

# OSHA REQUIREMENTS FOR HELI-SKI OPERATORS

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Applicable Regulations

Consultation & Training Services

# A little about OSHA

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Department of Labor regulatory agency established in 1970 when President Nixon signed into law the Occupational Safety and Health Act
- Mission – “to assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education and assistance.”
- Alaska has a state run program, AKOSH, which has adopted the Federal standards, but also has some additional requirements which are more stringent

# Some OSHA Regulations Applicable to Heli-Ski Operations

- 29 CFR 1903.2 – Posting of Notice; Availability of the Act, Regulations and Applicable Standards
- 29 CFR 1904 – Recordkeeping
- 29 CFR 1910.95 – Occupational Noise Exposure
- 29 CFR 1910.106 – Flammable Liquids
- 29 CFR 1910.132 – General Requirements, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- 29 CFR 1910.157 – Portable fire extinguishers
- 29 CFR 1910.183 – Helicopters
- 29 CFR 1910.1030 – Bloodborne Pathogens
- 29 CFR 1910.1200 – Hazard Communication

# 29 CFR 1903.2 – Posting of Notice; Availability of the Act, Regulations and Applicable Standards

- Employers are required to post notice informing employees of the protections and obligations provided for in the OSH Act.
- Posters are available FREE online. <http://labor.alaska.gov/lss/posters.htm>

## Job Safety and Health

### It's the law!

**EMPLOYERS:**

- You have the right to notify your employer or OSHA about workplace hazards. You may ask OSHA to keep your name confidential.
- You have the right to request an OSHA inspection if you believe that there are unsafe and unhealthy conditions in your workplace. You or your representative may participate in that inspection.
- You can file a complaint with OSHA within 30 days of retaliation or discrimination by your employer for making safety and health complaints or for exercising your rights under the OSH Act.
- You have the right to see OSHA citations issued to your employer. Your employer must post the citations at or near the place of the alleged violation.
- Your employer must correct workplace hazards by the date indicated on the citation and must certify that these hazards have been reduced or eliminated.
- You have the right to copies of your medical records and records of your exposures to toxic and harmful substances or conditions.
- Your employer must post this notice in your workplace.
- You must comply with all occupational safety and health standards issued under the OSH Act that apply to your own actions and conduct on the job.

**EMPLOYEES:**

- You must furnish your employees a place of employment free from recognized hazards.
- You must comply with the occupational safety and health standards issued under the OSH Act.



Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
U.S. Department of Labor





Free assistance in identifying and correcting hazards or complying with standards is available to employers, without charge or penalty, through OSHA's supported consultation programs in each state.

This free poster available from OSHA – The Best Resource for Safety and Health

1-800-321-OSHA (6742)  
www.osha.gov



### SAFETY AND HEALTH PROTECTION ON THE JOB

ALASKA LSS 06-160003-0100 – provides safety and health protection for workers through promotion of safe and healthful working conditions throughout the State. Requirements of the law include the following:

**EMPLOYERS:** Every employer must insure in each of his establishments, employment and a place of employment that no recognized hazard that is likely to cause death or serious harm to his employees, and shall comply with occupational safety and health standards promulgated under the law.

Each employer shall comply with all occupational safety and health standards, rules, regulations and orders issued under the law that apply to his own activities and conduct on the job.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development has the primary responsibility for administering the law. It issues occupational safety and health standards, and its Compliance Officers conduct job site inspections to enforce compliance with the law.

The law requires that a representative of the employer and a representative authorized by the employees to give an opportunity to discuss the conditions in the workplace be present at all times the Compliance Officer must conduct with a reasonable number of employees. Both representatives have the right to be accompanied in writing with the relevant Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development office requesting an inspection if they believe unsafe or unhealthy conditions exist at their workplace. Their names will be withheld upon request.

Employers and their representatives have a right to call an inspector's attention to possible violations in writing or orally.

The law provides that employers may not discharge or discriminate against an employee who files a complaint with the relevant Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development office within 30 days of the alleged discrimination. (L.S.S. 06-160003-0100, 0101, 0102, 0103, 0104)

An employee of a public employer who believes he has been discriminated against may file a complaint only with the relevant Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development office within 30 days of the alleged discrimination. (L.S.S. 06-160003-0100, 0101, 0102, 0103, 0104)

**RIGHT TO INSPECT:** The Compliance Officer notifies an employer that an inspection has been scheduled. A citation alleging such violations will be issued to the employer. Each citation will specify a time period within which the alleged violation must be corrected.

The citation must be personally delivered or e-mailed to the place of alleged violation for that day, or if it is corrected, whichever is later, to every employee of the plant that day.

The law provides for monetary penalties against employers of up to \$7500 for each serious violation and for related penalties of up to \$1500 for any other violations. Penalties of up to \$15,000 may be imposed for failure to correct violations within the prescribed time period. Also, any employer who willfully or repeatedly violates the law may be assessed penalties of up to \$50,000 for each violation.

