



# QUARTERLY CONNECTION

A NIBS MEMBER NEWSLETTER

JULY 01, 2020

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[NIBS.ORG](https://www.nibs.org)

## NEWS HIGHLIGHT

### National Institute of Building Sciences 2020 Conference Moves Online This August

*Building Innovation 2020: Virtual Edition will be a powerfully compact event, focusing on technology, workforce, resilience and COVID-19*

The National Institute of Building Sciences is taking its annual meeting online, with the aim to reach a much broader built environment audience.

**Building Innovation 2020: Virtual Edition** will take place Aug. 18-19.

“We have been working around the clock to present the best material for our members and a growing number of attendees, and it became clear Building Innovation needed to move online,” says Lakisha

# NIBS QUARTERLY CONNECTION

A. Woods, CAE, President and CEO of NIBS. “This year, Building Innovation will deliver two days of critically important educational sessions with the top experts in the industry.”

Given the difficulty of the COVID-19 atmosphere, BI2020: Virtual Edition will ensure the utmost safety for everyone. BI2020 is open to anyone within the building industry. Sessions will cover a spectrum of developments in the areas of workforce, technology, resilience, and the challenges that COVID-19 brings to the built environment.

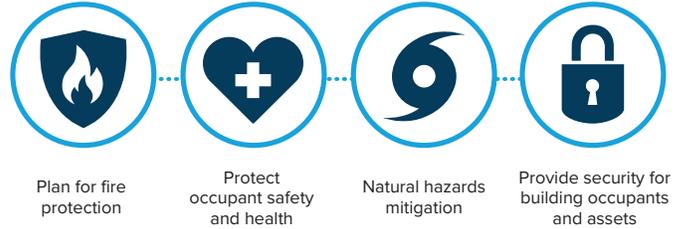
BI2020 also will feature a “pay what you can” registration fee, ranging from free to a maximum of \$395. All registration fees will be used to support the cost of the technology, and the NIBS 501(c)3 non-profit mission to serve the public interest by advancing building science and technology to improve the built environment.

BI2020: Virtual Edition will feature an awards presentation and closing keynote at 3pm on August 18. During the awards presentation, NIBS will announce the winner of the Mortimer M. Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award, NIBS’ highest honor to be awarded to someone who has demonstrated a lifetime of dedication to the mission and goals of the organization. NIBS also will unveil a new scholarship program – The Betty and Mort Marshall Memorial Scholarship Fund – aimed at supporting two students pursuing a career in architecture and engineering at a historically Black college or university.

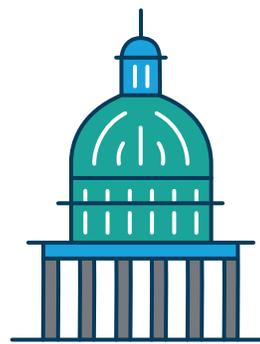
Building Innovation is a premiere event and brings together architects, engineers, code officials, manufacturers, innovators, public and private sector representatives, officials from building and construction, and local, state and government leaders.

The event presenting sponsor is the International Code Council.

**Building Safety Month** has taken on greater meaning.



*May was Building Safety Month. The International Code Council celebrated its 40th annual Building Safety Month with the theme “Safer Buildings, Safer Communities, Safer World.”*



The nation could invest more than **\$500 billion**

to upgrade existing buildings but save over **\$2.2 trillion.**

Want to learn more?

