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Reinforced Rooms at
Residence Halls to
Protect Students from
Tornadoes, Severe
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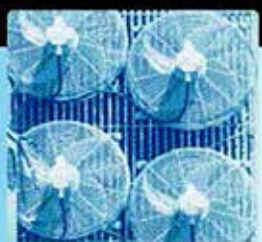
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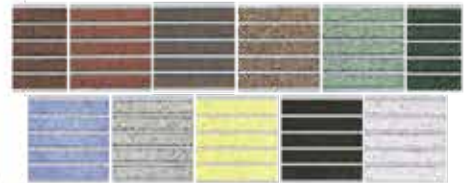


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KWK Architects Designs Reinforced Rooms at Residence Halls to Protect Students from Tornadoes, Severe Weather



In areas of the country where dangerous tornadoes and severe weather occur more frequently, more universities are incorporating reinforced rooms, or storm shelters, in their residence hall designs to provide an extra layer of protection for students. These tornado-safe rooms are typically small, above- or below-ground structures made of concrete, masonry or steel that are proven to withstand extreme winds, even those produced by EF-4 or EF-5 tornadoes.

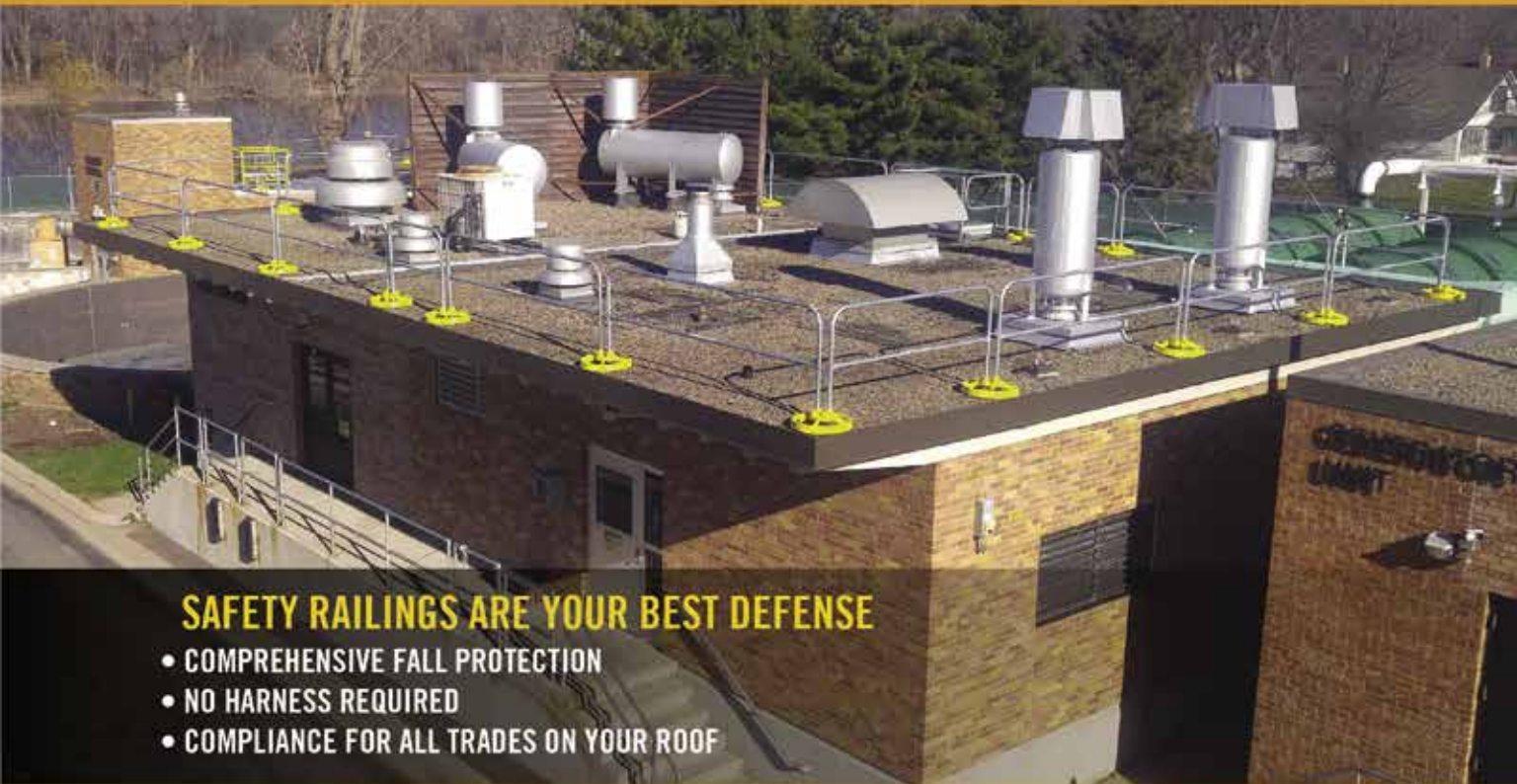
The U.S. averages 1,333 tornadoes per year with more than half of those occurring between April and June when most universities are still in session. The top five states with the highest number of tornadoes annually include Texas, Kansas, Florida, Oklahoma and Nebraska.

