

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety
Search and Rescue
Component

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

The Alaska State Troopers are the only agency within the state that have statutory authority to conduct search and rescue operations for lost and missing, as well as deceased persons. Unlike criminal, traffic law enforcement and investigations where the Alaska State Troopers provide some technical expertise and support to areas that have their own police departments, search and rescue services are the exclusive domain of the Alaska State Troopers for all state and most federal lands. In this particular area, as in the court service area, the roles are somewhat reversed, wherein AST does receive some assistance from local agencies, but is responsible for the function even in 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. This includes search management and planning, resource utilization, and the training of volunteer resources.

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 FY2001 – 2002

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 exceeds 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 if billed to AST.

Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000

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

- 488 lives saved
- 60 deaths
- 11 persons not found

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

- 1) DPS - Powers and duties of the department (AS 44.41.020)
- 2) Search & Rescue (AS 18.60.120-175)

Search and Rescue
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	30.5	66.6	66.6
73000 Contractual	152.9	99.3	284.5
74000 Supplies	117.8	117.2	282.0
75000 Equipment	0.6	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	301.8	283.1	633.1
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	301.8	283.1	633.1
Funding Totals	301.8	283.1	633.1

Search and Rescue

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

Included in the Search & Rescue FY2002 Governor's Request is a \$350.0 GF increment for Avalanche Public Education and Search and Rescue Equipment. This will allow the Department to provide public education through classes, seminars, public outreach, presentations, signage, general public service announcements (PSA) on avalanche safety, distribution of safety films and purchase of search and rescue equipment.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

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	283.1	0.0	0.0	283.1
Proposed budget increases:				
-Avalanche Public Education / Search & Rescue Equipment	350.0	0.0	0.0	350.0
FY2002 Governor	633.1	0.0	0.0	633.1