



# CONCRETE HOMES

June 2001

## Omaha Showcase Spotlights ICF Home



*This 2300 square-foot ICF home is one of six featuring innovative construction methods during the July 12–22 “Showcase of Better Built Homes” near Omaha, Nebraska. Jerry Kessler of Kessler Custom Builders, Inc. is the builder of this beautiful Reward ICF home.*

### Nebraska show features a wealth of innovative construction methods

A model home built with Reward insulating concrete form (ICF) walls will be one of five homes on display during the “Showcase of Better Built Homes” event scheduled for July 13–26 near Omaha, Nebraska. The Showcase is being presented by Design Basics, Inc. of Omaha, the nation's largest home plan design firm. Six innovative construction methods will be displayed, including ICFs, steel flooring and roof systems, and panelized construction. The 2,300 square-foot Reward Wall home was constructed by Jerry Kessler of Kessler Custom Builders, Inc., who was able to complete the home within the allotted timeframe, despite having to begin construction in mid-January during one of Omaha's worst winters in recent memory. Another home in the Showcase will feature an ICF basement foundation from ECO-Block, LLC.

As part of the overall Showcase event, Al Trellis, a *Builder* magazine columnist, will be the featured speaker at a seminar on the Future of American Housing, to be held in Omaha the day before the Showcase opening. The “Showcase of Better Built Homes”

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## Upcoming Events:

*The Insulating Concrete Form Association (ICFA) will hold its mid-year meeting and exhibition July 15-17, 2001. The Minneapolis Southwest Marriott, Minnetonka, Minnesota, will host the event. The ICF Mid-year Expo 2001 will feature seminars, workshops, a historic sternwheeler boat ride, and exhibits of ICF-related products. A complete program of events and registration materials available by calling ICFA at 847.657.9730, or by visiting their Web site at [www.forms.org](http://www.forms.org).*

*The Concrete Foundations Association (CFA) will hold its annual summer meeting and exhibition July 26-28, 2001. The Sheraton Fallsview at Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, will host the event. The CFA Summer Meeting 2001, will feature educational programs, daily activities for attendees and their families, and a trade show featuring over 30 exhibitors. A complete program of events and registration materials available by contacting the CFA at 319.895.6940, or by visiting their Web site at [www.cfawalls.org](http://www.cfawalls.org).*

*The National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) will hold its mid-year meeting August 15-19, 2001. The Westin Resort, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, will host the event. The NCMA meeting will feature committee meetings, presentations, and numerous other activities for attendees and their families. A complete program of events and registration materials are available by calling NCMA at 703.713.1900, or by visiting their Web site at [www.ncma.org](http://www.ncma.org).*

is picking up national attention and will be featured by *Better Homes & Gardens* and *Building Systems* magazine, as well as online at [www.bobvila.com](http://www.bobvila.com). The Showcase is being held at the Heidi Hollo West development, which is off Highway 133 North between Blair and Omaha. The homes will be open to the public July 13-26, with admission \$2.50 for adults, children free of charge. For more information and updates about the event, visit [www.designbasics.com](http://www.designbasics.com) and click on the Showcase logo. For information about Reward Wall Systems visit their Web site at [www.rewardwalls.com](http://www.rewardwalls.com).

*Special thanks to Jim Niehoff, Manager, Residential Promotion at PCA for contributing to this article.*

## New Tech Brief Introduced

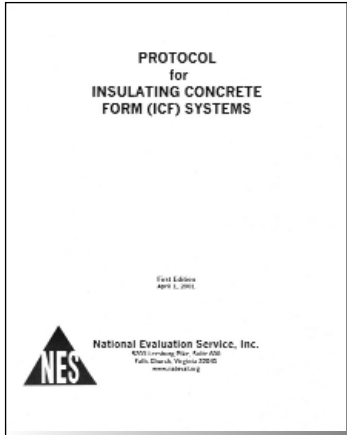
PCA has just released Residential Tech Brief IS309, *Concrete Stands Up to Earthquakes*. This 2 page publication is the 10th in a series of highlights about concrete home research projects. The single page format is written in an easy-to-read, non-technical style to educate consumers and the building industry. This "Tech Brief" addresses some of the key points that researchers have learned about building survival and failure during several major seismic events. Strength and durability are proven benefits of properly designed and constructed reinforced concrete homes.

**Residential Tech Brief  
Concrete Stands Up to Earthquakes  
(IS309) \$10.00 pack of 50, or \$1.50 each**

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## National Evaluation Service releases ICF evaluation protocol



The National Evaluation Service recently completed and is making available an evaluation protocol for Insulating Concrete Form (ICF) technology. The protocol will assist manufacturers of ICF technology in preparing for voluntary evaluation of their technology, by the NES, with respect to U.S. model building codes. The availability of an NES National Evaluation Report will in turn help accelerate and streamline the approval of ICF installations by U.S. building regulatory agencies and the building community. The protocol was developed by an expert panel appointed by the Management Board of the National Evaluation Service (NES) Inc., and the Building Innovation Center (BIC), with the assistance of Walker Engineering, Inc., of Birmingham, Alabama.

