

# **State of Alaska FY2006 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Natural Resources Fire Suppression Preparedness Component Budget Summary**

**Component: Fire Suppression Preparedness**

**Contribution to Department's Mission**

The Division contributes to the Department's mission in the fire suppression preparedness component by ensuring that the Division's wildland fire suppression resources are in a state of readiness to safely and cost-effectively initial attack wildland fires. This supports the Department's mission by protecting the citizens, improved property and the natural resources of Alaska from wildland fire.

**Core Services**

The Division's Wildland Fire Management Program consists of two components. This component provides for delivery of services in the wildland fire suppression preparedness program as part of a statutory responsibility under AS41.15.010. The wildland fire preparedness program provides personnel, fire training, equipment, facilities and related support activities in preparation for Alaska's wildland fire season.

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p><b>A: – Facilitate the Department's Mission by providing wildland fire protection on state, private and municipal land commensurate with the values at risk.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Provide safe, cost effective wildland fire protection services to the State of Alaska.  <u>Measure #1:</u> Loss of life, property or cultural resources as the result of a wildland fire.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Maintain the capability of state and local firefighting forces to respond to wildland fires.  <u>Measure #2:</u> A prepared state and local firefighting force from May 1 to September 30th each year.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Reduce the number of wildland fire starts due to human activity.  <u>Measure #3:</u> Percentage of human caused fires annually.</p> <p><u>Target #4:</u> Reduce the overall state cost of fire suppression in Alaska.  <u>Measure #4:</u> Reduction in annual state fire suppression costs.</p>	<p><b>A1: Strategy to provide safe cost effective wildland fire protection: Provide appropriate management response to wildland fires in critical and full management options that occur on State of Alaska protection areas.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Contain 90% of wildland fires within 10 acres on lands designated in "Critical" and "Full" (Urban Interface) management options in accordance with the Interagency Fire Management Plans.  <u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage of fires contained at 10 acres or less in "Critical" and "Full" (Urban Interface).</p> <p><b>A2: Strategy to provide safe cost effective wildland fire protection: Protect identified critical sites in "Modified" and "Limited" management options.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Minimize damage and/or loss of critical sites in "Modified" and "Limited" management options from wildland fire.  <u>Measure #1:</u> Number of critical sites protected from wildland fire in "modified" and "limited" management options.</p> <p><b>A3: Strategy to maintain capability of firefighting forces: Provide training and fitness certification for state, local, volunteer and emergency firefighters</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Maintain qualified and certified workforce.  <u>Measure #1:</u> Number of state, local and emergency firefighters trained and certified annually.</p> <p><b>A4: Strategy to reduce human-caused wildland fire starts: Aggressive prevention and educational</b></p>

	<p><b>campaign based on 'Firewise' principles.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Raise public awareness of fire danger and hazard fuel mitigation options in urban and rural Alaska.  <u>Measure #1:</u> Number of human caused fires.</p> <p><b>A5: Strategy to reduce cost of wildland fire suppression: Cost effective use of firefighting resources.</b></p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Contain costs while providing safe, effective firefighting in response to wide variation in fire activity from season to season.  <u>Measure #1:</u> Annual cost of fire suppression along with numbers and types of fires.</p>
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**Major Activities to Advance Strategies**

- Initial attack and suppress fires in critical and full management options.
- Provide fire response vehicles and engines for roadside suppression activities.
- Provide contract helicopter, air tanker, and fixed wing aircraft services for aerial firefighting activities.
- Provide appropriate fire management response to other lands as identified in the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan.
- Develop expansion plans for dispatch and warehouse facilities and offices.
- Manage, train and prepare 27 16 person Type II EFF crews for employment.
- Manage a 20 person Type I EFF crew for employment.
- Provide annual fireline safety refresher training; provide firefighter training in accordance w/NWCG guidelines to maintain a qualified work force.
- Negotiate and manage cooperative firefighting agreements with state, federal and local governments.
- Participate in the Northwest Fire Compact with northwestern states and provinces.
- Administer Volunteer Fire Assistance federal grant program.
- Actively manage debris burning through burn permit suspensions to minimize costly human-caused fire starts.
- Provide public information and education on fire prevention, provide fire danger signs and burn restrictions.
- Issue and track burn permits.
- In cooperation with the interagency community, host regional Firewise workshops.
- Coordinate with cooperating agencies to eliminate costly duplicative preparedness activities.
- Evaluate fire suppression management options to ensure the appropriate level of protection is being provided to state, municipal, and private lands.
- Develop cost-effective alternatives to traditional fire suppression strategies through the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis process.
- Contract with Alaska vendors for services, supply and equipment to be provided during suppression actions statewide.

