

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Fire Chiefs Association****Federal Tax ID: 92-0098649****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

# Alaska Fire Chief's Association, Inc. - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Up-Grade Project

**State Funding Requested: \$1,682,725****House District: Statewide (1-40)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

This project will upgrade the participating fire departments Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus to the most current standard. Extending the service life of the equipment and provide enhanced firefighter safety.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$1,682,725
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$1,682,725)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:*

- Project costs \$1,682,725: This is based on recent estimates conducted for the project
- Funding already secured: None
- FY14 State Funding Request \$1,682,725: This amount is based on our current estimated costs
- Other Funding Requests: There are no other requests for this project
- Additional Funding Required: There will be no additional funding request for this project

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association, a 501(c) 3 corporation, on behalf of thirty-three (33) of its member fire departments is requesting funding to upgrade a critical component of firefighters personal protective equipment; their Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus or SCBAs.

**Background:**

This project began as a request by seven (7) fire departments from the Fairbanks North Star Borough who have a critical need to upgrade their current SCBAs. This upgrade, for those agencies, is driven in large part to a critical failure of a component of their SCBAs called a Scott Electronic Management System or SEMS.

The SEMS were used to track firefighters on the fire ground and aid the incident commander to ensure firefighter safety. The SEMS units installed on their packs were first generation units and have since been replaced by an updated system. All seven departments are now seeing failure in the SEMS units and the manufacture no longer makes or supports those

units. We found that the only solution is to upgrade the SCBAs to the most current standard.

While researching for a solution to this problem it was discovered that another looming problem was on the horizon that would affect not only these agencies but many other fire departments across the State.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) develops, among other things, the standards to which fire equipment must be manufactured to. "NFPA 1981: Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services" details the standards that manufacturers must meet to sell SCBAs to the fire service. These standards are updated typically every four to five years. The current NFPA 1981 Standard is the 2007 Edition. Most fire departments across the nation usually run two editions behind in the SCBAs they are using. This is mainly due to the tremendous cost of replacing SCBAs.

It was determined that the best solution to correct the problem with the SEMS units was to upgrade these departments current SCBAs from the NFPA 2002 Edition SCBAs to the current 2007 Edition SCBAs. In making this determination the departments discovered that the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard will be dramatically changing in late 2013.

Two of the main changes in the NFPA 2013 Edition are that new face-piece lens have a higher thermal degradation level and the low pressure alarm or end-of-service time indicator (EOSTI) that alerts the firefighter that the air level in their SCBA cylinder has reached a certain level. This last change is the most dramatic and the most time critical.

Current SCBAs will alert the firefighter when they have 25% air left in the air cylinder. The 2013 edition will require the alarm to alert at 33%. This change unfortunately has several ripple effects. First and foremost the SCBA manufacturers will no longer be able to retrofit or up-grade SCBAs to meet this change in the air-packs.

The upgrades we are seeking to do will no longer be available after July 27th of 2013. Any repairs on air-packs after that time would need to meet the new NFPA 2013 Edition and will require the total replacement of the air-pack. Current upgrade costs are \$1,500 per air-pack compared to \$5,500 to replace the air-pack.

In addition the NFPA 2013 Standard eliminates the ability of departments to use their existing inventory of 30 minute air-bottles, which most departments use. After the 2013 edition only 45 or 60 minute air-bottles will be usable on SCBAs purchased under that standard thus forcing additional cost to replace air-bottles as well as purchasing new SCBAs.

Through our Association it was discovered that other fire departments across the State had similar needs and therefore it was determined to expand the project to include as many departments as possible.

Fire departments from across the State were contacted to determine if their SCBAs fell into the category of being upgradable to the NFPA 2007 Edition. Several agencies were found to not need this upgrade as they had recently purchased new SCBAs. Others, mainly very small agencies, were found to have SCBAs that were too old to be upgraded. The list of fire departments in this grant is what we have determined to the best of our ability the ones in need of this project.

#### Project Scope:

This project would upgrade all participating department's self-contained breathing apparatus from the NFPA 2002 Edition to the current NFPA 2007 Edition. Department's would also upgrade their current SCBA facemasks to the NFPA 2013 Edition taking advantage of the improved facemasks without having to replace the whole SCBA.

