

# PCMA MASONRY *tip*

## # DISASTER RESISTANT PROPERTIES OF CONCRETE MASONRY #

**FIRE RESISTANCE** - Concrete masonry offers a noncombustible option for construction - providing protection for occupants and property.

- For interior walls it helps contain a fire within the compartment, preventing it from spreading throughout the building.
- As an exterior wall, it helps prevent a fire from jumping from building to building.
- Concrete masonry helps contain a fire even if no water supply is available.
- Concrete masonry structures that endure a fire can often be rebuilt with little envelope reconstruction.

**WIND RESISTANCE** - Debris driven by high winds presents the greatest hazard during hurricanes and tornados. Tests show that concrete masonry wall systems suffer no structural damage when impacted by debris carried by hurricane and tornado-force winds.

**FLOOD RESISTANCE** - Concrete masonry is not damaged by water; and in-fact, continues to gain strength in the presence of moisture. In flood-damaged areas, masonry buildings are often the only ones left standing, and are ready for reuse.

**EARTHQUAKE RESISTANCE** - Buildings constructed according to proper guidelines with reinforced masonry walls have a record of surviving earthquakes intact and structurally sound. In reinforced masonry construction, the combination of concrete and steel provides the three most important properties for earthquake resistance: stiffness, strength, and ductility.

**BLAST RESISTANCE** - Due to the sheer mass of concrete masonry, it has demonstrated superior blast resistance through years of critical tests. It is specified on many governmental and other security-related structures.



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*Return Service Requested*

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Technical information regarding concrete masonry is available through the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA). You can access this information any time through the NCMA website [www.ncma.org](http://www.ncma.org).

The PCMA website [www.pacma.com](http://www.pacma.com) features a listing of producer members located in Pennsylvania and their contact information along with the products each produces. You'll also find information on education opportunities, local publications and more.

Diverse Sustainable Solutions

[www.pacma.com](http://www.pacma.com)

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