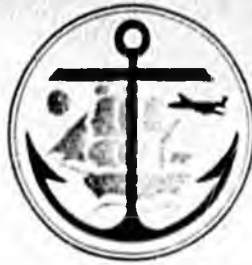


HB

282

**Municipality
of
Anchorage**



P.O. BOX 196650
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6650
(907) 343-4674

Tom Fink
MAYOR

MUNICIPAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

March 9, 1988

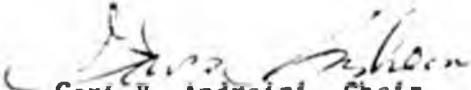
Senator Tim Kelly
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
POB V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Kelly,

The Municipal Health and Human Services Commission wishes to lend it's full support to the passage of SB266. The Commission has had a long standing concern about the loophole in current municipal smoke-detector ordinances that permit owner occupied homes in Anchorage to be without smoke-detectors. Passage of SB266 would resolve that problem and advance important preventive approaches to injury control in a state where unintentional injuries are responsible for 20% of statewide mortality (1984) among Alaskans ages 5-54.

If you have any questions of us, please feel free to call me (562-2828) or our staff (343-4674).

Sincerely,


Gari B. Andreini, Chair
Municipal Health and Human Services Commission

cc: Representative Jim Duncan, Sponsor
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Anchorage Municipal Assembly
Tom Fink, Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage
Ron Garzini, Manager, Municipality of Anchorage
Robert A. (Bert) Hall, Director, Department of Health and Human Services,
Municipality of Anchorage

SJ6/dPD20

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE BILL HUDSON

P.O. BOX V
Juneau, Alaska
99811
(907)465-3744 or 4991

COMMITTEES:
Transportation
HESS
Telecommunications
Fisheries
International Trade

March 12, 1988

Senator Tim Kelly, Chairman
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Kelly:

SCS HB 282(HESS), relating to smoke detection devices, was referred to the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee on March 10.

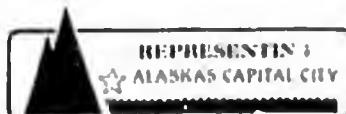
Current statutes, A.S. 18.70.095, require smoke detectors in apartments, condos, hotels and lodging houses. They are also required in single and multi family homes built or purchased after 1975.

SCSHB 282(HESS) requires the installation and maintenance of smoke detection devices in all homes, regardless of when they were constructed or sold.

Sections 3 and 4 delineate the responsibility of the landlord and tenant for installation and maintenance, and are cross referenced with the Landlord Tenant Act.

An amendment was adopted by the Senate HESS Committee, which added Section (c) on page 1, line 22. It was agreed by members of the Senate HESS Committee that a landlord or tenant should not be held for civil liability in the case of a civil action because of death, property loss or personal injury resulting from a fire. However, the HESS Committee members agreed that violators could be penalized under A.S. 18.70.100, which provides for a fine and a term of imprisonment for violation of the existing smoke detection statutes.

A.S. 18.70.100 is enforced by the local fire chiefs within their own districts. However, under A.S. 18.70.075, a fire officer of a municipal fire protection or other emergency



services does not have the authority to enter dwellings to inspect for properly installed and maintained smoke detectors.

Mr. Sam Neal, the State Fire Marshal, advises me that a person would be subject to the penalties of A.S. 18.70.100 only after an investigation of a fire revealed that the required smoke detector was either missing or inoperative.

Alaska leads the nation in fire deaths. In 1986, 27 Alaskans died in fires in homes that did not have properly installed and maintained smoke detectors. No fire deaths have occurred in Alaska where operating detectors were present. In 49.7 percent of all residential fires in Alaska, no operating smoke detectors were present.

This legislation is supported by the Alaska Fire Chief's Association, the Alaska State Firefighters Association, the International Conference of Building Officials, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Department of Public Safety.

There is no fiscal impact to state government; a copy of the fiscal notes are also enclosed. The fiscal impact to Alaskans is minimal; the high average cost of a battery operated smoke detector is \$15.00.

The Juneau Fire Department's budget for FY '89 is \$2.1 million. Fire loss and billing costs to the Juneau area last year totals \$737,300, a figure which is dangerously close to \$1 million.

It is proven that smoke detectors provide for earlier detection of fire and the earlier alarm drastically decreases tragic and needless injury and death by fire.

Your favorable consideration to this request for a hearing in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee will be very much appreciated.

Respectfully,


Bill Hudson

Enclosures

STATE OF ALASKA

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION

REPLY TO:

PO. BOX N
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-1200
PHONE: (907) 465-4331

5700 EAST TUDOR ROAD
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507-1225
PHONE: (907) 269-5604

1979 PEGER ROAD
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709
PHONE: (907) 456-4002

March 2, 1988

The Honorable Bill Hudson
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Smoke Detectors;
Enforcement of HB 282

Dear Representative Hudson:

The need for smoke detectors in every dwelling unit has been well documented as a means of saving lives and reducing the traumatic impact of burn injuries. Alaska statistics show a disproportionately high number of fire victims in the rural communities of our state. We believe that if every home had a smoke detector, as required by HB 282, the number of lives lost to fire every year could be greatly reduced, especially in rural areas.

