

State of Alaska FY2005 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Search and Rescue Component Budget Summary

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Component: Search and Rescue

Contribution to Department's Mission

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

Core Services

The Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska State Troopers, is the only agency in the state that is 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 technical expertise and support to local police departments, AST bears sole responsibility for search and rescue services regardless of location. To perform this function, roles are somewhat reversed. AST receives assistance from local and volunteer agencies, but remains responsible for the search and rescue, even within municipalities and on military reservations. The following component services and programs are managed by the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska State Troopers.

- Initiating action for the recovery of lost or missing persons
- Coordinating rescue operations for injured persons; conducting recovery operations for deceased persons
- Coordinating small and large scale response to search and rescue events including resource management, interagency coordination, and the use of private resources, various agencies, and private persons
- Providing reimbursement to public and private organizations for resources expended during search and rescue operations
- Funding aircraft for search and rescue missions
- Providing logistical support and technical expertise to local law enforcement and volunteer organizations including equipment and operational support relating to search management and planning
- Training and support of volunteer resources through professional conferences, local seminars, and practical exercises
- Coordinating resources with the Rescue Coordination components of the Alaska National Guard and United States Coast Guard to meet the requirements of the National Search and Rescue Plan
- Management of preventative programs to educate the public on wilderness related risk, and methods to mitigate risk and thereby reduce the loss of life or injury to persons

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

The Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska State Troopers is contracting with qualified instructors to provide 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, snowmachine users, and other winter recreationalists in Alaska's backcountry areas
- Provide tuition-free classes to a target audience, including 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

The department is developing public awareness information including informational brochures and pamphlets, trip plans, and public service announcements geared to preventing search and rescue events.

The goals of search and rescue are 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.

FY2005 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

| | | |
|---|-------------------|----------|
| FY2005 Component Budget: \$368,100 | Personnel: | |
| | Full time | 0 |
| | Part time | 0 |
| | Total | 0 |

Key Component Challenges

Because of the environment in which Alaskans live and play, every search and rescue event is potentially an emergency. By definition, search and rescue missions are not predictable, and require an immediate emergency response to assure public safety. If expenses related to search and rescue activity exceed available funds, additional funds will be requested. Search and rescue decisions are not 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, however under certain circumstances inland searches involving National Guard helicopters are billed to AST and are quite expensive. Whenever possible, AST mitigates these expenses through reliance on DPS aircraft and the use of volunteer resources such as the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2005

No significant change in current level of services is anticipated.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2003

FY2003 statistics are as follows:

- 367 lives saved or assists given
- 60 total deaths in 10 aircraft-related SAR missions, 12 watercraft-related missions, 15 non-watercraft-related drowning missions, and 2 avalanche-related missions.

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)
 Controlled Substances (AS 11.71.010 - AS 11.71.900)

Judicial Services (AS 22.20.100 - AS 22.20.140)
 Prisoner Transportation (AS 33.30.071 and AS 33.30.081)
 Search & Rescue (AS 18.60.120 - AS 18.60.175)

Village Public Safety Officer Definition (AS 01.10.060(c)(7)(C))
 VPSO Program (AS 18.65.670)
 VPSO Regulations (13 AAC 96.010-900)
 Concealed Handgun Permits (AS 18.65.700)
 Security Guard Licensing (AS 18.65.400 - AS 18.65.410)
 Sex Offender Registration (AS 12.63.010 - AS 12.63.100)
 Central Registry of Sex Offenders (AS 18.65.087)

Department to assist other agencies (AS 18.65.090)
Document and disseminate information regarding homicides (AS 44.41.040)
Document and investigate missing persons (AS 18.65.610)
Investigate fires resulting from crimes (AS 18.70.030)
Investigate sexual assault and child exploitation (AS 18.65.086)

Aeronautics (AS 02)
Criminal (AS 11)
Environment (AS 46)
Fish & Game (AS 16)
Fish & Game (5 AAC)
Guide/Outfitting (12 AAC)
Guide/Outfitting (AS 08)
Health & Safety (AS 18)
Limited Entry (20 AAC)
State Government (AS 44)

| Contact Information |
|---|
| <p>Contact: Dan Spencer, Director, Administrative Services Phone: (907) 465-5488 Fax: (907) 586-2762 E-mail: danial_spencer@dps.state.ak.us</p> |

**Search and Rescue
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

| | FY2003 Actuals | FY2004 Authorized | FY2005 Governor |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Non-Formula Program: | | | |
| Component Expenditures: | | | |
| 71000 Personal Services | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 72000 Travel | 24.9 | 66.6 | 66.6 |
| 73000 Contractual | 121.8 | 184.3 | 184.3 |
| 74000 Supplies | 84.4 | 117.2 | 117.2 |
| 75000 Equipment | 1.2 | 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 | 232.3 | 368.1 | 368.1 |
| Funding Sources: | | | |
| 1004 General Fund Receipts | 232.3 | 368.1 | 368.1 |
| Funding Totals | 232.3 | 368.1 | 368.1 |

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2004 Authorized to FY2005 Governor***All dollars shown in thousands*

| | <u>General Funds</u> | <u>Federal Funds</u> | <u>Other Funds</u> | <u>Total Funds</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| FY2004 Authorized | 368.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 368.1 |
| FY2005 Governor | 368.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 368.1 |