



# *Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association 2018 First Quarter Newsletter*



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# ***Know your Zone!***

## **S.V.F.F.A.**

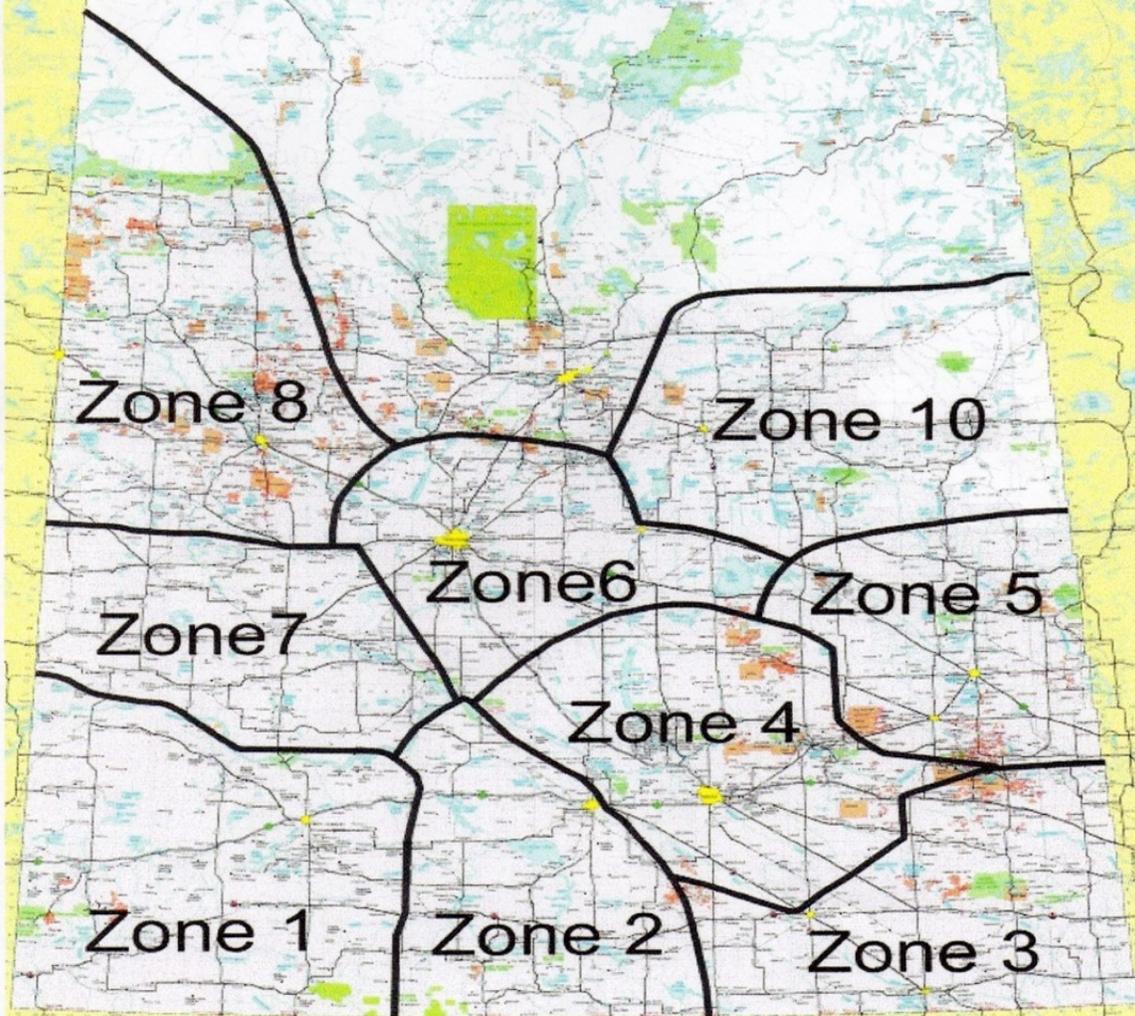
### **MISSION:**

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

## **Zone 9**



# *Comments from the President*



The New Year has started and it looks promising for all of us in fire service. We have had great movement and settlement with SGI regarding the single rate and definition for Motor Collision Vehicle Response. Furthermore we have garnered more attention to our CISM/CISD program we presented at the SUMA conference. Due to an inexperience level of mine, the resolution was stopped on the floor. The problem was that I had asked both SUMA and SARM in the same motion to support our initiative and SUMA felt it was not their place to impose their will upon SARM. I heartily agree with that sentiment so we are still going forward at the SARM convention but with different wording.

The above information may fly in your face and you may be saying “but I read that the SUMA delegates were against it”. There is nothing further from the truth and the person who spoke to the press and extended this sentiment was wrong.

This brings me to the crux of my report. We all have expectations, both placed on us and by ourselves. As volunteer firefighters we are expected to respond when called, do the best we can and try to keep in mind to take care of ourselves mentally. We also have the expectation that our fellow firefighters will be there for us at a call and at times other than. We have the expectation of our officers being competent, safe and have the best for all in mind. Our officers conversely have the expectation that we will follow the orders, we will know the operating guidelines, we will adhere to the rules and we won't do anything that may bring shame upon ourselves, our departments and our town.

There is the expectation by our rate payers that we will treat the equipment we have with respect and we will notify the ratepayers a fair and workable solution to purchasing newer, better equipment. We have the expectation placed on us that we will ask only for what is needed and what is justified. Our command structure/rate-payers expect us to follow proper guidelines regarding talking to the press, putting things out there in the cyber world, respecting the chain of command and most of all respecting the public.

Why do I talk about this now? Well this edition of the newsletter has a very good column written by the Past President, Mr. Dale Wagner, in which Dale challenges us to think about our public posting on social networks.

I want to be clear, I am neither for nor against it, but Mr. Wagner reminds us of an expectation that perhaps we forgot.

