Joplin, MO Hospital Nears Completion as Deadly Tornado’s One Year Anniversary Approaches

Walden Structures and Aspen Street Architects’ Project Will be the Quickest, Code-Compliant Acute Care Hospital to be Built in the U.S.

Riverside, CA (PRWEB) March 12, 2012 -- The team of Walden Structures and Aspen Street Architects are nearing completion on a two-story, 150,000-square-foot component hospital for Mercy Hospital Joplin (Mercy). The hospital’s original facility was destroyed in the deadly Joplin tornado on May 22, 2011. The two firms were commissioned to provide a completely code compliant building within a year—a nearly impossible timetable for a typical hospital construction project.

Mercy’s interim hospital was designed and built by Aspen Street Architects and Walden Structures in only 8 ½ months. When completed in April, it will be the quickest and largest acute care hospital to be constructed in the U.S. and meet the strict requirements of the current International Building Code.

“After the tornado we immediately brought in Mobile Medical Units and portable building solutions, but we knew we would need something more permanent while we rebuilt to the scale we needed to serve our area long-term,” said Dottie Bringle, Mercy COO/CNO. “The time frame for a modular hospital, along with the quality of buildings we were shown at a hospital in California that had utilized component construction, was exactly what we needed for an immediate solution and we’re pleased with how the project has progressed.”

The modular hospital is made up of 224 structural steel components, which were manufactured at Walden Structures’ factory in Southern California. The components were shipped to Joplin, MO on massive semitrailers from November through February. While individual units were built, design tweaks and approvals, as well as construction on site, happened simultaneously. This allowed the team to stay on pace for an on-time completion just prior to the one year anniversary of the Joplin Tornado.

“Completing a project of this size and complexity within a year fully shows the potential for modular hospital design and construction in the future,” said Dave Hitchcock, Aspen Street Architects founder. “Being able to provide a finished product in the proposed time frame using concrete and steel also says a lot about the decision making capabilities of the owner, the cooperation of the building officials in Missouri and the incredible abilities of Walden Structures.”

About the Companies

Aspen Street Architects is an Architectural/Engineering firm that has been providing professional design services to the education and the health care industries since 1982. Located in Angels Camp, CA, the firm has been working to bring affordable, component building technology to the forefront of healthcare design.

Walden Structures, located in Mentone, CA, has been providing quality modular buildings for over three decades, proving along the way that modular construction is far more than trailers. With over 260,000 sq ft of production space, Walden manufactures multi-story buildings, facilities with concrete floors, steel beam construction, clear span trusses, and green building products far faster than conventional construction and with minimal site interruption.
For more information about the project, to schedule an interview or to request photos and video of the rebuilding of St. John’s Mercy, please contact Cari Morgan at 209-795-7670 or cari(at)evoke-pr(dot)com.

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