

Upper Yukon/Tanana Zone Initial Firefighting Academy

The Alaska Fire Service, Upper Yukon and Tanana Zones conduct an annual academy for first year fire fighters. The academy consists of five days of camping in remote conditions while receiving classroom instruction and rigorous participation in numerous field exercises. The students are divided into 'crews' which are supervised by qualified EFF and federal FFT1s.

The average academy size has been approximately 30 participants per year. In 2010, there were 61 participants.

The following classes and field exercises are included in the First Year Fire Academy with strong emphasis on hands on application:

Classes:

- S-130 Firefighting Training
- S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
- I-100 Introduction to ICS
- L-180 Human Factors in Wildland Fire Service

Field Exercise:

- Hose and Pump Operations
- Structure Protection (Sprinkler Kit Set Up)
- Alaska Specific Hand Line Cutting
- Alaska Specific Mop Up and Gridding
- Introduction to Firing Devices
- Remote Alaska Fire Camp Setup
- Introduction to Helicopter Safety

After completion of the five day academy students receive certificates for the above classes and a red card indicating that they have completed all the training successfully.

The instructors include Zone Fire Specialist from Upper Yukon and Tanana Zones, an EMT, **and Alaskan EFF instructors from the zone crews.**

The intent of this training is to ensure that the students have the basic understanding of fire behavior and the fundamental building blocks to operate in an efficient and safe capacity when going on assignment.