

BURNING ISSUES



PREVENTION • PROTECTION • PUBLIC EDUCATION

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE COMMISSIONER

Douglas M. Popowich

Welcome to this edition of Burning Issues. I want to first pass on from our organization to yours, as well as to you and your families, best wishes for the upcoming year.

Our organization ended last year with a number of large initiatives taking place. Probably the biggest was the proclamation of the revised Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act (Bill 30). A complete version of this legislation can be found on our website (www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca) under the Acts & Regulations link. This piece of legislation is important, as it provides additional authority and responsibility to the local municipality, local fire service and the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC). One of the most significant changes is the requirement for municipalities to adopt and enforce the Manitoba Fire Code. Currently a regulation is being developed by a committee which will specify what buildings must be inspected by the local authorities. The committee is made up of OFC staff, members from the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC), and a representative from the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM).

Another important area within this legislation is that of emergency response. The role and authority of

the OFC with respect to responding to provincial emergencies and disasters has been clarified. The OFC is now responsible to ensure that an effective incident management system is in place at the site of all emergencies and disasters that occur within the province, and that the system being used is not inconsistent with that used by the OFC. Essentially this means that "Incident Command" is the model that should be in use. For those of you who have not yet taken advantage of the internet training we offer on Incident Command I would strongly suggest that you do so. This program is accessible through our website and currently is available at no charge. By taking the program you will have an understanding of how Incident Command works. This is the ICS 100, or introductory level. We continue to offer the ICS 200 & 300 levels as a one week program at our facility in Brandon.

Our organization is continuing to utilize the internet as a method of providing programs and services. As well our new fire reporting system will be internet based and will become a mandatory method of fire reporting. This technology is the way of the future so all departments need to consider a compatible computer with internet access as a required tool of operation to ensure

continued access of these services.

Our provincial Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team has been busy over the last couple of months. The team continues to grow in size and capability to the point that it is now recognized across Canada as one of the top teams as far as capability and deploy ability. We currently have 110 members from a variety of organizations including the OFC, RCMP, Winnipeg Police Services Canine Unit, Manitoba Hydro, Brandon Emergency Services, Rural RHAs, Rural Municipal Fire Departments, Manitoba Corrections as well as some specialized private individuals such as an engineer and a veterinarian. We have a doctor who is also our medical director. As

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NEWS AND VIEWS OF MANIT

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you can see the team is multi-disciplinary and trained to respond to any type of emergency or disaster where people are missing trapped or unaccounted for, that is too large or complex for the local or regional emergency response system.

Our annual winter response exercise for the USAR



team was held in Rivers, Manitoba the first weekend of December. Over 50 members of the team participated in this exercise with temperatures reaching minus 42 Celsius. The exercise went very well and was a great learning experience and demonstrated great team effort.

Our annual USAR team meeting was held the first weekend of January with over 80 members of the team participating. This meeting provided for input from all team members on how we can make the team better with respect to response procedures, equipment requirements and team member training.

This team is indeed a great provincial asset with our ability to respond to large or complex emergencies where people's lives are at risk. We are always looking for committed individuals to join our team. Information on becoming a team member is available from our Office by contacting Kelly LaBerge at 1-204-726-7195.

Over the last two years the Manitoba Fire Service and the AMM have voiced concerns over the issue of pre-engineered floor trusses and how they react in fire situations. The National Research Council (NRC) has undertaken conducting fire tests on these types of floor assemblies. Pre-engineered truss systems are safe, cost effective and approved methods of constructing floors

in today's buildings. Their reaction in a fire situation is something that the fire service needs to understand and be prepared to deal with.

The NRC's final report is expected out sometime this summer, however, preliminary information resulting from the tests, warrants the fire service and Chief Officers to review their operating guidelines for responses to structures with these types of floor systems.

The preliminary test results, on unprotected pre-engineered floor systems, are showing that they may fail sooner and in a different fashion than the typical all wood beam and sheeting system. As well, preliminary information shows that the pre-engineered floor systems can fail as a total unit as opposed to one specific area. What this means is that, when entering structures known to have pre-engineered floor systems that have been involved with a free burning fire situation below these truss systems, additional caution needs to be taken by the entry teams. Pre-planning needs to occur in your municipalities so that you are aware of these structures within your response area. As I have stated, this is preliminary information and final tests are still being conducted. The Province of Ontario has recently provided their fire service with the same type of caution that I have outlined.

This issue and others that are similar show the need for pre-incident planning and the importance of a safety officer in dealing with today's emergencies. Risk management at an incident needs to become an important part of any response. We need to weigh the risk benefits of any actions we take always considering the safety of our responders.

Additionally, new Workplace Safety and Health regulations have been enacted that places a level of responsibility on employers and employees regarding workplace safety. Emergency incidents that you respond to are considered work places. There is a specific section dealing primarily with the fire service (section 42) but there are also a number of regulations that could effect the emergency services. It is incumbent upon your organization to become familiar with any of the changes or requirements that may affect your organization. Again the reason for regulation is to ensure that the safety of everyone we are responsible for receives our highest consideration. Our goal should always be that "everyone goes home safe from every incident we respond to".

OBA EMERGENCY SERVICES

STE. ROSE AND LAURIER FIRE DEPARTMENTS CELEBRATE

Fire Chief Alphonse Labelle along with his very capable wife and Fire Department Secretary Sally, brought to fruition an exceptional awards evening and dinner.

Members of both departments, operated under the direction of Chief Labelle, gathered together to see some of their own receive the Governor General of Canada Exemplary Service Medal and/or the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC) Long Service Medal.

One of the special highlights of the evening's program was the presentation of a fifty (50) year Governor General's Exemplary Service award to William (Bill) Ryder.

Mr. Ryder joined the Ste. Rose Fire Department in April of 1954. In 1960 and through to 1972, he held the position of Deputy Chief. In 1972, through to 1991 he held the position of Fire Chief. Stepping down in 1991 to the rank of firefighter, Mr. Ryder continues his dutiful affiliation to this day.

Mr. Ryder was instrumental in helping the community build its Fire Department from infancy, and now continues to support the new and current membership with his experience. Congratulations Bill! A remarkable milestone in Manitoba's Fire Service.

Receiving the Governor General's Exemplary Service Medal were William Ryder (50 year), Alphonse Labelle (40 year) and Robert Tucker.

Receiving the MAFC Long Service Medal were Fire Chief Alphonse Labelle, Deputy Chief Joe Letain and Firefighters Bill Ryder, Joe Dupre, Robert Tucker and Mike Verhaeghe.

Special thanks to Deputy Chief Joe Letain and members of the Laurier Fire Department for your wonderful hospitality.

Contributed by Allan Gray, ESO - OFC



Pictured left to right, Al Gray, OFC - ESO, Fire Chief Alphonse Labelle, Bill and Yvette Ryder, and Fire Chief Hilton Kilford, Coordinator of the Riding Mountain Mutual Aid District and MAFC Board Member.



Pictured left to right in the front row, Mayor Rene Maillard, Fire Chief Alphonse Labelle, Firefighter Bill Ryder and Reeve Maurice Maquet. In the rear left to right, Firefighter Joe Dupre, Robert Tucker, Mike Verhaeghe and Deputy Chief Joe Letain.

NEWS AND VIEWS OF MANIT

GRAND VALLEY MUTUAL AID DISTRICT TRAINING DAY

The weather couldn't have been any better for the Grand Valley Mutual Aid District training day which took place on September 16, 2006. The scene was a vacant and extremely solid 2 storey farm house in the RM of Oakland near Wawanesa. The participants were members of Brandon, Carberry/North Cypress, Shilo, Souris and Wawanesa Fire Departments. Mr. Colin Hogarth of the Office of the Fire Commissioner participated as well and performed the task of Accountability Officer in addition to other planning tasks for the entire scene. In total, 29 Firefighters took part in the day-long session and an additional 22 observers arrived at various times throughout the day to witness the evolutions or deliver water for the operations.

After signing in, the firefighters were assigned to one of five different companies. The companies, Alpha through Echo, each selected a company officer from within to lead the group. Incident Command System was set up utilizing an Incident Commander, Operations Chief, Planning and four Training/Safety Officers in place to oversee and direct the various evolutions which took place over the course of the day.



The different evolution scenarios were interior search and rescue, vertical ventilation, ladder operations, firefighter/victim rescue and fire behavior. The house was charged with generated smoke for the search and rescue evolutions while other companies performed the elevated tasks and ventilation evolutions. Each company performed the tasks involved within the evolution under the supervision of the Training/Safety Officer assigned to that scenario station.