Visit <https://www.nibs.org/mitigationsaves>

## OBSERVANCES

July	UV Safety Month
July 4	Independence Day
July 31	System Administrator Appreciation Day
August	National Black Business Month
August	National Water Quality Month
August 26	Women’s Equality Day
September	National Preparedness Month
September 7	Labor Day

## COVID-19 Virtual Town Hall Series

### Preparing for Re-entering Buildings | May 7, 2020

**MODERATOR:** Carl Hedde, Head of Insurance Practice, One Concern and Chair of the NIBS Board of Directors

**PANEL:** Dr. G. Scott Earnest, Acting Director for the Office of Construction Safety and Health, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH); Thomas H. Phoenix, Principal, CPL Architects & Engineers, PC; Treasurer, NIBS Board of Directors; Fellow, ASHRAE; Henry H. Chamberlin, President & Chief Operating Officer, Building Owners & Managers Association (BOMA); Daniel Nichols, Assistant Director of Fire/Life Safety, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Metro-North Railroad; Pete DeMarco, Executive Vice President of Advocacy & Research, International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

#### COVID-19 VIRTUAL TOWN HALL: PREPARING FOR REENTERING BUILDINGS OVERVIEW

On May 7, 2020, the National Institute of Building Sciences held the first in a series of COVID-19 Virtual Town Halls, brought to you by the NIBS Consultative Council. The town hall received more than 1,800 registrants from throughout the building industry, universities, officials representing the federal, local, and state governments and more.

Bringing America back to work will take planning, vision, and expertise. All movement in the direction toward reentering and repopulating buildings, businesses, and transportation systems must follow the health and safety guidelines set forth by the federal government, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and World Health Organization.



National Institute of Building Sciences is live now.

NIBS President & CEO Lakisha A. Woods gave an overview of the mission of the organization and then introduced the moderator and panelists.

The panel received more than 200 questions. The virtual meeting was also live-streamed through the National Institute of Building Sciences Facebook page. The recorded video was then uploaded to the [nibs.org](https://www.nibs.org) website, where the whole series of COVID-19-related virtual town halls is housed.

#### COVID-19 TRANSFER & MITIGATION PRACTICES

COVID-19 is best spread person-to-person through droplets. These can be inhaled into the lungs. Surfaces and asymptomatic people also easily can transfer the virus.

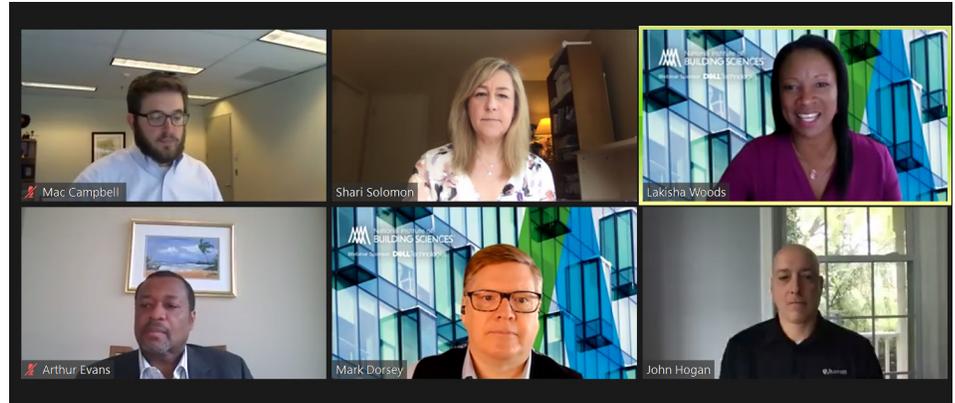
Exposure control strategies are key. Three major categories of prevention include physical separation, PPE and measures, and decontamination of environmental surfaces.

**Read the full session overview:** <https://www.nibs.org/page/covid-19-virtual-town-hall>

## Mental Health and Sanitation of COVID-19 Facilities | May 19, 2020

**MODERATOR:** Mark Dorsey, FASAE, CAE, CEO, Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)

**PANEL:** Michael (Mike) Schultz, SES, Chief of Interagency and International Services, United States Army Corps of Engineers; Arthur C. Evans, Jr., PhD, Chief Executive Officer, American Psychological Association; Mac Campbell, CTA, CVP, Deputy Director, Baltimore Convention Center; Shari L. Solomon, President and Founder, CleanHealth Environmental, LLC; John Hogan, Vice President of Design and Project Management, Marriott Hotels



### COVID-19 VIRTUAL TOWN HALL: MENTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION OVERVIEW

On May 19, 2020, the National Institute of Building Sciences held its second in a series of COVID-19 virtual town halls, brought to you by the NIBS Consultative Council. The town hall received more than 800 registrants from throughout the building industry, universities, officials representing the federal, local, and state governments and more.

