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COLLAPSED TUNNEL IN OREGON RISES FROM THE ASHES
QUIKRETE® Steel Fibered Shotcrete Saves Time, Money and History

Ashland, Ore. (Dec. 3, 2004) – When Tunnel 13 in Ashland, Ore. collapsed in late November of 2003, a little bit of history collapsed with it. The tunnel, owned by Central Oregon Railroad Company, was the site of what is considered the West’s “Last Great Train Robbery” when three brothers attempted to steal \$500,000 worth of gold rumored to be on the train in 1923. The railroad remains important today with about twenty companies using the local rails to move lumber.

With the collapse, trains had to be diverted through California and trips that used to take five days now take ten to thirteen. After a fire was contained in the debris ridden tunnel, The QUIKRETE® Companies was called on to help. The contractor, Johnson-Western Gunitite, selected QUIKRETE® Steel Fiber Reinforced Shotcrete MS to rehabilitate the



tunnel. The shotcrete combines the process of applying the cement to the tunnel walls and packing it down into one step. Spraying the shotcrete eliminates the need for forming and provides an extremely dense (9,000 psi) and high strength concrete tunnel lining.

The shotcrete used contains micro silica which drastically reduces the amount of rebound from the tunnel walls, which reach heights of 70 feet. On an average project, as much as 25 percent to 30 percent of shotcrete can be expected to end up on the ground due to rebound, but with micro silica, rebound is reduced to an average of 5 percent, saving a significant amount of money through reduced labor and materials.

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Johnson-Western Gunitite has used 2,500 3,000-pound super sacks on the project to date. The most difficult process, so far, was removing the debris from inside the 3,300-foot long tunnel, after a fire burned inside for days. The project, which began shortly after the collapse, is expected to be completed in the early spring of 2005.

QUIKRETE® Shotcrete has also been used on other high profile projects including the Jefferson Street Bridge restoration project in Fairmont, W.Va., a nuclear test facility in Yucca Mountain, Nev. and for water control repairs to the Prince Gallitzin Dam in Pennsylvania.

The QUIKRETE® Companies

The QUIKRETE® Companies are the largest manufacturers of packaged concrete in the United States and an innovative leader in the commercial building and home improvement industries. With more than 80 manufacturing facilities in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and South America, The QUIKRETE® Companies have unsurpassed product distribution and depth. The QUIKRETE® Technical Center ensures that professionals and consumers alike are provided with the most innovative and highest quality products available on the market. For additional information on QUIKRETE® or its products, please visit www.quikrete.com or call (800) 282-5828.

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