

BURNING ISSUES



PREVENTION • PROTECTION • PUBLIC EDUCATION

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE COMMISSIONER

OFC Provides Logistical Support to Mallard Search

Douglas M. Popowich

On July 15, 2000 at approximately 9:00 p.m. our Office received a request to assist in the search for a missing boy approximately 15 km north of the Community of Mallard. Mallard is a small Northern Affairs Community about 125 km north of Dauphin.

We were told that an 8-year-old boy had been out with his stepfather hunting. After having shot a deer the stepfather left the boy with the deer and went to get help from the rest of the hunting group. Upon their return, the boy was missing. No one knew at that time the magnitude that this search would reach. Each year in the Province there are, approximately 30 reported cases of lost

persons. In our Province, the policing authority is responsible for lost person search and rescue and therefore in Manitoba most searches fall under the jurisdiction of the RCMP. The Office of the Fire Commissioner is responsible to provide logistical support with this being done through the provision of equipment, staff, and coordination of the response of the many trained search teams that have been developed throughout the Provincial Mutual Aid system.

The search for young Marcus McKay turned out to be the largest mobilization of resources on a search incident in the history of this Province. Organizations involved in the search were the RCMP, Office of the Fire Commissioner,

Canadian Armed Forces, CASARA, Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Health, Manitoba Hydro, Parks Canada,
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BYTOWN FIRE BRIGADE VISITS MANITOBA



The Bytown Fire Brigade arrived at the Manitoba-Ontario border on Friday, July 28th. The Brigade was met by the West Hawk Lake Fire Department and Ray Pearson from the Office of the Fire Commissioner. Ray and Jean-Paul Lebel escorted the

Brigade across the Province. The Brigade was treated to Manitoba hospitality – coffee, doughnuts, BBQ's, parades, etc. as they traveled across our Province. While in Winnipeg, the
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Salvation Army, Parkland Regional Health Authority, Waterhen Ambulance, Canadian Red Cross, Department of Northern Affairs, Manitoba Emergency Management Organization, countless numbers of Volunteers from the community of Mallard and many other communities across Manitoba and 16 trained teams from the Mutual Aid System.

The search teams and other personnel, in extremely difficult conditions, spent a countless number of hours searching. I cannot speak highly enough about the commitment and professionalism that was demonstrated at this search. The Province has come to rely on the response of these trained Hasty Teams for these rescue situations. There is no greater rescue situation than that of a lost child.

The search continues to go on at the time of the printing of this article by family members and community volunteers but it does appear that the chances of ever finding Marcus are extremely remote. This is indeed tragic and not the outcome that any of us involved in search and rescue ever want to see.

On behalf of the Search Management Team, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all those individuals who were involved in this search. I am well aware of the hours you put in, the conditions that you operated under, and the commitment you made in your attempt to help find this little boy. Although the circumstances that brought us together were tragic, it was a pleasure working with you during this emergency. We can be proud in this Province of the response capability that has been developed throughout the Mutual Aid system. This system brings together such a vast array of resources at the time of an emergency. This is another example of why Manitoba is a leader in the emergency response field. We can all be proud!

The Pas Firefighters Vehicle Extrication Team - 1st Place Overall in Western Canada



The Pas' own "Vehicle Extrication Team" trained by Deputy Fire Chief Claude Gervais competed in the Western Canadian Auto Extrication Championship held in Cold Lake, Alberta August 9-12, 2000. Members of the team are: Don Didychuk – Captain; Warren Johnson – Tools; Darren Baker – Tools; Stuart Carruthers – Tools and Jeff Landels – Medic

The competition was held for the teams to rescue "victims" from scenarios of crash scenes. The teams are given 20 minutes to complete this task and are judged on safety, strategy, tool use, and victim care/rescue during their scenario.

There were 14 qualifying teams from Professional and Volunteer Fire Departments competing from Western Canada, the Yukon and North West Territories. Each team competed in two evolutions – one called a "limited pit" which is the use of all tools except power hydraulics, and an "unlimited pit" where hydraulic spreaders and cutters could be used.

A Captain's meeting was held Wednesday night where the teams' competition times were determined by a random draw. The Pas' first evolution was the unlimited pit at 3:00 p.m. Thursday. Prior to the scenario (accident scene) being set up, the teams are placed in lock up. Time begins when the team members exit the building and view the scenario for the first time. This adds realism, as it resembles arriving at an accident scene. No preplanning is possible and decisions must be made quickly regarding the best way to perform the rescue. This scenario involved a van and an overturned car. There was a victim in each vehicle and both were extricated in approximately 14 minutes.

On Thursday night, The Pas was asked to perform a "live victim" extrication. This was a demo and was not judged for

competition. This scenario involved a single vehicle with one victim.

