

## MEDICAL

### When God Made Paramedics...

**W**hen the Lord made Paramedics, he was into his sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And the Lord said, "Have you read the specs on this order? A paramedic has to be able to carry an injured person up a wet, grassy hill in the dark, dodge stray bullets to reach a dying child unarmed, enter homes the health inspector wouldn't touch, and not wrinkle his uniform."

He has to be able to lift three times his own weight, crawl into wrecked cars with barely enough room to move, and console a grieving mother as he is doing CPR on a baby he knows will never breath again. He has to be in top mental condition at all times, running on no sleep, black coffee and half-eaten meals. And he has to have six pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands...no way."

"It's not the hands that are causing me problems," said the Lord, "It's the three pairs of eyes a medic has to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel.

The Lord nodded. "One pair that sees open sores as he's drawing blood and asks the patient if they may be HIV positive; (When he already knows and wishes he'd taken that accounting job.) another pair here in the side of his head for his partners' safety; and another pair of eyes here in front that can look reassuringly at a bleeding victim and say, 'You'll be all right ma'am' when he knows it isn't so."

"Lord," said the angel, touching his sleeve, "rest and work on this tomorrow."

"I can't," said the Lord, "I already have a model that can talk a 250 pound drunk out from behind a steering wheel without incident and feed a family of five on a private service paycheck."

The angel circled the model of the paramedic very slowly, "Can it think?" she asked.

"You bet," said the Lord. "It can tell you the symptoms of 100 illnesses; recite drug calculations in it's sleep; incubate, defibrillate, medicate, and continue CPR nonstop over terrain that any doctor would fear...and still it keeps it's sense of humor. This medic also has phenomenal personal control. He can deal with a multi-victim trauma, coax a frightened elderly person to unlock their door, comfort a murder victim's family, and then read in the daily paper how paramedics were unable to locate a house quickly enough, allowing the person to die. A house that had no street sign, no house numbers, no phone to call back."

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek of the paramedic. "There's a leak," she pronounced. "I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model."

"That's not a leak," said the Lord, "It's a tear."

"It's for bottled-up emotions, for patients they've tried in vain to save, for commitment to that hope that they will make a difference in a person's chance to survive, for life."

"You're a genius," said the angel.

The Lord looked somber. "I didn't put it there," He said. *Author unknown*



## Staff Update

**W**elcome to **Lori Sagert**, Administrative Secretary at the Manitoba Emergency Services College. Lori is responsible for all administrative duties and for sending out the medical equipment and videos.

Welcome to **Jeff Nazimek**, from St. Andrews Fire Department. Jeff will be assisting in the Public Fire Protection Program.

Congratulations to **Darren Brick**, Assistant Instructor on his marriage to Rhonda Arndt on August 12, 2000.



Congratulations to **Rob Pike**, Lead Instructor and his wife Tammy on the birth of their son, Gregory Robert. Gregory was born April 23rd.



Farewell to **Arnie Guminey**, Assistant Instructor in the Medical Program. Arnie will be starting his career with the Winnipeg Emergency Response Service on September 18th. Good luck Arnie!

Farewell to **Rick Negrich**, Emergency Services Officer in Eastern Manitoba. Rick has accepted a position with the Winnipeg Emergency Response Service. Good luck, Rick!

Congratulations to **Allan Gray**, Emergency Services Officer for Dauphin, Winnipegosis and Swan Valley Mutual Aid Districts on receiving his 20 year Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal. Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson presented the medal in Brandon at a ceremony on August 2nd.

## Retirement

### Chief Ted Thomas retires from Grand Marais Fire Department



**Fire Chief Clive Rennie, East Selkirk Fire Department is pictured presenting Fire Chief Ted Thomas with a plaque in appreciation for his many years of service to the North East Mutual Aid District. Ted has retired from the Grand Marais Fire Department after 25 years of service. Good luck in your retirement Chief Thomas!**

## Codes and Standards

### Do You Have the Most Recent FIRE and BUILDING Codes????

It is not uncommon for our office to find that local fire authorities are using outdated codes - some as far back as 1980!!