**Project Benefits:**

- Fiscally prudent in the cost of upgrading is minimal as compared to buying new.
- Extend the service life of current SCBA's through 2018 Edition of "NFPA 1981: Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services".
- Allows departments additional time plan for and phase in the switch from 30 minute to 45 or 60 minute cylinders
- Extend the warranties on SCBA's: 3 years on electronics and 5 years on back-frames and masks
- Upgrades the SCBA's to the current 2007 NFPA Edition
- Allows for departments to repair current SCBA's that are currently out of service due to part's no longer being available for the SEMS units on current SCBA's.
- New SCBA will come with PASS devices that will have the Pack-Tracker firefighter locator system.

**Project Budget:**

- Upgrade SCBA's to the "NFPA 1981": 2007 Edition:\$1,441,500
- Purchase Facemasks, "NFPA 1981": 2013 Edition:\$216,225
- Installation of Upgrades in-house by Certified Technician\$25,000

Total Project Budget\$1,682,725

**Project Timeline:**

The project will be bid out within 21 days of the grant award. The project is projected to be completed within 6 months of the project being awarded.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Local Fire Departments who recieve equipment upgrades

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Jeff Tucker  
 Title: Fire Chief  
 Address: 2358 Bradway Road  
 North Pole, Alaska 99705  
 Phone Number: (907)488-3400  
 Email: jtucker@northstarfire.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No



# Alaska Fire Chief's Association

## Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)



## 2013 Legislative Capital Project







## ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

2358 Bradway Road, North Pole, Alaska 99705

Phone: (907) 488-3400

FAX: (907) 488-6118

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The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association, a 501(c) 3 corporation, on behalf of thirty-three (3) of its member fire departments is requesting funding to upgrade a critical component of firefighters personal protective equipment; their Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus or SCBAs.

### Background:

This project began as a request by seven (7) fire departments from the Fairbanks North Star Borough who have a critical need to upgrade their current SCBAs. This upgrade, for those agencies, is driven in large part to a critical failure of a component of their SCBAs called a Scott Electronic Management System or SEMS.

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- New SCBA will come with PASS devices that will have the Pack-Tracker firefighter locator system.

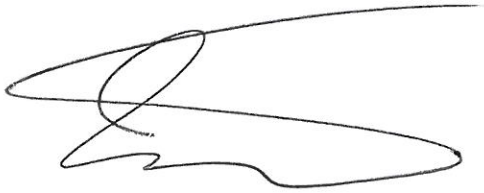
Project Budget:

- Upgrade SCBA's to the "NFPA 1981": 2007 Edition: \$1,441,500
- Purchase Facemasks, "NFPA 1981": 2013 Edition: \$216,225
- Installation of Upgrades in-house by Certified Technician \$25,000

Total Project Budget \$1,682,725

For any questions with regards to this project please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Tucker', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff Tucker, Fire Chief  
North Star Volunteer Fire Department  
Immediate Past President, Alaska Fire Chiefs Association  
[jtucker@northstarfire.org](mailto:jtucker@northstarfire.org)  
907-488-3400 (Office)  
907-378-4680 (Cell)



# Alaska Fire Chiefs Association SCBA Up-Grade Project

<u>Department</u>	<u># of Airpacks with SEMS</u>	<u># of Airpacks without SEMS</u>	<u>Total Airpacks</u>	<u>Facemasks</u>	<u>Share of Grant</u>
<b><u>Fairbanks North Star Borough</u></b>					
North Pole Fire Department	36	0	36	36	\$62,100
Steese Volunteer Fire Department	40	0	40	40	\$69,000
Chena Goldstream Fire Rescue	40	0	40	40	\$69,000
Ester Volunteer Fire Department	6	12	18	18	\$31,050
University Fire Department	52	0	52	52	\$89,700
North Star Volunteer Fire Department	77	28	105	105	\$181,125
Fairbanks Area Hazmat Team	0	20	20	20	\$34,500
<b><u>Kenai Peninsula Borough</u></b>					
Kenai Fire Department			26	26	\$44,850
Central Emergency Services			68	68	\$117,300
Nikiski Fire Department			40	40	\$69,000
Bear Creek Fire Department			17	17	\$29,325
Moose Pass Volunteer Fire Department			12	12	\$20,700
Seward Fire Department			40	40	\$69,000
Kechemak Emergency Services			21	21	\$36,225
Homer Volunteer Fire Department			35	35	\$60,375
Ninilchik Volunteer Fire Department			10	10	\$17,250
Anchor Point Volunteer Fire Rescue			12	12	\$20,700
Seldovia Volunteer Fire and Rescue			10	10	\$17,250
Lowell Point Volunteer Fire Department			12	12	\$20,700
<b><u>Kodiak Island Borough</u></b>					
City of Kodiak Fire Department			20	20	\$34,500
Bayside Fire Station (Fire Protection Area 1)			22	22	\$37,950
Woman's Bay Volunteer Fire Department			10	10	\$17,250
<b><u>Ketchikan Gateway Borough</u></b>					
North Tongass Volunteer Fire Department			28	28	\$48,300
South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department			18	18	\$31,050



