

FIRE GROUND

SOUTH DAKOTA WILDLAND FIRE



Volume 1, Issue 5

October 2012

Hwy 40 Clean Up Day - October 13th

The employees of WFS have adopted Hwy 40 between mile markers 43.5 and 45.7 to clean up twice a year.

When: October 13th

Time: 10am

Where: Meet at the Hermosa VFD and we will car pool to the site from there.



Division Birthdays

- Bruce Bordeaux - 3rd
- Jay Esperance - 4th
- Cassie Christy - 5th
- Dalton Winegar - 6th

Years of Service

- Jim Strain - 24 years
- Jim Burk - 21 years

Bring your whole family to join in the fun of keeping the Black Hills beautiful and clean!!

Wear long pants, sturdy shoes and bring gloves and water. Trash bags and safety vests will be provided.

We will be having a BBQ after at the Hermosa VFD. Lunch is on the WFS Employee Association!!!



Hot Chocolate Social & Silent Auction

The WFS Employee Association will be hosting a Hot Chocolate Social and Silent Auction on November 3rd at Custer State Park. Come join us for free hot chocolate, hay rides, baked goods and a silent auction. We also will be drawing for the TV that is being raffled off!!

Silent Auction Bids will start at 1pm and hay rides at 2pm. We will have a bonfire to keep everyone warm! If there are cool enough temperatures ice skating is available as well.

Bring the whole family for an afternoon of fall fun in Custer State Park!!!!

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Leaders Intent - Make Each Member Responsible For the End Product



Fourth of an eight part series on Leadership
As a leader, the individuals that you are supervising need to feel their contributions are important. Otherwise they'll devote less than complete attention to the tasks on hand. Make the project belong to the individuals. Let as many decisions as possible bubble up from the group. Invite participation, don't dictate solutions. Don't insist that things need to be done a certain way.

Honoring Fallen Firefighters

Division Director Jay Esperance and Chief FMO Jim Strain will be attending the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg Maryland on Oct 7. They will represent the State of South Dakota as three of our own firefighters will be honored. SD Wildland Fire Suppression Hot Springs Seasonal engine employee Trampus Haskvitz died fighting the Coal Canyon fire last August. In September of last year Jacob Waldner and William Waldner of the Sunset Fire Department died fighting a coal bin fire in the Sunset Hutterite Colony. The service will honor 80 fire fighters from across the country. The National Firefighter Memorial is open to the public year round and honors career and volunteer firefighters. The memorial and plaza that surround it are in the shape of the Maltese Cross which has been adopted by many service groups that provide aid. Around the memorial are plaques for each fallen firefighter since 1981. An eternal flame also burns to remember the spirit of the firefighter.



Information from:
http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/firefighter_health_safety/firefighter-fatalities/memorial/index.shtm

Big Screen TV Raffle

The WFS Employee Association needs your help to sell raffle tickets for a big screen TV that we are raffling off. Karl's TV gave us a great deal on a **42" LG Plasma HDTV**. You can pick up a packet of tickets at the October All Hands meeting on Oct 2nd or anytime at the Airport office. Tickets will be \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20. The association will use the money raised for the Christmas Party as well and future events for WFS employees.

Thanks for your help!!



Employee Spotlight - Cindy Hansen

Cindy Hansen the Secretary for the Division. She has been with the State for 10 years. She started as a volunteer firefighter for a number of years before taking an expanded dispatch class from Jay Wickham and Angie Hinker in 2000. She started to work in expanded that summer and on weekends as needed. She was hired full time as a dispatcher with the State in March of 2002. The neatest place she has been on assignment was to Craig, Colorado. Cindy is the mother to two boys and has two grandsons. She also has a rather large cat, Angel. Cindy loves to play and watch (in that order) volleyball, shooting her guns and camping. She is a die hard Cubs fans.

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Hunting Safety

With hunting season here there are many ways to make sure everyone has a successful and safe hunting trip. SD Game, Fish and Parks provides hunter safety training for all ages. To sign up for a class or learn more you can visit <http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/hunter-education/hunt-safe.aspx>.