To that end, I will close here and let you read on. I ask that we all take a moment and make sure that we are meeting or exceeding all expectations, not only as firefighters, but as people as a whole.

In brotherhood, Your President

Doug Lapchuk

# *Words of Wisdom from your SVFFA Past President*



It has been a long time since I have offered a small report. As Past President my role has changed where I stand in the back and offer suggestions if asked. It is a lot easier of a role, but I do not mind and am happy to act as an archive of knowledge. Too bad the knowledge in our head fades as the years go on. We should have some sort of backup as do our computers.

There has been something going on in the fire service that is bothering me and at our last board meeting I brought it up and found out that some of our board members had the same feelings that I did. What I am talking about is social media and how the fire service has been using social media. I realize that social media is a great tool that allows the fire service to bring a message to a large audience. However it is also a tool that can greatly affect others if it is not used properly or taken in the wrong context. As everyone knows we all use texting as a quick handy source of communication. Sometimes the receiver of the text interprets the words totally different than what was meant by the original message. The automatic spell check can sometimes give a message a total different meaning. Be sure when posting something on Facebook that you double check what you are posting and ask yourself if you may be doing any harm with the picture or the text.

We all must be very careful that we are not sending out a message or posting a picture that infringes on privacy. I have heard the story of a post from the fire service that mentions a fatality and it has happened that family sees the post before they were properly informed. Sometimes the post of a vehicle can look just as a vehicle that may not have been involved in an incident and terrorizes people. I know that was not the intent of a post, however it is reality.

I might suggest that if a fire department wants to advertise their activities that it be generic. There is nothing wrong with posting information about ongoing training or even if you want to post how many calls you attended in a particular month, do it generically so that there is no invasion of privacy. Remember that what we do as first responders must be kept in confidence.

Respectively,

Dale Wagner

Past President, Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association

# *From the Desk of the Executive Director*

Hi Everyone!

With Spring fire school right around the corner, now is the time to get registered! The registration information has been included in this newsletter, but for a complete list of courses please visit the SVFFA website @ [www.svffa.ca](http://www.svffa.ca). In addition, please remember to nominate your outstanding firefighter for the *Fire Fighter of the Year Award*. It only takes a moment and means so much to the firefighter who **gives it their all**. See additional details for this award on page 25.

If you or someone you know is in need of Critical Incident Stress Management or Critical Incident Stress Debriefing, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached 24/7 in order to get you in touch with our **CISM/CISD** team.

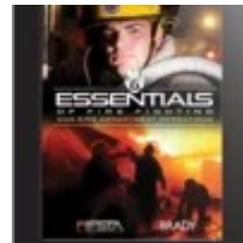
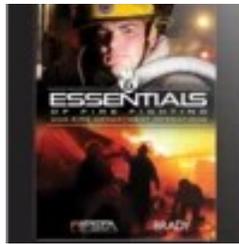
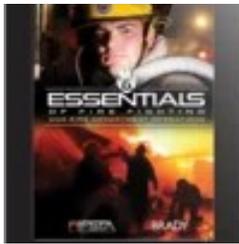
Remember to check the SVFFA website regularly as it is continuously updated with information pertaining to membership, Fire School, local events and so on. If there is something you would like to see on the website, such as an event your fire department is hosting, please contact me.

We are still receiving mail at previous SVFFA addresses. Please ensure the mailing address you have on file is the current address: SVFFA @ PO Box 107, Balgonie, SK S0G 0E0.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Spring Fire School in Nipawin April 20th-22nd!

Take care,

*Courtney*



***Do you need an Essentials of Fire Fighting 6th Edition text book for the course you are taking in Nipawin?? All study materials can be ordered by contacting the SVFFA office @ 306-520-3278 or [svffa@sasktel.net](mailto:svffa@sasktel.net). SVFFA members receive a 10% discount on all study materials!***

# *ZONE REPORTS*

## *From your*

### *SVFFA Board of Directors*

#### **Zone 1**

Hello all,

First off, I would like to thank the many fire departments that have already registered with the SVFFA. Since September 1990 the SVFFA has been proud to represent and be the responsible voice and leadership to the Volunteer Fire Fighter of Saskatchewan. The SVFFA provides a powerful voice offering Volunteer Fire Fighters the opportunity to shape the future Fire Service of Saskatchewan. I was able to get contact info for the many fire departments in Zone 1 and sent out an email introducing myself as the Zone 1 rep, and explaining the importance of joining the SVFFA family and if here is anything that we can do to help their departments. I hope to see many more departments register and take advantage of all the things available through the SVFFA. You can find all this info and much more on our website [www.svffa.ca](http://www.svffa.ca).

I was able to attend a meeting in Burstall Jan 8<sup>th</sup> with Adrian from EMFS. I want to congratulate Burstall Fire and surrounding departments for getting together, to start planning for the next time they need mutual aid in a large or small emergency event. I believe that this is a great idea and I do encourage all departments to start meeting with your surrounding departments to plan for such events like the ones on October 2017. If needed, Adrian and/or I can help get this started in your area. If you want this please reach out to me or Adrian at 306-741-0979. I look forward to meeting and helping the departments in Zone 1.

Many Zone 1 departments are either hosting courses or have already done so this year already. If you want to host a course in your area and don't know where to start, please get in touch with me and together, we can get the courses set up. Training is the mandate of the SVFFA and we will do what we can to get the training to you and your dept.

Hope to see many in Nipawin for the Spring SVFFA symposium April 20th-22nd.

