



Connection

Linking You With the Florida Board's Latest Engineering News and Information

January 2026

From the Executive Director: Is Your PE License Delinquent?

By **Zana Raybon**, FBPE Executive Director & FEMC President

A number of Florida Professional Engineers currently have delinquent licenses and may not realize it.

Roughly six out of every 100 active PEs (nearly 3,000 licensees) are delinquent and risk having their licenses go null and void on Feb. 28, 2027.

The largest portion of those (almost 2,500 PEs) took no action during the renewal period that ended Feb. 28, 2025. In some cases, that may reflect an intentional decision not to continue practicing in Florida. However, more than 800 other PEs attempted to renew but did not complete the process, suggesting they intended to remain licensed.



Incomplete renewals most often result from a missed step in the renewal process.

In many cases, engineers paid the fee and completed the attestation questions, but their Florida Laws & Rules provider did not report their course completion (almost 500 PEs).

In other cases, the Laws & Rules course was reported, but the fee was not paid and the attestation questions were not answered (almost 250).

Smaller groups completed only one of the three requirements, such as:

- Answering the attestation questions, but not paying the fee or having the Laws & Rules course reported (almost 40), or
- Paying the fee and having the course reported, but not answering the questions (almost 40).
- Answering the questions and having the course reported, but not paying the fee (almost 20).

So, the practical question is simple: Did your PE license renew?

You can confirm your status by logging in to your account at myfloridalicense.com and checking your license expiration date.

If your expiration date shows Feb. 28, 2027, your renewal is complete and you have nothing to worry about until the next renewal.

If it still shows 2025, you may not practice engineering in Florida until your renewal is completed and all outstanding fees are paid. If this applies to you, you need to contact the Board office at [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:8505210500) before continuing to practice engineering in Florida.

A Full Board

Last month, the governor filled the two vacant seats on the Florida Board of Professional Engineers. With those appointments, the Board is now at full capacity (at least until Oct. 31, when three terms expire).

You can read more about the new members — Christopher Forehand, PE, and Richard Temple, PE, SI — elsewhere in this newsletter.

Legislative Session

Finally, the 2026 legislative session recently opened. We'll report in our next newsletter on any bills that affect licensees or the practice of engineering.

Chair's Corner: Reflecting on 2025, Looking Forward to 2026

By James Gonzalez, FBPE Chair (2026)

Happy New Year to all of Florida's engineering professionals.

As we begin a new year together, I want to first extend my sincere thanks to Denise Ramsey, PE, our immediate past chair, for her outstanding service on the [Florida Board of Professional Engineers](#). Ms. Ramsey worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure a smooth operation, particularly in light of several important statutory changes affecting the profession. Her leadership, dedication, and steady guidance were invaluable, and I thank her for her commitment to Florida's engineers.



This past year also brought a significant loss to the Board and the engineering community with the [passing of Sam Mousa, PE](#). Sam exemplified service through his profession and dedicated more than 20 years to the City of Jacksonville in numerous capacities. His work touched many landmark projects, including EverBank Stadium, the Veterans Memorial Arena, the Duval County Courthouse, and numerous Jacksonville parks and public facilities. He capped an exceptional career with his appointment to this Board in 2023. Sam's professionalism, institutional knowledge, and commitment to public service will be deeply missed.

As for my background, I fill one of two public seats on the Board. I am a practicing attorney with over 18 years of legal experience. During that time, I have spent more than a decade providing legal guidance and representation to Florida's design professionals. I am honored to have been appointed to the Board in 2022, and I am truly excited to serve as your new Board chair. I look forward to continuing the Board's work with transparency, collaboration, and a strong respect for the profession we regulate.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Board remains committed to being accessible, engaged, and responsive to its licensees. Board meetings will continue to be open and available to our licensees and to the public, and we encourage engineers to attend. The Board will remain diligent in enforcing FBPE rules and statutes while also prioritizing education and outreach. Keeping our licensees informed of legislative changes and regulatory updates will remain a key focus.

