Press Release

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April 28 Commemorates Those Who Died, or Were Injured, While Working

JUNEAU, Alaska—National Workers' Memorial Day on Tuesday, April 28, recognizes those workers who died or sustained work-related injuries or illnesses during the previous year. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2007 there were 5,488 workplace fatalities nationwide and 30 in Alaska.

"These accidents are devastating to the families, co-workers and businesses involved," Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said. "The goal in Alaska is zero workplace fatalities and we are making progress."

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Consultation and Training Section can help evaluate the hazards and minimize the chances of a fatality at Alaska's worksites. For information, call 1-800-656-4972. To report circumstances where a worker's life may be in danger, contact the AKOSH Enforcement Section Hotline at 1-800-770-4940.

"We all have a responsibility to understand what causes accidents and make changes to bring some meaning to these tragic events," Commissioner Bishop said. "Through the focused, coordinated and sustained efforts of state and federal agencies, employers and all Alaska workers, our goal of zero lives lost can become a reality."

The Alaska AFL-CIO will hold a public ceremony to honor fallen workers from 12 to 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Alaska Firefighters Memorial at 1100 Airport Heights Drive in Anchorage.

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Alaska Labor Standards and Safety
labor.alaska.gov/lss/home.htm

Occupational Safety and Health (AKOSH)
labor.alaska.gov/lss/oshhome.htm

Voluntary Protection Program
labor.alaska.gov/lss/vpp.htm