

## **AAMA Announces New Blast Course**

SCHAUMBURG, Ill. -- The American Architectural Manufacturers Association (AAMA) announces the creation of a new one-hour classroom educational course addressing blast and proper fenestration systems to minimize blast hazards.

The course, entitled *Introduction to Designing Fenestration for Blast Mitigation*, was developed by the association's Blast Educational Task Group and is accredited through the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Since the devastating events of 9/11, national and global awareness of explosive events and the importance of blast preparedness have increased. This course covers the various forms of blast -- specifically addressing the most deadly form of blast, the shock wave -- and the resulting damage caused by blast hazards like flying glass and structural debris. Additionally, fenestration product design, testing and installation to resist blast hazards are discussed.

"Although a building cannot be designed to be blast proof, a designer's goal is to diminish the severity of damage and potential for injury in a blast event and this course outlines the criteria for blast mitigating fenestration systems," says Rich Walker, AAMA president and CEO. The course concludes with Web site links for additional blast-related resources.

As a free benefit to AAMA members, the Continuing Education Licensing Program allows representatives from member companies to present to architects courses that would qualify for credits through the AIA. Members may also use the courses to train internal staff/customers. Additional courses currently available include *Fiberglass for Fenestration*, *Glass: The Right Choice*, *Introduction to Unit Skylights for Daylighting of Commercial Buildings*, *Specifying Windows and Doors Using Performance Standards* and *Vinyl Windows: Designed for Performance*. All of these courses are available on the Continuing Education page of the AAMA Web site <http://www.aamanet.org/general.asp?sect=2&id=123> .

"AAMA recognizes that professional development is an ongoing process and places a high value on providing continuing education courses relevant to the times and industry," says Walker. He adds, "Our members are continuously developing new courses and updating current courses to ensure that the industry receives easily accessible, quality training."

For more information on AAMA's continuing education offerings, please visit [www.aamanet.org](http://www.aamanet.org) <http://www.aamanet.org> , call 847-303-5664, or email Sandra Washington, communications coordinator, at [swashington@aamanet.org](mailto:swashington@aamanet.org).

*AAMA is the source of performance standards, product certification, and educational programs for the fenestration industry.(SM)*

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