

State of Alaska
FY2014 Governor's Operating Budget

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

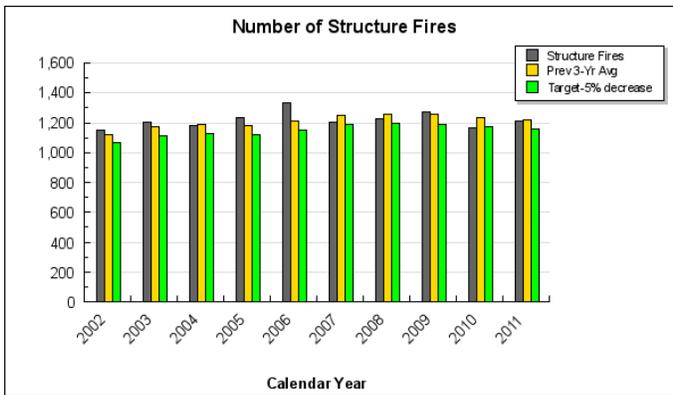
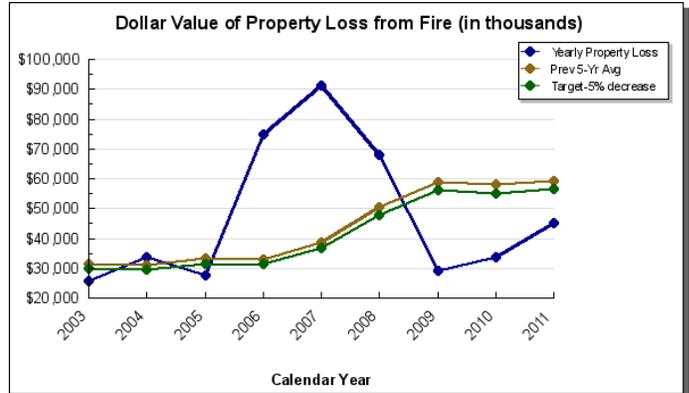
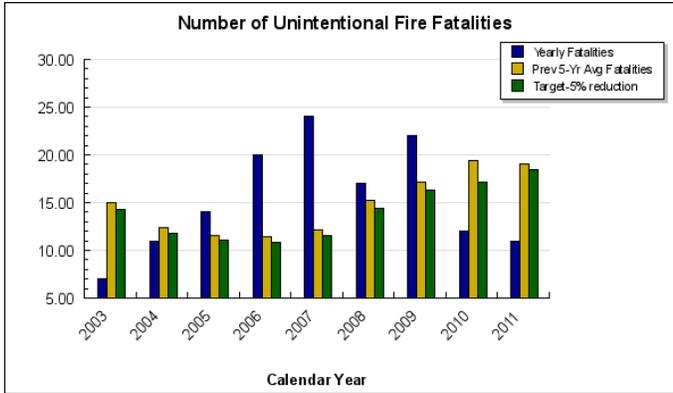
Fire and Life Safety Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

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

Results

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



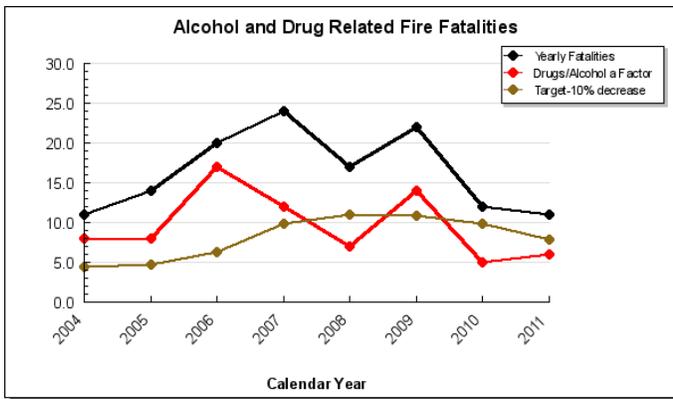
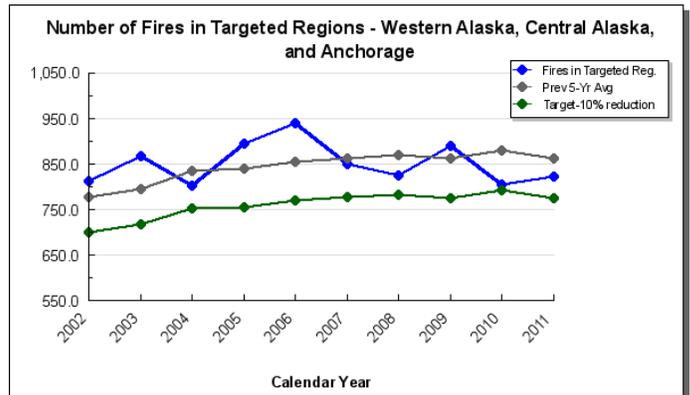
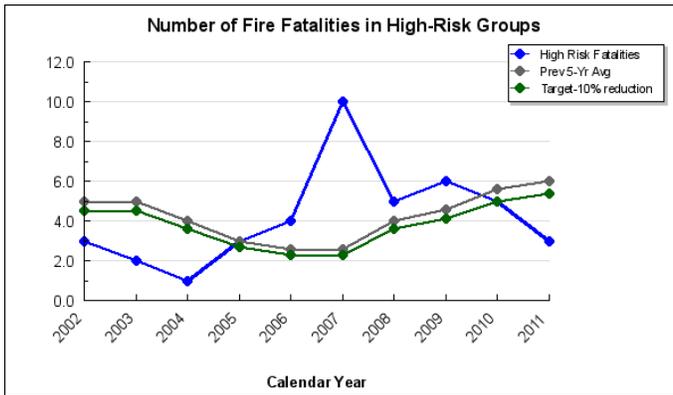
Core Services

