

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

STATE OF ALASKA
Labor Standards & Safety Division

TO: Dr. Tamika L. Ledbetter
Commissioner

DATE: May 12, 2021

THROUGH: Joseph A. Knowles
LSS Director

PHONE: (907) 269-4961

FROM: Elaine Banda. B.A., M.Ed.
Chief, Consultation & Training

SUBJECT: Recommendation for SHARP

General Family Dentistry
557 S. Alaska St.
Palmer AK 99645

Dear Commissioner Ledbetter,

This is a recommendation for General Family Dentistry located at 557 South Alaska St. in Palmer, Alaska, to be accepted into Alaska Occupational Safety and Health (AKOSH) Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP).

General Family Dentistry is owned by Dr. Monte Burtch who has practiced dentistry in Palmer since 1995. Dr. Burtch is a member of the Academy of General Dentistry, a national organization for continued professional development, as well as the American Dental Association (ADA). Dr. Burtch currently employs five workers and has provided a workplace that has seen very little turnover since opening.

General Family Dentistry began working with AKOSH in March of 2020 after receiving an Enforcement inspection under the Alaska emphasis healthcare program. Dr. Burtch learned about AKOSH Consultation and Training (C&T) during the settlement portion of the Enforcement action and contacted Consultation to schedule a walkthrough visit. Subsequently, General Family Dentistry has worked with the C&T section to improve their Safety and Health Management System (SHMS) with the goal of reaching SHARP status since October, 2020.

All hazards identified during the consultation process were corrected. A SHARP follow-up visit was conducted February 9, 2021, and the determination to move forward with the process was made. On February 18, 2021, the employer took the next step and submitted a commitment letter to Consultation and Training. After careful review of employer's progress to improve his safety and health program, combined with his Days Away Restrictions or Transfers (DART) and Total Recordable Cases (TRC) rate which are well below the national average, this site meets the requirements for SHARP status.

If approved, AKOSH C&T will present the employer with a certificate and SHARP banner. It has been communicated to the employer that participation in the SHARP does not diminish any of the rights and responsibilities provided to employees by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In addition, if approved, the name of this site will be removed from AKOSH's scheduled Enforcement inspection list for two years. Employee complaints, fatalities, or catastrophes at this site will still result in normal AKOSH Enforcement procedures. The employer was also notified they would be required to submit an annual self-evaluation of their SHMS to our section by March 1st of each year.

The following is the site contact for this establishment:

General Family Dentistry

Dr. Monte Burtch

557 South Alaska Street

PALMER, AK 99645

Phone: (907) 745-3600

Email: monteb@mtaonline.net

Website: <https://www.generalfamilydentistry.net>

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Elaine Banda

Elaine Banda, B.A., M.Ed.

Chief of Consultation and Training

cc: Loren Delicana, Region 9/10 ARA OCSP
Eric Christensen, Region 9 Program Manager
Arlene Lamont, Anchorage Area Director
Mitch Wallace, SHARP Coordinator Safety Consultant