Under AS 18.70.050 and AS 18.70.080, however, the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention, does not have authority to enter private dwelling units to inspect them. The only way for the Department to enforce the requirements of HB 282 would be after a fire occurs. If investigation after a fire revealed that the required smoke detectors were missing or inoperative, the owner would be subject to the penalties of AS 18.70.100.

If a different enforcement scheme is desired by the legislators, then specific authority to enter and inspect residential dwellings of less than four units to enforce 18.70.095 must be granted.

Sincerely,

Sylvester Neal
Sylvester (Sam) Neal
State Fire Marshal

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 5/12/87
Title: An Act relating to smoke detection devices.
Sponsor: Hudson et al.
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services
BRU: State Health Services
Components: EMS Certification and Licensing

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The enactment of CSHB 282(SA) would have no direct fiscal impact on the Department of Health and Social Services.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Ward, Director *Elizabeth Ward* Phone: 465-3000
Division: Public Health Date: _____

Approved by Commissioner: Mrs M Munson Date: 2-2-88
Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

STATE OF ALASKA
1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: CSHB 282 (SA)
PUBLISH DATE: _____

REQUEST: **FISCAL NOTE**

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: Public Safety
Title: An act relating to smoke detection BRU: Fire Prevention
devices
Sponsor: Hudson, Gruenberg, Ulmer Components: _____
Requestor: House HESS

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL		0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE		0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Gordon E. Brunton
Division: Fire Prevention

Phone: 465-4331
Date: 1/12/88

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
Agency: Public Safety

Date: 1-28-88

Distribution (by preparer):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 4/17/87

FURTHER REFERRALS: HESS

DATE: 5-11-87

The State Affairs Committee has considered HB 282

"An Act relating to smoke detection devices."

RECOMMENDS:

- replace with CS HB 282 (SA) the same title
- attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):

- fiscal impact same as previous fiscal note published _____
- zero fiscal note same as previous zero fiscal note published _____
- zero with analysis

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

 Chairman's signature

International Conference of Building Officials

Alaska Southeast Chapter

Building and Fire Safety
March 30, 1967

Governor Steve Cowper
State of Alaska

Dear Governor Cowper,

The Alaska Chapters of the International Conference of Building Officials are composed of dedicated and trained career professionals in the fields of life and property safety. Our membership represents every major municipality, several Federal and State agencies, and private sector design professionals in Alaska. We respectfully request your consideration and support of three proposals that we strongly believe to be in the best interest of all Alaskans.

1. In December 1964 the Alaska Task Force on Fire Prevention concluded that Alaska has the highest rate of fire death per capita in the western world. We would like to have you introduce an amendment to AS 18.70.095 which would require the installation of smoke detectors in all dwelling units. This action would produce the greatest potential for saving lives under currently available technology. The financial impact of this action on both rural and urban citizens would be negligible.

In addition, funding for the State Fire Commission would greatly help the efforts of those who serve in this State as firefighters, fire chiefs and construction code officials.

2. During the unprecedented construction boom of the early eighties, cities and boroughs learned that increased efficiency and communication occurred when related functions were consolidated into "one-stop permit departments". They were also far less expensive to administer. The consensus of the construction industry, from our perspective, is that it would be timely for the State to adopt a similar organizational structure now that construction activity has cooled down.

Smaller Alaskan communities which have taken the initial steps to regulate construction activity within their boundaries often need continued assistance from the State because of staff limitations. The Departments of Public Safety, Labor, Environmental Conservation and others often complement the local staff. We fear that funding cuts may erode the current level of service.

Most rural communities currently have some degree of fire service personnel. In addition, larger municipalities usually provide some level of building inspection services. As an integrated extension of a State department governing fire prevention and building safety, the State could maintain a strong commitment to help train

these local government officials to deliver services within their jurisdictions. This would save the State revenue and also increase services at the local level. In most cases disputes or questions could be resolved locally with a telephone call or an appeal hearing rather than by purchasing a plane ticket and sending a State inspector out into the field. Currently disputes with State inspectors must usually be resolved in civil court.

It just makes good sense to promote State goals by having them supported and reinforced at the local level. We support consolidation of State building regulations within one department.

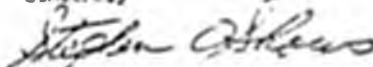
3. We urge your support for adoption of the 1981 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), without amendment. The objections to the UPC by the plumbers union are no more than traditional "featherbedding". The plastic pipes in dispute have been used in thousands of buildings and for many years in Alaska with no problems of fire safety, water quality, sanitation or mechanical durability. In addition to low cost, plastic pipes have many other advantages in cold climates.

