



Arrowhead Regional Fire Fighter's Association

Serving firefighters in the Minnesota counties of: *Saint Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, Lake, Cook and Carlton*

Meeting minutes

Date 2/10/2011 (Thursday)

Place: Esko (Thomson Twp. Hall)

Training: "Death by Hazmat" presented by Thomas O. Murdock, Ph.D., Polymer chemist with Medtronic, Inc., and a member of the North Metro Chemical Assessment team.

For over an hour we learned of the methods suicide bound people are using to end their lives using ordinary household chemicals to mix up a brew creating a toxic gas that will kill them very quickly. In particular, the gas Hydrogen Sulfide is the weapon of choice to end their lives. A call for responders to check out a "slumper" in a vehicle, or to check welfare of an individual could present a definite hazard for the responder. Dressing in PPE with breathing apparatus in use, and monitoring with a 4-gas monitor is extremely important to ensure responder safety. Be very observant of the scene looking for containers that have contained cleaning and/or pesticide chemicals, in addition to evidence of yellowish residue in containers used to mix the chemicals. Don't just rush in without monitoring. The program he presented to us was condensed for the time available, so we would like to have a 4-hour time frame with him to present the class again for a larger audience of the Arrowhead.

General Meeting called to order at the Thomson Twp hall by President Ron Minter at 1950 hours.

Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States

Roll call taken with 31 firefighters from 12 member departments.

Fire Chief Jeff Juntenen welcomed us and gave the agenda for the day.

Moment of silence for deceased members: Fred Olson from International Falls. Had owned "The Spot" restaurant.

Motion to approve **minutes of previous meeting** by. Neal Anderson, 2nd Hibbing, passed unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: From 12/1/2010 until 2/9/2011 income of \$4,605.21 and disbursements of \$316.34 leaving a fund balance of \$10,589.27. Motion by Eveleth, 2nd by Hibbing, passed unanimous.

COMMITTEE and REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

MSFDA - Rex Lentner Noted that his report on the last MSFDA board meeting in January is included with this mailing. The web site www.msfd.org is available for your viewing.

MSFCA - Tom Cvar: Tom was absent so Bob Brown gave his report. Noted departments not reporting MFIRS. See SEPARATE sheet in this mailing. Visit the web site: www.msfc.org.

VFBA- Greg Taylor REMINDER: Enroll new members of your department as soon as they are accepted into your department. Now there are 30 days to report an accident. They are going to hold to that deadline. Be sure to report any injury within the 30 days even if no lost time yet. Premiums are not increasing this year. Greg's e-mail address is taylorgr@paulbunyan.net and his phone # is 218-326-1843. This year at the annual conference the VFBA meeting will follow the symposium on Friday afternoon.

Lake Superior College -Paula Castleman: Paula was not in attendance so Paul Ostman filled in for Paula. The Duluth

school may host a spring sectional school, but a scaled down version compared to the past, probably some time in April, 2011. Continue to hold FF training. Check them out for training that is available. He urged departments to use the voucher dollars that are given back to departments that use the system for training. See the School web-site www.lsc.cc.mn.us/ERTC/firetraining.cfm for registration information. Paula Castleman's e-mail address is pcastleman@lsc.edu.

Mesabi Range Technical College – Steve Flaherty: Steve is the Fire training coordinator at Mesabi Range. He can be contacted at 218-749-7770 or by e-mail at s.flaherty@mn.mnscu.edu. The school web site is: www.mesabirange.edu. Wildfire academy this year is June 6-10, 2011. Look at Mesabi's web site for new info. SEE HANDOUT ALL departments should apply for MBFTE for training grant money. Basically, if you apply you should get funds. Both tech colleges can help with the application process.

F.I.R.E Center Bruce Roed, MNSCU: On his "farewell tour" as he will be done in this position June 30, 2011. His office is being severely downsized. The fire library is being closed April 1, but should become available at Century College in White Bear Lake. Voucher system will remain. Use the voucher credits that you have, as they will expire at some point. The web site that he and Warren Jorgenson maintained has been taken over by another individual: www.minnesotafireservice.com. Check it out. Noted that if you get a training grant, you MUST use it by the fiscal year end (June 30) or you lose it and it will get re-allocated.
(Secretary's note) *We appreciate Bruce attending our meeting and all the past meetings he has attended, and all the excellent training he has imparted to our members. Good luck in you new endeavor (owner of a DAIRY QUEEN!)*

DNR-: Brian Haugen may be contacted at 218-327-4373, or e-mail at brian.w.haugen@state.mn.us. He is not taking Gene Mannelin's position, but is the conduit for communications with the DNR CERTIFICATION REPORT given by Ron Minter for Steve. Mfscb.org web site.
Steve Shykes: train the trainer for ARMER system classes For St. Louis county Are scheduled for Feb 24-26 in Eveleth.

