

# FIRE GROUND

SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLAND FIRE



Volume 1, Issue 3

July - August 2012

## Division Birthdays

### July

- LaVerne Hermanson - 10th
- Mike Merriman - 17th
- Ray Bubb - 25th
- William Steele - 27th

### August

- Jay Wickham - 1st
- Caelen Whitney - 10th
- Steve Hasenohrl - 15th
- Mike Martin - 22nd
- Garrett High Bear - 28th
- Monty Bollock - 29th
- Jason Scott - 29th

## Years of Service

### July

- Phillip Murphy - 2 yrs
- Mike Merriman - 3 yrs
- Cody Griffiee - 5 yrs
- Robert Nordlee - 5 yrs

### August

- Steve Esser - 12 yrs
- Cindy Hansen - 9 yrs
- Chris Blair - 6 yrs
- Raymond Pauwels - 2 yrs



The White Draw fire started in the afternoon of June 29. It started as a vehicle fire along Hwy 18; spread quickly and burned 9,000 acres in total. On July 1, while helping to suppress the fire, MAFFS7 from North Carolina tragically crashed in the fire area. Four of the six crew members were killed and two are still injured. We thank them for their service to our country.



*To the crew, family, loved ones and all our Airmen brothers and sisters affected by the loss of **MAFFS 7** our hearts are with you.*

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## Leaders Intent — Be Involved, Stay Involved - Jay Esperance

### This is the second in an eight part series on Leadership.

Not many years ago, it was easy for the boss to remain aloof. After all, that army of minions was always hovering around, just waiting to distribute the boss's latest wisdom to the troops.

This approach doesn't fly in our world. The strong leader has to be involved and stay involved. Visualize the leader of an emerging wildfire suppression team standing at the point of origin. Tactics need to be planned and communicated, resources to be ordered, logistical support for the resources, safety of firefighters, and press showing up. All these considerations have to be factored in together.

The leader really does have to *be there*. The experience you have has put you in the leader's seat. Use that experience while you listen to your team members; the "Be Involved" part of leadership.

You can't always draw up a precise action plan. You have got to get an intuitive feel for it, and you have your antennae out; the antennae in the back of your head. Sure there are too many things going on, and this is a very complex business, but you can develop that intuitive feel, and that's the "Stay Involved" part of leadership.



Fulltime employee's served the seasonal lunch at the first Seasonal Picnic in Custer State Park. Managers in the division planned, paid for, put together, and served firefighters to show their appreciation. Despite some touch and go weather, it was a great success!



## Team C - Weber Fire Assignment

Rocky Mountain Team C was assigned to the Weber fire on June 23rd. The team traveled down on the 23rd and completed a 9 day assignment on the fire. ICP was located at the Montezuma County Fairgrounds just outside Cortez, CO. The fire's final size was 10,133 acres.



## CSP Elk Calves Captures

The Custer State Park Field Office assisted the biologist at CSP with capturing elk calves as part of an elk mortality study that is being conducted in the park. The calf in the attached picture is about 6 to 7 days old and had no problem out running Jay!



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## IMAT Team brought in to help WFS

During the large fire activity the last couple of weeks, and with Team C being dispatched to assist with the Longhorn Complex on the Rosebud Reservation, WFS requested an IMAT team from SD Office of Emergency Management to assist with Planning and Logistics.

The team was tasked with:

- Tracking of State Jurisdictional fires
- Begin Mapping of State Jurisdictional fires
- Managing Operations conference calls
- Logistical support of Type 3 & 4 incidents when requested by State Duty Officer

The team set up shop at the Airport office and met all of the objectives set by the Division. The team was a huge benefit to the Division and supported the agency needs in a professional manner.



Left: Hot Springs SEAT base with Tanker 466, Jeremy Azure and Winston Cadotte.



Right: Cindy Hansen at the controls of Tanker 43!

## Team C - Long Horn Complex

Rocky Mtn Team C was dispatched on July 20th to the Long Horn Complex on the Rosebud Reservation. The lightning caused fire started as four separate fires and burned 43,639 acres in total. The team had ICP at the St. Francis Middle School for about 10 days. Members of Team C are pictured below.



## WFS Employee Deployment

Paul Nolan, a seasonal from the Lead office, will be deployed to Afghanistan in November. We thank Paul for his service!

## Year to Date SD Fires

Fire Cause	Grasslands	Black Hills
Human Caused	316 fires for 17,009 acres	62 fires for 2,046 acres
Lightning Caused	15 fires for 11,997 acres	52 fires for 1,836 acres

## Trivia

- ◇ Does Smokey have a middle name?
- ◇ What zoo did Smokey live at after being nursed back to health?

June Trivia Answers

- ◆ Goldie
- ◆ 20252

# Our mission is to protect South Dakota from the ravages of wildfire.



## SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION

With questions or to have something added to the newsletter contact Megan Jaros

Phone: 605-399-3160

E-mail:

majaros@fs.fed.us

**Don't forget to check out the Employee Association Group on Facebook**

### 1st Annual WFS Summer Family Potluck

The first Annual WFS Potluck was a lot of fun. The division has purchased a grill that can be used at potlucks, trainings, meetings and so on. LaVerne manned the grill and we had a lot of food for everyone. The silent auction was a great success with over \$300 raised for the Employee Association.

### 1st Annual Trampus S Haskvitz Golf Tournament

There was a great turnout for the 1st Annual Golf Tournament at Hot Springs. Thirty six teams played 18 holes of golf at a very beautiful and challenging course. Rapid City Fire Department's two teams took first and second place and a local Hot Springs team took third place. There were many door prizes, silent and live auction items that were handed out and bid on. Hope to see you all there again next year!



### Successful Engine Academy



Seasonal engine personnel from the Division of Wildland Fire Suppression attended an Engine/Operator Academy June 4-8 in Pierre at the Mickelson Law Enforcement Training Center. The Academy has been in the works for the last three years. The instructor cadre from the division included Chris Blair, Les Madsen, Ray Bubb, Monty Bollock, Jay Wickham, Steve Esser, Rob Lehmann, Jim Burk, Casey Glines, and Jim Strain. Two special guests also instructed; Sgt. Mechaley from Highway Patrol and Deanna Prater from Fleet and Travel. Special thanks go out to them for taking time out of their schedules to assist with the class.

Throughout the week, emergency shelter deployments were held. Sometimes the deployment site was on the grass lawn of the training center and sometimes an escape route was flagged for the students to follow. A deployment exercise was also held where the students deployed in the cab of their vehicles.

During the week students did vehicle maintenance and inspection training as well as driving on the drivers course.



In the evenings, many of the cadre and students took advantage of the great fishing below the dam. Les Madsen had the largest fish at 27 inches.

I want to thank everyone involved in making this first full engine academy a great success. We had many good suggestions from the cadre and students which will be incorporated into future academies so we can improve them.