

The

# READY-MIXER



## Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association

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# newsletter

May 2005

## 2005 Spring Convention: A Huge Success

If you were not at Kingsmill for the VRMCA Spring Convention, you missed a great meeting. We had a number of speakers that discussed VDOT funding, environmental issues that surround our industry, the LEED program and presentations from our field representatives.

We also had Senator Russ Potts at the meeting, who discussed his thoughts regarding his run for the Governor of Virginia and Peter Longo who is a motivational speaker, as well as golf trick shot artist.

Winners of the shooting tournament were Chet Parzych of Titan America and Durvin Corker of Martin Marietta. Winners of the golf tournament were: Nick Collins of Transit Mixed Concrete Corporation, Scott Finney of Rappahannock Concrete Corporation, Brad Meyers of Swope & Associates Inc., and Jay Ashley of Luck Stone.

Kingsmill was a beautiful location and all of our members enjoyed the facilities. We elected three new members to the VRMCA Board—Robert Chandler with Chandler Concrete of Virginia, Charlie Fairchild with Allied Ready Mix Company, and Dan Joyner with TCS Materials Corporation.

We have listed all the board members who represent your Association and thank them for the time they put into working on issues on your behalf. **Please make plans to join us at our next meeting at Wintergreen on September 11-13, 2005.**

We also have provided the dates for the next three conventions in the newsletter in hopes that you will mark them on your calendar.

We will not return to Williamsburg in 2007 because of the Jamestown festivities. The Board felt that it made sense to return to The Homestead during that year and then to go back to Williamsburg in 2008 after the festival has taken place.

We hope all is going well with everyone, and as always, please do not hesitate to call us at 434.977.3716, if you need any information!!!

**See page five for 2005 Spring Convention photos!**

### VRMCA

## 2005-2006 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

#### PRESIDENT

**Gus Lorber**  
Allied Concrete Company

#### VICE PRESIDENT

**Diggs Bishop**  
Virginia Concrete Company

#### SECRETARY/TREASURER

**Morgan Nelson**  
S.B. Cox Ready-Mix, Inc.



**VRMCA President Gus Lorber of Allied Concrete Company addresses the Association at the convention.**

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**Peter Easter, CAE**  
Easter Associates, Inc.

.....  
2005 Fall Convention  
September 11-13  
Wintergreen Resort

.....  
2006 Fall Convention  
September 10-12  
Wintergreen Resort

2006 Spring Convention  
May 21-23  
The Homestead

## A Great Day to Learn and Play in Northern Virginia

By Hessam Nabavi, R.A.  
Director of Industry Services, Northern Virginia

The annual Northern Virginia Concrete Advisory Council golf retreat took place at the beautiful Virginia Oaks Golf Course. The day started with registration, an AIA accredited presentation regarding tilt-up construction conducted by architect Glen Stephens and a shot gun start at 1:00 pm.

A good crowd of architects, engineers, contractors and members were gathered for the presentation.

Architect Glen Stephens, president of Stephens Architectural Associates and past president of TCA presented a very powerful and informative seminar.

Stephens has over 25 years of experience

in tilt-up construction and his presentation was very well received. Several questions were raised by the audience. The line of questions and answers continued well through lunch.

The day was continued by a great game of golf and abundant opportunities for networking and building relationships. The event concluded with the presentation of awards.

NVCAC would like to thank Glen Stephens for his unconditional devotion to tilt-up technology, his ongoing assistance to VRMCA, and specifically his help to Northern Virginia Concrete Advisory Council. His patronage is greatly appreciated.



Architect Glen Stephens conducts his presentation on tilt-up concrete.

## Special Note

The parents and sister of Jim Simons of Capital Concrete, Inc. were killed recently in a house fire. Jim Simons and his family have set-up a trust fund for Jim's nephew. If you would like to make a donation, please send your check to:

**The Monahan Memorial Trust  
C/O Dean Bank  
21 Main Street  
Franklin, Massachusetts  
02038**



## VRMCA Technical Bulletins Available

The VRMCA Technical Committee is developing a series of Technical Bulletins in order to address various issues of interest to the ready mixed concrete industry.

