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Cover photos taken by: RMSCFD
Mission:
To provide a responsible voice and leadership to the Volunteer Fire Fighter of Saskatchewan, with the intent being to minimize loss of life and property in all aspects of Volunteer Emergency Response.

Objectives:
- To provide training and education for the Volunteer Fire Fighter.
- To solicit province-wide membership from every Volunteer Fire Department in Saskatchewan and to encourage active and concerned participation in the Association's objectives.
- To establish responsible representation and leadership towards the role of the Volunteer Fire Fighter in fire prevention and public safety.
Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighter’s Association Inc.

Email: svffa@sasktel.net Website: www.svffa.ca

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svffa@sasktel.net
Comments from the President

Fall 2019 President’s report

Just to be different this time I am going to start with an item that is fresh in everyone’s mind. The Sask WCB has announced six more cancers will be covered under presumptive coverage for firefighters. This is great news for all involved in fire service. I have been in direct contact with Sask WCB and the clause that used to preclude volunteer firefighters from presumptive coverage has been changed to include volunteer fire. Additionally, they have changed the wording to reflect years of service rather than saying employed. To help make the coverage even more far reaching, the years of service are considered to accumulative rather than consecutive, which means if the member has three years’ service, then takes a break for two years and then rejoins for four years, the years of service are added together and reach the five-year service plateau. Your board has been working diligently to have volunteer firefighters included and as we can see it has been changed.

Now that the coverage is extended to volunteers, we still need to try to mitigate our risks, and do the simple things we can do to keep ourselves safe. One of the simplest tasks we can do to make it safer for us is the act of washing the larger amounts of carbon and ash from our gear by hosing each other off before we get into our trucks. The cancer study stated that this can remove up to ninety percent of carcinogens.

To change gears, I would like to extend my thanks to Paul Cockell, Zone 6 Director, who capably took the reins from me to run our AGM in Swift Current. From all reports he did a great job and for this I am thankful for his help and support. I would be remiss if I did not mention all the hard work done by our new Executive Director, Michelle. She told me after the school that it was a challenge, but she rose to it and knocked it out of the park. Additionally, Chief Louis Cherpin and his personnel showed us how it is done in the south west and have set a target for others to strive to reach.

To close this off I would like to wish each and every firefighter the best possible Christmas season and all the best in the New Year. Remember looking ahead to next year, we can all have 2020 vision.

Stay safe, be happy and wear your seat belt

Yours in brotherhood

Doug Lapchuk

President: Doug Lapchuk
Box 291, Balgonie, Sk., S0G 0E0
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ogmatransfer@sasktel.net
From the Desk of the Executive Director

It has been a pleasure meeting and getting to know many of our members! I look forward to meeting more of you at spring fire school. The office has been busy with Years of Service awards. Please see the last page for available SVFFA merchandise.

I was recently made aware that Computers for School has a great program to get refurbished computers to non-profit organizations in Saskatchewan for training and education. At this time, the program has a number of ruggedized computers that can be used in various programs, from operations, training, to administration. If your volunteer department could make use of a laptop or desktop system, please fill out the application at cfs-sask.ca. The requests should come from the chief or administrator, as there is a vetting process to be followed.

Something new for 2020, we will be issuing plastic membership cards instead of the paper cards! Get your registrations in to receive your new cards!

Any Question, concerns or comments, please feel free to email svffa@sasktel.net or call (306)520-3278. I look forward to hearing from you!

Executive Director: Michelle Williamson
PO Box 507, Qu’Appelle, Sk., S0G 4A0
Ph: 306.520.3278 (cell) – 306.699.0072 (fax)
svffa@sasktel.net

If you, or someone you know is in need of Critical Incident Stress Management or Critical Incident Stress Debriefing, please do not hesitate to reach out for help. Please call 306-520-3278 to be put in touch with our CISM/CISD team.

The 2020 SVFFA Spring Fire School will be hosted by the Humboldt Fire Department, April 3rd - 5th.
Details to follow later this winter!
ZONE REPORT

I want to start out with the fall SVFFA School, hosted by the RMSCFD this past October. I need to thank the many community and corporate partners for the prize donations, and Swift Current fire department for the use of the training grounds. For the 240 plus students that were able to attend, the school proved, yet again, to be a huge success. I heard many comments about the facility, training grounds, food, and entertainment. Of course, all positive.
One thing that was done a bit different this was the live auction of a gun with all the proceeds going to the SFS-SVFFA CISM team. This cash will be able to help the over 7000 fire fighters in Saskatchewan, any time there is a need. I need to thank Andy and Monica Keys from AM Delivery, for donating this gun to the school. THANK-YOU! I also need to thank Trevor Sali for the winning bid, and taking home such an awesome gun. A little story on the Henry rifle, this fire apparatus on the stock of the gun, is a picture of one of the first apparatuses to respond to the 911 Twin Towers tragedy.

Along with Jeff Hornung, zone 1 director, SAFC, we hosted a joint meeting in Shaunavon, November 10th. Jeff had a few items to go over, as did I. What was decided by the group was training for zone 1 fire fighters should be the priority. Throughout these winter months we will see some positive training from Zone 1.

Until next time,

Louis Cherpin
Director, Zone 1
SVFFA

Zone 1: Louis Cherpin
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ZONE 3 REPORT

It is hard to believe it has been a month already since our fall fire school. A big shout out to Louis Cherpin and his fellow firefighters for an excellent school.

Swift Current did an excellent job of hosting the fall fire school with their great facilities, great food and overall great planning. Also, thanks for the excellent weather for all the outdoor classes.

Talking with some fire departments in Zone 3 most reported a low amount of calls this fall. Hopefully this continues and be safe out there.

A meeting of SAFC and SVFFA is planned for Zone 3. We will be in contact with you once a date, place and agenda has been set.

If firefighters have any questions or concerns with any fire related issues you can reach me at my contact info that can be found on page 2.

Hope everyone is now ready for winter and have a safe and merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dwayne Stone

Zone 3 Director

Zone 3: Dwayne Stone
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I am sitting here looking outside looking at the snow. I am thinking about winter preparedness. We live in a harsh climate at times. We take care to winterize our homes, but do we winterize our cars? Or ourselves for that matter? Things to think about are just this: do you bring a heavy winter coat with you even if you don’t wear it? How about an emergency kit with blanket, candles, snacks? We use more fuel in the winter as well. Do you fill up a little sooner (maybe at 1/3 or half instead of empty)? Do you let someone know when you are travelling? Or your intended destination? These are all tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe when travelling.

On a side line to this topic, let’s talk about your rigs. Do you use winter fronts? Does the manufacturer require it? Do you have blankets and similar items in the event you are dispatched to a motor vehicle incident? I hope that this comes front and center as we descend into fall and may be of use to you and your teams.

On the training front, congrats to chief Louis Cherpin and his team at the rm of swift current. Well done school all around. Congrats to Kamsack on hosting a successful IAAF hazmat operations course in mid September. Well done. If at some point your department or a neighboring department that you know would like to apply to the Scotia Wealth Grant to help with departments off set the cost of the schools, please contact our Executive Director, Michelle or your friendly neighborhood Zone Director to help guide you through the process.

One last thing to discuss and I'm done I promise. Sometimes a call that seems routine or "fine" doesn't turn out that way. It doesn't always happen to day either. Sometimes it's a call from last month, or months ago. It's ok to have a bad call and not be okay. You have someone to call. The Saskatchewan Fire Service CIISM team is just a call away. These men and women are trained to help. They specialize in peer support. If you need it folks, please don't hesitate to call. They are available 24 hours a day seven days a week.

So with that I am done. If you would like me to come out to visit your hall, please call or email. I am happy to come out. If you want to do some onsite training, we can do that too.

Stay safe and train hard.

Darren Arseneault
Churchbridge Fire Rescue
SVFFA Zone 5 Director

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Greetings everyone! The SVFFA Fall School hosted by Swift Current just wrapped up and by all accounts it was a huge success! A BIG HATS OFF to Chief Louis Cherpin and his team for hosting. Also, a big shout out to new Executive Director Michelle Williamson for holding fast in the baptism by fire in her first few months. We tried a few new courses this go around (Low Angle Slope Rescue, a new RIT course) which were well received and hope to add to the rotation going forward. We also held the annual AGM during the breakfast Saturday morning, some of the highlights...

