

OSHA REQUIREMENTS FOR HELI-SKI OPERATORS

Applicable Regulations
Consultation & Training Services

A little about OSHA

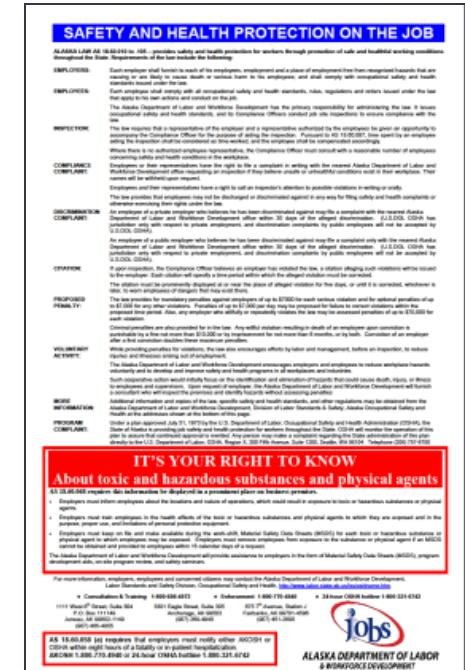
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Department of Labor regulatory agency established in 1970 when President Nixon signed into law the Occupational Safety and Health Act
- Mission – “to assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards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

Some OSHA Regulations Applicable to Heli-Ski Operations

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

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

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



29 CFR 1904 – Recordkeeping

- Purpose – require employers to record and report work-related fatalities, injuries and illnesses
- Recording or reporting a workplace fatality, injury or illness does not mean the employer or employee was at fault, that an OSHA rule has been violated, or that the employee is eligible for workers' compensation or other benefits.

29 CFR 1910.95 – Occupational Noise Exposure

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



29 CFR 1910.106 – Flammable Liquids

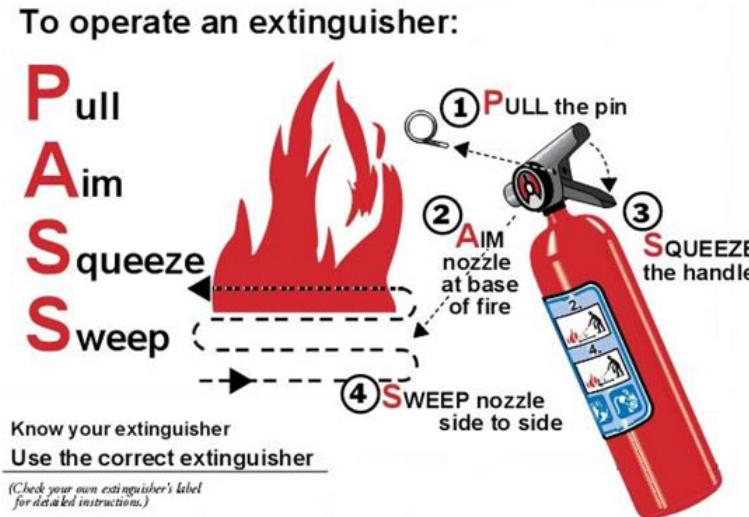
- *Flammable liquid* means any liquid having a flashpoint at or below 199.4 °F (93 °C). Broken into 4 Categories.
- Only approved containers and portable tanks shall be used. Those authorized by chapter I, title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (regulations issued by the Hazardous Materials Regulations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

29 CFR 1910.132 - PPE

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

29 CFR 1910.157 – Portable Fire Extinguishers

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



29 CFR 1910.183 – Helicopters

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

29 CFR 1910.1030 – Bloodborne Pathogens

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

29 CFR 1910.1200 – Hazard Communication

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

AKOSH Consultation & Training Services

The On-Site Consultants Will

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

The On-Site Consultants Will Not

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