

FIRE GROUND



SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLAND FIRE

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2013

Bowling!!!!!!

An afternoon of bowling fun for the whole family!!

When: March 2nd - 1pm

Where: Meadowood Lanes - 3809 Sturgis Road, Rapid City

Cost: WF Employee Association will cover the cost of ONE game per person

- shoes are included

- cost per game after that is: \$3.00 per person

RSVP NEEDED!!!



Division Birthdays

- Seth McReynolds - 1st
- Jim Burk - 18th
- Matt Esser - 23rd

Years of Service

- Les Madsen - 18 years



Use **granulated fertilizer** instead of ice salt this winter to melt your ice. It will melt the ice due to the nitrogen in it just as well as the salt. You can sweep it into your yard and it will be helpful not harmful to your lawn and plants.

Thanks to Cindy Hansen for the tip!

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Interagency Cooperation - Jay Esperance

When I think about the intangibles of wildland firefighting, I think of **interagency cooperation, leadership, and decision-making**. Well, I wrote an eight part series on leadership, so I think you've had enough about that. Although I have more if you twist my arm. So I thought I would write about interagency cooperation, hmmm I wonder what next month will be?

As I write this, I am nearing my one year anniversary working in South Dakota and I am not "blowing smoke" when I say we have some of the best firefighting forces I've ever worked with. I've been fortunate enough in my career to have worked throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia on wildfires and a full variety of all-risk incidents. I fully believe the folks like our volunteer fire departments, Wildland Fire, National Guard, Forest Service, Rapid City Fire, BLM, US Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, as well as our friends from across the border in Weston and Crook counties, all supported by one of the best prepared dispatch centers in the region and in my opinion the nation, are among the best wildland firefighting force there is. But, as you have heard Chief Maltaverne, Chief Strain, and Todd Pechota say many times, "there is no one agency that can do it by themselves". My message is simple:

- Continue to build interagency relations
- Continue to work and train together for a common goal
- Continue to share resources
- Work on standardized communications
- Fire planning and ecosystems do not stop at boundaries; we need to collaborate on interagency vegetation treatment projects.
- And like you tell your kids "play well together"

SD Wildland Fire will be hosting a **Training Academy March 21 - 24 in Ft. Pierre**. Many local co-operators will be helping to put the classes on. Classes will be at the Ft. Pierre Schools and Holiday Inn Express. Many classes will be offered and students will have the opportunity to attend more than one class. Nominations are due January 31 and registration is \$20. Rooms are available at the Holiday Inn Express for \$89.99 if reservations are made by 3/1 - mention the Wildfire Academy. Online registration and more information is available at <http://sdda.sd.gov/wildfire-suppression/training/>



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!!

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Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center

The Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center is an online Wildland Fire resource.

Content found on the Lessons Learned Center website:

- 6 Minutes for Safety
 - “A tool created for and by fire personnel with the purpose of actively troubleshooting known high risk situations encountered on the fireline.”
- Incident Reviews
 - View Facilitated Learning Analysis’ and reports for all agencies.
- Two More Chains
 - A publication produced four times a year that covers any topics in wildland fire
- YouTube Videos
 - Training videos for all wildland firefighters
- And Much More

From the Lessons Learned Center homepage you can also view the Team Center. This sister site housed Incident Management Team websites from across the country. You can view Rocky Mountain Team C’s website from here as well as other team resources.

<http://ngpc.imtcenter.net/main/index.aspx>

There is also the My Fire Community page which provides resources “to assist wildland fire work groups to identify one another, share learning opportunities, discuss issues and concerns, and exchange knowledge.” There are many great tools in one place on one website.

There is also now a mobile app for smart phones. The product is in the testing phase and available via a QR Code. The would love to hear feedback so check it out today!

All that has been talked about and more is avail at:

<http://wildfirelessons.net/Home.aspx>

CHECK IT OUT TODAY!!!!

**Lead VFD / SD Wildland Fire
Office Ribbon Cutting
June 1st
More information to come!!!!**

2013 Year to Date State Fires

Human: 13 fires for 13.42 acres

Lightning: 0 fires for 0 acres

Trivia

- ◆ When was the first St. Patrick’s Day Parade held?
- ◆ What city dyes it’s river green?

February Trivia Answers

- ◆ The length of the longest field goal kicked in a Super Bowl was 54 yards by Steve Christie for the Buffalo Bills in Super Bowl XXVIII.
- ◆ The first Super Bowl to be played indoors was Super Bowl XII between the Dallas Cowboys and Denver Broncos at the Superdome.

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



SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLAND FIRE

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

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Office Highlight - Great Plains Dispatch

Great Plains Dispatch (GPC) is an interagency dispatch center located in Rapid City, SD. GPC provides initial attack and support dispatching for the State of SD, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, the State of WY and the State of NE. In total the center covers 55 federal and state units that cover all or part of four states. Created in 2003 to bring all these agencies together GPC is one of the largest centers geographically in the United States.

GPC is staffed with seven permanent employees year round; three Forest Service, three SD State, and one with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In the summer months from May to October four seasonal positions are filled with three funded by the Forest Service and one by the State of SD.

GPC provides logistical support to all units year round for both wildland and prescribed fire incidents. This can be anything from sending more engines for the

GPC is co-located with the Forest Service Mystic Ranger District south of Rapid City on Hwy 16.

GPC had 3,286 fires that burned 598,458 acres within the Zone in 2012. Our busiest year on record!

incident to coordinating food and drinking water for firefighters out on the line. GPC is constantly monitoring weather and providing valuable intel to resources in the field. GPC also coordinates local firefighters travel to other areas of the country to help with wildland incidents in other states. Zone firefighters have also had assignments overseas to Australia.

Managing more than just resources on the ground, GPC is responsible for all aviation resources that assist on wildland fires in the area. With a tanker base at Rapid City Regional Airport and multiple Single Engine Airtanker (SEAT) bases along with all the helicopters across the zone the aircraft dispatcher can have a busy day managing all the activity.

With the busy 2012 fire season GPC is preparing for another exciting fire season in 2013.

Busy day in dispatch with over 40 incidents in a 24 hour period. Photo of our incident boards at work in 2012!

