

## **Administrative Services Bulletin: March 28, 2011**

By Doug Schrage, Chief  
Fire Department

### **What's New**

The University Fire Department recently received some very exciting news from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). As a result of our ISO evaluation last summer, our ratings have been updated to "2" for areas with fire hydrants and "3" for areas without. The ISO "grades" fire protection on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being maximum fire protection and 10 being no recognizable fire protection. The new ratings put your fire department in the top 4% of fire departments in the nation and the top 1% in Alaska. (Only one other fire department in Alaska has a "2" rating.)

This is a significant improvement in our fire protection rating and means local fire insurance rates could see major reductions. Fire insurance premiums are set independently by local insurance companies. In determining their rates, insurers rely on information from the ISO, which evaluates fire departments and water systems. This is great news for the University and area property owners and a proud achievement for student fire fighters and career staff.

Like the other Administrative Services divisions, the fire department continues to seek process improvements. One of the things we are looking at is the way we access buildings after hours. You may have noticed a student fire fighter or two coming around checking keys in your buildings. The objective here is to make sure that there are current keys for all of the doors, elevators, and alarm panels in the Knox key safe on the outside of your building. This eliminates the need for our officers to carry duplicate keys of their own. The keys we use to access the Knox key safes are secured in passcode protected vaults in our vehicles and each usage is electronically tracked.

We are also working closely with Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management to revisit the placement and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers on campus. More information will follow soon.

### **What's Next**

This week, we will be interviewing a finalist for the vacant UAF Fire Marshal. The fire marshal is responsible for ensuring a fire safe campus and derives his or her authority from the State, through the fire chief. We are hopeful that, in the next few weeks, we will have a new fire marshal on board and look forward to introducing you.

For more information, contact Doug Schrage at [drschrage@alaska.edu](mailto:drschrage@alaska.edu).