

BURNING ISSUES



PREVENTION • PROTECTION • PUBLIC EDUCATION

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE COMMISSIONER

Douglas M. Popowich

Another summer has come and gone. The weather certainly cooperated to allow us all to enjoy some of the many recreational opportunities our Province has to offer. I do hope that you were able to spend some quality time with your families enjoying some of our many amenities.

Historically, summer is a time when many of our emergency response agencies also relax somewhat from their busy training schedules and other activities. This year however, we saw some of our departments in Eastern Manitoba having to deal with tragedies inflicted as a result of tornadoes. Tornadoes in Manitoba are very rare. This summer saw tornadoes touch down on a couple of different occasions with some tragic results. These events show that we need to plan and be prepared for any type of event. As fall approaches, children go back to school and holidays are over and we once again have to start to re-focus on enhancing public safety in our communities.

This year has seen a number of changes in our Province regarding public safety and emergency response. Manitoba Health introduced new regulations under their legislation which affects ambulance operations and licensure. This change has affected those areas

of the Province where firefighters used to be utilized to drive ambulances in emergency situations. Those changes now stipulate that anyone operating an ambulance must hold a valid ambulance license. The Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs and the Office of the Fire Commissioner met with the Minister of Health to recommend changes to once again allow firefighters the ability to drive ambulances in emergency situations. Changes are still pending. Until that happens no one should drive an ambulance without a current ambulance license.

This year has also seen changes in the way that higher education will be delivered to emergency medical personnel. As of this past June, the Manitoba Emergency Services College will no longer be delivering the Emergency Medical Technician or Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) program to ambulance personnel for Manitoba Health. Manitoba Health has been working with Red River Community College to deliver PCP training in a pre-employment training model for those interested in a career in emergency medical services. The Manitoba Emergency Services College (MESC) will continue to offer the Emergency Medical Responder program to both Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel. The MESC will continue

to maintain its accredited PCP program for delivery within the full-time Public Fire Paramedic program and also will continue to develop and deliver higher levels of skill training necessary for personnel to affectively treat individuals as a requirement of the accredited technical rescue programs offered.

Legislation, both under the Emergency Measures Organization and our Office, was passed which will increase both the municipalities' and Province's ability and authority to deal with large emergencies or disasters.

The new Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act will now require municipalities to adopt and

continued on page 2

Index

News & Views of Manitoba Emergency Services	2-11
Education	12-17
CISM	18
Codes & Standards	18
Recalls/Advisories	19-23
Staff Update	24

NEWS AND VIEWS OF MANIT

CORNY BERGEN RECEIVES CERTIFICATE of APPRECIATION

Former Winnipegosis Fire Chief and Lake Winnipegosis Mutual Aid Coordinator

Corny Bergen is pictured here with Fire Commissioner Doug Popowich receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from the Office of the Fire Commissioner for many years of dedicated service to the Lake Winnipegosis Mutual Aid District.

Corny, having joined the Winnipegosis Fire Department in 1961, stepped down as Fire Chief at the end of 2005 but retained the role of Mutual Aid Coordinator for the District. Corny held this role from the District's inception through to his retirement in June of this year.

Corny's achievements both locally and provincially have always been in support of the Manitoba Fire Service.

Corny was the recipient of the Mary Beth Dolin award in 1993.

A big thank you is also extended to Corny's devoted wife Cathy, to whom the administration of the District has fallen for many years.

Corny has now passed the torch as Coordinator to Rorketon Fire Chief Kevin Didychuk.

Good luck in your Retirement Sir!



Contributed by Allan Gray, ESO - OFC

Message from the Fire Commissioner continued from page 1

enforce the Manitoba Fire Code within their respective jurisdictions. Regulations under this act will also see Incident Command become the emergency management system to be used at all emergencies within the Province.

With respect to Incident Command, the MESC is now offering the Incident Command (ICS) 100 training on the internet. To access the program just go to the MESC page of the Office of the Fire Commissioners (OFC) website (<http://www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca/home>). The program is free to all emergency response personnel. As well, the MESC in the process of making the Hazmat Awareness program available online. It is planned to have this program ready for access by the end of September.

With respect to training, the OFC sponsored the 5th annual Ground Search and Rescue training exercise, August 26 and 27, 2006, in Spruce Woods Provincial Park. It was a great success. A number of agencies and 9 mutual aid teams participated with over 125 personnel in attendance. If you are interested in viewing some pictures of this exercise go to the OFC website. There is a picture gallery on the website which has a number of pictures from training exercises and emergency responses that the Office has been involved in over the last couple of years.

Don't forget that Fire Prevention week is also quickly approaching; October 8 – 14th. Although we should practice fire safety all year round, many departments deliver very beneficial and concerted public safety awareness activities during this week. If you have not yet ordered the materials from our office to support your activities please do so now.

Fall typically brings with it a new training schedule for many of you. I commend all of you for the training that you are planning to deliver or undertake. Training provides a higher level of efficiency, but more importantly, a tool for your personnel to stay safe. Our collective goal should always be that every emergency responder goes home safe from every incident they respond to.

The conference is only a short time away. The conference brochure is out so if you haven't done so already, book your seminar spots, and of course, confirm your hotel rooms. There are a number of new seminars offered this year. This year, we are very pleased that our Premier, the Honorable Gary Doer will also offer a key note address to attendees at the opening ceremonies. I look forward to seeing many of you at the conference again this year.

OBA EMERGENCY SERVICES

Waskada Celebrates Grand Opening of New Fire Hall

It was a great day of celebration on Friday, June 23 in Waskada, the grand opening of two new buildings - the RM of Brenda office and the new fire hall. Following the RM office grand opening, Mayor Vaughan Ramsay invited everyone to move over to the fire hall. Mayor Ramsay is also the Chairman of Waskada & Area Fire Protection Board. He said Merv Tweed MP sent a letter of congratulations and a plaque and regrets that he could not attend personally. Mayor Ramsay introduced two representatives from the provincial Office of the Fire Commissioner Dave Schafer and Ken Carmichael who presented a plaque to Ken Austin, Fire Chief. "This building is more than an investment in the emergency service department - it shows there is commitment in the area for further training," said Carmichael.

Ramsay recognized the fire board members, which includes himself as chairman, Darryl Teetaert, Bob Radcliffe, Jackie Reid and Jim Trewin. "The fire hall is a joint venture between the Village of Waskada, the RM of Brenda and the RM of Arthur. Congratulations for a fine new building - it is a great addition," said Jim Trewin.

At this time the Waskada Fire Department was recognized. Members include Ken Austin (Fire Chief), Phil Innes, Bob Temple, Doug Jolly, Pip Jolly (Deputy Fire Chief), Rick Louttit, Tom Sclater, Gary Williams, Ron Minne, Kevin Lesy, Al Wanner, Reuben Holt, Jeff Cannon, Ron Bertholet and Shawna Simpson. Simpson is also a First Responder and she gave a few remarks. She thanked Ken and the fire board for their ongoing support. "It is

training but I receive excellent support from everybody," said Simpson. She encouraged others to become First Responders.

"What a great day," said Fire Chief Ken Austin. "This building shows a job well done by the fire board and council. It is a great facility to work and train in - especially nice in 40° below weather to lay out the hoses on the floor and get them dried." "As chief I enjoy working with 16 volunteers who serve the community in time of need," he added.

There have been many changes over the years in regard to equipment and training and now with 911 and First Responders - there are different expectations.

He invited anyone to join the fire department as there is always a need for more members.

Austin has worked a lot with the Fire Commissioner's Office over the years and expressed appreciation to Schafer and Carmichael for attending the celebrations. A delicious lunch of barbecued hot dogs, homemade hamburgers, and cake was enjoyed by the big crowd in attendance.

