

# AKOSH INSPECTION NARRATIVE REPORT

Generated: July 31, 2025

Inspection No.: 1825503

Ward Cove Dock Group, LLC / The Mill at Ward Cove

CSHO: Kennard, Mark

CSHO ID: V6298

## Inspection Narrative Report

### Establishment:

Ward Cove Dock Group, LLC / The Mill at Ward Cove  
7559 North Tongass Highway  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(907) 247-7772

**Inspection:** 1825503  
**Inspection Date:** 05/16/2025  
**Opening Conf:** 05/16/2025  
**Closing Conf:** 07/30/2025

### Mailing Address:

7559 North Tongass Highway  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

### Site Address:

7559 North Tongass Highway  
Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901

### AKOSH Representatives:

Kennard, Mark

### Title/Position:

CSHO

### Management Officials:

Gawel, Jeff

### Title/Position:

President

### History:

On 5/15/2025 I, CSHO Kennard was assigned a fatality inspection by Chief Dale Williamson. The fatality occurred in Ward Cove Alaska, near Ketchikan Alaska. The facility is operated by Ward Cove Dock Group (Ward Cove) who had an employee fall about 6 months ago. That employee was hospitalized. Ward Cove is a retail and tour-based industry which provides different tours and shopping for tourists that come off the cruise ships at the attached dock.

The contractor doing the work on the masonry walls was Orlin Cochran (Orlin). Orlin originally started doing masonry work for Ward Cove in about 2020 under the business names of Dun Right and Dun Right Masonry. Orlin let those business licenses lapse in late 2022 or early 2023. Orlin continued to provide construction contractor services with a masonry specialty to Ward Cove.

### Opening Conference:

On 5/16/2025 at approximately 0911 I arrived onsite and presented my credentials and asked to speak with Jeff Gawel (Jeff) or John Binkley. After a few minutes Jeff arrived, and I asked him to contact Orlin. After a while Orlin arrived and I asked them if they were authorized to conduct the inspection with me and they both stated yes.

At approximately 0950, I simultaneously conducted an opening with Orlin and Jeff, explaining the nature of the inspection and going over the opening conference worksheet items.

### Walk-Around:

On 5/16/2025 at approximately 1004, I conducted a walk around with Orlin and Jeff. They escorted me to the area where the fatality occurred. I took pictures and asked questions. I was unable to enter the rafter area where the employee fell from due to not having a safe walking/working surface or fall protection. Through holes in the ceiling, I could see the dimensional lumber used as planking. I was unable to get a good measurement to determine if the spaces between the planks were within the standards. Through one hole I could see retractable lifelines but could not determine if the anchor point was adequate.

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At first Orlin stated that the deceased individual was a sub-contractor, but due to Darden factors it was determined that the deceased was an employee of Orlin's. There were no business licenses found for the deceased. Orlin was paying the deceased under the table, directing him in the day-to-day operations, the deceased did not have any special skills, and was being paid an hourly rate. Subsequent checks for business licenses showed that Orlin had expired licenses for two businesses: Dun Right and Dun Right Masonry, both licenses expired 12/31/2022. Orlin originally told me that he was doing business as Dun Right Masonry. After careful review of Darden factors, it was determined that Orlin was a Contractor for Ward Cove. Orlin had a specialized skill that was outside the normal operation of Ward Cove. Orlin had the ability to hire and fire his own employees. Orlin had the ability to work for other entities outside of his work with Ward Cove. Orlin was not receiving employee benefits such as health care.

Since Ward Cove did not have any employees in the area or overseeing the contracted work, no employee interviews were conducted. A recorded interview with Jeff and Orlin was conducted on-site.

### **Closing Conference: 07/30/2025**

On 7/30/2025 at approximately 0914, a closing conference was conducted via teams with Jeff and Counsel Aaron Owada. The lack of contract, Orlin's business licenses and insurance were discussed.

### **Conclusions:**

Based on the inspection findings and interviews, no alleged violations were noted.

**Notes:** Interview with Mr. Gawel was recorded and located in the miscellaneous folder associated with this inspection file.