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Contact:
Michelle Egan 907-787-8870

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Alyeska Fire/Rescue Brigade grabs top honors

The Alyeska Fire/Rescue Brigade grabbed top honors at the State Firefighters Skills Competition in Fairbanks this month, marking the 12th consecutive victory in the competition.

"There was a great turnout this year, and many teams were well prepared to challenge us," said Brian Beauvais, Alyeska Fire Chief. "Our group really represented Alyeska's professionalism and commitment to safety. They showed a level of camaraderie that is unprecedented in the fire service."

The annual competition took place during the 49th Annual Alaska Fire Conference, hosted by the Alaska State Firefighter Association and the Alaska Fire Chief's Association. Alyeska's competition team is composed of both Alyeska technicians and Doyon Universal Services fire team employees who serve on the brigade at the Valdez Marine Terminal.

Brigade members who attended the training conference included Fire Chief Brian Beauvais; Assistant Chief Sean Wisner; Captains Jennifer Stubblefield, Chris Steeves, and Brian Mitchell; Lieutenants Justin Major and Matt Smelcer; and firefighters Steve McCann and Greg Matthieu.

The team logged more than 350 hours of hands-on training at the conference, a unique event where departments from across the state train together in both classroom and field settings. This year's training included internationally renowned instructors such as Chief Billy Goldfeder, Chief Bob Pressler, and Chief David Daniels.

The competition, held Saturday morning, September 24, involved firefighters showing their skills in swiftly and accurately deploying equipment and also extinguishing flames. Alyeska's brigade placed first in the ladder raise, fire extinguisher and the make-and-break competitions, and took second in the bunker gear and SCBA event. Make-and-break is a competition where three team members work together in relay fashion to assemble hose segments and connect it to a hydrant. The Bunker Gear and SCBA contest gauges how fast a team member can correctly don firefighting gear and a self-contained breathing apparatus. The ladder raise event requires a team of four to carry a 24-foot firefighting ground ladder 75 feet, secure it, climb it, and ring a bell at the top. The fire extinguisher event gauges how fast a firefighter can safely extinguish a Class B fire using a portable fire extinguisher.

For further information, contact Michelle Egan, Alyeska Corporate Communications Director, 907-787-8870. For more information on Alyeska, visit the company's website at www.alyeska-pipe.com.

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