- Interior search and rescue required the individuals to complete a search to find a victim in a heavily charged atmosphere.
- Vertical ventilation was performed using a variety of saws, pike poles and other tools.
- Ladder operations required firefighters to perform a variety of tasks from an elevated point on the ladder.

- Firefighter/victim rescue had the firefighters carrying each other down ladders utilizing a variety of approved carries.
- Fire behavior took place in the afternoon once all other evolutions were completed.

After the morning evolutions were completed, Echo Company (support) did a great job barbecuing for the rest of us. Everyone got lots to eat and were ready for the afternoon live burn evolutions.

The companies took turns lighting, extinguishing and watching the fire behavior in each of the rooms in the



house prior to abandoning it and letting it burn. In total, there were seven live burns of varying size and severity over the course of the afternoon.

The training day turned out to be a complete success with many lessons learned. Thanks to all the Grand Valley Mutual Aid District members who took part and many thanks to Colin Hogarth for all the help and keeping the spectators from the neighboring colony out of the hot zone.

Contributed by Garry Bell – Coordinator Grand Valley Mutual Aid District

OBA EMERGENCY SERVICES

RM of Thompson Holds ANNUAL APPRECIATION SUPPER

The Rural Municipality of Thompson held its annual appreciation supper on Thursday evening, December 7, 2006 at the Miami Community Center. Not only were the elders of the community honored but also all of the volunteers, municipal employees, firefighters and EMS personnel. Everyone was treated to not only great food, but also, great entertainment provided by Take 4, an accopella quartet from Manitou. It was also a night of special honors. The rural municipality presented 5 year service plaques to Jennifer Spencer and Michelle Mansell of the Miami EMS Unit.

Miami Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Larry Mansell was presented with an Exemplary Service Medal for his 42 years of service with the fire department. Roger Gillis, Emergency Services Officer for Boyne River Mutual Aid District, represented the Office of the Fire Commissioner and presented Chief Mansell with the medal.

Wayne Christie presented Chief Mansell, Robert Oakes and Brian Schwartz with 25 year service medals as well. After the presentations Mr. Christie gave a brief presentation on a Thermal Imaging Camera from MSA. Miami Fire & Rescue is looking into purchasing the camera through donations from the community. The camera is the latest from MSA and the only one of its kind in western Canada. It saves the video image on a computer expansion card that can be downloaded onto a computer. The video can then be used in investigations, court cases as well as training. Donation forms can be picked up at the RM of Thompson office and are tax deductible.



*Photo from Left to Right:
Chief Larry Mansell, Miami Fire & Rescue
and Roger Gillis, Office of the Fire Commissioner.
Mr. Gillis presents Fire Chief Mansell with the
Exemplary Service Medal.*

The RM of Thompson honors its volunteers every year with a Christmas supper and entertainment.

Contributed by Darrel Angers Miami Fire & Rescue

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH REGULATION CONCERNING FIREFIGHTERS

On February 1, 2007 updated workplace safety and health regulations came into effect across the province, including new requirements for firefighters.

These requirements fall under four main areas:

- **Safe work procedures** – employers must develop and put in place safe work procedures for firefighter response to an emergency.
 - The safety and health committee/ representative, or workers at the workplace must be consulted on both the development and implementation of these procedures.
- **Training** – firefighters must be trained in the safe work procedures.
- **Firefighting vehicle and equipment** – employers must ensure that vehicles and equipment used to respond to an emergency are designed and operated to ensure the safety of the firefighters.
- **Specific requirements** – a suitably equipped rescue team of at least two firefighters must be readily available when firefighters are required to engage in fire suppression and rescue activity where they must enter a building or other enclosed structure.

Office of the Fire Commissioner staff will be conducting municipal meetings on changes to *The Fire Prevention and Emergency Response Act*, with staff of the Workplace Safety and Health Division available to respond to questions on the new regulatory requirements for firefighters.

A copy of the new workplace safety and health regulation (hardcopy or CD-ROM) can be obtained by contacting the Workplace Safety and Health Division at: (204) 945-3446 or 1-800-282-8069.

*Contributed by Darlene Muise,
Communications Analyst - Workplace Safety
and Health Division*

NEWS AND VIEWS OF MANIT

FIREFIGHTERS BURN FUND

Hopefully, you've enjoyed a peaceful time with family and friends through the Holiday season. Unfortunately, fire and tragedy did not take a break, as several properties were damaged or destroyed; there were injuries, and some lives were lost.

This just reinforces the fact that we have to continue our efforts to remove those hazards that have the potential to start or contribute to a fire, and to teach the public (both adults and children) how to recognize those dangers, and what they should do about them.

The Firefighters Burn Fund created a limited fund to help Fire Departments address fire and burn prevention initiatives within their Communities. Each Department makes their own determination as to what is needed and sends a letter of application. We have funded some requests from \$500 to \$1,000, while offering seed money of up to \$5,000 for a couple of projects that will be shared within a Mutual Aid District. Just over a half dozen Departments have come forward with requests. Can we help you?

Juvenile fire setting is a problem in several communities, and we are offering 5 departments \$1,000 each to have one of their members participate in a formal training program to enhance their skills in this area. Additionally, we were pleased to fund the printing costs of the Fire Setting and Youth activity booklet which is available to you through the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

We recently received 15,000 copies of the 3rd printing of our own Firefighters Burn Fund Activity Book. This has proven to be a popular teaching aid for school aged children. One copy of each was recently included with the mail out of our 2006 Heat Seekers Raffle winners

list to 160 different Fire Departments. This booklet is available free of charge to your department. Phone (204)222 -1574, or send a note, and tell us how many you can use. They should be issued to children who can read and write for the best opportunity for them to learn from it.

Additionally, we still have some electrical outlet plug caps courtesy of Manitoba Hydro as well as a number of bath water thermometers for moms or babysitters to use to assist them in determining the temperature of the bath water before baby is placed in the tub. These are also available free of charge to your department.

We have had a number of requests for the loan of a Sparky the Fire Dog costume. The few that are available through the Office of the Fire Commissioner are sometimes not enough particularly when a number of communities plan their festivals and other activities around the same dates. Two costumes are on order, and one of them will be donated to the Thompson Fire Department. That outfit will be shared with Departments North of the 53rd parallel. The second outfit will remain with the Burn Fund until/unless we assign it to another department to manage.

We appreciate the support that we receive from the Manitoba Fire Service. Without it, we would not be able to fund those commitments that have contributed to improvements in the care for burn patients. Through those things noted above, we hope to show our appreciation for that support.

Take care out there.

Contributed by Martin Johnson, Fire Fighters Burn Fund

MANITOBA Emergency Services Conference **October 11-13, 2007**

Office of the Fire Commissioner
www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca
(204) 726-6855 1-888-253-1488



OBA EMERGENCY SERVICES

MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS CONFERENCE

The 2006 Annual Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs Conference (MAFC) was hosted by the Pembina Triangle Mutual Aid District. Both Morden and Winkler hosted a variety of events.

Morden Fire Department Chief, Andy Thiessen, hosted some of the delegates and their spouses in a game of golf at the Minnewasta Golf Club. After enjoying this challenging and beautiful course, the golfers were treated to a pig roast and refreshments at the Morden Fire Hall.

The Winkler Arena became the hub of the activity on Friday, June 2nd. In keeping with tradition, the guests of honor were piped in during the opening ceremonies. Delegates were fed lunch, and then had an opportunity to peruse the exhibits. An incredible 13 fire trucks were parked on display inside the arena, along with displays and merchandise from 19 exhibit booths.

Bobby Halton, editor of Fire Engineering magazine and lifelong firefighter, was the keynote speaker for the weekend. Halton spoke on fireground awareness and enclosed structure firefighting.

“people underestimate the power of modern combustibles to release their energy. Large Modern buildings built with highly combustible materials and enclosed spaces pose the greatest risk to firefighters today. Better training, equipment, and decision making from Fire Chiefs are the only solutions to the problem. Using Tactics from the 40’s is not going to win a fire fight today – it’s going to get you killed. Above all, firefighters need to learn when it’s not worth it to risk their lives entering a building to battle a blaze, there’s some fires you just can’t win”. Bobby Halton

Roger Gillis from the Office of the Fire Commissioner addressed the delegates on legal considerations for fire chiefs.

As a wrap up to Friday’s events, delegates were treated to a meal of traditional French and Mennonite dishes. Local Band Mountain City played into the night, entertaining those who were not quite ready to call it quits.

Saturday began early with a pancake breakfast, followed by another session with keynote speaker Bobby Halton. Roger Gillis and Fire Commissioner Doug Popowich concluded this portion of the conference with an excellent discussion about leadership in Fire Services.

