



The Alaska

Spring 2020

Contractor

Publication of the Associated General Contractors of Alaska

www.agcak.org



COVID-19

OSHA revises reporting rules after AGC input

Page 10

ADDRESSING SUICIDE

Construction industry reacts to help reduce high rates

Page 14, 58

VALDEZ HARBOR

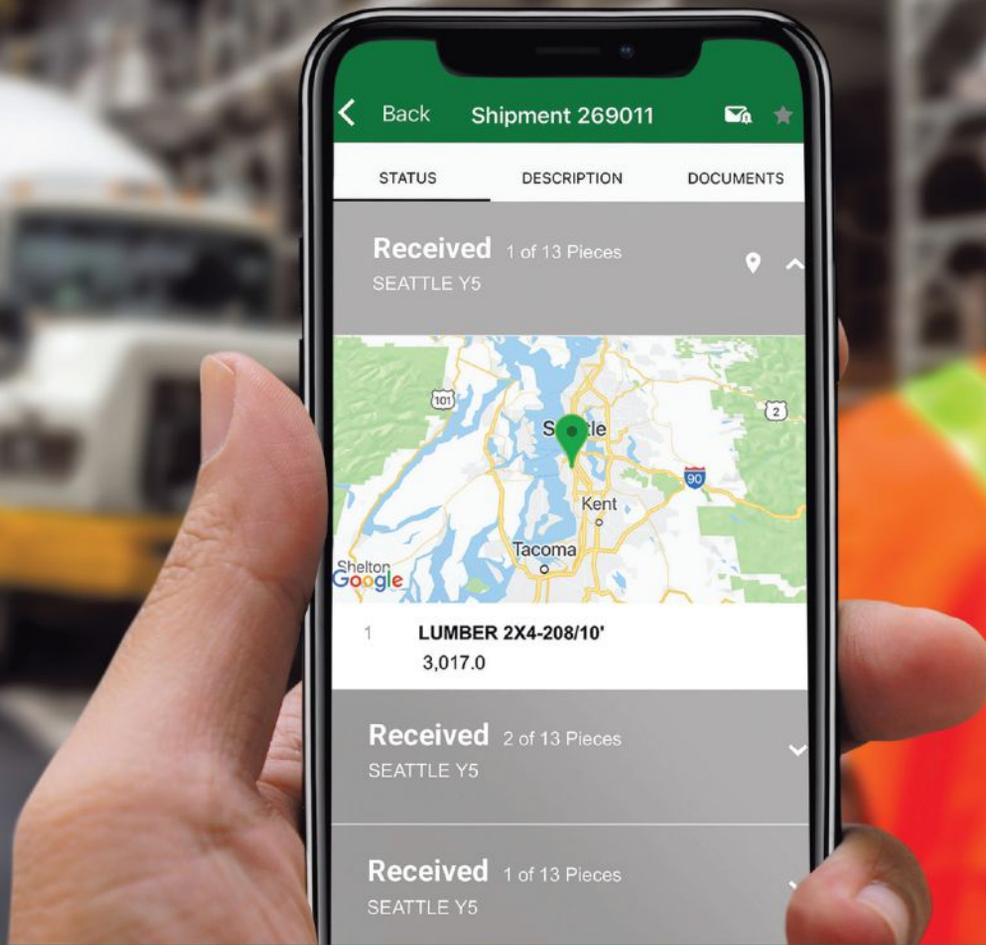
Multi-year project provides more parking, moorage, other amenities

Page 56

SPENDING FORECAST

Federal projects trend down, oil spending to boost 2020

Page 46



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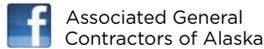
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES

- 14 **Construction industry reaches out to reduce suicide rates** by Rachael Kvapil
- 18 **Third annual Contractors and Camo hockey fundraiser** by Rindi White
- 22 **Taking Pride: 2018 Water System Expansion Project** photo essay
- 26 **AGC touts value of construction industry at Legislative Fly-in** by Rindi White
- 28 **Fairbanks Golf Tournament Save the Date**
- 42 **Alaska enthusiasts, companies help restore steam engine** by Rachael Kvapil
- 46 **Alaska Construction Spending Forecast excerpt**
- 52 **AGC of Alaska 2020 Legislative Priorities** by Alicia Siira, Meg Nordale and Regina Daniels

PROFILES

- 34 **Stantec Consulting** by Nancy Erickson
- 54 **Design Alaska** by Samantha Davenport
- 60 **Dirtworks Inc.** by Rachael Kvapil
- 64 **KLEBS Mechanical Inc.** by Kevin Klott

PROJECT UPDATES

- 38 **Elizabeth Place in Downtown Anchorage** by Tracy Kalytiak
- 56 **Valdez Harbor Expansion** by Samantha Davenport

DEPARTMENTS, COLUMNS AND OTHER AGC CONTENT

- 6 **Winning Bids and Construction Trends**
- 10 **President's Message** by Chris Reilly
- 12 **Executive Director's Message** by Alicia Siira
- 30 **Financial Services & Contractors** by Patrick Haugh
- 58 **Human Resources Update** by Scott Stender
- 62 **Occupational Health** by Adam Hall
- 68 **Safety Report** by Chris Ross
- 72 **Contractors & the Law** by Michael Geraghty and Wiley Cason
- 74 **Member News**
- 76 **New Members**
- 77 **Event Calendar**

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WINNING BIDS



Note: **Winning Bids and Construction Trends**

- 1) Source from projects advertised in the AGC of Alaska Bulletin
- 2) Calculations based on date of bid
- 3) Supply/Service; Non-Construction bid results are not always advertised in the bulletin
- 4) RFP results are not always advertised in the bulletin

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INTERIOR

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 **HC CONTRACTORS INC**
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HSIP: SEWARD HIGHWAY PASSING LANES MP 37-52
 **QAP**
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 \$8,667,505

RICHARDSON HIGHWAY MP 18-24 RESURFACING
 **HC CONTRACTORS INC**
 \$7,256,365

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE F-35 RENOVATION
 **ROGER HICKEL CONTRACTING INC**
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EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE REPAIR/
CBERRRSA 2019/2021 - 2019C083
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\$671,132

SEWARD HWY ROCKFALL -
NOV 2018 EQ ER
GRANITE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
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MARBLE WAY FISH PASSAGE
TUTKA LLC
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UAA MAC1 KITCHEN &
BATH RENOVATION
SWALLING GENERAL CONTRACTORS
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SITE EXPANSION
CIC INC
\$540,917

ARRC POST ROAD
BUILDINGS DEMOLITION
CYS ENTERPRISES LLC
\$354,681

EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE REPAIR
CBERRRSA 2020 - 2020C008
MCKENNA BROS PAVING INC
\$345,074

CARILLON DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS
K & H CIVIL CONSTRUCTORS LLC
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EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE REPAIR
CBERRRSA 2020 - 2020C007
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CIVIC CENTER EXTERIOR STAINING
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EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE REPAIR/
CBERRRSA 2020 - 2020C010
WESTERN CONSTRUCTION
\$299,452

ANC ELECTRONIC TERMINAL SIGNS
NEESER CONSTRUCTION INC
\$294,201

EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE REPAIR
CBERRRSA 2020 - 2020C006
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ASPHALT INC**
\$280,829

SOUTHEAST

JNU TERMINAL RECONSTRUCTION
DAWSON CONSTRUCTION INC
\$16,184,600

DOUGLAS HIGHWAY WATER MAIN
REPLACEMENT PHASE II
GLACIER STATE CONTRACTORS INC
\$3,361,727

AMHS STORAGE TANK REPLACEMENT &
WASTEWATER TREATMENT
SYSTEM UPGRADES
**WESTERN MARINE
CONSTRUCTION INC**
\$2,832,865

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS
WASTE FACILITY
**ALASKA COMMERCIAL
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HNS-HNS HWY RESURFACE:
ALLEN ROAD TO MP 0.7
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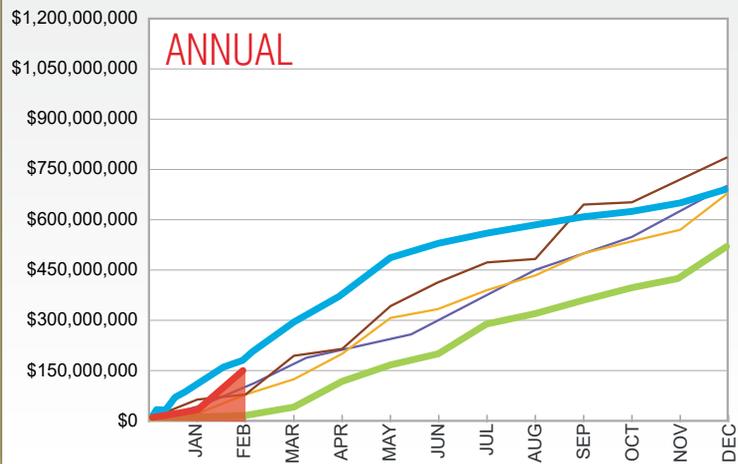
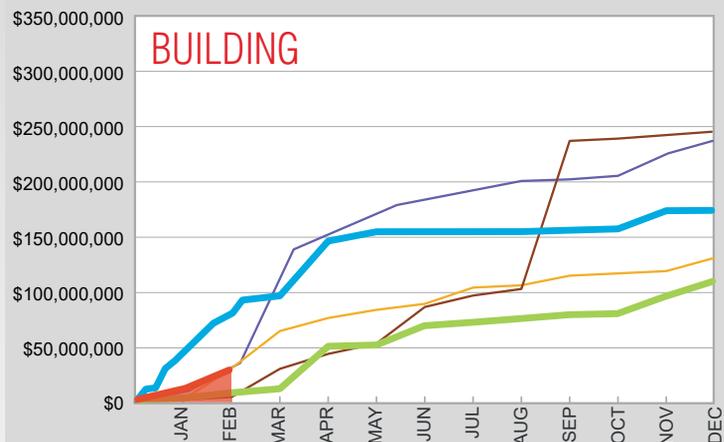
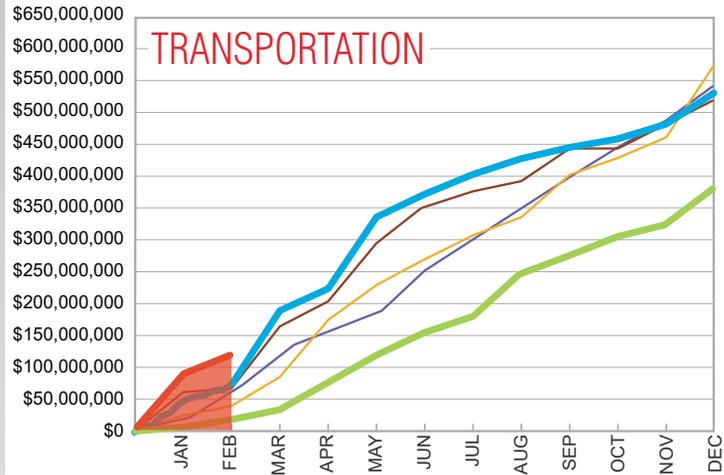


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2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020



Source: Winning bids for projects advertised in the AGC of Alaska bulletin.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OSHA revises COVID-19 reporting requirement after AGC intervention

Reporting required in limited circumstance with evidence employee contracted virus at work

In lieu of my quarterly president's column, I would like to make members aware of new federal standards regarding coronavirus reporting in the workplace. We recognize that we are operating in a fluid and dynamic climate right now and hope that you, your workplace and families are safe and well-informed in this challenging time.

— Chris Reilly

From AGC Alaska:

On March 10, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, provided guidance requiring the recording and reporting of workplace exposures to COVID-19. That guidance did not consider several things, including: the logistical nightmare employers would face to determine where someone contracted the virus — workplace or elsewhere — just as with a non-recordable occurrence of a worker contracting the common cold or influenza at the workplace; the impact this broad policy could have on workers' compensation plans; and the impact on contractors' safety ratings for insurance and owner requirements.

On March 12, AGC of America CEO Stephen Sandherr spoke one-on-one with U.S. Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia on this issue, noting AGC's deep concerns with and opposition to such broad guidance. Shortly after that call, on March 13, OSHA issued new guidance. That guidance limits when COVID-19 can be a recordable illness to medically confirmed cases of COVID-19 that fall within a narrowed field of incidents that employers could then presume occurred on the jobsite. It is critical that employers assess the employee's work duties and environment prior to deciding to record the case — or not — just as you would

with any other type of incident. OSHA makes it clear in its guidance, and its existing record-keeping regulation, that if there is no evidence that the employee contracted the virus in the workplace, it is not a recordable illness.

Below is a summary of that guidance along with additional information to consider as it relates to OSHA's requirements for recording and reporting of workplace injuries and illnesses.

RECORDKEEPING: RECORDING AND REPORTING CASES OF COVID-19

Recording Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 on Your OSHA Log

OSHA recordkeeping requirements at 29 CFR Part 1904 mandate covered employers record certain work-related injuries and illnesses on their OSHA 300 log.

COVID-19 can be a recordable illness if a worker is infected as a result of performing their work-related duties. However, employers are only responsible for recording cases of COVID-19 if all of the following are met:

1. The case is a confirmed case of COVID-19 (see CDC information on persons under investigation and presumptive positive and laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19);
2. The case is work-related, as defined by 29 CFR 1904.5; and
3. The case involves one or more of the general recording criteria set forth in 29 CFR 1904.7 (e.g. medical treatment beyond first-aid, days away from work).

Section 1904.5(a) provides that an injury or illness must be considered work-related if an event or exposure in the work environment either caused or contributed to the injury or illness. Work-relatedness is *presumed* for injuries and illnesses resulting from events or exposures occurring in the work environment,

unless an exception in Section 1904.5(b)(2) specifically applies. A case is *presumed* work-related if — and only if — an event or exposure in the work environment is a discernible cause of the injury or illness or of a significant aggravation to a pre-existing condition. If an employee's condition arose outside of the work environment and there was no discernible event or exposure that led to the condition, the presumption of work-relationship does not apply.

The following are questions from the OSHA Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illness regulation that may also be helpful:

Are there situations where an injury or illness occurs in the work environment and is not considered work-related? Yes, an injury or illness occurring in the work environment that falls under one of the following exceptions is not work-related and therefore is not recordable.

1904.5(b)(2) You are not required to record injuries and illnesses if ...

- i) At the time of the injury or illness, the employee was present in the work environment as a member of the general public rather than as an employee.
- ii) The injury or illness involves signs or symptoms that surface at work but result solely from a non-work-related event or exposure that occurs outside the work environment.
- iii) The injury or illness results solely from voluntary participation in a wellness program or in a medical, fitness, or recreational activity such as blood donation, physical examination, flu shot, exercise class, racquetball, or baseball.

Continued on Page 21



CHRIS REILLY

President

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



ALICIA SIIRA

Executive Director

On the road again!

Willie Nelson's song "On the Road Again" keeps playing in my head as I travel across the state communicating the results of the recent 2020 Construction Spending Forecast and Economic Benefit Analysis Report released in January by AGC and the Construction Industry Progress Fund.

Each year, the CIPF produces a construction spending forecast, which is a much-anticipated publication by the construction community. The forecast gives us a glimpse into what the coming year is going to look like for spending in the construction industry, and many business decisions are made based on this report.

New this year, the AGC executive board encouraged a partnership with CIPF to commission an additional component of the construction spending forecast: an economic impact report. This is exciting, since this type of research has never been conducted here before — which is surprising, as we all know how important the construction industry is to our economy. We asked ourselves, "Where are the facts and figures to support our advocacy efforts?" A big "thank you" goes to the CIPF and the McDowell Group for answering this important question for us.

And the results far exceeded our expectations and were quite surprising. Here is just one quote from the report: "(The construction industry) is integral to all industrial, commercial, residential, and infrastructure development in the state. Its economic reach spans the entire state, from the smallest communities to the largest cities." You can read about the report in this issue of the *Alaska Contractor* and check out the full report on our website.

As I've been on the road presenting the report findings and results, I've been surprised by how many people do not realize how significant our industry is for Alaskans. It is one of the few industries that affects every community in our state. In

2018, the construction industry employed 23,600 workers, and construction-related activity can be attributed to 41,300 total jobs in Alaska. That's right — almost 10% of all the jobs in this state can be attributed to our industry. This is huge! If I had a nickel for every time someone said, "Wow, I had no idea just how much the construction industry means to Alaska," we could almost fund the state capital construction budget.

As many of you know, yet another devastating and flawed ballot measure has been filed to substantially increase taxes on the oil industry. A tax increase of this magnitude would only serve to make Alaska less competitive. A less-competitive Alaska will affect investment and could eliminate or postpone promising oil development projects, ultimately resulting in fewer jobs for Alaskans — including construction — and less long-term revenue for the state. The AGC board of directors has officially joined the coalition to oppose this ballot initiative, and we encourage you and your employees to do the same.

As the 2020 Construction Spending Forecast and Economic Impact Report shows, without vibrant public AND private sector investments, our industry would be crippled. Our industry is vital to Alaska's economy, and timely funding — or delayed funding — of the capital budget has a major effect on our businesses, the families we employ and the safety of Alaskans who depend on the infrastructure we build. If there is one thing that I hope you take away from this report, it is how critical it is for our industry to have a sustainable state budget and a vibrant private sector making investments.

The CIPF and AGC welcome your continued involvement in helping us communicate how integral the construction industry is to all industrial, commercial, residential and infrastructure development in Alaska — its economic reach spans the entire state, from

the smallest village to the largest city. There are many things you can do to support the construction industry:

- If you are not one already, become an AGC member!
- Stay informed about legislative information that affects our industry. Consider contacting your state legislator about the importance of a sustainable state budget and the timely passing of a capital budget, and urge them to oppose tax increases to the oil industry to protect the bright spots for construction in 2020 and beyond.
- Join us in going on the road by sharing the information from the 2020 Alaska Construction Spending Forecast and Economic Impact Report. The more people who know the facts about our industry's impact, the better.

Please accept my sincere gratitude to the CIPF, the McDowell Group and the many AGC members who contributed valuable data, information and images for the 2020 Alaska Construction Spending Forecast and Economic Impact Report. This report was truly a team effort that would not have been possible without the contributions of many vital members of our community.

So, as Nelson says, I'm "on the road again" to share this message about how construction spending means more than simply economic investment in our state. It means meaningful wages for working Alaskans. It means families, education, infrastructure and so much more. It means a better quality of life for our state and the hard-working men and women of our industry and "making music with my friends." As for me, "I just can't wait to get on the road again." 🎩



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THE HIDDEN

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY REACHES OUT TO

Construction workers face many potential hazards on a given workday. They work in high places, move large objects along variable terrain, and deal with noise and sometimes dangerous materials.

If a contractor has planned correctly and implemented safety procedures, they can generally keep their workers safe. However, there is one danger in the construction industry that may have gone unnoticed — suicide.

This revelation may give pause. It may even be hard to imagine that this hardy, middle-aged, primarily male demographic is affected by mental illness. Yet the statistics are astounding. In 2015, the construction and extraction industry ranked second-highest for suicide at 53.5 per 100,000 people between the ages of 16 and 64, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC. This is more than a 1% increase from 2012, when it was ranked the industry with the highest suicide rate. This does not include the architecture-engineering construction industry, which also has a suicide rate of 23.2 suicides per 100,000 as of 2016.

How does such a prominent and dangerous issue go unaddressed for so long? Patsy Anderson-Dunn — a certified public accountant, certified fraud examiner, certified construction industry financial professional and former executive committee appointee to the Construction Financial Management Association — can explain some of the issues surrounding suicide within the construction industry.

Her 21-year-old stepson had just returned to Oregon to continue his career when he died by suicide. At first, Anderson-Dunn said she asked, “Why me?” and blamed herself for not being a better mother. However, once she began learning more about suicide, especially as it relates to the construction industry, she began to understand.

Patsy Anderson-Dunn



‘PREVENTING SUICIDE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY’

The AGC of Alaska safety committee invites you to learn about the stigma of mental health problems in the industry and how to create workplace cultures to reduce suicide rates.

Who: Patsy Anderson-Dunn

When: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 8

Where: Davis Constructors & Engineers, 6591 A St., Suite 300, Anchorage, AK

How: RSVP to the free event at web.agcak.org/events/Preventing-Suicide-in-the-Construction-Industry-1223/details

More info: www.agcak.org/suicide-prevention-resources.html

“I had told no one about my stepson because of the stigma associated with suicide,” Anderson-Dunn said. “But when Cal Beyer from Lakeside Industries suggested I put on a suicide-prevention seminar, I felt it was a message from God to turn this horrific event into something positive.”

At the time, Beyer had not known of Anderson-Dunn’s loss. He was pushing for CFMA to take a different approach to health culture training by seeing employees as “human capital” that benefited a company most when they were healthy and happy. As the director of risk management at Lakeside Industries Inc., a Washington state-based paving contractor, Beyer was already aware of elevated suicide statistics in the industry. It wasn’t long before Anderson-Dunn was on board, developing materials and presentations to create awareness among her colleagues.

“We need to talk about this issue, and we need to stop the stigma associated with mental illness,” Anderson-Dunn said.

Opening the conversation

On May 8, Anderson-Dunn will speak with AGC of Alaska members about suicide prevention, ways to approach the topic with colleagues and resources available to build further awareness in the construction industry. Her seminar is part of the AGC of Alaska safety committee’s mission to increase awareness of suicide in the industry.

Kirk Waggoner, AGC safety committee co-chair, said this issue became a major focus after AGC of Alaska Events and Communications Coordinator Kimberley Gray returned from meetings with other chapters in the Lower 48. Working closely with the Alaska’s Last Frontier CFMA chapter in Anchorage, AGC of Alaska has published links to existing suicide prevention materials on its website (www.agcak.org/suicide-prevention-resources.html). Bringing Anderson-Dunn to Anchorage to give her presentation is the next step.

“We need to get training so that we can recognize it in the work field,” Waggoner said. “We need to talk about the signs and symptoms so we don’t overlook a situation.”

Waggoner said this topic is personal to him too because he has lost a co-worker to suicide. Mandi Kime, director of safety for AGC of Washington, said it is not unusual for more people to share their experiences once they begin to address the topic.

“It only takes the courage of one person to start the conversation,” Kime said. “Shortly after that, people become more willing to participate in the discussion. Usually, you learn almost everyone in the room knows someone who died from suicide.”

Kime said suicide rates in the construction industry are high in Washington state. In 2018, 125 construction workers died by suicide, compared with only six who died from job accidents during the same timeframe. She said the number of suicides was initially thought to be much lower — around 77. However, the Washington State Department of Health and Social Services worked with the University of Washington to re-evaluate the numbers. Once they did, they identified 48 previously uncounted incidents of suicide.

DANGER

REDUCE ITS HIGH SUICIDE RATE

By Rachael Kvapil

Alaska is among the states that don't break down suicide rates by industry. However, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services stated that overall age-adjusted suicide rates have risen 25.5% since 2009. In 2018, 181 Alaskans — 142 men and 39 women — died of suicide. It's the 10th-leading cause of death in the state, claiming more lives than traffic accidents and more than twice the number of lives lost to homicide. Alaska's 2017 suicide rate was twice the national rate.

Industry influences

Everyone agrees there are reasons the construction industry is at risk. Kime pointed out that overall, middle-aged men are most affected — the same demographic that makes up most of the construction industry. This is coupled with the fact that some construction workers are quick to carry a "tough guy" persona who "doesn't talk about their feelings" because of the stigma associated with depression, mental illness and suicide.

Waggoner said work schedules are not always stable in the industry. Jobs are usually seasonal, sometimes requiring long hours in remote areas away from friends and family, followed by little to no work during the off-season. Without planning, he said, this can be stressful financially and psychologically.

Anderson-Dunn said injuries, either on or off the job, can lead to self-medication through drugs or alcohol, which can further create a downward spiral.

Diana Morlan Wessels, treasurer of Alaska's Last Frontier CFMA chapter and assistant vice president of First National Bank Alaska, can see another perspective that can also lead to problems: the overwhelming guilt felt by a person who caused or contributed to a work-site accident that led to a co-worker's injury or death.

"I can't say that it's a top reason," Wessels said, "but my whole family has worked in the construction industry, including myself, and I've heard the stories. When it comes to

WHY DOES CONSTRUCTION HAVE SUCH A HIGH SUICIDE RATE?

Industry leaders point to several key work factors that contribute to a high suicide rate. Overall, the highest rate of suicide is among middle-aged white men, the primary demographic that makes up the construction workforce. The Construction Financial Management Association, or CFMA, website lists these additional reasons suicide is so high in the construction industry:

- Stoic, "old-school" and "tough-guy" culture.
- Fearlessness and "thrill-seeking."
- Promotion to supervision without leadership training.
- Family separation and isolation with travel.
- Sleep disruption/deprivation due to shift work.
- Seasonal layoffs and end-of-project furloughs.
- Tolerant culture of alcohol and substance use.



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accidents, people feel like it's their fault, and sometimes it's hard to get through it, continue working and know that eventually it's going to be OK."

Wessels said it is vital for AGC and CFMA members to attend Anderson-Dunn's presentation in May, particularly company owners, top leadership, project managers and superintendents. Anderson-Dunn said it may be an uncomfortable issue for some attendees but talking about suicide is the only way to work towards a lasting solution.

"We just need to start the conversation," Anderson-Dunn said. "Let's stomp out the stigma. A healthy mind is a healthy body." 📖

Rachael Kvapil is a freelance writer who lives near Fairbanks.



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ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW AT RISK?

Many factors contribute to suicide, but it is a myth that addressing the issue directly will put the idea in someone's head. The most important step is recognizing the warning signs — in person and on social media — so friends or coworkers can better determine if someone is at risk. The following warning signs are from the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention (CIASP):

Have you or someone you know exhibited one or more warning signs?

- Feeling sad or depressed most of the time.
- Talking about feeling trapped or wanting to die.
- Extreme mood swings.
- Increased use of alcohol or drugs.
- Decreased self-confidence.
- Feeling hopeless and helpless.
- Sleeping too much or too little.
- Feeling anxious, agitated or reckless.
- Withdrawing from family and friends.
- Talking about being a burden to others.

Warning signs specific to construction workers include:

- Decreased productivity.
- Increased conflict among co-workers.
- Near hits, incidents and injuries.
- Decreased problem-solving ability.
- Increased tardiness and absenteeism.



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CONTRACTORS AND CAMO HOCKEY TOURNAMENT BREAKS FUNDRAISING RECORD IN THE THIRD YEAR

The competition was hot on Jan. 4, as 84 hockey players hit the ice to compete in the third annual Contractors and Camo hockey tournament at the O'Malley Ice Center in Anchorage.

The three-on-three tournament included a skills competition to ramp up the action. Players competed for the titles of fastest skater, hardest shot and best accuracy.

The tournament is a fundraiser for Alaska Warriors Hockey, a team comprised of U.S. military veterans, either injured or disabled, with the goal of providing support, connection and camaraderie for each other on

and off the ice. It's a program of Challenge Alaska, a 501(3) nonprofit providing sports and recreation opportunities to Alaskans with disabilities since 1980. This year, the event broke fund-raising records, bringing in \$7,500 for the Alaska Warriors hockey team. The team plays locally in Anchorage and Eagle River and sends a team to the National Disabled Hockey Festival each year. This year the festival was set to be held March 26 to April 5 in Pittsburgh.

The local tournament is always exciting, and it's for a great cause. Brandon Harker, a therapeutic recreation coordinator for Chal-



More than 80 hockey players participated in the Contractors and Camo hockey tournament; 54 were contractors and 30 were Alaska Warriors team members.

PHOTO COURTESY CHALLENGE ALASKA



PHOTO COURTESY CHALLENGE ALASKA

The winning team: Sandy Imlach, Hailey Imlach, Logan Imlach, Rob Berube, Kirk Kullberg, Braden Imperato, Kris Wistoff and Jennifer Wistoff.

allenge Alaska, said giving veterans a place where they can let off steam and find camaraderie is important. Disabled veterans face numerous challenges in rejoining civilian life, and isolation is a significant challenge, especially for Alaska veterans.

The data is alarming: Each day, between 20 and 22 veterans nationwide kill themselves. But being connected to a community can help.

“They connect with other veterans. There’s a common language; they went through some of the same things and share similar experiences,” Harker said. Being part of Alaska Warriors means having a space for connections — even for those who have never played hockey before.

“We get on the ice and play hockey, but really, the healing part is the locker-room banter and being around each other,” Harker

said. “That’s the beautiful thing about recreation therapy: You’re participating in recreation, but it has all the therapeutic benefits that come with it too.”

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Team members forge friendships, he said, and end up going fishing or hunting together. And if someone misses a couple of practices, other members of the team take notice and check in.

“Knowing there are people who care or will reach out goes a long way. Especially up here; there are so many people who aren’t from here or don’t have family, and then it’s even more important. 🧢

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PHOTO COURTESY CHALLENGE ALASKA

Tyler Sewell and Nathaniel Gosteli were the “hardest shot” winners.



PHOTO COURTESY CHALLENGE ALASKA

Dax Lauwers and Kirk Kullberg won the “Most Accurate Shooter” title.

iv) The injury or illness is solely the result of an employee eating, drinking, or preparing food or drink for personal consumption (whether bought on the employer’s premises or brought in). For example, if the employee is injured by choking on a sandwich while in the employer’s establishment, the case would not be considered work-related.

Note: If the employee is made ill by ingesting food contaminated by workplace contaminants (such as lead), or gets food poisoning from food supplied by the employer, the case would be considered work-related.

v) The injury or illness is solely the result of an employee doing personal tasks (unrelated to their employment) at the establishment outside of the employee’s assigned working hours.

vi) The injury or illness is solely the result of personal grooming, self-medication for a non-work-related condition, or is intentionally self-inflicted.

vii) The injury or illness is caused by a motor vehicle accident and occurs on a company parking lot or company access road while the employee is commuting to or from work.

viii) The illness is the common cold or flu (Note: contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, brucellosis, hepatitis A, or plague are considered work-related if the employee is infected at work).

ix) The illness is a mental illness. Mental illness will not be considered work-related unless the employee voluntarily provides the employer with an opinion from a physician or other licensed health care professional with appropriate training and experience (psychiatrist, psychologist, psychiatric nurse practitioner, etc.) stating that the employee has a mental illness that is work-related.

How do I handle a case if it is not obvious whether the precipitating event or exposure occurred in the work environment or occurred away from work?

In these situations, you must evaluate the employee’s work duties and environment to decide whether or not one or more events or



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exposures in the work environment either caused or contributed to the resulting condition or significantly aggravated a pre-existing condition.

How do I decide whether an injury or illness is work-related if the employee is on travel status at the time the injury or illness occurs? Injuries and illnesses that occur while an employee is on travel status are work-related if, at the time of the injury or illness, the employee was engaged in work activities “in the interest of the employer.”

Examples of such activities include travel to and from customer contacts, conducting job tasks, and entertaining or being entertained to transact, discuss, or promote business (work-related entertainment includes only entertainment activities being engaged in at the direction of the employer).

What is a “significant” diagnosed injury or illness that is recordable under the general criteria even if it does not result in death, days away from work, restricted work or job transfer, medical treatment beyond first aid, or loss of consciousness? Work-related cases involving cancer, chronic irreversible disease, a fractured or cracked bone, or a punctured eardrum must always be recorded under the general criteria at the time of diagnosis by a physician or other licensed health care professional.

What is the definition of medical treatment? “Medical treatment” means the management and care of a patient to combat disease or disorder. For the purposes of Part 1904, medical treatment does not include:

- 1904.7(b)(5)(i)(A) — Visits to a physician or other licensed health care professional solely for observation or counseling;
- 1904.7(b)(5)(i)(B) — The conduct of diagnostic procedures, such as X-rays and blood tests, including the administration of prescription medications used solely for diagnostic purposes (e.g., eye drops to dilate pupils); or
- 1904.7(b)(5)(i)(C) — “First aid” as defined in paragraph (b)(5)(ii). [NOTE: the definitions provided by OSHA for first aid are not applicable to the treatment of COVID-19.]

Reporting Hospitalizations or Fatalities related to Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 to OSHA

OSHA requires employers to report any worker fatality within eight hours and any amputation, loss of an eye, or hospitalization of a worker within twenty-four hours. If an employee has a confirmed case of COVID-19 that is considered work-related, an employer would need to report the case to OSHA if it results in a fatality or in-patient hospitalization of one or more employees.

What if the fatality, in-patient hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye does not occur during or right after the work-related incident?

If a fatality occurs within 30 days of the work-related incident, or if an in-patient hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye occurs within 24 hours of the work-related incident, then you must report the event to OSHA.

For more information, visit OSHA’s Injury and Illness Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements page at www.osha.gov/record-keeping.



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RECOGNIZING A LEAK
 If you are near one of the pipelines during an emergency, you may detect an oil or natural gas leak by:

SMELL: Crude oil may have an odor similar to fuel oil or gasoline. Natural gas leaks may be detected by a pungent, rotten egg or sulfur odor.

