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Spring/Summer 2013

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THE Responder

ALBERTA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

The Responder is the official publication of the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association. The magazine is published twice a year, Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter.

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Cover Photo: Cover photo courtesy of Ponoka Fire Department. The vehicle fire was contained with minimal siding damage to the residence.



Dear Friends,

Since I last reported, the office of the Executive Director has been busy working on a number of important projects.

The committee on Recruitment and Retention met a number of times and continues to work towards a solution to ensure all small fire departments have sufficient numbers to protect their communities. Since we first started the R&R work in 2009, a lot has been accomplished. We have developed a new logo, a new slogan "answer the call," and produced a video. The video project was accomplished thanks to the help of Leduc County Fire Services, Nisku Hall. On behalf of the AFCA I extend thanks to retired Chief Bob Galloway, present Chief Darrel Flemming and a special thanks to Joan Meidinger, Volunteer Fire Coordinator with Leduc Fire Services.

The new recruitment materials should be on display across Alberta. In my travels, I haven't seen many business or

vehicles displaying the new image. These materials are available through our bookstore. There is a production cost and shipping charge. AFCA covers the shipping costs. Some fire departments have ordered directly from the suppliers. The web site since it was launched six months ago, has been a success story with over 3,000 hits. Thanks to Parkland County Deputy Chief Shawn McKerry for managing the site. Peter Krich, R&R chair and I will have further announcements during the conference. Minister of Municipal Affairs, Doug Griffiths and Fire Commissioner Trent West have strongly supported R&R from 2009 and continue to do so.

I have been attending regional meetings and getting some feedback. Members are looking for updates regarding the projects the AFCA Board has been involved in. Please note that all approved Board minutes are posted on the web site. President Brian Cornforth and I have been extremely busy following up on the various issues with Alberta Health. These include dispatch, first responder training, First Medical Response, Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS) E911 System, and changes to the Alberta Fire and Building Codes.

We have completed surveys in 2012 which included a data base and inventory of the number of instructors trained in 1001, 1021, 1041 and 1042. This information is shared with the Office of the Commissioner.

Another survey was completed regarding wages paid to volunteer fire fighters. Unfortunately the response was less than we had hoped for.

A survey is now being concluded regarding the amount paid to municipalities whose fire departments respond to numbered highway calls. This results from a resolution approved in 2012.

I strongly urge all members to participate in the AFCA surveys. Most of the information collected helps us with our negotiations and discussions with municipalities and our provincial government. All survey results have been posted on our web site or will be.

Bill Purdy
Executive Director, AFCA
Deputy Chief
Wabamun Fire Department

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From the Publisher



This is the first issue of *The Responder*. It replaces The Gazette that you have been acquainted with for the past several years. As you may know there was some confusion with another publisher producing a magazine with a similar name. The confusion resulted in some advertisers supporting the other

publication, thinking they were supporting the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association. The trademark process for the new name is underway.

Since I have been involved with the AFCA, I have been amazed by the dedication and effort that each fire fighter puts into their job. Every fire fighter I have met is proud of what they do and who they work with.

Over the past months I had the honour of visiting with Fire Chief Ted Dillon and his colleagues in Ponoka

and with Scott Williams of Onoway. I thank them for their warm welcome and for spending time with me. Dedication was very evident when I called Ponoka volunteer, Denis Jones. He had just started to talk to me when the bell rang. "I have to go—it's a fire call—I'll call you later!"

That's the thing that most people don't think about. Volunteer fire fighters are willing to drop everything they are doing to rush to an event. They are willing to put their lives at risk to save others while sacrificing their family and personal lives. Their employers deserve equal thanks—letting an employee leave to attend an emergency can be difficult and costly for a company, but thankfully they do it.

Please enjoy this issue and pass it around. If you want us to do a story about your fire department or if you have an idea, just send me an email. Best wishes for a great convention.

Brian Stecyk



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Elk Point congratulates and thanks
the volunteer fire fighters
of Western Canada.



Meeting Today's Challenges and Beyond



What once was will be again if we continue to expect from others or continue to do what we have always done. Many choose to resist change; but they don't then have the right to expect that others should do the same.

The fire service is steeped in tradition and "TRADITION" has its place as does respect for our history. We must always be looking for opportunities and application of new and innovative solutions to face today's challenges and address what is best for tomorrow or we risk being seen as old, tired and irrelevant. We must use unconventional thinking, embrace new ideas and wisdom from lessons learned, not just observe; just like you would do at an emergency scene. Today's challenges and beyond are about renewal and fostering fresh partnerships and developing consensus based decision-making. Today's public safety system partners should expect and respect these qualities from each other.

Today and beyond is about effective transformation and renewal. When we:

- insist on personal responsibility and celebrate individual initiative;
- choose to be a part of system collaborations;
- honour and reward the dreamers, the risk-takers;
- believe in obligations to one another; and
- understand that development and change (meeting today's challenges) is ours and our time to look beyond the "here and now" is actually now;

we see renewal begin. We're not entitled to success, it is earned.

As leaders in your industry, you understand your service is not about what can be done for you. But rather what can be done by you to make your communities and province a safer place to live. Maturing interdependent relationships, collaboration and renewal can be a frustrating challenge, however; the success of the first response system and the safety of Albertans make it a number one priority and a rewarding goal.

As the Office of the Fire Commissioner we are transforming. We know we must make the necessary changes to accomplish current and future mandates. We will of course work with all of our partners as we go through this transformation. Our renewal and what we become is dependent on a number of things including your patience, participation and support.

Alberta and its municipalities continue to evolve and constant renewal of the first response systems will ensure Albertans receive the best services our safety system can deliver 'today and beyond'.

Trent R. West

Alberta Fire Commissioner





First Responder Coverage From WCB

By **Caren Baroudy, Communications Advisor, WCB-Alberta**

If you are an Alberta first responder diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, you are eligible for benefits and support through the Workers' Compensation Board.

PTSD is an emotional and psychological response to directly experiencing a traumatic event (or a series of traumatic events) that is life-threatening, very disturbing or stressful. The resulting symptoms can be very debilitating and require treatment to resolve.

PTSD is covered under WCB policy for all workers, with each claim considered on a case-by-case basis.

Now first responders have a new section in the Workers' Compensation Act (the Act) just for them. As of Dec. 10, 2012, Sec. 24.2 of the Act solidifies coverage for first responders (fire fighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians and sheriffs) by presuming PTSD is work related.

Filing a claim for PTSD

If you've been hurt at work (physically or psychologically), WCB-Alberta is here to help. Submitting a claim is simple.

If you are injured at work:

1. Tell your employer

2. Tell your health care provider

Your doctor or psychologist will use standard diagnostic criteria from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) to diagnose PTSD.

3. Tell WCB

You can report online by going to WCB for Workers' Quick Online Services for Workers at www.wcb.ab.ca.

You risk your life to protect Albertans. Now the enhanced coverage for PTSD through WCB-Alberta protects you.

For more information on this enhanced coverage, visit http://www.wcb.ab.ca/pdfs/workers/WFS_PTSD.pdf. For more information on WCB's treatment of traumatic psychological injury, visit http://www.wcb.ab.ca/pdfs/workers/WFS_Traumatic_psychological_injury.pdf

Exceptional Awards Night in Trochu

By **Brian Stecyk**

Over 200 guests applauded as their local heroes were recognized for their contribution to their community at the Trochu and District Fire Department Recognition Night held March 30, 2013.

