



Division of Fire and Life Safety

*From the desk of.....
The State Fire Marshal*

Greetings,

2010 has come and gone, and we are on a collision course with 2011. Don't you just hate it when people begin articles like that? It seems like they don't know where to start.

The 2010 Fall ASFA/AFCA Conference was a huge success. The training was amazing, and the coordination and planning was excellent. I thank the Phoenix Chapter of the AFSA, the Seward Fire Department, the Bear Creek Fire Department and the Moose Pass Fire Department for all of their hard work.

I would also like to thank all of you who were able to attend this year. I know with declining budgets attending training conferences is more difficult than ever. It is through quality training and networking that we will be able to consistently meet our goal of "Everyone Goes Home". This is a great way to get that quality training.

As you read through this newsletter you will find a new section called the FOOLS Corner. I strongly believe in the training ethic that these organizations are exhibiting. While they are by no means a quiet group, their good works are often not given the attention they deserve. In the FOOLS Corner you will find more information about what they are doing for their own organizations as well as neighboring communities.

After a busy summer we are getting ready to put the 2009 ICC code adoption out for public comment. This will be the culmination of three years of work. Carol Olson and her staff in the Plan Review Bureau have done an excellent job in putting this draft regulation together.

We had 22 fire deaths last year. Again the majority of them occurred in the home and involved alcohol. The alcohol factor relates to the cause of the fire and/or the victims inability to exit to safety. This year we started targeting the alcohol issue harder. Our press releases regarding fire fatalities and alcohol have been more hard hitting and to the point.

That is all for now.

Stay safe.

David L. Tyler, State Fire Marshal

The mission of the Division of Fire and Life Safety is to prevent the loss of life and property from fire and explosion. We are composed of three Bureau's: [Life Safety Inspection](#); [Plan Review](#); and [Training and Education](#).

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Fire Department Deferral Audits

Article By: Kelly Nicoello, Assistant State Fire Marshal

The State Fire Marshal's Office has conducted Deferral Audits over the last two years and it is amazing how each department performs to the requirements of 13 AAC 50.075 Deferring to Local Authorities. I have taken away many "best practices" that I can recommend to other departments who may be challenged by a particular issue. Of course, there are certain practices that are identified that need to be changed. Overall, it has been a great experience and I hope helpful to all those who participated as a deferred jurisdiction. The auditing process has strengthened working relationships with each department and has provided an increased basis of trust and understanding between our office and local jurisdictions.

There are many tasks to accomplish to become deferred; Ordinances must be enacted, codes must be assessed, inspection programs developed to enforce fire safety statutes and regulations, fire investigation services established and fire prevention education services created.

All these tasks demand time, energy and resources. Often, this comes at the expense of operational priorities. However, the investment results in a safer work environment for your firefighters. It also results in a reduction of civilian fire injuries, loss of life, and a reduction in property damage. Thanks for participating in this team approach to increasing fire safety throughout the state.

Plan Review Bureau

Article By: Bureau Staff

This year the Plan Review Bureau has been busy working to keep up with the construction in Alaska. Construction has not slowed down this year. We have accomplished approximately 1,400 Plan Reviews, 30 Construction Inspections and 10 Trend Failure Investigations. We have also added Alcohol Beverage Control reviews, Child Licensing reviews, Impairment Plans and Requests for Public Information to our current busy schedule. These reviews have also created requests for inspections that we would not have seen through any other avenue. We have completed most of these reviews in the past but are currently tracking them with a more systematic approach, further ensuring that fire and life safety is addressed throughout Alaska.

Coffee Break and Code Corner continue to be very popular with all the complimentary e-mails and comments that have been received. We wanted to say thank you and glad MOST of you enjoy the helpful information. These subjects are posted on our web site at www.akburny.com, on the Plan Review Bureau (PRB) page.

High profile projects, we are actively involved in, include BP's Liberty Pad, the Sport Fish Hatchery for Department of Fish and Game, the new hospital in Nome, Goose Creek (Pt. Mackenzie) Correctional Facility for the Department of Corrections, as well as Oliktok Point, Spy Island and North Star Operations Center related to oil and gas. These projects

have kept the pressure on while maintaining a steady flow of work through out the office.

We have been using Hansen database for over two years now and things have been fairly smooth for plan reviews, inspections, fireworks permits and code enforcement. The Dynamic Portal is in the final stage of implementation. This program will allow our customers to log in and submit applications over the web. Soon we will be working to accept customer payments online. We are also in the final stages of testing applicant notification when an application is entered into Hansen. Upon submittal of plans, Hansen auto-generates an email to the applicant with the fee amount and plan review number. So far, the testing phase has been very successful.

We have successfully tested Hansen allowing other state agencies like DOL, DOC, ABC, Child Care licensing, viewer access with the ability to look up projects under construction, for inspections and or applications in their areas of interest.

Some other programs which have been implemented are construction inspections at 60% (Framing), 90% (before enclosure) of project construction. Inspections are limited to special interest facilities and facilities with a valuation that exceeds 5 million dollars (owners). Inspections performed by PRB personnel are not to take

the place of post occupancy inspections performed by fire inspection personnel (LSIB) but for construction requirements. Inspections are to be performed per the International Building, Fire, Mechanical and Fire/Gas code, and referenced standards.

Trend failure investigations are being performed to determine trends throughout the state that causes loss of life, property or environment to the public or businesses due to construction or system failure. The code adoption process will be utilized, with policy letters to correct any trends that are deemed "hazardous". Trend failure investigations will reveal the fire's path of travel, compartmentalization and whether installed fire systems or passive fire assemblies were effective. Current codes will then be reviewed to determine if they are sufficient for the trend failure identified to impede, contain or control the fire preventing the future loss of life, property and environmental damage.

Plan Review Bureau ~ continued

Introducing.....

New Faces in Plan Review Bureau

Plan review Bureau welcomes both Jarrett Zuspan and Jessica Faulkner to the team. We are now fully staffed. With the new design building database and customer service modules coming next year, we look forward to fine tuning our services so that customers may receive notifications and status updates as well as pay on line, ensuring all facets of the plan review process be handled in a service related manner.

Take care and have Fire Safe Holidays.



Jarrett Zuspan, Plans Examiner

In August 2010, Jarrett Zuspan came on board as a Building Plans Examiner for the Anchorage Office Plan Review Bureau. Originally from Alaska, he has spent the last ten years in California returning to Alaska this year. A building inspector who will bring a new view and ability to increase the bureau's effectiveness.

In May 2010, Jessica Faulkner joined the Anchorage Plan Review Bureau as the Office Assistant II. She is a lifelong Alaskan, who brings enthusiasm, humor and new ideas to our bureau. Jessica has family working on the North Slope which gives her knowledge of oil and gas submittals/projects. She is the Bureau's initial contact with customers around Alaska.



Jessica Faulkner, Office Assistant II

2010 Fire Service Recognition Awards

The Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety is pleased to announce the 2010 Annual Fire Service recognition awards. The Division accepts nominations for four award categories; Ken Akerley Fire Service Leadership Award, Firefighter of the Year, William A Hagevig Fire Instructor of the Year and Public Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year. The awards were presented at the 2010 Annual Alaska Fire Conference in Seward, Alaska on October 2nd, 2010.

The Ken Akerley Fire Service Leadership Award is awarded to any member of the fire service in Alaska who exhibits an extraordinary commitment to leading their fire department and has earned the trust and respect of their subordinates and peers. Fire Chief Pete Brown of the Aniak Volunteer Fire Department (Posthumously) is the 2010 recipient. Chief Brown created a highly recognized program to train teenagers in his community to serve as EMTs and firefighters on the Aniak Volunteer Fire Department. This program serves as a model method to improve the lives of young people and the community.

The William A Hagevig Fire Service Instructor of the Year Award is awarded to a fire service instructor who demonstrates an amazing dedication to training and education

of members of their organization. Engineer Al Stevens of the Sitka Fire Department is the 2010 recipient. Engineer Stevens serves as the Training Officer for the department and has helped to establish a high standard for training in Sitka and throughout the state. He is a role model fire service professional and mentor for the members of the Sitka Fire Department.

The Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award is awarded to a fire and life safety educator who's dedication to the reduction of fire related death and injury goes above and beyond. The Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety Public Education Coordinator Mahlon Greene is the 2010 recipient. Coordinator Greene's exceptional dedication to delivering a wide variety of programs and materials to communities throughout Alaska is working to reduce the number of Alaskans who suffer from fire related injuries or deaths each year.

The Firefighter of the Year Award is awarded to a firefighter who demonstrates outstanding actions on the scene of an emergency or at other functions in their community. Captain Michael Ascone of Anchorage Fire Department is the 2010 recipient. Captain Ascone led



Captain Michael Ascone receives

Firefighter of the Year Award

Presented by

David Tyler, State Fire Marshal

Also pictured Jeff Tucker, AFCA-Pres.

his crew in the rescue of a drowning victim from Jewel Lake. As Captain Ascone and his crew were not assigned water rescue duties nor did they have water rescue equipment, Captain Ascone's actions in attempting to save the victim were above the normal call of duty.

For more information about the Alaska Fire Service Awards and the list of past recipients please

Visit our website at
www.dps.alaska.gov/Fire/awards.aspx

Life Safety Inspection Bureau

Since our last Fire Flyer our bureau has been busy with inspections, fireworks, training, and investigations.

The Deputy Fire Marshals' were busy inspecting facilities throughout the state. They went to Angoon, Aniak, Barrow, Craig, Denali Park, Dutch Harbor, Excursion Inlet, Fairbanks, Gustavus, Healy, Hoonah, Kake, Kenai Peninsula, Lower Yukon, Metlakatla, Parks Highway, Prince of Wales, Skagway, Sterling Highway, Wrangell, and Whittier. They also conducted inspections for Medicare and Medicaid Services Life Safety Code Surveys on medical facilities in Cordova, Haines, Homer, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Nome, Petersburg, Sitka, and Wrangell.

Deputy John Bond spearheaded the 2009 Palmer State Fair Fire Prevention Program to over 322 vendors. In 2010, Deputy Bond and Deputy Dane Waisanen provided oversight for the Palmer Fire Department Fire Inspection Group for the State Fair.

Deputy Kevin Hunter and Office Assistant Amy Noket are the bureau fireworks point of contact. They issued a total of 112 permits/licenses for displays, wholesale licenses and retail licenses.

Deputy Robert "Bob" Plumb successfully completed the National Fire Academy Fire Dynamics-Fire Modeling and Chemistry for Emergency Response courses. Deputy Hunter completed the National Fire Academy Interviewing-Interrogation Techniques and Courtroom Testimony course. Three deputies attended the 2009 Alaska Fire Fighter conference and completed the ICS 300 and 400 courses. The deputies also attended the South Central International

Code Council training on 2009 IFC Significant Changes, 2009 IMC Update, 2009 IFGC Update, 2009 IFC Fire Protection Systems, and 2009 IFC & IBC Hazardous Materials. Deputy Lloyd Nakano traveled to Denver and attended the Western Juvenile Firesetter Conference. Deputy Bond provided Fire/Arson Origin and Cause Investigation classes to Troopers. Deputy Bond, Hunter, Nakano, Plumb and Rocheleau attended the 2010 Alaska Association of Fire and Arson Investigators seminar held in Anchorage on March 29, 2010 to April 2, 2010. They also attended the Bomb Arson Tracking System training. All of the Deputies except Deputy Waisanen are certified Fire Investigator Technicians. In 2010 Deputy Plumb became an International Association of Arson Investigators Certified Fire Investigator.

The Deputies are looking forward to attend the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I and II training being held in Anchorage on December 13 to 17, 2010.

We responded to 35 fire investigations. Sadly, out of the 35 fires there were 8 fatalities. The deputies conducted fire origin and cause determination for each fire. They also witnessed autopsies of the fatalities. In 2009 Deputy Rocheleau testified as an expert witness that resulted in an Arson 1 (Class A Felony) and Insurance Fraud conviction. Also, Deputy Bond was an expert witness for the grand jury which resulted in 16 counts 4 of which were Arson 1.



Deputy Fire Marshal

John Bond

In 2010 Deputy Bond was disposed for the Talkeetna School fire civil suit case

One of the fire investigations was on a 2009 Ford Expedition. Deputy Bond noted two findings that should be taken into consideration:

1. Driving this vehicle through grass, brush or other types of vegetation no matter how wet may cause entanglement in the void space between the exhaust crossover pipe and the frame cross member and in a short period of time can start a fire.
2. The fire extinguishers used to attempt to put out the Expedition fire that occurred on August 26, 2010 were 1A:10BC (2lb.) dry chemical fire extinguishes, larger fire extinguishers should be carried in vehicles.



Deputy Bond's opinions were based on the size of the rear storage area of the Ford Expedition (55 cubic feet of storage space located behind the 2nd row of seats) the use of a 3A: 40BC is more practical.

Life Safety Inspection Bureau ~continued

Our bureau welcomed two new hires Deputy **Chris Grooms** and Deputy **Dane Waisanen**. On October 16, 2009 Deputy Grooms transferred from the Anchorage Plan Review Bureau. In February 2010, he attended the Alaska Law Enforcement Training Academy in Sitka and graduated on June 3, 2010. He was then assigned to the Division of Fire and Life Safety Fairbanks Office. After a nine month hiring process Deputy Waisanen was hired August 2010 and assigned to the Anchorage Office. He will be attending the fall session of The Alaska Law Enforcement Training Academy in Sitka.



Deputy Chris Grooms ~ Fairbanks



Deputy Dane Waisanen ~ Anchorage

The Division of Fire and Life Safety has statewide jurisdiction for fire code enforcement, fire investigations, and fire-works except in communities; which have received deferrals.

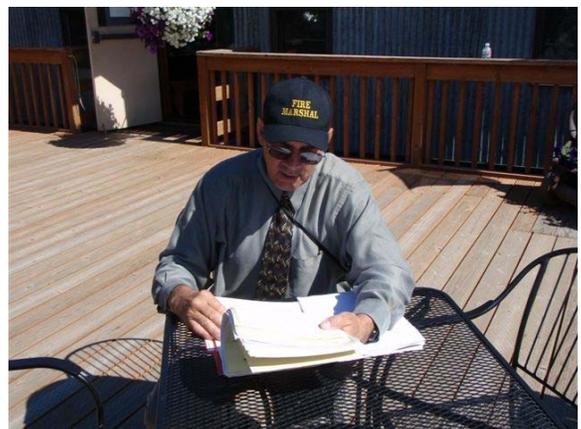
The Life Safety Inspection Bureau consists of offices located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Palmer. Currently, the Anchorage office has 3 Deputy Fire Marshals and the bureau Supervisor, the Juneau office has 1 Deputy Fire Marshal and Palmer office has one Deputy Fire Marshal.



Deputy John Bond ~ Palmer Office



Deputy Nathan Rocheleau ~ Anchorage



Deputy Robert Plumb ~ Juneau Office



Deputy Kevin Hunter ~ Anchorage

Life Safety Inspection Bureau ~ continued

One of the bureau's responsibilities is administrating the fireworks program. We issue Wholesale Fireworks Sales licenses, Retail Fireworks Sales (1.4G salable) permits and Pyrotechnic Operator permits. The program is also responsible for the issuance of public Fireworks Displays (1.3G) and Fireworks Displays (1.4 over 250 lbs.) licenses to companies that conduct public firework activities within the state.

The bureau conducts fire and life safety inspections to ensure compliance with Alaska statutes and regulations as they relate to building safety. Deputy Fire Marshals inspect the following occupancies:

- A - Assembly type facilities, restaurants, bars, and churches,
- E - Educational type facilities such as schools and day-care facilities,
- I - Institutional type facilities such as prisons, jails, hospitals, and nursing homes,
- R - Residential (R-4 and R-1) type facilities such as assisted living, apartments and hotels over 15 rooms, and high impact facilities, including major fish processing plants.

We also conduct inspections for Medicare & Medicaid Services, as well as Life Safety Code surveys for Hospitals, Long Term Care Facilities, Ambulatory Surgical Centers and extended stay clinics. These facilities are under federal rules which have adopted the 2000 Life Safety Code.

The Bureau conducts fire investigations to determine origin and cause of fires, to identify fires of criminal intent, negligent burning, investigate arson and criminal burning. The bureau pursues and apprehends those responsible for criminal burning and arson, investigates fatal fire incidents, assist the Department of Law with prosecutions for arson, and identifies accidental fire causes to establish proactive preventative measures.



Sitka
Law Enforcement
Training
Academy



The Deputies traveled to Sitka to perform as Tactical Officers. They assist academy staff with scenarios, guidance to recruits, and other duties as requested by academy staff.



Life Safety Inspection Bureau ~ continued

The Bureau has 4 crew cab pickup trucks in order to carry the variety of equipment needed to conduct investigations. This allows all equipment to be in a high state of readiness at all times.



Deputy Fire Marshals Nathan Rocheleau, Kevin Hunter, Office Assistant Amy Noket, Supervisor Lloyd Nakano and Deputy FM John Bond

While vehicles and equipment are maintained in a high state of readiness, so too are the personnel who conduct investigations and inspections.



Keeping sharp and accurate firearm skills, Deputy Fire Marshals' Nathan Rocheleau, Kevin Hunter and John Bond are pictured during a target practice session

Training and Education Bureau

Article by: Jodie Hettrick, Training and Education Administrator

Office Move

The Training and Education Bureau administrative office has moved to a new location in the Anchorage Fire Training Center. Our physical location and mailing address have changed but our phone and email contact information will remain the same.

[Our new location:](#)

1140 Airport Heights Drive

Anchorage, AK 99508

Residential Fire Sprinkler Demonstrations

In June the Bureau hosted Fire Team USA's fire protection workshop. Fire officials from around the state attended the two day workshop to learn about efficient methods for communities to address fire protection. One of the key points of the workshop was the side-by-side live fire demonstration.

The Bureau worked with Anchorage Firefighter's Union Local 1264 to bring the side-by-side residential fire sprinkler demonstration to the Anchorage Fire Department's Annual Open House in August. It was very successful and may be a regular event at future open houses.

If you would like to provide a side-by-side residential fire sprinkler demonstration at a local event please contact Mahlon Greene at 746-5062 or Mahlon.greene@alaska.gov.

Firefighter Safety

We are working on a resource packet for live fire training. Lead Instructors and Training Officers with experience in conducting live fire training will meet during the Training Officer Workshop to develop the resource packet which will be available for download on our website.

Responder Ready

In major disasters, emergency responders often have to choose between helping their family and serving the community. To address this issue, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is working on a terrific program to educate emergency responders on the importance of preparing their family for disasters. Their thought is that if the responders know that their families are well prepared to survive the disaster, they will be available to help the community. Outreach Coordinator Robert Tanner will be developing the program materials for future distribution. We will keep everyone informed of the progress of the project.

Raven Island

We have more than 7690 kids signed up and playing games on Raven Island. We have been promoting it in the rural communities since September 2008 and we are now promoting the game in the urban areas by distributing the post cards to local fire departments and advertising at Alaska Aces games.

NFPA Call for Technical Committee Members

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) establishes a wide variety of codes and standards. Fire and Building Code Officials work with life safety codes on a daily basis, and the Emergency Services are familiar with the Professional Qualification and Safety related standards. These codes and standards are developed by technical committees. Each committee is staffed by members with interest in that particular subject.

NFPA recently published a call for committee members. If you are interested in serving on a technical committee visit www.nfpa.org and click on the "Codes and Standards" link and then click on the document "Technical committees seeking membership". It will take you to the list of committees needing members. The application for committee membership can also be found on that page.

Burny's Fire Safety App

We launched Burny's Fire Safety app for the iPhone at the beginning of Fire Prevention Month 2010. So far, more than 450 users have downloaded the app. We are getting great feedback and plan to provide updates to add content on a quarterly basis. The Android version should come out next summer.

New Scanner Technology

To more accurately record student attendance at conference, the Bureau began using barcode scanners to check students into classes. The new scanners, coupled with the Cvent registration tool, allowed us to develop a list of conference attendees which greatly reduced the number of attendance certificates which needed to be re-issued due to name misspellings. The scanners also reduced the time needed to collect attendance information for the final conference report.

Networking

The Training and Education Bureau is now using several social networking methods to communicate safety messages to the public.

Facebook - "Burny's Fire Safety Page" - Posted daily are fire prevention and safety messages. We currently have over 300 fans and more are added daily. There are several fire departments around the state and nation which use Facebook as a method to educate their communities about fire/injury prevention and safety; Northstar Volunteer Fire Department, El Paso Firefighters, Fire Team USA. A page on Facebook which has a huge following is "Not being on fire" it is more aggressive page with in-your-face comments about how to not be on fire. It is very popular.

Youtube - AKFireTraining - We just started using this as a method to post fire prevention and safety videos. It is limited to 10 minute videos so we are in the editing process for our most popular video - "Home Fire Drills". It will be posted before the holidays.

Mahlon Greene, Public Education Coordinator Honored

Mahlon Greene, the Division of Fire and Life Safety Public Education Coordinator, received the 2010 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year award at the Alaska Fire Conference in Seward, October 2nd, 2010.

He was nominated for his work to reduce fire deaths and injuries throughout the state. Mahlon's commitment to educating Alaskans and Alaska's emergency services about fire prevention and safety are admirable!

Congratulations Mahlon!!



**David Tyler, Alaska State Fire Marshal
presents Mahlon Greene
with the 2010 Fire and Life Safety
Educator of the Year Award**

Burny is the mascot for the Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety. He works to educate people about fire safety and the prevention of dangerous fires. For up-to-date fire safety tips please visit.



This article is a synopsis of an article included in the Illinois Fire Service Institute's IFSI Newsletter, Fall 2010 written by Edmund J. Enright and Kurt Glosser (editorial comments by Jodie Hettrick)

The fire service has adopted the Maltese Cross as our symbol. It is commonly found in fire department logos and patches. Many members of the fire service are not aware that a virtue has been assigned to each point of the cross. While the virtues were not assigned by the fire service they are relevant to our mission. **The eight points are:**

Observation – *To constantly be aware.* Being aware of our surroundings on the fire ground keeps us and our fellow firefighters safe. Paying attention to details in the station allows us to identify issues which must be addressed, such as a fellow firefighter in crisis or a maintenance problem with our apparatus.

Tact – *To be professional in speech.* As a member of one of the most respected professions in our nation, it is important to remember that we are looked to as an example. How are you representing yourself and your organization? Ask yourself often if you were a good example today? If not, what can you do to improve?

Dexterity – *To be versatile.* We are a profession known for our flexibility. One minute we are treating a patient for difficulty breathing, the next we are responding to rescue a child with their hand caught in the escalator. Maintaining our education and skills are an excellent method to keep current of new technology and mitigation options. The more we know, the more creative and versatile we will be when confronted by a new situation.

Explicitness – *To clearly communicate.* Clear communication on an emergency scene is vital to the safety of our firefighters. Clear communication in the day-to-day activities of the organization contributes to successful operations and high morale.

Perseverance – *To never quit.* We are the people who others count on when things get tough. We need to make sure we are in shape mentally, physically and emotionally to meet that challenge.

