



## IMPROVING PAVEMENT RESILIENCY & DISASTER RECOVERY A Case for Concrete Pavements

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Director of Market Development – Infrastructure

September 2020

### TOPICS COVERED

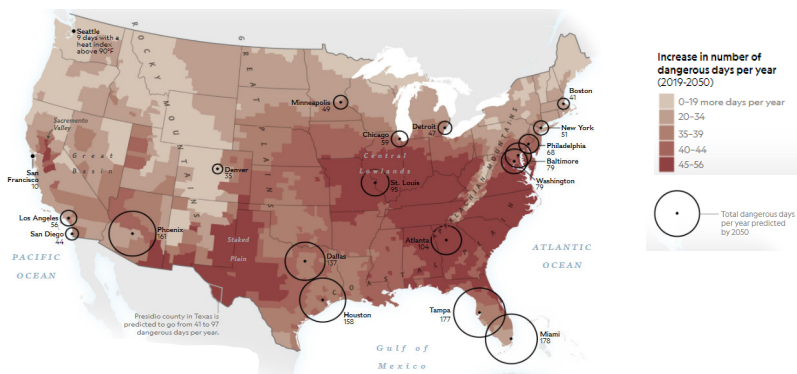
#### The Need for Resilient Pavements

Defining Resiliency

Improving a Pavement's Resiliency

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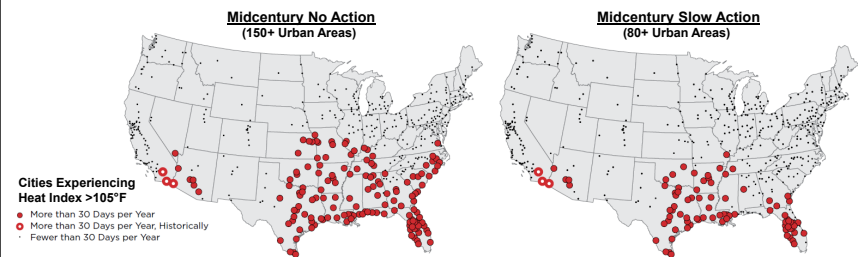
### INCREASE OF DAYS WITH HEAT INDEX > 90° F DEGREES BY 2050 Many cities will experience a month or more sweltering days each year.



Sources:  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/07/extreme-heat-to-affect-millions-of-americans/#close>  
 • Killer Heat in the United States: Climate Choices and the Future of Dangerously Hot Days, Union of Concerned Scientists, July 2019

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### THE NUMBER OF EXTREME HEAT DAYS WILL INCREASE DRAMATICALLY Urban Areas exposed to 30 or more days with a heat index > 105° F degrees Compared with just 3 urban areas historically



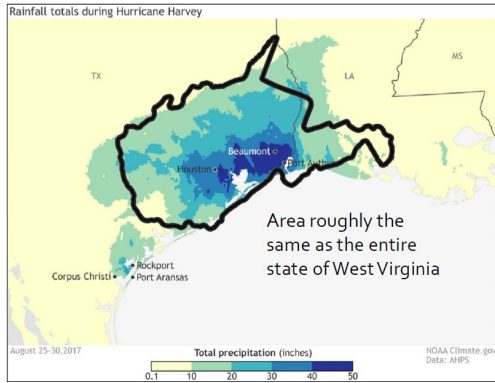
**Extreme heat will not occur in isolation. There will also be droughts, wildfires, floods, and other extreme weather events that will compound the impacts of the heat**

Sources:  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/07/extreme-heat-to-affect-millions-of-americans/#close>  
 • Killer Heat in the United States: Climate Choices and the Future of Dangerously Hot Days, Union of Concerned Scientists, July 2019

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### HOUSTON TEXAS HAS BEEN HIT BY 4 FLOOD EVENTS IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS – THE WORST WAS HURRICANE HARVEY



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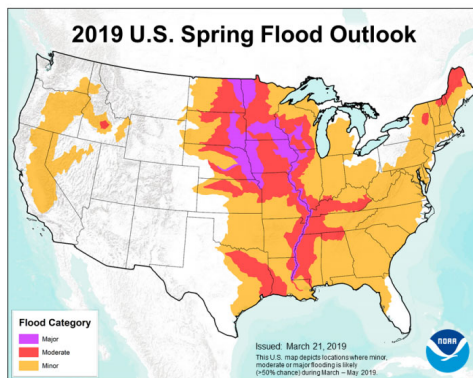
### HURRICANE SALLY IS THE LATEST STORM TO HIT THE USA But it will not be the last

Flooded streets,  
Hurricane Sally  
Pensacola, Florida on  
September 16, 2020.



