Norman Konechny, Deputy Chief of Melville Fire Department, celebrates active member for 50 years, Deputy since 1983

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SASKATCHEWAN VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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.
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From the Desk of the President:

Welcome to 2020! This year is looking like it has the potential to be in perfect focus, being as 20/20 is perfect vision!

Seriously though, hope your organization is doing well. We are continuing in our mandate to provide the best possible training opportunities for the volunteer fire services in our province. The school in Swift Current last fall was a sign of good things to come. We had the opportunity to offer different classes and that trend is continuing. We are hoping and planning on having the NAPD Emergency driver’s course available soon. We are sending four instructors to get their certification and we look forward to seeing this course back in our schools.

Our fall school is going to be held in Redvers this fall, it is going to be great for the departments close to Redvers to be able to take this opportunity to come and train. Don’t forget that the Annual General Meeting is held in the fall as well as elections for your executive. This year it is even numbered zones that are up for election.

Your association continues the hard work to keep support resources available at no cost to the volunteer firefighters in our province. We continue to fund, and receive funding, to support the Peer response program. This program is available at any time and any place where ever needed.

Your association is also working with SAFC to further talks on the development of a provincial minimum training level for firefighters in our province. This is something that is lacking in our province and we are working hard to get a set standard, just like other provinces have.

In closing I would like to extend a huge note of thanks and appreciation to the former Fire Commissioner for the province, Commissioner Duane McKay. Commissioner McKay has been a strong voice and highly supportive of volunteer fire service in our province. He has always provided guidance and knowledge and more than once has come through for fire service in our province, so I take my hat off to you, Mr. McKay, and humbly thank you for your years of service to the fire brotherhood. May the next chapter in your life be as full filling as I am sure this last chapter was.

Doug Lapchuk, President SVFFA

President: Doug Lapchuk
Box 291, Balgonie, Sk., S0G 0E0
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omegatransfer@sasktel.net
Hello! I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe!

Please see the website for a template for an example protocol for this pandemic situation. www.svffa.ca

Sent on behalf of Marlo Pritchard, President SPSA
Colleagues, there is a potential need to redeploy excess N95 respirators to the health sector. In light of the recommendation that the use of N95 respirators are not required unless aerosol-generating medical procedures are being performed (ie: intubation), I am requesting that all police and fire departments review their current inventory of N95 respirators that are in excess of your current needs.
Your excess inventory count can be sent to spsa@gov.sk.ca. If there is a requirement to redeploy the N95 respirators, the SPSA will contact you directly. When sending in your excess counts, please add “N95 Excess” to the subject line. Your anticipated cooperation is appreciated.

On a different note, the new plastic membership cards will be arriving shortly! Watch your mailboxes! We have IFSTA manuals in stock if you are planning on doing some self study during self-isolation. Contact the office for more information!

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

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 Fall Fire School will be hosted by the Redvers Fire Department, October 16th - 18th.
Details to follow later this summer!
Hello from Zone 1

Hope all is well with everyone. January 31st-Feb 1st zone 1 hosted a ropes-knots & ladder course in Shaunavon. The course was well attended as we had representation from 7 departments. From this course, we had set up for May 1st – 2nd, the low angle rope rescue course, but due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic, we needed to postpone until sometime in the fall.

Because of the Pandemic, we were not able to get together for a zone meeting in April so, using Shaunavon Fire conference call number, we were able to get together via conference call. I thank those that joined, and look forward too many more that will join going forward.

While we all practice physical distancing and staying away from the fire hall, training nights are difficult to set up. I urge those that are looking for training materials, reach out to Michelle at the SVFFA office, and she may be able to send out some books for home study. Also reach out to your surrounding departments and ask how they are dealing with training during the Pandemic, you may be surprised with what they are doing.

Please remember, if you haven’t yet, send in your departments 2020 SVFFA registration.

Stay Safe!

Louis Cherpin

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Shaunavon Ropes & Knots training
Good day everyone, my name is Chuck Rust, I am the fire chief of the town of Assiniboia. I am the new zone rep for the interim until fall elections. I joined the Assiniboia Fire Dept in fall of 1993, became chief in Jan 2009. I am looking forward to working with the departments in this zone, and to working with the SVFFA. I am hoping to organize a zone meeting in the near future. Not much else to say about what’s happening in the zone but hope to have more news for the next newsletter. Everyone stays safe during this time.

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ZONE 3 REPORT

With the cancellation of the spring training, the next opportunity is The Fall SVFFA Training Symposium, to be held in Redvers October 16, 17, & 18.

