

State of Alaska FY2023 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 2021

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) responded to 400 Search and Rescue (SAR) related incidents in FY2021. These incidents included overdue hunters, snowmobilers, hikers, boaters, and medical evacuations off the road system. Within these 401 incidents, 752 persons were assisted, located, or recovered. DPS issued seven Silver Alerts in FY2021.

DPS and SAR partners statewide responded to 45 emergency beacon alerts and 12 reported aircraft crashes; these 12 incidents included five aircraft fatality crashes, two aircraft injury crashes, and five 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 20 with a total of 390 participants. The classes were reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

DPS brought the National SAR course, Inland SAR Management, to Alaska in conjunction with the National Rescue Coordination Center. This course trained 24 SAR members from multiple agencies on how to operate and manage an inland SAR response.

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.

ASARA was able to secure some funding through non-state sources to support SAR operations in Alaska. These include the following:

1. No-touch thermometers, issued to certain teams to minimize their risks to Covid: \$575.00
2. Replacement batteries for the ASARA HT1250 radios: \$2,050.00
3. D4H Incident management software to be used by AIMT: \$660.00
4. Geographic Information System mapping database software, used by Alaska Incident Management Team (AIMT) in SAR operations: \$600.00
5. Updating the ASARA website: \$300.00
6. Total: \$4,185.00 in support to the State of Alaska

Under ASARA, the Alaska Incident Management Team (AIMT-SAR) strives to provide AST with a well-trained team to manage SAR missions which are large scale, complex, or extend into multiple operational periods. The team is also trained to provide virtual search support and plans. In addition, the AIMT's training is transferrable to support other incident types as several members have filled incident command system roles in their local jurisdictions supporting COVID response.

Part of the core services function of SAR operations is the Missing Persons Clearinghouse. It received approximately 1,468 missing person and runaway incidents reported. There are currently about 1,309 active missing person cases that span a range from 1960 to 2021. 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 FY2021, a review of the files was continued and found that many of them have deficiencies that need additional investigative steps. Efforts are underway to bring those files up to date.

Key Component Challenges

Environmental factors in Alaska are unpredictable, making every search and rescue (SAR) an emergency. The Department of Public Safety 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 State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) for a significant portion of the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the Unified Command assisting the state's response to the crisis, highlighting the need to have additional personnel trained in emergency management and SAR operations.

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 during land search and rescue missions. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is responsible for SAR operations 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 in accordance with joint Memorandums of Understanding.

The portable radios (model XTS5000 P25) currently used by the department are Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) capable, but they are rapidly reaching their usable shelf life. DPS has begun the transition to the Motorola APX6000 portable radios, after a lengthy research program, which involved multiple vendors. This transition will require multiple fiscal years and millions of dollars to complete. DPS through supplemental funding requests in the previous budget was able to upgrade 70 portables from the XTS5000 to the APX6000. An additional \$500,000 is needed every year for the next four fiscal cycles to completely replace the aging portable and mobile radio inventory. The DPS position

primarily assigned radio-related support is a non-permanent position, which has contributed to difficulty with recruitment and retention of staff and an inability to find qualified applicants; the position has been vacant since February 2021. With this position vacant, the State SAR Coordinator has been required to handle the radio maintenance, causing delays in radio programming and reduced support to the field.

The Missing Persons Clearinghouse is managed by one position for the entire state and upgrading the files and collecting DNA and dental from family members is an important step in solving these cases. This is slowed by the fact that new cases continue to come in that must be dealt with in a timely manner. This is a slow process as most of the files are paper-based, with different processes and policies regarding information collection and documentation during the different time periods involved. The transition to a teleworking environment due to COVID19 exacerbated the issue of updating information and filing paperwork. Additional resources are needed for the Missing Persons Clearinghouse to assist in the filing and updating of missing person validations, which were recently found to be non-compliant with Federal Bureau of Investigation standards for timely completion.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2023

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 State Emergency Operation Center Emergency Management section.

DPS will reduce the backlog of Missing Persons validation files for future audits and work with other agencies to collect Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and dental samples.

DPS will continue to modernize the radio inventory by moving more users to the new platform.

