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OCTOBER 2024 • VOL. 17 - NO. 9 - USPS NO. 024-718

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Parker Volunteer Fire Department conducted an auto extrication exercise at AJ's Autos just east of Parker on August 22. This was the final practical exercise that their five new firefighters needed signed off to complete Firefighter 1 and 2.



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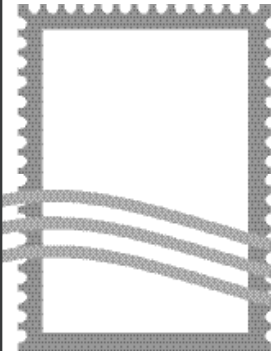




Beresford called to camper fire

An early morning camper fire at the Windmill Campground in Beresford mandated a partial evacuation of the campground. At 6:44 a.m. on September 12, Beresford Fire and Rescue were paged out to the Windmill Campground for a report of a camper fully engulfed in flames. Police arriving on scene instantly started evacuating people from the nearby campers. With no fire hydrants in the campground the firefighters directly attacked the fire from three engines, quickly knocking down the fire. During the attack firefighters safely removed two propane fuel tanks that were in the burn area preventing them from possibly exploding. There were no reported injuries, and the residents of the unit were able to escape the camper when the fire was noticed. The fire is believed to have started from a heating appliance that was in use at the time. A total of 15 BFD firefighters responded with six units. Alcester Fire Department were called for back-up and were cancelled when the fire was under control.





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NOTE: Please include the label with the incorrect address found on the front page of this newspaper.

Thank You!



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Benefits of being a 100% Department Member

When you pay your department dues, there are many advantages for your firefighters. Below is just one of the many.

INSURANCE

100% Membership provides the following:

- Basic \$10,000 of Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) insurance — 24 hrs/day
- Purchase up to \$250,000 additional AD&D
- \$10K of Line of Duty Health and AD&D, fire related health incidents, i.e. heart attack, stroke, other.

If you haven't paid your dues, it's not too late!

Parker extrication training

Parker Volunteer Fire Department conducted an auto extrication exercise at AJ's Autos just east of Parker on August 22. This was the final practical exercise that their five new firefighters needed signed off to complete Firefighter 1 and 2. Different scenarios were played out while the students worked with department instructors and certified firefighters to rescue "patients" and work through variables on two different vehicles. In the new convertible van photo are front row from left: Josh Kraemer and Susie Fleischhacker. Back row: Jon Maschino, Tristen Wentzel and Amanda Pack. Submitted by Parker Chief Max Masters.



Dangers of tire fires

By JERRY KNAPP

WHAT?In June 2024, a Los Angeles County firefighter was killed when a rear tire of a construction vehicle (loader) exploded two minutes after arriving on the scene.

SO WHAT?.....According to the FDNY Watchline (Aug 2024) Fire impinging a tire will cause the air pressure inside to rise. At approximately 365° Fahrenheit, the rubber undergoes a runaway exothermic reaction and releases flammable gases that increase pressure within the tire, according to an LA County Safety Bulletin. The explosion will generate a shock wave and projectiles. Do not approach these large tire fires from the lug nut side but rather from the tread side.

NOW WHAT: Recognize the danger of tire fires on construction equipment and do not approach from the lug side.

Source....FDNY Watchline Aug 2024

Team, and is a 49 year veteran Firefighter/EMT with the West Haverstraw NY Fire Department. He served on the technical panel for the UL residential fire attack study. Knapp is the co-author of two books: House Fires and Tactical Response to Explosive Gas Emergencies published by Fire Engineering He is the owner of Suburban Tactical Inc specializing in fire officer and firefighter training.

Jerry Knapp is the Chief of the Rockland County, NY Hazmat



UPCOMING EVENTS

Email your Upcoming Event by the 10th of the previous month (ex. Aug. 10 for the September issue) to jeff@southdakotafirefighter.com. There is no charge.

- NOV. 16-17, 2024:** Five Alarm Leadership Conference, Vermillion.
- JAN. 10-12, 2025:** Rushmore Conference, Rapid City.
- FEB. 7-9, 2025:** Les Lukert Conference, Kearney, NE.
- JUNE 12-14, 2025:** South Dakota State Fire School, Watertown.

