



## Florida Jobs Increase .5%

Construction employment declined in 31 states between August and September, while fewer people are working in construction compared to last year in 40 states, the *Associated General Contractors of America* reported in an analysis of state employment data released by the Labor Department. Construction employment is likely to continue to worsen amid uncertainty about federal spending and tax rates for next year.

"Construction firms are caught between a difficult present and an uncertain future," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "Looking ahead, nobody knows what will happen to the only thing keeping the current market from getting worse, federal spending, as long-term water, energy and transportation spending programs remain in limbo."

Simonson noted that Rhode Island (-2.9 percent, -500 jobs) lost the highest percent of construction jobs for the month while California lost the most jobs (-2.5 percent, -13,300 jobs). Among other states losing construction jobs between August and September were

Texas (-1.2 percent, -7,000 jobs), New York (-1.8 percent, 5,800 jobs), Ohio (-2.5 percent, -4,400 jobs), and Pennsylvania (-1.1 percent, -2,500 jobs).

Hawaii (4.9 percent, 1,400 jobs) and Minnesota (3.8 percent, 3,100 jobs) experienced the largest one-month percentage increase in construction employment between August and September. Besides those

two states, another 13 and the District of Columbia added jobs, while construction employment was unchanged in four states. Other states with increases in construction employment included

**Florida (0.5 percent, 1,700 jobs)**, Georgia (1.0 percent, 1,500 jobs), Washington (0.8 percent, 1,100 jobs) and Illinois (0.4 percent, 700 jobs).

Association officials cautioned that construction employment will continue to stagnate as firms, already coping with depressed private, state and local demand, contend with an uncertain federal marketplace. Adding to the confusion, officials said, was that tax rates for most small construction firms have also not been set for next year.



## Member News

**Miller Construction Company** has added three superintendents to direct operations at projects for new and existing clients throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. They are William Hess, Robert Verlinde and Eric Wolverton.

William Hess was previously a commercial project manager with McGarvey Development, Fort Myers. A project superintendent for 30 years, Robert Verlinde worked with D.F. McKnight Construction Co., where he directed all aspects of field operations for commercial, industrial, healthcare and public projects. Eric Wolverton was most recently owner and field manager of Shoreline Cabinet Systems, Fort Lauderdale.

**Stiles Construction Company** was recently presented with the *Southeast Construction Magazine Award of Excellence* as part of the **Best of 2010** awards program. This annual competition recognizes construction and design excellence in the four-state region that includes Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Stiles was recognized for its 105,000-sq.ft. tenant improvement for AutoNation, who moved from its longtime headquarters to a 17-story building at 200 Las Olas Circle in downtown Fort Lauderdale. AutoNation is Fort Lauderdale's largest corporate tenant.

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William Hess

# Everything, from Traditional to Classic Doors

Each month Construction FOCUS features a CASF member company, selected by drawing a business card from among those attending the monthly networking breakfast. The next breakfast, sponsored by Stiles Construction Company, will be held on Thursday, November 18, 7:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites - Boca Raton off Yamato Road.

**D**oor Systems of South Florida is a family-owned and operated since 1994. They have successfully completed some of the largest and extremely technical overhead door projects in the area. Whether a customer is looking for value engineering assistance with a large

commercial or residential projects, Door Systems of South

Florida has it all.

Door Systems of South Florida is a fully licensed, insured and bondable company. They stock a large inventory of doors and various replacement parts. They also offer prompt 24-hour service 365 days a year, as well as, 2-hour emergency response time to get customers up and run-

ning so business is not compromised. Their employees average over five years of service and over ten years of door installation and service experience. Door Systems also have a full OSHA compliant safety program implemented with at least one CPR certified technician on all projects.

They are proud to be one of *Overhead Door Corporations* largest commercial and residential dealers in the Southeast. Along with Overhead Door, they also distribute W.B. McGuire loading dock equipment, Albany Doors high speed doors, Door Engineering, industrial specialty doors and many more. With this depth of manufacturers they are able to take care of all their customer's needs, no matter the size or type of project. They handle all aspects of your garage

doors and openers, including: replacement garage doors and garage door openers, new construction projects, replacement panels, replacement remote controls, replacement of old weather seals, replacement parts for all makes of garage door openers, new accessories, and replace broken springs. In addition, Door Systems also offers preventative maintenance contracts, free design consultation and free estimates.