Contributed by Judy Wells, Deloraine Times & Star



The official ribbon cutting was in front of the new fire hall. From left: Dunc Stewart, Reeve of RM of Brenda, Ken Austin (Fire Chief) and Vaughn Ramsay who is the Mayor of the Village of Waskada as well as chairman of the Waskada & Area Fire Protection Board.



Representatives of the provincial Fire Commissioner's Office, Dave Schafer and Ken Carmichael who offered congratulations and a plaque on behalf of the Provincial Office.



The inside of the new fire hall is pictured showing the spacious hall.



A view of the hall from the front with one of the vintage fire trucks out front. It is a most welcome addition to Waskada and area.

NEWS AND VIEWS OF MANIT

STEINBACH FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION RELIEF EFFORT IN GULFPORT MISSISSIPPI

Since our return home in early February of 2006 the lives and mindsets of eighteen firefighters from Steinbach & Winnipeg have been forever changed. In fall of 2005 we began organizing our trip to Gulfport, Mississippi with the assistance of The Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers. Our goal was to help emergency response personnel in the Gulfport area rebuild their homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina. No one truly understood how our lives would be influenced by this once in a lifetime experience.

Upon our arrival in early spring of 2006, six months had passed since Katrina hit this Gulf Coast region. However, it was evident to everyone in our group that help was still very much needed. Many emergency organizations who assisted in this disaster had concluded their operations now that their job was done and the returning residents are doing their best to rebuild what they've lost. As you can imagine dealing with politicians, governments, insurance companies, finding sub trades, contractors, and the necessary building materials to complete any work has brought overwhelming stress and disappointment to many people. It is impossible to describe every part of the current scene of destruction in this area, to relay all the stories of survival shared, and begin to depict the many hardships that so many people are currently facing in the aftermath of Katrina in only one article, however we will try to give you all some perspective of what we experienced.

As emergency responders we were able to gain access to restricted areas and listen to the stories of emergency personnel who stayed behind during the storm. We saw where thousands of homes, apartments, and businesses

were simply gone, vanished as if the land was being cleared for a new development, with only foundations left behind. In some cases your neighbors' home and possessions were violently placed inside your own home leaving you wondering if we must be in the wrong house. Debris is everywhere, vehicles, school buses and boats twisted and mangled and left behind where homes once stood. The personal belongings of thousands are spread out over miles of devastation or washed away in the Gulf. Razor wire and barricades are everywhere to keep residents and sadly, looters out of the hazardous areas. What we have seen and continue to observe in the media will never truly give an accurate picture of the reality of what has taken place here. The vision of miles of coast line, once vibrant with people and communities destroyed by the incredible power of Mother Nature has been burned into our memories forever. Many of us have been involved in the fire service for many years, endured many difficult times when duty called, we have seen so many things however no one was prepared for this.

Katrina hit with a fury we could never imagine, we will never forget



OBA EMERGENCY SERVICES

the accounts of loss of life, and seeing the loss of property and devastation of entire communities, the aftermath is unreal no words could truly describe what happened here. There are no people around where thousands once lived, no common sounds are heard, only silence and the sound of our own foot steps, the quiet is disturbing the devastation is incredible no matter what direction you are looking towards there is no escape from what happened here.

During our short stay we were assigned to construction projects at several different homes which had experienced flood or hurricane damage. We worked at roofing, sheetrock (drywall) work, framing, and many other jobs involved in rebuilding. We are a small part of thousands of volunteers from all over the U.S. and Canada taking part in these re-construction efforts. Protestants, Catholics, Lutheran, Baptist, Amish, Black, White, Asian, all eating in the same gigantic soup kitchen tent and working towards the

same goal of helping people in need. This truly was an amazing feeling and incredible experience for all. The construction industry in this area is simply overwhelmed and many religious and volunteer organizations have taken on the task of helping rebuild the Gulf Coast. Although we see and hear the negative spin of media reports, we can assure you there are a lot of good things happening in this area and the people of Gulfport are seeing and experiencing it first hand. They are truly grateful for the help and kindness being shown.

After two short weeks we were all exhausted and tired yet no one complained, we only shared our difficulty in leaving Gulfport knowing so much more needed to be done. In the end we did our small part and others will follow in our footsteps doing just as we did, making new friends and contributing in positive ways. There is much left to accomplish in the area, however we all experienced the goodness and kindness of the residents and

volunteers and what can be accomplished together when we choose to do so. In a world filled with many problems we have much to be thankful for and the people of Gulfport have left a legacy of hope, kindness, strength and perseverance in our hearts. Perhaps years from now we will have the opportunity to return to Gulfport to see this area in a much better light and experience the local community alive and thriving again.

With a lasting memory of a beautiful coastal sunset, we thank the residents of Gulfport. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Contributed by Steinbach
Firefighter's Association*



Fire Chief LORNE ANDERSON RETIRES



On Saturday, July 29, 2006 a retirement dinner and dance was held at the Victoria Beach Sports complex. Fire Chief Lorne Anderson retired from Victoria Beach Fire Department after 41 plus years of service, 39 years as the Fire Chief.

The event was well attended by the community who greatly appreciated Lorne for his continued efforts as Chief of the Fire Department.

Lorne and his wife Joy continue to live and work within the community and Lorne continues to act as a resource for the Department.

*Contributed by Rick Vandekerkhove,
Manager, Operations, East - OFC*

NEWS AND VIEWS OF MANIT

Province of Manitoba SUMMER GROUND SEARCH & RESCUE EXERCISE Spruce Woods Provincial Park “Operation – Spirits Sands”

On Saturday August 26th, 2006 the Manitoba Search & Rescue Partners met in Spruce Woods Provincial Park for the 5th annual Summer Ground Search & Rescue Exercise conveniently named “Operation Spirits Sands”.

The primary goal of the annual exercises are to provide the SAR partners in Manitoba with an opportunity to network and practice their skills in a realistic training

environment within an Incident Command Model.

This year’s scenario involved an overdue private aircraft carrying approximately 8 – 10 passengers and crew from the United States to Canada for a weekend vacation getaway. The last known position of the plane prior to disappearing from the radar screen was in the vicinity of the Spruce Woods Provincial Park.

Spruce Woods Provincial Park provided an excellent venue for this exercise due to its diverse terrain and endless network of trails that provided a realistic and challenging Search & Rescue scenario.

Volunteer Ground Search and Rescue Teams from across the province participated in this one day event along side many of the SAR Partners that make up the Manitoba Search & Rescue Network. A full scale aerial search operation included Civil Air Search & Rescue (C.A.S.A.R.A.), Department of National Defense (DND) 435 Rescue Squadron from Winnipeg and a contract Jet Ranger helicopter that was used to provide Forward Looking Infrared – FLIR training and operations.

A very realistic crash site with multiple victims was

set up in the North end of the Park and provided an excellent venue for 435 Rescue Squadron SAR Techs to parachute in to the crash site, treat and package the victims for transport.

Volunteer GSAR Teams provided assistance to the SAR Techs at the crash site, while other GSAR Teams searched the surrounding woods and network of trails for signs of the multiple victims who had already walked away from the crash site. All the victims were successfully located, treated and transported (earlier than anticipated); however the day was still a valuable learning experience for all parties involved.

