

State of Alaska
FY2007 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety
Fire Prevention Operations
Component Budget Summary

Component: Fire Prevention Operations**Contribution to Department's Mission**

Prevent the loss of life and property from fire and explosion.

Core Services

1. Enforce 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 and motels with 20 or more rooms and/or three 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, and North Slope and Cook Inlet oil and gas platforms as requested;
 - b. provides life safety code surveys for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services 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 public, commercial, industrial, business, institutional, and all residential buildings containing four or more dwelling units in over 300 communities;
 - d. participates with the Joint Pipeline Office in overseeing the 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, death, large monetary loss, or community impact, and assists 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; and
 - i. conducts a licensing and permit program for the sale and use of fireworks.
2. Conducts and coordinates statewide fire prevention education programs.
3. Provides for collection and dissemination of fire and burn data and statistics.
4. 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; and
 - d. conditions or activities likely to cause injury to persons or property due to fire or explosion.

FY2007 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2007 Component Budget: \$3,189,900	Personnel:	
	Full time	22
	Part time	0
	Total	22

Key Component Challenges

Staff turnover continues to be a challenge. 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 specialized knowledge and experience. Once DFMs are trained and gain a limited amount of experience, they become highly marketable to fire departments and other agencies in Alaska 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.

Staff turnover of commercial building plans examiners is also a challenging aspect of maintaining the required level of service. These highly skilled and marketable examiners continue to work under a 14 day turnaround time for review of plans. Beginning in FY2005, a Deputy Fire Marshal I from the Life Safety Inspection Bureau was assigned to the Plans Review Bureau to perform plan examinations at the expense of completing life safety inspections. The current number of buildings requiring inspections is 2,163. The number of inspections performed in FY2005 was 795. With each new year, statewide growth can be witnessed by the rapid expansion in the Central Mat-Su Borough, the “Boom Town” supporting the tourist trade around Denali National Park, growth of the port of Whittier to accept and support cruise ships, the Strategic Reconfiguration Project of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, and potential projects such as the gas pipeline. As the state grows and develops, more and more construction projects require plans reviews and, as the resulting buildings are constructed, they must be inspected for public safety on a recurring basis. This will only increase the number of plan reviews and inspections that need to be performed.

Additionally, the Plans Review Bureau is now in the process of accepting the plan review responsibility for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions of the state-adopted International Building Code. This will increase the time required on each plan review by 10 – 15 percent.

Oil and gas production, processing, and transportation facilities are aging, increasing the chances of failure and causing an increased dependency on existing fire protection detection and suppression systems that require closer monitoring by this division.

Alaska has a history of tragic fire loss. In the past two years, the state has seen an increase in civilian fatalities due to fire. Civilian fire deaths increased from CY2003 by 42 percent to 12 in CY2004. It is alarming to note that 67 percent of these fatalities had alcohol or drugs in their system at the time of death. All but two occurred in residential occupancies. Residential fires continue to be Alaska’s largest number of structure fires, accounting for 73 percent of the state’s total, or 533 of all structure fires. Upon the completion of CY2005, the results will be analyzed and published. However, as of this date, 19 Alaskans have lost their lives due to fire in CY2005. Preliminary analysis concludes the same trends from previous years continue to be on the rise. Of the 19 fire deaths, 17 have occurred in residential dwellings. Currently, the Division of Fire Prevention has no authority to enforce residential code requirements. The only method it has to reach residential occupants is through public education programs. With limited public educators, this can only be accomplished by targeting high risk groups and areas. At current staffing levels, these programs will not reach all Alaskans. Another cause for alarm is an increase in firefighter injuries.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2007

With the addition of the requested plans examiner position the Plans Review Bureau will absorb more plan reviews and add the ADA review function. The plans examiner position will allow the Deputy Fire Marshal I to return to the Life

Safety Inspection Bureau. This will dramatically improve their ability to meet inspection goals and ensure an accurate and timely review of commercial building plans.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2005

