

**State of Alaska**  
**FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Public Safety**  
**Fire Prevention**  
**Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary**

## Fire Prevention Results Delivery Unit

### Contribution to Department's Mission

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

### Core Services

Public fire safety and prevention education.

- Building plan review of commercial buildings, 4-plex and above.
- Building and fire code management (development, adoption, interpretation, and review).
- Fire and life safety inspections of priority occupancies.
- Fire service training.
- Fire investigations of major fire incidents involving high dollar loss, fatality, or major community impact.
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End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p><b>A: Reduce loss of life due to fire.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Reduce unintentional fire fatalities by 5% compared to the previous 5-year average.  <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in number of unintentional fire fatalities.</p>	<p><b>A1: Public education programs.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Reduce fire fatalities in high-risk groups by 10% compared to the previous 5-year average.  <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in number of fire fatalities in high-risk groups.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Reduce fires in high loss regions by 10% compared to the previous 5-year average.  <u>Measure #2:</u> % change in number of fires in targeted regions.</p> <p><b>A2: Fire and life safety inspections.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> 30% of all buildings scheduled for priority fire and life safety building inspection to be found in compliance at time of inspection.  <u>Measure #1:</u> % of buildings found in compliance with legal standards at time of inspection.</p>
End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p><b>B: Reduce property loss due to fire.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Reduce property loss by 5% compared to previous 5-year average.  <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in dollar value of property loss.</p>	<p><b>B1: Building plan review for code compliance.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Complete yearly 95% of submitted building plan reviews.  <u>Measure #1:</u> % of building plan reviews completed.</p> <p><b>B2: Public education programs.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Reduce property loss in high loss occupancies-residential structures by 10% compared to previous 3-year average.  <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in property loss.</p> <p><b>B3: Fire service training.</b></p>

	<p><u>Target #1:</u> 10% increase in number of students attending firefighter and fire officer training.  <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in number of students.</p>
End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p><b>C: Reduce number of fires.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Reduce number of structure fires by 5% compared to the previous 3-year average.  <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in number of structure fires.</p>	<p><b>C1: Fire service training.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> 10% increase in the number of fire prevention education courses delivered to firefighters.  <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in number of fire prevention education courses.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> 10% increase in number of firefighters attending building safety inspection training.  <u>Measure #2:</u> % change in number of firefighters attending building safety inspection training.</p>

Major Activities to Advance Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate delivery of public fire education programs to youth and elderly population.</li> <li>• Start new public fire education programs in willing communities.</li> <li>• Work with local fire departments to improve existing public fire education programs.</li> <li>• Coordinate delivery of public fire education programs to owners and occupants of high loss occupancies.</li> <li>• Coordinate delivery of public fire education programs to residents of high loss regions.</li> <li>• Initial fire and life safety inspections, inspection follow-ups.</li> <li>• Fire system reports review and follow-up.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code review and adoption.</li> <li>• Advanced search and rescue training. Thermal imaging training.</li> <li>• Coordinate advanced fire suppression classes for local fire departments.</li> <li>• Coordinate public fire education classes for local fire departments.</li> <li>• Coordinate company inspection classes for local fire departments.</li> </ul>

FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results							
<p><b>FY2008 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$5,763,400</b></p>	<p><b>Personnel:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Full time</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part time</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;"><b>31</b></td> </tr> </table>	Full time	30	Part time	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>
Full time	30						
Part time	1						
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>						

## Performance Measure Detail

### A: Result - Reduce loss of life due to fire.

**Target #1:** Reduce unintentional fire fatalities by 5% compared to the previous 5-year average.

**Measure #1:** % change in number of unintentional fire fatalities.

#### Number of Unintentional Fire Fatalities (calendar year)

Year	Yearly Fatalities	5-Yr Avg Fatalities	Percent Inc/Dec
2000	15	18	
2001	16	15	-11%
2002	9	12	-40%
2003	7	12	-42%
2004	11	12	-8%
2005	14		+17%

**Analysis of results and challenges:** Though the five-year average is decreasing, alcohol usage continues to be a contributing factor in fire fatalities. The division is currently researching a method to address this factor.

Alaska still ranks above the national average in per capita fire fatalities. Action is being taken to target areas of concern for intensive media and public education campaigns. The division is implementing a Public Responsibility campaign to educate the public on their responsibility to prevent fire and keep their families safe.

Note: There were six non-accidental fire fatalities in CY2005, and four in previous years, as a result of homicide or suicide.

### A1: Strategy - Public education programs.

**Target #1:** Reduce fire fatalities in high-risk groups by 10% compared to the previous 5-year average.

**Measure #1:** % change in number of fire fatalities in high-risk groups.

#### Number of Fire Fatalities in High Risk Groups (calendar year)

Year	High Risk Fatalities	5-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
2000	4	5	
2001	4	5	-20%
2002	3	5	-40%
2003	2	4	-60%
2004	1	3	-75%
2005	3		0%

**Analysis of results and challenges:** Nationally, children and the elderly have been identified to be at higher risk for fire related fatalities. The Division of Fire Prevention has determined Alaska's high-risk groups to be children under 10 years and adults over 65 years of age. The division is currently researching a method to address the problem of fire deaths with alcohol as a contributing factor.

The division has made great strides to prevent fire fatalities in high risk groups. 2005 was the second year without losing a child under the age of 10 to fire. The use of alcohol by elders over the age of 65 continues to contribute to loss of life among that section of the high risk group.

**Target #2:** Reduce fires in high loss regions by 10% compared to the previous 5-year average.

**Measure #2:** % change in number of fires in targeted regions.

**Number of Fires in Targeted Regions - Western Alaska, Central Alaska, and Anchorage Areas (calendar year)**

Year	Fires in Targeted Reg.	5-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
1999	781		
2000	817	708	
2001	901	778	+27%
2002	813	796	+5%
2003	867	836	+9%
2004	802	840	-4%
2005	894		+6%

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The Division of Fire Prevention is working to reduce fires in target regions. Target regions are those areas of the state that experience a proportionately higher number of fires. Fire incident reports indicate the greatest number of fires occur in Western Alaska, Central Alaska, and Anchorage areas. These areas are targeted for increased educational and inspection efforts to reduce fires.

The small increase in reported fires in the targeted regions can be attributed to the increased ability of fire departments to report fires. The division is receiving more information from small, rural fire departments than in the past.

The most recent full year in which data has been compiled is CY2005, due to delays in receiving data from reporting fire departments. The number of fire departments (and corresponding incidents reported) increased in 2005. This is attributed to registration of new fire departments as a result of project "Code Red" and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant recipient requirements.

**A2: Strategy - Fire and life safety inspections.**

**Target #1:** 30% of all buildings scheduled for priority fire and life safety building inspection to be found in compliance at time of inspection.

**Measure #1:** % of buildings found in compliance with legal standards at time of inspection.

**% of Buildings Found in Compliance with Legal Standards at Time of Inspection (fiscal year)**

Fiscal Year	Inspections completed	Buildings in compliance	YTD Percentage
FY 2002	729	155	21.3%
FY 2003	1063	291	27.4%
FY 2004	1187	344	29.0%
FY 2005	795	214	27.0%

**Analysis of results and challenges:** Prioritization of building inspections is based upon those occupancies that are at the greatest risk of fire-related injuries and fatalities, property loss, and community impact. The division is striving to increase owner/occupant awareness of hazards so a greater number of buildings will be found in compliance with legal standards at time of inspection.

Since FY2005, staffing levels have required the Division of Fire Prevention to decrease and prioritize fire and life safety inspections. Presently, the deputy fire marshals (DFM) assist the plans review bureau due to the increased workload of building plans reviews requested. With the additional plans examiner funded in FY2007, the DFMs can return to Life Safety Inspection Bureau functions to increase priority inspections and the education process. As Alaska grows, so do the number of priority inspections.

**B: Result - Reduce property loss due to fire.**

**Target #1:** Reduce property loss by 5% compared to previous 5-year average.

**Measure #1:** % change in dollar value of property loss.

**Dollar Value of Property Loss (calendar year)**

Year	Yearly Property Loss	5-Yr Avg Property Loss	Percent Inc/Dec
1999	\$23,390,917		
2000	\$28,291,332	\$45,102,485	
2001	\$46,611,167	\$40,188,550	+3%
2002	\$31,925,829	\$39,585,202	-21%
2003	\$25,546,038	\$31,153,057	-35%
2004	\$33,572,621	\$33,189,397	+8%
2005	\$27,457,556		-17%

**Analysis of results and challenges:** Alaska experiences significant fire related property loss each year. The most recent full year for which data has been compiled is CY2005, due to lag times in receiving data from reporting fire departments.

The decrease in property loss can be attributed to an increased ability of local fire departments to respond quickly and extinguish fires before they completely destroy the building. Training programs developed specifically for small, rural departments improve the department's ability to adequately protect their community from fire. In addition, more members of the public are receiving education and information to ensure fires are reported more quickly.

**B1: Strategy - Building plan review for code compliance.**

**Target #1:** Complete yearly 95% of submitted building plan reviews.

**Measure #1:** % of building plan reviews completed.

**% of Building Plan Reviews Submitted to Plans Completed (fiscal year)**

Fiscal Year	Plan reviews submitted	Plan reviews completed	Percent completed
FY 2004	1075	882	82%
FY 2005	915	771	84%

**Analysis of results and challenges:** When a building fire occurs, a key contributing factor to the amount of loss is how the building was constructed. The Plan Review Bureau is tasked with making sure that proposed buildings submitted for plan review meet or exceed the standards as adopted by the State of Alaska. The addition of another plans examiner in FY2007 will allow for an increase in the number of building plans reviewed, to a completion rate of 95% or better. The net result will be to increase the number of buildings approved for construction that have had the benefit of assuring that all required fire resistive construction features have been implemented.

**B2: Strategy - Public education programs.**

**Target #1:** Reduce property loss in high loss occupancies-residential structures by 10% compared to previous 3-year average.

**Measure #1:** % change in property loss.

**Property Loss in Targeted Occupancies-residential Structures (calendar year)**

Year	Property Loss Amount	3-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
2001	\$12,238,308	\$13,581,652	
2002	\$16,946,969	\$14,967,004	+25%
2003	\$14,009,186	\$14,398,154	-6%
2004	\$17,085,040	\$16,013,732	+19%
2005	\$20,353,592		+27%

**Analysis of results and challenges:** Residential occupancies continue to be the type of structures where Alaska's greatest fire-related property loss occurs. The Division of Fire Prevention is working to reduce this property loss through a combination of public fire education, fire and life safety inspections of those occupancies at risk for greatest potential loss, and through the plan review of 4-plex (and above) residential buildings for code compliance. The most recent full year where data has been compiled is calendar year 2005, due to lag times in receiving data from reporting fire departments.

**B3: Strategy - Fire service training.**

**Target #1:** 10% increase in number of students attending firefighter and fire officer training.

**Measure #1:** % change in number of students.

**Number of Students Attending Firefighter/Fire Officer Training (fiscal year)**

Fiscal Year	YTD Total	Percent Inc/Dec
FY 2005	1745	
FY 2006	2384	+37%

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The increased number of students attending fire training programs can be attributed to better selection of needed training programs and improvements in marketing the course offerings to the fire service and other organizations needing fire training.

Proper training of firefighters and fire officers at all levels is critical to the reduction of fire-related injuries, fatalities, and property loss. This training includes all levels from basic firefighting skills to advanced fire officer strategy and tactics.

**C: Result - Reduce number of fires.**

**Target #1:** Reduce number of structure fires by 5% compared to the previous 3-year average.

**Measure #1:** % change in number of structure fires.

**Number of Structure Fires (calendar year)**

Year	Structure Fires	3-Year Average	Percent Inc/Dec
2001	1206	1122	
2002	1154	1173	+3%
2003	1205	1188	+3%
2004	1183	1181	0%
2005	1236		+5%

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The Division of Fire Prevention is working to reduce the number of structure fires in Alaska through public education programs, fire and life safety building inspections, and building plan review for code compliance. The most recent full year in which data has been compiled is CY2005, due to

lag times in receiving data from reporting fire departments. The challenge will be to maintain the forward progress with existing staff as population and new construction grows. With an additional plans examiner, progress will be made. The increase in CY2005 is the result of more fire departments reporting data to the state as a requirement for increased federal funding and "Code Red" reporting requirements.