We were pleased with the State's dismissal of case #7A-11-1077 against Fairbanks. The court held that Article X, Section 11 of the Alaska Constitution permits local governments to adopt and enforce newer editions of the UPC than the State. Recent correspondence, however, with Commissioner Sampson indicates his reluctance to respect that decision in the other districts in Alaska. We respectfully request that your office explain to us any compelling interest the State may have in pursuing this matter beyond an examination of fire and building safety issues by our laboratory and the court. Please consider the time and expense involved for both sides to litigate this matter further.

The State Fire Marshal currently defers their regulatory authority to municipalities who have demonstrated an ability to enforce the fire safety provisions of the codes. This saves the State money and avoids duplication of services. We request that you review this policy with your Commissioner of Labor for implementation within all jurisdictions that have adopted and currently enforce newer versions of the UPC.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. We appreciate the opportunity to help resolve any areas of conflict that may exist and look forward to cooperating with your administration in a positive manner to promote safety related issues in Alaska.

Sincerely



Stephen O. Snow
President

International Conference of Building Officials

Alaska Southeast Chapter

We support the following amendments:

AS 13.71.025. Smoke detection devices. Smoke detection devices shall be installed and maintained in all (living) dwelling units and mobile homes (built, manufactured or sold) in the state. The devices shall be of a type and deployed in a manner approved by the state fire marshal.

A dwelling unit is any building or portion thereof which contains living facilities, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

Add to AS 34.03.100 It shall be the duty of the landlord to provide smoke detection devices in rental units.

Add to AS 34.03.120 It shall be the duty of the tenant to maintain smoke detection devices in rental units.

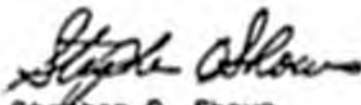
Justification

Current statute and regulation 13.AAC 59.020 require smoke detectors in all guest rooms in hotels and lodging houses used for sleeping purposes. They are also required in all dwelling units (apartments, condos etc.) except single family homes, duplexes and triplexes built before 1975 that have never been sold. Living units are not defined in the Uniform Building Code (UBC). Dwelling units are defined in the UBC and used in the state fire marshal's regulations. Responsibility for smoke detection devices and maintenance in rental property is not clearly defined.

Alaska has the highest per capita death rate by fire in the western world. These amendments would help reduce fire deaths in Alaska.

This act would have negligible financial impact on rural and urban Alaskans. There is no fiscal note to the state due to implementation of this amendment. This change is also supported by the fire service in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Stephen O. Shows
President

International Conference of Building Officials

Alaska Southeast Chapter

JANUARY 18, 1988

LEGISLATIVE POSITION PAPER IN SUPPORT OF

SSMB 132 AND SB 285

AN ACT RELATING TO SMOKE DETECTION DEVICES

Our membership recommends adoption of these two bills which are amendments to the existing statute pertaining to smoke detectors. The current law is vague in defining conditions under which smoke detectors are required.

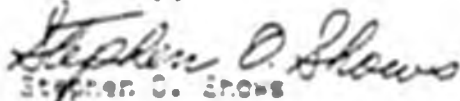
Smoke detectors are inexpensive and save lives. They offer the best available strategy in Alaska for reducing the loss of life and property from fire. Our State leads the Nation in these losses per capita year after year.

Section 2. of the proposal clearly sets forth smoke detector maintenance responsibilities for landlords and tenants in rental situations.

In addition to the State Fire Marshall's office, AS 18.70.090 allows local fire chiefs to enforce these provisions within their jurisdictions. The municipalities of Juneau and Anchorage currently require detectors in all dwelling units.

These acts would have negligible financial impact on both rural and urban residents of Alaska. There is no fiscal note to the State associated with implementation of these amendments.

Sincerely,



Stephen C. Snow
President

ALASKA STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 34324
Juneau, Alaska 99803-4324

RESOLUTION 87-3

TITLE: SUPPORT OF AN ACT RELATING TO SMOKE DETECTION DEVICES

WHEREAS the State of Alaska currently requires smoke detectors in all living units except single family homes and duplexes built before 1976 that have never been sold; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Southeast Chapter ICBO has a bill known as CSHB 282 and SB 266 pertaining to smoke detectors introduced before the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS this bill would also clarify the responsibilities for smoke detection devices between landlords and tenants; and

WHEREAS this bill would require low cost smoke detection devices to protect sleeping occupants in all dwelling units in Alaska; and

WHEREAS recent studies by the National Association of Home Builders indicate that fire occurs more frequently in older homes; and

WHEREAS no detectors were present in 49.7% of the residential fire incidents reported to the State Fire Marshal's office in 1986.

Therefore, be it resolved that

The Alaska Fire Chief's Association and the Alaska State Firefighter's urge the Alaska Legislature to adopt SB 266 or CSHB 282 to help promote the safety of all Alaskans from the threat of death or injury from fire.

