

# “The CHASE REPORT”

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An AKOSH Consultation and Training Newsletter

## The Chief's Corner

Hello CHASE participants. Happy New Year and welcome to the second edition of the CHASE Report. It is with great sadness that I announce Mr. Donald (Donnie) Farwell is no longer the CHASE Manager. Donnie transferred to Enforcement effective November 29, 2021 and is now an AKOSH Enforcement Officer. I'd like to take time to recognize Donnie for his contributions to the CHASE program.



Donnie accepted the role as CHASE manager in July 2019 which was not an easy task. Several CHASE participants had been removed from the program, leaving only two participants. Meanwhile, AKOSH Consultation and Training was on the verge of losing its mandatory partnership program. Without hesitancy, Donnie accepted the challenge to become the CHASE manager.

He wrote the Standard Operating Procedure that officially establishes CHASE procedures and within a year, the program grew from 2 to 5 participants. To ensure employees received appropriate training, Donnie completed his OSHA Trainer's Certification in both Construction and General Industry. It is safe to say, Donnie single-handedly revised and revamped the CHASE program.



While I am excited for Donnie as he explores new opportunities, he will be missed. Let's congratulate him as he moves on to the next stage in his career and wish him well.

Remember NO SAFETY SHORTCUTS—EVER.

*Elaine Banda*, Chief of Consultation and Training

## The Public is Watching

Whenever subcontractors, including sole proprietors, work on your project sites, you are the controlling employer. This means you are responsible for the unsafe acts of sole proprietors and other subcontractors on the worksite. OSHA Enforcement will not issue a citation to the sole proprietor. They can and will issue the citation to the controlling employer. Here's a link to the OSHA Letter of Interpretation with regards to controlling contractors/multi-employer worksites:

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/2001-12-13>

Remind your employees and subcontractors that the PUBLIC IS WATCHING. Consultation has intervened numerous times when the public calls to report safety violations they witness. We try very hard to protect our CHASE participants from Enforcement. Even though the CHASE program offers some protections from Enforcement, imminent danger, willful, and repeat violations are not protected under the CHASE program.

## CHASE Program Manager

My name is Tony Robinson, the incoming CHASE Program Manager. I'd like to acknowledge Donnie Farwell for the tremendous job he's done with CHASE and wish him well. I want to continue building on Donnie's work and take the program to a level that rivals SHARP and VPP. As the program evolves, my goal is to increase membership and bring together general contractors with various trades from Associated General Contractors (AGC) and Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC). Both organizations have a wealth of knowledge and talent that would be of great benefit to the program. I would also like to encourage independent contractors and trades who are not members of either AGC or ABC to be included in the CHASE program. I look forward to meeting and working with you.

*Tony Robinson*, CHASE Program Manager

## CHASE Spotlight



Each quarterly newsletter will spotlight one CHASE Partner. The idea is to highlight a company that provides critical infrastructure to our state. As the CHASE program continues to grow, AKOSH Consultation expects to highlight other partners that work with our program, as well as various associations. This quarter we are shining the spotlight on Vannoy Electric.



**Vannoy Electric** is an electrical contractor located in Wasilla, Alaska, focusing on the Anchorage/MatSu Valley and surrounding areas. Dan Vannoy started Vannoy Electric in 2008 with one employee, a truck, and a strong desire to succeed. He has successfully grown the company over the past thirteen years by surrounding himself with other like-minded professionals who share a dedication to excellence. From those humble beginnings the company has grown to over 70 employees and successfully completed projects across the state, from Nome to Homer and everywhere in-between. Their projects include the REI store at the old Sears Mall, Medline Medical Supply distribution building, Maple Springs Senior Living in Anchorage as well as over 200 residential new construction projects per year.

While looking for opportunities for growth on the military bases and on the North Slope, Dan had the foresight to know the company needed to improve and expand its safety program. They were introduced to the CHASE program through a safety consulting company. After about a year and a half of working with a safety consulting firm to fine-tune their safety program, Dan's team decided to take the program to the next level by applying for the CHASE Blue program.



After an initial safety consultation from AKOSH and a few adjustments to their safety program, Vannoy Electric entered the CHASE Blue program in October of 2019. Since

that time, they have been able to increase their workload through new relationships with other general contractors in the CHASE program who share the same dedication to ensuring their employees have a safe working environment. Vannoy Electric is the first and only electrical contractor in the CHASE Program and a member of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Alaska. We proudly shine the spotlight on Vannoy Electric.

### Closing Remarks



Welcome 2022!!! It's a new year and time to submit OSHA 300 and 301A logs, which are due March 1, 2022. Remember to include injury and illness numbers and rates, the total hours worked, and the average annual employment.

If you have questions or need assistance, contact Anthony Robinson at (907) 269-5008 or by email at [anthony.robinson@alaska.gov](mailto:anthony.robinson@alaska.gov).