# Alaska Fire Chiefs Association SCBA Up-Grade Project

Department	Total		Share of Grant
	Airpacks	Facemasks	
<u>City and Borough of Juneau</u>			
Capital City Fire Rescue	82	82	\$141,450
<u>Municipality of Skagway Borough</u>			
Skagway Fire Department	21	21	\$36,225
<u>The City and Borough of Sitka</u>			
Sitka Fire Department	45	45	\$77,625
<u>Haines Borough</u>			
Haines Volunteer Fire Department	25	25	\$43,125
<u>Unorganized Borough</u>			
Hoonah Volunteer Fire Department	10	10	\$17,250
Dillingham Volunteer Fire Department	16	16	\$27,600
Unalaska Fire/EMS	24	24	\$41,400
Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department	6	6	\$10,350
Nome Volunteer Fire Department	20	20	\$34,500
Installation of upgrades in-house by certified Scott SCBA Technician			\$25,000
<b>Total Cost for Air-Pack Upgrades, Masks, and Installation by Technician</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>\$1,682,725</b>

Subtotal per Item \$1,441,500 \$216,225  
 Cost per Item \$1,500 Each \$225 Each

SEMS = Scott Electronic Management System

All pack upgrades will include the Pack Tracker feature on the PASS device

<u>Department</u>	<u>Number of Firefighters</u>	<u>Population Served</u>
<u>Fairbanks North Star Borough</u>		
North Pole Fire Department	36	2,800
Steesse Volunteer Fire Department	51	10,000
Chena Goldstream Fire Rescue	49	9,000
Ester Volunteer Fire Department	35	3,500
University Fire Department	52	20,000
North Star Volunteer Fire Department	60	25,000
Fairbanks Area Hazmat Team *	26	0
* FAHT is a Regional and Statewide responder		
<u>Kenai Peninsula Borough</u>		
Kenai Fire Department	18	7,500
Central Emergency Services	65	20,647
Nikiski Fire Department	50	5,500
Bear Creek Fire Department	33	1,750
Moose Pass Volunteer Fire Department	14	200
Seward Fire Department	32	2,800
Kachemak Emergency Services	36	4,800
Homer Volunteer Fire Department	25	5,700
Ninilchik Volunteer Fire Department	16	800
Anchor Point Volunteer Fire Rescue	40	2,200
Seldovia Volunteer Fire and Rescue	30	461
Lowell Point Volunteer Fire Department	4	80
<u>Kodiak Island Borough</u>		
City of Kodiak Fire Department	13	6,500
Bayside Fire Station (Fire Protection Area 1)	32	3,500
Woman's Bay Volunteer Fire Department	15	800
<u>Ketchikan Gateway Borough</u>		
North Tongass Volunteer Fire Department	11	3,250
South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department	28	3,000

<u>Department</u>			
<u>City and Borough of Juneau</u>		92	32,298
Capital City Fire Rescue			
<u>Municipality of Skagway Borough</u>		28	800
Skagway Fire Department			
<u>The City and Borough of Sitka</u>		46	9,089
Sitka Fire Department			
<u>Haines Borough</u>		40	2,200
Haines Volunteer Fire Department			
<u>Unorganized Borough</u>		17	800
Hoonah Volunteer Fire Department			
Dillingham Volunteer Fire Department		54	2,900
Unalaska Fire/EMS		39	4,000
Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department		10	700
Nome Volunteer Fire Department		42	3,500

	Year Round
Firefighters	Population
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1139</b>
	<b>196,075</b>