These schools are more than just about learning new firefighting skills. The schools give your members a chance to meet and socialize with fellow Saskatchewan firefighters.

A joint SVFFA/SAFA zone meeting was held in Estevan on Saturday, Feb. 15. A number of fire departments from Zone 3 attended the meeting to receive information on 2020 SGI rates, green light usage for first responders, minimum firefighter training standards, Qu'Appelle Regional Training Centre, information to host a SVFFA school, and the new plastic SVFFA membership cards.

Application forms for the Scotia – Wealth Scholarship and Firefighter of the Year award were also handed out to interested fire departments.

Have a safe spring and see you at the school in Redvers.

Dwayne Stone

Zone 3 Director

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Zone 4 Report

Well it looks like we are finally moving into the warmer part of the year. Snow is melting grass is appearing well all know that summer will be here shortly. With that been said now is a good time to make sure that your department has reviewed their Wildland response protocols.

If you can’t make it to fire school, don’t forget that SVFFA instructors are available to come to your department. There is a small fee for this but us a very viable option if you invite you surrounding departments and split the cost. This is also a very good way to work on your mutual aid relationships. If this is something you be interested in, please contact Michelle and she can arrange it.

White City Fire Department had the opportunity to help STARS with there recertification of there pilots with night vision goggles. We also had members from multiple other department Balgonie, Pilot Butte, Qu’Appelle just to name a few. The pilots have to recertify every year to stay compliant with the use of their NVG. These pilots are very well trained.

If any members have any fire questions or concerns please reach out and contact me.

Trevor

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Greetings from zone 5.

Let's start this report with a number. This is the number 50. Paul and I had the privilege of being able to attend the awards banquet and fire fighters' ball to honor Melville's fire department. This year's event had a special touch as Deputy Chief Norm Konechny received recognition of 50 years of active service. A truly humbling event to be part of. Congratulations Deputy chief Norm.

To shift gears a little bit, I want to touch on a topic that is, in my opinion, becoming potentially disastrous ventures for us all.

We use social media platforms every day. Whether its Facebook, snapchat, twitter and on and on. These apps can be great tools for networking and sharing of ideas and information between departments. There is a downside to these apps. We must be wary of what we are writing and how we are responding to any and all posts. A post made on a social media app is forever. It is also very easy to misconstrue the intended message. There is also the unfortunate reality of the small portion of the population that goes out of the way to twist what is written and bait an I.

We talk about decorum all the time, and wearing our department uniforms, the maltese cross and on and on. We are constantly reminded that we represent our departments and to be respectful to this. The same ideology is needed to remind us what we say and post on social media will have the same potential to harm both our personal reputation and department reputations.

My suggestion to all of you is to this: think very carefully about what and how you post things on social media. Stick to the facts. If you post something, read it back to yourself before putting it up. Think some more. At the end of all the weighing and measuring, if it looks good, then post it.

That completes my rant. Off the soapbox now.

As always, we are very happy to offer training from the SVFFA to come out to your halls anytime. Check with our executive director, Michelle Williamson for all the different Grant's that are becoming available to lower the cost of local training. The SVFFA is bringing new courses to the table all the time.

Keep training hard.

Darren

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ZONE 6 REPORT SPRING 2020

“NEW YEAR – NEW LOOK; BACK IN BLACK”

( couldn’t pick one I liked better so I went with both titles.)

At the winter meeting that took place Jan 11th the SVFA approved a minor tweaking to the Association logo. We’ve decided that the black logo introduced with the “Firefighter of the Year” patch be retained as the new design going forward! To commemorate this, we have introduced a new challenge coin featuring the new design and the SFS CISM Team logo on the other.

For the inquiring mind that want to know, there are two popular stories about the origin of the recent rendition of the challenge coins we know today.

The first tells of the story of World War 1 pilots.

An American squadron had as its leader a “well to do” Lieutenant who had medallions struck for all the members with their insignia. They were handed out to all the pilots. The majority put it in their wallets or pockets, however, one had put it in a small pouch around his neck. The next mission he was shot down by the Germans. While captured, the enemy soldiers stripped him of his uniform and gave him civilian clothes. However, they did leave him with his coin laden pouch necklace. During a bombardment the pilot was able to escape and made his way across enemy lines back onto French soil. Unable to understand the American, the French soldiers assumed the pilot to be spy and were about to execute him. Before the firing squad could shoot him, one of the soldiers recognized the squadron insignia on the coin after the pouch had been removed. Hearing the news, the Lieutenant went to fetch his comrade. When he arrived at the French garrison, he found his pilot drinking a bottle of wine with his French captors. When the two returned to the American barracks, the Lieutenant made it mandatory that all the pilots carry their medallions at all times. This was enforced by “snap inspections” where all the personnel would have to produce their coins on demand. Eventually this practice made it’s way to the pub where the penalty of not producing a coin cost the pilot a round of drinks for his comrades.

