



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACCNJ Safety Day 2016

WORKER SAFETY: Positive Reinforcement, Public Awareness, Beneficial Investment

EDISON, NJ – The contractor members of the Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey have a long history constructing the built landscape of New Jersey. County roads, public schools, municipal buildings, financial towers, bridges, highways and utilities are the products of a remarkable partnership in the state between union contractors and the union craftworkers they employ.

It is a partnership that has benefited New Jersey with a powerful contribution to the economy going back nearly 80 years. And for the past 45 years, since the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, it is a partnership that has focused on safety.

The construction industry remains one of the most dangerous occupations in America, as evidenced by the 818 construction workers who lost their lives on the job in 2013. But in New Jersey, in 2012 (the most recent year for recorded data), 15 construction workers died, the lowest figure since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began compiling data under the North American Industry Classifications in 2003.

“It’s not perfect,” stated Jack Kocsis, Jr., Chief Executive Officer of ACCNJ. “Perfect is zero lives lost, zero injuries. That’s what our members strive for, every day on their jobsites.”

On April 20, 2016, ACCNJ, its member companies and labor partners will focus special attention on safety at New Jersey construction sites to generate public awareness of the dangers that exist for construction workers as they build roads and structures across the state.

Safety Day 2015, featuring comprehensive training demonstrations involving hundreds of union construction craftworkers, is also designed to refocus the attention of those craftworkers on the key elements of staying safe while on the job. Special emphasis will be given to the four leading causes of injury and fatality on jobsites, as determined by OSHA: falls, struck-by, electrocution and caught-in/betweens.

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 last year in safety training and education programs. This joint effort benefited more than 23,000 workers.

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About ACCNJ

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.

Note to media: If you would like to visit a Safety Day 2015 training demonstration at an ACCNJ member’s jobsite, please contact Jill Schiff, ACCNJ Executive Director of Operations, at 732.225.2265 or jschiff@accnj.org at least 24 hours before the event.