

STATEWIDE IN ALASKA

The Williams—Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) enacted by United States Congress is intended to contribute to safe and healthful working conditions for the nation's wage earners. The Act, which was signed into law by President Richard Nixon on December 29, 1970, applies to every employer engaged in a business affecting commerce. There are a few exceptions such as, household domestics, farm family workers, and church and religious employees directly engaged in the performance of religious services. An amendment to the act excludes, from record keeping only, any employer with less than eight employees, unless they are given notice that they will be included in an OSHA survey the next year. This does not exclude small employers from having to report fatalities or multiple hospitalizations.

As part of the Act, job safety and health standards were developed based on research and experience of various representative industries. The act requires that all employers and employees familiarize themselves of these standards. Two of the many thousands of standards are:

- 1) Aisles and passageways shall be kept clear and in good repair, with no obstruction across or in aisles that could create a hazard.
- 2) In any operations such as chipping, caulking, drilling, riveting, grinding, and pouring babbitt metal in which the eye hazard of flying particles, molten metal, or liquid chemical exists, employees shall be protected by suitable face shields or goggles.

The Secretary of Labor may revise, modify or revoke existing standards or declare new ones. The Secretary may also grant temporary variances from standards to give the employer sufficient time to come into compliance, if he can show need and has a projected plan of action.

As of July 1, 1971, every employer who is covered under OSHA must keep occupational injury and illness records at the location where the employee usually reports to work. Each recordable injury or illness must be entered on a log, which must be kept current and retained for five years. All covered

employers are required to prepare a year-end summary of occupational injuries and illnesses experienced by employees in each of his establishments during the year. This summary is required to be posted for one month in a place accessible to employees.

Administration and enforcement of the Occupational Safety and Health Act is vested primarily in the Secretary of Labor and the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, a quasi-judicial board of three members appointed by the President.

To enforce safety standards, safety inspectors may enter at any reasonable time, any establishment covered by OSHA to inspect the premises and all pertinent conditions, structures, machines, etc., and to question privately the employer or any employee. The employer and an employee representative may accompany the inspector for the purpose of aiding inspection.

Any employee who believes that a violation of a safety standard exists which threatens physical harm, or that imminent danger exists, may request an inspection by sending a signed, written notice to the Department of Labor, without fear of reprimand from his employer.

Where an inspection reveals a violation, the employer is issued a written citation describing the specific nature of the violation. Within a reasonable time after issuance of a citation, the Department of Labor shall notify the employer, by certified mail, of the penalty, if any, which is proposed to be assessed. The employer then has 15 working days within which to contest the citation or proposed assessment of penalty. If the employer contests the citation or assessment, the action will be turned over to the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, whose judgement may in turn be reviewed by the U. S. Court of Appeals if necessary.

Violations of health and safety standards carry penalties of up to \$1,000 for each violation. A willful violation by an employer which results in the death of any employee is punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months.

Each year starting with 1972, the Alaska Department of Labor in cooperation with the federal government will conduct an OSHA survey of various employers around the State. Only a portion of the State's employers will be surveyed each year, although nearly all covered employers will be required to keep employee occupational injury and illness records at the location where the employee reports for work. The 1971 OSHA survey which was carried out during 1972 requested health and safety information for the last six months of 1971. It was used as a pilot program to determine survey procedures and instruct state personnel. The 1972 survey will request information from approximately 2,000 Alaskan employers covering nearly all industries.

At both the national and State levels, the information obtained from the survey will be used to set up a continuing statistical and research program to provide data needed for the administration of the inspection, enforcement, and standards development provisions of OSHA; for the evaluation of progress in reducing work injuries and illnesses; and for preparing the Secretary of Labor's annual report to Congress.

