SAFETY AND HEALTH PROTECTION ON THE JOB

ALASKA LAW AS 18.60.010 to .105 – provides safety and health protection for workers through promotion of safe and healthful working conditions throughout the State. Requirements of the law include the following:

EMPLOYERS:
- Each employer shall furnish to each of their employees, employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious harm to their employees; and shall comply with occupational safety and health standards issued under the law.

EMPLOYEES:
- Each employee shall comply with all occupational safety and health standards, rules, regulations and orders issued under the law that apply to their own actions and conduct on the job.

INSPECTION:
- The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development has the primary responsibility for administering the law. It issues occupational safety and health standards and its Compliance Officers conduct job site inspections to ensure compliance with the law.
- The law requires that a representative of the employer and a representative authorized by the employees be given an opportunity to accompany the Compliance Officer for the purpose of aiding the inspection. Pursuant to AS 18.60.087, time spent by an employee aiding the inspection shall be considered as time worked, and the employee shall be compensated accordingly.

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT:
- Employees or their representatives have the right to file a complaint in writing with the nearest Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development office requesting an inspection if they believe unsafe or unhealthful conditions exist in their workplace. Their names will be withheld upon request.

EMPLOYERS:
- Employers must train employees in the health effects of the toxic or hazardous substances and physical agents to which they are exposed and in the purpose, activity, and program review, and safety seminars.

IT’S YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW
About toxic and hazardous substances and physical agents

AS 18.60.068 requires this information be displayed in a prominent place on business premises.

- Employers must inform employees about the locations and nature of operations, which could result in exposure to toxic or hazardous substances or physical agents.
- Employers must train employees in the health effects of the toxic or hazardous substances and physical agents to which they are exposed and in the purpose, activity, and program review, and safety seminars.
- Employers must inform employees about the locations and nature of operations, which could result in exposure to toxic or hazardous substances or physical agents.

For more information, employers, employees, and concerned citizens may contact the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Labor Standards and Safety Division, Occupational Safety and Health at http://labor.alaska.gov/lish/oshhome.htm.