*Career Chiefs and Deputies who head volunteer departments can now join the SVFFA, this one is a "no-brainer" as these officers lead our volunteer members and have just as much interest in the direction our association goes. This will provide a voice to those who previously weren't able to share their opinions.

*SVFFA Board members will not be allowed to “two hat” by being on both the SAFC and SVFFA Board of Directors. This is just to ensure there is no conflict of interest and that each Association's views are presented fairly and without prejudice.

*Formal vote was held on the “Address of Convenience” that was brought up at the previous AGM. Just to clarify, there is no intent on the part of the SVFFA to try and tell a department who they can or cannot have on their roster. However, we wanted to make sure those that do have a voice have a valid claim to do so.

So, the question was posed as to how to determine if someone is using an address of convenience, here are some examples we were asked about:

"I live in Smallville SK but work on the oil rigs in Northern Alberta, I'm only home for one week and work two or three, is THIS an address of convenience?" No, it is not, your primary residence is still Smallville
“I live in Smallville but work in Bigville 50 kms away, I am on the Bigville Fire Dept as I can leave work and assist, is THIS an address of convenience?” No, it is not, Bigville might not be where you live but because you are there everyday and can respond this makes perfect sense.” Can I be on BOTH Smallville and Bigville Depts?” Of course, you may if the AHJ in both have agreed, however, you should only be listed as an SVFFA member in one department

“I live in Smallville but on the Tinyville Dept 50 kms away, I don’t work there and only go to respond to calls, is this an address of convenience?” Yes, it is, realistically you cannot respond in a timely manner. The Tinyville AHJ may still allow you to be on but the SVFFA will not permit this member to have voting rights or be a member of the Board. This could open the door to members coming from hundreds of kilometres away to “stack votes”.

It’s unfortunate that these parameters have to be put in place, but like anything, there’s always an individual who will try and game the system. As with anything, if you have any questions or concerns you can certainly reach out to the Executive Director or one of the Zone Directors for guidance. I always tell everyone that there’s black and white, then there’s ALWAYS a grey area. If you’ve found yourself in the grey give us a shout to see if we can’t help with a solution!

Just a reminder that the Volunteer Fire Fighter of the Year nominations are open again! Get those names into me before March 1st 2020 so we can announce at the Spring Fire School taking place in Humboldt April 3/4/5!

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

FireChiefPaul aka Chief DeadPaul aka Baby Gap (yeah makes sense)

Zone 6: Paul Cockell
Box 62, Leroy, Sk., S0K 2P0
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paulandinga@gmail.com
HI to all fire fighters in Zone 7.

On completion of a mini phone survey, which covered most of the zone, here are a few tid-bits and some gossip.
Etonia Fire has their new brush truck. They have a few odds and ends to clean up but generally it is ready to go. Other than a few more MVC’s, Etonia had a quiet year.
Kyle has been quiet but they working on replacing the tanker.
Elrose has had a quiet year for fire but the ambulance calls were normal.
Beechy, Lucky Lake, Kyle and Dinsmore are working together, each of them taking specialized training, so they can call on each other for assistance in special emergencies. Great idea.
Milden has had a quiet year.
Rosetown had a normal call rate for the year.
Biggar had the huge spring fire and after that normal to quiet.
Kerrobert bought 10 new SCBA’s. Trans-care had a Traffic Incident Course in Wilkie with Kerrobert, Wilkie and a number of fire departments in the area attending.
I also heard (gossip) that Major Fire is building a brush truck, which I have not been able to confirm.
Kindersley is hoping to be in their new fire hall by year’s end or maybe sooner. They plan on having the grand opening in May, 2020. Their call outs have been normal.
Eston has had a busier than normal year. The plough wind in July and rescues performed, MVC’s with wild life, lightning on power pole fires, Medical Lift assists and false alarms have kept us busy.
Dennis Ogg, Rosetown Fire (Zone 7 rep. for SAFC) and I are trying to organize a Zone 7 meeting together. More info on that via e-mail in the future.

Now is the time to do that in-house training. Keep it safe and stay warm.