The team's "limited pit" evolution was at 9:00 Friday morning. This scenario involved a single vehicle on its side against a concrete barrier. The first victim was the driver of the car and the second victim was a cyclist trapped under the car. The driver was removed but time was called before the second victim could be extricated.

The Awards Banquet was held Saturday night. The awards were for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in Limited and Unlimited Pits as well as 1st, 2nd and 3rd Overall. Overall scores were reached by combining the scores of both pits. The Pas placed 1st in the Unlimited Pit, and also took 1st Place Overall!

Other Manitoba teams competing were from Glenboro and Winkler. Glenboro recently placed 1st at the Manitoba Competition held in Carberry in July and also claimed 3rd Overall in Cold Lake.

The Pas team winning 1st Overall entitles the team to compete in the North American Competition in Kentucky in October 2000 as well as the International Competition that will be held in South Africa in May 2001.

The team members would like to thank Deputy Fire Chief Claude Gervais for his time and effort devoted to training. Without his dedication to the team, achieving this level would not have been possible.

Submitted by Don Didychuk, The Pas Fire Department

EDUCATION

Upcoming Course Dates

September 5, 2000	Fire Inspector Level I & II Distance Education (Orientation Day September 6th, 2000) (Fire Protection Systems Lab Week October 30 – November 3, 2000)	Brandon
September 4 – 9, 2000	Emergency Services Instructor Level I	Winnipeg
September 18 – 22, 2000	Fire Investigation Level I	Winnipeg
September 22, 23 & 24, 2000	Aircraft Crash and Rescue Seminar	Dauphin
September 25 – 29, 2000	Hazardous Materials Operations	Brandon
September 29 – 31	Vehicle Extrication Instructor	Steinbach
September 30 – October 1, 2000	Critical Incident Stress Management – Basic	Winnipeg
October 3 – 5, 2000	Hazardous Materials Incidents Command	Brandon
October 11, 2000	Instructor Continuing Education Seminar	Brandon
October 30 – November 3, 2000	Fire Investigation Level I	Brandon
Oct. 30 – Nov. 3, 2000 and November 6 – 10, 2000	Hazardous Materials Technician	Brandon
Nov. 3 – 5, 2000 and Nov. 17 – 19, 2000	Emergency Services Instructor Level I	Brandon
Nov. 6 – 10, 2000	Emergency Services Instructor Level II	Brandon
Nov. 13 – 17, 2000	Fire Investigation Level II	Winnipeg
Nov. 13 – 17, 2000	Municipal Building Bylaw Administration	Brandon
Nov. 17, 18 & 19, 2000	Fire Ground Management	Ste. Anne
Nov. 20 – 24, 2000	Managing Emergency Services	Brandon
Nov. 20 – 24, 2000	Part 9 – Building Plumbing Inspection	Brandon
Nov. 20 – 24, 2000	Fire Protection and Emergency Planning	Winnipeg
November 24, 25 – 26	Vehicle Extrication Instructor	Beausejour
Nov. 25 – 26, 2000	Critical Incident Stress Management – Basic	Brandon
November 27 – December 1, 2000	Part 9 – The House – Building Structures	Brandon
Dec. 1, 2 & 3, 2000	Fire Ground Management	Sanford
December 1 – 3, 2000 and December 15 – 17, 2000	Emergency Services Instructor Level I	Thompson
December 11 – 15, 2000	Part 9 – The House – Health & Safety	Brandon
2001		
January 8 – 12, 2001	Part 9 – Buildings – Structural Requirements	Brandon
January 12 – 14, 2001 and January 26 – 28, 2001	Emergency Services Instructor Level I	Winnipeg
January 15 – 17, 2001	EMS Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents Level I	Brandon
January 15 – 19, 2001	Fire Investigation Level I	Thompson

Please note: The MESC College 2000-2001 Course Catalogue should have indicated that the Prerequisite for the Emergency Services Instructor - Medical is CPR Instructor.

Instructor Information Update

Instructor information can be found as an insert in Burning Issues to make it easier to use the materials. Try your hand at this brain teaser. The answer can be found somewhere in Burning Issues.

Brainteaser

Brainteasers help get students' minds back in gear after a break. Place these numbers on a whiteboard: 8, 11, 15, 5, 14, 1, 7, 6, 10, 13, 3, 12, 2. Tell the students that they are seeing all the numbers from one to fifteen with the exception of four and nine. They must decide why the numbers are arranged in this order then then put the missing numbers in their proper places.

Submitted by Carole Lupkowski

Sparky®

The Sparky® Activity Sheets are **NO** longer available from the Canadian Tire Child Protection Association. The direction of the Child Protection Association has been re-focused. Fire Prevention Canada has some of these sheets available for the cost of shipping but only as long as supplies last. The Office of the Fire Commissioner has some of these sheets in stock as well. Just give Marilyn a call at 1-888-253-1488 if you would like some Activity Sheets.