

## **Administrative Services Bulletin: July 18, 2011**

By Doug Schrage, Chief  
Fire Department

### **What's New**

We recently welcomed Susan Sanborn as the department's new fiscal manager. Susan brings many years of financial management experience in the fire and emergency services and is well-known in the both the Interior and State of Alaska emergency services communities.

The University Fire Department was recently received the Fairbanks Daily News Miner Readers' Choice award for best fire department in the Interior. In case you didn't know, the University Fire Department provides fire protection and ambulance service to 18,000 Borough residents as well as the UAF campus. This is a distinction we strive to earn each and every day by training hard and providing the best possible service to our campus and neighboring communities.

As is typical for this time of year, the fire department is busy training new student fire fighters. Several of our senior students graduated in May. Thirteen of our recent graduates and former student fire fighters were recently hired by other fire departments around the state. This is the hallmark of our program: training and educating students for careers in emergency services.

Meanwhile, 22 new students are presently undergoing seven weeks of intense instruction in our summer Fire Fighter Academy. During the Academy, these prospective student fire fighters learn all the basics of fire fighting, preparing them for further on-the-job training following course completion. Through a cooperative effort with UAF's Community and Technical College, these tuition-paying college students earn 12 credits while learning from and working closely with University Fire Department staff and student employees.

In May, we held our annual awards ceremony to recognize staff, students and community partners for their exceptional achievements and contributions. Award highlights include Battalion Chief James Styers with a fire chief's commendation, fire fighter Josh Novinska as employee of the year and Paul Miranda as EMS provider of the year.

### **What's Next**

Next week, along with the police department, Statewide Emergency Management, and many of our regional emergency responder colleagues from around the Borough, the fire department participate in a three-day disaster exercise on campus. The exercise will test our capabilities to manage a major emergency on campus and our ability to communicate and share information with one another, our staff and students, and the public.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the attacks on the United States in New York City, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. September 11, 2001 had especially profound effects on the fire services, including the University Fire Department. Those events caused meaningful changes in our methods of risk management and communications. This September, we will be observing the tenth anniversary of 9-11-01 and honoring all those who perished on that day.

Also in September, the Fairbanks area including the UAF campus will welcome fire fighters from around the state as the Interior Fire Chiefs host the annual Alaska Fire Conference. Each year, fire fighters from

all over Alaska meet for a week of fire, rescue, and leadership training. Your University Fire Department is playing a significant role in the conference, leading several courses and seminars. Concurrently, we will be hosting a UFD alumni reunion and hope to see many of our former student fire fighters together.

Finally, again in September, in conjunction with the police, safety, and other departments, we will be putting on our annual campus safety week. This is when the entire campus has the opportunity to focus on safety. We will be conducting training for RAs and fire drills, conducting building safety tours, providing a great demonstration on the hazards of driving while under the influence.

As always, please stop in for a visit, and if there is any way we can help you, don't hesitate to ask.

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