



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Commissioner Click Bishop

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For Immediate Release

Westmark Inn Tok Honored For Worker Safety Achievement

TOK – Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Click Bishop approved Westmark Inn Tok for the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program award as a result of outstanding employee safety and health programs.

SHARP, a federal recognition program, is administered by the Department of Labor's office of Alaska Occupational Safety and Health, which is within the Labor Standards and Safety Division. Participating employers are excused from scheduled AKOSH enforcement inspections during the recognition period, which, in the Westmark Inn Tok's case, is two years. Enforcement regulations remain in effect, however, in cases of employee complaints, accident investigations or other significant incidents.

"It's been a longtime personal goal of mine to participate in SHARP," said Herb Everett, director of safety for Westmark Hotels, Inc. "We have six U.S. hotels and I would like to see them all added to the SHARP program. We're halfway there now. Our Sitka, Juneau and Fairbanks SHARP approvals are in progress now."

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 labor.state.ak.us/lss/OSH-SHARP.htm, call SHARP Program Coordinator Bill Nickerson at (907) 269-4948 or email him at Bill_Nickerson@alaska.gov.

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