

Department of Natural Resources

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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March 18, 2025

The Honorable Robyn Burke Co-Chair, House Resources Committee Alaska State Capitol, Room 108 Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Maxine Dibert Co-Chair, House Resources Committee Alaska State Capitol, Room 128 Juneau, AK 99801

Re: DNR Responses to questions on Wildland Fire Overview

Dear Co-Chairs Burke and Dibert:

Thank you for inviting the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to present on Wildland Fire to the House Resources Committee on March 14, 2025. This letter provides a response to the question asked at that meeting.

1. Rep. Mears asked for information about wildland fire preparedness and response that legislators can share with their constituents.

DNR appreciates legislators' willingness to help share prevention messaging and support efforts to reduce human-caused wildfires in Alaska by directing people to key resources and fire safety guidelines.

- The Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection's (DOF) website <u>www.dnr.alaska.gov/burn</u> provides information on burn permits, fire weather advisories, and safe burning practices to help Alaskans "Take Time to Learn Before You Burn."
- Stay informed and share updates from <u>AKFireInfo.com</u> and DOF's social media platforms (<u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>X</u>), which provide fire alerts, prevention tips, and public event notices.
- Additionally, encourage safe alternatives to burning by utilizing and promoting woody debris disposal sites, with more locations and a statewide map coming soon. DOF is working with the Anchorage Municipality to help increase access to woody debris disposal sites within the city. These sites provide Alaskans an alternative to burning and are a tool DOF plans to promote heavily this spring to help prevent human-caused

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wildfires. DOF plans to launch this spring a statewide map showing where these woody debris disposal sites are located. The product is in partnership with DEC, local boroughs, and local municipalities.

• In the Anchorage area, the Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) is expanding its wildfire prevention efforts through increased public outreach, community events, and town halls. Learn more at www.muni.org/departments/fire and on AFD's Facebook and Instagram.

Those interested in learning more may want to listen to the following upcoming media interviews:

- DOF will participate in Talk of Alaska with Alaska Public Media on March 25 to promote awareness of spring fire danger and share prevention messaging and tips with the Alaska public. AFD and a meteorologist with the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center are also scheduled.
- DOF will participate in Alaska Insight with Alaska Public Media on March 21 with AFD to showcase partnership and preparedness for the fire season. The show will cover community wildfire protection planning efforts and highlight prevention messaging for the public.

DNR would also like to share the following AFD events and resources:

- AFD will host a wildfire town hall May 19 with DOF participating.
- AFD has increased capacity in their public outreach and information staffing and
 efforts and has planned a series of community events to engage with the community
 and get input on planning and prevention efforts.
 - o <u>WWW.MUNI.ORG/DEPARTMENTS/FIRE/PAGES/DEFAULT.ASPX</u> AFD website
 - o WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ANCHORAGEFIREDEPT AFD Facebook
 - o WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/ANCHORAGEFIREDEPT AFD Instagram

Please reach out if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Rena Miller

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Acting Legislative Liaison

cc: Jordan Shilling, Director, Governor's Legislative Office