

State of Alaska
FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety
Fire Prevention
Budget Request Unit Budget Summary

Fire Prevention Budget Request Unit

Contact: Gary Powell, Director

Tel: (907) 269-5491 **Fax:** (907) 338-4375 **E-mail:** gary_powell@dps.state.ak.us

BRU Mission

To prevent the loss of life and property from fire and explosion.

BRU Services Provided

1. Enforcement of state fire laws and regulations in all areas of the state with the exception of those jurisdictions that have requested and received a deferral of that authority.
2. Coordination of fire prevention education programs.
3. Collection and dissemination of fire information and statistics, including management of the Alaska National Fire Incident Reporting System. This is being accomplished utilizing a shared clerical position.
4. Technical assistance to communities regarding the organization, training and response capabilities of their local fire departments.
5. Adoption of rules and regulations for the purpose of protecting life and property from fire and explosion.
6. Training and certification of local fire and emergency responders.
7. Adoption of relevant fire training standards that meet the needs of local communities, and development of curriculum based on those standards.
8. Accreditation of emergency response training programs.
9. Permitting and planning oversight of proposed gas pipeline project regarding fire and life safety issues.

BRU Goals and Strategies

1. Provide fire prevention inspections in communities that have not received a deferral of that authority from the State.
2. Conduct plan reviews for communities that have not received a deferral of that authority from the State.
3. Conduct fire investigations.
4. Issue permits for fire systems, fireworks and fireworks operators.
5. Provide fire education briefings and coordination of statewide prevention programs.
6. Administer training and certification programs in support of Alaska Fire Standards Council.
7. Provide fire and emergency response training to:
 - a. VPSO's
 - b. U.S. Coast Guard
 - c. Cruise Ship Industry
 - d. Greens Creek Mine
 - e. Local fire departments
 - f. Alaska Marine Highway System

8. Encourage and support fire prevention education provided by other agencies and organizations.
9. Provide fire and life safety compliance oversight for TAPS/VMT(Valdez Marine Terminal).

Key BRU Issues for FY2002 – 2003

- Adequate staffing unavailable to fulfill all services required by AS 18.70 due to budget constraints.
- Current inspection program only provides for inspections of 7.9% of buildings under state jurisdiction.
- Alaska's fire loss among worst in developed countries, typically among five worst states in the nation.
- Fire is a leading cause of accidental death in children and the elderly.
- Gas Pipeline Liaison for plan review, inspection and enforcement of the gas pipeline.
- Assistance from the division will be required for the support of the Alaska Fire Standards Council.
- Small rural fire departments need increasing support.
- Basic anti-terrorist training of statewide fire department personnel.
-

Major BRU Accomplishments in 2001

- Conducted 1,144 building inspections.
- Completed 846 plan reviews.
- Provided fire prevention education information to 13,419 Alaskans at large gatherings.
- Investigated 29 significant fires, including all fatality fires.
- Provided training to numerous emergency responders at various levels, to urban and rural communities.
- Managed the fire statistics program for the State of Alaska.
- Provided assistance and support to the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association and the Alaska Firefighters Association.
- Provided fire and emergency response training to all new VPSO's at the Public Safety Academy.
- Issued 490 permits for fire system technicians and fireworks related activities.
- Completed International Fire Service Accreditation Congress accreditation.
- Adopted 2000 International Building, Fire and Mechanical Codes with revisions.
-

Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

The percentage of inspected buildings found in compliance with legal standards.
Sec 118 Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

30% of all scheduled inspections to be found in compliance at the time of inspection.

First Quarter FY2002: Of 242 conducted inspections, 10.33% were found to be in compliance at the time of inspection.

First Quarter FY2001: Of 158 conducted inspections, 15% were found to be in compliance at the time of inspection.

Total FY 2001 Results: Of 1,144 inspections 4.54% were found to be compliant with legal standards.