**Total Population of Alaska 731,449**

**Percentage of Alaska Population Served by Project 27%**



**Bear Creek Fire Service Area**  
**PO Box 1565-Mile 5.5 Seward Hwy**  
**Seward, AK 99664**

Phone:(907) 224-3345 -Fax:(907) 224-3344 Email:[bearcreek@seward.net](mailto:bearcreek@seward.net)

January 31, 2013

13-002 BCFSA

To: Alaska Legislators

From: The Bear Creek Fire Service Area Board of Directors

Reference: Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)  
Project

Dear Alaska Legislators;

The Bear Creek Fire Service Area Board of Directors unanimously supports the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Project. This project will allow our fire department to extend the effective life of our self-contained breathing apparatus. It is a fiscally prudent approach to provide critical safety equipment to our firefighters. Our current and forecasted budgets do not have any excess to allow for this costly self-contained breathing apparatus upgrade, as this would increase our existing budget by more than 10 percent. Most of our SCBA equipment was originally purchased through a FEMA grant for personal protective equipment. With the SCBA upgrade we will be able to meet the operating standards of the National Fire Protection Associations 2007 Standard and will extend the life of our current air pack inventory to the year of 2018.

We urge your support of this project and thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Earl Kloster, Chairmen  
Bear Creek Fire Service Area Board





*Capital City Fire / Rescue  
820 Glacier Avenue  
Juneau, AK. 99801*

January 30, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

Capital City Fire Rescue supports a request for funding by the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association for the critical upgrades to self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association is making this funding request on behalf of the fire departments across Alaska that utilize the 2002- compliant Scott SCBA's. Capital City Fire Rescue owns 82 of these SCBA's. Our department's service area is 3,255 square miles protecting 32,164 people.

The funding request if approved will extend the service life of the SCBA's by up to 10 years. The funding will bring the 2002 compliant SCBA's current to the 2013 standard. Parts will no longer be available to support the non compliant SCBA's.

SCBA's are one of the most frequently used pieces of firefighting equipment that protect our fire fighters. Due to their age they are frequently in the shop for repairs. Our department does not have the funding to replace these SCBA's with out financial assistance. Capital City Fire Rescue urges you to support this critically needed and time sensitive physically responsible solution.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Etheridge". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Richard Etheridge  
Fire Chief



## Chena Goldstream Fire Service Area

Grant Matheke  
Chair

Mike Gho  
Commissioner

Don Kirk  
Commissioner



November 27, 2012

Dear Interior Legislators:

I am writing on behalf of the Chena-Goldstream Fire Service Area (CGFSA) Commission to encourage you to support the \$568,376 capital request from the Interior Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) to upgrade their Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The CGFSA Commission unanimously endorsed this request at their last meeting on November 12, 2012.

The IFCA has developed a white paper (attached) clearly outlining the need and benefits of this request; I will not waste your time by repeating it. I would simply like to emphasize a few points that were decisive in the minds of our commissioners:

- The need is obvious. Current SCBAs are failing at an alarming rate, 23% are inoperable in IFCA departments, and because of their age they cannot be repaired without an upgrade.
- Prompt action will save money. If we refit all our SCBAs to the current standard before July 2013, we can upgrade them for \$1400 per unit. If we wait until the new 2013 standard is in effect, we will have to replace the air bottles, as well at a cost of \$5500 per unit.
- Departments would then have additional time to switch to the new larger volume air bottles called for in the new standard.
- New SCBAs will come with PASS devices that will have the Pack-Tracker firefighter locator system, an important safety feature for firefighters.

Funding this Capital Request will improve public safety for the residents of the fire service areas, and will improve the safety of our firefighters, who are so willing to put their lives at risk for the sake of the community.

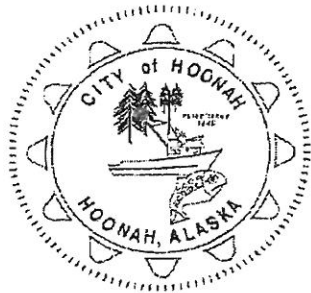
Thank you for your consideration,

Grant Matheke, Chair, CGFSA Commission

2064 Goldstream Rd.

Fairbanks, AK 99709

gmatheke@mosquionet.com



City of Hoonah

P.O. Box 360 Hoonah, AK 99829 (907) 945-3663 Fax (907) 945-3445

1/29/13

Johnathan Kreiss-Thomkins

And

Bert Stedman

Reference: Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Project

Dear Alaska Legislators,

The City of Hoonah is in full support the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Project. This project will allow our fire department to extend the effective life of their self-contained breathing apparatus. It is a fiscally prudent approach to provide critical safety equipment to our firefighters.

