

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEBINAR

Preview of Web-based Project Data Reports with TPAS

Date: JAN 23, 2012 - Monday
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 EST

[Register Now](#)

Join us for a demonstration of the web-based reporting feature currently in development for TPAS - the tablet PC annotation system that lets you enter data directly in AutoCAD drawings in the field.

Learn how this new feature will reduce the time and resources project teams spend on reporting tasks for complex, data-driven projects. You will be able to create, edit and print reports from project data directly from a browser without opening AutoCAD. The new TPAS web-based report portal will summarize and aggregate data collected in the field to enable fast and efficient communication about site observations for all project stakeholders to access online from any computer. Anticipated beta release in Spring 2012.

Interested in using TPAS on an upcoming project? It's available for rent or purchase as a stand-alone system - [contact us for further information](#).

This one-hour webinar will also include an introduction to the basic features and functions of TPAS.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

❖ [APTNE 2012 Annual Symposium](#)
February 3
Hartford, CT

❖ [ICRI Metro New York Chapter Meeting](#)
February 8
Mechanical Anchor Strength in Historic Masonry Materials
Earn NYS PE or AIA continuing education credit
New York, NY

❖ [ICRI 2012 Spring Convention](#)
"Preservation Engineering - Masonry/Stone/Concrete"
April 18 - 20
Quebec City, QC, Canada

Staff News

Project Highlight: Documenting Toronto's Heritage



In the heart of the Toronto financial district is 1 King Street West, a hotel and residential tower that exemplifies both Toronto's architectural heritage as well as the city's more recent building boom. The 14-story masonry building constructed in 1914 has a granite base and terra cotta at the upper floors, with neo-classical ornament fitting for a bank building of the period. In 2005, a 51-story residential tower was appended to the historic building, making it one of the tallest residential buildings in Toronto.

Vertical Access was retained by [Halsall Associates](#) to perform a comprehensive investigation of the exterior facades of the historic portion of 1 King Street. VA technicians Kelly Streeter, Mike Gilbert, Kevin Dalton (in above photo), and Evan Kopelson spent the weekend and Canadian Thanksgiving documenting conditions at the exterior masonry. The commute each day consisted of taking the elevator from our 8th floor accommodations to the 15th floor of the building where our rigging for the rope access drops was setup.

The project presented its challenges of conducting work in a bustling downtown setting, and of the calibrating of our thought processes and software to metric units. The survey proceeded smoothly and was completed over the course of three days of field work.

❖ [More details and a slide show of photos are posted in our blog.](#)

SPRAT Conference Update



Mike Gilbert and Keith Luscinski traveled to Golden, Colorado this month to attend the 2012 Conference for the [Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians](#) (SPRAT). SPRAT is an organization composed of individuals, companies, and agencies that have a stake in the safe development of rope access standards and practices.

SPRAT supports rope access practitioners with certification programs, regulatory support, networking, and opportunities to participate in developing industry-consensus standards. The key elements of the conference took place on Thursday and Friday, January 12 and 13.

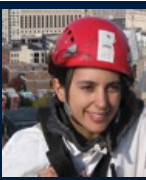
VA attended the following meetings:

- Evaluations Committee
- Standards Committee / Company Audit Subcommittee
- Safe Practices Document Subcommittee
- SPRAT membership and industry manufacturer presentations

❖ [Read the full report from this conference which includes many new industry developments.](#)

Writing the ANSI Code Standards for Fall Protection

Eighty fall protection professionals



Our newest team member, Berta de Miguel Alcalá, was highlighted in a recent

article in the daily national newspaper of Spain, *El País*. [Read more.](#)

About Vertical Access

Vertical Access LLC is a qualified small business that contracts with engineers and architects to perform specialized inspection and testing services nationwide using industrial rope access techniques on civil structures, buildings, towers, and monuments. [Visit our website to learn more.](#)

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Kelly Streeter, PE

representing the fall protection industry throughout the US and Canada gathered in Boulder, Colorado over three days in November to continue moving forward the Z359 fall protection code from the [American National Standards Institute](#) (ANSI).

Kelly Streeter, structural engineer and partner at VA, travels out to this meeting twice a year to take part in the consensus standard writing process. Vertical Access originally became involved in order to be an active subcommittee member of the Z359.8 group: Safety Requirements for Suspended Rope Systems. Chaired by Loui McCurley, representing the [Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians](#) (SPRAT), the document is nearly ready to go to the full committee for ballot.

For the past year, Kelly has been the chairperson along with co-chair Steve Hudson, from PMI, of the Z359.9 subcommittee which is tasked with creating the standard for *Personal Equipment for Protection Against Falls Descending Devices*. This standard reaches far beyond the world of industrial rope access as we know it at Vertical Access and includes six different types of descenders including devices that are intended solely for rescue purposes. The benefit of these meetings is not only to work on the Fall Protection Code, but also to connect with fall protection professionals outside of the industrial rope access industry.

Business and the Sustainability Movement for a Healthy Planet



When Vertical Access first joined [1% for the Planet](#) in 2006, it was one of about 250 other businesses that had pledged to donate a portion of its annual net revenues to environmental causes. Today, it is a growing global movement with over 1,400 companies that donate to a network of 2,745 environmental and sustainability organizations worldwide.

Recognizing the important role that historic preservation plays in the sustainability movement, VA has directed its 1% contributions to organizations such as the *Association for Preservation Technology International* ([APT](#)) and the *International Council on Monuments and Sites* ([ICOMOS](#)). In 2011, VA's contributions helped to underwrite the Sustainability Symposium held during the APT Victoria Conference.

