

State of Alaska FY2009 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Fire and Life Safety Operations Component Budget Summary

Component: Fire and Life Safety Operations**Contribution to Department's Mission**

Prevent the loss of life and property from fire and explosion.

Core Services

1. Enforce all state fire laws and regulations. In so doing, the division:
 - a. conducts inspections of buildings on a two-year cycle with emphasis on those with a potential for a large loss of life such as: schools; daycare centers; jails; hospitals; hotels and motels with 20 or more rooms and/or three stories or more in height; assisted living centers; and theaters, churches, community halls, auditoriums, restaurants, and bars with an occupant load greater than 50. Fire and Life Safety also conducts inspections of special hazard occupancies related to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, and North Slope and Cook Inlet oil and gas platforms as requested;
 - b. provides life safety code surveys for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Medicare and Medicaid participant hospitals, long term care facilities, and surgery centers throughout the state;
 - c. conducts fire and life safety plan checks for construction of all public, commercial, industrial, business, institutional, and all residential buildings containing four or more dwelling units in over 300 communities;
 - d. participates with the Joint Pipeline Office in overseeing the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Service's Fire Safety and Employee Concerns programs from Pump Station 1 to the Valdez Terminal;
 - e. investigates all public requests for building and fire code life safety complaints;
 - f. conducts prioritized origin and cause determination fire investigations for all fires that result in serious injury, death, large monetary loss, or community impact, and assists Alaska State Troopers and municipal police departments on suspected arson cases;
 - g. conducts a fire hazard abatement program for over 300 Alaskan communities; and
 - h. conducts a licensing and permit program for the sale and use of fireworks.
2. Adopts rules and regulations for the purpose of protecting life and property from fire and explosion by establishing minimum standards for:
 - a. fire suppression and detection systems and equipment;
 - b. fire and life safety criteria in commercial, industrial, business, institutional, other public buildings, and residential buildings containing four or more dwelling units;
 - c. any activity in which combustible or explosive materials are stored or handled in commercial quantities; and
 - d. conditions or activities likely to cause injury to persons or property due to fire or explosion.

FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2009 Component Budget: \$2,686,900	Personnel:	
	Full time	20
	Part time	0
	Total	20

Key Component Challenges

Staff turnover continues to be a challenge. Lead-time to fully train a deputy fire marshal (DFM) is 18 months to 2 years. Special hazard occupancies related to oil and gas facilities in the North Slope, Kenai Peninsula, and Cook Inlet require specialized knowledge and experience. Once DFMs are trained and gain a limited amount of experience, they become highly marketable to fire departments and other agencies in Alaska and the nation. These competing employers offer better compensation and benefit packages. The marketability of deputies is based on the number of diverse job requirements for which they are trained. This challenge has remained unchanged.

Staff turnover of commercial building plans examiners is also a challenging aspect of maintaining the required level of service. These highly skilled and marketable examiners continue to work under a 14-day turnaround time for review of plans. Beginning in FY2006, the Deputy Fire Marshal I returned to the life safety inspection bureau in anticipation of the hiring of the new building plans examiner authorized by the FY2007 budget. The current number of buildings requiring inspections is 3,723. The number of inspections performed in FY2007 was 669. With each new year, statewide growth can be witnessed by the rapid expansion in the Mat-Su Borough, the increasing infrastructure supporting the tourist industry, the Strategic Reconfiguration Project of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, and potential projects such as the gas pipeline. As the state grows and develops, more and more construction projects require plans reviews and, as the resulting buildings are constructed, they must be inspected for public safety on a recurring basis.

Additionally, the plans review bureau has accepted the plan review responsibility for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions of the state-adopted International Building Code. This has increased the time required on each plan review by 10 – 15 percent.

Oil and gas production, processing, and transportation facilities are aging, increasing the chances of failure and causing an increased dependency on existing fire protection detection and suppression systems that require closer monitoring by this division.

The Plan Review Bureau has seen a decrease in large construction plan reviews from past fiscal years. The decrease can be attributed partially to less large-construction work where the plan reviews might cost upwards of \$40,000 each, and to the fact that many cities are now doing their own plan reviews, such as Fairbanks, Wasilla, and Soldotna. For example, beginning in FY2007, the City of Wasilla began doing their own plan reviews for construction occurring in their area of responsibility. This resulted in an approximate net decrease of around \$60,000 revenue from plan reviews now done by the City of Wasilla alone. The total decrease in plan review revenues from FY2006 to FY2007 was \$317,000. Receipt Supported Services revenues reached a peak in FY2005 at \$1,290.5, and have declined each year to the FY2007 total of \$907.1. While the division's plan review function continues to be funded, this revenue shortfall, unless addressed, will limit the division's ability to adequately perform other functions covered by this funding source, including fire and life safety inspections, and training and education.

