

Alaska VPP Newsletter

Volume 3 - August 2019



VPP Safety Coordinators,

We're into High Summer and the days are getting shorter. We in Alaska are especially attuned to the changing of the seasons and we all strive to make the most of the few summer months that we get. Make sure you make the most of the rest of the season!

The intention of this email is to help inspire whatever conversation is useful to maintain your VPP status and continue to be trend-setters. Please email me with any suggestions for topics in future newsletters. I appreciate all feedback on whether I can include information that you find useful.

NEWS:

- We have a new Director, Grey Mitchell. We also have a new Deputy Director of Labor Standards and Safety, Joe Knowles. Both come to us with extensive experience in Labor and Safety and we are excited about their commitment to our partnership programs.
- Christian Hendrickson is now the backup VPP Coordinator for AKOSH. Many of you have already met Christian, and he's a valuable asset to our program. As he's also our PSM specialist, he'll be on most of our visits in that capacity.
- It's been a hot summer. Extreme heat, fires, and lots of smoke in many parts of the state. While Alaskans rarely have to think about heat stress except in specific work environments, it has come up quite a bit for us in the past several weeks. There are resources out there for determining stay times in hot environments and remember to include factors such as work activity, humidity, air movement, radiant energy, and whether the worker is acclimatized to high heat.
- Related to fires, we've had more than an average amount of smoke in the air this summer. While this may not be an actual workplace hazard, it can have negative health effects on employees, and the response that each employee has to smoke exposure can be very different. We're looking for suggestions and best practices to use for a work site when the smoke becomes especially bad so that a resource document can be created for next summer.
- Alaska needs it's own VPP logo. We've traditionally used the national logo, but something that represents our state would be nice. If any of you have some graphic design experience, and have suggestions, I'd love to see them.
- This newsletter will have special quarterly issues that go out to not only the VPP participants, but also to our CHASE and SHARP participants. It is my hope that this brings a larger team of safety specialists together and gives everyone a better understanding of all the programs we offer.
- In September, I'd like to coordinate a meet-and-greet in Anchorage. This will be an off-the-clock non-working event, but I'd like to be able to meet with some of our local participating safety managers, and provide the opportunity to have everyone meet with each other, as well. If anyone has ideas for what we can do and where we can meet, please let me know. The week or two after Labor Day is my current target.

If I missed anyone on this list, please let me know and I'll add them.

***VPP: Ensuring everyone goes
home to the ones they love.***

Scott Damerow
Safety Consultant, VPP Coordinator
Alaska Occupational Safety and Health
Consultation and Training
1251 Muldoon Rd, Suite 109
Anchorage, AK 99504
907-269-4939
scott.damerow@alaska.gov
<http://www.labor.state.ak.us/lss/oshhome.htm>