



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

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Noah's Ark Recognized for Outstanding Safety and Health Program

(Juneau) – Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner Greg O'Claray has recognized Noah's Ark in Fairbanks for excellence in safety and health management programs. The veterinary hospital was awarded SHARP designation for the third time in an award ceremony in Fairbanks.

"Noah's Ark staff began working on a safety and health program in 2001 and were first recognized for excellence in 2002," said Commissioner O'Claray. "This third SHARP designation reflects the company's utmost dedication to workers' safety."

The Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) recognizes employers who maintain top-notch workplace safety and health programs and have workplace illness and injury rates that are below national averages in their industry classification. It is a national program under the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), and is administered by the State of Alaska's Occupational Health Safety (AKOSH) section.

"The state's Occupational Health and Safety consultation team helped identify and educate our staff on potential safety and health hazards," said Noah's Ark Practice Manager Nicole Legerat. "Partnering with them makes us confident that we are providing our employees and clients with the safest environment possible."

SHARP sites are removed from general scheduled enforcement inspections for the approved period of time (from 18 months up to 2 years). Participants have also reported reduced Workers' Compensation costs and improved employee morale and productivity.

SHARP is one of several consultation programs offered by Alaska Occupational Safety and Health. At a company's request, health and safety consultation officers visit the work site to help employers identify and correct hazards in the work place, and train their workforce in safe work practices. The company then has the opportunity to address potential violations and avoid enforcement inspections and fines.

There are only 11 other SHARP sites in Alaska and about 1,200 nationwide.

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