Without this project funding we would be unable to do the necessary upgrades to our SCBA's. The department is currently putting on a state accredited Firefighter 1 class training with the SCBA's we have. Without this funded upgrade we would be unable to enter a burning structure for fire suppression or for rescue and ultimately be less effective as a fire department.

We urge your support of this project and thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Nino Villarreal, Mayor  
City of Hoonah



*"Village with a Past, City with a Future"*

210 Fidalgo Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-7794  
Telephone: (907) 283-7535 / FAX: (907) 283-3014  
[www.ci.kenai.ak.us](http://www.ci.kenai.ak.us)

January 31, 2013

The Honorable Sean Parnell  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

RE: **Alaska Fire Chiefs Association SCBA Project**  
Letter of Support

Dear Governor Parnell:

The City of Kenai supports the Alaska Fire Chief's Association in seeking funds for the "Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Project" for fire departments across the state.

Public safety is a high priority for our state and providing a safe and effective working environment for our first responders is imperative to ensure high levels of service in every situation. Funding this project will upgrade a critical component of our firefighter's safety equipment to the current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard and provide longevity of SCBA's.

The City of Kenai respectfully requests your support in funding the "Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Project." Please contact Fire Chief Michael Tilly for more information related to this project, (907) 283-7666 or [mtilly@ci.kenai.ak.us](mailto:mtilly@ci.kenai.ak.us).

Sincerely,

Pat Porter  
Mayor, City of Kenai

cc: Peter Micciche, Senator  
Kurt Olsen, Representative  
Mike Chenault, Representative  
Jeff Tucker, AFCA Immediate Past President





## City of Seward

P.O. Box 167  
Seward, Alaska 99664-0167

Main Office (907) 224-4050  
Facsimile (907) 224-4038

City of Seward, Alaska  
1963 1965 2005



January 31, 2013

To: Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska

Reference: Alaska Fire Chief's Association's Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Project

Dear Legislators,

The Seward City Council met on January 28, 2013 and by consensus agreed to unanimously support the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Project. This project will allow our fire departments to extend the effective life of their self-contained breathing apparatus. We believe this is a fiscally sound approach to provide critical safety equipment to our firefighters.

We urge your support of this project and thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Hunt".

Jim Hunt  
City Manager, Seward  
[Jhunt@cityofseward.net](mailto:Jhunt@cityofseward.net)  
907.224.4012

Ester Volunteer Fire Department  
3570 Old Nenana Hwy  
PO Box 229  
Ester, AK 99725-0229



Phone 907-479-6858  
Fax 907-479-9883  
www.esterfire.org

December 17, 2012

Interior Delegation

Re: FY13/14 Interior Fire Chiefs Capital Request

On behalf of the Ester Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors, and as approved in a motion on December 12, 2011, I respectfully request the Interior Delegation consider the Interior Fire Chiefs Association Self Contained Breathing Apparatus FY13/14 capital Budget Request and that the project be submitted to the State of Alaska for possible funding through the FY13/14 Capital Budget. The total project budget is \$568,375.

The safety of our volunteer firefighters is paramount. The SCBA is the main tool used by firefighters entering a hazardous atmosphere and allows them to operate on the edge. Our current fleet, borough wide, is in dire need of major repairs and upgrades. Having a sufficient fleet of in service air packs is even more crucial during the harsh Interior winters as freezing conditions cause the equipment to fail prematurely.

Attached is a detailed project description and budget. The EVFD Board of Directors strongly encourages the Legislature support this multi-department grant that will benefit all of Interior Alaska.

If you need more information or an information sheet about the project, feel free to contact Chief Cameron Wohlford.

