

The **Department of Search and Rescue** performed 16 successful training flights this month, and completed 4 successful medevac missions. On May 22nd, Search and Rescue received a request from Noorvik Search and Rescue for assistance in a search for a couple who had left Kotzebue by snow machine to go to Noorvik and had not been seen for seven days. The North Slope Borough Mayor's Office donated 2 55-gallons of fuel and money to Noorvik, and chartered an aircraft to transport nine (9) volunteers from the Point Hope SAR to assist in the search for the couple. The search is continuing. Our hearts go out to our sisters and brothers in the Nana Region, and we continue to pray for the safe return of the missing couple.

The **Department of Wildlife Management** completed the ice-based bowhead whale population estimate for 2011! The final estimate is 16,892 with a confidence interval from 15,704 to 18,928. This number will be reviewed at IWC in June but we expect little change in the estimate. The NSB and AEWG should take great pride in the recovery of the bowhead and 30 years of hard work counting whales! Bowhead age studies continue, and as new technology emerges we are able to gain more knowledge and information about our important resources. Quyanapuk Director Hepa and your staff for your continued work to protect and sustain our subsistence resources in addition to supporting an internship program that provides insight for students who may want to pursue wildlife management as a career.

The **Human Resources Department** is working hard to help coordinate the summer employment opportunities for our region's youth and is working with industry to promote and place student interns. The department is also engaged in the transition to a smaller department with Training and Development being transferred.

The melting of permafrost and our aging water and sewer infrastructure in the Barrow and outlying communities are major challenges and the **Department of Public Works** is aggressively seeking alternatives other than direct bury and is working. Future Project Analysis Reports will identify alternatives to the direct bury system and the aging infrastructure.

The **NSB Fire Department** has been concentrating this month on training for village employees. ETT training has been completed for Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope. They will be going to Point Lay the first week of June. In addition to this, five students (including employees from Nuiqsut and Point Lay) attended an Emergency Medical Technician II class here in Barrow. The last of the NPR-A villages are starting to receive their new scuba equipment, and once the new air pack equipment arrives in the villages, our employees will be trained and the equipment will be placed in-service.

The **Police Department** is proud to announce that Kelsey Contrades graduated from the Police Academy in Fairbanks and is now assigned to the Barrow Patrol Unit. During the month of May the department responded to 2,667 calls for service. There were 130 traffic related contacts, 98 alcohol related calls, 1,852 self-initiated contacts by police officers and 815 dispatched calls.

In conclusion, we look forward to this month's festivities and although we will not be enjoying Nalukataq here in Barrow, we are very joyful for Point Hope's bountiful whale harvest this year. Their whaling festival is called Qagruk and will be held June 9th to the 12th. The Alaska Arctic Policy Commission will be holding an Indigenous Stakeholders' Forum on June 11th here in Barrow, followed by the Commission's meeting on the 13th. The RuralCAP board of directors are also meeting here in Barrow on the 13th and 14th and we look forward to seeing our special guests and visitors from around the state.