Compliance with or enforcement under the OSH Act may result in either remedial or enforcement actions. Remedial actions are available for a fine not exceeding three \$10,000 or the maximum for enforcement of the OSH Act. Enforcement actions are available for a fine not exceeding three \$10,000 or the maximum for enforcement of the OSH Act.

**WELFARE ACTIVITIES:** While providing protection for activities, the law also encourages efforts by labor and management, before an inspection, to reduce injuries and illnesses resulting from workplace hazards.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development encourages employers and employees to reduce workplace hazards, voluntarily by training and proper safety and health programs in all establishments and industries.

Such cooperative action would include focus on the identification and elimination of hazards that could cause death, injury, or illness to employees and exposures. Upon request of employers, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development will furnish a consultant who will instruct the personnel and identify hazards without assessing penalties.

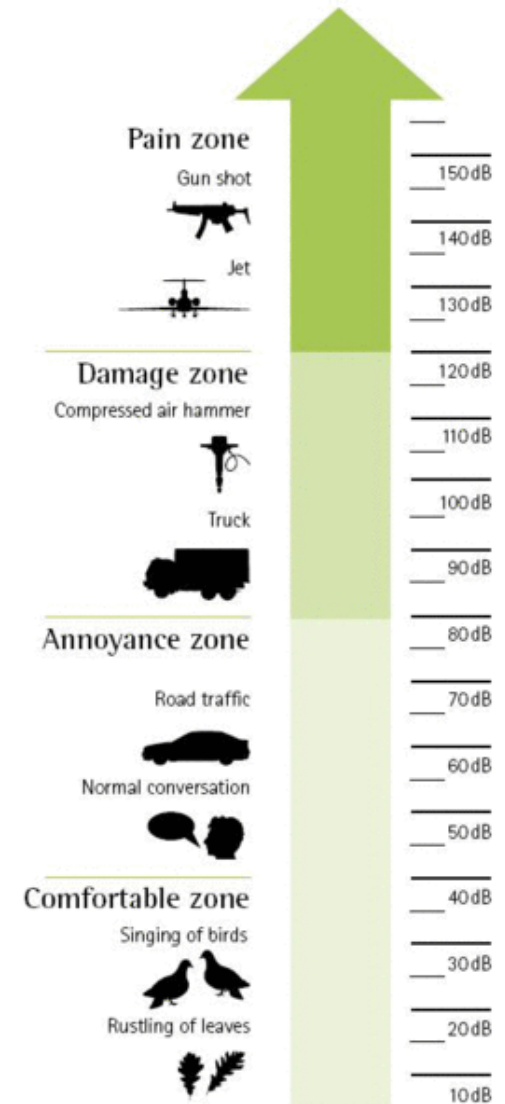
Additional information and copies of the law, applicable safety and health standards, and related regulations may be obtained from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Labor Standards & Safety, Alaska Occupational Safety and Health or the additional contact at the bottom of this page.

**REGISTRATION:** All employers of 10 or more employees in the State of Alaska are required to register with the State of Alaska's occupational safety and health division for workers throughout the State. OSHA will monitor the registration of this data to the U.S. Department of Labor. (L.S.S. 06-160003-0100, 0101, 0102, 0103, 0104, 0105, 0106, 0107, 0108, 0109, 0110, 0111, 0112, 0113, 0114, 0115, 0116, 0117, 0118, 0119, 0120, 0121, 0122, 0123, 0124, 0125, 0126, 0127, 0128, 0129, 0130, 0131, 0132, 0133, 0134, 0135, 0136, 0137, 0138, 0139, 0140, 0141, 0142, 0143, 0144, 0145, 0146, 0147, 0148, 0149, 0150, 0151, 0152, 0153, 0154, 0155, 0156, 0157, 0158, 0159, 0160, 0161, 0162, 0163, 0164, 0165, 0166, 0167, 0168, 0169, 0170, 0171, 0172, 0173, 0174, 0175, 0176, 0177, 0178, 0179, 0180, 0181, 0182, 0183, 0184, 0185, 0186, 0187, 0188, 0189, 0190, 0191, 0192, 0193, 0194, 0195, 0196, 0197, 0198, 0199, 0200, 0201, 0202, 0203, 0204, 0205, 0206, 0207, 0208, 0209, 0210, 0211, 0212, 0213, 0214, 0215, 0216, 0217, 0218, 0219, 0220, 0221, 0222, 0223, 0224, 0225, 0226, 0227, 0228, 0229, 0230, 0231, 0232, 0233, 0234, 0235, 0236, 0237, 0238, 0239, 0240, 0241, 0242, 0243, 0244, 0245, 0246, 0247, 0248, 0249, 0250, 0251, 0252, 0253, 0254, 0255, 0256, 0257, 0258, 0259, 0260, 0261, 0262, 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# 29 CFR 1910.95 – Occupational Noise Exposure

- Employees exposed above 85 decibels as an 8-hour time weighted average must be included in a hearing conservation program
- Hearing conservation program includes:
  - Noise monitoring of the workplace
  - Audiometric testing of employees
  - Hearing protectors
  - Employee training
  - Access to information and training materials
  - Recordkeeping



## 29 CFR 1910.106 – Flammable Liquids

- *Flammable liquid* means any liquid having a flashpoint at or below 199.4 °F (93 °C). Broken into 4 Categories.
- Only approved containers and portable tanks shall be used. Those authorized by chapter I, title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (regulations issued by the Hazardous Materials Regulations Board, Department of Transportation), shall be deemed to be acceptable.
- *Maximum capacity.* Not more than 60 gallons of Category 1, 2, or 3 flammable liquids, nor more than 120 gallons of Category 4 flammable liquids may be stored in a storage cabinet.
- "Sources of ignition." Anywhere flammable vapors may be present...