Recommendation: Pass

Adoption: Pass No Pass

Distribution: Governor Comper
Alaska Legislature


Dewey Whetsell, Pres., A.F.C.A.


Gaylen Brevik, Pres., A.S.F.A.



ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

656 7th AVENUE • FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701 • TEL. (907) 459-6500

January 12, 1988

Representative Bill Hudson
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Hudson:

I am pleased to present to you those pertinent resolutions recently adopted by the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association and the Alaska State Firefighters Association at their most recent joint conference that was held in Juneau in October of 1987.

These resolutions address those issues deemed vital by both Associations, not only for the fire service throughout ALL of Alaska, but also for ALL citizens of our great state.

Should you have any questions or desire clarifications on any of these (or other) issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address indicated in the letterhead or call 459-6500 (work) or 479-2001 (home).

I appreciate your time in reviewing the enclosed material.

Sincerely,

William Shechter, President

WTS:nba

cc: Galen Brevek, President, Alaska State Firefighters Association

Position Paper

CSHB 282(SA)

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to smoke detection devices."

This bill would amend AS 18.70.095 to include the requirement that smoke detectors be maintained, changes the term "living" unit to "dwelling" unit, requires a landlord to install smoke detectors in apartments, and requires a tenant to replace batteries in DC powered units.

Smoke detectors are proven life savers in fires, but only an estimated 50 percent of all households are equipped with smoke detectors. Also, many homes have smoke detectors that will not operate due to lack of maintenance. The fire services estimate that the existence of a functioning smoke detector increases an occupant's chance of surviving a fire by 86 percent. According to the Alaska Division of Fire Prevention, in 1986, there were no fire deaths in Alaska in buildings with functioning smoke detectors.

The Department of Health and Social Services supports passage of CSHB 282(SA) because it will require functioning smoke detectors in all dwellings, which should help reduce the rates of deaths and injuries due to fires.

Recommended by:

Elizabeth Ward
Elizabeth Ward, M.N.
Director
Division of Public Health

Date:

January 29, 88

Approved by:

Myra M. Munson
Myra M. Munson
Commissioner
Department of Health and
Social Services

Date:

2 2-88

BILL NO: HB 282

DATE: April 20, 1987

TITLE: An act relating to smoke detection devices

CONTACT: Gordon Brunton

AS 18.70.095 would be amended by this bill to include the requirement that smoke detection devices be maintained; and changes the term "living" unit to "dwelling" unit.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Smoke detectors have proven to be effective life savers in fires. to the extent that, nationally, deaths by fire dropped substantially during the 1970's. 50 percent of all households are estimated to be equipped with detectors. There continues to be fire fatalities in dwellings where detectors are present, but not operating properly. It is estimated that a person's chances of surviving a fire are increased to 86 percent where a properly installed and functioning smoke detector is present.

The Department of Public Safety will continue its educational efforts to have dwellings provided with regularly maintained smoke detectors.

The Department of Public Safety supports passage of HB 282.

Arther English

Arther English
Commissioner

*Smoke
detection
Janda*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

working days is fine for the written report, but would urge the committee to require an immediate oral report to the State Troopers.

Rep. Koponen asks Ms. Horetski if she would like to comment on the penalty clause in SB 96 (1985 legislation).

Gayle Horetski answers that SB 96 carried a Class "B" Misdemeanor penalty.

Rep. Koponen asks Ms. Horetski what would happen if the penalty clause is left out.

Gayle Horetski answers that there would be a real problem with enforcement if the law did not carry a penalty for not reporting.

Rep. Koponen thanks Ms. Horetski for her comments and assistance with HB 332.

Rep. Ellis states that the next bill to be considered by the committee is HB 282, relating to smoke detection devices. Rep. Ellis ask Steven Shows to come forward to testify as the bill sponsor was not present.

Steven Shows, Building Inspector for the City and Borough of Juneau and President, International Conference of Building Officials, Alaska Southeast Chapter, testifies in favor of HB 282 and encourages the committee to pass it out of committee.

Rep. Hudson, sponsor of HB 282, states that the intent of this legislation is to require landlords to replace smoke detectors, but would place the responsibility of the upkeep of a smoke detector with the tenant.

Rep. Gruenberg states that he and his staff would like to work on amendments to HB 282 specifically pertaining to the landlord\tenant laws.

Rep. Ellis asks if committee members have any questions for Mr. Shows. Hearing none, Rep. Ellis asks Mark Johnson to come forward and testify on HB 282.

Mark Johnson, Coordinator, Emergency Medical Services Section for the Department of Health and Social Services, states that the Department supports HB 282 and urges the committee to pass this legislation.

Rep. Gruenberg asks if the committee would consider a rural exemption for this legislation.

Steven Shows comments that the greatest number of house fires are in the rural areas of Alaska.