Sincerely,

Saber Ebadpour, President, Board of Directors  
Ester Volunteer Fire Department Inc.

cc: file

Ester Volunteer Fire Department  
3570 Old Nenana Hwy  
PO Box 229  
Ester, AK 99725-0229



Phone 907-479-6858  
Fax 907-479-9883  
www.esterfire.org

December 17, 2012

Interior Delegation

Re: FY13/14 Interior Fire Chiefs Capital Request

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Sincerely,

George Riley, Chair of Commission  
Ester Fire Service Area

cc: file



## **KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**

144 North Binkley St., Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520  
1-800-478-4441, Ext. 2150 • 907-714-2150 • Fax 907-714-2377  
[www.borough.kenai.ak.us](http://www.borough.kenai.ak.us) • [mnavarre@borough.kenai.ak.us](mailto:mnavarre@borough.kenai.ak.us)

**Mike Navarre**  
**BOROUGH MAYOR**

30 January 2013

Governor Sean Parnell  
State of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor:


The Kenai Peninsula Borough supports the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association request for funding the "Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Project" (SCBA) as described in the enclosed proposal.

The borough has five service areas and volunteer fire departments included in the proposed project that would greatly benefit from the SCBA upgrades twofold: (1) the upgrades will extend the effective life of the current SCBAs; and (2) it will be a fiscally prudent approach to provide critical safety equipment to our firefighters.

On behalf of the:      Anchor Point Emergency Service Area,  
                                 Central Emergency Service Area,  
                                 Bear Creek Fire & Emergency Service Area,  
                                 Kachemak Emergency Service Area, and  
                                 Nikiski Fire Service Area

I urge your support to fund the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association request for funding the "Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Project." Should you need additional information, please contact Chief James Baisden, Nikiski Fire Service Area 907-714-6401 or [jbaisden@borough.kenai.ak.us](mailto:jbaisden@borough.kenai.ak.us).

Sincerely,

  
Mike Navarre,  
Mayor

Enclosures: SCBA Project Proposal

CC:      House of Representatives Mike Chenault, Speaker  
            Representative Kurt Olson  
            Representative Paul Seaton  
            Senator Cathy Giessel  
            Senator Peter Micciche





**North Star Fire Service Area**  
2358 Bradway Road, North Pole, Alaska 99705  
Phone: (907) 488-3400      FAX: (907) 488-6118  
Ken Anderson, Commission Chair

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January 7, 2013

Reference: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Project

Dear Legislators,

The North Star Fire Service Area Commission met on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and voted to unanimously support the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Project. This project is fiscally prudent approach to provide critical safety equipment to our firefighters.

We urge your support of this project and thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Anderson, Commission Chair



## North Star Volunteer Fire Department Inc.

2358 Bradway Road, North Pole, Alaska 99705

Phone: (907) 488-3400 FAX: (907) 488-6118

John Colelli, Board Chair

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January 7, 2013

The Honorable Sean Parnell  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Reference: Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)  
Up-Grade Project

Dear Governor Parnell,

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the North Star Volunteer Fire Department's Board of Directors met and voted to support the legislative request by the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association to up-grade our current Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. This project request is made on behalf of our department and many other departments across the State and we ask you for your support.

This is truly a life safety issue for our firefighters and we believe one that will have a direct and significant impact to their ability to provide fire protection to our community.

I want to thank you for your support of the fire service in Alaska.

Sincerely,



John Colelli, Board President

**CITY OF SEWARD**  
P.O. BOX 167  
SEWARD, ALASKA 99664-0167



- Main Office (907) 224-4050
- Police (907) 224-3338
- Harbor (907) 224-3138
- Fire (907) 224-3445
- City Clerk (907) 224-4046
- Engineering (907) 224-4049
- Utilities (907) 224-4050
- Fax (907) 224-4038

February 1, 2013

Representative Mike Chenault  
State Capital, Rm 208  
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

Representative Chenault,

I am writing you asking for support for the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association request for funding the "Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Project". My department is one of thirty fire departments across the State that will benefit from this project being funded. We bought our SCBAs in 2004 at a cost of \$149,975.00 and financed them for seven years. The standard which the SCBAs are built to is modified every five years. With that in mind, we can modify a SCBA during two cycles or a ten year period. On the 2013 standard NFPA has changed the low air alarm level from 25% to 33%. The SCBA manufacturer has advised us we would not be able to upgrade our 2002 SCBAs to this standard because of design changes.

There is a cost savings by doing this mass project verses what a single department would do. I checked with the vendor for the upgrade for my SCBAs and the cost quoted was \$3600.00 per SCBA. Under the AFCA proposal it is around \$1750.00 per SCBA.

This project will give my SCBAs and the other Fire Departments included in the request, an additional five years of useful life. All the departments will have to replace their SCBAs in 2018; the departments can use this time to develop a purchase plan for the new SCBAs.

