

Local, regional drownings prompt seminar in Chignik

CHIGNIK — Six local and 12 regional drownings, as well as a rash of boat fires and sinkings were cited as the reason for a recent seminar on small vessel safety, according to Chignik Bay Fire Chief Ron Bowers.

Thirty-four firefighters from 11 Alaska Peninsula communities gathered in Chignik to attend the seminar March 15-17.

Also, 50 school children and fishermen received instruction on survival techniques and fishing vessel safety.

Vince Reyes, Kodiak Coast Guard civilian fire chief, and Mike Peak, damage control, instructed the firefighters. Topics covered included vessel, harbor and dock firefighting; rescue and vessel stability; various extinguishing agents; situation size-up

and self-contained breathing apparatus.

Attending firefighters gathered from Naknek, Pilot Point, Port Heiden, Chignik Lakes, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Bay, Perryville, Sandpoint, Nelson Lagoon, False Pass and Kodiak.

A special training emphasis was placed on fire prevention and personnel safety.

The course was funded by the State of Alaska Fire Service Training Office and the Chignik Bay Fire Department. The U.S. Coast Guard provided instructors and helicopter transportation.

Aleutian Dragon Fisheries, Chignik Bay School, Chignik Chapel and the City of Chignik provided in-kind assistance.