

Jim Keane
General Manager, Operations Safety
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Biography

Jim Keane has worked with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for over 46 years and during his career he spent the first 12 years working first from an entry level summer job through more and more responsible operational positions and then into the Field Supervisory Ranks. During the first 12 years, Jim worked at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, Holland and Lincoln Tunnels, John F. Kennedy International Airport, Newark Liberty International Airport and New York Marine Terminals gaining valuable operational experience.

After transitioning into the Port Authority management ranks Jim worked in the Management and Budget, Treasury, Operations Services Departments and now is in the Office of the Chief Health and Safety Officer. For the past 34 years Jim has been working in the Agency's Risk Management group, beginning the journey as a Fire Protection Engineer and then assuming more responsible positions. Jim is now the General Manager, Operations Safety, overseeing the entire Agency Safety Management group. Agency Safety Management is critical to the success of the Port Authority and the Port Authority Trans Hudson (PATH) commuter railroad as the group provides corporate safety programs and oversight for the almost 9,000 Agency employees and for a multitude of Port Authority Contractors. Agency Safety Management works closely with the Treasury and Law Departments managing risk involving the Property, Operational Liability and Owner Controlled Insurance Programs.

The Agency Safety Management (ASM) Team responsibilities is truly quite broad and vast. The Food Safety group work with Food Establishments under construction to ensure compliance with NYC, NY and NJ State Health Departments and US FDA codes. Once operational the establishments are then inspected twice a year to best protect people from food borne incidents. The Occupational Health group provides Industrial Hygiene services to all PA and PATH facilities, and is responsible for the Approved Products List, Hearing Conservation, Lead Protection, Respiratory Protection, Cooling Tower Safety, Potable Water Safety Programs. The Safety Risk Management group is subdivided into two areas of responsibility, Employee and General Public Safety and Construction Safety Management Programs. In addition to the Agency's own employees ASM activities impact the over 500 million people, pre covid, that we serve. Jim is dedicated to ensuring the safety of all those employed by the Agency, working at our facilities and traveling through or living nearby, as he has seen the ultimate negative outcomes when the safety structure fails. Being a career service Port Authority employee, Jim has been intimately involved in a number of very high profile events including the response, recovery and restoration of the World Trade Center Complex following the 1993 and 2001 attacks.

Jim also is an adult educator for over 27 years and he actually began teaching for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University at McGuire Air Force Base and the FAA Technical Center after being recommended by several coworkers. Teaching is Jim's passion and now greatly enjoys teaching for Fairleigh Dickinson University's School of Public Administration and Rutgers University's Certified Public Manager Program. In addition to safety and teaching, Jim is also fascinated with all types of passenger transportation and the safety management system methodology used to make traveling safer for all. Jim has also participated as a National Academies of Sciences Panelist on several ACRPs (Airport Cooperative Research Program) and several TCRPs (Transit Cooperative Research Program) efforts.

Jim and his wife Iza reside in Rutherford, NJ, and both of their adult daughters Christin and Ashling have now moved back into town. During the Pandemic, while Jim was working full time, he and his wife Iza became first time Grandparents to a healthy Granddaughter Aoife which has brought great joy during a very challenging period for us all. Aoife has now been joined by her sister Orlagh who is helping Jim and Iza truly fine tune their Grandparenting skills.