As we learned in our first town hall on May 7, 2020, bringing the country back to work will take planning, vision, and expertise – all of it based on science and data. During that town hall, we learned about COVID-19 transfer and mitigation, how to manage transportation and returning to a commute, and steps needed to prepare the workplace, including HVAC and water systems.

For this second town hall, NIBS President & CEO Lakisha A. Woods gave an overview of the mission of the organization and introduced the moderator and panelists.

When it comes to mental health and sanitation, our subject matter experts pointed to the critical role that communication plays in moving toward reopening businesses, offices, and communities.

### CONVERTING FACILITIES INTO TEMPORARY COVID-19 CARE SPACES

The pandemic required many communities to come up with temporary facilities to care for COVID-19 patients and medical personnel. Alternate care and treatment were created in a number of spaces, including convention centers and formerly closed hospitals. Hotels also were used to create alternate sites for patients.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed its strategy early on, when New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said he needed USACE help. The organization mobilized, met with the governor's team, and on the flight back began to draft and roll out a greater strategy that would help others in need. The strategy involved four phases, with involvement by state and local authorities: planning, building, supply, and staffing of facilities.

Site selection and assessment of temporary spaces took place first. Then, spaces were converted to healthcare use.

**Read the full session overview:** <https://www.nibs.org/page/covid-19-virtual-town-hall-051920>

## The Future of Design & Construction I June 29, 2020

**MODERATOR:** Katharine E. Morgan, President, ASTM International

**PANEL:** Darrell X. Rounds, Operations Group Manager, Community Operations, General Motors; Mindy W. Saffer, LEED AP, Managing Principal, Cresa; Jennifer Kolstad, Global Design Director, Ford Motor Company; J. Kevin Heinly, AIA, LEED AP, Managing Director & Principal, Gensler; Dr. Alisha Wilkins, Owner/Founder, Hera Hub Temecula



### COVID-19 VIRTUAL TOWN HALL: FUTURE OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

On June 29, 2020, the National Institute of Building Sciences held its third in a series of COVID-19 virtual town halls, brought to you by the NIBS Consultative Council. The town hall received more than 800 registrants from throughout the building industry, universities, officials representing the federal, local, and state governments and more.

During this town hall, we learned what small and large companies are doing to prepare for building reoccupation by workers, from revisiting floor plans and workspace footprints to securing adequate PPE and supplies to maintain health and wellness at the office.

The panel also covered staging and population structuring, signage, touchless technology, and the probability of at least some level of continued telecommuting.

“Our new normal keeps safety and health at the forefront as we build for the future,” says NIBS President & CEO Lakisha A. Woods.

A fourth town hall is being planned. Details will be shared on [www.nibs.org](http://www.nibs.org).

### ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF SAFETY DURING UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

Managing a single structure – or even a portfolio of buildings – poses different challenges.

To establish a culture of wellness and safety, there must be a methodology to reopening. And every department needs to have a hand in the process, including human resources, public policy, legal, facilities management, maintenance, and the executive team.

It may have any or all of the following:

- An entry protocol with health questionnaire
- Distribution of personal protective equipment and masks
- Availability of strategically-placed hand sanitizer machines
- Temperature-screening process
- Ample signage and floor markings
- Touchless technology in public spaces or in bathrooms
- Stockpile of critical supplies, including hand sanitizer, cleaning wipes, surgical masks, and toilet paper

**Read the full session overview:** <https://www.nibs.org/page/covid-19-virtual-town-hall-062920>

## IN THE NEWS

### THE WASHINGTON SPECTATOR

#### NEW STUDY FORECASTS DRAMATIC BEACH EROSION ALONG U.S. COASTLINE

In the time of the coronavirus, various U.S. authorities have tried to mitigate the contagion by belatedly and unevenly restricting access to beaches. Yet in the not-so-distant future, nature will accomplish what government could not, as many of these sandy areas will have been slowly wiped out by coastal erosion due to sea level rise.

