

**ANCHOR POINT FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AREA
SUB-STATION IN NIKOLAEVSK**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION
(Excerpt from Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] grant application)**

WHAT: The Anchor Point Fire and Emergency Medical Service Area (“Service Area”) would like to build a sub-station in the Community of Nikolaevsk – a no-frills metal building with five vehicle bays. The proposed project consists of the construction of a 50’ x 60’ (3,000 sq. ft.) single story structure, using steel frame or stick built construction. Roof and siding will be metal. The facility will have 16’ walls, two roll-up doors on the front and a large bi-fold or hydro-swing door on the rear. In addition to parking for five vehicles, the floor layout will include restrooms, air handling and mechanical room, and a small maintenance room for repair work. The preferred heating system for the station is in-slab hydronic. Electrical power will be supplied by HEA; water is supplied by the Nikolaevsk water system. The facility will be used to house an ambulance, engine, brush truck and tanker in addition to other firefighting and emergency medical equipment. If funding allows, a meeting room for training classes will be included in the project. The building will be located near the intersection of two streets with access to both ends of the building.

WHERE: The new sub-station will be located in the Community of Nikolaevsk. The Borough purchased 5.52 acres of land for the station in 2000. The new satellite station will be built on Lots 48 and 49 of Nikolaevsk Village Subdivision No. 4 (Assessor Parcel Nos. 165-640-44 and 45). The site is owned by the Kenai Peninsula Borough on behalf of the Service Area and has been classified as “Government.” KPB 17.10.250 (O) defines “government” as “lands that may be or are required for use by a federal, state or local governmental entity. Such uses include existing and future school sites; sites for service area facilities; or, any governmental use determined to be beneficial to the public.”

WHY:

Quicker response to emergencies. The main fire station is located in Anchor Point. The Service Area is physically too large of an area to effectively serve only from the Anchor Point station. Response time to Nikolaevsk from the Anchor Point fire station is 30 minutes in good circumstances. This is much too long to respond to fires and medical emergencies. Extended distances require lengthy response times along narrow, two lane roads, often in inclement winter weather conditions, often exceeding fire service standards and what is reasonable to save a life or home.

A sub-station in Nikolaevsk would improve response time by firefighters and emergency medical personnel, thereby providing a higher level of service to its residents. Having adequate facilities to house the equipment will extend the life of the equipment, reduce maintenance costs, and make the vehicles more readily available by reducing the time needed to warm up the engines. In the cold winter months, housing vehicles in a warm facility could reduce the critical time needed for responding.

Current space is inadequate and inappropriate. There is no fire station in Nikolaevsk. Construction of a satellite fire station is needed to establish a permanent presence in the

community and to enhance fire and future EMS response. In 1999, one stall in the Nikolaevsk water facility was leased on a **temporary** basis to house an engine / pumper truck. This is still the only space used today for storing firefighting and emergency medical equipment in Nikolaevsk. This is not an appropriate location for the equipment, nor is it adequate.

Additional space is needed for new equipment. More space is needed to house five response vehicles. Two new vehicles will be delivered this fall. A 2000 gallon tanker truck has been ordered for primary use in Nikolaevsk. In addition, the Community is receiving an ambulance specifically for Nikolaevsk under the Code Blue program. At this time, there is no storage facility for the new tanker truck or the ambulance. The new sub-station will house the engine/pumper currently being stored in the well house, the new tanker and ambulance that will be delivered later this year, and two other vehicles dedicated for use in Nikolaevsk.

Improved ISO ratings. Another advantage of having a sub-station located in Nikolaevsk is that the Insurance Services Office (“ISO”) rating should be improved for those residents within a 5-mile radius of the station. Generally, this translates into reduced insurance premiums for the residents. Although this may be just a small amount of savings, it is of importance to the residents of Nikolaevsk who are primarily in the low to moderate income range.

HOW: The project is divided into two phases; one for pre-construction activities and one for construction. Phase 1 entails initial site work along with programming and schematic designs. It includes such work as clearing of the property, bringing water lines and fire hydrants up to the property, and development of design documents. No grant funds or matching funds will be used for Phase 1. Phase 2 begins with the development of construction documents and ends with substantial completion of the new sub-station. CDBG funds and the local share will be used for Phase 2.

WHO: The Anchor Point Fire and Emergency Medical Service Area (“Service Area”) and the Anchor Point Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue, Inc. (“Volunteers”) are working with the Community of Nikolaevsk to upgrade firefighting and emergency medical services in that area. The Service Area is within the boundaries of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and is managed by a five-member board of directors elected to three-year terms. Board members serve in an advisory role to the KPB Assembly and Mayor and may recommend policy and mill rate changes for their area.

The Service Area has entered into a written agreement with the Volunteer Fire Department to clarify roles and responsibilities. Basically, the Service Area provides the facilities and equipment; the Volunteers provide the firefighting and medical response services and personnel. Also, they are responsible for operations and maintenance of the facilities.