- Public education programs.
- Fire and life safety inspections.
- Building plan review for code compliance.
- Fire training.

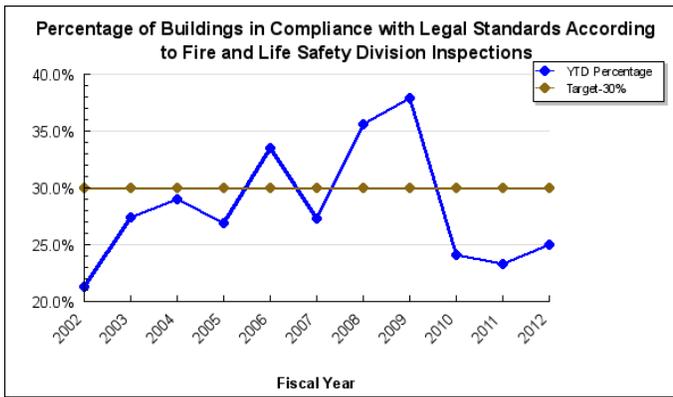
Measures by Core Service

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

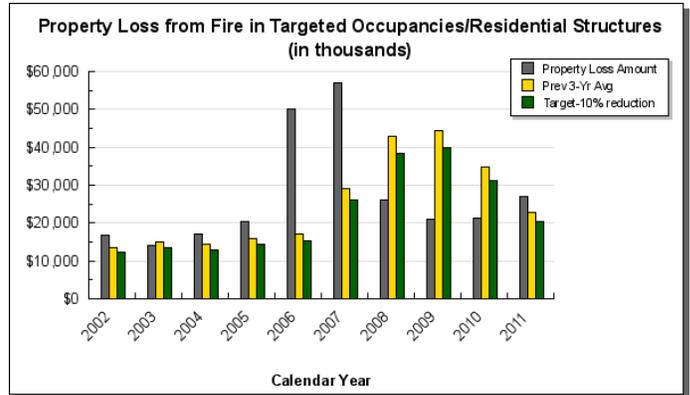
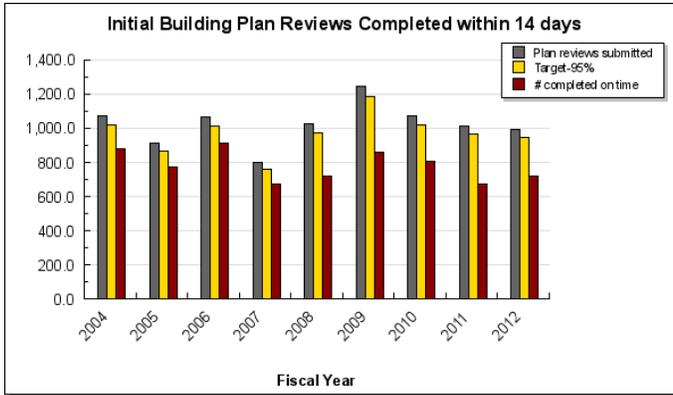
1. Public education programs.