In just 80 years from now, the length of a human lifetime, almost half of the beaches along the U.S. coast, and around the globe, will have approached the point of extinction from climate-driven coastal flooding and human interference. This dire prediction emerges from an authoritative new study by the Joint Research Center of the European Commission, or JRC, published in the peer-reviewed *Nature Climate Change*, a monthly journal dedicated to publishing the most significant and cutting-edge research on the character, underlying causes, and impacts of global climate change. [READ MORE>>](#)

### THE WEATHER CHANNEL

#### MOVING 1 MILLION HOUSES FROM FLOOD ZONES COULD SAVE U.S. \$1 TRILLION, STUDY FINDS

Over the past 40 years, inland flooding damage has cost the United States over \$146.5 billion, but by removing 1 million homes from flood-prone areas and relocating the residents, the country could save \$1.16 trillion over the long term, according to an exhaustive new study.

Climate change is driving more intense rainstorms, leading to more frequent and prolonged flooding in parts of the U.S. The year-long period ending in June 2019 was the wettest 12-month span since the U.S. began keeping records in 1895, as Weather Underground reported. [READ MORE>>](#)

### UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS

#### IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19, CONGRESS MUST SUPPORT PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAMS

COVID-19, the virus that has become part of our daily lexicon and lives, is affecting us well into the spring and for the foreseeable future. At the same time, some parts of the U.S. are now experiencing flood warnings and flood disaster declarations, and extreme heat conditions.

The COVID-19 crisis is compounding risks for U.S. communities still contending with past extreme weather and climate-related disasters and bracing for future disasters. The recovery could likely be compounded by a string of extreme weather events starting this spring, continuing towards the end of summer when wildfire season peaks along with extreme heat and drought conditions, lasting well into the fall through the end of hurricane season.

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### COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

#### REDUCING DISASTER COSTS BY BUILDING BETTER

Over the last seven decades, the federal government has made it a practice to open its purse ever wider to aid communities after disaster strikes. Its willingness to cover disaster costs has resulted in a “no limit, no premium insurance policy for infrastructure” for state and local governments, according to recent testimony by an administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). As a consequence, the fiscal burden on the federal government has soared. From 2005 to 2014, the federal government obligated almost \$280 billion for disaster assistance. In 2018, in a period of six months, Congress shelled out \$140 billion in aid—an

amount that was nearly triple the annual budget for the Department of Homeland Security and that contributed almost 20 percent to the total federal deficit for that year. The price tag for disasters will only grow as climate change inflicts ever more natural disasters on the nation through more intense storms, longer droughts, bigger wildfires, and greater temperature and precipitation extremes—as well as sea-level rise. [READ MORE>>](#)

## FACILITIESNET

### **BUILDING EXTERIORS ENHANCE RESILIENCE AGAINST EXTREME WEATHER**

For communities prone to severe weather, sustainable building strategies serve as the cornerstone for enhancing resilience. Building owners are becoming more attuned to resilience strategies as a way to improve their assets and address climate risks that have potentially costly repercussions. Momentum is building not just for strategies that tackle emissions, but also for measures that build resilience. Green building provides solutions to support building owners and facility managers, but more awareness of these strategies and solutions is needed.

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## E&E NEWS

### **FEMA SHOULD REMOVE 1M HOMES FROM FLOOD ZONES – REPORT**

The U.S. could save more than \$1 trillion over the long term by removing roughly 1 million homes from flood-prone areas and relocating residents to higher ground, according to a massive new study funded by the government.