The most recent Fire and Building Codes are the 1995 Edition of the National Building and Fire Code, with Manitoba amendments to these codes that were passed in 1998.

You can order the National Codes by calling the National Research Council direct on their toll free line at 1-800-672-7990. They are available in different cover types or in CD ROM format. The National Fire Code costs approximately \$70.00 plus GST plus \$12 shipping and handling. The National Building Code costs approximately \$100.00 plus GST plus shipping and handling.

The Manitoba amendments to these codes are available free of charge by either downloading them from the Office of the Fire Commissioner Internet Web site which is [firecomm.gov.mb.ca](http://firecomm.gov.mb.ca) or calling our Winnipeg office to request a copy at 945-3328 or toll free at 1-800-282-8069.

Current, up-to-date codes are essential tools for authorities within municipalities to have and use.

## Emergency Services Conference

Have you sent in your application for the courses you want to take at the Conference? If not, do so now - courses are filling up very quickly - Ground Search and Rescue, Farm Accident Rescue, Water Rescue and Foam Fire Control are already full. Marla would like to remind everyone that if you are taking a course that has pre-requisites, please send a copy of the documentation with your application form. The Manitoba Emergency Services Conference will be held at the Keystone Centre, the College and the Practical Training Site from October 12th to October 15th, 2000. Opening and Closing Ceremonies will be held at the Westman Auditorium. Keynote Speaker for Opening Ceremonies is Richard Gonzalez from Denver, Colorado. Keynote Speaker for Closing Ceremonies is Captain Tim Vandenbrink from the Edmonton Emergency Response Department. The Conference will be offering 2 1/2 and 2

day certificate courses, 1 and 1/2 day seminars.

Any questions regarding the courses please call Marla at 726-6556. Any questions regarding the Conference please call Trish at 726-7195.

## ByTown Fire Brigade (Cont'd)

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Brigade were guests of the Winnipeg Emergency Services, in Portage they were guests of the Portage Fire Department and in Brandon, they were guests of the Brandon Fire/Emergency Services Department and the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

The Bytown Fire Brigade is a non-profit organization and began their cross-Canada tour in St. John's, Newfoundland. They traveled across Canada, promoting fire safety and fire prevention, driving a 1939 Bickle

SeaGrave pumper, a 1928 American LaFrance pumper and a 1927 Sanford. These vehicles were not made for cross-country travel and the Brigade had two break-downs while in Manitoba. Travelling speed was approximately 50 kilometers per hour. In addition to being accompanied by personnel from the OFC, most fire departments along #1 highway escorted the Brigade on the highway and also toured them through their towns. The OFC would like to thank all departments that participated in making the Brigade's tour through Manitoba memorable.

## Recalls/Advisories

**T**here is a voluntarily recall of about 34,000 **Universal smoke alarms**. The smoke alarms can fail to alarm when smoke or fire is present. A capacitor in the alarm can burn out, releasing smoke and melting the cover. Universal has received three reports of alarms failing, releasing smoke. There has been one report of minor smoke damage to the wall of a mobile home. No injuries have been reported. Consumers can identify the recalled models by removing the alarm cover from its base and looking for the manufacture date code and model number. The smoke alarms are made of white plastic and have the manufacture date code and model number imprinted on the back of the alarm.

BRAND MODEL NUMBER  
DESCRIPTION DATE CODE  
Safe T Alert SA-785 AC only unit BCSR  
Universal SS-785 AC unit only BCSR  
Universal SS-795 AC/DC unit w/  
battery BESS backup  
USI Electric USI-1203 AC/DC unit w/  
battery BESS backup

Electrical distributors, housing suppliers, and hardware stores sold these smoke alarms nationwide from April 1998 through June 1999 for between \$10 and \$15. Most of these smoke alarms were pre-installed in homes during construction. Consumers should call Universal Security Instruments Inc. toll-free at (800) 390-4321 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday to receive a free, replacement alarm.

