

**State of Alaska
FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Public Safety
Fire Prevention
Budget Request Unit Budget Summary**

Fire Prevention Budget Request Unit

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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.
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.

BRU Goals and Strategies

- Provide fire prevention inspections in communities that have not received a deferral of that authority from the state.
- Conduct plan reviews for communities that have not received a deferral of that authority from the state.
- Conduct fire investigations.
- Issue permits for fire systems, fireworks and fireworks operators.
- Provide fire education briefings and coordination of statewide prevention programs.
- Administer training and certification programs in support of Alaska Fire Standards Council.
- Provide fire and emergency response training to:
 - a. VPSOs
 - b. U.S. Coast Guard
 - c. Cruise Ship Industry
 - d. Local fire departments
 - e. Alaska Marine Highway System

- Encourage and support fire prevention education provided by other agencies and organizations.
- Provide fire and life safety compliance oversight for the Trans Alaska Pipeline Services Valdez Marine Terminal.

Key BRU Issues for FY2003 – 2004

- If the cost increases in working reserve and PERS rates are not funded, the Fire Prevention Operations component would have to absorb \$42.3 additional personal services' costs. This would result in either a deputy fire marshal position being held open if a vacancy exists or temporary layoff of a deputy fire marshal. The impact to the public would be reduced number of fire inspections, and increased response time for fire investigations. The Fire Services Training component would have to absorb \$10.1 by reducing the number of fire training classes delivered to local fire departments and first responders.
- If the FY2004 Fund Change request to "Replace One Time Municipal Bond Bank Funding With Receipt Services" is not approved, the \$75.0 reduction would result in the loss of a deputy fire marshal. This would reduce the number of fire inspections, increase the response time for fire investigations, and increase the wait time for plan review and building permit approval.
- If the FY2004 increment to "annualize funding for two clerical positions added in FY2003 Management Plan" is not approved, one of the clerks would have to be laid off. This would slow down the processing of plan reviews and building permits, processing of payments to vendors, and processing of fire extinguisher testing and permits.
- Adequate staffing is unavailable to fulfill all services required by AS 18.70. The problem is due primarily to lack of competitive compensation. Highly trained, specialized and experienced deputy fire marshals are securing more lucrative jobs with private industry or local governments.
- Fire Prevention conducts inspections of buildings on a two-year cycle with emphasis on those with a potential for a large loss of life, such as: schools; daycare centers; jails; hospitals; hotels, motels, and dormitories with 20 or more rooms and/or 3 stories or more in height; assisted living centers; and, theaters, churches, community halls, auditoriums, restaurants and bars with an occupant load greater than 50. Fire Prevention also conducts inspections of special hazard occupancies related to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, North Slope and Cook Inlet oil and gas platforms as requested.
- Alaska's fire loss remains among the worst in developed countries. Typically Alaska is among the five worst states in the nation, even though progress is being made through building plan review, inspection and public fire education programs.
- Fire is a leading cause of accidental death in children and the elderly.
- Assistance from the division will be required to support the Alaska Fire Standards Council.
- Small rural fire departments need increasing support.
- Basic anti-terrorist training of statewide fire department personnel is critically needed.

Major BRU Accomplishments in 2002

- Conducted 1,566 building inspections.
- Completed 907 plan reviews.
- Provided fire prevention education information to 35,327 Alaskans at large gatherings.

- Investigated 39 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 VPSOs at the Public Safety Academy.
- Issued 872 permits for fire system technicians and fireworks related activities.
- Continued International Fire Service Accreditation Congress accreditation.

Key Performance Measures for FY2004

Measure:

The percentage change in the number of fires

Sec 118 Ch 124 SLA 2002(HB 515)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

CY1996, CY1997, CY1998, CY1999 and CY2000 rolling average: 2,942 fires.

Current Status:

CY2001: 3,048 fires reported statewide.

(CY2002 full year data, from reporting fire departments, has not been received).

Benchmark Comparisons:

Reduce the number of fires by 10% from a 5 year (CY1996, CY1997, CY1998, CY1999 and CY2000) rolling average of 2,942 fires.

Background and Strategies:

New Measure.

CY2002:

Educational efforts geared toward home fire safety and kids, expansion of the Juvenile Fire Setter program, identifying and obtaining help for high risk kids and annual inspections of occupancy types with high life fire risks remain the corner stone of reducing the number of fires that occur in Alaska. The division will continue these efforts with the hope of driving down the number of fires occurring in the state.