Regards: Richard

---

**Zone 7: Richard Baran**
Box 535, Eston, Sk., SOL 1A0
Ph: 306.962.4192 (res)
richardabar@sktel.net
Greetings from Zone 8

Firstly, I’d like to congratulate the RM of Swift Current Fire Department on hosting the most recent fall fire school. It was a success, and there are more trained firefighters because of it. Well done.

I’d also like to mention that Saskatchewan Workers Compensation has now been expanded to offer presumptive coverage for career and volunteer firefighters. They now cover 15 forms of cancer as well as heart injury. This is a step that I believe needed to be taken as volunteer firefighters are exposed to the same risks as career firefighters.

This time of year, typically exposes dangerous road conditions. With most of the region experiencing a November rain, this caused slippery roads. Always be aware of the conditions when heading out. It’s imperative that fire and rescue personnel operate the apparatus in a safe manner. While this job is dangerous, we can’t put ourselves in situations that we are not qualified or trained to be in. To save the life of one person while endangering the lives of others is a trade-off society is not prepared to accept. We have families to come home to, so we must be safe out there.

Wildland Fire Suppression was recently offered next door to us. If you have not taken that course, I strongly urge you to do so. With a majority of our fire calls being of this nature, I found this course informative and I have used that knowledge multiple times over the years.

As always, please refer to the SVFFA website and follow us on Facebook for updated information. Take care and have a safe and enjoyable Christmas season.

Calvin Bast
Zone 8 Director

Zone 8: Calvin Bast
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Hi from Zone 9 -

Just finished another successful fire school. Fire Chief Louis Cherpin and his members did an excellent job of hosting the 300 plus participants in Swift Current. Job well done!!

From my reviews, my students had an enjoyable weekend learning. The training grounds were well laid out for the courses being taught there. My thanks to my fellow instructors, Fire Chief Cherpin, and his members, in their assistance for all classes taught, and for my class of Vehicle Fire Fighting.

With the recent accident in the Beauval area, involving an ambulance, the loss a paramedic and two children, the SVFFA passes our condolences to all family members involved. Debriefings were held. We have offered our CISM Peer Support to the Beauval Fire Department if required. All first responders have to be protected, to keep them mentally prepared for their everyday responses. Please remember that our association is only a phone call away. Call our executive director, Michelle, who will get the process started.

With winter coming, fire departments are in the process of planning their training. This training is important for everyone. We must train to do our job as safely as possible, so all members return home after an emergency call - while responding, on scene, or returning to quarters.

If you have any questions, or concerns, please call us. We have members who will assist you with your issue. There are other departments who have gone through the same problem, who might have a solution for you.

Season Greetings to all. Have a Great Christmas, and a Happy New Year!!

Larry Zadvorny
SVFFA Zone 9

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If you, or someone you know is in need of Critical Incident Stress Management or Critical Incident Stress Debriefing, please do not hesitate to reach out for help.

We are here for you 24/7.
Please call 306-520-3278 to be put in touch with our CISM/CISD team.

A Fireman’s Prayer

When I am called to duty, God
Wherever flames may rage...
Give me the strength to save some life
Whatever be its age...
Help me embrace a little child
Before it is too late...
Or save an older person from
The horror of that fate...
Enable me to be alert and
Hear the weakest shout...
And quickly and efficiently
To put the fire out...
I want to fill my calling and
To give the best in me...
To guard my every neighbor
And protect their property...
And if according to your will
I have to lose my life...
Please bless with your protecting hand
My children and my wife...
The benefits you receive as an SVFFA member:

* Reduced rates for the fire schools offered twice annually.
* Access to certified training instructors.
* Low priced firefighting equipment that the SVFFA acquires periodically.
* 10% discount on all IFSTA training material.
* Access to service pins and certificates to help recognize your fire department members.
* Free classified advertisements in the SVFFA newsletter and on the SVFFA website.
* SVFFA members, or the child of a member, can apply for the $500.00 "Jack Croteau Memorial Scholarship" awarded each year.
* Network for members to share ideas, resources, concerns and solutions.
* You are supporting the volunteer fire service at local, provincial and national levels!!

