



ALASKA VPP NEWSLETTER

Jan 2023

Good day VPP Safety Coordinators!

Hello, VPP participants, and Happy New Year!!! I hope everyone had a wonderful, enjoyable, and safe holiday season. It's that time of the year again for Annual Self-Evaluations (ASE). Reports are due to AKOSH by COB February 15, 2023. If an extension is required, you must submit a request in writing (via email) stating (1) the reason why the extension is needed and (2) the length of the extension you are requesting. If this extension reaches and/or exceeds 45 days from the due date, your site may be asked to withdraw from the VPP Program. Please send all VPP submissions to Christian Hendrickson at christian.hendrickson@alaska.gov. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance. Thank you for your participation in VPP.

Reminder, Form 300A logs are due to be posted effective February 1, 2023. Each year from February 1 through April 30, employers must post a summary of the injury and illness log from the previous year (OSHA Form 300A) in a place where workers can see it. Workers and their representatives have the right to receive copies of the full OSHA form 300 log. Following a request, employers must make copies available at the end of the next business day.

Conferences

This year the 27th Annual Region 10 VPP conference will be held in Kennewick, WA, May 16-18, 2023. For more information about attending this conference, contact Sharrell Lien, Conference Coordinator, at 503-508-3018 or email her at sharrell.lien@dcbs.oregon.gov

The 41st Annual Alaska governor's Safety and Health Conference will be held April 4-5, 2023, at the William A. Egan Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage. This year's theme is "The Gold Standard in Safety and Health." For more information on registration, becoming a speaker, or vendor, visit www.AKGSHC.com.

Featured VPP Success Story



Insulfoam Anchorage has been in business since 1972, manufacturing expanded polystyrene insulation products of the highest quality for Alaska. Their product range includes custom insulation for tapered roofs, perimeter foundations, below-grade underlayment, flotation systems, pipeline insulation, and custom shapes. They have been a VPP member since 2003 use the VPP framework to bolster their record of safety and collaboration internally and externally with AKOSH. The company takes pride in its culture of working safely. Over the years, they have fostered an environment in which all team members are vigilant in watching out for each other and feel empowered to come forward with suggestions and concerns to improve their everyday working conditions.

Each year Insulfoam brings in new team members for their summer production, many have never worked in a factory environment. This factor has driven many of the implemented safety improvements from ergonomics to automation. They have an on-site safety committee comprised of production leads, operators, and management that regularly reviews procedures, processes, and suggestions to identify and implement all opportunities for improvement to ensure the team goes home safely after every shift.

The company's recent major improvement was installing a new plank mold machine over a year ago, incorporating robotic automation to remove the need for repeated lifting and bending for their operators. They also included an automatic orbital wrapping machine with conveyors, automatic lifting table, and transport rollers to further reduce operator motion and interaction with the product. These improvements helped maintain the highest standards of safety. Congratulations and to a job well done!

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.

Elaine Banda, Chief, Consultation & Training
Alaska Occupational Safety and Health
1251 Muldoon Road, Anchorage, AK 99504
elaine.banda@alaska.gov