Fires are defined as actual structure fires, vehicle fires; trees, brush and grass fires, refuse fires, explosion, outside spill with fire, etc. Service, rescue, false alarms and mutual aid calls are not reported in this measure.

Measure:

The percentage change in the severity of damage

Sec 118 Ch 124 SLA 2002(HB 515)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

Two part measure:

- A. Reduce the severity of damage by 10% based on a 5 year per capita rolling average.

CY1996, CY1997, CY1998, CY1999 and CY2000 rolling average: \$45,386,344 total fire loss in the state, \$73,203 per 1,000 residents.

Current Status:

CY2001: \$45,721,810 total fire loss in the state, \$72,025 per 1,000 residents.

B. Reduce the severity of damage by 10% based on a 5 year per capita rolling average.

CY1996, CY1997, CY1998, CY1999 and CY2000 rolling average: Number of fire deaths 19.6 or .03161 per 1,000 residents.

Current Status:

CY2001: Number of fire deaths 16 or .02520 per 1,000 residents.

Background and Strategies:

New Measure.

Educational efforts geared toward home fire safety and kids, and annual inspections of occupancy types with high life fire risks are the corner stone of reducing the severity or loss that occurs throughout the state. We will continue these efforts to continue reducing the severity of fire; loss of life and fire dollar loss.

Measure:

The percentage change in the buildings found in compliance with legal standards

Sec 118 Ch 124 SLA 2002(HB 515)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

FY2002 Results:

Of 1,566 inspections conducted, 335 or 21.3% were found to be in compliance at the time of inspection.

Current Status:

First quarter FY2003: Of 147 conducted inspections 10.2% were found to be in compliance at the time of inspection.

First quarter FY2002: Of 242 conducted inspections 10.3% were found to be in compliance at the time of inspection.

Benchmark Comparisons:

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

Background and Strategies:

With educating the public the division is seeing an increase in buildings found to be in compliance with legal standards. It is too early to tell how effective the division is in reaching its goal. However, this performance measure will be impacted because retention of trained deputy fire marshals (DFMs) continues to be problematic due to long training requirements and high marketability. Lead-time to develop a properly trained DFM is 18 months to 2 years. Once DFMs are trained and gain a limited amount of experience they become highly marketable to fire departments throughout the state and the nation.

Measure:

The percentage change in the fire prevention educational contacts made by the division

Sec 118 Ch 124 SLA 2002(HB 515)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

Make 15,000 contacts for fire prevention this year.

FY2002 Results: 35,327 contacts were made exceeding our goal by 135%

Current Status:

First Quarter FY2003: 25,999 contracts have been made.

First Quarter FY2002: 21,337 contacts were made.

Benchmark Comparisons:

There is no comparative data available.

Background and Strategies:

The division will participate in the state fair in Palmer, regional fairs in Fairbanks, Haines, home shows in Anchorage and Kenai areas and various Native and municipal conventions throughout the state. Fire department public education kits statewide will reach kids through their local fire department. Fire prevention materials sent to schools throughout the state will reach additional kids.

Fire prevention education briefings will be conducted through the fire inspection program. The success of this program is based on divisional one-on-one contact and multiplying and increasing our effectiveness through the use of local schools and fire departments by supporting their community outreach with materials and resources funded by this division.

Fire Prevention
BRU Financial Summary by Component

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals				FY2003 Authorized				FY2004 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
<u>Formula Expenditures</u>	None.											
<u>Non-Formula Expenditures</u>												
Fire Prevention Operations	1,245.0	0.0	571.1	1,816.1	979.5	0.0	1,315.6	2,295.1	1,057.5	0.0	1,224.6	2,282.1
Fire Service Training	365.3	74.1	377.1	816.5	374.1	160.0	524.6	1,058.7	396.4	161.3	1,066.9	1,624.6
Totals	1,610.3	74.1	948.2	2,632.6	1,353.6	160.0	1,840.2	3,353.8	1,453.9	161.3	2,291.5	3,906.7

Fire Prevention

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004

See specific components for changes in service level.

Fire Prevention

Summary of BRU Budget Changes by Component

From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2003 Authorized	1,353.6	160.0	1,840.2	3,353.8
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Fire Prevention Operations	55.5	0.0	-68.3	-12.8
-Fire Service Training	15.2	0.4	1.1	16.7
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Fire Prevention Operations	0.0	0.0	-149.5	-149.5
Proposed budget increases:				
-Fire Prevention Operations	22.5	0.0	126.8	149.3
-Fire Service Training	7.1	0.9	541.2	549.2
FY2004 Governor	1,453.9	161.3	2,291.5	3,906.7