

State of Alaska FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Fire Prevention Operations Component Budget Summary

Component: Fire Prevention Operations

Contact: Gary Powell, Director, Fire Prevention

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

Component Mission

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

Component Services Provided

1. The division enforces all state fire laws and regulations. In so doing, the division:
 - a. 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 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;
 - b. provides life safety code surveys for H&SS Medicare and Medicaid participant hospitals, long term care facilities and surgery centers throughout the state;
 - c. conducts fire and life safety plan checks for construction of all commercial, industrial, business, institutional or other public buildings used for residential purposes containing four or more dwelling units in 300 plus Alaskan communities;
 - d. oversees and participates with the Joint Pipeline Office/Trans Alaska Pipeline Service's fire safety and employee concerns programs from Pump Station 1 to the Valdez Terminal;
 - e. investigates all public requests for building and fire code life safety complaints;
 - f. conducts prioritized origin and cause determination fire investigations for all fires that result in serious injury or death and assist Alaska State Troopers and municipal police departments on suspected arson cases;
 - g. conducts a permits program for all persons working on fire extinguishers, fire alarms and fire suppression systems;
 - h. conducts a fire hazard abatement program for over 300 Alaskan communities;
 - i. conducts a licensing and permit program for the sale and use of fireworks.
2. The division conducts and coordinates statewide fire prevention education programs.
3. The division provides for collection and dissemination of fire and burn data and statistics.
4. The division adopts rules and regulations for the purpose of protecting life and property from fire and explosion by establishing minimum standards for:
 - a. Fire suppression and detection systems and equipment;
 - b. Fire and life safety criteria in commercial, industrial, business, institutional, other public buildings and residential buildings containing four or more dwelling units;
 - c. Any activity in which combustible or explosive materials are stored or handled in commercial quantities;
 - d. Conditions or activities likely to cause injury to persons or property.

Component Goals and Strategies

- Enforce all state laws and regulations relating to fire.
- Provide fire prevention inspections for 1,450 buildings.
- Conduct 850 fire and life safety plan reviews.
- Issue 500 permits for fire extinguishers, fire system, firework operators and firework retail sales.
- Provide fire prevention education briefings for 15,000 people: The division will reach approximately 13,000 people during the state fair held in Palmer, regional fairs in Fairbanks and Haines, home shows in the Anchorage and Kenai areas, and various Native and Municipal conventions throughout the state. Fire department public education kits will reach nearly 10,000 kids through their local fire department. Fire prevention materials sent to schools throughout the state will reach an additional 9,000 kids. Fire prevention education briefings will be conducted through the fire inspection program and should reach nearly 3,000 adults.
- Sponsor and develop relational network support for the Alaska Juvenile Fire Setter program: Support program for at risk youth who need to be classified, counseled, and redirected away from self destructive fire behaviors that can be harmful to the community.
- Conduct 30 fire investigations, depending on actual trends and requests for fire investigations.
- Collect, consolidate and disseminate fire and burn data: Report findings to the legislature as part of established missions and measures. This goal is unfunded; however, the agency will conduct necessary services in this area with the division's permits clerk position working with a newly hired Fire Prevention Education Specialist.
- Oversee and participate with JPO/TAPS Fire Safety programs. Participate in the upcoming JPO/TAPS right of way lease agreement.
- Provide Life Safety Code surveys for H&SS Medicare and Medicaid programs: participant hospitals, long term care facilities and surgery centers throughout the state. Additionally, provide specialized plan review services for new projects and renovations as it relates to these facilities and the federal design guidelines that are imposed upon the design for program participation.
- Provide a web-based database for inspection and plan review documentation to consolidate three separate computer servers that do not allow intra regional documentation of inspection, and more importantly plan review status of construction projects going through the permit process.

Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004

- The component would have to absorb \$42.3 additional personal services' costs if the increased costs of the working reserve fund and PERS rates are not funded . This would result in either a deputy fire marshal position being held open if a vacancy existed 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.
- If the FY2004 fund change request to "Replace One Time Municipal Bond Bank Funding With Receipt Supported 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 or both of the clerks would have to be laid off for part of the year. 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.

- For two basic reasons, adequate staffing is not available to fulfill all of the services required by AS 18.70. Lead-time to fully train a deputy fire marshal (DFM) is 18 months to 2 years. Special hazard occupancies related to oil and gas facilities in the North Slope, Kenai Peninsula and Cook Inlet require dedicated and specialized knowledge and experience. Once DFMs are trained and gain a limited amount of experience they become highly marketable to fire departments throughout the state and the nation. These competing employers offer better compensation and benefit packages. The marketability of deputies is based on the number of diverse job requirements for which they are trained. Each DFM is a peace officer, fire investigator, fire inspector, building official, certified as a plan review examiner and mechanical inspector. Any one of these descriptions is a separate and complete job class by itself in most communities. In the last 5 years, 2 DFMs have retired and 7 of the total 10 positions have left for higher paying positions in other communities.
- Alaska's fire losses, on a per capita basis, per 100,000 population, are still among the worst in the nation. In conducting a 10-year trend analysis from 1990 to 1999 Alaska has:
 - a. On average 1.45 Alaskans die each month from fire, 1.84 times above the average of the rest of the United States
 - b. Well over 1.9 million dollars a month is lost to fire statewide.
- Oil and gas production, processing and transportation facilities are aging, company decisions to offset maintenance for the bottom line are increasing the chances of failure and an increased dependency on existing fire protection detection and suppression systems on the North Slope and elsewhere requiring closer monitoring by this division.
- The Division of Fire Prevention will host the National Association of State Fire Marshals Annual Convention in Anchorage in July 2003.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2002