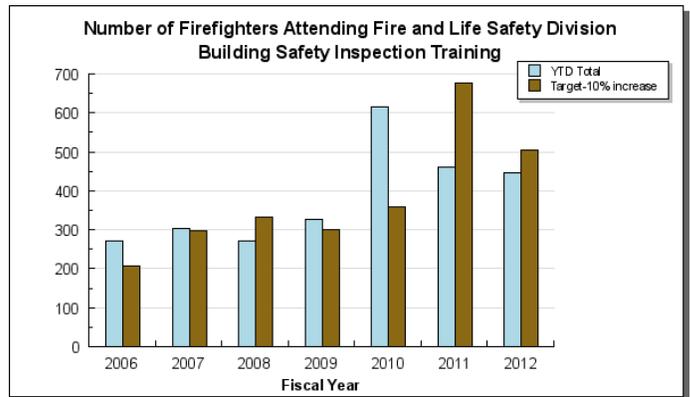
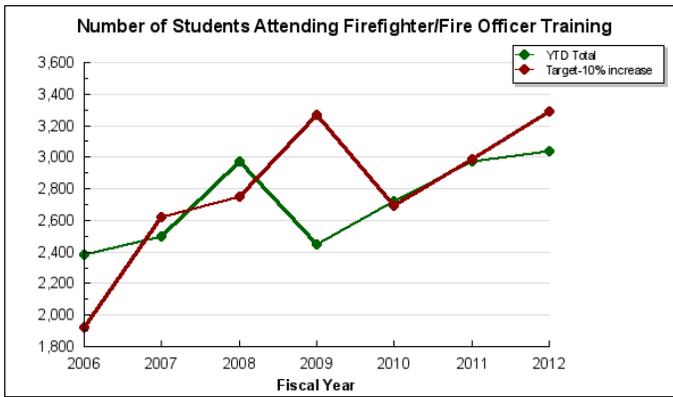
2. Fire and life safety inspections.



3. Building plan review for code compliance.



4. Fire training.



Major RDU Accomplishments in 2012

Fire and Life Safety Operations

- Conducted 2,529 building inspections; of these 525 were petroleum related facilities.
- Received and completed 1,016 plan reviews.
- Completed 1,066 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 47 significant fires Involving fatalities and or significant damage outside of deferral jurisdictions.
- Provided training to 2,855 students from 283 emergency responder groups at various levels in urban and rural communities.
- Conducted 2,665 building inspections in FY2012 as compared to 2,529 in FY2011.
- Conducted 24 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 994 plan reviews of commercial buildings in FY2012, compared to 1016 in FY2011.
- Completed 44 fire investigations for fires where death, injury, or criminal activity was involved, compared to 47 in FY 2011. The deputy fire marshals provided assistance to the district attorneys in the development of cases or testified in a court.
- The legislature appropriated funding for phase two of the web-based plan review and inspection system that provides a dynamic portal to provide online access for customers and outside agencies. Currently, Division of Fire and Life Safety staff are working with the vendor to conduct fire inspections in the field and electronically document the process, update the database and eliminate redundant data entry.

Training and Education Bureau

- Assisted the following local fire departments (FD) and volunteer fire departments (VFD) in meeting their training accreditation goals:

Anchor Point FD	Greater Prudhoe Bay FD	Seward FD
Anchorage FD	Haines VFD	Sitka FD
Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel FD	Hoonah VFD	Skagway FD
AVTEC	Kachemak Emergency Services	South Tongass VFD
Bethel FD	Kodiak FD	Steese Area VFD
Capital City Fire Rescue	Kenai FD	Homer VFD
Central Emergency Services	Ketchikan FD	Ted Stevens Anch Int'l Airport Police & Fire Dept.
Central Mat-Su FD	Nikiski FD	Unalaska Fire/EMS
Chena-Goldstream FD	Nome FD	University FD
Chugiak VFD	North Pole FD	Univ of AK Fairbanks Fire Science Program
ConocoPhillips FD	North Slope Borough FD	Valdez FD
Cordova FD	North Star VFD	West Lakes FD
Ester VFD	North Tongass VFD	Whittier VFD
Fairbanks Airport Fire and Police Dept.	Palmer Fire and Rescue	Wrangell FD
Girdwood FD	Petersburg VFD	Fairbanks FD

- Processed and reported fire and emergency incident reports from departments across the state. The division submitted the reports for inclusion into the national fire incident reporting database and provided feedback reports to departments and user groups based on this incident data.
- The Training and Education Bureau provided assistance and support to the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association and the Alaska State Firefighters Association with the annual fall conference by supervising training, tracking and maintaining training certifications and providing equipment. The Bureau supported 5,284 training hours over the span of five days.
- Provided fire training to new Village Public Safety Officers at the Department of Public Safety Training Academy.
- Provided Basic Firefighter Training in 12 communities. Since the inception of the program, training has been provided in 137 communities. One hundred thirty-eight communities are presently part of Project Code Red. Advanced training was presented in Palmer and Seward for Project Code Red communities, as well as others.
- Developed and provided fire department management training for rural fire chiefs during the Annual Fire Conference in Fairbanks which 17 communities attended.
- Increased efforts to identify and reduce the juvenile fire setter problem through increased arson awareness and education of state agency stakeholders who can recognize and provide offender assistance.
- Completed 950 fire safety 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.
- Provided incidental and formal technical assistance to departments and communities throughout the state.
- Managed the Fire Department Registration Program representing 140 fire departments throughout the state.

