

# BURNING ISSUES



**PREVENTION • PROTECTION • PUBLIC EDUCATION**

## MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE COMMISSIONER

*Douglas M. Popowich*

**W**elcome to 2001, the real start of the Millenium! I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas season and were able to take time to relax and enjoy family and friends. It seems that Manitoba did not have a lot of fire situations during the holiday period, but even one fire is too many. Tragically, we did have one fatality.

As we prepare to face the challenges of the New Year, we should also take time to reflect on what our achievements were in the year 2000. There is an old saying that "hindsight is 20/20". Well if that is the case, we should look at what we did last year. What challenges did we face? How did we handle those challenges? If we had to do something over again would we do it the same way that we did last year? What were our successes? Where did we do a good job? What, if anything, could we have done better? What areas do we need to improve?

One thing about living in Manitoba, the cold winter months sometimes force us to stay inside our houses. We should see this not as a detriment but as an opportunity. We can take this time to do some planning and preparation to meet

the challenges of the New Year.

Whether these challenges are personnel or professional, now is a good time to do some planning. There is another old saying: "if you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there". Also, "it is not the force of the gale, but the set of the sail that guides the ship". Where is your ship going? What road are you taking? What is at the end of the road? Why are you going that way? Taking the time to think about these questions and putting answers to them is what we call planning.

Planning has four basic steps. The first is to establish a goal or set of goals - What do you or your organization need to do or want to do? The second step is to look at resources, both internal and external - What do you have and what do you need to meet these goals. The third is to consider barriers and alternative solutions - what may pose a roadblock to achieving the goal. What can you do to get past these roadblocks? The final step is to develop and implement a strategy to meet your goals.

Taking time to do proper planning will pay big dividends. It will help reach a goal that you have established and will also help you be prepared for events that

have a high probability of occurring.

One such event many of us need to start to plan for this year is potential flooding. Many of the necessary factors to create serious flooding within our Province are coming together. The ground moisture level, the amount of snow and the

*(Continued on Page 2)*

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### NEW WEB PAGE

Visit our new web page at [www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca](http://www.firecomm.gov.mb.ca). The website includes information on all sections of the Office, building, plumbing, occupancy permits that can be downloaded, statistics, the Course Catalogue, the Lending Library, a

complete information package on the Public Fire Protection Program, Burning Issues and archive issues and pictures of the Conference. Once you have visited our site, please let us know what you think by calling 1-888-253-1488.

# NEWS & VIEWS FROM MANI

## Fire Department Acquires Rescue Sled

In rural Manitoba, it has become evident that snowmobile accident injuries represent more of a hazard than automobile accidents. With this in mind, the Belmont/Strathcona Fire Department have purchased a rescue sled. Procedures are in place in case of a snowmobile accident anywhere in the municipality. Once the 911 operator receives the call, the operator will dispatch the fire department anytime a snowmobile accident has occurred. The fire department will respond with a truck loaded with a rescue sled and rescue equipment including spine boards, flashlights and ropes. We would like to thank Rod Capon and Doug Delorme for offering the use of their sleds and to Bruce Graham at the Belmont Hotel who has offered the use of his 4 x 4 truck to use as required.

Submitted by Fire Chief Don Pryke, Belmont Fire Department

## Swan Lake Fire Department



The article that follows is a letter that Chief John Campbell received from one of his students after the students came to the fire hall for a tour. "Our Fire Chief, Mr. Campbell, told us that the Swan Lake Fire Department began in 1982, 18 years ago. Today we have 18 firemen. The first Swan Lake fire truck was red but in 1985 the yellow fire truck was purchased. The fire department also has a water truck that can hold up to 3500 gallons of water.

The fire truck carries a lot of equipment such as hoses, oxygen, jaws of life, first aid kit, radio, tools, ladder, blankets and

many other things. All the equipment is very expensive and must be kept repaired and ready to use at all times. A fire fighter's jackets and pants can cost up to \$1,000.00 or more. The Fire Chief carries a radio, a phone and a pager with him at all time. If we are in need of a fire truck all we have to do is dial 911.

We are glad that our community has a fire truck to take care of us all in case of a fire or an accidents."

Submitted by Chief John Campbell, Swan Lake Fire Department.

## MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE COMMISSIONER (CONT'D)

*(Continued from Page 1)*

temperature are all factors that could lead to serious flooding. With the right type of spring thaw many of our communities could face serious flooding. Are you ready? If involved, how did you handle the flood of 1997? What did you do right, and what needs improvement? What resources do you have and need to handle a flood situation. Are they available? If not, what are you doing about it?

As always, the staff at the OFC is here to help you. If we can be of help to you in planning to prepare your community emergency response capabilities please do not hesitate to call your Emergency Services Officer. Success is in teamwork. Together we will continue to meet the challenges placed upon us to allow Manitoba to have a highly trained, motivated and competent emergency response system.

## Miniota Fire Department's Fire Prevention Week Activities

On the morning of October 12th, the fire department took part in a fire drill at the Miniota School. In the afternoon, "Sparky" (Nick Young, fire fighter) and Dick Edgeworth (Public Education Co-ordinator) gave fire safety

presentations to 84 students on "The Great Escape" and handed out entries for the NFPA Disney World contest to all the students.