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### RIVER FLOODING IN THE PLAIN STATES HAS BEEN SEVERE THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS



At one point, the Nebraska DOT  
reported 1,500 road miles were closed

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### SEA LEVEL RISE IS ALREADY IMPACTING COASTAL ZONES Sunny sky flooding is becoming a common or daily occurrence



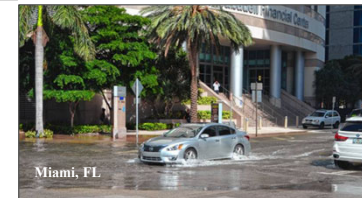
SR54 East of Fenwick, DE



South Bowers Beach, DE



Miami, FL



Miami, FL

DE Photos courtesy of Jim Pappas, DELDOT  
FL Photos courtesy of Amy Wedel, FCBDA

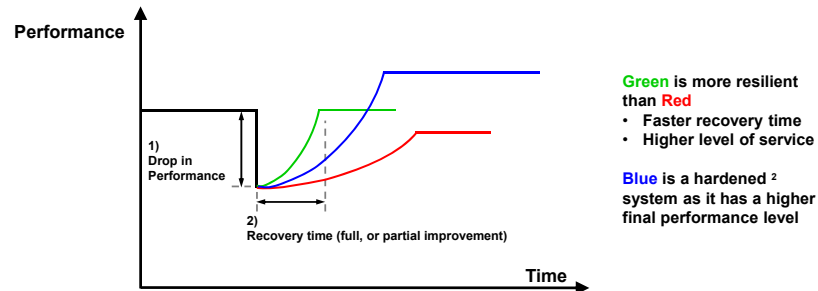
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## INTRODUCTION TO RESILIENCE

The ability to ... **anticipate, prepare for, and adapt** ... **withstand, respond to, and recover** rapidly...<sup>1</sup>



**Resilience** with respect to an event (eg. Flooding, fire, earthquake, etc ) is characterized by two parameters:

1. Drop in performance, induced by the event (eg. reduced ability to carry load).
2. Recovery time to reinstate or improve performance.

1. FHWA Order 5520: Transportation System Preparedness and Resilience to Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events  
2. Hardening Infrastructure - Elevating, upgrading, relocating assets, flood walls, berms and levees, etc.

## FUNDAMENTALS TO CREATING RESILIENT SYSTEMS

Prevention, Protection & Mitigation Strategies have Benefit / Cost Ratios range from 2:1 to 9:1

### Hierarchy to Resilient Systems <sup>1</sup>

1. Prevention: stop a ... manmade or natural disasters
2. Protection: secure against ...manmade or natural disasters
3. Mitigation: reduce .... by lessening the impact of disasters
4. Response: ... meet basic human needs after an incident
5. Recovery: ...assist communities affected by an incident to recover effectively

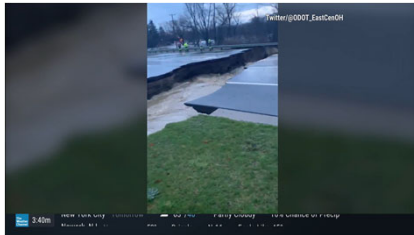
**Developing a resilient pavements / roadway infrastructure requires an understanding the risk and damaged caused for each climate hazards**

1. AASHTO: Fundamentals of Effective All Hazards Security and Resilience for State DOTs, 2015.  
2. Mitigation Saves: Utilities and Transportation Infrastructure Investments Can Provide Significant Returns, The National Institute of Building Sciences, 2019  
3. Estimating the benefits of Climate Resilient Buildings and Core Public Infrastructure (CRBCPI), Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, February 2020

## INCREASED FLOODING IS IMPACTING OUR PAVEMENT STRUCTURES

Need to distinguish between Inundation and Washout Impacts

### Washout



Rapid flow of flood water / high current that scours and washes out the pavement structure

**Pavement type has little impact**

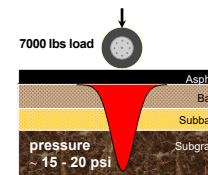
### Inundation



The rise of water that submerges the pavement. No rapid flow or current

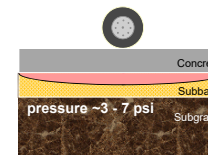
**Pavement type does have an impact**

## CONCRETE AND ASPHALT PAVEMENTS ARE DIFFERENT DUE TO HOW THEY TRANSMIT LOADS TO THE SUBGRADE



### Asphalt Pavements are Flexible

- Load - more concentrated & transferred to the underlying layers
- Higher deflection
- Subgrade & base strength are important
- Requires more layers / greater thickness to protect the subgrade



