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**Media Contacts:**

Renee Bissett  
ACRT, Marketing Communications Manager  
800.622.2562 x312  
[reeneb@acrtinc.com](mailto:reeneb@acrtinc.com)

-OR-

Heather Bing  
AKHIA  
330-463-5650  
[heather.bing@akhia.com](mailto:heather.bing@akhia.com)

**ACRT Appoints New Safety Manager**

*Independent utility vegetation management firm heightens focus on safety with new hire*

**AKRON, OHIO – December 8, 2009** – Independently operated and 100 percent employee-owned ACRT, Inc., the recognized leader in utility vegetation management for the utilities industry, announced the appointment of Gerald Conn to safety and workers' compensation manager at its headquarters in Akron, Ohio. Conn joins ACRT with more than 15 years of experience in safety and compliance for a variety of industries.

"With more than 400 employees, many of whom operate in the field, safety is extremely important to us as a company and as individuals," said Mike Weidner, president and CEO for ACRT. "Gerald brings to this role a great deal of knowledge and experience, as well as innovative ideas and programs to ensure the safety of our employees."

Conn's primary areas of expertise include developing company-specific safety processes that focus on employee involvement and recognition, as well as implementing Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)-compliant safety procedures that encompass both employee safety and safe vehicle operation.

Conn earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Conservation from Kent State University and is an OSHA-authorized trainer. He has been a member of The National Safety Council for six years and participates in continuing education opportunities, completing courses in hazardous waste operations, emergency operations and powered industrial trucks.

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“ACRT is the best in its field in terms of customer service and providing comprehensive service offerings to its utility customers,” Conn said. “I am proud to be a member of the team and look forward to taking the company’s safety initiatives to the next level.”

Conn’s personal goals in his new position are to raise the level of safety awareness across all aspects of the company, develop a consistent and thorough nationwide training program and to recognize employees who are proactive in their personal safety.

“One of my favorite phrases is ‘safety is something that happens between your ears,’” Conn said. “All employees are on board and embracing safety at all levels in the organization. ACRT is already of this mindset, so half of the battle is won.”

Conn has three children and resides in Stow, Ohio, with his wife, Karen.

#### **About ACRT, Inc.**

Headquartered in Akron, Ohio, ACRT, Inc. is an employee-owned utility vegetation management consulting firm focused on line clearance, tree care, urban forestry and training. Employing more than 400 utility arborists, horticulturists, urban foresters and GIS technicians, ACRT operates nationally with satellite groups in California, Tennessee, and Texas, and training centers in Oregon, Illinois, Vermont, Arkansas and Kentucky. For nearly 25 years ACRT has been known as a leader in its industry as the first and largest national vocational commercial urban forestry consulting firm in the United States. For more information, visit [www.acrtinc.com](http://www.acrtinc.com).