

State of Alaska
FY2021 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety
Search and Rescue
Component Budget Summary

Component: Search and Rescue**Contribution to Department's Mission**

Preserve public peace; protect life, property, and resources.

Core Services

- Initiate search and rescue (SAR) action for the recovery of lost or missing persons.
- Coordinate rescue operations for injured persons; conduct recovery operations for deceased persons.
- Coordinate small and large-scale responses to search and rescue events including resource management, interagency coordination, and the use of private resources, various agencies, and private persons.
- Reimburse public and private organizations for resources spent during search and rescue operations.
- Provide aircraft for search and rescue missions.
- Provide logistical support and technical expertise to local law enforcement and volunteer organizations, including provision of equipment, search management, and planning operational support.
- Train and support volunteer resources through professional conferences, local seminars, and practical exercises.
- Review training plans submitted by volunteer organizations.
- Manage worker's compensation program for volunteer search and rescue participants while engaged in search and rescue activities.
- Coordinate resources with the rescue coordination components of the Alaska National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard to meet the requirements of the National Search and Rescue Plan.
- Manage preventative programs to educate the public on wilderness-related risk and methods to mitigate risk and reduce the loss of life or injury to persons.
- Provide tuition-free classes to target audiences, including high school students and young adults, in avalanche-prone areas of the state. Emphasis is given to areas having a history of avalanche-related emergencies.
- Manage the Missing Persons Clearinghouse statewide for all law enforcement agencies.
- Maintain, repair, supply, and track portable Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) for Department of Public Safety commissioned personnel to include Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Fire Life and Safety and Court Service Officers.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2019

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) responded to 662 SAR related incidents in FY2019. These incidents included overdue hunters, snowmobilers, hikers, boaters, and medical evacuations off the road system. After investigation of these incidents, 385 incidents required SAR resources. Within these 385 incidents, 905 persons were assisted, located, or recovered. DPS issued three Silver Alerts and zero AMBER alerts this fiscal year.

DPS and SAR partners statewide responded to one overdue aircraft report, 85 emergency beacon alerts, 36 reported aircraft crashes; these 36 incidents included 11 aircraft fatality crashes, eight aircraft injury crash, and 17 aircraft crashes involving property damage only.

DPS partnered with the Alaska Avalanche Information Center under contract to provide backcountry safety training to the public in Anchorage, Mat-Su, Copper River Basin, Fairbanks, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Mt. Edgecumbe, Skagway, Haines, Valdez, Thompson Pass, Kenai, and Summit Lake. The total number of courses completed over the season was 43 with a total of 4,386 participants.

DPS continues to support the Alaska Search and Rescue Association (ASARA), with training, coordination, and administrative support. During FY2019, ASARA expended \$42,415.85 for statewide training and equipment as dictated by their FY2015 state grant. This closed out the FY2015 state grant. As part of this effort, SAR volunteers received specialized training under the FY2015 state grant to ensure operational proficiency within the search and rescue arena. As a matter of policy, ASARA generally only funds a portion of training costs, with teams and/or individuals paying the remainder of the cost. ASARA continues to develop the AIMT-SAR, to provide AST with a well-trained team to manage SAR missions which are large scale, complex, or extend into multiple operational

periods. ASARA has also provided funding to support training opportunities for volunteer SAR teams across the state. In addition, ASARA has worked to enhance the communications capabilities of volunteer SAR teams by the acquisition of a new portable VHF repeater. ASARA worked with the local HAM radio operators to install a MESH network tower in the SAR cache to run large SAR operations with enhanced connectivity.

Training provided with the financial assistance of ASARA across the state include a wide range of topics:

- Avalanche 1
- Ice Dive and Tender
- Search Incident Planning Section Chief
- Mountain Travel 1 and 2
- FUNSAR/SARTECH 2
- Wilderness First Responder (Refresher)
- K9 Airscent/Tracking
- Initial Response Incident Commander
- K9 Water Search
- Wilderness First Responder (Initial Course)
- Swiftwater Rescue
- Avalanche Awareness
- Wilderness First Aid
- Inland Search Management

In addition to training, ASARA used a portion of the FY2015 grant to acquire SAR related equipment:

- Avalanche Beacons
- VHF Mag Mount External Antennas
- VHF Repeater

ASARA continues to develop the AIMT-SAR to provide AST with a well-trained team to manage SAR missions which are large scale, complex, or extend into multiple operational periods. ASARA has also provided funding to support training opportunities for volunteer SAR teams across the state. Training provided with the financial assistance of ASARA include a wide range of topics, including high angle rescue, canine searching, lost person searches, dive team searches, and avalanche rescue. In addition, ASARA has worked to enhance the communications capabilities of volunteer SAR teams by the acquisition of a new portable VHF repeater. ASARA worked with the local HAM radio operators to install a MESH network tower in the SAR cache to run large SAR operations with enhanced connectivity.

