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Press Release

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Safety Council Recognizes Alaskans at 2014 Governor's Safety and Health Conference

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—More than 300 Alaskans attended the 2014 Governor's Safety and Health Conference, participating in training tracks in employer resources, youth safety, safety education, oil industry, transportation and hospitality.

The conference, which is sponsored by the Alaska Safety Advisory Council, focuses on emerging safety and health issues, and advanced safety needs that are unique to Alaska.

A highlight of the annual conference is recognition of Alaskans and Alaska businesses that exemplify good corporate citizenship and a commitment to the health and safety of their workers.

Everett Award

The Everett Award is named for "Safety Herb" Everett, the first recipient and who was the longest serving member on the council. A candidate must have worked in the safety and health field for five or more years, must be regarded by peers as a true safety professional, must have made substantial contributions or demonstrate extraordinary ability in the field of safety and health and must be an active member of the Alaska safety profession.

Dan Taylor – Taylor has worked in Safety and Health since 1986 and is the head corporate safety Manager for Trident Seafoods. At Trident, Taylor developed a comprehensive safety audit process based on leading indicators. Trident partnered with Alaska Occupational Safety and Health to successfully launch a 10-hour safety training program specifically tailored to seafood processing. Hundreds of workers statewide have received training and certification cards over the past year.

Kirk Foster – With more than 30 years in health and safety, Foster has served as Health and Safety Manager for American Marine Services for six years. His career has taken him from the oil fields of West Africa to the ice shelves of Alaska's Arctic. His co-workers praise his practical application of health and safety techniques blended with real world insight and cultural sensitivity. His projects succeed and workers benefit from a reduced injury/illness rate.

Governor's Safety Award of Excellence

This recognition is awarded to a group that has demonstrated excellence in safety and health systems that protect employees. Companies must show there is management commitment, employee involvement and a documented system for hazard analysis and hazard reduction.

Kenai Peninsula Borough Solid Waste Landfill achieved a perfect safety record for the last three years. This success is the result of cooperation between frontline employees and management. Using a hazard identification survey system, staff anticipate where injuries might occur and implement controls to stop them. Once they have identified where the problems might be, they use a Job Hazard Analysis to ensure appropriate controls are in place to avoid an accident.

Granite Construction Company is one of Alaska's largest civil contractors and construction materials producers. The company safety program establishes accident prevention as a core value. The efforts have produced a total case incident rate 57% below the national average for construction. In 2011, Granite Construction was formally accepted as an Alaska CHASE partner by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Cornerstone General Contractors, Inc. is the latest contractor to join the Alaska CHASE program. With Cornerstone, the vision is about where they want to be, how they are planning to get there, and the critical importance of having a workplace free of workplace injuries and illnesses.

ASRC Energy Services' Houston Contracting Company, Inc. is the largest Alaska-based, minority owned, oil and gas service company in the state. Philosophical values require the company to develop responsibly, live according to Iñupiat values, "own" safety and protect resources. In the last three years, the company has had only one recordable injury in 600,000 work hours while working in some of the most remote and wild areas of Alaska.

At **Trident Seafoods Petersburg** work hours are long, jobs are physical and repetitive, and the environment is cold, wet, and loud. It is a notable accomplishment for a fish processing company to have an injury illness rate below the National Industry Average and many companies would be satisfied with that, but Trident Seafoods is not like most companies. Trident's Petersburg Plant has topped that performance with a perfect record in 2013 – zero recordable incidents.

American Marine International operates under some of the most extreme Alaska conditions, from the arctic ice of the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas to the 30-foot tides of Cook Inlet. AMI has managed to operate safely for the last six years without a single recordable injury, illness or restricted work incident. To reach that remarkable level of performance requires strong leadership, employee support, and a top notch safety program.

Usibelli Coal Mine Inc. is a fourth generation, family-owned business located in the mountains of the Alaska Range, outside of Healy. Founder Emil Usibelli never forgot the workplace injury that cost him his job in 1935 and today his workers continue to benefit. Last year, the mine

celebrated a year without lost time injury or illness, which is an impressive and significant accomplishment for any mine.

Olgoonik/Fairweather provides a wide range of environmental support services and operates up to five scientific research vessels throughout the Arctic to conduct projects that include marine mammal research and monitoring, and other support activities for the oil and gas industry. Each of the company's vessels has achieved more than 70,000 exposure hours without a single recordable incident.

Weldin Construction Inc. provides comprehensive construction, environmental and management services in the oil and gas industry. As the company has grown, the safety program has grown. Weldin employees review each project to create an Activity Hazard Analysis that helps define the project and provides safety and health guidance for employees. All employees, including management, receive the same level of safety training.

Weaver Brothers Inc. is a family-operated transportation and fuel service company with offices and terminals located in Anchorage, Kenai and Fairbanks. The company's worksite is virtually anywhere on the Alaska road system. With hauls that are often considered hazardous or difficult, combined with extreme road and weather conditions, Weaver Brothers keeps on track and concentrated on the end result – a safe and healthy worksite.

Governor's Special Achievement Award

This award is presented for special outstanding achievements in the field of safety and health. Nominees must show a significant and measurable impact on the community, or must have made documented contributions or enhancements to the field of safety and health.

The **Alaska Avalanche Information Center** is a grass roots organization that educates about avalanche hazards, providing avalanche forecasts and promoting the exchange of snow stability observations for Alaska. Its efforts have increased public awareness through web-based systems, educational classes, research and networking. The center provides expertise to community organizations, training for search and rescue groups and educational classes for school, community and other groups.

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Photos (Captions *below* photos)

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Alaska Safety Advisory Council

<http://labor.alaska.gov/lss/asac.htm>