

James R. Panko

PE, SE

Principal, Director



James Panko is a Principal for ESi. Mr. Panko is an accomplished Civil/Structural Engineer with more than 22 years of Civil/Structural design and forensic engineering experience in the industry. Mr. Panko provides expert consultation in the areas relating to building and site design, structural and building envelope failure analysis for various building types, and premise liability. Mr. Panko has performed building evaluations on structures affected by moisture intrusion, high wind events, snow loading, fire, blast loading, vehicle impact and vibration induced loads to determine the extent of damage and provide root cause determination of failure. Mr. Panko has experience in the design and construction practices relating to the exterior environment around buildings. He performs forensic investigations relating to site drainage, grading, ADA compliance and trip and fall hazard assessments. Mr. Panko has extensive experience as Engineer-of-Record for projects from all sectors of the built environment including the Department of Defense, Department of Corrections, healthcare, higher education, industrial, agricultural, mixed use retail, and residential.

Education

BS, Civil Engineering. Minnesota State University. 2004

Licenses & Certifications

- State of Colorado P.E. License 0047524
- State of Florida P.E. License 84084
- State of Iowa P.E. License 19785
- State of Illinois S.E. License 081-019435
- State of Minnesota P.E. License 46715
- State of Nebraska P.E. License E-21892
- State of North Dakota P.E. License PE-10659
- State of South Dakota P.E. License 12816
- State of Wisconsin P.E. License 44287-6

Contact Information

jrpanko@engsys.com

(763) 447-2766

ESi Minneapolis

2355 Polaris Lane North
Suite 120, Plymouth, MN 55447

Areas of Specialization

- Building Envelope Failure Analysis
- Construction Engineering
- Damage Assessment
- Engineering Analysis
- Engineering Surveying
- Failure Analysis
- Historic Buildings/Rehabilitating
- Repair and Renovation Design
- Rope Access
- Structural Analysis
- Trip and Fall Hazard Assessments

Positions Held

Engineering Systems Inc., Plymouth, Minnesota

- Principal & Director, 2024 – Present
- Principal, 2023 – 2024

Crane Engineering Building Science, LLC and Crane Engineering, Plymouth, Minnesota

- Consulting Structural Engineer, 2013 – 2018

Investigative Engineers of Southern Minnesota, A Division of Paulsen Architects, Mankato, Minnesota

- Principal Investigative Engineer, 2011 – 2013

Paulsen Architects, Mankato, Minnesota

- Director of Structural/Civil/Investigative Engineering, 2004 – 2013

Pac West Engineering, Albany, Oregon

- Engineer Technician/Survey Crew Chief, 2001 – 2002

Professional Affiliations/Honors

Recipient of the American Society of Civil Engineers – Minnesota Young Engineer of the Year Award

Presenter of “Effective Management of Investigative Engineering Firm”

- IENGA Annual Conference Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 2012

Advisor in the publication of Moaveni, Saeed, *Engineering Fundamentals: An Introduction to Engineering*, 2011

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

- Member

Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE)

- Member

National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA)

- Member

National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)

- Member

Property & Liability Resource Bureau (PLRB)

- Affiliate Advisory Board Member

Structural Building Component Association (SBCA)

- Member

Northwest Loss Association, Inc.

- Member

Presentations

“Repairability of Engineered Trusses”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the Midwest Claims Services Annual Meeting, Hinckley, MN, April 2026.

“Expert Testimony: Collaborating with Experts to Educate the Jury”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the League of Minnesota Cities Seminar, St. Paul, MN, 2023.

“Evaluating Cosmetic and Functional Hail Damage”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the League of Minnesota Cities Seminar, St. Paul, MN, 2023.

“Expert Testimony: Collaborating with Experts to Educate the Jury”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the Wisconsin Defense Counsel Annual Conference, Wisconsin Dells, WI, August 2022.

“Evaluation of Code Upgrades for Repairs, Alterations and Additions to Existing Buildings”, **J.R. Panko**, webinar presenter for the Conference for Catholic Facility Management (CCFM), Webinar, 2020.

“What Happens When You Ignore the Plumbing and Mechanical Codes”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the ICC Region III Conference, Chaska, MN, February 2020.

“From Uptown to Downtown: Issues Regarding Mixed-Use Multi-Level Construction”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the North Dakota Defense Lawyers Association (NDDLA) – 2018 Annual Meeting and Seminar, Bismarck, ND, 2018.

“Foundation Engineering Design and Coverage Issues”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the PLRB Large Loss Conference, Orlando, FL, 2018.

“Slips, Trips and Falls”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the Crane Smart Sessions, Crane Engineering, Plymouth, MN, 2018.

“From Uptown to Downtown: Issues Regarding Mixed-Use Multi-Level Construction”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the Crane Smart Sessions, Crane Engineering, Plymouth, MN, 2018.

“Effective Ways to Involve Experts in Your Legal Strategy”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the South Dakota Defense Lawyers Association Annual Meeting, Sioux Falls, SD, 2017.

“The Future has Arrived: New Construction Methods and Materials That Are Changing the Industry”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the Fox Valley Adjusters Association, Appleton, WI, 2017.

“Building Condition Assessment – Knowing the Hazards of a Hazard”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives – National Response Team Training, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL, Instructor, 2017.

“Building Condition Assessment – A Safety Course in the Effects of Fire and Explosions on Buildings”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives – National Response Team, Huntsville, AL, Instructor, 2016.

“Incident Site Management – Managing and Documenting an Incident Scene”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the ASCE Forensic Engineering 7th Congress, Miami, FL, 2015.

“Bracing for Failure: A Case Study of Wood Truss Failures and the Responsibility of the Designers, Manufacturers, and Installers”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at the North Dakota Defense Lawyers Association (NDDLA) – 2015 Annual Meeting and Seminar, Bismarck, ND, 2015.

“Incident Site Management – Managing and Documenting an Incident Scene,” S.A. Nesvold, **J.R. Panko**, Proceedings of the 7th Congress and Forensic Engineering, American Society of Civil Engineers, Reston, VA, pp. 589-599, 2015.

“Standard of Care for Engineers and Architects”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN, 2014, 2015, 2016.

“What is Forensic Engineering”, **J.R. Panko**, presented at Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016.