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DEPARTED FIREFIGHTERS

U.S. Fire Administration Firefighter Fatality Notification

The following are U.S. Fire Administration Firefighter Fatality Notifications of firefighters who have died from across the United States. The South Dakota Fire Service extends its thoughts to the family and friends of these firefighters.

- **MATTHEW EDWARD FORAND**, 45, New Bedford, MA, died Aug. 15, 2024. Matthew was a career firefighter with 18 years of service with the New Bedford Fire Department. On Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024, Firefighter Matthew Edward Forand was on duty at the fire station when he suffered a medical emergency and passed away during the night. The cause of his death has yet to be determined.

- **BRIAN PEEK**, 67, Etners, PA, died Aug. 16, 2024. Brian was a fire police officer with the Goldsboro Fire Company and had attained 50 years of volunteer service. On Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, Fire Police Officer Brian Peek was directing traffic during a vehicle crash when he was struck by an automobile. He was pronounced deceased at the scene.

- **THOMAS WILSON BERRY, III**, 23, Georgetown, DE, died Aug. 13, 2024. Thomas was a volunteer firefighter with seven years of service with Georgetown Fire Company, Inc. On Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024, Firefighter Thomas Wilson Berry, III, was dispatched to respond to a motor vehicle accident. While on scene, a utility pole snapped, bringing down electrical wires. Firefighter Berry sustained life-threatening injuries and died on the scene.

- **WILLIAM CODY TREATCH**, 26, Tucson, AZ, died Aug. 23, 2024. William was a firefighter recruit with less than one year of career service with Rural Metro Fire Department. On Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024, Firefighter Recruit William Cody Treach suffered a heat-related emergency during training at the fire academy. He was immediately transported to the Banner University Medical Center where his condition progressively worsened. He passed away on Friday, Aug. 23, 2024.

- **CHRISTOPHER EDDY**, 35, Greensboro, GA, died Sept. 4, 2024. Christopher was a battalion chief with Greene County Fire Rescue with 17 years of career service. On Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, Battalion Chief Christopher Eddy responded to a tractor trailer fire on Georgia Route 15. When he opened the truck door, an explosion occurred killing him instantly. Investigation into the incident is ongoing.

- **DARRELL HELTON**, 49, Belfry, KY, died Sept. 4, 2024. Darrell was a volunteer firefighter with 15 years of service with the Belfry Volunteer Fire Department. On Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, while Firefighter Darrell Helton was helping to shuttle water during a mutual aid call for a structure fire, he told a fellow firefighter that he was experiencing a flutter in his chest but that he was fine. After delivering the last load of water, Firefighter Helton sat down to rest but then collapsed and fell face first to the ground. CPR was initiated and Firefighter Helton was transported to a local hospital where despite resuscitation attempts, he was pronounced deceased.

- **THOMAS RAY PATTERSON**, 74, Louisburg, NC, died Sept. 12, 2024. Thomas was a captain with the Louisburg Fire Department and had attained 50 years of volunteer service. On Sept. 12, 2024, Captain Thomas Patterson responded to two emergency calls. The first response was at 1:12 p.m. to a vehicle collision. The second response was at 2:30 p.m. to a fire alarm activation. After the responses, Captain Patterson returned home where, at approximately 3:25 p.m., he was found unresponsive and passed away.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS FOR THE SOUTH DAKOTA FIREFIGHTER NEWSPAPER

Classified ads run \$10 for the first 10 words, and 25 cents a word after that. A photo is \$10 additional. Rates are the same in each state (Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas). Email the ad to jeff@southdakotafirefighter.com to place your personal or departmental ads.



City of Cascade Fire Truck FOR SALE: 1998 4 dr. Freightliner pumper, www.cityofcascade.org for more details and the bid form. **Sealed bids due Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, at 4 p.m.** FF-1

SDFA OFFICER REPORTS

Once again, I take my inspiration or should I say my "borrowing" from Fire Engineering. In the June issue Rick Laskey wrote a great article about the human factor in Fire Service, and it got me to thinking what would happen if we could take some of his insights to heart. Lasky begins by reminding us that the fire service began with an idea a man we might recognize from the history books, his name was Benjamin Franklin. Back in 1736 he came up with the idea of the Union Fire Company. At that time the focus was fire, putting fire out and trying to keep the whole town from burning to the ground. There was no need for certifications, no call, no meetings, no drill nights, you just showed up when the bell rang and you did your best to "put the wet stuff on the red stuff." Pretty straight forward.