Rep. Ellis states that both HB 332, relating to the reporting of burn injuries, and HB 282, relating to smoke detection devices, will be held over until Wednesday, February 10th, in order to allow the committee to work on amendments and committee substitutes.

Rep. Ellis adjourns the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTING SERVICE (BILL SUMMARY)

Smoke Detection HOUSE BILL NO. 282, by Reps. Hudson and Gruenberg. Amends
Devices _____ AS 18.70.095 (Fire Protection. Smoke Detection Devices).
Would require smoke detection devices to be installed and maintained in all dwelling units in the state (current law requires smoke detection devices to be installed in all living units built, manufactured or sold in the state. Adds language requiring a landlord to provide the smoke detection devices in a dwelling unit occupied under the terms of a rental agreement or under a month-to-month tenancy. The tenant would have to maintain the devices. Does not provide an effective date (bill becomes law 90 days after being signed by the governor).

Introduced April 17 and referred to State Affairs; Health, Education & Social Services.

Smoke Detection HOUSE BILL NO. 282, (see pages 573;630;749). Reported back
Devices _____ to the House May 12 by State Affairs recommending it be replaced with a State Affairs substitute and that it do pass. Concurring: Ulmer (Chair), Hoffman, Davidson. Not concurring: Martin has no recommendation. To Health, Education & Social Services.

The State Affairs substitute requires the landlord to provide the initial and replacement smoke detection devices and the tenant to keep the devices in working condition by keeping the batteries changed, by testing the device periodically, and by refraining from disabling the devices. The original version required only that the landlord provide the device.

STATE OF ALASKA

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION

REPLY TO

PO BOX N
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-1200
PHONE (907) 465-4331

5700 EAST TUDOR ROAD
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507-1225
PHONE (907) 269 5604

1979 PEGER ROAD
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709
PHONE (907) 456-4072

June 8, 1987

The Honorable Bill Hudson
House of Representatives
3379 Meander Way
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: House Bill 282

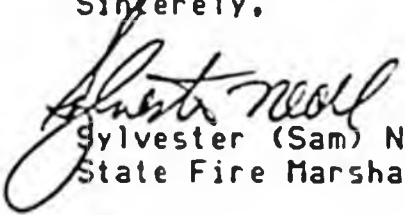
Dear Representative Hudson:

I just want to take a moment to express my appreciation for your sponsorship of HB 282, "An act relating to smoke detector devices." Though this bill did not pass last session, it undoubtedly will have a significant impact on fire fatalities in Alaska when it passes.

I request your continued support on our statewide public safety issues. If I, or members of my staff, can be of assistance on this legislation or other fire related issues, please give us a call.

Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely,


Sylvester (Sam) Neal
State Fire Marshal

SN:BJN

L87-158

cc: Dewey Whetsell, President, Alaska Fire Chiefs
Gaylen Brevik, President, Alaska Firefighters Assn.

1985 ANNUAL REPORT

DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

STATE OF ALASKA

1981 - 1985 COMPARISONS

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Civilian Fire Deaths	28	16	27	35	29
Deaths/Million Pop.	64.3	34.7	54.5	66.9	54.2
Civilian Injuries	84	62	70	63	70
Firefighter Injuries	46	28	42	36	37
Number of Fires	3,119	3,109	3,214	3,680	3,475
Total Calls	7,777	10,527	14,035	14,876	14,813
\$ Losses (in millions)	\$40.6	\$42.6	\$72.8	\$34.5	\$38.8
\$ Loss per capita	\$93.29	\$92.44	\$146.98	\$65.95	\$72.56

FIRE DEATHS

Once again, Alaska leads the Nation in deaths by fire, based upon the number of fatalities per million population. Of the 29 who died, 27 were in their homes, either single or multi-family dwellings.

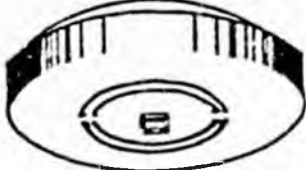
17 were males, 12 females. 10 were under the age of 9. The continued need to install and maintain smoke detectors is demonstrated by these losses.

The discussion of fire deaths would be incomplete without examining the rates. Fairbanks, for example, appears to have the highest urban fire death rate during 1985, with 148 deaths per million population, compared to Anchorage, which was 32. Similar comparisons show Naknek, for example, to have a fire death rate per million population during 1985, of 3,333. Small communities such as this, however, must be looked at over a longer period of time, as the real picture is biased by their size and experience.

Table No. 1 in the appendices lists the fatalities in Alaska since 1979 by location. Local departments are urged to compare their fatality problem with the rest of the state.

DETECTOR AND SPRINKLER PERFORMANCE

Smoke Detectors



DON'T STAY HOME
WITHOUT ONE!

Detectors operated in 249, or 15.5% of all structure fires. Of the 1,187 fires in residential structures, no detectors were present in 58% of the incidents.

Automatic sprinkler systems operated in 16 fires, or 1% of the incidents. It should be noted that these were all non-residential (single or two-family dwellings) properties.