Volunteer Search & Rescue Teams and Agencies participating in this year’s event included the following:

- Antler River Mutual Aid
- North East Mutual Aid
- South Interlake Mutual Aid
- Oak Lake Mutual Aid
- Grand Valley Mutual Aid
- Eastman Mutual Aid
- West Central Mutual Aid
- Turtle Mountain Mutual Aid
- Clearwater Training District
- RCMP D – Division – Hasty Team
- Department of National Defense – 435 Rescue Squadron
- Department of National Defense Ranger Company - Gillam and St. Theresa Pt.
- Winnipeg Police Service – Hasty Team
- Manitoba Conservation
- Civil Air Search & Rescue (CASARA)
- Manitoba USAR Team Canine Unit
- Office of the Fire Commissioner



OBA EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Annual GSAR exercises have been partially funded over the past three years under the New Initiatives Fund (NIF) which is sponsored by the Canadian Search & Rescue Secretariat. This program has been established to support Search & Rescue initiatives such as multi Agency Training exercises that support and strengthen the volunteer element of SAR operations and that promote interoperability between the SAR partners.

Next years exercise is already in the planning. Next years exercise will focus on promoting SAR skills through

friendly competition with the goal of supporting the winning team to attend and represent the Province of Manitoba at the 2007 SAR Scene Conference.

Thanks goes out to all of the volunteers and especially the volunteer victims who made this years exercise a big success.

*Contributed by Dave Schafer,
Manager, Operations - OFC*



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

A firefighter in full turnout gear or a paramedic in uniform - who is better protected, or perhaps who is most appropriately protected? An interesting thought! To answer that question, one must consider what the individual is being protected from. In actual fact, the question should not be who is better or more or most, this should not be considered a comparison. The more appropriate question should be ... Is each well enough protected for their role as a rescuer?

Generally, turnout gear provides a certain degree of protection from: fire, heat, some hazardous materials and blood-borne pathogens.

Paramedics have personal protective equipment available to them including: gloves, masks, HEPA and N-95 respirators, eyewear (goggles), aprons and gowns.

Other more specialized protective equipment is available for specific rescue situations. Ultimately, protective equipment must be utilized and utilized properly to provide optimum protection.

Consider, this call ... a motor vehicle collision (MVC) requiring the response of Fire and EMS. The Fire personnel skillfully secure the scene; once safety is ensured, the paramedics enter. Firefighters in full turnout gear initiate the rescue including vehicle extrication; paramedics may participate by providing patient stabilization. The patient is assessed, managed, extricated, treated and transported.

Was each rescuer appropriately protected? Again, the question requires the knowledge of what they are being protected from. Hazards might include: fire, heat, toxic chemicals/fumes, environmental conditions, broken glass, etc. What about the "etc."? Consider the potential for transmission of communicable diseases.

Manitoba Health, specifically the Manitoba Emergency Treatment Guidelines includes a section on "Infectious and Communicable Diseases". This section details specific recommendation related to Health Maintenance, Infection Control, Routine Practices and Additional Precautions, Scene

Operations, Post-Response Infection Control, Post-Exposure Protocol. It includes an Appendix outlining a recommended Immunization Schedule for EMS Personnel as well as another Appendix outlining recommendations for Tuberculosis Screening.

The National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 1500 – Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program 2002 edition and NFPA1581 – Standard on Fire Department Infection Control Program 2005 edition make reference to the need for infection control. Within NFPA 1581 is Annex A – an explanatory material outlining related information.

Are you well enough protected? Do you know the recommended immunizations for rescue personnel? Is your immunization status up to date? Who is responsible?

And just to add another thought ... when did you last wash your turnout gear/uniform? Where?

*Contributed by Loretta Oliver, Co-ordinator,
Emergency Medical Services Programs
– OFC*

NEWS AND VIEWS OF MANIT

Springfield Fire & Rescue Service Honours Members At Exemplary Service Awards Evening

On Tuesday April 18th, 2006 the Springfield Fire & Rescue Service held an Exemplary Service Awards Evening. A range of presentations were made culminating in the awarding of eight Governor General's Fire Service Exemplary Service Medals to members of the service.

A number of dignitaries shared in the event honouring the firefighters. His Honour, The Honourable John Harvard, P.C., O.M. Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, Fire Commissioner Doug Popowich and Springfield Reeve John Holland joined Fire Chief Mike Purtill in recognizing the members of the service.

Master of Ceremonies, Captain Scott Wilkinson, opened the evening by welcoming those in attendance and relating how the members of the service possessed over 365 years of combined emergency service experience.

Speeches by the dignitaries and Chief Purtill then called attention to the excellence of the service and the dedication and sacrifice of its members.

The Lieutenant Governor commented

on how the firefighters made a difference in their community while Commissioner Popowich shared his impressions of the service: "Springfield is one of the leading departments across Manitoba. I have had the privilege to watch and see its growth. The citizens of this community do receive excellent service".

Chief Purtill added his thoughts stating, "It is an evening that will pay tribute to the firefighters who have served for many years and it is an evening to celebrate milestones that are rarely achieved in a rural fire service". Both Chief Purtill and Captain Wilkinson made special mention of the sacrifice and support of the members' families and their role in the success of the service.

The presentations began with Level I Firefighting Certificates being given to twelve of the newest members and continued with the presentation of Long Service Awards for each five years of dedicated service ranging from 5 to 35 years in length. Each firefighter received a certificate, a long service pin and uniform bars signifying each five year service increment.



The pinnacle of the evening was the presentation of the Fire Service Exemplary Service Medals by the Lieutenant Governor. Five members received the Exemplary Service Medal signifying at least 20 years of service. Captain Chris Litkowitch, Deputy Chief Garth Cook, Captain Dick Vlaming, retired member Lorne Painter and retired Deputy Chief Carl Cook received this award. Three individuals received the Fire Service Exemplary Service Medal and 10 Year Bar recognizing at least 30 years of service. Firefighter John Murrell (36 years), firefighter Brian Wilkinson (35 years) and retired member Bernie Litkowitch (34 years) received these prestigious awards honouring their selfless dedication to their community over those many years.

The Springfield Fire & Rescue Service is proud to be one of the most progressive and professional rural services in Manitoba. The service has a complement of over 40 dedicated firefighters staffing two stations that cover one of the largest jurisdictions in western Canada. This area encompasses rural, industrial and rapidly growing urban areas resulting in over 300 calls for service each year not including medical emergencies.

Contributed by the Springfield Fire & Rescue Service



OBA EMERGENCY SERVICES

EXERCISE COMMUNITY CONTACT

The morning of June 21, 2006 began as any other until several chlorine cylinders were found abandoned on the Green Acres School grounds in Brandon, Manitoba. Alert school personnel phoned 911 for help and began their shelter-in-place procedures. When Brandon Fire Department arrived on scene they recognized the situation was beyond what they were immediately equipped to deal with and called for the Western Manitoba Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Technical Team.

The Hazmat team is made up of specially trained firefighters from Brandon Fire Department, Shilo Fire Department and the Office of the Fire Commissioner. Their expertise is in managing hazardous materials releases and they arrive on scene fully equipped to do just that. Working under Incident Command the Hazmat team is ready to assess the risk created by the hazard, advise Command of the situation and contain the escaping material.

The incident at Green Acres School was an exercise planned by the Brandon Emergency Support Team. It involved more than 300 people including 120 children and employees from the school and 70 people from COR Enterprises. The event evolved

from shelter-in-place to total evacuation and everyone was moved by bus to the Keystone Centre where a reception centre had been established by the City of Brandon. The exercise was partially funded by the Joint Emergency Planning Program.

The exercise provided some lessons learned including; Unified Command worked well; all responders need a safe route to scene as soon as possible; there was good information flow to OFC as the event unfolded; Command should have a Safety Officer immediately available; and the Hazmat team could use assistance with their equipment from staged firefighters. The school and COR learned that their shelter-in-place plans worked and that they could manage a complete evacuation if required. Overall it was found that Command had a good understanding of all issues and assigned resources appropriately. Everyone had a good morning and recharged their energy with pizza.

