ASCE | FORENSIC ENGINEERING

11th FORENSIC ENGINEERING CONGRESS

Orlando, Florida | October 22 - 25, 2026

Decoding Failure

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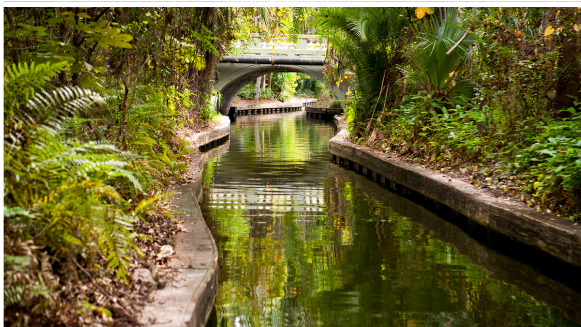
11th FORENSIC ENGINEERTING CONGRESS

Decoding Failure

You are invited to contribute to the *11th Forensic Engineering Congress* in Orlando, Florida. Organized by the *ASCE Forensic Engineering Division*, the congress is the premier event for forensic engineering practitioners, educators, and experts across the Architecture, Engineering, Construction, Legal, Insurance, and Risk disciplines to share knowledge and experience. The congress offers presenters a unique opportunity to showcase their work to an international audience of leaders and practitioners shaping the future of forensic engineering.

The theme of the 2026 congress is *Decoding Failure,* which reflects the core mission of forensic engineering and its focus on applying engineering and scientific principles to the investigation of failures. Forensic engineering may also involve testimony on the findings of these investigations before a court of law. These failures can range from catastrophic collapses to components that simply do not perform as expected. Technology, legal landscapes, climate change, and public expectations are reshaping the field of forensic engineering. The Congress provides a venue to learn from the experiences of others, share your work, and network with colleagues to advance the practice of forensic engineering. Help us to disseminate failure information to ASCE and the public through participation at the *11th Forensic Engineering Congress.*

Target Audience

- Architects
- Attorneys
- Building Scientists
- Civil Engineers
- Contractors
- Construction Engineers
- Construction Managers
- Facility Managers
- Geotechnical Engineers
- Insurance Professionals
- Risk Managers
- Structural Engineers

Suggested Topics

We invite abstracts for technical papers, sessions, and panel discussions on forensic engineering topics. Accepted papers will be published by ASCE in the congress proceedings. Most of the congress technical program will consist of paper presentations. Presentations will be made in-person during the congress. The following topics are suggested, but others are welcome.

Artificial Intelligence in Forensic Engineering

- Integrating AI tools into expert witness practice
- AI-enhanced analyses in forensic engineering
- Machine learning and data science for investigations
- AI use by the legal profession

Building and Infrastructure Performance

- Failures of pipelines, dams, levees, and treatment plants
- Performance of special structures, including cranes, earth structures, and temporary structures
- Issues with tall buildings, schools, hospitals, and data centers
- Transportation failures, including bridges, highways, rail, airports, parking, and tunnels
- Failures or issues with transmission towers and wind turbines

Building Enclosure

- Failures and performance of roofs, facades, and fenestrations
- Building science, including water, air, thermal, and vapor performance
- Innovations in façade and roof assessment
- Architectural materials and façade systems
- Energy performance and modeling

Construction Performance and Safety

- Adjacent construction (damages, protection, shoring, and undermining)
- Demolition and excavation (collapse and implosion)
- Equipment (cranes and scaffolding)
- Loads (instability, temporary, and construction loading)
- Worker safety (OSHA)

Electric Vehicle and Smart Infrastructure

- Thermal runaway and battery fires
- Changes in loading conditions
- Impacts on existing structures or infrastructure with EV proliferation

Expert Witness

- Working with attorneys and insurance adjusters
- Rules of evidence and methods of proof
- Deposition and trial testimony strategies
- Case studies in ethics
- Legal precedents and case law relevant to forensic engineering

Florida Topics

- Hurricane damage assessments and mitigation
- Coastal issues and engineering adaptations
- Climate change adaptations for engineering practice
- Threshold inspections to reduce failures
- Condominium investigations and assessments

Natural Disasters and Extreme Conditions

- Failures caused by tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes, and tsunamis
- Evaluation of fire damage
- Fire topics
- Blast and impact loading
- Risk analysis and mitigation strategies

Professional Practice & Education

- Forensic investigation methodologies
- Engineering ethics and case studies
- Use of case studies in forensic engineering education
- Legal system considerations, including testimony and documentation

Repairs and Remediation

- Innovative approaches to structural repairs
- Strengthening methods
- Advanced construction materials and methods

Technologies for Forensic Investigation

- Building information modeling (BIM)
- Construction project management (CPM) software
- Structural health monitoring
- Remote sensing and nondestructive evaluation

Deadlines and Important Dates

Call for Abstracts Opens	August 25, 2025
Abstracts Due	October 17, 2025
Notification of Abstract Acceptance	December 12, 2025
Draft Full-Length Papers Due	January 30, 2026
Peer Review and Notification of Draft Paper Acceptance	April 3, 2026
Final Papers Due	April 24, 2026
Notification of Final Paper Acceptance	May 18, 2026
Speaker Registration Deadline	May 20, 2026
Conference Dates	October 22 - 25, 2026

*Authors must register for the conference by this date or their paper(s) will be removed

Submission Requirements

All abstracts should be in MS Word format, and contain the title, authors' names, affiliations, contact information, and up to 300 words in 12-point Times New Roman font. The abstract should summarize the purpose, scope, problem statement, approach, and conclusions of the work. You will then copy your work into the online submission system.

Technical Paper Abstracts for technical papers should also include keywords and any special comments, such as session, track, or topic for which the paper is best suited, entered at the bottom of the abstract page. If the abstract is accepted, authors will then be required to submit full-length manuscripts (10 pages or less) by the deadlines indicated to be included in the congress program and proceedings. Technical Papers are full-length manuscripts of value and interest to forensic engineers. They must be original reviews of case studies, present information of current interest, or probe new fields of forensic engineering activity. Information on preparing abstracts and manuscripts for ASCE proceedings can be found here: Publishing Proceedings with ASCE | ASCE Library.

Sessions Non-paper sessions may be considered if proposed by a committee, ASCE-affiliated project, or an associated technical society. For example, technical committees or associated technical societies are invited to submit abstracts for non-paper sessions that provide updates on current activities or projects that will be of interest to forensic engineers or ASCE members.

Panel Discussions Panel discussions may be proposed by individuals. Abstracts for panel sessions should include the discussion title, names, titles or credentials, contact information, and affiliations of panelists and the moderator. A description of the discussion topic(s) should be included. Panel discussions are considered non-paper sessions.

How to Submit Abstracts must be submitted electronically using the online submission system listed on the congress website.

Peer Review Process

Abstracts will undergo a confidential peer review in accordance with ASCE policy. Acceptance of a paper abstract is an invitation to submit a full-length manuscript for a second peer review. Acceptance of an abstract does not guarantee acceptance of the final paper. Review criteria will assess if the work is applicable, useful, and relevant to forensic engineering, and in the appropriate format for publication.