Spouses of the delegates were warmly welcomed, and were able to participate in events planned especially for them. They enjoyed a presenter who spoke about garden design and then retired to the Heartland Inn to partake of the many amenities of the Escape Spa.

Saturday evening brought



with it a banquet to mark the end of another successful conference. Of special recognition was the outstanding contribution that Cornie Bergen of the Winnipegosis Fire Department has made over the length of his career. This was his last year at the conference and his many friends and peers bid him farewell.

Upon reflection, it was clear that the conference was a positive experience for the delegates. The great success of the weekend reflects directly upon the effectiveness of the organizing committee. The organizers worked tirelessly to attend to every detail - the home-made baking at coffee breaks, the free 24 hour shuttle service, the excellent speakers, and the friendly volunteers.

The host committee would like to thank the members of the Pembina Triangle Mutual Aid District who helped to make this event a success. This included members from the Altona, Emerson, Gretna, Letellier, Morden, Plum Coulee, St Jean and Winkler departments.

Contributed by Garry Klassen, Chief Winkler Fire Rescue Service



NEWS AND VIEWS OF MANIT

3RD ANNUAL PROVINCIAL URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE EXERCISE

The former Rivers Air Force Base was the location of the 3rd Annual Provincial Urban Search and Rescue exercise. The training exercise took place on December 1, 2 and 3 and was attended by 50+ Team Members from the following organizations:

Regional Health Authorities

Mutual Aid District Fire Departments

RCMP

Winnipeg Police

Manitoba Hydro

Saskatoon Fire

Office of the Fire Commissioner Staff, from Brandon and Winnipeg

The scenario centered around a tornado strike and as a result, many local workers were trapped in various buildings in and around the base site. In this exercise, the objectives were:

1. Deployment – The Team deployed from the Manitoba Emergency Services College to the Rivers base. There was no pre-staging of any equipment or personnel. The Incident Command Team sent out an advance party to determine where to place the base of operations.

2. Search and Rescue Operations – Initially, the recon Team did a quick search to look for surface victims and to size up the area. Diagrams and photos gave the Incident Command Team much needed information to develop a plan.



From this original information the Incident Command Team formulated the Incident Action Plans to be carried out by the search and rescue squads. In the field, the search teams used a combination of K-9, electronic equipment and visual searching to locate the more than thirty victims that were placed in various locations around the base. The Rescue Teams encountered a variety of situations that required them to use such techniques as shoring, heavy lifting, breaching of concrete, cutting metal and manovering themselves and equipment through many small openings and areas. The other factor that everyone had to deal with was the cold. The mercury dipped down to -42c on Saturday night. This is not the first time we have encountered cold conditions. The exercises in Winnipeg and Calgary were both in temperatures well below normal. It is the dedication of the Team in these conditions that has earned us the title of Canada's Cold Weather USAR Team.

3. The final objective of the exercise was to redeploy back to the Manitoba Emergency Services College. The Incident Command again put together a demobilization plan that gave everyone a job to do and everyone and all equipment was back to the College in the early afternoon.

There were many lessons learned during this exercise in relation to the Team and equipment. There was also a need to re-emphasis the importance of the logistics section to an incident (training or actual incident). Thank-you goes out to Karen Bretcher who kept us well fed throughout the weekend; the students from the senior and junior class (Public Fire



Paramedic Program) that volunteered to be convincing victims; the owners of the Air Base Site for allowing us the opportunity to train in a realistic setting; Shawna Kerwin from the Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada that attended as an observer and gave a great critique of the exercise; Dan Paulsen and Ray Unrau from the City of Saskatoon for their participation and willingness to jump into search and rescue squads when we were short staffed; Tobin Praznik, Sean Fisher and Rob Pike who were the other organizing and directing staff that put in countless hours; and last but not least, the Team Members themselves with whose willingness to participate and volunteer their time makes CAN TF-4 such a success and a leader in the Canadian USAR community.

Contributed by Scott Kerbis – OFC GSAR Coordinator

MORE PHOTOS OF TEAM EXERCISES AND RESPONSES CAN BE FOUND UNDER THE URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE AND GROUND SEARCH & RESCUE SECTION'S PHOTO GALLERIES ON OUR WEBSITE (www.firecomm.gov.mc.ca).

OBA EMERGENCY SERVICES

TURTLE MOUNTAIN MUTUAL AID DISTRICT holds Mock Exercise

Turtle Mountain Mutual Aid has been active in its training programs. Fire crews from the various departments had the opportunity to train in live fire control in the burn trailer in Glenboro. Some members of the Belmont Fire Department assisted the Glenboro crew in a low angle rescue scenario conducted earlier this fall. In addition, 12 fire fighters from Glenboro, Holland, Baldur, Belmont and Ninette/Riverside completed a vehicle extrication course. The photo's appeared in the Gazette along with a write up on the various activities to keep the public informed on the training done by their committed volunteers in the various departments.

GLENBORO FIREFIGHTERS PARTICIPATE IN EMERGENCY SERVICE CONFERENCE

by Garth McIntyre

Several members of the Glenboro South Cypress Fire Department attended the 20th Annual Emergency Service Conference held in Brandon on October 12 - 14. Brian Haslen and Darwin Dickle attended a 2 day training session in Ground Search and Rescue. Glenn Jefferies attended a seminar in Introduction to Safety Officer, David Kovar attended the Wilderness Medla course, and Garth McIntyre along with Bill Davies of G.M. Canada instructed two, one day seminars on New Car Technology. These workshops expand the knowledge and skills of the participants which they then take home to their respective departments. This year the conference delegates and instructors combined totaled about 600 participants.

Ongoing training is important for the members of the department and train twice a

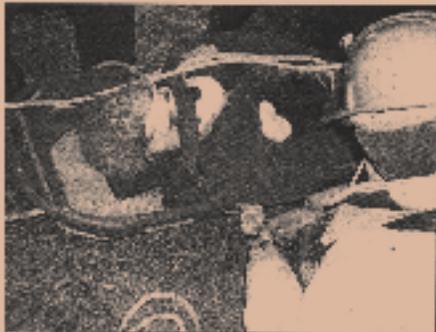
month from September through to the end of June. As part of their on going training they can always use old cars, old farm machinery, or old houses to practice with. If anyone has an old vehicle, machinery or old building suitable for fire practice please contact Garth McIntyre, Deputy Fire Chief & Training Officer at 827-2308.

Fire Safety is no longer just a matter of putting the "wet stuff on the red stuff" to put out a fire. Fire Departments must be ready to handle not just fire control, but also motor vehicle accidents, farm accidents, search and rescue, water rescue, confined space rescue, low angle rescue, hazmat incidents, and the list goes on and on and on.

Continued dedication and training of the local fire personnel helps to insure that in the event of an emergency, that they will be able to respond in a safe, timely and efficient manner.



Several members of the Glenboro South Cypress Fire Department attended the 20th Annual Emergency Service Conference in Brandon. Many different seminars were attended.



GAZETTE PHOTO: ISSELLE LUSSIER

Approximately ten members from the Glenboro South Cypress and Belmont-Strathcona Fire Departments set up near the Glenboro Golf Course to gain first hand experience using safety lines to rescue victims in hard to access areas. The mock exercise utilized two "dummies" which were at the bottom of a steep hill. Although the hill looked steep, Garth McIntyre, the fire department's instructor, commented that it was a "slow angle rescue". It is exercises such as this that enable rural department members to gain experience working with the specialized equipment.

Contributed by Garth McIntyre, Glenboro Fire Department



GETTING SOME VALUABLE TRAINING...

On Sat., Nov. 4th, members from the Glenboro, Baldur, Holland and Dunrea Volunteer Fire Departments received some vehicle extrication training from Garth McIntyre, Glenboro Fire Department's training officer. GAZETTE PHOTO: MARIA BERRY

Contributed by Garth McIntyre, Glenboro Fire Department

NEWS AND VIEWS OF MANIT

GATOR 30

Ride along with Gator 30

Hello all
Just wanted to share my experience with you of my 5 day ride-along in Winnipeg with the Office of the Fire Commissioner's Arson Strike Force and the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Services fire investigation unit, "Gator 30".

Since I had to travel to the emergency services college in Brandon, I managed to request a ride along for a few days to get a taste of what it is like in the so called "Arson Capital of North America". This is the name Winnipeg was given back in the late 1990's when arson was a big problem there, it has since quieted down substantially but the problem still exists.

