

# News Release



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

December 23, 2005  
No. 06-26

## Juneau Parks and Landscape Recognized for Outstanding Safety and Health Program

(Juneau) – The Parks and Landscape Division of the Juneau Parks and Recreation Department was awarded SHARP designation Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2005, at a ceremony held at Marine Park, a Parks and Landscape work site. Presenting the award were Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner Greg O’Claray and Division of Labor Standards and Safety Director Grey Mitchell.

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.

“I commend you for your commitment to improving workplace safety,” said Commissioner O’Claray. “This type of cooperative program supports our efforts to put Alaskans to work in good, safe jobs and reduce the number of workplace accidents and their associated costs.”

Juneau Parks and Recreation had zero workplace injuries resulting in a lost work day during the year, which is a significant achievement considering the types of hazards they face on the job – hazardous chemicals, moving vehicles and heavy equipment. In the landscaping and recreation industry, the average number of days lost each year due to workplace accidents is 5.2 days per 100 employees.

“The SHARP program has helped us reduce accidents and increase productivity,” said Dan Kantak, City Safety Officer. “It brings the City of Juneau’s active concern for the safety and well-being of its employees to the forefront, and we will be engaging other city departments in the SHARP program in the near future.”

The SHARP award exempts Juneau Parks and Recreation from generally-scheduled AKOSH enforcement inspections for one year. The company will continue to be subject to enforcement in cases of employee complaints or accident investigations.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### News Media Contacts:

Margaret Webb, Commissioner’s Office, (907) 465-5673 or (907) 321-6071 Cell