***Louis Cherpin***

***Zone 1 Director***

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## **Zone 2**

We have started doing some regional training in our area. So far we have hosted one course last spring and had one the second weekend in February which were well attended. We had six communities attend these classes. We had another scheduled for February 23 and 24. This was through a group called South Central Protective Services, but was open to all communities even though they may not have been members of this organization. So far we have used instructors from the SVFFA and all has been well received. We are open to suggestions for future training involving Fire, Police and/or EMS. We have found it is more economical, and an advantage training with neighboring communities. It is great working with others from mutual aid areas in a training scenario which makes for better understanding when responding to a working mutual aid call.

Last year we had numerous responses to wildland fires, some large in nature requiring mutual aid. We learned that communication to dispatch and amongst responding departments and volunteers is critical for a successful outcome. In our area we had no serious incidents or injury but the potential was there. This year so far it is looking to be similar to last year with the lack of moisture, so we may have similar responses. We are planning to have meetings in our areas to educate the public volunteers that show up to help at these responses. We appreciate their willingness to help, but do not want them injured or causing an injury.

The SAFC and the SVFFA with assistance from the EMFS have worked together to have a Critical Incident Stress Management team in place and thanks to the volunteers who are members of this team it has grown faster than all expected. So far they have responded to over 50 calls to volunteer departments requesting their assistance. We have heard nothing but good come from these interventions. This is available to any volunteer fire department in our province. If needed, please call Courtney at the SVFFA office @ 306 520 3278 and she will contact the team coordinator to arrange for a meeting with your department members. The information is on both the SAFC and SVFFA websites.

Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding the SAFC or SVFFA, please contact myself at 306 476 7706 or email to [ethome@sasktel.net](mailto:ethome@sasktel.net) .

***Erwin Jackson***  
***Zone 2 Director***

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### **Zone 3**

Only in Saskatchewan? One day it is plus 3 and the next day it is minus 27. These wide temperature changes cause extremely dangerous driving conditions and for most fire departments more MVA calls. It also seems some drivers have not gotten the message to slow down at an accident scene.

Grenfell Fire Department was recently called to four jackknifed semis, one leaking diesel fuel. At the scene we encountered freezing rain and the highway was a sheet of ice. Even with all the warning lights and traffic cones a fifth semi came onto the scene too fast, hit his brakes, jackknifed and rolled in the ditch.

Public, please slow down at an accident scene and firefighters be safe out there.

Time is running out to get your FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR nominees in. For Zone 3 just mail or email them to Dwayne Stone, Box 835, Grenfell, SK S0G 2B0. The award is for new firefighters that have gone above and beyond in their department for 2017.

Firefighters endure stressful and traumatic events every day in our province. Not every event will be a critical incident, but if you've experienced one, the SVFFA is here to listen. CISM for volunteer firefighters is just now one call away. Call SVFFA Executive Director Courtney Edwards at 306 520-3278.

Grenfell Fire Department has hosted two recent zone fire training events for firefighters working towards their NFPA 1001. More are planned and emails will be sent out to all fire departments in Zone 3.

If firefighters have any questions or concerns with any fire related issues you can reach me at my contact info that can be found below.

Hope everyone has a great spring and summer. See you in Nipawin.

***Dwayne Stone***

***Zone 3 Director***

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## Zone 4

Zone 4 has been able to move forward with more regional training options for members. We have been able to open up an ICS 200 and a Wildland Course FREE to personnel within the zone in February/March. This has been well received. Both courses are right full. We hope to be able to open up more minimal cost courses to members within Zone 4 in the remainder of the 2018 calendar year.

Mathieu and I are available at any time to assist with training coordination, answer questions, and promote events for your fire dept.

We want to hear from you and your training needs, please email us with ideas. Would you like to host but need help planning? Do you have an idea but need a facility? We want to help.

**Health** Here's a quick routine for a practice night to keep up with the demands of our commitment to the job:

### **Winter Communication Training Exercise**

Winter training have you stumped on what to do? Proper communication is crucial to any emergency scene. Build some Lego! It is an old radio training trick however it is still one of the best out there.

**Materials needed:** 120 Lego bricks, 4 Ziploc Bags, 4 Portable Radios on a Department Tactical Channel, 4 Separate areas in your Fire Hall, Patience and Humour.

### **Lego Communication Exercise Steps:**

- Create a bag of Lego with about 15 various brick sizes and colours
- Create 7 other bags exactly the same as the first - the same brick sizes and colours
- Label 2 bags as Team 1 (or whatever Team name you prefer)
- Label 2 more bags as Team 2, 2 more as Team 3, and the final 2 as Team 4.
- Create 4 Teams of personnel at your training session.

Each Team needs their 2 bags, a radio, a hard surface to build their structure, and a separate location hidden from other teams.

Teams will split off to their separate locations. All Teams will be on the same radio channel.

Team 1 will build a structure with their first bag. Team 2 will build a structure with their first bag.

Using their created structure, Team 1 will communicate via radio to Team 2, using their unopened bag, to create the exact same structure

Team 2 will communicate back to Team 1 how to build the structure they created.

Teams 3 and 4 will perform the same process. **ON THE SAME CHANNEL!**

Once complete Teams will compare how close their structures match the original.

This is a fun yet highly educational communication drill. It is crucial for teams to utilize proper radio etiquette, enunciate their directives, confirm assignments, and announce when completed a task. I will warn you now that emotions may run high and the odd fistfight may occur...

### **Rookie in Training..**



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**Zone 4 Director**

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## Zone 5

Greetings from Zone 5 and Happy New Year. I want to start out with commending all the departments that worked tirelessly to protect homes and property during the firestorms on October 17 and 18. We were saddened to hear of the very serious injuries and the fatality that occurred as a result of the fire storms.

Now to back up a few steps, I believe the fall school to have been a success, including this board directors first teaching class. Thank you to Chief Almond and his firefighters for a job well done.