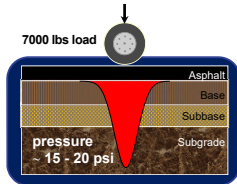
### Concrete Pavements are Rigid

- Load - Carried by concrete and distributed over a large area
- Minor deflection
- Low subgrade contact pressure
- Subgrade uniformity is more important than strength

**Concrete's rigidity spreads the load over a large area & keeps pressures on the subgrade low**

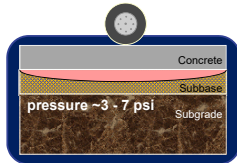
## FLOODING CAUSES THE SUBGRADE TO BECOME SUPERSATURATED

Moisture infiltrates base, pushes the subgrade particles apart and weakens the system



### Asphalt Pavements are Flexible

- Lowered subgrade strength & reduced modulus
- Reduced load carrying capacity
- Takes ~1 year to regain strength
- Loading during this time accelerates pavement damage / deterioration
- Reduced pavement life



### Concrete Pavements are Rigid

- Maintains high level of strength / stiffness
- Subgrade is weak, but still uniform
- Spreading of the load means subgrade is not overstressed
- Little impact on the serviceability / life

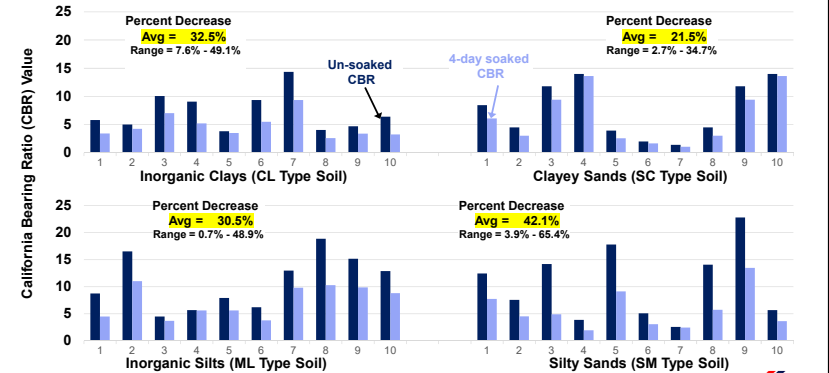
Flooding does not impact the concrete's load carrying capacity to the same degree as asphalt's

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## SOAKING REDUCES STRENGTH OF SOILS BY 20 TO 40%

Different Soils (clays, silts, sands, clay sands, etc) react differently but all decrease

### Un-soaked vs 4-day Soaked CBR Comparisons

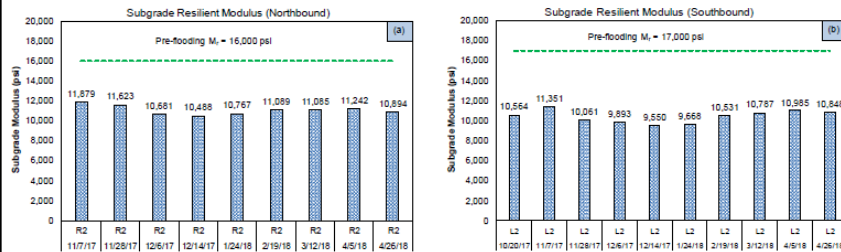


Source: Comparison Between Soaked and Unsoaked CBR, Satishwara Jigar K & Prof. A.K.Patel, International Journal of Advanced Engineering Research and Studies E-ISSN2249-8074

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## RESEARCH FINDINGS INDICATE IT TAKES UP TO 1 YEAR FOR THE SUBGRADE STRENGTH TO RECOVER FROM FLOODING

After the flood waters recede, the pavements are structurally vulnerable



US 441 in Alachua County, Florida between MP 7.960 to MP 9.680

For this case, this strength loss is a 40 to 60% reduction load carrying capacity and about 3 years of life

Sources:  
1. Decision Support Criteria for Flood Inundated Roadways: A Case Study, A. Gundila, Ph.D., E. Ofel, Ph.D., G. Wang, Ph.D., P.E., C. Holzschuh, P.E. and B. Choudhary, Ph.D., P.E., Presented at the 2020 TRB Annual Meeting  
2. Western Iowa Missouri River Flooding—Geo-Infrastructure Damage Assessment, Repair, and Mitigation Strategies, Center for Earthworks Engineering Research, Iowa State University, Report No. IHRB Project TR-638