I arrived in Winnipeg on Oct. 26th and was met at the airport by the lead investigator, Ken Swan. The first night was relatively quiet and I was taken on a tour of the city, and given an idea on the call volume of the WFPS on a typical Wednesday. From the time I arrived at the airport, to the time I checked in at the hotel (about 2 hours), the WFPS had well over 25 calls ranging from first responder calls, to automatic alarms and dumpster fires. Dumpster fires are a common thing there and most of our Arson calls were people lighting these dumpsters. Sometimes, the dumpsters just burned out of the way of any other combustibles but on occasion, the dumpsters were next to a garage or shed which the fire would extend to. One particular case a dumpster, our first call, the garbage set on fire extended to an apartment window and into the apartment.

Through the next four days, I visited 4 separate halls, and got a chance to see how busy each hall was. The first hall was station #1, in the heart of Winnipeg. This hall staffs around 20 firefighters and paramedics, they run 14 hour shifts for nights and 10 hour shifts during the day. The apparatus in that hall consisted of 1 engine, a heavy rescue, 100ft Arial, a squad (kind of a mini pumper used for small fires and first responder calls), an SUV the district chief uses for fire command, and a cube ambulance. We arrived there in the early afternoon and I was introduced to the day shift, soon after they were out on calls. From then on it was call after call.

I was exposed to the grim reality of the drug users the first night as we went on a call to a crack house which had "mysteriously" ignited. The fire had started under the first floor stairwell and unfortunately, we could not find the ignition source or material first ignited. After every structure, the building is boarded up for protection of

both the structure to elements and to keep the public out for safety purposes. Believe it or not there is a contractor who makes his living by boarding up these structures, I saw him so much I was able to call him by his first name!

When the WFPS get a call to a structure fire they do not play around. The houses in some areas are so close together, the eaves are only inches apart. It can be very easy for fire to spread from building to building so when a possible structure fire call is received, the dispatcher sends to the fire 2 engines, a heavy rescue, a ladder, a squad or ambulance, and a district chief to take command. During a working fire the dispatcher will send a rapid intervention crew from another district for firefighter rescue. Pretty overwhelming in the eyes of a rural Yukon fire chief who is lucky to see one pumper and a tanker on any given fire! I spent the next three days and nights racing from fire to fire, assisting the investigation teams and honing my skills at fire cause determination.

The last day being the busiest beginning at 7AM with a working fire at a house and chasing some small kids who were in a neighbourhood lighting small garbage fires and graduating to the garages down the small alleyways. During a small break from calls, I was able to get a tour of the dispatch centre and given a lesson on how the calls are handled and dumped. These people in the dispatch centre really have their hands full and are very good at what they do. They have 3 computer screens and each screen has a different function. One screen has 6 different icons or boxes on it which references different radio banks or frequencies. The dispatcher just has to click on the icon to activate that frequency, and talk to whoever is at the other end with a radio. The other two screens are for the calls, one initiates the call, the other screen brings up the closest station(s), and what type of apparatus will be needed for that call. This system they have now will be changed and a more up to date system will be installed in the near future to include GPS technology.

It was an experience I won't soon forget; I met a lot of great people, and rode along with some of the best fire investigators in the country.

I now also owe a fishing trip to many and will be looking for help to return the favour! The trip was well worth the time and money.

Kevin Taylor
Fire Inspector
Fire Marshall's Office



A typical working fire showing the amount of equipment sent. This one could have been disastrous as the occupants were asleep at the time and had no working smoke detector. A passer-by flagged down two Winnipeg Police Officers who alerted the fire department and woke the occupants up. The fire flashed when the attack team opened the room, sending the captain to hospital; with minor burns. The cause was a baseboard heater which had its extension cord pinched under a bed frame leg.



A clock on the wall shows the exact time the room flashed over, the time was actually 8:10, the occupants just hadn't changed their clock back one hour for fall time change.



The mountain of debris that needs sifting to find the cause



The cause of this fire, the baseboard heater's electrical chord is pinched by the bed frame, causing resistance heating.



"Gator 30"

Reprinted from the Whitehorse Newsletter – Hoselines – Winter 2005

OBA EMERGENCY SERVICES

FIRE FIGHTERS AND EMS RESPONSE

In October 2006 the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs met with Health Minister Tim Sale to discuss issues related to fire fighters driving ambulances for emergency medical personnel during times of emergency.

Following the meeting the Minister decided to pass an order which would allow fire fighters to drive ambulances during times that EMS personnel are required to actively provide emergency medical care to an urgent and serious threat to life and limb of a patient or patients. This order was passed on October 30, 2006 and was revised on January 1, 2007 and will remain in effect until December 31, 2008.

**THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE AND STRETCHER TRANSPORTATION ACT
(C.C.S.M. c. E83)**

Ministerial Exemption Order No. 2

Definition

1 In this order, "the Act" means *The Emergency Medical Response and Stretcher Transportation Act*.

Municipal firefighters exempt from licensing requirements

2 An active member of a municipal fire protection force, fire department or fire brigade who holds a valid class 4 driver's licence issued under *The Drivers and Vehicles Act* is hereby exempt from the requirement under clause 2(b) of the Act that he or she must hold a valid and subsisting licence issued under the Act before acting as an ambulance operator in a land emergency medical response system.

Exempt person may drive ambulance only in specified circumstances

3 A person exempted under section 2 is entitled to drive an ambulance while it is being used to provide emergency medical response services only if

(a) both of the emergency medical response personnel licensed under the Act staffing the ambulance are required to actively provide emergency medical response services in response to an urgent and serious threat to the life, limb or function of one or more patients; and

(b) the emergency medical response personnel staffing the ambulance request that the person drive it.

Coming into force

4 This order comes into force on the day it is signed, and expires on December 31, 2007.

**LOI SUR LES INTERVENTIONS MÉDICALES D'URGENCE ET LE TRANSPORT POUR PERSONNES SUR CIVIÈRE
(c. E83 de la C.P.L.M.)**

Ordonnance d'exemption ministérielle n° 2

Définition

1 Dans le présent règlement, « *Loi* » s'entend de la *Loi sur les interventions médicales d'urgence et le transport pour personnes sur civière*.

Exemption accordée aux pompiers

2 Les membres actifs d'un service d'incendie ou d'un corps de pompiers municipal qui sont titulaires d'un permis de conduire valide de classe 4, délivré en vertu de la *Loi sur les conducteurs et les véhicules*, sont exemptés de l'obligation, visée à l'alinéa 2b) de la *Loi*, d'être titulaires d'un permis valide délivré sous le régime de cette loi afin d'être ambulanciers d'une entreprise terrestre d'intervention médicale d'urgence.

Exemption accordée dans des cas particuliers

3 Les personnes bénéficiant de l'exemption visée à l'article 2 ne sont autorisées à conduire une ambulance qui sert à offrir des services d'intervention médicale d'urgence que dans le cas suivant :

a) les deux membres du personnel d'intervention médicale d'urgence titulaires d'un permis délivré en vertu de la *Loi* qui travaillent dans l'ambulance sont tenus de fournir des services d'intervention médicale d'urgence à un ou à plusieurs patients dont la vie est gravement menacée ou qui risquent de perdre un membre ou une fonction, dans l'immédiat;

b) les membres du personnel leur demande de le faire.

Entrée en vigueur

4 La présente ordonnance entre en vigueur le jour de sa signature et expire le 31 décembre 2007.

It is important for everyone to know that the order in effect applies during extenuating circumstances and is not intended to supplement EMS operations during times of staff shortages.

NEWS AND VIEWS OF MANIT

CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL RADIOLOGY NUCLEAR RESPONSE TEAM – MANITOBA

The Provincial Chemical Biological Radiology Nuclear (CBRN) Response Team is a provincially dedicated team, trained and developed to deal with the threat of terrorist incidents involving chemical, biological and nuclear incidents that can potentially occur within Manitoba.

The team is broken into two sections based in Winnipeg and Brandon respectively. It consists of police, paramedics, and fire fighters who are hazardous material trained to the technician level.

The team is made of members from:

Office of the Fire Commissioner

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service

Winnipeg Police Service

Brandon Fire Service

Provincial Environment

Members have been trained and are in the process of being trained to the Advanced Responders Level for CBRN incidents.

In September of 2006, a total of 15 members from Manitoba attended to Canadian Force Base Suffield Alberta for advance responder training. Members spent the week becoming educated on response, immediate medical action, and detection of chemical weapons, biological agents and nuclear material. They were exposed to these agents and operated under real time conditions in the appropriate personal protective equipment.

Also, in November of the same year, a number of members attended to Ottawa to receive their intermediate training. These members are slated to attend to Canadian Forces Base Suffield later in 2007 to receive their advanced responder training.

Two members from Manitoba are shown in the Chemical Warfare lab being trained in the use of Chemical Detectors and exposing the detectors in the fume hood to live chemical agents.

