ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DIVISION OF LABOR STANDARDS AND SAFETY

OSH Program Directive No. 85-5

September 9, 1985

To: All OSH Personnel

Subject: First Aid Training Policy

1. Purpose: This program directive sets forth the Occupational Safety and Health section's policy on providing "First Aid" training.

2. Directives Affected: DOSH Program Directive No. 79-5 is cancelled.

3. Background: There have been several discussions inside and outside the section regarding whether or not the section should be providing First Aid Training. A program directive is, therefore, necessary to set forth the section's policy on "First Aid" training.

   a. Alaska occupatonal safety and health standards require that certain persons in the worplace have division "certified" first aid training. Under AS 18.60.075 it is the responsibility of the employer to comply with occupational safety and health standards.

   b. The Departmental tradition of providing first aid training began with the old Industrial Safety Division and was the primary training effort of the division funded by the executive and legislative branches of government. Our 18(b) Plan, however, requires the Consultation and Training (C&T) unit to "establish training and educational programs for employers and employees." Responsibilities listed include the following:

      (1) Develop and promote, where appropriate and to the extent practicable, training/educational programs for the recognition, evaluation and control of occupational hazards by state work force (both employer and employee).

      (2) Establish and conduct training classes in:

         (a) accident prevention;
         (b) prevention of occupational illnesses;
         (c) employer self inspection; and
         (d) use of technical equipment.

   c. Knowledge of first aid is valuable in the workplace and may contribute to the safety of workers. However, first aid training is primarily concerned with training a person how

to act after an injury occurs and not with the prevention of the injury. The first priority in the Division's training effort is to develop and provide safety and health training that will prevent job related injuries and illnesses.

4. Procedures:

   a. The C&T unit will encourage and promote first aid training provided by other organizations and individuals. The Chief of C&T unit will evaluate and certify first aid training instructors per departmental guidelines. The C&T unit will develop and maintain a list of "certified first aid instructors."

   b. A current list of "certified first aid instructors" will be available at all OSH offices so that persons can be referred to these instructors.

   c. The C&T unit will provide, upon request, training films and other audio-visual aids to first aid instructors. Such supplies are limited and will be provided on a "first come, first service provided" basis.

   d. When persons request "First Aid" training from the Division, they should be informed of other types of training available from the Division so that safety and health training will also be promoted.

   e. If first aid training requests cannot be handled by a "certified first aid instructor", the Division may use staff, who are qualified, to conduct such courses. The Chief of C&T unit will consult with the Deputy Director before scheduling such training.

5. Action: This directive is effective immediately.

6. Filing: This directive will remain in effect until modified or superseded.

Robert J. Bacolas, Director

Reviewed and Approved

Jim Robison, Commissioner