

Click Bishop
Commissioner

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Press Release

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TelAlaska Incorporated-Nome Approved for Voluntary Protection Program

JUNEAU, Alaska— Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Click Bishop approved TelAlaska Incorporated-Nome for the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Voluntary Protection Program at the “Star” level to signify a tremendous achievement in occupational safety and health.

The VPP recognizes and promotes effective workplace safety and health management through a cooperative program between a company’s management, employees and AKOSH.

As a VPP Star recipient TelAlaska Incorporated-Nome won’t be subject to random enforcement inspections for five years. Enforcement regulations remain in effect, however, and cases of employee complaints, accident investigations or other significant incidents will result in an enforcement inspection. Participation in the program is voluntary.

“By implementing the OSHA VPP elements, TelAlaska has achieved outstanding results by having a stronger than ever commitment to safety at all levels of the organization,” said Dawn Ring, the company’s safety manager. “Employees have taken safety as a personal responsibility, so they show care and concern for their fellow team members.

“When you talk to our employees, you can feel the strong personal and organizational pride they have. Our success required a strong commitment from senior management to ensure all employees have the tools and resources to benefit from a successful safety and health program. Our incident rates have decreased by more than 50 percent and the additional benefits that come with excellent safety performance include improved productivity, lower workers’ compensation costs and improved employee morale. Safety is no longer a separate function in our company, but a value that is a part of everything we do.”

There are now 16 sites in Alaska with the AKOSH VPP designation. For a complete listing of the sites and more information about the program, go to labor.alaska.gov/lss/vpp-participants.html.

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