

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1985-1986 00/2

3695 HSTA HB 346 - HB 347

571

III. BASIC PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

Physical Plant

- No expansion of the rail line will begin during the planning period.
- Major effort to upgrade equipment to improve efficiency and lower maintenance costs will continue throughout the planning period.
- Obsolete facilities will be vacated, dismantled, or removed.
- Significant expenditures will be required to comply with OSHA requirements. Serious deficiencies will be resolved in the planning period (1986).
- Obsolete and excess materials/equipment will be surplused and sold.
- Efforts to maintain the physical integrity of the railroad will continue at or above the present level.
 - Specifically to maintain the integrity of bridges, tunnels, and docks.

Revenue

- Export coal from Healy to Seward will continue at the contract rate of 800,000 metric tons a year.
- Expansion of Alaska economy at a rate of at least 3% a year.
- Gravel shipments to Anchorage from Palmer will begin declining during the final year of the plan.
- Continued expansion of tourist travel throughout the planning period.
- Expanded involvement in Alaska petroleum distribution.
- Expanded involvement in leasing and developing corporate real estate.
- Continued expansion of interline rail and terminal service through Whittier, Anchorage, and Seward.

Personnel

- The Corporation will renegotiate Collective Bargaining Agreements during the planning period.
- Baseline requirements will be performed as much as possible by permanent full-time corporation employees. The only exceptions will be traditional support services.
- Seasonal and project workloads above the normal baseline will be handled with temporary corporation or contract personnel.
- The Corporation will relate to the Alaskan Transportation Industry in establishing and maintaining wage, salary, and benefit practices.

General

- There will be continued emphasis on increasing the efficiency of corporation workload and on-going activities in order to achieve further reductions in operating expenditures.
- A standard on-going, life cycle replacement and upgrading program for equipment will begin and continue through and beyond the planning period.
- Increased emphasis on passenger service, facilities, and equipment will be evident throughout the planning period.
- Improved coordination with water carriers and increased participation in freight markets will be emphasized.
- Agreement on native claims issues will be actively pursued.

IV. BASELINE OPERATIONS
(Millions of Dollars)

	Latest Estimate 1985	Three Year Plan			Total
		1986	1987	1988	
Revenue:					
Freight	57.4	63.0	71.7	78.2	212.9
Passenger	4.5	5.3	5.8	6.6	17.7
Real Estate	4.5	5.0	5.4	6.0	16.4
Other	<u>4.9</u>	<u>5.0</u>	<u>5.1</u>	<u>5.2</u>	<u>15.3</u>
Total	<u>71.3</u>	<u>78.3</u>	<u>88.0</u>	<u>96.0</u>	<u>262.3</u>
Expenditures:					
Freight	47.6	52.0	54.7	60.7	167.4
Passenger	6.6	7.2	7.3	7.5	22.0
Real Estate	.3	.3	.4	.5	1.2
Other	<u>3.5</u>	<u>3.8</u>	<u>4.0</u>	<u>4.3</u>	<u>12.1</u>
Total	<u>58.0</u>	<u>63.3</u>	<u>66.4</u>	<u>73.0</u>	<u>202.7</u>
Net:					
Freight	9.8	11.0	17.0	17.5	45.5
Passenger	(2.1)	(1.9)	(1.5)	(.9)	(4.3)
Real Estate	4.2	4.7	5.0	5.5	15.2
Other	<u>1.4</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>1.1</u>	<u>.9</u>	<u>3.2</u>
Total Surplus (Deficit)	<u>13.3</u>	<u>15.0</u>	<u>21.6</u>	<u>23.0</u>	<u>59.6</u>

V. CAPITAL SPENDING PLAN SUMMARY
(Millions of Dollars)

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total 1985 Carryover	1.1			1.1
Total New Projects	<u>22.0</u>	<u>21.7</u>	<u>23.4</u>	<u>67.1</u>
Total Spending	<u>23.1</u>	<u>21.7</u>	<u>23.4</u>	<u>68.2</u>

THE ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION

Classification of Capital

Caretaker (C)

- Projects or purchases undertaken for the purpose of maintaining operating reliability, quality control, replacement of obsolete or deteriorated plant/equipment.

Operations Improvement (O)

- Projects which are undertaken for the purpose of revenue generation, cost reduction, increased operating efficiency, or expansion of plant capability. These projects are approved based on economics and an internal rate of return which exceeds established guidelines (excluding inflation).

Environmental/Compliance/Safety (E)

- Environmental
 - Projects which are related to prevention, control, abatement or elimination of environmental pollution. These projects are undertaken for the purpose of compliance with governmental and/or regulatory agencies, health, air, water, waste and pollution controls, laws or regulations.
- Compliance
 - Projects which are undertaken for other than environmental purposes to comply with Federal and State Health, and Labor Agency regulations. Legal review is required for all such investments.
- Safety
 - Projects required by management, OSHA or other agency stipulations for the protection and safe operation of the Railroad and its personnel. Safety review is required for all such investments.

Other (M)

- Are defined as those of an unusual nature, not included in the classifications above. Projects undertaken because of public relations, employee relations, or labor contract considerations.

M. J. Yetter
02/20/85

DETAIL BY CLASSIFICATION

Capital Spending Plan

	<u>Millions of Dollars</u>			
	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Operations Improvement:</u>				
Rail/Tie Fasteners	.50	.72	.75	1.97
Rail Lubricators	.06	.06	.06	.18
Line Changes	.75	.75	.75	2.25
Siding Upgrade	.50	.85	.85	2.20
Sag Elimination/Grade Raises		.50	.75	1.25
Microwave	.35			.35
Upgrade Radio	.20	.50	.90	1.60
Barge Slips	2.50			2.50
Tunnel Section Hydro		.06		.06
Ramp/Team Track - Gold Creek	.09			.09
TOFC Track - Seward Yard	.10			.10
Extend Freight Main Access Road	.25			.25
Lengthen Chulitna, Wasilla, & Ferry Sidings	.45	.50	.50	1.45
Extend Two Fairbanks Yard Tracks			.32	.32
Double Main Track (Arctic & Klatt)		.20		.20
Extend MP 117.5 to Five Track Crossing			2.50	2.50
One Van Packer		.45		.45
Four Hoisting Trucks		.10	.10	.20
Wayside Detectors (hot box & dragging)		.38	.38	.76
Video Camera Equipment for Rolling Trains		.15	.15	.30
Upgrade and Pave TOFC Yards	.58	.58	.58	1.74
Control System Between Anchorage & Matanuska			.15	.15
Improvements to Fuel/Service Facilities	.35			.35
Locomotive Wash Rack, New Track Work at Shop	.	.	.10	.10
Sub-Total	<u>6.68</u>	<u>5.80</u>	<u>8.84</u>	<u>21.32</u>

DETAIL BY CLASSIFICATION

Capital Spending Plan

	<u>Millions of Dollars</u>			
	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Environmental/Compliance:</u>				
OSHA Compliance Contingency	3.95	4.06	4.15	12.16
Utility Systems	.40	.50	.50	1.40
Section Facilities	.35	.35	.35	1.05
Window Glazing (Caboose)	.20			.20
Fuel Station - Fairbanks	<u>.10</u>	<u>.09</u>	<u>.10</u>	<u>.19</u>
Sub-Total	<u>5.00</u>	<u>5.00</u>	<u>5.00</u>	<u>15.00</u>

TRACK AND STRUCTURES

1. Construct combined ramp track and team track off Gold Creek siding to free up siding as passing track to expedite meets with main line traffic.
2. Additional track in Seward Yard to double TOFC loading/unloading capabilities as well as widening and resurfacing (gravel) of present TOFC area.
3. Extend freight main access road to MP 117.5.
4. Lengthen Chulitna (1), Wasilla (2), and Ferry (3) siding(s) to eighty-five (85) capacity for expediting increased rail traffic projections.
5. Extend two yards in Fairbanks 1800 feet to accommodate long train make-up and eliminate double-over requirements.
6. Upgrading of existing yard trackage in Whittier (1), Seward (2), and Anchorage Tracks #3 and #4 due to deterioration of the rail now in place.
7. Double main track between Arctic Boulevard and Klatt Road to allow capability of unloading gravel trains at Alagco and AS&G facilities off the mainline.
8. Installation of north switch at Carlo to expedite meeting points for express trains during the summer season.
9. Extend MP 117.5 track north end of Anchorage Yard to Five Track Crossing with appropriate crossovers for additional 150 car run-through track and additional track for building and parking excessively long trains.

EQUIPMENT

1. Replacement vehicles for aged and deteriorated GSA vehicles to upgrade existing fleet.
2. Two additional van packers for back-up and support of TOFC operations in Whittier, Seward, Anchorage, and Fairbanks.
3. Additional hostling trucks to support TOFC terminal operations:
 - 2 - Anchorage
 - 1 - Seward
 - 1 - Fairbanks
4. Wayside detectors (hot-box and dragging) at North Nenana, Broad Pass, Hurricane, Sunshine, and Portage to eliminate roll-by inspections and expedite mainline rail movement between Seward and Fairbanks.
5. Video camera equipment at Anchorage and Whittier to be tied into existing computer system for rolling outbound and inbound trains (with memory and recall capabilities).
6. Three hi-rail equipped vehicles for Whittier, Fairbanks, and Anchorage.
7. 60,000 lb. capacity forklift in Fairbanks for teaming materials.

BUILDINGS

1. Storage and warm-up barns for TOFC/COFC van loaders at Fairbanks (1), Anchorage (2), Seward (3), and Whittier (4) to be equipped with electric plug-in connections to prevent freeze up and unnecessary wear and tear on this equipment.

OTHER

1. Improvements to Seward, Whittier, Anchorage, and Fairbanks TOFC Van Yards with additional fill and future paving in order to support projected increase in TOFC traffic. Erect security fence around the trailer areas to prevent vandalism at these locations.
2. Installation of Control System between Anchorage and Matanuska to accomplish more efficient train operations as 40% of daily train traffic originates between these two points.

ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION
RAILROAD/HIGHWAY CROSSINGS

Prepared March 18, 1985
Page 1 of 2

1. Recommended design - grade separated crossing
2. Elimination of existing at-grade crossings
 - a. Grade separate where physically possible
 - b. Develop road system to eliminate requirement for crossing (e.g. Frontage roads).
3. Upgrading of existing at-grade crossings
 - a. Existing crossings will be programmed on a priority basis for improvements.
 - (1) Type of track
 - (2) Accident history
 - (3) Train traffic volumes
 - (4) Highway traffic volumes
 - (5) Current protection
 - b. Improved design of track structure and crossing material - ARR Standard Plan 2.75.
 - c. Installation of signals with gates at unsignalized crossings.
 - d. Signal upgrades
 - (1) Installation of gates on existing signals without gates.
 - (2) Installation of 12" lens
 - (3) Installation of motion detector systems to eliminate DC track powered systems.

ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION

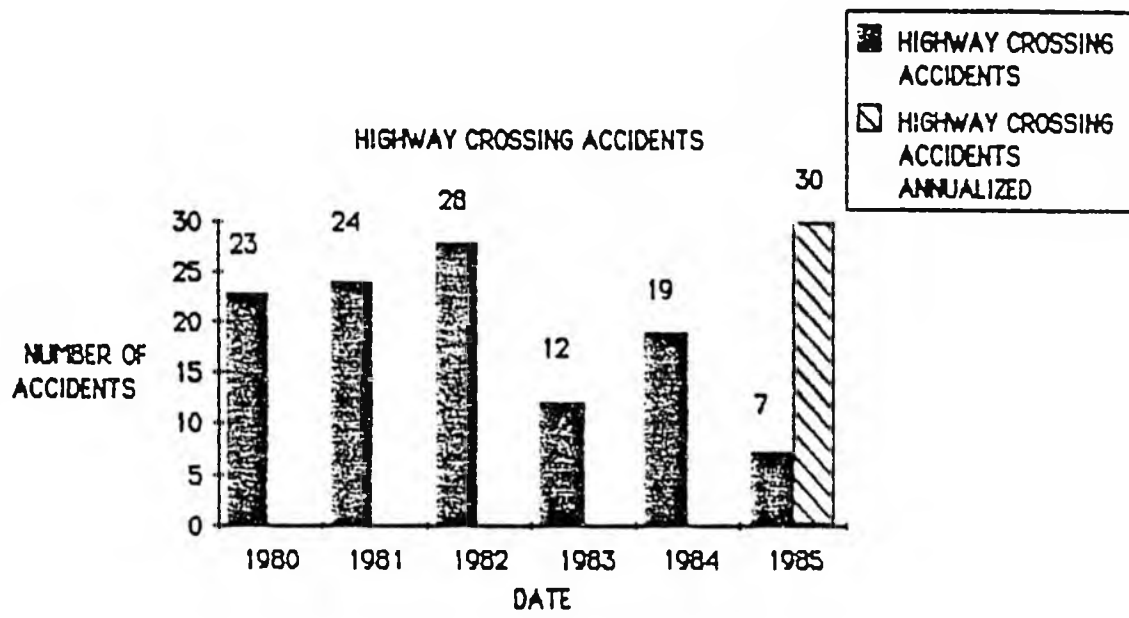
RAILROAD HIGHWAY CROSSINGS

Prepared March 18, 1985

Page 2 of 2

- e. Roadway illumination will be scheduled with other improvements.
 - f. Improving sight triangles
 - g. Any signal being rehabilitated will include gates and 12" lens.
4. Factors for consideration of new crossings
- a. Grade separated design first consideration.

Note: No new at-grade crossings of the mainline within the Municipality of Anchorage (policy established in 1978).
 - b. Life cycle cost/benefit ratio to include the following:
 - (1) Maintenance of at-grade crossing and signals
 - (2) Accident costs
 - (3) Delays to the Railroad
 - (4) Delays to the traveling public
5. Design criteria for all new at-grade crossings
- a. No other crossing within 2 miles of proposed crossing.
 - b. Must serve entire area with a road system including dedicated roadways.
 - c. Permit for crossing issued only to public agency with road construction and maintenance authority.
 - d. Sight triangles must be dedicated as road right-of-way.
 - e. New crossings will be installed with signals and gates.
 - f. Crossing, signal, roadway, and sight triangle maintenance responsibility of agency holding permit.



Emergency Rule No. 85-3:

Implementing Conflicts of Interest
Section and Defining the Term "Remote
Interest"

A. Purpose

Pursuant to AS 42.40.230, the Board of Directors of the Alaska Railroad Corporation (the "Board") adopts the following rule relating to conflict of interest.

B. Procedure

1. A Board member or Executive Officer of the Corporation may not participate in a decision of the Corporation in which that person or member of that person's immediate family has a direct or indirect financial interest unless the financial interest is a remote financial interest as defined in this rule and participation is approved under the procedure established here.
2. The words "participate in a decision" as used in AS 42.40.230 are defined to include all discussions, deliberations, preliminary negotiations, and votes.
3. The words "immediate family" as used in AS 42.40.230 are defined to mean spouse, dependent, parent, parent-in-law, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, or nephew.
4. A Board member or Executive Officer may participate in a decision if that person or member of that person's immediate family has only a remote interest and the following procedure is followed:
 - (a) the fact and extent of the interest is disclosed to the Board in a public meeting and is noted in the minutes of the Board before any participation by the member in the decision;
 - (b) the Board by vote in a public meeting authorizes or approves the participation; and
 - (c) a Board member whose participation is under consideration may not vote on the issue of his own participation.
5. "Remote Interest" is defined as follows:
 - (a) that of a non-compensated official of a non-profit corporation;
 - (b) that of an employee or agent of a contracting party including a lessee of the Corporation or a competing enterprise where the compensation of the employee or agent consists entirely of fixed wages or salary and the contract is awarded by bid or by other competitive process;
 - (c) that of a landlord or tenant of a contracting party;

- (d) that of a holder of less than 1% of the shares of the entity that is a contracting party, a competing enterprise, or a financial institution;
 - (e) that of an owner of a savings and loan or bank savings or share account or credit union deposit account if the interest represented by the account is less than 2% of the total deposits held by the institution; or
 - (f) other interests that in good faith are defined as remote by subsequent amendment to this rule.
6. In addition to the above process whereby a Board member or Executive Officer may be authorized to participate in decisions, a Board member or Executive Officer is not considered to be financially interested in a decision and may therefore participate when the decision to be made could not affect the individual in a manner different from its effect on the public.
 7. The Board may recommend to the Governor the removal of a Board member, or may remove an Executive Officer, who intentionally violates this emergency rule.

400.0 HIRING PRACTICES

(Emergency Rule 85-4 adopted 2-15-85)

401.0 RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT

The CEO or his designee, consistent with applicable State and Federal law and Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines, or collective bargaining units shall make appointments to vacant positions as follows:

401.1 Recruitment - Written public notice may be given in newspapers of general circulation, Job Service may be utilized, internal vacancy notices may be posted at the Corporation offices, and other actions may be taken as deemed appropriate or which are required by law, applicable regulations, or collective bargaining agreements to obtain applicants to fill vacant positions.

401.1.1 Applicants may be recruited for positions on any basis without a designated closing date for the receipt of applications when it has been determined that general recruitment is necessary to maintain an adequate number of applicants.

401.2 Application for Employment - Application must be made on prescribed forms. The forms may require information and supporting documentation pertaining to the education, training, skills, knowledge, ability, and experience of the applicant and other pertinent qualifications. The forms shall also state that the information contained therein is true and accurate. The applicant shall attest to its truthfulness and accuracy with his signature. Applications may be refused or not considered if incomplete or material information is concealed or misrepresented. If an applicant is hired, and it is subsequently determined that the employee has misrepresented any information pertinent to his selection, the employee may be subject to immediate separation.

401.3 DIRECT APPOINTMENT

401.3.1 The following may be appointed, when qualified, to a vacant position without recourse to the recruitment process:

- (a) An employee who requests in writing that his name be placed under consideration for transfer.
- (b) A furloughed employee, if returned to duty within one (1) year after the date of furlough.
- (c) A former employee who was separated in good standing, if the reemployment takes place within one (1) year of the employee's date of separation.

- 401.3.2. Senior executive officials including but not limited to Vice-Presidents, Department Heads and Divisions Heads may be hired by contract without recourse to the recruitment process.
- 401.4 Promotional Appointment - When it has been determined to be in the best interest of the Corporation, a vacancy may be announced as promotional only. Such a vacancy may be filled by promotion before utilizing other recruitment procedures.
- 401.5 Authorized Positions - An appointment may not be made to a position unless the position has been approved by the CEO or his designee.
- 401.6 Application of Rule - This rule shall apply to all applicants for positions with the Corporation.

ALASKA RAILROAD TIE ORDER FROM STEVE SELEY: [3/29/85]

March 1 procurement sent out for sealed bids to provide 28,000 ties to Alaska Railroad.

14,000 hardwood
14,000 softwood

Bids were opened March 12th, 4:00.

The low bid was analyzed and the procurement department began giving out the low bid information to interested parties - (other bidders, treatment plants, shippers, etc.).

Shortly after the opening, Alaska Railroad management decided there was too much confusion from the bidders in regard to the Alternates and D.O.T. or some other agency from Juneau advised them that the Alaska Forest Products Preference would apply. They decided to rebid for the third time. Procurement was notified to not give out anymore bid information and all bidders were advised that the entire order would be rebid orally March 15 with the changes by Alaska Products Preference and a change in payment terms.

First bid results - softwood portion
PLS \$18.86 per tie
WFP \$18.94

\$.08 spread on \$1,120.00 on \$264,040 order.

WFP was not contacted except to be told of the rebid. We later found out from McFarland, a treatment outfit, the low bid, which we later matched with PLS.

We then bid orally without the information that some of the bidders knew the original low bid.

The results are Mathews, a broker came in low and was given a verbal award for the softwood ties.

PLS was low on the hardwood portion and was given a verbal order. WFP, the Alaskan bidder, was not notified of anything. Three days after that oral bid, we contacted the Alaska Railroad and found out we were not low and no Alaska Preference would apply.

Yesterday, PLS filed an injunction against that award to Mathews on the grounds of illegal bidding practices.

I suggest the following:

Alaska Railroad give an award of 4000 ties to Mathews. Award 10,000 ties to WFP and negotiate 1986 order. PLS will stop legal action against the railroad.

April 2, 1985

Representative John Sund
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: Alaska Rail Tie Bids

Dear Representative Sund:

I flew to Anchorage on Saturday and met with Mr. Turpin in regards to the rail tie bids. He explained what had happened and assured me he was doing all he could to remedy the situation.

To help our immediate situation in Wrangell, my first suggestion was to split the 14,000 softwood tie order three ways; WFP, PLS and Matheus. Matheus elected not to go along as he was awarded all 14,000.

My next suggestion was to take the 14,000 hardwood tie order that PLS was awarded and allow them to substitute Alaska old growth Hemlock ties in place of the hardwood specie, and finally I urged Mr. Turpin to give special consideration to WFP's future bids on Alaska Railroad timber product needs.

Today he called back and told me his engineers agreed to substitute the Alaska Hemlock for hardwood. We would have to contact PLS and make our own deal with them.

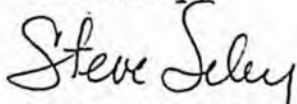
I found out an hour ago that since talking with Mr. Turpin they had elected to award the switch tie bids opened Friday for about 90,000 to a supplier from Portland. We were \$5,878.65 over their bid.

I guess the only thing we can do to insure any kind of consideration to Alaska suppliers is to modify House Bill 50 to include the Alaska Railroad thus giving Alaska mills a 10% advantage.

We are committed at Wrangell to continue upgrading our facility and cut costs. We have a superior product.

Thanks alot for your continued help and support.

Sincerely,



Steve D. Seley, Jr.
President

The following laws do not apply to the ARR Corporation:

- AS 19 - Highways and Ferrys
- AS 30.15 - State participation in port facilities and development
- AS 35 - Public buildings, works and improvements
- AS 37.05 - Fiscal Procedures Act (AS 37.05.230(1) = Bidder Preference)
- AS 37.07 - Executive Budget Act
- AS 37.10.010 - 37.10.060 - Disbursement of public funds
- AS 37.20 - Acceptance of Federal Funds
- AS 37.25 - Public Finance, misc provisions
- AS 38 - Public Lands
- AS 44.62.040-320 - Promulgation of regulations (public notice, etc)

AS 37.10.85 Financial Aid to Corporations
by state or political subdivision

4-3-85

Anch. Times

Railroad amends order for hardwood ties

by Larry Persily
Times Juneau Bureau

Juneau — Responding to legislative criticism, the Alaska Railroad Corp. has decided to amend its order for hardwood railroad ties, allowing an Alaska lumber company to participate in the order.

More than two dozen House members Monday had signed a letter to

the corporation, asking its president to re-bid a \$650,000 purchase of railroad ties.

The legislators had criticized the railroad for its bid procedures last month and for disregarding state statutes providing an Alaska forest products preference on projects financed with public money.

Two Seattle companies had been

selected as the apparent low bidders on the March orders.

Wrangell Forest Products, the only Alaska company to bid on the job, had missed the low bids by less than one percent.

Rep. Robin Taylor, R-Wrangell, who drafted Monday's letter to railroad president Frank Turpin, met with Turpin this morning and later

announced that Wrangell Forest Products would be able to participate in the railroad's order for hardwood ties.

"Turpin has taken emergency procedures in (awarding) the contract," Taylor said, with the railroad amending its specifications to allow Alaska hemlock to be used for hardwood

See Alaska, page F-5

Alaska preference

Continued from page F-1

ties. The Wrangell sawmill will supply hemlock for the Seattle company that received the hardwood ties order.

"We have accomplished our task," Taylor said, adding he believes Turpin has satisfactorily responded to the legislators' request.

Some House members had attacked the railroad for taking its business out of state when such a small cost difference existed between the Alaska bidder and the apparent low bidders from Seattle.

Turpin is in Juneau today for budget meetings with the legislature. He also met today with Rep. John Sund, D-Ketchikan, who has been critical of the corporation's handling of the railroad tie purchase.

Sund introduced a bill in the House Monday to require the

Alaska Railroad to follow Alaska's competitive bid statutes and in-state bidders preference law.

The Alaska bidders preference statute allows state agencies to award a contract to an in-state bidder if the company is within five percent of the low bid submitted by an out-of-state supplier or contractor.

The railroad corporation, established last year by the legislature, is exempt from state statutes dealing with competitive bidding and bidders preference, Sund said. He explained the railroad was exempted from the statutes "on the theory that the Alaska Railroad was a private business . . . and should act like a private business."

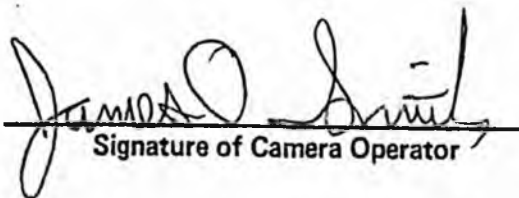
However, Sund said, the state has invested hundreds of millions of dollars to build Alaska's economy and the railroad should join that effort by following the law.



RECORDS CERTIFICATION



I, the undersigned, an employee of the State of Alaska, do hereby certify that the microfilm ~~image~~ on this microform are accurate reproductions of the original records of the State of Alaska as accumulated during the regular course of business, and that it is the established policy and practice of this State to microfilm its records and to dispose of the original records after microfilm reproductions have been made.


Signature of Camera Operator


Date

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COMMITTEE REPORT
HOUSE

4/23

(7)

FURTHER: FINANCE

4/3/85

Date: April 22, 1985

The Committee on STATE AFFAIRS has had HB 347

"An Act relating to creating the Alaska State Fire Commission; and providing for an effective date."

under consideration and recommends:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for HB 347 (SA) same title
 new title
- and recommends NO PASS
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note Sup 54
- reports it back without recommendation Zero Fiscal Note Attached
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature]
CHAIRMAN

Original sponsors: Cato and Koponen

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 347 (State Affairs)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act creating the Alaska State Fire Commission;
7 and providing for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 44.41 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 Sec. 44.41.040. FIRE COMMISSION. The Alaska State Fire Commis-
11 sion is established in the Department of Public Safety.

12 Sec. 44.41.050. MEMBERSHIP. (a) The governor shall appoint the
13 members of the commission without regard to political affiliation to
14 serve for terms of four years. Members shall have an understanding of
15 basic fire protection principles. A member may serve no more than two
16 consecutive full terms. Membership shall include a

- 17 (1) member of the Alaska Fire Chief's Association;
18 (2) member of the Alaska State Firefighters Association;
19 (3) member of the Alaska Municipal League;
20 (4) representative of the field of education;
21 (5) representative of the Alaska Federation of Natives;
22 (6) representative of the insurance industry;
23 (7) representative of the construction industry;
24 (8) representative of the petrochemical industry; and
25 (9) representative of the transportation industry.

26 (b) The attorney general and the commissioners of public safety,
27 labor, community and regional affairs, and natural resources or their
28 designated representatives are ex officio members of the commission.

29 (c) A vacancy on the commission shall be filled from the

1 appropriate source. The appointee shall serve for the unexpired
2 portion of the term.

3 (d) Members serve without compensation but are entitled to
4 travel and per diem authorized for members of boards and commissions
5 under AS 39.20.180.

6 Sec. 44.41.196. PROCEDURES; STAFF. (a) The commission shall
7 meet each quarter. A quorum consists of five members and must include
8 either the chair or the vice-chair of the commission. The commission
9 shall determine the location of a meeting in advance and shall publish
10 notice of the meeting statewide at least 30 days before the meeting
11 date.

12 (b) Roberts Rules of Order shall govern commission meetings.

13 (c) The membership shall elect a chair and a vice-chair to serve
14 for terms of four years. An elected officer may serve for no more
15 than two successive full terms. The chair may appoint standing and
16 special committees and subcommittees.

17 (d) The chair, the governor, or three members of the commission
18 may call a special meeting.

19 (e) The commission shall hire an executive director and other
20 staff as necessary.

21 Sec. 44.41.197. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The commission shall

22 (1) develop and adopt a state master plan for fire preven-
23 tion and control and a state fire education and training plan;

24 (2) assist state and local fire prevention and control
25 agencies in improving fire prevention and control in the state;

26 (3) establish policy and operational guidelines for state
27 agencies with fire protection responsibilities and make recommenda-
28 tions to private industry, local governments, and federal agencies
29 having fire protection programs;

1 (4) develop and maintain a liaison with all fire protection
2 agencies in the state, both public and private;

3 (5) recommend legislative and executive actions to enhance
4 effective and efficient fire prevention and suppression;

5 (6) adopt regulations under the Administrative Procedure
6 Act (AS 44.62) to enhance effective and efficient fire prevention and
7 suppression;

8 (7) develop and implement a standardized data collection
9 system for all fire protection agencies in the state;

10 (8) serve as a resource and technical information source
11 for local governments, state and federal agencies, the legislature and
12 persons in the state;

13 (9) submit an annual report to the governor, legislature,
14 and the fire service community on the activities, recommendations, and
15 accomplishments of the commission during the preceding fiscal year;

16 (10) take other actions necessary or proper to carry out its
17 duties.

18 (b) The commission may

19 (1) conduct research, hold public hearings, and study
20 related issues in order to make recommendations for the improvement of
21 fire prevention and control in the state;

22 (2) accept unrestricted gifts, bequests, devises, grants,
23 matching funds and other consideration for use in promoting the com-
24 mission's work.

25 * Sec. 2. AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

26 (13) Alaska State Fire Commission -- June 30, 1989.

27 * Sec. 3. Notwithstanding AS 44.41.050 enacted by sec. 1 of this Act,
28 the following initial members of the commission shall serve the following
29 terms:

1 (1) representatives of the construction industry and the field
2 of education, three years;

3 (2) member of the Alaska State Firefighters Association and the
4 representative of the insurance industry, two years;

5 (3) representatives of the transportation industry and the
6 Alaska Federation of Natives, one year.

7 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
8 10.070(c).

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revisor Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: CSHB 347(SA)

Title: Creating a State Fire

COMMISSION

Sponsor: House State Affairs

Requestor: _____

Date of Request: _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: PUBLIC SAFETY

Program Category Affected: _____

BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES		191.2	202.7	214.8	227.7	241.4
200 TRAVEL		34.0	36.0	38.2	40.5	42.9
300 CONTRACTUAL		38.6	40.9	43.4	46.0	48.7
400 SUPPLIES		1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7
500 EQUIPMENT		17.0	0	0	0	0
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		282.1	281.0	297.9	315.8	334.7

CAPITAL		0	0	0	0	0
----------------	--	---	---	---	---	---

REVENUE		0	0	0	0	0
----------------	--	---	---	---	---	---

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		282.1	281.0	297.9	315.8	334.7
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		282.1	281.0	297.9	315.8	334.7

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

Prepared By: Katie Hurley *Katie Hurley*
Division: House State Affairs

Phone: 465-4963

Date: 4-22-85

Approved by Commissioner: _____

Date: _____

Agency: Public Safety

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

Legislative Finance

Legislative Sponsor

Requestor

Office of Management and Budget

Impacted Agency(ies)

7/1/84

Guy

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF STATE TROOPERS

P.O. BOX 6188 ANNEX
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99502

February 22, 1985

Mr. Allan Judson, Chief
Juneau Fire Department
820 Glacier Avenue
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Al:

In response to your request for the cost estimates for the proposed State Fire Commission as we discussed today, I'm forwarding the following data that were used in the Task Force report. I must stress that these are general estimates, rather than the result of an exhaustive inquiry.

100 Category - Personal Services

Four-person staff:

(1) Exec. Director Range 23

Salary and all Fringes

\$ 75,000

62,500

(2) Professional Staff - two

Planner V or equivalent, Range 21

50,000

54,700

Planner V or equivalent, Range 21

50,000

54,700

Admin. Assistant II, Range 14

30,500

26,350

\$205,500

178,250

200 Category - Travel

An estimate of \$20,000 for staff travel and per diem seems reasonable

\$ 20,000 ✓

300 Contractual

Estimated 800 square feet - estimated at

24,000 ✓

Telephone

4,000 ✓

\$ 28,000 ✓

400 Supplies

Miscellaneous

estimated at

\$ -5,500 ✓

1,000

Allan Judson, Chief
Juneau Fire Department
Page 2
February 22, 1985

500 Equipment

Includes word processor, four desks, table,
two filing cabinets, miscellaneous chairs,
etc. estimated at

\$ 10,000

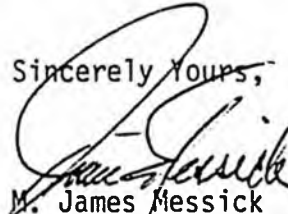
Total

~~\$268,500~~

261,375
(261.4)

I hope these estimates are useful. Please call me if you need additional information.

Sincerely Yours,



M. James Messick
Ass't to the Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

cc: Sam Neal
Sandra Barbridge

The scope of work for which the Commission is responsible involves planning and coordination of virtually all the numerous state agencies with fire protection program responsibilities and to establish the last possible relationship with all local governments, federal agencies with fire related responsibilities (including the military) and private industry in order that the Commission can represent and act as the planning, coordination and policy setting mechanism for the entire fire service community in the state. The commission will also interact with other state fire commissions similarly situated.

To perform this task, and address Alaska having the highest fire loss rate, not only in the U.S. but in the entire industrialized western world, requires that staff members possess the highest possible qualifications.

Since the Commission's task is unprecedented in Alaska, the planning functions undertaken will be original efforts with no precedence by which to be guided. The broad range of Commission responsibilities as presented in the Task Force report requires independent efforts by self-motivated personnel with only minimal oversight of a policy nature.

The large number of persons from all aspects of the fire service who participated in the Task Force's efforts means the highest degree of scrutiny of the results of Commission activities, since the Commission is in effect, a creature of the fire service statewide, and the fire service knows what must be accomplished.

A primary function of the Commission is to recommend and assist in development of policy, since it is a policy setting mechanism, for not only state agencies but for state government generally, through the Governor's Office, and will recommend policy for local governments, federal agencies and private industry, such as pipeline companies, the insurance industry to name a few. The policy area also includes developing legislative proposals for introduction thru the Chief Executive, since some policy implementation may require legislatively enacted authority.

Another major function will be to serve as the single focal point for all federal assistance relative to fire protection and thus require an understanding of, and participate in various federal assistance programs.

Executive Director

Alaska State Fire Commission

Examples of job duties

Implements policies and program priorities decided by the State Fire Commission. Supervises development of the state's Master Plan for Fire Protection. Recruits, trains, supervises, reviews performance and evaluates professional and clerical staff. Responsible for, and may assist in preparation of the Annual Reports of the Commission. Testifies before legislative committees holding hearings as matters relating to the Commission.

Recommends policy and operational guidelines to the Commission and the Governor relative to all state agencies with fire protection responsibilities. Acts as the liaison between the Fire Commission and federal, state, local government and private industry with fire safety programs.

Fosters original research and inquiries into the unique causes of fire related to the arctic environment and methodologies of successful fire prevention and control under arctic conditions, including the development of an informational exchange program with other nations similarly situated within the Arctic Rim.

Acts as a focal point for all federal assistance and program liaison between the State of Alaska, and federal agencies pertaining to and prepares and administers annual budgets.

Planner V (two positions)

Alaska State Fire Commission

Examples of job duties

1. Responsible for major fire protection program planning of an original nature, that involves complex, interagency relationships of federal, military, state and local governments and private industry. Which have programs related to fire protection and advises the Director and the Commission concerning policy issues and guidelines.
2. Researches and drafts proposals that require executive and/or legislative actions.
3. Obtains, studies, and analyzes data, statistics, and other information concerning fire causes and develops recommendations leading toward increased fire safety.
4. Assists in the implementation of program policies and priorities as decided by the Commission, and for the state's Master Plan for fire protection.

F I R E
A L A S K A ' S P U B L I C S A F E T Y
C R I S I S

Report of the
Second Task Force on Fire Prevention and Control

Task Force Members

Ms. Sandra Borbridge
Office of the Governor, Chairman
Mr. Sam Neal
State Fire Marshal
Mr. William Hagevig, Supervisor
State Fire Service Training
Mr. Jonathan P. Cecil
Dept. of Community & Regional Affairs
Mr. Kenneth A. Judson
Fire Chiefs/Firefighters Associations
Mr. William Basham
Dept. of Labor
Mr. Mario Miller
Emergency Medical Services

Editor

Mr. James Messick
Department of Public Safety

Secretarial Assistance

Ms. Betty J. Neill
State Fire Marshal's Office
Ms. Beverly Barger
Office of the Governor
Ms. Louise Mundell
Office of the Governor

December, 1984

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Task Force report represents the efforts of many people. Without their assistance, the report would not be nearly as complete as it is, nor would it reflect the broad scope of the recommendations that it contains. Although the Task Force members provided the scope of the work and the bulk of the recommendations, there were many additional people who provided data, specific information, and support services that together made this report possible.

In addition to Task Force members, special thanks is due the fire chiefs from throughout the state who graciously and constructively provided additional ideas, and reviewed draft concepts at the Valdez meeting of both professional Fire Service organizations, the later teleconference review of the initial draft involving the Executive Committee of both organizations, and finally their review of the final draft of the entire report.

Specific information of great value was provided by many people. Gordon Brunton of the Fire Marshal's Office in Juneau provided fire loss data and graphs. Jack Wilcock and Scott Wolfe of the Department of Natural Resources provided data and developed the recommendations pertaining to wildlands fires. Mark Johnson in the Department of Health and Social Services in Juneau provided information about the statewide Emergency Medical Services program. Chief Ron Coleman of San Clemente, California, provided specific experience-based data about home sprinklers through Task Force member Chief Al Judson of Juneau. Jason Elson of Kenai provided information about the Association of Fire and Arson Investigators. Tom Take, Program Coordinator at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, provided specific information about several program aspects and provided the cover photograph. Leigh Gallagher, of the State Fire Service Training Program, Juneau, provided specific information about that program and the training centers statewide. Substantial time and effort came from Jim Messick, the Department of Public Safety, who was the editor and brought together all the information that resulted in this report.

Throughout its many meetings and planning sessions, the Task Force was ably co-chaired by Mr. Sam Neal, the State Fire Marshal.

Finally, special thanks to Beverly Barger in the Governor's Office in Juneau, and Betty Neill, State Fire Marshal's Office in Anchorage, who undertook the task of typing this report, in addition to their normal duties, and to Ms. Louise Mundell, of the Governor's Office in Juneau who provided a thorough proofreading prior to final typing and printing.

Sandra Borbridge
Task Force Chairman

INTRODUCTION

This report represents the results of three months of intensive effort by the Alaska Fire Prevention and Control Task Force.

The Task Force was created by the 1984 Legislature, to finish the work of the first Task Force of the same name, that was not funded for its third year. Nevertheless the group published the now well known "Alaska on Fire," an excellent publication which was the first definitive effort to analyze Alaska's fire problem and propose corrective measures. The group's final report never was published due to lack of legislative funding for their third and final year.

The second Task Force was created by the 1984 Legislature to finish the work of the initial Task Force, and was given 120 days - to the end of October 1984 - to complete its work.

Task Force members represent a wide spectrum of agencies with fire safety responsibilities including the two major fire service organizations in Alaska, the State Fire Service Training Program, the State Fire Marshal, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, Department of Labor, the Governor's Office, and the Emergency Medical Services, which are often reflected in the responsibilities of local fire departments.

The Task Force has attempted to look at the entire fire problem in the state -- structural, marine, aircraft, and wildlands fires, but the extremely short time involved precluded extensive treatment of other than structural fires. Analysis of marine, aircraft, and to a large extent, wildlands fires, awaits further effort. Similarly, a description of federal agencies in Alaska with fire service responsibilities which would have been included in Section II, was not included because of time constraints.

The legislation creating the Task Force required it to complete the work of the first Task Force which was to:

- * Provide a detailed account of the fire loss problem in Alaska;
- * Identify and define the roles and relationships of agencies in the state that have fire protection programs and responsibilities; and,
- * Recommend organizational modifications to improve fire protection.

In addition, the new Task Force is to:

- * Request and review information concerning the causes and nature of fire losses in the state;

- * Study the activities of the various fire protection agencies in the state; and,
- * Submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature making recommendations to improve fire prevention and control in the state, identify methods to implement the recommendations, and to review the progress of the implementation, and propose legislation for recommendations needing legislative action.

To meet these legislative objectives, the report has been divided into seven sections. The first examines the fire problem in Alaska in terms of where fires, deaths and injuries occur, fire occurrence in urban vs rural areas, comparisons with the rest of the country, and finally on an international level.

The second section responds to the enabling legislation by describing the agencies in Alaska with fire-related responsibilities. Although the intent of the Task Force was to include federal, state, and local agencies, time constraints precluded describing federal agencies, as well as a complete examination of wildlands fire agencies.

The Goals and Objectives Section -- the focus of the report -- sets forth numerous "Approaches" whereby the fire problem can be reduced. The intent has been to include the most important aspects, but inevitably some desirable actions may not have been included due to the short time span available to the Task Force. Each "Approach" has been underlined for emphasis.

The next section sets forth a timetable and cost estimates for the implementation of the Approaches. Both aspects must be viewed as estimates, subject to later refinement, as the various recommendations are adopted.

Parts five and six recap the proposals requiring Legislative and Executive Action, followed by the last section which proposes a means "to review the progress of the implementation" as required by the enabling legislation.

The Alaska Fire Prevention and Control Task Force hopes this report is instrumental and useful in reducing fire losses throughout the state.

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APPENDIX

Appendix A - SB 687

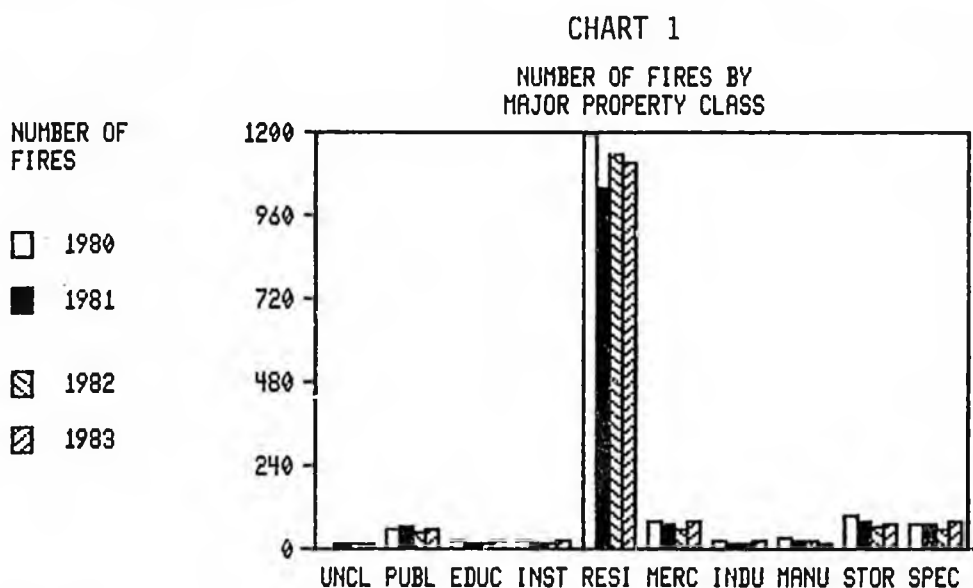
I.
THE FIRE PROBLEM
IN ALASKA

THE FIRE PROBLEM IN ALASKA

A. Structural Fire

Any overview of Alaska's fire protection program must include some analysis of the problem that it seeks to solve. This report, which is intended to complete the work of the first Task Force, does not wish to duplicate the work and the findings of the earlier report in terms of the details of the fire problem. However, a brief capsulized review is appropriate, particularly in view of the availability of the most recent data.

The following graphs are intended to pictorialize various aspects of fire incidence, location, and several views of fire losses. In addition to the raw data portrayed, there is an effort to interpret what the data seems to be indicating. Accuracy of the data is good, although not perfect, given the sporadic reporting of some of the smaller departments, and the inherent difficulties in relating the circumstances of a given fire to a standardized data format. However, the extent of inaccurate or incomplete data is not expected to be statistically significant.



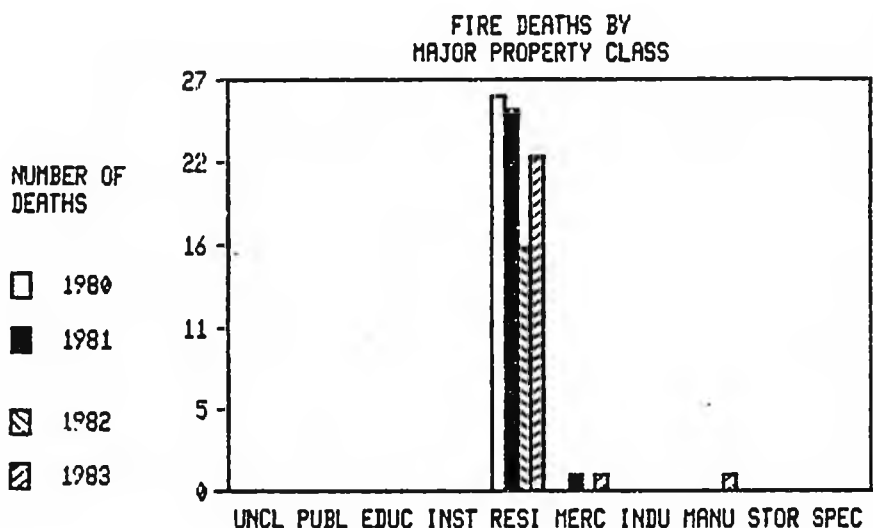
The largest number of fires by property classification occurred in residential structures. No other property class comes even close.

1

Information and the computer generated graphs were prepared by Gordon Brunton, Assistant State Fire Marshal in Juneau, using Alaska National Fire Incident Reporting System (ANFIRS) data. Abbreviations used are as follow:

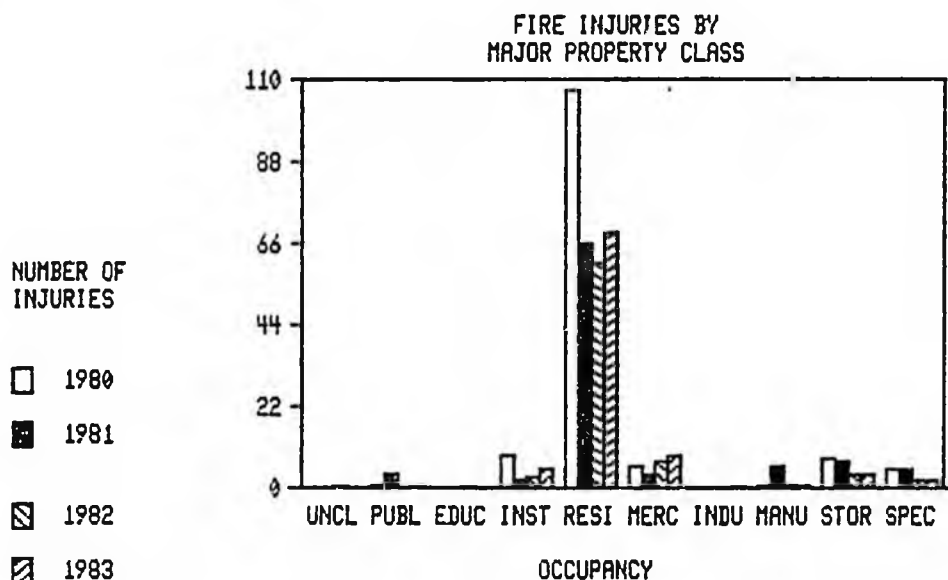
UNCL - Unclassified	MERC - Mercantile (Stores/Offices)
PUBL - Public Assembly	INDU - Industrial
EDUC - Educational	MANU - Manufacturing
INST - Institutional	STOR - Storage
RESI - Residential	SPEC - Special

CHART 2



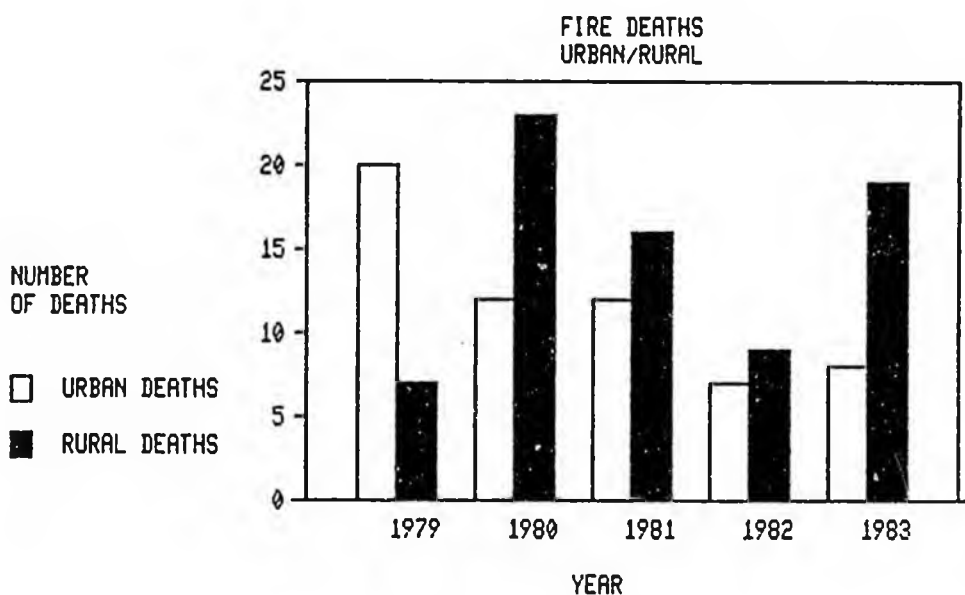
The type of structural property in which the overwhelming number of lives are lost is residential in nature. No other type structure comes even close.

CHART 3



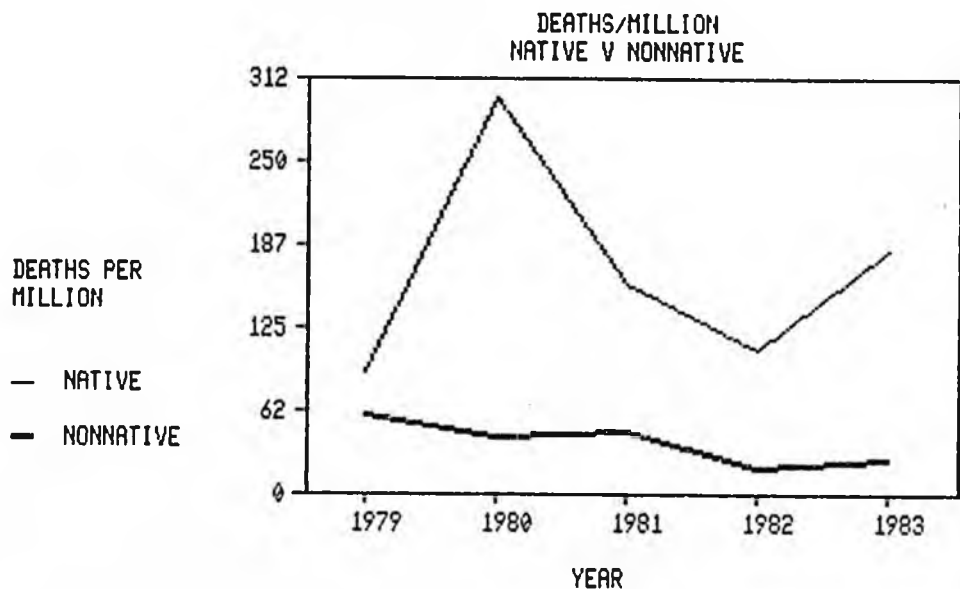
The type of property in which the overwhelming number of fire related injuries occur is residential. Although all other types of structures record very minor numbers, no other type of structure comes even close to the number of fire related injuries that occur in residential structures.

CHART 4



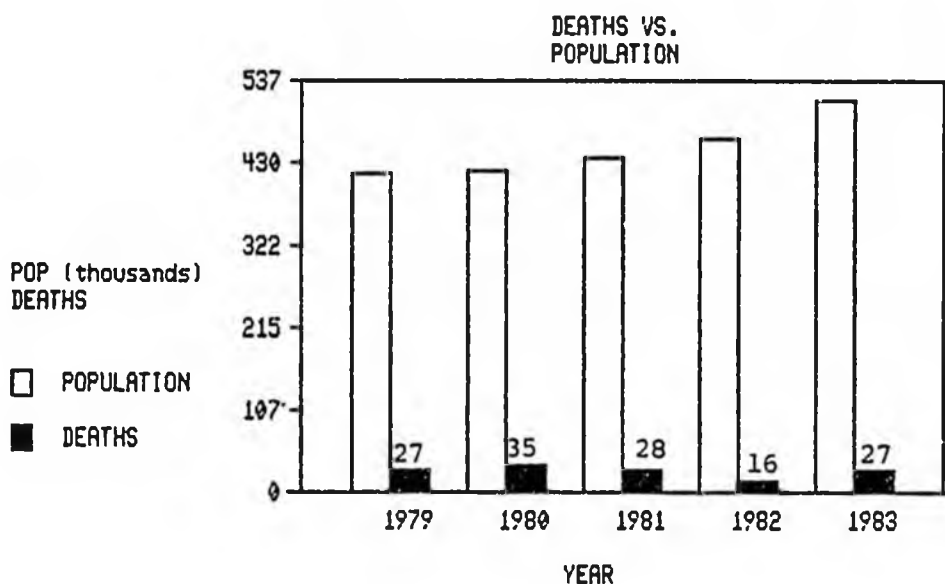
Analyzing Alaska's fire deaths in urban and rural locations shows that in four of the last five years, significantly more deaths have occurred in rural than in urban areas, despite the fact that far fewer people reside in rural areas.

CHART 5



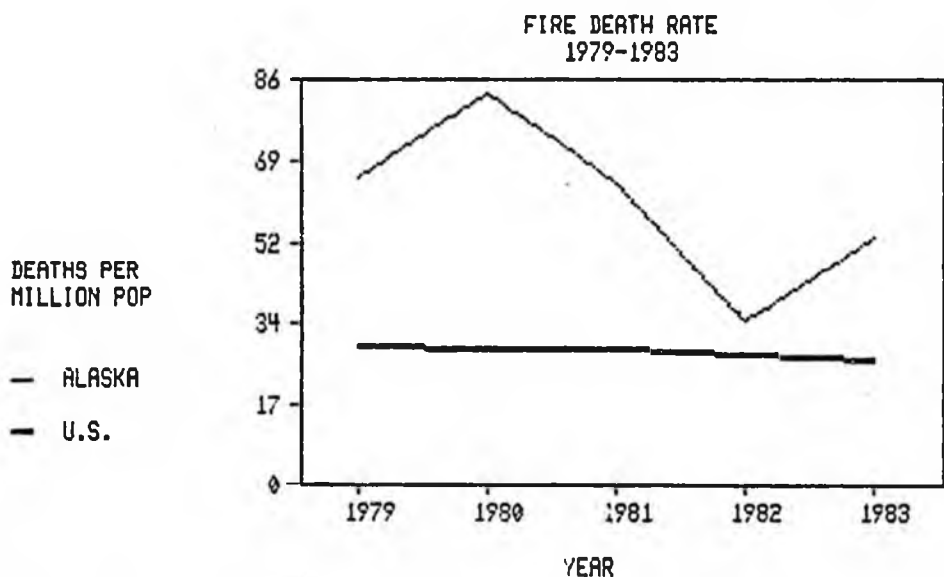
Although the Native deaths per million population fluctuate dramatically, their death rate has always exceeded that of non-natives during the last five years. The non-native death rate shows a slight trend downward over the past five years, and is closely comparable to the average U.S. fatality rate for 1982 and 1983.

CHART 6



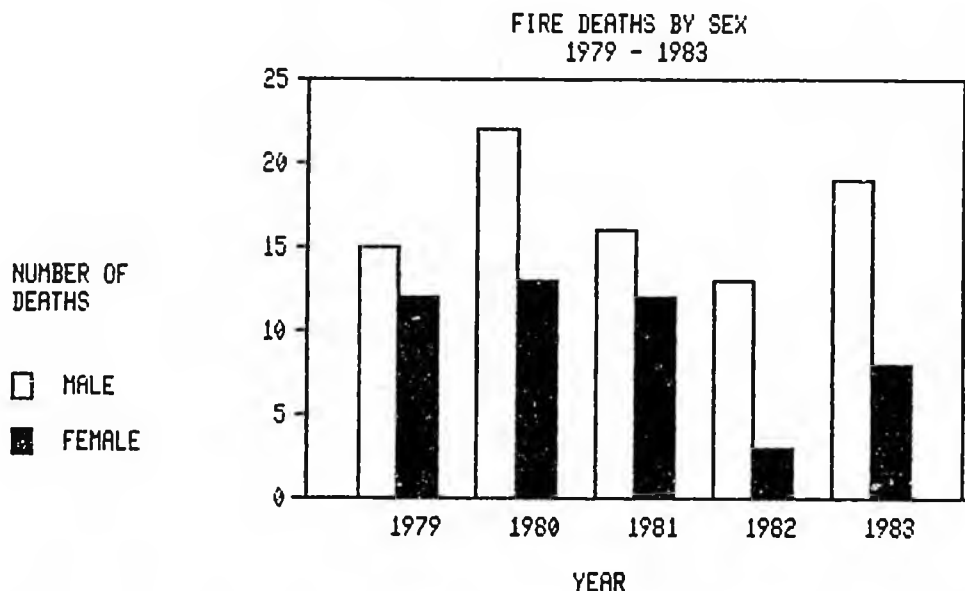
Fire deaths per se, in Alaska present no clear-cut trends, but since population is increasing, the number of fire deaths viewed as a percentage of total population appears to be decreasing.

CHART 7



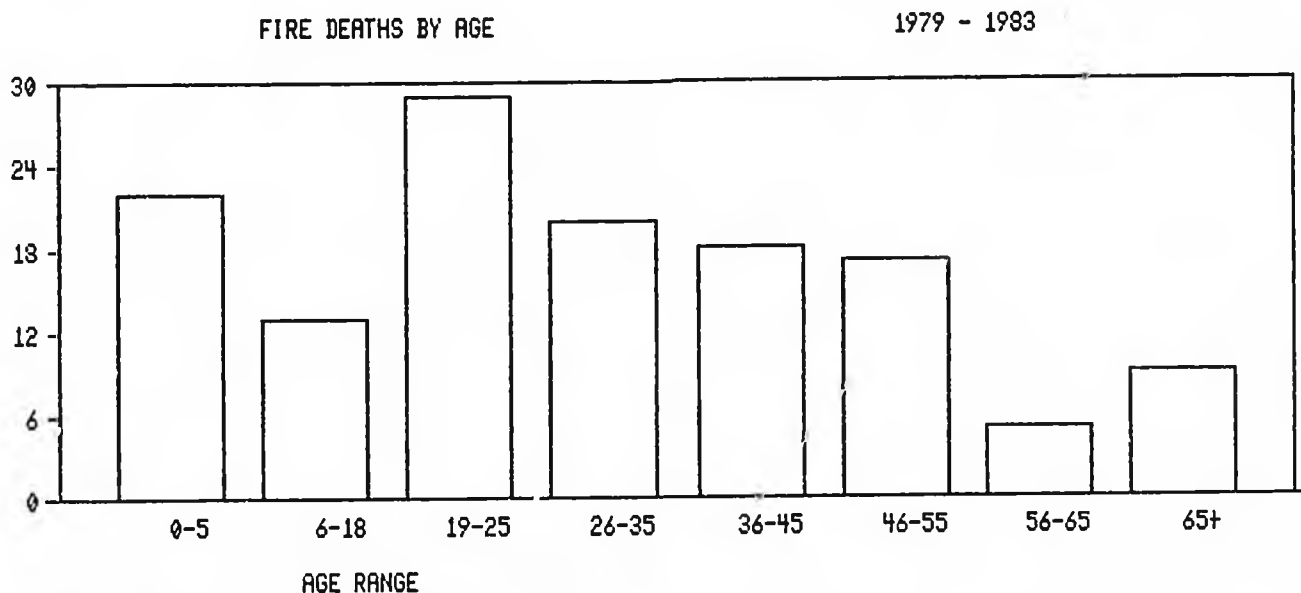
The rate of deaths due to fire in Alaska has consistently exceeded the rate of the rest of the country. The large variations in Alaska's rate is due to a relatively small data base, while the large data base of the U.S. tends to even out the fluctuations. Note that the death rate of the U.S. is decreasing only very slowly.

CHART 8



The data from the five year period very definitely portray the fact that males are at higher risk in terms of fire deaths than females. The exact reasons for this phenomenon have not been researched, but occupational hazards, such as working with flammable liquids may contribute to the higher male deaths due to fire.

CHART 9

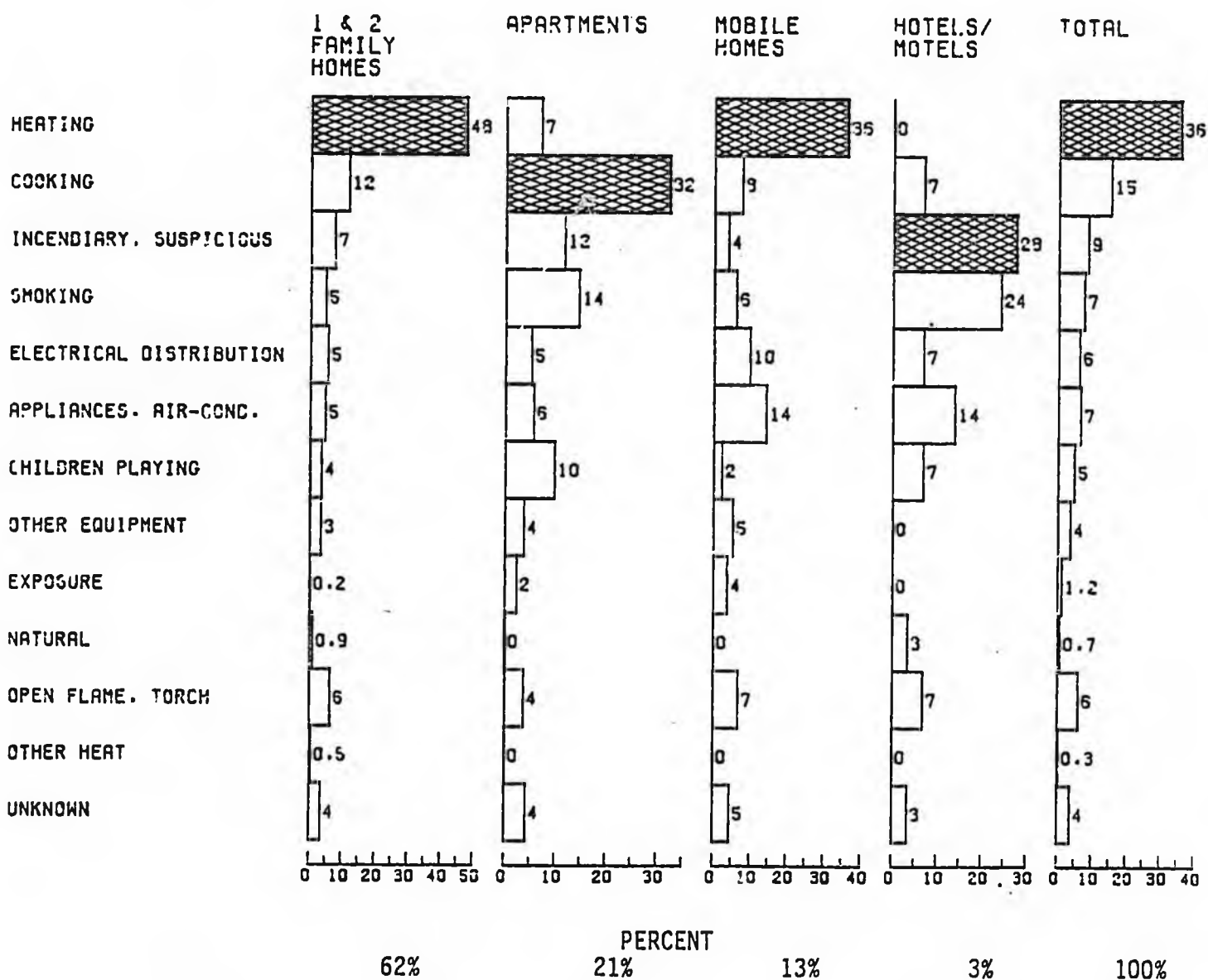


The five year compilation of fire deaths as a function of age cohorts clearly shows that the 19-25 years age group is the greatest at risk. The second highest -- the 0-5 year age cohort -- is more easily understood since babies and small children have greater difficulty fleeing a burning home.

CAUSES OF RESIDENTIAL FIRES

CHART 10²

TOTAL NFIRS FOR STATE OF ALASKA
BASED ON 83 DEPARTMENTS



The data above shows causes of fire for selected types of residential structures. Heating caused almost half the fires in single family and duplex homes which accounted for 62% of the fires, and slightly less than that in mobile homes, which comprised only 13% of the fires, while cooking was the primary cause in apartment houses. Most fires in hotels and motels were determined to be incendiary and suspicious causes.

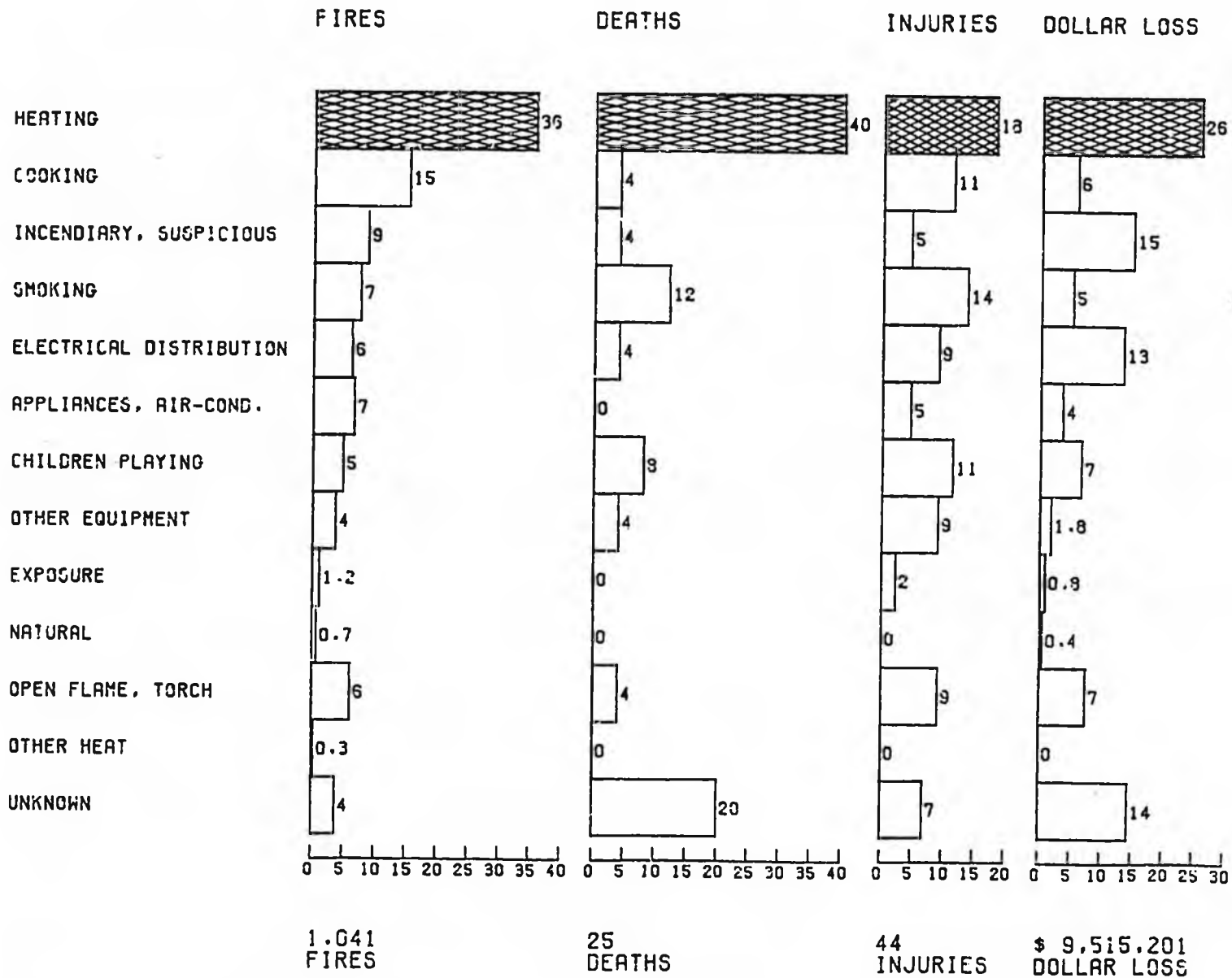
2

Source: ANFIRS 1981 data, prepared by the National Fire Data Center, USFA, FEMA.

CAUSES OF RESIDENTIAL FIRES

CHART 11³

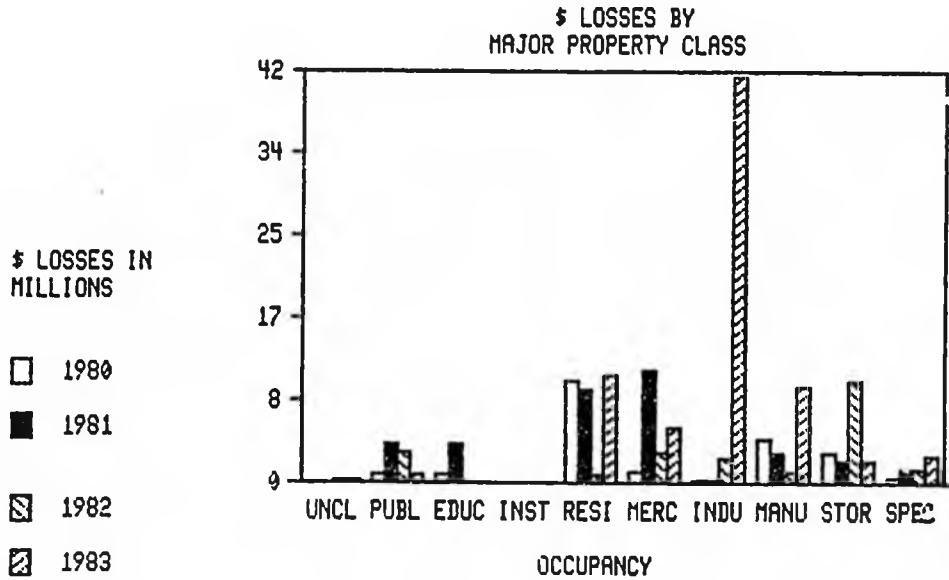
TOTAL NFIRS FOR STATE OF ALASKA
BASED ON 83 DEPARTMENTS



When considering all residential fires in 1981 for Alaska, the greatest cause of the fires, fire deaths and injuries, and dollar loss related to heating.

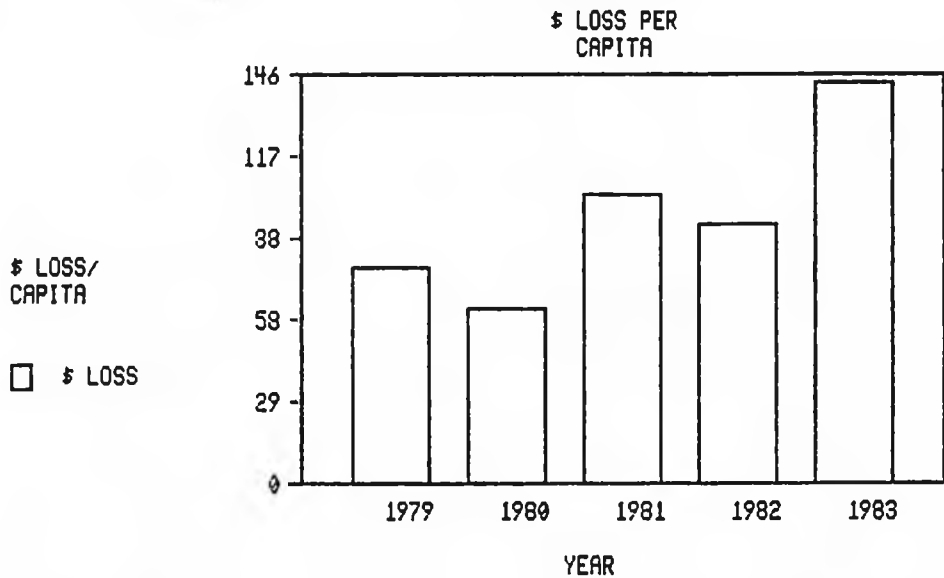
3
ibid.

CHART 12



Property losses resulting from fire are rather widely spread among the several types of property classes. The large industrial loss in 1983 was the gas compression plant in Prudhoe Bay which approached \$40 million. As dollar loss estimation is very subjective, the losses should be reviewed for the trends, rather than for actual values.

CHART 13



Property losses per capita seem to display a rather consistent cyclic pattern. The 1983 loss undoubtedly occurred as the result of the large gas compression plant fire in Prudhoe, and barring a similar major fire in 1984, the 1984 per capita loss due to fire should be less than 1983. Despite a "high-low" cycle emerging over the six-year period, the "lows" continue to get higher, as do the "highs," which tends to support the conclusion that per capita fire loss is increasing, in spite of increasing population.

"SCOREBOARD" FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA 1982

CHART 14

	DEATH RATE PER MILLION POPULATION ⁴
ALASKA ACTUAL COUNT	38.83
NFPA SURVEY NATIONAL ESTIMATE	26.68

There were 16 fire deaths reported in Alaska in 1982.

	Deaths Per 1000 Fires	Injuries Per 1000 Fires	Dollar Loss Per Fire	Res. Deaths Per 1000 Res. Fires
Alaska/NFIRS Figures	5.13	28.6	\$4,088	17.09
NFIRS National Figures	2.97	32.7	\$3,744	8.6

Alaska's fire death rate is one of the highest in the country. The death rate per 1000 fires, average dollar loss per fire, and rate of residential fire deaths per 1000 residential fires, are considerably higher than the average for the United States. Although high prices in Alaska may contribute to the high estimate of dollar loss per fire, the stark reality of fire deaths cannot be similarly rationalized.

⁴Data from an unpublished report by the U. S. Fire Administration, FEMA, concerning Alaska's participation in the federally sponsored, Community-based Fire Prevention Program in 1984.

FIRE LOSS IN THE UNITED STATES DURING 1983

The following is a very brief summary of fire loss estimates in the United States during 1983, primarily to discern loss trends, and to permit some very general comparisons with Alaska's losses.⁵

The estimated 1983 civilian fire death toll in the United States was a decrease of 1.7 per cent, from the 1982 figure. Fires in the home (one- and two-family dwellings and apartments) decreased by 3.1 per cent from the 1982 figure. These reductions continue the downward trend of recent years and represent a 22 per cent cumulative decrease since 1978 in home fire fatalities. Although changes in statistical methodology make it difficult to compare rates over time, it appears that the 1983 figures may represent a new low for home fire fatalities. However, fire deaths in the home still accounted for about 79 per cent of all fire deaths in 1983, and home fire safety education and prevention activities must continue.

Fire fatalities due to incendiary or suspicious fires failed to follow the overall trend and were up 5.6 per cent. In all other respects, however, America's arson problem improved. The number of structure fires of incendiary or suspicious origin dropped 5.4 per cent to a level not seen since the early or mid-1970s. Property loss from these fires dropped even more, by 11.4 per cent.

Property loss from all reported fires was up slightly, by 2.6 per cent. Property loss from structure fires also was up slightly, by 1.7 per cent. Both of these totals represented much larger increases in property loss per fire -- 11.9 and 10.7 per cent, respectively -- but the loss per fire adjusted for inflation remained fairly steady, as it has over the past five years.

The number of fires reported to fire departments dropped a significant 8.3 per cent continuing a recent trend that has produced a cumulative 22 per cent reduction since 1980. The number of reported fires in structures had a similar 8.2 per cent decline.

Other noteworthy findings of the 1983 NFPA survey are as follows:

5

All estimates are based on data reported to the NFPA by fire departments that responded to the 1983 National Fire Experience Survey, as excerpted from the article that appeared in the September 1984 issue of Fire Journal, p. 49 (Karter, Michael J. and Joan L. Gancarski).

- * Civilian injuries due to reported fires increased 2.5 %. Underreporting is known to be much higher for fire injuries -- even for some serious injuries -- than for fire fatalities.
- * The average loss per fire was \$2,534 in 1983. The average loss per structure fire was \$6,708.
- * The South leads the nation in civilian fire fatalities per million population and property loss due to fire per capita. The Northeast leads the country in fire incidents per thousand population and civilian fire injuries per million population. These patterns have remained constant for many years.
- * The largest communities (at least 250,000 population) and the smallest communities (less than 5,000 population) have the highest fire incidents and fire fatality rates.
- * Fire fatalities in all types of residential properties declined 2.4 %, but continued to account for the largest share (81.4 %) of all fire deaths.
- * The remaining fire fatalities occurred in nonresidential structures (4.6 %), vehicles (12.2 %), and outside areas (1.8 %).
- * Line-of-duty fire-fighter fatalities declined 9.4 per cent.

ANALYSIS

From the much larger data base available thru the ANFIRS, the foregoing charts were chosen because they seem to portray the most significant data elements needed to obtain a broad overview of the structural fire problem in Alaska. From these data, it appears possible to draw some broad conclusions, and perhaps even a "profile" of Alaska's fire problem.

The number of fire deaths during the last five years has stayed rather consistent -- about 27 to 28 per year. Viewed in terms of deaths per million population, Alaska's death rate is substantially higher than the average for the United States.

The greatest causes of residential fires are heating and cooking. Heating itself caused the greatest number of fires, the most deaths, the most injuries, and the highest dollar loss of any of the other fire causes.

Fire-related property losses are about evenly divided among residential, mercantile, manufacturing, and storage buildings. When viewed as the loss per capita, Alaska property losses fluctuate, but are unmistakably climbing higher.

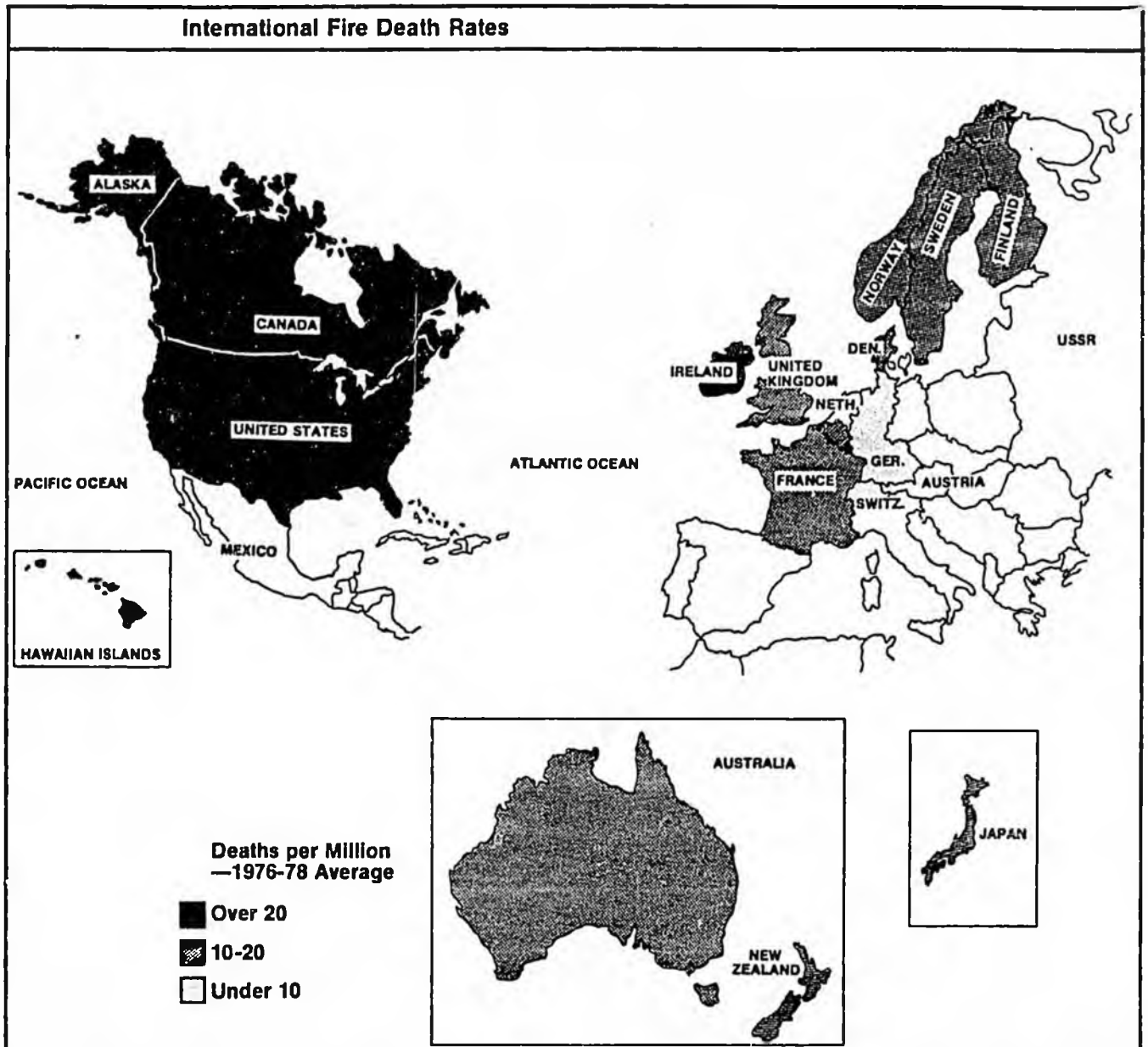
From this broad overview of the fire problem in Alaska lie the specific elements of information that can be presented as part of a fire prevention program designed to have the greatest potential for reduction of fire losses.

From the foregoing, Alaska's fire problem might be profiled as follows:

FIRE OCCURS MOST FREQUENTLY IN RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES; ALMOST ALL DEATHS AND MOST INJURIES OCCUR AS THE RESULT OF RESIDENTIAL FIRES; FIRE DEATHS IN RURAL AREAS EASILY EXCEED THOSE IN URBAN AREAS; THE FIRE DEATH RATE FOR NATIVES SUBSTANTIALLY EXCEEDS THE FIRE DEATH RATE OF NON-NATIVES, AND PERSONS AGED 19-25 AND MALES ARE THE GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK OF DEATH DUE TO FIRE.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

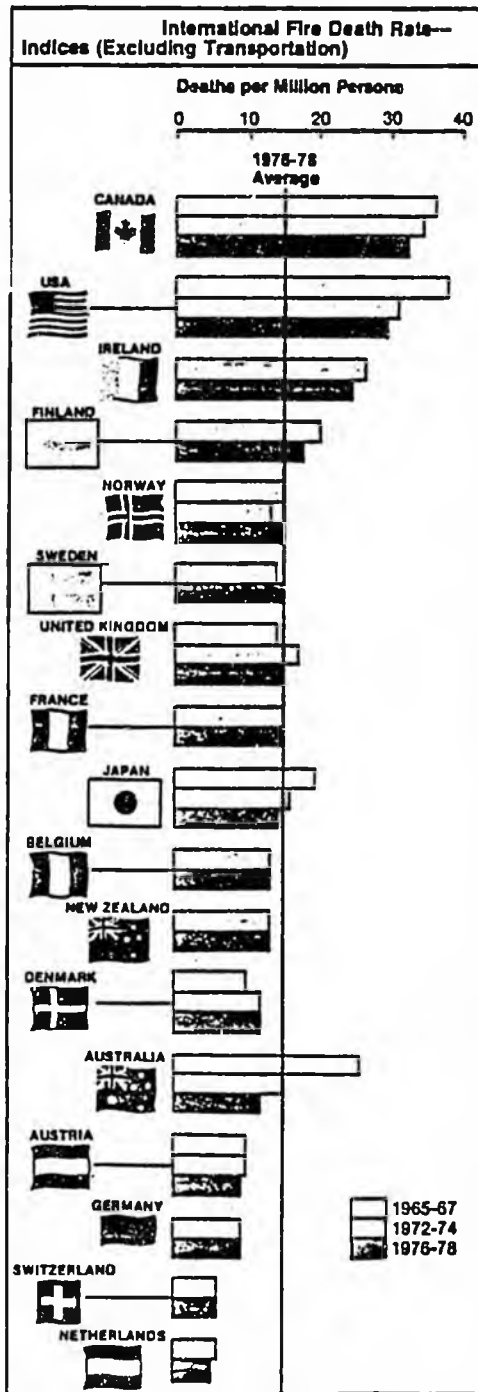
CHART 15 ⁶



This Chart portrays the fire death rates in broad terms for the United States, Canada, and Alaska, in relationship to most of the other Western countries. The North American continent has significantly greater fire death rates than the European and Scandinavian countries.

⁶ Federal Emergency Management Agency, "Fire in the United States," July, 1982, p. 23.

CHART 16⁷



This chart portrays the international fire death rates of the major western countries. Since the 1976-1978 data is the latest information available through the federal government (Federal Emergency Management Agency), direct comparisons with Alaska's 1980-1983 data cannot be made. However, from the international data, it is clear that the U.S. fire death rate from 1965 to 1978 has consistently been higher than in all other countries shown, except Canada. By extension, it is reasonable to assume the death rates in the U.S. and Canada, although falling, are still the highest in the western world.

Alaska's death rate for 1983 was computed at almost 62 per million population (See Chart 7), which is more than double the 1976-1978 U.S. death rate (about 30 per million) and the Canadian death rate (about 33 per million) as shown on the Chart to the left, which is the latest international data available.

All these statistics and trends confer upon Alaska the shocking distinction of having the highest (or worst) death rate due to fire in the entire western world.⁸

⁷ Ibid, p. 22.

⁸ This fact was confirmed by a telephone call by Gordon Brunton, Office of the State Fire Marshal in Juneau, to John Ottoson, Federal Emergency Management Agency, November 20, 1984.

CHART 17

B. Wildlands Fire Data⁹

1981 - 1984

YEAR	ACRES PROTECTED (million)	# OF FIRES	CAUSE		ACRES BURNED	URBAN AREA FIRES		% of Total
			Lightning	Manmade		Mat-Su/Anch	Kenai	
1981	57	287	14%	86%	295,000	58	65	42%
1982	57	261	4%	96%	1,295	28	31	22%
1983	60	397	8%	92%	32,276	90	105	49%
1984	67	453	6%	94%	7,894	159	108	58%

Analysis:

Wildlands fires are substantially affected by weather. Dry fire seasons produce numerous fires, whereas cold, wet fire seasons reduce the incidence of fires. The total acreage protected by the state has, and will continue to increase, largely as the result of land transfers to private ownership pursuant to the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The cause of most wildlands fires is consistently the result of man and his endeavors, and thus many fires occur in the urbanized southcentral part of the state. The urban areas are also the location of most of the local fire departments which represent significant potential for the control of wildlands fires in Alaska.

⁹Data from Division of Forestry, Department of Natural Resources, Anchorage.

II.

AGENCIES WITH FIRE-RELATED
PROGRAMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. STATE AGENCIES WITH FIRE PROTECTION
RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROGRAMS

1. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Within the department, the Division of Municipal and Regional Assistance administers several programs related directly or indirectly to development and/or improvement of local fire protection services, as follow: ¹⁰

a. State Revenue Sharing

Municipalities, unincorporated communities in the unorganized borough, and volunteer fire departments outside cities and boroughs are eligible to apply annually for financial aid under the State Revenue Sharing Program. Entitlements for municipalities are computed according to a formula that considers the applicant's population, taxable wealth, and tax effort. Additionally, payments are made for certain municipal services (roads, health facilities, hospitals). The equalization formula is intended to benefit those municipalities with the greatest need for revenue sharing funds, i.e., those with a relatively low tax base. All municipalities are entitled to a minimum of \$25,000 plus adjustment for regional cost of living allowances. Entitlements of unincorporated communities are \$25,000 each. Volunteer fire departments in the unorganized borough are entitled to \$10 for each person served.

b. Legislative Grant Program

Many of the grants awarded by the Legislature to unincorporated communities and nonprofit corporations are administered by the Division. Typical grant projects include the purchase of equipment, (which could include fire suppression apparatus), construction of community facilities (which could include a local fire hall), and community and regional planning projects.

c. Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Grants

Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to communities to construct facilities for storage of bulk fuel. The principal objective of this program is to provide bulk fuel storage capabilities in communities, thereby ensuring adequate fuel supplies and also lowering the cost of home heating fuel. A supply of adequate fuel oil for warm storage of fire suppression apparatus is a major concern in rural areas. Communities must assume responsibility for operation and maintenance of the facility once construction is completed.

¹⁰ State of Alaska, "Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, 1984, p. 13, 20, and 21.

d. Rural Development Assistance Grants

Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to rural communities for projects that will increase employment or promote economic development. The grants have been used to plan and construct such facilities as health clinics, city offices, harbormaster facilities, a fire hall, fire suppression equipment, libraries, day care centers, and electrical generation and distribution systems. Communities must show the ability and the commitment to provide for operation and maintenance of the facility or equipment once completed.

e. Community Development Block Grants

The Division of Community Development operates this federally funded program to meet the special capital project and planning needs of cities. Capital projects grants of up to \$105,000 are available for projects of a fixed nature or long life that provide new or additional public facilities or services (which could include fire suppression equipment.) Also available are planning/feasibility projects grants designed to assess the viability and impact of potential capital, economic development, and comprehensive planning needs.

2. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Department of Public Safety, one of two State agencies with the greatest involvement for fire safety, has legislatively--mandated responsibilities and is the State's focal point in certain matters relating to structural fire prevention and fire suppression.

a. The Division of Fire Prevention

The Division of Fire Prevention, more popularly known as the State Fire Marshal's Office, provides fire prevention services including building plan review, code compliance inspections, and fire prevention education programs for the public and the fire service as well as conducts fire investigations in communities across the state. It also has the responsibility for maintaining the State's fire reporting system, ANFIRS. The division has offices in Juneau (one Deputy Fire Marshal and an Assistant Fire Marshal), plus the Director's Office in Anchorage (three Deputy Fire Marshals and an Assistant Fire Marshal), and Fairbanks (three Deputy Fire Marshals and an Assistant Fire Marshal). These offices serve the entire state.

Some communities have adopted their own fire codes, which must be at least as strict as the State's. A community administrator can request exemption from the State's review, but the Municipality of Anchorage, the City and Borough of Juneau, and the City of Fairbanks are the only communities to have received waivers. In most cases, when a municipality has adopted a fire code, both the municipality and the State inspect the structures. While fire protection is generally viewed as being a function of local government, many communities seem content to let the State retain fire prevention authority. This is perceived to absolve the municipality of responsibility in cases where a code violation

contributes to a fire and also removes the local governing body from the repercussions of taking an unpopular code enforcement position.

The State Fire Marshal's office provides public fire prevention education throughout the state using their Public Education Specialist and the Deputy Fire Marshals. They also provide fire prevention education programs for the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program and community fire departments.

b. Division of Alaska State Troopers

Since State Troopers are stationed virtually throughout the state, they are often the first agency to respond to any emergency situation, which includes fires. This is particularly true in certain rural areas that have no fire or local police protection. State troopers are certified EMT's. Troopers also work with the State Fire Marshals in the investigation of suspicious fires. Certain rural Troopers perform the oversight function for the Village Public Safety Officers in their area.

The Village Public Safety Officers program, which is incorporated into the Division of the Alaska State Troopers, trains officers from rural villages to assist their communities in emergency situations. They receive formal training and refresher courses in emergency medical services, fire prevention and suppression, law enforcement, search and rescue, and water safety. Where there is an operating local fire department, the Village Public Safety Officer functions in a support role. Part of the VPSO program includes provision for the participating villages to obtain fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, portable pumps, and other basic fire detection and suppression equipment.

3. DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

There are two agencies within the Department of Military Affairs with some level of fire-protection-related responsibilities. These are:

a. Division of Emergency Services

The division assists communities impacted by fire of disastrous proportions, such as the Cordova conflagration in 1962. The agency coordinates emergency planning at the State level and with local communities. In times of disaster, they are the State focus for coordination of response efforts and financial assistance including the State's Disaster Relief Fund. The division also acts as the Governor's designee in situations of fire impact caused by wildfire in grass or forest land as defined by Public Law 93-288, Section 417. In major fire situations, the Director, the Deputy Director, and the Director of Forestry, of the Department of Natural Resources, are the only individuals who can request federal assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

b. Alaska Air National Guard

The Kulis Air National Guard Base, in addition to suppression capabilities to protect their own aircraft, has a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Anchorage International Airport to support their crash-fire rescue work.

By contrast, the Army National Guard has no suppression capabilities at their four battalion headquarters in Nome, Bethel, Kotzebue, and Juneau, or at Bryant Army Airfield at Ft. Richardson. Their facilities and Twin Otter and one or two helicopters at each of these locations are protected by local fire departments and the Army at Ft. Richardson.

4. DEPARTMENT OF LAW

The Department of Law is only peripherally involved with fire protection in that the Criminal Division prosecutes all cases of arson and code violations that go to trial. The Civil Section assists the State Fire Marshal's Office in review of new code provisions, their ultimate promulgation, and other matters requiring legal advice.

5. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

In 1969, the State Department of Education initiated the Fire Service Training Program which is essentially the only statewide fire training program in State government, although it has no specific enabling legislation. Rather, the program operates under the general mandate of improving fire protection to the citizens of Alaska by providing fire suppression training to local fire departments and communities. Some direct training programs are sponsored by the program itself, while financial support is extended by means of a grant program to assist local fire departments in developing their own training programs and regional seminars.

The program provides direct instruction by various means:

- o Fire Protection Management courses are directed to senior fire officers in both municipal and rural areas. Course curriculum was developed cooperatively by the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association, the Municipal League, and the Fire Service Training Program to meet the specific needs of local fire departments, both operationally and administratively.
- o The Firefighter I course is sponsored both directly and indirectly at the various regional fire training centers. A 160-hour certificated course is offered at the Anchorage Regional Fire Training Center, while financial assistance is rendered to the Bethel and Kotzebue Regional Fire Training Centers to provide 92-hour Rural Firefighter I courses.
- o The Itinerant Instructor Program, which was begun in 1971, places fire department instructors under short-term contracts to travel to primarily rural communities in order to provide fire protection training. These instructors are certificated by the Department of Education to teach specific fire protection topics. Instructors may visit 25-30 communities each year, and conduct training that ranges from a few hours to several days. This program remains a stable one hampered only by the availability of instructors whose full-time occupation may be other than fire service, and by a limited budget.
- o Technical Assistance Teams are comprised mainly of senior fire officers who visit the local community at the request of local officials. These

teams evaluate existing fire protection systems and make recommendations for improvement or more efficient operation. Technical assistance teams are formed only at the request of a local fire department or community and are subject to the same kinds of limitations as the Itinerant Instructor program.

Services supported by the Fire Service Training Program include several kinds of certification at both the firefighter and instructor levels.

- o Firefighter I - Basic level certification is awarded following extensive training and testing on manipulative skills. Certification meets or exceeds National Fire Protection Association Standard 1001 for entry level firefighters. There are two means of training available for individuals to the Firefighter 1 level: through local fire department accredited training programs, and through training sponsored by the Fire Service Training Program at the Anchorage Regional Fire Training Center. Both kinds of training programs are accredited through the Department of Education.
- o Instructor I - qualifies an instructor to teach the manipulative skills mentioned above. Three criteria for certification include a three-year time-in-service requirement, testing on 20 basic skill areas, and the completion of an approved 40-hour Methods of Instruction course. Applicants are tested biannually and have three years in which to meet the testing and methods course criteria. Instructor I qualification is a prerequisite for the Instructor II and Master certification.
- o Instructor II - qualifies an instructor to teach 10 additional firefighting topics which correspond to Firefighter II and III requirements. The applicant for this certification must be tested on the 10 topics and take an additional advanced level Methods of Instruction course. The three-year limitation to meet the criteria also applies.
- o Master Instructor - qualifies an instructor to teach any fire suppression topic through the fire science courses at the community colleges. Master Instructors usually are qualified at the Instructor I and II levels, although some are recognized for their expertise and experience.
- o Special Instructor - recognizes the expertise of those who either have no fire service experience, or do not otherwise qualify for other levels of certification. Special Instructors include those who teach regularly in industry, Native instructors who teach in their own language, and out-of-state instructors. Of variable duration, this certificate is issued at the discretion of the Supervisor of the Fire Service Training Program.

The grant program was begun in 1976, and has proved to be an extremely practical and popular way of providing local fire departments with financial assistance in their training needs. There are two kinds of grants, both of which are administered on a reimbursable basis. Grants are not issued to State or federal agencies.

- o Local grant - This is a small (under \$1,500) grant which may be used by the local fire department to purchase audio-visual aids or equipment, supplies to be used in training, or to cover travel costs when sending fire department personnel outside the local community for training. The only limitation placed on this grant is that it may be spent only for training, not for equipment to be used for firefighting purposes.
- o Regional grant - Presently this grant is limited to \$3,500, and is intended to assist local fire departments or fire-related organizations and agencies in conducting regional schools, seminars, and workshops. The only limitation placed on this grant is that the training provided be regional or statewide in nature, serving personnel in areas other than just the sponsoring department. Training provided under this type of grant includes specialized areas such as marine firefighting, plastics seminars, and flammable liquids training.

Other services provided by the Fire Service Training Program include sponsorship of the Methods of Instruction courses required for instructor certification and the firefighter training component of the Village Public Safety Officer program in the Department of Public Safety. The latter program provides two ninety-hour courses for VPSOs as well as a three-day orientation course for oversight troopers. Additional services include State sponsorship of National Fire Academy field training programs.