## WHEN LOOKING AT PAVEMENT'S RESILIENCY, NEED TO RECOGNIZE DAMAGE FROM 2 DIFFERENT SOURCES / TIMES

### Impact Types / Timing

- 1 Primary / Direct Impacts – alters the pavement structural or functional capabilities
- 2 Secondary / Indirect Impacts – Impacts due to recovery activities or use
  - Rescue and Emergency response during the disaster
  - Recovery activities (clean up and rebuilding) after the disaster

To have a resilient pavement system requires that both aspects be addressed

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## RELIEF AND RESCUE EFFORTS WILL TAKE PLACE

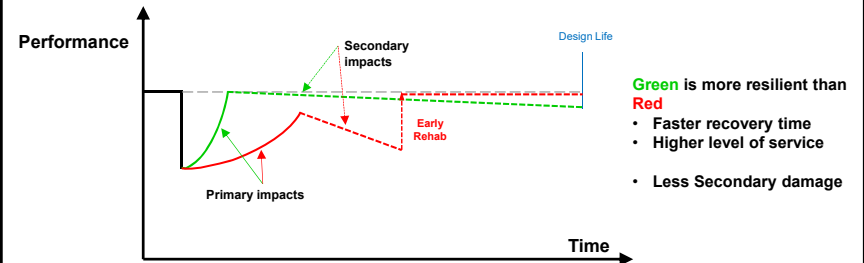
Loading occurs both during the crisis and long after



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## NEED TO ACCOUNT FOR LONG TERM SECONDARY IMPACTS WHEN DISCUSSING PAVEMENT RESILIENCE

Weakened pavement & additional loading can lead to early rehabilitation needs



Pavement Resilience should be characterized by three parameters:

1. Drop in performance, induced by the event (eg. reduced ability to carry load).
2. Recovery time to reinstate or improve performance.
3. Ability to withstand emergency and recovery activities

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## TOPICS COVERED

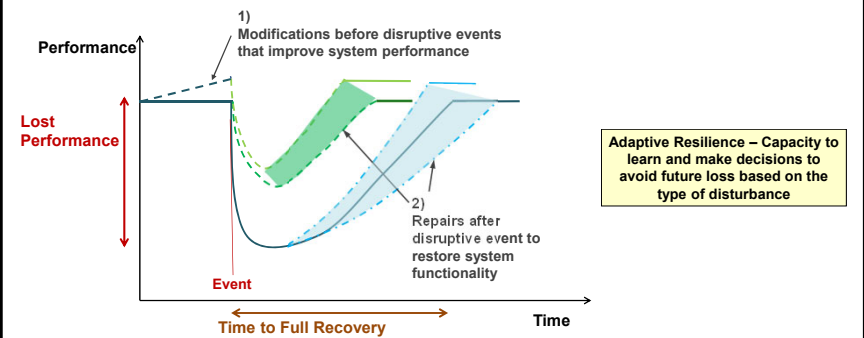
The Need for Resilient Pavements

Defining Resiliency

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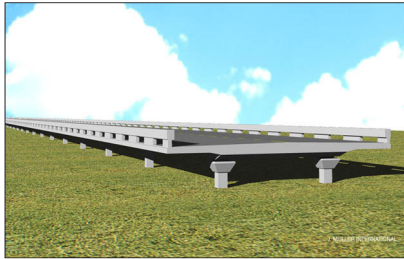
## APPROACHES TO IMPROVE A HIGHWAY'S / PAVEMENTS RESILIENCE



Adapted from Bruneau, 2003 and McDaniel, 2008

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## ONE OFTEN DISCUSSED APPROACH IS ELEVATING THE ROAD ABOVE FLOODING ELEVATION



Elevation View of SR54 Viaduct From Old SR54 Alignment, Fenwick DE  
Cost = \$16 M in 2001

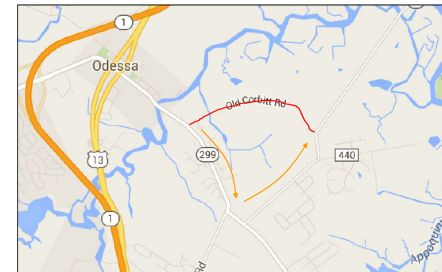
Elevating the roadway is not cheap and it is not possible to raise all roadways

Schematic and Photo courtesy of Jim Pappas, DELDOT

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## ANOTHER APPROACH IS ROAD ABANDONMENT Old Corbitt Road – Odessa, Delaware