Finally, I want to reaffirm the mission of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers: to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare by properly regulating the practice of engineering in Florida. We do this by ensuring engineers are qualified, ethical, and held to high professional standards through

licensure, enforcement, and public awareness of the profession. The Board remains steadfast in this mission, and we will continue to serve the state of Florida and its engineers with integrity and purpose in the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the engineering profession and for the vital role you play in protecting the public we serve. I look forward to an amazing 2026.

Board Considers Expanding Special Inspector Categories

By **John C. Pistorino**, PE, SI, FBPE Board Member

The Florida Board of Professional Engineers reviewed a proposal at its December meeting in Tallahassee to establish an additional category of Special Inspectors of Existing Threshold Buildings.

I want to provide the rationale for revising Chapter 61G15-35 Responsibility Rules Of Professional Engineers Providing Threshold Building Inspections.

The present rules have two intents:

- One is to provide quality control on new threshold buildings that are being constructed. The purpose of this is to prevent the misdeeds and mistakes made during the collapse of the Harbor Cay Condominium, a five-story building, in 1981, wherein 11 workers were killed.

The rule provides for an engineer experienced in design and construction to certify that all structural components of the building's frame have been constructed in accordance with the permitted plans. Preferably, the most competent engineer to perform this service would be the engineer of record (EOR) since that engineer is most familiar with the building.

This role is identified as a Special Inspector (SI) of a Threshold Building. The engineer is checking and verifying the contractor's work, not his own.

However, recognizing that the EOR may not be available to perform this task, the EOR must provide an inspection plan as part of the permitted documents. Therefore, another qualified SI may be engaged.

In addition, the critical means and methods of the contractor involving form work and shoring are also scrutinized since that was recognized as a deficiency in the Harbor Cay collapse. The SI may not be proficient in shoring and temporary support of scaffolding, and therefore must ensure the contractor retains a specialty engineer to not only design the shoring but also inspect it before placing loads on it. The design of such shoring and inspection also becomes part of the permitted plans provided to the building official. The SI has many duties that are performed throughout construction of a new threshold building.

- The second intent was to have an SI (Limited) provide inspections on existing threshold buildings that were undergoing repair. However, the qualifications of the SI (Limited) were restricted to Non-Substantial Structural Damage type of work. Therefore, that individual engineer did not require extensive design experience since the only activity was inspection.

This designation was intended to increase the number of available qualified engineers for such work. It is assumed that the design of the repairs had been performed on structural components that did not



[Click to Read Proposed Rules](#)

have Substantial Structural Damage, and that the inspection of such repairs did not involve extensive design expertise of the SI (Limited).

A new and more challenging critical problem has developed with respect to existing threshold buildings. This has been brought on by the sudden collapse of the Champlain Towers South in Surfside, Fla., that was undergoing a 40-year recertification for structural integrity as required by Miami-Dade County. This tragedy, wherein 98 occupants perished, has demonstrated the complexity of evaluating an older threshold building.

Up to this time, the 40-year recertification program in Miami-Dade County relied on the FBPE rules that require engineers to perform only work they are competent in. The collapse of Champlain Towers demonstrates the more difficult and challenging requirements for an engineer to evaluate the condition of an existing occupied building and decide if it is safe for continued occupancy.

This type of engineering judgement calls for more experience than an SI was ever required to have. The inspecting engineer must be knowledgeable about how a building is designed, including the significance of loading on individual critical structural members. The existing SI rules deal with an approved design, quality control, and observation of the means and methods of a competent licensed contractor building a new threshold building that *is not occupied*.

Inspecting an occupied threshold building that may have seriously deteriorated structural components requires the inspecting engineer to make judgements as to:

1. How seriously is a component damaged (percent of loss of load carrying capacity)
2. What loads the component is supporting that it now may not be capable of supporting (overloaded)
3. Is the component in a critical load path with respect to supporting the building frame and structure
4. Does the component need emergency shoring and support, and can it be repaired without affecting the integrity of the whole building
5. Is it safe for individuals to continue to occupy the building, and what temporary measures are required to allow for continued occupancy and for how long a period of time?

As described above, the inspection of an existing threshold building offers more challenges and decisions of judgment than the current SI rules require.

Therefore, the Board anticipates the need for a higher level of minimum requirements to perform such inspections of existing threshold buildings.

If you have comments related to the proposed rule, please email them to Board@fbpe.org.

About the Author:

John C. Pistorino, PE, is a practicing structural and civil engineer with PE license no. 11007, obtained in 1970. He has been president of Pistorino and Alam Consulting Engineers Inc. since 1986. He holds Special Inspector license no. 202.

Proposed Rules Regarding Assessment of Damaged Buildings

By **John C. Pistorino**, PE, SI, FBPE Board Member

The Board has received complaints about engineering reports that were allegedly erroneous or not in compliance with the General Responsibility Rules.

The complaints have come from other engineers, building officials, and property owners. Most of the complaints concern damage to buildings during severe weather, such as hurricanes.

Investigations conducted by retained Board consultants and reviewed by the Board's prosecuting attorney have mostly been inconclusive since most of the existing Responsibility Rules have to do with design standards for new projects.

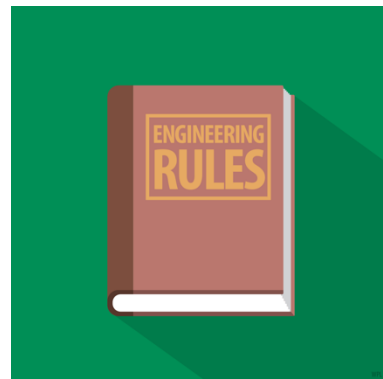
The Board's prosecuting attorney has stated that it is difficult to find probable cause against an engineer, even when a complaint may be valid, without having Responsibility Rules in place that address reports and standards for Existing Damaged Buildings.

The subject of damage to buildings is widespread, as it can pertain to multiple building components exposed to a specific event. Exterior building components may include roofing, wall cladding, windows and doors, and water intrusion and flooding.

Individual components require unique expertise and specific criteria that cannot be addressed in a single General Responsibility Rule. For that reason, the Board has begun developing individual rules for particular components, in addition to General Responsibility Rules for conducting damage evaluations.

Guides from ASTM or the American Society of Civil Engineers are available for the assessment of existing buildings and can be used. However, the criteria for the individual components still will require Responsibility Rules that address specific technical requirements. Deficiencies in reports that have been the subject of complaints are being addressed in the proposed rules.

If you have comments related to the proposed rules, please email them to Board@fbpe.org.



[Click to Read Proposed Rules](#)

Two New Members Appointed to FBPE; Three Reappointed

In December, Gov. Ron DeSantis named Christopher Forehand, PE, and Richard Temple, PE, SI, to the [Florida Board of Professional Engineers](#). He also reappointed Dylan Albergo, PE, Jeb Mulock, PE, and Brock Shrader, PE.

Mr. Forehand became the majority stockholder and president of Panhandle Engineering in 2023. His primary focus remains on expanding the firm's governmental client base, promoting large master planned developments, and leading the team in delivering exceptional service and client satisfaction.

A lifelong resident of Bay County, Mr. Forehand graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1997. He joined Preble-Rish Inc. (now Dewberry) after graduating and worked there until 2012. During his tenure at PRI, Mr. Forehand advanced to the role of vice president and chief



*Christopher
Forehand, PE*

operating officer. In collaboration with four others, he successfully purchased the company from its founders.

Mr. Forehand played a crucial role in managing the firm's complex and large-scale projects. Under his leadership, the company grew from 45 to 120 employees by expanding surveying services and securing multiple continuing services contracts from municipalities and counties throughout the Southeast. Additionally, Mr. Forehand spearheaded PRI's expansion into new markets by establishing offices in Baldwin County, Ala., and Monticello, Blountstown, and Lake City, Fla.