Eleven members of the Trochu and District Fire Department and one member of the Three Hills Fire Department received Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals. The medals were created to honour the exemplary contributions of Canadians to their community and country. The Trochu Fire Department has 22 members, with a total of 491 years in cumulative service.

"I was amazed at the number awarded to members of the Trochu and District Fire Department. Only 800 medals were awarded to volunteer fire service personnel across Canada and Trochu received 11 of them," said AFCA Executive Director Bill Purdy. "It is certainly a testament to their dedication and hard work."

Recipients were:

Fire Chief Richard Hoppins -17 years

Deputy Chief Alan Adam -17 years

Retired Chief Lawrence Hogg - 39 years

Captain Chris Armstrong - 12 years

Captain Marvin Franke - 36 years

Fire Fighter Gary Adam - 43 years

Fire Fighter Roy Enzie - 45 years

Fire Fighter Gordon Guard - 45 years

Fire Fighter Kevin Hoppins - 28 years

Fire Fighter Joe Wohl - 28 years

Fire Fighter Ken Wohl - 48 years.

Fire Chief Art Creasser-Three Hills Fire Department

In recognition of his retirement, Retired Chief Lawrence Hogg was presented with a number of plaques from the Town of Trochu, County of Kneehill and other agencies.

The organizing committee exhibiting true western hospitality made the evening most enjoyable for everyone who attended.



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Chief Richard Hoppins, Lawrence Hogg and Deputy Chief Alan Adam, Trochu Fire Department.



Reeve Bob Long of Kneehills County and Retired Fire Chief Lawrence Hogg.



Bill Purdy, Fire Chief Art Creasser-Three Hills and Mayor Tim Shearlaw of Three Hills.



Trochu Fire Department.



Recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.



Reeve Bob Long, Lawrence Hogg, Bill Purdy and Mayor Barry Kletke.





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A photograph of a man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a yellow and red fire jacket, standing in front of a yellow fire truck. The truck has the number '911' and text that reads 'This Rescue Donated Ponoka Lion Community at Work'. The man is looking towards the camera.

Ordinary People

Doing Extraordinary Things

By **Brian Stecyk**

It takes as little as three and a half minutes to get the fire truck on the road from the time the call goes out. The fire fighters are not sitting at the fire hall—they are at their places of work or at home but they are ready when needed.

A bank manager, carpenter, welder, EMT, insurance agent, tool salesman, a registered nurse, government employee, and 15 others rush to respond. These are the volunteer members of the Ponoka Fire Department. These are the people living up to the Ponoka Protective Services motto: "Ordinary people doing extraordinary things!"

Fire fighting veteran Ted Dillon leads the team. He has been Ponoka's fire chief since 1989 but he didn't get his start there. He began as a volunteer fire fighter in the Town of Fort Macleod when he was 23 years old. He returned to Ponoka in 1981 and joined the Ponoka Fire Department in 1987.

"Things have changed a lot over the past 24 years," says Ted. "The number of calls is far greater, the types of calls are different and changes to construction materials have increased hazards for fire fighters. I remember that when I became fire chief we went 14 months without a motor vehicle accident call now we respond to 50 to 75 per year."

Ponoka Fire Chief Ted Dillon.

“A bank manager, carpenter, welder, EMT, insurance agent, tool salesman, a registered nurse, government employee, and 15 others rush to respond.”



Like other fire departments, Ponoka had found that the incidence of structure fires is down. More often they respond to grass fires and motor vehicle accidents. Sometimes there are bale fires and occasionally tractor fires. Four or five times a year they involve STARS where they become the primary contact on the scene.

cooperates and provides reciprocal assistance to these departments as well as other surrounding mutual aid partners.

“One of the best things we have going for us is the excellent cooperation between the County and the Town. We share equipment and the County pays 50 per cent of our operating costs. There are two pieces of equipment that are only occasionally shared because of their applications—the ladder truck is mostly used in an urban environment and the tanker truck in a rural environment.”

“We also have a good working relationship with the four bands at Hobbema—Montana, Samson, Erminskine and Louis Bull. Muskawchees Fire Department is a good and capable fire response unit but occasionally they need assistance, particularly with grass fires—some years they respond to several hundred. Once we learned about their unique needs we have become an effective co-operating response team,” adds Ted.

“One of the best things we have going for us is the excellent cooperation between the County and the Town.”

Ted has strong opinions about the causes of motor vehicle accidents. He argues that there are three main causes of traffic accidents are fatigue, alcohol and distracted driving. “Looking down for one second to read a text message can be fatal—people have to discipline themselves not to do that,” he says.

The Ponoka Fire Department covers an area of approximately 500 sq. miles that includes the Town of Ponoka and most of Ponoka County. The west portion of the County is covered by the Rimbey Fire Department and a portion of the eastern end of the County is handled by Bashaw’s fire department responders. The department



18-year veteran firefighter Murray Dux.



The Log Cabin at the Ponoka Stampede is a project of the Fire Department, Guardian Ambulance and the RCMP.



More and more often livestock are involved in accidents and the Livestock Emergency Response Trailer is just the equipment that is needed.

There was no doubt in Ted's mind as to the biggest challenge facing the fire department. "It is recruitment and retention of fire fighters. It is a constant struggle. We would like to have a full complement of 30 but we never get there. We are able to keep a relatively stable volunteer force of 24 or 25. We are fortunate to gain four rookies in 2012. Our average age is 43.8 and our youngest member is 25."

"The big obstacles we have to overcome are lifestyle and number of calls. People want to spend more time with

their families and don't want to be constantly interrupted with calls. In 2012 we responded to 180 calls involving 2,481 man hours—that's a lot for volunteers and then add on training and community involvement and it is easy to see the demands upon individual members. Fortunately, we have great support from employers who permit and encourage their staff to join the fire department—even though it means less work time."



In Ponoka we believe in keeping it real, especially when it comes to the important things in life. That's why we place a high value on the services that keep you and yours safe.

Ponoka is proud to have Fire Chief Ted Dillon as our Director of Protective Services.




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Donna Noble talks to kids during a tour of the Ponoka Fire Hall.



Teamwork and cooperation is essential for appropriate emergency response.



Special training and equipment enabled this winter river rescue.

The Protective Services Report to Ponoka Town Council for 2012 showed:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| • 2012 Fire Attending Call Hours | 2,481 |
| • 2012 Fire Practice Attending Hours | 1,575 |
| • 2012 Outside Training Hours | 1,336 |
| • Total | 7,367 |

Those hours equate to 283 hours per member (11.8 full 24 hour days or roughly 36 working days) for a 26 member department.

"The new web site has generated some interest but we find that word of mouth is the most effective recruitment tool. We support that by being huge in the community which helps for recruitment, retention and prevention," says Ted.

Donna Noble, the only fire department member living outside of Ponoka, adds Fire Prevention Coordinator and Protective Services Secretary to her list of responsibilities. Donna joined the department eight years ago. Following the loss of her only child in a school bus accident, five years ago, Donna's dedication to helping others became more apparent and important.

