



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



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For More Information: Krystyna Markiewicz, AKOSH Health Consultant
and VPP Coordinator, 907.269.4958

TelAlaska Recognized for Workplace Safety

JUNEAU – Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Click Bishop has recognized TelAlaska Inc. in Seward for its tremendous workplace safety and health programs. The company was awarded the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health (AKOSH) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) “Star” level.

VPP is designed to recognize and promote effective workplace safety and health management through a cooperative program between the company’s management and employees and AKOSH. Participation in the program is voluntary and does not exempt the worksite from AKOSH enforcement activities in the event of an employee complaint or accident. However, the worksite is removed from general scheduled random enforcement inspections for 18 to 60 months. As a VPP Star recipient, the highest level of VPP achievement, TelAlaska, Inc. in Seward will not be subject to random enforcement inspections for five years.

Commissioner Bishop praised the company’s achievement by saying, “With three sites already qualified for VPP, TelAlaska has a proven track record for occupational safety and health success. Alaska needs more companies to step up and follow the example set by TelAlaska. The most effective way to reduce workplace accidents and Workers’ Compensation Insurance costs is by being proactive and implementing a strong safety and health program.”

At the present time, eleven sites in Alaska have received the AKOSH VPP designation. For a complete listing of the sites and more information about the program, go to <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/lss/vpp.htm>.

TelAlaska Incorporated is a statewide, full service telecommunication provider that provides local telephone service, advanced data services, dial-up, DSL and Internet service.

Krystyna Markiewicz, AKOSH Health Consultant and VPP Coordinator, can provide more information about recognition programs and other consultation and training services. Contact her at (907) 269-4958 or krystyna_markiewicz@labor.state.ak.us

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