In 2012, Mr. Forehand decided to fulfill his lifelong dream of sole ownership and sold his stock in PRI to the remaining partners. Over the next two years, he established his own firm, CBF Consulting Engineers, attracting new clients while maintaining strong relationships with those he had serviced since the beginning of his career.

In 2014, Mr. Forehand merged CBF Consulting Engineers with Panhandle Engineering, owned solely by Jim Slonina, who served as president. This strategic merger aimed to enhance both firms' presence in the Northwest Florida market.

Mr. Forehand has made significant contributions to Panhandle Engineering, expanding the company's staff from five to 26 employees and achieving a 700-percent increase in sales. In addition, he secured 14 continuing services contracts, reinforcing the firm's growth. Mr. Forehand played a key role in infrastructure improvements for various private and public projects, particularly those associated with the ongoing recovery efforts from Hurricane Michael.

He fills an engineering seat on the Board, and his term expires Oct. 31, 2028.

Richard Temple, PE, SI, is the Florida Regional Director for Walter P Moore & Associates Inc. He joined Walter P Moore in Houston in 1979 and moved to Tampa in 1985 when the firm opened its first office outside of Texas. He assumed leadership of the office in 1992 and has been instrumental in expanding the firm's presence in Florida, specializing in the design of building structures.

Mr. Temple has extensive experience in structural engineering, design management, and delivery of complex structures. He has led the structural design team for many high-profile buildings in Florida and other states, including convention centers, sports stadiums and arenas, aquariums, hospitals, research labs, airport terminals and garages, courthouses, museums, performing arts centers, and projects at most of the universities in Florida.



Richard Temple, PE, SI

Mr. Temple graduated from the University of Nottingham in England with a degree in civil engineering in 1978. He is a registered Professional Engineer and Special Threshold Inspector in Florida and is licensed in seven other states.

He served on the board of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida, first as the structural director (2006-10) and then ACEC Florida president (2014-15). Mr. Temple has also served on the boards of various professional organizations, including the Florida Engineering Society, the Tampa Bay Area chapters of the American Concrete Institute (president, 1996), and the Florida Structural Engineering Association. He completed Leadership Tampa (1996) and ACEC SEI Class XII (2008).

Mr. Temple enjoys playing golf, skiing, cycling, and traveling with his family.

He fills the structural engineering seat on the Board, and his term expires Oct. 31, 2026.

Mr. Albergo, Mr. Mulock, and Mr. Schrader were reappointed through Oct. 31, 2029.

FBPE, FEMC Elect Chairs, Vice Chairs for 2026

The [Florida Board of Professional Engineers](#) elected James Gonzalez as its chair for 2026 and Brock Shrader, PE, as its vice chair at its December 2025 meeting in Tallahassee, Fla.

Mr. Gonzalez, who was vice chair in 2025, succeeds Denise Ramsey, PE, as chair.

Mr. Gonzalez, a public member of the Board, is a co-founder of Cobb & Gonzalez, P.A., and has provided guidance to businesses and professionals for over a decade. Mr. Gonzalez graduated from the University of South Florida in Tampa and was a member of the Business National Honor Society. He earned his juris doctor from Villanova University School of Law in 2007. That same year, James also earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Villanova University School of Business.



James Gonzalez

Mr. Gonzalez has represented numerous architectural, engineering, and construction firms, as well as their employees, in professional negligence, construction defect, and contractual claims. He has also provided legal counsel and representation to general contractors, subcontractors, building material manufacturers, and suppliers in areas from corporate formation to contract disputes and construction defect claims. Currently, he provides legal counsel and representation to design professionals, general contractors, subcontractors, building material manufacturers, and suppliers in areas ranging from corporate formation to contract disputes and construction defect claims, and everything in between.

In 2015, Mr. Gonzalez was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG). As an assistant staff judge advocate, Maj. Gonzalez assists the staff judge advocate in providing legal advice to the wing commander (installation commander) and its subordinate units, including supporting the administration of military justice for thousands of airmen and reviewing and providing guidance on multimillion-dollar construction contracts.