State Fire Marshal's Office and legislation: Glen Bergstrand reported that the future Fire Safety Account needs folks to contact legislators to urge allocating the excess funds to the fire service. A bill is drafted to allow donating used equipment without liability. Urge folks to educate legislators about fire needs. 800 mhz radio system training is scheduled. Dewey Johnson of St. Louis County 9-1-1 dispatch is to be contacted for the class.

A study has been done estimating how many people in Minnesota could be sheltered properly in case of a long term power outage. Result? 834! Shows that there is a severe lack of capability to shelter a large number of people long term. Hope to have capability for 5000 in metro area, and up to 3000 outstate. How about your community? If you still have 2010 fire reports to file, DO IT NOW! So far Alborn, Bois Forte, Brevator, Buyck, Clinton Twp., Crane Lake, Cromwell, Culver, Eagles Nest, Goodland, Greeney-Rauch-Silverdale, Kelsey, Range Regional airport, Schroeder and USS EMS MN Ore Ops have not reported 2010 activity. You need to report MFIRS even if you had no activity for the year.

I.A.A.I Steve Flaherty Contact Steve for all IAAI activities. Annual conference March 23-25 in St. Cloud. Look at their web site.

FIRE WIRE – Pete: No more hard copy issues. Now will be 100 % on the web site. The Arrowhead minutes will be there also in the future. Pete is now working for Senator Franken, and "educating him" about fire Service issues. An effort is being made to simplify the federal grant process. Check out the web site at www.nlfirewire.com to see the updated information there.

OLD BUSINESS: Bus to the Firefighter day at the Capitol event. Only 7 people have committed to ride, so far. If not enough people commit to the bus ride we will cancel the bus.

NEW BUSINESS: Honorary life membership in the Arrowhead association according to our by-laws for, Greg Taylor, Gene Mannelin. Motion by Rex Lentner, 2nd by Grand Rapids, unanimous passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Open nominations for MSFDA rep for next 2-year term beginning following this year's annual conference. Nominated are: Rex Lentner. Nominations suspended until May meeting at which time the vote will be

taken.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Matt Ashmore represented the training board. Noted that the amount of this year's allocation of funds for training grants is not yet known. "Rollover" funds will become available as time goes on. Urged all departments to apply for the funds. Licensure: over 200 licenses applied for. Licenses are going out next week. Grandfathering ends June 30, 2011. Following that there will be testing required. Application is on line at www.mbfte.state.mn.us. Contact Matt with questions.

50/50 drawing netted \$68.00 for the Arrowhead association and \$68.00 for the person drawn as the winner.

FUTURE MEETINGS: All meetings are on a Thursday evening starting at 1730 hours. May 5, 2011, at Hermantown; September 8, 2011, at Chisholm; December 1, 2011 at Grand Lake; February 9, 2012-Esko; May 3, 2012-Hermantown.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Eveleth, 2nd by Hibbing to adjourn at 2122 hours.

Minutes recorded by Secretary Rex Lentner.

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Bob Brown, Vice Pres. Toll free: 877-507-0911. Cell: 218-969-1913. Fax: 218-254-7945. e-mail: browncfd@mchsi.com

Web site recommendations: www.msfd.org www.msfc.org www.mnfiam.org
www.minnesotafireservice.com www.fire.state.mn.us <http://webwiser.nlm.nih.gov> www.vfbaofmn.com (vol. firefighters' benefit association of Minnesota). www.lmnc.org/page/1/Fire.jsp (League of Minnesota Cities-info for Fire Departments). www.mesabirange.edu

SEND E-MAIL TO THE ARROWHEAD REGIONAL SECRETARY TO: arrowheadfire@live.com.

RIDE the 30 passenger bus to ST. Paul on Thursday MARCH 10, 2011, to attend Firefighter Day at the Capitol. Only \$30.00 for the bus ride. We will start in Hibbing at Shubat Transportation on Hiway 169 at 0600 hours, then will make pick-ups at Chisholm by Tom & Jerry's bar, then to Clinton Fire Station on Hiway 37, then to Cloquet, and stop again in Moose Lake if any riders there. **We must get more riders than we have at the present time or the bus will be canceled.** We need a bunch of people to make a big impact on our legislators. Contact Rex at 218-263-3800 or rglentner@northlc.com, or Pres. Ron Minter or Vice Pres. Bob Brown at their contact points listed above this paragraph.