

The Forum QUAD TOWN



CanPacific
Potash

DON'T WAIT...



**Check
the Date!**

**Replace smoke alarms
every 10 years.**

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - OCTOBER 9 - 15, 2016

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The Forum



CanPacific
Potash

Message from the RM of Francis

The RM of Francis is proud to support our local fire teams in the communities of Francis, Odessa, Sedley and Vibank.

As of April this year, we have renewed fire protection agreements with the four communities where part of the terms include an annual payment of \$4,500 to be made by the RM to each fire department starting in 2016.

Further to this, the RM also provides a \$1,500 grant to the communities that have First Responders to further aid those volunteers to be trained and equipped with what they need to serve the community.

During Fire Prevention Week 2016, we salute the hard-working volunteers that make up our fire department and First Responder teams. RM Council would like to encourage all of their ratepayers to ensure they have adequate fire fighting insurance coverage by contacting their insurance provider, and most importantly to be vigilant about registering their controlled burns to 1-866-404-4911.

By doing this, we can make sure our fire departments' services are being utilized appropriately.

Sincerely,
Staff and council of the RM of Francis #127

Message from the RM of Lajord

As council and administration for the RM of Lajord, we want to encourage each and every ratepayer to check their smoke detectors, make sure they are working, and as the national theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week states: "Replace smoke alarms every 10 years."

The RM of Lajord provides financial support to the local fire teams in Riceton and Kronau, and has entered into mutual aid agreements with a number of communities and municipalities.

We salute all of our volunteer firefighters and First Responders and are thankful for the hard work that you do.

We remember Gord Glaze, fire chief with the Riceton team who was killed in a collision in September. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his fire department team who will continue his legacy by providing invaluable service to our community.

Sincerely,
Staff and council of the RM of Lajord

Message from the RM of Montmartre

For over 20 years, the Montmartre First Responders and fire department have been serving the communities and areas of the RM of Montmartre.

We also have fire aid agreements with the villages of Kendal and Montmartre.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme serves as a reminder to check your smoke alarms and replace them every 10 years. We encourage everyone to take the time to check those alarms and replace the batteries or replace the alarms if the time has come.

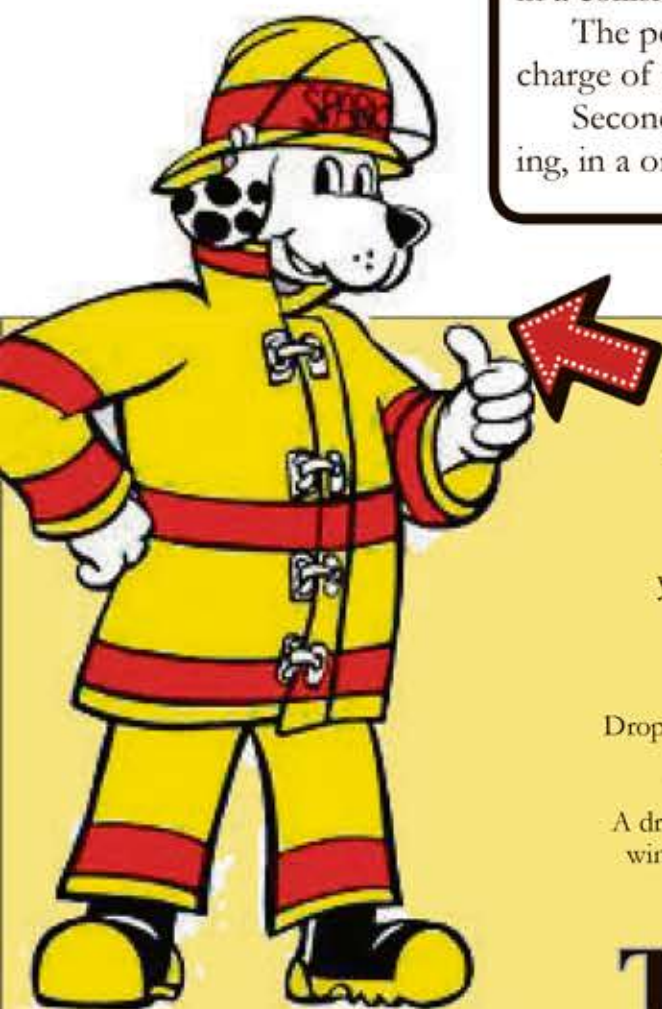
On behalf of the RM of Montmartre, the residents of Candiac, Montmartre and Kendal we salute our volunteers and thank them for their service.

