



Fire Training Activities

Jan/Feb 2010 Featured Equipment:

Virginia Fire Department

2004 Pierce Ladder Truck 105 ft. Stick
1500 gpm Hale Pump
Foam-Pro 2002 System w/ Compressed Air Foam

500 Gallon Booster Tank
500 hp Detroit Diesel

Cost: \$560,000.00.



Happy New Year!

I'll keep it going with the ladder truck photos with a re-print of a past issue. Sounds as if the Virginia FD has been getting a lot of use with theirs lately!

Firefighter 1 & 2 classes are in full swing, with classes taking place at the following fire departments: Eagles Nest, Morse-Fall Lake, Eveleth, Goodland, Tofte, Grand Marais, Clinton, Vermilion Lake, and Int'l Falls. Please check 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. For those of you who have make-up classes, feel free to attend any of these courses that fit your schedule. Updates to these schedules and other training in the area can be found on the Mesabi Range Fire Training website at: <http://www.mesabirange.edu/>.

By now your department should have been notified by the **MN Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE)** about your request for training reimbursement. Please contact the college to set-up your training dates so that we can get it scheduled between now and when your reimbursement window expires on June 30th. Be sure that your department's training program is preparing for the next round of MBFTE reimbursements that follow the state's fiscal year — July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Speaking of expirations, the MnSCU **Voucher Dollars** have expiration dates. Many departments probably are not aware that they have had voucher dollars in their accounts for years, and now they are in jeopardy of losing these training dollars. Currently there are more than 40 fire departments in northern Minnesota who have training vouchers set to expire on June 30th of 2010! I don't know about you, but I can't imagine that there are departments out there that are funded well enough to leave money like this on the table! **Attention Training Officers:** What a tremendous way to enhance your department's training program for little cost — if any — by using your vouchers to have Mesabi Range Fire instructors come in and provide quality training for you! Does your department need to do their annual Hazmat and/or OSHA refresher classes yet? How about their quarterly entries? Does your department know the laws about operating on highways? Are your firefighters fully prepared for R.I.T., Vehicle Extrication, or Confined Space Rescue, or Thermal Imaging Cameras? Mesabi Range can provide all of this for you!

How about using vouchers to pay the registration fee at the **Fire Service Educators Professional Development Conference in St. Cloud on January 30-31**? This is an outstanding chance to network and share ideas and information with other training officers and fire instructors throughout the state. Tim Sendelbach, Editor In-Chief of *Fire Rescue Magazine* will once again be the keynote speaker. Just having the opportunity to spend a weekend with people as passionate about the fire service, such as Mr. Sendelbach, is quite a privilege — and is certain to be of value to you and your department!

Wills for Heroes will be held at Mesabi Range College on January 23rd. *Call to get pre-registered* for this important opportunity. This service is provided **FREE** to anyone in emergency services by the MN Bar Assn.! Personally, I went through this process a while ago with my wife and we were both amazed at how valuable this service was! I can't stress enough how important this is, no matter how young you are! Go to <http://www.mnbar.org/willsforheroes/index.asp> for more info. Each participant must bring a completed form in order to participate. There are a limited number of time slots available, and you must reserve a slot by January 11th. To reserve a slot, contact: Inffwsa.sec@frontiernet.net.

Until the next call, remember..... "Stay Low — Stay Safe!"

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