- Overtops daily due to tides
- 340 Avg Daily Traffic (ADT)
- Traveling time will be slightly increased by approximately 2 to 3.5 minutes.
- Alternate - 250' long concrete structure.  
Estimated cost = \$2.5M



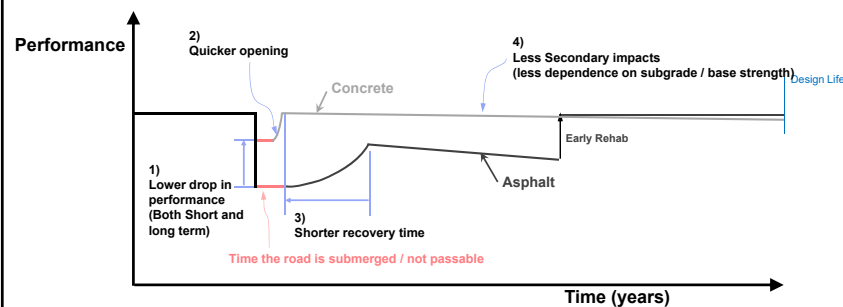
Abandoning the roadway is not always possible

Schematic and Photo courtesy of Jim Pappas, DELDOT

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## STIFFER PAVEMENTS ARE MORE RESILIENT TO INUNDATION FLOODING



Stiffer Pavements are less impacted by subgrade strength loss and recover faster  
(stiffer = concrete, cement stabilized bases, increased asphalt thickness)

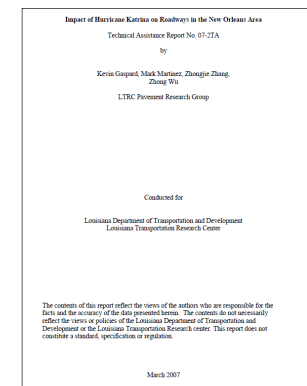
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## KEY FINDINGS FOR PAVEMENTS THAT WERE SUBMERGED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

Submerged pavements were weaker than non-submerged pavements

- Asphalt pavements
  - Overall **strength loss ≈ two inches** of new asphalt concrete
  - Damage occurred regardless of the length of time the pavement was submerged
  - Cost: **\$50 million** to rehabilitate 200 miles of submerged asphalt roads
- Concrete Pavements
  - **Little relative loss of strength** due to flooded conditions
  - Resilient modulus(Mr) is similar for submerged and non-submerged pavements
  - No information given on repairs or repair costs



Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Roadways in the New Orleans Area, Technical Assistance Report No. 07-2TA  
Kevin Gaspard, Mark Martinez, Zhongjie Zhang, and Zhong Wu, LTRC Pavement Research Group, March 2007

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**FLOODED PAVEMENTS RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA FOUND SIMILAR RESULTS**  
Road authorities may want consider changing their roads into flood-resilient pavements.

### A rigid pavement performs better than composite and flexible road groups

- Composite and flexible road groups show similar performance up to 2–3 years.
- **Rigid pavement performs the best** at any probability of flooding, and flooding effect is not critical

**A pavement's strength may be enhanced by:**

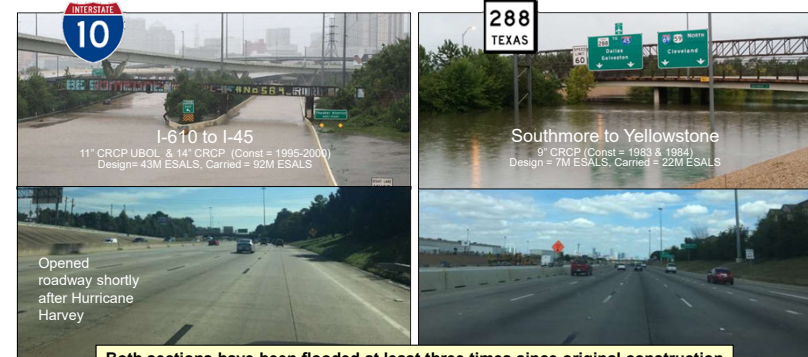
- Strengthening with an overlay
- Layer stabilization.
- Converting the road into a rigid or composite pavement through granular layers' stabilization.