Benchmark Comparisons:

No data available on state comparisons and the private sector does not participate in this service

Background and Strategies:

Not likely to achieve, but we expect to make significant progress. We estimate this to mean the percentage of the total number of scheduled inspections conducted that have been found to have no violations at the time of inspection. This is an educational process of the public related to regularly scheduled inspections. We anticipate that the percentage of buildings found in compliance will rise as we continue to inspect on an annual basis and provide for increased fire prevention education opportunities throughout the state. The target of 30% is an ambitious goal to work toward.

Measure:

The number of fire prevention educational contacts made by the division.
Sec 118 Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

Make 15,000 contacts for fire prevention education.

First Quarter FY2002: 21,337 contacts were made. 142% of goal achieved.

First Quarter FY2001: 5,418 contacts made.

Total FY2001 Results: There were 13,419 educational contacts. This was 89.46% of our goal.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Data from other states or departments are unavailable at this time.

Background and Strategies:

We have exceeded our goal because we were able to participate in a greater number of public forums to educate the public.

Measure:

The average time required to conduct initial building plan reviews.
Sec 118 Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

80% of all initial comment letters or permits should be to the customer within 14 calendar days after receiving the fee.

First Quarter FY2002: Average time 4.7 days. Plan review on time rate is 75%.

First Quarter FY2001: Average time 10.9 days. Plan review on time rate was 78%.

Total FY 2001 Results: Average time to conduct plan reviews was 14.5 days based on 846 plan review submittals. This was 95.6% of our goal.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Data from other states or departments is unavailable at this time.

Background and Strategies:

Building plan reviews are time critical to the overall construction process. Any unnecessary delays may result in construction project problems, so each plan review is conducted as expeditiously as possible. Hiring another Building Plan Reviewer dedicated to maintaining our target goal will assist in achieving a consistently responsive turnaround time.

Measure:

The number of priority occupancies inspected.
Sec 118 Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

100 percent of 1,670 priority occupancy inspections.*

First Quarter FY2002: 242 inspections conducted for life safety compliance.

First Quarter FY2001: 158 inspections conducted for life safety compliance.

Total FY2001 Results: There were 1,144 inspections performed. This was 90% of our goal for that year.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Data from other states or departments is unavailable at this time.

Background and Strategies:

The Southcentral Region office, which conducts 2/3rds of the scheduled inspections, now has all positions filled that were earlier vacant due to promotions and resignations. We anticipate being at full staff, but not at full strength. Our newly hired deputy will be attending the Alaska Law Enforcement Academy this Spring, but training lead-time will not allow full use of this deputy until training is completed.

The term "priority occupancies" includes: assembly buildings; schools; headstart and daycare centers; TAPS facilities; jails; hospitals; respite/assisted living/residential care facilities; hotels and motels with more than 15 rooms.

*It should be noted that the number of "priority occupancies" can and does vary from year to year. This is driven by economic activity and code revisions. For example:

total for FY01 = 1,269
total for FY02 = 1,670

Fire Prevention
BRU Financial Summary by Component

All dollars in thousands

	FY2001 Actuals				FY2002 Authorized				FY2003 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures												
None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Fire Prevention Operations	940.3	0.0	729.4	1,669.7	1,245.1	0.0	779.4	2,024.5	1,779.5	0.0	940.6	2,720.1
Fire Service Training	362.3	95.0	297.2	754.5	366.0	160.0	522.9	1,048.9	374.1	160.0	524.6	1,058.7
Totals	1,302.6	95.0	1,026.6	2,424.2	1,611.1	160.0	1,302.3	3,073.4	2,153.6	160.0	1,465.2	3,778.8

Fire Prevention**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003**

See specific components for changes in service level.

Fire Prevention**Summary of BRU Budget Changes by Component****From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor***All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2002 Authorized	1,611.1	160.0	1,302.3	3,073.4
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Fire Prevention Operations	34.4	0.0	11.7	46.1
-Fire Service Training	8.1	0.0	1.7	9.8
Proposed budget increases:				
-Fire Prevention Operations	500.0	0.0	149.5	649.5
FY2003 Governor	2,153.6	160.0	1,465.2	3,778.8