Times they have changed. Since 1736, our list of expectations has grown, to include, education, hazmat, building codes, rescue and not to mention EMS and paramedicine. All this led to an increase in time commitment from the volunteers and the volunteer fire service stepped up again and again. What Lasky was getting to is that despite all the changes what hasn't changed are the core values of the life of a volunteer. I like Lasky's comments: "As with life in general, your core values guide you to the point where you make the right decisions. Your core values are the values you stand on. They create the foundation for everything else. We've all fallen in life, made poor decisions...I've made mine, but falling back on what serves as my foundation to those special areas I grabbed hold of early on helped to push that reset button and get back on the right side of the fence."

While we all have our own core values, what are the core values of the fire service? The first is pride. This means ownership not arrogance. I have had the privilege of serving nearly 40 years with 4 different departments and in each one I found that pride of ownership. This is my town, my engine, my tools, my truck! That pride goes back to the beginning. Look at those early trucks the ornamentation, the uniforms, and insignias. There was pride



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Rodney Veldhuizen, Chaplain

"Times they have changed. Since 1736, our list of expectations has grown, to include, education, hazmat, building codes, rescue and not to mention EMS and paramedicine. All this led to an increase in time commitment from the volunteers and the volunteer fire service stepped up again and again."

in what was done. Keep in mind, pride is not arrogance, but it the sense that we have a job to do and we will do it to the best of our ability.

Second is honor, that understanding that you are part of something bigger. I have had the joy of visiting fire stations on the Middle East (both Arab and Jewish) and I found those firefighters are just like us. These men were honored that I stopped to see them and their department, and they honored me as a fellow firefighter. This should remind us that we are part of larger, much larger community than we can imagine. Remember it is an honor to serve as a firefighter, this is more than just a T-shirt or a ride in the parade. There is a reason the kids and even some seniors look up to us.

Third is selflessness. Putting the needs of others ahead of yourself. You understand that when you signed up for this job, you cannot cherry pick only the exciting calls. (Then again, I wish I could erase the memory of some of those "exciting calls".) Lasky describes his first station duty as the chief handed him is first "home emergency alerting radio receiver", the chief told him that when the thing went off, he should report to the station, as there was always something to be done, or if it was a call get there as quickly as he could. What the chief did not say was: "When there is a call, sit back and listen and see if it is an exciting call." What we have to keep in mind, for the person who initiated that call it is exciting and at times excruciating for them! The time to think about the call is after you have responded.

Fourth is commitment. When you committed to being a firefighter, you committed to being the best you can be. At the end of the day, we only have one chance to get things right and we are in a serious business. That is why drill night is essential, not optional. You have committed yourself to a way of life that requires constant fine tuning. Commit yourself to reading something about this profession, at least once a week. Watch some videos, show up for training, attend Fire School (even if it is in Watertown, I have to say that for the sake is my West River colleagues).

Fifth is passion. Passion drives success, and no one wants to be just OK. If you do not love what you do forget about being good at it. I recall as a newly minted minister; I knew little about preaching. Because I knew I didn't know much about

preaching, I read every book I could find on preaching, listened to hours of other really good preachers, I attended seminars and anything else I thought would help me become a better "preacher". Then I became a firefighter and I did the same thing. Why? Because I was passionate about what I was and am doing and I want to be as good at this as I possibly can. Recently, I had to "hit the books" again to learn what is means to be a wildland firefighter. Keep in mind, I am the tender operator (East River folks, that is a tanker) not a front-line firefighter, but I don't want to do something stupid in that situation and get myself killed or put someone else in danger. This is a skilled job, and I want to be as good as I can at what I am doing.