Submitted by Dick Edgeworth, Miniota Fire Department

# TOBA EMERGENCY SERVICES

## West St. Paul/St. Andrews Fire Departments



In October 2000, West St. Paul and St. Andrews Fire Departments trained fourteen members to the level of HazMat Operations. A strong working relationship between the two departments allows this necessary training to occur. The two departments thank the South Interlake Mutual Aid District for supplying the course instructor and for their full co-operation. The departments extend a thank you to Jack Robertson, course instructor and Mark Watt, OFC, proctor, for their time and support.

Submitted by Ryan Yackel,  
West. St. Paul Fire Department

Together the West St. Paul and St. Andrews Fire Departments completed their training in becoming accredited Level II Fire Fighters. In January 2000, the two departments met for approximately 2 - 3 hours a week. At the beginning of June the two departments travelled to Brandon to complete the practical portion of the testing. Finally, at the end of June, the students completed

the necessary training in Vehicle Extrication and Hazmat Operations to achieve their accreditation as Level II Fire Fighters.

On behalf of the 14 members who completed this training, we would like to extend thanks to Jack Robertson, Fire Chief St. Andrews and Hazmat Operations instructor, Noel Chequis, Fire Chief West St. Paul and to Bob Platt, Deputy Fire Chief West St. Paul, for their full support and co-operation in this training program. We would also like to thank Terry Drysdale, Vehicle Extrication Instructor and the South Interlake Mutual Aid District for supplying the necessary course instructors. Finally, we would like to thank Ron Bridges, Deputy Chief St. Andrews and Bill Harrow, Training Officer West St. Paul, for all their time and effort in planning and overseeing this successful training program.

Submitted by Ryan Yackel,  
West. St. Paul Fire Department

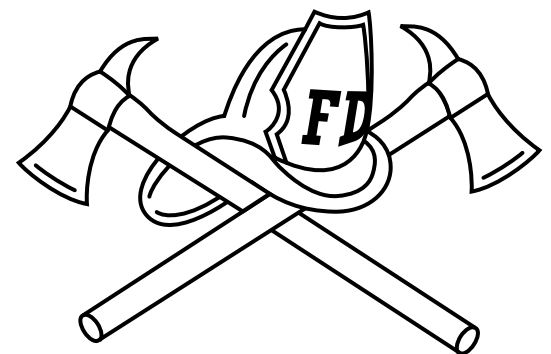
## R.M. of Hanover Fire Departments



The R.M. of Hanover Fire Departments, which are Grunthal, Kleefeld and New Bothwell conducted a live burn for the purpose of practice last January. This was done as part of the Level I Fire Fighting course that was taught by instructors from each department. There were 12 fire fighters from all three departments in the class.

With this burn, the students were able to do ventilation, forcible entry, fire control and also observe the behaviour of the fire. Fires were lit in several areas of the house and fire fighters were able to enter the burning house and extinguish the fire after ventilation was done by another team. After nearly a dozen evolutions and valuable hands-on-training, the house was burned to the ground.

Submitted by Paul Wiebe, Training Officer,  
Grunthal Fire Department



# NEWS & VIEWS FROM MANI

## **R.M. of Macdonald Emergency Services holds Open House**

**S**parky, the fire dog, once again sparked the children's attention at the Macdonald Emergency Service "Open House" on Sunday, October 1st at the Emergency Services building in Sanford.

The Ambulance and Fire Department worked together in educating the public in fire and life safety issues. The "Fire Safety Smoke House", borrowed from the Fire Fighters Burn Fund in Winnipeg was the excitement for the day. The house has a kitchen, living room and a bedroom. The RM of Macdonald Fire Chief Vern Schlichting met the children entering the house. He spoke to them on fire safety issues such as careless cooking fires, the proper temperature for the hot water tank and the use of microwaves. In the living room, the children were instructed not to play with fireplaces, not to have electrical cords underneath carpets. When the children entered the bedroom, they found it filled with smoke. The fire fighters reminded the children to crawl low under smoke and then instructed them to exit the house through the bedroom window that was equipped with a ladder and a mat on the ground for safety. When they exited the house, a fire fighter explained what a meeting place is and explained where they should go to call for help. After having received instructions about what information to give the 911 operator, the children placed a simulated call.

The "Smoke House" simulates what a room looks like filled with smoke and



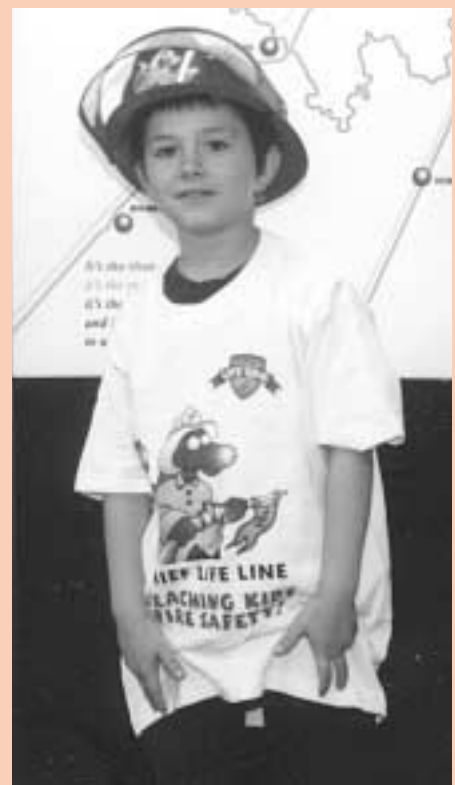
it helps to reinforce fire and life safety messages. "The smoke house is neat, I have gone through three times and every time I go through I learned something different." said Dane Murner of Sanford.