**"It is settled that a rigid pavement is the more flood-resilient."** (p- 5)

*Estimating Pavement's Flood Resilience*; Misbah U. Khan, CPEng; Mahmoud Mesbah, Ph.D.; Luis Ferreira, Ph.D.; and David J. Williams, Ph.D.; American Society of Civil Engineer's Journal of Transportation Engineering, Part B Pavements, 2017

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**PAVEMENTS IN HOUSTON HAVE BEEN FLOODED SEVERAL TIMES**  
But roadways are opened as soon as water has receded



Resilient Pavement Structures in Texas, Andrew Wimsatt, Ph.D., P.E., Texas A&M Transportation Institute and Lisa Lukefahr, P.E., Texas Concrete Pavement Association  
ESALS = Equivalent Single Axle Loads. It is how pavement engineering defines traffic

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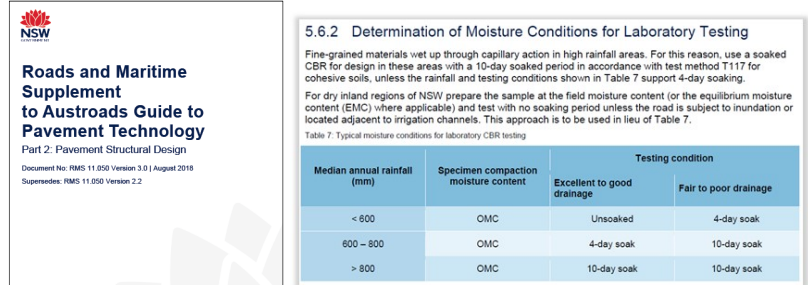
## ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE USED TO “HARDEN THE PAVEMENT SYSTEM”

**Yacht Harbor Manor Neighborhood Improvements, Riviera Beach, Florida**



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### ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE USED TO “HARDEN THE PAVEMENT SYSTEM”

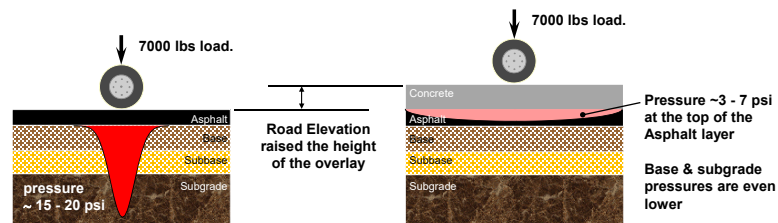


**Almost All Pavement Designs in Australia are based on soaked subgrade conditions**

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### ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE USED TO "HARDEN THE PAVEMENT SYSTEM"

Use Concrete Overlays

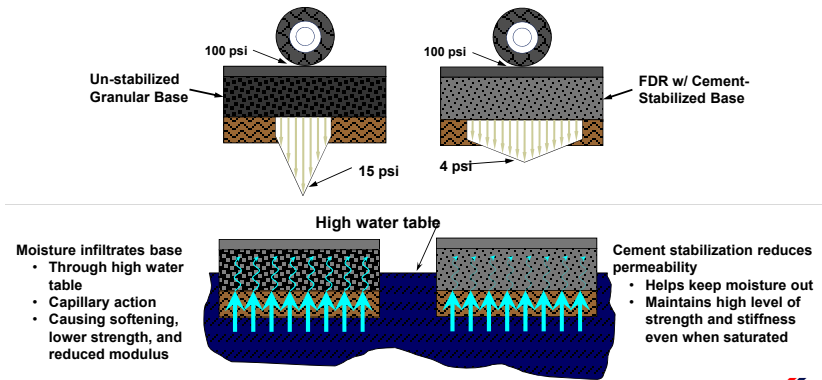


Concrete overlay increases both the height and the structural strength of the roadway

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### ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE USED TO "HARDEN THE PAVEMENT SYSTEM"

FDR w/ Cement increases rigidity, reduces permeability, & reduces moisture susceptibility



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### CONCLUSIONS

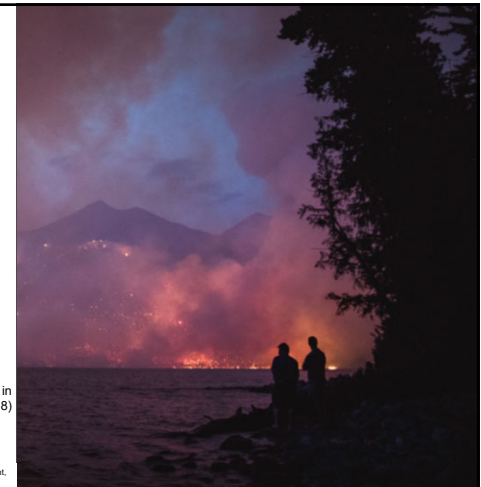
- 1 We are beginning to recognize the need to make our infrastructure "Resilient"
  - Need to define specific actions that agencies should consider when dealing with pavements
  - Need to define how each specific "climate risk" will impact the system
  - Must account for secondary impacts
- 2 In areas where pavements have a history of flooding (or in flood prone areas)
  - Require pavement designs be based on lowered subgrade strength
  - Use Stiffer or stiffen the existing pavement
  - There are many solutions that are viable that are low costs, such as concrete overlays and FDR with cement that can be used as mitigation / hardening strategies