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## INFORMED INFRASTRUCTURE

### **NIBS HOSTS LIMITED INVITATION VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP SERIES FOR WOMEN IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY**

The National Institute of Building Sciences today hosted the first in a series of virtual events aimed at engaging and prioritizing women in leadership throughout the built environment.

Twenty women executives were selected to join the May 28 Women Executives in Building: Virtual Leadership Series meeting, which was co-hosted by Lakisha A. Woods, CAE, President and CEO of NIBS, and Nancy Novak, Chief Innovation Officer with Compass Datacenters.

[READ MORE>>](#)

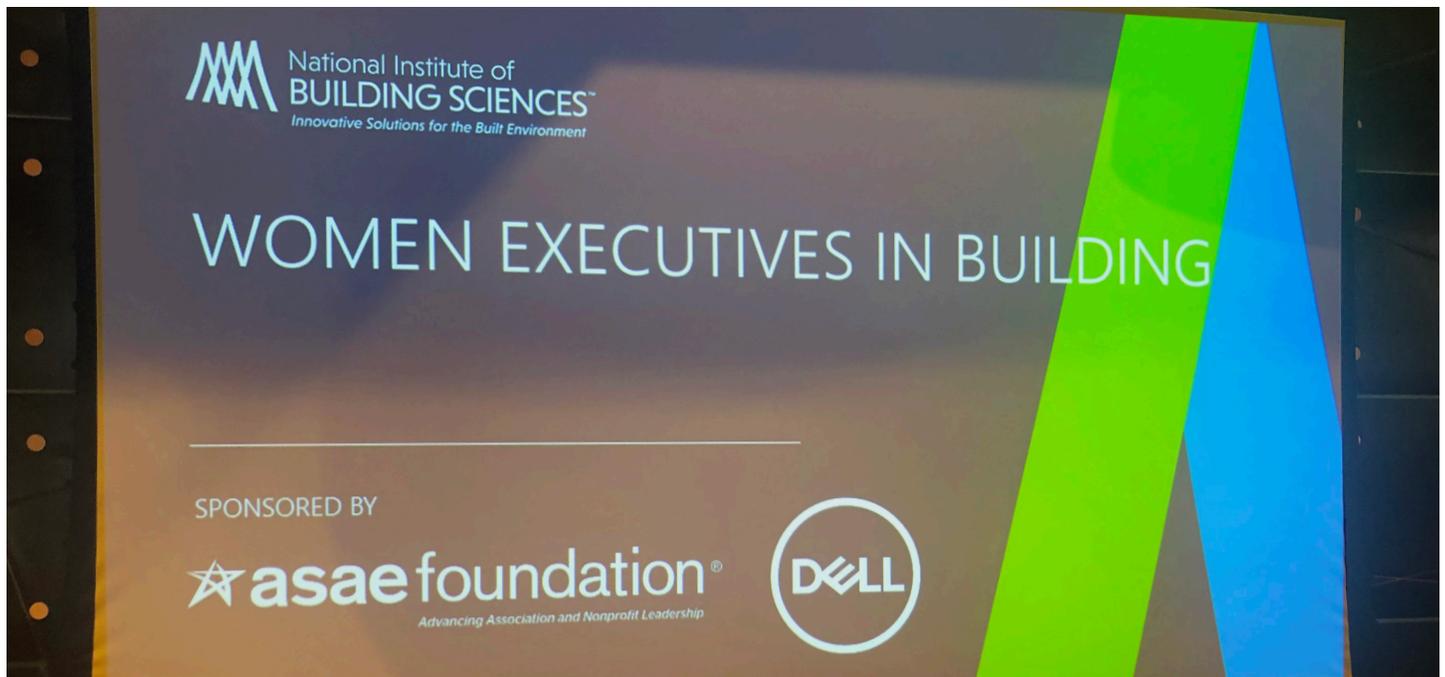
## WALLA WALLA UNION-BULLETIN

### **HOW FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES CAN PREPARE FOR NATURAL DISASTERS**

Natural disasters are increasing in severity and frequency. However, studies show that advance planning can keep individuals healthier and safer and support faster recovery for communities.