**FY2006 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results**

<b>FY2006 Component Budget: \$12,618,500</b>	<b>Personnel:</b>	
	Full time	31
	Part time	178
	<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>

**Performance Measure Detail**

**A: Result - - Facilitate the Department's Mission by providing wildland fire protection on state, private and municipal land commensurate with the values at risk.**

**Target #1:** Provide safe, cost effective wildland fire protection services to the State of Alaska.

**Measure #1:** Loss of life, property or cultural resources as the result of a wildland fire.

**Target #2:** Maintain the capability of state and local firefighting forces to respond to wildland fires.

**Measure #2:** A prepared state and local firefighting force from May 1 to September 30th each year.

**Prepared state and local firefighting force.**

Year	YTD
2001	1669
2002	1360
2003	1912
2004	1534

**Target #3:** Reduce the number of wildland fire starts due to human activity.

**Measure #3:** Percentage of human caused fires annually.

**Percentage of human caused fires annually.**

Year	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	YTD
2001	0	0	0	0	94.0%
2002	0	0	0	0	80.2%
2003	0	0	0	0	94.6%
2004	0	0	0	0	84.1%

**Target #4:** Reduce the overall state cost of fire suppression in Alaska.

**Measure #4:** Reduction in annual state fire suppression costs.

**A1: Strategy - Strategy to provide safe cost effective wildland fire protection: Provide appropriate management response to wildland fires in critical and full management options that occur on State of Alaska protection areas.**

**Target #1:** Contain 90% of wildland fires within 10 acres on lands designated in "Critical" and "Full" (Urban Interface) management options in accordance with the Interagency Fire Management Plans.

**Measure #1:** Percentage of fires contained at 10 acres or less in "Critical" and "Full" (Urban Interface).

**Percentage Critical/Full Fires under 10 acres**

Year	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	YTD
2001	0	0	0	0	98.0%
2002	0	0	0	0	90.0%
2003	0	0	0	0	93.0%
2004	0	0	0	0	96.4%

**Analysis of results and challenges:** Percentage of fires kept at 10 acres or less in Full and Critical protection reflects the success of initial attack and reflects effective cost management by preventing large fires which keeps the cost of protection lower. Factors impacting this success include early detection, response time to wildland fire incidents, weather and fuels conditions, and availability of resources.

**A2: Strategy - Strategy to provide safe cost effective wildland fire protection: Protect identified critical sites in "Modified" and "Limited" management options.**

**Target #1:** Minimize damage and/or loss of critical sites in "Modified" and "Limited" management options from

wildland fire.

**Measure #1:** Number of critical sites protected from wildland fire in "modified" and "limited" management options.

**Critical Sites Protected**

Year	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	YTD
2001	0	0	0	0	N/A
2002	0	0	0	0	N/A
2003	0	0	0	0	N/A
2004	0	0	0	0	N/A

**Analysis of results and challenges:** Number of critical sites protected on Federal protection in "modified" and "limited" areas has not been historically tracked, but would predominantly reflect native allotments. The necessity of protecting these in "modified" and "limited" increases federally reimbursed fire costs, but does reflect success in protecting critical sites.

**A3: Strategy - Strategy to maintain capability of firefighting forces: Provide training and fitness certification for state, local, volunteer and emergency firefighters**

**Target #1:** Maintain qualified and certified workforce.

**Measure #1:** Number of state, local and emergency firefighters trained and certified annually.

**State/Local EFF firefighters Trained/Certified**

Year	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	YTD
2001	0	0	0	0	1669
2002	0	0	0	0	1360
2003	0	0	0	0	1912
2004	0	0	0	0	1534

**Analysis of results and challenges:** Efficient, cost effective, and successful initial attack relies on the highly trained seasonal DOF firefighters, structure/volunteer local fire departments, and Emergency Fire Fighters and EFF Crews. Annual training and certification ensures the availability of this workforce when needed during fire activity. This on-call force, maintained through agreements saves the State millions in not having a larger state firefighter workforce as regular employees when not needed.