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### DEFINING A PAVEMENT'S FIRE RESILIENCY

Howe Ridge Fire from across Lake McDonald in Montana's Glacier National Park (2018)

USGCRP, 2018: Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II



## FIRE DAMAGES CONCRETE & ASPHALT PAVEMENTS DIFFERENTLY

While there are no studies on wildfires & pavements, there are studies from tunnel fires

### Concrete Pavements are Non Combustible

- Concrete is a fire resistance material
- Inert due to its purely mineral composition
- Minimal or no emission of toxic gases.
- Can get minor cracks, popouts, etc. as the water in the concrete / aggregate vaporizes

### Asphalt Pavements are Combustible

- Approximate ignition temperatures is 300 – 450°C (based on asphalt material / type)
- At lower temperatures, asphalt “melts” and has some thermal degradation (calcination and the detachment of aggregates)
- Burning / melting releases considerable toxic gases (CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO, NO<sub>2</sub>)



Figure 1 Comparison of specimens of asphalt (left) and concrete (right) after heating to 750°C

Source: Characterisation of asphalt exposed to high temperature: Application to fire case of asphalt pavement, Albert Nourmow, Cergy Pontoise University, 2003.

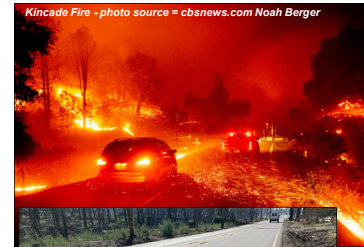
While most wild fires do not generate enough heat to cause the road to ignite  
There is still considerable damage

1. IMPROVING FIRE SAFETY IN TUNNELS: The concrete pavement solution: CEMBUREAU / BBM / ERMCO
2. Emanuele Toraldo (2013), Comparative laboratory investigation into pavement materials for road tunnels, Road Materials and Pavement Design
3. Rudi van Staden and Sam Fragomeni (2017) Fire damaged flexible pavement deterioration under dynamic loading: a finite element study.

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## SOURCES OF ASPHALT PAVEMENT DAMAGE

Pavement Scarring Due to Car Fire & Weakened Asphalt Binder / Structure are the Most Common



Binder / emulsion at the surface burns and melts from aggregate / rock  
Results in Raveling, shoving, & rutting

Emanuele Toraldo (2013), Comparative laboratory investigation into pavement materials for road tunnels, Road Materials and Pavement Design  
Rudi van Staden and Sam Fragomeni (2017) Fire damaged flexible pavement deterioration under dynamic loading: a finite element study.

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## CONCRETE PAVEMENT DAMAGE IS OFTEN LIMITED TO SURFACE SPALLING

Intense heat causes the moisture inside the concrete to boil and fracture



Tanker explosion on I-465 south to I-70 east ramp,  
Feb 20, 2020, Indianapolis Indiana



Surface was sandblasted, railing and guardrail  
replaced and re-opened to traffic in ~12 hours

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## CONCRETE CAN BE MADE FIRE RESISTANT BY ADDING POLYPROPYLENE FIBERS (roughly 2% by wt)

### No Fibers



Water in the concrete boils, forms steams and  
Violently spalls (moisture clog spalling)

### Fibers



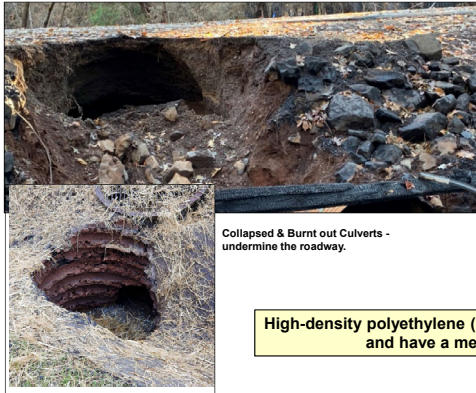
Polypropylene fibers melt and provide escape  
path for the steam, preventing spalling

Video: Courtesy of Dr Tyler Ley, Oklahoma State University,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNPFcaJdM>

