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Press Release

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Safety Council Recognizes Alaskans at 2012 Governor's Safety and Health Conference

JUNEAU, Alaska—More than 300 Alaskans attended the 2012 Governor's Safety and Health Conference, participating in training tracks in employer resources, youth safety, safety education, oil industry, transportation and hospitality.

Information about applying for the Voluntary Protection Program, which recognizes and promotes effective workplace safety and health management through a cooperative program between a company's management, employees and AKOSH, was also provided.

The conference, which is sponsored by the Alaska Safety Advisory Council, focuses on emerging safety and health issues, and advanced safety needs that are unique to Alaska.

A highlight of the annual conference is recognition of Alaskans and Alaska businesses that exemplify good corporate citizenship and a commitment to the health and safety of their workers.

The Council announced the newly created Everett Award that went to the man it is named for. "Safety Herb" Everett is the longest serving member on the Alaska Safety Advisory Council and continues his contributions to the safety and health for the people in the State of Alaska. In the future, the award will recognize a "H"ighly respected individual with an "E"xcellent track record in safety who shows "R"esponsible leadership traits and exhibits "B"ehavior promoting safety.

Three **Governor's Special Achievement Awards** were awarded. This award is presented for special outstanding achievements in the field of safety and health. Nominees must show a significant and measurable impact on the community, or must have made documented contributions or enhancements to the field of safety and health.

- The **Alaska Avalanche Information Center** has developed a statewide avalanche information network that provides avalanche data to the general public. The information is used by Alaskans enjoying the backcountry on skis or snow machines, and also includes travelers, workers and other members of the public. This group was also instrumental in developing and hosting Alaska's first avalanche conference. Especially at this time of year, avalanches are a part of life in Alaska and the need for information and awareness is critical. The Avalanche Center provides public awareness of avalanche conditions and provides

individuals with the tools they need to make safe decisions while recreating, working or traveling throughout Alaska.

- The **North American Outdoor Institute**'s innovative outdoor safety education programs have been delivered to more than 10,000 Alaskans through public schools, community awareness presentations and private companies. Participants learn and practice activities such as shelter building, fire safety and avalanche awareness. Training combines practical skills with challenging real-life situations where participants work together to overcome hazards such as avoiding wildlife confrontations and addressing wilderness medical emergencies. Class attendants report a greater awareness to their environment and the recognition of the need to properly prepare for any adventure.
- For almost 40 years, "**Safety Herb**" **Everett** has made Alaska a safer place to live and work. After retiring from the U.S. Air Force as a safety specialist in 1989, he was a safety engineer for the Valdez Oil Spill cleanup. As director of Safety and Training for Westmark Alaska from 1991-2011, he significantly reduced injury and illness rates for the company, improved employee safety, saved the company in workers' compensation costs and helped to avoid employee pain and suffering from workplace injuries. Everett promoted the safety profession in Alaska by mentoring high school and college students. He has been actively involved in local, national and world safety communities over the last 20 years, serving as chairman of the Alaska Safety Advisory Council, past-president and dean of Ambassadors of the Veterans of Safety and a member of the World Safety Organization Board of Directors. He is a founding member, past-president and board member emeritus of the Denali Safety Council.

Three organizations qualified for the Governor's Safety Award of Excellence. This recognition is awarded to a group that has demonstrated excellence in safety and health systems that protect employees. Companies must show there is management commitment, employee involvement and a documented system for hazard analysis and hazard reduction.

- **Granite Construction Company** is one of the nation's largest heavy civil contractors with two permanent asphalt hot plants, five aggregate pits, two portable crushing plants and two asphalt hot plants located in Alaska. Granite Construction employees participate and contribute to the accident prevention efforts and return home each day injury free. In 2011 Alaska Region of Granite Construction was formally accepted as an Alaskan CHASE partner by the State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.
- At **Cornerstone General Contractors**, providing a safe, injury-free work environment for everyone is one of the company's principles that guide the attitude, character and behavior of the employees. Management leads by example and conducts audits at jobsites on a daily basis. The company has shown an improvement in both Total Case Incident Rate and a Days Away, Restricted or Transferred rates. In 2010, 40 employees worked a total of 90,000 hours with no lost time or restricted work days.
- **CH2M Hill Engineering** has not had an Occupational Safety and Health Administration recordable or Lost Time Injury in any of the last three years. The company has maintained a Total Case Incident Rate and a Days Away, Restricted or Transferred rate of zero. Management leads the way by actively participating in daily safety meetings. The company

developed a hazard analysis program involving employees through the use of Pre-Task Safety Planning Cards that break down the hazards at that specific location, at that time, for that task and the job is planned accordingly.

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