



## Parting Shots

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As depicted in these images, the Iowa Truss Manufacturers Association (ITMA) and members of the Iowa fire service met on August 25 in Ames for a live structure demonstration and truss plant tour. Led by members Al Esch and Andy Green (both volunteer firefighters), a small ITMA group built the enclosed 8' x 15' structure on site at the Illinois Fire Service Training Bureau. A 15'9"x12" metal plate connected floor truss assembly was installed on the right side, while a 2x10 joist was installed on the left.

Despite challenges like shifting wind direction and the "first time factor," the group of ITMA volunteers pulled together to put on a professional, information-packed presentation for the group of nearly 30 firefighters representing 18 departments across the state. Chris Wendell from Badger Fire Department

commented, "Excellent class and demonstration. Very informative."

Speaking with both firefighter and truss manufacturer hats on, Esch said one of the most important things is that "this live demo reinforced the uncertainty of fire conditions," and noted that the information gained from the burn will be very helpful to the service in making tactical decisions on the fire ground. Green said he got good feedback from contacts he made at the event: "Everybody that I talked with was very positive and said they were walking away with some valuable information."

Following the demonstration and educational program, attendees toured Lumber Specialties, Ltd., and were especially interested in the truss design process and the level of quality involved in manufacturing. An educational program based on pictures and video footage from the event is currently under development. **SBC**

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