

**MEMORANDUM**  
**Department of Natural Resources**

State of Alaska  
Division of Land



**TO:** Bob Dick  
Director  
Division of Forestry

**DATE:** July 7, 1992

**TELEPHONE NO.:** 762-2692

**FROM:** Ron Swanson

**SUBJECT:** Revised Cabin  
Protection Policy

The Revised Cabin Protection Policy contains two parts that are best addressed separately, the Fire Protection Direction (policy) and the Implementation Strategy (procedures). The policy statement should be clear and concise. The implementation procedures should be part of Department Order 113 to clarify the different division's roles in fire protection.

Cabin protection should be incorporated, as much as possible, into the pre-planning stages of fire management. Pre-planning can address clusters of cabins or special improvement sites that warrant protection, and add that information to the other resources of value. The annual review can update that decision-making. To leave decision to site-by-site, while fire is burning, is not responsible or reasonable.

We are currently reviewing the fire protection options for state land in the northern region. The cabin protection policy is an important factor in that review. We see this as an opportunity to make significant cost-saving changes. The procedural update to D.O. 113 can be revised this fall and winter when the rush of summer activities wane.

Cabin Fire Protection Policy: Cabins, whether authorized or unauthorized, and other improvements including those resulting from past state land disposals shall be afforded the same level of fire protection as the surrounding land as identified in the most current fire management plan.

The fire management plan will consider the values at risk when designating the fire protection levels for a given area. Fire protection levels will be based at a level commensurate with the values at risk.

cc: Rick Thompson, SCRO  
Rick Smith, NRO  
Andy Pekovich, SERO  
Carol Shobe, Title  
Marty Welbourn, Resources  
Frenchie Malotte, Chief, Fire Management