Javier Esteban, Principal at St. Louis-based KWK Architects, suggests that universities work with their architectural firms to determine a reinforced room design that best accommodates their budgets, structures and student population.

Ideally, reinforced rooms should be designed and constructed based on the standards and codes for tornado and hurricane storm shelters developed by the International Code Council (ICC) 500, in partnership with the National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA), said Esteban, but that is not always feasible for a variety of reasons.

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"Many times the restrictions in terms of ventilation, structure, and exit requirements make designing to these codes cost-prohibitive for universities. In those instances, it is still possible to design for student safety via a compromise where some public areas of the residence hall have strengthened or reinforced structures, doors, and windows," he said.

KWK Architects has designed reinforced rooms for several universities within the country's Tornado Alley where twisters are more common:

- Headington and Dunham Residential Colleges at the University of Oklahoma (Oklahoma averages 68 tornadoes per year).
- University Commons residential complex at Missouri S&T (Missouri experiences an estimated 45 twisters annually).
- Victor E. Village at Fort Hays State University in Kansas (Kansas reports an average of 96 tornadoes per year).

A reinforced room should be designed to stand up to high winds on its own, independent of the building structure surrounding it, said Esteban.

"It is critically important to maintain the structure of the reinforced area so that should a building collapse occur, it does not affect the integrity of the reinforced space, and its occupants remain safe," said Esteban.

The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) has outlined the different types of tornado-safe room options available and the materials used to build them:

1. Cast-in-Place Concrete – these rooms are assembled on-site using removable forms, rebar and concrete to create the walls and ceilings. The forms can be fitted with liners to create concrete exterior surfaces that look like siding, brick or stone.

2. Insulating Concrete Forms (ICFs) – These rooms are created using foam blocks that contain steel reinforcement, fitted together and filled with con-

crete. The foam is a permanent part of the room and provides insulation to the building. Interior and exterior finish options include drywall, sheet-rock or siding.

3. Concrete Masonry – These safe rooms are constructed of individual blocks, set in place with rebar and fully grouted. Two rows of steel at the top of the wall hold the assembly together. There are a variety of texture and finish options available.

4. Precast Concrete – This room is formed off-site and delivered to a building for installation. It can be located virtually anywhere in a new building and is anchored using steel angles and bolts. Precast concrete can be finished in a variety of colors and textures using form liners.

5. Prefabricated Above-Ground Steel – These prefabricated safe rooms typically cost less than site-built safe rooms. Considerations must be made to ensure that this room is placed on a safe and sturdy foundation.

Esteban also suggests that reinforced room designs incorporate emergency lighting, electrical outlets, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, heating and air conditioning, and an AED defibrillator. When not in use, residence hall storm shelters can serve as lounge and study areas for students.

About KWK Architects

Founded in 2013 by five architects with a combined 120 years of higher education knowledge and experience, KWK Architects partners with colleges and universities across the United States to create innovative and inspiring places that enhance campus life. Areas of expertise include student housing, dining, and academic and science/technology spaces. KWK Architects has completed more than \$1 billion in construction-valued projects since its founding and currently employs a growing staff of 15 at its headquarters in St. Louis, MO. For more information about KWK Architects, visit www.kwkarchitects.com or contact the Director of Marketing Cindy Hausler at cindyh@kwkarchitects.com.

