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**It's raining again... now what?**



By Brad McCaslin  
Project Manager

"If you don't like the weather wait ten minutes."

This is a common adage heard around the Midwest. It seems as if we can hit all four seasons in one day here in southern Wisconsin/northern Illinois and this weather creates unique challenges for our installation crews and projects. This time of year, it seems as if we are constantly checking the radar and forecast for rain. This is due to many reasons including shipping, site access, road conditions, and safety. Safety is always foremost on the minds of project managers and Mid-States Concrete Industries.

Project managers are tasked with keeping crews safe, schedules tight, and budgets green. Keeping these goals in mind factors into our decision to cancel an installation or attempt an installation with rain in the forecast. These decisions have a real dollar amount attached and can significantly impact not only our bottom line, but the bottom line of the general contractor, developer, owner, etc. of the project. A gamble to proceed with installation that backfires can cost thousands of dollars in trucking fees with zero return. As a result of these dynamics, our project management team tends to err on the side of caution.

That's the monetary side of the equation, but the more significant side is safety. Our crews work in dangerous situations daily where falls and jobsite hazards are commonplace. Project managers attempt to minimize our field installation crews' exposure to increased safety hazards due to rain and weather conditions.

First, it's important to understand the effects rain can have on our crews and the safety challenges rain poses. Rain can cause washouts of roadways, crane pads, foundations, and access points. There is also the increased chance of lightning that adds its own set of dangers. Rain can significantly reduce visibility between the installation crew and crane operators. Cold exposure and slippery surfaces are additional factors to keep in mind. Rain this time of year tends to be cold, which could lead to illness and prolonged absence of crew members. And, as we all know precast concrete has some smooth surfaces that tend to become slippery when wet. This increase trip and fall hazards which could also lead to an injured crew member.

While it is understood that working in the rain is something we must do at times, as it's the nature of the industry and the place we call home, it is incumbent upon all of us to make smart decisions in order to best serve not only our customers, but our installation

crews as well. Our entire Mid-States Concrete Industries team strives to create a safe environment for all involved and keep our valued customers and team members safe.

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## Mid-States Concrete's Mike Wolff Named 2023 PCI Fellow

Mid-States Concrete's Vice President of Safety and Quality, Mike Wolff, was recently named a 2023 PCI Fellow.

The PCI Fellow award recognizes an individual who has embraced the values of the Institute and has provided continuous outstanding contributions to the precast concrete industry. Service to the industry may be considered in the areas of education, research, design, marketing, management, and operations. This individual will have also demonstrated exceptional service to PCI.



Wolff, who has been with Mid-States Concrete for 16 years, is humbled by being named a PCI Fellow.

"The Fellows that were up on that stage with me are incredible individuals who have contributed immensely to the precast industry," Wolff said.

Over the years, Wolff has served on a number of PCI committees focused on quality and safety. He currently serves as Chair of the Plant Certification and QA Supplier Committees; as a member of the Erector Certification, Quality Activities Council (also Vice Chair), Quality Enhancement, Quality Personnel Training and Certification, Safeguarding Impartiality, and Tolerances Committees; and consulting member of the Architectural Certification and Plant Safety and Environmental Committees. He also currently serves as President of PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin. At the most recent PCI Convention, Wolff was also given a new appointment: Quality Activities Council Chair

for PCI National.

Mid-States Concrete President Hagen Harker commends Wolff's continuous learning and improvement and the impact he has had on our organization and the precast industry. He added that Wolff brings his best every day, crosses all lines to share information and genuinely wants to help everyone get better and improve.

"The only way it would be possible for me to be involved in PCI is because of everyone at Mid-States Concrete Industries," Wolff said, crediting Harker for his encouragement to participate, and crediting the rest of the production team for covering him while on PCI business, keeping the ship in the right direction.

Within his work on various committees, Wolff is most proud of creating the Quality Assurance Supplier Committee and the work of that committee in creating documents that are truly life safety documents designed to prevent disasters and accidents.

He is also grateful for the relationships he has built within PCI as it has provided him with a network of experts within the field to work with and learn from.

"You don't always have to be the smartest guy in the room, but you have to be willing to learn," Wolff said.

Wolff is also grateful for the opportunity to impact the precast industry through his participation in PCI.

"Being on the committees, being on the councils, Mid-States has a voice and can impact the standards that are set forth for precast," Wolff said. "That's a big deal."

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**In Case You Missed It: Precast Chalk Talk Episode 40-1**



In the first of this four-part series, President Hagen Harker welcomes Colin Butler of Peikko to learn more about the Peikko Delta Beam and how it integrates well with Precast Concrete.

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## About Mid-States Concrete Industries

Since 1946, we have produced structural and architectural precast concrete systems that provide our partners with high quality building materials with sustaining performance.

The biggest part of our story is you - our clients. For more than 75 years, you have trusted us to help with your projects. Each project offers its own unique goals and opportunities. We partner with you to find the right solutions for your project.

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