



News Release

April 24, 2015

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ACCNJ SAFETY DAY 2015 HIGHLIGHTS WORKER SAFETY Promotes public awareness and boosts the bottom line

Edison, NJ – On April 22, 2015, members of the Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey (ACCNJ), participated in ACCNJ's Safety Day 2015 by featuring comprehensive training demonstrations, safety talks and recognition programs involving hundreds of union construction craftworkers and employees, designed to refocus the attention of those workers on the key elements of staying safe while on the job as well as thanking them for their commitment to safety.

Special attention was given to the four leading causes of injury and fatality on jobsites, as determined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): falls, struck-by, electrocution and caught-in/between.

The goal of Safety Day was to demonstrate to the employer and the worker the importance of the right equipment, the right training and the right attitude will prevent accidents at the jobsite.

ACCNJ, member companies and our labor partners collaborate closely to make safety the first priority and ensure that both management and craftworkers participate in safety training. In 2014, the union contractors represented by ACCNJ and the basic trades construction unions (Bricklayers, Carpenters, Ironworkers, Building and Heavy/Highway Laborers and Operating Engineers) collectively invested more than \$24.5 million for safety training and education programs. This joint effort benefited more than 23,000 workers.

The benefits are quantified: In 2012, the last year for which data is available, New Jersey recorded 15 construction worker fatalities, the lowest on record since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began compiling data under the North American Industry Classifications in 2003.

"However, even one fatality is too many," stated Jack Kocsis, ACCNJ CEO. "We emphasize best practices, constant awareness, and the understanding there is no greater priority than safety. Because there is no greater goal than ensuring all workers return home safely to their families at the end of the day." He added, "Transportation-related struck-bys that cause injuries and kill workers are another thing, like falls, that absolutely can be prevented. We ask all drivers to slow their speed and heighten their alertness as they drive through work zones. The orange signs and the orange cones should signal to you, the motorist, *not* that you're inconvenienced, but that you're passing a lot of craftworkers who all have loved ones waiting for them. Slow down, put away your phone, and help them go home safely."

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ACCNJ represents union general building contractors, construction managers, and heavy, highway, site development and utility contractors in New Jersey. Members are responsible for billions of dollars in commercial, industrial, heavy, highway, utility and institutional construction projects annually and employ tens of thousands of skilled union craftworkers statewide. The Association is committed to raising the standards of construction in New Jersey through quality, integrity, skill and responsibility.