In October, the council in our town and RM initiated talks with just about every municipality In the Parkland region. I had the opportunity to sit in as EMFS led the discussion on how to go about reviewing the agreements, as well as adding new ones to the fold in hopes of improving everyone's mutual aid to ensure that when the need arises our fire departments can deal with emergencies without worrying about who's paying what. Very good presentation and discussion from Trent Catley and his office.

We have had one of the strangest winters I think I have ever seen weather wise. It seems that we have every extreme, every other day, making our highways in this area a pretty inconsistent mess. It hasn't stopped new members from coming out, and signing up in this area. Lots of new faces, and all willing and able to learn.

As a result of all the new faces, there was a fairly large group of mutual aid partners along the yellow head asking for training.

In November, Churchbridge hosted an orientation class for new firefighters. There were 20 new firefighters representing five different departments.

In January, most of the same group returned to go through an SCBA course, which gave Churchbridge fire rescue a chance to test out some new props for testing our skills. Well done ladies and gentlemen. Good turn out to represent your departments.

Looking forward to seeing a lot of these people at the Nipawin school this spring. They were a good group of passionate people with desire to learn more.

In April, Mosaic will be having an in-house mine/surface ERT response competition. For the members in zone 5, come down to Churchbridge. This is an opportunity to see some advanced skills put to use in a safe, controlled environment including: the mine problem, first aid, confined space rescue and firefighting, as well as a search and rescue done in a full-size maze! The date for this is tentatively April 28, 2018.

Well, that is all from this director. Hope to see everyone in Nipawin at the school.

***Darren Arseneault***

***Zone 5 Director***

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## ZONE 6 REPORT FEB 2018



The old sayings " Take the Good news with the Bad " and " Find the silver lining " came to me a few days before this writing. The bad news for myself and the organization is losing my Zone 6 Alternate Graham Hall. Graham was one of the first recipients of the Fire Fighter of the Year Award a few years back and a shining example of dedication at the Humboldt Fire Department and as the First Responder Lead. He will be sorely missed ...

.... And I have never been so glad ! You see , the " Silver Lining " is that Graham has been officially hired as a career firefighter in Edmonton ! I cannot tell you how proud I am of this young man in being able to achieve what so many of us would LOVE to do full time ! I hope this inspires others who may be sitting on the sidelines too unsure as to try a shot in the big game. As a result I find myself once again looking for an alternate director for Zone 6 . If you are interested or know of someone who might be or simply have some questions regarding the responsibilities feel free to contact me.



We are also working with CASA ( the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association ) to develop a Grain Entrapment/ Rescue course utilizing their rescue simulation trailer. The trailer got a lot of attention at Agribition last November and several firefighters showed a keen interest in training when it comes available. At last check we are hoping to get our instructors trained by mid to late spring and have the means to deliver the training to our member departments at our fire schools !



Last but not least don't forget the Firefighter of the Year Award is handed out at the Spring School in Nipawin, get your nominations in before the deadline March 30th !

Paul

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## Zone 7

Hello to all,

I hope everyone had a safe and memorable holiday season with family and friends.

I strongly recommend, at this time, that you renew your SVFFA membership for 2018. You are able to take advantage of all the plusses this membership brings into your fire hall. Please use the SVFFA website for all info and inquiries.

There is going to be a Zone 7 meeting on Wednesday March 28 at 7PM. This will be held at the Eston AGT Sport Complex just south of the fire hall. The topic will be “ The Fire Safety Act”, presented by Sterling Switzer, district ESO, OOF. The latest “ Fire Safety Act “ affects each fire hall, and I highly recommend that you bring yourself up to date. This Act impacts you, the Fire Chief, and the councils directly connected to your fire department.

The wind storm and wild fires we had in October most likely opened many eyes to the devastation that can occur in minutes. The need for fire departments to work towards an efficient and quick response is critical. This can only be achieved by regular training for firefighters. This also means that EMO in your community should have a plan and should work with the fire department to develop and practice that plan. I also hope all involved have their Mutual Aid Agreements in place and up to date. You ARE responsible for your safety, the safety of the community you live in, and your neighbouring communities.

You have an opportunity to acquire some of this much needed training at the spring SVFFA fire school, being held in Nipawin, April 20,21,22.

If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact me at any time, cell 1-306-962-7456 home 1-306-962-4192.

***Richard Baran***

***Zone 7 Director***

**Zone 7: Richard Baran**

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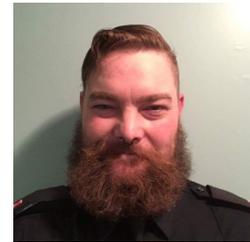
## Zone 8

First, I would like to thank the SVFFA for all of the training that I have received over the past few years and the departments I sit on for finding that education. As the greenhorn to this association, I have had a few learning curves after being elected into this position. I thank Courtney Edwards for coming to the rescue, as it has helped me obtain a better foot hold on my position as the representative for Zone 8.

I was lucky enough in November to have some time to represent the SVFFA at a function at Cabela's in Saskatoon on Remembrance Day . It was interesting talking to the public and answering questions that they had. Some people I talked to, from outside the city, were interested in their local fire department and how they may get involved. All in all, I'm glad to be a part of a great organization that looks to the safety and the improvement of all the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Departments.

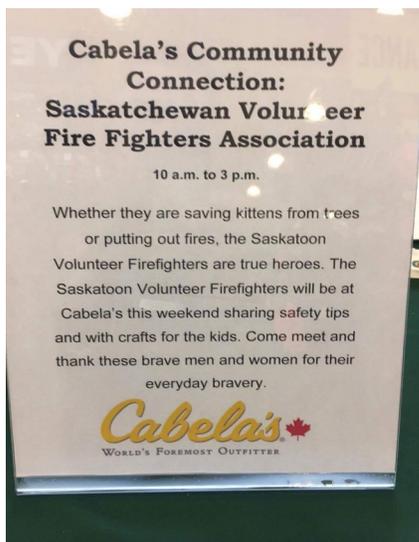
I'd like to extend myself to any departments in Zone 8 that would like to contact me with any comments or concerns.