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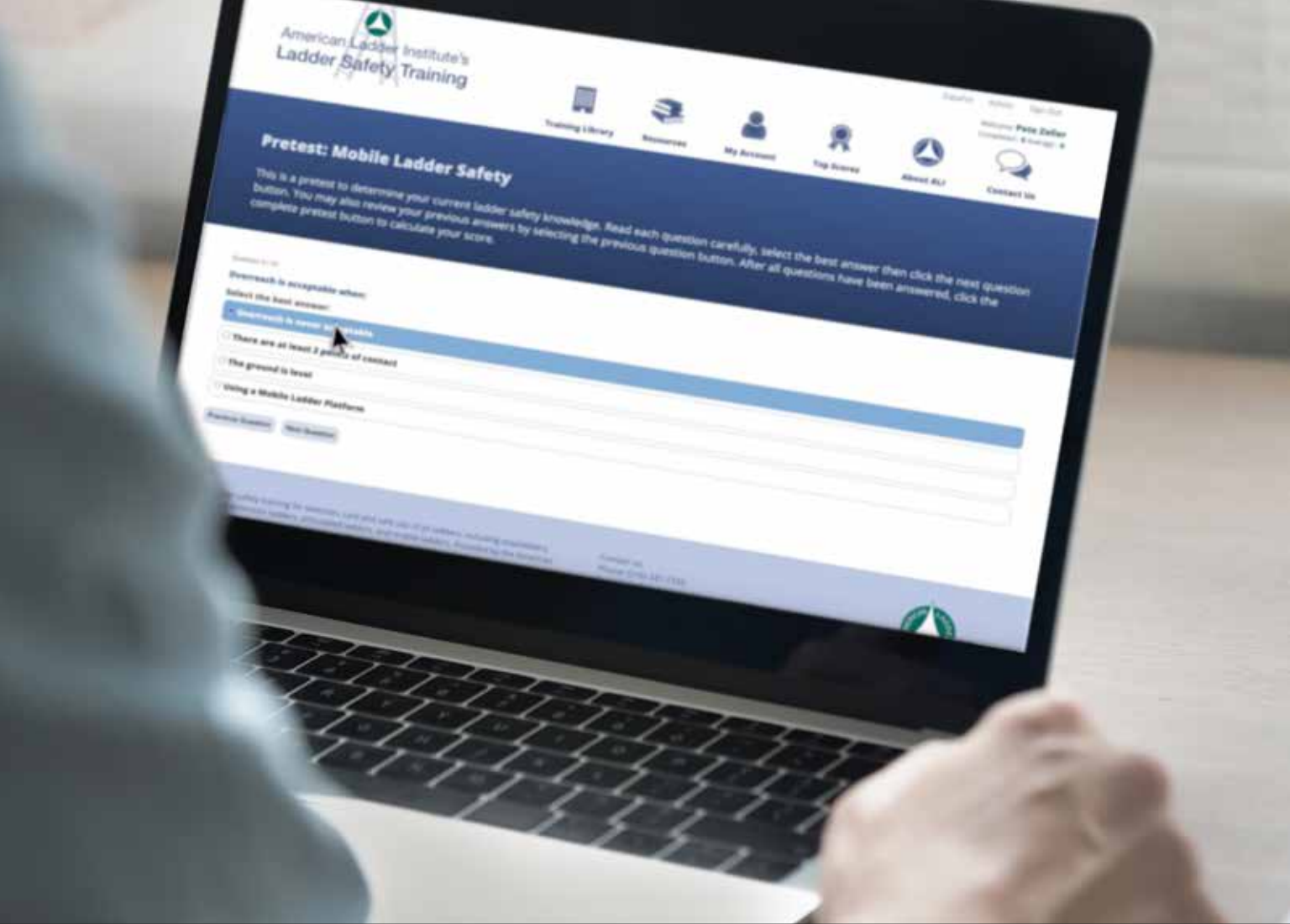
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The ‘Golden Jewel’ of Safety Training

How Ladder Safety Training Works All Year Long for Retail Learning Institute

One of the aims of Ladder Safety Month is to increase the number of people taking Ladder Safety Training from the American Ladder Institute (ALI). That, of course, is an effort that is not confined to a single month; it continues all year long, every year. One of the ways ALI has extended its ladder safety message, and gotten more people into Ladder Safety Training courses, is due in part to farsighted adopters of the curriculum like the Retail Learning Institute (RLI).

