

State of Alaska FY2009 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Search and Rescue Component Budget Summary

Component: Search and Rescue

Contribution to Department's Mission

Preserve public peace; protect life, property, and resources.

Core Services

The Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska State Troopers (AST), is the only state agency that is statutorily required to provide search and rescue operations for lost or missing, as well as deceased persons, on land. The U.S. Coast Guard has responsibility for search and rescues at sea, and frequently assists with searches along Alaska's coastline. The U.S. Air Force, assisted by the Civil Air Patrol, has responsibility for searches for downed or missing aircraft, and like the Coast Guard, frequently assists with aerial searches for individuals lost on land. Unlike criminal and traffic enforcement, and investigations where AST provides technical expertise and support to local police departments, AST bears sole responsibility for land-based 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. Search and rescue services provided by the Alaska State Troopers include:

- 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 responses to search and rescue events including resource management, interagency coordination, and the use of private resources, various agencies, and private persons.
- Reimbursing public and private organizations for resources spent 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 provision of equipment, search management, and planning operational support.
- 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 U.S. 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 reduce the loss of life or injury to persons.

The Division of Alaska State Troopers also contracts with qualified instructors to provide avalanche awareness and safety training to the public. The project goals are to:

- Raise public awareness of avalanche hazards to improve the safety of skiers, snow machiners, and other winter recreationists in Alaska's backcountry areas.
- Provide tuition-free classes to target audiences, including high school students and young adults, in avalanche prone areas of the state. 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 develops public awareness information including informational brochures and pamphlets, trip plans, and public service announcements geared to prevent search and rescue events, and to educate the public.

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. Since 1999, the division safely rescued and returned to their loved ones 3,170 individuals through search and rescue operations.

FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2009 Component Budget: \$376,400	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 treated as an emergency. By definition, search and rescue missions are unpredictable, and require immediate response to assure public safety. If expenses related to search and rescue activity exceed available funds, additional funding has to be located, since the need to respond rapidly to search and rescue events does not end just because funds are used up. Search and rescue decisions are not based upon availability of funds, but upon the likelihood of mission success under acceptable (safety for searchers being a paramount concern) 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.

AST makes use of many of DPS's aviation assets during search and rescue operations. In particular, the division's sole day-and-night (IFR) capable helicopter is located in Anchorage. Due to its limited range, it is unavailable in most other areas of the state.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009

The Alaska State Troopers will see its support of volunteer organizations continue in FY2009. The Alaska Search and Rescue Association (ASARA) will be a major focus, insofar as it represents a focal point for volunteer search and rescue organizations across the state. AST's support of ASARA enhances the increasing professionalism of Alaska search and rescue organizations and provides a venue for search and rescue groups to participate in training and planning in a coherent fashion.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2007

- Aircraft related cases investigated – 60.
- Overdue hiker cases investigated – 42.
- Overdue boater cases investigated – 85.
- Overdue motorist cases investigated – 132.
- Overdue snow machine cases investigated – 100.
- Other search and rescue cases investigated – 302.

The Department of Public Safety responded to a total of 721 search and rescue related cases in FY2007. This includes the response to and rescue of 281 passengers from a cruise ship in southeast Alaska.

The Department of Public Safety continues to support the Alaska Search and Rescue Association (ASARA), with coordination and administrative support. This statewide volunteer organization exists to support the education and training of search and rescue volunteer personnel in the state of Alaska. ASARA provided training in the following critical areas:

- High angle rescue training (Anchorage and Juneau)
- Fundamentals of Search and Rescue courses
- Search and Rescue II and III training
- Man-Tracking / Track Awareness courses

- Advanced Tracking course (Anchorage and Prince of Whales Island)
- Air operations survival
- Wilderness survival training
- K-9 Urban trailing course
- Avalanche training (Kodiak)
- Rope rescue training

During FY2007, over 200 volunteers received training under this program, substantially increasing both professional standards and operational proficiency within the search and rescue arena.

Volunteer groups have increased their skill levels substantially and have expanded their activities across the state to further the mission of the department.

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)
DUI Forfeiture Requirements (AS 28.35.036-.037)
DPS DNA collection and registration requirements (AS 44.41.035)
Duty of Law Enforcement to Provide VCCB information (AS 18.67.175)
Rights of Crime Victims to be notified orally and in writing by Law Enforcement (AS 12.61.010)
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)
Training (13 AAC 85)
Training (AS 44.41.020(a))

Contact Information

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**Search and Rescue
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	0.0
72000 Travel	27.3	66.6	66.6
73000 Services	131.3	184.3	184.3
74000 Commodities	86.8	125.5	125.5
75000 Capital Outlay	1.5	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	246.9	376.4	376.4
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	246.9	376.4	376.4
Funding Totals	246.9	376.4	376.4

**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	376.4	0.0	0.0	376.4
FY2009 Governor	376.4	0.0	0.0	376.4