

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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SEARHC hosts (OS1)[®] cleaning system founder April 22

SITKA, April 8, 2008 — The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) and the Sitka Employee Wellness Coalition will host Operating System 1 founder and developer John Walker in a free presentation about cleaning for health from 10-11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22, at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Operating System 1, also called (OS1)[®], is a comprehensive cleaning system in use at universities, office buildings, military bases, laboratories and manufacturers around the country. There also is an (OS1)[®] Green Certified Program for users who want to show their organization is reducing environmental risk.

SEARHC Rural Facilities Manager Jim Ginnaty recently tested (OS1)[®] at SEARHC's Alicia Roberts Medical Center in Klawock, and he said the change has been dramatic. The clinic now gets compliments as one of the cleanest health facilities in the Indian Health Services network, and Ginnaty said he's expanded the program to SEARHC's clinics in Hydaburg, Haines, Klukwan, Angoon and Kake. Since starting to use the system in August 2005, SEARHC won the 2006 Green Certified Cleaning Program Award, the Alicia Roberts Medical Center won the 2006 Environmental Program Award, and Ginnaty won the 2007 Peer Influence Award.

"The important thing is this system is about cleaning for health," Ginnaty said. "I like this system because I've seen it work. It's the only systematic standardized cleaning system out there."

One of the things Ginnaty said he likes about (OS1)[®] is how buildings are cleaner and safer, even though the system uses fewer chemicals and less water than conventional cleaning methods. It also uses national benchmarks and standards. Because employees have job cards and a set routine that doesn't vary from location to location, a worker in Klawock can use the same system in Haines without training. Ginnaty said several organizations using the (OS1)[®] system have seen a reduction in sick days, workman's comp claims and actually saved money.

"From an employee wellness perspective, this system has two key benefits," said Doug Osborne, one of the coordinators of the Sitka Employee Wellness Coalition. "One is the individual custodian is safer and healthier. Second, the indoor air quality and overall environment is improved, which means that every worker and customer in that building will experience better health."

"It's fitting that this event is happening on Earth Day because environmental considerations are built into this system on many levels, from using environmentally responsible chemicals, source/waste reduction, energy efficiency, and using a holistic approach to reducing, reusing and recycling," said Andrew Thoms, executive director of the Sitka Conservation Society.

For more information about the meeting, contact Jim Ginnaty at 966-8747. To learn more about (OS1)[®], go to <http://www.managemen.com/os1.html>.

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