RLI is a people development organization supported by The Coca-Cola Company, dedicated to providing learning resources for food retailers worldwide. As an

educational organization, it serves more than 15,000 businesses in 19 countries with blended training programs that include more than 500 industry-specific online courses divided into different categories: onboarding, compliance, departments, managers, and specialized series.

In 2019, RLI added the American Ladder Institute's Ladder Safety Training to its compliance curriculum. It has quickly grown to become the institute's "golden jewel," according to Ana Velazquez, RLI's learning solutions director.

"Ladder safety training is one of the courses we recommend all clients add to their employee training," said Velazquez. More than 300 organizations have incorpo-



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rated the course into their regular employee training, and more than 10,000 people have taken at least one ladder safety training course from ALI.

The courses help keep employees safer by teaching them the proper way to use ladders. They also protect employers, providing proof that they have made the training available and that employees have completed it.

RLI develops most of its courses in-house and has ex-

ceptionally high standards for courses developed from outside sources. "When we choose to partner with another organization to provide training content, we make the decision based on quality of content and the credibility of the partner," said Velazquez. "We want experts in their field like the American Ladder Institute."

Ladder Safety Training from ALI is fully incorporated into RLI's course offering, so employees never have to leave RLI's learning management system to take courses,

which are offered for articulated ladders, mobile ladders and platforms, single ladders and extension ladders, and stepladders. RLI also operates sister training services geared toward independent grocers and general retailers, and ALI's Ladder Safety Training is offered through all of them.

"The American Ladder Institute has done a great service for us by providing this quality training content," said Velazquez. "We want to offer it to as many people as possible, which is why we make it available across all our training platforms."

About the American Ladder Institute
Founded in 1947, the American Ladder Institute (ALI) is a not-for-profit trade association dedicated to promoting safe ladder use through ladder safety resources, safety training, and the development of ANSI ladder safety standards. ALI also represents the common business interests of its members, who are comprised of the leading ladder and ladder component manufacturers in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. National Ladder Safety Month, observed each March and spearheaded by ALI, is the only program dedicated exclusively to promoting ladder safety, at home and work.

www.americanladderinstitute.org/ •



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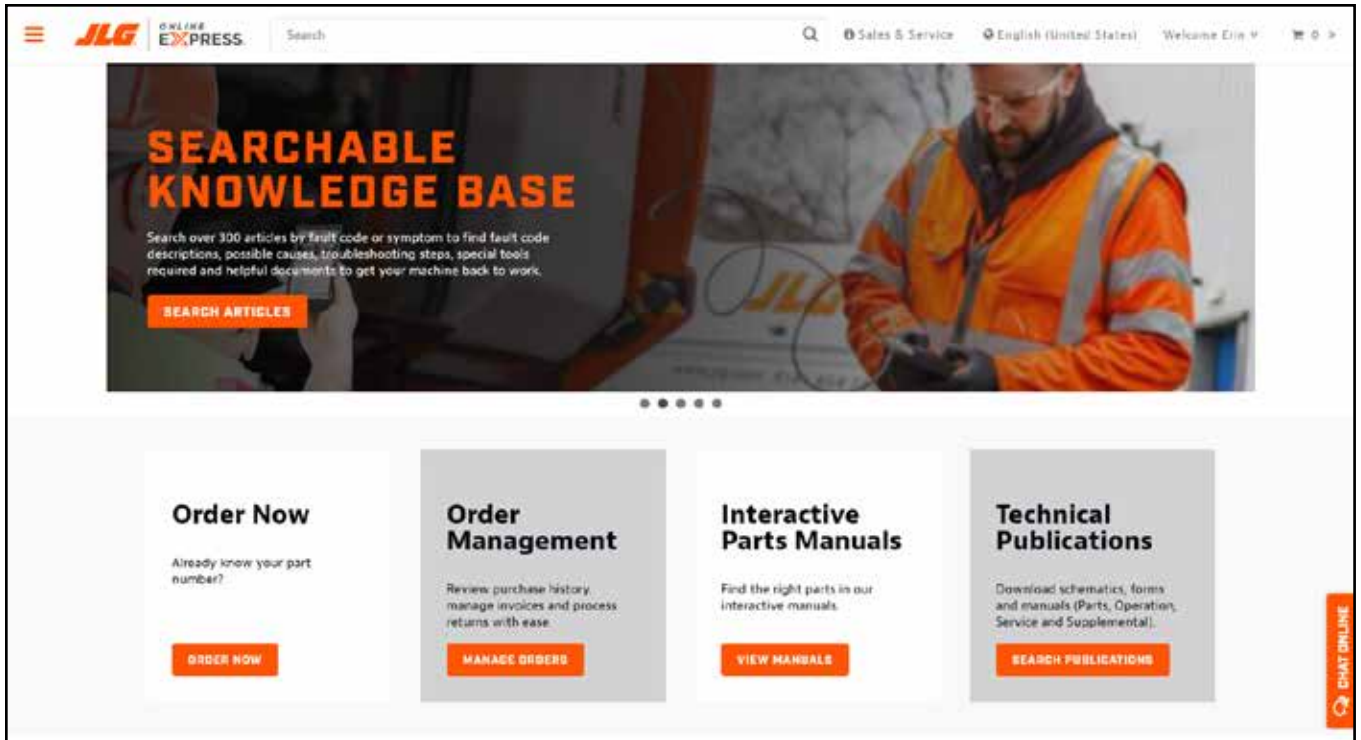
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JLG Industries, Inc., an Oshkosh Corporation company [NYSE:OSK] and a leading global manufacturer of mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) and telehandlers, announces the accessibility of its Knowledge Base article library to rental companies and service dealers with an account in Online Express, the company's 24/7 customer portal. Knowledge Base offers technicians the ability to search through a library of more than 400 service-related articles, by Diagnostic Trouble Code (commonly known as fault codes) or symptoms, for troubleshooting machine issues.

