

CHANCE HELICAL PIERS™ Hurricane Tested On Gulf Front Restaurant



Area A: Supported on Helical Piers

Area B: Not supported on Helical Piers



Captain Dave's on the Gulf in Destin, Florida is one of the oldest gulf front restaurants on the panhandle. When hurricane Ivan hit the Pensacola area in September of 2004, the Destin beaches were severely eroded and the restaurant suffered extensive damage. The older part of the restaurant was built on shallow footings in the sand dunes that the Destin area is well known for. The dunes were destroyed during the Category 4 storm and the restaurant was undermined by the storm surge.

A.B. Chance Helical Piers™ were chosen to underpin a portion of the building where existing footings were still intact and was exposed. Approximately 6'-7' vertical feet of sand was lost from the beach. Helical Piers™ were also used as piling in portions of the building where new slabs were to be poured on newly backfilled walls. The piles were able to be quickly installed with a mini-excavator from the beach side of the building in low overhead and difficult access locations. Noise and vibration concerns for nearby structures that had also sustained storm damage were eliminated by using helical screw piles. A.B. Chance Helical Piers™ helped get portions of the restaurant structurally sound on a deep foundation system and open for business.

Hurricane Dennis came ashore just west of Destin the following year in July of 2005. Unfortunately for Captain Dave's, the entire restaurant was not supported by Helical Piers™. The storm surge again undermined the footings and washed out the sand underneath the slabs. Where the building was supported on A.B. Chance Helical Piers™ the footings and slabs were still intact, and where the building was not supported by Helical Piers™ the footings and slabs were destroyed. A backfilling and grouting operation is all that is required to occupy those portions of the building supported on helicals, where other portions will have to be totally reconstructed.

If you have a need for underpinning structures, installing piling in limited access/limited overhead applications, or tying back surge walls or storm walls where there is no room to install deadmen, Chance Helical Piers™ and tiebacks are the storm tested solution to your construction problem. Please contact us if we can be of assistance on you next project.

Photographs courtesy of Bay Breeze Construction, Panama City, Florida.

Close up of Area A: Concrete Slab Supported by Helical Piers



Exterior Footing Supported by Helical Piers



Slab & Grade Beam Supported by Helical Piers



Foundation Technologies, Inc.®

info@foundationtechnologies.com
www.foundationtechnologies.com
1-800-773-2368 Fax: 770-723-0844