**Ryan Chernow**  
**Zone 8 Director**



### **Zone 8: Ryan Chernow**

PO Box 437, Paradise Hill, Sk., S0M 2G0  
Ph: 780.214.1350 (cell)  
[ryan.chernow@hotmail.com](mailto:ryan.chernow@hotmail.com)



## **Zone 9**

Hi from Zone 9,

We definitely have had a cool winter so far with warmer temperatures at times, and then dropping into the -30 to -40s, not taking the wind chill into account.

On a recent trip to Regina there was little snow, but in our area, there is about 2 feet of the white stuff, with high drifts due to the wind. A good year for snowmobile sales!! About time.

I have been in discussion with our zone rep for SAFC, for a joint meeting of our associations, in the near future. Plans are coming together. Invites will be sent out soon.

Hope that everyone has a good spring, enough moisture for crops, but no flood situations. We don't need the results of flooding. Could be wildfires and dust storms in the south, with the lack of snow.

A friendly reminder of our spring fire school in Nipawin on April 20-22. Please get your registrations in, and make your reservations for rooms early. Chief Brian Starkell and members always host a great school. See you there!!

***Larry Zadvorny***

***Zone 9 Director***

### **Zone 9: Larry Zadvorny**

591 Laurier Dr., Prince Albert, Sk., S6V 5M5

Ph: 306.763.5457 (res)

[larryz@inet2000.com](mailto:larryz@inet2000.com)



## **Zone 10**

As I'm writing this report, there are several upcoming training opportunities in Zone 10. Carrot River is hosting an IFSAC 1051 Wildland Firefighter Program and the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire Officer Boot Camp. Melfort is hosting "Fire Ground Strategy/Tactics and Aggressive Leadership for the Volunteer Fire Department". Tisdale is finalizing an SCBA training course. Then the Spring SVFFA Fire School in Nipawin. I think I can honestly say that I don't think there has ever been this much training scheduled for Zone 10 at one time. Training makes us all better firefighters.

Winter has been long and cold. A few of our Zone's departments have been more active than normal and others have not. There never really seems to be a real consistent pattern with who is busy and who is not.

A real concern that is becoming a much bigger problem is "Recruitment and Retention" of firefighters. This problem is not isolated to Zone 10 or even Saskatchewan, it is a North American wide issue. If anyone has a suggestion on how to combat this issue, please share it.

Porcupine Plain has lost a significant member, not just of their Fire Department but also from their community. Terry Zip had been a huge part of their fire department and suddenly passed away. He will be missed by many in his response area for many reasons.

We are working on scheduling our Zone 10 meeting, it will likely be in mid-March and will be announced shortly. These zone meetings are very important for fire departments to attend as it helps them to be kept informed and gives them a chance to ask questions and participate in discussions. I would encourage all fire departments to attend their local zone meetings.

Remember, you should not be striving to be better than anyone else, just strive to be better than you were yesterday and the best that you can be today, every day. This involves training, as well as all aspects of life, not just firefighting.

***Scott Debienne***

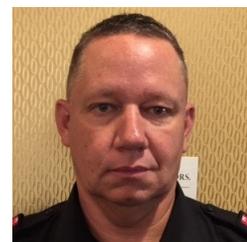
***Zone 10 Director***

### **Zone 10: Scott Debienne**

Box 818, Carrot River, Sk., S0E 0L0

Ph: 306.768.2627 (res) Ph: 306.768.7627 (cell)

[sales@r-com.ca](mailto:sales@r-com.ca)



# *SaskEnergy Regional Training Session*

## *Dundurn SK—November*



# *Estevan Fire Station Grand Opening*

## *Estevan SK—January*



# *SUMA Trade Show*

## *Regina SK—February*



## ARE YOU YOUR BROTHER'S KEEPER?

An article from *Backdraft Magazine*

By Doug Lapchuk  
Deputy Chief – B.V.F.D.  
President – S.V.F.F.A.

In this day and age of people tending to look out only for themselves, we need to be reminded that in fire services we are all our brother/ sister's keepers.

We know not to enter a fire without a partner and we know not to leave without a partner, but does our responsibility to our brothers/ sisters in fire service end there?

In career fire services, you end up essentially living with your fire family during your shifts, but in volunteer services, you do what you need to and return to your respective lives. You may see your fellow fire fighters at the meetings or at training, or just around town, but generally that is the extent of our involvement.

What does the difference matter? Simply put, we have the job in which we see things we can never un-see and as such we need our family and fellow firefighters to be there to support us. In the last issue of Backdraft magazine there was an article about the increases in suicides of fire personnel. We all need to take all steps to make sure that our fellow firefighters go home in at least the same shape as prior to the call.

As a deputy I have seen how the impact of calls can trigger different reactions in our newer members as well as our veterans, and I have also seen it in myself. We all need to realize a few key points and remember that the most important way to help sometimes is just to listen.

We attended a tragic accident on Christmas Eve last year which had a profound impact on two of my members. The collision occurred just near the supper hour and we responded to one fatal female on the way to a Christmas dinner. Our crew worked to extricate and during the extrication there were things that were seen that set off triggers in my members.

The items that set off the triggers were not the things that maybe would bother you or I but it profoundly affected the members. One member talked about seeing the Christmas baking scattered and how that reminded him of his grandmother's baking for Christmas. The other member was not bothered until he had to move wrapped presents and one was for a little girl, apparent by the wrapping and the mention of the second Christmas on the tag, and he has a young child at home.

The crew members worked through and completed the extrication, but during the de-briefing at the hall, it was apparent that there was more to the story. One of the members just kept talking about the scene, the nature of the call, the weather, the tragedy of the call etc. The other member also seemed, at first, to be too fixated on the scene and the tragedy on such a night.