SIGHT: A pool of dark liquid or discolored vegetation near the pipeline may indicate a crude oil leak. A dense white cloud or fog and flames may indicate a natural gas leak.

SOUND: An unusual noise, hissing or roaring sound may be a sign of a leak.

IF A LEAK OCCURS

- Do not approach the spill, leak or vapor cloud.
- Leave the area immediately.
- Do not touch leaking liquids or breathe leaking gasses.
- Do not create sparks, light matches, start an engine, switch on a light, use a camera flash or cellular telephone. These actions may ignite the leaked or spilled substance.
- Warn others nearby of the possibility of a pipeline release.
- Provide your name, location, description of the leak or possible leak and information on how you can be contacted.

From a safe location, call Alyeska Pipeline Service Company collect at (907) 835-4709. You may also contact 911 or other local emergency response numbers.

EXCAVATING & INSTALLATIONS NEAR THE PIPELINE
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PHOTO COURTESY AGC OF ALASKA

Ben Stevens, Chief of Staff for Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy, presides over a meeting of AGC of Alaska members and state employees during the February AGC Fly-In.



PHOTO COURTESY AGC OF ALASKA

Alaska Sen. Natasha von Imhof of Anchorage speaks to AGC members in February about the capital budget and the Permanent Fund Dividend.

About 20 AGC of Alaska members flew to Juneau to meet with Alaska legislators and state officials Feb. 11 and 12. The team divided into groups and met with more than 30 lawmakers, as well as with Ben Stevens, Gov. Mike Dunleavy's Chief of Staff. The team also discussed regulation changes with Nancy Muñoz, Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The legislative priorities adopted by the AGC Legislative Committee (see Page 52) were a main focus, but the group



Alaska Department of Labor Deputy Commissioner Cathy Muñoz discusses changing labor regulations with AGC members in February. (PHOTO COURTESY AGC OF ALASKA)



From left: Marcus Trivette of Brice Inc., Sarah Lefebvre of Exclusive Paving, Brittany Hartmann of AGC, Rep. John Lincoln of Kotzebue, Tony Johansen of Great Northwest Inc. and Brennan Walsh of STG Inc. (PHOTO COURTESY AGC OF ALASKA)

emphasized the recently released study, “The Economic Benefits of Alaska’s Construction Industry and 2020 Spending Forecast,” prepared by the McDowell Group for AGC of Alaska and the Construction Industry Progress Fund. The report outlines the importance of a strong capital budget and how vital the construction industry is to the state economy, said Alicia Siira, AGC’s executive director. Siira noted that the study showed how important the oil industry is to AGC and to the state, and the group asked legislators to continue their support of the industry, both directly and indirectly through opposition to the “Fair Share” ballot measure, which seeks to raise production taxes on the state’s three largest oil fields. 🧢



PHOTO COURTESY AGC OF ALASKA

From left: Marcus Trivette, Brennan Walsh, Sarah Lefebvre, Rep. Bart LeBon of Fairbanks and Brittany Hartmann.



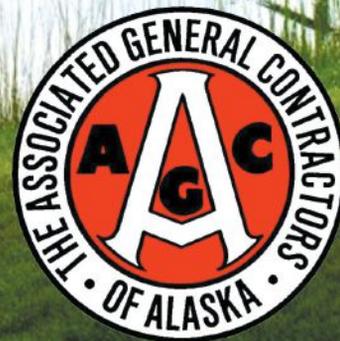
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Sarah Lefebvre and Marcus Trivette meet with Rep. Andi Story of Juneau at her office.

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PATRICK HAUGH

CFP, Managing Director

'Family office' planning can benefit offspring, communities

Although wealth brings many benefits, it also poses multi-generational challenges such as navigating complex financial situations, maintaining harmony within the family and passing along family values. To help deal with those issues, many families have employed family offices or multifamily offices. For family wealth to have lasting benefits, it should be guided by a long-term vision and a sustained, synchronized planning and execution.

To help expand the benefits of their wealth and address its challenges, many families have created family offices. This is a team of experts dedicated to act in the best interests of the families it serves.

Among the first wealth creators to use family offices to manage and sustain that wealth across generations were the Rockefellers and Rothschilds. These families realized that the best way to deploy and build wealth over generations was to retain dedicated, disciplined and objective professionals working harmoniously to achieve each family's hoped-for outcomes. Over several generations, the family offices of the Rockefellers, Rothschilds and others have provided advice and a forum for involvement and discussion among extended family members for the ongoing management of family wealth.

As the creation of private wealth in the United States increases, more people are becoming interested in learning how to emulate the wealth-management strategies of the Rockefellers and the Rothschilds. They want to learn from them and create similar infrastructures, employing financial professionals to work on behalf of family members, fostering partnership, teamwork and positive outcomes.

EVOLUTION OF SINGLE FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY OFFICES

The Rockefellers, Rothschilds and others use single family offices, which are organized to provide coordinated investment advice, risk management, tax and estate planning, philanthropic guidance and administrative services for the members of one family. These family offices also help to foster a sense of family community across both distance and time. The sophisticated services provided to these families are extremely beneficial, but they require a large commitment of financial and management resources to keep them running. According to Family Office Exchange, the threshold for considering a single-family office is \$100 million or more in assets.

Over time as more families have sought to reap the benefits of family-oriented wealth management without having to set up their own single-family offices, multifamily offices evolved to serve them. In a multifamily office, costs are spread out but each participating family still receives expert, individualized advice. The multifamily office organization also creates community and gives families an opportunity to network and learn from one another.

Ideally, multifamily offices perform under fiduciary standards, acting only in the best interest of the client, offering unbiased advice. Families should be diligent when choosing a firm to work with, by checking whether the advice they receive will be strictly objective rather than biased by a motivation to sell particular financial products or services.

BENEFITS

People who have generated wealth find that it comes with many complexities that demand significant time and energy to manage well. Accordingly, many of these people want a team of fiduciary advisors to help ensure that all aspects of their financial lives work together for positive outcomes, now and in generations to come. While they want integrated, consultative service, customized solutions and responsive support, they also want:

- 1) Clarity amid the complexities of their lives.
- 2) Peace of mind that their lifestyle is being well managed.
- 3) Time to pursue what is most important to them.

- 4) A team to help them pass along not only the wealth but also important family values.

History has shown that generational wealth is difficult to maintain. The challenges of inherited wealth and the need for wise stewardship for generations to come should be a priority for investor and advisor alike. Families that succeed in this regard commit to come together and collaborate within and across generations. A well-chosen multifamily office can help them conduct this collaborative process.

SERVICES

Family offices typically offer six major areas of service, but the additional key benefit is that these advisors integrate these services in a tailored way for each family they serve. This tailoring stands in contrast to financial service products that are sold to a family or individual without consideration of their other financial matters.

The primary areas of service are: Strategic wealth and cash flow planning, investment management, tax advisory, risk management and estate planning. Other elements such as

lifestyle services may also be coordinated on behalf of clients.

Strategic wealth and cash-flow planning: A family's long-term goals form the framework for decision-making. Formulating the goals is a critical foundational step in the wealth-management process. Each family member can reflect on what is important, and then all members can discuss and refine the goals together. It is important for the family to establish a clear purpose for their wealth and manage it with a long-term strategy. Determining those goals, confirming the current status of financial holdings and developing the investment management plan also allows for cash-flow planning. This helps family members understand whether their spending is within the "guardrails" established by their long-term plan.

Investment management: Family offices vary in the way the investment team is organized. In some cases, all investment professionals may be hired internally. However, many family offices have specialist teams that search throughout the world for investment managers for specific asset classes and



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strategies. They then integrate these strategies into comprehensive portfolios specifically designed for the family. For the good of their clients, these offices negotiate terms with financial institutions, investment managers and other service providers. They also reconcile each transaction via financial statements and perform numerous quality-control checks. Multifamily offices are generally organized as specialist teams and structured as Registered Investment Advisors, or RIA, with

investment management teams built to focus on the needs of their clients, creating solutions tailored specifically for them.

Tax advisory: This category includes a focus on ensuring timely and accurate tax reporting, mitigating tax obligations, and developing strategies to help with income taxes, capital gains taxes, estate taxes and the tax efficiency of portfolios. It is important to coordinate the tax management with the overall investment strategy.

Risk management: After assets are accumulated, it is critical to protect them from unjust lawsuits, creditors, litigants and other financial predators. Unfortunately, when people become wealthy, they also become targets. Families must be adequately protected from losses that may result from accidents, errors in judgment, predatory activity and opportunistic lawsuits.

Estate planning: When wealth is generated and likely to be passed along, thoughtful planning is important. Planning how to pass along wealth to others may seem daunting, but such planning helps others and brings peace of mind in knowing that the wealth is passed along according to one's wishes. Succession planning for a closely held business is also important when a great deal of wealth is tied up in the business. If the business owner ever becomes unable to run the business, without a clear transition plan in place, the people who pick up the pieces face great stress and confusion.

Administrative services and consolidated reporting: Family offices provide consolidated reporting and administration of all these services. This simplifies complexity, provides context for decision-making and clearly shows in one place the financial information that is most important to individuals and their families.

Wealth is hard-earned. Properly planned for and managed, a life's work can make a lasting positive impact on family, community and the greater world. Few will ever have the resources of the Rockefellers to manage money, but most desire wise, coordinated, and personalized financial counsel that will help ensure the long-term benefits of a lifestyle earned through years of hard work. 📖

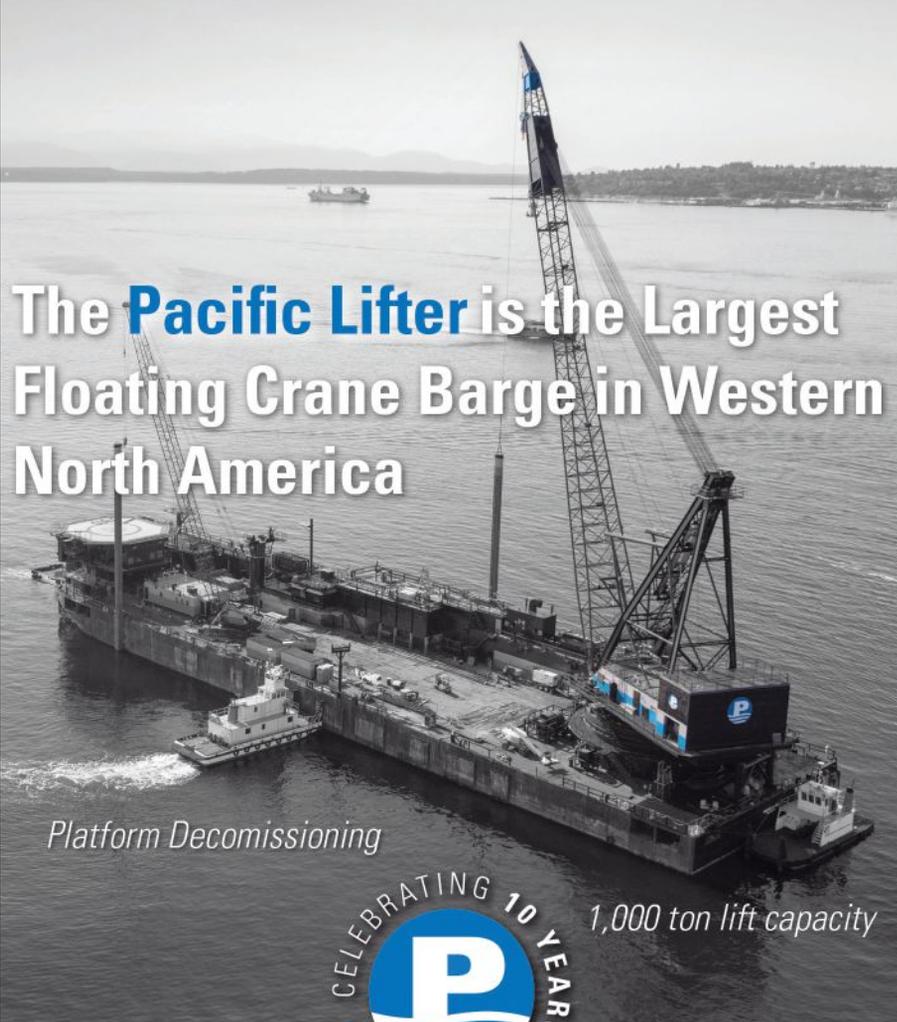
Pat Haugh has been serving families in Alaska for more than 15 years, providing family office services to clients across Alaska. He is managing director of Cornerstone Advisors Inc. The information contained in this article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer or solicitation for any specific investment. Moreover, the information provided is not intended to be, and should not be construed as investment, legal or tax advice. Before investing, investors should consider whether the investment is suitable for themselves and their portfolio.

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STANTEC CONSULTING

By NANCY ERICKSON

MEMBER PROFILE

Multidiscipline firm puts people first to deliver local community projects

There's much more to Stantec Consulting than meets the eye.

While the global consulting firm employs more than 22,000 employees working in more than 400 sites across six continents, it takes its three Alaska locations very seriously.

"Our priority is putting people first," said Lydia Griffey, Stantec senior principal in Anchorage. "While there are myriad different services and different markets that we're in — no matter what market, what geographic location or what type of project it is — the key piece being we're working with people, we're working on projects that impact people and the way we get it done is with people."

Stantec has had a presence in Alaska for more than 45 years, with offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Wasilla. The company's multi-disciplined professionals bring building, energy and resource, environmental, water and infrastructure projects to life.

GETTING PROJECTS DONE

Southcentral Alaska's 2018 magnitude 7.1 earthquake left not only aftershocks in its wake — it produced a hefty trail of construction projects.

Stantec consultants designed emergency repair projects in fall 2019 on the Seward Highway and Tudor Road, Eagle River



Stantec Consulting played a key role in installing the North Pole Water Expansion project, which includes more than 34 miles of high-density polyethylene pipe. The project was completed in September 2019, three months ahead of schedule.

PHOTO COURTESY STANTEC CONSULTING

Road and Eagle River Loop Road. Engineers are currently designing permanent repair projects for many sites in Anchorage as well as the Mirror Lake interchange and Hiland Road, Griffey said.

The company also played a key role in installing a major water system expansion for North Pole residents with contaminated water wells.

The chemical compound sulfolane was discovered in 2009 in monitoring wells near the now-shuttered North Pole Refinery. Sulfolane was subsequently found in groundwater as far as 4 miles away, affecting drinking water for at least 656 occupied properties, said William Butler, director of North Pole City Services. Expanding the City of North Pole's public water system and making it available to those affected with contaminated water wells was part of the solution.

The project included laying about 35 miles of water main, expanding a water treatment plant, updating one booster pump station and adding a second, and installing a 750-gallon, above-ground water tank.



PHOTO COURTESY STANTEC CONSULTING

Stantec Consulting designed a water expansion project for the community of North Pole, providing safe drinking water to more than 650 properties in the surrounding area. The project also extended fire protection within the City of North Pole.

Stantec completed the design of the project in just eight months. General contractor Exclusive Paving began construction in March 2018 and completed ahead of schedule in September 2019. Final cost is \$77.6 million, which includes design, construction, water services connections and other work — nearly \$15 million under original estimate.

“Stantec Consulting has been a reliable contractor for the City (of North Pole),” Butler said.

Stantec has provided engineering and inspection services for utility and public works projects within the city and is working to extend the outfall from the city's wastewater treatment plant to a new location on the Tanana River, Butler added.

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A heavily reinforced 42-inch concrete slab supports a new 70-foot-diameter water reservoir as part of the City of North Pole's expanded public water system. The design is to accommodate expected settlement of permafrost sands.

On the opposite side of the state, Stantec is working with Cornerstone General Contractors on the new Homer Public Safety Building. "One of the things in the design was taking into account all the beautiful views in Homer and making sure we were able to capture those for the folks working at the police station," Griffey said.

Construction of the 12,840-square-foot structure began in May 2019 and is scheduled to be completed this July. In addition to housing the police station, the building will have the Emergency Operations Center and a detention facility built to serve the City of Homer for the foreseeable future.

"Working with Stantec is truly a team experience with clear and practical communications and a genuine desire to get it right," said Pat McNary, City of Homer's project manager for the new public safety building.

"The trades demand a cut-to-the-chase, get-it-done-right attitude from design to occupancy. So far, Stantec has delivered that," McNary added.

EFFORTS HAVEN'T GONE UNNOTICED

The consulting firm was recently recognized as a Top 100 Worldwide Global Sustainability Corporation and a Top 50 Gender-Equality workplace, Griffey said.

"That's no easy task," Griffey said of the global sustainability recognition. "As the world is changing, I think that's super important."

As a woman in the industry, Griffey was especially excited about ranking with other gender-equality workplaces.