- Conducted 1566 building inspections, an increase of 27% from last year's 1141 inspections but a 7.3% shortfall of our target of 1670 inspections.
- Conducted 23 Life Safety Code surveys for H&SS Medicare and Medicaid participant hospitals, long-term care facilities and surgery centers throughout the state.
- Received 907 plan review applications and have provided building permits for 799 construction projects. The remaining 108 reviews are waiting for additional information from the submitting designers. This is a 6.7% increase in plan review applications from last year.
- Provided 35,327 Alaskans with fire prevention information. 13,000 through the Palmer State Fair, Alaskan Municipal League convention, Kenai Home Show, and Alaskan Native Convention. Fire department public education kits provided by this office reached nearly 11,000 kids through 60 local fire departments. Fire prevention materials sent to schools throughout the state reached an additional 9,000 kids. Fire prevention education briefings during fire inspections contacted 2,327 adults.
- Conducted 39 fire investigations for fires where death, injury or criminal activity was involved. Participated in a number of high profile court cases that convicted suspects on the strength of the cases and subsequent preparation of the deputy fire marshals. This is a 34% increase in services from last fiscal year.
- Issued 872 permits through a combination of fire extinguisher maintenance and inspection knowledge testing, fire alarm and suppression system maintenance, inspection and design licensing, firework pyrotechnic operator and firework retail sales permits. This is a 77% increase in services from last fiscal year.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

- (1) Arson Information (AS 21.89.050)
- (2) Criminal Law (AS 11.46.400-490)
- (3) Fire Prevention (AS 18.70.010 - 18.70.300)
- (4) Reporting of Certain Injuries (AS 08.64.369)

(5) State Regulation of Fireworks (AS 18.72.010 - 18.72.060)

Fire Prevention Operations
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	1,371.9	1,739.8	1,701.8
72000 Travel	100.8	142.9	137.9
73000 Contractual	208.8	361.3	391.3
74000 Supplies	134.6	32.0	32.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	19.1	19.1
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	1,816.1	2,295.1	2,282.1
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,245.0	979.5	1,057.5
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	95.6	223.9	232.0
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	7.5	164.5	15.1
1156 Receipt Supported Services	468.0	852.2	977.5
1173 Miscellaneous Earnings	0.0	75.0	0.0
Funding Totals	1,816.1	2,295.1	2,282.1

Fire Prevention Operations

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004

Requested increments will allow current service levels to be maintained.

Summary of Component Budget Changes 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	979.5	0.0	1,315.6	2,295.1
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Delete One Time \$75.0 Municipal Bond Bank Funding	0.0	0.0	-75.0	-75.0
-Annualize FY2003 COLA for General Government and Supervisory Bargaining Units	0.0	0.0	6.3	6.3
-Transfer from AST Detachments to Fund Telecommunication and Computer Svcs Billing Methodologies	55.0	0.0	0.0	55.0
-\$75 per Month Health Insurance Increase for Non-covered Staff	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.9
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Delete Gas Pipeline I/A Receipts and 2 Unfilled PFT Positions	0.0	0.0	-149.5	-149.5
Proposed budget increases:				
-Annualize funding for two clerical positions added in FY2003 Management Plan-Rect Svcs	0.0	0.0	32.0	32.0
-Replace One Time \$75.0 Municipal Bond Bank Funding With Receipt Services	0.0	0.0	75.0	75.0
-Increased Variable Benefit Costs: Working Reserve and PERS Rates	22.5	0.0	19.8	42.3
FY2004 Governor	1,057.5	0.0	1,224.6	2,282.1

Fire Prevention Operations

Personal Services Information

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2004</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	24	24	Annual Salaries	1,202,356
Part-time	0	0	Premium Pay	48,683
Nonpermanent	1	0	Annual Benefits	507,369
			<i>Less 3.22% Vacancy Factor</i>	(56,608)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	25	24	Total Personal Services	1,701,800

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accounting Clerk II	2	0	0	0	2
Administrative Clerk II	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk III	2	1	1	0	4
Administrative Manager II	1	0	0	0	1
Asst St Fire Marshal	1	0	0	0	1
Building Plans Examiner	2	0	0	0	2
Dep Fire Marshal I	4	1	1	0	6
Dep Fire Marshal II	1	1	1	0	3
Division Director	1	0	0	0	1
Fire Training Specialist	1	0	0	0	1
Secretary	1	0	0	0	1
Tap Fire Safety Specialist	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	18	3	3	0	24