Mr. Gonzalez moved to Jacksonville in 2009. He and his wife have two children. In his free time, Mr. Gonzalez enjoys building Jeeps, inshore fishing, woodworking, cooking, golfing, and spending time with his family.

He was appointed to the Board in 2022.

Mr. Shrader is president of Wilson & Girgenti, where he started as an intern. He is the originator of the Orlando office for WG, which has grown into the firm's largest office.

He is a practicing electrical and mechanical engineer. He and WG have received awards for Best Companies to Work For from *Florida Trend* in 2022, 2023, and 2024; and Best Places to Work from the *Orlando Business Journal* in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Mr. Shrader earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where his collaborative research was published in



Brock Shrader, PE

the nuclear field. He earned his Juris Doctor from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University while working full-time to grow the Orlando office of WG. He is a licensed engineer in 43 states and is pursuing licensure in all 50 states and the U.S. territories.

In his spare time, Mr. Shrader enjoys going to the gym and playing racquetball, and is a black belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu. He also enjoys going to the beach in the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area, where he grew up, and is an avid Tampa Bay Rays fan.

He was appointed to the Board in 2024.

FEMC Chair, Vice Chair for 2026

At its December meeting, the directors of the [Florida Engineers Management Corporation](#) elected Dr. Mark Tumeo, PE, as its chair and Michael Lessne as its vice chair. Dr. Tumeo succeeds Safiya Brea, PE, as chair.

Dr. Tumeo holds a Ph.D. and an M.S. in environmental engineering from the University of California, Davis, a J.D. from Cleveland State University, and B.S. degrees in civil engineering and biology from the University of Notre Dame. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Florida and several other states, and is a member of the Ohio Bar. Dr. Tumeo is currently the senior engineer at Earth Systems, an environmental consulting firm with offices in four states.



Dr. Mark Tumeo, PE

Previously, he served as dean of the College of Computing, Engineering, and Construction at the University of North Florida. Prior to that, he was at Cleveland State University, where he served seven years as the vice provost of research and dean of the graduate studies before returning to the faculty in 2000, where he served as the faculty advisor for the CSU Chapter of Engineers Without Borders and as the undergraduate program and ABET coordinator for the department. Prior to his appointment at CSU, he was a faculty member at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Dr. Tumeo has almost 40 years of experience in environmental consulting and research, and has extensive experience and publications in environmental risk assessment, policy, and regulation. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles, reports, and book chapters, and numerous conference proceedings in the area of waste treatment, management, and risk analysis. He has served as an associate editor for the American Association of Civil Engineers *Journal of Environmental Engineering* and the *Journal of Professional Issues in Engineering Education and Practice*.

He was appointed a corporate director for FEMC in 2021.

Mr. Lessne, a public member of the board of directors, is a bankruptcy and creditors' rights attorney and business and commercial litigator. After more than a decade of successful practice at two prominent regional and national firms, Mr. Lessne launched his own firm in February 2022. In February 2025, he continued that progression by partnering to form Lessne Hoffman, PLLC.

Mr. Lessne provides counsel in a broad array of bankruptcy and insolvency matters and complex business litigation cases. He represents clients in many aspects of bankruptcy, including debtors (typically in reorganization cases), fiduciaries (including bankruptcy trustees in liquidation cases, assignees in assignment for the



Michael Lessne

benefit of creditors cases, and receivers in federal and state cases), secured and unsecured creditors, landlords and tenants, and buyers of bankruptcy estate assets.

Mr. Lessne was formerly a partner at Nelson Mullins (formerly Broad and Cassel in Florida) and before that a shareholder at GrayRobinson. He is a licensed CPA and draws on his business and accounting background in his legal practice. He obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees at the Fisher School of Accounting at the University of Florida in 2006 and his law degree at the University of Miami School of Law in 2009.

