



## **Industry Tragedies Remind Us: Safety Must Come First**

Two tragic industry fatalities within a 36-hour period this week have taken the lives of young men who had chosen construction as their life passion and career vocation. We are deeply saddened over the loss of life and the impact it will have on the victims' families and loved ones, and on the construction firms, work crews, and trade brothers and sisters who labored side by side with the men we lost. AGC and our broader construction community stand in united support of everyone affected by these tragedies. We mourn with you and lift you up through steadfast commitment to improving our industry's safety practices.

Construction is, by its nature, a high-risk industry. While the specific details of these recent incidents have not been made public, we know from experience that the causes of serious injuries and fatalities often follow familiar patterns. Safety regulations and programs exist because others before us paid the price of those lessons. But regulations alone are not enough; it takes a strong, lived safety culture and a shared responsibility on every jobsite. Each worker must remain vigilant, not only for their own protection but also for the safety and wellbeing of everyone around them.

As we reflect upon these tragedies, we must re-examine where and how we can improve safety culture and make certain that everyone working in the construction industry returns safely to their families each day. It is just that fundamental and important. At its core, the construction industry is a people-oriented and family-centric business. We support one another and depend upon our colleagues to have our backs. Minnesota remains a national leader in safe construction practices, but we must not allow ourselves to become complacent or let down our guard. We are a small, tight-knit community, and the tragedies of this past week will never be far from our thoughts. May they stir a passion that drives us to achieve a safer industry that is fatality-free and incident-limited.

AGC extends our heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost a loved one, and we offer prayers of comfort and support in your grief.

**Tim Worke**  
**CEO, AGC of Minnesota**