"All of the articles are authored by the technical experts within JLG," says Travis Myers, JLG's director of customer support, "providing our channel partners' technicians with highly specialized information that they don't normally have convenient access to. Through Knowledge Base in Online Express, JLG offers valuable, service-related content in a simple, mobile-friendly format to increase efficiencies when troubleshooting common machines issues."

Searching by either codes or keywords, technicians can use Knowledge Base articles to diagnose possible causes, troubleshoot steps needed to resolve the issue, learn more about any special tools or parts that might be required to complete the work and review additional information that could be helpful in getting the equipment back to work.

According to Myers, JLG is constantly adding new content, including more articles, imagery to show where components are located, detailed parts drawings and schematic clips, to enhance technicians' experience within the Knowledge Base library. "All of the information shared on Knowledge Base helps make troubleshooting simpler,"

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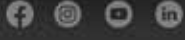
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says Myers. He adds that JLG also collects user feedback on each article's effectiveness and makes changes based on that insight. For example, he says, JLG provides links to frequently searched articles and helpful navigation filters to make sure technicians can find the articles they need quickly.

"Our vision for Knowledge Base is to create a global online community of service technicians and content contributors committed to driving machine uptime and decreasing total cost of ownership. It is one more way that JLG leverages its industry expertise and leadership to provide the best possible experience with our equipment and services," Myers concludes.

To access Knowledge Base, rental companies and service dealers can sign into their Online Express accounts or go directly to the library by clicking on onlineexpress.jlg.com/knowledge. To register for an Online Express account, visit onlineexpress.jlg.com/user-registration.

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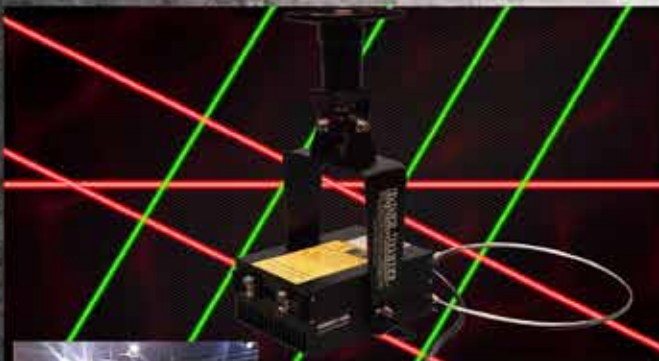


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