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

	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Conference Committee	FY2022 Authorized	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor	FY2022 Management Plan vs FY2023 Governor	
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
72000 Travel	11.6	66.2	66.2	66.2	66.2	0.0	0.0%
73000 Services	103.1	381.8	381.8	381.8	173.8	-208.0	-54.5%
74000 Commodities	43.1	127.5	127.5	127.5	77.0	-50.5	-39.6%
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	157.8	575.5	575.5	575.5	317.0	-258.5	-44.9%
Fund Sources:							
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	157.8	575.5	575.5	575.5	317.0	-258.5	-44.9%
Unrestricted General (UGF)	157.8	575.5	575.5	575.5	317.0	-258.5	-44.9%
Designated General (DGF)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Other Funds	0.0	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 FY2022 Conference Committee To FY2022 Authorized *****												
FY2022 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 FY2022 Management Plan To FY2023 Governor *****												
Transfer Authority to Alaska State Trooper Detachments to Align with Anticipated Expenditures												
	Trout	-258.5	0.0	0.0	-208.0	-50.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund		-258.5										
Totals		317.0	0.0	66.2	173.8	77.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

Transfer authority from services and commodities to Alaska State Trooper Detachments for anticipated services costs. The remaining authority is sufficient to cover anticipated expenditures.

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Public Safety
Travel

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
2000	Travel		11.6	66.2	66.2
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
2000 Travel Detail Totals			11.6	66.2	66.2
2000	In-State Employee Travel	Travel for search and rescue missions or to attend specialized training.	0.0	20.0	20.0
2001	In-State Non-Employee Travel	Volunteer search and rescue mission travel.	11.6	46.2	46.2

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Public Safety
Services

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
3000	Services		103.1	381.8	173.8
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
3000 Services Detail Totals			103.1	381.8	173.8
3000	Education Services	Emergency response public education training courses, conferences, workshops and memberships.	8.5	45.0	45.0
3001	Financial Services	Financial services	0.2	10.0	0.0
3004	Telecommunications	Phone and cellular service.	0.0	10.0	2.0
3006	Delivery Services	Freight, postage or courier services.	0.3	10.0	5.0
3008	Utilities	Propane or other utility costs in support of SAR missions.	0.0	15.0	2.0
3009	Structure/Infrastructure/Land	Room and space rental for conferences or meetings.	0.2	10.0	2.8
3010	Equipment/Machinery	Equipment maintenance, improvement or repair costs.	14.2	50.0	20.0
3011	Other Services	Other services in support of public awareness, training or program manual printing costs.	0.0	20.0	15.0
3020	Inter-Agency Building Maintenance	Trans - Department-wide RSA with DOT for headquarters yard maintenance and snow removal.	0.7	10.0	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.	79.0	201.8	80.0

Line Item Detail (1676)
Department of Public Safety
Commodities

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

Line Number	Line Name		FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
4000	Commodities		43.1	127.5	77.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation	FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
4000 Commodities Detail Totals			43.1	127.5	77.0
4000	Business	Consumable office supplies used for training materials or command post demonstrations.	3.1	10.0	5.0
4002	Household/Institutional	Field rations or food for search and rescue volunteers, special protective gear or other welfare items.	3.4	10.0	5.0
4004	Safety	Safety and first aid supplies.	1.0	5.0	5.0
4013	Lube Oils/Grease/Solvents	Maintenance supplies for emergency equipment.	1.8	10.0	5.0
4015	Parts and Supplies	Parts used for repairs and maintenance on emergency equipment.	7.9	15.0	10.0
4019	Small Tools/Minor Equipment	Small tools and minor equipment purchased for search and rescue missions.	0.1	0.0	0.0
4020	Equipment Fuel	Search and rescue vehicle fuel.	25.8	77.5	47.0

Inter-Agency Services (1682)
Department of Public Safety

Component: Search and Rescue (513)

				FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
Component Totals				79.7	211.8	82.0
With Department of Transportation/Public Facilities				0.7	10.0	2.0
With Department of Public Safety				79.0	201.8	80.0
Object Class	Servicing Agency	Explanation		FY2021 Actuals	FY2022 Management Plan	FY2023 Governor
3020	Inter-Agency Building Maintenance	Trans - Department-wide	RSA with DOT for headquarters yard maintenance and snow removal.	0.7	10.0	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.	79.0	201.8	80.0