

Smokescreen

October 2010

A Newsletter Publication of Missoula Rural Fire District

**National Fire Prevention Week:
October 3rd - 9th, 2010**

SMOKE ALARMS

A Sound You Can Live With!



Missoula Rural Fire District
2521 South Ave. W.
Missoula, MT 59804
www.mrfdfire.org

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SMOKESCREEN



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

By District Fire Chief Bill Colwell

October is here and the changing of the season is in the air. Predicting weather is a risky business, but part of the NRCG (Northern Rockies Coordinating Group) conference call has been a fire weather report that has matched weather predictions with known fuel conditions. The experience and skill of the fire weather forecasters through the last eight months has been exceptional. During the conference call on 9/21/2010, the forecasters were asked what their winter weather predictions for 2010/2011 would be.

Their predictions for this winter are based on the strength of the La Niña Ocean current that is affecting our current weather patterns. They believe it will stay in place and we will continue to have moisture impulses every three to five days through the winter and possibly into early summer. These impulses indicate we will have heavy snow fall and cold weather originating in the Arctic.

When asked how soon the weather would change to snow, the comment went to a Jay Foxworthy line: it would be a good idea to buy or sew your kid's "...Halloween costumes big enough to wear over a snow suit."



The predictors said it is a good year to invest in a season ski pass or a snowmobile, because we will have a memorable winter for outdoor snow recreation.



I want to express my appreciation and recognize the Volunteer members of MRFD who completed fiscal year 2009/2010 in good standing. The dedicated support of our Volunteer Members is an essential part of the MRFD service delivery model.

Continued next page...

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- Oct 9 Dodd McDermott
- Oct 15 Keith Lerback
- Oct 15 Jay Willingham
- Oct 17 Creighton Sayles
- Oct 20 Jason Butler
- Oct 27 Lucy Deaton
- Oct 27 Niqole Roybal
- Oct 29 Tim Murphy
- Oct 31 Blake Hance

Happy Birthday!

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS!

Each Volunteer and Resident must have their completed report turned in by the 10th of each month, to ensure that they have no lapse in their worker's compensation coverage.

The primary purpose for the time record is to record your shift time.

Please note that the section for "training" hours refers to the training activities hosted by the training division.

If you respond to an incident in addition to your normal volunteer shift, please also record that on your time record.

Volunteers who completed required Training and Station Coverage during 2009/2010:

Cal Alsbury	Marvin Hess	Eric Paulsen
Scott Bauer	Alison Hixon	Michael Rea
Scott Belz	Jeff Holwick	Jason Rose
Cooper Berry	Blake Honey	Niqole Roybal
Jim Critchlow	Seth Larson	Nick Tsuber
Malcolm Edwards	Chad Maney	
Erin Goodheim	Carter Marsh	
Blake Hance	Ryan Nisbet	



Your demonstrated support of the Missoula Rural Fire District is commendable. As a group, you contributed 4,638 hours of station coverage and volunteered 2,565 hours toward maintaining and developing your response skills to provide professional service. Please accept my personal thank-you for a job well done!

October is the beginning of the 2nd quarter of the fiscal year for MRFD. The Volunteer Firefighter Membership SOG that was adopted and signed in February of 2010 went into effect July 1, 2010. The 1st quarter under the new SOG was completed September 30, 2010. I have included the following copy of SOG #:109.10 Volunteer Membership for everyone's review:

MRFD Standard Operational Guideline

SOG #: 109.10

Topic: Volunteer Membership

This guideline specifies the requirements of the Board of Trustees of the Missoula Rural Fire District for attaining and maintaining membership as an active Volunteer Firefighter for the Missoula Rural Fire District.

Attaining Membership:

To attain membership, all prospective members shall:

1. Agree to a criminal background check.
2. Have a valid Montana driver's license.
3. Be at least 18 years of age.
4. Be in good health and physically fit.
5. Successfully complete a timed performance assessment center.
6. Satisfactorily complete the recruit firefighting program for new Volunteers.
7. Agree to attend at least 46 hours of in-service training each year. At least 27 hours of training must be accomplished through the general training sessions conducted on the first Thursday of every month. The general training conducted on the first Thursday of every month may not be used as part of the required 24 hours of station time.
8. Agree to serve at least 24 hours per month in a Missoula Rural Fire District station. Hours must be served in a minimum four-hour block.
9. Shifts must be scheduled in advance.
10. Agree to be a member in good standing of the Missoula Rural Volunteer Firefighter's Association, voluntarily participating in social, business, fundraising, and community service activities sponsored by the Association of the District.
11. Agree to fulfill the job requirements of the Volunteer Firefighter job description as set forth by the Fire District.
12. Sign a membership contract with MRFD.
13. Successfully serve a one-year probationary period.

Maintaining Membership:

To fulfill the obligation of the Missoula Rural Fire District to the citizens we protect, all members must be active and remain in good standing.

To maintain membership in the Missoula Rural Fire District, all members shall:

1. Attend at least 46 hours of training each fiscal year. At least 27 hours of training must be accomplished through the general training sessions conducted on the first Thursday of every month.
2. Serve 24 hours per month in a Missoula Rural Fire District Station. Hours must be served in a minimum four-hour block.
3. New Volunteer Firefighters must serve a one-year probationary period and meet the pro-rated shift and training requirements.
4. The Volunteer Firefighter is evaluated at the end of his/her probationary period and if he/she has performed satisfactorily, is accepted as a volunteer member in good standing in the Missoula Rural Fire District.
5. Participate in an annual physical fitness evaluation.

