



CSI Updates Exam for CDT

The **Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)** announced it is updating its certificate exam for the Construction Documents Technology (CDT) program. The changes will be reflected in the fall 2009 CDT certificate exam.

The CDT Certificate program has provided the construction industry with a valuable credential for more than 20 years. It provides a comprehensive overview for professionals who write, interpret, enforce or manage construction documents, including architects, engineers, contractors, contract administrators, material suppliers and manufacturers' representatives. The CDT credential demonstrates one's knowledge and understanding of construction documents and the project life-cycle.

"The changes represent a small portion of the CDT exam," explained CSI Executive Director and CEO Walter Marlowe, P.E., CSI, CAE. "Those updates, however, will help ensure that the CDT credential continues to be held in high regard by the industry."

To maintain the program's high standard of quality, CSI and Prometric, a testing and

assessment provider, conducted an analysis of the CDT Certificate exam. The analysis evaluated the relevancy of its content in relation to the comprehensive knowledge and skills that construction professionals need to write and manage construction documents.

Test specifications (weighted content areas) have been updated to reflect the results of the analysis and to more accurately describe the knowledge being tested.

The new CDT exam in the fall will incorporate the following new topics:

- ◆ Building Information Modeling (BIM)
- ◆ Integrated Project Delivery (IPD)
- ◆ Green Building - GreenFormat™ and Sustainability

The new topics will be included in the "Fundamentals" category. That category represents 8 percent of the questions on the exam.

The exam will continue to be 100 multiple-choice questions. To pass, candidates still must receive a grade of 75 percent or higher.

For more information on the CDT Certificate, please visit <http://www.csinet.org/>.



Member News

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Florida

Di Pompeo Construction Company was recently awarded two Fire Stations #3 and #29 from the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Artistic Surfaces announced the launch of two new divisions focused on decorative concrete and Lithocrete. They will be the exclusive Florida distributor of Lithocrete, which is a proprietary architectural paving system that melds the structural properties of reinforced concrete with the esthetic qualities of materials such as granite, glass, marble, limestone and shells. Lithocrete is both for commercial and residential use.

KM-Plaza recently announced that they have been awarded the 68,000 sq.ft., Miami Beach Jewish Community Center; the 37,000 sq.ft., 2200-2236 Collins Avenue and the 103,000 sq. ft. renovation of 52 Units in the National Hotel.



Ft. Lauderdale Fire Station # 3



Ft. Lauderdale Fire Station # 21



Miami Beach Jewish Community Center



2200 Collins Avenue



The National Hotel Renovation

First-class Attention and Service for all Pools

Each month Construction FOCUS features a CASF member company, selected by drawing a business card from among those attending the monthly networking breakfast. The next breakfast, sponsored by Pirtle Construction Co., will be held on Thursday, September 17, 7:30 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott-Cypress Creek in Ft. Lauderdale.

Founded in 1975, by Bob Van Kirk, Van Kirk and Sons Pools and Spas has been dedicated to building residential and commercial swimming pools to the highest standards of excellence. Their basic philosophy is quite simple, "Build each pool as if it were going in your own backyard."



Even though Van Kirk and Sons has specialized in the

pool and spa business since the beginning, the company has evolved from new construction to encompass repairs, remodeling, custom design and the manufacturing of precast materials. They are a self-contained operation with their own fleet

of vehicles. All work taken on by their team of carefully trained professionals is strategically planned and executed. On a daily basis, every operation is carefully scheduled assuring customers first-class attention and service, regardless of the size of the job.

Van Kirk and Sons features a wide range of designs for both commercial and residential applications including; lagoons, freeform, classic, straight edge, roman and geometric. In addition to spectacular pools and spas, they also have expertise with waterfalls, fountains and rock formations. Over the years, Van Kirk and Sons have applied their diverse experience to custom-designed homes, high-rises, resorts, hotels, health & fitness clubs, competition pools, lazy rivers, as well as, interactive water features.

As a bonded and insured company, Van Kirk and Sons is an approved vendor for Walt Disney World, and proudly maintains an "A" rating in safety from Amerisure Mutual Insurance Company. In addition to Florida, Van Kirk and Sons provides expert service throughout, Georgia, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Nevada and the Islands of The Bahamas.

