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NMED'S OSHA and American Subcontractors Association Sign Agreement to Create Safer Workplace for Subcontractors

(Santa Fe, NM) — New Mexico Environment Department's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau (OSHA) and the American Subcontractors Association of New Mexico (ASA-NM) signed a partnership agreement this week in Albuquerque to help create safe working conditions for the state's subcontractors.

The Safety and Health Initiative Partnership Agreement is a first time partnership oriented for subcontractors whose workers perform the majority of work on commercial construction projects. The agreement contains milestones ASA's members must meet to participate in the program. The partnership requires ASA-NM to have a comprehensive health and safety program.

"The Environment Department's OSHA Partnership Program takes a proactive approach to workplace safety by allowing employers to address safety and health issues before they have the potential to become regulation problems," said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. "The agreement will allow us to work with leaders in the construction industry to protect workers in jobs with a high rate of injury."

Seventy five percent of construction work in the commercial construction industry is completed by subcontractors, who have a higher risk of on the job injuries than other workers in that industry, according to ASA-NM.

The partnership, signed Wednesday in Albuquerque, allows OSHA and ASA-NM to work to reduce fatalities, injuries and illnesses in the workplace.

In 2006, ASA-NM approached NMED's OSHA to establish the partnership to improve safety in the state's construction industry. OSHA and ASA-NM established the Safety, Health Initiative Program (SHIP) partnership after various meetings, discussions and draft proposals.

OSHA ensures workplaces in New Mexico are safe and promotes programs that help employers in the state maintain a safe and healthy working environment for all employees. ASA-NM has 66 members, which include subcontractors, suppliers and associates. ASA-NM is a member of American Subcontractors Association, the first subcontractor's association in the U.S. ASA has 5,500 member subcontractors.

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