



CONSTRUCTION
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Stamford Wrecking Co. performs demolition services for the commercial and industrial markets, as well as for institutions, tanks, towers and smokestacks.

Growth Serves As Goal

Connecticut-based Stamford Wrecking Company performs specialty projects in the commercial and industrial sectors. It is now the largest demolition company in the state, its COO says.

BY LIBBY JOHN

Stamford Wrecking Company's niche is difficult, specialty projects, COO Stephen Goldblum says. "We found that, over time, we were getting involved in more of the difficult projects that require thorough and skilled preplanning," he explains.

The Trumbull, Conn.-based firm performs demolition services for the commercial and industrial markets, as well as on institutions, tanks, towers and smokestacks. It also performs restoration and small civil construction and infrastructure projects in the Northeast, mainly Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts.

Goldblum's grandfather Charles Goldblum founded the company after he moved to America 82 years ago. At first, he sold scrap wood to bakeries to use for their ovens. He noticed an opportunity to tear down buildings and resell the usable materials.

Eventually, bakeries stopped burning wood in their ovens, but his grandfather, and later his father Irving Goldblum con-

tinued to tear down and demolish buildings.

The company started off demolishing houses, but over time graduated to small commercial buildings, then bigger commercial buildings and factory complexes. "By starting small, gaining experience and public confidence, Stamford Wrecking received further name recognition in 1938 by obtaining the contract for the private residence and stable of Percy Rockefeller," the company says.

In the 1980s, many government environmental regulations came into effect, so the company began to require employees to be trained to handle lead, asbestos and hazardous materials, Goldblum says. Three years ago, it hired structural engineers and began performing small civil construction projects.

"As each generation has learned the knowledge of the past, we continue to learn and enhance our high good will and solid reputation in the industry," the company says. "We also continually strive to exceed the highest standards in the industry for innovation and safety."

Now, it is the largest demolition company in Connecticut, Goldblum says. He says his role is to take advantage

Stamford Wrecking Co.
www.stamfordwrecking.com
Headquarters: Trumbull, Conn.
Employees: 250
Service: Demolition, remediation and civil construction
Stephen Goldblum, COO:
"Our depth of experience is quite uncommon."

of “opportunities to continue to make the family business grow,” he says, “and that’s what I’ve done. The civil construction division was created to capitalize on such opportunities and has been quite successful.”

Recent Projects

Stamford Wrecking recently received an engineering award from the New York Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies for the New Haven Coliseum project in New Haven, Conn.

The project was unique, Goldblum says, because the parking areas were located above the seating areas of the arena.

Another complicated aspect was that the main electric lines serving New Haven and the fiber-optic network that serves a substantial amount of New England ran underneath the building, he adds.

The company’s scope of the project was to first take down the 8,000-seat arena from beneath the parking structure and then demolish the parking structure. “The parking structure was supported by 60-foot-high super columns analogous to bridge construction.

“If we demolished one, the building would collapse in one direction, and if we demolished one from the other side, the building would collapse in the opposite direction,” he says. “We also had to make sure all the utilities were protected. This was accomplished by means of sophisticated engineering controls and extensive vibration analysis.”

It was completed in October 2007. “The project went off very smoothly,” he adds. “It shows our ability to handle unusually hard jobs, and that sets us apart from others.”

Stamford is also working on a soil remediation project on the former Delavel property in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. The scope of this \$11 million project includes 3,000 feet of riverbank restoration, sheet pile bulk head walls and large rip rap revetment, together with the removal and disposal of 35,000 tons of contaminated soils.

It is New York’s largest brown field site. “The sheet piling work is going on right now,” he says. The project is expected to be completed in early 2009.

Quality Work Force

Stamford Wrecking strives to be customer-oriented to keep itself ahead of competitors, even though its customers range from developers to municipalities to governments.

Governments, especially, “have unusual documents, demands and requirements,” Goldblum says. “Our expertise comes at coordinating all these things so that projects go smoothly.”

It has an educated and experienced

work force, he adds, which also distinguishes it from competitors. “Demand is put on contractors more substantially now,” he says. “There [are many] regulations to comply with, [especially] from the federal and state governments.”

Its operations group includes engineers, estimators and project management staff. “Working together, [a project is] assured professional handling from its conception to its final completion,” the company says.

Stamford has had to increase the size

NEW HAVEN COLISEUM DEMOLITION, CONNECTICUT

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of its work force and provide more training for its employees to meet the additional requirements.

For example, it now has a training area in its Trumbull facility and holds classes on safety, hazardous materials handling and corporate processes. "It's something we do frequently and it allows us to stay ahead," Goldblum says.

Many of Stamford's 250 employees have been with the company for 20-plus years, Goldblum says.

"We have little turnover," he notes. "We have people who have been here for 45 years.

"Our depth of experience is quite uncommon," he adds. "The loyalty is terrific; we support each other."

"The next generation looks forward to the future challenges of the industry," the company says.

Health and Safety

Supervisory personnel are OSHA-trained and certified, and know CPR and first aid. "The health and safety of our work force and the public is paramount," the company says.

"Stamford Wrecking's investment [is] in creating and maintaining a highly skilled and experienced work force that not only gets the work done quickly, and efficiently, but also in the safest possible manner," it notes.

Also, the company provides annual training, certifications and medical testing for employees who handle hazardous waste such as asbestos, lead, polychlorinated biphenyl and mold, it adds.

Industry Links

Stamford is a member of the National Demolition Association, a non-profit trade organization of more than 1,000 companies that offer demolition and related services and products.

"Its educational efforts help members stay abreast of regulatory and safety matters and keep regulators informed about

issues facing their industry," the association says.

"In addition, the National Demolition Association is dedicated to increasing public awareness of the industry, as well as providing members with information on the latest technical advances in equipment and services."

Stamford is also a member of the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut (MTAC) Inc., which serves companies that operate commercial motor vehicles in the Northeast state.

"We are the strong voice for one-truck operators and transportation giants alike, always advocating programs and policies which to promote safe and profitable truck operations," MTAC President Michael Riley said in a statement

The association was founded in 1920, and has 1,200 members. ■

WEIDLINGER ASSOCIATES

Weidlinger Associates is a renowned structural engineering firm specializing in buildings, bridges, infrastructure, applied science, security and investigations. With a staff of more than 350, the firm has eight U.S. offices and an office in the United Kingdom. Since its establishment in 1949, Weidlinger has become one of the world's most advanced structural engineering firms and has received awards for technical excellence, creative design and scientific achievement on several hundred projects. The firm received the 2008 Engineering Excellence Award (Platinum) from the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York for the New Haven Coliseum Demolition. The design, meticulously executed by Stamford Wrecking Co., included a bridge constructed of materials taken from the building, a beam and old tires. The combination of advanced analysis, low-tech material and engineering ingenuity resulted in a completely successful, 100 percent green demolition.

Congratulations!

STAMFORD
WRECKING COMPANY

All of us at Genesis would like to congratulate Stamford Wrecking Company on their 82nd year of business! We're proud to be a part of that success.

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