

Media Advisory

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TelAlaska's Nome Staff Achieves AKOSH Safety Program Recognition

Grey Mitchell, Director of the State of Alaska's Department of Labor and Workforce Development, will be in Nome on Wednesday, October 29 to present TelAlaska's Nome staff of five with a certificate honoring their achievement of Star status in the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health (AKOSH) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). The presentation will take place at 1 p.m. at TelAlaska's Operations Center at 204 West 1st Street.

TelAlaska was awarded VPP's Star status for implementing an exemplary system to manage safety and health for employees in its Nome area operations. Star status recognizes companies that have gone beyond basic compliance with AKOSH standards.

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TelAlaska's Nome office has held VPP's Merit status since 2005. The company's Unalaska and Seward offices have also achieved Star status.

Once VPP status is achieved, the designated company unit is exempt from some targeted industry inspections, allowing AKOSH inspectors to focus resources on areas more in need of attention. AKOSH credits the program with helping companies achieve a 50 percent decrease in workplace injuries.

TelAlaska is a telecommunications solutions company serving 25 rural communities and providing advanced network solutions in urban markets. TelAlaska was founded by the Rhyner family in Fort Yukon in 1968. TelAlaska was acquired by American Broadband in July of 2008.

American Broadband acquires and operates local exchange carriers and related businesses in rural markets nationwide. The company's strategy is distinguished by a long-term focus on growth in rural America. By investing in its telecommunications network, local employees and management, and community organizations, American Broadband ensures continued customer service satisfaction and works to realize the growth potential of its markets. The company now serves more than 26,000 access lines, 10,000 Cable Subscribers, and 8,500 high speed data customers in Nebraska, Missouri, and Alaska.

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