Firearm Safety

1. **Watch the Muzzle:** Keep it pointed in a safe direction at all times.
2. **Respect:** Treat every firearm with the respect.
3. **Keep the safety on until ready to shoot.**
4. **Awareness:** Be sure of your target and what is in front of it and beyond it.
5. **Know Your Target:** Learn the identifying features of the game you hunt.
6. **Backstop:** Make sure you have an adequate backstop-don't shoot at a flat hard surface or water.
7. **Prevent accidental discharge:** Keep the finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.
8. **Check your barrel:** Make sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.
9. **Ammunition:** Carry only the proper ammunition for your firearm.
10. **Unload firearms when not in use:** Leave actions open and carry firearms (unloaded) in cases to and from the shooting area.
11. **Point a firearm only at something you intend to shoot.**
12. **Avoid all horseplay with a gun.**
13. **Don't run, jump, or climb with a loaded firearm:** Unload your firearm before you climb a fence or tree, or jump a ditch.
14. **Pull a firearm toward you by the butt, not the muzzle.**
15. **Storage:** Store firearms and ammunition separately and safely. Store each in secured locations beyond the reach of children and careless adults.
16. **Be Alert:** Avoid alcoholic beverages before and during shooting. Also avoid mind or behavior altering medicines or drugs.

For the SD GF&P website.

The Department of Agriculture has a new website!

Check it out at www.sdda.sd.gov If you have photos we can add to the site please pass them on to Megan at megan.jaros@state.sd.us



Year to Date SD Fires

Fire Cause	Grasslands	Black Hills
Human Caused	436 fires for 21,296 acres	105 fires for 7,237 acres
Lightning Caused	17 fires for 12,022 acres	65 fires for 1,858 acres

Trivia

- ◇ Where is the tallest lookout tower in the world?
- ◇ Where is the tallest lookout tower in the US?

September Trivia Answers

- ◆ The first firefighting force was created by Caesar Augustus called the "Servants of the Commonwealth" made up of slaves and soldiers.

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

Mark your calendars for the WFS Christmas Party! You will not want to miss this on December 15th. Come join us at the Ramkota/Minerva's for food, games, live music and fun! More information to come.

Employee Spotlight - Jim Burk

Jim Burk the Rural Fire Assistance Specialist for WFS has been with the State for 22 years. He is married to Linda who works part-time at Behavioral Management and is currently finishing her degree. They have two children; Ethan is 22 and works as an Auto Technician for Queen City Motors in Spearfish and Emily is 19 and works for the YMCA as site coordinator for after school programs. While they don't have any pets Jim and his wife call Ethan's dog Peanut their "grandchild"! Jim enjoys riding motorcycle and home improvement. He also enjoys watching NASCAR and had a great time when he and Ethan joined Lyle Lowe on a trip to Bristol for a race. He started in fire in 1990 when he worked for the State as a Mechanic. In 1996 he transferred to Springfield to work as Shop Foreman for the Fire Equipment Shop. While in Springfield he joined the volunteer fire department and the Ambulance. In 2009 he was transferred back to Rapid City as the Rural Fire Assistance Specialist. He is also a member of the Rapid Valley Fire Department. In 1992 Jim went to Idaho to work on the 275,000 acre Foothills fire and says it was some beautiful country. The best times he has on fires are the times he has been out with the Black Hat, Bear Mtn and Interagency hand crews. The assignments to the Crystal fire near Fort Collins in April 2011 as part of the inter-agency hand crew was a blast. The cohesiveness of the crew and years of experience made it a very enjoyable experience.

Employee Spotlight - Cassie Christy

Cassie is the newly hired Fuels Specialist with the Division. She has been working the past two seasons at Great Plains Dispatch as a dispatcher. Cassie graduated with a degree in Fire Science from Western Dakota Tech in May of this year. She is on the Rockerville Volunteer Fire Department and Piedmont Ambulance. The neatest assignment she has had was on a structure fire in Rockerville that also turned into a 1/2 acre wildland fire. Cassie has two younger sisters; Brayden is 13 and Bailey is 8. Cassie lives on her own a few blocks from her folks; nothing like some free food and internet! She has one dog, Sasha and two cats, Ferb and Lucky. Cassie likes to go hiking on the trails at Mt. Rushmore, four wheeling in Rockerville and Keystone, hanging out with friends and family and playing paintball at the family cabin in Keystone.

We welcome Cassie to WFS!!!!!!!!!!

Have a safe and fun
Halloween!