Contributed by Rick Vandekerhove, Manager – Operations East



OBA EMERGENCY SERVICES

WINTER RESCUE & SURVIVAL TRAINING FEBRUARY 12 - 15, 2007

The Sixth Annual Winter Rescue & Survival training course was recently held the week of February 12 - 15, 2007. This year's course was held along the North Shore of Lake Manitoba near the Community of Waterhen, Manitoba. The course was well attended, with representation from the following organizations:

- Pembina Valley Volunteer GSAR
- Clearwater Training District Volunteer GSAR
- Northeast Mutual Aid District Volunteer GSAR
- Winnipeg Police Service - WPS
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police - RCMP
- Parkland Regional Health Authority
- Manitoba Hydro



The Winter Rescue and Survival Course focuses on three major subject areas which include: wilderness navigational skills, winter survival skills, as well as patient packaging, care and transport. The course has been designed to be a strong mix of theory and practical skills. Candidates are challenged with realistic exercises throughout the four days of instruction. Practical exercises included a night time navigation exercise on snowshoe as well as a

patient packaging and extrication exercise from a remote wilderness location.

The final exercise challenges the candidate's winter survival skills. Candidates were teamed up in pairs and dropped off in remote locations prior to nightfall and instructed to prepare themselves for an overnight stay in the cool -30 C temperatures. Candidates were expected to gather sufficient firewood for the night, build a shelter that would protect themselves and a patient from the elements, and to build and sustain a fire that would last them throughout the night. Candidates were expected to operate and survive with the equipment, food and water that they would normally carry in their 24 hour personal packs.

We are happy to report that all candidates survived the exercise, and returned to base camp safe and sound in the early morning hours, however not until they had demonstrated their ability to be self - sustaining throughout the night. All candidates reported that they now have a much higher level of confidence, and appreciation for the skills necessary to survive in an overnight winter rescue or survival scenario.

The Lead Instructors for this year's course were Scott Kerbis of the OFC and Randy Antonio of the Winnipeg Police Service. They are both to be congratulated for delivering a very professional training program, and for the extra effort and dedication that they put into the program. The Waterhen Community Council must



also be commended for the excellent support that they provided us in being able to deliver this program, which included snow clearing of the road and campground where the Base Camp was established, as well as the use of the Community hall for the classroom instruction on day one and two.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) base camp was set up as the base of operations, and all logistical support including meals, sleeping accommodations and communications were provided through these facilities. This base camp supports all OFC emergency response activities. A big THANK YOU also goes out to our Camp Chef Karen Bretecher who cooked up a storm and provided the camp with excellent hot meals over the four days of training.

The development and delivery of the Winter Rescue & Survival Course over the past three years has been the result of a joint initiative between the Manitoba Office of the Fire Commissioner and the National Search & Rescue Secretariat under the New Initiatives Funding (NIF) program. This is the final year of this project under the NIF Program. Future financial support for this important training initiative is presently being explored.

*Contributed by Dave Schafer, Manager
- Operations West*

NEWS & VIEWS

Office of the Fire Commissioner Enters Memorandum of Understanding with Office of the Fire Commissioner in Newfoundland

Our Office through the Manitoba Emergency Services College (MESC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) in Newfoundland to provide instruction and certification for the Fire Investigator Program. Rick Vandekerkhove of our Office was in Newfoundland on three separate occasions in 2006 to present and provide instruction on the Fire Investigation Level 2 and 3 programs. In September 2006 he and Bill Harrow attended to Stephenville, Newfoundland as proctors for the Practical Evaluation for Fire Investigator Certification under NFPA 1033.

The photo shows the first four members from the Newfoundland OFC Staff along with Rick and Bill who went through the practical Evaluation and passed.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner in Newfoundland is the latest province entering into an MOU with the MESC in regards to the Fire Investigation program. There is now a total of six provincial and territorial jurisdictions that have an MOU with us, along with a number of authorities having jurisdiction who use our program.



From left to right: Linus Tremblett, John Smith, Derek Simmons, Rick Vandekerkhove, Bill Harrow, Greg Lynch

News from the Whitehorse Fire Department

Reprinted from the Whitehorse newsletter – Hoselines – Winter 2005

Fire Investigator's Course Levels I & II

In early May the Fire Marshal's Office hosted these two courses, which were held in Whitehorse. Ken Swan, with the Fire Marshal's Office in Manitoba and who is seconded to the Arson Division of the City of Winnipeg, provided the training. Ken did an excellent job at both levels. The courses were extremely intense, especially for those folks who took both – back to back. Half of the level II participants already had obtained their Level I several years before, and while they were not inundated with two weeks of classroom they did have to refresh their knowledge.

Participants came from the Fire Service, RCMP and the private sector. The course and the take home materials were excellent and will be well used when the need arises.

Instructor Ken Swan



Course Participants

EDUCATION

5TH ANNUAL FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR'S CONFERENCE

The 5th Annual Fire and Life Safety Educator's Conference was held in conjunction with the Manitoba Emergency Services Conference in Brandon from October 12th-14th, 2006. This year the focus of the conference was on the Youth Fire Stop Program. Gord Favelle OFC, Marc Proulx Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, and Sally Bender, Teacher/ Librarian were presenters at the conference.

Congratulations to the following participants who won:

2007 Fire Prevention Week Kit:
Matt Labossiere, St. Claude Fire Department

Book Bags: Ruth Zahorodny and Brigitte Urban

Backpacks and DVDs: Grant Hume,

Garry Nabess and Martin Dewitt

Leech Prints: Jennifer Desaulniers, Mark Mostowy, Gord Enns and Hessel Dethmers

Many positive comments were submitted by participants including:

"Moving the course to the MESC conference was a very good idea"

"Originally I was disappointed that the course/seminar weekend was changed due to the cost to the public ed budget but it was great. A two day seminar would be nice. I look forward to next year."

Planning is underway for this year's two day conference which will be held in conjunction with the MESC Conference in Brandon from October 11th-13th, 2007. If you have any ideas for session topics please contact Kathy Danino at 1-888-253-1488.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Grade one student, Abby Proskin, of Ms. Huggard's class at Strathmillan School in Winnipeg was the winner of the Office of the Fire Commissioner's Province wide Fire Prevention Week Contest.

She received a brand new computer system on Friday November 24th, 2006 at a ceremony held in London Drugs at the St. Vital Mall. The computer was presented to Abby and her mother Shirley by Dave Stone, Manager of London Drugs who generously donated the computer and printer. Abby won the contest by participating in fire prevention week activities. She brought the activity booklet home and showed it to her family. After dropping off her entry form at her local fire station her name was drawn from over 100 entries. Students in Kindergarten to Grade Three from all over the province submitted forms at their local fire departments/stations with hopes of winning this year's fabulous prize.

The contest was part of the Office of the Fire Commissioner's annual fire prevention week campaign "Fire Safety Starts with You". The campaign focused on teaching children and adults about the importance of testing your smoke alarm, kitchen safety, cooking safety, planning a safe escape at home and knowing two ways out of every room.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK Kick Off

Fire Prevention Week: "Prevent Cooking Fires, Watch What You Heat" was the theme for Fire Prevention Week October 8 - 14, 2006.

The kick-off was held in Winnipeg at St. Vital Mall on Tuesday October 10th, 2006. The event started off with opening remarks from Marc Proulx, Public Education Officer with Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service who emceed the event. His welcome was immediately followed by the Grade Three choir from St. Germaine School singing O'Canada.

The Honourable Nancy Allan, Minister of Labour and Immigration, proclaimed it Fire Prevention Week.

His Worship Sam Katz, Mayor of the City of Winnipeg brought greetings on behalf of the City. Fire Chief Wes Shoemaker, Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service, Deputy Minister of Labour and Immigration Jeff Parr and Deputy Fire Commissioner Chris Jones were also in attendance to recognize the following individuals for their exceptional service to our community: Chris Labossier, Giles Bilodeau, Larry Gobeil, Correne Resky, Jordan Feasey, Jeff Montgomery and Ed Klassen.

The event was wrapped up with J. H. Bruns Collegiate theatre students performing a skit entitled "Watch What You Heat."



Kathy Danino, Abby and Shirley Proskin, Dave Stone, Manager London Drugs and Rick Stephanchew, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service.

EDUCATION

OFC FIRE SETTING AND YOUTH ACTIVITY BOOK

Introduction

There are few resources to address the issue of youth fire setting and even fewer resources that are designed for children and youth who have learning disabilities, cognitive impairments and other learning issues.