A number of manuals are published by the Fire Service Training Program, including the following:

- o Model Training Guide, Firefighter I Level - for use in both regional fire training centers and local fire departments for basic level training.
- o Model Training Guide, Rural Firefighter I Level - for similar use as above, but excluding the requirements which have little or no application in the rural community, such as aerial ladders, sprinkler systems, and most hydrant systems.
- o Fire Protection for Rural Communities - originally published in 1975 and recently updated, this manual discusses the various types of firefighting equipment recommended for village use. It provides a list of reliable dealers, describes the various State and federal agencies which might be of assistance to a rural community in developing fire protection, and gives a number of procedures for structural firefighting which might be of value to a small fire department with limited equipment and training. This manual has been distributed widely throughout the state.
- o Fire Service Training and Education System - used in conjunction with Model Training Guides to assist local fire department and regional fire training centers in developing their own training programs.
- o Fire Instructor Certification Standards - developed to specify the criteria necessary for certification at the various levels.

6. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) has the firefighting responsibilities for the 26 State-owned, FAA-certified airports. Only a few airports in Alaska are owned by local governments. FAA-certified airports, under Part 139 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, are those airports serving aircraft with 30 or more passenger seats.

State fire protection began in 1972, and has evolved into a system of volunteers from tenant agencies at the airports along with State employees of DOT&PF. The FAA requires that there be trained firefighters and that they be postured to be able to meet the response-time criteria as set forth by the FAA.

The combination volunteer/paid firefighter approach has worked out reasonably well. Volunteers supplement the paid personnel, and the volunteers can respond to aircraft fires when State employees are not immediately available. The one potential disadvantage is expecting too much of the volunteers. It is estimated that there are some 250-300 State employees, and from 300-500 volunteers statewide.

DOT&PF firefighting personnel are divided into three regions for administrative purposes - Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. There is no statewide coordinated training program for DOT&PF personnel and their volunteer firefighters, although there has been a statewide Training Coordinator in the past; rather, each region pursues fire training on their own. Each region has its own Airport Safety and Security Officer to monitor compliance to FAA requirements concerning crash-fire rescue.

Each of the 26 FAA-certified airports has a Mutual Aid Agreement with the local community fire department, although they do not conduct extensive training together for a variety of reasons, including overtime for State employees.

Apparatus at the state airports varies to conform to FAA regulations that primarily relate to the amount of water available for foam production.

7. THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Within the Division of Labor Standards and Safety is the Safety Compliance Section. This section enforces occupational safety and health standards that prescribe requirements for safe and healthful working conditions for all employment, including State and local government employment, and the requirements are to be at least as effective as those requirements promulgated by the U. S. Secretary of Labor under Public Law 91-596.

The Alaska Department of Labor has promulgated and adopted fire protection standards for general industry, Article 13, Subchapter 01 - Alaska General Safety Code. The Safety Compliance Section is charged with the enforcement aspects of those standards in addition to other safety and health standards adopted by the Alaska Department of Labor. Article 13 contains requirements for fire brigades, all portable and fixed fire suppression equipment, fire detection systems, and fire or employee alarm systems installed to meet the fire protection requirements of general industry.

Additionally the section enforces other vertical industry standards such as petroleum, construction, explosives, sawmills, and pulp and paper mills. Those standards also contain fire protection/prevention requirements which are subject to Department of Labor sanctions for non-compliance.

8. UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

Fire Science Program

In 1976 a uniform fire science curriculum for Alaska was adopted by fire service representatives and approved by the University of Alaska. The program culminates in the award of an Associate Degree with majors in Structural Fire Technology and Wildland Fire Technology.

Nearly 100 degrees have been awarded since the program's inception. At present, however, only Anchorage Community College and Tanana Valley Community College in Fairbanks have active programs.

For the past several years, there has been a shortage of qualified fire science instructors in the smaller communities and no professional requirements or local incentives for degrees in local fire departments.

Recently, however, there has been renewed interest in implementing dormant fire science programs in community colleges and rural learning centers. With the addition of professional development and suitable local incentives, this program can realize its potential and ultimately be advanced to a four-year baccalaureate program.

9. THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ¹¹

During the past few years, the Division of Public Health in the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, has expanded its involvement in emergency medical services system development, and has taken on responsibility of certifying Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), EMT Instructors, and Emergency Medical Services (i.e., ambulance services) in Alaska.

Enabling Legislation and Regulations

In 1977, the Alaska Legislature passed AS 18.08.010 which designated the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) as having responsibility for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) systems development, established an eleven-member Advisory Council on EMS appointed by the Governor, and gave the department authority to award EMS systems development grants. The following year, in 1978, the Legislature passed AS 18.08.080, which gave DHSS the authority to adopt regulations for certification of basic and advanced level EMTs, EMT Instructors, and prehospital Emergency Medical Services (i.e., ambulance services).

¹¹ Johnson, Mark S., et.al. "Alaska's Emergency Medical Services Program." Alaska Medicine. Oct/Nov/Dec. 1983, p. 112.

Since passage of these two pieces of legislation, DHSS has developed grant application regulations for EMS systems development and has developed a computerized certification system for EMTs, EMT Instructors, and ambulance services. All facets of the DHSS EMS program have been developed with assistance and consultation from the Advisory Council on EMS.

Grant Applications and Funding

Each year, Regional EMS Councils or Native regional health entities submit grant applications to the State EMS Office for funding for the following fiscal year. These grant applications must address the major acute health status problems in the region and should outline specific objectives toward improving the region's EMS system. In fiscal year 1983, the EMS Section gave out grants to regions totaling \$1,376,000 for operating expenses (including \$2500 mini-grants to 59 volunteer ambulance services), plus \$923,000 for EMS equipment. Additionally, the Alaska Areas Native Health Service (AANHS) made available \$1.3 million to Native Regional Health Corporations for EMS programs. Although the criteria for use of the AANHS funds have been more loosely defined than for use of state EMS grant funds, DHSS & AANHS try to coordinate funding sources as closely as possible.

When developing grant applications, the Regional EMS Grantees assess EMS problems and needs and solicit requests for funding, training, or technical assistance from local communities, ambulance and rescue services, clinics, and hospitals.

Priority attention is given to the needs of the numerous volunteer services serving the smaller communities and rural areas. Each request for funding must be approved by at least one physician sponsor, then must be reviewed and approved by the Regional EMS Council and staff, and finally must undergo review and approval from the State EMS Office and the State Advisory Council on EMS. Whenever possible, local matching funds or in-kind services are encouraged to ensure that local entities do not become too dependent on State funding.

Planning and Development

To assist local communities and regions in planning for EMS system improvements, the EMS Section of the Department of Health and Social Services has developed "Alaska EMS Goals: A Guide for Planning Alaska's Emergency Medical Services System." This planning guide uses the "levels of care" concept adapted from Alaska's State Health Plan which identifies four levels of communities in Alaska, including: Level I - Villages; Level II - Subregional Centers; Level III - Regional Centers; and Level IV - Urban Centers (Anchorage and Fairbanks). Although Alaska does not currently have a Level V - Metropolis, the planning guide recognizes Seattle, Washington, as the nearest Level V community. For each level of community, the EMS Goals document outlines specific goals and objectives appropriate for that size of community, including administration, evaluation, manpower and training, communications, patient transportation, equipment and facilities, critical care, public information and education, disaster planning, and mutual aid. Appropriately, these recommendations are much more basic for Level I Villages than for Level IV Urban Centers. In addition, the EMS Goals document includes recommendations for emergency medical services on highways, in schools, in

high-risk occupation sites, and in communities with 25 people or less. This planning guide provides a tool for communities to evaluate their local EMS services and thereby pinpoint areas needing attention; it also helps State and Regional EMS programs to best utilize staff time and funding resources.

State and Regional EMS Programs

Each regional EMS program employs a full-time staff of administrators, clerical support, and EMS instructors. Currently, there are five EMS regions funded by the State, including North Slope, MANA (Kotzebue), the interior, southern and southeast regions. For fiscal year 1984, the Norton Sound Region has applied for a grant as a separate region. The three largest regional EMS Councils based in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Sitka also employ clinical coordinators to assist in developing and sponsoring continuing education programs for nurses, mid-level practitioners, and physicians. The activities supported by regional EMS Councils include CPR and First Aid training, Emergency Trauma Training (ETT), basic and advanced Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training, EMT Instructor workshops, Ambulance Service Development workshops, Medivac workshops, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, sponsored by the American Heart Association, Advanced Trauma Life Support, sponsored by the American College of Surgeons, and a variety of other seminars on specialized medical topics.

Additionally, each year in November, the State EMS Office and the Regional EMS Councils co-sponsor an EMS symposium in Anchorage. In 1982, this symposium was attended by over 500 EMS responders from throughout the state.

History of Prehospital EMS Training and Certification in Alaska

Organized training of prehospital emergency care providers in Alaska has been in progress for more than a decade. Pioneering efforts in this training were initiated by the Alaska Department of Public Safety in 1970, with the first Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training course at the Public Safety Academy in Sitka.

In 1973, the Emergency Trauma Technician, or ETT course, was developed by the Department of Public Safety to provide an appropriate level of training for individuals working or living in environments where risk of accidents is great, such as logging camps or fishing boats. This course, once predominant only in southeastern Alaska, has undergone significant refinement during the past few years and is currently a valuable course for teaching basic emergency care to first responders throughout the state. The outline of each certified class now is reviewed by the Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc., in Sitka to ensure compliance with approved instructional goals. In an attempt to ensure maximum coverage of prehospital EMS responders throughout the state, different strategies were developed by the Department of Public Safety and Regional EMS Councils.

One method used by the Department of Public Safety from 1970 until 1981 was to bring ambulance service personnel to the Public Safety Academy in Sitka for training, with funds provided to individuals to fly from their home communities for either EMT-Basic or EMT-Instructor training. As time passed, increasingly more certified EMT instructors, trained in this manner, were based in communities throughout Alaska.

During this period, the Department of Public Safety trained and certified approximately 2500 basic EMTs and 120 EMT Instructors.

In the mid-1970s, the newly formed Regional EMS Councils began hiring full-time, itinerant instructors, who could provide on-site training in remote communities which did not have locally based instructors. There were several advantages to this method of training. These full-time instructors became more experienced in putting on classes, and EMS responders could be trained in the use of their own equipment, learning to function as teams with other members of their ambulance or rescue service. EMTs also were taught the necessity of preplanning emergency care, the need for mutual aid agreements, and identification of local medical resources.

Although increasingly more communities have their own EMT Instructors residing locally, itinerant Instructors continue to teach a major portion of EMT courses in Alaska.

Development of EMT Certification

On December 31, 1981, the Department of Health and Social Services EMT and EMT Instructor certification regulations went into effect. These regulations, administered by the State EMS Section, were developed by a Manpower and Training Task Force, appointed by the State Advisory Council on EMS. These regulations provide for three levels of certified EMTs, including EMT-I (basic), EMT-II (intermediate), and EMT-III (intermediate plus some advanced cardiac skills).

Under the Alaska Medical Practice Act, Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics (MICPs), the most advanced level of prehospital EMS responders, are licensed by the State Medical Board. Therefore, the Emergency Medical Services Section of the Department of Health and Social Services has developed a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Medical Board. Under this agreement, the State Medical Board reviews and approves EMT and EMT Instructor certification regulations developed by DHSS, and the EMS Office assists in determining eligibility of applicants for licensure as MICPs.

The EMT regulations were developed in order to standardize training, certification, and recertification for Emergency Medical Technicians throughout the state. Until 1981 there were two recognized certifications at the Emergency Medical Technician I level. The first was a certification from the Department of Public Safety, the second, a current certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. The latter was the method of certification used by some of the Regional EMS Councils. During the six months immediately following the implementation of the new DHSS regulations, persons with either type of certification could apply to the Department of Health and Social Services for State certification under a grandfathering clause. All individuals requesting EMT II or EMT III certification had to demonstrate a need for this level of certification as well as provide a letter from their sponsoring physician endorsing the EMTs skills, and accepting sponsorship. EMT III applicants also had to pass a State certification examination before becoming certified.

EMT Regulations

The Emergency Medical Technician I (or EMT Basic) course dates back to the late 1960s, when the Department of Transportation established and standardized the training for ambulance personnel in the United States. It is at least 81 hours in length and teaches the basics of prehospital emergency care, including CPR, hemorrhage control, splinting, bandaging, basic pathophysiology, and treatment of shock (including Military Anti-Shock Trousers - MAST pants in recent years) and medical emergencies, as well as specialized extrication and patient removal techniques for victims who are trapped in automobiles or light aircraft. The course outline, student study guide, and instructor's lesson plans are currently undergoing revision by the U.S. Department of Transportation, and it is anticipated that the Basic EMT-I course will soon be lengthened to 100 hours.

As emergency medical services became more sophisticated, trauma and cardiac arrest were identified as the areas in which advanced training, the EMT-II and EMT-III levels, should concentrate. The EMT-II and EMT-III programs rely on the concept that much of emergency care is based on the use of treatment protocols implemented in the prehospital environment by physicians' standing orders. The 50-hour EMT-II course teaches the use of esophageal intubation devices, application of rotating tourniquets, performing peripheral venipunctures, and the use of 5% dextrose in water, crystalloid volume replacement solutions, sodium bicarbonate, 50% glucose, and naloxone hydrochloride (NARCAN).

In some areas, more emphasis is being placed now on advanced management of the emergent cardiac patient. EMTs-III are allowed, under physician authorization, to use EMT-II skills, plus apply electrodes and monitor cardiac activity; countershock life threatening arrhythmias (v-tach, v-fib, and asystole); use lidocaine; use morphine in severe pain secondary to extremity trauma; and use epinephrine 1:1000 for anaphylaxis.

The EMT-II and EMT-III courses rely heavily on the support of physician medical sponsors who participate in the writing of treatment protocols, in the instruction of the material, and in the subsequent direct and indirect supervision of the Emergency Medical Technician's performance in the field. Under the State EMT Certification regulations, all EMTs-II and EMTs-III must have a physician sponsor who either directly (by voice contact) or indirectly (by standing orders) authorizes advanced life support medical procedures.

EMS physician sponsors also should provide ongoing supervision of the medical care provided by EMTs and ambulance services, approve and periodically review standing orders consistent with treatment protocols and the level of EMT training, ensure that an approved EMS report form is completed for each patient, review these report forms to make sure appropriate treatment was provided, and, wherever possible, make quarterly on-site supervisory visits of all prehospital emergency medical services.

EMTs at all levels must take and pass an approved training course and must be recertified every two years. Recertification requires 48 hours of continuing medical education, current CPR certification, and passing written and practical examinations for recertification.

These EMT regulations further state that "nothing is intended to prohibit a physician from authorizing a drug or procedure in an emergency situation which is not specifically covered by the certification of EMTs-I, II, or III."

Paramedic Regulations

Under regulations developed by the State Medical Board (12 AAC 40.300 - 12 AAC 40.390), Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics may perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and defibrillation; initiate and maintain intravenous routes using intravenous techniques and solutions approved by the medical sponsor; perform pulmonary ventilation by approved methods; perform gastric suction by intubation; obtain blood for laboratory analysis; apply rotating tourniquets; administer parenterally, orally, or topically any approved agents or solutions; and perform other emergency procedures authorized by a physician. The average number of hours of training for Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics is approximately 800 and is followed by a six-month internship.

Emergency Medical Services Certification

In early 1983, Emergency Medical Service (i.e., ambulance service) certification regulations were approved. These regulations provide for certification of Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) prehospital Emergency Medical Services.

BLS service certification is voluntary, and services which choose to be certified must meet the following criteria:

- * List available EMTs-I and ensure that at least one EMT-I, plus one other person to act as driver when using a surface transportation vehicle, will be able to respond to emergency calls 24 hours/day;
- * Have a sponsoring physician;
- * Have direct communications capability with a physician, hospital, or mid-level practitioner, unless the Department (Health and Social Services) grants a waiver due to technical communications problems;
- * Have appropriate equipment to perform basic life support medical procedures; and
- * Have a program of continuing education which will enable certified EMS personnel to meet recertification requirements.

All ALS service must be certified by meeting the above requirements, plus:

- * List available EMTs-II, EMTs-III, mobile intensive care paramedics, or other personnel such as R.N.s or M.D.s who may respond to medical emergencies on a regular basis;
- * Ensure that an EMT-II, EMT-III, Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic, or other advanced life support-medical personnel, plus at least one other person trained to at least the Basic EMT-I level to act as driver when using a surface transportation vehicle, will be available to respond to emergency calls 24 hours/day; and

- * Have appropriate equipment to perform basic and advanced life- support medical procedures within the skill levels of available certified personnel.

Additionally, all certified emergency medical services must use an approved EMS report form which documents vital signs and medical treatment of each patient, send a copy with the patient to the appropriate treatment facility, and keep at least one other copy as a permanent record.

These regulations specifically do not prohibit noncertified persons from responding to a medical emergency when no certified personnel or services are available, or when there are too many victims for available certified personnel to handle, such as in a mass casualty situation.

