Click Bishop Commissioner

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Press Release

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TelAlaska in Unalaska Approved for Voluntary Protection Program

JUNEAU, Alaska—Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Click Bishop approved TelAlaska, Inc. in Unalaska 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 won't be subject to random enforcement inspections for two 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.

"TelAlaska's Unalaska/Dutch Harbor office was honored to be the first telecommunications group in the United States to achieve VPP status back in 2003," said Brenda Shepard, chief executive officer of TelAlaska. "We are pleased to have once again achieved VPP Star status, an important designation that demonstrates TelAlaska's commitment to safety in our workplace."

There are 16 sites in Alaska with the AKOSH VPP designation. For a complete listing of the sites and more information about the program, visit VPP online at <u>Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/vpp-participants.html</u>.

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Labor Standards and Safety Division Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/

Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Section Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/oshhome.htm