We made sure that they got home safely and due to the season I made sure to follow up with them through the next week. Fortunately, I have a close friend who is a psychologist that I could bounce my questions off of. The first question I had for her was, "Why do these two seem to just want to talk about the accident?" My friend responded that this is a normal reaction to an event that we have difficulty processing in our minds and by talking about it again and again it normalizes it in our minds, which then helps us to deal with what we have seen. My second question was to the effect of how do I know they are ok or still needing help? My friend told me that as long as the communication is occurring, they are doing ok, but if it shuts down or changes to talk about a sense of helplessness, then they may need further help and or professional CISM.

So as your "Brother's Keeper" you need just to remember that we all need a hand sometimes and a lot of the time the best we can do is just listen. We all have things that can cause us stress, but the best thing we can do is to provide a united family front and watch out for each other.

Whether we like it or not, the best we have is each other and like all families, there may be a misfit or two, but we all need to make sure that we are all as healthy and sound as we can be. Also try to remember that the person who is suffering could very well be you, none of us are so tough that we will never need help, and lastly remember it is ok for a firefighter to cry.

*"Do not judge those that go before you, because at some point you too may be judged."*



## ***SFS CISM TEAM UPDATE***

The Saskatchewan Fire Service Critical Incident Stress Management Team has been responding to traumatic events since February 2016. Since then we have answered requests for support from 35 rural volunteer fire departments throughout Saskatchewan. The team of 40 CISM trained firefighters and mental health volunteers continue to grow in experience and skills as they move forward in building a very effective and progressive CISM program. We also have our first group of ICISF Instructors who are going to be providing some of the training in the future.

Some important things are happening for us this year. This fall, October 14 – 17 we are working together with Dr. Nick Carleton to coordinate two conferences. The first conference will be the MVHR Forum in collaboration with the Canadian Institute for Military and Veterans Health Research, hosted by the University of Regina. There will be a track for First Responders in this conference.

The second conference, October 18 – 21, will be the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation Regional Conference hosted by your SFS CISM Team. What is especially exciting is that the founders of the ICISF, Dr. Jeffrey Mitchell and Dr. George Every will be in Regina to teach courses for us. There will also be other courses offered at the conference and we hope to have more than 200 participants in the training. Our team members will be assisting the ICISF staff and attending training as well. There will be a small number of our team who will complete phase 2 of the instructor trainer course.

We are looking forward to building relationships with Alberta and Manitoba in order to standardize the training and the CISM programs between the prairie provinces. By doing that we will continue to grow as a team, but also be able to establish mutual aid agreements between the CISM teams of the three provinces in order to provide support to one another during events such as our wild land fires in 2015 and the fires in Ft. MacMurray in 2016.

This is a team of very dedicated men and women. Our training is funded by a grant from Emergency Management and Fire Safety. The travel costs for the team to respond are funded jointly by SVFFA and SAFC. We provide CISM support to all volunteer fire departments and firefighters in Saskatchewan without cost. It is not necessary to be a member of the SVFFA to request support after a traumatic event. If you have questions, please contact us at [sfscismteam@gmail.com](mailto:sfscismteam@gmail.com) or the SFS CISM Team Coordinator at 306-731-7954, or on Facebook at "Saskatchewan Fire Service CISM Team".

*Patty Stewart McCord, Team Coordinator*

## **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](http://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](mailto:barb.yanciw@muscle.ca)

**THANKS TO THE HARD WORK OF  
SVFFA, SAFC, SUMA, SARM, AND OTHERS,  
THE NEW SGI RATE FOR  
MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION RESPONSE  
WILL BE:  
\$913.00/HR, EFFECTIVE 01 MARCH 2018.**

*Thank you Plains Midstream Canada  
for your generous donation to the SVFFA which will fund  
PMC regional schools within our province.*



*Your generosity is greatly appreciated!*

# Registration Information

## 2018 Spring Fire School & Trade Show

Hosted by the  
*Nipawin Fire Department*  
April 20th, 21st & 22nd, 2018

### *Agenda*

#### Friday, April 20, 2018

- 4:00pm - 6:00pm: Participant Registration @ LP Miller High School - 535 6<sup>th</sup> Street E.  
6:00pm - 9:00pm: Classes @ LP Miller High School.  
5:00pm - 10:00pm: Trade Show @ LP Miller High School's gymnasium.  
7:00pm Social with pizza for purchase and cash bar @ Nipawin Fire Hall -  
744 Railway Avenue W.

**\*\* Nipawin Fire Department is providing a taxi service for Friday and Saturday Evening.  
Please contact *Clean Cab* @ 306-812-9111. \*\***

