




State of Alaska
Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Division of Labor Standards and Safety

AKOSH Program Directive #24-06

Date: July 16, 2024

To: All AKOSH Staff

From: Tanya Keith, Director

DocuSigned by:

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Subject: AKOSH Local Emphasis Program for Health Care Facilities

This program directive establishes enforcement procedures to implement the AKOSH Local Emphasis Program (LEP) for programmed safety and health inspections in certain segments of the healthcare industry.

This program directive becomes effective immediately. Please ensure that all members of your staff receive this program directive and understand how to implement it.

Attachment: AKOSH Health Emphasis Program FFY 2019-2023

cc: Dorinda Hughes, Regional Administrator, OSHA, Region X
Jack A. Rector, Deputy Regional Administrator, OSHA, Region X
Abby Lopez, State Programs Manager, OSHA, Region X
Arlene Lamont, Area Director, Anchorage, OSHA, Region X
Catherine Muñoz, Commissioner Designee, State of Alaska, DOL&WD
Mitch Wallace, Assistant Chief, Consultation & Training, DOL&WD, AKOSH
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Yana Rekoun, Administrative Officer, DOL&WD, LS&S

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This directive provides the framework for a local emphasis program to reduce and/or eliminate occupational safety and health (OSH) hazards associated with Assisted Living Facilities in the healthcare industry in Alaska.

- I. **Purpose.** The purpose of this directive is to establish an enforcement initiative to prevent occupational injuries and illnesses among Alaskan workers in Assisted Living Facilities in the healthcare industry.
- II. **Scope.** This directive applies to all AKOSH offices in Alaska and those worksites in Alaska that are under AKOSH jurisdiction.
- III. **References.**
 - A. Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Field Operation Manual (AKOSH FOM) Program Directive PD # 21-02, January 2021 or current update.
 - B. OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-001 (CPL 2-0.102A), Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Programs (EPs), November 10, 1999, or current update.
 - C. AKOSH Program Directive PD # 18-01 Enforcement and Scheduling for Occupational Exposure to Workplace Violence, December 12, 2017, or current update.
 - D. AKOSH Program Directive PD # 16-06 Inspection Procedures for Respiratory Protection Standards, September 27, 2016, or current update.
 - E. AKOSH Program Directive PD # 16-01 Enforcement Procedures and Scheduling for Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis, March 16, 2016, or current update.
 - F. AKOSH Program Directive PD # 13-01 National Emphasis Program – Nursing and Residential Care Facilities, October 2, 2012, or current update.
 - G. AKOSH Program Directive PD # 14-01 OSHA Strategic Partnership Program for Workers Safety and Health, April 25, 2014, or current update.
 - H. Alaska Statutes AS 18.60.010 through AS 18.60.105
 - I. Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) all safety and health standards enforced by AKOSH and contained in Title 8, Chapter 61 of the Alaska Administrative Code.
 - J. 29 CFR 1910 Subpart I, Personal Protective Equipment
 - K. 29 CFR 1910 Subpart L, Fire Protection
 - L. 29 CFR 1910 Subpart S, Electrical
 - M. 29 CFR 1910.1030, Bloodborne Pathogens
 - N. 29 CFR 1910.1200, Hazard Communication
 - O. OSHA Nursing Home eTools

IV. **Expiration.** This directive expires on September 30, 2029, but may be renewed as necessary.

V. **Background.**

A. During normal operations at certain Assisted Living healthcare facilities employees could be exposed to hazards involving any of the following:

- a. Bloodborne pathogens: hazards associated with infectious agents transmitted via blood
- b. Electrical
- c. Ergonomics
- d. Fire
- e. Hazardous chemicals
- f. Inappropriate PPE
- g. Infectious agents: tuberculosis, seasonal flu, multidrug-resistant organisms
- h. Latex allergy
- i. Slips/trips/falls
- j. Workplace stress
- k. Workplace violence

B. Scheduling inspections.

1. AKOSH Health Care Emphasis Program inspection list.

Under the direction of the Chief of OSH, the program analyst will compile a list of establishments licensed under AS 47.33 using the following sources:

- a. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 16 Health Care and Social Assistance licensed in Alaska:

Home Health Care Services

621610 Home Health Care Services

Nursing and Residential Care Facilities

623110 Nursing Care Facilities

623210 Residential Intellectual and Developmental Disability Facilities

623220 Residential Mental Health and Substance Abuse Facilities

623311 Continuing Care Retirement Communities

623312 Homes for the Elderly

623990 Other Residential Care Facilities

Social Assistance

624110 Child and Youth Services
 624120 Services for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities
 624190 Other Individual and Family Services
 624210 Community Food Services
 624221 Temporary Shelters
 624229 Other Community Housing Services
 624230 Emergency and Other Relief Services
 624310 Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- b. The State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services establishments that provide health care or social assistance but may be reported under General Government NAICS 99 will be added to the inspection list. The following State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services establishments will be included:

- Alaska Pioneer Homes

- c. The State of Alaska's lists of licensed health facilities and assisted living facilities:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dhcs/Documents/hflc/PDF/Health-Facilities-Licensing-and-Certification-Facilities-List.pdf>

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dhcs/Pages/cl/all/default.aspx>

- d. If, throughout the duration of this LEP, AKOSH becomes aware of an establishment that is not on the current inspection list, and is licensed under [AS 47.33](#), the establishment will be added at the end of the primary establishment list and will be eligible to be inspected.

Inspection scheduling will follow applicable provisions of the AKOSH FOM.

2. Relationship to Other Programs. Reports of imminent danger, fatality/catastrophe, complaints, and referrals shall be scheduled as unprogrammed inspections and shall be inspected in accordance with the applicable provisions of the AKOSH FOM.

Establishments actively participating in AKOSH recognition and exemption programs, AKOSH Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) and AKOSH Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) will be exempt from programmed inspections following the applicable provisions of the AKOSH FOM.

Establishments that have received a comprehensive inspection within the previous 36 months of the creation of the current inspection cycle will be deleted from the list.

VI. Enforcement.

Inspections conducted under the AKOSH Assisted Living Facilities Health Care EP will be conducted according to the following procedures:

The CSHO will review the OSHA 300 logs and OSHA 300A forms for the three most current years; review the employer's PPE hazard assessment to ensure CSHO is equipped with the appropriate PPE; follow the procedures outlined in the AKOSH FOM for conducting an opening conference; then proceed as quickly as possible with the walk around inspection. Unusual circumstances shall be handled following the AKOSH FOM. All safety and health inspections will focus on the types of hazards considered common in assisted living home settings: slips, trips and falls, bloodborne pathogens, tuberculosis, workplace violence, ergonomics, and their associated programs as applicable. Inspections will be limited to these hazards unless a CSHO expands the scope of the inspection. The CSHO will expand the scope if the employer's OSHA 300 logs demonstrate high injury or illness rates related to hazards not listed above.

The Compliance Safety and Health Officer (CSHO) shall avoid all direct contact with potentially contaminated needles and other sharp instruments. The CSHO must establish the existence of hazards and adequacy of work practices through employee interviews and shall observe operations at a safe distance.

The privacy of clients must be respected. Photos must not show client faces, readable identification bracelets, or any other image that could be used to reveal client identity.

The CSHO shall also evaluate the employer's overall safety and health management system, following the AKOSH FOM.

VII. Recording in OIS.

The OSHA Information System (OIS) identification code to be used in the Inspection Activity will be "HEALTHCARE". All inspections conducted shall be recorded as being "Comprehensive".

VIII. Outreach.

Outreach will be performed to trade groups and employee organizations by AKOSH Consultation and Training Consultants.

IX. Evaluation.

The Chief of OSH Enforcement will submit an evaluation report to the Director no later than October 30th of each federal fiscal year this LEP is in effect. The report will address the following elements: the number of outreach activities, such as; compliance assistance, education services, referrals, abatement assistance and technical services. The number of enforcement inspections conducted, the number, type, and classification of violations, numbers of items abated.

The Chief of OSH Consultation and Training will submit a report on C&T activities related to this LEP to the Director no later than October 30th of each fiscal year that this LEP is in effect. The report will address the following elements, the number of public presentations, publications, internet-based communications, consultation visits and number of items abated, and training seminars.