The children were given colouring books supplied by MTS on why it is important to have a phone and how it could help save a person should you need to call 911. The fire department distributed a Fire Safety colouring book by NFPA and goody bags with an assortment of fire safety materials.

Doreen Boyd, Ralph Newell and Melanie Babiuk, along with other fellow ambulance attendants assisted the public in taking blood pressures and blood sugar levels.

Fire and Ambulance demonstrated vehicle extrication with ambulance attendants. After the fire fighters completed their demonstration with the Jaws of Life, they assisted the ambulance attendants with applying medical services and then removed the victims from inside the trapped vehicles.

The lucky winner of "Fire Chief for the Day" was Kyle Nemecek of Sanford. The fire department presented Kyle with a Chief Life Line hat and t-shirt and a "Chief for a Day" certificate and picked him up at home and drove him to and from school in the fire truck. Kyle's mother won the draw for the free smoke alarm and Judy Eliuk of Sanford was the winner of the fire extinguisher.



Shelley Robson, Public Health Nurse with the Regional Health Authority assisted the fire services with conducting Child Car Seat Safety inspections. MPI provided Child Car Seat pamphlets, I am Road Wise tattoos and a measuring scale poster for a child's height that tells you when to move the child to the next car seat.

Submitted by Sandra Murner,  
R.M. of MacDonald Fire Department

# TOBA EMERGENCY SERVICES

## *The Pas Fire Department - Fire Prevention Week Activities*



Once again, The Pas Fire Department was busy with activities leading up to and during Fire Prevention Week. A school fire drill exercise was held at the schools that involved personnel from the Fire Department, R.C.M. Police and the Ambulance. Videon TV broadcasted fire safety messages throughout the month of October, the newspaper carried messages throughout the month, the radio station taped fire safety messages, done with local fire fighters, that were sponsored by local merchants and businesses. The radio also ran a contest that provided the kids with an opportunity to win colouring books, meal coupons and CD's. The major sponsors for this were A & W, Burger King, Subway and Dairy Queen. The radio station announced the Home Fire Escape Plan practice for Wednesday

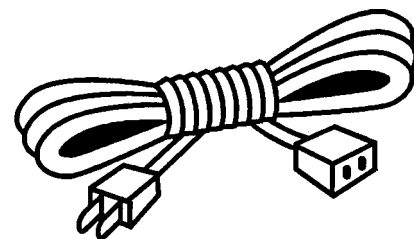
night and provided announcements about the Fire Department Open House.

In the elementary schools, the fire department ran a colouring contest. Since the inception of this contest, there has been a steady increase in participation. In the middle schools, the department ran a poster contest.

On display at the Fire Department Open House were fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, child car seat information, Learn Not to Burn® layout, Youth Fire Stop layout, Sparky®, all the fire trucks, fire fighter turn-out gear and equipment. Attendance at the Open House has increased by over 100% since the first Open House in 1997.

Submitted by Deputy Chief Claude Gervais, The Pas Fire Department

## *Fire Investigation*



Article 4-010 of the Canadian Electrical Code explains the use of flexible cords. It states that "Flexible cord shall be permitted to be used for: (a) Electrical equipment for household or similar use ... which is intended to be: (i) Moved from place to place." An example of this type of use would be to set up a projector to show a film. The extension cord is used to reach a receptacle and would then be removed. These cords are for **temporary use only** and are **not** to be left plugged in for hours or days at a time.

There are two commonly used types of extension cords. The first is the flat; two-conductor cord sometimes referred to as a Christmas tree cord. These cords are usually white or brown in colour. This type of cord is approved for temporary **indoor use**. The second type of cord is the round three-conductor cord usually orange or blue in colour. These cords are used for plugging in vehicles in the winter. These cords are for **outdoor use only**.

There have been a large number of fires in the Province of Manitoba caused by the improper use of extension cords. One fire fatality, this year is the result of an extension cord to a deep freeze. Please inform your fellow fire fighters, families, friends, and the general public of this problem. For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact Colin Hogarth at 726-6845 or toll free at 1-888-253-1488.

Submitted by Colin Hogarth, OFC, Fire Investigator

## EDUCATION

### **Hazardous Materials Information**

#### **North American Emergency Response Guidebook Misprint.**

**B**y now, most fire departments and emergency services workers have copies of the latest NAERG books on the front seats of their trucks ready to be accessed. Recently, an update was circulated regarding a misprint in the text. The error occurs on page 360 where the wrong Guide number has been quoted for DIMETHYLDICHLOROSILANE (ID #.

1162). The Guide #151 is incorrect, and SHOULD BE Guide #155. Please change all copies of the guide in your location.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Marc Watt, Hazmat Program Coordinator at (204) 726-6934.

