FATALGRAM 16-03

Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development Division of Labor & Safety Standards Occupational Safety & Health



Date of incident: November 1, 2016

Industry: Seafood Processing

Location: Ketchikan, Alaska.

Description of Accident: A 41-year-old male died from traumatic asphyxiation by being caught between mechanical equipment and a building structure. The employee was crushed while removing ice from an ice-making machine. Lockout-tagout was not in place as the ice rake apparatus engaged, which crushed the victim between the machinery and building. The employee was a recent hire for the seasonal fish industry and had not received proper training.

Accident Prevention Recommendations:

- Ensure all safety measures are applied prior to initiating the task at hand, as stated in confined space entry and lockout-tagout procedures.
- Instruct all employees in the safety and significance of Equipment Lockout-Tagout Procedures.
- Ensure that each employee is adequately trained to recognize and avoid unsafe conditions with hazardous conditions and specifically the hazards associated with isolating energy.
- Establish and implement a safety and health program consisting of daily efforts to demonstrate management commitment and employee involvement, worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, as well as safety and health training.