



Proudly Serving the Southern California Masonry Industry Since 1947.

Top Stories In This Briefing



Lights, Camera, Action! Live
Fire Wall Resiliency
Demonstration is in the
Books



INVEST IN A BETTER TOMORROW.

CMU Check Off Program
Accepting Applications for
Regional Advisory
Committee Members



Congratulations California
Contest Winners



Before - Masonry Wall
6" Brick Block
8" Precision CMU
8" Shot Blast CMU



Before - Gypsum Wall
5/8" Fire Shield Type X
2x4 Wood Studs



After - Both Walls

Live Fire Wall Resiliency Demonstration is in the Books

On October 27, 2022 we set out to see how two different wall assemblies would react to fire. Wall 1 was a grouted masonry wall. Wall 2 was a fire rated gypsum wall. Propane torches were placed 6" from each wall. Two torches were put on the masonry wall: one torch was

aimed at the clay material and the other focused on the concrete material. One torch was centered on the gypsum wall. Both walls were under flame for 1 hour.

We hired a film crew to capture the experiment with the footage to be part of a video that will be used to represent masonry at the first-ever [UC Davis Wildfire Resilient Structures \(WiReS\) Conference](#) February 2023.

While the pictures above tell the story about how our experiment played out, they do not show the herculean effort that happened behind the scenes.

Thank you to the volunteers, material suppliers, builders and advisors that made this demonstration possible. We could not have done it without you!

- [Townsend & Schmidt Masonry](#) - our host site and builder of the masonry wall.
- [Spec Mix](#) - supplied masonry wall Spec Mix Core Fill grout.
- [Basalite](#) - supplied masonry wall Precision and Shot Blast CMU.
- [HC Muddox](#) - supplied masonry wall Brick Block.
- **VNR Construction** - general contractor/builder of the gypsum wall.
- [Saint Moore Insurance Agency](#) - secured event day insurance coverage.
- [Final Cut Media](#) - filmed the demonstration and will be creating our final video.
- [Sacramento City Fire Department](#) - conducted our pre-event site inspection to keep us all safe while we played with fire.

Your WiReS Planning Committee Members



CMU Check Off Program Now Accepting Applications for Regional Advisory Committee Members



Courtesy of CMUCheckoff.com

What Do RAC Committee Members Do?

The five Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) will be responsible for developing local and regional programs to submit to the Board for consideration.

What's the Deadline to Submit an Application?

If you are interested in participating in a RAC, please follow this [link](#) and complete the form. Initial **submissions will be accepted through November 4, 2022.**

The CMU Checkoff was approved in a national vote of producers on December 22, 2021. One of the first responsibilities of the board will be establishing a start date for checkoff collections – a penny for every concrete block sold in the U.S. Checkoff leaders estimate more than \$100 million will be invested into promoting the block industry in the first decade of the checkoff. One of the initial tasks of the new board will be determining an assessment timeline and protocol.

California is in Region 5.

California Winners Circle



Masonry Solutions Takes 1st Place at First-Ever Veneer Masters Contest

On October 1, 2022, the OMEGA Products Corona facility hosted the inaugural Veneer Masters competition

First Prize: Masonry Solutions

Mason: Jesus Perez
Tender: Sergio Lizardi

Congratulations to Armando Echeverria (Masonry Solutions owner and MCAC Secretary) and the Masonry Solutions team!



California Apprentices to Compete in 2023 National Skills Challenge Competition

On October 15, 2022 MITA apprentices competed at the Rancheros Club in Riverside to earn a chance to compete at the 2023 National Skills Challenge held at the World of Concrete in Las Vegas.

1st Year Apprentice

1st Place – Andres Aldana, Escondido Apprentice Program

2nd Year Apprentice

1st Place – Adam Montano, Modern Masonry

3rd Year Apprentice

1st Place – Francisco Chaidez, NuWay, Inc.

MCAC is sponsoring the 2023 National Skills Challenge contest registration fees and the Masonry Industry Training Association (MITA) is sponsoring travel expenses to make sure California's apprentices represent on the national stage.

We know you will make us proud! Congratulations all!



NuWay Masonry's Howard Cole Runs Away with California Spec Mix Bricklayer 500 Top Spot...Again

On October 21, 2022 Thompson Building Materials' Sacramento yard served as host of the Spec Mix Bricklayer 500 California regional contest.

The first place finisher is no stranger to the winners circle having taken first place at last year's contest as well.

1st Place: NuWay Masonry
Mason: Howard Cole
Tender: Martin Avendano

We'll be routing for our California team at the national Spec Mix Bricklayer 500 on January 18, 2023 in Las Vegas! Congratulations Howard and Martin!