During the current downturn in new construction projects, remodeling has become a big part of their business since it is such a cost-effective option. Van Kirk and Sons has over two acres of space and in-house manufacturing capabilities, making them a virtual "one-stop shop" for every pool or spa accessory.

With a solid reputation, Van Kirk and Sons strives to give its residential and commercial customers the service and quality they deserve. Some of their most recent commercial projects include: Fontainebleau Hotel & Resort, Ritz-Carlton-Palm Beach, The Orlando Peabody Hotel Expansion, multiple 24 Hour and LA Fitness Health Clubs, The Ft. Lauderdale Grande Hotel and Yacht Club, The Fort Lauderdale Westin Beach Resort, and the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Training Facility.

Van Kirk & Sons, with offices in Broward (954-755-4402) and Palm Beach (561-736-1506) County, can install the pool or spa of your dreams. For more information, please visit their web site at www.vankirkpools.com.

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Construction Focus is the official publication of the Construction Association of South Florida. Article suggestions and submissions for publication consideration should be forwarded to the Executive Vice President.

Are You Prepared for a Disaster?

CASF's recent Safety Committee meeting was moderated by Dave Lockhart from Poole and Kent Company of Florida. Numerous disaster preparation topics were discussed by the group, as well as, advice, tips and first-hand personal experience dealing with a crisis. The following is a brief summary from the informative session:

- ◆ Communication is critical between companies, the office, employees and at project sites.
- ◆ Taking care of the staff is essential - they are the most important asset to any company.
- ◆ An accounting system should be in place so it can be conducted off-site at another location (remote access).
- ◆ A satellite phone is a great investment when all other phone communications are cut off and not available.
- ◆ Back-up all electronic files on a regular basis (data recovery program).
- ◆ Prepare for a storm - even if it might not hit. Secure job sites
- ◆ Have key personnel in place that are trained and qualified to assist after a storm.
- ◆ Have a plan in place for all types of disasters - not just storms.

Disaster Preparation Checklists:

For Your Office:

- ◆ Read your company's evacuation plan and know where to meet after an emergency. Know where exit routes, stairways, fire extinguishers, and medical kits are located.

- ◆ Assemble supplies in a single pack and have them stored in your desk. Along with your supplies, store a pair of walking shoes.
- ◆ Carry a list of important phone numbers in your wallet.

For Your Car:

Even if you are at home when a disaster strikes, and your home is well stocked, you may still need the supplies in your car. Your house may not be safe to enter, or may catch fire after a disaster. Your car will be one of your most important resources after a disaster strikes.



- ◆ Always keep your gas tank full. Fill it when it reaches 1/2 a tank. You will thank yourself the first time you are stuck in a traffic jam in bad weather.
- ◆ Think of your car's trunk as a big steel supply cabinet. Keep your supplies in the trunk along with other items like tools, jumper cables and spare tire.
- ◆ Keep the car mechanically sound and ready to use. Keep supplies in the car for

use in an emergency.

- ◆ Replace your battery every 2-3 years. In an emergency, your car battery will need to run the radio and air conditioning for extended periods.

For Your Home:

Home is where you can do the most to be prepared. But remember that you are only home for about 1/2 of the hours in a day. You must also be prepared at work, and have additional supplies in your car.

- ◆ Know where to shut off the water, power, and gas and have placed the tools at each location.

- ◆ Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections. These are potential fire risks. Brace overhead light fixtures.

- ◆ Anything that would have fallen on someone's head has been secured to the wall.

- ◆ Know the unsafe locations in the house.

- ◆ Make an emergency plan and know escape routes and meeting places.

Know the location of the nearest police,

fire station, and hospital.

Know which neighbors have medical experience.

Talk with neighbors about emergency preparedness.

Your children know how to get help from neighbors and 911.

Evaluate what supplies your family needs to store.

- ◆ Have the proper amount of water, food and other essential supplies stored for emergency use.

- ◆ Have a first aid kit.

CASF's 2009-10 Planning Meeting



**CONSTRUCTION
ASSOCIATION**
OF SOUTH FLORIDA

**Marco Island Marriott
Resort**
Saturday, August 8, 2009

ROUTE 10:

3500 NW 9TH AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33309