PHOTO COURTESY STANTEC CONSULTING

Architect Carel Nagata of Stantec and Pat McNary, City of Homer project manager, view ongoing construction of the new Homer Public Safety Building scheduled for completion in July.



PHOTO COURTESY STANTEC CONSULTING

One aspect of the new Homer Public Safety Building is fantastic views visible from office windows.

"I can't emphasize enough how much I value working for a company that puts that first," she said.

WORKFORCE SEARCH

Stantec faces many of the same challenges currently facing other companies in Alaska.

"People are our greatest asset," Griffey said. "Our biggest challenge is making sure we can find them."

But finding that available workforce isn't always easy. One of the unique qualities of Stantec is that it can bring experts in from all over the world as needed, Griffey added.

"But we feel very strongly about employing people in Alaska and keeping the work in Alaska," she said. "We weather the ups and downs of the economy. We've seen this before, and we'll see it again. We're not alone in that."

Stantec has been a member of the Associated General Contractors of Alaska since 2002. 

Nancy Erickson is a freelance writer living in Moose Pass.



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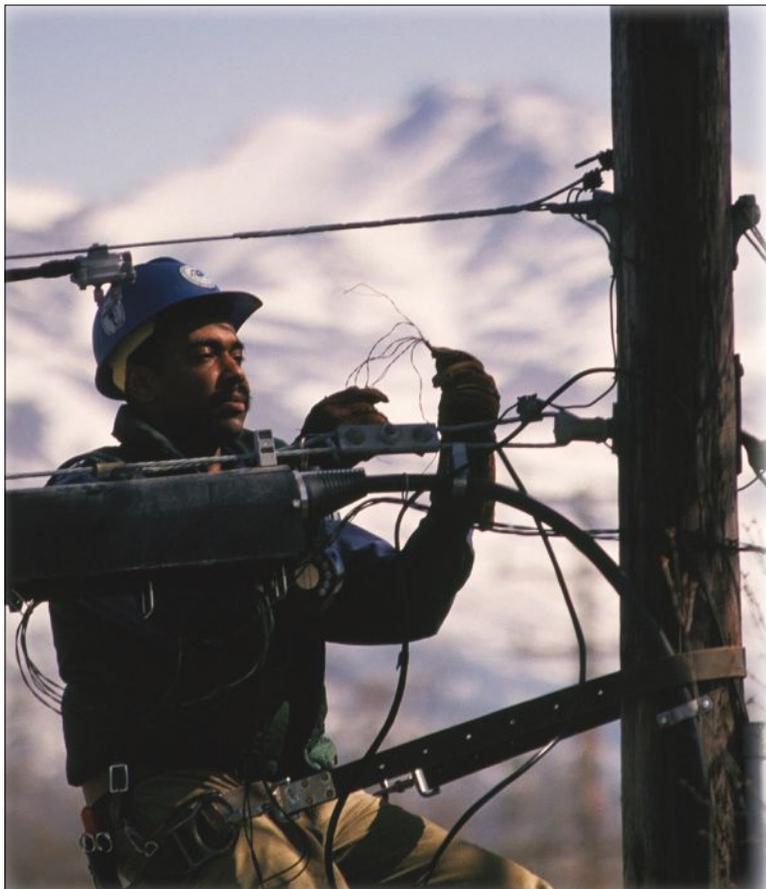
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Project Update

'It's already promising'



KPB Architects designed and Cornerstone General Contractors built the 50-unit Elizabeth Place at the corner of Seventh Avenue and I Street in downtown Anchorage.

© KEN GRAHAM PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY COOK INLET HOUSING AUTHORITY

By TRACY KALYTIK

Long ago, a Tlingit woman and her cannery-worker husband moved from Klawock to Juneau and found a chilly reception when they tried to buy a home. Signs told them they weren't welcome in buildings, and their children weren't allowed in schools their parents' taxes helped pay for.

Nearly 80 years later, in Anchorage, stands a \$10.4 million structure that that Alaska Native woman — pioneering civil rights icon Elizabeth Peratrovich — would have been proud to see: a building that welcomes diverse people of all ages, all incomes and all abilities to live in the heart of Alaska's largest city.

Her namesake building, Elizabeth Place, began rising in mid-2018, the fruit of a public-private collaboration among Cook Inlet Housing, the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska Housing Finance Corp., KeyBank, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, R4 Capital, Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, the Rasmuson Foundation and The CIRI Foundation.

CREATING AN AFFORDABLE NEIGHBORHOOD DOWNTOWN

The Municipality of Anchorage sparked the project when it sent out a request for proposals encouraging creative ideas for three muni-owned lots at Seventh Avenue and I Street that would support the Anchorage Downtown Comprehensive Plan, which advocated for creating housing and mixed-use development downtown. Cook Inlet Housing Authority, or CIHA, won the bidding process to transform this former surface parking lot into a mixed-use, mixed-income development named Elizabeth Place.

"This is CIHA's first downtown development," said Sezy Gerow-Hanson, CIHA's director of public and resident relations.

Elizabeth Place offers a total of 2,680 square feet of prime retail space in the same four-story structure as 50 units of new rental housing. Thirty-eight of the units are affordable housing for residents with low and modest household incomes, and 12 units are available for residents without income restriction. There are 16 studio apartments, 30 one-bedroom apartments and four two-bedroom apartments.

"Elizabeth Place offers residents access to downtown jobs, downtown retailers and services, and quick connection to Anchorage's coastal trail and its downtown Park Strip," Gerow-Hanson said.



© PEARL GRACE PANTALONE/CORNERSTONE GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Construction of Elizabeth Place took about 14 months to complete in 2018 and 2019.

Elizabeth Place housing brings vibrant possibility to downtown Anchorage

The building uses a roof-mounted photovoltaic system to supplement electricity needs for common area operations. On-site parking, Americans With Disabilities Act accessibility, additional tenant storage space, in-unit washers and dryers, a small on-site courtyard, on-site manager and secure residential entry are other features residents will enjoy.

"The response to Elizabeth Place has been overwhelming," Gerow-Hanson said. "CIHA has received 195 applications for the 50-unit property, which opened Nov. 1. In just three months, over half of the apartments are occupied, and 40 percent of the applicants have been aged 55 and older. These residents shared that they wanted to be closer to downtown activities like Fur Rondy and Fourth of July on the (Delaney) Park Strip."

Rents for the apartments range from \$735 to \$1,425 per month.

KPB Architects designed Elizabeth Place, and Cornerstone General Contractor built it.

'WE'LL SEE MORE OF THESE BUILDINGS GOING UP'

Jonathan Hornak, Cornerstone's senior project manager, said Elizabeth Place was an exciting project for him.

"Personally, this was the first job I've been in charge of downtown, the first (building)



© CHRIS AREND PHOTOGRAPHY

Elizabeth Place features 50 apartments, including studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units and a common area on each of the residential floors.

Project: Elizabeth Place

Client: Cook Inlet Housing Authority

General Contractor: Cornerstone General Contractors

Primary Subcontractors (AGC members):

Alaska Professional Construction Inc.

EP Roofing Inc.

Commercial Contractors Inc.

Otis Elevator Co.

Sage Mechanical LLC

McKenna Brothers Paving Inc.

downtown built from scratch," said Hornak, who worked on his first CIHA project, Eklutna Estates, in 2008.

"Elizabeth Place was a whole new ballgame for me. When we demo'd it, it was a massage parlor in a 1960s building that once had a law office and a Kaladi's," he said. "I learned a lot about very tight sites, material laydown, materials delivery. We didn't have much of a laydown space and basically had to only deliver what we'd be using in the next week."

Cornerstone won the project in 2017 and, after several "iterations of design" to devise the final design, broke ground the day after Labor Day 2018. Foundation and framing work happened through the winter.

"KPB did a great job designing an attractive structure and worked with us on a lot of the finishes as far as the types of materials we used," Hornak said. "We were bringing a lot of different options to the table for the owners to get the look they wanted for a lower price. All had washers, dryers, kitchenettes in studios. The rest was straightforward construction, making sure everyone was on the same page."

But there was one 7.1 hiccup during construction — the morning of Nov. 30, 2018.

"We had started the framing of the first floor, and I was sitting in the trailer when the earth-



© PEARL GRACE PANTALEONE / CORNERSTONE GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Elizabeth Place, a mixed-income, mixed-use structure, is designed to house retail and residential space, with apartments available for both market-rate and affordable housing tenants.

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quake hit," Hornak said. "I thought the dirtwork guys were using the (construction) vibrator, so I stood up to see what was going on because they weren't supposed to be near the office trailer.

"There was a pretty hard jolt. We did our head counts, emergency stuff, looking around watching lights flicker and flash and the buildings sway. I told everyone to lock up and go home; we weren't far enough along to affect the project at all. Everything was fine."

Cornerstone finished its work Oct. 31, 2019, and people began moving in a couple of weeks later.



© CHRIS AREND PHOTOGRAPHY

Proponents of the Elizabeth Place mixed-use development hope it will draw more people interested in living close to the downtown job center, shopping, events and restaurants in Anchorage.

About three-quarters of the income-qualified units are subsidized; the rest are market rate, Hornak said. Each floor has a community room, the shared space slated for different activities: a reading room with bookshelves on one floor, an exercise room on another and a meeting space/classroom on another.

"When I worked on Eklutna Estates in 2009, East Anchorage was less lively," Hornak said. "Now with all the CIHA developments, there are more people in the area, which brought more commercial space. It definitely helped the area grow. Go over there now, it's busy all the time. It didn't feel that way in '09."

Hornak said Elizabeth Place can be a template now that people see that mixed-development, mixed-income housing can be done downtown.

"We'll see more of those buildings going up, downtown growing, with people living there, working there," he said. "Sounds like CIHA has a ton of applicants for the building. It's already promising." 

Tracy Kalytiak is a freelance writer from Palmer.

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THE RESTORATION

Alaska enthusiasts, companies help bring back

By Rachael Kvapil

Locomotive 557 was one of the last steam engines in its class to run on the Alaska Railroad and could become the only one in North America to return to full functionality, thanks to the hard work of the Engine 557 Restoration Company.

This Alaska nonprofit is in its eighth year raising funds, coordinating volunteers and identifying businesses that can provide the materials and tools to manufacture and repair extremely rare components.

With more than 100,000 hours invested in the restoration, the organization estimates it will be ready to complete a steam test this year.

Patrick Durand, president of the Engine 557 Restoration Company, said the success so far is due to a core group of volunteers and donors.

"I'm pretty much the chief cheerleader," Durand said. "We've had a number of people who have worked on this project from the beginning."

WORLD WAR II ROOTS

Baldwin Locomotive Works built 2,120 S160 class 2-8-0 Consolidation locomotives for the United States Army Transportation Corp, or USATC, between 1942 and 1945 — the largest single class of locomotives ever built in the United States. In December 1944, a dozen of the engines was shipped to Alaska Territory.

Upon arrival, Locomotive 557 was modified for far-north service with larger compound air compressors, steam coils to heat the cab and specially built seasonal snowplows.

But the steam era was reaching an end, with more-efficient diesel engines taking over the rails. Engine 557 was converted to oil in 1954 and sent to Whittier in 1957 for a Whittier-Anchorage run. It retired in 1960 but returned to service in 1962, when the Tanana River

flooded at Nenana and 557 was sent north to shuttle trains through the high water.

Diesel traction motors weren't yet made to handle high water. But a steam engine could easily run through water while a diesel engine waited on high ground at the other end of the flood.

In 1964, Locomotive 557 was sold for scrap to Michelson Steel & Supply Inc. of Everett, Washington. Monte Holm of Moses Lake, Washington, bought it and used it for occasional appearances in his community. The engine was mothballed when liability insurance became too expensive to run it.

In 2011, Locomotive 557 returned to Alaska. The Jansen Family — associated with Lynden Inc. — bought the steam engine after Holm's death, with plans to donate the engine back to the Alaska Railroad Corp.

That's when Durand got involved. Because the Alaska Railroad didn't have the money



Patrick Durand, president of the Engine 557 Restoration Company, says the volunteers for this project all have the common interest in seeing a job done right. For many volunteers the camaraderie is key to restoring Locomotive 557. (PHOTO COURTESY PAUL DALLESKA)

OF LOCOMOTIVE 557

bringing historic steam engine back to life



A large portion of the restoration to Locomotive 557 has been completed over an eight-year span. As of December 2019, volunteers continue to work on the boiler while they wait for driving boxes and bearings to return from the Lower 48. (PHOTO COURTESY PAUL DALLESKA)

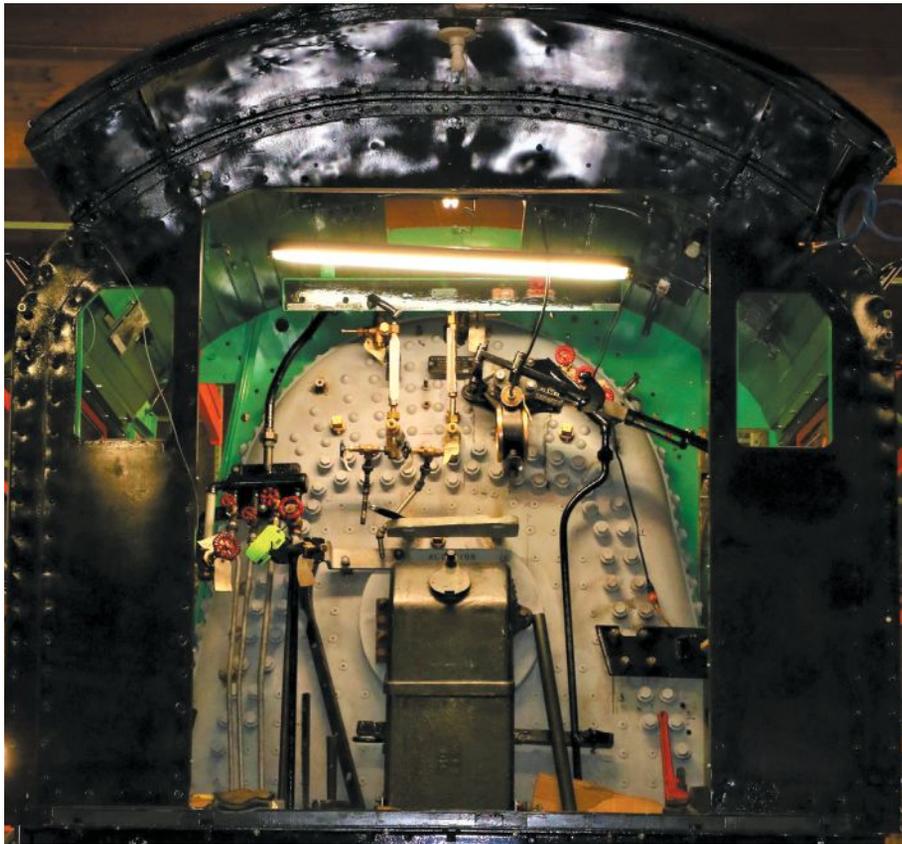


PHOTO COURTESY/ PAUL DALESKA

Restoration of the cab is near completion. Volunteers recently reassembled the firebox and parts of the boiler from a number of specially machined parts.

or experience to handle a full restoration, Durand (with agreement from the Alaska Railroad) formed a nonprofit organization and began restoration on Aug. 18, 2012.

“You know the saying: ‘The only difference between men and boys is the price of their toys,’” he said with a laugh.

It has taken significant financial investment to get things rolling. Durand said the group received \$350,000 in matching grants from Rasmuson Foundation early on that it was able to pair with other donations in 18 months. The group has collected many additional grants and private donations and approximately \$535,000 in in-kind contributions. The funding has made it possible to restore the tender that accompanies the steam engine, strip the locomotive to its frame, replace the firebox and get to the point of reassembling the boiler. The group recently shipped out the driving boxes and bearings to be worked on by a company in the Lower 48.

“After 75 years, there’s a lot of hidden wear and tear that you don’t discover until you pull the thing apart and start putting it back together again,” Durand said.

Lynn Willis, who has volunteered with the group from the start, said it’s been rewarding to bring part of Alaska’s history back to life. He has always been fascinated with trains, he said, and immediately contacted Durand when he heard the 557 was returning to Alaska. And though it’s hard, dirty work at times, he said there is a lot to be gained.

“It’s a rewarding camaraderie, and I look forward to seeing everyone in the group,” Willis said.

TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGES

Despite all the progress, there is a hurdle with a mandate for Positive Train Control, or PTC, by the Federal Railroad Administration. PTC is an advanced system designed to automatically stop trains before accidents occur, specifically accidents such as train-to-train collisions, derailments due to excessive train speed, train movements through misaligned track switches and unauthorized train entry into work zones. The deadline to comply with this mandate is 2020.