A similar story has it that in World War 2 the OSS had a system where they would use regular coins as a “bona fide”, that is, a way to identify one another in secret meetings. Much like a password, all the
participants would have to produce the same denomination with a specific year on it to prove they were who they claimed to be. A soldier might have a pocket full of change but the 1922 penny had to be produced if he were to be allowed inside. Again, this was morphed into a challenge as a way to ensure compliance.

Whether fact or fiction we might not ever know, but it has grown from just a military tradition to one enacted by all manner of organizations including of course to Fire Fighters. FYI, the most coveted is said to be the coin handed from the President of the United States.

As for the challenge, much like the “snap inspection”, when a person carrying a coin wishes to issue a challenge to others, he/she produces their coin to those around them. He/she can announce aloud, tap or drop it on the table or bar. Any of the others in the association who own a coin MUST produce theirs or will find themselves buying drinks for the ones who had theirs. If the others all produce their coins, the challenger must buy for everyone else. Some allow borrowing a coin if they do not have one on them. Caution, many memberships will penalize the challenger should he/she drop it on the FLOOR by accident, this generally results in the OPPOSITE effect of the challenger now buying the drinks. Another variant says that if a member is able to steal a coin from another all the members present must buy the “stealer” a drink.

Seeing that we should have our own rules to accompany our coins, here’s what the SVFFA has proposed:

- An SVFFA member may initiate a coin challenge at any function or gathering there are other SVFFA members at.
- A coin holder may issue a challenge to other Saskatchewan firefighters, outside the province they may only ACCEPT a challenge from other agencies. It is considered poor taste to issue a challenge to your hosts!
- Any SVFFA member who is challenged must produce their coin IF THEY OWN ONE, they are exempt if they do not own one.
- Coin owners MAY NOT BORROW A COIN IF CHALLENGED, the whole premise is to have it on you at all times
- The coin needs to be within reach of the member, if it is at an opposite table, out of arms reach, in a hotel room during a function etc. it is considered NOT on your person
- Should the CHALLENGER drop his/her coin on the floor when issuing THEY must buy the round (this is to preserve the “sanctity” of the coin and what it represents)
- The challenge only applies to the immediate table or bar patrons, not an entire event or gathering
- Any member who has lost a challenge is now exempt from any further challenges at the event, for example, moving to another table they would not be expected to buy again if someone else issues a new challenge.
- Trading coins is encouraged, especially outside Saskatchewan, as a show of camaraderie with other firefighters. This also includes EMS, Police, Military etc.
- As above, these coins are allowed to be used to defend a challenge. However, an SVFFA member should only issue a challenge with an SVFFA coin at an SVFFA event.
- Producing a second coin does not trump an unsuccessful challenge (you can’t “king” your coin to win)
- There is no “coin to rule them all”, this isn’t the Lord of the Rings folks, no matter what the SVFFA Directors try to convince you that theirs are mysteriously more powerful.
- “IOUs” are permitted if the loser does not have sufficient funds on them, this can be worked out between the parties involved.
- A picture on one’s phone is NOT considered a substitute for an actual coin.
- Coins may not be defaced by drilling a hole in them to run a chain or string through.
- Coins are not to be part of a belt buckle, medal or other uniform component.
- Junior firefighters (those not of legal drinking age) may purchase a round of soft drinks, coffees etc. for those who have challenged them, conversely, a soft drink, coffee etc. shall take the place of a liquor beverage for a junior.
- As above, those who are non-drinkers may also follow the “soft drink” directive if they choose to still take part.

Remember the whole point of the challenge is not alcohol consumption, it is about camaraderie. It should be looked upon as a fun way to bond with your fellow brothers and sisters in arms. We deal with enough negative and tragic events that we need to find an avenue to escape and hopefully this can be a way to do so.

SVFFA Members, we want your input on these rules! Is there something you’d like to see? Shoot your Zone Director an email and share your thoughts!