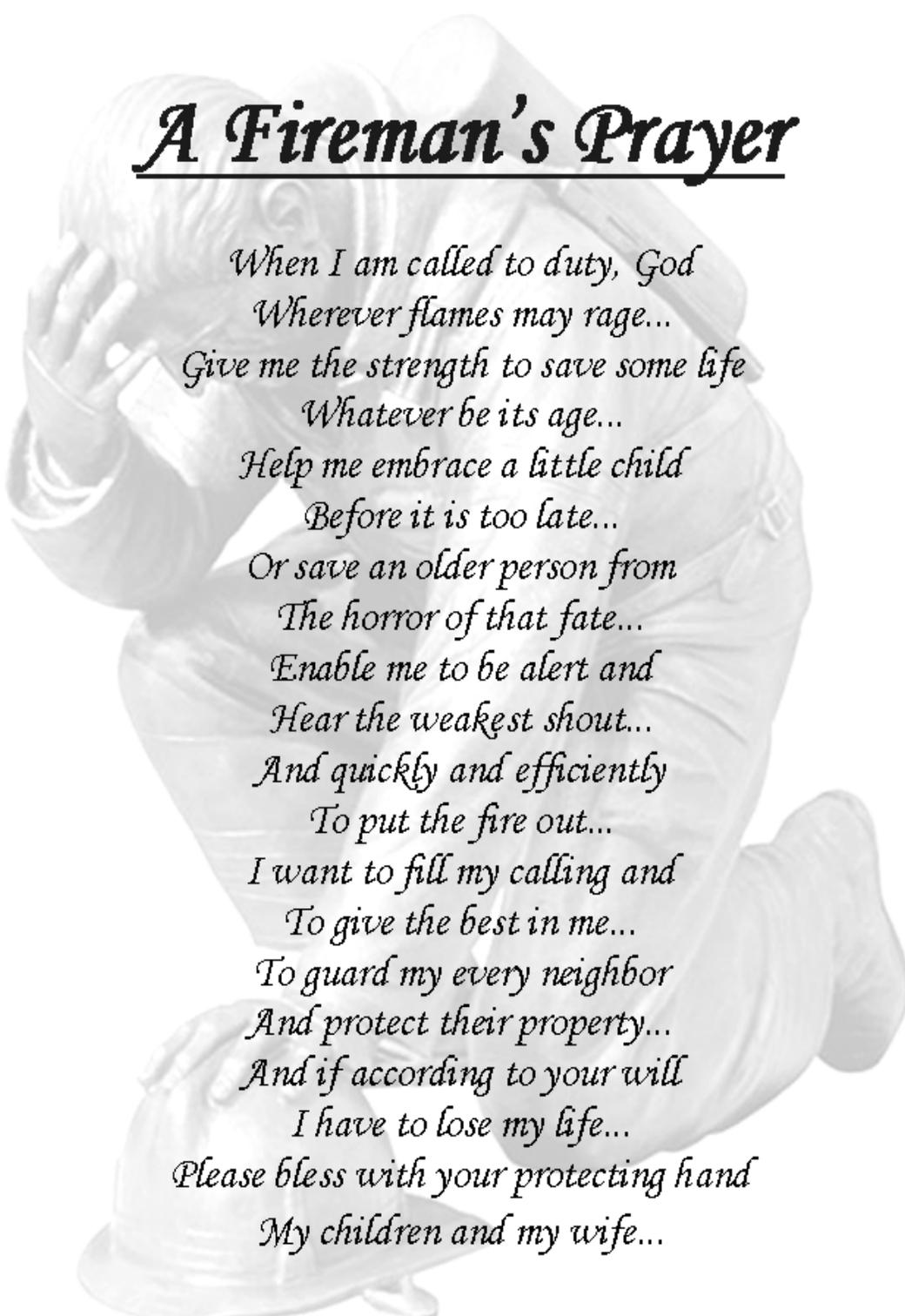
#### Saturday, April 21, 2018

- 8:00am - 12:00pm: Classes @ LP Miller High School - 535 6<sup>th</sup> Street E.  
12:00pm - 2:00pm: Lunch and Trade Show @ LP Miller High School.  
2:00pm - 5:30pm: Classes Resume and Practical Training.  
6:00pm - 7:00pm Happy Hour @ Nipawin Evergreen Centre - 300 Evergreen Drive.  
7:00pm Banquet (informal), Sponsor Recognitions, Greetings,  
Entertainment.

#### Sunday, April 22, 2018

- 8:30am - 12:00pm: Classes Resume/Conclude (wrap-up times dependent on course).  
11:00pm - 2:00pm: Lunch at Nipawin Fire Hall - 744 Railway Avenue W.





## *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...*

## 2018 SVFFA FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD



**FIRE CHIEFS/OFFICERS/ADMINISTRATORS:  
DO YOU HAVE A FIRE FIGHTER IN YOUR RANKS WHO HAS GONE "ABOVE AND BEYOND"?  
DO YOU FEEL THEY DESERVE RECOGNITION AMONGST THEIR PROVINCIAL PEERS?**

The SVFFA FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD will honor up to one outstanding individual from each of the 10 zones.

The applicant must be a VOLUNTEER in good standing and have been a member for at least ONE FULL YEAR. The Department must also have been an SVFFA member for a full calendar year.

Contributing attributes can include; attendance to meetings/practices, performance during actual live calls, volunteering in the community for events as a representative of the department, personal educational achievements/goals (certificates, test scores), safety awareness, leadership abilities/intangibles, fire prevention, public education, ability to secure resources, first aid/responder/ medical skills, shuffling work and personal schedules to attend/respond to department business etc.

As a leader, you will need to pick the ONE candidate from your team. This may be a daunting task as you may have several who would fit the bill, but for obvious reasons, only one can be selected (keep in mind you may nominate one of your other "All Stars" the following year provided they continue their outstanding service).

You can write the application in any form you desire: formal letter, bullet point, essay style etc. (please though, no poems).

**Pick your candidate for 2018, and submit by March 30 2018 to:  
Paul Cockell at [paulandinga@sasktel.net](mailto:paulandinga@sasktel.net) or Box 62 Leroy SK S0K 2P0.**

Winners will be chosen and their Chief informed prior to the award ceremony at the Spring School in Nipawin April 20-22, 2018.

This award will be for the "rank and file" members, therefore Chiefs will not be eligible for this award.

**\*\* NEW FOR 2018!!! We will include deputies and other officers!! \*\***

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact:  
your zone reps, Paul Cockell or Courtney at the S.V.F.F.A. office [svffa@sasktel.net](mailto:svffa@sasktel.net).