### C1: Strategy - Fire service training.

**Target #1:** 10% increase in the number of fire prevention education courses delivered to firefighters.

**Measure #1:** % change in number of fire prevention education courses.

#### Number of Fire Prevention Education Classes Delivered to Firefighters (fiscal year)

Fiscal Year	YTD Total	Percent Inc/Dec
FY 2005	43	
FY 2006	251	+484%

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The division received funding from a federal grant to provide fire prevention education training to fire departments, allowing a dramatic increase in the number of course offerings. The funding allowed for travel related expenses to ensure that members of small, rural fire departments could participate. The division has also improved marketing of these courses to fire departments. These fire prevention education courses are designed to give fire department members the skills and knowledge necessary to present public education programs within their communities.

**Target #2:** 10% increase in number of firefighters attending building safety inspection training.

**Measure #2:** % change in number of firefighters attending building safety inspection training.

#### Number of Firefighters Attending Building Safety Inspection Training (fiscal year)

Year	YTD Total	Percent Inc/Dec
2005	60	
2006	43	-28%

**Analysis of results and challenges:** These building safety inspection courses are designed to give fire department members the skills and knowledge to perform building safety inspections in their communities. The number of courses decreased in FY2006 due to less demand from the fire service.

### Key RDU Challenges

Staff turnover continues to be a challenge. Lead-time to fully train a deputy fire marshal (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 and other agencies in Alaska and the nation. Staff turnover of commercial building plans examiners is also a challenging aspect of maintaining the required level of service. As the state grows and develops, more and more construction projects require plans reviews and, as the resulting buildings are constructed, they will be required to be inspected on a recurring basis for the safety of the public. As a result, the number of plans reviews and inspections that need to be performed will only increase.

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. Residential fires continue to be Alaska's largest number of structure fires. 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.

Assistance from the division will be required to support the Alaska Fire Standards Council.

• Small rural fire departments need increasing support.

## Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

See specific components for changes in service level.

## Major RDU Accomplishments in 2006

• Conducted 958 building inspections.

• Received and completed 993 plan reviews.

• Completed 1,263 fire prevention education presentations to Alaskan groups.

• Conducted 22 life safety code surveys of Medicare and Medicaid participant facilities throughout the state.

• Investigated 21 significant fires, including all fatality fires.

• Provided training to numerous emergency responders at various levels in urban and rural communities.

• Managed the fire statistics program for the State of Alaska.

• Provided assistance and support to the statewide training conferences of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association and the Alaska Firefighters Association.

• Issued 877 permits for fire system technicians and fireworks related activities.

• Increased efforts to combat juvenile fire setters.

• Provided Rural Basic Firefighter Training for 20 rural communities.

### Contact Information

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**Fire Prevention  
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2006 Actuals				FY2007 Management Plan				FY2008 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
<b><u>Formula Expenditures</u></b>												
None.												
<b><u>Non-Formula Expenditures</u></b>												
Fire Prevention Operations	838.8	33.8	1,267.3	2,139.9	957.2	500.7	1,523.8	2,981.7	1,200.7	0.0	1,539.4	2,740.1
Fire Service Training	523.2	25.0	518.8	1,067.0	580.1	599.7	1,225.8	2,405.6	696.4	1,101.1	1,225.8	3,023.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,362.0</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>1,786.1</b>	<b>3,206.9</b>	<b>1,537.3</b>	<b>1,100.4</b>	<b>2,749.6</b>	<b>5,387.3</b>	<b>1,897.1</b>	<b>1,101.1</b>	<b>2,765.2</b>	<b>5,763.4</b>

**Fire Prevention  
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component  
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2007 Management Plan</b>	<b>1,537.3</b>	<b>1,100.4</b>	<b>2,749.6</b>	<b>5,387.3</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Fire Prevention Operations	137.0	-500.7	-119.6	-483.3
-Fire Service Training	37.0	500.7	-37.0	500.7
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-Fire Prevention Operations	106.5	0.0	135.2	241.7
-Fire Service Training	79.3	0.7	37.0	117.0
<b>FY2008 Governor</b>	<b>1,897.1</b>	<b>1,101.1</b>	<b>2,765.2</b>	<b>5,763.4</b>