

**State of Alaska**  
**FY2010 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**

- Conduct inspections of buildings with emphasis on those with a potential for a large loss of life i.e., schools, daycare centers, jails, hospitals, hotels, and motels.
- Conduct inspections of special hazard occupancies related to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, North Slope, and Cook Inlet oil and gas platforms as requested.
- Provide life safety code surveys for Medicare and Medicaid participant hospitals, long-term care facilities, and surgery centers throughout the state.
- Establish minimum standards for and conduct fire and life safety plan checks for construction of all public, commercial, industrial, business, institutional, and all residential buildings four-plex and above.
- Participate 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.
- Investigate all public requests for building and fire code life safety complaints.
- Conduct prioritized origin and cause determination fire investigations for all suspicious fires and fires that result in serious injury, death, large monetary loss, or community impact.
- Conduct a licensing and permit program for the sale and use of fireworks.
- Establish minimum standards for fire suppression and detection systems and equipment.
- Regulate any activity in which combustible or explosive materials are stored or handled in commercial quantities and conditions or activities likely to cause injury to persons or property due to fire or explosion.

**FY2010 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results**

<b>FY2010 Component Budget: \$2,849,900</b>	<b>Personnel:</b>	
	Full time	21
	Part time	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

**Key Component Challenges**

Staff turnover continues to be a challenge. Lead-time to fully train a deputy fire marshal (DFM) is 18 to 24 months. 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. The current number of buildings requiring inspections is 4,011. The number of inspections performed in FY2008 was 1,543. With each new year, statewide growth is witnessed by the rapid expansion in the Mat-Su Borough, the increasing infrastructure supporting the tourist industry, new oil and gas production facilities, and potential projects such as the gas pipeline. As the state grows and develops, more and more construction projects require plan reviews and, as the resulting buildings are constructed, they need inspections 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. In response, the division is expanding the duties of the Trans Alaska Fire Safety Specialist position to include providing fire inspection services to 17 other regulated pipelines through the RSA with DNR under the AS 42.06.630 authority of the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office. We anticipate that the gap analysis underway by the Pipeline Systems Integrity Office will recommend greater oversight by the Division of Fire and Life Safety as will the Department of Environmental Conservation's Oil and Gas Infrastructure Risk Analysis.

Alaska has a history of tragic fire loss. The state is experiencing an increase in civilian fatalities due to fire. Civilian fire deaths increased from 12 in CY2004 to 20 in CY2006 and 24 in CY2007. It is alarming to note that 51 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 state's total, or 998 of all structure fires. Preliminary analysis of CY2008 concludes the same trends from previous years continue to rise. Of the 14 deaths, 13 have occurred in residential dwellings. Currently, the Division of Fire and Life Safety has no authority to enforce single-family 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 FY2010**

Upon the approval of the Office of Oil and Gas Systems and Facilities, the division will conduct an additional 500 to 600 fire and life safety inspections along the 18 regulated pipelines and all unregulated pipeline facilities on shore and off shore statewide. Additionally, we anticipate a significant reduction in total fire and life safety plan review completion rates by segregating the oil and gas projects from normal commercial construction plan reviews from across the state. And by removing oil and gas projects from the core plan review function, we will significantly decrease our processing time for ordinary commercial construction. The division anticipates that as the Denali or AGIA sponsored gas line moves forward, this office will be strategically placed to support the work.

As the number of structural fires continues to decline, the division expects that the dollar fire loss will be driven downward. The number of fatalities in high-risk groups will continue to receive our top priority. Public education, rural fire protection training, and continued fire and life safety inspections will decrease the number of fire fatalities within the high-risk groups and contribute to the overall decline of the statewide fire fatality rate.

### **Major Component Accomplishments in 2008**

- Conducted 1,543 building inspections as compared to 669 in FY2007 a 143 percent increase in inspections conducted.
- Conducted 20 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 1,024 plan reviews of commercial buildings compared to 802 in FY2007, a 20 percent increase in plans received.
- Completed 30 fire investigations for fires where death, injury, or criminal activity was involved. The deputy fire marshals assisted the district attorneys in the development of cases or testified in a court.
- The legislature appropriated funding for phase one of the Web Based Plan Review and Inspection System that provides a dynamic portal to provide online access for customers and outside agencies. Currently, FLS staff are 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.

## 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
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**Fire and Life Safety Operations  
Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2008 Actuals	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	1,867.5	2,056.6
72000 Travel	0.0	130.4	130.4
73000 Services	0.0	546.8	537.6
74000 Commodities	0.0	108.5	108.5
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	16.8	16.8
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2,670.0</b>	<b>2,849.9</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	0.0	1,342.8	1,356.0
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	0.0	250.3	395.0
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	0.0	35.1	35.1
1156 Receipt Supported Services	0.0	1,041.8	1,063.8
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2,670.0</b>	<b>2,849.9</b>

**Estimated Revenue Collections**

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2008 Actuals	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 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>				
Interagency Receipts	51015	0.0	250.3	395.0
Receipt Supported Services	51073	0.0	1,041.8	1,063.8
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	0.0	35.1	35.1
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,327.2</b>	<b>1,493.9</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,327.2</b>	<b>1,493.9</b>

**Summary of Component Budget Changes  
From FY2009 Management Plan to FY2010 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2009 Management Plan</b>	<b>1,342.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,327.2</b>	<b>2,670.0</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Corrected FY09 Wage Increase for Public Safety Employees Association Employees	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7
-Delete One-time FY2009 Fuel/Utility Cost Increase Funding Distribution from the Office of the Governor	-9.2	0.0	0.0	-9.2
-FY2010 Wage and Health Insurance Increases for Bargaining Units with Existing Agreements	21.7	0.0	24.7	46.4
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-Increase I/A Authority for Office of Oil and Gas Systems Facilities	0.0	0.0	142.0	142.0
<b>FY2010 Governor</b>	<b>1,356.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,493.9</b>	<b>2,849.9</b>

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

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2009 Management Plan</u>	<u>FY2010 Governor</u>		
Full-time	20	21	Annual Salaries	1,282,013
Part-time	0	0	COLA	52,680
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	10,187
			Annual Benefits	705,314
			<i>Less 0.12% Vacancy Factor</i>	(2,394)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	8,800
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>2,056,600</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Clerk III	3	1	1	0	5
Asst St Fire Marshal	1	0	0	0	1
Building Plans Examiner	2	1	0	0	3
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	2	0	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>