

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

Coffee Break Training

Topic: Wood Truss Storage Practices

Learning objective: The student shall be able to identify dangerous job-site storage practices for manufactured wood trusses, and be able to describe where to obtain recommended practice information.

Lightweight wood trusses are a common building component throughout the United States, especially for residential occupancies. Premanufactured trusses are engineered and fabricated to carry building code mandated structural loads.

The Wood Truss Council of America (WTCA) produces a “New Hire Program” to train construction workers on the appropriate use of lightweight wood truss assemblies. Trusses should be protected from damage during the manufacturing, transportation, and job-site storage phase of project.



These trusses should be stored in accordance with WTCA recommendations.

Section 14.6 of the “New Hire Program” manual on job-site storage recommends “to avoid distorting the plane of the trusses and collecting moisture from the ground, trusses should be stored flat, on level grade, and on blocks. If trusses are to be stored for a long period of time, they should also be covered with a water-repellent tarp for protection.” Improper storage practices should be brought to the attention of the general contractor.

Contact the WTCA at www.woodtruss.com for brochures and informational posters on recommended storage practices.