

# “The CHASE REPORT”

October 2021, Vol 1

An AKOSH Consultation and Training Newsletter

## The Chief's Corner

Hello CHASE participants and welcome to the first edition of the CHASE Report. I am Elaine Banda, Chief of Consultation and Training. I'd like to recognize each CHASE member for achieving the prestigious status of becoming a CHASE partner. As each of you can attest,

the work is hard, but the benefits are rewarding.

This newsletter will be published quarterly (January, April, July, and October) to

provide a platform for AKOSH to recognize significant achievements, post newsworthy comments, and keep employers up to date with current information within the construction industry. As AKOSH Consultation moves forward, plans to enhance the CHASE program are in progress and I am excited to work with CHASE partners to help you accomplish your safety and health goals.

Before closing, I'd like to recognize Donald Farwell, the CHASE Manager for doing a fantastic job of building positive working relationships with employers in the construction industry. If you have questions regarding the CHASE program, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Farwell at [Donald.farwell@alaska.gov](mailto:Donald.farwell@alaska.gov). Remember, NO SAFETY SHORTCUTS—EVER.

*Elaine Banda*, Chief of Consultation and Training

**Training:** Oftentimes AKOSH sends consultants to the Pacific Northwest OSHA Education Center for training. Unlike many OSHA training programs which are only open to OSHA employees, the Northwest OSHA

Education Center is open to anyone. OSHA courses are offered through the University of Washington; however, the University sometimes conducts in-person classes in Alaska. Although classes come with a fee, University instructors provide

high quality training. Below are a few classes scheduled for the Anchorage area this fall:

OSHA #510 Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Construction Industry Oct 04, 2021 to Oct 07, 2021, Anchorage

OSHA #2264 Permit-Required Confined Space Entry Oct 12, 2021 to Oct 14, 2021, Anchorage

OSHA #500 Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health Standards for Construction Nov 15, 2021 to Nov 18, 2021, Anchorage

For course costs and more information about attending classes you can email the University at [ce@uw.edu](mailto:ce@uw.edu), or go to: [OSHA | University of Washington DEOHS Continuing Education Programs](https://www.osha-slc.gov/University-of-Washington-DEOHS-Continuing-Education-Programs)

## Associated General Contractors' (AGC) Annual Conference

AGC will host their annual conference at the Hotel Captain Cook, November 10-13, 2021. If you are interested in attending or if you need additional information, contact [Kimberley@agcak.org](mailto:Kimberley@agcak.org).

## CHASE Program

My goal with the CHASE Program is to assist contractors of all sizes and models with the continual improvement of their safety culture. As a retired Navy Seabee, I have worked construction projects in some of the most austere environments in the world that presented unique safety challenges. Many of our Alaskan contractors run into similar safety issues due to location, logistical issues, weather, and staffing. It has been a great experience to work with our partners to learn ways to enhance their safety programs. Each one of our contractors has proven that even with all the twists and turns a construction site can produce, work can still be conducted safely and efficiently when safety is valued.

*Donnie Farwell*, CHASE Manager



## CHASE Spotlight



Each quarterly newsletter will spotlight one CHASE Partner. The idea is to highlight a company that is providing critical infrastructure to our state. As the CHASE program continues to grow, AKOSH Consultation expects to highlight other partners that work with our program, as well as various associations and support companies.

This quarter we'd like to shine the spotlight on **H5 Construction**. H5 is an Alaskan General Contractor based in Wasilla, AK. They complete a variety of projects from renovations to new commercial constructions throughout the Matsu Valley, Anchorage, Kenai Peninsula, and Fairbanks. The company has grown from a staff of two in 2016 to a staff of 50 in 2021. They completed a number of high-profile projects such as Vista Rose Senior Apartments, Sonic, Planet Fitness, and TAG Plaza. They are currently working on The Shoppes at Sun Mountain, a 30-acre, 300,000 sq. ft. mixed-use project located off the Parks Highway with an estimated \$90,000,000 price tag.

**Background:** The first interaction with AKOSH Consultation was an off-chance meeting that occurred when an AKOSH Consultation employee drove by one of their jobsites and noticed a potential safety issue. The supervisor onsite was quick to abate the hazard. Although this chance meeting encounter was short, the relationship between AKOSH and H5 continued. Over the next two years, many conversations took place about the need to build a safety foundation for the company since it was growing at a rapid pace.

After an Enforcement action took place on one of their jobsites, H5 worked with a consulting firm as well as AKOSH Consultation. This combination of consulting resulted in a rapid culture change within the company. Since that time, H5's relationship and partnership with AKOSH has grown tremendously. AKOSH completed 11 safety and health consultation visits on five different H5 project sites throughout the phases of construction since 2019. These visits consisted of hazard identification, training, and program development. After a complete overhaul of their safety and health program, H5 became a CHASE-Blue member on June 3, 2020.

The company's safety culture has grown exponentially since their partnership began with AKOSH in 2020. H5 maintains less than ONE recordable injury per year. In addition, H5 provides a variety of training to their employees to ensure they have the depth and knowledge to continue to perform their jobs safely.

As H5 continues to grow, there is no doubt that they will do it safely.

*H5 Receiving their CHASE Banner*



*H5 Home Office*