Fire Setting and Youth (published in 2003) was designed specifically as a resource for parents, educators and professionals to discuss fire setting with children and youth, especially those youth with impairments and deficits. Through the development of this resource healthy and open discussions can occur to minimize the negative attitudes towards these children and youth. The Fire Setting and Youth book has won accolades from many parts of the USA and Canada.

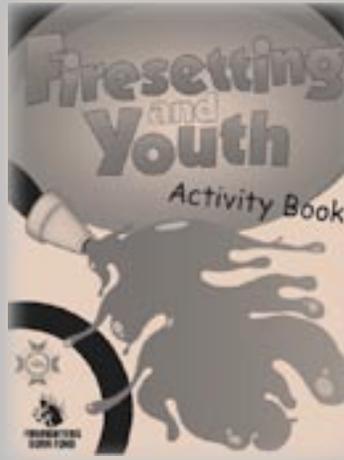
In 2004 it was decided to develop an Activity Book for use as a companion publication to Fire Setting and Youth. This activity book is designed for children and caregivers to reinforce the concepts and understanding of the dangers of fires and plans of how to support proactive firesetting behaviours.

Target Group

Children and youth that set fires come from all walks of life. Some children, especially those who may

have “receptive and expressive language deficits, articulation deficits, cognitive processing deficits, attention deficits, hyperactivity and impulsivity, deficits in sequential processing and understanding casual relationships, or anxiety and significant trauma symptoms” 1 are especially vulnerable to detrimental influences within their communities. Although not all children and youth with these deficits are fire setters, research indicates that children and youth with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorders (ADHD), Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and other impairments related to impulsivity, hyperactivity and poor literacy skills may be at a greater risk of fire setting behaviour. Fire Setting and Youth is designed to meet the learning needs of these unique groups of children and youth.

The Activity Book is beneficial for working with children who are ADHD and FASD and who have a history of firesetting. This resource uses



alternative methods (activities such as drawing, find a word, puzzles, matching, etc.) to help all children to learn the concepts discussed in the Fire Setting and Youth book. This resource can be used by fire departments as a component of their Public Education activities.

Kolko, David. (2002) Handbook on Firesetting in Children and Youth (Page 166). Orlando Florida: Academic Press

The activity book was produced as a joint effort between Paula Cook (Winnipeg School Division Teacher), Marc Proulx (Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Services and Gord Favelle (Office of the Fire Commissioner) with partial funding for the publication of the book from the Firefighters Burn Fund.

To obtain a copy of this publication please contact the Office of the Fire Commissioner at (204) 945-3322 or Toll free at 1 800 282-8069.

For further information please contact: Gord Favelle, Manager, Youth Firestop Program, 508 – 401 York Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3C 0P8 Canada (204) 945-2919 gord.favelle@gov.mb.ca

EMR INSTRUCTORS!

The Manitoba Emergency Services College will be hosting a Continuing Education program for EMR instructors:

Date: Saturday, April 21, 2007

Time: 0900 - 1600 (lunch 1200 – 1300)

Location: Manitoba Emergency Services College
1601 Van Horne Avenue East, Brandon, Manitoba

The program will include:

1. a review of administrative concerns:

- course registration
- student application
- manuals: student and instructor
- attestation sheets
- instructor criteria
- student prerequisites
- course evaluation
- exam request form

2. revisions to program including instructor supports: Power Point and DVD

3. skills review

4. Emergency Services Instructor Continuing Education - a review of various teaching techniques including technical resources: Power Point, DVD, internet, website

Concerns/comments/questions can be forwarded to Loretta Oliver, Coordinator of Emergency Services Programs at Loretta.oliver@gov.mb.ca.

EMR instructors are asked to send course applications to Marla Bryan, Admissions Officer, MESC.

EDUCATION

Upcoming Course Dates

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION
2007		
March 5 – 7	Brandon Career Symposium	Brandon
March 5 – 9	Incident Command 200, 300	Brandon
March 10 & 11	Community Trauma Postvention	Winnipeg
March 12 – 16	Fire Protection & Emergency Planning	Brandon
March 19 – 23	Report Writing for Fire Investigators	Winnipeg
April 4	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam Exam Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Deadline for Registering March 14th	Dauphin
April 3, 4 & 5	Rescue Practices	Brandon
April 10 – 12	Winnipeg Career Symposium	Winnipeg
April 12	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam Exam Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Deadline for Registering March 21st	Brandon
April 12	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam Exam Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Deadline for Registering March 21st	The Pas
April 13, 14 & 15	Ground Search & Rescue - Team Leader	Richer
April 14 & 15	Critical Incident Stress Management – Basic	The Pas
April 16 – 20	Managing Human Resources	Brandon
April 18	Fire Investigator Accredited Testing - Written Exam	Brandon Winnipeg
April 20, 21 & 22	Ground Search & Rescue - Basic	Onanole
April 21 & 22	Fire Fighting Level I & II Practical Exam Deadline for Registering March 30th	Brandon
April 23 – 27 and April 30 – May 4	Hazardous Materials Technician	Brandon
April 28 & 29	Fire Fighting Level I & II Practical Exam Deadline for Registering April 10th	Selkirk
April 30 – May 4	Confined Space Rescue Technician	Brandon
May 3	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam Exam Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Deadline for Registering April 12th	Winnipeg
May 3	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam Exam Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Deadline for Registering April 12th	Brandon
May 5 & 6	Fire Fighting Level I & II Practical Exam Deadline for Registering April 13th	Winkler
May 8, 9 & 10	Fire Investigation Accredited Testing - Practical Exam	Brandon
May 10	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam Exam Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Deadline for Registering April 18th	The Pas
May 7 – 11	Emergency Services Instructor Level II – CANCELLED	Thompson

EDUCATION

Upcoming Course Dates

DATE COURSE LOCATION

2007

May 12	Emergency Services Instructor - CANCELLED Continuing Education Seminar	Thompson
May 14 & 15	Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT)	Brandon
May 14 – 18	Fire Investigator Level II	Thompson
May 17	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam Exam Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Deadline for Registering April 25th	Brandon
May 17 Exam Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Deadline for Registering April 25th	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam The Pas	
May 19 & 20	Critical Incident Stress Management – Basic	Ashern
May 22 – 25	Structural Collapse Level II	Brandon
May 22 – 25	Hazardous Materials Technician Continuing Education	Thompson
May 31 Exam Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Deadline for Registering May 9th	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam Selkirk	

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT

Significant Other and Family Support in CISM

It is not unusual for emergency services, hospital workers and dispatch's critical incident stress (CIS) reactions to have an impact on the home life. Some of these reactions can create stress, misunderstandings and, in some cases, family dysfunction. Unfortunately, they can even lead to marriage and family break-up. Consequently, it is important to help the spouses and significant others to understand and help the emergency services workers cope with CIS reactions. The two most effective strategies to assist the spouses have been through education and general support. Providing the spouses with some basic knowledge of what CIS reactions are and how to support their spouse at this time can reduce many problems that may have been created.

Similarly to the significant other, the family as a whole may need to be educated and supported. It is also important for the emergency services, hospital workers and dispatch to understand the impact of the CIS reactions, as well as the nature of emergency services work itself can have

upon the family. Family education, understanding the emergency services CIS reactions and post-incident needs, and communication within the family are important considerations. Special attention to the understanding and needs of children are also important to relieve their anxieties and fears. From the emergency workers perspective it is important to try to understand how this has affected them. To use this incident as an opportunity for growth helps to reframe the incident from a negative to a positive situation.

The Manitoba CISM Network has developed handouts that can be given to the spouse and family after their loved one has been to a defusing/debriefing or just for general information after their loved one is experiencing CIS (To obtain copies of these handouts please contact the OFC or go to the OFC web site: http://www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca/cism_resources.html). The OFC is also currently working on a pamphlet specifically for understanding and coping with CIS for the responder and their families.

CODES & STANDARDS

Manitoba now has a new Manitoba Fire Code, which was effective November 1, 2006, the same day that The Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act came into force. This Code is based on the 2005 National Fire Code with Manitoba amendments. Some of the Manitoba amendments address the following areas:

1. **Heating System Inspections** – Except for one and two family dwellings, every fuel – fired heating system must be inspected annually and records kept of these maintenance inspections.
2. **Fire Safety Plans** – In addition to the occupancies described in Article 2.8.1.1, a Fire Safety Plan is also now required for building containing a residential care facility and also every boarding and

lodging house.

