

State of Alaska FY2011 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Fire and Life Safety Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Fire and Life Safety 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.

Results at a Glance

(Additional performance information is available on the web at <http://omb.alaska.gov/results.>)

END RESULT A: Reduce loss of life due to fire.

- Unintentional fire fatalities (non-homicide) decreased to 17 in CY2008 but were still above the previous 5-year average

Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- Fire fatalities in high-risk groups dropped to 5 in CY2008 but were still above the previous 5-year average
- Fires in high-loss regions decreased by 5% in CY2008 compared to the previous 5-year average
- Alcohol and drug related fire fatalities decreased by 43% in CY2008 compared to the previous 3-year average
- 38% of 2,256 buildings inspected in FY2009 were found to be in compliance with legal standards

END RESULT B: Reduce property loss due to fire.

- Dollar value of property loss due to fire increased 35% in CY2008 compared to the previous 5-year average

Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- 69% of 1,249 submitted building plan reviews were completed in FY2009
- Property loss in high loss occupancies decreased 38% in CY2008 compared to the previous 3-year average
- 18% decrease in the number of students attending firefighter and fire officer training in FY2009

END RESULT C: Reduce number of fires.

- The number of structure fires decreased by 3% in CY2008 compared to the previous 3-year average

Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result

- 20% increase in the number of firefighters attending building safety inspection training in FY2009

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate company inspection classes for local fire departments. • Start new public fire education programs in willing communities. • Work with local fire departments to improve existing public fire education programs. • Coordinate delivery of public fire education programs to owners and occupants of high loss occupancies. • Coordinate delivery of public fire education programs to residents of high loss regions. • Coordinate fire and life safety education campaigns on targeted trends identified through fire reporting. • Initial fire and life safety inspections, inspection follow-ups. Fire system reports review and follow-up. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code review and adoption. • Advanced search and rescue training. Thermal imaging training. • Coordinate advanced fire suppression classes for local fire departments. • Coordinate public fire education classes for local fire departments. • Coordinate company inspection classes for local fire departments. • Coordinate firefighter safety classes for local fire departments. |
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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.
- 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 the Division of Fire and Life Safety. In response, the division is expanding the duties of the Trans Alaska Fire Safety Specialist position to include providing fire inspection services to non-regulated pipelines and their facilities through AS 18.070 authority of the State Fire Marshal. Pending legislative approval of a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) funding request, Fire and Life Safety plans to transfer all oil and gas plan reviews to the Office of Oil and Gas Systems and Facilities. The division will move one existing plan review position to work with the Office of Oil and Gas Systems and Facilities to create a one-stop shop for the oil and gas industry. It is anticipated that gas pipeline work will also flow through the same services in support of either pipeline applicant, in association with the DNR permitting process.
- Alaska has a history of tragic fire loss. In the past three 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 and Life Safety has no authority to enforce single-family residential code requirements. Alcohol and drugs are leading contributors to fire fatalities and the trend continues to climb. To reduce this trend there will be a significant cultural public education focus centered on personal responsibility. The most effective method to reach residential occupants is through fire and life safety education programs. With limited fire and life safety educators, this can only be accomplished by targeting high-risk groups and areas. At current staffing levels, these programs will not reach all Alaskans.
- Juvenile fire setters (JFS) are a significant cause of fire fatalities and property damage. The solution to JFS is not held by any one department or division. JFS incorporates professionals from many departments to include law enforcement, fire departments, social services, and mental health services for a statewide synergistic attack of the problem. The issue is both rural and urban and does not subscribe to social or economic status. Statistically, JFS are responsible for 20 percent of Alaska's fatalities and 30 to 40 percent of the state's property loss. There is no programmatic approach to this issue and with limited knowledge, lack of interdepartmental cooperation, and current staffing levels, JFS will continue to contribute to climbing fire fatalities and property loss.
- Small rural fire departments need increasing support for fire and life safety education, equipment, and training.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2011

See specific components for changes in service level.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2009

- Conducted 2,256 building inspections; of these, 526 were petroleum related facilities.
- Received 1,249 plan reviews and completed 861, within our target goal.
- Completed 1,233 public Fire and Life Safety presentations to Alaskan groups.
- Conducted 24 life safety code surveys of Medicare and Medicaid participant facilities throughout the state.
- Investigated 31 significant fires, including all fatality fires.
- Provided training to 2,449 emergency responders at various levels in urban and rural communities.
- Managed the fire statistics program for the State of Alaska.

- Issued 501 permits for fire system technicians and 94 permits for fireworks related activities.
- Provided Rural Basic Firefighter Training for people from 57 rural communities.
- The Training and Education Bureau provided assistance and support to the Alaska Fire Chiefs' Association and the Alaska State Firefighters' Association with their annual fall conference.

Contact Information
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**Fire and Life Safety
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2009 Actuals				FY2010 Management Plan				FY2011 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 and Life Safety Operations	1,256.0	0.0	1,281.0	2,537.0	1,358.1	0.0	1,493.9	2,852.0	1,371.7	0.0	1,509.7	2,881.4
Training and Education Bureau	843.7	114.0	536.0	1,493.7	877.3	851.2	1,229.5	2,958.0	877.3	851.2	1,229.5	2,958.0
Totals	2,099.7	114.0	1,817.0	4,030.7	2,235.4	851.2	2,723.4	5,810.0	2,249.0	851.2	2,739.2	5,839.4

Fire and Life Safety
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2010 Management Plan to FY2011 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2010 Management Plan	2,235.4	851.2	2,723.4	5,810.0
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Fire and Life Safety Operations	13.6	0.0	15.8	29.4
FY2011 Governor	2,249.0	851.2	2,739.2	5,839.4