

# ALASKA VPP NEWSLETTER

## Oct 2021

Good day VPP Safety Coordinators!

In the previous newsletter, I touched briefly on the topic of self-care. September was Suicide Prevention Month. The stressors of work, family, finances and loss compounded with the frustrations of dealing with COVID-19, can be overwhelming. When it comes to suicide prevention, knowing where to start can be confusing. OSHA has a website for suicide prevention assistance. If you or anyone you know is dealing with this issue, go to: [Preventing Suicides in Construction | Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(osha.gov\)](https://www.osha-slc.gov/preventing-suicides-in-construction) for information and resources.

### VPP Overview and Update

The end of a fiscal year is always a busy time for AKOSH. In addition to conducting regular Consultation visits, we are also conducting VPP site visits and renewals. Though complications persist with COVID-19 cancellations, postponements, and rescheduling, AKOSH continues to promote and process applications for new VPP sites. With our VPP coordinator now based in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, there has been increased interest in this geographical area. The VPP team recently conducted a new-applicant site visit, and if all qualifications are met, we will have a new addition to our exemplary participant list. The integrity of VPP is first and foremost. Ensuring our participants are of the highest quality can take time, but the outcome is worthwhile. It is an honor to recognize the outstanding safety practices of our VPP participants in Alaska.

### Featured VPP Success Stories



AKOSH would like to recognize Fairbanks Memorial Hospital staff's outstanding efforts through the ongoing disruption caused by COVID-19 to successfully maintain their dedication to Safety and Health in the workplace. Our VPP team noted they have taken responsibility to ensure workers are protected and kept safe resulting in no major reported incidents despite challenges they faced due to COVID-19 while their workers battled courageously to care for patients. The safety and protection of their healthcare workers remain a top priority and we commend their commitment to protect and support their staff.

### Safety Presentation

The attached presentation is filled with great safety information. Please share with employees and managers or use at your next Safety Toolbox session.



Fall Winter  
Presentation 2021.pdf

If you have VPP questions, call Christian Hendrickson at 907-269-4946 or e-mail him at: [christian.hendrickson@alaska.gov](mailto:christian.hendrickson@alaska.gov) Thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter.