

ICC-500 Storm Shelters for Schools

Precast concrete components have an inherent ability to be extremely durable and resistant to catastrophic weather events. With the ability to prestress long span roof components and inherent weight of concrete, precast concrete is widely used when creating large volume spaces that are needed as safe rooms for both schools and communities.

Recent code changes require us to modify engineering procedures, policies, or methodology. New schools, and some school additions based on their size, are now required to incorporate an ICC-500 storm shelter into their construction. These structures need to provide shelter for the students as well as faculty and staff so naturally the tendency is to locate the shelter in either the auditorium or the gymnasium. From a design standpoint, these are the most challenging areas as they often feature the tallest unsupported walls and the longest roof spans on the project.

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Year in Review

This past year has obviously been challenging on a number of fronts. That said, I do want to express a sincere thank you to our employees, customers and business partners for their willingness and ability to adapt and thus, keep the year productive. In addition to completion of a number of beautiful projects, we advanced a number of strategic initiatives which will set the stage for increased capability and competitiveness in the future.

This year saw completion of our new Brighton, CO plant, technical advancement and successful delivery of our first Infinite Facade project and successful rollout of new finishes for architectural wall panels. We believe each of these initiatives will advance the precast industry and benefit our clients through aesthetic, schedule and pricing enhancements. To move these initiatives forward in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, social unrest and political turmoil is once again a testament to our employees and customers.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this challenging year and I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season!

Dan Juntunen, President & CEO



We invite you to join Wells in attending our complimentary one-hour accredited continuing education webinar series. AIA 1.0 HSW/LU 1.0 PDH 0.1 CEU

- DECEMBER 9, 2020 | 11:00 AM
Precast for Schools, ICC-500 and Storm Shelters [REGISTER TODAY](#)
- MARCH 10, 2021 | 11:00 AM
Designing Parking Structures and Maintenance Schedules
- MARCH 17, 2021 | 11:00 AM
Sealants 101
- Our June 2020 | Designing Total Precast Office Buildings and the September 2020 | Thermal Mass Testing and Performance for Precast are both available [ON DEMAND](#)

[>Register or learn more](#)



Conversations with the Facade Squad

Join us once a month for quick 30 minute conversations on all things facades. We promise this won't be boring, just two guys that love to talk about facades, materials and design. [>Register or learn more](#)

- DECEMBER 8, 2020 | 12:00 PM CST
Sustainability and Facade Design
- Previous sessions available [On Demand](#)

Blogs

Have you been following our Blog posts? Take a look at our content and/or [subscribe](#) today to receive updates every week.

- [What can Precast do That Cast-in-Place Cannot](#)
- [Precast for General Contractors](#)
- [Creating Safe Structures](#)
- [Precast vs. Timber](#)

Project Showcase - Industrial Market

Wells Western Division has recently broke into the industrial wall market in a big way, selling over 600,000 SF of insulated walls over three months including large distribution centers and manufacturing facilities.

Precast is instrumental in industrial projects with its high-performance material that integrates easily with other systems and inherently provides the versatility, efficiency, and resiliency needed to meet the multi-hazard requirements and long-term demands.

Precast concrete delivers solutions to manufacturing, distribution and warehouse facilities by providing cost-effective bay spacing, fire resistance, and durable, affordable building envelopes.



Project Showcase - Storm Shelters

Precast concrete is being used more to help projects meet their goals. Precast concrete structural and envelope systems meet today's high performance demands, providing exceptional life-cycle performance through reduced operation and maintenance costs. The projects below provide safe room or storm shelter solutions for their clients, communities and employees.

Next Technology Center - Chaska, MN: A state-of-the-art 253,000-square-foot concurrently maintainable data center. This facility is equipped with 2N chiller plant (each plant with 4,650 tons chilled water) and can withstand 207 mph wind velocity.

Wells manufactured and erected precast components including double tees and wall panels. The exterior facade included architectural insulated wall panels with a mix of acid etch, sandblast, waterwash finishes as well as showcasing a formliner feature.



Palo Community Center - Palo, IA: Wells Concrete manufactured and installed architectural and structural precast for this project consisting of architectural insulated wall panels with a thin-brick exterior finish and architectural concrete accents to simulate stone. The entry panels return on three sides creating large stone and masonry piers with architectural precast lintel panels spanning over the openings. The gymnasium within the community center also serves as a storm shelter.

