THE UPDATE

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The goal of our monthly update is to provide information on timely matters that may impact your practice and professional interests.

SUBCONTRACTOR 'S MAJOR LIEN REDUCTION UPHELD

An Appellate Court upheld a \$7 million reduction in a mechanics lien filing by a subcontractor who had not proved that the lower court had erred in reducing the lien or that it had been prejudiced by the reduction. Accordingly the subcontractor was not permitted to recover interest or delay costs on the project

WRONG MIX COSTS CONCRETE SUPPLIER \$5.4 MILLION

A California Court of Appeals affirmed a superior court decision to hold a cement supplier responsible for future damage to foundations for negligently providing an incorrect water to cement ratio for concrete which failed to take severe sulfur levels into account in it's mix design.

NEW ARTIFICIAL SKIN FOR SEVERE BURN VICTIMS

Every year more than 45,000 Americans suffer burns severe enough to require a hospital stay. While the traditional therapy of using skin grafts to cover burn sites has improved, problems with scarring, infection and poor adhesion still remain. Scientists at Clarkson University recently reported on its promising research results in its development of an artificial skin that would heal and function like normal skin and could be used successfully for

large burns or surgical reconstruction.

NEW TOOL TO HELP PROTECT AGAINST TERRORISTS

High-traffic facilities e.g. airports, office buildings, rail stations and sporting arenas serving hundreds of thousands of people daily are potentially susceptible to invisible biological attacks. Researchers at California 's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory recently reported development of a new stand-alone" biological smoke detector "that can detect and identify bacteria, viruses and toxins , anthrax, and plague to provide early warning to assist public health action by authorities to limit exposure and start treating

victims before they show symptoms of full-blown infection.

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