Contributed by Brian Kayes, Director of Emergency Coordination, City of Brandon



Members of the Western Manitoba Hazmat Response Team take the time to pose for a group photo after the exercise. The Team consists of member of the Brandon Fire Department, Shilo Emergency Services Department and the Office of the Fire Commissioner.



Members of the Western Manitoba Hazmat Response Team prepare to go through "Decontamination" after completing their task.



Hazardous Materials Technicians from the Western Manitoba Hazmat Response Team install an "A" kit on a leaking cylinder as part of the B.E.S.T. exercise.



NEWS AND VIEWS OF MANIT

Aboriginal & Northern Affairs Training Initiative Update

The Provincial Aboriginal & Northern Affairs (ANA) Training Initiative has been in full swing through the spring and summer months. Since the last issue of Burning Issues, (where a full report of the program was provided), three (3) more ANA communities have completed the full 7 – week program which includes certification in Fire Fighter Level 1 – NFPA 1001, and Hazardous Materials Awareness – NFPA – 472.

The first course was delivered in the community of Thicket Portage during the months of February and March, 2006. Thicket Portage is a remote community along the Hudson's Bay Railway that runs south of Thompson. Access to the community is only available by way of winter road, rail or air. The winter weather conditions presented the instructors and candidates with some obvious challenges; however the best was made of a difficult situation by all. Final training evolutions and practical evaluation were completed at the MESC satellite Training facility in Thompson.

The next two courses were held in

the communities of Moose Lake and Pelican Rapids, Manitoba during the months of April – May and June – July respectfully. Both communities are members of the Clearwater Training District, and for both communities this was the first opportunity to receive a full Fire Fighter Level 1 training program in many years. Final training evolutions and practical evaluations for both communities were completed at The Pas Fire Department training facility.

A word of thanks goes out to all the contract instructors who have assisted in delivering these community based courses, and to the members of The Pas Fire Department and The Thompson Fire & Emergency Services for the assistance and support provided.

Congratulations obviously goes out to all of the candidates for the hard work and dedication that you demonstrated during the course of this

challenging 7 weeks of continuous training. Keep up the good work.

This Provincial Initiative is a partnership between the Manitoba Aboriginal & Northern Affairs, and the Office of the Fire Commissioner in an effort to improve on the level of fire service capabilities in Northern Affairs Communities across Manitoba.

Contributed by Dave Schafer, Manager, Operations - OFC & Ken Giersch, ESO - OFC



Members of the Thicket Portage Community Council Fire Department brave the cold winter weather while performing training evolutions during the ladder block of their recently completed Level 1 Fire Fighter training session in the Community of Thicket Portage.



Proud members of the Moose Lake Community Council Fire Department take the time to pose for a team picture with their lead instructor Ken Giersch of the Office of the Fire Commissioner during a training session in the Community of Moose Lake.



Candidates from the Pelican Rapids Community Council Fire Department prepare to attack a vehicle fire as part of their Practical Evaluation at The Pas Fire Department Training Facility.

OBA EMERGENCY SERVICES



Proud Fire Fighter Level 1 graduates of the Pelican Rapids Community Council Fire Department take the time to pose after their graduation ceremony held at the local Community Centre on August 3, 2006.



Fire Prevention and Public Education is a key component of the ANA training program. Members of the Thicket Portage Community Council Fire Department and "Sparky" work with youngsters from the Community School as part of the Fire Prevention and Public Education block of their Fire Fighter Level 1 program.

News from the ARSON STRIKE FORCE (Winnipeg)

The Arson Strike Force (ASF) is a Joint Forces Operation (JFO) between the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, the Winnipeg Police Service and The Office of the Fire Commissioner. The ASF currently has 13 full time members with several spare members available to assist. The unit is staffed around the clock 7 days a week. While first established on October 26, 1999 to deal with an emergent situation, the unit has grown into a full-time, effective unit, dealing with the fire situation in Winnipeg. On July 3rd, 2006 a milestone was reached with the 1000th arrest/apprehension of an offender for setting a fire. Sadly this was a child who burned his foster parent's core area home in retaliation for not being allowed outside of the home during the evening hours. The lad had just been released from custody for other fire setting activities. Several people narrowly escaped this blaze which destroyed the homes and possessions of two families. Damage to

the house was estimated at \$100,000 with a further loss to the contents of the main floor at \$50,000 and \$10,000 to the family occupying the 2nd and 3rd floor.

Through cooperative efforts of several members of the ASF from all three disciplines the cause of the fire was identified and proven and the persons with access quickly identified. The lad was re-apprehended and placed back in secure custody where he can be more closely observed as he is a clear and present danger to his caregivers and those surrounding him. Similar efforts in the past weeks on behalf of numerous members of the ASF also resulted in the arrest and criminal charges of an adult male who is now alleged to have torched the Thistle Curling Club destroying this historic building in a blaze that endangered many surrounding homes and caused evacuations. The building, valued at \$3,000,000.00, was a total loss along

with many irreplaceable mementoes and trophies from days gone by. Time and time again members of the ASF have proven that timely response to a fire situation and cooperative investigative efforts have identified the cause of the fire and coupled with scene witness information, including firefighters, have been able to identify and apprehend suspects either at the scene or shortly after under whatever rock they are hiding under. Additionally tips from concerned members of the public and information received from firefighters who have been observant enough to identify repeat spectators have been of great assistance. ASF investigators from the OFC, while assigned to the Winnipeg unit, continue to investigate fires in all areas when assistance is requested by other members of the OFC or when staff resource management requires it.

Contributed by K. Swan on behalf of all members of the ASF past and present.

EDUCATION

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 8 - 14, 2006 NFPA OFFERS THESE KITCHEN SAFETY TIPS

More fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home. Why is the kitchen such a danger zone? Too often people fail to pay attention to what's cooking, and the consequences can be far worse than burned food. Like any home fire, cooking fires spread quickly, leaving you just minutes to escape safely. Follow these tips for safer cooking:

Stand by your pan!

- Most fires in the kitchen occur because cooking is left unattended. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling or boiling food.
- If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that the stove or oven is on.

No kids allowed!

- Keep kids away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible, and turn pot handles inward to reduce the risk that pots with hot contents will be knocked over.
- Never hold a small child while cooking.

Keep it clean!

- Keep anything that can catch fire—pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels or curtains—away from your stove top.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and the stovetop.
- Avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire if it



comes in contact with a gas flame or electric burner.

Microwave with care!

- Plug the microwave oven directly into an outlet. Never use an extension cord for a microwave as it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.
- Use only microwave-safe containers to heat food.
- Allow food to cool for a minute or more before you remove it from the microwave.
- Open microwaved containers slowly as hot steam escaping from the containers can cause painful burns. Be sure to let food and liquid cool before you eat them.
- Never use aluminum foil or metal objects in a microwave oven. They can cause a fire or burn hazard and damage the oven.

Kitchen fires 101

While the following tips can help you put out a small kitchen fire, never forget how dangerous fire can be. If you are unable to put out the fire, get out of the home and call the fire department. When in doubt, get out!

- If you have a fire in your microwave, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed. Never open the door until the fire is completely out. Unplug the appliance if you can safely reach the outlet.
- Always keep an oven mitt and a lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan (make sure you are wearing the oven mitt). Turn off the burner. To keep the fire from restarting, don't remove the lid until the pan is completely cool.
- In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you or your clothing.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen in case of an emergency. Make sure that you know what type of fire the extinguisher will put out and how it works before an emergency occurs.

For more information on the Children's Program or for more Fire Prevention Week ideas and resources please contact Kathy Danino at the Fire Commissioner's Office at 1-888-253-1488.

