

Introduced by: Mayor Pruhs\*  
Councilmember Marney  
Councilmember Ringstad  
Councilmember Sprinkle  
Councilmember Cleworth  
Councilmember Tidwell  
Councilmember Therrien  
\*indicates original sponsor  
Date: September 8, 2025

## **ORDINANCE NO. 6327**

### **AN ORDINANCE ENACTING FAIRBANKS GENERAL CODE CHAPTER 25 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Statute 26.23.140 *Local disaster emergencies* authorizes local political subdivisions to address emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the City intends to enact national best practices related to disaster preparedness and emergency operations to better serve the community during times of crisis.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, as follows:**

**SECTION 1.** The Fairbanks General Code is amended adding a new chapter, Chapter 25 Emergency Operations, as follows:

#### **Chapter 25 – EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

#### **ARTICLE I. EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

##### **Sec. 25-1. State of Emergency Definition**

**A state of emergency is defined as: Any natural disaster or manmade calamity, including flood, fire, weather event, earthquake, riot, or explosion within the city or immediately threatening inhabitants of the city, which has or may result in the death, injury, or the destruction of property to such an extent that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect public order, safety and welfare.**

##### **Sec. 25-2. Authority to issue, amend, and rescind an emergency proclamation**

- a. **Whenever the mayor determines that a state of emergency as defined in section 25-1 exists, he or she may declare by proclamation the existence of the emergency. The proclamation may cover the prevention, response, and recovery phases of the emergency. The mayor may subsequently amend the proclamation; however, both the original proclamation and any subsequent amendments must include an indication of the nature of the emergency, the area threatened or affected, the conditions that have brought the emergency about, and the conditions that make possible the termination of the emergency.**

- b. Additionally, the mayor has the power to impose by proclamation any regulations, warnings, advisories, orders, and penalties necessary to prevent disorder and forestall or mitigate imminent or existing danger to public health, safety, or property. At all times when the declaration of the emergency is in effect, regulations made pursuant to this Article supersede existing ordinances, rules, orders, regulations, contractual obligations, and policies to the extent that there is a conflict or inconsistency therewith. If entry into private and/or public property is necessary to mitigate the disaster, all persons authorized to carry out emergency measures are authorized to enter the property to perform appropriate tasks without the consent of the owners of the land or buildings.
- c. The mayor may rescind the declaration of an emergency at any time by proclamation.
  - (1) Any proclamation declaring an emergency, providing an amendment, imposing regulations, or rescinding the declaration of emergency must: be given promptly, publicly announced, and widely disseminated publicly through applicable media outlets and with copies of the proclamation available at City Hall or designated public place(s); and
  - (2) be filed with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and City clerk in accordance with AS 26.23.140 and be disseminated to Council Members.
- d. The proclamation activates the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The EOP was adopted by resolution and is reviewed, amended, and published periodically by the City administration.
- e. The state of emergency may remain in place for up to seven days unless the city council extends the state of emergency by resolution.
- f. The city council by resolution may declare that the emergency no longer exists.

## ARTICLE II. EVACUATION/SHELTER IN PLACE/CURFEW ORDERS; PENALTIES; APPEALS

### Sec. 25-3. Evacuation/shelter in place orders/curfew orders

- a. The mayor or fire chief may issue evacuation advisories, warnings, and orders along with prescribed routes and preferred destinations to prevent the loss of life during an emergency affecting a specific area.
- b. The mayor or fire chief or police chief may issue temporary shelter in place advisories, warnings, and orders to prevent the loss of life during an emergency.
- c. The mayor or fire chief or police chief may issue curfew orders during an emergency.



#### Sec. 25-4. Penalties and appeals

- a. The mayor may establish penalties not to exceed \$500 for violating emergency regulations and orders.
- b. Any person assessed with a fine related to an emergency order may seek administrative relief from the city mayor or chief of staff who may waive penalties in whole or in part. Any person not satisfied with the appeal decision may appeal to the city council within 30 days of the decision.

