

State of Alaska FY2012 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) increased to 22 in CY2009
 - Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result**
 - Fire fatalities in high-risk groups increased to 6 in CY2009 and were above the previous 5-year average
 - Fires in high-loss regions increased by 3% in CY2009 compared to the previous 5-year average
 - Alcohol and drug related fire fatalities increased by 17% in CY2009 compared to the previous 3-year average
 - 24% of 2,181 buildings inspected in FY2010 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 decreased 50% in CY2009 compared to the previous 5-year average
 - Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result**
 - 68% of 1,175 submitted building plan reviews were completed within 14 days in FY2010
 - Property loss in high loss occupancies decreased 53% in CY2009 compared to the previous 3-year average
 - There was an 11% increase in the number of students attending firefighter and fire officer training in FY2010

END RESULT C: Reduce number of fires.

- The number of structure fires increased by 1% in CY2009 compared to the previous 3-year average
 - Status of Strategies to Achieve End Result**
 - There was an 88% increase in the number of firefighters attending building safety inspection training in FY2010

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and distribute self-help inspection checklists to priority inspectable occupancies to increase compliance rate • 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 • Reconfigure plan review priorities to increase review efficiencies to meet 14-day turnaround for their first letter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial fire and life safety inspections, inspection follow-ups; fire system reports review and follow-up • Code review and adoption of the 2009 International Code Council Building, Fire, and Mechanical Codes • Coordinate advanced fire suppression and rescue classes for local fire departments • Coordinate company inspection classes for local fire departments • Coordinate public safety education campaigns on targeted trends identified through fire reporting |
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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 this division. 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. The division plans to do all oil and gas plan reviews and move an existing plan review position to work with the Trans Alaskan Pipeline Service Company position and create a one-stop shop for industry. It is anticipated that gas pipeline work will also flow through the same services in support of either applicant in association with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permitting process.
- Alaska has a history of high 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 a leading contributor 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 public education programs. With limited public educators, this can only be accomplished by targeting high-risk groups and areas.
- 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, instead incorporating professionals from many agencies including law enforcement, fire departments, social services, and mental health services for a statewide synergistic attack on the problem. The issue is both rural and urban and does not subscribe to social or economic status. Statistically, for losses attributable to fire, 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. Educational opportunities will be provided to agencies that have a hand in helping to reduce this problem.
- Small rural fire departments need increasing support for public education, equipment, and training.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2012

See specific components for changes in service level.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2010

- Conducted 2,156 building inspections; of these 525 were petroleum related facilities.
- Received and completed 1,075 plan reviews.
- Completed 921 public fire and life safety presentations to Alaskan groups.
- Conducted 26 life safety code surveys of Medicare and Medicaid participant facilities throughout the state.
- Investigated 27 significant fires Involving fatalities and or significant damage outside of deferral jurisdictions.
- Provided training to 271 emergency responder groups at various levels in urban and rural communities.
- Managed the fire statistics program for the State of Alaska.

- Issued 152 permits for fire system technicians and 74 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 by supervising training, tracking and maintaining training certifications and providing equipment.

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

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2010 Actuals				FY2011 Management Plan				FY2012 Governor			
	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures Fire and Life Safety Operations	2,405.1	161.7	0.0	2,566.8	2,499.9	439.3	0.0	2,939.2	2,538.2	446.2	0.0	2,984.4
Training and Education Bureau	1,085.9	387.7	36.7	1,510.3	2,077.1	56.6	851.2	2,984.9	2,106.0	56.6	851.2	3,013.8
Totals	3,491.0	549.4	36.7	4,077.1	4,577.0	495.9	851.2	5,924.1	4,644.2	502.8	851.2	5,998.2

Fire and Life Safety
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2011 Management Plan to FY2012 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>Unrestricted Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2011 Management Plan	2,301.4	2,275.6	495.9	851.2	5,924.1
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:					
-Fire and Life Safety Operations	16.2	22.1	6.9	0.0	45.2
-Training and Education Bureau	28.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.9
FY2012 Governor	2,346.5	2,297.7	502.8	851.2	5,998.2