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EDUCATION

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2005 – 2006

The Office of the Fire Commissioner has been recognizing teachers who implement the instruction of the Learn Not to Burn curriculum. This year, the award recognized individual teachers for their commitment to making Manitoba a safer place to live, learn, work and play!

- Rose Lukinski, Birtle Elementary School
- Colleen Berard, Westmount School in Swan Lake
- Gilles Bouley, Ecole Centrale in Winnipeg
- Lisa Yagi, Parc La Salle School in Winnipeg

Each teacher won an award of \$250.00 and free fire safety materials for participating students. Once again the Teacher of the Year Award will be offered for the 2006 – 2007 school year. Entries will be mailed out to all Kindergarten to Grade Three teachers in September. Please continue to encourage your local schools to teach the Learn Not to Burn curriculum and enter to win an award!

For more information please contact Kathy Danino, Fire and Life Safety Educator at 1-888-253-1488.



Melvin VanWoensel representing the Swan Lake Fire Department, Kathy Danino, Grade One/Two Teacher Colleen Berard, Bill Harrow and the students from Westmount School in Swan Lake



Andre Coutre, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service; Parent Helpers: Naomi Kruse and Karen Ilchena, Health Teacher Gilles Bouley from Ecole Centrale



Ron Denslow, Kathy Danino, Grade One Teacher Rose Lukinski and Public Educator Christine Radlinsky (Birtle Fire Department) and the Students from Birtle Elementary School

Photo courtesy of Darrell Nesbitt/Crossroads This Week.



Andre Coutre, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, Kathy Danino, Health Teacher Lisa Yagi from Parc La Salle School, Brandy Maslowski, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service

EDUCATION

'Leading Vision' AN ANNUAL FORUM FOR PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATORS

The Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners (CCFM/FC) and the Manitoba Office of the Fire Commissioner were pleased to host its Forum of Fire and Life Safety Educators from across Canada on May 31 – June 2 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Forum allowed fire and life safety educators to share knowledge, ideas and visions for the future.

Educators were able to discuss various issues concerning public education delivery as well as celebrate the many successes of the past year.

Representatives spent one day

examining and discussing the results of the Genesis Form to determine if the recommendations made in 2004 are in keeping with future direction. The focus of the two and a half days was to focus on practical and achievable goals and objectives to make a difference provincially, territorially and nationally.

Gord Favelle from the Manitoba Office of the Fire Commissioner facilitated the Forum. Guest speakers at the Forum included:

- Fire Commissioner, Doug Popowich
- Fire Chief Gary MacGregor, Gimli Fire Department

- Dr. Russ Thomas, Fire Risk Management Director with the National Research Council who gave an update on the progress made towards the standardization of the collection and analysis of Canada's statistics.
- Dr. Lynne Warda, Medical Director of IMPACT, discussed her comprehensive review of risk factors contributing to injury and death in house fires.
- Jacquelyn Sowers, Heath Promotion and Education Consultant, delivered an interactive session that explored the nature of adolescents and why they take risks, identified principles of motivation and ways they learn best and offered some sample strategies for reaching them with fire and life safety messages.
- Dr. Robert Conn, President and CEO of the SMARTRISK Foundation, provided the latest thoughts and research behind effective messaging, social marketing and health promotion.
- Deanna Pacheco, Principal with the Keewatin Patricia District School Board in Dryden, Ontario, provided participants with the opportunity to look at an educator's view on the new Risk Watch resource and ways to use it in one's jurisdiction.

The Public Educators Committee Strategic Planning Group identified three priority recommendations that will be taken forward in July at the annual Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



*Front Row: Bev Gilbert, Richard McCurry, Gord Favelle, and Luc Page
Second Row: Kathy Danino, Tom Makey, Jackie Goodwin, Mahendra Wijayasinghe, and Angela Prawzick
Third Row: Frederick Morrison, Ann Kall, Robert Prima, Cheryl Deibert, Wayne Higgins, Judy Harvie, Janice Johnstone, Frank Savage, Everitt Pitts, Dave Gallant, and Tim Nickerson
Not in attendance for picture: Michelle Jackson*

EDUCATION

GETTING TO KNOW FIRE

Getting to Know Fire" is a fire and life safety education curriculum designed to assist fire service personnel in planning and delivering presentations. It comes complete with ready made lesson plans, supporting video and other materials, teaching tips and motivational techniques.

The lesson plans are for pre-school children to seniors. Lesson plans contain all the information and materials you will need to give an effective fire safety presentation.

"Getting to Know Fire" was developed by a curriculum specialist in partnership with fire service personnel in British Columbia. You can use the resource to enhance your already existing public education programs or you can use it as a foundation to create a new public education program. It is a great program that is simple and easy to use.

A copy is available for your fire department by contacting Kathy Danino, Fire and Life Safety Educator, at 1-888-253-1488.



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATORS SEMINAR

The 5th Annual Fire and Life Safety Educators Conference will be held in conjunction with the Manitoba Emergency Services Conference on October 12- 14, 2006 in Brandon.

This seminar will bring Fire and Life Safety Educators together to learn and network with each other and other Emergency Services Personnel. Fire and Life Safety Educators will have an opportunity to share information, resources and stories with each other. **This year the seminar will focus on Youth Fire**

Stop and Fire Safety Storytelling.

As always there will be a fabulous assortment of prizes to be won by participants of this seminar.

Everyone attending the seminar will receive a free copy of the Office of the Fire Commissioner's "Fire Setting and Youth" book and activity booklet.

Conference brochures and registration forms are now available online at www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca. Brochures were mailed out in August to all past conference participants. For more information please contact Kathy Danino, Fire and Life Safety Educator at 1-888-253-1488.



MANITOBA
Emergency Services
Conference

**October 12-14,
2006**

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



EDUCATION

Upcoming Course Dates

The 2006/07 MESC Course Catalogue details MESC Programs & Courses.

It is now available to view and print from our website www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca.

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION
2006		
September 18	Fire Officer I (Distance Education) Orientation Day September 19th	Brandon
September 11 - 15 and September 18 - 22	Hazardous Materials Technician	Brandon
September 19 - 22	Structural Collapse Level II (Manitoba USAR Team Members Only)	Brandon
September 30 – October 1	Critical Incident Stress Management – Basic	Thompson
September 30 – October 1	Fire Fighting Level I & II Practical Exam Deadline for Registering September 8th	Brandon
October 1	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam Exam Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Deadline for Registering September 8th	Dauphin
October 2	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam Exam Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Deadline for Registering September 8th	Thompson
October 2 – 6	Municipal Building By-Law Administration	Brandon
October 2 – 6	Emergency Services Instructor Level I	Winnipeg
October 5	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam Exam Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Deadline for Registering September 13th	The Pas
October 12, 13 & 14	EMERGENCY SERVICES CONFERENCE	Brandon
October 12, 13 & 14	Fire & Life Safety Educator's Seminar	Brandon
October 16 – 20	Part 9 – The House – Building Envelope	Brandon
October 20, 21 & 22	Ground Search & Rescue – Basic	Richer
October 21 & 22	Fire Fighting Level I & II Practical Exam Deadline for Registering September 29th	Selkirk
October 23 – November 3	Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT)	Brandon
October 27, 28 & 29	Fire Ground Management	Manigotagan
October 28 & 29	Critical Incident Stress Management – Basic	Dauphin
October 30 – November 3	Rope Rescue Technician	Brandon
October 30 – November 3	Part 9 – The House – Health & Safety	Brandon
November 2	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam Exam Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm Deadline for Registering October 12th	Brandon
November 4 & 5	Fire Fighting Level I & II Practical Exam Deadline for Registering October 13th	Winkler
November 3, 4 & 5 & November 17, 18 & 19	Fire Department Management	Dauphin
November 3, 4 & 5	Fire Ground Management	St. Jean Baptiste
November 3, 4 & 5	Fire Ground Management	Melita
November 3, 4 & 5	Ground Search & Rescue - Team Leader	East St. Paul

EDUCATION

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION
November 6 – 10	Emergency Services Instructor Level II	Winnipeg
November 7, 8 & 9	Rescue Practices	Brandon
November 16	Fire Fighting Level I & II Written Exam Exam Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Deadline for Registering October 25th	Selkirk
November 18 & 19	Critical Incident Stress Management – Basic	Winnipeg
November 18 & 19	Fire Fighting Level I & II Practical Exam Deadline for Registering October 27th	Brandon
November 20 – 24	Incident Command	Brandon
November 24, 25 & 26 and December 8, 9 & 10	Emergency Services Instructor Level I	Russell
December 1, 2 & 3	Provincial Urban Search & Rescue Exercise	To Be Announced
December 2 & 3	Critical Incident Stress Management – Basic	Steinbach
December 4 – 8	Managing Emergency Services	Brandon

2007

January 5, 6 & 7 and January 19, 20 & 21	Emergency Services Instructor Level I	Morris
January 5, 6 & 7	Provincial Urban Search & Rescue Team Meeting	Brandon
January 8 – 12	Incident Command	Brandon
January 8 – 12	Part 9 – Buildings – Structural Requirements	Brandon
January 12, 13 & 14 and January 26, 27 & 28	Fire Department Management	Carmen
January 20 & 21	Critical Incident Stress Management – Basic	Morden
January 22 – 26	Fire Investigator Level I	Brandon
January 22 – 26	Fire & Life Safety Educator	Brandon
January 22 – 26	Part 9 – Buildings – HVAC & Fire Protection	Brandon
January 29 – February 2	Emergency Services Instructor Level I	Brandon
January 29 – February 2	Safety Officer	Brandon
January 29	Fire Inspector Level I & II (Distance Education) Orientation Day January 30th Fire Protection Systems Lab March 12th – 16th Study Day April 11th, Exam Day April 12th	Brandon
February 2, 3 & 4	Fire Ground Management	Sandy Lake
February 5 – 9	Fire Investigator Level II	Winnipeg
February 5 – 9	Emergency Services Instructor Level II	Brandon
February 5 – 9	Wood Heat Safety	Brandon
February 9, 10 & 11	Fire Ground Management	Winnipegosis
February 12 – 15	Provincial Winter Rescue & Survival Exercise	To Be Announced
February 12 – 16	Part 9 – Building Plumbing Inspection	Brandon
February 17 & 18	Critical Incident Stress Management Advanced	Brandon
February 19 – 23	Fire Investigator Level II	Winnipeg
February 19 – 23	Part 9 – Building Plumbing Inspection	Brandon
February 23, 24 & 25	Fire Service Hydraulics	Arden
February 26 – March 2	Structural Collapse Level I	Brandon

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT

CISM News

CISM continues to be alive and well in Manitoba. The new Manitoba Emergency Services College catalogue is now available with 9 Basic and Advanced CISM courses being offered, and one Community Trauma Postvention being offered in the 2006/2007 school calendar year. We would hope that people who haven't taken the courses please do so. The dates and locations are at right.

To register for any of these courses please contact Marla Bryan at (204) 726-6556 or by email: mbryan@gov.mb.ca.

The Manitoba Network continues to be asked to provide training and information throughout North America and internationally. Gord Favelle will be presenting our CISM and trauma response models in the U.S and in the Czech Republic at the end of September.

Training has also been provided to the new Ambulance dispatch services

Date	Course	Location
September 30 & October 1, 2006	Basic CISM	Thompson
October 28 & 29, 2006	Basic CISM	Dauphin
November 18 & 19, 2006	Basic CISM	Winnipeg
December 2 & 3, 2006	Basic CISM	Steinbach
January 20 & 21, 2007	Basic CISM	Morden
February 17 & 18, 2007	Advanced CISM	Brandon
March 10 & 11, 2007	Community Trauma Postvention	Winnipeg
April 14 & 15, 2007	Basic CISM	The Pas
May 19 & 20, 2007	Basic CISM	Ashern
June 9 & 10, 2007	Advanced CISM	Swan River

in Manitoba which should have been announced and operational by the time you read this article. While conducting training for the new dispatch services I was reminded that dispatch is quite often the forgotten component of emergency response. After a critical incident it is important to remember that the "voice" at the end of the phone or on the radio may have also been affected by the incident. When calling for a CISM response after an incident, please

remember to invite the "voice" to the defusing or debriefing. While it may not be practical for them to attend a CISM response it is still important to invite them as it will send a strong message that they are also a part of our "family" of responders.

CISM information and resources are now available on the Office of the Fire Commissioner website. Please check it out and provide comments/feedback to us. The information is at: http://www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca/cism_main

CODES AND STANDARDS

On April 1, 2006, Manitoba adopted the new 2005 National Building Code and 2005 National Plumbing Code.

The Manitoba amendments to these two Codes were approved by Cabinet and were effective in Manitoba June 20, 2006. Copies of these Manitoba amendments are available on our Website at www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca. Copies of the 2005 National Codes and related material can be purchased from the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) through their website at www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/virtualstore. Should you have any questions

regarding the new 2006 Manitoba Building or Plumbing Codes, please contact our Winnipeg office at 945-3322 or Brandon office at 726-6855.

The Building Standards Board has recently completed their review of the 2005 National Fire Code and any proposed Manitoba amendments. These recommendations have been



forwarded to the Minister of Labour and Immigration for her consideration, prior to being reviewed by Cabinet. It is anticipated that Manitoba will have a new 2006 Manitoba Fire Code this fall.

There are a number of Building and Plumbing Code courses available through the Manitoba Emergency Services College. The course calendar is available on our website at www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca.

The first course is the Municipal Building By-Law Administration running from October 2 – 6, 2006 in Brandon.

RECALLS/ADVISORIES

NEWS FROM CPSC

School Specialty Publishing Recalls Children's Science Kits for Thermal 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: "Ideal" and "Brighter Child" Brand Science Kits

Units: About 43,000

Distributor: School Specialty Publishing, of Columbus, Ohio

Hazard: The battery case in the science kit can overheat, posing a thermal burn hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: School Specialty has received one report of the battery case overheating, which resulted in a young boy receiving minor burns to his fingers.

Description and Models: This recall involves Ideal and Brighter Child-brand science kits. Models included are "All About Electricity," "All About Magnets," "The Science Search Lab: Electricity," and "The Science Search Lab: Light." The kits were sold in brightly colored 11 3/4-inch by 12-inch boxes with a plastic window and door flap on the front.

Sold at: Educational stores and bookstores nationwide, and the schoolspecialty.com Web site, from July 2004 through May 2006 for between \$16 and \$24.

Manufactured In: South Africa

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the science kits and return them to the place of purchase or School Specialty for a refund.

Consumer Contact: For more information, consumers can contact School Specialty toll-free at (800) 253-5469 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.schoolspecialtypublishing.com

Spin Master Radio-Controlled Toy Airplanes Sold Exclusively at Toys R Us Recalled for 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: Air Hogs RC Skywinder Radio-Controlled Airplane

Units: About 7,500

Manufacturer: Spin Master Toys, of Toronto, Canada

Hazard: The rechargeable battery pack inside the toy airplane can overheat posing a burn hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: Spin Master has received 15 reports of the toy airplane's rechargeable battery pack overheating including two reports of minor skin burns.