The final value, is integrity. Lasky tells us we are the integrity people and we are nothing without integrity. I thought I might want to make sure we are all on the same page when it comes to this, so I looked up the definition of integrity. Integrity is defined as "firm adherence to a code of especially moral values: incorruptibility." Firm adherence to a code of morals, that is something to think about. When you think about integrity, think about this, we have the keys to every business in town. We go into people's homes even when they are not there. We take care of others homes, belongings, loved ones as if they are our own! People who lack integrity cannot and will not do that.

The story is told of watching a young man on television who had set up a complex arrangement of dominoes. At the determined moment, he set the first one in motion. Over the course of about a minute, the motion continued in an elaborate and beautiful design. But then it was over! They had all dropped! There was nothing more to see! The man was interviewed and said that it had taken about six hours to set all the dominoes in place. That may be fine for dominoes, but how are we arranging the priorities of our lives. And how long will we last when the first priority falls? Let's be sure we are working to keep these core values part of who we are each and every day, and may the day never come when the first one falls.

Blessings to you all!

CHAPLAIN RODNEY

Beresford Fire “Gives back to the community” during their 125th Celebration

By TARZ MULLINIX,
Beresford Fire Department

Beresford Fire and Rescue celebrated their 125th anniversary on the date of the charter, Aug. 16, 2024. The Beresford Volunteer Fire Company was chartered on Aug. 16, 1899.

One hundred and twenty-five years ago 32 citizens of the city of Beresford approached the city councilmen with a plan to create an organized fire company for the community. It would consist of volunteers who would respond to fire emergencies, to do their best to protect our community. In exchange for the firemen performing their duties, essential support would be needed from the city and the community itself. In good faith the proposal moved forward. On Aug. 16th in 1899 the Beresford Volunteer Fire Company was chartered by the city of Beresford.

In 1899 the city budgeted \$50 to start the Fire Company. Today the replacement cost of the fire department would be over two million dollars.

In 1899 the first-year operational cost of the fire company was \$96. Today’s annual budget of the fire department can easily reach \$100,000.

“The reason the Beresford Fire Department is here today is because of the commitment and dedication of the membership and the support of the community.”

Some years ago, a couple cardboard boxes were discovered in the basement of city hall. In these boxes were some old deteriorating logbooks, record books and some old pictures. While examining these books it was discovered that they were from the fire department. More astonishing was that these books contained the early records of the fire department. All the way back to day one, Aug. 16, 1899, the day the department was chartered. Great care was taken to decipher as much of the information as possible that was handwritten, mostly by pencil. A slide program was made highlighting some events so this finding could



be shared.

A video of the history of the fire department resides on the Beresford Fire Department page on the Beresford city webpage. To view go to <https://www.beresfordsd.com/fire-rescue-history>

During the planning for this event, it was decided to use the theme, **“Give back to the community”**.

The department was not going to ask for any donations or try to recover any costs. This event was to be free to the community.

The centennial celebration started at 5 p.m. with a BBQ that was attended by over 500 people. At 5:30 there was a short program highlighting the history to date. There was a dunk tank set up with local dignitaries to be dunked. A kid’s fire evolution was in place allowing hands on firefighting skills for the youth.

The climax of the day was a Water Fight between local fire departments at 7 p.m. Firefighters from Akron, Alcester, Beresford, Canton, Hudson, Hurley, Lennox and Tea rounded out a 16-team battle.

BFD personnel started planning this endeavor six months ago. Very much time was spent on the planning, setting up and the operations of the day



itself.

SYNOPSIS

We re-established our importance in the community, instead of having our hands out we had our hearts out. We shared together in a non-emergency time to say, “Thank You, for your support”. It was a very special time for the event, BFD being in existence for 125 years. This was a win-win-win accomplishment. Not only for the community outreach, but in remembrance of past members that helped us get to where we are today, and for working together reflecting our commitment to the department and each other.

Great Job Everyone!



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SDFA OFFICER REPORTS



Charlie Kludt, President

“The 2025 SDFA membership letters will be coming out soon. Please, make sure you have department members registered in our membership system to receive updates, notifications, and options for submitting your dues and rosters.”

Here, There, Everywhere

Welcome to October. Where the forecast is made up and the season doesn't matter.

I would like to recognize Beresford Volunteer Department and Yankton Volunteer Fire Department on their milestone celebrations. Beresford VFD celebrated 125 years of service in August. Yankton VFD, the first fire department in South

Dakota organized in 1874, celebrated 150 years of service in September. Congratulations to all the past and current dedicated members of these outstanding volunteer departments.

The National Volunteer Fire Council and corporate sponsor John Deere developed a documentary of the volunteer fire service in the United States.

The documentary, *“Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat,”* looks at the training, time commitment, family involvement, equipment,

and variety of different volunteer departments there are across the country. From rural and agricultural areas; mountain and forested regions; urban areas; and a Jewish community with a unique response department. *Odd Hours* will show you how the challenges of the volunteer fire service are very similar and very different, no matter where we are from.

Public Broadcasting System (PBS) television and other streaming services will have the documentary available for you to watch throughout October. SD-PBS will have it showing Oct. 28-29. Check out local listings and <https://oddhoursfilm.com> for more details.

If your community has a movie theatre and would like to have a special showing, contact me or the NVFC office for ways to get the movie for your location.

The NVFC Fall meetings were held in Kansas City the end of September. I will have an update on National issues

in the next issue. The status of the NFPA Standards to OSHA regulations will be a major topic of conversation, once again.

October is Fire and Home Safety month. “Smoke Alarms: Make them work for you” is the theme for 2024.

The 2025 SDFA membership letters will be coming out soon. Please, make sure you have department members registered in our membership system to receive updates, notifications, and options for submitting your dues and rosters.

To say the fall fire season is upon us may seem like a misnomer since many of you have dealt with many fires, already. We all know the annual dry, post-harvest conditions are showing. Please, keep the equipment and yourself in good operating condition.

Stay safe,

CHARLIE KLUDT,
President

The summer season is now over, we are in to Fall. With the fall season came district fire schools, fire department open houses, fire prevention programs for schools, and who knows what else. Of course, in South Dakota this is also the really big start of all the hunting seasons. So, with that in mind, please be careful when out in the field, both hunting and driving. Remember there are a lot of loved ones who want you to be there for them.

Once again, your almost favorite treasurer is bugging you for something. Not much, just wanted to remind everyone that very shortly your departments 2025 Membership will be due. If you want to get ahead of the game, just take a head count of how many members your department has, multiply that by \$25 and mail in a check or go online. That's all there is to it. Please remember to include an updated roster with emails and mailing addresses, or you can do that online also. See how your Board is looking out for you and trying to make your life easier.

In early September we had a wildland/urban interface fire just southwest of Rapid City. The potential was huge, but for some reason not all the elements came into alignment. With lots of hard work, GREAT interagency cooperation, it was held to less than 160 acres and no structures damaged or lost. I want to take a minute and praise the interagency cooperation we have. I have been to the National Fire Academy a number of times, and in visiting with other firefighters, officers, wildland agencies so many have little to no interagency cooperation. I have been told by fire departments, that if they see smoke or a report of a fire on federal land, they simply don't go. Not in South Dakota. None of us can go it alone. We need and must have that cooperation and yes, we do.

That fire brought up another topic as we waited for sunrise. Several of us were talking about the “big” fires we had around 2000 and those years. We noted that so many of the volunteer departments could crew a truck



Denny Gorton,
Treasurer/Past President

“If you want to get ahead of the game, just take a head count of how many members your department has, multiply that by \$25 and mail in a check or go online. That's all there is to it. Please remember to include an updated roster with emails and mailing addresses, or you can do that online also. See how your Board is looking out for you and trying to make your life easier.”

for several days on end, 24 hours per day, using rotating firefighters. Nowadays, many departments struggle to crew a truck for their own fires let alone a mutual aid fire somewhere else. Don't even think about doing that for three or four days in a row. Things have changed, that's for certain. Sometimes not too sure what it is, but then again...

Since we have to have our articles into Jeff at the paper by the 15th of the month, the Fall Conference hasn't happened yet. I'll give you some insights next

month. Anyway, that should do it for this month.

As I put the finishing touches on this article there have been numerous grassfires around the state. I hope all will be out today or at least contained so all those affected can get back to their “normal” lives. Once again, the fire departments of South Dakota answered the call. Everyone please be safe.