This is the first AFCA project I can recall that will have an immediate effect on a fire department's operational status. If you would like more information on this project I would be happy to answer any questions you may have and if I cannot answer them, I will put you in touch with Chief Jeff Tucker from the AFCA who is the lead on this project.

I want thank-you for your time for reviewing this proposal and for your consideration for this project.

Sincerely,

David Squires  
Fire Chief  
Seward Fire Department  
[dsquires@cityofseward.net](mailto:dsquires@cityofseward.net)  
907-224-3445



*Steese Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.*

800 William C. Leary Lane

Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Phone: (907) 457-3710 Fax: (907) 457-1512

January 30, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

Please support funding the statewide self-contained breathing apparatus upgrade for Alaska's fire departments. This is a time sensitive, critical project that has placed all our departments in a bind due to a parts supplier going bankrupt. This project will greatly benefit our organization financially and functionally.

The upgrade will extend the life of our air packs by 7-8 years saving us from having to upgrade to a newer standard later this year at a much greater cost to us all. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Mitch Flynn, Fire Chief

Steese Volunteer Fire Department



To Whom it May Concern,

The University Fire Service Area Commission supports a request for funding by the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association for critical upgrades to self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The Alaska Fire Chiefs Association is making the funding request on behalf of fire departments throughout Alaska that utilize 2002-compliant Scott SCBA. The University Fire Department owns 52 such SCBA. The University Fire Service Area Commission represents 18,000 residents in 22 square miles served by the University Fire Department.

The funding request, if approved, would extend the life of the current SCBA by ten years. The funding would bring all existing 2002-compliant SCBA into compliance with the 2007 standard of the National Fire Protection Association. After June 2013, the opportunity to upgrade to the 2007 standard will no longer be available, as manufacturers discontinue their support for older critical safety sensitive equipment. The only alternative after 30 June will bring the current SCBA into compliance with the 2013 standard, increasing the expense fourfold.

Approximately one-half of the University Fire Department's SCBA are presently out of service due to a lack of available parts. Additional SCBA fall at a rate of almost one per month. The fire department is unable to upgrade to the 2007 standard without financial assistance. If this continues without the requested upgrade, the department's ability to fulfill its mission will be compromised. The University Fire Service Area Commission urges your support for this critically needed, time sensitive, fiscally responsible solution.

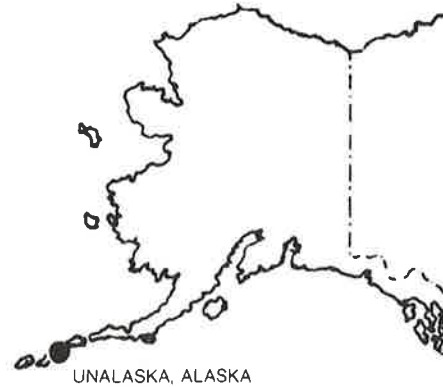
Sincerely,



Steve Adams, Chair  
University Fire Service Area Commission

# CITY OF UNALASKA

P.O. BOX 610  
UNALASKA, ALASKA 99685-0610  
(907) 581-1251 FAX (907) 581-1417



UNALASKA, ALASKA

• 30 January 2013

Governor Sean Parnell  
State of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor:

The City of Unalaska supports the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association request for funding the “Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Project” (SCBA) as described in the enclosed proposal. Our fire department is staffed with 4 full time firefighters and approximately 40 volunteers serving approximately 4,000 full time residents and 4,000 – 6,000 transient residents and would greatly benefit from the SCBA upgrades twofold: (1) the upgrades will extend the effective life of the current SCBAs; and (2) it will be a fiscally prudent approach to provide critical safety equipment to our firefighters.

On behalf of the City of Unalaska, Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire & Emergency Medical Services I urge your support to fund the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association request for funding the “Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Project.” Should you need additional information, please contact Chief Abner Hoage, Unalaska Fire & Emergency Medical Services 907-581-1233 or [ahoage@ci.unalaska.ak.us](mailto:ahoage@ci.unalaska.ak.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley Marquardt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Shirley Marquardt,  
Mayor

Enclosures: SCBA Project Proposal  
CC: House of Representatives Mike Chenault, Speaker  
Representative Bob Herron  
Senator Lyman Hoffman