

## ***Program Highlights***

### Education

- Anchorage Wildfire website at [www.muni.org](http://www.muni.org)
- Firewise home evaluations
- Firewise Alaska booklets
- Dedicated TV news stories
- Radio and TV public service announcements
- Local Cable 10 wildfire programming
- Extended outreach media: java jackets, cinema slides, bus signs
- Local presentations to community groups
- Displays at local & regional events

### Community Assessment

- Vegetation mapping
- Forest fire fuel inventory
- Fire behavior modeling
- Community-based wildfire assessments and action plans
- Land Use Code review and modification
- Monitor fuel loading & vegetation changes

### Hazardous Fuels Mitigation

- Cost share tree removal program for homeowners
- Brush disposal program
- Vegetation treatments on public and private lands
- Develop and implement maintenance plan

### Wildfire Operations

- Water drafting sites identified & improved
- Updated road network mapping & construction
- Interagency wildfire simulation exercises
- Wildfire behavior and response training for firefighters & police officers
- Upgrades to equipment and protective gear
- Evacuation planning
- Coordination with State Forestry & other mutual aid providers
- Post incident recovery plan

## **Mission**

Be prepared, respond effectively, and be considerate of your neighbors.

## **Vision**

AFD is prepared for a wildfire event and can respond quickly and safely.

Residents understand safe procedures when a wildfire threatens their neighborhood.

Land managers and homeowners alike are stewards to the land by promoting forest and ecosystem health: active forest management and backyard conservation are used to keep Anchorage's forests green.

## **Program Goals**

Residents are educated on wildfire and defensible space.

Neighborhoods are prepared to experience a wildfire event with minimal loss.

Firewise Communities unite neighborhoods in their effort to prepare for wildfire.

Municipal and mutual aid resources are coordinated to provide effective suppression and response for wildfire events.

## **Program Objectives**

Reduce the risk of wildfire through education: *decrease the potential for human-caused ignitions.*

Reduce the hazard of wildfire by decreasing the potential for homes to burn: *remove dead & dying spruce trees, thin dense forests near homes, eliminate ladder fuels, improve defensible space.*

Improve public safety through community partnerships: *empower homeowners and neighborhoods with education to take on the responsibility of creating and maintaining a defensible space and being prepared for emergencies.*

Improve emergency preparedness and response: *prepare for an interface fire with established water resources, road access, an evacuation plan, and coordinated initial attack.*

## ***Anchorage Wildfire Partner Agencies***

Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
    Division of Forestry  
    Chugach State Park  
Alaska Division of Emergency Services  
Alaska State Fire Marshal  
Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District  
Bureau of Land Management  
Elmendorf Air Force Base  
Federal Emergency Management Agency Region X  
Fort Richardson  
Municipality of Anchorage  
    Anchorage Fire Department  
    Anchorage Police Department  
    Cultural & Recreational Services  
    Heritage Land Bank  
    Information Technology Department/GIS Division  
    Office of Emergency Management  
    Solid Waste Services  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
    Cooperative Extension Service  
    School of Natural Resources & Agricultural Sciences  
USDA Forest Service Region 10  
    Chugach National Forest  
    Pacific Northwest Research Station  
    State & Private Forestry  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

## ***Program Timeline***

10 Year Plan: 2001-2011

### **Phase I: 2001**

#### **Initiate research & address primary mitigation and response**

- Evaluate and assess Municipal infrastructure for emergency preparedness
- Develop fire operations plan
- Model fire behavior with local conditions
- Educate landowners about fire risk and defensible space
- Develop guidelines for reducing fuels in forested stands
- Continue hazard fuel reduction on public & private lands
- Initiate brush disposal system

### **Phase II: 2002-2006**

#### **Fuels Mitigation & Fire Operations**

- Implement emergency preparedness plans for Municipal infrastructure
- Develop evacuation plan
- Establish monitoring program to evaluate and maintain low hazard fuel conditions for public and private lands
- Continue education to landowners
- Facilitate Firewise Communities in neighborhoods
- Continue hazard fuel reduction on public and private lands
- Monitor natural regeneration, plant trees where appropriate
- Develop long-term brush disposal program

### **Phase III: 2007-2011**

#### **Mitigation and Maintenance**

- Maintain sound emergency evacuation and operations plans for fire emergencies
- Continue education to landowners
- Maintain Firewise Communities
- Monitor and maintain low hazard fuel conditions on public and private lands
- Continue brush disposal program