

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety
Fire Prevention
Budget Request Unit

Fire Prevention Budget Request Unit

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BRU Mission

To prevent the loss of life and property from fire and explosion.

BRU Services Provided

1. Enforcement of state fire laws and regulations in all areas of the state with the exception of those jurisdictions that have requested and received a deferral of that authority.
2. Fire prevention education programs as funding allows. No dedicated funding for this program exists at this time. The majority of fire prevention education occurs at the State Fair, which reaches people in the more populated areas, but does not reach the more rural communities, where the fire problem exists.
3. Collection and dissemination of fire information and statistics, including management of the Alaska National Fire Incident Reporting System. This is being accomplished utilizing a shared clerical position.
4. Technical assistance to communities regarding the organization, training and response capabilities of their local fire departments.
5. Adoption of rules and regulations for the purpose of protecting life and property from fire and explosion.
6. Training and certification of local fire and emergency responders.
7. Adoption of relevant fire training standards that meet the needs of local communities, and development of curriculum based on those standards.
8. Accreditation of emergency response training programs.

BRU Goals and Strategies

1. Provide fire prevention inspections in communities that have not received a deferral of that authority from the State.
2. Conduct plan reviews for communities that have not received a deferral of that authority from the State.
3. Conduct fire investigations.
4. Issue permits for fire systems, fireworks and fireworks operators.
5. Provide fire education briefings.
6. Administer training and certification programs in support of Alaska Fire Standards Council.
7. Provide fire and emergency response training to:
 - a. VPSO's
 - b. U.S. Coast Guard
 - c. Cruise Ship Industry

- d. Greens Creek Mine
- e. Local fire departments

- 8. Encourage and support fire prevention education provided by other agencies and organizations.
- 9. Provide fire and life safety compliance oversight for TAPS/VMT(Valdez Marine Terminal).

Key BRU Issues for FY2001 – 2002

- Adequate staffing is unavailable to fulfill all services required by AS 18.70.
- Current inspection program only provides for inspections of 6% of buildings under state jurisdiction.
- Alaska's fire loss is among worst in developed countries, typically among five worst in nation.
- Fire is a leading cause of accidental death in children and the elderly.
- Assistance from the division will be required for the formation of the Alaska Fire Standards Council.
- Small rural fire departments need increasing support.
- Completion of accreditation by International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.
- High rate of personnel turnover within the division.

Major BRU Accomplishments for FY2000

Conducted 841 building inspections.

Completed 769 plan reviews.

Provided fire prevention information to 16,763 Alaskans.

Investigated 34 significant fires, including all fatality fires.

Provided training to numerous emergency responders at various levels, to urban and rural communities.

Managed the fire statistics program for the State of Alaska.

Provided assistance and support to Alaska Fire Chiefs Association and Alaska State Firefighters Association.

Provided fire and emergency response training to the new VPSO's.

Issued 450 permits for fire system technicians and fireworks related activities.

Key Performance Measures for FY2002

Measure: Percentage of inspected buildings found in compliance with legal standards.
(Developed jointly with Legislature in FY2001.)

Current Status:

First quarter FY2001: Of 158 conducted inspections, 15% were found to be in compliance with adopted fire and building codes, at the time of inspection.

Benchmark:

30% of all scheduled inspections to be found in compliance with adopted fire and building codes at time of inspection.

Background and Strategies:

We estimate this to mean the percentage of the total number of scheduled inspections conducted that have been found to have no violations at the time of inspection.

We anticipate the percentage of no violations found at the time of inspection relative to the number of inspections conducted to be low. This estimation is based on the fact that priority inspections were only taking place once every two years. In FY2001 we were able to return to annual inspections. It is anticipated that conducting annual inspections on a consistent basis will drive up the number of inspections found to be in compliance at the time of inspection.

Measure: Number of fire prevention educational contacts made by the division.

(Developed jointly with Legislature in FY2001.)

Current Status:

First quarter FY2001: 5,418

Benchmark:

Make 15,000 contacts for fire prevention education this fiscal year.

Background and Strategies:

This will be accomplished by making contact with the public during inspections, public events, speaking engagements and attendance at state fairs, home shows and civic gatherings.

Measure: Average time required to conduct initial building plan reviews.

(Developed jointly with Legislature in FY2001.)

Current Status:

First quarter FY2001: Average time 10.9 days.

Benchmark:

80% of all initial plan review comment letters or permits should be to the customer within 14 calendar days after the region receives the fee.

Background and Strategies:

This is accomplished by prioritizing newly received plan reviews and initiating either a plan review comment letter requiring change, questioning the plans as they relate to the appropriate code, or providing the building permit if all code considerations are acceptable.

Measure: Number of priority occupancies inspected.

(Developed jointly with Legislature in FY2001.)

Current Status:

First quarter FY2001: 158 inspections.

Benchmark:

100 percent of 1,269 inspections.

Background and Strategies:

Not all of Alaska's 21,000 buildings regulated by the State Fire Marshal can be inspected within budget constraints. Therefore, it is necessary to prioritize building inspections by occupancy type or classification. Those buildings which have the greatest potential for life or property loss, as well as community impact if destroyed by fire, are inspected on an annual basis.

There are about 1,200 buildings inspected annually on a priority basis, including: hotels, hospitals, schools, jails, and larger restaurants.

This year, the inspection frequency was increased from once every two years to once each year for most occupancies, which significantly increased the number of building inspections to be conducted on a priority basis.

When vacancies occur, there are two factors which impact building inspection backlogs. There is a recruitment and training time delay since any new Deputy Fire Marshal must attend the 14-week Alaska Law Enforcement Academy. After successful completion of that training, it takes several months of field training for a new Deputy Fire Marshal to become proficient to the point of independently conducting building inspections.

Status of FY2001 Performance Measures

	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>On track</i>	<i>Too soon to tell</i>	<i>Not likely to achieve</i>	<i>Needs modification</i>
• Percentage of inspected buildings found in compliance with legal standards.			X		
• Number of fire prevention educational contacts made by the division.		X			
• Average time to conduct initial building plan reviews.		X			
• Number of priority occupancies inspected.				X	

Fire Prevention
BRU Financial Summary by Component

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals				FY2001 Authorized				FY2002 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Fire Prevention Operations	1,411.6	0.0	69.1	1,480.7	1,256.5	0.0	489.6	1,746.1	1,245.1	0.0	779.4	2,024.5
Fire Service Training	373.6	54.6	212.0	640.2	366.6	40.0	427.2	833.8	366.0	160.0	522.9	1,048.9
Totals	1,785.2	54.6	281.1	2,120.9	1,623.1	40.0	916.8	2,579.9	1,611.1	160.0	1,302.3	3,073.4

Fire Prevention

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

See specific components for changes in service level.

Fire Prevention

Summary of BRU Budget Changes by Component

From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	1,623.1	40.0	916.8	2,579.9
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Fire Prevention Operations	-13.1	0.0	5.7	-7.4
-Fire Service Training	-0.6	0.0	0.7	0.1
Proposed budget increases:				
-Fire Prevention Operations	1.7	0.0	284.1	285.8
-Fire Service Training	0.0	120.0	95.0	215.0
FY2002 Governor	1,611.1	160.0	1,302.3	3,073.4