The first two bulletins are now available and a copy of each is enclosed in this newsletter. Please make every effort to distribute these to contractors, engineers, and testing labs in your area.

Additional copies can be downloaded directly from the VRMCA website at: [www.vrmca.com](http://www.vrmca.com). You may also contact the Association Headquarters at 434.977.3716 for printed copies.

## VRMCA STAFF PROFILE: SHARON HALL, ACCOUNTANT

**Name:** Sharon Hall  
**Title:** Accountant  
**Birthplace:** I was born in Richmond, but I grew up in Herndon, Virginia, which is about 20 miles from Washington, D.C.  
**How long have you been with the company?** Three years.  
**What are your job responsibilities?** I work in accounts payable and accounts receivable, prepare bank reconciliations, expense reports and timesheets.



**The best thing about living here?** Charlottesville is close to the mountains, yet near larger cities such as Richmond and D.C.

**The best part of the job?** There is a lot of variety in the work and I'm never bored.

**What did you do before this job?** My husband and I ran a mail order broadcast equipment business for 14 years. We sold professional audio, studio and transmitting equipment.

**What brought you to Charlottesville?** UVa. I am a graduate—math major.

**Family?** My husband Jon, as well as my mother and father live here in Charlottesville. My brother and his family still live in Herndon. And of course, I have my two cats, Peanut and Dusty.

**Hobbies?** I like to read, shop and attend craft and antique shows. Also, I teach water aerobics once a week.

**UVa or Tech?** UVa!

**The perfect day off?** I would be at the beach under an umbrella with a good book.

## Ready Mixed Concrete Technology Showcase and Grand Opening at the NRMCA Research Laboratory

By Hessam Nabavi, R.A.  
Director of Industry Services, Northern Virginia

After many meetings and a great deal of planning by a group of industry leaders to upgrade the NRMCA Research Laboratory in College Park, Maryland since October of 2004, the day finally came.

April 28, 2005 was designated as the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NRMCA and the grand opening for the center. This event was sponsored by NRMCA, University of Maryland, and Middle Tennessee State University.

The goal for this project has been: "to enhance the visibility of the Center for Concrete Research for promotion and education events by using it as a site for demonstration and evaluation of innovative concrete technologies."

The open house started at 10:00 am and a variety of architectural concrete elements, such as walls and slabs were on display.

Attendees consisted of: architects, engineers, government officials, cement producers,

Ready-Mixed Concrete producers, Industry groups, DOT's and many other organizations. Everyone was encouraged to visit the laboratory and view a variety of test equipment and methods.



NRMCA President, Robert Garbini (left) and Past NRMCA Chairman, James Russ (right).

NRMCA President, Robert Garbini welcomed everyone. At 10:30 am, high strength concrete was tested in the lab.

Throughout the remaining part of the program, leaders such as Hardy Johnson, Chairman of NRMCA, Jim Russ, Past Chairman of NRMCA, Thomas Miller, Jr., President of Maryland State Senate, Ali Haghani, Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Maryland,

and Rod Meyer of Degussa Admixtures made some remarks.

Pervious concrete and self consolidating concrete demonstrations were also highlights of this event.

By J. Keith Beazley  
Director of Industry Services,  
Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

The Central Virginia Advisory Council will hold its annual golf tournament at Hunting Hawk Golf Course, in Glen Allen.

This will be the first time the council has held the event at the course and the arrangements will provide a new experience and level of play for tournament participants.

The date of the event is Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, with check-in and lunch at 11:30 am. The shotgun start will be at 12:30 with the "Florida Best Ball" format. Included with entrance fee will be: lunch and dinner, range balls, door prizes, prizes for first and second places, and the usual beverage cart and snacks.

