

ALASKA VPP NEWSLETTER



April 2021

Good day VPP Safety Coordinators

I cannot believe we are almost halfway through the calendar year. So much has happened in the last three months. Time slipped by and I did not publish this newsletter at the beginning of the month as I intended.

Worker's Memorial Day

Every year on April 28, the U.S. Department of Labor and its [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) commemorates Worker's Memorial Day, when we remember and honor the men and women who have lost their lives on the job. Many of these devastating losses were preventable if standards had been followed, appropriate controls existed and if safety and health programs were a priority. Despite OSHA's half-century of progress, more than 5,000 people suffer fatal injuries at work each year, and thousands more are hurt. The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted – perhaps more than in any time in its history – the vital importance of OSHA's mission.

National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction

Although many of Alaska's VPP participants are not in the construction business, everyone is in the safety business. I believe it is important for all of us to know what is happening in OSHA. As we all know, falls remain the number one most frequently cited hazard. Each May, OSHA hosts this nation-wide Stand-Down event. Anyone who wants to prevent hazards in the workplace can participate in Stand-Down. OSHA encourages organizations to host events for small groups that follow CDC guidelines on social/physical distancing and the use of face coverings. Companies can conduct a Safety Stand-Down by taking a small break to have a Toolbox Talk or another safety activity, such as hazard recognition training. If you would like to host a free event that is open to the public, submit the event details or contact the [Regional Stand-Down Coordinator](#).

Coming Soon

Success stories. Starting July 2021, I will be looking for VPP success stories from our participants. Each quarter, a chosen success story will be published in the quarterly VPP newsletter. More details to come in the July 2021 publication.

Closing Comments

Being a VPP participant is a great achievement. Because of your VPP status, you are removed from the Enforcement programmed inspection list. As a reminder, the Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) recognizes employers who have implemented effective safety and health management systems and maintained injury and illness rates below national Bureau of Labor Statistics averages for their respective industries—a huge accomplishment. Congratulations on maintaining your VPP status.

If you have VPP questions, call Christian Hendrickson, at (907) 269-4946 or e-mail him at: christian.hendrickson@alaska.gov. Thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter.



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