**Voluntary Recall of Cadet Manufacturing Company IN-Wall Electric Heaters Models FW, FX, LX, TK, ZA, Z, RA, RK, RLX, RW, RX and ZC.**

These heaters were sold under the brand names Cadet and Encore. Under

certain conditions these heaters could fail, causing the units to overheat, catch fire and spew flames and molten particles. The heaters may also become energized, creating a potential electrical shock hazard. Consumers should call Cadet Recall Hotline at 10800-567-2613 for further information or visit the website at [www.cadetco.com](http://www.cadetco.com).

**Safety Recall Old "STAR" Brand Fire Sprinklers** - These fire sprinklers may not operate properly in a fire, thereby placing residents and property at risk. These units have been used in nursing homes and other health care facilities and schools, warehouses and supermarkets. The sprinklers are used in dry sprinkler systems only. The models affected are Star D-1, RD-1, RE-1, E-1 and ME-1 produced from 1961 to 1976. For further information, please call 1-800-866-7807 or visit the website at [www.star-recall.com](http://www.star-recall.com).

**CPSC, Bissell® Homecare Inc. recall Upright Vacuum Cleaners** - Bissell Homecare Inc is recalling about 207,000 PowerClean™ and PureAir™ upright vacuum cleaners. The power cord insulation can tear where the cord attaches to the vacuum, exposing bare wires. This poses a risk of shock and burns to consumers. The models included in the recall are: Bissell PowerClean™ model number 3540-1 and is black. The PureAir™ vacuum model number is 3540-2 and is blue. The PureAir™ Deluxe vacuum model number is 3541 and is purple. The PureAir™ Platinum vacuum model number is 3541-P and is purple. Please call 1-888-445-6688 for further information.

**CPSC, Toymax Inc. recall Skeet Shoot Game Cartridges** - Toymax Inc., is recalling the Arcadia Electronic Skeet

Shoot games to replace the game cartridges. These cartridges can cause the projector to overheat, melt and smoke, presenting a risk of burns to consumers. For further information, call 1-800-477-6215 or visit the website at [www.toymax.com](http://www.toymax.com).

**CPSC, Kmart Corp recall Children's Lamps** - Kmart Corp. is recalling the children's decorative lamps. These lamps can short circuit posing a fire hazard. The "Little Ones" accent lamps come in six different styles - an airplane, alphabet letters, numbers, baseball with bat, train and sailboat lamp. Please call Kmart for further information - 1-800-635-6278.

*Answer to Brainteaser: The numbers are listed alphabetically. Therefore, four goes after five and nine follows fourteen.*

**UL Warns Consumers, Restaurant Owners and Retailers about Potentially Hazardous Gas-Fired Stoves** - Portable, gas-fired cook stoves manufactured by RaNee Industrial Co. of Korea may pose a fire hazard and may release elevated levels of carbon monoxide (CO). Consumers and restaurant owners are encouraged to immediately discontinue use of these portable cook stoves. These models are identified as Model No. RE-2100SV by Ra Nee Industrial Co.; Model No. 40066 by Mr. Bar-B-Q under the Chef Master name; Model No. GM-1300 by Glowmater Corp. For further information contact 1-847-272-8800.

**Voluntary Corrective Action program for 40BF Series Residential Oil Burners** - The burners affected bear the model designation 40BF and are equipped with an ET-25 Post Purge Control. The burners are primarily used with residential boilers or furnaces. Please call 1-800-474-3556 for

## Employment Wanted

The Pine Falls District Ambulance is looking for motivated individuals who are interested in a career in EMS. We are accepting applications for provincially

certified EMT candidates. For further information, please contact Ken Gunter, Ambulance Coordinator or Drew Fisher at 204-367-9112 or by fax at 204-367-9037.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner produces the Burning Issues newsletter.

The Burning Issues are updates from the Office of the Fire Commissioner, news and views from the Manitoba Fire Service and information on public safety.

EDITOR: Marilyn Lamb

Deadline for submissions for the Spring edition of Burning Issues is December 1st, 2000. Contributions and suggestions are welcome. If you have news items, please send or fax them to Marilyn at (204) 726-6847 or e-mail [mlamb@labour.gov.mb.ca](mailto:mlamb@labour.gov.mb.ca).