



Heather Handyside is the Director of Homeland Security & Emergency Management for the Municipality of Anchorage. In that role she is responsible for all community security policy, homeland security grant investments and emergency management programs. The Office of Emergency Management administers a portfolio of over \$10 million in grants.

Under Heather Handyside's guidance, the Municipality of Anchorage Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has initiated an aggressive training, exercise and planning program. Over the past two years, 150 municipal staff have received over 6,000 hours of situation room training in order to staff the facility on a 24-hour basis during a disaster. These employees will provide key support functions during a disaster response and recovery effort to include operations, logistics, planning, finance, and public information.

In addition, Handyside inherited a Municipality of Anchorage Emergency Operations Plan that was over a decade old. This plan has undergone a significant revision and is now NIMS (National Incident Management System) compliant and compatible with current technology for all hazards. Mayor Begich promulgated the plan in December 2005.

Handyside has maintained a strong commitment to the community - the EOC produces the quarterly Citizen Emergency Handbook, the Anchorage Disaster Registry for vulnerable populations (updated bi-annually), and the Emergency Watch Program that teaches neighborhoods how to plan and prepare together before a disaster.

Handyside has served on the ALMR Executive Council since 2004. This four-member group is responsible for the oversight of the Alaska Land Mobile Radio Project, a \$100M interoperable radio project partnership with the Department of Defense, the State of Alaska, federal response agencies and local governments.

Handyside began working for the Municipality of Anchorage in 2001 as the Director of Community Relations for the Mayor. In this role she coordinated a number of public safety activities to include Community Spirit Days for neighborhood residents with crime concerns, coordinating the city's September 11, 2002 remembrance activities, and managing the AWARE Program - Anchorage Watchful, Alert and Ready for Emergencies, providing disaster preparedness training for more than 1,100 Anchorage citizens.

In 2003, Handyside developed the Trail Watch Program that promotes public participation in maintenance and safety of Anchorage trail systems. Today Trail Watch is a successful program that organizes more than 200 volunteers to work on issues on Anchorage's 127 miles of trails. She has also staffed the Municipality of Anchorage Public Safety Advisory Commission (PSAC) for the past four years. The PSAC identifies broad public safety issues of concern to the citizens of the municipality and advises the Mayor and Assembly on these issues.

Handyside is a graduate of The American University in Washington D.C. where she earned a degree in International Relations with a specialization in U.S./Middle Eastern Policy.