Studies by the Federal Emergency Management Agency indicate that the installation of home fire sprinkler systems could save thousands of lives and prevent millions of dollars in property loss.

New technology has made fire sprinklers much more practical for residential use. Sprinkler heads are smaller, more esthetically designed, and react at lower temperatures than conventional industrial fire sprinklers. In addition, installation costs and water requirements are minimal. For home builders, fire sprinklers are a low-cost safety option that would attract buyers, and the trade-offs between sprinklers and code requirements can mean lower construction costs or more units per area. For homeowners, the advantages of fire sprinklers include a safer environment for the family, protection for irreplaceable family possessions, and potentially lower insurance rates.

There is currently a movement in Alaska to encourage the installation of sprinkler systems in dwellings. Any success in this effort should see a reduction in life and property losses.

STATE OF ALASKA

DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION

FIRE MARSHAL UNIT

SPRING EDITION 1987

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING UNIT



INSIDE

FIRE SERVICES SAVES THE ALASKA ECONOMY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS - P. 13

FIRE PREVENTION TAX BILL INTRODUCED - P. 31

PRIVATE INDUSTRY STEPS IN TO MEET LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS - P. 7

GOVERNOR COWPER DESIGNATES MAY 10 - 16 ARSON AWARENESS WEEK - P. 19

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY GETS NEW COMMISSIONER - P. 9

• Sylvester (Sam) Neal, Director

Alaska State Fire Marshal

1986 FIRE LOSS ANALYSIS
SMOKE DETECTOR PERFORMANCE

Nationally, detectors operated in 4.3% of all fires.

In Alaska, detectors operated in 7.3% of all fires.

No fire deaths occurred in Alaska where operating detectors were present.

In 24.6% of all fires in Alaska, NO detectors were present.

There is an indication that in the presence of operating detectors, property losses are less than where there are no detectors (not bad for an initial investment of about \$10.00 and \$3/year for batteries):

\$14,648 loss/incident where detectors are present.

\$15,470 loss/incident where no detectors present.

BASE-REPORT 18
SUMMARY OF FIRES BY ELEMENT
FOR TYPE OF SITUATION FOUND AND/OR FIXED PROPERTY USE

REPORT PERIOD - 01-01-86 THRU 12-31-86

COMPUTER PUN DATE - 04-22-87

STATE- AK

COUNTY- ALL

FIRE DEPARTMENT- ALL

FDID - ALL

STRUCTURE FIRES

	FIXED PROPERTY USE									
UNCLASS- IFIED	PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PROPERTY	EDUCA- TIONAL PROPERTY	INSTITU- TIONAL PROPERTY	RESIDEN- TIAL PROPERTY	STORE OFFICE PROPERTY	BAS INDS UTILITY DEFENSE	MANUFAC- TURING PROPTY	STORAGE PROPERTY	SPECIAL PROPERTY	TOTAL
TOTAL STRUCTURE FIRES BY DETECTOR PERFORMANCE.....:										
UNKNOWN										
# OF OCCURRENCES	9	3	4	160	2	4	5	5	3	195
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	15.78	9.67	18.18	13.38	2.94	16.00	26.31	6.57	4.05	12.44
IN RM OF FIRE/OPERATED										
# OF OCCURRENCES	8	10	8	128	3	1	1			159
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	14.03	32.25	36.36	10.71	4.41	4.00	5.26			10.14
NOT IN ROOM/OPERATED										
# OF OCCURRENCES	2	2	2	89				2	1	98
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	3.50	6.45	9.09	7.44				2.63	1.35	6.25
IN ROOM/NOT OPERATED										
# OF OCCURRENCES	3	1	1	82	1	1				89
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	5.26	3.22	4.54	6.86	1.47	4.00				5.67
NOT IN ROOM/NOT OPERAT										
# OF OCCURRENCES	1	3	1	86	2			3	2	98
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	1.75	9.67	4.54	7.19	2.94			3.94	2.70	6.25
IN ROOM/FIRE TOO SMALL										
# OF OCCURRENCES	3	3	1	50	3					60
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	5.26	9.67	4.54	4.18	4.41					3.82
NO DETECTORS PRESENT										
# OF OCCURRENCES	31	9	5	594	52	19	12	66	68	856
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	54.38	29.03	22.72	49.70	76.47	76.00	63.15	86.84	91.89	54.62
OTHER										
# OF OCCURRENCES				6	5		1			12
% OF COLUMN TOTAL				.50	7.35		5.26			.76
** COLUMN TOTALS **	57	31	22	1195	68	25	19	76	74	1567

TALLY-REPORT 22

LISTING OF ALL FIRE ELEMENTS BY FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE
 REPORT PERIOD - 01-01-86 THRU 12-31-86 COMPUTER RUN DATE - 04-22-87

STATE- AK

COUNTY- ALL

FIRE DEPARTMENT- ALL

FDID - ALL

FIRE INCIDENT ELEMENTS

	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL	NUMBER SERVICE INJURIES	NUMBER CIVILIAN INJURIES	NUMBER SERVICE DEATHS	NUMBER CIVILIAN DEATHS	DOLLAR LOSS
DETECTOR PERFORMANCE							
0 UNKNOWN	194	5.5	3	6		4	6377836
1 IN RM OF FIRE/OPERATED	159	4.5	1	4			2656476
2 NOT IN ROOM/OPERATED	98	2.8		4			1109097
3 IN ROOM/NOT OPERATED	89	2.5	1	4			524923
4 NOT IN ROOM/NOT OPERAT	98	2.8		6			374053
5 IN ROOM/FIRE TOO SMALL	60	1.7		1			15400
6 NO DETECTORS PRESENT	856	24.6	10	21		7	12678390
9 OTHER	12	.3					79000
BLANK	1908	54.9	6	4		2	2792147
TOTAL	3474	100.0	21	50		13	28806324

SPRINKLER PERFORMANCE

0 UNKNOWN	100	2.8	1				2831095
1 EQUIPMENT OPERATED	33	.9		2			474750
2 EOP SHOULD OPERA/ODINT	1						7000
3 EOP PRESENT/FIRE SMAL	62	1.7					53894
6 NO EQUIP PRESENT	1362	39.2	14	44		11	20587438
9 OTHER	8	.2					65000
BLANK	1908	54.9	6	4		2	2792147
TOTAL	3474	100.0	21	50		13	28806324

PROPERTY DAMAGE CLASSIFICATION

0 UNKNOWN	2						2000000
1 1 TO 99 DOLLARS	148	4.2					5335
2 100 TO 999 DOLLARS	660	18.9		2			229700
4 10000 TO 24999	819	23.5	7	26		6	4211004
5 25000 TO 49999	112	3.2	3	11		3	3008990
6 50000 TO 249999	48	1.3	1	5		1	2704157
7 250000 TO 999999	79	2.2	9	5		1	12847538
8 1000000 OR MORE	1						1200000
9 NO DOLLAR LOSS	1605	46.2	1	1		2	
TOTAL	3474	100.0	21	50		13	28806324

BASE-REPORT 18
SUMMARY OF FIRES BY ELEMENT
FOR TYPE OF SITUATION FOUND AND/OR FIXED PROPERTY USE

REPORT PERIOD - 01-01-88 THRU 12-31-88

COMPUTER RUN DATE - 04-02-87

STATE- ALL

COUNTY- ALL

FIRE DEPARTMENT- ALL

FOID - ALL

STRUCTURE FIRES

	FIXED PROPERTY USE										TOTAL	
UNCLASSIFIED	PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PROPERTY	EDUCATIONAL PROPERTY	INSTITUTIONAL PROPERTY	RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY	STORE OFFICE PROPERTY	RAS UTILITY DEFENSE	INDS MANUFACTURING PROPERTY	STORAGE PROPERTY	SPECIAL PROPERTY			
TOTAL STRUCTURE FIRES BY DETECTOR PERFORMANCE.....:												
UNKNOWN												
# OF OCCURRENCES	614	781	217	327	18593	933	189	812	1217	682		24045
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	48.83	21.73	17.90	17.56	22.83	18.60	19.48	18.53	15.40	20.31		21.99
IN RM OF FIRE/OPERATED												
# OF OCCURRENCES	80	179	183	571	8642	247	34	276	47	2		8261
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	4.87	8.11	18.09	30.68	8.15	4.92	3.50	9.98	.59	.61		7.55
NOT IN ROOM/OPERATED												
# OF OCCURRENCES	38	82	50	153	5763	119	8	54	59	23		6347
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	2.74	2.34	4.12	8.21	7.07	2.37	.82	1.95	.74	.68		5.80
IN ROOM/NOT OPERATED												
# OF OCCURRENCES	14	79	48	86	2776	89	4	40	22	7		3175
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	1.06	2.23	3.96	5.15	3.40	1.77	.41	1.44	.27	.20		2.90
NOT IN ROOM/NOT OPERAT												
# OF OCCURRENCES	28	114	71	87	4635	102	11	38	81	17		5171
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	1.90	3.23	5.85	4.87	5.69	2.03	1.13	2.08	.64	.50		4.73
IN ROOM/FIRE TOO SMALL												
# OF OCCURRENCES	10	138	61	248	2623	122		89	41	11		3344
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	.78	3.94	5.03	13.37	3.22	.43		3.22	.51	.32		3.05
NO DETECTORS PRESENT												
# OF OCCURRENCES	538	2119	888	355	39271	3345	714	1703	6414	2555		57582
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	41.03	60.52	48.86	19.08	48.22	66.69	73.60	61.63	61.16	78.26		52.87
OTHER												
# OF OCCURRENCES	14	29	14	24	1128	58	10	31	51	33		1392
% OF COLUMN TOTAL	1.08	.82	1.15	1.28	1.38	1.15	1.03	1.12	.64	.98		1.27
** COLUMN TOTALS **	1311	3501	1212	1862	81431	8015	970	2763	7902	3350		109317