Submitted by Marc Watt,  
Hazmat Program Coordinator

### **New Videos in the Lending Library**

**S**triking Out With Matches - This video shows the tragic progression of a juvenile firesetter's obsession with matches. Jimmy, the 12 year old, first plays with matches while alone in the bathroom, hiding the evidence from his mother. He plays with them in front of this friend, Mike, who scolds him about using them. To make matters worse, Jimmy refuses to pay attention to the Fire Prevention Officer at his local school, focusing instead on the drawing of a house on fire - an ominous foreshadowing of what will eventually come to pass. This video will supplement your **Youth Fire Stop Program**.

Audience: 10 - 15 years  
Length of Video: 13 minutes

#### **Pre-school - Grade 2**

**Get Low and Go!** - In Get Low and Go, Stretch, the Fire Truck and the Fire Safe Kids learn how to evacuate a burning house. A large amount of information is included in this video for the Pre-School - Grade 2 age group. The video covers: know the sound of a smoke alarm, roll out of bed when you hear the smoke alarm, crawl low under smoke, check the door for heat, know two ways out, wait at the safety meeting place and the fire fighter is your friend.

Audience: Pre-School - Grade 2  
Length of video: 10 minutes

**Matches and Lighters are for Grown-Ups** - In this video Stretch, the fire truck and the Fire Safe Kids teach children that if they see matches and/or lighters, they should leave them alone and go tell a grown-up right away. They also learn to stay away from "hot" things, such as candles, irons, heaters, fireplaces, etc. and the procedure to cool a burn. The video covers matches and lighters make fire, children do not touch matches and lighters, do not touch "hot" things and cool a burn in cool water.

Audience: Pre-School - Grade 2  
Length of video: 8 minutes

**Stop, Drop and Roll** - Stretch, the fire truck and the Fire Safe Kids teach children the correct Stop, Drop, Cover your Face and Roll procedure to follow if their clothes catch on fire. They also teach how to cool a burn in cool water. This video covers, if your clothes are on fire, don't run, stop right where you are, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands, roll back and forth - over and over and cool a burn with cool water.

Audience: Pre-School - Grade 2  
Length of video: 7 minutes

### **Clandestine Laboratory Course**

**T**he Manitoba Emergency Services College has recognized the importance of responder safety by developing a new program geared towards responding personnel recognizing the presence of Clandestine Drug Laboratories. The program is geared specifically towards the recognition of a clandestine lab while responders attend fire or EMS calls to a residence whether rural or urban in location. The program deals with the dangers of clandestine labs, the chemicals used in the drug manufacturing process, and the chemical exposure and fire hazards that are imminent at such a site. The information in this program is paramount for responding organizations to identify what hazards exist at the scene, and the network of agencies that deal with an illegal clandestine laboratory. For more information on this program, please contact the Manitoba Emergency Services College at 1-888-253-1488 for course dates, and watch for dates and locations in the new Course Catalogue.

Submitted by Marc Watt,  
Hazmat Program Coordinator

### **Youth Fire Stop Workshop**

**A** Youth Fire Stop Workshop will be held at the Manitoba Emergency Services College on Saturday, April 21 and Sunday April 22 starting at 8:30 a.m. In Manitoba in 1999, there were 72 children setting fire incidents that caused \$2.5 million dollars of damage. There were 4 deaths of which 3 were children and there were 21 injuries of which 9 were children caused from these fires.

This workshop exposes you to the tools necessary to begin a program in your community, provides you with training in using assessment tools and intervention strategies.

For more information on this workshop, please contact Marilyn at 1-888-253-1488.

## Car Seat Safety



**O**ur fire departments continue to check car seats in their communities. Sandy Swanston from MPI held a course at the Emergency Services Conference and even there some of our fire fighters realized they had their own children's seats installed incorrectly. MPI keeps copies of all the recalls on car seats. Information on these recalls can be checked by calling 1-800-261-9928. If your department is interested in holding a car seat training session, please contact 1-800-261-9928 for more information.

*Please note that the highlighted courses are NOT in the MESOC Course Catalogue.*

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

## Upcoming Course Dates

January 15 – 19, 2001	Fire Investigation Level I	Thompson
January 19, 20 & 21, 2001	Fire Ground Management	Roblin
January 19 - 21	Fire Service Hydraulics	Flin FLon
January 22 – 26, 2001	Wood Heat Safety	Brandon
January 22 - 26	Fire Investigation Level I	Whitehorse, YK
January 27 – 28, 2001	Critical Incident Stress Management – Advanced	Brandon
January 26 - 28	Rescue Practices Instructor	Brandon
February 2, 3 & 4, 2001	Fire Ground Management	Thompson
February 5, 2001	Fire Inspector Level I & II Distance Education (Orientation Day February 6th, 2001) (Fire Protection Systems Lab week March 19 – 23, 2001)	Brandon
February 7 & 8, 2001	Hazardous Materials Awareness	Brandon
February 5 – 9, 2001	Part 9 – Buildings – HVAC & Fire Protection	Brandon
February 12 - 16	Part 3: Large Buildings - Classification & Construction	Winnipeg
February 16 - 18	Rescue Practices Instructor	Brandon
February 9 – 11, 2001 and February 24, 25, 2001	Emergency Services Instructor Level II	Brandon
February 19 – 23, 2001	Incident Command	Brandon
February 19 – 23, 2001	Part 3 – Large Buildings – Classification & Construction	Brandon
February 19 – 23, 2001	Hazardous Materials Operations	Brandon
February 26 - March 2	Part 3: Large Buildings - Health & Safety	Winnipeg
February 27 – 29, 2001	Hazardous Materials Incident Command	Brandon
March 5 – 9, 2001	Part 3 – Large Buildings – Health & Safety	Brandon
March 9 – 11, 2001	Paramedic I Refresher (formerly Emergency Medical Technician)	Brandon
March 9 – 11, 2001	Paramedic I Refresher (formerly Emergency Medical Technician)	Winnipeg
March 10, 2001	Instructor Continuing Education Seminar	Thompson
March 12 – 16, 2001	Human Resource Management	Brandon
March 12 -16, 2001	Part 3: Large Buildings - Life Safety Systems	Winnipeg
March 15 & 16	Emergency Services Instructor - Fire Refresher Session	Brandon
March 19 – 23, 2001	Part 3 – Large Buildings – Life Safety Systems	Brandon
March 19 – 23, 2001 and March 26 – 30, 2001	Hazardous Materials Technician	Brandon
March 23 – 25, 2001	Paramedic I Refresher (formerly Emergency Medical Technician)	Brandon
March 23 – 25, 2001	Paramedic I Refresher (formerly Emergency Medical Technician)	Winnipeg
March 23 - 25	Rescue Practices Instructor	Brandon
March 24 – 25, 2001	Critical Incident Stress Management - Basic	The Pas
March 24, 2001	Instructor Continuing Education Seminar	Winnipeg
April 2 – 7, 2001	Emergency Services Instructor Level I	Brandon
April 6, 7 & 8, 2001	Fire Ground Management	Winnipegosis
April 14 – 15, 2001	Emergency Medical Responder – Refresher	Brandon
April 14 – 15, 2001	Emergency Medical Responder – Refresher	Winnipeg
April 21 & 22, 2001	Youth Firestop Workshop	Brandon
May 3 - 5	Rescue Practices Instructor	Thompson
May 14 – 18, 2001	Fire Investigation Level III	Brandon
May 26 – 27, 2001	Critical Incident Stress Management – Advanced	Winnipeg
May 28 – 31, 2001	EMS Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents Level II	Brandon
May 28 – June 1, 2001	Fire Protection and Emergency Planning	Winnipeg
May 29, 2001	Fire Investigator Accreditation Testing	Brandon
June 18 - 22, 2001	WRITTEN EXAM Fire Investigator Accreditation Testing PRACTICAL EXAM	& Winnipeg Brandon
June 18 - 16	Rescue Practices Instructor	Brandon

# EDUCATION

## Memorial Wall



**D**epartment of Labour Minister, the Honourable Becky Barrett introduced the Memorial Wall at the Manitoba Emergency Services Conference held in Brandon on October 12th - 15th. The memorial is located in the Manitoba Emergency Services College in Brandon and features the names of each provincial emergency responder who has died in the line of

duty. Names that were either not received at the time of dedication or if there are emergency response personnel who lose their lives in the next year, these people will be recognized at the Conference next year. If you know of someone who was killed in the line of duty and his/her name has not been included on the Wall, please call Trish at 1-888-253-1488.

## Emergency Services Conference

**T**he 14th annual Emergency Services Conference was held in Brandon October 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th. In total 706 persons participated in the Conference. Opening Ceremonies were held at the Westman Auditorium on Thursday, October 12th with the Minister of Labour, the Honourable Becky Barrett addressing the delegates. The Keynote Speaker, Chief Richard Gonzales from the Denver Fire Department spoke on the "Challenges and Strategies for a Safer Community." Lisa M. Garey, from Marketing and Mangement Solutions Inc. spoke on "Time Evolves Change" and Sargent Larry Renkas from the RCMP Police "D" Division spoke and provided pictures on his experience while "Policing in Kosovo." The Conference offers seminars and training in situational rescue techniques, ground search operations, emergency vehicle driving skills, medical response, hazardous materials awareness, fire fighting, crime scene

procedure, bio-contamination dangers and many other emergency skills. Conference sessions are designed to upgrade the skills of individuals and enhance their ability to assess the risks involved in responding to emergencies. The Conference is the largest emergency services conference in Canada. Closing ceremonies were held Sunday at the Westman Auditorium with Captain Tim Vandenbrink, Edmonton Emergency Response being our Keynote Speaker. Tim spoke on "OK We're Here ... So Now What!." Chris Summerville, Chair of the Provincial Advisory Council on Mental Health spoke on "The Search for Significance." A BBQ, compliments of the Office of the Fire Commissioner, was held in the basement of the Westman Auditorium. Watch for information on next year's conference. The dates are: October 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th book your rooms now!

## Fire Prevention Week

*"Fire Drills ... The Great Escape"*



**W**inner of the trip to Disney World in the Fire Fighters-McDonald's Fire Prevention Program was Erin Carlstrom, age 9 from Fort St. John, BC. "Fire Drills - The Great Escape" is fire safety materials promoted through a partnership of Fire Commissioner's offices, fire fighters, and McDonald's Restaurants in markets across Western Canada. The partnership dates back to 1984 when McDonald's sponsored a program initially devised by Edmonton Captain Tim Vandenbrink who believed - correctly - that practicing home fire drills would save lives. To win the trip, Erin completed the Fire Prevention Week worksheet and filled out the entry form. Erin and her family will be travelling to Disney World at spring break.



At the time of printing, NFPA have not announced the two winners of the trip to Disney World.

# MEDICAL

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

### New CPR Guidelines Announced



**T**he International Guidelines for CPR have been announced and in order to keep your skills current all instructors must attend an update. The National ECC would like all updates completed by June 2001. Please contact an

Instructor Trainer in your area for a date and time for the update. I have encouraged the Trainers to offer a re-registration at the same time for those who have expired or will expire June 2001. Any instructors not updated at that time will not be considered current and the Heart and Stroke Foundation will assume they have chosen not to retain their instructor

status.

If you have any questions, concerns or would like to know who the Instructor Trainer is in your area, please contact Irene Pare, ECC & Professional Education Manager at 949-2033, fax 957-1365 or email at: [ipare@heartandstroke.mb.ca](mailto:ipare@heartandstroke.mb.ca)

Submitted by Irene Pare, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

**O**n behalf of the Canadian Red Cross I would like to express appreciation to all of you who have made time in your busy schedules to attend an Instructor Update. I would like also to acknowledge the cooperative spirit among the training agencies, the Heart and Stroke



Foundation, St. John Ambulance, the Red Cross, and our partner, the Fire Commissioner's Office. Together, we have worked to make this update process as accessible as possible for you.

If any of you have not attended an Update, and would like to do so, please contact our Call Center at 1-888-307-7997 for more information. If you are not currently a Red Cross Instructor and would like more information on how to be trained to teach First Aid and CPR, or CPR only, please also contact the Call Centre.

Together we continue to work toward first and CPR training for all our citizens of Manitoba. Thanks for all your hard work.

Submitted by Tannis Nostedt, First Aid Program Advisor, Western Canada and Jennifer Janzen, First Aid Program Representative, Manitoba.

## Codes and Standards

### IMPACT OF BUILDING CODES ON FIRE FIGHTING SPREAD OF FIRE BETWEEN BUILDINGS

**F**ires involving multiple buildings in our communities are less common today than in earlier times. Minimum construction requirements found in our Building Codes with respect to construction methods, materials and spatial separations between buildings has reduced this incidence. Fire that can spread externally can happen in one or more of the following ways:

#### 1. Thermal Conduction:

The construction classification of a building (established by the building code) would determine the severity of a potential fire that can be normally expected within any structure. Buildings constructed close or attached to each other are susceptible for thermal conduction. Appropriate construction will control thermal

conduction.

#### 2. Flying Brands:

Flying brands can initiate secondary fires at substantial distances from the primary fire. Proper roof construction will minimize flying brands.

#### 3. Convection:

Convection will cause ignition only if the temperature of the gas stream is several hundreds of degrees. Such high temperatures are found in or near the flames issuing from burning buildings. Convection will probably happen only where windows overlook a roof that is not fire-resistant.

#### 4. Thermal radiation:

The building code contains formulas that determine the distances that buildings can be located to each other. The building code will permit

buildings to be located at close distances, however, the degree of fire resistance and types of construction of materials for exposing building face will be increased.

The design recommendations concerning spatial separation is based on the assumption that fire fighting will reduce the risk of ignition of adjacent buildings. Fire-resistant construction is sometimes adequate, but often fire fighting is essential if a fire is to be contained by the construction. *Fire departments should be concerned about "spatial separation" when buildings are being constructed in their communities. Compliance with the building code is a fire fighters' first line of defense.*

Submitted by Alex Campbell, Acting Manager, Codes and Standards.

## Staff Update

**W**elcome to Gwen Darichuk, Administrative Secretary at the Manitoba Emergency Services College. Gwen is working in Shannon Carlson's position while Shannon is seconded to the Records Section. Welcome to the College Gwen!

Welcome to Lyle Wenger, Maintenance Assistant. Lyle was working at the Provincial Building in Brandon and will now be working at the Emergency Services College. Welcome to the College Lyle!

Welcome to Adam Campbell, Codes and Standards to the Winnipeg Office. Adam is working in the administration and enforcement of the regulation pertaining to Mobile Homes/Recreation Vehicle/Travel Trailers. Welcome to the OFC Adam!

Welcome to Shirley Dufresne, Pre-Hospital EMS Training and Development Officer at the College. Shirley is an instructor for the Public Fire Protection Program and she is responsible for the student application process for Emergency Vehicle Driving and the clinical booking for all EMS programs. Welcome to the College Shirley!

## Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Conference June 1st & 2nd, 2001

### "Recruitment, Retention and Safety of Your Personnel" The Pas, Manitoba

**Registration Fees:** \$140.00

Suppliers sponsored fishing derby on May 31st - no charge - bring your own tackle, rod and fishing license.

Come to The Pas and learn about the North! Join us for a weekend full of learning, networking and fun!

Following is a list of hotels/motels and their telephone numbers:

La Verendrye Motel - (204) 623-3431

Super 8 Motel - Book through

The Pas Fire Department -  
(204) 727-1120/1121

Kikiwak Inn - 1-888-545-4925

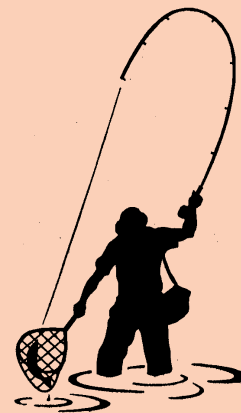
Wescana Inn - (204) 623-5446

Golden Arrow Motel - (204) 623-5451

There are lodges and camping grounds available too.