This is a potential problem for the restoration of Locomotive 557 because the electrical technology to retrofit a mechanical steam



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Project built on community support

More than 60 companies, organizations and community groups have supported the Engine 557 Restoration Company's efforts. Associated General Contractors of Alaska members have also eagerly jumped in.

Among them are:

- Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
- AIH Alaska Industrial Hardware
- Unique Machine LLC
- Alaska Railroad Corp.
- Central Recycling Services Inc.
- Independent Lift Truck of Alaska Inc.
- Northern Air Cargo
- Roger Hickel Contracting Inc.
- Lynden family of companies
- Spenard Builders Supply
- NRC Alaska LLC
- Motion Flow Control Products
- ENSTAR Natural Gas
- PDC Engineers

engine with PTC doesn't exist. Additionally, PTC is designed to stop the train if the sole operator becomes incapacitated — but a steam engine needs at least two people to operate. Finally, as consultant Paul Dalleska pointed out, a steam engine has limited space that is quite hostile to electronics.

"There are really only a handful of operators like ours that will have to contend with this mandate," Dalleska said, "and we are pursuing it in a number of different ways."

Durand said the Railroad Administration is not currently accepting applications for waivers, which means they can only continue restoration and prepare for PTC compliancy the best they can.

Ultimately, the Engine 557 Restoration Company hopes to offer specialty spring and fall trips, with tickets that include a heritage preservation fee to help fund future maintenance and operation of Locomotive 557. For the latest status update or to donate, visit their website at 557.alaskarails.org. 

Rachael Kvapil is a freelance writer living in Fairbanks.

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Associated General Contractors of Alaska 2020 forecast sees construction spending in Alaska slightly lower at \$6.7 billion

State decline expected as military projects and response to 2018 earthquake wrap up

Excerpts from "2020 Alaska Construction Spending Forecast"

PRESENTED BY THE McDOWELL GROUP AND AGC OF ALASKA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALICIA SIIRA

Dear Alaskans,

The Construction Industry Progress Fund, or CIPF and Associated General Contractors of Alaska, or AGC, are proud to present the Alaska Construction Spending Forecast 2020.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the McDowell Group, which worked diligently with industry and many AGC members who, in turn, contributed valuable data, information and images for this publication. This report was truly a team effort that would not have been possible without the contributions of many members of our vital community. Please accept my sincere appreciation.

As a special feature, we are excited to include a study on the economic impact of the construction industry throughout Alaska. As you will see from the study results, construction spending means more than simply the economic investment for our state. It means meaningful wages for working Alaskans. It means families, education, infrastructure and so much more.

We hope the insights in this report give you a clearer and more accurate picture of the impact of the construction industry in Alaska. As you look through the report, we expect you may have the same response we did when realizing how crucial and vital our industry is for all of us. You might even find yourself saying, just as we did, "Wow — I had no idea just how much the construction industry means to Alaska." We hope you also share in our commitment to make sure this information does not go unheard.

CIPF and AGC welcome your continued involvement in helping us communicate how integral the construction industry is to all industrial, commercial, residential and infrastructure development in Alaska. Its economic reach spans the entire state, from the smallest village to the largest city. Please join us in sharing the information from this 2020 Alaska Construction Spending Forecast.

AGC is a nonprofit, full-service construction association for commercial and industrial contractors, subcontractors and associates. CIPF is organized to advance the interests of the construction industry throughout Alaska through a management and labor partnership.

— J.A. FERGUSSON

CIPF Chairman

FULL REPORT

Read the complete 2020 Alaska Construction Spending Forecast online at <https://bit.ly/2V8WCao>.



OVERVIEW

The construction industry is a critical component of Alaska's economy. It is integral to all industrial, commercial, residential and infrastructure development in the state. Its economic reach spans the entire state, from the smallest communities to the largest cities. Despite its clearly evident and essential role in Alaska's development, the full economic impact of Alaska's construction industry has not been measured recently.

The Construction Industry Progress Fund and Associated General Contractors of Alaska contracted with McDowell Group to forecast construction spending in 2020 and to assess the economic impact of the construction industry in Alaska in 2018.



Cook Inlet Alaska Offshore/Oil and Gas Platform Camp

PHOTO COURTESY BUILDERS CHOICE MODULAR LLC

Economic impacts (also known as “multiplier effects”) happen at three different levels:

- **Direct impacts:** jobs and income resulting from employment with construction companies.
- **Indirect impacts:** jobs and income generated when construction companies purchase goods and services from other Alaska firms.
- **Induced impacts:** jobs and income generated when construction workers spend their income or pay taxes in the Alaska economy.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

- In 2018, Alaska’s construction industry directly employed 23,600 workers who earned a total of \$2.2 billion in labor income.
- Including multiplier effects, statewide construction industry-related employment totaled 41,300 jobs, representing 9% of Alaska’s total employment.
- In total, the construction industry accounted for \$3.3 billion in labor income, 10%



PHOTO COURTESY SWALLING GENERAL CONTRACTORS LLC AND HOOK LLC

Rogers Park School

of all labor income earned in Alaska in 2018.

- Alaska’s construction industry paid an average monthly wage of \$6,585 in 2018, 43% above the economy-wide monthly average of \$4,595.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

- Construction industry employment is on the upswing after declining by 2,000 jobs during the recent recession. The industry added 600 jobs in 2018 and its pace through November of 2019 is

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700 jobs ahead of the same period in 2018.

- Earthquake repair work and military construction in 2019 have been two principal drivers of recent growth in construction industry employment in Alaska.
- Over the long-term, construction employment is responsive to investment conditions in other industries and the economic health of the Alaska economy overall. Still, the construction industry has been a relatively steady source of 23,000 to 24,000 annual jobs over the past decade.

CONSTRUCTION SPENDING FORECAST

A broad spectrum of public and private sector spending feeds the construction industry in Alaska. Spending on construction in Alaska in 2020 is projected to be \$6.7 billion,



PHOTO COURTESY ROGER HICHEL CONTRACTING INC.

Chester Creek-Providence Drive



PHOTO COURTESY NEESER CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Southcentral Foundation



PHOTO COURTESY SWALLING GENERAL CONTRACTORS LLC AND HOOK LLC

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Icy Strait Point Cruise Ship Dock

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down slightly from 2019, including \$4.4 billion in private sector spending (roughly equal to 2019 forecasts) and \$2.3 billion in government spending.

State capital spending has bottomed at the minimum necessary to secure matching federal funds. For example, in State Fiscal Year 2020, Alaska's airports received \$215 million in federal funding assistance, matched by \$17 million from state capital grants. Military construction will trend lower as F-35 squadron-related work at Eielson AFB is wrapped up. Looking ahead, the oil industry is a bright spot, with increased oil-related construction expected over the next several years.

2020 Construction Spending Forecast Summary

Total estimated private and public sector construction spending in 2020 is projected to be \$6.7 billion.

- Private sector construction spending is expected to be roughly equal to the 2019 forecast at approximately \$4.4 billion.
- Government spending will show further decline, to \$2.3 billion.

Preparation for the arrival of F-35 fighter jets at Eielson Airforce Base in Fairbanks has dominated construction in Interior Alaska since 2017; however, that spending will begin to wind down in 2020. Construction of 900 new homes to house the growing military population will sustain construction spending in the area for a while longer.

Oil industry-related construction spending is expected to pick up in 2020, boosted by new developments on the North Slope. Alaska tourism is also experiencing growth. An expected 1.4 million cruise passengers in 2020 will support new tourism-related developments throughout the state.

The 7.1 magnitude earthquake that struck Southcentral Alaska in November 2018 continues to boost construction spending as numbers of commercial buildings, schools, utilities, homes, roads and bridges remain in need repair or reconstruction.

The State of Alaska capital budget remains low relative to historical levels, with General Fund contributions limited to the minimum match needed to secure essential federal funds.

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These and many other benefits of AGC membership can be yours whether you are a general contractor, a specialty contractor or you do related work for the construction industry. Here is what our members say about the reasons to join one of Alaska's leading associations.



Gary Klebs

KLEBS Mechanical Inc.

I believe anyone who is in construction, or is associated with construction, has a responsibility to advocate for the industry — whether it is politics, apprenticeship training, technical training

or educating the population. AGC offers a way for individuals through their member companies to become involved and advance its member-driven agenda. AGC also provides a great way to expand individual knowledge through networking with others during the numerous AGC-sponsored events. Why AGC? ... Maybe it's as simple as this: Being a member will bring a smile to your face.



David Shahnazarian

American Marine International

Our industry is built upon strong relationships between many individuals in a wide array of industries. We are dependent upon one another to successfully complete projects and to continually push ourselves to raise the bar on performance and safety. This is exactly what AGC stands for. AGC provides the necessary tools for our company to be involved with the community and to continue to build upon these valuable relationships within the construction industry. As an AGC member, I receive many beneficial resources such as Online

Plans for finding the next project to bid, weekly training, knowledge on the future of the industry and phenomenal networking opportunities. Our company has been a member of AGC for many years and will be for many to come.

Shawn Trasky

Crouse Environmental Compliance

In Alaska, I often see construction companies putting aside their differences and joining forces with their competitors in order to prevent regulatory overreach. In the same way, I find AGC members also come together to support each other for the greater good of the industry, with one unified voice. As a small business owner,

I depend on the kind of support that an established organization like AGC provides. To have the backing of hundreds of members in the same industry who are willing to advocate for both the big companies as well as the small ones levels the playing field. I am happy to be part of a community that is helping me better myself, my business and my state.



Be a part of Alaska's third largest industry, paying the second highest wages, with more than 21,000 in the workforce.

AGC: 650 members strong



Associated General Contractors of Alaska 2020 Legislative Priorities

By Alicia Siira, AGC Executive Director and
Meg Nordale and Regina Daniels, co-chairs of the AGC Legislative Affairs Committee

TOP PRIORITY: A SUSTAINABLE STATE BUDGET

AGC of Alaska supports the continued focus on a responsible, sustainable and balanced budget, which includes strategies to enhance and diversify Alaska's economy and support and attract infrastructure investments. A sustainable and predictable budget is vital for our industry to properly plan for projects. Without it, we run the risk of project cancellations, delays, reduced payment, layoffs and more.

The construction industry continues to be affected significantly by extreme reductions to the capital budget. In addition, failure to the "percent of market value" approach for balancing public investments, permanent fund dividends and the state budget. AGC also encourages the state to:

- Prioritize funding for a timely capital budget and deferred maintenance program.
- Maximize state match funds for federally funded projects.
- Give priority to infrastructure development; we support prudent revenue generation to accomplish that goal.

PRIORITY: RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

AGC supports responsible resource development strategies to enhance Alaska's private sector by promoting and attracting investment in Alaska's infrastructure and providing economic certainty.

AGC encourages the Alaska Legislature and the administration to streamline Alaska's regulatory and permitting laws and policies to facilitate additional exploration, site development, employment, infrastructure,

research, reclamation and natural resource production in Alaska. This includes:

- Minimizing state regulatory burdens.
- Addressing term limits and timelines on permit review processes.
- Supporting legacy projects, recognizing the state investment thus far and ensuring those investments are not wasted.
- Maximizing AEIDA and other private/public partnership opportunities to promote and support resource development.

PRIORITY: WORKERS' COMPENSATION REFORM

AGC of Alaska supports continued efforts to reform workers' compensation regulations. Alaska's workers' compensation insurance rates rank among the highest in the nation, affecting every Alaska employer and making our state

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less competitive in creating and maintaining jobs.

The recent rate reductions were primarily due to the industry's efforts in reducing workplace injuries and mandating safety as an extremely important part of workplace culture. It's time for government to do its part. We support a series of changes to the Alaska workers' compensation insurance statutes, including:

- Emphasis on return-to-work programs.
- Directed medical care.
- Reform the current vocational rehabilitation program.
- Adopt a medical fee schedule established by the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board.
- Focus on outcome-based treatment options.
- Address opioid abuse and prescription drug abuse.

PRIORITY: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/EDUCATION

AGC supports increasing educational and training opportunities in the science, technology, engineering and

math, or STEM fields, both in schools and in the trades. The state should:

- Prioritize funding for one-stop regional job centers throughout Alaska.
- Continue Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, or WIOA, Youth and STEP grant funding.
- Promote the hire of Alaska residents.
- Support Technical Vocational Education Program, or TVEP, reauthorization and continued funding through unemployment insurance payments, using historical distribution percentages.

Workforce development and investment are vital to a healthy Alaska economy, which benefits all Alaskans. Access to a vital, trained workforce ensures Alaska is ready to capitalize on economics for all regions and sectors in our state. AGC of Alaska supports legislation and opportunities focused on attracting and maintaining a quality workforce for the construction industry in Alaska. Recent reductions in program funding have resulted in fewer educational and training opportunities for Alaska's workforce. 📖

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DESIGN ALASKA

By SAMANTHA DAVENPORT

Full-service firm in Fairbanks dedicated to clients, employees and arts community

For more than 60 years, Design Alaska — the largest full-service architectural and engineering firm in the Interior — has remained committed to its core values: serving its clients, supporting its employees and strengthening the community.

Founded in 1957, the firm has project experience statewide, with more than 50 employees in architectural, civil, electrical, mechanical, structural and surveyal disciplines.

Jeff Putnam, vice president and principal-in-charge of business development and operations, said Design Alaska stays true to its values through action — and the firm follows through, via company picnics and adventures, holiday parties and supporting educational costs for its employees to advance their skillsets.

The company is also a devoted supporter of the arts, which Putnam said was a conscious decision by Design Alaska's leadership about 15 years ago to strengthen the community. The firm continues to support several Fairbanks-based organizations and events, including United Way, public radio, Fairbanks Symphony, Design Alaska Holiday Concert and Wild Arts Walk, and the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival.



PHOTO COURTESY KEN SHAMAM

Design Alaska provided full architecture and engineering design services for the FTW 336B 276-person barracks project at Ft. Wainwright, Alaska. The project earned a LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.



PHOTO COURTESY DESIGN ALASKA

Each year, Design Alaska hosts a company adventure for employees. Past adventures have included zip-lining, glacier cruises and river-rafting.

“Arts are important for the well-being of a community and are sometimes an overlooked area,” Putnam said. “When times get tough, that’s an area where support often gets reduced. (The leadership of Design Alaska) decided that it was so important for the community’s well-being that we were going to make that a focus of our community giving. We continue to remain dedicated to supporting the arts, through thick and thin.”

In particular, Design Alaska has sponsored KUAC — the public radio and television station at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Gretchen Gordon, interim general manager of KUAC, said Design Alaska has been donating to the station for as long as they have donor records.

“The year was 2013, and Design Alaska and GHEMM Company partnered to match gifts during the hour of ‘Alaska Live,’ a live music program produced here at KUAC, featuring music and conversation with local and visiting musicians,” Gordon said. “In a single hour, the two companies encouraged gifts from 174 donors that were matched 1:1 by both companies at \$125 apiece for a total of \$62,485.”

Design Alaska continues to support the station through sustaining donor challenges. Gordon said their support has been recognized through numerous community awards,

including the Business in Arts Award, Family-Friendly Business Award and the Youth-Friendly Award from Spirit of Youth.

“Design Alaska’s giving has encouraged philanthropy in others,” Gordon added. “Their highly visible generosity has shown others the importance of supporting this vital community service. Their unwavering support has allowed KUAC to continue to offer a venue for live music programming that is accessible for anyone with a radio, regardless of their ability to pay.”

Design Alaska is currently working on constructing a school-age services project for Eielson Air Force Base which is part of its F-35 program.

“It replaces an existing building that’s undersized and is missing several programs,” Putnam said. “The purpose of the building is to support military families by providing elementary- and middle school-aged kids somewhere to go after school and prior to the time that their parents come and collect them at the end of their workday.”

Putnam says the project includes numerous amenities, including a gym, classrooms and a large dining area. The building is approximately 20,000 square feet.

Meg Nordale, President of GHEMM Company, who has worked with Design Alaska since their inception, said, “We do a lot of design-build construction projects, which means the contractor hires the designer of their choice to deliver a complete turn-key service to the owner.”

“We very often partner with Design Alaska in relationships like that,” she said. “That kind of construction requires a great level of trust and a deep understanding the culture of each other’s businesses as well as the commitment we make to the customer we’re building for.”

“We’ve always appreciated Design Alaska’s partnership,” Nordale added. “They offer a complete range of engineering services, so they are very user-friendly from that standpoint. They always approach projects very similarly to the way we do, which is a very team approach. They very much have the owner’s best interest at heart, all the time.” 

Samantha Davenport is a freelance writer living in Anchorage.