Sympathy – *To treat others gently.* We are exposed to sights and sounds which horrify others. This can cause us to become hard and jaded. We must maintain our ability to treat others with respect and sympathy, even when they are a frequent flyer or a person who has made a very bad decision.

Gallantry – *To step up when duty calls.* There are many forms of bravery. Yes, we are trained to tackle emergency situations and enter burning buildings, but it also takes bravery to stand up for safety. Recently a friend of mine was hesitant to speak up about a safety concern because of the fear that it would cause the cancelation of a training event which many people were looking forward to. What would you do in this case?

Loyalty – *To be committed.* Loyalty to our brothers and sisters in the fire service is important, but loyalty to the citizens we have sworn to protect is even more important. We willingly respond to the fire call or vehicle crash, but are you there just as readily to teach a fire prevention course or testify to add a stop light to a hazardous intersection? Are you truly committed to protecting your citizens from all hazards?

F *Fraternal*
O *Order*
O *of*
L *Leatherheads*
S *Society*

Welcome to the very First Fraternal order of Leatherheads Society article here in the Fire flyer. First off on behalf of the FOOLS chapters Alaska wide we would like to thank Fire Marshal Dave Tyler for inviting us to take up a "corner". We look forward to being able to keep you informed of what the FOOLS chapters around the state are up to and how we are trying to improve the Alaska

Currently there are 9 FOOLS chapters spread around the state:

- Far Out FOOLS (Unalaska)
- Farthest North FOOLS (Fairbanks)
- Arctic Circle FOOLS (Red Dog Mine),
- Copper FOOLS (Cordova),
- Anchorage Area FOOLS (Anchorage),
- Great FOOLS of Fire (Central Kenai Peninsula)
- Hardrock FOOLS (Juneau)
- Snowtown FOOLS (Valdez)
- Soggy FOOLS (Sitka)

While each is unique in their location and members, the mission remains the same. To leave the fire service better than when we found it by hard work, determination and a commitment to training.

C O R N E R ~ *Dedicated To the Job*



Fire service through training and brotherhood. That being said, not all chapters were able to be contacted and information gathered on their current events. Future articles will allow for enough time to do this. This month's "corner" will allow us to share some information on who the FOOLS are and what we are trying to accomplish.

The FOOLS, like the traditional leather helmet, has always existed throughout

the brotherhood of the Fire Service. We are about preserving the tradition and heritage of the fire service and taking care of our brother and sister firefighters. FOOLS members are about taking care of their communities and those that are a part of them. They help raise money for firefighters in need around the state, St Baldricks and for many other causes that benefit our brothers and sisters or communities.

FOOLS believe in Pride: In our departments, in our stations, in our apparatus, and pride in ourselves. We continually strive to make ourselves and those around us better, and provide a higher level of service to our communities. The FOOLS believe in providing and attending realistic training. It is our duty to be as well trained as we possibly can. We owe it to ourselves, our brothers and sisters, their families, and to the citizens we protect. You can always make up for lack of calls with training. You can never make up for a lack of training on calls.

Many in the fire service know of Chief Croker and his quotes. One that you often see is "The moment when a man becomes a fireman his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. Everything after that is all in the line of work." It is the rest of the quote that I think is worth noting. I would like to share and discuss how it relates to the Alaska FOOLS chapters. "Firefighters do not regard themselves as heroes because they do what the business requires." Our business requires us to be well trained and battle ready. One of the goals of the FOOLS is to help ensure WE are prepared for business.

For the past several years the FOOLS have been large supporters of the ASFA Conference by stepping up and instructing both lecture and hands on classes. I would guess that over 80% of the instructors at this year's conference alone were FOOLS members from various chapters. The FOOLS chapters in Alaska have made great strides to prove to the Alaskan Fire Service that we are a worthy resource for quality training. We want to continue to work towards a positive image that departments are proud to be associated with and can support.

