

**State of Alaska
FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Public Safety
Search and Rescue
Component Budget Summary**

Component: Search and Rescue

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Component Mission

The mission of the Division of Alaska State Troopers is to preserve the public peace and to protect life and property.

Component Services Provided

AST is the only agency in the state statutorily mandated to provide search and rescue operations for lost and missing, as well as deceased persons. Unlike criminal, traffic law enforcement and investigations where AST provides some technical expertise and support to areas with local police departments, search and rescue services are the responsibility of DPS regardless of location. In this particular area, as in the court services area, the roles are somewhat reversed - AST receives assistance from local agencies, but is responsible for the function, even within municipalities.

Search and rescue services include: response to rescue situations; conducting search operations; coordinating various agencies and private persons involved in search efforts; funding aircraft for search missions; providing logistical support and technical expertise in the various aspects of search and rescue such as search management and planning; resource utilization; and the training of volunteer resources.

The Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska State Troopers is contracting with qualified instructors for the purpose of providing avalanche awareness and safety training to the general public. The project goals are:

- Raise public awareness of avalanche hazards, thereby improving the safety of skiers, snowmachiners, and other winter recreationalists in Alaska's backcountry areas.
- Provide tuition-free classes to a target audience which would include high school and young adult age groups.
- Provide these classes in various regions of the state, including Anchorage, Fairbanks, the Kenai Peninsula, and Southeast Alaska. Emphasis is given to areas having a history of avalanche-related emergencies.
- Address topics such as recognition of avalanche-prone areas, hazard assessment, use of avalanche transceivers, essential safety equipment, trip planning, and emergency procedures in the event of a life threatening avalanche.

Component Goals and Strategies

The goal of Search and Rescue is to reduce loss of life, minimize injury to Alaska's citizens or visitors, and recover remains of deceased in a timely manner to minimize the grief suffered by the families involved.

Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004

By definition Search and Rescue (SAR) missions are not predictable, but require an immediate emergency response to assure public safety. If expenses related to SAR activity exceed available funds, additional funds will be requested. As policy, AST's search and rescue decisions will not be based upon availability of funds, but upon the likelihood of mission success under acceptable search conditions.

Maritime searches involving Coast Guard helicopters are not billed to AST, but inland searches involving National Guard helicopters are quite expensive when they are billed to AST.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2002

This component tracks the number of lives saved, deaths, and persons not found.

- lives saved - 283
- deaths - 32

- persons not found - 10

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

- DPS - Powers and duties of the department (AS 44.41.020)
- Search & Rescue (AS 18.60.120-AS 18.60.175)

Search and Rescue
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	25.2	66.6	66.6
73000 Contractual	114.0	184.3	184.3
74000 Supplies	133.1	117.2	117.2
75000 Equipment	8.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	280.3	368.1	368.1
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	230.3	368.1	368.1
1053 Investment Loss Trust Fund	50.0	0.0	0.0
Funding Totals	280.3	368.1	368.1

Search and Rescue

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004

No service changes.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2003 Authorized	368.1	0.0	0.0	368.1
FY2004 Governor	368.1	0.0	0.0	368.1