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Project Update

ROOM TO BREATHE

Project: Phase 2, Valdez Harbor Update
Client: City of Valdez
General Contractor: Pacific Pile and Marine
Primary Subcontractors (AGC members):
PEI LLC
F&W Construction Company

While the Valdez Harbor upgrade began in 2015 and finished in August 2019, Kim Nielson of R&M Consultants said it goes back much further. “I remember working on this project in the early 2000s when the company I was working for was doing work on the initial feasibility study for the corps of engineers.”

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF VALDEZ

By SAMANTHA DAVENPORT

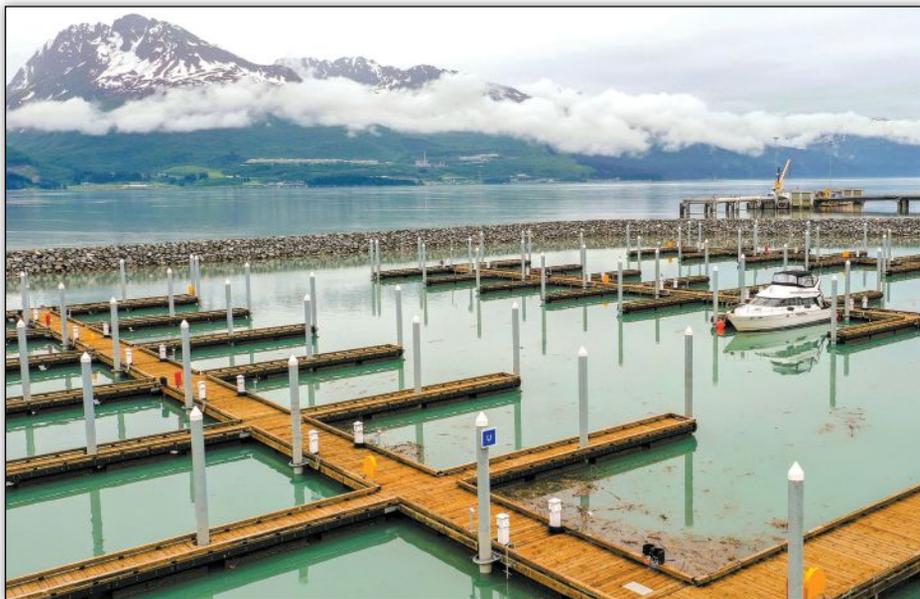
Valdez Harbor got a facelift this past fall, completing a nearly four-year-long project for the little fishing town.

The new harbor, which was unveiled in August 2019, includes docks, a parking lot, drive down float, a new harbor office, restrooms and support services. Jeremy Talbott, Ports and Harbors Director for the City of Valdez, said while the harbor project is closing out, the total money spent was about \$80.6 million — \$2 million under budget.

Kim Nielson of R&M Consultants was the project manager for the harbor design through all phases. She said the old harbor was overcrowded, causing multiple vessels to be double-berthed in locations that were only designed for a single vessel. Talbott added that it was common in the summer to raft 10 seine vessels to one another when the fishing fleet was working in the area.

“The new harbor is designed for larger-sized vessels and includes a drive down float with two cranes — a float that can be accessed via a transfer bridge to allow vessel owners to work on their boats, nets or load/unload easily,” Nielson said in an email.

“We had severe overcrowding in the existing harbor; during the summer salmon season, we were operating at 150% capacity and it was causing a lot of issues and would have delayed efforts in an emergency trying to get people out of the harbor or way,” Talbott added. “We had over 300 vessels on the wait-list; now we are down to around 150 smaller vessels.”



The City of Valdez's new harbor features docks, a parking lot, additional vessel launch ramps and support services.

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF VALDEZ

Valdez Harbor expansion allows for more vessels, less cramping

Nielson said sound models were developed to ensure the protection of marine animals during rock blasting needed to deepen the harbor. Other challenges that her team faced were related to dividing work into phases that the city could manage and coordinating the timing of the work with a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' project that was occurring simultaneously.

"The Corps was doing the work to build the new breakwater and dredge the sediments from the basin, which had to be completed before we could allow the in-water work contractor to start on this project," Nielson said. "For this reason, we started Phase 1 which could occur exclusively in the uplands while the Corps was working offshore."

Although the project broke ground in 2015, Nielson said the need for a new harbor went back much further.

"I think it's important to point out that this is a very significant project for a relatively small community like Valdez, and it would not have happened without years and years of dedication from a few community members," Nielson said. "I remember working on this project in the early 2000s when the company I was working for was doing work on the initial feasibility study for the Corps of Engineers. ... (Former harbor-master) Alan Sorum was instrumental in ensuring the harbor navigation project kept going and eventually got funded by the Corps. Then, many folks who volunteer on the Port and Harbor Commission were dedicated to seeing the project through and finally get it built."

At the time, Nielson said that the City of Valdez was trying to get the Army Corps of Engineers to help fund the new harbor.

Although it was considered a viable project, there were issues with the location of the harbor versus where the Corps wanted it, stalling the project for several years.

While everything is now complete, except some touch-up paint here and there, Nathan Duval, capital facilities director for the City of Valdez, said that parts of the initial proposal were cut due to lack of funds.

"There are a couple of other components that were originally scoped for the project that had to be moved for budget constraints and other items that may end up getting built out in the next coming years, like a fuel dock — there's no fuel dock in the new harbor right now," Duval said. 🧢

Samantha Davenport is a freelance writer living in Anchorage.

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Human Resources Update



SCOTT STENDER

Alaska construction and suicide — what can we do?

The construction industry in Alaska is our third-largest industry, contributing \$3.3 billion in direct and induced income to Alaska's economy in 2018, according to a Jan. 31 Alaska Journal of Commerce article. Simply said, construction is one of Alaska's most important economic engines, and it's an economic engine we should all strive to support.

Our economic future, growth, opportunity and community sense of well-being may depend on our ability to recognize, integrate and welcome construction work as fundamental and essential. But it also means being aware and knowledgeable about our industry suicide rates, common risk factors, prevention skills, and pro-active community engagement strategies that drive a win-win for construction workers, business owners, residents, and our state.

Alaska construction teams and crews may not make suicide prevention part of their company-wide efforts to promote health and wellness, but they should! Our Alaska construction workers tell us it's a tough environment, given the long hours, busy seasons, cold, dark, isolation from family and friends, tough physical demands, financial stress, shifting job pressures and heavy seasonal traffic that slows us all to less than a crawl during the summer. Winter construction in Alaska is even tougher and presents its own set of challenges and dangers, including ice, snow, freezing temperatures, long hours of darkness, low visibility and bad road conditions that seem to work in tandem with dangerous and inappropriate driving actions by our motorists to create a perfect storm of unfair, hostile and life-threatening environments. Our Alaska construction workers must master and conquer this storm hour by hour, every day.

As we have learned from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, the construction industry held the second-highest suicide rate in the nation in 2015. In Alaska, where suicide rates are not broken out by industry, age-adjusted suicide rates are up more than 25 percent since 2009. Unacceptable.

As a strong community, Alaska must address this ongoing crisis in a much-needed industry for the state to survive fiscally. So where do we start? We start within our collective corporate cultures. Talking about suicide is vital. Talking about suicide-prevention strategies is vital to every company's culture. We should be just as concerned about our industry suicide risks as we are with injury prevention and site down-time.

Taboo: It means a social or religious custom prohibiting or forbidding discussion of a particular practice or forbidding association with a particular person, place or thing. A social practice that is prohibited or restricted. We need to forego the "taboo" label and create sustainable groups of seasoned workers that will talk — about their challenges in their workplace, among their teams, with their coworkers and supervisors, in an effort to promote healthy and helpful industry cultures.

We should provide a safe culture where workers feel comfortable enough to show up and listen to their peers. They will quickly notice they are not alone in their feelings and the buddy next to them has the same issues going on. They form a connection, a bond. They now have something more in common than work.

With workers in remote locations, it is most important to have these safe cultures. A workout room, game room or cafeteria where workers are not isolated in their rooms, away from family and

friends, is vital. As an industry we need encouragement from peers to play a game of pool, have a meal together, to share and relax. Inclusion and engagement, not isolation and exclusion, move us forward at no cost.

Providing resources and suicide prevention to groups is important. Companies should request materials from suicide-prevention agencies and post them in the workplace. Start peer groups that can recognize and help those at risk. Our company cultures need to ensure that mental health services are included and to encourage employees to use them. Train supervisors to recognize changes in employees. Train employees to talk.

Why is the construction industry suicide rate so high? Easy: The workforce and the nature of the work. Men of working age account for the bulk of suicides. Construction industries tend to be male-dominated. The nature of the work and work culture is: "tough guy," "thrill-seeking," "isolation from family and friends," "chronic pain," "industry with highest use of prescription opioids" and "access to lethal means" amongst just a list of risk factors. (Construction Executive, July 19, 2016).

Some companies are instituting buddy and group check-ins. Check-ins can often give insight on mental health situations. Connectedness is crucial to people considering suicide. Isolation only increases the risk of suicide. Having strong human bonds can protect people from suicide. Stay together, pay attention and speak up. Remember that 78% of individuals who committed suicide did or said things prior. If in doubt — or in need — contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255 or the Alaska Careline at 877-266-4357.

Let's listen and talk. 📢

Scott Stender brings more than 24 years senior business experience as a Senior Consultant. As an organizational & talent development specialist, Scott's expertise is in leadership, organizational management success, team dynamics, and corporate culture. As a former director of public safety and dean of faculty and curricula development, Scott has developed, reengineered, and trained many people and teams for workforce programs in both public and private settings in Alaska as well as at a national level.

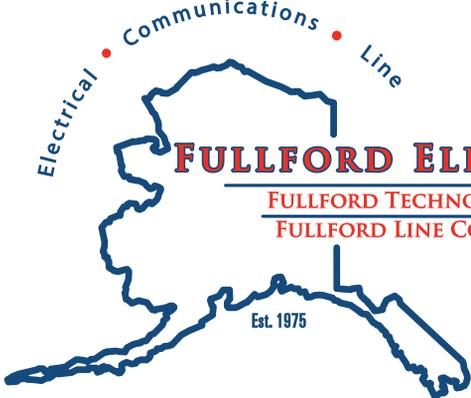
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DIRTWORKS INC.

By RACHAEL KVAPIL

MEMBER PROFILE

Next generation ready to fully take over family excavation business after 30 years

It is said that the sign of a true entrepreneur is someone who can identify opportunity in a sea of turmoil.

In 1987, the Alaska economy was in shambles following a massive oil price crash. Many people were leaving the state, but Scott Johnson saw it as a chance to acquire assets for a cheap price. Twenty months later, Johnson decided it was time to leave his job on the Alaska North Slope and with his wife, Dianne, begin his own excavation and site-development company, Dirtworks. Today the couple co-owns the company with their son, Scottie Johnson, and daughter, Dawn Johnson.

"A couple of pieces of heavy equipment came up for sale," Scott Johnson said. "The economy was barely rebounding, but I purchased them and began working on residential projects in Anchorage."

It wasn't long before Dirtworks expanded, both in size and services. After several years working on a kitchen table and a desk in the basement, the couple found an available lot across the street, Dianne Johnson said. In 2002, they built their new location and moved in a year later. Soon, they were buying additional equipment and adding roadwork and light commercial services to their workload.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE

Scottie Johnson said Dirtworks was already well established and in the residential market when he and sibling Dawn Johnson started working in management positions. From 1989 to 2009, he said, they primarily worked on private septic systems; laid new water lines; repaired water and sewer



PHOTO COURTESY DIRTWORKS

Dirtworks has earned recognition for several of its projects, including AGC's Excellence in Construction Award for the Toklat Utilities Project. Dirtworks built new water, sewer, electrical utilities and aggregate production in spring 2017 despite a tight schedule.

lines; built driveways, subdivision roads and house sites; did concrete demolition; and even tackled some full-building demolition. With the exception of work the company did for the City of Palmer and a few other commercial building site preps, most of the work during that timeframe was in the private sector, he said.

In 2010, Dirtworks began to bid for jobs more aggressively. The company quickly landed quarter million-dollar projects, Scottie Johnson said.

"My sister, Dawn, and a couple key employees were able to complete the jobs efficiently on time," he said. "We worked so well together, I decided that we were capable of doing even larger projects."

That proved true in 2013, when Dirtworks landed a million-dollar project with the City of Wasilla, running more than 5,000 feet of 16-inch ductile iron pipe along Aviation Avenue to bring city water to the Wasilla Airport. It was a challenging job that included two swamp crossings, and much of the work was completed during the cold winter months. However, its success spurred Dirtworks to bid larger and larger contracts, purchase property for a gravel pit and put up a scale house in 2014.

It was during the Aviation Avenue project that Scottie asked his long-time friend, Ben Conroy, to join Dirtworks. Conroy's education in Construction Management along with his field



PHOTO COURTESY DIRTWORKS

Over the years, Dirtworks has taken on larger projects as the company has grown. Currently, it has three active projects on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, including civil site work for two new buildings and ammunition bunkers that were started last fall.

work experience has given Dirtworks the ability to bid multiple projects with more confidence and accuracy.

“Dirtworks has grown a great deal since that million-dollar job in 2013,” Scottie Johnson said, “and we have since completed projects up to \$4.5 million.”

REPUTATION FOR TENACITY

That’s not to say that there haven’t been challenges. Nearly everyone in the construction industry will tell you logistics are extremely difficult in a state the size of Alaska. Scott Johnson said getting materials to a worksite requires a lot of planning, especially in remote areas.

“I remember on a Parks Highway job, we could only mobilize at night,” Scott Johnson said. “We would stay up till 2 or 3 in the morning unloading equipment and supplies. But you just get it done — you have to.”

It’s this kind of tenacity that has resulted in positive reviews from customers and earned them professional awards and recognition. Rachael Ridge, project manager for Orion Construction, said Dirtworks’ dedication and expertise has been vital to the completion of the Talkeetna Waste Water Treatment Plant. For this project, Dirtworks is installing new underground piping between the anaerobic cells and treatment pods so the sewage can be treated more completely before being discharged.

“They are excellent to work with,” Ridge said. “If there is an issue, they will fix it. They will brainstorm a solution, whether they are getting additional payment or not. Their expertise has been critical to the success of this project.”

Mark Mitchell, formerly the project manager for Microcom, said Dirtworks was instrumental in ensuring that the key components moved forward and on time after the Willow and Montana Creek fires delayed the start of a Microcom project in the area by three months. Dirtworks was responsible for leveling 10 acres and filling areas as needed.

“We couldn’t do anything until their part of the project was complete,” Mitchell said. “They were willing to go the extra mile to put our timeline back on track.”

In 2018, Dirtworks won the AGC Excellence in Construction Award for a Toklat Utilities Project, and the company is currently one

of 12 finalists selected by Equipment World Magazine for Contractor of the Year.

Dirtworks has been an AGC member since 2009. Scott Johnson said his company benefits from the resources and AGC events that allow him to talk with everyone in the industry. Likewise, he said AGC classes and seminars serve as a constant resource and keep his crews and personnel up to date with standards and best practices.

Dirtworks recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. However, Dianne Johnson said the company is still feeling some growing pains. The biggest, she said, is the slow transfer of full responsibility to their grown children, who will take over when Scott and Dianne retire.

“We are figuring out how to grow without overstepping,” she said.

And, although she admits that Scottie and Dawn Johnson approach business differently than she and her husband, they have faith that Dirtworks will continue to grow under their care. 🎩

Rachael Kvapil is a freelance writer living in Fairbanks.



PHOTO COURTESY DIRTWORKS

In addition to excavating, Dirtworks has installed pipes for water and sewage in locations across Alaska.

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OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH



ADAM HALL

Beacon Occupation Health and Safety Services

Easing confusion over the FMCSA Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse

BY ADAM HALL, C-SAPA

On Jan. 6, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, or FMCSA, launched the new Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is a secure online database that will give employers, the FMCSA, state drivers licensing agencies and state law enforcement personnel real-time information about the drug and alcohol violations of people who hold commercial driver's licenses and commercial learner's permits.

The purpose of the Clearinghouse is to provide the FMCSA and employers with the necessary tools to identify drivers who are prohibited from operating commercial motor vehicles, or CMV, based on DOT drug and alcohol program violations. The Clearinghouse helps ensure that such drivers receive the required evaluation and treatment prior to operating any CMV on public roads.

Shortly after the launch of the Clearinghouse, the level of traffic on the Clearinghouse website caused the site to crash regularly. Certain pages would not load properly, and many employers had issues with the registration or query processes. FMCSA acted swiftly to address these problems and on Jan. 22 it announced that the website was fully functional.

WHO DOES THE FMCSA DRUG AND ALCOHOL CLEARINGHOUSE AFFECT?

As with any regulatory update, there may be confusion as to who this new rule pertains to. Numerous personnel and service agents play a role in managing and maintaining FMCSA drug and alcohol testing programs, so there understandably may be some confusion as to who is responsible for reporting into the Clearinghouse.

Below are the guidelines from the FMCSA as to who reports what information into the website:

- **Employers** – Employers that are subject to FMCSA's 49 CFR Part 382 are required to register for the Clearinghouse. Employers must create their own account but may designate a consortium/third-party administrator, or C/TPA, to enter information into the Clearinghouse once the Clearinghouse account is established.
- **Owner-Operators** – Owner-operators are required to register for the Clearinghouse. In order to comply with FMCSA's rule, owner operators are required to designate a C/TPA as part of their Clearinghouse registration. The C/TPA is responsible for reporting violations into the Clearinghouse for their owner-operator clients.
- **Drivers** – Drivers are not required to register for the Clearinghouse, however, they will have access to their data within the system which includes violation reports and the status of their Return-to-Duty process.
- **Consortium/Third-Party Administrators (C/TPAs)** – Employers may authorize a C/TPA to enter violations and run queries within the Clearinghouse on their behalf.
- **Medical Review Officers, or MROs, and Substance Abuse Professionals, or SAPs** – MROs may enter drug and alcohol program violations into the Clearinghouse. SAPs will report information about a driver's return-to-duty activity and the status of the employee's ability to return-to-duty.

WHAT IS A QUERY?

Employers or their designated C/TPA are required to conduct queries to determine if a current or prospective employee is prohibited from performing safety-sensitive duties. Queries are electronic checks completed in the Clearinghouse. There are two types of queries: limited queries, which satisfy the annual query requirement for current employees, and full queries, which include all pre-employment queries. Both types of queries require consent from an employee or prospective employee, and this type of consent is dictated by the query type.

WHAT RECORDS ARE STORED?

The records stored in the Clearinghouse consist of positive drug or alcohol test results and refusals to test, as well as records pertaining to when a driver completes the return-to-duty process and follow-up testing plan. The implementation of this new rule will not change any existing requirements in the DOT-wide procedures for transportation workplace drug and alcohol testing, and any violations that occurred prior to

Jan. 6 are not required to be uploaded to the Clearinghouse.

AM I PREPARED?

Registration was first available in fall 2019, but many employers have yet to complete the registration process. It is critical that all employers register to the Clearinghouse so they are compliant with these new program requirements. Employers should also contact their C/TPA to determine the method in which violations will be reported into the Clearinghouse. It is important to understand that

although C/TPAs and other service agents may submit violations and run queries within the system, an agreement should be made between the employer and its service agent to ensure there are no gaps in required reporting. Employers should reach out to their C/TPA and research all the requirements, which can be found on the Clearinghouse website.

To learn more about FMCSA's Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse, visit the Clearinghouse website at <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov>. 



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KLEBS MECHANICAL INC.

By KEVIN KLOTT

MEMBER PROFILE

Reliable, innovative HVAC company knows 'success is always under construction'

When Scott Selzer needs to hire an experienced HVAC mechanical company, his most go-to, reliable choice is KLEBS Mechanical.

"They're just a first-class operation to deal with," said Selzer, president of Udelhoven Oilfield System Services. "We know that if we bring them in on a job, we won't have to worry about anything. They'll take care of it."

Udelhoven and Fairweather Inc. teamed this winter with KLEBS Mechanical to build a \$75 million warming structure on the North Slope. KLEBS tackled the HVAC — heating, ventilation and air conditioning — as well as the duct work and mechanical venting systems. Even though KLEBS is a mechanical competitor, Selzer had nothing but good things to say about the HVAC, plumbing and sheet metal company.

"Whenever we use them on a job, if something goes wrong, they make it right," he said.

Building a solid reputation in plumbing and HVAC systems didn't happen overnight. KLEBS Mechanical has worked in Alaska since 1986, when Gary Klebs founded the company out of his South Anchorage home. At that time, the company's primary focus was HVAC and sheet metal work for commercial construction projects throughout Alaska.

"The economy was in a state of recession, especially in Anchorage, and so much of the construction work at the time was located in rural Alaska, with a few federally funded construction projects being built around southcentral," said Mike Klebs, the company's president and chief executive officer — and the son of Gary Klebs.



KLEBS is visible in the community as a residential heating contractor installing and servicing furnaces, boilers, water heaters, etc., in houses and apartment complexes.



As a strong supporter of AGC, KLEBS Mechanical believes the biggest benefit of being an AGC member comes from the networking and educational programs that are offered. "Through networking opportunities, KLEBS builds relationships with all kinds of businesses, which allows the company to grow and be successful in the industry," said KLEBS president and CEO Mike Klebs.

"Successfully completing work in remote villages requires an in-depth understanding of logistics," Mike Klebs said, "so the company really focused on this philosophy of pre-planning the project execution strategy, pre-assembly of components and pre-fabrication of work pieces prior to installation."

By 1990, KLEBS had branched into Anchorage-area residential construction. The company moved into a building and added a service department, servicing heating equipment in residential and commercial buildings. In 1997, as more and more commercial construction plumbing and mechanical work was being performed in-house, KLEBS added plumbing and "wet-side" mechanical work to its services.

During this time, Mike Klebs had been working for his dad since he was a teenager, running parts and other errands. He worked his way up the ranks by doing paperwork, then by estimating, purchasing, project management, finances and then back to estimating and project management. Around 2010, he got restless and worked for a different company for five years.

In late summer 2015, Gary Klebs formally asked Mike Klebs if he wanted to buy out the company. Three years later, Mike Klebs and a former colleague, Heath Martin, took over as owners of the company, while Gary Klebs remained as chairman of the board.

In 2018, Martin and Mike Klebs opened a Wasilla location to better serve mechanical construction and service opportunities in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. They also focused more attention on the residential side of the KLEBS business.

"We turned it upside down," Mike Klebs said. "We asked ourselves, 'Are we doing everything as efficiently as possible?'"

KLEBS started as a commercial mechanical construction contractor and branched into residential plumbing and heating, which Klebs said is the opposite route most mechanical subcontractors take.

"Everybody starts in residential, gets their feet under them and then starts moving into light commercial," he said. "The residential side of things is a smaller piece of our business, but it tends to speak a little louder because we do so much advertising."

The residential component amounts to 20% of its business, Klebs said.

KLEBS employs about 70 workers statewide. Its reach has stretched to areas such as the North Slope, the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project in Valdez and government support buildings on Midway and Wake Island in the South Pacific.

DENALI BLUFFS

KLEBS recently received an AGC Excellence in Construction award for a winter project at the Denali Bluffs Hotel, just outside of Denali National Park.

"In Denali, construction can only be done in the winter months," Klebs said. "They don't let you do it during the tourist season."

Despite facing temperatures that dipped to a bone-chilling minus 40, workers laid pipe, kept glue warm enough to set and struggled to keep the concrete from freezing in order to build a 64-room expansion of the hotel, owned by Old Harbor Native Corp.

"It was a very challenging project," said Dave Jarrett, executive vice president and chief executive officer for Old Harbor Native Corp.

Completing the task just before tourists arrived in May 2017, KLEBS engineered an alternative hot-water heating system for five separate units. Plans called for a system that piped hot water to each unit, but KLEBS was concerned that it was too expensive, both to build and operate.

KLEBS modified its plans and built one central hot water plant that fed a loop of buried PEX piping from building to building, with 100% redundancy. The design saved on construction and operating costs, Klebs said.

Bore Tide Construction, the general contractor, finished the project on time, Jarrett said.

"KLEBS came in and did a fantastic job," Jarrett said. "I don't think we would have achieved the deadline if it wasn't for the KLEBS/Bore Tide team."

'WE'RE NEVER DONE'

As a strong supporter of AGC, Klebs said the biggest benefit of being an AGC member comes from networking and the educational programs. He added that membership has helped KLEBS build relationships with all kinds of businesses, allowing the company to grow and be more successful.



PHOTO COURTESY DENALI PROPERTIES

KLEBS received an AGC Excellence in Construction award on the Denali Bluffs RiverView project. During the design phase of that project, KLEBS proposed an alternative hot water plant and piping design that exceeded the performance of the original design requirements and reduced energy and fuel costs 50% over the original conceptual system.

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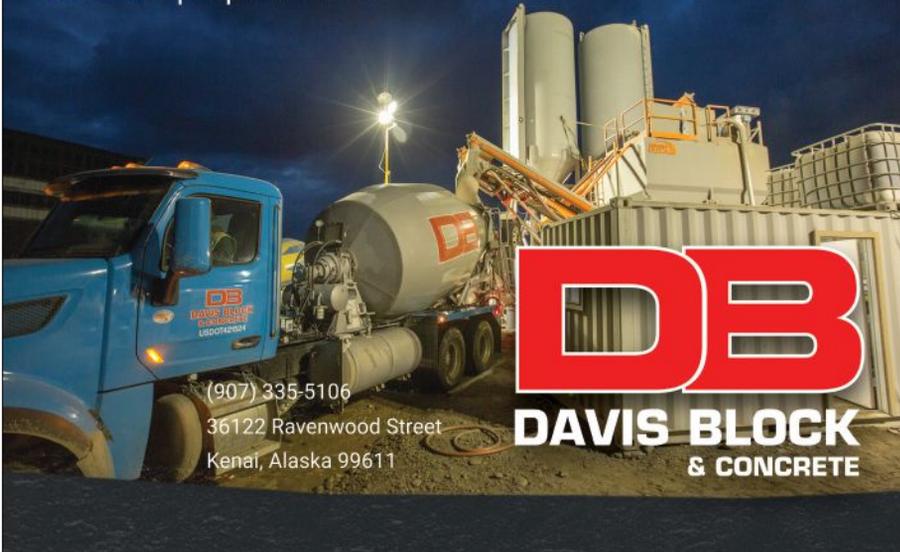
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“As new owners of KLEBS, the opportunity to meet with some of the industry’s leading general contractors through networking, sharing in discussing the challenges that the construction industry faces in Alaska together, and to jointly come up with ideas and solutions for those challenges, is very fulfilling,” Klebs said. “Additionally, the educational classes and programs focusing on anything from safety improvements and issues, to contract management types of training, allow our people to get the skills they need to manage the work we bring in.”

The folks who work for KLEBS in the office and out in the field carry with them a common phrase: “Success is always under construction.”

It is this phrase that gives Klebs and his employees a daily reminder that, once a project is complete, no matter how successful it was, those successes have to be carried forward to the next project.

“It’s the NFL playoffs over and over. In this industry, you can have a successful project, finish it strong, and your clients applaud you for those successes. You’ve made the playoffs. The next day if you don’t apply yourself on the next project, you risk not having success or even be remembered for those past successes, just like making the playoffs,” Klebs said. “We’re never done.” 📖

Kevin Klott is a freelancer who lives in Anchorage.



PHOTO COURTESY KLEBS MECHANICAL

KLEBS owners Mike Klebs and Heath Martin have a combined 60 years of construction experience and have touched over a half billion dollars in construction work. Its commercial construction division is fully staffed with heavy commercial mechanical construction project managers, preconstruction personnel and estimators. Its PM talent has an average of 20 years of experience working in the field in the industry.

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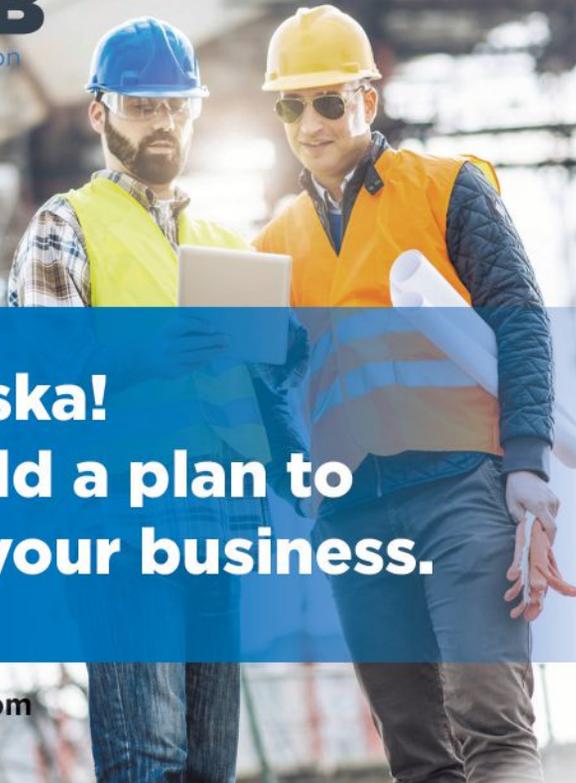
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SAFETY REPORT



CHRIS ROSS, CSP, CPLP

*President,
The Engagement Effect*

Top OSHA violations for 2019 reveal most common incidents

By CHRIS ROSS, CSP, CPLP, PRESIDENT, THE ENGAGEMENT EFFECT

Each year the Bureau of Labor Statistics releases information regarding the top federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration violations for the previous fiscal year. Included here are the top violations across all industries, along with construction-specific violations (with OSHA regulations cited), Alaska-specific violations and the nation's highest construction-related fines.

THE TOP 10 FOR 2019 – ALL INDUSTRIES – UNITED STATES

1. Fall protection – general requirements (1926.501): 6,010 violations
2. Hazard communication (1910.1200): 3,671 violations
3. Scaffolding (1926.451): 2,813 violations
4. Lockout/tagout (1910.147): 2,606 violations
5. Respiratory protection (1910.134): 2,450 violations
6. Ladders (1926.1053): 2,345 violations
7. Powered industrial trucks (1910.178): 2,093 violations
8. Fall protection – training requirements (1926.503): 1,773 violations
9. Machine guarding (1910.212): 1,743 violations
10. Personal protective and lifesaving equipment – eye and face protection (1926.102): 1,411 violations

CONSTRUCTION TOP 10 FOR 2019 – UNITED STATES

1. Fall protection – duty to have fall protection (1926.501): 5,360 citations (2018 rank: 1)
2. Scaffolds – general requirements (1926.451): 2,366 citations (2018 rank: 2)
3. Ladders (1926.1053): 2,102 citations. (2018 Rank: 3)
4. Fall protection – training requirements (1926.503): 1,592 citations (2018 rank: 4)

5. Personal protective and life-saving equipment – eye and face protection (1926.102): 1,292 citations (2018 rank: 5)
6. Personal protective and life-saving equipment – head protection (1926.100): 737 citations (2018 rank: 8)
7. General safety and health provisions (1926.20): 717 citations (2018 rank: 6)
8. Excavations – specific excavation requirements (1926.651): 603 citations (2018 rank: not ranked (No. 11))
9. Scaffolds – aerial lifts (1926.453): 603 citations (2018 rank: 9)
10. Fall protection – fall protection systems criteria and practices (1926.502): 526 citations (2018 rank: 10)

It is interesting to note that the 2019 and 2018 nation-wide construction Top 10 lists are virtually identical.

It is interesting to note that the 2019 and 2018 nation-wide construction Top 10 lists are virtually identical.

ALASKA TOP 10 FOR 2019

1. Hazardous communication (1910.1200)
2. Bloodborne pathogens (1910.1030)
3. Respiratory protection (1910.134)
4. Process safety management (1910.119)
5. Exit routes (1910.36)
6. Electrical general (1910.303)
7. Electrical design (1910.305)
8. Fall protection (1926.501)
9. Asbestos (1926.1101)
10. Scaffolds (1926.451)

Ronald Larsen, chief of enforcement for Alaska Occupational Safety and Health, provided some good perspective on the Alaska Top 10 List.

“The list is our most-cited violations in calendar year 2019. Having said that, there were/are emphasis programs that we concentrate on when time allows. Those emphasis programs can generate numbers in certain areas — i.e. hazard communication. You



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Citation Type	New Maximum Penalty
Willful	Minimum \$9472 per violation Maximum \$132,598 per violation
Repeat	Maximum \$132,598 per violation
Serious	Maximum \$13,264 per violation
Other than serious	Maximum \$13,264 per violation
Failure to correct	Maximum \$13,264 for each day the condition continues
Violation of posting requirements	Maximum \$13,264 per violation

may have looked at the list and wondered why it falls protection so far down the list? The emphasis programs provide some clarity. So, that list is our most-cited for the given time period, however most-cited can vary depending on emphasis programs,” he said.

Alaska employers should further take note of the increase in maximum civil penalties from AKOSH that began in February 2019. For more information, visit the AKOSH website: <http://labor.alaska.gov/lss/oshhome.htm>

OSHA fines - nationwide

Pulling data from federal OSHA, here are the biggest construction related penalties and fines across the U.S. last year. Dollar amounts may be reduced as part of a settlement agreement or litigation.