Any member who does not meet the requirements for maintaining membership shall receive a warning notice at the end of each quarter. If requirements have not been satisfied by the end of the following quarter, the member will be notified and dropped from the rolls by the District Fire Chief. Any member having two unsatisfactory quarters in one year also will be notified and dropped from the rolls.

Any member who has been dropped may appeal the District Fire Chief's decision through channels to the Board of Trustees, starting at the Executive Board. The member shall clearly state his reasons for not participating, in writing, when appealing through channels. The decision of the Board of Trustees shall be final.

** This SOG supersedes any and all previous SOG's regarding this subject, known or unknown, unless prohibited by law.*

Approved:



District Fire Chief

2/9/2010

Date

I hope you all have a great fall. As the leaves change and the bulls bugle, there is no greater season.

OPERATIONS REPORT

By Assistant Chief Brent L. Christopherson

The MRFD fire administration is currently exploring the possibility about changing the way we have produced our shift scheduling in the past to produce a more modern way of doing business. Battalion Chief Martinsen, at present, and other B.C.'s in the past have spent an enormous amount of time with shift scheduling. We believe there are better ways to do such scheduling and are exploring those potential benefits. Some of those helpful points for considering the potential change would include:



- ◇ Program will allow staff to manage their shift calendars from home or off-site, to assist the scheduling manager and firefighters with their time and flexibility.
- ◇ Help manage time and attendance for Career, Resident and Volunteer staff.
- ◇ Able to communicate staffing needs to the entire department in a clear and concise manner and help ensure required station staffing.
- ◇ Hopefully, to allow the most up-to-date status of the shift schedule for all personnel to view as needed.
- ◇ Career, Resident and Volunteer firefighter shift schedules will be recorded and provide necessary information for reference to assist with Insurance Service Offices (ISO) requirements regarding credit for staffing.
- ◇ Will allow better communication of fire district needs to personnel regarding staffing, scheduling and current events.
- ◇ Securely hosted off-site servers, so that no additional IT resources should be needed to install and/or maintain software would be possible.



We are currently exploring several options and will continue to keep all of you informed as these ideas progress. Managing time and work schedules can often be challenging for many. We hope, in the end, that a new software program will help us meet the needs of both the internal and external customers of the Missoula Rural Fire District in our planning, prevention, education, and operational areas.

MRFD ANNUAL EMT-BASIC REFRESHER

JANUARY 14-16, 2011

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

FRIDAY JANUARY 14 18:00-22:00

PREPARATORY: WELL-BEING, SAFETY, AND MEDICAL/LEGAL 1 HOUR

AIRWAY 2 HOUR

INTRO TO PATIENT ASSESSMENT 1 HOUR

SATURDAY JANUARY 15 08:00-1800

OB/ PEDS 2 HOUR

MEDICAL/ BEHAVIORAL 4 HOUR

TRAUMA 4 HOUR

SUNDAY JANUARY 16 08:00-1800 10 HOUR

SCENARIO DAY: RESCUE, COLD-WEATHER OPS, HYPOTHERMIA, PT. PACKAGING, PT. ASSESSMENT, OTHER ELECTIVE.

PLEASE DRESS ACCORDINGLY FOR THIS DAY. WE WILL BE WORKING OUTSIDE.

NOTE: THE HOURS OF CLASS WILL VARY DEPENDING ON COURSE MATERIAL. LUNCHES WILL BE PROVIDED AS ALWAYS. A FIELD LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED ON SUNDAY.

CONTACT CAPTAIN COWAN IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING OR CAN HELP INSTRUCT.

bcowan@mrfdfire.org or 370-0483

Please review the attached website address for requirements. 48 hours CEU, CPR card and a 24 hour refresher is required for EMT-B.

<https://www.nremt.org/nremt/downloads/EMT.Basic.pdf>

MRFD VOLUNTEERS!

We still need players for our Basketball fundraiser on Saturday, 10/30/2010. Please contact Jason Rose or Marvin Hess if your interested.

From Marvin Hess, President of the MRFD Volunteer Association:

I would like to thank Missoula Rural Fire for the nomination of the Volunteer to the Community Award through the Governor's office. It was a great privilege to accept the award on the field of the Griz.

Thank you, —Marv

Greater love hath no man than this,
that a man lay down his life for his friends.
~Bible, John 15:13

Thank you for your dedicated service to this fire department and to this community. I appreciate you!

His Blessings and Protection always for you!
Chaplain Luanne Parker

FOR SALE!

Used Wildland Boots for sale:
(originally paid \$200 as a new pair)



- Lace-up style
- Worn a few times
- Size 10-D
- "Hawthorne" Brand

****Selling for \$40****

Call John Jirsa at 240-0868

It is that time again, to start planning for the basic refresher. Please see the attached the schedule in this newsletter and e-mail me if you will attend; so I can plan on class size and food.

I would welcome assistance in instructing. If you find a category that you would like to instruct, please let me know. As always, you'll need to get coverage for your shift. OT is paid for off-shift instructors.

This will **not** be held at Station 1.

Do not expect to attend on shift.

I will plan on doing an ALS refresher in February.

Thanks,
Capt. Cowan

Happy
Halloween!