### ARTICLE III. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

#### Sec. 25-5. Declared emergency procurement procedures

- a. Following a declared state of emergency, the mayor or mayor's designee may award contracts and make purchases up to \$1,000,000 to mitigate imminent threat to life or property.
- b. A detailed report of emergency procurements made during a declared emergency will be provided to the city council at each city council meeting or work session until the emergency has concluded.
- c. Emergency procurement related to a declared state of emergency will follow emergency purchasing standards established in Sec. 54-246.
- d. The city council may award contracts that exceed the mayor's emergency authority through a resolution.
- e. The city council may appropriate additional funds for emergency procurement through an ordinance. During a declared emergency in accordance with Sec. 3.6 of the City of Fairbanks Charter, the city council may motion for suspension of the rules, and upon the unanimous affirmative vote of all members in attendance any ordinance may be introduced, amended and adopted during that single meeting.

#### Sec. 25-6. Hiring of personnel pursuant to a declared emergency

- a. Following a declared state of emergency, the mayor or mayor's designee may recruit and hire temporary employees to mitigate imminent threats, to maintain crucial City operations, or to assist in recovery efforts.
- b. Only the city council may extend the service of the temporary employees beyond the declared emergency.

- c. The total combined wages and benefits of all temporary employees hired for the emergency cannot exceed \$250,000 without approval from the city council.

#### ARTICLE IV. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

##### Sec. 25-7. Off-site incident management

- a. During a declared state of emergency, the mayor and/or chief of staff has the authority to make strategic decisions, develop policy, commit resources, obligate funds, and command the human resources necessary to protect the population, mitigate threats, stop the spread of damage, and preserve the environment.
- b. In a multiagency or multijurisdictional emergency event, the mayor, chief of staff, or other designee(s) may represent the City in appropriate Multiagency Coordination Groups (MAC), policy groups, advisory councils, or similar coordination entities.
- c. The mayor, chief of staff, or fire chief (acting as the emergency manager) may direct the initiation of a virtual or physical Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to facilitate strategic planning, to consolidate/analyze/share information, to approve/allocate/track resources, to increase coordination, and to provide policy direction related to the declared emergency. At a minimum an EOC will have finance, logistics, operations, and planning/intelligence components.
- d. The mayor, chief of staff, or public information officer may establish a virtual or physical information center to facilitate public affairs functions during a declared emergency.
- e. The mayor or chief of staff will delegate authorities as appropriate to the on-site incident commander.

##### Sec. 25-8. On-site incident management

- a. During a declared state of emergency, the mayor or chief of staff may delegate authority to an incident commander. The incident commander may be authorized to oversee on-scene operations, make tactical decisions, set on-scene priorities, request additional support, relay relevant information, command resources, and lead other functions as needed to address the emergency.
- b. An incident commander does not have to be the most qualified or senior ranking person on the scene, but should have known leadership/supervisory skills, a clear understanding of their authorities, and a deep knowledge of City policies and code.

- c. The mayor or chief of staff may use a predesignated incident commander(s). Predesignated incident commanders are capable of rapidly assuming command due to their senior position, knowledge, and skill. The following personnel are considered to be predesignated incident commanders and will be prepared to assume the role of incident commander: fire chief, assistant fire chief, police chief, deputy police chief, and public works director. Predesignated incident commanders will be experts in their respective fields, be accustomed to leading large groups with complex tasks, and will have a general understanding of the Incident Command System (ICS).
- d. The responsibility and authority of command may be transferred from one incident commander to another as the emergency progresses. The transfer of command should be done in a way that minimizes any disruption to on-going emergency operations.
- e. The incident commander may establish an Incident Command Post (ICP).
- f. In multijurisdictional responses, the incident commander may participate in a Unified Command with other incident commanders.

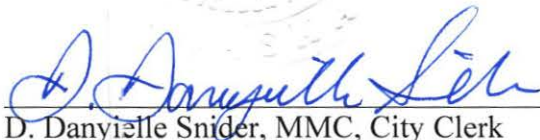
**SECTION 2.** The effective date of this ordinance is six days after adoption.



David Pruhs, City Mayor

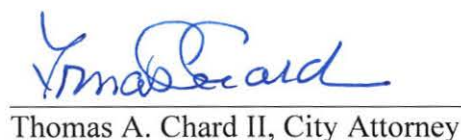
AYES: Therrien, Cleworth, Sprinkle, Ringstad, Marney, Tidwell  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
ADOPTED: September 29, 2025

ATTEST:



D. Danyelle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney