



Fire Training Activities

Nov/Dec 09 Featured Equipment:

Grand Rapids Fire Dept.

Tower #119

- 2009 Pierce 95ft mid-mount aerial
- 500 Cummins Diesel
- 2000 gpm Waterous Pump
- Husky Foam System
- 2 - 1000 gpm platform nozzles
- 3 - 1 3/4" hand lines
- 360 degree rollover protection package
- Length: 50' GVW: 78,000 lbs
- Cost: \$ 997,990.00



Greetings!

The Grand Rapids Fire Department recently took delivery of their new aerial truck, Tower 119, which serves as the only aerial device in Itasca County. This truck replaces the 1985 Sutphen 95' mid-mount that was in the GRFD fleet. As a member of this department, I must admit that it is quite a privilege to be able to work with such a fascinating piece of equipment like Tower #119. It's truly amazing to see the advancement in safety designs and technology features of today's fire trucks verses that of trucks designed 10 and 20 years ago (I know, many departments are operating with 20 year old trucks—or older—as their newest in the fleet!). As I mentioned, it is a privilege to have this truck in our fleet. As a side note, this truck just happened to come off of Pierce's production line on 9-11-09! Coincidence?

FF 1 & 2 classes either have begun or will be beginning soon in Eagles Nest, Morse-Fall Lake, Eveleth, and Goodland; please see the enclosed 2-sided schedules and call Debbie @ 218-749-7731 to pre-register if you will be attending any of these as a new student. Grand Marais is currently hosting a FF 1 course, and there are also FF 1 & 2 courses scheduled for early 2010 in Clinton and Tofte. For those of you who have make-up classes, feel free to attend any of these courses that fit your schedule.

The **MN Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE)** deadline for reimbursement requests was November 1st. Hopefully your department sent in their request on time. The MBFTE stated that they will notify departments in early December as to which requests were approved. As you may have heard, there is now more than \$4 million in the account for the MBFTE, but the last legislative session had only approved the \$1 million (or so) that was in the account at the time for reimbursements. With budgets being what they are, what a great benefit it would mean to all of our departments if legislators would release the excess in the Fire Safety Account yet this year!

Speaking of training, there are a lot of great upcoming training opportunities available for you to consider. Mt. Iron FD will be hosting a **R.I.T.** course (hands-on!); there will be an **NFA Leadership 2** course at the Virginia campus; Breitung FD will be hosting a **FF1 State Certification** in December; and mark your calendars for the **2nd Annual ACCEPT Conference** (Arrowhead Conference on Community Emergency Preparedness and Terrorism) which will be held at Mesabi Range College on December 10th. There will be a **Wills for Heroes** session held at Mesabi Range College on January 23rd, *call to get pre-registered* for this important opportunity! Don't forget to get registered for the **FITOAM Conference** (Fire Instructors and Training Officers of MN) in St. Cloud on Jan. 30-31st — it's not that far away! The **Arrowhead Regional Firefighter's Association Meeting** will be held on December 5th in Grand Lake. This is YOUR association which carries a strong voice in the MN Fire Service — but only if your voice is heard. Be an active part of the fire service in Minnesota by representing your department at these meetings!

By the way, if your department is in need of any other **customized** fire training, don't forget that Mesabi Range College offers a wide variety of "prop"portunities to enhance your training program: Tactical Ventilation, Live Burn Trailer, E-85 fuel trailer, foam equipment, smoke machine, Confined Space, and much, much more.

Remember that you can check out lots of cool photos, **live burn videos**, and other fire training info by visiting us on-line at: <http://www.mesabirange.edu/> and click on "Community", then "Firefighter Training".

Until we see each other on the next call, remember..... "Stay Low — Stay Safe!"

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