

HB

267

REPRESENTATIVE DAVE DONLEY

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
DISTRICT ELEVEN
SEAT A

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SPONSOR SUMMARY REPRESENTATIVE DAVE DONLEY HOUSE BILL 267

HB 67 provides funding for emergency equipment that is greatly needed by the Anchorage Fire Department. Currently, the Anchorage Fire Department is unable to respond to either a crisis in the waters of Cook Inlet or a hazardous materials disaster. As the Preservative Paint Company fire in Anchorage showed a couple of weeks ago, the fire department is woefully under equipped and trained to deal with unusual emergencies.

The bill appropriates to the Municipality of Anchorage, the Anchorage International Airport, and the Alaska Air National Guard the funds necessary to purchase rigid hull boats, trailers for the boats and training in their use. The boats would be used for cold-water rescue in case of an airline accident in Cook Inlet.

The bill also appropriates funding to the Municipality of Anchorage for purchasing a decontamination trailer, hazardous materials uniforms and training in the clean-up of hazardous waste.

These items would be available to all of Cook Inlet, from Mat-Su to the Kenai Peninsula and are easily mobile.

HB 67 is supported by the administration of the fire department as well as rank and file firefighters.

JUNEAU OFFICE

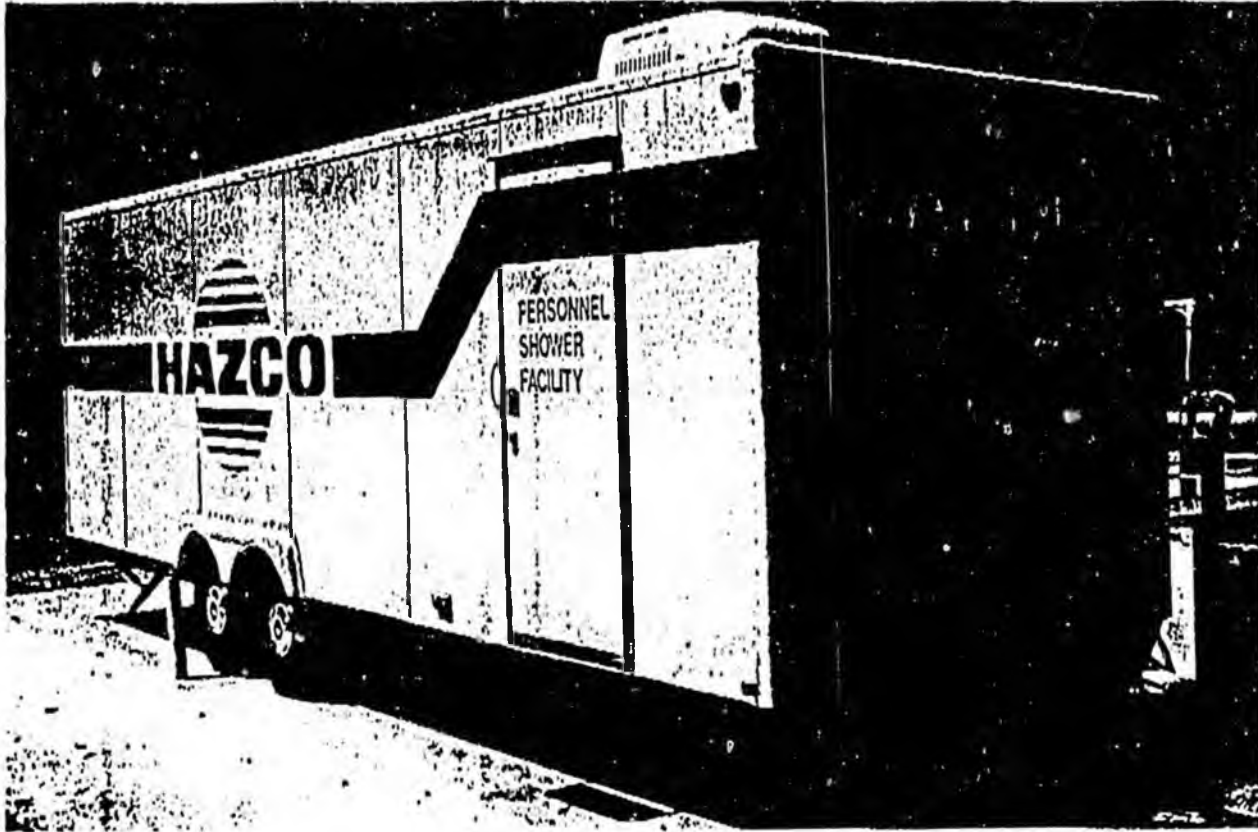
(During Legislative Session January through May)

P.O. BOX 51 JUNEAU ALASKA 99801 (907) 465-3803 (FAX) 463-5661

HAZCO



COMMANDO MOBILE DECONTAMINATION FACILITY

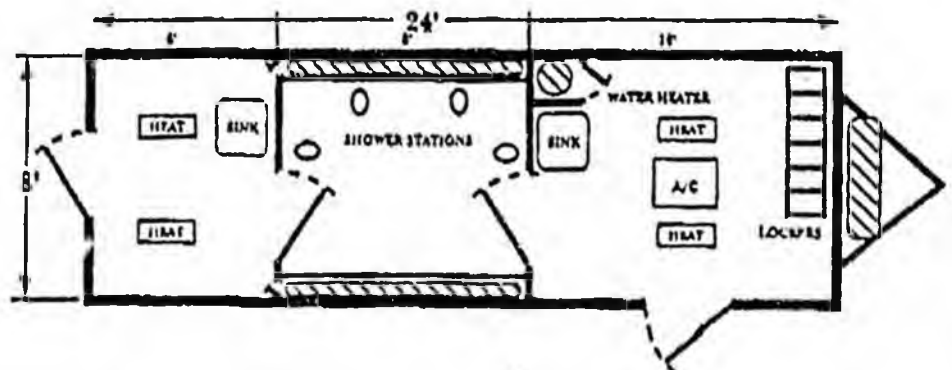


COMMANDO Mobile Decon Trailers have the rugged features you need on the hazardous waste site. It provides safety in use, low maintenance and durability. The EPA recommended, three-chamber design includes a large shower compartment.

Wash-downs are easy in the HAZCO COMMANDO line of mobile facilities. All T-locked joints are silicone sealed. Floors are non-skid, Armstrong linoleum. Walls and ceilings are smooth fiberglass. The resulting structure is a liquid-proof interior box for easy decon and clean-up. These special trailers withstand abrasion, alkali and acid exposure in addition to inclement weather. A new, smooth, exterior aluminum skin is more rugged and easier to clean than corrugated designs. It also eliminates static drag and vibration in-transit which reduces wear and tear on trailer structure. A windowless design offers proven security and environmental safety. The standard HAZCO COMMANDO also

features: four-corner stabilizer jacks to speed setups, fan-forced and infra-red heat, air conditioning, full insulation, contaminated water storage, hot water systems, shelving and storage areas. Electrical outlets are GFI-protected and lighting is UL listed for wet locations.

Custom designs and specifications may be accommodated. COMMANDO DECON UNITS may be shipped anywhere in the USA within 45 days of a design approval. Standard floor plan models can be shipped sooner.



AVON SR7.4M

DIESEL SEARIDER RIGID HULL WORKBOAT

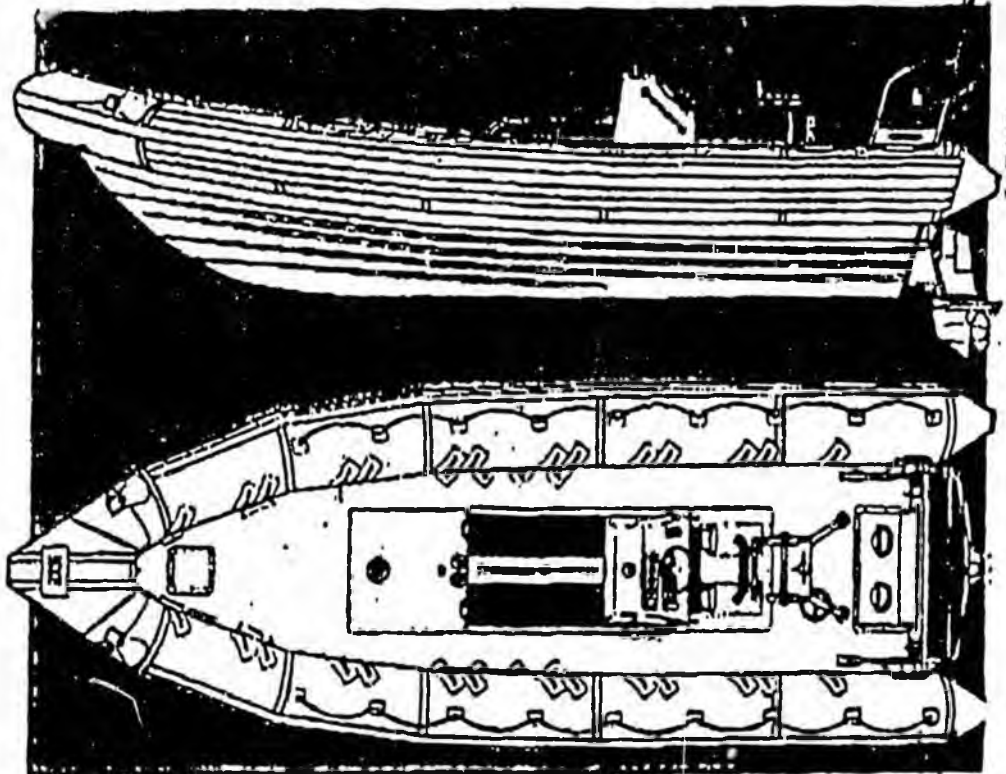
- all weather
- fast attack
- fishery protection
- high speed rescue
- law enforcement
- offshore patrol
- offshore oil safety
- coastguard

Recent years have seen a substantial growth in the use of rigid-hulled inflatables pioneered and commercially developed by Avon, whose Searider range can handle any inshore or offshore task.

Newest in the Avon range are diesel powered craft equally suitable for on-ship or shore-based operation. Most power and drive units can be installed to meet your particular requirements.

Their manoeuvrability and performance are very hard to equal. Their inflatable buoyancy and deep V seagoing hull easily enable Seariders to operate in the most difficult conditions.

Searider craft are in service with the Royal Navy and many others as well as the U.K. and U.S. Coast Guard. These high speed craft have also been approved by the British Department of Trade and Industry as safety boats on stand-by vessels in the North Sea oil fields



Specially equipped craft are produced for law enforcement, fire fighting and fishery protection with self-righting equipment and

Immersion proofed engines and electrical systems.

An 8-metre version with inboard diesel power is also available.

SPECIFICATION

MODEL	LENGTH		BEAM		TUBE DIAMETER		APPROXIMATE WEIGHT			
	OVERALL	INSIDE	OVERALL	INSIDE	BOW	STERN	BOAT	FLOORBOARDS	TOTAL	
SR7.4M INBOARD DIESEL	24' 6" 7.47 m	19' 3" 5.86 m	8' 7" 2.62 m	4' 11" 1.49 m	20" 51 cm	22" 56 cm	4400 lbs 2000 kg	N/A	4400 lbs 2000 kg	
STOWED DIMENSIONS		DISPLACEMENT		CAPACITY		H.P.		NUMBER OF COMPARTMENTS	APPROXIMATE PERFORMANCE (KNOTS)	APPROXIMATE ASSEMBLY
BOAT	FLOORBOARDS	DRY	SWAMPED	WEIGHT	PERSONS	MAX	USEFUL			
N/A	N/A	13800 lbs 6270 kg	7400 lbs 3360 kg	3300 lbs 1500 kg	20	165	N/A	7	30	N/A

... .. enable to improve the specification, design and

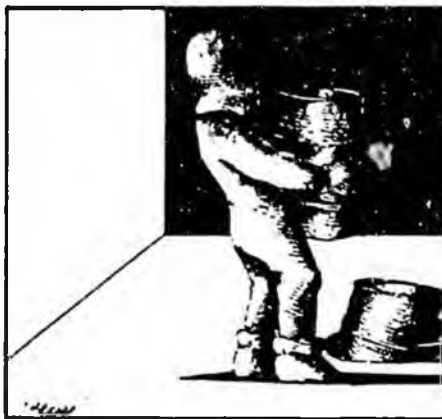
Arch. Daily 4-9-91

Not prepared

Toxic emergency plan needs work

Last week's fire at Preservative Paint Co. highlighted a hole in the city's preparation for toxic emergencies. The city's response plans do not meet the standards required by federal law.

City officials have said the failing is essentially procedural. The city has planned for toxic emergencies, they say; it just hasn't followed all the federally required steps.



What that says is the city may have a plan, but it isn't good enough. The federal law requires the city to write a formal plan after consulting with a broad range of

community expertise. The city has not set up the federally required committee, which includes representatives from the police, firefighters, medical care providers, and other segments of the community.

The resulting plan, which is a component of the city's overall hazard plan, falls short of the federal ideal. Notably lacking is planning for evacuations should they become necessary. Ideally, the city's hazardous-materials information would also be computerized for instant use in emergencies. And finally, the plan is supposed to stimulate community-wide thinking about ways to reduce toxic risks.

This time, city authorities were able to handle the toxic emergency without widespread damage or chaos. If the city doesn't set up its planning committee and get to work, we may not be so lucky next time.

FORUM

Firefighters need right tools to make right moves

By JOSEPH ALBRECHT

Not long ago, Anchorage was the scene of two major hazardous materials incidents, events long predicted by city firefighters.

The first and largest occurred as the result of a fire in a paint warehouse. The second on the Seward Highway in the back of a truck, was caused by improper loading. Although the circumstances vary in both cases, firefighters point to the same conclusion. Chickens finally come home to roost.

Every day, 500,000 shipments of hazardous materials move across America, with most passing safely and anonymously through our lives. Almost all of these substances perform useful services in upholding the standard of living we all enjoy. However, occasionally the stopper comes out of the bottle and the genie escapes.

What happens next is in the hands of the firefighters, and these hands must be holding the right tools to do the job.

For years, the Anchorage firefighters have been trying to acquire these tools through municipal channels, only to encounter the commissar-like "Nyet" of Mayor

Tom Fink. By turns, Fink has claimed to be either unaware of the need or under the impression that things had been taken care of.

In fact, negotiations with Local 1264 on the need for a hazardous-materials team began in October of 1989. Although most nearby large cities — including Seattle, Portland and Tacoma — have teams, Anchorage doesn't. The municipality's excuse is, as usual, "you guys make too much money."

After these negotiations broke down over minimum staffing needs, team size and compensation, Local 1264 hired its own lobbyist to pursue these and other public safety issues in Juneau. Good lobbyists don't come cheap, but neither do good public-safety programs.

It is this last point I want to stress. Providing excellent emergency services should be the most inviolate priority of local government. But since the advent of Tom Fink, many people have forgotten this. Using employee salary and benefit figures to incite jealousy and suspicion, Fink has distracted public attention away from the persistent dismantling of city services, including the emergency di-



This time, nobody was killed, but the firefighters all know that one fine day, someone will be if this community continues to countenance the substitution of vindictive political rhetoric for vital and irreducible public-safety needs.

visions.

I could ask for no stronger proof of this decline than that found in these two hazardous-material incidents. Firefighters were confronted with the most toxic substances during mop-up of the paint store fire, called "overhaul" in firefighter parlance. This phase of the job is where new equipment is so

necessary.

Without proper protection, firefighters were required to work in a noxious soup of chemicals, the initial analysis of which filled three pages. Lacking any sort of decontamination facilities, they carried out this task back at the fire station — a cardinal sin — and so compromised the building where the greatest number of firefighters live and work, and where hundreds of schoolchildren come to view the bright lights and shiny brass every year.

The second incident was the spill of sulfuric acid south of town. The chemical shipper was quoted as saying that the AFD was not needed and did nothing. Well, I was there, and feel that shifting leaking drums of acid through the blackened residue, while eyeing xylene and chlorine gas the entire time, certainly counts as a contribution in my book.

The news that replacement gear will now be paid for by the owners of the properties involved has met with predictable grumbling on their parts. It seems that the hosannas of praise for "user fees" are reserved by the business community for parks, libraries and bike

trails, not public safety. If the expense of replacing this protective clothing seems high, just imagine the cost to the city if federal agencies step in.

Rep. Dave Donley has introduced legislation that should provide the equipment needed to deal with future Haz-Mat episodes, and this is a welcome addition to the firefighters' arsenal. Unfortunately, this will only solve a portion of the larger problem, which will be much more difficult to come to grips with, as it involves developing an entirely new attitude toward public safety.

The hazardous-materials team, the Government Hill fire station, the South Anchorage Ladder Truck, and the Sand Lake and Muldoon tankers comprise a list of infamy and a litany for disaster.

This time nobody was killed, but the firefighters all know that one fine day, someone will be if this community continues to countenance the substitution of vindictive political rhetoric for vital and irreducible public-safety needs.

□ Joseph W. Albrecht is an Anchorage firefighter.



ANCHORAGE FIRE FIGHTERS UNION

LOCAL 1264
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS
AFL-CIO

1200 E. 76TH #1227

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99518



Honorable Cliff Davidson
Chairman Resources Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

April 22, 1991

Dear Chairman Davidson and Committee Members,

I am writing you today on behalf of Local 1264 International Association of Fire Fighters. Our represented membership consists of not only professional fire fighters, but also paramedics, dispatchers, fire inspectors, fire apparatus mechanics, and essential support clerical staff, 256 personnel.

Currently before your committee is H.B. #267. This bill includes funding for continued hazardous materials training, and specialized equipment items as well as funding for essential water rescue equipment. We respectfully ask for your consideration regarding this important bill.

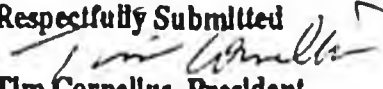
Public protection for the citizens and visitors of Anchorage provided by this bill is the minimum base level of funding needed to protect emergency service personnel and provide for the safety of the Anchorage populace, in these two important areas. Anchorage fire fighters must have the tools necessary to properly protect the public in the event of hazardous materials incident, or a inlet rescue situation. Currently the Fire fighters are in negotiations with the municipal administration regarding a commitment to the formation of a dedicated hazardous material team.

Our community has a significant hazardous materials problem as do many metropolitan cities in the nation. This can only be addressed through a basic commitment and the necessary funding. The Anchorage Fire Fighters have volunteered for and received training in this area for several years now, but up until recently we have lacked the necessary support from our leaders to form an effective team and acquire necessary equipment.

Your support now will be the necessary catalyst to address the Haz. Mat and Inlet/water rescue situation, again both badly needed and long overdue neglected problems. The Anchorage Fire Fighters believe it is important for us to become involved in the legislative process and have spent a great deal of time and energy in our efforts to protect the public we serve. We have seen all too often the failed mis-directed attempts of others regarding public safety funding for the citizens of Anchorage and so have rededicated ourselves to this process, however without your help our efforts will have been in vain.

Thank you in advance for your support! If you need additional testimony or specific details regarding the operational necessity of House Bill #267, Please contact Local 1264 IAFF through our home office referenced on letter head or ph# 349-1264.

Respectfully Submitted


Tim Cornelius, President
Local 1264 IAFF