He has received numerous professional nods for his legal work. He's been recognized as "Lawyer of the Year" in Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law in Fort Lauderdale (2026) by The Best Lawyers in America, where he has been included since 2018, by Chambers USA (2020-2025), by Florida Super Lawyers as a Rising Star (2016-2019) and as a Super Lawyer (2022-2025), by *Florida Trend's* Florida Legal Elite, by *Fort Lauderdale Illustrated*, by *Palm Beach Illustrated*, by Boca Raton Observer's Top Lawyers of 2024 and 2025, and by the Daily Business Review (2019 "On the Rise" award),

Mr. Lessne is involved in professional and community activities. Mr. Lessne was honored by the Broward Education Foundation in December 2025 with the Hall of Fame Alumni Award, Community Achievement Award, which honors distinguished Broward County public school alumni.

Mr. Lessne currently serves on the board of the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida as the immediate past president, having served on the board since 2013 and as the president in 2024-2025. He also serves the American Bankruptcy Institute as a special projects leader for the Commercial and Regulatory Law Committee.

Mr. Lessne is a graduate of Leadership Florida's Connect Class 11, a graduate of Leadership Broward's Class 35, and a graduate of Leadership Fort Lauderdale's Class 18 (and the Curriculum Chair for Leadership Fort Lauderdale's Class 21). He's held former board positions with the Leadership Broward Foundation, the Broward Performing Arts Foundation, Ghost Light Society, Deliver the Dream, American Lung Association's Turquoise Takeover Task Force, and he's held steering committee positions at Historic Stranahan House Museum and Arc Broward.

Mr. Lessne is married to Ashley Boxer, and they have a 3-year-old daughter, Mae.

He was appointed a corporate director for FEMC in 2024.

Recent Updates to Florida Engineering Rules

[Chapter 61G15, Florida Administrative Code](#), contains the rules that govern the practice of engineering in Florida. The rules are adopted by the Florida Board of Professional Engineering based on [Chapter 471, Florida Statutes, Engineering](#).

The rules are regularly reviewed and updated by the Board. [The latest updates](#) are posted on the FBPE website shortly after their approval.

The latest changes, as of Nov. 26, 2025, include:

- 61G15-18.012 *Other Board Business for Which Compensation Is Allowed*
- 61G15-34.004 *Design of Process and Fluid Flow Systems*

Changes are highlighted in the PDF available on the [Statutes and Rules page](#) in the *Legal* section of the Board's website, fbpe.org.

Special Recognition: Congratulations, Examinees

FBPE applauds everyone who passed engineering exams in the past quarter. We wish them much success as they move towards the next step in their engineering careers. [See the complete list online.](#)

Legal Department: Latest Engineer Discipline

Under Rule 61G15-37.001(11), Florida Administrative Code, the Florida Engineers Management Corporation is required to post all Final Orders involving active disciplinary cases to the website until the terms of the final order are completed, or until the licensee becomes inactive, retires, relinquishes the license, or permits the license to become null and void. Included in this section are the most recent cases in which final action has been taken by the Board, a brief description of the licensee's violation and discipline as well as a link to the final order. [View actions.](#)

Mark Your Calendar

We regularly update our calendar with the latest FBPE and FEMC events. [Check out the calendar.](#)

FBPE Board Members & FEMC Directors

FBPE Board Members

James Gonzalez, Public; Chair (2026)

Brock Shrader, PE; Vice Chair (2026)

Dylan Albergo, PE

Christopher Dawson, Public

Christopher Forehand, PE

Jeb Mulock, PE

Yassi Myers, PE

John Pistorino, PE, SI

Denise Ramsey, PE

Pankaj (PJ) Shah, PE

Richard Temple, PE, SI

Zana Raybon, Executive Director

Rebecca Sammons, Assistant Executive Director

John Rimes, Chief Prosecuting Attorney

Michele Morris, FBPE Controller

FEMC Directors

Dr. Mark Tumeo, PE; Chair (2026)

Michael Lessne, Public; Vice Chair (2026)

Safiya Brea, PE

Edward Gonzalez, PE

Satya Lory, PE

David R. Mica, Public

Art Nordlinger, PE

Zana Raybon, FEMC President

John Rimes, FEMC Vice President

Rebecca Sammons, FEMC Secretary

Michele Morris, FEMC Treasurer