"Having been through the experience of losing a child

has given me a great deal of empathy for others and I often assist victims and help them get through the trauma they are experiencing," says Donna.

"Because I live 30 km away, I am not usually one of the first responders. I usually fill in wherever I am needed. My key role is being involved in the community. I talk to 600-800 students per year. Sometimes the kids come to the fire hall—other times we go to them. We also talk to clubs like the Cadets and we visit our local Hutterite colony."

More than Architecture?



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Dry weather spells trouble and lots of grass and wildland fires.



Fire fighting is a 24/7 commitment.

"One of the things I am most proud of is that our door is always open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day. People just come by to visit, ask questions, have coffee and learn. One young student stopped by and asked, 'Can I see a fire truck?' We gave him a complete tour—one day he may be one of our new recruits," she suggests. "Our annual calendar showing photos from past fire fighting activities is a real hit in the entire community. It is a great tool to remind people that we are here!"

"We don't have the capacity to conduct inspections of every business but we respond when we are asked," says Ted. "We also encourage and work with residents to help them with fire prevention such as smoke detectors and CO detectors. We have three documented cases in our community where CO detectors saved lives."

Community involvement is a major effort for the Ponoka Fire Department. In the last year members of the department were involved in:

- Family Day Celebration
- Ponoka Stampede
- Ponoka Stampede Fireworks (4 nights)
- Household Toxic Roundup
- Fire Prevention Open House
- School Tours and Fire Prevention Talks
- Golf Fundraiser
- Big Brother/Big Sister BBQ
- Community Garden Water Tank
- Beverage Services at Various Functions
- Soap Box Derby
- Youth Triathlon

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There wasn't much left of this farm shop--fortunately the response team put the fire out without complications from the propane bottles.



Now Deputy Chief, 23-year veteran Kelsey Hycha attends to a brush fire.

Ted says, "The biggest event for the year is the Ponoka Stampede. Volunteers can get a lot done. Several years ago we created the Ponoka Emergency Tri-Services Society (a registered charity) involving the Fire Department, the RCMP and Guardian Ambulance. It is an amazing group."

"We have always been involved with the Ponoka Stampede. We got the idea of building a log-cabin to create a more visual presence on the grounds. We didn't have any money for the \$15,000 project. An oilfield firm donated the frame and the County, Town and Stampede Association each donated \$5,000 for the construction materials. We got to work and in less than six week it was built and open for business," Ted exclaims.

About 75 per cent of the 70,000 visitors to the Stampede go by the log building. The three services provide first aid, child find, lost and found and police services. "The log cabin has become so well known that parents take their children there and say 'if you get lost remember this place'. And they do. We also provide child ID bracelets that include parents name and phone number," adds Donna.

"Monday is the hot day at the fire hall!" exclaims Ted. "That is the day Donna brings in fresh baking. The favourites are cinnamon buns and cookies. We believe if we treat our members well they will stay with us—and they

do! It is also the day we do in-house maintenance and we do training every second and fourth Monday evening but are at the hall every Monday. Outside instructors come on weekends. "

Training is becoming more and more important for the fire department. "A special challenge," says Ted, "is keeping up with changes in building construction. New materials are often more flammable (vinyl siding) and the use of p-lam beams and engineered joists have changed the safety

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hazard from the way it was when solid wood was used. It is a constant struggle for volunteer members to stay on top of the changes.”

“We have a very good working relationship and count heavily on the fire department to assist us in a variety of matters,” says RCMP Staff Sergeant Cameron Chisholm. “Without them we would have difficulty fulfilling our role. They are all volunteers—they sacrifice so much and often they are not recognized—this community couldn’t function without them.”

Staff Sergeant Chisholm adds, “We partner with them on many community activities. At the moment we are building a ‘block party support package’. It includes some of the basic items required for a successful and safe block party—signage, road blocks, and most importantly a 60” commercial BBQ. We believe these functions help improve the social fabric of the community and we are all better off for it.”

“Many of the community things we do are through the leadership and initiative of Ted Dillon. We all need to honour his contribution—he is a real community builder,” concludes Chisholm. Donna nominated Ted for the Nominate Your Neighbour Contest. Ted was one of eight community people who will now be featured in Town of Ponoka promotional materials.

The Ponoka Fire Department has two unique pieces of

equipment. They have a community spill response trailer, provided by Alberta Environment, that enables immediate response to spills. The unit is one of only six in Alberta. “We’ve used it on three separate occasions for a diesel spill from an overturned truck in the Battle River,” says Ted.

“We have it for initial response until the major spill response equipment can arrive on the scene.”

“We are also proud of our Livestock Emergency Trailer. We are the cattle capital of Alberta and we recognized the need for a special response trailer that would be available for situations involving livestock. We designed and built the trailer, with funding from Ponoka County, and I am proud to say the provincial government adopted our vision and now many other areas are being equipped.”

The trailer includes equipment necessary for handling cattle

on an emergency basis—portable corrals, halters, ropes, ramps, etc. And these trailers are not just for cattle but to help with situations involving all livestock: cattle, sheep, swine, horses, etc. The RCMP recently used the Ponoka Emergency Trailer to assist with moving cattle to another transport at a 100 vehicle pile-up that occurred during an intense spring storm moving through the Edmonton region.

“I am proud to be a volunteer fire fighter,” says Dennis Jones, Manager of Servus Credit Union in Ponoka. “I have just passed my eight-year anniversary as a member. I have always been involved in community activities and service



One of the newer members, Jesse Witvoet has been with the Ponoka Fire Department for four years.

clubs, wherever I lived. After returning to Ponoka, I wanted to get involved here too! A high school friend invited me to go with him to learn about the fire department—it was just what I needed and I now have a permanent home on the team. I did the same and invited my neighbour to check it out. He did and is now also a volunteer fire fighter.”

Servus Credit Union is well known for its support of communities. “We are encouraged to get involved and although every fire fighter knows their job comes first, they get the job done. It might mean returning to work in evenings or on weekends but the commitment to the community gets accomplished,” adds Dennis.

Dennis has gone further. He has just completed Level I training and is in the process of registration (applied and awaiting certification) with the Office of the Fire Commissioner for 1041 Fire Service Instructor Level 1 for IFSAC and ProBoard so that he can instruct any course he has completed. He is also just a couple of courses for full 1001 Certification. “We need more trainers and I am glad to do it,” Says Dennis.

“One of the things we enjoy is the excellent support we receive from our local newspaper. The *Ponoka News*

reports accurately and consistently about fire department activities and not just about emergency situations. They report on school visits, take photos of kids at the fire hall and even initiate stories for fire prevention and other activities. They are great!” adds Ted.

The great photographs with this article are courtesy of Donna Noble and the Ponoka Fire Department. “We take the camera everywhere,” says Donna. In the past six years we have accumulated over 37,000 photos and we are proud to share them.”

“These photos are a great help,” adds Ted. “They help with investigations and with recording the things we do. When it comes to the camera—we don’t leave the hall without it.”

“One of the best things about volunteering in the fire department,” states Dennis Jones, “is that it is just like an extended family. We work together in good times and bad. It is one of the few areas of community service where a person can make an instant difference in their community—I recommend it.

“Many of the community things we do are through the leadership and initiative of Ted Dillon. We all need to honour his contribution—he is a real community builder.”

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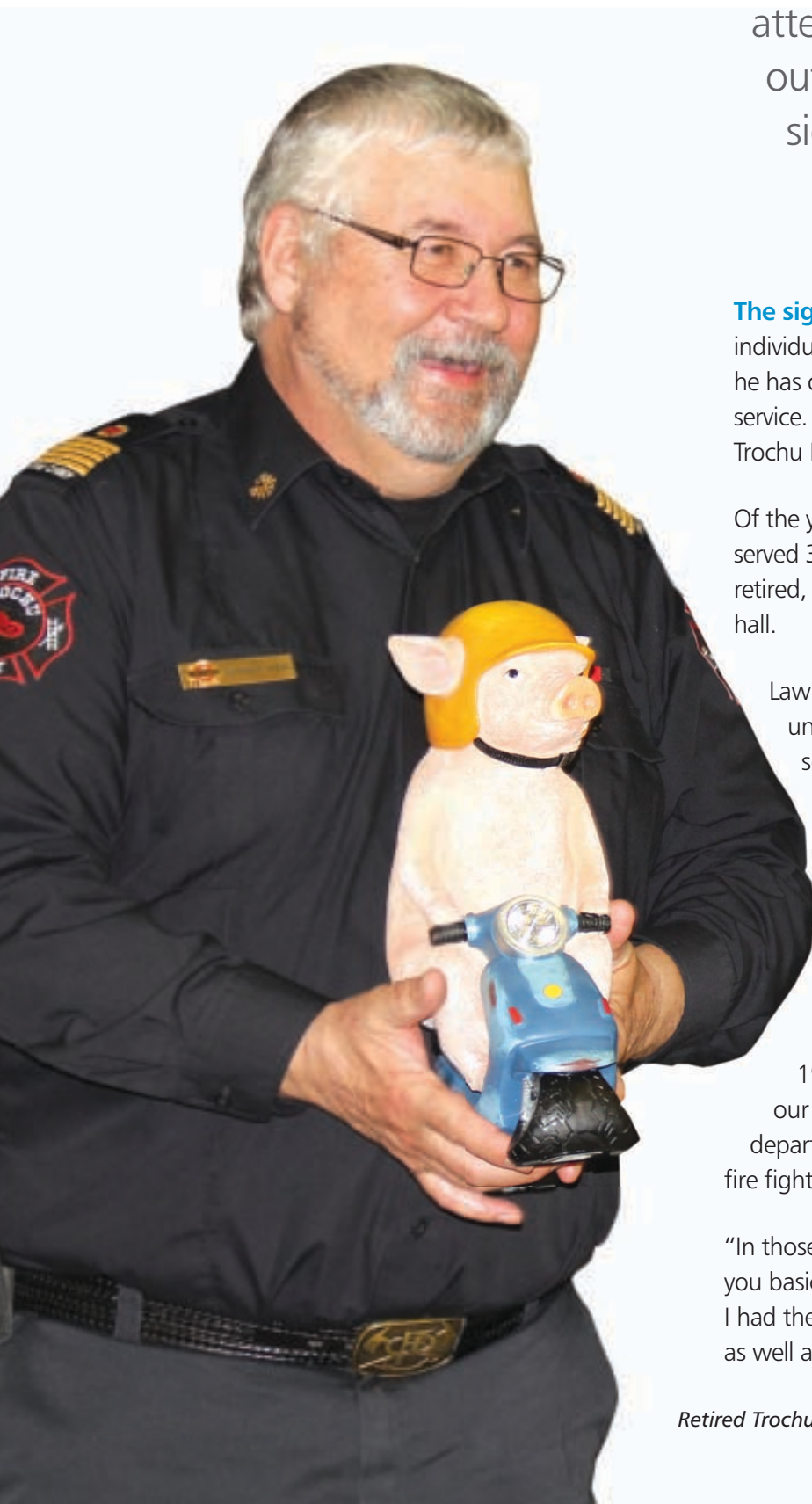
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Responding to the Bell for 40 Years

By **Ted Tennison**



“ In those days if you attended three fire practices out of six you basically got signed up as a member. ”

The sign of a true community volunteer is an individual who continues to offer his services even though he has officially retired after close to 40 years of volunteer service. Recently retired Fire Chief Lawrence Hogg of the Trochu Fire Department (TFD) is such an individual.

Of the years Lawrence spent as a volunteer fire fighter, he served 30 years as the Trochu Fire Chief. Although officially retired, Lawrence continues to be a familiar face at the fire hall.

Lawrence's long service with the TFD has not gone unrecognized by his fire fighting colleagues. He will soon be appointed a Life Member of the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association. This is one of the highest honours the AFCA can bestow on one of their own. Lawrence's recognition will be officially acknowledged at the upcoming AFCA annual convention being held in Red Deer this year.

"It has been quite a journey from the day I joined the TFD at the urging of my cousin back in 1974," says Lawrence. "I was interested in serving our community and was intrigued with our local fire department so I decided to try out to become a volunteer fire fighter."

"In those days if you attended three fire practices out of six you basically got signed up as a member. Early in my career I had the chance to attend fire training school in Vermilion as well as take numerous courses over the years to ensure

Retired Trochu Fire Chief Lawrence Hogg.

the TFD was up to speed on changes taking place in fire fighting techniques and equipment."

Lawrence points out many things have changed since he first joined the TFD. "When I started we only responded to fire calls. We may have been involved in helping the police with a few motor vehicle collisions (MVCs) but fire suppression was our main function. Today, the majority of calls the TFD receives deal with MVCs, and actual fire fighting calls are a much smaller portion of what we do."

"We asked our fire fighters if they would be interested in responding to MVCs and other medical-related situations and they all said –yes. This then required our members to expand their training beyond fire fighting. We receive training in vehicle extrication and the associated medical knowledge needed, as in many cases, the fire department is the first one at the scene of the collision."

Lawrence, along with several other Trochu fire fighters, has achieved the designation of Emergency Medical Responder by undertaking comprehensive medical training. The TFD also has several Emergency Medical Technicians on its roster.

"With our role changing from being solely a fire fighter to one of a 'first responder' we encourage our members to take medical training that will assist them in carrying out their responsibilities," says Lawrence.

"Fire fighting often gets into a family's blood," says Lawrence. "One of our present female fire fighters is a third generation member of the TFD. We also have a number of father-son combinations on the team. We truly operate as one big family."

It is this camaraderie that binds members of the TFD together and encourages someone like Lawrence to continue to show up at the fire hall even after all these years of service.

"In the last couple of years I got quite involved in the fire investigation part of our service and continue to do this when I am called upon by the department," says Lawrence. "It enables me to still keep my hand in on something that I have enjoyed doing all these years."

In putting forward Lawrence's name for consideration as a Life Member of the AFCA, his colleagues had this to say



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about their former fire chief.

"He was always there to help our newer members learn the ropes," says Trochu fire fighter Alan Adam. "He was a tremendous mentor to our new recruits making them feel immediately included in our fire fighting family."

Adds current Trochu Fire Chief Richard Hoppins: "From day one Lawrence Hogg put both his heart and soul into his position as a fire fighter and then fire chief. He definitely went way above and beyond of what is expected of a volunteer fire fighter."

"I know I speak for all members of the TFD when Alan and I put Lawrence's name forward for the Life Member designation. We appreciate Lawrence's dedication to our community and the TFD over these many years of volunteer service and felt this recognition was most appropriate for someone who has devoted a major part of his life to serving his community as a member of the TFD."

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Resolution update 2012 Conference

Resolution 2

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association meet with the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) to discuss the opportunity for the two municipal associations to meet with the Minister of Municipal Affairs of Government of Alberta to discuss the future of partnerships by equitable contracts or agreements with accredited Municipalities and Counties. Municipalities and Counties be recognized for their efforts in providing these critical services to all Albertans.

Status

A resolution relating to this issue will be considered at the fall 2013 conference of the Alberta Association Municipal Districts and Counties. No date has yet been arranged for meeting with Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.

Resolution 6

BE IT RESOLVED that the board of the AFCA be directed to establish a representative panel of Association members led by one (1) member of the Board to review the current conference process, assess membership needs and expectations, evaluate options to create linkages between core leadership and operational competency training and conference presentations, assess the most cost effective delivery model and evaluate opportunities to improve accessibility and value for all members. A terms of reference, call for panel members, dissemination of a terms of reference with an interim report due by January 1, 2013 with the final report due to the membership no later than the 2013 AFCA Annual Conference.

Status

The review of the AFCA conference as proposed in the resolution was not dealt with in 2012. It will be brought back to the 2013 convention with a request from the AFCA Board that an extension be granted and a report be provided at the 2014 conference.

Resolution 8

BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Transportation to revise the rate paid to municipalities for responding to emergency calls on numbered highways.

Status

A number of meetings were held during the summer and fall of 2012 with the committee, Brian McEvoy, Chair, Greg Van Tighem, Bill Purdy and senior officials from Alberta Transportation. The committee approved a survey which has been distributed to the seven regional directors of AFCA requesting they forward the survey to 19 fire departments with their region. Survey results are to be completed by May 15, 2013.

Resolution 9

BE IT RESOLVED that the Grande Prairie Fire Department and the County of Grande Prairie Fire Service wish to submit a joint proposal for the hosting of the 2014 AFCA Annual Conference in the Grande Prairie area.

Status

The 2014 AFCA conference will be held in Grande Prairie June 7 to 10, 2014.



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2013 Conference Resolutions

Resolution 1

Special Resolution 1

Amendment of the Membership clauses of Alberta Fire Chiefs Association Bylaw #5 *Board of Directors*

WHEREAS, the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association has historically defined its membership within its Bylaws

AND WHEREAS, Bylaws as defined are to govern the overall structure of the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association, and the actions of the Board and its members

AND WHEREAS, the content of the Bylaws cannot be changed except by special resolution of the members, with acceptance by Alberta Corporate Registry

AND WHEREAS, Bylaws are not to be specific documents that govern day to day business affairs of the board

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association members approve by special resolution the removal of member definitions from the bylaws covered in section 5 and 6, and to define its member classification within the existing Rules and Regulations framework.

Background

Approval of Bylaws, and amendments to said bylaws require a time consuming and restrictive process, which when created to be too specific can be restrictive to the day to day operations of the Association. It is much easier for the membership to change regulations, or veto regulations created by the board. The Board of Directors is empowered by the membership to create rules and regulations, which are then annually voted on by the membership.

This amendment will allow the board to create or change membership classifications to better suit the operation of, and partnerships with the association in the future.

Background

Approved by 75% vote at 2012 AGM. However, due to a typographical omission section 6 was missed, but intended to be included in the special resolution.

Proposing to by simple majority vote to include section 6 as intended to ratify last year's resolution at this year AGM.

Resolution 2

Establish a Working Group for Incident Management Team Development

AFCA Region 1

*Brian Ballard,
Saddle Hills County*

WHEREAS the Flat Top Complex Wildfire Review recommended the use of Incident Management Teams under a consistent provincial framework, and

WHEREAS several Fire Services and Regional groups are working on the development of Incident Management Teams, and

WHEREAS there is a significant workload involved in the development of Bylaws, Agreements, Procedures, Qualifications Systems and Training, for Incident Management Teams as well as a need for consistency in each of these areas, and



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WHEREAS there is a need for these Incident Management Teams to have an All Hazards focus and capacity,

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the board of the AFCA be directed to establish a working group of Association members led by one (1) member of the Board to coordinate the development of a provincial framework for All Hazards - Incident Management Teams, and to seek representation on the Working group from Alberta Emergency Management Agency; Office of the Fire Commissioner; Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Transportation, and the Alberta Energy Regulator.

Background

Small and medium sized municipalities do not have the depth of staff or resources to establish their own Incident Management Team capability. Even with Mutual Aid resources, most organizations will be stretched beyond their capacity when faced with multiple widespread incidents or one large complex incident. The availability of Regional Incident Management Teams that are available within the first few hours of an incident will greatly extend local capabilities.

Flat Top Complex Wildfire Review Committee - Final Report May 2012 Recommendation 16. "Work with Alberta Emergency Management Agency to align implementation of the Incident Command System and the use of Incident Management Teams under a consistent provincial model. This should include development of appropriate training and emergency simulation exercises that are practiced regularly (from tabletop to full simulation exercises related to wildfire).

Although Wildfire represents one of the bigger risks for complex incidents, there are numerous other hazards such as dangerous goods incidents and severe weather events that would be likely to require the use of an Incident Management Team. Therefore the development of these teams must be with an All Hazards focus.

Several regional groups and larger municipalities have already begun the work of developing Incident Management Teams. The need for By-laws, policies, procedures and qualification standards will exist for any group involved in this process. Much of this work will be duplicated in each case if there is not a central coordination

of these activities. Furthermore there is a need to ensure that procedures and qualifications standards are consistent throughout the system.

Any time there is a complex incident that requires the use of an Incident Management Team; the Local Fire Services will be heavily involved in the response to that incident. The AFCA is an obvious choice to coordinate the process for these Teams.

Resolution 3

Request for clarification of Fire Driver's requirements for AHS

AFCA Region 6

*Fire Chief Ken Thevenot,
Okotoks Fire Department*

WHEREAS fire departments are being requested to drive AHS ambulances while transporting patients to hospital to allow both AHS practitioners to attend to patient care, and

WHEREAS Alberta fire departments are made up largely of part time, paid on call or volunteer fire departments with varied levels of training in emergency vehicle operations, and

WHEREAS fire departments and municipalities within Alberta have different insurance providers with varied coverage, and

WHEREAS in the province of Alberta, those driving ambulances with passengers require a Class 4 licence, and

WHEREAS interpretation of AHS policy on fire drivers and their use under "extenuating circumstances" is open to the discretion of the AHS practitioners, and

WHEREAS fire departments understand that prompt delivery of patients to critical care is of utmost importance and delays in waiting for another AHS ambulance to arrive to supply a driver is not practical,

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the board of the AFCA be directed to seek clarification from Alberta Health Services on the use of fire fighters as ambulance drivers, and provide this clarification to fire departments province-wide by July 1, 2013.



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Background

Alberta fire departments often respond to medical co-response incidents where critical patients require both AHS practitioners staffing the ambulance to attend to patient care while transporting patients to hospital. As a result, fire departments are often requested to supply fire drivers for said transports.

There are many different interpretations of AHS policy on exactly who can drive their ambulances, when and how. Depending on the municipality or region, fire drivers can drive using lights and sirens while assisting with transport of patients, while in one large city a second AHS unit is requested.

Fire officer's responses to requests for drivers are also as varied as the interpretation of the AHS policy. Some departments will supply a junior fire fighter that may have limited experience in emergency vehicle operation while others supply the most senior fire fighter with years of emergency response under their belt.

Resolution 4

Request for inclusion of AFCA in discussions with the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS)

AFCA Region 6

Fire Chief Ken Thevenot,
Okotoks Fire Department

WHEREAS the province of Alberta has contracted a private company to construct a radio system to be used by all first responders in Alberta, including but not limited to peace officers, fire, EMS, and

WHEREAS Alberta fire departments are made up largely of part time, paid on call or volunteer fire departments with varied levels of equipment and training in communications systems, and

WHEREAS fire departments and municipalities within Alberta have varied communication needs and ability to fund new software, and

WHEREAS the new provincial radio system will work towards improving safety for first responders, and

WHEREAS interoperability between first responders is important on a municipal, provincial and federal level,

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the board of the AFCA be directed to request of John Lamb, Chair, AFRRCS Governance Council, Deputy Chief, Operations, Edmonton Fire Rescue Services, that AFCA have representation on further operational discussions surrounding Alberta's new first responder radio system.

Background

During an announcement on October 15, 2008, Premier Ed Stelmach announced the creation of a new radio system for Alberta's first responders. This past December, ownership of the system was signed over to the provincial



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government. A complete timeline can be found at www.solgps.alberta.ca/AFRRCS/Pages/Updates.aspx

Solicitor General and Public Security with the support of Service Alberta have initiated a project to:

- Develop and implement a province wide two-way radio network that includes infrastructure to meet current and future needs of first responders agencies
- Work with first responders agencies to provide effective and efficient emergency communications services
- Facilitate inter-agency cooperation and interoperability to improve the safety of Alberta first responders and Albertans

Resolution 5

Resolution to extend time of 2012 resolution # 4 *Executive AFCA*

WHEREAS the membership at the 2012 conference approved the resolution "Establishment of a committee to review current Alberta Fire Chiefs Association annual conference model"; and

WHEREAS the committee was not appointed until April 15, 2013

THEREFORE it be resolved that the committee be directed to provide the membership with an interim report by December 1, 2013 for review and comment and the final report at the 2014 annual conference.



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Patio Fire Sparks Life-long Passion

By Brian Stecyk

“One of the fire fighters put his arm around me and said, “Everything will be OK.””

When Scott Williams goes to work he doesn't have far to go. Just across the yard from his house is a replica fire hall with the same frontage as the Los Angeles County Fire Hall that starred in the 1970s television drama *Emergency*.

It is home to “The Patchman” and “The World's Biggest Emergency Fan!” Scott and his wife Sherry operate their business and provide services to fire fighters and fire departments throughout Canada and the United States.

“I became interested in fire fighting when I was a youngster. We were living in Grande Prairie and inadvertently my mother started a fire on our patio. I was amazed when a big

red truck showed up and fire fighters ran to put the fire out,” says Scott. “One of the fire fighters put his arm around me and said, “Everything will be OK.” I knew at that moment I would be involved in fire fighting.”

When Scott was 12 he began keeping a scrapbook on fire fighting. He wrote a letter to the Winnipeg Fire Department requesting a shoulder patch and they sent him one. That patch was the first he ever owned—he was hooked on being a collector.



Scott poses with his award for being “The Worlds Biggest Emergency Fan”.



Scott's son stands next to their newest acquisition -- the same model of fire truck used in the television series. It is currently being restored.



Just a few of the thousands of items you could see when you visit The Patchman.

"I was even more hooked when I sent a letter to the Ponoka Fire Department asking for a tour. I not only got a tour—I was given a helmet which I still have on display today. At the same time, I watched the television show, *Emergency* and was enthralled by John Gage (played by actor Randolph Mantooth) in his paramedic/fire fighter role. I knew my career path! I later learned that the engine driver (Mike Stoker) was an actual Los Angeles County fireman and that the fire department had significant input into the show to ensure it was an accurate depiction of the fire fighting/paramedic role."

The route from being an interested collector to an active fire fighter started with Scott becoming involved with the Ponoka EMS in 1980. At age 16 he began ride-alongs with the Ponoka Town and Country Ambulance service. At the time, SAIT offered an outreach program for training of Emergency Medical Technicians. One of the locations was the Town of Ponoka and Scott became one of the first certified EMTs in Alberta. He laughs when he says his certificate number was 17, only because Williams is way down the alphabetical list.

"I signed on for the training—I attended EMT classes in the evening and went to high school during the day. Two and one-half years later I was working full time as an EMT but I still had to go back to high school to write final exams," says Scott. "I began touring with the fire department when I was 18 and I have never stopped."

Scott's involvement in fire fighting has taken him to many locations where he has worked as an EMT or fire fighter. In 1983 he worked for Parkland Municipal Ambulance



The showroom is a mix of new items and Scott's collection of fire fighting memorabilia.

and volunteered for the Stony Plain Fire Department. He worked for Edmonton Ambulance but his real goal was to work full-time for a fire department. He tried several times, even moving to Sherwood Park but in the 1980s fire departments were not recruiting full-time fire fighters.

He moved to Sidney, BC where he joined the volunteer fire department and enlisted in a special program with the Forest Services. Fire fighters received advanced training and were organized in unit crews of 20 men. The crews were specialized responders prepared to be dropped by helicopter into a fire zone and be fully self-sufficient for three or more days. That pilot project was so successful that unit crews are standard procedure for most forest services in Canada.

In Sidney, Scott got involved in fire photography, a hobby that has won him a few of awards and a couple of cover photos for *Fire Fighting Canada* magazine. He kept it up when he returned to Alberta to work as an oilfield fire fighter.



"I have always enjoyed being involved in small community fire departments," says Scott. "There is a special relationship between fire fighters and the community. Communities like New Norway, where I served as fire chief for a time are typical volunteer fire departments where people, from all walks of life, work together."

Sherry knew what she was getting into. "I knew immediately I wasn't just marrying Scott—I was marrying the fire department too!" she exclaims. "But it has been great. We moved to our family farm near Rich Valley in 2007 and although Scott immediately volunteered for the Lac Ste. Anne Fire Services, we began focussing on raising our family. After a couple of failed attempts, Scott finally retired from active fire fighting in January of this year."

Scott has never been the traditional fire fighter. Instead of going on vacations to tourist destinations, Scott would go to visit a fire department and arrange to ride along as an active fireman. He enjoyed working with fire departments in Seattle, New York, Maryland, and Los Angeles. He once turned down an opportunity to see the World Trade Center because he didn't want to miss the action with Patrol 2 and Rescue 4 in New York.

"My first ride along in California was in Compton, Los Angeles in 1992. It was quite an experience. My buddy was the only white fire fighter on the crew. One afternoon I wanted to get a soda pop and was heading across the

street to the convenience store. I heard a shout, "Where are you going?" Two fire fighters escorted me across the street and back. During the three shifts we responded to 38 shootings and several major fires. It was quite a wake-up call for the boy from Alberta. Things changed with 9/11. Ride-alongs are more difficult to arrange and there is far more attention paid to security and liability issues."



Scott still has the Ponoka Fire Department helmet he received as a 12-year old boy. He added the number and patch.

A special reunion of the Emergency TV crew was held in Carson, Los Angeles in 2011. The event organized by the Los Angeles County Fire Museum attracted over 5,500 fans to witness the return of the original engine #51 and rescue squad to the museum. Part of the celebration was the announcement of the winner of "The World's Biggest Emergency Fan". Scott Williams was selected from hundreds of entries.

"I really enjoyed meeting Randolph Mantooth and Mike Stoker at the event. Emergency was a very important program. It was the joining of paramedic response and fire fighting. The show was really the beginning of fire fighters being trained to deliver emergency care at an accident or fire scene. It is now standard practice but in the 1970s it wasn't," says Scott.

"Many fire fighters I talked to in the United States and some in Canada attribute their interest in their fire fighting career to the television program. Many of the fans who attended the celebration were young people who were introduced to the show on DVD or Netflix. Thankfully, the role of the fire fighter/paramedic is reaching a whole new generation. Hopefully the interest it generates will result in more people being interested in a fire fighting career," adds Scott.

Scott has a real passion for his collection. He is an outspoken advocate for preservation of fire fighting history. "Too often, people just think old items are junk and should be thrown away," he argues. "My dream is a fire fighters' museum where we could display our heritage rather than dispose of it."

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Scott displays some of the 7200 patches he has collected. Does he have yours?

Scott is doing his part. The fire hall in his yard is more than an office—it is a museum. His collection of patches, helmets, and other fire fighting gear is a testament to his dedication. His newest initiative is restoration of an engine identical to the #51 used in the television show. The engine was actually used by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. He has also purchased an almost-new rescue squad vehicle from the Los Angeles County Fire Department. As soon as some minor mechanical repairs are completed it will become his main transportation unit when he travels to fire fighter-related events.

“Starting the collection wasn’t easy,” says Scott. “I wrote hundreds of letters asking for patches. It was before computers so I had to look up addresses at the library. I now have over 7,200 patches and I am still looking for more. One of my greatest items is a helmet from East Germany—before the collapse of the Berlin Wall. I also have one from France and others from throughout the world. Collecting has enabled me to get to know a lot of people and why I became known as The Patchman.”

That evolved into trading and more recently into establishment of his own business—The Patchman. Scott designs and Sherry produces a wide variety of decals, high visibility graphics and patches. They also sell some clothing, uniforms, hats, and promotional items. More recently Scott has become a distributor for Acres Emergency Vehicles, a company out of Wawanesa, Manitoba that provides emergency and fire response vehicles.

Scott and Sherry are happy to have people visit their museum but it is by appointment only. Think about visiting and exchanging stories about your fire fighting experiences. For information about The Patchman, visit www.thepatchman.ca (1-866-672-4033) or talk to Scott and the AFCA convention and tradeshow.

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Training Scenarios, A Safe And Effective Simulation

By **Mike Bailey, EMT-P, Assistant Fire Chief, Owner Fire Training Solutions**

Definition of Simulation

A simulation is a goal-based, active-learning strategy that provides students with a sufficiently realistic opportunity to practice and apply their learning, and to demonstrate their skills for testing purposes.

Simulation exercises aim at representing a real world event in a reduced and compressed form that is dynamic, safe and efficient.

If conducted properly, a role-playing, goal-based scenario provides an experience, combining and distilling events that might take months to encounter in the field.

The result or consequence(s) of poor performance will tell you how much energy and budget to invest in matching the goals and objectives set out.

Goals of Simulated Exercises

Rarely will memorizing facts and procedures change behaviour and translate into learned skills. Students learn by doing, experiencing and practicing. Because of their involvement and because of the emotional impact, students retain more of the information presented in a simulation than that presented by a passive technique, like lecturing. Simulations provide the learner with an opportunity to accommodate new learning knowledge and skills. They also tend to heighten both student enthusiasm and motivation.

Because simulation testing involves situations and activities that closely resemble actual, on-the-job work behaviors and situations, students or members are also more likely to accept both the examination results and the assessment procedure.

For training to take place there needs to be a purpose-built fire training ground that will offer operations and Firefighters, a suitable and acceptable standard of live fire training using long-established worldwide tried-and-tested fire simulations.

Such equipment provides the student or member with the opportunity to face realistic pressure-fed fire scenarios to gain confidence and competence in their own ability, to enhance leadership and teamwork in a controlled, safe environment.

"...there is no substitute for real live fire experience, understanding the behaviour of hydrocarbons under fire conditions, experiencing the extremes of heat, noise and smoke. This is a massive learning curve to combine with the benefits of teamwork" says Mike Bailey, Assistant Fire Chief and Owner of Fire training Solutions a company which designs and provides modular fire training buildings to Emergency services. www.firetrainingsolutions.ca

The ultimate goals of simulated exercises are to:

- Promote the transfer of skills from a training/testing situation to a 'real-life,' practical situation, with a high degree of success; that is, firefighters perform safely and effectively in an emergency situation
- Improve learning, increase retention and rekindle a student's enthusiasm for learning
- Improve on-the-job performance

The purposes of simulated exercises are to provide students with opportunities in a safe, controlled environment to:

- Practice individual and team skills
- Discover outcomes and effects of actions, rather than being told what will happen
- Develop and experiment with new techniques
- Conduct self and peer assessment

never, simulate performance. Always ask your students to do that which the objective asks them to do, even though you must provide simulated conditions. For example, the skill of CPR must actually be performed – not presented by a student to a trainer through discussion of the steps

involved. The manikin and non-emergency environment comprise the simulation.

Safety

The need for safe firefighter training must be balanced with the need to expose trainees to the rigors of the job to ensure their long-term success and survival on the fireground.

Safety planning and implementation must be incorporated into all aspects of fire training and evaluation. Personal and team safety must be an integral part of the learning/evaluation process. The theoretical aspects of safety alone are not sufficient for effective injury prevention. Practical applications must be demonstrated. Continual adherence to safety practices must prevail throughout a firefighter's career.

A safety plan, which conforms to local protocols or operating guidelines, must be in place before simulations commence to address medical emergencies and safety considerations that may arise. The plan must include mandatory pre-evolution familiarization of equipment, tasks and props/building. Also, prior to the evolution:

- Environmental concerns shall be addressed
- A personnel accountability and entry control system shall be in place
- A safety/medical lead and team must be identified
- Minimum personnel, personal protective equipment and necessary equipment required must be identified, as well as hazards and special considerations
- A predetermined code word like 'freeze' must be incorporated into a scenario should safety be comprised
- A notification process must be in place
- The location of emergency medical equipment must be identified
- A list of available equipment must be provided

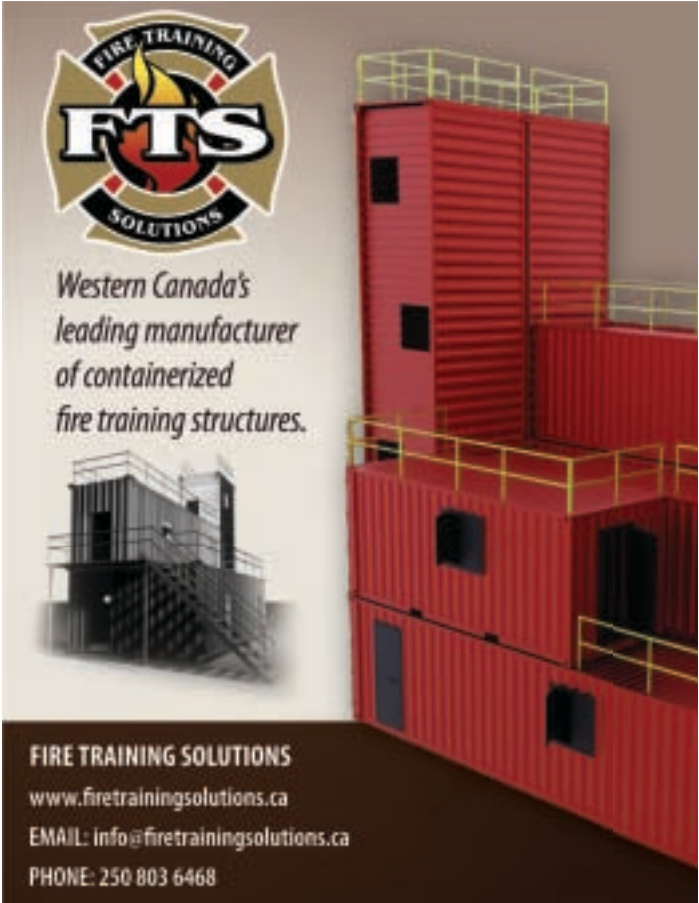
In the event of an emergency:

- Implement the EMS system by dialing 911 and giving explicit directions to the location and nature of the emergency

- Radio dispatch and have them contact EMS to respond to the current location; give the nature of the emergency
- Have identified personnel perform the necessary emergency care as directed by their level of training or local protocols.
- Have identified medical/safety personnel assist EMS upon their arrival, as stated in protocols or operating guidelines
- Ensure the officer in charge is responsible for any and all necessary forms necessary.

To ensure the safety of the participants, to comply with the Occupational Health and Safety and to create realism in training/testing simulations, firefighters shall wear full protective equipment, appropriate to the situation unless otherwise indicated by their departments' standard operating guidelines. Protective clothing and equipment must be in good condition.

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Alberta Vehicle Extrication Association

By **Jeff Fallow, CEO Fire Chief / Director of Emergency Management Cold Lake Fire-Rescue**

The Alberta Vehicle Extrication Association (AVEA)

is a proud member of TERC Canada, committed to contributing to the reduction of injury and deaths of Albertans involved in transportation emergencies through education, collaboration, partnerships, learning symposiums and rescue challenges. In November 2012 AVEA received 100 percent support from the World Rescue Organization (WRO) membership to join the WRO as a level 5 member.



Who we are: The Alberta Vehicle Extrication Association (AVEA) is a provincial representative in Alberta for the development and exchange of information, knowledge and skills in vehicle extrication and road rescue, and the support of rescue challenges. Its membership is drawn from the individuals and organizations in the emergency services that assist people at motor vehicle collisions every day, such as Fire and EMS Services.

The facts: Vehicle extrication or road rescue is the science of making space to rescue people injured in motor vehicle collisions efficiently, and without further injury in order to deliver them to advanced medical care sooner – this provides them the best chance of survival. Research shows that worldwide there is one road trauma fatality every 26.9 seconds and that for every road fatality in developed countries like Canada there are three life-long disablements, 10 major trauma patients requiring surgery and 30 cases requiring medical care. This costs a staggering \$630 billion per annum worldwide.



2012 - Cold Lake Fire-Rescue.

What we do: AVEA helps to reduce this toll by striving to ensure the same high standard of rescue care is provided to those involved in road crashes anywhere throughout Alberta by creating and fostering the exchange of information and experience across its member individuals and organizations. Through its involvement in auto extrication rescue challenges, and knowledge of the latest technologies, AVEA strives to improve the science and quality of rescue services provided to patients and, therefore, a reduction of severity of injuries. AVEA has contributed to an expansion of the knowledge base for the science of road rescue and helped make Albertan rescue skills comparable internationally. AVEA engages with other peak bodies, emergency management and road safety organizations to form networks, nationally and internationally.

The value of training through challenges: Auto extrication challenges in the province of Alberta have proven to be a valuable training platform for fire rescue services since their early start in 1992 and AVEA continues to facilitate, organize and support them along with host fire departments throughout Alberta. The concept of challenges was developed with the main aim being to “develop high standards of road accident rescue”, and to provide a forum for the “exchange of technical expertise, pre-hospital care management, equipment evaluation, and knowledge of vehicle construction and team building”. Many departments, as a result of extrication challenges



2012 - Calgary Fire Department 'C' Shift.

have added new techniques and tools to improve their departments' auto extrication skills. There is no doubt that auto extrication challenges have had a marked effect

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throughout the world with respect to the survivability of victims and the minimization of injuries through efficient and fully integrated timely extrications.

Recent challenge results: Over the years Alberta extrication teams have consistently raised their extrication standards and skills, through attending extrication challenges and continue to show this on the world level stage. In September 2012 Vegreville hosted the provincial challenge with Cold Lake Fire-Rescue taking top spot, Leduc County Fire Services in second and Sundre Fire Department in third. Leduc County then went on to the North American Rescue Challenge in Nova Scotia and placed third in the Rapid Pit and were the second place Overall North American team. In 2011 Athabasca hosted the provincial challenge with Calgary Fire Department 'C' Shift taking top spot, Leduc County Fire Services in second and Sundre

Fire Department in third. Leduc County again attended the 2011 North American Rescue Challenge in Myrtle Beach and placed second in the Limited Pit. In 2010 Cold Lake hosted the provincial challenge with Leduc County Fire Services taking top spot, Calgary Fire Department 'A' shift in second and Cold Lake Fire-Rescue in third.

Additional training offered by AVEA: Since 2009 AVEA has been offering a very well received training symposium called Big Rig H.O.T.S. The program includes a half day of classroom instruction reviewing the theory component followed by a day and a half of hands on training putting into practice the techniques discussed. The classroom and hands-on training symposium which is capped at 80 students, provides the students an opportunity to observe and participate in extremely complicated large vehicle rescues and extrications.



Participants of the symposium have the opportunity to be involved in four workshops involving complicated stabilization and extrication techniques that demonstrate: "Cab Extrications", "Under-Runs", "Over Turns" and "Dealing with Cement Mixers". Each year the training has been offered the classes have filled up quickly with waiting lists. The first few courses saw mostly departments from within Alberta attend. Last year departments from all over western Canada were in attendance. The symposium has

proven to be so successful for AVEA that within a week of the June 2012 offering the 2013 offering was sold out and includes students coming from as far away as Chile. With the high demand AVEA is contemplating running a second session in 2013 to allow more fire services the training opportunity.

To learn more about AVEA or to contact any of the executive visit www.albertavx.com



2012 - Leduc County Fire Services.



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