3. **Fire Drills** – Residential care facilities must have at least one fire drill a month – 2.8.3.2.1(a).
4. **Residential Care** – see Section 2.15 relative to such areas as means of egress, stairway separations, emergency lighting, flame spread and smoke alarms.
5. **Fire Alarm Maintenance** – 6.3.1.1 – Fire alarm systems, voice communication systems and system components shall be maintained only by a person acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and must be maintained in operating condition at all times.
6. **Qualifications of Service Personnel** – Any person who performs inspections, tests or maintenance on fire alarm

systems and components must

- a) have successfully completed the Fire Alarm Technician Certificate Program approved by the Canadian Fire Alarm Association.
- b) have successfully completed any other program or course approved by the Fire Commissioner.
- c) work under the on-site supervision of a person who has completed the program or course required by clause (a) or (b), or
- d) work with a fire alarm company listed under the Fire Alarm Certificate Service of Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC).

*Contributed by Dennis Beachman,
Acting Manager, Codes & Standards – OFC*

RECALLS/ADVISORIES

NEWS FROM CPSC

Starbucks Announces Recall of 8-Cup Coffee Brewers Due to Possible Fire Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the manufacturer named below, today announced voluntary recalls of the following consumer products. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Starbucks Barista Aroma™ Stainless Steel 8-Cup Coffee Brewers

Units: About 73,000

Distributor: Starbucks Coffee Company, of Seattle, Wash.

Hazard: The coffee brewer has defective electrical wiring that can result in overheating, smoking,

burning and melting, posing a possible fire hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: Starbucks has received 23 reports of melting in the plastic housing of the brewers. No injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall includes the Starbucks Barista Aroma 8-Cup Coffee Brewer only. "Starbucks Barista Aroma" is embossed on the front of the brewer and the brewer has silver control panel buttons and a chrome finish. The Starbucks Barista Grande 12-Cup Coffee Brewer and Starbucks Barista Solo Coffee Brewers are not included in this recall.

Sold at: Starbucks company-owned and operated stores nationwide between March 2005 and September 2006 for about \$100.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should stop

using the recalled coffee brewers immediately and contact Starbucks for a full refund. Consumers will receive a postage-paid package along with instructions on how to return their brewer. Starbucks is also offering a coupon (valid through 1/31/07) for a free pound of coffee as an incentive to return the recalled machine.

Consumer Contact: For more information, consumers should contact Starbucks' Barista Aroma recall hotline at (800) 453-1047 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. MT (11 a.m. and 11 p.m. ET), or visit the company's Web site at www.starbucks.com - consumers may also write to Starbucks Coffee Company at Customer Relations, Starbucks Coffee Company, mailstop S-RC1, P.O. Box 3717, Seattle, WA 98124-3717.



RECALLS/ADVISORIES

Light & Motion Recalls Bicycle Light Batteries for Fire and Burn Hazards

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the manufacturers named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.



Name of Product: ARC Lithium Ion Bicycle Light Batteries

Units: About 1,700

Light Manufacturer/Battery Reseller: Light & Motion, of Monterey, Calif.

Battery Manufacturer: GP Batteries International Ltd., of Singapore

Battery Importer: Gold Peak Industries (North America), Inc. of San Diego, Calif.

Hazard: The battery can overheat, posing a fire or burn hazard to users.

Incidents/Injuries: No incidents or injuries have been reported.

Description: The recalled batteries are found in Light & Motion 2004 ARC Li-Ion HID lighting systems. The lights are black with "ARC" and "LIGHT & MOTION" written in yellow letters. The recall includes only batteries with a manufacturer date code of 1003 or 1103. The date code is stamped on the bottom of the battery and "LIGHT & MOTION" is printed on the side of the battery.

Sold at: Authorized bicycle dealers nationwide from November 2003 through October 2004 for about \$500.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the lights immediately and return the battery to Light & Motion for a free replacement.

Consumer Contact: Call Light & Motion collect at (831) 645-1538 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, or log on to the company's Web site at <http://www.bikelights.com/Support/liion.htm>

Pride Products Recalls Counterfeit Extension Cords Due to Fire Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.



Name of Product: Extension Cords

Units: About 42,000

Importer: Pride Products Corp., of Ronkonkoma, N.Y.

Hazard: The counterfeit extension cords have undersized wiring and no fuse in the cord to provide over-current protection, which can cause overheating and pose a fire hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: The recalled cords are brown or white, measure 6, 9, 12, or 15 feet long, are intended for indoors and have a three-outlet extension. Attached to the cord is a silver counterfeit UL holographic label marked "09/99 E157848 UL LISTED CORD SET BV-8021 13A 125V 1625W" or "09/02 E137398 UL LISTED CORD SET BW 5833 13A 125V 1625W."

Sold at: Local discount, drug, and grocery stores nationwide from June 2005 through August 2006 for between \$1 and \$2.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the recalled extension cords immediately and return them to the place of purchase for a full refund.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Pride Products, at (800) 898-5550 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.prideproducts.com

John Deere Gas Barbecue Grills Recalled Due to Fire, Burn Hazards

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firms named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

RECALLS/ADVISORIES

Name of Product: John Deere Gas Barbecue Grills

Units: About 3,100

Manufacturer: Onward Manufacturing, of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Importer: Mi-T-M Corporation, of Peosta, Iowa

Retailer: Deere & Company, of Moline, Ill.

Hazard: Operating the grill in windy conditions can blow the flame under the control panel, causing the grill to overheat or cause flashbacks. Flames could damage the hose that supplies gas to the burner, causing an uncontrolled flame. Also, the grill's control knobs could overheat, resulting in burns to hands.

Incidents/Injuries: Mi-T-M Corporation has received one report of a minor burn received when the user touched a grill's control knob that had overheated due to the flame blowing under the control panel.

Description: These are John Deere Gas Barbecue Grills with model numbers HR-BG6203 and HR-BG5202. The model number is on the CSA approval sticker on the back panel. The recalled grills have a John Deere symbol on the center of the hood and a John Deere decal plate below the control panel. These are 52,000 BTU grills with 460 sq. in. cooking surface. The Model HR-BG6203 includes stainless steel doors, stainless steel side shelves and a side burner rated at 10,000 BTU. The Model HR-BG5202 has stainless steel doors with black plastic side shelves.

Sold at: John Deere dealers from March 2006 through August 2006 for about \$600 for the model number HR-BG6203 grill and about \$500 for model number HR-BG5202 grill.

Manufactured in: Canada

Remedy: Consumers should stop using these grills and contact Mi-T-M Corp. or the John Deere dealer where

the grill was purchased to receive a free repair kit.

Consumer Contact: Call Mi-T-M Corp. toll-free at (877) 535-5336 between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.mitm.com

Media Contact: John Lembezeder, Mi-T-M Corp., at (800) 367-6486, Ext. 208.



In Cooperation With CSA International And HRS-Global Of Dorval, Quebec Is Announcing An Important Consumer Safety Alert Regarding Indoor Extension Cords.

These Extension Cords Pose A Potential Electric Shock And Fire Hazard And They Bear Counterfeit (Unauthorized) Registered Trademarks



Belonging To CSA International. Toronto – September 22, 2006 – In cooperation with CSA International, HRS-Global of Dorval, Quebec is announcing an important consumer safety alert regarding indoor extension cords. These extension cords pose a potential electric shock and fire hazard and they bear counterfeit (unauthorized) registered trademarks belonging to CSA International. Consumers should stop using them immediately.

The extension cords are sold with a red and white paper sleeve (wrap) which is marked: "HRS-Global, "electro" and a counterfeit UL trademark. The cords can be white or green in colour and in 6 ft., 9 ft. or 15 ft. lengths. The sleeve is marked with the rating as 16/2 gauge, 13Amp – 125V. A blue label wrapped around the cord near the plug is marked with the name "Ningbo Yunhuan Electronics Group Corp., LL110595, 13A, 125V, 1625W, Cord Set" and a counterfeit CSA trademark .

Investigation by CSA International has revealed that extension cords are wired with incorrect (reverse) polarity which presents a potential shock hazard. Also the wire gauge is undersize which presents a potential fire hazard. CSA International is not aware of any injury or damage reports involving this product.

HRS-Global imported these extension cords from China and distributed them throughout Canada. Consumers could have purchased these extension cords at various retail outlets.

RECALLS/ADVISORIES

PRODUCT SAFETY ALERT EXPANSION: Heat Recovery Systems Present Potential Fire Hazards

Mississauga, ON, Canada - Further to a joint Safety Alert issued in December, 2006, Ontario's Electrical Safety Authority and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office are once again urging consumers to check if they have a heat recovery system installed in their home with the potential to overheat and ignite. There are 232,753 affected units in Canada and 74,933 units in the United States.

Venmar Ventilation has implemented a Safety Upgrade Program for certain models of Heat Recovery Ventilators produced between 1991 and 2001. Units manufactured before 1991 and after 2001 are not affected. To date, the affected units are identified with the following brand names and model numbers. This is an expanded list from when the original Safety Alert was issued.

