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Governor Robert Ehrlich presents IWIF Safety Awards to six Maryland businesses in honor of Safety Saves Week

(TOWSON, MD) – According to the Maryland Department of Labor 146,000 job-related injuries occur in Maryland annually. What is worse, 60 to 80 Marylanders die each year while working. Maryland workplaces are safer today, however, than they were in the past. In 2001, the last year for which data are available, Maryland had 4.3 injures for every 100 workers. That is down from 4.6 in 2000 and 4.9 in 1999. It is also estimated that 90% of all workplace accidents are a result of unsafe behavior. There are Maryland companies that take safety issues seriously. So seriously, they were recently honored for their workplace safety practices.

On June 18, 2003, the Injured Workers' Insurance Fund (IWIF), Maryland's largest workers' compensation insurance carrier, and **Governor Robert Ehrlich Jr.** personally recognized six Maryland businesses for their exemplary safety records. The safety awards ceremony launched IWIF's third annual Safety Saves Week, which was June 22-28. The awards ceremony took place in the Governor's Reception room at the State House in Annapolis. The following organizations, insured by IWIF, were honored with the Safety Saves With IWIF Premier Partnership Awards:

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Governor Robert Ehrlich presents IWIF Safety Awards (Con't)

Representing Maryland's private sector employers:

- Controlled Demolition, Inc.
- Manganaro Corporation

Representing Maryland's municipal/county employers:

- Dorchester County
- Garrett County

Representing Maryland's State Agencies

- The University of Maryland, College Park
- Maryland State Highway Administration

“I am very concerned about safety regarding Maryland businesses and their employees,” exclaimed Gov. Ehrlich. “I am pleased to present these awards today to these fine companies. Workplace safety is important. Safety saves lives and saves businesses money.”

First proclaimed by the Governor’s office in 2001, IWIF’s Maryland Safety Saves Week honors and supports the National Safety Council's National Workplace Safety Week. “As Maryland's workplace safety leader, we realize the best way to reduce the number of workplace injuries and illnesses is by drawing attention to and by educating Maryland employers and their employees about the value of creating safer work environments,” says **Thomas Bromwell**, IWIF President and CEO.

Established in 1914, IWIF insures more than 1 in 4 Maryland employers and their employees.

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PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Controlled Demolition, Inc. Pictured from left to right are: Ira Katz of AON Consulting; Sheila Werren of CDI; Gov. Robert Ehrlich; Robert Kulinski of CDI; and Tom Bromwell, IWIF President and CEO.

Manganaro Corporation. Pictured from left to right are: Eileen Wilcox, VP HMS Insurance Associates, Inc.; John Livingston of Manganaro Corporation; Gov. Robert Ehrlich; Tom Vagrin, President, Manganaro Corporation; and Tom Bromwell, IWIF President and CEO.

Dorchester County Commissioners. Pictured from left to right are: Thomas Flowers, Councilman, Dorchester County Commissioners; Glenn Bramble, Council Vice President; Gov. Robert Ehrlich; Effie Elzey, Council President; and Tom Bromwell, IWIF President and CEO.

Garret County Board of County Commissioners. Pictured from left to right are: Monty Pagenhardt, Garrett County Administrator; Terry Helbig of Gonder Insurance Agency, Inc.; Gov. Robert Ehrlich; Ernie Gregg, Chairman, Garrett County Commissioners; and Tom Bromwell, IWIF President and CEO.

University of Maryland College Park. Pictured from left to right are: John Farley, Assistance VP of Administrative Affairs; Elise Franklin, Asst. Director of Occupational Safety & Health; Gov. Robert Ehrlich; Donna McMahon, Asst. Director of Risk Management; Leon Igras, Director, Dept. of Environmental Safety; and Tom Bromwell, IWIF President and CEO.

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Maryland State Highway Administration. Pictured from left to right are: Douglas Rose, SHA Deputy Administrator and Chief Engineer of Operations; Samuel Hill, Safety Management Consultant; Gov. Robert Ehrlich; Neil Pedersen, SHA Administrator; and Tom Bromwell, IWIF President and CEO.

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