

Alaska Employer

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Employment Security Tax

First Quarter 2001

Tony Knowles, Governor

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877 Commercial Drive
Wasilla, AK 99654-6937
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Welcome to Alaska's First Small Business Fair 2001

Saturday, May 12th 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

University of Alaska Anchorage
Business Education Building
3211 Providence Drive

The Alaska Small Business Fair is a cooperative effort between various federal, state and non-profit training agencies with the goal to provide an energetic forum where any small business owner or aspiring entrepreneur can obtain information and resources appropriate to their business enterprise. Workshop presenters are members of the business, government and academic communities who have volunteered their time and expertise. Sponsors include the U.S. Small Business Administration, WOMEN\$fund, Internal Revenue Service, UAA Small Business Development Center, Alaska Departments of Labor and Workforce Development and Community and Economic Development.

The event is free of charge and will include the following workshops:

- ◆ **Alternate Financing – If the Bank Says “No”, Then What?**
- ◆ **Advertising Your Business – Effective Marketing on a Shoestring.**
- ◆ **Choosing the Right Legal Entity for Your Business**
- ◆ **Help! I’m Being Audited – How Do I Prepare Myself?**
- ◆ **How to Collect Debts Without Losing Your Customers**
- ◆ **Insurance for Your Business – What Kind and How Much?**
- ◆ **Internet Commerce and Security Issues**
- ◆ **Legal Preventative Medicine – Keep Your Business Out of Legal “Hot Water”.**
- ◆ **Marketing Your Business Names, Trademarks and Patents**
- ◆ **Setting Up and Managing a Web Site**
- ◆ **What Your Financial Statements Say About Your Business**

For more information contact Jean Wall at (907) 274-7232

NEED TO AMEND YOUR QUARTERLY TAX REPORTS?



Employment Security Tax is encouraging employers to use a “Correction of Wage Item Form 1462-A” when amending previously filed reports. Using this form will help speed up the processing of your requested changes. The form can be obtained by contacting your nearest ES Tax Office or you can download the form from our web site located at: www.labor.state.ak.us/estax



Understanding How Alaska's Unemployment Insurance Program is Funded

The goal of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax system is to keep the Alaska account of the Federal UI Trust Fund solvent so benefits may be paid to eligible unemployed workers.

In Alaska, both employers and employees share the cost of UI benefits. Alaska is one of three states in which employees contribute to the fund. Employer and employee taxes are deposited in the Alaska account of the Federal UI Trust Fund and are used only for payment of benefits.

Alaska uses a "payroll decline" method to establish individual employer tax rates. The "payroll decline" method is an averaging of the decreases reflected in an employer's reported wages from one quarter to the next. This system has proven effective and has advantages over other direct charge back systems used by other states. Alaska's trust fund has remained solvent when several other states depleted their trust funds because their financing systems were not able to respond to their changing economies.

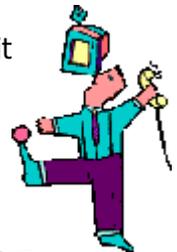
The basic measure of Alaska's trust fund solvency is the "UI Trust Fund Reserve Rate", which is the relationship between the level of fund reserves and the amount of total statewide payroll. The goal is to maintain a reserve rate between 3.0% and 3.2%. At this level, the fund is able to meet the benefit demands of a severe economic recession and also helps minimize employer tax rates.

ATTENTION Master Guides and Registered Guides!

Under Alaska law, Assistant Guides and Class-A Assistant Guides must be employed and under the supervision of a Registered Guide or Master Guide. Therefore, these individuals must be classified as employees for state unemployment tax purposes and listed on your quarterly reports filed with Employment Security Tax. If you have questions or would like more information, contact your nearest ES Tax Office listed on the front page of this Newsletter.

Find Workers with New and Easy Online Job Order

Beginning February 2001, finding good workers for your job openings was made easier with a new online job order option at the expanded Labor Department's Employer Connection web site at: **www.jobs.state.ak.us**



Posting job orders online is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day, and advertises your job openings at no cost on both the popular and widely-used Alaska and America Job Banks, reaching thousands of job seekers daily. You will need your Alaska Employment Security Tax Account Number or your FIEN to set up an initial profile. Once set up, log in as a return user and a list of previous job orders is retained, making it effortless to update repeat openings. All job orders are verified for EEO and Workers' Comp Insurance requirements, and matched to registered, qualifying veterans. The new online job order, another useful option offered in addition to phoning, faxing or emailing your job openings, is fast, easy to use and convenient. For more information about the new option contact your nearest job center at: **www.jobs.state.ak.us/offices**