Venmar Brand: AEXX, EARC, 1XX, 30X, 40X, 40XXX models

Venmar AVS Brand: 1.X, 2.X, 30XX, 55XX models

Flair Brand: 30, 30XX, 55, 55XX, 85115 models

vänEE Brand: 10, 1XX, 100X, 20, 20XX, 90 models

Conformax Brand: 300, 350, 400

NuTone Brand: NUTR130

Carrier, Bryant Brands (Payne, Day & Night): VXXXXXXXXX

Bryant, Carrier Brands (standard model): ERVXXXXXXXX, HRVXXXXXXXX

Heil Brand: HEILXXXXX

York Brand: 5263554XXXX

Sears Brand: OPTIMUM model

Guardian by Broan Brand: 100X, 200X models

Rheem Brands (Ruud-Protect-Weatherking): 84-ERV100, 84-ERV200, 84-HRV100, 84-HRV200

NOTE: The X digit used in the model numbers can be either a letter or a number.

The model number is located on a silver or black label positioned on the outside panel of the unit.

Venmar Ventilation is asking owners of the Heat Recovery Ventilators identified above to immediately turn off and unplug their unit, and to contact Venmar as soon as possible by phone at 1-866-441-4645, electronically at www.venmar.ca, or by mail at SUP, 550 Lemire Blvd. Drummondville, QC, Canada J2C 7W9

If you are uncertain as to when your unit was installed, check it against the brand names and model numbers identified above to determine if further action is required.

If you experience any strange odours, smoke or the smell of burning in your home, call 911 immediately and have the fire department respond to determine the cause.

For more information contact: Tatjana Dinic, Electrical Safety Authority, by phone at (905) 712-5364

DEWALT Recalls Cordless Reciprocating Saws for Fire Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: DEWALT DC305 Model Reciprocating Saws

Units: About 44,000

Manufacturer: DEWALT Industrial Tool Co., of Towson, Md.

Hazard: The switch on these saws can short circuit, posing a fire hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: DEWALT has received four reports of short circuits in the switch of these saws. One of these incidents was a report of a fire resulting in extensive damage, though the cause of this fire has not been confirmed. Another fire reportedly resulted in minor damage, and the other two incidents resulted in melting damage to the units. No injuries were reported.

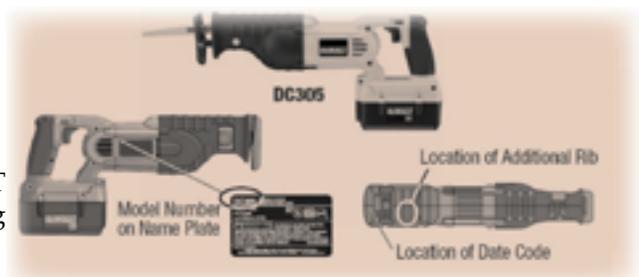
Description: This recall involves cordless DEWALT DC305 model reciprocating saws with date codes 200601-49 through 200640-49. They are yellow and black and about 18 inches long. The model number is located on the name plate on the side of the housing and the date code is located under the handle where the battery is inserted.

Sold at: Major home centers and hardware stores nationwide from May 2006 through November 2006 for between \$380 and \$800.

Manufactured in: Mexico

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the saws immediately and contact DEWALT for a free repair.

Customer Contact: For additional information, consumers can contact DEWALT toll-free at (866) 751-9562 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.DEWALT.com



RECALLS/ADVISORIES

MAYTAG AND CSA INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCE A VOLUNTARY RECALL OF DISHWASHERS DUE TO FIRE HAZARD - APB 04-07

TORONTO, ON – February 1, 2007 – In cooperation with CSA International, Maytag Corp., of Newton, Iowa, is voluntarily recalling approximately 201,540 Maytag® and Jenn-Air® dishwashers sold at department and appliance stores and by homebuilders nationwide in Canada from July 1997 through June 2001 for between \$399 and \$999 (Cdn). Dishwashers affected by this recall were manufactured in the United States. In some cases, the liquid rinse-aid can leak from its dispenser and come into contact with the dishwasher’s internal wiring, which can short-circuit and ignite, posing a potential fire hazard. Consumers

should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Maytag has received a report of one confirmed incident in Canada.

The recall involves Maytag® and Jenn-Air® under counter or portable plastic tub dishwashers. The dishwashers have black, white, almond, bisque or stainless steel front panels. The following model and serial numbers are printed on a label located on the dishwasher’s plastic frame on top of or to the left of the door opening. Consumers should contact Maytag to determine if their dishwasher is included in this recall.

Consumers should immediately stop using these dishwashers, disconnect the electric supply by shutting off the fuse or circuit breaker controlling it and inform all users of the dishwasher

about the risk of fire. Contact Maytag for either a free in-home repair, or a \$75 (U.S.) cash back reimbursement following the purchase of a new Maytag®, Jenn-Air®, Whirlpool® or KitchenAid® dishwasher. Consumers should not return the dishwasher to the retailer where it was purchased, as retailers are not prepared to take units back.

Consumer Contact: For more information, contact Maytag Limited toll-free at 1-800-675-0535 anytime, or visit the firm’s Web site at www.repair.maytag.com.

Manufacturer Media Contact: Monica Teague, Media Relations Manager, Whirlpool Corporation, 1-269-923-7405 or e-mail Monica.Teague@Whirlpool.com

Representative Models:

Brand	Model numbers MUST begin with...	AND serial numbers MUST end with...
Maytag brand	MDB3, MDB4, MDB5, MDB6, MDB7, MDB8, MDB9, MDBD, MDC3, MDC4, MDC5, DWU9	SM, SQ, SS, SU, SW, SY, SZ, UB, UD, UF, UH, UK, UM, UQ, US, UU, UW, UY, UZ, WB, WD, WF, WH, WK, WM, WQ, WS, WU, WW, WY, WZ, YB, YD, YF, YH, YK, YM, YQ, YS, YU, YW, YY, YZ
Jenn-Air brand	JDB3, JDB4, JDB5, JDB6, JDB7	UB, UD, UF, UH, UK, UM, UQ, US, UU, UW, UY, UZ, WB, WD, WF, WH, WK, WM, WQ, WS, WU, WW, WY, WZ, YB, YD, YF, YH, YK, YM, YQ, YS, YU, YW, YY, YZ



RECALLS/ADVISORIES

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Best Buy Co. Inc. Recalls Remote Controls Used With Insignia DVD Players Due to Burn Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of product: Remote Control Sold With Insignia 100W DVD Compact Shelf System

Units: About 10,000

Retailer: Best Buy Co. Inc., of Richfield, Minn.

Hazard: If the batteries are placed backwards in the remote control with the positive and negative sides improperly switched, overheating can result and present a burn hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: Best Buy has received one report of a remote control overheating. No injuries have been reported.

Description: The white remote control has model number NS-A1113 and “Insignia” printed on the front. The keypad has black numbers/letters. The recalled remote controls were sold exclusively with the Insignia 100W DVD Compact Shelf System. The remote controls were not sold separately.

Sold at: Best Buy retail stores nationwide, bestbuy.com and at bestbuybusiness.com from May 2006 through January 2007 for between \$80 and \$130 with the Insignia 100W DVD Players.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the remote control immediately and contact Best Buy to receive a free replacement remote.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Best Buy toll-free at (888) 809-7022 anytime or visit the firm’s Web site at www.BestBuy.com



STAFF UPDATE

Welcome to Darren Romo. Since October, Darren has been with the OFC as a Codes & Standards Officer. He is located in the Provincial Building in Flin Flon. Darren was a By-law Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector with the City of Flin Flon for the past 3 years. He is also a member of the Flin Flon Fire Department.

Since November, Kevin Oman has been with the Codes section of our Office. Previous to that, Kevin was an instructor with the Public Fire Paramedic Program. Kevin, welcome to the Codes section.

Please welcome Scott Ritzer to our organization. Scott comes to us from the North Eastman Health Association and the Lac du Bonnet Fire Department. Scott will be assigned to the College section.

Please welcome Erin Cummings to our organization. Erin comes to us from CFB Shilo and will be assigned to the College section as the Education Development Officer.



The Office of the Fire Commissioner produces the *Burning Issues* newsletter. *Burning Issues* is a collection of updates from the Office of the Fire Commissioner, news and views from the Manitoba Fire Service and information on public safety.

Editor: Lisa Morhun

Submission deadline for the winter edition of *Burning Issues* is **July 23, 2007**

Contributions, news items and suggestions are appreciated. Please contact Lisa Morhun at (204) 945-5930, fax (204) 948-2089 or e-mail Lisa.Morhun@gov.mb.ca.