrete Pros
Justin, TX

A Georgia Cutter
Comer, GA

Marek Sawing and Drilling
Spring, TX

Modern Concrete Drill Co., Ltd
Kowloon, Hong Kong

AFFILIATE

Durable Truck Solutions
(a Holes company)
Cypress, TX

DISTRIBUTOR

Diamond Blade Systems
Ankeny, IA

MEMBER BENEFITS

TRAINING

OVER 4,000 INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS
HAVE PARTICIPATED IN CSDA'S HANDS-ON TRAINING COURSES, CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS, ONLINE COURSE OPPORTUNITIES, LUNCH & LEARNS, AND CONFERENCE EDUCATION SESSIONS. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS KEY TO EMPLOYEE GROWTH AND SATISFACTION. UPSKILL YOUR STAFF ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS SUCH AS CUTTING DISCIPLINES, GPR TECHNIQUES, ESTIMATING, POLISHING, SAFETY AND MORE.

VISIT WWW.CSDA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE COURSES AVAILABLE NOW.

WHAT DOES BEING A CSDA MEMBER MEAN TO YOU?

"Being a CSDA member means that I have the ability to rely on fellow members' expertise whether its figuring out a difficult job, comparing notes on equipment solutions or discussing ways to improve my company in the future. All of the members I speak to are very open to provide their opinions. This brotherhood is invaluable to us as a resource of knowledge."

Brian Cox
President
Hard Rock Concrete Cutting

JOIN CSDA TODAY!

There is something for everyone when you become a member of the CSDA family!

Accelerate your business success through member support and networking, online and in-person training opportunities, company recognition through awards and accreditation, and business tools to create efficiencies and success. New members can take advantage of our mentorship opportunity and receive complimentary registration to our annual golf outing each Fall.

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU WHILE PROPELLING THE SAWING AND DRILLING INDUSTRY FORWARD. BE A PART OF CSDA TODAY.

DUES SCHEDULE

Pricing: Contractors

GROSS SALES	NORTH AMERICAN CONTRACTOR	IMAGING OR POLISHING CONTRACTOR	INT'L. (NON-NA) CONTRACTOR
$0 – 1M	$795	$795	$500
$1 – 2M	$1,295	$795	$500
$2 – 3M	$1,995	$1,595	$500
$3 – 5M	$2,595	$1,595	$500
$5 – 10M	$3,295	$1,595	$500
> $10M	$4,150	$1,595	$500

ADDITIONAL BRANCH LOCATIONS

1-5 Branches	$160 per location
6-10 Branches	$110 per location
11-15 Branches	$55 per location

Pricing: Manufacturers, Distributors & Affiliates

GROSS SALES	MANUFACTURER	DISTRIBUTOR	AFFILIATE*
$0 – 1M	$1,650	$1,250	$995
$1 – 2M	$2,050	$1,550	$995
$2 – 3M	$3,050	$2,295	$995
$3 – 5M	$4,900	$3,625	$995
$5 – 10M	$6,600	$3,625	$995
> $10M	$8,250	$3,625	$995

*Affiliate is a person, firm, corporation, society, government agency or other providing services to the concrete cutting, polishing and imaging industry

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.CSDA.ORG

For more information about CSDA membership, visit https://csda.org/page/join

Advertising and Readership

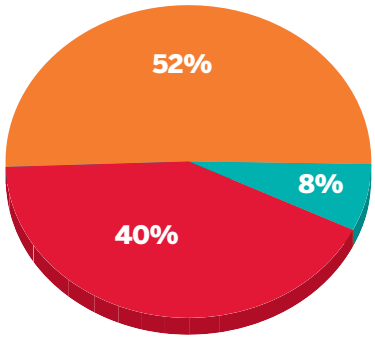
concrete openings

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF csda

Who Reads the Magazine?

Concrete Openings reaches cutting, polishing and imaging contractors as well as specifiers of these services, including engineers, architects, general contractors and governmental agencies. Why waste your message on unnecessary circulation? Advertising in Concrete Openings guarantees a targeted audience of industry professionals.

READERSHIP BY PROFESSION



Target the Specialized Industry of Concrete Cutting, Polishing and Imaging

Advertising in Concrete Openings magazine is the only way to reach the specialty market of cutting, polishing and imaging contractors who work with concrete, asphalt or masonry because it is specifically targeted to this segment of the industry.

Not a Subscriber?

Get notified of each new digital issue when you sign up today!

CSDA members automatically receive three print copies to their main location.

CSDA Social Media

CSDA's social media pages are packed with all the latest news, updates, photos and videos from the association and Concrete Openings magazine. Look for exclusive content and become "friends" with others who are looking to network and promote the sawing and drilling industry. Join our fan base and stay in touch with the association through your PC, laptop or mobile device. Find direct links to these pages at www.csda.org

Circulation

Circulation 15,000+ minimum, per issue reaching both member and prospective member companies made up of contractors, manufacturers, distributors and affiliates + general contractors, engineers, architects and government officials who specify cutting, polishing and imaging.