Building Safety Month, an international campaign to raise awareness about building safety celebrated every May, is a great reminder that one of the most effective ways to prepare is by enforcing up-to-date building codes.

[READ MORE>>](#)



## Women Executives in Building: Increasing Diversity Starts With Awareness

When it comes to boosting diversity, equity and inclusion in the building industry, it will require a host of changes, starting with awareness.

Awareness comes at many levels, from minorities and young women entering the workforce seeing diversity in leadership positions, to awareness of how technology has changed women's views and experience within the construction industry.

"It's not the old 'You have to lift 100 pounds' anymore," says Angie Simon, CEO with Western Allied Mechanical and SMACNA National President. "We need to get that word out there, so more people want to be involved. Technology has changed the industry."

Simon joined a host of participants in the June 25 Women Executives in Building (WEB): Virtual Leadership Series. The meeting was hosted by Lakisha A. Woods, CAE,

President and CEO of NIBS, and featured Nancy Novak, Chief Innovation Officer with Compass Datacenters.

It's no secret the construction industry is dominated mostly by men.

WEB aims to help bring diversity to the field, starting with leaders at the top. These women in construction dare to confront the stereotypes that are holding women back in the built environment. It's more important than ever to see women and diverse leaders at the top, if we're going to reach a more diverse audience who may be considering this career path.

"We've said it before – it's going to take women in this space to make change, to help this space diversify and help it grow," Woods says.

Some of the diversity and inclusion solutions discussed during the virtual meeting:

- Creating incentives for companies or organizations to seek out diverse candidates
- Recognizing and awarding talent
- Showcasing success stories
- Working with community colleges to apply credits to built environment programs
- Building an online mentorship program to help employees achieve professional goals

On May 28, NIBS hosted the first in a series of virtual events aimed at engaging and prioritizing women in leadership throughout the built environment.

The May meeting focus was around work production and maintaining productivity in a workplace or jobsite. Some of the topics discussed include logistics and supply chain, technology and innovation, contractual arrangements, communication and partnerships.

The next Women Executives in Building virtual meeting is July 30. That discussion will be centered around balancing work and life outside of the office.

## BACKGROUND – THE WOMEN EXECUTIVES IN BUILDING SUMMIT

The National Institute of Building Sciences hosted the first annual Women Executives in Building Summit on Oct. 4, 2019.

The summit featured a strong panel of CEOs, including Paula Glover, of the American Association of Blacks in Energy; Andrea Rutledge, with the Construction Management Association of America; and Dawn Sweeney, of the National Restaurant Association.

Issues discussed include balancing work and family, reaching career counselors and youth in high school and college to recruit into the industry, and whether companies are doing a good job with recruiting and taking care of women entering the workforce.

The second annual Women Executives in Building Summit is scheduled for September 23-24 in Nashville, Tenn.

## FIND US ONLINE

**NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION SAVES: WHAT CAN BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNERS LEARN FROM THIS NATIONWIDE BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS**  
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**NIBS HOSTS COVID-19 VIRTUAL TOWN HALL WEBINAR SERIES**  
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**BUILDING SAFETY MONTH: KEEPING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT SAFE, DURING THIS CRITICAL TIME**  
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**THE BUILDING INDUSTRY HAS RESPONDED IN MANY WAYS TO COVID-19. WE'VE COMPILED INFORMATION – AND IT CONTINUES TO GROW**  
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**PROTECTING AGAINST NATURAL DISASTERS: NIBS UNVEILS NEW REPORT ON MITIGATION**  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 30: [Women Executives in Building Virtual Leadership Series Meeting](#)
- August 18-19: [BI2020: Virtual Edition](#)
- September 23-24: [Women Executives in Building Summit](#)

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