Fine: \$1.792 million

Employer: Purvis Home Improvement Co. Inc.

Locations: Portland and Old Orchard Beach, Maine (OSHA Region 1)

Business type: Roofing contractor

Inspection trigger: Worker fatality

Event: Inspectors determined that the company owner, Shawn D. Purvis, knowingly failed to ensure worker use of fall protection at worksites in both Portland and Old Orchard Beach, Maine. A residential construction worker was killed in December 2018 at the Portland site after falling 20 feet to the ground after attempting to climb off a roof and onto ladder jack scaffolding.

Major citations: Purvis was cited for 13 willful, three serious and one repeat violation, with eight of the willful violations tied to the Portland worksite incident. Violations stemmed from failure to provide fall protection training to employees, as well as worker exposure to electrocution and eye hazards. Since December 2006, OSHA has cited

Purvis for seven fall protection requirement violations.

Fine: \$687,650

Employer: Champion Modular Inc.

Location: Strattanville, Pennsylvania (OSHA Region 3)

Business type: Homebuilder

Inspection trigger: Worker amputation

Events: Inspectors determined that the employer's failure to use machine guarding, provide fall protection, and to train workers on hazard communication and hearing conservation exposed workers to various safety and health hazards.

Major citations: Champion Modular was cited for 21 serious, eight willful and three other-than-serious violations.

Fine: \$687,619

Employers: Enerfab Process Solutions & Fabricated Products Inc. and Industrial Services Group Inc. (operating as Universal Blastco)

Location: Wilmington, Delaware (OSHA Region 3)

Business type: General contractors

Inspection trigger: Worker fatality

Event: A Universal Blastco employee died after falling 40 feet from a scaffold while working with a crew performing renovations on a 1.5-million-gallon, aboveground storage tank at an orange juice processing facility.

Major citations: Universal Blastco was cited for seven serious, three willful and three other-than-serious violations over two inspections. Enerfab was cited for seven serious and three willful violations over two inspections. Violations were for hazards involving scaffolding, lack of fall protection, electrical, confined space and respiratory protection.

Fine: \$603,850

Employer: Navy Contractors Inc.

Locations: Royersford, Collegetown and Center Valley, Pennsylvania (OSHA Region 3)

Business type: Residential construction contractor

Inspection triggers: Referral (Center Valley), program-related (Collegetown) and planned (Royersford)

Event: After inspectors saw employees working without using fall protection at

each site, OSHA initiated three independent inspections. Previously, agency inspections found that the employer knowingly disregarded its obligation to provide fall protection, and these inspections uncovered similar results. (Note: At the Royersford site, Navy Contractors served as a subcontractor to controlling general contractor Blue Lion Ventures, operating as Storm Guard of Ches-Mont Inc.)

Major citations: Navy Contractors was cited for six repeat, five serious, five willful and one other-than-serious violation. Violations were related to failure to provide workers with fall protection equipment and training, improper ladder use, deficiencies in walking/working surfaces, and inadequate fire protection. 

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Ordinance adds 'responsible' requirement to win Anchorage municipal contracts

By MICHAEL GERAGHTY AND WILEY CASON

On Dec. 3, 2019, the Anchorage Assembly passed AO No.2019-130(S), commonly referred to as the “responsible contractor” ordinance. The ordinance adds new requirements for contractors to qualify as responsible bidders on large municipal contracts.

Under the new ordinance, municipal contracts may only be awarded to contractors deemed by the city to be “responsible,” with few exceptions. Under the previous law, determinations of responsibility were made by a municipal purchasing officer, based on a contractor’s skill and experience, history of performance, record of honesty and integrity, and its capacity to perform the contract.

The new ordinance adds an additional criterion applicable to contracts over \$100,000: the contractor’s record of violations regarding unfair wage practices or unsafe working conditions. In most cases, contracts must be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder that meets the city’s standard of responsibility.

To assist the purchasing officer in assessing a contractor’s record of violations regarding unfair wage practices or unsafe working conditions, the ordinance contains specific disclosure requirements — both for contractors and their subcontractors. Critically, contractors must now disclose any citations, orders or recommendations issued to or against the contractor — or any subcontractor it plans to use — related to a violation of federal or state occupational safety and health standards, wage and hour laws, unemployment insurance requirements, workers’ compensation coverage requirements, certificates of fitness, contractor registration, or any other laws administered by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The ordinance places responsibility on contractors for submitting their own disclosures, as well as ensuring disclosures are completed for any subcontractors they plan to hire. For subcontractors hired post-award, general contractors must provide disclosures prior to the subcontractor commencing work.

Compliance with the ordinance requires ongoing attention beyond the bidding stage. If the contractor, or any of its subcontractors, receive new “citations, orders, or recommendations,” during contract performance, the contractor must provide updated disclosures to the city’s contract administrator within 30 days of such occurrence. The ordinance is unclear as to when

the 30-day disclosure period begins to run, but the city has clarified that contractors do not need to disclose citations which are pending appeal.

Under state law, citation notices are delivered by mail, and contractors have 15 working days after receipt of a notice to contest the citation with the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Review Board. However, if a contractor waits to notify the municipality of a citation until 30 days after the end of its appeal period, it may risk having its contract terminated.

In addition to the disclosure requirements, the ordinance describes two items which will result in automatic determinations of non-responsibility for a contractor. First, a contractor is deemed non-responsible if it has committed a willful violation of state or federal occupational safety and health law or a willful wage and hour violation any time in the past three years. Second, a contractor is deemed non-responsible if it is debarred at the state or federal level. Likewise, a contractor that hires a subcontractor who has committed a willful violation or has been debarred will be deemed automatically non-responsible.

If a contractor or one of its subcontractors receives a willful violation or is debarred in the middle of a project, the City may terminate the contractor for cause. In the case of a subcontractor, the general contractor may avoid termination of its own contract with the city by immediately terminating its contract with the subcontractor.

The ordinance contains substantial penalties for contractors that fail to meet either disclosure timelines or subcontractor requirements, making it essential that contractors inform themselves of the new rules prior to bidding on municipal contracts.

Contractors must also stay in communication with subcontractors regarding these requirements throughout the course of the project. For instance, if a subcontractor receives a citation for an "other than serious" violation on an unrelated project during the term of the contract, the general contractor is responsible for forwarding updated disclosures to the city — and faces termination for cause and a three-year prohibition on bidding other municipal contracts if it fails to do so within 30 days.

It is unclear under the new rules what steps a contractor must take to affirmatively verify the accuracy of a subcontractor's disclosures, but prudent contractors should at least check publicly available databases to avoid missing necessary information. Knowingly false certifications provided by a contractor or subcontractor carry equally steep penalties, possibly resulting in termination for cause and disqualification from bidding on municipal contracts for three years.

The ordinance also contains requirements for contractors that own or share ownership with other companies. The section on disclosures requires disclosure of any citations, orders or recommendations issued in the past three years to a company in which the contractor or a subcontractor holds majority ownership or control.

Similarly, if a contractor or one of their subcontractors shares majority ownership or control with a contractor that has been debarred at the state or federal level, the contractor will be deemed non-responsible, and their bids will be rejected. There is, however, no automatic disqualification

where a contractor shares ownership with an entity that has committed a willful wage and hour or occupational safety and health violation.

The Municipality of Anchorage is a major purchaser of construction services, and municipal contracts can provide tremendous opportunities for businesses. Responsible contractors should approach these projects with deliberation and keep themselves informed on these new requirements to avoid pitfalls. 

Michael Geraghty is a partner in the Anchorage office of Oles Morrison Rinker & Baker LLP where he provides legal counsel to organizations impacting Alaska's growth and history. Geraghty was Attorney General for Alaska from 2012 to 2014.

Wiley Cason is an attorney in the Seattle office of Oles Morrison Rinker & Baker LLP. Raised in Alaska, Cason is passionate about helping clients in Alaska creatively address their legal issues in the most economic and expeditious manner possible.



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Member NEWS

Happenings on the Alaska construction scene

Superior Group names McAllen as president

The Superior Group Inc. announced in January that Dave McAllen, currently chief operations officer, was set to be promoted to its president on April 1. McAllen joined TSGI in 2012 as general manager of Haakenson Electric, bringing 34 years of experience in the local construction industry.



McAllen

AHTNA acquires North Slope pad space

Ahtna Petrochemical Products LLC in December announced it had acquired 23 acres of North Slope pad space to support operational and logistical needs for the oil and gas industry in Alaska. The pad was formerly owned by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, or AIDEA, and was available for lease. The footprint of the pad is less than 5 miles from the Deadhorse airport, with 15 acres of gravel and an ideal space for

a laydown yard or equipment, rig or camp storage, Ahtna officials said in a press release.

“We have a strong and vested interest in ongoing oil and gas production in the state. Ahtna Construction laid the first section of pipe on the trans-Alaska pipeline system, which passes through 197 miles of Ahtna’s traditional lands and 55 miles of Ahtna-owned lands,” said Roy Tansy Jr., chief operating officer for Ahtna Netiyé.

AGC honors Motion & Flow for 50 years of membership

At its annual excellence reception in January, AGC of Alaska honored longtime member Motion & Flow Control Products Inc. for 50 years of membership, support and friendship. Receiving the plaque from AGC of Alaska Executive Director Alicia Siira were founder Buzz Jackovich, Neil Shibe and Ryan Barnett.

PND announces new hires, new engineers

PND Engineers Inc. announced several new hires this winter.

Kristoff Nystrom, an engineer in training, joined PND’s Anchorage office after working for more than two years with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Division of Design and Construction, performing project management and design.



Nystrom

Conrad Smith, an engineer in training, joined PND’s Palmer office, assisting with structural design. Smith, who was raised in Alaska, worked most recently for Albert A. Webb Associates in Riverside, California.



Smith

Nathan Harris, who joined PND in 2015 and is a University of Alaska Anchorage graduate, earned his professional civil engineer designation in December. Logan Imlach, who joined PND in 2018 and is also a UAA alum, also earned his PE designation in December.



Harris



Imlach

New hires, certifications at Coffman Engineers

Coffman Engineers had reason to celebrate in November. Jason Moncrieff joined the Anchorage Project Management group as a senior project manager, Ronald Pearson joined

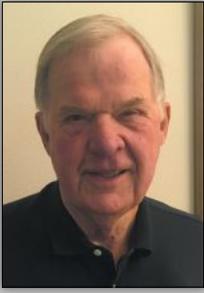


Moncrieff



Motion & Flow Control Products Inc.

Schoon retires from Alaska Laborers Trust Funds



Derald Schoon

For 40 years, the Alaska Laborers Trust Funds and its participants have benefited from Trustee Derald Schoon's service. In

December, Schoon retired from the Laborers Local 341 Board of Trustees, where he held the position of chairman.

"Like most funds that have been around for the past 40 years, numerous challenges from various angles present themselves. Derald's commitment to the participants never wavered, and his ability to work collaboratively with his fellow trustees proved vital to the continued success of each plan," said Joey

Merrick, Local 341's business manager. "Ironically, over his 40 years of service, Derald worked alongside 40 different trustees, oftentimes mentoring new trustees along the way."

Merrick said the funds' success today is a direct result of Schoon's dedicated service. He presented Schoon with a

plaque commemorating his service in December.

Schoon has been a longtime supporter of AGC of Alaska as well. He was Board President in 1983 and was recognized as volunteer of the year in 1992. He earned a Hard Hat award, AGC of Alaska's most prestigious award, in 1990.

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the Anchorage Electrical Engineering department as a professional chemical engineer and Jason Vukovich joined the same department as an instrumentation and controls designer. Zack Wright, a National Association of Corrosion Engineers, or NACE, certified cathodic protection technician, obtained the American Petroleum Institute 653 Above-ground Storage Tank Inspector certification.



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john.golick@uiccs.com
http://rockfordak.com
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Continued on Page 78

Calendar of Events 2020

Agency Day

April 16, Fairbanks (virtual)

Spring Board Meeting

April 17, Fairbanks (virtual)

For info about Agency Day and the Spring Board Meeting contact at brittany@agcak.org or (907) 750-5448

Spring Train Ride

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 25, Anchorage

Golf Tournament

7 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 19, Anchorage

Executive Board Meeting

July 9, Fairbanks

Golf Kick-Off Party

5 to 8 p.m. July 9, Fairbanks

Golf Tournament

7 a.m. shotgun start July 10, Fairbanks

AGC Safety Fair

4 to 7 p.m. July 29, Davis

Constructors parking lot, Anchorage

Clay Shoot

August (TBD), Anchorage

Nation Leadership Conference

Sept. 27-30, Washington, D.C.

Dinner Dance tickets go on sale

8 a.m. Oct. 14

Executive Board Meeting

1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 14, Anchorage

Chili Cook Off

5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 14, Anchorage

Annual Alaska Conference

Nov. 11-14, Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage

Board Meeting

1:45 to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 13,

Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage

Board of Directors Elections

10:10 a.m. to noon Nov. 14,

Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage

Executive Board Meeting

1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 9, Anchorage

Members Holiday Party

4:30 to 7 p.m. Dec. 9, Anchorage

Event schedules are in flux due to the global pandemic. Please visit agcak.org for the most up-to-date information.

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Continued from Page 76

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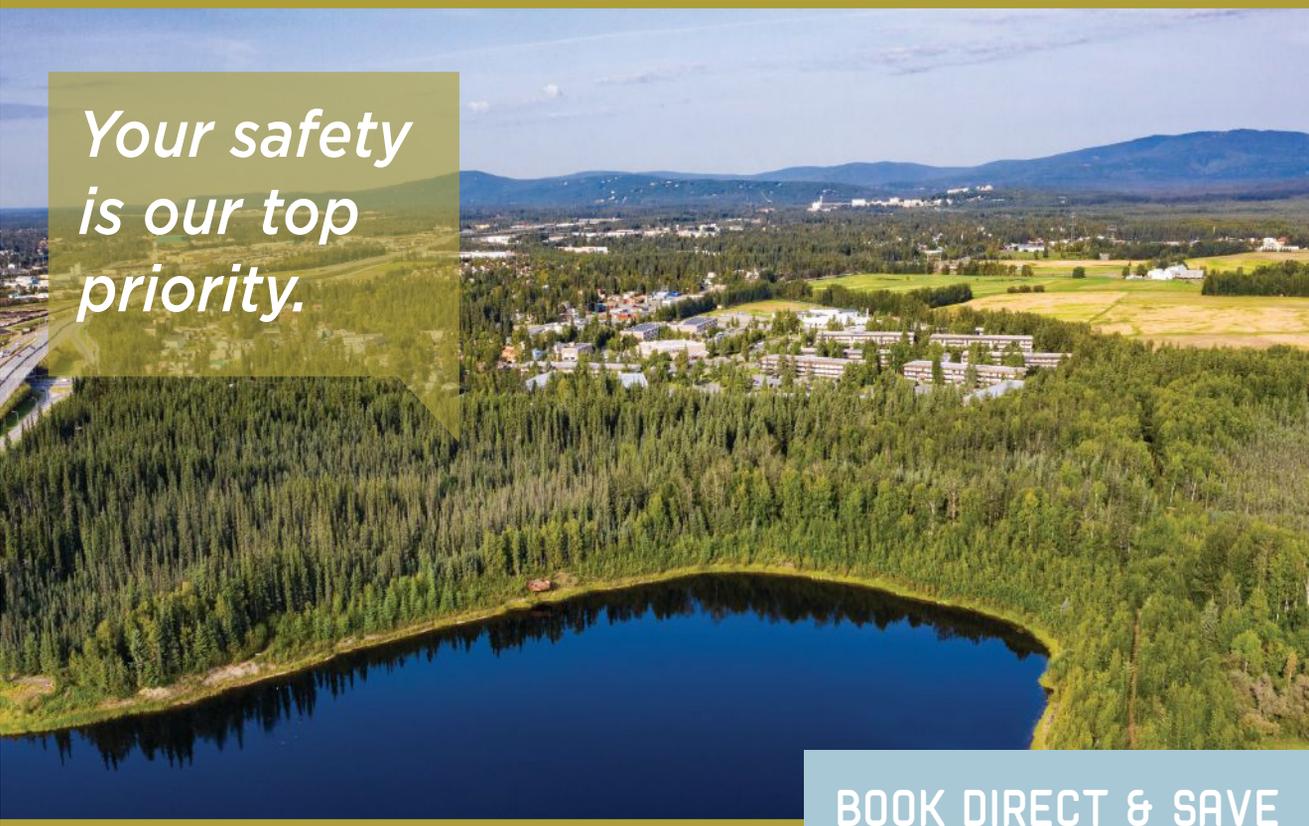
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