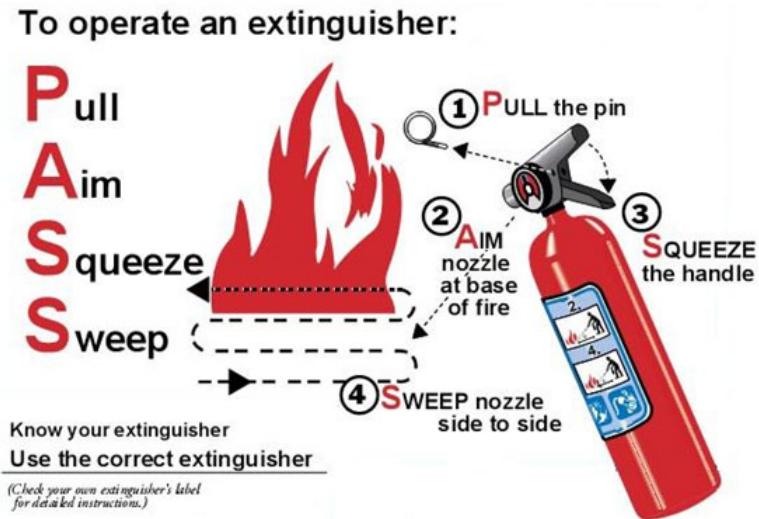
# 29 CFR 1910.132 - PPE

- **Application.** Protective equipment, including PPE for eyes, face, head, and extremities, protective clothing, respiratory devices, and protective shields and barriers be provided, used and maintained in sanitary and reliable condition wherever it is necessary by reason of hazards of processes or environment, chemical hazards, radiological hazards, or mechanical irritants encountered in a manner capable of causing injury or impairment in the function of any part of the body through absorption, inhalation or physical contact.
- Employer must assess the workplace to identify hazards and select the appropriate protective equipment.
- Workplace hazard assessment must be documented.



# 29 CFR 1910.157 – Portable Fire Extinguishers

- If employees are expected to use them they need to be trained initially upon hire and annually thereafter.
- Employer should have a written fire safety policy regarding extinguisher use and evacuation procedures.



# 29 CFR 1910.183 – Helicopters

- Daily briefing on plan of operation for the pilot and ground personnel
- Loose gear and objects within areas susceptible to rotor downwash must be secured or removed
- Employees not permitted within 50 feet of the helicopter when the rotor blades are turning unless work duties require presence in that area
- Constant, reliable communication must be maintained between the pilot and a designated employee of the ground crew

# 29 CFR 1910.1030 – Bloodborne Pathogens

- Employer must have a written program designed to eliminate or minimize employee exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM).
- Program must include:
  - An identification of at risk employees, e.g. employees required to provide first aid as job requirement
  - Engineering and work practice controls, e.g. sharps containers, washing hands after removing gloves or having contact with blood or OPIM
  - PPE to be provided, e.g. nitrile gloves, CPR face barrier, safety glasses
  - Containment and disposal of regulated waste
  - Hepatitis B vaccination and post-exposure evaluation and follow-up procedures
  - Training and information provided upon initial assignment and annually thereafter

# 29 CFR 1910.1200 – Hazard Communication

- Employer must have a written program in place to protect employees from hazardous chemicals in the workplace.
- The program must include:
  - List of all hazardous chemicals in the workplace
  - Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for each chemical on inventory list
  - An explanation of workplace hazardous chemical container labeling
  - Information and training provided upon initial hire
- Additionally, the State of Alaska requires Physical Agent Data Sheets (PADS) for physical hazards in the workplace such as cold stress, noise and ultraviolet radiation.

# AKOSH Consultation & Training Services

## The On-Site Consultants Will

- Meet with the employer and, at times, employees or employee representatives;
- Walk-through the worksite with the employer and employees;
- Review company injury and illness rates;
- Help identify hazards in the workplace;
- Identify kinds of help available for further assistance;
- Give detailed findings in a closing conference;
- Provide a written report summarizing findings;
- Assist the development or maintenance of an effective safety and health program;
- Provide training and education for the employer and employees;
- Recommend the site for a one-year exemption from OSHA programmed inspections, when SHARP criteria are met.

## The On-Site Consultants Will Not

- Issue citations or propose penalties for violations of OSHA standards;
- Report possible violations to OSHA enforcement staff;
- Guarantee that your workplace will “pass” an OSHA inspection.