**A4: Strategy - Strategy to reduce human-caused wildland fire starts: Aggressive prevention and educational campaign based on 'Firewise' principles.**

**Target #1:** Raise public awareness of fire danger and hazard fuel mitigation options in urban and rural Alaska.

**Measure #1:** Number of human caused fires.

**Human Caused Fires**

Year	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	YTD
2001	0	0	0	0	333
2002	0	0	0	0	378
2003	0	0	0	0	390
2004	0	0	0	0	335

**Analysis of results and challenges:** Wildland fires in Alaska are started either by lightning or by human activity. Human caused fire can be prevented or mitigated by raising the public awareness of fire danger and safer fire use.

**A5: Strategy - Strategy to reduce cost of wildland fire suppression: Cost effective use of firefighting resources.**

**Target #1:** Contain costs while providing safe, effective firefighting in response to wide variation in fire activity from season to season.

**Measure #1:** Annual cost of fire suppression along with numbers and types of fires.

**Cost of Fire Suppression**

Year	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	YTD
2001	0	0	0	0	N/A
2002	0	0	0	0	N/A
2003	0	0	0	0	N/A
2004	0	0	0	0	N/A

**Analysis of results and challenges:** A change in the budget structure for FY03 makes comparison with prior years invalid. Prior years included fixed costs, fire suppression personnel, and other items as part of the Suppression budget. FY03 will reflect only actual fire suppression costs, while the Fire Suppression Preparedness will capture fixed costs.

**Key Component Challenges**

Alaska's population continues to move into forested urban interface areas of the state increasing the potential for human-caused wildland fires. Wildland fires in the populated areas are the most costly and difficult to suppress because of the threat to human life and improved property. An aggressive wildland fire prevention program with continued focus on the **FIREWISE** concepts of personal responsibility for fire safety is essential to reducing the human-caused wildland fire problem. Firefighters and resources available for rapid initial attack in the urban interface can be very effective in keeping new fires small. The same resources can also be effective in prevention activities by reducing the number of fires that result from human actions.

The threat of a catastrophic wildland fire exacerbated by the buildup of bark beetle killed timber will be an issue for years to come. There are several areas with large stands of dead and down timber that have the potential to impact private land in the urban interface. Local government fire departments and volunteer fire departments need to be adequately trained in wildland fire suppression. Continued cooperation and coordination in rapid, aggressive initial attack will help reduce the potential for catastrophic wildland fire events due to the buildup of hazard fuels

Climatic changes creating earlier fire seasons, all-risk incidents, and increased urban interface wildland fire occurrence, have decreased the amount of time available for preseason training of the Divisions firefighters. Firefighters are being pulled from training each year to fight fires, creating a cumulative problem.

The Division's Wildland Fire Management Program consists of two components. This component funds wildland fire suppression preparedness. The Fire Suppression Activity Component funds actual wildland fire suppression actions and related activities.

**Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2006**

Continuation funding will support the mission, measures and deliverables currently provided. However if longer fire seasons continue, increased suppression costs will be incurred due to lack of staffing longer seasons and catching fires while small.

**Major Component Accomplishments in 2004**

Fire Program budgeting was previously split in Forest Management and Development and Fire Suppression and is now in Fire Suppression Activity and Fire Suppression Preparedness.

The wildland fire suppression preparedness component protects public health and safety by providing for wildland fire preparedness and fire prevention services. The Division maintains 57 cooperative agreements with local government and structure fire departments to augment its initial attack capabilities in the populated areas of the state. Joint training and exercises with cooperators in wildland/urban interface response are critical to ensure rapid coordinated responses. Evacuation guidelines have been developed through a cooperative effort by a number of agencies to provide for public safety. This component also supports municipal and local initiatives such as Project Impact (emergency preparedness

and wildland fire), FIREWISE and the Kenai Peninsula Spruce Bark Beetle Project providing pre-planning for evacuation, fire "safe" zones, hazard fuels mitigation, defensible space and homeowner education.

This program ensures that the department and its cooperators are prepared to safely, cost-effectively and efficiently respond to wildland fires in the state's protection area, and to prevent human-caused fires by educating the public and enforcing Alaska Statutes. In FY04, DNR Division of Forestry accomplished the following:

- Provided ICS physical fitness tests to 1534 forestry, EFF, VFD, and local government firefighters,
- Issued red cards to 1534 forestry, EFF, VFD, and local government firefighters,
- Provided fireline refresher training to 1534 forestry, EFF, VFD, and local government firefighters,
- Trained 575 EFF firefighters to be utilized on village EFF crews,
- Maintained 57 cooperative agreements with local government and volunteer fire departments,
- Provided exclusive use contracts for 8 helicopters, 2 air tankers, and 1 utility fixed wing aircraft,
- Gave 104 school wildland fire prevention programs,
- Protected 134 million acres of land from wildland fire, and
- Contained 96.4% of all wildland fires in full and critical protection areas within 10 acres.