Now part of core services function of SAR, in FY2019, the Missing Persons Clearinghouse received approximately 808 missing person and runaway incidents reported. There are currently about 1,225 active missing person cases that span a range from 1960 to 2019. The Missing Persons Clearinghouse is responsible for distributing statewide bulletins and coordinating with law enforcement agencies and the public across the country to submit forensic samples such as DNA and dental charts into databases such as National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC). During FY2019, a review of the files was continued and found that most of them have deficiencies that need additional investigative steps and the work has been taking place file by file to bring them up to date. This is a slow process as most of the files are paper based, with different processes and policies of what information needed to be collected and documented during the different time periods involved. This is also slowed by the fact that it is a one-person assignment and new cases continue to come in that have to be dealt with in a timely manner.

Key Component Challenges

Environmental factors in Alaska are unpredictable; therefore, every search and rescue (SAR) is as an emergency. The Department of Public Safety, (DPS) is statutorily required to provide SAR operations for lost, missing, and the recovery of deceased persons on land. DPS is responsible for land-based services regardless of location. DPS receives assistance by federal, state, local and volunteer agencies to perform this function. SAR decisions are based upon the likelihood of mission success under acceptable search conditions. The safety of searchers when evaluating the conditions is the highest priority. DPS provides technical expertise and support to local SAR teams, local police departments, and VPSO personnel.

As the civil authority for Alaska search and rescue, DPS must exhaust all available resources prior to requesting military assistance through the 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center on Joint Base Elmendorf / Richardson (JBER) during land search and rescue missions. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is responsible for SAR at sea, and frequently assists DPS with searches along Alaska's coastline. The U.S. Air Force has responsibility for searches of downed or missing aircraft, and like the USCG will frequently assist DPS during searches. Volunteers in communities across the state are often used in searches. This reliance on local assets and the use of volunteer resources is the primary responsibility of DPS on search and rescue missions. When local resources are unavailable or unable to make the most effective rescue, DPS will turn to the military for assistance. Maritime and inland searches involving USCG or Air Force assets are not traditionally billed to DPS.

The portable radios currently used by the department (XTS50000 P25), which are Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) capable with and without encryption, are rapidly reaching their usable shelf life. Motorola has officially ceased all support for the radios and will no longer supply parts. The department has been unable to purchase new XTS5000 P25 portables and is challenged with maintaining serviceable radios. DPS is currently able to purchase replacement batteries, lapel microphones, and some parts from other vendors; however, it is unknown when these vendors will stop supplying these items as more and more agencies transition to the new APX8000 P25 portables.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2021

The Department Public Safety (DPS) will continue to support volunteer organizations with training, coordination of activities, and increased participation in joint activities statewide. DPS expects to assist new volunteer organizations within the state to become operationally ready to respond to SAR operations. DPS continues to identify gaps in response capabilities and finds ways to correct these discrepancies with training, inter-agency cooperation or partnerships. DPS will continue to build quality relationships with local, state, and federal partners statewide in an effort to make SAR responses more efficient and effective for the citizens of Alaska.

DPS makes use of multiple aviation assets during SAR operations. The most effective assets are the division's two A-Star helicopters based in Anchorage and Fairbanks. New infrared thermal camera systems were purchased and installed on these assets and have been used for multiple SAR missions this past fiscal year. This has a positive impact on DPS' ability to respond to requests for SAR statewide.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

DPS-Powers and duties of department (AS 44.41.020)
State Troopers (AS 18.65.010 - AS 18.65.110)
Police Protection (AS 18.65.010 - AS 18.65.790)
Law enforcement duties (AS 18.65.010 - AS 18.65.086)
Search & Rescue (AS 18.60.115 - AS 18.60.175)
Department to assist other agencies (AS 18.65.090)
Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse (AS 18.65.600 – AS 18.65.660)
Law Enforcement Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (AS 18.65.900 – AS 18.65.909)
Search and Rescue of Person (13AAC 20.005 – 13AAC 20.035)

Contact Information
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Component Detail All Funds
Department of Public Safety

Component: Search and Rescue (513)
RDU: Alaska State Troopers (160)

Non-Formula Component

	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Conference Committee	FY2020 Authorized	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor	FY2020 Management Plan vs FY2021 Governor	
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
72000 Travel	34.7	66.2	66.2	66.2	66.2	0.0	0.0%
73000 Services	154.2	381.8	381.8	381.8	381.8	0.0	0.0%
74000 Commodities	45.4	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	0.0	0.0%
75000 Capital Outlay	19.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Totals	254.1	575.5	575.5	575.5	575.5	0.0	0.0%
Fund Sources:							
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	234.3	575.5	575.5	575.5	575.5	0.0	0.0%
1061 CIP Rcpts (Other)	19.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Unrestricted General (UGF)	234.3	575.5	575.5	575.5	575.5	0.0	0.0%
Designated General (DGF)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Other Funds	19.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Federal Funds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Positions:							
Permanent Full Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Permanent Part Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Non Permanent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%