The cost is \$80.00 per player and \$75.00 for a hole sponsor.

Make checks payable to the Central Virginia Advisory Council and submit by June 1 to: Brad Meyers, Swope and Associates, 9288 Sentry Station Roads, Mechanicsville, VA, 23116.

**If you have any questions, please call: 804.690.5016.**

## Professional Promoters Workshop 2005

By Bob Nablo  
Director of Industry Services, Western Region

Following the successful rebirth of the PCA-sponsored Promoters Workshop in 2004, the event was again held in Skokie, IL this May. This workshop, once held annually, but suspended since the late 1990s, attracted 143 attendees in 2004—the largest number in the history of the event.

A slightly lower attendance of 128 this year concerned organizers, but reviews were enthusiastic and encouraging. Dan Sladek, Director of Industry Liaison for PCA, also expressed concern that a majority of attendees were new to the workshop and that returning members were few. Nonetheless, plans are being made for the 2006 event amid hopes that it will be bigger and better than ever.

Presentations began on a Tuesday afternoon, with a focus on national association updates. Glen Ochsenreiter, VP of Marketing for NRMCA, gave an overview on the National Accounts program and unveiled the new NRMCA logo. Also showing a new logo, Jerry Voight, President of ACPA, spoke about the Asphalt Industry Report and described ACPA's future direction and the expectations of taking highway paving market share from asphalt.

David Shepherd discussed sustainable development and conditions in the cement industry.

The presentations concluded with a discussion of strategies for local building codes by a panel that included Steve Szoke of PCA, Paul Bambauer of the Concrete Masonry Association and Tom Tietz of the California/Nevada Cement Promotion Council.

The first day concluded with a session of the popular "What Works" presentations and a reception where attendees took the opportunity to meet promotion counterparts from all areas of the country. At this first "What Works" session, Bob Nablo of VRMCA gave a short presentation on the recent seminar and tilt-up site demonstration sponsored by the Southwest Virginia Concrete Advisory Council in Roanoke.

Highlights of the second day included an interesting presentation on strategic mapping by Jerry Harke of the National Concrete Masonry Association. Harke showed how a national association could reliably determine the effectiveness of its promotional campaigns as he described how various targeted market groups—architects, engineers, contractors, builders and owners—viewed masonry products.

This extensive survey showed the Masonry Association that many of their presumed benefits were easily accepted by the public, but others were completely ignored. This knowledge

allowed the Association to re-focus promotional efforts effectively.

Pat Reardon, Executive Director of NECSA, moderated a panel of New York promoters who discussed "Crafting a Local Promotion Plan." This presentation was very well received, giving valuable information to states without strong local promotional organizations and suggesting new ideas to areas with existing programs.

Concurrent sessions followed in the afternoon, giving promoters the opportunity to hear discussions on the new CPA software on: parking areas, governmental affairs, leveraging change orders, promotion of masonry applications, placement of pervious pavement in cold climates, concrete streets in new subdivisions, and conducting effective committee meetings. A second "What Works" session offered more short presentations on best practices and local success stories.

In the evening, the group had the opportunity to attend a Chicago Cubs-Milwaukee Brewers baseball game and socialize with industry professionals.

The final day concluded with a presentation on promoting successfully to specifiers by former VRMCA field representative, Mike Zaldo and a



## ICF Blast Tests: FPED V

By Hessam Nabavi, R.A.  
Director of Industry Services, Northern Virginia

Northern Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Advisory Council (NVRMCA) and the Insulating Concrete Form Association (ICFA) have teamed up with 11 ICF manufacturers, constructing 11 8' x 8' x 8' reaction boxes to participate in the Department of Defense's Force Protection Equipment Demonstration (FPED V). The blast test was scheduled for April 26, 27 and 28 at Quantico Marine Base in Quantico, Virginia. The objective of FPED V is to provide the decision-makers from the Department of Defense (DoD), federal departments and agencies, state and local law enforcement and other first responders, and the corrections agencies the opportunity to observe and become familiar with commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) force protection equipment.

