

News Release



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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TelAlaska Nome Approved for Voluntary Protection Program

Greg O'Claray, the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development approved TelAlaska, Inc. in Nome for the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health (AKOSH) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) at the Merit level.

The Voluntary Protection Programs are designed to recognize and promote effective safety and health management. In the VPP management, labor and AKOSH establish a cooperative relationship at a workplace that has implemented a strong safety and health program. Participation in the program is voluntary and does not exempt the worksite from AKOSH enforcement activities in case of employee complaints and accident investigations. However, the worksite is removed from general scheduled enforcement inspections for the approved period of time (from 18 months up to 5 years).

Federal OSHA first adopted the VPP on July 2, 1982. Alaska OSH offered the Voluntary Protection Program for Alaskan employers in December 1997.

At the present time there are eight sites with the VPP designation, which includes TelAlaska, Inc in Nome. They are: BP Exploration Alaska, Inc., Central Power Station in Prudhoe Bay (VPP Star), Air Logistics of Alaska, Inc. in Fairbanks (VPP Star), UniSea, Inc. in Dutch Harbor (VPP Star), Insulfoam, Inc., in Anchorage (VPP Star), TelAlaska, Inc. in Dutch Harbor and in Seward (both VPP Merit) and Aero Services in Ketchikan (VPP Merit).

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

The award ceremony will be held at the company site in Nome, Alaska this fall.

Krystyna Markiewicz, AKOSH Health Consultant and VPP/SHARP Coordinator can provide more information about recognition programs. Interested companies can contact her at (907) 269-4958 or krystyna_markiewicz@labor.state.ak.us

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