

ROOFERS IN THE NEWS

ROOFING STORIES AND EVENTS THAT ARE MAKING HEADLINES

Local 229, Billings, MT, Roofers & Waterproofers Have the Skills for the Job

Union shop was “only realistic” option for completing roof on MetraPark

Last June the MetraPark exhibition hall and arena in Billings, MT—one of the largest indoor arenas in the state—was nearly destroyed by a tornado. Virtually all of the roofing was demolished, down to the red iron structural members. “A total disaster,” said John Ostlund, Yellowstone County commissioner. “Absolutely nothing is left of it.”

The rebuild was put on fast-track. As soon as union Ironworkers completed the new fluted metal decking, members of Roofers and Waterproofers Local 229, employed by Empire Heating, Cooling, and Roofing of Billings, were quick to respond.

First, it was critical to achieve a watertight seal over the structure so that interior reconstruction could start. Roofers and Waterproofers went to work for 12 hours a day, seven days a week, to minimize further damage to the structure from stormwater. When a temporary seal had been installed throughout the 990-square job, work began on the 72 mil

Sarnafil membrane system. The work continued through harsh winter conditions.

Other, non-union contractors in the area bid the job, but none had the training in Sarnafil application that members of Local 229 had received. “We were, basically, the only realistic shop to do the job,” said Local 229 Business Agent Dave Wilt.

The skill and professionalism displayed by Local 229 roofers was evident to all involved with the project. CTA Associates, the design architect, congratulated them repeatedly on a job well done in the face of extreme difficulties due to weather and logistics. “It is my privilege to act as both union agent for our local, as well as safety competent person for roofing operations on the project,” said Brother Wilt.

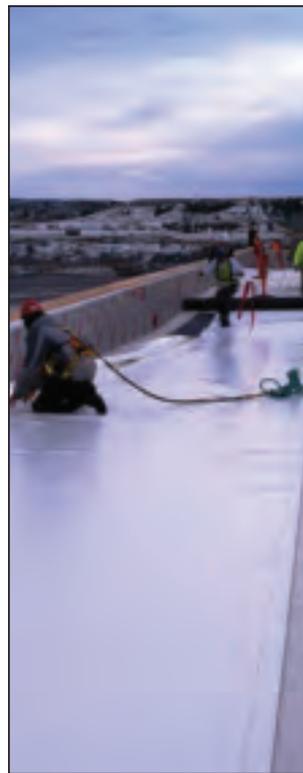
“Sika Sarnafil has advised that we are definitely in the running for their ‘project of the year’ award.” It would certainly be well deserved.



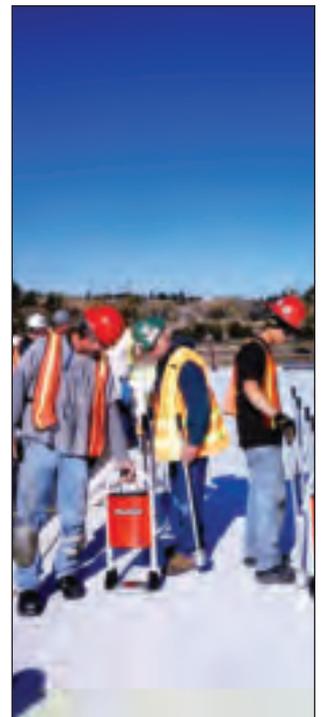
MetraPark arena was devastated by a tornado last June.



Local 229 roofers and Waterproofers worked seven days a week to repair the roof.



Work continued even through the harsh winter months.



Only Local 229 members had the training and skills necessary to apply the new MetraPark roof.