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ANOTHER SOURCES OF PAVEMENT DAMAGE IS DRAINAGE PIPE FIRES



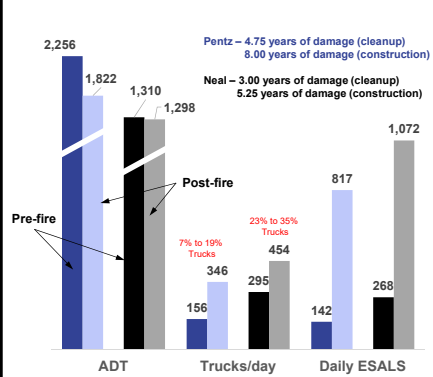
Collapsed & Burnt out Culverts - undermine the roadway.



Slope failure due to burnt out HDPE Pipe

High-density polyethylene (HDPE) or polypropylene (PP) are plastic, and have a melting point of about 120 – 180 °C

THE MAJOR SOURCE OF DAMAGE IS INCREASED / HEAVIER TRAFFIC  
Damage can be a lot or a little; and depends on traffic, weight, and pavement design



Before



After

INCREASED / HEAVIER TRAFFIC DOES DAMAGE THE PAVEMENT  
Damage can be a lot or a little; and depends on traffic, weight, and pavement design

Before



After



Comparing Normal Verse Cleanup/Construction Traffic

Pentz					
ADT	Timing	Percent Trucks	Trucks/Day	LEF	Daily ESALS
1822	Current	19%	346.18	2.36	817
2256	Pre-Fire	7%	155.664	0.91	142

Neal					
ADT	Timing	Percent Trucks	Trucks/Day	LEF	Daily ESALS
1298	Current	35%	454.3	2.36	1072
1310	Pre-Fire	23%	294.75	0.91	268

4.75 Extra years of damage per year of cleanup at this rate

8.00 Extra years of damage per year of construction at this rate

3.00 Extra years of damage per year of cleanup at this rate

5.25 Extra years of damage per year of construction at this rate

Creating this type of structural damage makes the road more susceptible to water and environmental damage – further/rapidly exacerbating the damage!



#CAMPFIRE





The average loss of Pavement Condition Index score was conservatively calculated as a reduction of 20 basis points

Don't use until final;

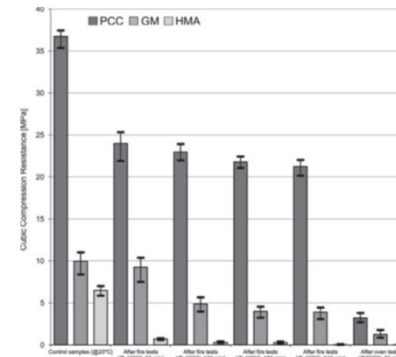


Camp Fire Paradise Private Road Damage Report: Quantifying Private Road Damage Costs Due to the Fire, Utility Restoration, Debris Removal, Hazard Tree Removal and Rebuild Efforts. Draft Report – Jan 2020

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## LONG TERM EXPOSURE TO INTENSE HEAT DOES IMPACT PAVEMENT STRENGTH

Change in Cubic Compression Resistance (CCR) results due to fire exposure



- First bar chart = Control (no thermal stress)
- Next four bar charts = Specimens subjected to fire tests at **400 °C**
  - Durations ranging from 60 to 240 min
- Last bar chart = specimens subjected to high-temperature oven test
  - 650 °C for 60 min
- Concrete ~ 35% to 40% Strength Reduction (due to the micro-evaporation of water)
- Asphalt ~ 90% to 98% Strength Reduction (due to the bitumen burning, which occurs after only 15 min of fire exposure)

GM = Grouted Macadam. An open-grade bituminous mixture (voids content equal to 30%) filled with cement mortar

Emanuel Toraldo (2013), Comparative laboratory investigation into pavement materials for road tunnels, Road Materials and Pavement Design

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### About the Presenters

Jim Mack, P.E. – Director, Market Development, CEMEX

Provides customer & internal support to identify and develop cement and concrete pavement application opportunities

Works with State DOTs, Federal Agencies and industry Assns. to improve and develop standards related to cement and concrete pavement applications

30 years of pavement engineering experience

Concrete pavement design, rehabilitation; construction; forensic evaluation, materials and specifications

Pavement management, life cycle cost analysis and life cycle assessment (environmental impact).

#### Education

MBA – University of Chicago

MSCE – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

BSCE – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Registered Professional Engineer – Illinois and Texas



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