Key RDU Challenges

Fire and Life Safety Operations

Alaska has a history of high fire loss. However, the state has seen a decrease in civilian fatalities due to fire. Residential fires continue to be Alaska's largest number of structure fires and where 100% of fire fatalities have occurred. The Division of Fire and Life Safety has no authority to enforce single-family residential code requirements and single family resident fires continue without incorporating the inherent safety factors provided within a residential building code. Alcohol and drugs are leading contributors to fire fatalities and the ratio of fire fatalities to the number of events involved with drugs and alcohol remains constant. The division continues to provide significant cultural public education focus centered on personal responsibility. The most effective method to reach residential occupants has been through public education programs targeting high-risk groups and areas.

There continued to be no loss of life in FY2012 from fire in any facility inspected by the division.

Prioritization of building inspections continues to be 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 through self-inspection checklists. The division will continue its priority inspection program, and forecasts a continuing decrease in deficiencies and a reduction in structural fires and associated property loss.

The division added 136 inspections of oil and gas infrastructure, which accounts for the increased completed inspections from FY2011. As the division continues to inspect these facilities, it is anticipated that compliance with legal standards at the time of inspection will continue to rise.

The target of completing 95% of initial building plan reviews in 14 days was not met in FY2012. During the fiscal year, the plan review bureau experienced a slight reduction in business volume. The bureau trained one new plans examiner and promoted an existing employee to the bureau supervisor position. The backlog of plans was eliminated, and additional training conducted. There is a strong emphasis on meeting established performance measures which are monitored each month. The new bureau supervisor has been taking strong action and is improving work performance of the staff. These activities impacted the bureau's ability to reach divisional goals. Further refinement of data input and follow-up continue to increase customer satisfaction.

There has been a significant reduction in oil and gas projects submitted for review. As a result, the full-time dedicated position for that work has been brought back into the main office to work with all projects but giving separate priority to oil and gas projects.

Training and Education Bureau

The Office of Rural Fire Protection and Project Code Red continue to focus on small rural fire departments throughout the state. Most small rural fire departments do not possess staff members that are fully qualified or experienced to manage emergency prevention and response duties. These limitations and a lack of equipment pose an extreme challenge for many of the communities. As the primary source of technical assistance, education, and training, the Division of Fire and Life Safety assists rural fire departments whenever possible.

The Office of Rural Fire Protection continues to concentrate efforts on providing technical assistance and specialized training to high-risk rural communities for the specific purpose of establishing and maintaining a local fire department and emergency response organization. Fire and Life Safety's goal is to reinforce Project Code Red communities with follow-up training and oversight support through the office of rural fire protection. Fire and Life Safety (FLS) will continue to identify, support, and provide solutions to communities where Project Code Red is not the best option. FLS has found that after two years without refresher training, these resources are forgotten and not deployed during fires. The Office of Rural Fire Protection provides refresher training to a number of Project Code Red communities each year.

Alaska Village Initiatives (AVI) has not received funding since FY2008 for any new Project Code Red units. This will negatively affect the number of new training courses that will be scheduled since a new funding mechanism has not been identified.

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 for both career and volunteer personnel.

In FY2012, the division increased the number of course offerings to 117; however, student numbers were lower than expected. Diminishing local budgets and the increased cost of travel could have an impact on low attendance. The division is looking to modify its course delivery methods and is exploring online courses and getting more Train the Trainer opportunities available to the fire service.

The one percent decrease in structure fires in calendar year 2011, compared to the previous three-year average, is a slight slowing of a negative trend but does not show significant improvement. The division continues working to reduce the number of structure fires in Alaska through public education programs, fire and life safety building inspections, building plan reviews for code compliance, and public education. The hole in the program continues to be single-family residences, because the division has very limited code authority, no inspection authority, and little direct access to individual residences.

