

FIRE GROUND

SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLAND FIRE



Volume 1, Issue 7

December 2012

WFS Christmas PARTY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

When: Dec 15th

Time: 5:30 - Happy Hour 6:30 - Dinner

Where: Ramkota - Washington Room

Cost: \$10 per person

Come join your co-workers as we celebrate the holiday season and take a much deserved break from the busy fire season.

We will have good food catered by Minerva's, door prizes throughout the night, a game of Jeopardy and the Firefighter and Seasonal Firefighter of the Year awards ceremony!

All those planning to attend will need to prepay to Beth by Dec 7th.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN!

Division Birthdays

- Cameron Hunt Horse - 6th
- Tygen Strand - 8th
- Winston Cadotte - 14th
- Jesse Perry - 14th
- Erik Saxvik - 21st
- Craig Sully - 22nd

- Leon Long Soldier - 25th
- Cody Peterson - 25th
- Stephen Tibbles - 30th

Years of Service

- No one has started with the state in the month of December



FIRE GROUND



Leaders Intent - Make the Goals Everyone's Goals

Sixth of an eight part series on Leadership

When the group does well and is recognized, it's the leader's responsibility to spread the benefits around. A public pat on the back, acknowledgement from the top, a write-up in the Division newsletter – whatever that recognition takes, everyone should get a generous share of it.

Edgar Renteria, Most Valuable Player of the San Francisco Giants baseball team, knew how to share the glory when his team won the 2010 World Series. But just in case he didn't, Manager Bruce Boche knew enough about team play to remind him. "Make sure you let the other guys hold the trophy," the Manager whispered into Renteria's ear, a few seconds after the final out of the Series. "He came on the field and rushed over to the pile" of celebrating Giants, Renteria explained. "We're all congratulating each other. I turned, and Bruce was there. We both hugged one another. And it was there, in my ear, that he told me that."

"I was impressed" Renteria recalls. "Here is a guy in total control of the team. He was still thinking about his players even though the World Series had just been one – his first time as a Manager."

People always appreciate being included in praise. It encourages them to give their greatest effort and makes them want to work again with the leader who guided them to this success. And this kind of graciousness has one other benefit: in the end the leader gets a big share of the credit anyway.

When it comes to criticism, be a smart leader and take exactly the opposite approach. Don't point the finger at others. Never raise public complaints about the "weak link" in the chain. Step forward and accept whatever complaints arrive. Then speak privately with the individuals about how the results might be improved, and turn their attention to doing better next time.

Employee Spotlight - Sarah Adams

Sarah is the new Fire Clerk working for Chris Blair. She has been with the Division just under a month. Her mother is Beth Hermanson and LaVerne is her stepfather. Her father Mike Adams works for the SD Highway Patrol and she has one younger brother. Sarah also has a dog named Roxy. She likes to paint, go hiking and bouldering. She is a fan of Roller Derby.



The **Hot Springs Field Office** helped the crew from Wind Cave National Park with a clearing project near the cave entrance. They cleaned up brush and trees in the canyon area near the park headquarters and cave entrance to help with fire danger and provide easier access for park visitors. They were presented with the plaque above from the National Park Service for their assistance.



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Firefighting from the Air by Ron Hauck - Chief Pilot

In 2010, the State of South Dakota aircraft started flying Air Tactical flights in addition to passenger flights. Air Tactical Flights are aerial supervision performed over wild land fires in forested and grassland areas. The main job of the aerial supervision flights is to manage airspace and direct aerial fire fighting aircraft. Fire fighting aircraft can include single engine air tankers, large air tankers and helicopters. Other duties of the Air Tactical Aircraft include helping fire supervision, size-up, prioritization, and coordinating the response of aerial and ground fire fighting resources. The aircraft also serve as the link between responding ground personal and incident aircraft. In remote areas, the aircraft will provide directions to fire personal on the ground for the fastest access to the fire. One of the most important duties of the aerial supervisor aircraft is to be the eyes in the sky to watch out for the safety of firefighters on the ground. Prior to flying fires, the state aircraft were inspected by U.S. Forest Service Personnel. These inspections must take place every year. All South Dakota DOT pilots who fly fires attended training sessions that included topics on fire management, fire weather, air tanker procedures, fire safety and fire behavior. After the training all pilots have to pass check rides administered by U.S. Forest Service pilots.



