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**Contact:**  
John McKeon  
703-677-3361  
jmckeon@cmaanet.org

**CMAA Adopts Safety Policy Stressing Risk  
Allocation, Liability Protection and a “Safety Culture”**

The Board of Directors of the Construction Management Association of America, at its recent meeting in San Francisco, adopted a new Policy Statement on Safety that emphasizes promotion of a “safety culture” on all projects, allocation of risks to the parties most able to manage them, and appropriate liability protection for parties monitoring construction activities on behalf of the owner.

CMAA’s policy statement notes that “the Construction Manager’s obligation to provide services related to safety varies substantially from project to project and should be clearly specified in the contract between the owner and the CM.”

In general, the Board of Directors agreed, “The CM should counsel the owner in creating contracts and processes so that:

- Responsibility and liability for specific risks are assigned to the party most able to control and mitigate those risks.
- A safety culture on the project makes it clear that all participants are expected to report known hazards to the appropriate individual or entity responsible for the involved work, as well as perform their own work in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Appropriate liability protection is provided to those parties responsible for monitoring construction activities on behalf of the Owner.”

Safety has long been a paramount concern of professional Construction Managers, along with other participants in the construction industry, and this concern has been heightened in recent months by several well-publicized construction site accidents. As part of its broader commitment to a “Safety Culture,” the CMAA Board also stated that CMAA:

- Advocates that members maintain a strong and unwavering commitment to their personal safety and health, and emphasize this safety culture within their work force.
- Is dedicated to providing education and information to its members in the areas of safety and health legal compliance and occupational injury and illness prevention.
- Maintains that laws and regulations governing construction management practices should be based on sound principles to create workplace solutions to safety and health problems and not undue liability exposure.
- Urges members to establish and enforce safety and health programs within their companies that will help employees recognize and avoid inherent hazards of the construction work environment.
- Believes that the industry should work actively to eliminate substance abuse in the workplace through establishment and enforcement of strong anti-drug policies.

CMAA is North America's only organization dedicated exclusively to the interests of the professional construction and program management industry. On behalf of its 25 regional chapters and more than 5,200 public and private firms and individuals throughout the Nation, CMAA promotes the construction management industry and provides professional resources, advocacy, professional development, certification, and business opportunities to its members. CMAA's national headquarters is located in McLean, Virginia and the Association's website is [www.cmaanet.org](http://www.cmaanet.org).

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