DENNY GORTON,
Treasurer

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Fire Prevention Week

NFPA announces “Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!” as official theme for Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 6–12, 2024.

This year's focus on working smoke alarms comes in response to NFPA data, which shows that the majority of U.S. home fire deaths continue to occur in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Key messages for this year's Fire Prevention Week theme, “Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!” include the following:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the

basement) of the home.

- Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.

- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or don't respond when tested.

The South Dakota's Fire Marshal's Office offers a variety of educational materials and ideas – educational brochures, stickers, coloring books, posters, and more. Resources to help promote the campaign are available as supplies last. It is not too late to call in a request.

The State Fire Marshal's Office also has smoke alarms



Paul Merriman, State Fire Marshal

“The State Fire Marshal's Office also has smoke alarms available to fire departments through a special grant program. Since the program started in 2014, more than 10,000 smoke alarms have been distributed to more 100 fire departments across South Dakota for installation in high risk homes.”

available to fire departments through a special grant program. Since the program started in 2014, more than 10,000 smoke alarms have been distributed to more 100 fire departments across South Dakota for installation in high risk homes.

For more information

regarding the above programs, please contact our office at (605)773-3876.

By working together, we can help make fire prevention a year-round theme and not just during fire prevention week.

PAUL MERRIMAN,
State Fire Marshal

SDFA OFFICER REPORTS

Fall district training is in full swing, and the future is looking bright for opportunities to improve your skills. Around the time you are reading this article, the fall conference will be happening. Both speakers are eager to come to South Dakota and share their knowledge. Soon after, Dennis Reilly will speak at FDIC in 2025.

It is exciting to have quality speakers at our events. Coming Nov. 16-17, two more legends in the fire service will be in Vermillion for the Five Alarm

Leadership Conference. Chief Rick Lasky and Chief John Salka will each be presenting an 8-hour program. I am sure this event will be attended by the best of the best and will be a great time to network and soak up the energy.

For those of you West River, Jan. 10-12 will bring the Rushmore Conference in Rapid City. Classes have not been released as of now but, knowing the high-power energy and passion that is in that area, it is guaranteed to be a good one. Feb. 7-9 will bring the Les Lukert

Conference in Kearney, NE. This event needs to be on your **must attend** list as it offers great classes. I made many friends at this conference the past few years and the classes never disappoint. Soon after that, the spring district schools will be popping up and the circle begins once again.

There has never been a better opportunity to improve your skills. As I said before, the two FOOLS groups, and others we have in South Dakota, are doing their best to move us forward and their efforts do not go unnoticed.



Rick George,
Central District Director

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Get out there and take advantage of these opportunities. Take a friend, go outside your comfort zone and sign up for a conference. Chief Dennis Reilly is quoted as saying "Be the dumbest person in the smartest room." and

that is how you get better. See you at an event soon! Soak up the knowledge and spark your passion.

RICK GEORGE,
Central District Director

SDFA AUXILIARY REPORT

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October is the month when we observe National Fire Prevention. For 2024, National Fire Prevention week is Sun., Oct. 6th through Saturday, Oct. 12th. Fire Prevention week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire which began on Oct. 8, 1871. Since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. The goal is to raise fire safety awareness and help protect homes and families by promoting home fire safety education.

FPW campaign is "Smoke Alarms: Make them work for you!" It is recommended that you install smoke alarms in each bedroom, outside of each sleeping area, and on each level of your home. Smoke alarms

should be tested once a month and replaced every 10 years or when they stop working.

In our local fire department, we go into elementary schools, daycares and preschools, or they come to the fire department, and the department shares with the students the many aspects of fire safety in their homes. We try to help them understand that their family should come up with a home fire escape plan and that they should practice it with their families and place it on their refrigerators. Getting in front of these students with the firefighter's gear on will hopefully help them to not be afraid if the firefighters would ever have to come into their home.