- No children under the age of 11 died from fire. This is the first time since recording began in 1951 that for two consecutive years, CY2004-2005, this has occurred. There was a loss of an average of 5 children per year under the age of 5 in the previous 10 year period. There was also a significant reduction in juvenile set fires. The juvenile fire setter prevention programs have had an impact.
- Conducted 795 building inspections as compared to 1,187 in FY2004. (The slow progress of inspections that were conducted was a direct result of the personnel vacancies within the life safety inspection and plans review bureaus.)
- Conducted 19 life safety code surveys for the Department of Health and Social Services Medicare and Medicaid participant hospitals, long-term care facilities, and surgery centers throughout the state.
- Received and completed 817 plan reviews of commercial buildings.
- Completed 3,141 fire prevention education presentations to Alaskan groups. Direct contact is made through participation in state fairs, home shows, inspections, and educational briefings. Indirect contacts are made through theater advertising, local television, and third party educational efforts made by local fire departments who receive educational material from the division but whose members present the information.
- Increased efforts to combat the juvenile fire setter through increased arson awareness and education of state agency stakeholders who can recognize and provide offender assistance.
- Completed 20 fire investigations for fires where death, injury, or criminal activity was involved. The deputy fire marshals assisted the district attorneys in the development of or testified in a number of high profile court cases.
- Issued 1,092 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.

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)

Contact Information
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**Fire Prevention Operations
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2005 Actuals	FY2006 Management Plan	FY2007 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	1,508.7	1,704.9	1,940.5
72000 Travel	145.4	149.6	187.4
73000 Services	536.7	566.2	639.4
74000 Commodities	267.0	78.8	280.8
75000 Capital Outlay	2.8	16.8	141.8
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	2,460.6	2,516.3	3,189.9
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	413.4	25.2	500.7
1004 General Fund Receipts	719.4	925.6	1,059.1
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	110.2	240.3	227.0
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	15.1	15.1	35.1
1156 Receipt Supported Services	1,202.5	1,310.1	1,368.0
Funding Totals	2,460.6	2,516.3	3,189.9

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2005 Actuals	FY2006 Managem nt Plan	FY2007 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	413.4	25.2	500.7
Interagency Receipts	51015	110.2	240.3	227.0
Receipt Supported Services	51073	1,202.5	1,310.1	1,368.0
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	15.1	15.1	35.1
Restricted Total		1,741.2	1,590.7	2,130.8
Total Estimated Revenues		1,741.2	1,590.7	2,130.8

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2006 Management Plan to FY2007 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2006 Management Plan	925.6	25.2	1,565.5	2,516.3
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Multi-year Appropriation Sec 25(e) Ch 159 SLA2004 P83 L2 - Reverse One Time Item	0.0	-24.5	0.0	-24.5
-FY 07 Wage Increases for Bargaining Units and Non-Covered Employees	16.3	0.0	20.5	36.8
-FY 07 Health Insurance Cost Increases for Bargaining Units and Non-Covered Employees	1.6	0.0	2.0	3.6
-FY 07 Retirement Systems Cost Increase	26.0	0.0	32.9	58.9
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Decrease Inter-agency Receipt Authority (\$20.0)	0.0	0.0	-20.0	-20.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-Increase CIP Receipt Authority \$20.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	20.0
-New Building Plans Examiner	82.4	0.0	0.0	82.4
-Federal funding for training and education programs	0.0	500.0	0.0	500.0
-Risk Management Self-Insurance Funding Increase	7.2	0.0	9.2	16.4
FY2007 Governor	1,059.1	500.7	1,630.1	3,189.9

**Fire Prevention Operations
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
<u>FY2006</u>				
<u>Management</u>		<u>FY2007</u>		
<u>Plan</u>		<u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	21	22	Annual Salaries	1,200,394
Part-time	0	0	COLA	39,363
Nonpermanent	1	1	Premium Pay	42,786
			Annual Benefits	693,711
			<i>Less 1.81% Vacancy Factor</i>	(35,754)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	22	23	Total Personal Services	1,940,500

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Clerk III	2	1	1	0	4
Asst St Fire Marshal	1	0	0	0	1
Building Plans Examiner	3	1	0	0	4
Dep Fire Marshal I	4	1	1	0	6
Dep Fire Marshal II	2	0	0	0	2
Division Director	1	0	0	0	1
Fire Training Specialist	2	0	0	0	2
Secretary	1	0	0	0	1
Statistical Technician II	1	0	0	0	1
Tap Fire Safety Specialist	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	18	3	2	0	23