This testing identifies the strength of various materials and their ability to reduce or prevent casualties caused by structural failures, in buildings in case of explosion. Over 550 vendors and organizations with over 2900 items of force protection equipment were presented at the Quantico Airfield. The demonstration was witnessed by the leaders from the Department of Defense, federal, state and local agencies, foreign governments, design firms and thousands of participants.

The boxes were blasted with 50 pounds of military grade TNT. To see the results of the blast test, please see the Blast Test Specifications below. For additional information or to learn more regarding FPED V and ICF Blast Test, please check [www.fped5.org](http://www.fped5.org) or [www.forms.org](http://www.forms.org).

### ICF Blast Test Specifications:

#### First day—four boxes at 3.5, six, seven, and eight, feet

8' x 8' x 8' reaction boxes. 3/8" aggregate/4000 PSI concrete/16" on center rebar (residential design). Results—at 3.5 feet, deflection with a 6" hole at the base of the wall with no structural damage. At six, seven, and eight feet, significant compression of EPS on face of the wall with no structural damage.

#### Second day—One box at five feet, and three boxes at ten feet

8' x 8' x 8' reaction boxes. 3/8" aggregate/4000 PSI concrete/16" on center rebar (residential design). Results—at five feet slit deflection, spalling of concrete, significant compression of EPS on face of the wall with no structural damage. At ten feet significant compression of EPS on face of the wall, no spalling of concrete, with no structural damage.

#### Third day—Three boxes at ten feet

8' x 8' x 8' reaction boxes. 3/8" aggregate/4000 PSI concrete/16" on center rebar (residential design). Results—Significant compression of EPS on face the wall, no spalling of concrete, with no structural damage.

**Overall assessment:** EPS significantly reduced the load of the blast by absorbing the energy created by the explosion. A large variety of ranges were used to see the damage on the EPS. Approximate pressure on the face of the wall ranges from 7000 PSI at 3.5 feet to 300 PSI at ten feet.

## Design Professionals Attend Hampton Roads ICF Symposium

By J. Keith Beazley  
Director of Industry Services, Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

The Hampton Roads Concrete Advisory Council presented an ICF Symposium in May at Virginia Beach.

The symposium was designed for participation by architects and design professionals and offered five learning credits to attendees.

The agenda started with an introduction to ICF construction by Joe Lyman, Executive Director of the Insulating Concrete Form Association. The second session was conducted by architect Eric Hubbs, of Moseley Architects. Hubbs discussed "ICF Design: An Alternative to Traditional Solutions."

The third topic was "ICF Commercial Proj-

ects," by Michael Savidakis, of Hunt Corporation. Hunt has been active in the design and building of Armed Forces projects in Florida and the government is interested in similar construction in other states. Hunt has also been active in the hospitality industry with Marriott projects.

The environment and LEED subjects were presented by Melissa Oliver, of Lafarge North America. This subject is of great interest to the architects and engineers. The program was completed with a "Home Safety Demonstration," utilizing the VRMCA wind cannon, by Keith Beazley in the back parking lot of the hotel.

This demonstration never fails to excite the crowd on the effects of storm winds and the destruction that occurs from flying elements of a structure broken apart in a storm.

The moderator for the symposium was Fred Lusby, of TCS Materials, who introduced the speakers and managed the meeting.

A local television station filmed a special segment with the VRMCA wind cannon to be used in a special feature on the hurricane season in Hampton Roads.

The segment will feature damage from hurricanes, information on what to do during a storm, how to protect yourself in a major hurricane, and predications for this season.

The piece will feature how ICF walls has a safety element in home construction.

The symposium was conducted in association with the Hampton Roads AIA, as a function of the local membership activities.

The topic for the symposium for next year will be "Concrete Paving." The council is conducting a series of symposiums on the products and marketing areas of the council.



Melissa Oliver of Lafarge North America discusses "ICF Construction and the Environment (LEED)."