Description and Models: The recalled radio-controlled toy airplane is lightweight, made of silver or black Styrofoam, and measures 19 inches from wingtip to wingtip. "Air Hogs Skywinder" is printed on the plane's



RECALLS/ADVISORIES

wings. "©2003 Spin Master Ltd" is printed on the right propeller mount. The airplane comes with a controller unit and a charger. Rechargeable batteries are preinstalled in the plane's fuselage. A date code beginning with 06XXXXHM is located under the plane's propeller, on the outside of the controller unit and inside the controller's battery compartment, and on the charger unit's stand.

Sold exclusively at: Toys R Us from April 2006 through June 2006 for about \$40.

Manufactured In: China

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled radio-controlled toy airplanes and contact Spin Master to receive a free replacement product.

Consumer Contact: For more information, call Spin Master at (800) 622-8339 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.spinmaster.com

Black & Decker Expands Recall of Cordless Electric Lawnmowers 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: Black & Decker and Craftsman Brand Cordless Electric Lawnmowers

Units: About 160,000 mowers -- Note: 140,000 of these Black & Decker and Craftsman brand lawnmowers were recalled in September 2002, but also are included in this recall.



Manufacturer: Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc., of Towson, Md.

Hazard: An electrical component in the lawnmowers can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: Black & Decker has received 10 additional reports of electrical components overheating, including one additional report of a fire extending beyond the mower. -- **Note:** The original recall involved 11 reports of electrical components overheating. One of these resulted in a minor hand burn and nine resulted in reports of minor property damage extending beyond the mower.

Description: The mowers were sold under both the Black & Decker and Craftsman brand names. The recalled Black & Decker mowers have the model CMM1000 or CMM1000R and are labeled as Type 1 through Type 4, both of which are located on the silver and black label affixed to the rear door of the mower. Mowers labeled as Type 5 are not included in this recall. The Black & Decker mowers have either an orange or green deck with a black motor cover. The Craftsman-brand mowers have model number 900.370520 and include all date codes and types. The model number is located on the silver and black label affixed to the rear door of the mower. The Craftsman mowers have a dark green deck with a black motor cover.



Sold by: Home center, hardware and discount stores, and authorized Black & Decker dealers nationwide from February 1996 through December 2005 for between \$360 and \$450. Craftsman-brand mowers were sold at Sears and Orchard Supply Hardware stores nationwide from January 1998 through December 2000 for between \$360 and \$400.

Manufactured In: United States and Canada

Remedy: All consumers should stop using the lawnmowers immediately and call for information on receiving a free inspection and repair if necessary. Consumers who had their mowers repaired as a result of the previous recall should have their mowers again inspected and repaired, if necessary, as part of this recall.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, consumers with Black & Decker mowers should contact Black & Decker toll-free at (866) 229-5570 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.blackanddecker.com Consumers with Craftsman-brand lawnmowers should call (888) 375-9741 between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. CT Monday through Saturday.

RECALLS/ADVISORIES

First Alert® Smoke Alarms and Combination Smoke/CO Alarms Recalled for Rapidly Draining Battery Power

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: First Alert® ONELINK™ Battery-Powered Smoke and Combination Smoke/Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

Units: About 145,890 (About 52,400 were sold to consumers)

Manufacturer: BRK Brands Inc., a subsidiary of First Alert Inc., of Aurora, Ill.

Hazard: These alarms can drain the power from batteries rapidly, causing premature low battery power. Consumers will be alerted to the low battery power and the need to replace



the battery by a chirping of the unit. If the batteries on the smoke/CO alarm are not replaced before the battery power terminates, the alarm will not detect smoke in the event of a possible fire and the presence of carbon monoxide.

Incidents/Injuries: CPSC and First Alert Inc./BRK Brands Inc. have received about 329 reports of premature low battery power in these alarms. There have been no reports of injuries, incidents or alarms failing to detect smoke or carbon monoxide.

Description: The recall involves ONELINK™ battery-powered smoke and combination smoke/CO alarms. “First Alert” and “ONELINK™” are printed on the front of the alarm. The model number and date code are printed on the back of the alarm. Model number SA500 or SCO500 with a date code prior to March 3, 2006 are included in this recall.

Sold at: Department, home and hardware stores nationwide from June 2005 through March 2006 for between \$45 and \$75.

Manufactured In: Mexico

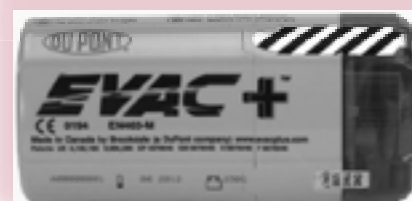
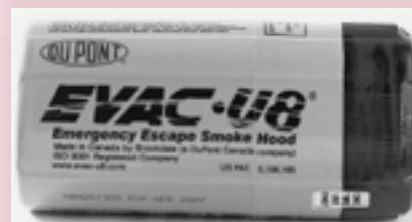
Remedy: Consumers should contact First Alert Inc./BRK Brands Inc. immediately to receive a replacement alarm. Until a new alarm is received, consumers should test the batteries in the alarm weekly by pressing the “test” button. If the alarm signals a low battery alert, consumers should immediately replace the batteries. Consumers should not remove their alarms until they have received a replacement alarm.

Consumer Contact: For more information, contact First Alert Inc./BRK Brands Inc. at (800) 323-9005 between 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the firm’s web site at www.firstalert.com

Emergency Smoke Hoods Recalled for Risk of Carbon Monoxide Inhalation

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: EVAC-U8™ and EVAC+™ Emergency Escape Smoke Hoods



RECALLS/ADVISORIES

Units: About 290,000 units

Manufacturer: Brookdale International Systems Inc., of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Hazard: The emergency escape smoke hoods could fail to work properly, exposing the user to harmful carbon monoxide which could seriously compromise their ability to escape the fire threat.

Incidents/Injuries: None.

Description and Models: These smoke hoods are one-time use respiratory devices that assist users with breathing while escaping a fire. They include a transparent plastic hood that covers the user's head, and a canister that filters out toxic gases. "EVAC+™" or "EVAC-U8™" is printed on the canister.

Sold at: Web sites, safety products retailers, catalogs, and travel stores from September 2000 through March 2006 for about \$75 for the "EVAC-U8™" and about \$150 for the "EVAC+™."

Manufactured In: Canada

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the smoke hood devices immediately and contact Brookdale for a prorated refund.

Consumer Contact: For more information, contact the firm's recall hotline at (866) 823-4416 between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.evacsafety.com

CPSC, Memcorp Inc. Recall Disney®-Brand Personal 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: Battery Packs Sold with Disney®-Brand DVD Players

Units: About 102,000

Battery

Manufacturer: McNair Technology Co. Ltd., of China, and Unitech Battery Ltd., of China

Distributor: Memcorp Inc., of Weston, Fla.

Hazard: The battery packs sold with these DVD players can overheat and possibly burst when recharging, posing a risk of burns.

Incidents/Injuries: Memcorp has received 17 reports of batteries overheating, including three reports of minor skin irritations and three reports of minor property damage.

Description and Models: The recalled product is the battery packs sold with Disney®-brand personal DVD players. The DVD players are about 6.5-inches by 5.5-inches with a 3-inch screen display. They were sold in five styles with a corresponding model number. The model number is written on the back of the unit, under the viewing stand and below the Disney® brand name.

DVD Style	Model Number
Princess	DP3500-PRN
Fairy Flowers	DP3500-FLR
Mickey Classic	DP3500-MC
Mickey Mouse	DP3500-MKY
Power Rangers	DP3500-POW

Manufactured in: China

Sold at: Discount and electronics stores nationwide, and at Disney theme parks and through the Disney catalog from April 2005 through March 2006 for between \$70 and \$130.

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the battery pack supplied with these DVD players immediately and



contact Memcorp for a replacement rechargeable battery pack.

