



Wes Hocking

Project Engineer / Director – Investigative Engineering Services Division

Mr. Hocking's 32 years of professional experience has given him a diverse resume of project experience, including design and construction administration of everything from custom wood-framed homes to high-rise concrete and steel commercial structures. Mr. Hocking also functions as Director of Investigative Service Division for Culp and Tanner. He has performed over 140 property claims investigations for numerous insurance companies, adjustors, and attorneys. Below are few of the claims he has provided engineering reports for our clients.

Education:

California State University, Chico

Professional

Registration:

Civil Engineer, CA 1981
Structural Engineer, CA 1986

Employment History:

Culp & Tanner, Inc.
1978 to Present

Memberships:

Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC)
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)



Reconstruction

These losses include fire damage assessments, scope of repairs, collapse origin and cause, upcoding and betterment. This commercial fire in downtown Sacramento gutted a city block. Culp and Tanner's experience allowed the carrier to quickly conclude that the cost of repairs would exceed the policy limit, saving the carrier thousands of dollars in developing repair estimates.



Crack Evaluation and Remediation

Many claims deal with concrete or sheetrock cracking. Determination of cause is key is assessing coverage. This homeowner claimed heavy construction equipment from a road construction project drove on his driveway, causing the cracking. Since we found that the fenced in backyard patio exhibited the same cracks, it was easy to conclude the cracks were not related to the construction equipment.



Structural Damage Assessment and Scope of Repairs

A propane water heater in a huge custom home outside Santa Rosa exploded causing significant damage – blown out walls, windows, skylights, doors, etc. Originally the loss was estimated between \$350,000 and \$500,000. Our assessment showed mostly cosmetic damage, which led to a reduction of the actual loss by over \$100,000.



Slip and Fall and Product Liability Investigations

Investigations of slip and fall, product failures and other liability claims. An individual claimed that this foot step on this rental truck was loose due to an untightened bolt, causing him to slip and injure himself. He said he retightened the bolt after his injury. Our investigation revealed that loosening any three of the five bolts holding the step in place would not cause the step to be loose.



Structural Integrity Assessments of Losses

Water from the firefighting of a chimney fire caused the floor and ceiling plywood to warp in this condominium overlooking Lake Tahoe. Since the plywood was an integral part of a special structural floor system, we load tested the floor using sand bags. We were able to demonstrate that the floor was still structurally sound, saving the carrier from having to replace the floor system.