Signed,
Council and staff of the RM and Village of Montmartre

A study from Virginia Tech Transportation Institute about cellphone distraction while driving reported that drivers who are texting are 23 times more likely to be in a collision than those who don't. Talking on a cellphone makes the driver three to six times more likely to be in a collision.

The penalty for using a cellphone while driving is \$280 (which includes a victims' surcharge of \$60) and four demerit points.

Second and subsequent offences of using a wireless communication device while driving, in a one-year period, will result in a seven-day vehicle impoundment."



FIND SPARKY!

Kids, count each of the Sparky the Fire Dog pictures you find in this insert and fill in this entry form...
you COULD WIN A PRIZE!!!

Drop off your entry at one of the businesses below or The Quad Town Forum newspaper office in Vibank before noon on October 28, 2016. A draw will be made from all entries received and the winner will be announced in an upcoming issue of The Quad Town Forum newspaper.

The Forum

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

of Sparky's: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

Drop your entry into a bin at Vibank Fine Foods, Sedley Country Convenience, Prairie Corner Treasures, Pharmasave in Montmartre, or the Odessa Co-op.

FRANCIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Francis fire team appreciates importance of smoke alarms

For the Francis fire department, the 2016 National Fire Prevention Week theme rings true, "Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years."

In 2015, a fire in the community destroyed two homes and a third was severely damaged by smoke.

"One house has been repaired, another new house is getting built and the mobile home that got destroyed, not sure what he's going to do there, yet," said fire chief Cliff Knoll.

The team's take away from that fire was "How fast things can go," Knoll said. He said that the buildings in last year's fire had working smoke detectors.

"No one got hurt, that was the main thing," he said.

The fire team is now over 30 members deep. Training with any fire team is ongoing and the plan is to reach out to Saskatchewan Volunteers Fire Fighter Association's (SVFFA) Jason Sriver, rep for the zone the Francis fire department is part of, to plan fall training in the fall.

The chief said his team

responds to more traffic incidents than to house fires.

In August of this year, two members of the department responded to a car hit by lightning on Highway 33. No one was injured, but the driver was certainly shook up.

A new fire hall build originally scheduled for 2016 has been put off until 2017. The current hall shares space with the town's maintenance shop. The maintenance shop will remain and the new hall will be built on Railway Avenue.

The team's wish list includes "two or three" sets of new turn out gear and another Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) rig.

To raise funds for the fire department, firefighters volunteer as bar staff at events and special occasions held at the Francis Hall.

"We've done it for a long time, but we're really getting into it now that our hall is booked so much," said Knoll. Members of the team show up for six to 12 weddings in a year and people using the hall give a voluntary donation that goes to the fire department.



L-R: Cliff Knoll, Orry Knoll, Craig Helfrick, Ron Roteliuk, Clarence Gutzke, Reg Helfrick, Ron Muhr.

Missing:

Dale Anderson
Les Carroll
Dallas Chinski
Devon Connery
Ila Connery
Kim Connery
Reed Dorgan

Rita Dube
Barry Duke
Jeremy Duke
Rita Duke
Randy Getz
Ron Helfrick
Tyler Helfrick
Stephen Hoff
Drew Keller

Isaac Keller
Bart Klein
Lali Klein
Kris Lang
Kevin Linnen
Blair McEwan
Jim Mitchell
Lu Mitchell
Blaine Muhr

Lorna Muhr
Robert Muhr
Todd Muhr
Matt Sim
Calvin West
Ellen Wiggins
Ernest Wiggins
Dale Ziegler

CanPacific Potash builds connection with involvement

David Waugh doesn't need to be told twice about the importance of being involved in a small community.