Due to the extreme drought conditions in the Midwest this year, the state's aircraft have been extremely busy. The first fire of the year was flown near Custer on March 13. From March 13 through October 3, a state aircraft has been on fire duty for 118 days. As of October 3, a state aircraft was working fires with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Mobridge. Although having aircraft work fires has created some scheduling challenges, it has been a valuable resource for the State of South Dakota. The aircraft have proven valuable in helping with firefighter safety and keeping fires small with a quick response time. By getting fires under control more quickly, it keeps them smaller and creates a cost savings not only for the agencies responsible for the fires but also for the citizens of South Dakota.

Year to Date SD Fires

Fire Cause	Grasslands	Black Hills
Human Caused	479 fires for 21,963 acres	126 fires for 8,638 acres
Lightning Caused	18 fires for 12,025 acres	66 fires for 1863 acres

Trivia

- ♦ What year was 'Twas the Night Before Christmas written?
- ♦ Where is the "National Christmas Tree" located?

November Trivia Answers

- ♦ First Thanksgiving Day football game was played between the Detroit Lions and Chicago Bears. The Bears beat the Lions 19-16.
- ♦ Ben Franklin was the Founding Father who wanted the Turkey as the state bird.

The Rapid City Rush hockey team will be honoring firefighters at their December 14th game. Tickets will be \$10 for all fire and emergency personnel. Game time is 7:05pm and they will be going up again the Quad City Mallards.



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

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Happy Retirement to Lead Dispatcher Ken Wesche!!! Thanks for all your hard work and dedication to the Division and all firefighters on the ground and in the air!!!!

Employee Spotlight - Sean Marsich

Sean has been on the Bear Mountain crew for a year. He stated out mitigating Mountain Pine Beetle trees in CSP and transitioned to the Bear Mountain crew as a sawyer. Sean enjoyed working with the National Guard and being on the SD Helitack crew this past summer. The training with the helicopter was a great experience for him. He was able to travel to the eastern part of the State for assignments on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations with the Helitack crew. He was the dip site manager on the Chases Women fire, ensuring the area was clear for the helicopter to come in. He also was sent ahead of resources on one fire to mitigate hazard trees. Another experience he recalls was an unplanned bucket drop that left several crewmembers running for cover and some getting drenched. Sean has enjoyed working with many of the crew members, he enjoyed working with so many different individuals that worked to achieve a common goal. Sean has recently accepted a position with SD Game, Fish and Parks as a Wildlife Damage Specialist. His main duties will be working with and educating home/land owners on mitigating potential loss due to wild animals. He will start his new job on November 26th in Milbank, SD and looks forward to all the hunting and fishing available in the area. We wish Sean the best of luck as he transitions from Wildland Fire to his new position, and thank him for his dedication and commitment to the Bear Mountain Crew.

Cooperator Spotlight - Nathan Sanderson

Nathan Sanderson is a policy advisor to Governor Dugaard on agriculture, environment, and natural resources issues. Prior to working in the Governor's Office, Nathan served as the Director of Ag Policy for the SD Dept. of AG. In 2011, Nathan worked with Team C during the flooding in Dakota Dunes, assisting with public information. He also serves as the Governor's liaison to Wildland Fire, communicating key information and updates during wildfires. Nathan's hobbies include playing softball, curling, hunting and traveling with his wife Tiffany and son Carter.

Employee Spotlight - Rob Lehmann

Rob Lehmann is the Training Officer for the division. He has been with the State of South Dakota for 16 years. He has been an AFMO, FMO and worked in the fuels program during his time with the State. He also works on the divisions prescribed fire program. Rob has two children, three grandchildren and a golden lab named Buddy. Rob enjoys fishing, hunting, golfing and watching Vikings football. He started in fire when he was 18 years old as a volunteer. The neatest place he has been on assignment to has been Alaska.

Thank you to everyone who sold tickets for the TV Raffle! It was a great success! Ray Ondell won the TV. Ray is one of the King Air pilots for the State. Congrats to him!!!