Building safety training courses are designed to give fire department members skills and knowledge on building safety within their communities. This training allows local fire department members to educate local building owners on fire safety hazards encountered during visits to the occupancy, either during emergency responses or during courtesy inspections. This information is primarily provided to new fire department members when they join an organization. The number of courses and students decreased during this period because the need to deliver the information to current firefighters was met by the increase of classes in FY 2009 and FY2010.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2014

Fire and Life Safety Operations

Deputy fire marshals are in the process of becoming Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) certified Police Officers through a formalized field training officer program. This will enhance job satisfaction and contribute a positive effect on retaining staff. This will also free up Alaska State Troopers from processing property crimes cause by fire that are the result of a crime and provide a consistent management process within the department.

As the number of structural fires continues to decline, the division expects that the dollar fire loss will be driven downward. The number of fatalities in high-risk groups will continue to receive our top priority. Public education, rural fire protection training, and continued fire and life safety inspections will decrease the number of fire fatalities within the high-risk groups and contribute to the overall decline of the statewide fire fatality rate.

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 to collaborate 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 30 to 40 percent of the state's property loss. There is no formal programmatic approach to this issue. Educational opportunities will be maximized and made available to agencies that have an interest in helping to reduce this problem.

The majority of fire deaths occur in residential occupancies. The best strategy to prevent death from fire is the education of the public about fire safety. The Division of Fire and Life Safety (FLS) will continue to focus fire safety education materials on a personal responsibility to increase the awareness of the public about their ability to prevent fire in their homes.

Through an evaluation of the current fire and life safety programs, the division has identified that maintaining a high level of visibility through the media has a significant positive effect on reducing fire deaths. The division will maintain an increased level of media visibility by issuing bi-weekly media releases, monthly distribution of Burny's Fire Fact Sheet and using radio, theaters, newspapers, internet, social media sites, and television to promote awareness of fire safety and prevention.

To take advantage of the networking benefits of social media, the division built two Facebook pages. Burny's Facebook page is used to share fire safety tips with the general public several times a week. The other page, Alaska State Fire Marshal, is used to distribute pertinent information to the fire and building community.

The division has increased the public's knowledge about fire safety with the development of an application for the iPhone. This product was released in October of 2010. The application is available free to anyone with an iPhone, iPad, or iPod. The fire prevention application is modeled after the division's Burny fire prevention mascot and we anticipate our prevention message will be interactive for all ages. The android version of the application, "Burny's Fire Safety App", was released in fall of 2011. This has increased the use of the application in rural areas of the state.

Training and Education Bureau

FLS will continue to support and train fire service personnel throughout the state. This support will be prioritized based upon the needs of the communities. The number of rural training courses conducted under the Office of Rural Fire Protection may increase due to funding from other organizations such as the Alaska State Firefighters Association, Alaska State Troopers, and regional native corporations.

The number of local fire departments with the capacity to deliver their own training continues to increase each year. This reduces the number of entry-level firefighting courses delivered by the regional FLS offices. The FLS will still provide entry-level courses for those organizations in need and there will be an increase in the number of advanced and specialty firefighting courses delivered.

The FLS will increase its partnering with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management by delivering Hazardous Materials Train the Trainer courses utilizing federal grants. This will enable more fire departments to deliver their own training and increase the numbers of instructors available to teach the course material throughout the state. Training with established departments and other state agencies will continue and increase with emphasis on firefighter safety and survival, the basic elements of firefighting, and fire service leadership. The FLS will further expand its relationship with the Alaska Fire Standards Council by redesigning the training accreditation process so both organizations participate in the accreditation of fire department training programs.

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

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2012 Actuals				FY2013 Management Plan				FY2014 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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4,775.1	408.6	851.2	6,034.9
Fire and Life Safety Operations	2,451.5	154.6	0.0	2,606.1	2,621.5	451.7	0.0	3,073.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Training and Education Bureau	1,285.7	37.3	25.7	1,348.7	2,131.3	56.6	851.2	3,039.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Totals	3,737.2	191.9	25.7	3,954.8	4,752.8	508.3	851.2	6,112.3	4,775.1	408.6	851.2	6,034.9

Fire and Life Safety
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2013 Management Plan to FY2014 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>
FY2013 Management Plan	2,443.7	2,309.1	508.3	851.2	6,112.3
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:					
-Fire and Life Safety	2,440.0	2,335.1	408.6	851.2	6,034.9
-Fire and Life Safety Operations	-1,485.3	-1,136.2	-451.7	0.0	-3,073.2
-Training and Education Bureau	-958.4	-1,172.9	-56.6	-851.2	-3,039.1
FY2014 Governor	2,440.0	2,335.1	408.6	851.2	6,034.9