Waugh, CEO of CanPacific Potash, grew up in Malagash, N.S. where his father worked at a nearby salt mine. (In fact, he is a fourth-generation miner.) But growing up, there was no local volunteer fire team with the nearest fire station over a half-hour away for that part of the Bluenoser Province.

"The community just ran to wherever the fire was," Waugh laughed. "We're talking a very rural area."

He said Sedley would be considered "the big city" where he grew up, and those rural roots have been easy to see in CanPacific's support for, among other projects across Saskatchewan, Sedley's community flowers and this year's Fire Prevention Week insert.

"For us it was just an easy step to get involved with the communities," explained Waugh. "It's a perfect fit. The opportunity to support, even in a small way the communities in



David Waugh

"We're just pleased to be involved with the community. To be a part of something as important as fire prevention is a great opportunity for us," - David Waugh, CEO, CanPacific Potash.

the area is a big first step to growing a long-term relationship. The timing was great. We're happy to be involved."

The company is currently working on the early stages of the Albany Project potash mine project planned for the area.

CanPacific is the name of a joint venture between Rio Tinto and North Atlantic Potash that was formed in 2011.

"The earliest we'd be building anything would be after 2020. It's very early on," said Waugh. "There's a lot of phases to go through and discussions with the local communities and the government at all levels. There's a lot of moving pieces at this stage. I can't emphasize enough it's very early on."

Waugh said he loves meeting with community members and enjoyed attending the Sedley ratepayers' annual meeting to share a meal and to get to hear questions and concerns one-on-one.

"Although the project is still in the very early stages, we've already been communicating for several years now since exploration started in 2011," he said. "Typically, what I find in Saskatchewan you can sit down and have a great conversation like you've known them for years. To date we've been very pleased with the reception we've got and the people we've spoken to. Some

very good questions have come up. That's important. We like to hear the issues and concerns."

Bob Fawcett is the community relations manager with CanPacific Potash and had a personal reason for wanting to get involved with Fire Prevention Week. Fawcett retired from the Saskatoon Fire Department in 2011, where he served for 32 years, after becoming assistant fire chief.

"The firefighting profession is one of the proudest professions," Fawcett said. "I don't think you'll find any firefighter that's not very, very proud of what he does for a living"

In his role he was also responsible for helping train volunteer firefighters in rural areas around Saskatoon.

"Through that ex-



CanPacific Potash

perience teaching them I just got a real admiration for volunteer firefighters and volunteer fire departments," he said.

"The biggest thing that volunteer firefighters bring to the table is the fact that they do it strictly for their love of the community and for the safety of their families," Fawcett said.

He pointed to the various departments' professionalism and commitment to train without the same budgets or equipment as paid city teams.

"They are no less professional, no less effective than career firefighters," he said. "Because of that, a

lot of bigger communities have working agreements with smaller volunteer departments."

He enjoyed his time getting to know volunteer firefighting teams through his work in Saskatoon and through the Saskatchewan Professional Firefighters Association.

"For us to be part of this, to be part of honouring the departments around your community through Fire Prevention Week...there's not a better way to show our support for the community than to be honouring these volunteer firefighters in your communities," Fawcett said.

"I hope all of your community takes note of the tremendous job that these volunteers do and I know one thing, volunteer fire departments are always trying to recruit new members. I tell you what, there's nothing more gratifying than being a part of a fire department. They're there to protect your community," - Bob Fawcett, community relations manager with CanPacific Potash.



KADER Kronau & District Emergency Response



Paul Fischer



Brad Schneider



Rick Fortner



Ron Euteneier



Armand Gervais



Mike Koot



Mike Kowbel



Brendan Lowndes



Sarah Leippi



Terry Mandziak



Richard Petit



Lance Resch



Mason Resch



Joel Schaeffer

Missing:
Tina Wilkie-Lowndes
Greg Butterfield
Tyler Braden



KADER grows

There seems to be a new energy and enthusiasm permeating the Waithman Fire Hall in Kronau.