I encourage you that if your

Cheryl Anderson, Auxiliary Treasurer

"In our local fire department, we go into elementary schools, daycares and preschools, or they come to the fire department, and the department shares with the students the many aspects of fire safety in their homes. We try to help them understand that their family should come up with a home fire escape plan and that they should practice it with their families and place it on their refrigerators."

department doesn't have a program like this to speak with your department about maybe implementing one and also go and volunteer to help. It is a joy to see these students be excited on how they can take part in being safe in their home and how to get out safely. Our local department also gives out hats, bags, and fire safety coloring books to each student.

While thinking about fire prevention in October, we should remember to conduct an inspection on our fire

extinguishers. Many times, we place a fire extinguisher in our home, but we forget to do monthly checks to see if they are in good working order.

Daylight savings time will be Sunday, Nov. 3rd, so when you are changing your clocks back, I encourage you to be prepared to replace batteries in your clocks and any alarms and detectors that you have.

CHERYL ANDERSON,
State Auxiliary Treasurer

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Rural Rapid Valley Grass Fire

The Rapid Valley Volunteer Fire Department responded to a report of a wildland fire in the 16,000 block of Longview Dr, Unincorporated Pennington County South Dakota on Sept. 6, 2024 at 2:02 p.m.

Upon arrival firefighters observed a wind driven fire burning in cured grass and wheat stubble.

The fire caused damage to ranching assets, and temporarily threatened the Rapid City Regional Airport.

Firefighters dealing with temperatures of 80+ degrees Fahrenheit and drought stressed vegetation, controlled the fire at 68 acres.

Tim Kobes, Assistant Chief of the Rapid Valley Volunteer Fire Department, would like to remind travelers, residents and users of our grasslands to be extra cautious during dry conditions.

“Everyone using, recreating, traveling or doing field work in our grasslands needs to be on guard and make an effort to not create any source of ignition” stated Kobes.

No injuries to firefighters, civilians or domestic animals were reported.

Agencies responding included Pennington County 911, Rapid Valley Volunteer Fire Department, New Underwood Volunteer Fire Department, Pennington County Sheriff's Office, Box Elder Volunteer Fire Department, Folsom Volunteer Fire Department, Ellsworth Airforce Base Fire Department, Black Hawk Volunteer Fire Department, North Haines Volunteer Fire Department, Rapid City Fire Department, South Dakota Wildland Fire local ranchers and neighbors.

The photo is courtesy of Rapid Valley Volunteer Fire Department.

No injuries to civilians or domestic animals were reported.



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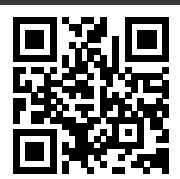
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Fuel tanker rolls over near Beresford

A fuel tanker truck rolled over during an accident one half mile east of Beresford on highway 46. One person was injured, he was the driver of the fuel tanker that rolled over after going off the edge of the road. The fuel truck held 2,500 gallons of diesel fuel and most of it leaked out after the crash. Beresford Fire and Rescue secured the scene and provided protection while the unit was up righted and removed from the site. Alcester Fire assisted BFD. Beresford Ambulance transported the victim to the hospital. Union County Emergency Management and the SDHP were also on scene. This accident was only a one-half mile from where two semi ethanol transports hit head-on 18 months ago with one fatality. About 3,000 gallons of ethanol were spilled at that scene.



YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR DEPARTMENT FEATURED!



Just fill out the attached form and send it back with a group photo and we'll feature your department in an upcoming issue of the South Dakota Firefighter Newspaper.

Submitter's Name _____ Submitter's Phone # _____

Department Name: _____ Total Number of Members: _____

Volunteer _____ # Paid _____ Year Department Established: _____

Fires Per year _____ # Rescue/Extrication Calls Per Year _____ Is Your Dept. Fire & EMS Combined? _____

Pumpers _____ # Tankers _____ # Rescue _____ # Ambulance _____ Other: _____

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Officer's Name:

Office:

Mail to: South Dakota Firefighter Newspaper,
 PO Box 122, Humboldt, IA 50548
 E-mail to: jeff@southdakotafirefighter.com

NVFC & Anheuser-Busch Drinking Water Recipients

Several South Dakota volunteer departments recently received a donation of canned emergency drinking water from Anheuser-Busch to help keep its responders hydrated as they respond to fires and other incidents this season.