## 2005 Spring Convention Photos



Dr. Michael Summers, V.P. for Academics & Student Affairs for Tidewater Community College, discusses VRMCA and driver training.



Motivational speaker Peter Longo performs his golf trick demonstration.



VRMCA Convention Director Larry Bullock of Boxley Materials Company (left), Robert Marek of Roanoke Cement Company (center) and Golf Chairman Andy Faulconer of Boxley Materials Company (right) take time out to discuss the day's events.



Keith Beazley, Director of Industry Services, Central Virginia and Hampton Roads (left) and VRMCA lobbyist Lynnwood Butner (right) at the convention.



Left: Pat Healey of McNeilus Truck & Manufacturing Inc. and other VRMCA convention participants enjoy the outdoor festivities and feeding the ducks during the VRMCA reception.



Christa Kuhn and one of VRMCA's youngest attendees, Jenna Kuhn, smile for the camera.

# The Shortcut

By Don Bennett  
Safety Director for Ready-Mix Concrete Company and VRMCA Safety Committee Member

Webster's dictionary gives the following definition for the word "shortcut."

Noun: 1. A more direct route than the customary one. 2. A means of saving time or effort.

As most of you are aware, both definitions of this word need to be re-thought by the folks who write dictionaries. The first definition: "a more direct route than the customary one." Having lived in the South all my life, I know for a fact what the actual "true" definition should be:

Shortcut: "The longest distance between two points, having been given bad directions, such as, 'turn at the first dirt road at the big rock,' and also getting lost several times."

Webster's second definition: "a means of saving time or effort." This is the one in which we will do the "soul searching," regarding safety.

All of us like to get work done without unnecessary effort and getting the most out of the time and energy we spend on each assignment. What is work?

"It is not real work unless, you had rather be doing something else," states J. M. Barrie (author of *Peter Pan*). Truer words have never been spoken. The company that pays each of us expects and deserves a fair day's work for a fair day's wages; but lets face it, most shortcuts are for our benefit and not our employer.

There will also be several who read this article that will debate the issue of a fair day's wages. I am only the Safety Director—for more pay you will have to address that issue with Human Resources. Admit it, most shortcuts are a way to finish the job with the least effort.

Sometimes shortcuts do result in a new and faster way to get the job done and do realize a cost savings means to perform the job. But what happens when we take shortcuts in safety?

All right, we've taken a shortcut with the safety procedure, we still have both eyes and other appendages attached and we have actually saved some time.

This is great—so we think—but what kind of precedence does this set? You've got it—we'll take the same shortcut next time when this or a similar job becomes necessary and that feeling of security will still be there.

Let's take the case of a worker on a ladder. These workers have been trained never to lean and that their belt buckles should remain in the center of the two up-rights or never to climb above the second step.

Well! It's quarter of three and break time is at three. The workers are almost finished with job and it will take about 15 minutes to get to the break area. But what's this?

Look, there is the one small item just out of reach that must be finished to complete the job. Here is where the logic breaks down—its decision time. Should they climb down off the ladder, move it or even go to the shop and get a taller ladder? The worker looks around. The Safety "Nazis" are not around and the boss is nowhere to be seen. The workers lean out over ladder, but can't reach the repair sight. They climb to the second step and the job is completed. They get to the break room in time to see *All My Children* or *Judge Judy*.

What kind of choice was just made? On one hand, the safe way was not 100 percent safe, but as safe as humanly possible. But as far as the unsafe way—the decision that was made—who knows what the odds are of an accident. We have safety accident reports that prove that shortcut decisions are bad ones and cause accidents.

If I were a betting man, I think my bet would be on the safe side. Taking the chance and risking your safety is always a gamble. What have we accomplished? We have saved a few minutes and of course we have found out if Constance is actually having Luke's baby and how Judge Judy solved the world wide problem of the "man who wouldn't pay back the \$7.00 he owed his brother."

