

A Basic Class on Ethics

Society of American Engineers (SAME) &
Construction Management Association of America (CMAA)
San Antonio, TX
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Presented by:

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Purpose

Provide one hour of annual ethics training for a combined local meeting of two professional organizations in the architect/engineer/construction (A/E/C) industry...

...and provide audience with applicable knowledge for professional and ethical conduct of business.

Ethics Alarms

From “Seinfeld” (TV):



Clip from “Hollywood Ethics: The Top 26 Movie and TV Clips Used on Ethics Alarms”, May 17, 2020,
<https://ethicsalarms.com/2020/05/17/hollywood-ethics-the-top-seven-movie-clips-used-on-ethics-alarms/>

What does “C.Y.A.” stand for, and when should you do it?

Agenda:

- What Are Ethics?
- Why Ethics Training?
- Ad Libs: Our Organizations on Ethics
- Quiz: Avoiding Potholes
- Application & Summary

What Are Ethics?

What Are Ethics?

From Merriam-Webster Dictionary (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ethic>)

ethic noun eth·ic | \ ɛθ·ɪk \

1 a: a set of moral principles : a theory or system of moral values *the present-day materialistic ethic an old-fashioned work ethic*—often used in plural but singular or plural in construction *an elaborate ethics Christian ethics*

b: ethics \ ɛθ·ɪks \ *plural in form but singular or plural in construction* : the principles of conduct governing an individual or a group *professional ethics*

c: a consciousness of moral importance *forge a conservation ethic*

d: a guiding philosophy

2 ethics plural : a set of moral issues or aspects (such as rightness) *debated the ethics of human cloning*

3 ethics plural in form but singular or plural in construction : the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation

Why Ethics Training?



KATRINA & BEYOND
Engineers Blamed in New Orleans Levee Failure
March 24, 2006 · 4:00 PM ET
Heard on *All Things Considered*
DAVID KESTENBAUM

Listen

After Katrina, sections of wall holding back water in New Orleans canals failed when they should have held. In a letter released Friday, an independent panel says engineers who designed the canal walls should have included a larger safety margin.



Our Organizations on Ethics



Code of Ethics

SAME is committed to providing a safe and welcoming experience for all participants, regardless of _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, and any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local _____, _____, or _____. SAME does not tolerate discrimination, intolerance, harassment, aggression, or ill-will of any kind, whether presented in-person, digitally, or via another method.

When engaged in any SAME activities or representing the Society, all members, participants, sponsors, employees, and staff are expected to:

- Maintain the _____ professional standards of _____ behavior
- Respect the _____, _____ and safety of themselves and others
- Be positive, friendly, and welcoming to others
- Support diversity and inclusion
- Attend in-person meetings and events only when in good health
- Maintain the _____ of Society business and its members.

Our Organizations on Ethics



Code of Ethics

SAME is committed to providing a safe and welcoming experience for all participants, regardless of **race**, **ethnicity**, **disability**, **religion**, **political affiliation**, **gender**, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, and any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local **laws**, **regulations**, or **ordinances**. SAME does not tolerate **discrimination**, intolerance, **harassment**, aggression, or **ill-will** of any kind, whether presented in-person, digitally, or via another method.

When engaged in any SAME activities or representing the Society, all members, participants, sponsors, employees, and staff are expected to:

- Maintain the **highest** professional standards of **ethical** behavior
- Respect the **dignity**, **health** and **safety** of themselves and others
- Be **positive**, friendly, and welcoming to other
- Support **diversity** and **inclusion**
- Attend in-person meetings and events only when in good health
- Maintain the **confidentiality** of Society business and its members.

Our Organizations on Ethics



The **CMAA Code of Professional Conduct** represents the aspirations of the profession relative to clients, owners, colleagues, and the _____.

Four fundamental principles form the foundation of the code: _____ Practice, Professional Excellence, Responsibility to the _____, and Client-Centered Practice.

1. Construction Managers should be guided in all their relationships by the highest standards of _____ and _____.
2. Construction Managers should conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, _____ and _____ so as to enhance the honor, reputation and value of the profession.
3. Construction Managers should avoid conduct or practices that deceive the public or represent a real or perceived _____ of _____.
4. Construction Managers should respect the rights of others and should not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, marital status, religion, national origin, age, disability, or sexual orientation nor knowingly violate any law, statute, or regulation in the performance of professional services. Construction managers should strive to create a diverse workforce.
5. Construction Managers should have a zero-tolerance policy for any form of harassment including sexual harassment and bullying.
6. Construction Managers should perform services only within their areas of _____ and _____.
7. Construction Managers should contribute to the advancement of the program, project, and construction management profession by using best practices, continuing their professional education, and contributing to the development of the future workforce.
8. Construction Managers should hold paramount the _____, _____, and _____ of the workplace and the public.
9. Construction Managers should guide and aid in defining and meeting objectives for environmental sustainability and resiliency throughout a project's life cycle.
10. Construction Managers should _____ represent the best interests of the owner or client, as consistent with this code.

Our Organizations on Ethics



The **CMAA Code of Professional Conduct** represents the aspirations of the profession relative to clients, owners, colleagues, and the **public**.

Four fundamental principles form the foundation of the code: **Ethical** Practice, Professional Excellence, Responsibility to the **Public**, and Client-Centered Practice.

1. Construction Managers should be guided in all their relationships by the highest standards of **integrity** and **honesty**.
2. Construction Managers should conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, **ethically**, and **lawfully** so as to enhance the honor, reputation and value of the profession.
3. Construction Managers should avoid conduct or practices that deceive the public or represent a real or perceived **conflict of interest**.
4. Construction Managers should respect the rights of others and should not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, marital status, religion, national origin, age, disability, or sexual orientation nor knowingly violate any law, statute, or regulation in the performance of professional services. Construction managers should strive to create a diverse workforce.
5. Construction Managers should have a zero-tolerance policy for any form of harassment including sexual harassment and bullying.
6. Construction Managers should perform services only within their areas of **competence** and **qualification**.
7. Construction Managers should contribute to the advancement of the program, project, and construction management profession by using best practices, continuing their professional education, and contributing to the development of the future workforce.
8. Construction Managers should hold paramount the **health, safety, and welfare** of the workplace and the public.
9. Construction Managers should guide and aid in defining and meeting objectives for environmental sustainability and resiliency throughout a project's life cycle.
10. Construction Managers should **ethically** represent the best interests of the owner or client, as consistent with this code.

Our Organizations on Ethics



I. Fundamental Canons. Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
5. Avoid deceptive acts.
6. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.

The **NSPE Code of Ethics** goes on to cover:

II. Rules of Practice, and

III. Professional Obligations

Avoiding the Potholes



- Planning
- Engineering / Design
- Procurement
- Construction
- Finances
- People (HR)
- Other

Application & Summary

- Do you and your organization...?
 - #talkaboutethics
 - #actionslouderthanwords
 - #livebythecode
- What are best practices you've seen in your workplace?
- What are your biggest takeaways?