Change Record Detail - Multiple Scenarios with Descriptions
Department of Public Safety

Component: Search and Rescue (513)
RDU: Alaska State Troopers (160)

Scenario/Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants, Benefits	Miscellaneous	Positions		NP
										PFT	PPT	
***** Changes From FY2020 Conference Committee To FY2020 Authorized *****												
FY2020 Conference Committee	ConfCom	575.5	0.0	66.2	381.8	127.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund		575.5										
Subtotal		575.5	0.0	66.2	381.8	127.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2020 Management Plan To FY2021 Governor *****												
Totals		575.5	0.0	66.2	381.8	127.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Public Safety
Travel

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
2000	Travel		34.7	66.2	66.2
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
2000 Travel Detail Totals			34.7	66.2	66.2
2000	In-State Employee Travel	Travel for search and rescue missions or to attend specialized training.	5.1	20.0	20.0
2001	In-State Non-Employee Travel	Volunteer search and rescue mission travel.	29.6	46.2	46.2

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Public Safety
Services

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
3000	Services		154.2	381.8	381.8
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			154.2	381.8	381.8
3000	Education Services	Emergency response public education training courses, conferences, workshops and memberships.	25.5	45.0	45.0
3004	Telecommunications	Phone and cellular service.	0.8	2.0	2.0
3006	Delivery Services	Freight, postage or courier services.	1.0	5.0	5.0
3008	Utilities	Propane or other utility costs in support of SAR missions.	0.4	2.0	2.0
3009	Structure/Infrastructure/Land	Room and space rental for conferences or meetings.	9.3	2.8	2.8
3010	Equipment/Machinery	Equipment maintenance, improvement or repair costs.	47.8	158.0	158.0
3011	Other Services	Other services in support of public awareness, training or program manual printing costs.	0.9	15.0	15.0
3020	Inter-Agency Building Maintenance	Trans - Department-wide RSA with DOT for headquarters yard maintenance and snow removal.	1.1	2.0	2.0
3033	Inter-Agency Aircraft	NatRes - Department-wide One-time RSA with DNR for assisting in a search and rescue mission.	3.3	0.0	0.0
3033	Inter-Agency Aircraft	PubSaf - AK W-life Troopers Aircraft Sect (492) RSA with AWT aircraft section for use of state aircraft during missions.	64.1	150.0	150.0

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Public Safety
Commodities

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
4000	Commodities		45.4	127.5	127.5
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
4000 Commodities Detail Totals			45.4	127.5	127.5
4000	Business	Consumable office supplies used for training materials or command post demonstrations.	0.5	15.0	15.0
4002	Household/Institutional	Field rations or food for search and rescue volunteers, special protective gear or other welfare items.	5.6	15.0	15.0
4004	Safety	Safety and first aid supplies.	0.2	5.0	5.0
4013	Lube Oils/Grease/Solvents	Maintenance supplies for emergency equipment.	1.0	9.5	9.5
4015	Parts and Supplies	Parts used for repairs and maintenance on emergency equipment.	7.5	23.0	23.0
4020	Equipment Fuel	Search and rescue vehicle fuel.	30.6	60.0	60.0

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Public Safety
Capital Outlay

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
5000	Capital Outlay		19.8	0.0	0.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
5000 Capital Outlay Detail Totals			19.8	0.0	0.0
5004	Equipment	FY2019 One-Time item for equipment purchase.	19.8	0.0	0.0

Revenue Detail (1681)
Department of Public Safety

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

Revenue Type (OMB Fund Code)				FY2020	
Revenue Source	Component	Comment	FY2019 Actuals	Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
5061 CIP Rcpts (1061 CIP Rcpts)			19.8	0.0	0.0
5351 Capital Improvement Project			19.8	0.0	0.0
Inter-Agency					

Inter-Agency Services (1682)
Department of Public Safety

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

				FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
Component Totals				68.5	152.0	152.0
With Department of Transportation/Public Facilities				1.1	2.0	2.0
With Department of Natural Resources				3.3	0.0	0.0
With Department of Public Safety				64.1	150.0	150.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation		FY2019 Actuals	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor
3020	Inter-Agency Building Maintenance	Trans - Department-wide	RSA with DOT for headquarters yard maintenance and snow removal.	1.1	2.0	2.0
3033	Inter-Agency Aircraft	NatRes - Department-wide	One-time RSA with DNR for assisting in a search and rescue mission.	3.3	0.0	0.0
3033	Inter-Agency Aircraft	PubSaf - AK W-life Troopers Aircraft Sect (492)	RSA with AWT aircraft section for use of state aircraft during missions.	64.1	150.0	150.0