Certified personnel of an EMS service also are authorized to accompany patients on medivacs, when this is the most suitable means of transporting the patient.

Medical Control

As prehospital emergency medical services become more sophisticated, the concept of "medical control" becomes increasingly more important. According to a position paper adopted by the American College of Emergency Physicians in April 1982:

All aspects of the organization and provision of emergency medical service require the active involvement and participation of physicians. These aspects should incorporate design of the EMS system prior to its implementation, continued revision of the system, and operation of the system from initial access to prehospital contact with the patient, through stabilization in the emergency department. All prehospital medical care may be considered to have been provided by one or more agents of the physician who controls the prehospital system, for this physician has assumed responsibilities for such care.

Physician control of prehospital emergency care may be accomplished through direct voice communications with prehospital emergency medical personnel (direct control) or through provision of care in accordance with patient care protocols developed and promulgated by physicians (indirect control). All training of emergency prehospital personnel, including course design, supervision of training, retraining, continuing education, ongoing performance evaluation through audit, review and critique sessions, and other appropriate components, must be made under the direction of a physician.

To optimize medical control of all prehospital emergency medical services, these services should be managed by physicians who meet the following requirements:

- 1) Familiarity with the design and operation of prehospital EMS systems;
- 2) Experience in prehospital emergency care of the acutely ill or injured patient;

- 3) Routine participation in base-station radio control of prehospital emergency units;
- 4) Experience in emergency department management of the acutely ill or injured patient;
- 5) Routine active participation in emergency department management of the acutely ill or injured patient;
- 6) Active involvement in the training of basic and advanced life-support prehospital personnel;
- 7) Active involvement in the medical audit, review, and critique of basic life-support and advanced life-support prehospital personnel; and
- 8) Participation in the administrative and legislative process affecting the regional and/or State prehospital EMS system.

Clearly, in Alaska, medical control is complicated by the fact that many remote communities do not have physicians residing locally. This underscores the need to have expanded, reliable communications between remote communities or highways, and physician staffed clinics and hospitals.

Alaska is fortunate to have many dedicated physicians who are willing to provide medical control and direction to prehospital EMS personnel who may, in many instances, live hundreds of miles away. By providing medical direction to dedicated EMS responders, most of whom are volunteers, these physicians are making a very valuable contribution toward developing a high quality EMS system.

Future of EMS in Alaska

In little more than a decade, prehospital emergency medical services have been vastly improved in most communities in Alaska. With continued commitment and support from the State, local towns and villages, and the medical community, every community in Alaska should be able to be up to the appropriate EMS standards recommended for its size and location.

10. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Division of Forestry in the Department of Natural Resources (DNF) is by statute (AS 41.15.010) the agency responsible for wildlands fire protection, commensurate with the resource values at risk, for the natural resources and watersheds on land that is owned privately, by the State, or by a municipality. Initially, the State contracted for wildlands fire protection with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), but in 1973 the division began building a fire management organization that by 1985 will be protecting about 137 million acres of State, private, municipal, borough, and federal lands.

As more federal lands are being transferred to state ownership, the Division has either assumed the job of fire protection or has entered into agreements with the BLM and the Forest Service whereby each protects inholdings of the other. By 1985, the division will be providing fire protection on all lands

within the southern half of the state except for national forest and urbanized lands. This protection includes certain lands served by rural fire service areas, although some fire service areas do not provide wildlands fire protection.

The division has nine area offices throughout the state. Some 150 or so personnel are considered full-time fire suppression personnel during the fire season, which is May 1 - September 30. An additional 100 or so temporary personnel are hired as needed each year. Presently, the division has five T-28 aircraft for reconnaissance, with one aircraft providing infrared photography capabilities. Additionally, the division has two Beaver aircraft and a twin engine aircraft. Helicopters are usually contracted for each season.

The fire problem occurs primarily along the highway net, and the overwhelming number of fires are man-caused. Natural fires occur by lightning, primarily in the interior parts of the state, and although far fewer in number, they tend to consume larger areas due to the time required for suppression activities to occur, and the logistical problems attendant to the suppression efforts, including accessibility.

B. LOCAL AGENCIES WITH FIRE PROTECTION

RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROGRAMS

1. LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

There are 249 fire departments in Alaska registered with the State Fire Marshal. Not all of these are a function of local government, since some exist in unincorporated villages outside any organized borough or city. Although there are more than 200 fire departments for purposes of eligibility to receive shared revenue, perhaps only half or less can be thought of as viable organizations, in terms of having training sessions, fire suppression equipment, reporting fires, etc. Many of the balance exist more on paper than in fact. Some 30 volunteer fire departments received State Revenue Sharing in FY84, totalling slightly more than \$90,000.¹²

There are many variations within local fire departments in their composition and relationship to local government. Some are comprised of fully paid staffs that operate as a department of their local municipality. Others are municipal departments that have part paid staff and part volunteers. In a few instances, the fire department is a branch of the municipal public safety departments. There is at least one subscription fire department. People who pay the fee receive fire protection, while those who do not, do not receive fire protection. In smaller communities, where local governments may or may not exist, local fire departments tend to be associations of citizens volunteering their efforts to provide protection against a common problem.

In the larger communities, the firefighters are members of unions -- the International Association of Firefighters, and to a lesser extent the Inland Boatmen's Union.

The recently formed Alaska Association of Fire and Arson Investigators has a statewide membership of fire and police personnel and others.

Local fire departments are often the first responder in emergency situations -- earthquake, national disaster, hazardous material spills, etc. In many communities in Alaska, the fire department also provides the emergency medical and ambulance services.

Just as the population of the communities varies, so do the firefighting capabilities and personnel training, ranging from the highly sophisticated Anchorage Fire Department with highly organized training and their own regional training center, to the small predominantly Native village that must depend upon an organized response with portable fire extinguishers.

Various attempts have been made in the past to address the problem of fire protection for rural communities, which actually means protection for homes.

¹² Jon Cecil, Department of Community & Regional Affairs.

Fire loss data show homes to be the location of most fires, and these fires result in the greatest number of injuries and death.

As early as 1972 and 1973, the Fire Chiefs Association developed a village fire extinguisher program which ultimately purchased more than 2000 extinguishers at a cost of some \$37,000.¹³ The effectiveness of the effort was almost doomed to be temporary, because of the lack of any follow-up activities. The concept of portable fire extinguishers being used for residential fires was conclusively demonstrated by a series of tests at the University of Alaska in 1971, which showed that a coordinated attack by extinguishers would reduce a fire in a dwelling to the extent that rescue of trapped persons would be possible.

Other bits and pieces of a local fire protection program came along in the following years. The State Fire Service Training Program published a manual, Fire Protection for Rural Communities in 1975 which dealt with numerous aspects of village fire safety. The same program had earlier created the Itinerant Instructor concept for fire protection training. A major thrust of this program was, and remains, to provide on-site instructors in the small communities that have no other means of obtaining training.¹⁴ Also, from time to time, the Legislature has appropriated funds to buy fire trucks for certain communities, through the well-intended efforts of individual legislators. Often, however, purchase of vehicles do not represent the most effective means to obtain fire protection. Most significantly, and most recently, has been the development of the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program in the Department of Public Safety. Recognizing the extremely high losses due to fire, drownings, and law enforcement problems in Alaska's bush areas, the State Troopers launched the VPSO program in 1980, whereby village men would be trained in the broad field of public safety, so that they could respond to virtually any emergency situation that occurred. The fire protection includes classroom and fireground training and refresher work. However, since the majority of VPSO-related work pertains to law enforcement, there is the continuing concern that they become too law enforcement oriented, to the detriment of their other public-safety-related responsibilities.

2. REGIONAL FIRE TRAINING CENTERS

The Regional Fire Training Center Program is the outgrowth of deliberations within the Alaska State Firefighter's Association in the early 1970s and brought into being through passage of a \$7 million general obligation bond issue in 1976.

The first center completed was the Anchorage Regional Fire Training Center, in 1979. Since that time four similar centers in Juneau, Fairbanks, Bethel, and Kotzebue have been substantially completed. All five centers are maintained

¹³"Applicability of Wildlands Fire Fighting Techniques for Structural Fires," Alaska Department of Education, July 1977, p. 31.

¹⁴Organizational Design of Fire Service Training and Educational Resources in Alaska, Alaska Department of Education, July 1978, p. 38.

and operated by the host communities for training of fire services and other emergency services personnel with title to the grounds and facilities being retained by the State for a period of ten years, after which title reverts to the cities, with the single provision that the centers remain dedicated in perpetuity to the continued use for training of emergency services personnel.

Some centers have dormitory facilities which are extremely helpful when housing firefighter training. Each training center has a variety of props to assist with actual "hands-on training." The local community may assess a "use fee" to the trainees or their sponsoring agency to help offset overhead costs involved.

The Anchorage facility, alone, is currently operating with a satisfactory degree of success. This is generally attributed to the large population of firefighters and other emergency personnel in the area, and the fact that the Municipality of Anchorage has shown constant support for the program since its inception.

Delays in construction, coupled with changes in the local political structure, has had an adverse effect on the other four training centers. A further adverse effect has been caused by the inability of the State Fire Service Training Program to generate enough funding within the Department of Education to support continuing and varied training programs within the various centers. An example is the marine fire training capabilities built into the Juneau Regional Fire Training Center. There has never been sufficient funding generated to conduct a single marine fire school since the facility was completed in 1982.

3. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Many local fire departments in Alaska also provide varying degrees of emergency medical services (EMS). While a growing number of departments are providing increasingly professional services, none experiences more calls for assistance than the Anchorage Fire Department (AFD),¹⁵ which has, as a result, developed perhaps the best EMS program in the state.

Anchorage EMS lists national registration as a prerequisite to application and competition for hire. Testing for the hire list normally occurs annually and consists initially of equally weighted written medical and general oral exams, and a pass/fail physical ability test. Top candidates then proceed to a medical oral board, with failure at any step up to this point resulting in failure to qualify for that year's eligibility list. An interview with the EMS Chief is the final step.

Municipal regulation requires a thorough physical examination by a physician, at the time of the actual job offer, prior to beginning work. Alaska grants licenses only upon completion of a supervised six-month internship, and AFD

¹⁵ Much of the information in this section is from the "Emergency Medical Service" booklet prepared by the Anchorage Fire Department.

maintains new employees in a probationary status to the end of 12 months. No age restrictions exist beyond the National Registry's minimum of 18 years.

Following probation, new paramedics enter a career ladder consisting of three basic ranks below the administrative level. Paramedic I and Paramedic II personnel staff ambulances, with the latter designated as lead technician, and the shift supervisor is a Paramedic Lieutenant. Advancement follows a competitive testing system similar to hiring procedures. Promotion to Lieutenant is by appointment of the EMS Chief, as is the position of Paramedic Captain, who is the training officer and the other administrator in the EMS Division, directly below the Chief in the command chain. Anchorage's Fire Chief appoints the EMS Chief, who is an Assistant Chief in the AFD hierarchy.

Anchorage paramedics complete a minimum of 72 hours of continuing education annually to maintain local certification by the Medical Advisory Board (60 are required for state license renewal). Didactic and clinical categories receive equal emphasis, and training consists of both on-duty and several mandatory, paid, off-duty sessions each year.

The Anchorage Fire Department does not cross-train EMS personnel in fire suppression; EMS personnel function as paramedics only. Medics rotate fire station assignments regularly and participate in station duties and recreation with fireline crews as call volume permits.

Emergency responders work a 56-hour week on a "Kelly" schedule, rotating 24-hour tours of duty among three shifts of personnel. Salaries start at approximately \$26,000/year and rise to about \$40,000 at the end of the first full year off probation (two years total).

Presently, 80% of the Anchorage Fire Department's 300 full-time paid employees are emergency personnel assigned to 11 bowl-area stations and one in a near suburb. Twelve engine companies cross-function as nontransport Basic Life Support (BLS) units in layered response situations, assisting the EMS Division's five primary paramedic-manned Advanced Life Support (ALS) crews and single shift supervisor. An auxiliary force of 50 volunteers, working out of three additional stations, answers fire and EMS alarms in the less populated areas.

This configuration, coordinated by central dispatch, allows both early BLS care and three paramedics on most critical incidents. Private services are limited to pre-assessed routine transports and do not engage in field response or transport.

Paramedics deliver patients to four local hospitals: two private, one military, and one operated by the Indian Health Service. Total annual call volume first exceeded 10,000 in 1981 and grows by 5%-6% each year. Alarms per unit per 24-hour shift average eight, but vary considerably with season and location. Thirty percent of all runs involve ALS assessment or treatment skills.

A Medical Advisory Board consisting of physicians, nurses, and a paramedic representative oversees medical treatment and review. The board has backed gradually increasing levels of ALS practice by written standing orders, which currently encompass numerous invasive techniques and over 20 medications.

Discretion to use these therapies without direct verbal permission lies with the paramedics on location for all but one medication. This degree of physician trust, and the conditions that have permitted the Anchorage system to develop unhampered by many of the political problems common in other locales, contributes to an out-of-hospital save rate in medical cardiac arrest patients that has consistently rivaled other EMS services nationwide.

C. PROFESSIONAL FIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

1. ALASKA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Organized in 1969, the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association has continued to promote the development of the Fire Service through progressive programs of education/public relations and research.

A major activity of this association is political at the state level. The rapid growth of Alaska and the impact of oil revenues on the Fire Service mandate constant changes to the delivery services.

The Fire Chiefs and Firefighters associations jointly employ a lobbyist at the State Capitol. There are 249 fire departments registered with the State Fire Marshal. It is estimated that 120 to 130 of these departments are actually active and more than a paper department. Sixty fire departments, about 50% of the active departments, now belong to the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association. The current officers of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association are elected for a two-year term and are:

President - Chief Alan Judson, Juneau Fire Department
1st Vice President - Chief Dewey Whetsell, Cordova Volunteer Fire Dept.
2nd Vice President - Chief William Shechter, U of A Fire Dept.

An annual conference is held each year concurrent with the firefighters' conference.

2. ALASKA STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Organized in 1962, the Alaska State Firefighters Association continues to unite and bring together, at least annually, the firefighters of Alaska to promote the latest improvements in the Fire Service and to enhance communications between departments across the state. The association is politically active, promoting the Fire Service in Alaska, and jointly employs a lobbyist with the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association.

Of the 120 to 130 active fire departments in Alaska, with an estimated 3,500 to 4,000 firefighters, 1,000 are currently members of the association.

The officers of the association serve two-year terms (same as the fire chiefs) and currently are:

President - Jason Elson, Kenai Fire Department
1st Vice President - Robert Purcell, Homer Fire Department
2nd Vice President - Curtis Jones, Glacier Fire Department

3. UNION FIREFIGHTERS

The International Association of Firefighters (I.A.F.F.) represents three fire departments in Alaska: Anchorage with 300+ firefighters, Fairbanks with 70+ firefighters, and Ketchikan with 15 firefighters. The I.A.F.F. maintains its own lobbyist and represents its members on political issues.

The strongest community involvement of the union is support of Muscular Dystrophy fund raising.

4. INLAND BOATMANS UNION

The Inland Boatmans Union of Alaska presently represents the 36 paid firefighters of the Juneau Fire Department. This union currently encourages activity with the Alaska State Firefighters Association and the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association.

5. THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE AND ARSON INVESTIGATORS

The AAFAI was formed in January 1984, with the specific intent to bring together those persons interested in fire and arson investigation so as to provide a uniform force to combat the problem. To date, the association is comprised of more than 125 members including those individuals representing fire departments (volunteer and paid), municipal police, Alaska State Troopers, private investigative agencies, the State Fire Marshal's Offices, law firms, and federal agencies (i.e., treasury department, consumer protection, etc.).

The association promotes a bond of friendship, understanding and cooperation between those individuals and agencies through yearly fire investigation training seminars and meetings.

The association is looking toward a statewide "Arson Information Reward Fund" including participation in a statewide Crime Stoppers Program. Also anticipated is its involvement in a mini grant fund designed to assist fire investigation personnel to obtain the necessary equipment to more adequately investigate arson.

Governing the association's activities is a nine-member board of directors and four officers.

Further information can be obtained by contacting any of the following officers:

President - Vern Long, Box 598, Kenai, Alaska 99611, 456-4002
Vice President - David Burnett, Box 598, Kenai, Alaska 99611, 283-7666
Secretary - Roy C. Isenberg, Box 598, Kenai, Alaska 99611,
269-5604
Treasurer - Jason Elson, Box 598, Kenai, Alaska 99611, 283-7666