In all truth, people who take shortcuts are really not concerned with the "boss-man's" time. They just think the extra time to do the job safely, or the extra time to put on the PPE is "too much bother." These are the folks that will:

1. Turn their head while welding, rather than take the time to cross the room to get the welding shield.

2. Use the wrong tool, rather than make the extra trip back to the shop to get the right one.

3. Use the bench grinder without safety glasses or goggles and a face shield (which by the way, are mounted above the grinder), just because they are too much trouble to put on.

4. Lift a 75-pound box of material, rather than make the trip back to the shop to get help.

These are the same people that are also responsible for the high cost of your medical insurance—they take shortcuts at home also.

In all of the above cases, these workers will have avoided the trouble it took to do the job safely. They have accomplished their goal, but what about the trouble it will be to hobble on crutches for six weeks or the trouble it will be to wear an eye patch and *oh*—by the way—don't forget the pain. Oh yeah, we all love pain! "More pain Drill Sergeant, we want more pain!"

Have you taken in consideration the cut in salary you will take on workers compensation pay. Don't you have that new pick-up to pay for and how about your daughter's new braces? There are also a couple of more issues to consider. You could be fired for not following set safety procedures. Your wife and family count on you for their income—they must eat and have somewhere to live.

All right, by this time, some of you are saying to yourselves, "I never take shortcuts" or "I always work safely." Think about it—everyone has taken shortcuts. All I am asking is that you give it serious thought before you take another one.

Before I close, lets take another look at the first definition for the word, "Shortcut."

1. A more direct route than the customary one. Instead of taking the customary direct route home after work, where you will enjoy CSI on TV tonight and the company of your loving family, you may have to stop by the hospital for emergency care just because of your latest SHORTCUT or it may be that your trip takes you to the funeral home (this trip will be like the one my former Drill Sergeant at Fort Bragg use to talk about, "un-a-knowing to yourself"). Hope you look nice in a black suit. It will be hard replacing you. "It's so hard to find good help."

Oh, by the way, we'll send flowers and console your widow. I don't know how the children will "turn out," though. Let's get serious here—your family needs you and we need you.

Forget the shortcuts; take the time to do it safely.

**"Lets be careful out there"**

## Workshop

*Continued from page 3*

very entertaining presentation by Dave Frentress on selling concrete by emphasizing sustainability. Frentress was exceptionally entertaining and informative, describing how his company promotes impervious concrete for "green" rooftops with heat-absorbing grass and shrubbery plantings and then suggests pervious pavement for the parking areas—completing an environmentally friendly package.

Frentress expressed a willingness to present a similar program to a VRMCA conference in the future. A discussion on the success of the Pacific Southwest Concrete Alliance—a joint venture by the Promotion Councils of California and Nevada and a final "What Works" session wrapped up the workshop.

While professional promoters of concrete and masonry products are the main audience of this workshop, it is always hoped that more ready-mixed concrete producers will see the value of these seminars and networking opportunities and take the time to attend them in the future.

The Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Advisory Council anticipates sending one of our field consultants to this important conference every year and encourages members to have their promotion and marketing professionals also attend.

### Hampton Roads Concrete Advisory Council Presents "A Night at the Ball Park"

By J. Keith Beazley  
Director of Industry Services,  
Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

The Hampton Roads Concrete Advisory Council is taking reservations for the annual "Night at the Ball Park" event in Norfolk. This year's game will be the Norfolk Tides vs. Toledo, on Wednesday, July 27, 2005.

The time is 7:30 p.m. The ball park was designed using the best elements from major league ballparks around the country and is considered to be the best minor league field in the United States.

This event is always very well attended and tickets are given to employees and customers to show appreciation for their service. The cost of the event will be \$23.00 for the adult picnic and game.

The chairman for the event is Marie Derby, of Essroc Cement. Contact information: 757-880-5631 (mobile), 757-874-0036 (fax).

Tickets can be picked up at the game or by calling Marie.

