

State of Alaska FY2022 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 2020

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) responded to 566 SAR related incidents in FY2020. These incidents included overdue hunters, snowmobilers, hikers, boaters, and medical evacuations off the road system. After investigation of these incidents, 398 incidents required SAR resources. Within these 398 incidents, 739 persons were assisted, located, or recovered. DPS issued 7 Silver Alerts and zero AMBER alerts this fiscal year.

DPS and SAR partners statewide responded to zero overdue aircraft reports, 50 emergency beacon alerts, 19 reported aircraft crashes; these 19 incidents included 5 aircraft fatality crashes, 3 aircraft injury crashes, and 11 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 34 with a total of 564 participants. The classes were suspended due to COVID19.

DPS continues to support the Alaska Search and Rescue Association (ASARA), with training, coordination, and administrative support. ASARA's mission is to provide volunteer SAR teams with funding for training and equipment, advocacy at the local and state level, and liaison with DPS. In 2019 ASARA closed out the last of the FY2015 state grant, and no longer has dedicated state funds to spend on training or equipment for volunteer SAR teams.

Consequently, in 2020 ASARA has focused on developing alternate sources of funding. A former ASARA President

has pledged matching funds for contributions to ASARA. Going forward, while available funds will be more limited than in past years, we anticipate ASARA will still be able to support some training.

In addition to funding issues, the COVID19 pandemic has necessarily limited much training activity. However, ASARA was able to secure a significant and much needed supply of PPE from the Municipality of Anchorage, which was distributed to Anchorage based teams. In addition, ASARA used some of its limited (non-state) funds to purchase no touch thermometers to aid in screening team members for training and deployment. These have been distributed statewide to those teams with the highest SAR callout volume. ASARA has also served as a conduit for the exchange of information as individual teams develop their own local protocols for response during the COVID19 pandemic.

ASARA continues to work towards revising and updating the ASARA radio frequency plan. This is necessary both to effectively deploy the new ASARA repeater (purchased in FY2019), and to remain consistent with changes in the state level frequency plan. ASARA also used some of its limited funds to purchase replacement batteries for handheld radios.

Part of the core services function of SAR operations is the Missing Persons Clearinghouse, which 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). The Missing Person Clearinghouse received approximately 1,635 missing person/runaway incident reports and there are currently about 1,300 active missing person cases that span a range from 1960 to 2020. During FY2020, 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.

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 from 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.

The State SAR Coordinator was deployed to the SEOC for four months for the COVID 19 pandemic which highlighted the need to have additional people trained in emergency management and SAR operations. DPS is currently working to develop more personnel for this position through the assignment of standby duties to multiple commissioned members.

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). 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.

The portable radios currently used by the department are rapidly reaching their usable shelf life. DPS has begun the transition to the next generation of portables after a lengthy research program which involved multiple vendors. This transition will cover multiple fiscal years and millions of dollars to complete.

The work of the Missing Persons Clearinghouse involves the upgrading of files and collecting of DNA from family members; important steps in solving these cases. This is a slow process as most of the files are paper based and the transition to a teleworking environment due to COVID19 has slowed productivity in this area.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2022

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 to make SAR responses more efficient and effective for the citizens of Alaska.

DPS will continue to develop bench strength for the SAR Coordinator position to include the SEOC Emergency Management section.

DPS is bringing the National SAR course, Inland SAR Management to Alaska in conjunction with the National Rescue Coordination Center. This course was rescheduled due to COVID19.

