

# Building Conference Speakers Explain Codes, Insurance

BY BETH NESBIT

**KITTANNING** — Presentations relating to the commercial building market and covering topics concerning building codes, insurance and the use of fire retardant lumber highlighted the sixth annual, two-day, farm builders conference held here recently.

James Varhola, director of the Bureau of Occupational and Individual Safety in Harrisburg, concentrated his discussion on Pennsylvania's labor and industry codes for commercial buildings.

Varhola stressed the regulations of the Fire and Panic Act of 1927. Any building, with the exception of farm buildings with 10 employees or less, must comply with the 1927 Act.

The basic components of the Fire and Panic Act state that the building being erected must have approval under the act. Once approval has been received an occupancy permit is distributed. Permits for use or occupancy should be obtained before any building is erected or altered, Varhola explained.

By failing to submit plans or obtain approval, the owner, contractor and architect will be required to immediately cease all work on that structure until the Department of Labor and Industry has given approval of submitted plans, the bureau director continued.

Varhola stressed the primary purpose of the Act is to provide for the safety and health of all persons employed, accommodated, housed or assembled in the structure being regulated.

Adaptations for the Handicapped, Act 235, is a concern for many in society today, Varhola

explained. Many builders must consider ramps, wider doors for the entrance of wheelchairs, the installation of elevators and restroom facilities that are accessible to the handicapped individual.

In closing, Varhola encouraged all contractors in attendance contact him with any problems they may be having.

Bill Allen, spokesman from the insurance community, discussed fire insurance for the different types of buildings under construction.

Insurance rates are based on chances of loss of the building. These rates are based on a back rating which is a series of charges and rates.

Allen presented two factors which help determine occupancy rates. The first factor is the possible hazards; the second factor is how these hazards are protected. The builder does not determine these hazards.

In the private protection sector, automatic sprinkler systems are the best way to protect property. Sprinklers must be installed and maintained according to state regulations. If these standards are followed and the system is regularly inspected, the insurance rates may be lowered, Allen noted.

Fire and smoke detection systems are also helpful in lowering the cost of coverage. An advantage these systems have over a water sprinkler system is a reduced cost. Plus there is no accidental flooding caused by such a system. Allen said it is to the client's advantage to know of these different types of fire protection systems.

Allen said that a building's exposure does effect the insurance

cost. If a farmer builds a new metal structure it typically has low insurance rates. But, if this particular structure is exposed to a frame building or joined to a frame building, insurance costs increase due to the frame structure exposure. Allen stated that if a subdivision were constructed between these two buildings, the insurance rates would decrease significantly.

Steve Shields of the Koppers Company in Pittsburgh spoke about the uses of fire retardant lumber for structural and non-structural uses in commercial buildings.

Shields explained that fire retardant wood is: pressure treated, has a flamespread index of 25 or less, has no progressive combustion, bears identification of agency with re-examination service, is within hygroscopic limits and is dried after treatment.

The Koppers Company offers a fire retardant treated wood with a patented formula as an alternative to materials of construction classified as noncombustible for weather protected applications. Shields added that Koppers' wood also resists decay and termites.

This specific fire retardant

treated wood is lumber and plywood pressure soaked with a proprietary fire retardant solution. Following treatment, Koppers' patented wood is dried in a kiln to an average moisture content of 19 percent or less for lumber and 15 percent or less for plywood. This moisture is in accordance with AWWA standards C-20 for lumber and C-27 for plywood.

Drying after treatment to these levels is required to comply with the model building codes and other standards.

Shields advised, "Be aware of what is on the market...know their product's properties."

## Improved Side Delivery Rakes Available From Deere

**MOLINE, ILL.** — Four new side delivery hay rakes with a number of design improvements have been introduced by John Deere. They are the 652 and 662 models, with 8-1/2-foot raking width, ideally suited to raking hay in 7-foot swaths or behind 7- or 9-foot mower conditioners; the 672 (left-hand delivery) and 673 (right-hand delivery) rakes, both with 9-1/2 foot raking width.

The 672 handles 9-foot swaths or windrows behind 9-ft. or larger platforms. A tandem hitch allows the 673 to be joined with either the 662 or 672 for raking two windrows together.

Hydraulic reel drive is standard on the 652, so the operator can match reel speed to crop conditions independent of ground speed. Hydraulic reel drive is optional on the three drawn models.

The 652 features an integral hitch that offers the maneuverability and easy hookup associated with three-point hitch-

mounted rakes.

On all trail-type rakes, offset rear wheels are positioned in close to the basket and closely follow ground contours to rake all of the hay cleanly. This also helps prevent rake teeth from contacting the ground during operation on rough or uneven ground.


The right-angle reel delivers hay gently from the swath to the windrow or when turning windrows for faster curing. Forward movement of the hay is held to a minimum to reduce leaf loss and retain hay quality.

A hydraulic basket lift cylinder, available as an attachment, enables easy raising of the rake to avoid obstructions and also helps prevent damage on uneven ground. The basket tilt adjustment linkage permits easy positioning of the basket to match windrow forming requirements. A single height control crank is located conveniently for positioning the rake basket manually for field operation or transport. The basket

leveling linkage is spring-loaded; this enables the basket to float over terraces or uneven ground.

A unitized design increases basket strength for improved reliability. The unitized front hitch and gauge wheel support likewise has been strengthened to increase durability and better withstand side loads. New front basket support bolts to the front hitch support are also stronger, to reduce loads on the rake frame.

Tooth life has been increased by employing a J-hook design that is formed before the teeth are molded in rubber, to improve bonding.



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