## Man Buried Alive in Workplace Tragedy: Employee at Concrete Plant Sinks into Sand

By Andrew Seymour

*A portion of the following article appeared in the Ottawa Sun on May 5, 2005.*

A longtime employee of an Ottawa concrete-mixing plant died May 4, 2005, after being buried alive in a hopper filled with fine-grained sand at Lafarge Construction Materials at 1540 Startup Road.

Andre Potvin, 60, was working with another Lafarge employee while trying to dislodge hardened sand and stone from one of six hoppers in a seven-story silo. Lafarge spokesman David Guptill said it appears Potvin and his co-worker had entered the hopper to try to scrape away the materials using long metal poles when the sand collapsed just after 11 a.m., sucking him in.

Potvin and his co-worker were wearing safety harnesses tethered to a catwalk above, but Guptill said preliminary investigation shows only the co-worker's harness was able to prevent him from being buried.

### UNSTABLE MIXTURE

"It appears they may have been in the bin and the material collapsed inside the bin, a void collapsed, and (Potvin) went down with it," said Guptill, adding neither man should have entered the hopper.

Ottawa paramedic spokesman J.P. Trottier said the unstable mixture made it impossible for emergency crews to quickly enter the hopper and pull Potvin free.

"The problem with any sand or grain is that it's like quicksand—it sucks you in," said Trottier. "Any movement at all would make the person sink even deeper."

Trottier said firefighters had to remove a quantity of the sand before they were able to free Potvin at about 1:30 p.m.

A loader operator, Potvin had worked at the plant previously owned by D-Mix for the past 33 years. Friends described the husband and father, who was known as "Boo Boo" to pals, as a friendly and funny man.

"He was loved by everybody," said Daniel Pilon, who works for Gatineau concrete company Bellai.

Potvin's family declined to comment when reached at his Hull home.

Potvin's death isn't the first incident at a Lafarge plant. In February 2002, Lafarge employee, Roland Pelletier, was buried up to his neck in frozen gravel for three hours in a large hopper at a Lafarge concrete plant in Stittsville. He survived after a dramatic rescue. He had entered the hopper to smash away a layer of frozen gravel when the material collapsed on him.

In April 2001, a 40-year-old man's legs were crushed when he was run over by the front-end loader he was operating at the Lafarge rock quarry on Rockdale Road in Cumberland.

In October 1999, Wilfred Quann, 64, a Hawkesbury father of seven, died in a mishap at a Lafarge gravel pit off Colonial Road, east of Navan.

Ottawa police and the Ministry of Labour are investigating the incident.

## Hampton Roads Completes Spring ACI Testing Schedule

By J. Keith Beazley  
Director of Industry Services, Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

The Hampton Roads Technical Committee completed the spring schedule for the ACI examination on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The practical portion of the test was held in Hampton at the Titan America facility. The proctors for the exam were: Marie Derby of Essroc Cement, Michael Wierenga of F&R, David Russell of VDOT, Steve Kerr of W.R. Grace, Jim Holland of Titan America, Jim Simons of Capital Concrete, Jim Pratt of TCS Materials, Jack Kowalski of Branscome, Bob Nablo of VRMCA, and Keith Beazley of VRMCA.

Richard Steele was the instructor for the class. The efforts of these volunteers made the completion of the exam possible. Thank you to the individuals and their companies.

The schedule of classes for the summer and fall of this year is as follows: Richmond—June 22, 23 (exam on June 27), Harrisonburg—July 20, 21 (exam on July 25), Hampton—August 17, 18 (exam on August 22), Roanoke—September 14, 15 (exam on September 19) and Richmond—October 12, 13 (exam on October 17).

Once VDOT establishes their schedule for next year, the schedule will be set for November 2005 through October 2006.

For safety related links,  
please visit the safety committee section  
of the VRMCA website:  
[www.vrmca.com/about/safety.aspx](http://www.vrmca.com/about/safety.aspx)





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