

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
300 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1280
Seattle, Washington 98104



Refer to: FSO/ajr
CASPA A-86

December 10, 2013

Alex and Natalia Dodov
P.O. Box 5086
Bear Valley, CA 95223

Dear Mr. and Ms. Dodov:

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the tragic death of your son, Nickolay Dodov. We deeply regret the loss of his life.

This is in response to your Complaint About State Program Administration (CASPA) regarding the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Division's (AKOSH) actions in response to a worker fatality at Takhin Ridge near Haines, Alaska, on or about March 13, 2012.

In response to your complaint, we conducted interviews of representatives from AKOSH and reviewed the related fatality case file. Below are the results of our investigation into this matter and OSHA's recommendations:

Allegation: AKOSH did not follow policy in that no on-site investigation was accomplished in response to the death of a heliski guide working for Alaska Heliskiing, LLC, in Haines, Alaska.

OSHA's Analysis: After careful review of the case file and interviews with AKOSH, OSHA determined that AKOSH conducted an investigation into the death of the employee without visiting the employer's workplace in Haines, Alaska or the accident site near Takhin Ridge, Alaska. Additionally, a settlement agreement was reached with the employer after the allowed 15-day settlement period.

Based on OSHA's evaluation of AKOSH's case file and the circumstances surrounding the accident, OSHA made the following recommendations:

1. Ensure all fatality inspections are investigated in accordance with policies and procedures set forth in the AKOSH FOM. This includes investigating the cause of fatality related incidents with an on-site inspection, documenting employee and witness statements, and evaluating the employer's safety and health program, OSHA 300 logs, and other pertinent documentation.

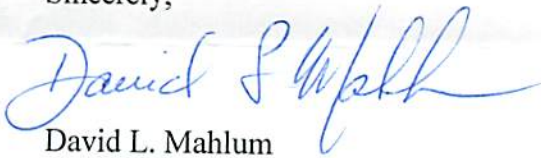
2. Ensure informal settlement agreements are completed within the 15-day settlement period as required by AKOSH FOM Chapter 8.

AKOSH has been notified of the results of our investigation of your complaint and responded to OSHA regarding the allegations and recommendations.

AKOSH's Response: AKOSH agrees with the recommendation to conduct an on-site inspection of workplace fatalities to document employee and witness statements and evaluate the employer's safety and health program or to clearly document all issues limited the possibility or necessity of an on-site inspection. AKOSH also agrees with the recommendation to complete informal settlement agreements within the 15-day settlement period as required by the AKOSH Field Operations Manual.

Conclusion: OSHA has accepted AKOSH's response and considers this matter closed. If you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you disagree with our findings, you have the right to request a review by writing to the OSHA Regional Administrator at the following address: U.S. Department of Labor-OSHA, 300 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1280, Seattle, Washington 98104.

Sincerely,



David L. Mahlum
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Scott Ketcham, Area Director, Anchorage Area Office
Steve Gossman, Assistant Regional Administrator, FSO
A.J. Reid, State Programs Manager