

Dillingham Fire and Rescue

2025 S.M.A.R.T. GOALS

The goal of this proposal is to evaluate the current issues of the high use of opioids and other synthetic (designer) drugs in Dillingham. The Fire and EMS department has had a front row seat in seeing the changes that the influx of drugs into the region has made in the community. The outcome of the goals made in 2025 will be driven by the resolute staff within the Fire and EMS office as well as partnering with other organizations in the region and around the state.

WHAT ARE WE SEEING:

In Dillingham, we have a wide variety of people and narcotics that Fire and EMS treat for drug overdoses, both accidental and intentional. Below is lists of the type of drugs, the ranges of individuals in age, living conditions, and profession. There is also a list of the things that Fire and EMS have been trained to look for on a scene as not all calls are initially drug related but can turn into something that personnel has to be aware of for our safety and to properly treat patients.

- The most common drugs that we come across with patients in Dillingham are:
 - Heroin
 - Fentanyl – Real hospital grade
 - Meth
 - Marijuana
 - Designer/Synthetic
- The most common profile of individuals that the Fire/EMS personnel find using drugs are:
 - School aged kids
 - 4th grade to 12th grade
 - Young adults
 - 18 years old – 25 years old
 - Some in mid-late 30's
 - Older Adults
 - 50 years old and up
 - Homeless individuals
 - Individuals that come to the region for short-term work
 - Individuals that come from surrounding communities for shopping and medical appointments
 - Other
 - Teachers
 - Contract workers
 - Office workers
 - Hunters
 - Fishermen
- The Fire and EMS staff have been trained to look for any signs of drug use on the scene that we are called to including but not limited to:
 - Syringes – both used and unused
 - Small plastic bags
 - Burned tinfoil
 - Burned and bent spoons
 - Straws or pen parts that have been modified for drug use
 - Containers holding drugs or residue from drugs used

PARTNERSHIPS:

Throughout the region and state, the Fire and EMS office has been able to create and strengthen partnerships so that we can provide better patient care, have access to up-to-date training materials and supplies, host community gatherings, and work together as a whole for the betterment of our community.

- BBAHC
 - ER Staff
 - Medical Doctors
 - Nurses
 - Behavioral Health
 - Opioid Prevention
- Dillingham Police Department
 - Scene safety
 - Patient assists
 - Narcotics disposal on scene
- Alaska State Troopers
 - Scene safety
 - Patient assists
 - Narcotics disposal on scene
- Curyung
 - Community events
 - Narcan
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Safety equipment
- BBEDC
 - Summer staff funding – if available
 - Training funding
- State of Alaska Department of Health
 - Training resources
 - Harm Reduction Kits
 - Teaching materials
- Southern Region EMS
 - Licensing
 - Training
 - Symposiums
 - Annual 5-day EMS training event where many different issues from around Alaska and other parts of the US are brought to the forefront and discussed. It is also a fantastic opportunity for EMS to meet with other departments and see how we can help each other with the challenges we all face.
- Beaver Round-Up
 - Parade
 - Open House
 - Kids Fire Safety
- Dillingham City School District
 - Staff training on prevention
 - How to use Narcan
 - What to look for with coworkers/students/community members in the school
 - Training resources that teachers can use or handout
 - Student training
 - Dangers of drug use
 - How to use Narcan
 - What to look for in friends/family/places staying
 - Teaching in classrooms with students
 - Narcan storage
- Funding and/or food for events
 - L & M
 - Northline Seafoods
 - OBI
 - Silver Bay Seafoods
 - Nushagak Cooperative
 - Alaska Commercial Company
 - Bigfoot LGM

In the last year, the Fire and EMS personnel have participated in many activities to help support the community as well as making our faces known to higher risk individuals so that they are comfortable around us in both public and private as we respond to their needs.

- Community Events
 - Beaver Round-Up
 - Wellness Conferences
 - Healing Conferences
 - Yearly Health Fair
 - Vaccine Clinics
 - Opioid resources made available
 - Harbor Day
 - Fill the Boot
 - BBQ
 - Car wash
 - Polar Plunge
- Meeting with school administration, staff, and students
- Working with BBNA Reentry Taskforce
 - Resources for people reentering our communities after incarceration

RESOURCES:

Below is a list of resources that the Fire and EMS personnel have for patient and community support. This ranges from supplies and training to personal safety when on a call. These resources are vital for not only supporting our community members, but each also helps to offset one or more hurdles our community faces.

- Project Hope
 - Supplies Narcan Kits and Training Materials
- BBAHC
 - Crisis Intervention
 - Supplies disposable equipment
 - Supplies medications for opioid use
- I Know Mine (www.iknowmine.org)
 - Harm reduction kits
 - Pamphlets with information on both legal and illegal drugs
 - Condoms, Dental Dams, Screening Kits
 - Safer sex leads to less high-risk pregnancies
- State of Alaska
 - State guides and resources on opioids
 - Crisis intervention
- Dillingham City School District
 - Staff is available to call on department personnel to check students and staff if drug use is suspected
 - Provide a larger gathering place for community events to be held
 - Allowing staff into the schools to talk to students about community issues
- Dillingham Police Department
 - Scene safety
 - Patient assists
 - Narcotics disposal on scene
 - NEW Narcotics K-9 coming soon

NEEDS:

As the city identifies community needs, we have been able to adjust to fit those needs as best we can. Although we do partner with various other organizations around the region, state and lower forty-eight, there is always more that can be done to help individuals in need. Below is a list of items that the community could benefit from. This also addresses the changing needs that we have identified from our own experience working in the community.

- Rehab Programs
- Money for additional supplies and equipment
- Safe space for people to be sober
 - Community center
 - Warming shelters
 - Housing / Temporary Shelter
 - Better access to mental health services
 - More people in recovery speaking about their struggles and getting help
- Community member support for our homeless population
 - Blankets clothes/winter
 - Meals for those identified and getting help
 - Support Services – individual dependent
 - Helping with resources on addiction

PLAN FOR 2025:

The plan for 2025 is to become more socially active with the community by hosting and participating in different community events including:

- Morning Mug-Ups
 - Hosted by S.A.F.E. and held in the entrance of the school
 - Students and other community members join together to talk about issues and resources
- Being more active on social media
 - Weekly safety updates on the DVFD and City Facebook pages
- Monthly KDLG safety infomercials
 - These will be twice a month on Fridays and will cover both Fire and EMS related topics
- A long-term goal is getting into the schools at the level the schools are comfortable with. This takes a lot of approval and persistence, but we are working towards this.

The department also sees excellent value in planning open houses at the Fire Stations and expanded training for all community members – CPR/First Aid/Harm Reduction/Prevention. We also are collaborating with the school district to get a State approved teaching curriculum added for the next school year and have offered to help with teaching various parts of the curriculum. The department has also started working with the SAFE to participate and further develop a Community Outreach Team with at least one person from each organization in the region. Together, with the ideas we have implemented in the past, and the new strategies, we are looking forward to seeing a reduction in opioid-related calls and deaths.