## front line response



physical characteristics of natural gas

**appearance** - steam-like cloud or frost-like appearance on ground

**odour** - odourless unless odourant is added to make it smell like rotten eggs

**special behaviour** - lighter than air and can displace oxygen if confined in a building

**volatility** - extremely flammable and explosive

**What to do** when you're **first to arrive** to a pipeline accident:

1. Contact the TransGas 24-Hour [Emergency Line at 1-306-777-9800](tel:1-306-777-9800)
2. Once on site, meet with the TransGas representative and establish safe procedure for securing the area or establishing other emergency measures.
3. If a TransGas representative has not yet arrived, fire and police agencies should follow these safe procedures:
  - secure the site and evacuate nearby residents or onlookers if required
  - monitor for hazardous atmospheres
  - control and re-direct traffic
  - ensure TransGas representatives have immediate access to the site
  - implement your local emergency plan

### What not to do:

- Do not operate pipeline valves. Trained TransGas personnel are required to manually close valves.
- If a fire occurs at a TransGas station, unless lives are at risk, fire crews should stay outside the station property until a TransGas representative arrives.
- Do not try to extinguish a pipeline fire. The fire will only go out after the gas has been turned off.



**TransGas**



**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](http://saskpower.com/safety) for more tips on electrical safety.

SaskPower proudly supports the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association training schools.



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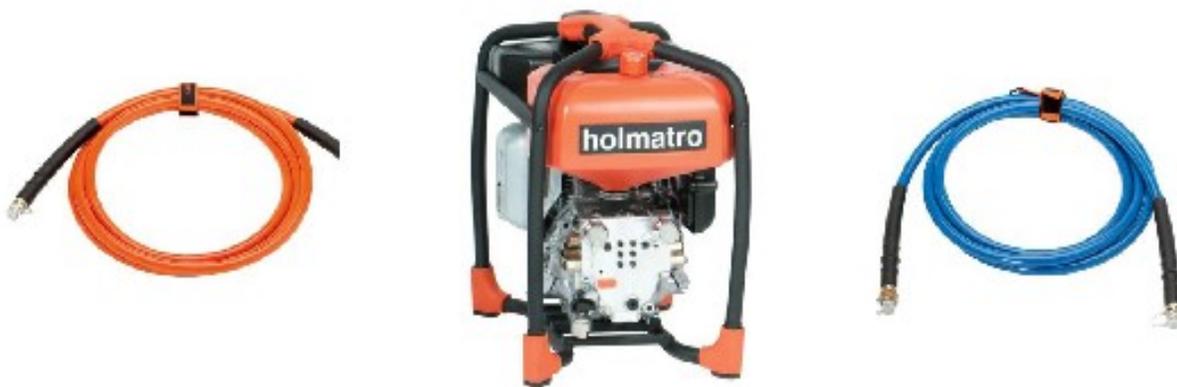


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4050 NCT Cutter  
4240 Spreader  
2 x Core Hoses  
1 x SR 20 Duo Pump

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## FLEET

Thrus S2R-T34	510 gal hopper capacity 750 HP turbine engine 140 MPH
Air Tractor 802	800 gal hopper capacity 1350 HP turbine engine 150 MPH

## FIREFIGHTING SUPPORT

Provincial Airways offers:

- Ability to quickly dispatch Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) Aircraft
- Supply water / water-foam for wildfire suppression
- Option to work independently and self-direct suppression efforts
- Option to work with your team by supplying communication equipment to allow ground directed support

### Training

- Pilots have been trained and have SEAT firefighting experience
- Recently participated in Government of Saskatchewan endorsed training in cooperation with Fire Departments from around the province

### Insurance and Qualifications

- Our equipment is fully insured, and we carry comprehensive liability coverage on our aircraft as well as liability coverage for all persons and property
- Authorized by Transport Canada for aerial firefighting operations

We encourage any opportunity to work with or train with your local department to allow for seamless, safe, and effective use of our SEAT aircraft

Contact James Pottage for more details

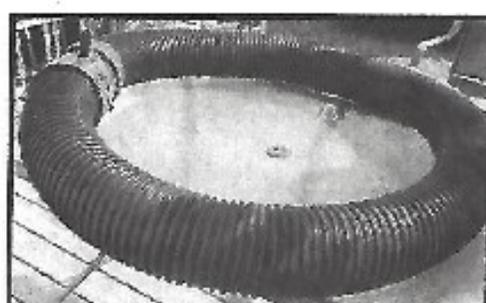
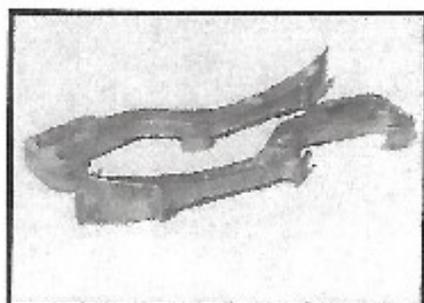
Cell: 306.630.8870

Office: 306.692.7335

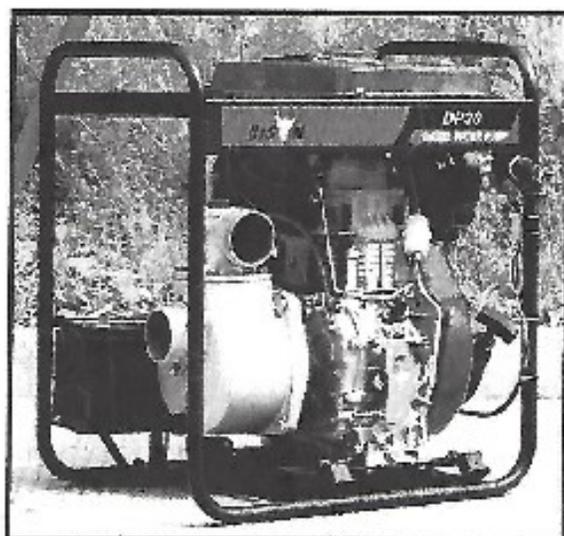
Email: james@provincialairways.net



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