In August and September, volunteer departments from Wagner, Edgemont, Hill City, and Viborg received a pallet of 98 cases, almost 2,000 cans, of drinking water delivered by local Anheuser-Busch wholesaler partners, John A Conkling Distributing, Yankton, Quality Brands of the Black Hills, Rapid City, and Beal Distributing, Sioux Falls.

Each of the departments indicated their intent to share the cases of drinking water with surrounding volunteer departments.

“When we applied for the water program, if selected, we

planned to give several cases to the area departments we typically do mutual aid responses with,” said Viborg Fire Chief Matt Thompson. They will be placing a cache of water at six locations in the area.

The water was donated by Anheuser-Busch through a partnership with the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC). Anheuser-Busch has a longstanding tradition of pausing beer production each year to provide emergency drinking water and supplies for disaster relief efforts. The production pause enables the company to apply its production and logistics expertise to can clean, safe drinking water that is ready to distribute.

Building on this commitment, the brewer teamed up with the NVFC – the leading nonprofit membership association

representing the interests of the volunteer fire, emergency medical, and rescue services.

To date, the NVFC program has donated over 8.9 million cans of water to nearly 2,500 volunteer fire departments across almost all 50 states.

Asst Chief BJ Zimmerman adds, “It’s programs like this and other benefits we get by being members of the NVFC that make it worthwhile.”

Anheuser-Busch maintains an emergency supply to distribute when disaster strikes. Since 1988, the brewer has donated more than 90 million cans of emergency drinking water to communities impacted by natural disasters and other crises.

Anyone can be a member of the NVFC. Learn more about the drinking water program at www.nvfc.org/water.





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Bennett Fire reaches 367 acres near Edgemont

As of Monday, Aug. 19, fire personnel continued holding the 367-acre Bennett Fire within the containment lines all of Sunday night and into Monday morning. By Monday afternoon, the fire was considered 90% contained. It is located 8 miles southeast of Dewey, or about 8.5 miles northwest of Edgemont.

The plan of action moving forward was to continue mopping up the burned area while continuing to secure and patrolling the remainder of the boundary, all while keeping firefighter and public safety at the forefront. Air tankers and aerial support were still available to support firefighters if needed.

Despite having as many as 130 fire personnel working the flames over the weekend, there were still 110 fire personnel on the scene Monday. Firefighters came from across the region, including those from throughout South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Wisconsin, and Colorado. Multiple agencies and volunteer fire departments are supporting the effort to suppress the fire.

The lightning-caused fire started Thursday, Aug. 15, around 1 p.m. A Type III Incident Management team, led by Forest Service Incident Commander, Josh Morgan was called in to manage the fire.

No road closures or evacuations were issued during the fire’s suppression efforts. The entire fire was located on Black Hills National Forest land.

(Fall River County Herald, Edgemont, Aug. 22, 2024)



Black Hills Wind and Fire makes donation

Black Hills Wind and Fire collects fire boot donations at various locations in the Black Hills area. All money collected is then donated to the Black Hills Children's Home outside of Rapid City. This year's boot collections totaled \$2,063, which were given on August 25. Wind and Fire has donated over \$33,000 to the local home, which helps the children have extra clothes, pizza parties, and even an outside portable swimming pool over the years. If anyone has donated money into those boots, thank you very much. BH Wind and Fire can be contacted by email atwnfire@rocketmail.com. Wind and Fire are Firefighter Motorcyclists who do charity fundraisers around the country.

PLANE CRASH NEAR LEAD

Two people were able to walk away without serious injuries from a plane crash Saturday morning west of Lead.

At approximately 10:20 a.m., the Lawrence County dispatch received a 911 call of a report of a plane crash in a densely wooded area west of Lead. Two Kansas residents were on a recreational flight that originated from Hot

Springs.

The plane reportedly lost power and crashed into the forest. Both passenger and pilot received minor injuries but were able to walk away from the crash site.

The incident is under investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety

Board along with the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office.

Lawrence County Search and Rescue, Emergency Management, as well as the Lead, Deadwood, and Spearfish fire departments, and Lead-Deadwood Ambulance responded to the incident.

(Spearfish Black Hills Pioneer, Spearfish, Sept. 10, 2024)

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