

LOSS PREVENTION SEMINAR 2026

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 | 8 AM – NOON | ZOOM

4 ICC-APPROVED EDUCATION HOURS: 0.4 CEUS



MEMBERS: \$100 NON-MEMBERS: \$250

REGISTER NOW

EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS JANUARY 31

TRAINING TO SUPPORT FIELD TECHNICIANS AND OTHER FIELD STAFF IN REDUCING LIABILITY FOR THEM AND THEIR FIRMS.



Midnight Change Orders – A Case Study in Communication, Compliance, and Cooperation

Elizabeth Clarke, Owner and President of Structure Groups

This session will explore a real-world case from a firm offering CoMET and geotechnical services on a residential development project where last-minute field decisions, communication breakdowns, and lack of clear protocols led to significant risk and remediation efforts. Titled “Midnight Change Orders Cause Nightmares,” the case underscores the importance of preparation, oversight, and proactive engagement in construction projects. Participants will leave with a renewed understanding of how field staff can contribute to proactive project management, clarity in site responsibilities, and continuous engagement to help mitigate costly mid-project disruptions.



Mitigating Data Loss & Other Business Risks Through Software

Eli Aizenstat, Director of Marketing at Aldoa

With the rise of highly industry-specific software applications over the past several years, businesses around the country have started to think about the benefits and risks of replacing manual processes with modern software. We've spoken with hundreds of field technicians, project managers, laboratory technicians, and other geoprofessionals about their experiences with pen and paper and software alike, and the results are in. Learn about the common mistakes in the field that lead to data loss, how to leverage modern solutions to mitigate these risks, and how the rise of AI and voice-to-text will continue to transform field work over the next five years. We'll also discuss a case study showing how a geoprofessional and materials testing firm transformed their field operations and increased efficiency across the firm.



Three Different Superintendents on the Same Project. Need I Say More?!

Bryce Moore, Director of Construction Services at Blackburn Consulting

This case study focuses on a firm providing geotechnical engineering and CoMET services for a new grocery store and a replacement parking lot in a small town about three hours away from the firm's office. Against the recommendations of the firm, the owner allowed the substitution of a geotextile for the recommended geogrid in the parking lot. Substandard, unbound, granular base material was also used. Supervision by the general contractor was “spotty” at best, as was communication with the firm. Not surprisingly, the new asphalt pavement began to deteriorate before construction was completed. The subsequent dispute was settled through formal mediation.



The Beauty of Simplicity

Robert Down, PE, Managing Principal at Earth Systems Pacific

This study will summarize actual field reports where field staff have used incorrect wording in plans or geotechnical reports. For example: “I used a probe, and the surface was firm and unyielding,” “the sidewalls were plumb and perpendicular,” or “the excavations were level.”

When Less Is More

Robert Down, PE, Managing Principal at Earth Systems Pacific

This study focuses on a water reclamation basin fill which was intended to be constructed as a large mass grading operation but, due to environmental restrictions, was constructed in small segments. This increased risk, inspections, budget, tracking, and grading, all creating more critical need for more documentation.



Using a Tragedy to Improve Industrywide Jobsite Safety

Jim Wright, Director of Safety and Health | Senior Principal at Terracon

In October 2025, a Terracon Consultants field technician was struck and killed by a dump truck while performing density testing on a project site. It was determined that the dump truck driver was on his cell phone at the time of the incident. As Terracon investigated the incident, we discovered there were corrective actions that could be taken on this specific project to improve safety but in order to make a larger impact on worker safety, industry wide changes are necessary. This presentation will review the causal factors of the tragic loss of our field technician, the direct and indirect impacts of his loss, immediate actions taken to improve safety on the job site, long term actions Terracon is pushing to eliminate significant injuries and fatalities on project sites, and actions you can take to join the initiative and make a difference.



Out of Scope Assistance Causes Problems

Rob Sandquist, PE, Senior Engineer at Blackburn Consulting

This case study reviews a geotechnical engineering report and CoMET services project, including earthwork and foundation construction observation, for the construction of a five-story, wood frame senior living facility on undeveloped land known for expansive clay soils. About four years after construction was completed and the facility was occupied, sanitary sewer lines began backing up and lower-level floor slab began to show heaving-related distress. After very costly repairs were completed, the client filed construction-defect claims against all the design firms.