

Click Bishop

Commissioner

P.O. Box 111149

Juneau, AK 99811-1149

www.labor.alaska.gov



Beth Leschper

Communications Director

907.465.2700

cell: 907.723.1321

beth.leschper@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 08-74

Oct. 15, 2008

For more information: **Bill Nickerson, SHARP Program Coordinator**
907- 269-4948, Bill.Nickerson@Alaska.Gov

Soldotna's Barton Approved for Safety and Health Award

JUNEAU, Alaska—Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Click Bishop approved the Soldotna medical offices of Dr. Theodore Barton for the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program award as a result of outstanding employee safety and health programs.

SHARP is a federal recognition program, administered by the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Section in the department's Labor Standards and Safety Division. Participating employers are excused from programmed AKOSH enforcement inspections during the recognition period. However, employee complaints, accident investigations or other significant incidents will result in enforcement action.

"We appreciate SHARP. Belonging to it has helped us tremendously in keeping up with our OSHA compliance," said medical assistant Heike Sykstra. "The AKOSH staff is always helpful and available for questions and any other assistance we need."

Companies that partner with AKOSH and achieve SHARP status are likely to experience fewer workplace accidents and reduced workers' compensation insurance costs. For more information on how your business can become a SHARP participant or to see a list of current participants, visit the SHARP web page at <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/lss/OSH-SHARP.htm>, or call SHARP Program Coordinator Bill Nickerson at 907-269-4948 or email Bill.Nickerson@alaska.gov.

###