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

	FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Conference Committee	FY2021 Authorized	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor	FY2021 Management Plan vs FY2022 Governor	
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
72000 Travel	27.0	66.2	66.2	66.2	66.2	0.0	0.0%
73000 Services	122.9	381.8	381.8	381.8	381.8	0.0	0.0%
74000 Commodities	53.1	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	0.0	0.0%
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	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	203.0	575.5	575.5	575.5	575.5	0.0	0.0%
Fund Sources:							
1001 CBR Fund (UGF)	0.0	143.9	143.9	143.9	0.0	-143.9	-100.0%
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	201.9	431.6	431.6	431.6	575.5	143.9	33.3%
1061 CIP Rcpts (Other)	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Unrestricted General (UGF)	201.9	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	1.1	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 FY2021 Conference Committee To FY2021 Authorized *****												
Conference Committee												
	ConfCom	575.5	0.0	66.2	381.8	127.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1001 CBR Fund		143.9										
1004 Gen Fund		431.6										
Subtotal		575.5	0.0	66.2	381.8	127.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
***** Changes From FY2021 Management Plan To FY2022 Governor *****												
Fund Source Adjustment of CBRF to UGF												
	FndChg	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1001 CBR Fund		-143.9										
1004 Gen Fund		143.9										
Replace Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund (CBRF) used as a one-time funding mechanism in FY2021.												
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		FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
2000	Travel		27.0	66.2	66.2
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
2000 Travel Detail Totals			27.0	66.2	66.2
2000	In-State Employee Travel	Travel for search and rescue missions or to attend specialized training.	16.1	20.0	20.0
2001	In-State Non-Employee Travel	Volunteer search and rescue mission travel.	10.9	46.2	46.2

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Public Safety
Services

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
3000	Services		122.9	381.8	381.8
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			122.9	381.8	381.8
3000	Education Services	Emergency response public education training courses, conferences, workshops and memberships.	16.9	45.0	45.0
3004	Telecommunications	Phone and cellular service.	0.5	2.0	2.0
3006	Delivery Services	Freight, postage or courier services.	0.7	5.0	5.0
3008	Utilities	Propane or other utility costs in support of SAR missions.	0.0	2.0	2.0
3009	Structure/Infrastructure/Land	Room and space rental for conferences or meetings.	0.3	2.8	2.8
3010	Equipment/Machinery	Equipment maintenance, improvement or repair costs.	23.8	158.0	158.0
3011	Other Services	Other services in support of public awareness, training or program manual printing costs.	0.0	15.0	15.0
3020	Inter-Agency Building Maintenance	Trans - Department-wide RSA with DOT for headquarters yard maintenance and snow removal.	1.2	2.0	2.0
3033	Inter-Agency Aircraft	PubSaf - AK W-life Troopers Aircraft Sect (492) RSA with AWT aircraft section for use of state aircraft during missions.	79.5	150.0	150.0

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Public Safety
Commodities

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
4000	Commodities		53.1	127.5	127.5
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
4000 Commodities Detail Totals			53.1	127.5	127.5
4000	Business	Consumable office supplies used for training materials or command post demonstrations.	2.9	15.0	15.0
4002	Household/Institutional	Field rations or food for search and rescue volunteers, special protective gear or other welfare items.	3.6	15.0	15.0
4004	Safety	Safety and first aid supplies.	3.7	5.0	5.0
4013	Lube Oils/Grease/Solvents	Maintenance supplies for emergency equipment.	3.8	9.5	9.5
4014	Bottled Gas	Propane purchased for search and rescue.	0.1	0.0	0.0
4015	Parts and Supplies	Parts used for repairs and maintenance on emergency equipment.	2.4	23.0	23.0
4019	Small Tools/Minor Equipment	Small tools and minor equipment purchased for search and rescue missions.	0.8	0.0	0.0
4020	Equipment Fuel	Search and rescue vehicle fuel.	35.8	60.0	60.0

Revenue Detail (1681)
Department of Public Safety

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

Revenue Type (OMB Fund Code) Revenue Source	Component	Comment	FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
5061 CIP Rcpts (1061 CIP Rcpts)			1.1	0.0	0.0
5351 Capital Improvement Project Inter-Agency			1.1	0.0	0.0

Inter-Agency Services (1682)
Department of Public Safety

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

				FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
Component Totals				80.7	152.0	152.0
With Department of Transportation/Public Facilities				1.2	2.0	2.0
With Department of Public Safety				79.5	150.0	150.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation		FY2020 Actuals	FY2021 Management Plan	FY2022 Governor
3020	Inter-Agency Building Maintenance	Trans - Department-wide	RSA with DOT for headquarters yard maintenance and snow removal.	1.2	2.0	2.0
3033	Inter-Agency Aircraft	PubSaf - AK W-life Troopers Aircraft Sect (492)	RSA with AWT aircraft section for use of state aircraft during missions.	79.5	150.0	150.0