

ALASKA VPP NEWSLETTER



July 2020

Good Day VPP Safety Coordinators!

As I write this newsletter, I can't believe 3 months have already passed since businesses began to close down, many employees began teleworking, and the last VPP newsletter I wrote focused on mental health due to COVID-19. Here we are today, still in the midst of COVID-19 with no end in sight. Despite many uncertainties, we Alaskans remain strong and steadfast.

Today, for just a few minutes, I'd like to move the focus away from COVID-19 and discuss a VPP-related topic—the Special Government Employee (SGE) Program. What is SGE? The SGE Program was established to allow industry employees to work alongside OSHA, particularly during Voluntary Protection Programs' (VPP) On-Site evaluations. Not only does this innovative program benefit OSHA by supplementing its on-site evaluation teams, but it gives industry and government an opportunity to work together and share views and ideas. From time to time, SGEs may also have the opportunity to participate in other OSHA outreach and compliance assistance activities. For more information on SGE training and becoming a SGE and go to: <https://www.osha.gov/sgc>

Currently, AKOSH is looking for SGEs with experience in Process Safety Management, Process Safety Engineering, Chemical Engineering, or a similar field. If you are interested or know someone who has the credentials and might be interested in becoming a SGE, complete the SGE application on the AKOSH VPP website <https://labor.alaska.gov/lss/vpp.htm>. Under the “LINKS” heading click on SGE Application, fill it out and send to me. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

NEWS:

I'd like to welcome Christina Lewis to the AKOSH VPP team. Christina, an Industrial Hygienist, began working with AKOSH July 1, 2019. She has a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Environmental and Occupational Health. Angelo will be training Ms. Lewis on AKOSH's VPP program. Let's give a warm welcome to Christina. Her contact information is christina.lewis@alaska.gov

NOTEWORTHY:

This past June, AKOSH submitted its own version of the VPP Manual, Program Directive 20-03, to Federal OSHA. Upon approval, this will allow AKOSH to operate a VPP program that aligns with Alaska's own uniqueness.

CLOSING:

As we continue to navigate through the uncharted COVID-19 waters, let's continue to stay strong and motivated. We are all in this together.

If you have VPP questions, call Angelo Romano, at 907-782-5413 or e-mail at: Angelo.Romano@alaska.gov. Thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter.