Consumer Contact: For more information, call Memcorp's customer service department at (800) 326-0315 between 8:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. ET Monday through Friday and between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday or visit Memcorp's Website at www.disneyelectronics.com

Pelican Power Brick Battery Charger Recalled for Fire and Burn Hazards

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: Pelican Power Brick Battery Charger

Units: About 231,000

Distributor/Importer: Electro Source LLC, of Vernon, Calif.



RECALLS/ADVISORIES

Hazard: The battery charger's circuit board can overheat and cause its plastic cover to melt which poses a fire and burn hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: Electro Source LLC has received 143 reports of the recalled battery charger overheating including one report of fire damage. No injuries have been reported.

Description: The recalled Pelican Power Brick is an external recharging battery pack that sells as a separate accessory to be used with the Sony PSP™ (PlayStation Portable). The Pelican Power Brick consists of two lithium-ion battery cells connected via a circuit board and mounted in a small plastic housing. The battery cells are charged when plugged into an electrical outlet using the PSP™ AC adaptor. Once charged, it is used to recharge the PSP™. The model number for the battery charger, PL-6018, can be found on the back of the unit. The battery charger was sold alone and also as part of several kits containing other accessories by Electro Source LLC. Sony neither manufactured nor distributed the Pelican Power Brick. Only the Pelican Power Brick is included in this recall.

Sold at: Electronics and discount department stores nationwide, catalogs, and various Web sites from April 2005 through March 2006 for about \$20 when sold alone, and for between \$40 and \$50 when sold as part of certain kits packaged by Electro Source LLC.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the battery charger immediately and contact Electro Source LLC to receive a choice of several replacement products.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Electro Source at (800) 263-1156 anytime, or visit the firm's Web site at www.powerbrickrecall.net. Please do not contact Sony or any official PSP™ Web site concerning this recall.

Bunn-O-Matic Corp. Expands Recall of Home Coffeemakers Due to Burn and Fire Hazards

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced an extension of a voluntary recall of the following product, initially commenced in June 2005, to include the additional date codes specified below. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Bunn® home coffeemakers

(Note: This recall is an expansion of an earlier recall announced in June 2005.)

Units: About 561,000

Manufacturer: Bunn-O-Matic Corp., of Springfield, Ill.

Hazard: The coffeemaker's plastic pour-in bowl and lid can melt or ignite due to an electrical failure, posing burn and fire hazards to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: Bunn-O-Matic has received 16 additional incident reports involving the bowl or lid melting or igniting in these units, including seven reports of minor property damage. No injuries have been reported.

Description: The recall involves Bunn® home coffeemakers with model numbers GR-10B, GR-10W, B-10B, B-10W, and BT-10B (including any of those same model numbers ending in the additional letter D) with six-digit date codes (1) ending in "04" with the two middle digits

between "21" and "52" or (2) ending in "05" with the two middle digits between "01" and "40". (If the date code has a seventh digit, consumers should ignore the last digit and use the first six digits.) The model number and date code are stamped on a small white or silver sticker on the bottom of the coffeemaker. The 10-cup Bunn® coffeemakers have either a black or white plastic base and top, and measure 14 ¼-inches high by 7-inches wide by 13 ¾-inches deep. The word "BUNN®" is printed on the front of the machine in chrome.

Sold at: Department and hardware stores nationwide between May 2004 and January 2006 for about \$100.

Manufactured In: United States

Remedy: Consumers should unplug the coffeemaker and allow it to cool (for at least three hours) before checking if they have one of the recalled units. Consumers can contact the firm to obtain a free factory repair, a free in-home repair kit, or purchase a new unit at a discount.

Consumer Contact: For more information, consumers should call Bunn-O-Matic at (800) 385-2652 between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site at www.regcen.com/bunnrecall



STAFF UPDATE

Congratulations and Good Luck to Nancy Anderson, Manager Codes and Standards who recently accepted a position with Consumer and Corporate Affairs as the Executive Director of the Consumers Bureau.

Welcome to Jim Burch who has accepted a position as the Manager of Finance and Planning. Jim has several years experience as a CGA and is a welcome addition to the management team.

The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes has invited OFC Codes & Standards Officer Rick Grimshaw

to sit as a member of the Standing Committee on Structural Design. This is an important national committee that reviews and develops the standards in Part 4 of The National Building Code.

The Commission has requested that OFC Codes & Standards Officer Ken Hykawy continue as a member of the Part 9 Housing Standing Committee. They clearly valued Ken's past contributions in helping to develop the 2005 National Building Code.

Mike Masserey joined the Office of the Fire Commissioner in May, 2006. Mike

will be representing the Emergency Services College section of the OFC in the East. Welcome Mike.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner would like to send out a welcome to Shane Chartrand who started with the Brandon office May 1st, 2006. Shane is currently working in the Maintenance Department and is a welcome addition to our staff. Welcome Shane.

Farewell to Myles Tabin. Myles has left the College to pursue other opportunities in training and education.

FIREFIGHTERS BURN FUND REPORT July 31, 2006

Our Annual Meeting was held June 19th, and as happens from time to time with any Organization, we experienced some changes at the Board level. We said farewell to Alex Forrest, Dave Belza, and Sandi Macdonald, as they moved on to other commitments in their lives. While they are no longer sitting at the Board level, we have received pledges of support from them, and will appreciate their input in future activities. We thank them for their past commitments to our programs and wish them well in whatever lays before them.

We welcomed some new Board members at the same time. They include: Tim Langevin, from Elie, who, amongst other things, brings a background of fire and burn prevention that we are looking forward to utilizing in our Prevention activities. Ed Davidson and Bart Neal from Winnipeg. Ed currently serves on our Childrens' Burn Camp Committee, and Bart brings youth and energy to the fold. Welcome, fellows. We are looking forward to working with you.

The new Critical Services Rehabilitation Project at the Health Sciences Centre is nearing completion. Incorporated in

this Project is a new, state of the art, 10 bed dedicated Burn Unit. It will service those burn patients from throughout Manitoba, Northwest Ontario, and Nunavut.

With approximately 5,000 Manitobans per year having to see a doctor about a burn injury, and an average of 200 adults and children per year requiring hospitalization for the most serious burns, this Burn Unit will be put to good use. We really have to give credit to the staff in the current Burn Units for the services they provide in the facilities they currently work in.

To further add to the good news, we are pleased to report that, we may soon be getting a new Burns Director on staff. The Burns Program has been without a Director for a couple of years, and are pleased to see that our efforts have resulted in the current negotiations.

Speaking of burn patients who require hospitalization for their injuries, you can easily understand that for those patients who have to be transported to Winnipeg for treatment, many times family members will accompany them. Many of them do not have friends or family that they can stay with. In those instances, when we become aware of

the situation, the Burn Fund will cover the costs of accommodations at either of 2 nearby facilities while the family member is hospitalized.

On another note, we have offered a sum of \$5,000 to train 5 individuals in the skills necessary to deal with Juvenile Firesetters in their respective communities. Firesetting is a serious problem, and we are pleased to fund this initiative. We are confident that this will save property and lives.

All of our commitments come with a price tag, be it equipment purchases, research, staff education, burn survivor supports such as our Childrens' Burn Camp, our Prevention programs, and the like.

One of the annual fundraisers that we undertake is the Heat Seekers Raffle. This is the one activity that we ask all Departments to help us with. In fact, approximately 160 do. This is our largest fundraiser of the year. It helps us meet our commitments: those things that in turn support the folks in your respective communities who suffer burn injuries. We look forward to your helping us once again this year.

Contributed by Martin Johnson



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.

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Submission deadline for the winter edition of *Burning Issues* is **January 9, 2006**.

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