Zone 6: Paul Cockell
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paulandinga@gmail.com
Zone 7 Report

There will be a zone meeting at the Rosetown Fire Hall, time and date TBA. Items on the agenda include the Biggar fire and the logistics and all the problems they had with it, SAFC convention, the fire safety house, resolutions, workers compensation and high angle rescue team made up from 4 or 5 fire departments.

A number of the fire departments have been taking training. The Kindersley Fire Hall is now up and running.

I recently viewed the new brush truck in Major. Very nice job done by the Fire Department.

I also viewed the new brush truck in Eatonia. Also, another job well done.

The zone, as a whole, has been quiet as far as I am aware.

Just a reminder that fire departments should ensure their memberships are updated.

A reminder for Zone 7 that if you have any problems or issues, I can be reached at 306-962-7456 (cell) or via email at richardabar@hotmail.com

Keep safe! See you in Redvers.

~Regards, Richard Baran, Zone 7 Director

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Hello from Zone 9 -

This fall and winter has been interesting. From -40 C to +10 C, in our district, what a drastic difference in temperature. In P.A., we have been warm, with bouts of cold windy weather. There has not been the snowfall that we usually get; not a good forecast for our farming community. Praying for spring rainfall!!

Our personal safety is of paramount concern for firefighters. Therefore, everything we do - personal fitness, job training, response, and returning to quarters is important to our members. Please, keep all these aspects in mind, on a daily basis - to keep all of your members safe. A Reminder - let’s all return home after training, or an incident.

If you or your fire department need to contact the Saskatchewan Fire Service CISM Team either call or email:

Phone: (306) 520-3278 or (306) 570-7791

Email: svffa@sasktel.net

The Spring Fire School scheduled for April 3-5, has been cancelled. It was to be hosted by Fire Chief Mike Kwasnica, and members of the Humboldt Fire Dept. If this pandemic situation changes, and a new date is advertised, get your registrations in early, to get into the classes that you want; and get your accommodations booked early as well. It is nice to have your hotel in the host community.

Have a great Spring and Summer!! Take all precautions to not get sick. Follow protocols, take care, and keep safe everyone!!

Larry Zadvorny
Zone 9 Rep

Zone 9: Larry Zadvorny
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larryz@inet2000.com
Greetings to zone 10, my name is James Wright. I am your new zone director and I am please to represent you at the board level. I have been with Tisdale Fire for nearly 12 years and a member of the SVFFA for the same amount of time. My hope is that when things get back to normal that we can have a zone meeting and we all can meet face to face. In saying that I truly hope that everyone in our emergency services in the province stays safe and weather's this storm. If you have any questions or just want to chat feel free to shoot me an email. I can be reached at.

colcontract@sasktel.net

Sincerely:

James Wright
Zone 10 Director
SVFFA

Zone 10: James Wright
Box 176, Tisdale, SK, S0E 1T0
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colcontract@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.

We are here for you 24/7.

Please call 306-520-3278 to be put in touch with our CISM/CISD team.

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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 Viral Pandemic: A Critical Incident Stress Management Perspective

ICISF CEO Rick Barton interviews ICISF Co-Founder Dr. George Everly for a Crisis Management Briefing (CMB) specific to the COVID-19 pandemic. First responders and healthcare practitioners can take note of techniques and resources geared to their professions.

COVID-19 Resources
Get the latest videos and handouts for COVID-19 on our website! This page is updated on a regular basis, so be sure to keep checking for new resources. Read more

ICISF Resources
Watch CISM Videos from the 15th World Congress, read CISM articles, and download handouts for you and your peers. Read more

VISIT US ONLINE AT ICISF.ORG
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.

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!

Plains Midstream Canada
If you're the first responder to an accident scene involving electricity — wait!

- Always assume power lines and electrical equipment are energized.
- Call SaskPower at 310-2220 (7 digit, toll-free number) to report the problem.
- Stay 10 metres away.
- Keep others well back.
- Wait until a SaskPower employee says the scene is electrically safe.

Then — and only then — help those in need.
Waiting to help goes against your instincts — but your life could depend on it.

Visit saskpower.com/safety for more tips on electrical safety.
SaskPower proudly supports the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association training schools.

SaskEnergy is proud to support the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association.
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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.
WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

It's not just a transaction. It's a journey—of discovery, research, demonstrations, purchasing, training and servicing. And it's a journey we are happy to accompany you on.

Your Equipment Destination:
WFR Wholesale Fire & Rescue Ltd.
1.800.561.0400 | inquiries@wfrfire.com | www.wfrfire.com
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