



Village Public Safety Officer Operations Division

Since 2018, the Alaska Department of Public Safety has revitalized the VPSO division by reworking the statutes, regulations, and policies to mature this important program into what it is today. In 2020, there were only 40 VPSOs serving rural Alaska villages, today there are 72. DPS is committed to requesting additional VPSO funding every year until every village that wants a VPSO has one. We have also improved the salaries for VPSOs to ensure that the sole first responder for many villages is fairly paid for their critical work.

Tribal and Village Engagement

In 2023, DPS hired two Tribal Liaisons to help improve communication and coordination between Alaska’s Tribes and the Alaska Department of Public Safety. DPS leadership have participated in dozens of community listening sessions, town hall meetings, summits, and meetings across rural Alaska to answer questions and receive feedback from Alaska Native communities. DPS is committed to continuing to engage with Tribal leaders and communities on public safety issues.

Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons

In 2021 the Alaska State Troopers hired our first dedicated MMIP Investigator, and with support from the Governor and Legislature today we have four dedicated MMIP Investigators. Additionally, DPS created a public MMIP Data Report that is updated quarterly to provide accurate data to Alaskans on MMIP in our state. DPS has updated our missing persons policies to require all missing persons be entered in NamUS within 60 days. We have also revamped our cultural awareness training to focus on how law enforcement can help prevent MMIP instances in Alaska.

Major Crimes Investigations

The Alaska Bureau of Investigation has increased the number of major crimes investigators in rural Alaska from zero to eight. These investigators are based in rural Alaska, and immediately respond to homicides, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse cases across rural communities. We have also increased the number of narcotics investigators working in rural Alaska.

Infrastructure Improvements

DPS has invested millions of dollars in our infrastructure in rural Alaska since 2020. We have constructed new housing units in multiple communities to house Troopers and VPSOs. In 2023 we also purchased new aircraft and helicopters that primarily service rural communities and villages reducing response time and improving search and rescue capabilities.

Find More Information Online at: DPS.Alaska.Gov

Protect Your Community Work in Public Safety

State Trooper



Protect your family, neighbors, community, and state by serving as an Alaska State Trooper or Alaska Wildlife Trooper. No experience is required to start a career where no two days will be the same and you will make a difference.

Average First Year Salary:
\$115,000

- \$40-\$52 / hour
- Work in urban or rural Alaska
- Full medical benefits
- 21-42 paid days off per year
- 11% match on retirement
- Moving reimbursement
- Paid training academy

Learn More & Apply:
AlaskaStateTrooper.com

Village Public Safety Officer



Starting Salary Range:
\$70,700 - \$89,250

Village Public Safety Officers, or VPSOs, provide community policing, rural fire protection, safety education, emergency medical services, search and rescue coordination, and basic law enforcement service to rural Alaska communities. VPSOs are the first responder for many communities and work closely with the Alaska State Troopers and local village police officers and tribal police officers.

Learn More & Apply:
dps.alaska.gov/VPSO

Professional Staff



Help ensure public safety in your community by working for the Alaska State Troopers as an:

emergency dispatcher,
office assistant,
criminal justice technician,
victim witness navigator,
pilot,
public safety technician, or
administrative assistant.

You will work directly with Troopers, VPSOs, and the community to ensure the criminal justice system runs smoothly.

Learn More & Apply:
workplace.alaska.gov