The objective of the protocol is to facilitate deployment and use of ICF technology. Availability of the protocol will allow a determination of the acceptability of various ICF products, materials, and assemblies in meeting building construction regulations through issuance of an NES National Evaluation Report on a specific ICF technology. It will also aid evaluation of other considerations important to the performance and acceptance of ICF technology. Manufacturers of ICF technology will be able to use the protocol to establish the scope of the evaluation for their ICF product(s) and better understand the requisite testing and documentation needed in advance of seeking building regulatory approval. This should better prepare manufacturers to secure more timely and widespread acceptance of their technology. The protocol focuses on structural, fire and thermal properties of ICF technology as well as durability, maintenance, and constructability issues.

The expert panel who developed the evaluation protocol was composed of individuals with backgrounds in ICF prefabrication and installation, civil engineering, structural engineering, building design, manufacturing, materials science, building construction, and construction management, code enforcement and building inspection, research, product development and testing, and architecture.

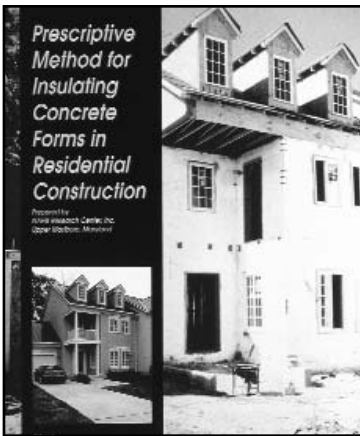
This protocol was developed in support of the public/private Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH). With the support of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the NES directed this particular effort toward the PATH goal to “accelerate the creation and widespread use of advanced technologies in housing.” More information on PATH is available at [www.pathnet.org](http://www.pathnet.org).

The National Evaluation Service, Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit organization that conducts a voluntary and advisory program of evaluation for both traditional and innovative building materials, products, and systems, with respect to the U.S. model building codes. The evaluation reports issued by the NES, as well as other NES efforts, facilitate the acceptance of new building technology by those in the U.S. building regulatory community as well as those who design and construct buildings. Cooperative efforts with similar organizations in other countries also help facilitate inter-country acceptance of building technology.

The protocol is located on the NES Web site at [www.nateval.org](http://www.nateval.org) and downloadable. Just click *Evaluation Protocols* on the home page, and then click the top protocol regarding ICFs when the next page appears.

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## Tools of our trade



The *Prescriptive Method for Insulating Concrete Forms in Residential Construction* provides instruction in designing, building, and inspecting homes built with ICFs. It is an invaluable reference for builders, contractors, designers, and building code officials. Tables and details for minimum wall thickness, reinforcement, lintels, and connections are included. 184 pages. 1998.

**Prescriptive Method for Insulating Concrete Forms in Residential Construction (EB118) \$25.00**



There is no limitation to the size and height of the ICF homes that can be engineered using the step-by-step procedures contained in this guide. Includes a comprehensive example demonstrating all aspects of proper design of this strong and durable alternative to conventional homebuilding systems. 202 pages. 1998.

**Structural Design of Insulating Concrete Form Walls in Residential Construction (EB212) \$25.00**

## Residential Technology Briefs

This series is designed to highlight important findings of recent research on concrete homebuilding systems. In a single page format and written in a non-technical style, they are intended to inform the building industry and consumers of the latest breakthroughs in concrete residential construction. They are 8 1/2" x 11", printed on both sides.

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|---|--|
| IS300 Concrete Homes Save Energy                | IS301 Building a Better House            |
| IS302 Fire Resistance of Concrete Homes         | IS303 Plastic Foams for Concrete Homes   |
| IS304 The Quality of Concrete Costs Little More | IS305 Comfort/Quiet Concrete Homes       |
| IS306 Built-In Safety with Concrete Homes       | IS308 Cost Comparison: Concrete vs. Wood |
| IS309 Concrete Stands up to Earthquakes         |  |

The Technology Briefs are sold in packs of 50 and cost \$10.00 ND.

**To place your order, call Mike Collignon at 847.966.6200, ext. 345, or e-mail: [mcollignon@portcement.org](mailto:mcollignon@portcement.org).**

# CONCRETE HOMES

*Concrete Homes* is a monthly newsletter published by the Residential department of the Portland Cement Association to communicate ideas for promoting the use of concrete in homebuilding. We are:

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The Portland Cement Association is an organization of cement companies to improve and extend the uses of portland cement and concrete through market development, engineering, research, education and public affairs work.