Alaska has a history of tragic fire loss. In CY2005, the state experienced an increase in civilian fatalities due to fire. Civilian fire deaths increased from 12 in CY2004 to 20 in CY2005. It is alarming to note that 40 percent of these fatalities had alcohol or drugs in their system at the time of death. All but three occurred in residential occupancies. Residential fires continue to be Alaska's largest number of structure fires, accounting for 75 percent of the states total, or 998 of all structure fires. In CY2006, there were 21 civilian fatalities. Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in an astonishing 81% of these fatalities. Twenty of these fatalities occurred in residential structures. Upon the completion of CY2007, the results will be analyzed and published. However, as of this date, 17 Alaskans have lost their lives due to fire in CY2007. Preliminary analysis concludes the same trends from previous years continue on the rise. Of the 17 deaths, 12 have occurred in residential dwellings. Currently, the Division of Fire and Life Safety has no authority to enforce residential code requirements. The only method it has to reach residential occupants is through public education programs. With

limited public educators, this can only be accomplished by targeting high-risk groups and areas. At current staffing levels, these programs will not reach all Alaskans.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009

Funding was appropriated for the second phase of the Web Based Plan Review and Inspection System that will provide a dynamic portal to provide online access for customers and outside agencies. Currently, FLS staff is working with the vendor to bring this system on line. This project will expedite the communication between the customer and the division allowing for a decrease in the time needed to review the submitted building plans.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2007

- Conducted 669 building inspections as compared to 958 in FY2005. Due to revenue shortfalls, far fewer inspections than required were accomplished.
- Conducted 22 life safety code surveys for the Department of Health and Social Services Medicare and Medicaid participant hospitals, long-term care facilities, and surgery centers throughout the state.
- Received and completed 852 plan reviews of commercial buildings.
- Completed 36 fire investigations for fires where death, injury, or criminal activity was involved. The deputy fire marshals assisted the district attorneys in the development of or testified in a number of high profile court cases.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

Arson Information (AS 21.89.050)
Criminal Law (AS 11.46.400-490)
Fire Prevention (AS 18.70.010 - 18.70.300)
Reporting of Certain Injuries (AS 08.64.369)
State Regulation of Fireworks (AS 18.72.010 - 18.72.060)

Contact Information
<p>Contact: Dan Spencer, Director, Administrative Services Phone: (907) 465-5488 Fax: (907) 465-5500 E-mail: danial.spencer@alaska.gov</p>

Fire and Life Safety Operations Component Financial Summary

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	1,795.8
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	235.4
73000 Services	0.0	0.0	530.4
74000 Commodities	0.0	0.0	108.5
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	16.8
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	0.0	0.0	2,686.9
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	0.0	0.0	1,360.8
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	0.0	0.0	249.2
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	0.0	0.0	35.1
1156 Receipt Supported Services	0.0	0.0	1,041.8
Funding Totals	0.0	0.0	2,686.9

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Interagency Receipts	51015	0.0	0.0	249.2
Receipt Supported Services	51073	0.0	0.0	1,041.8
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	0.0	0.0	35.1
Restricted Total		0.0	0.0	1,326.1
Total Estimated Revenues		0.0	0.0	1,326.1

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2008 Management Plan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-ETS Chargeback Redistribution	1.9	0.0	0.0	1.9
-Transfer from Fire Prevention Operations Due to Name Change	1,030.2	0.0	1,546.1	2,576.3
-Delete one-time-authorization for First FY2008 Fuel/Utility Cost Increase Funding Distribution	-0.8	0.0	0.0	-0.8
-Replace Receipt Supported Services with General Funds	220.0	0.0	-220.0	0.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-Increased Fuel / Utility Costs	4.5	0.0	0.0	4.5
-Increased Travel Costs for Inspections at Remote Sites	20.0	0.0	0.0	20.0
-Additional Travel Funding for Life Safety Inspections	85.0	0.0	0.0	85.0
FY2009 Governor	1,360.8	0.0	1,326.1	2,686.9

**Fire and Life Safety Operations
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
	<u>FY2008</u> <u>Management</u> <u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2009</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	0	20	Annual Salaries	1,136,913
Part-time	0	0	COLA	46,178
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	34,186
			Annual Benefits	649,898
			<i>Less 3.82% Vacancy Factor</i>	<i>(71,375)</i>
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	0	20	Total Personal Services	1,795,800

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Clerk III	2	1	1	0	4
Asst St Fire Marshal	1	0	0	0	1
Building Plans Examiner	3	1	0	0	4
Dep Fire Marshal I	4	1	1	0	6
Dep Fire Marshal II	2	0	0	0	2
Division Director	1	0	0	0	1
Secretary	1	0	0	0	1
Tap Fire Safety Specialist	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	15	3	2	0	20