When booking, please mention the Fire Chiefs Conference.

We look forward to seeing you in June!



## Fire Department Humour

**A** fire started on some grassland near a farm. The fire brigade was called to put out the fire. The fire was more than the brigade could handle. Someone suggested that a nearby volunteer bunch be called. Despite some doubt that the volunteer outfit would be of any assistance, the call was made. The volunteers arrived in a dilapidated old fire truck. They rumbled straight towards the fire, drove right into the middle of the flames and stopped! The firemen jumped off the truck and frantically started spraying water in all directions. Soon they had snuffed out the centre of the fire,

breaking the blaze into two easily controlled parts. Watching all this, the farmer was so impressed with the volunteer fire brigade's work and was so grateful that his farm had been spared, that right there on the spot he presented the volunteers with a check for \$1,000. A local news reporter asked the volunteer fire captain what the department planned to do with the funds. "That ought to be obvious," he responded, wiping ashes off his coat. "The first thing we're gonna do is get the brakes fixed on our fire truck!"

Submitted by Carole Lupkowski, OFC and Richard Hayes, Gladstone Fire Department

## Apologies

In the last issue of *Burning Issues*, we had the pictures from the Notre Dame Fire Brigade and St. Claude Fire Department reversed in the editorials. Please accept my apologies. Marilyn



## Recalls/Advisories

**Warning about potentially hazardous coffeemakers** - certain models of Phillips brand drip style countertop coffeemakers may present a fire hazard. These coffeemakers are manufactured by Ever Splendor Enterprise Co., Ltd., Taiwan. The model numbers are HD5260, HD5270, HL5286 and HL5330. These models are NOT UL listed. For further information, please contact Philips Electronics Ltd., at (416) 292-5161.

### **Voluntary Recall of DeWalt Industrial Tool Co. Battery Chargers Models DW9107, DW9108 97-15 and 97016.**

Under certain circumstances, the charger may continuously charge a battery pack, which may present a potential for a fire or electric shock hazard or battery burst incident. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Langlois at (416) 747-4266 - CSA International.

### **Voluntary Recall by DeWalt Industrial Tool Co. to upgrade DW872 Type 1 Multi-Cutters.**

The positive drive system on the saw prevents the blade from slipping which creates the potential for the work piece to come loose from the vise jaw and fence and may present a possible risk of personal injury. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Langlois, (416) 747-4266 at CSA International.

**Voluntary Recall of KitchenAid Home Appliances Food Processors.** KitchenAid is recalling approximately 10,000 food

processor blade units. A cap on the blade unit can become dislodged during use. When dislodged, the cap can get mixed with food, presenting a choking hazard. Affected model numbers are KFP300, 4KFP300 and RRPFP300, KFP350, 4KFP350, RRPFP350, KFP450 and RRP450. The food processors are white, almond, blue, red, green, yellow or black. Please call KitchenAid at 1-866-444-3574 for more information.

**Warning - grain-filled pillows** - heating in a microwave oven can pose a fire hazard. Testing by Health Canada showed that flameless burning can occur if a pillow is heated longer than the manufacturer's maximum recommended heating period. Tests were conducted on two materials: buckwheat husks and oat grain. The buckwheat husks are more flammable but oat-grain filled pillows will also ignite if overheated. A further risk is increased by heating the pillow several times a day without allowing it to cool between each use, or by storing it in a hot or dry location. For further information, please contact the nearest Health Protection Branch at (204) 983-5490.

**Voluntary Recall to Repair DeWalt Industrial Tool DW9116 Battery Chargers** - these chargers are for 9.6 to 18-volt batteries used with DeWalt cordless tools. Metal clips inside the charger could come loose and stick through the charger's vents, possibly resulting in consumers receiving an electric shock. For more

information, please contact DeWalt at 1-888-388-3273.

**Warning - Dangers associated with certain Disposable Lighters** - The following brands of lighters are being seized: ACTX, AMERICAN MATCH, AM, BEST, C-LITES, EVERGLIDE, GIL, HAPPY, HARRY, KING, LIBERTY LITES, LIVING PICTURE AG, MAZLITE, ROLLNLITE, SNAPLITE, SPIIN-LITE, STRIK'N'LITE, SUN, TOUCH LITE, VIVA, WAX. These lighters do not meet Canadian safety standards. These lighters present fire, injury and burn hazards because they have been known to explode or leak gas when dropped. For more information, please contact the Product Safety Office of Health Canada at (204) 983-5490.

**Voluntary Recall to Repair Variable Speed Portable Electric Band Saws** - Milwaukee Electric Tools Corporation are recalling the band saws that were sold from January 18, 2000 through September 15, 2000. They have a switch that may stick in the "ON" position. Please call Milwaukee Corporation at 1-800-274-9804 or 1-888-889-5045 for more information.

**Voluntary Corrective Action Program for Rheem PV40 and PVV50 Power Vented Water Heaters** - cracks have developed in the ABS fitting at the power-vent blower connection to the plastic vent piping on certain units. For more information, please contact Ted Clark at 1-800-371-4955.