## Statutory and Regulatory Authority

Preparedness  
AS 41.15.010-.170  
11 AAC 95.410-.495

Contact Information
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### Fire Suppression Preparedness Component Financial Summary

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2004 Actuals	FY2005 Management Plan	FY2006 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	5,711.1	6,326.6	6,581.6
72000 Travel	163.9	225.3	225.3
73000 Services	4,436.2	4,612.4	4,612.4
74000 Commodities	881.7	510.0	510.0
75000 Capital Outlay	1,081.4	689.2	689.2
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>12,274.3</b>	<b>12,363.5</b>	<b>12,618.5</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1002 Federal Receipts	343.8	543.1	569.8
1004 General Fund Receipts	11,387.5	11,344.0	11,558.3
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	230.1	174.8	175.5
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	312.9	301.6	314.9
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>12,274.3</b>	<b>12,363.5</b>	<b>12,618.5</b>

### Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2004 Actuals	FY2005 Management Plan	FY2006 Governor
<b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Restricted Revenues</b>				
Federal Receipts	51010	343.8	543.1	569.8
Interagency Receipts	51015	230.1	174.8	175.5
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	312.9	301.6	314.9
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>886.8</b>	<b>1,019.5</b>	<b>1,060.2</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>886.8</b>	<b>1,019.5</b>	<b>1,060.2</b>

**Summary of Component Budget Changes  
From FY2005 Management Plan to FY2006 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2005 Management Plan</b>	<b>11,344.0</b>	<b>543.1</b>	<b>476.4</b>	<b>12,363.5</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-FY 05 Bargaining Unit Contract Terms: GGU	40.4	6.0	1.1	47.5
-FY06 Cost Increases for Bargaining Units and Non-Covered Employees	173.9	16.5	10.4	200.8
-Adjustments for Personal Services Working Reserve Rates and SBS	0.0	4.2	2.5	6.7
<b>FY2006 Governor</b>	<b>11,558.3</b>	<b>569.8</b>	<b>490.4</b>	<b>12,618.5</b>

### Fire Suppression Preparedness Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs			
<u>FY2005</u>					
<u>Management</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>Governor</u>		
				Annual Salaries	4,670,520
Full-time	30	31		COLA	77,332
Part-time	179	178		Premium Pay	0
Nonpermanent	0	0		Annual Benefits	2,573,249
				<i>Less 7.03% Vacancy Factor</i>	(514,601)
				Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>209</b>		<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>6,806,500</b>

### Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accountant III	1	0	0	0	1
Accounting Clerk II	0	0	0	1	1
Accounting Tech I	0	1	0	1	2
Administrative Assistant	0	0	0	1	1
Administrative Clerk II	0	2	0	1	3
Administrative Clerk III	0	1	0	8	9
Aircraft Maint Inspector	0	0	0	1	1
Aircraft Pilot II	0	0	0	4	4
Aircraft Supervisor	0	0	0	1	1
Equip Operator Journey II	0	1	0	0	1
Food Service Journey	0	0	0	1	1
Food Service Lead	0	0	0	1	1
Food Service Sub Journey	0	0	0	2	2
Forest Tech II	0	10	0	23	33
Forest Tech III	0	14	0	42	56
Forest Tech IV	0	9	0	20	29
Forester I	1	4	0	3	8
Forester II	0	3	0	6	9
Forester III	1	2	0	1	4
Forester IV	1	0	0	0	1
Maint Gen Journey	1	1	0	2	4
Maint Gen Sub - Journey I	0	0	0	5	5
Maint Gen Sub - Journey II	0	0	0	3	3
Maint Spec Bfc Jrny II/Lead	1	1	0	0	2
Mech Aircraft Adv Jrny	0	0	0	1	1
Mech Auto Journey	3	1	0	0	4
Natural Resource Mgr II	0	1	0	0	1
Procurement Spec II	1	0	0	0	1
Safety Officer	0	0	0	1	1
Stock & Parts Svcs Journey I	0	1	0	3	4
Stock & Parts Svcs Journey II	0	1	0	2	3
Stock & Parts Svcs Lead	0	1	0	0	1
Stock & Parts Svcs Sub Journey	0	6	0	4	10
Supply Technician II	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>209</b>