



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACCNJ Safety Day 2021

WORKER SAFETY: Training and Public Awareness During the Pandemic

EDISON, NJ – In 2019, 74 New Jersey workers died on the job. Of those 74, 22 were in construction, nearly 30%, the highest number of all industry sectors. Across the country in 2019, 1,061 construction workers died on the job, nearly 20% of the workplace fatalities and the highest total since 2007.

“In 2019, we were coming off a banner year for construction in New Jersey, with more craftworker hours than we’d seen in a decade,” states Jack Kocsis, Jr., Chief Executive Officer of the Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey. “Then the pandemic hit, requiring our members to make even more significant investments in training in 2020. But our priority did not change. We must keep workers safe every moment they’re on the jobsite. And we need the public’s help, too – to stay alert, be patient and slow down around construction activity.”

On May 5, 2021, ACCNJ, its member companies and labor partners will join forces for a special, coordinated emphasis on safety at New Jersey construction sites across the state.

The goals are two-fold:

- Raise public awareness of the dangers that exist for construction workers as they build roads and structures
- Refocus the attention of workers on the key elements of staying safe while on the job

Safety Day 2021, featuring comprehensive training demonstrations involving hundreds of union construction craftworkers, will focus on the four leading causes of injury and fatality on jobsites, as determined by OSHA: falls, struck-bys, electrocutions and caught-in/betweens.*

ACCNJ will also highlight the substantial investment in safety training and education made by our union contractor members and craftworkers of the general construction trade unions (Bricklayers, Carpenters, Ironworkers, Building and Heavy/Highway Laborers and Operating Engineers). Collectively, they invested \$28.5 million last year in safety training and education programs. This joint effort benefited the more than 6,000 workers who participated in training classes in 2020, despite limited classroom sizes caused by COVID-19, and the tens of thousands of workers who received pandemic awareness training on the jobsite and through virtual platforms.

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About ACCNJ

The Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey represents general building contractors, construction managers, and heavy, highway, site development and utility contractors in New Jersey that employ tens of thousands of skilled union craftworkers each year. Members are responsible for billions of dollars in commercial, industrial, heavy, highway, utility and institutional construction projects annually. 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 2021 training demonstration at an ACCNJ member’s jobsite on Wednesday, May 5, please contact Jill Schiff, ACCNJ Executive Director of Operations, at 732.225.2265 or jschiff@accnj.org at least 24 hours before the event.