## Wood Heat Safety

**D**o you remember in the 70's when many homeowners turned to wood heating because of the concerns about price and availability of heating fuels? With the announcement of a possible 431% rate increase for natural gas bills, we in the fire service had better be ready for another influx of installations of solid fuel appliances. Because the general public relies so much on the expertise of the fire service, we must be ready with some knowledgeable answers. If what they are looking at is a wood burning stove or fireplace there are a few important things to keep in mind.

**New Installations:** Get the installation done properly, don't do it yourself, have qualified service personnel install it. When shopping for a wood burning stove, make sure it has been approved for the intended use and appropriate for the area you want to heat. It is important that the appliance be sized for the building or room square footage so it will

work to its efficiency. Make sure the factory-built chimney and installation conforms to Can/ULC-S629-M "650C Factory-Built Chimneys" and that masonry chimneys and fireplaces are designed and constructed to conform to CAN/CSA-A405, "Standard for design and construction of Masonry Chimneys and Fireplaces." Before a **certified installer** (this is not necessarily the local hardware merchant to local brick layer) installs the stove, a building permit is required from the local Building Official. The building official will inspect the installation and insure that all the clearances are met as per the manufacturers specifications.

**Previously used appliances and their appendages:** If you are starting up the fireplace for the first time in a long while, you might want to check the lining of your chimney. Many old brick chimneys do not include a clay or metal liner as the Manitoba Building Code requires.

Without the proper liner, as the brick and mortar settles over the years, cracks form allowing smoke and fire residue to leech back into the house.

**Reminders:** An outdoor air supply for combustion air is to be supplied. Chimneys should be cleaned at least once a year.

For added safety an extinguisher and carbon monoxide detector should be a prerequisite.

Make sure the smoke alarm in the house is working. Inform your insurance agent that you are installing a solid fuel appliance. Some insurance companies will not insure homes with solid fuel appliances. The installation standards for solid fuel appliances are CAN/CSA-B365-M91 and the Manitoba Building Code.

Submitted by Captain Bill Edwards, Brandon Fire Department.

## Protect children from gas fireplaces, wood stoves, space heaters, urges Safe Kids Canada

**W**ith the rising costs of heating fuels, some Canadian families may decide to use supplementary heating sources to help warm their homes this winter. Families may also rely on these heat sources more often.



Safe Kids Canada urges Canadians to make safety a priority. Heating alternatives such as gas fireplaces, wood stoves and space heaters carry a risk of fire and/or poisoning from combustion gases if equipment is misused or not properly maintained. These heating sources can also be a severe burn hazard for young children.

Safe Kids Canada offers the following tips on home heating safety:

- Make sure your home always has a fresh air supply. If your home is very well sealed or not well-ventilated, carbon monoxide can build up to dangerous levels. Have your heating system, including the chimney, inspected and cleaned once each season. Well-maintained equipment prevents fire and carbon monoxide poisoning.
- If you use a wood stove, get professional advice on installing and using it safely.

- If you use a kerosene space heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Always keep a supply of fresh air (for example, by opening a window slightly) to ensure that carbon monoxide does not build up in the room.
- Never use your cooking range or oven to heat your home, even for a short time.
- Never use a barbecue inside your home or in any enclosed space such as a garage.
- Keep space heaters at least one metre (three feet) away from other objects such as curtains, bedding and furniture. Never drape clothing over a space heater to dry.
- Remember that most home fireplaces are intended to create atmosphere and some supplementary heating; they are not intended as a primary heating source. Continuous use of such fireplaces can be dangerous.
- Never leave children in a room alone when a space heater is in use.
- Keep children away from heat sources such as space heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces. Children are fascinated by heat and fire and may not understand the dangers.
- Keep children well away from the doors of gas fireplaces. Children have been badly burned by touching these doors. The doors heat to more than 200°C in minutes and remain hot for more than 45

minutes after shut off.

- Keep smoke alarms in good working order. Check them monthly, replace the batteries twice a year and be sure there is a smoke alarm installed on every level of your home, particularly next to sleeping areas. Replace smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old.
- Install at least one carbon monoxide detector in your home, especially near bedrooms. Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas produced by any appliances that run on fossil fuels such as wood, gas oil or coal. Know the early warning signs of low-level carbon monoxide poisoning: tiredness, headaches, dizziness, nausea, shortness of breath and reddening of the skin.

Heating sources are among the leading causes of fire in Canada. There were 3,857 fires started by heating equipment in 1997 (the most recent year for which statistics are available for Canada). These fires killed 20 Canadians, including two children and injured a further 147. Another 24 deaths were caused by carbon monoxide poisoning from sources other than motor vehicle exhaust. Home heating equipment is the likely cause of many of these fatalities. For more information, check the Safe Kids Canada website: [www.safekidscanada.ca](http://www.safekidscanada.ca). Reprinted with permission from Safe Kids Canada.

*The Firefighters Burn Fund Trailer (pictured on page 4) can be booked by calling Diane Stuart at 986-6358, Winnipeg Fire/Paramedic Service.*

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

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

EDITOR: Marilyn Lamb

Deadline for submissions for the Spring edition of Burning Issues is April 15th, 2001. Contributions and suggestions are welcome. If you have news items, please send or fax them to Marilyn at (204) 726-6847 or e-mail [mlamb@labour.gov.mb.ca](mailto:mlamb@labour.gov.mb.ca).