



State of Alaska
Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Division of Labor Standards and Safety

AKOSH Program Directive #23-08

Date: September 30, 2023
To: All AKOSH Staff
From: Tanya Keith, Director *PK*
Subject: Local Emphasis Program to reduce and/or eliminate occupational safety and health hazards in construction industry in Alaska

This Program Directive establishes enforcement procedures to implement the AKOSH Local Emphasis Program (LEP) for the construction industry in Alaska.

This emphasis program becomes effective immediately. Please ensure that all members of your staff receive this program directive and understand how to implement it.

Attachment: AKOSH Construction Local Emphasis Program FFY 2023-2024

cc: Jack A. Rector, Acting Regional Administrator, OSHA, Region X
Abby Lopez, Assistant Regional Administrator, OSHA, Region X
Arlene Lamont, Area Director, Anchorage, OSHA, Region X

- I. **Purpose.** This directive establishes an emphasis program to prevent occupational injuries and illnesses among Alaskan workers in the construction industry (NAICS 23), focusing on the hazards of fall from elevation, caught-in/between, struck-by, electrocution, exposure to crystalline silica, high noise, hazardous chemicals and ergonomics.
- II. **Scope.** This directive applies to all construction worksites in Alaska that are under AKOSH jurisdiction.
- III. **References.**
 - A. Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Field Operation Manual (AKOSH FOM) Program Directive PD # 19-06, November 9, 2018 or current update
 - B. OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-001 (CPL 2-0.102A), Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Programs (EPs), November 10, 1999 or current update
 - C. AKOSH Program Directive PD # 14-01 OSHA Strategic Partnership Program for Workers Safety and Health, April 25, 2014 or current update
 - D. Alaska Statutes AS 18.60.010 through AS 18.60.105
 - E. Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) all safety and health standards enforced by AKOSH and contained in Title 8, Chapter 61 of the Alaska Administrative Code.
 - F. 29 CFR 1926 Construction Standards
 - G. OSHA Outreach Training Program
https://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/construction/focus_four/
 - H. OSHA v-Tools Construction Hazards
<https://www.osha.gov/dts/vtools/construction.html>
 - I. OSHA Construction Industry topics www.osha.gov/doc/index.html
- IV. **Expiration.** This directive expires on September 30, 2024, but may be renewed as necessary.
- V. **Cancellations.** This Program Directive cancels PD 19-08 Local Emphasis Program to reduce and/or eliminate occupational safety and health hazards in the construction industry in Alaska.
- VI. **Background.** Nationally, accidents relating to falls from elevations are one of the leading causes of serious injuries and fatalities. Other causes of construction fatalities are: violence, transportation and exposure. Construction work activities associated with fatalities include, but are not limited to, work on elevated surfaces; work from scaffolding; work from aerial equipment; work from ladders; work conducted during demolition; construction of residential structures; work conducted in a trench/excavation; work to construct, service or repair overhead power lines; work conducted on or near water, streets, roads, highways, or bridges for the purpose of building, maintenance or repair, and work involving roadway motorized land vehicles.

Based on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) Summary, there were a total of 5190 worker fatalities in calendar year 2021. The leading causes of these worker deaths in the construction industry were transportation, followed by falls/slips/trips, exposure to harmful substances or environments, and violence and other injuries by persons or animals. These "fatal four" were responsible for more than half (84.6%) the construction worker deaths in 2021, CFOI reports. Eliminating the fatal four would save 4,391 workers' lives in America.

- Slips, Trips, falls - 850
- Transportation incidents – 1,982
- Exposure to harmful substances or environments - 798
- Violence and other injuries by person or animals - 761

1. Scheduling of Inspections. An inspection targeting system which encompasses identification of sites at the beginning of the fiscal year and the random selection of sites is not practical. Hazards related to construction sites are normally transient and of limited duration. This limits the practicality of targeting the site in advance. Therefore, inspections conducted under this EP will be initiated by several means: CSHOs observations, formal and non-formal complaints, and referrals from other outside sources.
2. Relationship to Other Programs. Reports of imminent danger, fatality/catastrophe, complaints, and referrals shall be scheduled as unprogrammed inspections and shall be inspected in accordance with the applicable provisions of the AKOSH FOM.

Establishments actively participating in the Alaska OSH recognition and exemption programs Alaska OSH Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) and Alaska OSH Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) will be exempt from programmed inspections in accordance with the applicable provisions of the AKOSH FOM.

Any exemptions or limitations for establishments actively participating in the Alaska OSH partnership programs (for example Alaska Construction Health and Safety Excellence (AK CHASE)) will comply with specific partnership agreements.

- VII. Enforcement**. This AKOSH Construction EP supports the AKOSH fiscal years 2023-2024 strategic plan goals to reduce the number of worker injuries and illnesses in the construction industry by focusing compliance and consultation efforts on the causes of “violence”, “exposure”, “transportation”, and “falling” incidents, however, will not be limited to those hazards. Inspections will be comprehensive unless initiated as an accident, a complaint, or a specific national emphasis program.

Inspections conducted under the AKOSH Construction EP will be conducted pursuant to the following procedures:

If injury and illness data is available, the CSHO will review information to ensure related hazards are addressed. During an opening conference, the CSHO will obtain copies of relevant written programs and training records. Following this brief opening conference, the CSHO will proceed as quickly as possible with the walkaround inspection. Unusual circumstances shall be handled in accordance with the AKOSH FOM.

All safety and health inspections will focus on the types of hazards considered common in construction settings: slips, trips, and falls, electrical, trenching and excavation, guarding moving parts, equipment operation, proper selection of personal protective equipment, crystalline silica, asbestos, and noise.

The CSHO shall also evaluate the employer's overall safety and health management system, in accordance with the AKOSH FOM.

VIII. Recording in OIS. The OSHA Information System (OIS) identification code to be used in the Inspection Activity under the State Emphasis as "CONSTRUCTION". In the case of two or more emphasis programs, CSHO must use the primary code, which initiated the inspection.

Outreach. AKOSH Consultation and Training consultants will provide outreach to employers in accordance with appropriate provisions of the AKOSH Consultation Policy and Procedure Manual (CPPM).

IX. Evaluation. No later than October 30 each federal fiscal year the AKOSH Construction EP is in effect, the Chief of OSH will submit an evaluation report to the Director. The report will address the following elements: number of enforcement inspections conducted, number, type and classification of violations, number of consultation visits and training events.