Door Systems of S. Fla. offers a wide variety of doors from traditional steel garage doors, and carriage house garage doors, to classic wood garage doors. Furthermore, they handle commercial and industrial services such as; new construction projects, retrofit projects, preventive maintenance programs, 24-hour emergency service, and annual fire door testing. Some commercial/industrial products include: coiling doors, sectional doors, security gates, barrier arms, loading dock equipment, and electric operators. They also have a wide array of specialty products from bi-folding doors, high speed doors, to vinyl stripping doors and air curtains doors. In addition, Door Systems of South Florida have the capability to export to the Caribbean and other destinations. They have complete concrete pit fabrication, project planning, budgeting and value engineering services.

Door Systems is located at 1300 NW 15th Avenue, Pompano Beach. For more information, go to [www.DoorSystemsSFL.com](http://www.DoorSystemsSFL.com) or call 954-935-7000.



**DOOR SYSTEMS**  
OF SOUTH FLORIDA, INC.

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Construction Focus is the official publication of the Construction Association of South Florida. Article suggestions and submissions for publication consideration should be forwarded to the Executive Vice President.

# Motor Vehicle Safety for All in Construction

It's raining, and the driver of a flatbed trailer loaded with stacks of drywall nods off for a moment and drifts into the concrete divider, scattering debris across the northbound highway. A second truck swerves to avoid the debris and runs into the guardrail. The driver of a southbound SUV slows to look and is immediately rear-ended by another vehicle whose driver is talking on a cell phone. The resulting pileup stops traffic for 20-miles.

Incidents like this one happen all too often, making motor vehicle crashes the leading cause of unintentional injury and death across the nation. Developing an effective motor vehicle safety program is one of the best ways for employers to protect their employees and control costs.

## **Guidelines for an effective driver safety program**

Driving is part of doing business in construction and employers should manage motor vehicle safety just as carefully as they manage any other aspect of their business. Managing driver safety, which starts with commitment from the top, helps to ensure that employees follow safe practices and that their vehicles are properly maintained. Key guidelines:

### **• Develop a written vehicle safety policy.**

Tell employees, in writing, what management expects of them when they're drivers and passengers. Employees should also acknowledge, in

writing, that they have read and understood vehicle-safety policy and procedures.

### **• Check workers' driving records.**

Check employee's driving records before they get behind the wheel and annually thereafter. Screen those who have poor driving records.

### **• Investigate accidents.**

Ensure that all vehicle accidents are properly reported and investigated.

### **• Keep vehicles safe.**

Develop procedures that ensure vehicle-safety inspections and maintenance are done on regular schedules. Have employees report mechanical problems to their supervisors immediately.

### **• Reward and discipline.**

Give credit to employees who have exemplary driving records. Recognition or special privileges can be effective incentives depending on the workplace culture. Make it clear to employees that those who violate safety policies will be disciplined.

### **• Invest in education and training.**

Ensure that employees understand vehicle-safety policy and highway safety rules when they're hired. All employees should have the opportunity to periodically update their knowledge and skills.

## **Reminders for all drivers**

### **• Buckle up**

Seat belts are the most effective way to prevent deaths and serious injuries in traffic crashes. All drivers and passengers must use seat belts.

### **• Stay focused & awake**

Distracted driving is a big problem today. It's common to see people talking on cell phones or texting while they're driving, but driving is not the time for multi-tasking. Drivers make more than 200 traffic-related decisions per mile, so it's critical to focus only on driving.

Drowsiness also increases a driver's risk of a crash. Such crashes often occur when the driver is alone — usually late at night, early in the morning, or mid-afternoon.

### **• Don't drink and drive**

It's estimated that 3 in every 10 Americans will be involved in a crash caused by impaired driving. Alcohol, certain prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and illegal drugs can all impair a person's ability to drive safely.

### **• Watch out for pedestrians**

Pedestrians have the right of way at all intersections, even those that don't have painted crosswalks.

### **• Secure tools and equipment**

Are you sure that ladder you're hauling in the back of the pickup will stay there when you're on the freeway? Unsecured and poorly secured items are hazards if they become airborne and harm your passengers or those in vehicles behind you. Make sure such items are properly stored and secured — inside or outside the passenger compartment.



# Billiard's Raise Over \$25K for Zachary!



**First Place**  
 Pierre Palmieri & Adam Fortner  
 John Moriarity and Assocs.



**Second Place**  
 Ron Beach & Rob Melrose  
 Pro-Tech Caulking



Billiard Club  
 Sawgrass Mills  
 Thursday,  
 October 28

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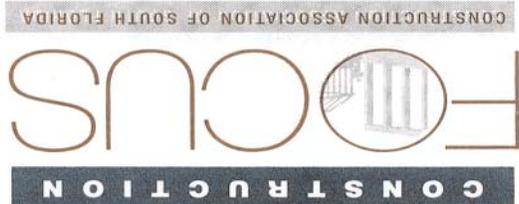
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CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA