

“The CHASE REPORT”

April 2024, Vol 10

An AKOSH Consultation and Training Newsletter

The Chief’s Corner

For those who have not heard, after 27 years of service to the great State of Alaska, I have decided to retire. This is my last CHASE Report Newsletter. It has been my pleasure to serve as the Chief of Consultation and Training for the past 5 years. July 2024 is my official last day of work.

I was first introduced to the CHASE program in 2012 when I started working for the Consultation and Training program. Since then, the program has grown tremendously.

I’d like to recognize Mr. Donnie Farwell who took over the program in 2019 and laid the foundation for what the program has become today. He designed the hardhat logo and took over the program with only two CHASE members. Today we have nine, a significant achievement considering the measures employers must undergo to be accepted. If you have a chance, look at the CHASE webpage and see who’s a member:

https://labor.alaska.gov/lss/participants_chase.html

I’d also like to acknowledge the past CHASE Managers: Tony Robinson, Michael Flint, and our newest CHASE Manager Brad Buechner, who is doing a wonderful job. It has been a joy to attend the various induction ceremonies over the years and watch the program continue to grow.

Remember NO SAFETY SHORTCUTS—EVER.



Elaine Banda, Chief of Consultation and Training

Words from C&T Assistant Chief, Mitch Wallace

Hello CHASE participants. As we go into the next few months, there are two upcoming Safety Stand-Down events; The National Stand-Down to Prevent Struck-by Incidents in conjunction with National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 15-19, 2024. The National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction will also be held May 6-10, 2024.

Struck-by incidents, according to research from CPWR, are the second leading cause of death among construction workers, and the leading cause of nonfatal injuries. Whether it is falling objects, being struck by vehicles, swinging objects during material handling, or being struck by rolling objects, they are a major hazard that need to be addressed.



[CPWR Struck-By Hazards](#)

[National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction | Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(osha.gov\)](#)

Another upcoming event is the 2nd Annual Safety Expo and Training, May 9, 2024, from 9am - 5pm at the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Ct, Anchorage. If you are interested in attending, contact me or go to:

<https://www.alaskasafetyalliance.org/event/2024-safety-expo/>

Anyone can participate and many resources are available to employers to increase awareness for these events.

Mitch Wallace



Words from CHASE Manager, Brad Buechner

I would like to start by thanking all CHASE partners for submitting your annual evaluations and documents. I know everyone is busy trying to run businesses, keeping employees working and keeping employees safe. We have recently completed a review of the CHASE SOP and it will be updated on the AKOSH website when approved. I will notify everyone when it is available and highlight major changes. As a reminder, the quarterly visits have been adjusted to align with our fiscal year calendar. The goal is at least one visit per quarter, and a minimum of four (4) per fiscal year.

- Quarter 1: October-December
- Quarter 2: January-March
- Quarter 3: April-June
- Quarter 4: July-September



Brad Buechner, CHASE Manager

CHASE Spotlight



To provide some relevant data and trends to everyone, hazards identified by AKOSH Consultants during visits are being compiled as visit reports are reviewed and completed. Some of the data and statistics are as follows:

2024 1st Quarter

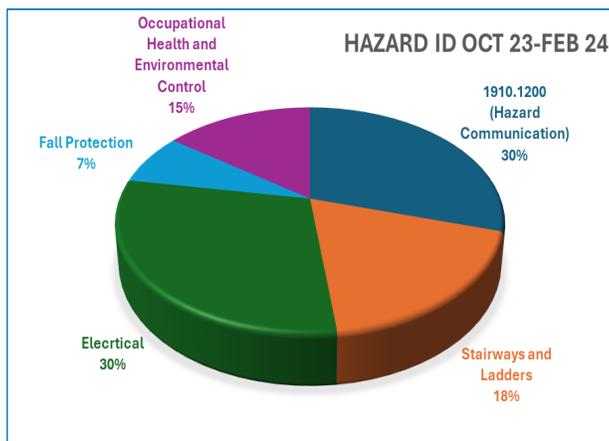
Total Hazards Identified: 47

Serious Hazards: 11

Other Than Serious Hazards: 32

Regulatory Hazards: 4

The five areas of most concern, based on identified hazards are: Subparts Hazard Communication, Electrical, Stairways and Ladders, Occupational Health and Environmental Controls, and Fall Protection.



Many hazard communication issues revolve around not having Safety Data Sheets on hand or not being readily accessible. Another concern is not having suitable facilities for quick drenching and flushing of the eyes where corrosive materials are present. Check SDSs Section 4 for first aid measures; even some substances that are not listed as corrosive will require flushing eyes for 15 minutes, such as Oatey ABS Medium Black Cement.

Electrical hazards predominantly deal with missing ground prongs on plugs, flexible cords not being protected from damage, and misuse of splitters which should be plugged directly into outlets and not used in conjunction with other splitters.

Stairway and Ladder deficiencies noted have largely been associated with missing load ratings on ladders, stairways having four or more risers, or rising more than 30 inches missing a handrail, or landings having unprotected edges.

Occupational Health and Environmental control hazards relate to instances of first aid supplies having expired, first aid kits not having been inspected weekly [1926.50(d)(2)] on construction sites, and sanitation discrepancies where eating and drinking areas are exposed to toxic materials, as well as cross contamination conditions being present where food and drink containers are in the workplace.

Fall protection concerns continue to be missing guardrails at appropriate heights; window apertures on upper floors before windows are installed, wall openings, on stair landings that are unguarded at 6' or higher.

Upcoming Event!

This year's VPP conference will be held in Anchorage, May 14-16, 2024. Register at:

<https://regionxvpppa.org/events/>

Final Closing Remarks from Chief Banda



Remember, "The Public is Watching You."
Stay safe everyone!