Currently multiple chapters in Alaska have either started or are already providing an outreach program. The goal of this program is to bring qualified and dedicated instructors to departments that are in need of general or specific fire training. The Great FOOLS of Fire have had their program in place for 2 years now. Their first training provided was a two day set of classes in October of 2008 for the McKinley Village Volunteer Fire Department. McKinley village is about 400 miles from the Kenai Peninsula, yet members of GFOF were eager to travel and instruct to this department. First teaching with whatever equipment the sponsoring department had, the chapter now has an enclosed trailer that is continually being equipped with tools and equipment donated by various organizations, fire departments, and vendors. The trailer is able to carry props and equipment to a department that has requested training. This equipment allows the sponsoring department to keep a majority of their tools and rigs in service. It also allows for more hands on time by having additional tools available to the students. This makes their valuable time more productive. Not all departments are able to afford props yet they are expected to perform the same necessary job functions of any other department without the ability to train for them. Props are owned and maintained by the chapter. Instructional time is normally donated. A donation maybe asked to cover for the cost of travel and a place to stay depending on the circumstances. Many times fellow firefighters give up a spot on the floor or couch to provide a place to stay.

We are not out to make money, we are out to help train the Alaska Fire Service and learn a few things ourselves along the way. Chapters fundraise individually to help support their goals. These include flying and paying for outside instructors to come to Alaska, building props and to support other various firefighter events. The FOOLS are always looking for tools and equipment that are willing to be donated and can be used in future trainings.

The outreach program allows us to meet and build relationships and foster brotherhood with departments that are sometimes, due to location, often left out. These new relationships allow us to have communication with them and allows us to invite them to training in our area. Some of these departments can barely afford to put fuel in their apparatus let alone pay to send members to out of district training. This means they may have to pay their own expenses if they are interested in furthering their knowledge or skill set. We all deserve to receive quality training. Maybe your department already has an excellent training program and does not need any help. However, for those in need the FOOLS want to help. We cannot guarantee we will be able to assist in every instance. We have departments and families that we are dedicated too as well. I will tell you we will try our hardest to make it work though. For those that ask what makes us experts I say we are not. We are the ones though that are willing to step up to the plate and instruct when and where there is a need. We are continually growing and learning. Knowledge is Power, but only if shared. We are always looking for help in various ways. Even if you have no interest in being a member of an organization like this, but have a passion to instruct, or have a trade that would help in some other form please contact your local area FOOLS chapter.

Many chapters post upcoming training on their websites or Facebook pages. The Great FOOLS of Fire and Anchorage Area FOOLS are sponsoring a one day class in Soldotna on January 8th covering Thermal imaging camera use and room oriented searches. They are also looking to host a 2 day HOT conference this coming spring. Farthest North FOOLS have taught a majority of their local departments the 8hr mayday class. This is the same class that has been taught at the state conference for the past 3 years. FNF has also been providing RIT, Truck company ops, and forcible entry classes in Fairbanks. Snowtown has been doing RIT and assisting brothers in need. At FOOLS night out during the state fire conference \$2000 was raised for a firefighter out of the Fairbanks area with cancer. Members from all the chapters came together at conference to help raise this money at the spur of the moment. A few weeks later members from across the state traveled to support our brothers in Anchorage in their time of need with the passing of Andy Mullen. We are always available to spread the brotherhood and train anyone that needs or wants it.

Thoughts and ideas are always welcome as long as they are constructive or positive. We are still in our infancy stage and are growing in a very positive way each day. We wish to continue on this path and to be a guiding light for those that are dedicated to training in the State of Alaska. If you need help contacting the FOOLS chapter in your area please feel free to either email me or to look them up on the web at www.foolsinternational.com

Take Care and be Safe,

Benjamin Simonds
Great FOOLS of Fire
Central Emergency Services
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Remember being a firefighter is more than just having a sticker in your window.
It means you are willing to do what is necessary when the time comes.
Are you ready for business?
Can you remember all the channels on TV but not the location of the tools on the truck or how to use them?
Are you a dedicated firefighter?
Or do you just own the tee shirt? You decide.
Someday your life or others may depend on your answer.