ALASKA'S ECONOMY IN JANUARY

Total Employment — Unemployment: Total estimated employment for the month of January declined 4,400 from December as the post-Christmas slump in the trade industry, layoffs in the lumber, wood products industry, and declines in construction activity highlighted the employment picture. Primarily on the strength of gains in government, trade, manufacturing, and construction industries,

INDUSTRY	Changes From:			
	1-73	12-72	1-72	12-72
CIVILIAN WORKFORCE.....	123,600	126,000	115,900	-2,400 7,700
INVOLVED IN WORK STOPPAGES.....	0	0	200	0 - 200
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT.....	13,300	11,300	12,200	2,000 1,100
Percent of Workforce.....	10.8	9.0	10.5	- -
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT ^{2/}	110,300	114,700	103,500	-4,400 6,800
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary ^{3/}	98,400	101,800	91,600	-3,400 6,800
Mining.....	1,800	1,900	2,200	- 100 - 400
Construction.....	5,600	6,300	4,900	- 700 700
Manufacturing.....	6,200	6,600	5,000	- 400 1,200
Durable Goods.....	1,900	2,400	1,300	- 500 600
Lumber, Wood Products.....	1,400	1,800	900	- 400 500
Other Durable Goods.....	500	600	400	- 100 100
Non Durable Goods.....	4,300	4,200	3,700	100 600
Food Processing.....	2,300	2,200	1,900	100 400
Other Non Durable Goods.....	2,000	2,000	1,800	0 200
Transp.-Comm. & Utilities.....	9,700	10,100	9,200	- 400 500
Trucking & Warehousing.....	1,400	1,400	1,300	0 100
Water Transportation.....	500	700	600	- 200 - 100
Air Transportation.....	2,800	2,900	2,600	- 100 200
Other Transp.-Comm. & Utilities.....	5,000	5,100	4,700	- 100 300
Trade.....	16,900	17,700	15,500	- 800 1,400
Wholesale Trade.....	3,300	3,300	3,100	0 200
Retail Trade.....	13,600	14,400	12,400	- 800 1,200
General Merchandise & Appar.....	3,600	4,000	3,300	- 400 300
Food Stores.....	2,000	2,200	1,700	- 200 300
Eating & Drinking Places.....	3,000	3,100	2,800	- 100 200
Other Retail Trade.....	5,000	5,100	4,600	- 100 400
Finance-Insurance & Real Estate.....	3,500	3,600	3,300	- 100 200
Service & Miscellaneous.....	13,600	13,900	12,900	- 300 700
Government ^{4/}	41,100	41,700	38,600	- 600 2,500
Federal.....	16,900	17,100	17,000	- 200 - 100
State.....	13,700	14,000	11,900	- 300 1,800
Local.....	10,500	10,600	9,700	- 100 800

^{1/} Estimated in accordance with techniques recommended by U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

^{2/} Includes domestics, nonagricultural self employed and unpaid family workers, and agricultural workers.

^{3/} Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

^{4/} Includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED IN ALASKA

State Unemployment Insurance			
	Insured Unemployed Based on Key Week		
	1-73	12-72	1-72
Total Weeks Claimed.....	7,115	5,425	6,775

Characteristic	Percent Distribution		
	Total	100	100
Total.....	100	100	100

Sex and Age			
Men			
Under 45.....	52	52	51
45 and over.....	30	27	29
Women			
Under 45.....	13	15	12
45 and over.....	5	6	6

Industry			
Mining.....	4	4	4
Contract Construction.....	38	38	36
Manufacturing.....	16	13	19
Transp.-Comm. & Utilities...	9	11	10
Trade.....	14	16	15
Finance-Insurance & R. E....	2	2	2
Service & Miscellaneous....	15	15	13
All Other.....	2	1	1

Occupation			
Professional & Managerial...	5	8	6
Clerical & Sales.....	9	10	10
Service.....	10	11	9
Farming-Fishing & Forestry..	2	2	2
Processing.....	6	6	7
Machine Trades.....	4	4	5
Bench Work.....	1	1	1
Structural Work.....	43	41	42
Miscellaneous.....	17	15	17
Unknown.....	3	2	1

Length of Current Spell of Insured Unemployment			
1-4 Weeks.....	39	43	26
5-14 Weeks.....	50	48	64
15 Weeks and over.....	11	9	10