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News Release

Kansas OSHA Partnership Becomes Reality

(Mission, KS) July 13, 2007 -

The Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc. (ABC) Heart of America Chapter and Wichita OSHA Area Office have been in negotiations for the past year to create an OSHA partnership. The final document was approved by legal representatives of both parties. The process came to fruition when Judy A. Freeman, Area Director of the Wichita OSHA Area Office; Steve Zink, Kansas Department of Labor Consultation Program and Rob Pitkin, Chairman of the ABC Heart of America Chapter signed the partnership document at the regularly scheduled ABC Contractors' Safety Council meeting at the ABC Office. Dave McDonnell, Compliance Assistance Specialist of the Wichita OSHA Area Office, also attended and will act as a resource for the partnership.

The partnership provides outstanding benefits to both parties. OSHA recognizes a better application of its limited resources by working cooperatively with contractors who realize that safety is a priority. This way, more resources can be used to protect workers who are without safe worksites. *"I was very impressed by the level of commitment and knowledge of the ABC Contractors' Safety Council. We're excited to launch this partnership."* Freeman announced.

ABC contractors who complete a thorough application and inspection process before admittance to the partnership receive the most important benefit, of course, the health and safety of the contractor's workers whose chances of serious injury are greatly reduced. Commitment to safety also results in fewer injuries on the job, which, in turn, translates to lower insurance costs and statistically higher productivity.

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If a citation is issued, participants are eligible to negotiate better penalty reductions as long as the violation is abated and the money is used to further improve safety programs.

The signing of this OSHA partnership is the second partnership provided to qualifying ABC Heart of America Chapter contractors. An ABC Heart of America Chapter partnership was signed with both Missouri OSHA Offices on April 23, 2007. ABC Heart of America Chapter is the only ABC Chapter in the nation to have two active OSHA partnerships.

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Editor's Note: Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is a national association representing more than 24,000 merit construction and construction-related firms in 78 chapters across the United States. For more information, visit ABC's website, www.abc.org.

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