

Administrative Services Bulletin: Thursday, September 24, 2009
By Edith Curry, Fire Chief, University Fire Department

What's New?

On August 22nd, the University Fire Department conducted a UAF Resident Advisor (RA) Academy. The training consisted of Fire and Life Safety Codes, Fire Extinguisher Training, navigating smoke filled hallways and it ended, of course, with a barbeque. Hand sanitizers were distributed to all the RA's along with various other items.

We have been participating in numerous meetings regarding the H1N1 Swine Flu planning. The University Fire Department operates two Advance Life Support ambulances under contract with the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The borough has a pandemic flu plan that will be implemented as necessary.

The University Fire Service Area had a recent annexation that brought in areas that had no fire protection. The main area was at the end of Iniakuk Avenue where the fire service area stopped part way down the road while the ambulance service area continued to the end of the road. This was very confusing. Now everything is part of both the fire and ambulance service areas.

What is next?

The department is currently in the process of preparing for its ISO (Insurance Services Organization) evaluation. We will try to lower the ISO rating in the areas without hydrants and maintain our rating in the areas with hydrants. To assist with this, we are hiring a student employee to handle the off campus pre-fire plans.

The department is also running an agility test the 25th of September to get a hiring list together. The department anticipates having to bring on a number of student firefighters during the university holiday break in December.

Fire prevention month is October and the department is in the process of scheduling presentations at the local elementary schools and day care facilities located within the University Fire Service Area.