Visit our website www.svffa.ca to renew or apply for your SVFFA membership.

Since 1954, Fire Fighters have raised over $85 million to support Canadian families affected by neuromuscular disorders. We think you can help us hit $100 million by 2020!

Is your department already part of our network of heroes? If not, this is your chance to get involved with Muscular Dystrophy Canada and help families living in your community!

For more details on how to get involved please call Barb Yanciw at (306) 241-9423, or email at barb.yanciw@muscle.ca
The Red Cross helps families affected by house fires

The Red Cross provides food, clothing, shelter and personal items for the first 72 hours following a house fire at no cost to the family. Trained volunteers are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are located throughout Saskatchewan.

If someone needs assistance they can call 1-888-800-6493.

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Thank you, Plains Midstream Canada,

for your generous donation to the SVFFA which will help fund PMC regional schools within our province.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

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Visit saskpower.com/safety for more tips on electrical safety.
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glc@resconcanada.com
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Greg Churchman
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Red Deer, AB T4P 3X2
1-800-494-4210
BeGrainSafe

Grain entrapment is extremely dangerous for the victim and the rescuers. Firefighters must use specific safety and rescue procedures to increase their chances of a successful rescue, while keeping members of their department safe. That's why CASA has developed the following rescue course for firefighters.

Firefighter Grain Rescue Training Course

This training program incorporates both classroom theory and practical training. It is intended to prepare firefighters to respond to a grain entrapment incident on-farm or at a grain handling facility.

NOTE: All course participants are required to complete Introduction to Grain Handling and Storage Hazards (free, online course available at casa-acsa.ca/begrainsafe) prior to taking this course.

Course Details
- In-person Course with Master Trainer
- Approximately 8 to 16 hours (duration dependent upon skill level of participants)
- Continual evaluation throughout course
- Upon completion of this course, a Certificate of Completion will be provided.

The BeGrainSafe Trailer is required for this course.

Course Topics
- Identification of grain incidents
  - How they occur
  - Common injuries
  - Types of entrapments
- Grain handling and storage facilities
  - Hazard identification
- Regulatory standards
  - NFPA/CSA/SWP
- Confined space and fall protection considerations
- Hazard analysis and risk assessment
- Equipment required
- Practical rescue training
- Bin breach training (available upon request)

For more information about BeGrainSafe, please visit casa-acsa.ca/begrainsafe or call 1 877 452 2272.
2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME OF FIRE DEPARTMENT: ___________________________ ZONE # ______

CONTACT PERSON: ___________________________ 

MAILING ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________

TOWN: ___________________________ POSTAL CODE: ______

CONTACT PERSON: Res: _________ Bus: ___________ Cell: ___________

EMAIL ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________________

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP FEES: FIRST 15 MEMBERS = $200.00

$5 PER ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: = _____ x $5.00 = ______

$30 PER INDIVIDUAL, ACTIVE OR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS = ______ x $30.00 = ______

ENCLOSED FEES: (Please make cheques payable to: S.V.F.F.A. Inc.) Total = ______

NAMES OF MEMBERS: (Please attach an additional list of names if required.)

1. ___________ 13. ___________
2. ___________ 14. ___________
3. ___________ 15. ___________
4. ___________ 16. ___________
5. ___________ 17. ___________
6. ___________ 18. ___________
7. ___________ 19. ___________
8. ___________ 20. ___________
9. ___________ 21. ___________
10. ___________ 22. ___________
11. ___________ 23. ___________
12. ___________ 24. ___________

Membership Valid from January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Please complete this form and return with payment. Please retain a copy for your records.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Payment Rec’d: Cheque #: Mailed: _______
Honour your department members with
SVFFA Years of Service Certificates and Pins
$10.00/set

Contact the SVFFA office at
(306) 520-3278 or email svffa@sasktel.net
for more information.

Additional SVFFA items available for purchase:

- SVFFA Pin: $7.00
- SVFFA Crest: $10.00
- SVFFA Decal:
  - Small (1x1 inch): $2.00
  - Medium (3.5x3.5 inch): $5.00
  - Large (5.75x5.75 inch): $8.00
- **NEW** SVFFA Flag (36x60 inch): $80.00