How Do You Reach 15,000+ Concrete industry Professionals?

Each issue of Concrete Openings is seen by more than 10,000 operators, equipment manufacturers and suppliers in the concrete cutting, polishing and imaging industry, and more than 5,000 specifiers of these services around the world.

Readership Per Issue

A poll of Concrete Openings subscribers revealed that 66% pass on their copy of the magazine to at least one other person, with almost 25% stating that the magazine is passed on to four or more people each issue. And now with our digital versions, we can reach even more people!

Concrete Openings Website

Visitors to the Concrete Openings website can access our advertisers at the touch of a button!

As a compliment to your ad placement, we include a direct link to your website under each downloadable issue.

Advertisers

To receive additional information about products advertised in this issue, contact the vendors below.

PAGE	ADVERTISER	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL
10	Brokk	Jeff Keeling	1-800-621-7856	jeff.keeling@brokkinc.com
13	Peak Software Systems, Inc.	Jordan Walker	801-572-3570	jordan@peakinfo.com
22-23	ICS Diamond Tools & Equipment	Jessica Gowdy DeMars	800-321-1240	jessica.gowdy@oregontool.com
28	DITEQ Corporation	Mike Orzechowski	816-447-6161	mikeo@diteq.com
31	Real Power	Don Smith	317-443-0805	dsmith@contourhardening.com
33	Cowboy Upfitters	Jordan Rodgers	385-602-4446	Jordan@cowboyupfitters.com
35	DITEQ Corporation	Mike Orzechowski	816-447-6161	mikeo@diteq.com
Back Cover	Husqvarna Construction North America	Cate Stratemeier	800-288-5040	Hcpmarketing.northamerica@husqvarnagroup.com
Inside Back Cover	Diamond Products	Jim Palmer	800-321-1240	jpalmer@diamondproducts.com

EMPLOYERS:

Looking to Boost Employee Benefits **AND** Save on Your Bottom Line?

CSDA is partnering with LLH LLC to offer supplemental health insurance through an IRS section 125 plan.

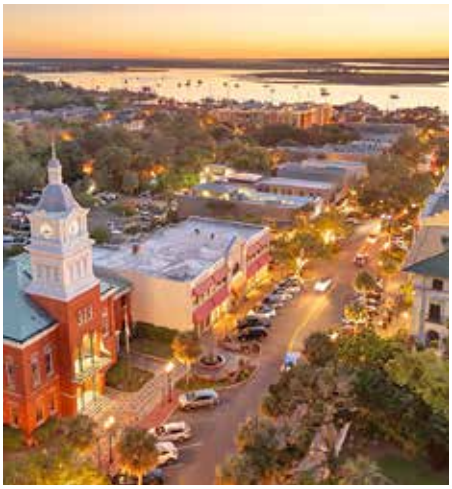
Coverage includes virtual doctor visits, lab tests, prescriptions, mental health support, and hospital insurance that works in tandem with existing health coverage.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- **Employees pay premiums with pre-tax dollars**
- **Their taxable income goes down, so their take home pay goes up**
- **Your taxable payroll shrinks, so you pay less in payroll taxes**

csda™

To see if your company is eligible, contact CSDA at 217-528-3275 or info@csda.org



April 6-9, 2026

CSDA Annual Conference
Omni Amelia Island Resort & Spa
Amelia Island, Florida
Tel: 217-528-3275
Email: info@csda.org

April 21, 2026

CSDA Webinar: How Employers Can Enhance Benefits and Reduce Costs – *Members Only*
Virtual, via Zoom
Website:
www.csda.org/page/webinars

May 14–15, 2026

IACDS Annual Meeting
Edinburgh, Scotland
Website: www.iacds.org

concrete openings

Editorial Calendar 2026

Summer 2026
365 Safety

Fall 2026
People Who Power the Industry

Winter 2026
Innovation in Action

More from World of Concrete 2026

Save the Date

WORLD OF CONCRETE
by informa

January 18-21, 2027

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MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE

CC5048DCV

Front Pivot Saw

Single and Three Speed

With and Without Clutch

MADE IN USA

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NEW ELITE-CUT™ F1600C FLOOR SAW BLADES

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Husqvarna

ADV ALIGNED ADVANTAGE

Elite-Cut™ F1610C ADV

Elite-Cut™ F1620C

Concrete cutting isn't just about speed or durability — it's about feel. The new Elite-Cut™ F1600C series is engineered to deliver the perfect response across a wide range of applications, as proven by more than 100 hours of real-world testing. It delivers dependable performance with improved cutting speed, even during deep passes and demanding cuts. **The Elite-Cut™ F1600C series sets a new standard you'll love.**

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