The Kronau and Area District Emergency Response (KADER) team has grown and added new members over the last year.

What's up?

"A well-run fire department by the chief and the deputy chief," said firefighter Armand Gervais. "They put a lot of time and effort in to getting it to this point."

New firefighter, Sarah Leippi, attended her first KADER meeting in August.

"I wanted to save lives," said Leippi.

She said volunteering for local fire departments was promoted through a First Aid course she took. Leippi moved to the community about two years ago.

The RM of Lajord is buying the KADER team a pumper truck which has been ordered and is expected to arrive either this month or next. The brand new unit is a Rosenbauer coming up from the United States.

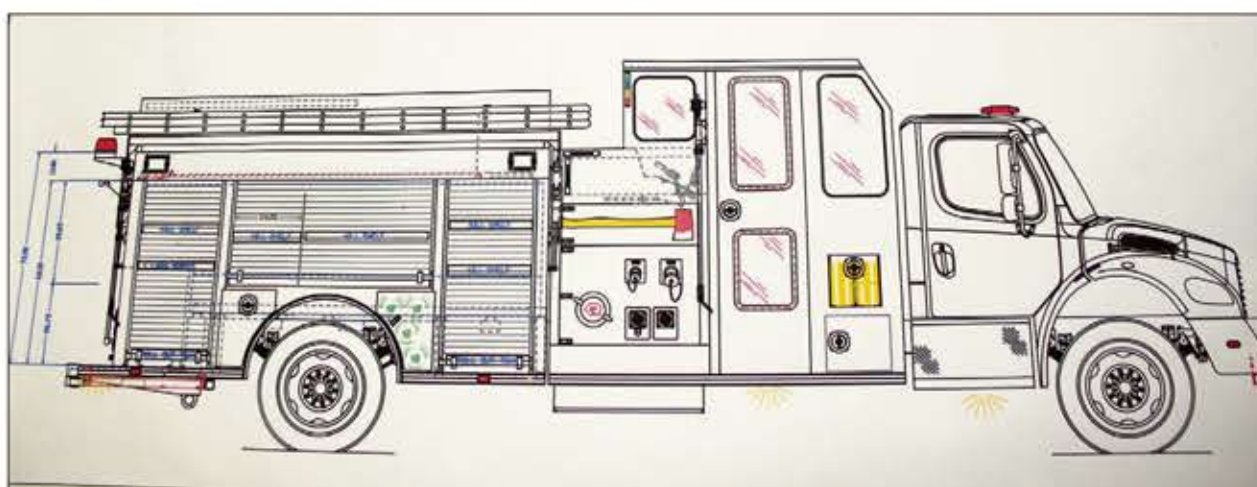
"We had to do something. The RM stepped up," said deputy chief Brad Schneider.

Residents will get to see the shiny new truck during a planned open house expected to take place in May or June of 2017.

As to the community, distracted drivers on Highway 33 are a concern for the team who responds to accident scene calls on the roadway.

"Leave your phone in your cup holder," said firefighter Joel Schaeffer.

The team said there's always room on KADER for new volunteers and encourages those interested in joining to contact fire chief Paul Fisher or deputy chief Schneider.



Drawings of the new pumper truck soon to be added to the KADER arsenal. Photo by Michelle Nicholson.

Montmartre Fire Department & First Responders



Tracy Gibson



Craig Dusyk



Dale Brenner



Shawn Brown



Krista Brown



Trevor Gibson



Mike Gibson



Val Gaetz



Joanne Herold



Andrea Kotylak



Jean Kotylak



Amber Lockert



Alain Perras



Rick Sebastian



Chris Storrey



Wendy Weichel

Missing:
Gerald Calvin
Rob Chittendon
Wayne Colby
Darren Cronam
Scott Dusyk

Cole Herold
Edward Kotylak
Scott Schnell
Clark Weichel
Craig Weichel

Montmartre First Responders

'It's nice to be there for your community'

Since March of 1995 the Montmartre First Responders have been taking care of the community. Members of the team, Jean Kotylak and Dave Perras have been there since the beginning.

"We have an amazing group," said Andrea Kotylak of the team of nine.

Kotylak has been a First Responder for eight years, and serves as secretary-treasurer with the group.

"It's rewarding to know that you're there when people are in a time of need," she said. "For the most part we're there to comfort and administer help until the ambulances arrive. It's amazing how when you walk in the door, just us, our presence...it's amazing to see how they all of the sudden calm down and they feel secure and a little bit safer ..."

First Responders at times have to administer First Aid and CPR, but the other work of taking vital signs, administering oxygen, taking down patient history and getting things ready for the EMS team, what Kotylak calls getting a "baseline" on the patient, helps the EMS speed their response time.

"We're so lucky to have Indian Head EMS. They are just an amazing support group. They have trained us, they're there for us," said Kotylak.

The Indian Head team follows up with the Montmartre team, checking in post-event to ensure everyone is OK and asking if a debrief needs to be done. She credits that team for helping keep her in the volunteer role.

The Montmartre

team covers the communities of Kendal, Montmartre and Candiac and a big swath of the RM of Montmartre.

"Most of our calls are within the community. We do have a fair bunch that aren't," she said.

The team is looking to get a scoop board. Like a spine board that keeps a patient with suspected neck or spine injuries rigid, the scoop board opens differently, allowing for First Responders to "scoop under a patient" without having to flip patients on their side. It requires less movement and get them off of cold or wet ground "as fast as possible."

The other item on the wish list is a defibrillator for the community of Candiac and new volunteers are always welcome.

Montmartre fire team welcomes five new members

They are five "young guys" and the Montmartre fire department is glad to welcome them to the team. Five new firefighters will soon receive their training and join the ranks of the volunteers already in service to the village.

"People that want to volunteer, will volunteer," said fire chief Tracy Gibson and said service through the fire department is "just giving something back to the community."

Gibson said the focus has been to recruit younger members "so the fire department can

carry on."

During this year's harvest he said a couple of grass fires were started due to a "couple of bearings getting hot" on farm equipment.

The team does respond to several grass fires and last year, the department responded to one house fire, localized to a chair that caused "more smoke damage than anything."

"Call them in before you light them up," the chief said of controlled burns.

"Bottom line is if you don't call and a fire department gets

called out, somebody's probably going to get billed," he said.

As with any organization, the Montmartre team has a wish list which includes updated turn out gear and updated lights for their trucks as well as some SCBAs.

The team gets together once a month for meetings, takes training through opportunities provided by Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association and equipment suppliers who will provide training. Gibson said the training for the new members will be "ongoing."

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firepreventionweek.org



Odessa Fire Department & First Responders

Safety messages from the Odessa fire department

"Make sure that your smoke detectors are in working condition," said fire chief Larry Lockert. Check your smoke detectors. Check to ensure the batteries in your smoke detectors are working and remember to replace smoke detectors every 10 years.

"It makes our job a lot easier when we go to a house fire and there's nobody [inside]," said firefighter and first responder coordinator, Chris Wild.

Deputy fire chief Dave Wild reminded rural people to check wind conditions before starting any burn and to call in and register controlled burns. Fires that are not called in will cost land owners money. "Call in your controlled burns," stressed Wild.



Larry Lockert



Dave Wild



Vivian Glas



Quentin Glas



Ernie Gutzke



Kim Schindel



Marvin Seitz



Connie Seitz



Pat Muchowski



Murray Wild



Chris Wild



Carolyn Wild

Missing:
Darren Kress
Jonathan Kress
Lional Kress
Marvin Kress

Jason Muchowski
Patrick Poissant
Jim Vogt
Tanner Vogt
Marty Weichel



Dave Wilson



Lorenz Ziegler

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
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Odessa fire and first responders serving well A team you can "count on"

Deputy fire chief Dave Wild shared a story that highlights the importance of and the valuable service provided by Odessa's local fire department.

It started with a weeknight phone call at midnight from a farm.

He said within 25 minutes they had six to eight first responders on scene along with "most of our fire department out making a STARS landing, STARS circling and EMS pulling into that farm in under a half hour. That's pretty darn good, I think, for a small community."