0	UNKNOWN	55456	16.6	807	661			
1	IN RM OF FIRE/OPERATED	8289	2.4	271	360	1	226	467068594
2	NOT IN ROOM/OPERATED	6378	1.7	244	302		38	89820560
3	IN ROOM/NOT OPERATED	3189	.9	90	225		78	57799387
4	NOT IN ROOM/NOT OPERAT	5223	1.5	142	106		.2	10512747
5	IN ROOM/FIRE TOO SMALL	3392	1.0	15	30	1	30	22622350
8	NO DETECTORS PRESENT	65451	19.7	2205	2127		2	3036722
9	OTHER	1977	.5	39	36	4	441	1341501026
	INVALID CODE	109		1	2	2	13	17134493
	BLANK	182705	55.0	619	936			265279
	TOTAL	332169	100.0	4433	5024	1	183	744551175
						9	983	2758400333

SEEN ELSEWHERE

No smoke alarms in fatal fire; landlord jailed, fined
A landlord has been sentenced to 90 days in jail for failing to install smoke alarms in a home in South St. Louis where a 4-year-old boy was killed in a fire.

Judge Christopher Smith of the St. Louis Municipal Court ordered the landlord, Richard Lewis of Kirkwood, Mo., to bring his wife to court so that the judge could give her the same sentence, said Vincent Sabella, housing court coordinator for St. Louis. Lewis's wife, Sharon Lewis, also is an owner of the house, Sabella said.

Smith also fined Richard Lewis \$500 and indicated that he would impose the same fine on Sharon Lewis.

The fine and jail term are the maximum allowed by the ordinance requiring smoke alarms in city dwellings.

On November 14, Jacob Daniel Wiley was killed in a fire at the house. Fire fighters found the boy unconscious and wedged into a closet in the front room.

The boy's mother, Patty Wiley, 27, told authorities that she had scolded Jacob earlier in the day for sticking pieces of paper into a space heater.

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch, January 9, 1987)

Homeless burning

BOSTON (AP)—The death of a homeless man whose clothes caught fire in his makeshift shelter graphically illustrates the growing problem of homelessness in American cities, said Mayor Raymond L. Flynn, who knew the victim.

John Griffin, 55, known in the South Boston neighborhood as "Dukey," was a Navy veteran and welfare recipient who walked the beach along Dorchester Bay for the past 2 1/2 years, according to Flynn and Police Superintendent Paul Evans.

One Saturday night, he crawled under a cement staircase behind a city bathhouse and covered the opening with planks. Evans said it was unclear whether Griffin built a fire to keep warm in the 33-degree weather, or if it was a cigarette that ignited his clothes.

Griffin apparently tried to crawl 40 feet to the bay, but collapsed. His body was found about halfway between the bathhouse and the water, Evans said. Cigarette butts and empty vodka bottles were found strewn behind the bathhouse.

The Midland Syn-Tech Challenge...

In 1982 some people simply didn't believe the Midland Syn-Tech™ synthesized two-way radio. That it had more capability than existing radios, was field programmable, yet cost less than anything comparable. We said, "Match it against any other radio."



In 1982, it took guts to switch radio brands. Now you just have to look at the track record. Since 1982 Syn-Tech radios have averaged fewer than 1% "infant mortality" failures, and life test results correspond to a unit availability of better than 99% on a normal annual operational schedule.

Some pretty tough customers accepted our challenge. They compared capability and specs. Ran side-by-side field tests with other radios. Put them on shake tables. Compared price. Then they bought ours and put them to work.

Here at last was an affordable high-capability radio, that could be tailored to the user's exact needs by their own maintenance operation or local two-way dealer. And reprogrammed if needs changed. Up to 80 channels. Channel scanning. Choice of priority and scan mode. CTCSS and DCS squelch. DTMF. Wideband options and more.

has made believers out of...

Today there are over 100 Syn-Tech models—including the new Syn-Tech portables—plus many other new Midland LMR mobiles, portables and repeaters. We think a considered comparison will convince you there's giiii no better value.

We challenge comparison. Give us a call.



"Operational flexibility"

"The large channel capacity, plus the ability to reprogram the Syn-Tech quickly means I can operate anywhere in or out of my service territory on an instant's notice."

Harold M. East
Public Information Officer
Kansas City MO Fire Department

MIDLAND COMMUNICATIONS
LAND MOBILE RADIO
1-800-MIDLAND
In Missouri: 816-241-8500
Ask for Ext. 1690

In Canada: A. C. Burrows & Sons, Ltd.

Circle No. 014 on Reader Service Card

some pretty tough customers!

