Public Safety Committee Update
Anchorage Fire Department – April, 2023
Assembly Public Safety Committee-of-the-Whole

- AFD/MOA Building Collapse Response
- Residential Fire Fatalities
- PulsePoint Update
- AFD Sullivan Arena Responses
AFD/MOA Building Collapse Response

- Heavy snow loads mixed with warm weather has lead to 19 known structural collapses.

- Several notable collapses, including 1 with trapped victims, prompted assessment by MOA Development Services to determine common factors in these collapses.
AFD/MOA Building Collapse Response

- **2/17/2023** – Turnagain CrossFit @ 1101 E 76th Ave.
  - Roof system overloaded with ice build-up overlaid with snow
  - Roof structural member failed and the roof/wall connection allowed the wall to fall away, leading to a partial roof collapse onto the occupants

- **3/4/2023** – FashionPact @ 55 Ingra St.
  - Roof structural member failed at the wall support
  - Loss of connection led to opposite wall to fail outward, leading to a complete structural collapse

- **3/15/2023** – Northway Mall @ 3101 Penland Pkwy.
  - Partial collapse after failure of the roof members led to gas leak inside and outside the building

- **3/20/2023** – Metrie @ 2503 Arctic Blvd.
  - Failure of the roof members likely due to overloading at this location with snow unable to shed because of adjacent building
AFD/MOA Building Collapse Response

• MOA Development Services has identified older flat roof truss systems (top chord bearing) as a common element in these failures.

• The structural engineering community is assessing these and other buildings with similar flat roof systems for potential failures.
AFD/MOA Building Collapse Response

• Concentrated loading is a cause for concern

• Areas where snow/ice/water can accumulate are problematic
  • Poor insulation can cause thicker ice lenses
  • Roof leaks can lead to deterioration of structural members

• Failures can be gradual (ductile) or sudden (brittle)
  • Gradual failures can come with visible clues (e.g. roof dips, bowing or leaning walls)
  • Sudden failures typically do not show any signs
AFD/MOA Building Collapse Response

Public information effort warning of potential dangers.

News media coverage, web pages & social media engagement

- Mayor’s Office
- MOA Development Services
- OEM
- AFD

ANCHORAGE Office of Emergency Management
February 18 -

Anchorage has near-record snow conditions this winter. Anchorage residents and property owners should consider the benefits and dangers of snow removal from roofs. Below are some key safety issues:

Unbalanced Snow Load from Drifting and Sliding Snow on Residential Structure

MOA Guidance Regarding Potential Ro... See more

ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT – 100 E 4th Ave, Anchorage AK 99501 – (907) 267-4900
MOA Development Services Department continues to work with the engineering community and building owners to identify and address these structural issues.
Residential Fire Fatalities

- Between **January 1st and March 16th**, 2023, AFD responded to over **60 fire incidents** occurring in residential structures.

- 4 of those incidents accounted for 5 adults losing their lives as a result of the fire in their home.
Residential Fire Fatalities

Ermine Fire – January, 2023
• 1 fatality
• Fire was intentionally set by occupant
• Smoke alarms inoperable

Huffman Fire – February, 2023
• 2 fatalities
• Fire caused by combustibles too close to portable space heater
• No smoke alarms located
Residential Fire Fatalities

Coventry Fire – February, 2023
• 1 fatality
• Fire caused by build up of dryer lint
• Smoke alarm not operable

Bragaw Fire – March, 2023
• 1 fatality
• Fire caused undetermined, smoking materials suspected
• Smoke alarm removed, disabled
Residential Fire Fatalities

• While the cause of these fires varied, a common factor in most of these fatalities were smoke alarms either no installed, disabled, or not functioning.

• Early detection may have alerted the residents, allowing for escape.
Residential Fire Fatalities

PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL

• Press releases/social media
• AFD Fire Marshal interviews with local media stressing the importance of checking the functionality of smoke alarms and having an escape plan.

• Public Safety Partnerships
• Collaboration with the State of Alaska Division of Fire & Life Safety to coordinate a statewide campaign in fire prevention.

• Community Risk Reduction
• Continued engagement with the community by AFD personnel on home fire safety.
PulsePoint Update

• 988 total users
• 164 cardiac arrest responses
• Outreach efforts include presentations to Rotary Clubs, etc.
• Community CPR plans in progress
• Ted Stevens International Airport has agreed to assist with marketing efforts
AFD Responses to Sullivan Arena

Calls for service 10/01-03/23

- Total Calls: 920
- EMS calls: 611
- Medical eval only: 122
- Good Intent or Service Calls: 91
- MCT calls: 84
- Other: 12
AFD Responses to Sullivan Arena

• AFD policy to always dispatch a fire company with an ambulance
• Ambulance stolen and recovered 30 minutes later
• Attempted theft of ambulance