

Jobs are Alaska's Future

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For Immediate Release

For More Information Contact: Bill Nickerson, (907) 269-4948

Juneau Pioneer Home Honored For Worker Safety Achievement

JUNEAU – The Juneau Pioneer Home was approved by Labor Commissioner Click Bishop for the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) award as a result of outstanding employee safety and health programs.

Commissioner Bishop gave high marks to the staff at the Juneau Pioneer Home for reaching such a significant achievement. "This crew has set a shining example for organizations throughout Alaska. As the first state agency to receive the SHARP award, the Department of Health and Social Services has taken the lead dog position for agencies focused on reducing injuries and associated Workers' Compensation costs."

The Juneau Pioneer Home is located at 4675 Glacier Highway. The Pioneer Home provides residential nursing home facilities for elderly Alaskans. This is the first state department to achieve SHARP status.

The SHARP recognition program is administered by the office of Alaska Occupational Safety and Health (AKOSH) in the Division of Labor Standards and Safety. Participating employers are excused from generally scheduled AKOSH enforcement inspections during the recognition period. Enforcement regulations remain in effect in cases of employee complaints, accident investigations or other significant incidents.

Companies that partner with AKOSH and achieve SHARP status are likely to experience fewer workplace accidents and reduced Workers' Compensation Insurance costs. For more information and to see a list of participants, visit the SHARP Web page at <u>www.labor.state.ak.us/lss/osh-sharp.htm</u> or contact SHARP Program Coordinator Bill Nickerson at (907) 269-4948. His email address is <u>bill_nickerson@labor.state.ak.us</u>.

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