"I was in in awe," Wild said, "and like I've said I've been out here 32 years and I was in awe when I actually just looked around - the resources that were there to help this person. One phone call got that all going. It was amazing," said Dave Wild.

There are 27 members of the Odessa fire team, nine of which are first responders, those numbers represent a lot of buy in from a community with a population just over 200.

"Most of us have been here for a long time, but now we have some young guys who want in so its a good mix of veterans and young people getting into it," said fire chief Larry Lockert.

A guesstimation puts the average years of service of fire department members between 18 and 20 years.

"I've got to say, if it wasn't for our rural residents on the fire department we'd be hooped here. I'd say two-thirds of our guys are from the rural

area," said Dave Wild, deputy fire chief.

"I know compared to other departments, that helps greatly [with our response]," said firefighter and first responder coordinator, Chris Wild. He pointed to the fact that farmers on the team have more flexibility and daytime availability to respond to calls for service.

Dave Wild said accidents on Highway 48 have been up "a little bit compared to what we're used to," most calls for first responders are medical calls and there have been a couple of STARS involved calls.

The team has been doing some fundraising and they recognized Enbridge who has given donations. The team's wish list includes a response vehicle for the first responders.

"It's a long-term plan," explained Dave Wild. "It's not something that's going to happen overnight."

Chris Wild said there is now a five-year plan in place which prioritizes a bigger building which would be needed to accommodate a response truck and later on the purchase of a "semi-style fire truck," which will serve to fight structure fires and the many grass fires that the team attends.

The response vehicle will cut down on response time as currently first responders have to take their own vehicles to scenes, stopping to stock them as needed. Deputy chief Wild said in Saskatchewan's brutally cold weather, it would provide a space for



people to warm up at scenes.

Dave Wild said all of the team members are unanimous in their decision to not take gas money or honorariums for their service.

"We're volunteers," he said. "That's why we're doing it. We're not doing it for the extra \$20 bucks. It's either in you to do it or it isn't, right?"

"Being supportive of the stuff we do," said Chris Wild of what the community can do for the team. "We're always on the look [out] for people who are wanting to join in any way. We are trying to get younger people in, especially with the first responders."

"We have 27 good members. You could count on any one of them, any time," said Dave Wild.



Riceton Fire Department & First Responders



Jeff Coleclough



Colin Ford



Peter Eissfeldt



Randy Frei



Back Row (left to right) Jeff Coleclough, Peter Eissfeldt, Fred Marean
Front row (left to right) Lindsey Brown, Kathleen Coleclough.
Missing: Dana Stoppler. *Supplied image*



Rod Lewis



Todd Lewis



Kacee Maloney



Dave Windecker

Riceton fire department: Proud history, proud to serve

Editor's note: Remembering Gord

Riceton fire chief Gord Glaze was killed in a collision Sept. 9. Just two days before, he had participated in a photo shoot and an interview with the Quad Town Forum for this year's fire prevention week feature. After speaking with people in the community, the following story runs in tribute to Gord's legacy with the fire department and in the community.



Gordon Glaze

What came of the loss of Riceton's community hall and rink is now a legacy in its 41st year.

"The rink burnt and it was a catalyst for starting the fire department," fire chief Gord Glaze said.

Milestone's fire department responded, but the distance they traveled from and the fact that it was a cold winter day resulted in a total loss of the building.

"Had there been a fire truck here, it would've been a save," he said.

In 1975 the Riceton fire department started with a meeting called by Neal Moyses and Dan Kirkpatrick. Fifty people showed up and funds were raised selling memberships and hosting an annual Fireman's Ball.

What started with a portable fire pump, 1,400 feet of hose, some protective gear and other odds and ends has turned into a fire hall on Main Street complete with a newer

fire truck, SCBA equipment, turnout gear for all the members and other critical tools.

The RM of Lajord started providing funding help for Riceton's fire department in 1995.

"RM support has been super," Glaze said.

The fire department is looking for recruits.

"If you look at our cast of characters, a lot of our guys were born in the 1960s," Glaze said with a smile.

Glaze acknowledges having 14 people on the team is a "good number," but would like to see more members to ensure there are people around to cover during holidays.

"The more the merrier," he said.

Glaze said the department "values people's time," so regularly scheduled training sessions are kept tight to get everyone home at a decent hour.

The team reaches in to the community.

"One of the things

that we always focus on during fire safety week is the fire safety message with young children," Glaze said.

Members of the department make an annual visit to the day-care in Gray. The team talks with the children about being fire smart around candles and matches, teaches them "stop, drop and roll," and the importance of having a fire exit plan, a safe meeting spot and smoke detectors.

A firefighter will suit up in turnout gear in front of the kids. This helps the kids understand it is a person inside the gear and that they shouldn't be afraid.

That's for the littles. The "bigs" need help too...

"Our risks are the same ones that everybody faces farm-wise," said Glaze. "When I'm out combining and the wind's blowing 70 (kilometres per hour) and it's as hot as hell, if something starts on fire that's a big fire." He advises fellow



farmers to have extinguishers in equipment, a water truck in the field or systems on their grain cart for fire extinguishing.

The Riceton Fire Department serves the community by selling memberships for \$100 and they are good for five years, available to farmers in the service area. (Yet another legacy that remains from 1975.) "When in doubt,

phone. It doesn't cost you a dime," Glaze said.

He has had the fire truck out to his own combine fire.

Glaze said the importance of smoke detectors cannot be understated. He spoke of a house fire in Gray 10 years ago, in which the homeowner had a working detector.

"It woke him up, got him out of the house. He even got

his cats out," recalled Glaze.

Glaze believes in investing in a good smoke detector and spoke of detectors which alarm in the presence of smoke, natural gas and propane. The cost is a bit higher than a standard detector, but averaged over the ten-year life of the unit, the cost comes in about \$6.00 per year.

"Think about the life of it," Glaze said.

Sedley Fire Department & First Responders



Bryan Leier



Justin Aspeleiter



Dion Baker



Andrew Baker



Alan Currie



Amanda Currie



Kurtis Lockert



Karen Leier



Rylan Parker



Mason Solie



Chris Stevens

Missing
Sedley Fire Department
Shawn Forbes
Len Parker
Sue Parker
Dan Perras
Carter Baker
Sedley First Responders
Shawn Forbes
Shawna Forbes
Sabrina Gulka
Sue Parker

Jaw'd up in Sedley

This year, the Sedley Fire Department acquired Jaws of Life.

"Obviously being a volunteer fire department we rely on the village to provide us with a grant that we do get. But anything extra that we want we do have to fundraise for," explained Sedley firefighter Alan Currie.

The Jaws of Life is a hydraulic rescue tool, like a large mechanized set of pliers, that is used to pry metal apart at the scene of a vehicle crash to free people trapped inside.

"It improves our ability to help with highway rescues. With Highway 33 continuing to grow in its use and becoming more and more busy, we see a lot of highway accidents," said Currie.

Having the Jaws means more training for the team, and they pursue continued education opportunities through the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association in auto extraction and how to take crash victims out vehicles as safely as possible.

The village has a mutual aid agreement with the RM of Francis and Currie indicated 90 per cent of the calls the team responds to are not in the village, but outside of it.

Currie said safety for the village's firefighters is "paramount."

Turn out gear (the heavy, fire resistant coats, pants, gloves, boots worn by firefighters) has an expiry date as

established by various national and international firefighters associations.

"Just about everybody at this point has fresh turn out gear. [We have] a few new members that are coming up, and we're going to have to dip into our piggy bank for that stuff and then we'll have look at fundraising," said Currie.

The firefighters have hosted many fundraisers in the community. A small community with many volunteer projects on the go, Currie said they are looking at different ideas.

"We try to take a temperature read of what the population is feeling and what they want or what will go over well," he said.

Sedley is a community with many young families. Currie concerns himself for the safety of his firefighting teammates and the residents of the village.

"Make sure that your smoke detector is working. Something as simple as a 10 dollar detector within your home and all of your bedrooms can definitely save lives," stressed Currie.

"To take that one step further is, once they hear the alarm - test it with your kids - have a plan. Say: 'You know, when you hear this everybody get to this one spot and know how to get out of the house,'" Currie said.

He points out that anybody working in an office

building or manufacturing plant should have an exit plan and regular fire drills too. It is something he advises can be done at home, too, with children.

"Real simple. It takes 15 - 20 minutes. It just gets them in the habit of doing it. They do it at school, do it at home. Repeat. It will eventually become ingrained."

Taking care of Sedley

The Sedley First Responders have a 20-plus year history serving the community.

A lot of their calls for service come from within the village, Shawn Forbes, coordinator for Sedley's first responders said, with other calls to Francis and Lajord, "not necessarily out in the country," he said.

Forbes said safety messages specific to Sedley would be a reminder to wear helmets while out on snow machines or out biking.

The First Responders team would love to see more volunteers join up and they will welcome two new recruits soon.

Those recruits will be taking their training in December, so it's a good time for those interested to come aboard. Those interested can contact Forbes at 306-209-2772.

Vibank Fire Department & First Responders



Terry Pekrul



Murray Allan



Chris Gerein



Justin Lockert



Allan Moffatt



Laurie Morrow



Breanne Obrigawitsch



Tony Pelter



Des Roske

Missing
Michael Flaman
Michael Fuchs
Chad Obrigewitsch
Bryce Pekrul
Lane Rey
Des Roske
Dustin Tracey

Join the team!

The small but mighty team of First Responders in Vibank is looking for recruits.

You can help serve your community. First Responder train-

ing is coming up in Regina on Nov. 18-20 and Dec. 2-4. Interested volunteers can contact Laurie Morrow at 306-536-8555 or email l.morrow@sasktel.net.

Innovating in Vibank

When you look at the Vibank fire department's tanker truck, you'll see a group of valves piped into a special rack.

Turns out, that innovative bit of engineering was put together by members of the local fire team. As many of the calls the Vibank team responds to relate to grass fire suppression, a little innovation goes a long way.

"We've modified our tanker. It's really good now for grass fires. Because we can actually move and spray at the same time," explained fire chief Terry Pekrul. He said several members designed it, bought part and made it happen. "They spent time down here and put it all together and tested it out," he said.

Even in the converted school bus, used to hold equipment and transport personnel, members of the team built custom storage units to hold SCBA equipment.

The chief offered up safety messages specific to his village. Top of mind: caution with backyard bonfires. "Be careful," said Pekrul. He also asked people not set off fireworks in town.

"There was some earlier in the summer that [were set

off during] kind of a dry spell. These things are falling down into treetops. How dry is that treetop? You don't know."

He agreed that just like with the Fort McMurray fires, which jumped by treetops, those types of fires can spread quickly.

"Faster than you can do anything," he said.

When other provinces are changing their clocks he advised it serve as a reminder here to replace your batteries in smoke detectors, for those that don't have detectors that are hard wired in. He said it's worth the small investment in batteries.

"Way better than 4 o'clock in the morning you're not getting out of your house because you're already dead. Replace them," he said.

A plaque hanging on a wall recognizes the opening of the new fire hall and maintenance shop in 2001. A white board shows a list of firefighters who will work the bar at an upcoming event to raise funds for the fire department. The team is in the discussion stages with the village staff

and council for a new fire truck to replace the 34-year-old truck currently being used. There will be upcoming opportunities for community members to support fundraising efforts that result.

Pekrul has been in the role of chief for four years and served with the fire department for 18 years in total. He said the team is looking for recruits.

"We have a very good crew right now, very dedicated," said Pekrul. "However, most of us work in the city." He would like to see more volunteers who are available during the day.

The job has its rewards.

"Satisfaction in helping. Doing something that a lot of other people wouldn't do or think that they're capable of doing. It's a feel good, afterwards, depending on the call. In most cases you feel pretty decent about doing what we do," he said.

Those interested commit to a meeting an month and attending a session of provincial fire school.