



# SASKATCHEWAN SPARKS

SAFC Newsletter

Fall 2014

## From the SAFC President

As a way to communicate with our membership the SAFC Board of Directors has created this first inaugural newsletter. Subsequent newsletters will be sent electronically to the membership two times per year. We would appreciate any feedback and suggestions on what you would like to see in the newsletter and look forward to working together on this venture.

## SAFC Strategic Plan

The SAFC Board of Directors has met three times with Brian Bentley and currently in the process of finishing their Strategic Plan. There are plans to unveil the finished document to the entire SAFC membership at our 65th Annual Conference and Tradeshow in Swift Current in April of 2015. The Strategic Plan will point the way, and lead the direction for the SAFC and its membership.

## Name Our Newsletter

We want your help!! We are looking for submissions to name our new SAFC newsletter. The winner will receive bragging rights, be announced as the contest winner in the spring newsletter and enjoy lunch on the SAFC President Trent Lee at the upcoming SAFC Conference in Swift Current.

*“The SAFC is in a time of transition; we are excited to work with our partners in the Fire Service and move our Province forward in a positive way.”*

*- President Trent Lee*



2014/15-SAFC Board-Back Row: Dennis Ogg, John McDonald, Layne Jackson, Trent Lee, Dean McNabb, Dale Feser Front Row: Kevin Eskra, Ed Koop, Shannon Zook, David Regie, Joe Grela, Ron Pratt

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Humboldt Spring Training Fire School

## SVFFA News

On April 25th-27th, the SVFFA held their Spring Training Fire School and Trade Show in Humboldt. The weekend was a huge success, and featured a record number of participants.

The Shellbrook/Prince Albert Fall Fire School, was held October 3-5th and received very positive reviews. A *Situational Awareness & Leadership Symposium* was held the same weekend featuring Dr. Richard Gasaway and Les Karpluck.

A challenge coin featuring SAFC and SVFFA was unveiled. This coin has one agency logo per side and is meant to highlight our partnership where we jointly pursue common goals.

## Changes to Spinal Management Protocols for Paramedics

The following is an excerpt from a letter received from the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics regarding some significant changes relating to the management of trauma patients.

*.....Based on new, proven research, paramedics in Saskatchewan will be making changes to how they use spine boards to immobilize trauma patients with suspected neck and spinal injuries. Evidence based research suggests in-line stabilization of the neck and spine can be equally as effective using alternative methods without the need to use a spine board. Limiting the amount of time a patient is placed on a spine board reduces risks such as respiratory compromise, discomfort, aspiration, and delays in transport associated with placing a patient on a spine board for prolonged periods of time.*

*Some circumstances may still dictate the need to use spine boards and therefore their use may be appropriate depending on available resources and training level of the responder. First responders, first-aiders, lifeguards, etc. should continue to manage spinal injuries according to their training.*

*Implementation will be phased across the province beginning September 1, 2014, and can begin once approved training has been completed. Training must be completed within 6 months, and services will have until March 1, 2015 to implement the changes in their area.....*



[www.collegeofparamedics.sk.ca](http://www.collegeofparamedics.sk.ca)  
[www.collegeofparamedics.sk.ca](http://www.collegeofparamedics.sk.ca)

office@collegeofparamedics.sk.ca

Please **contact** the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics by email at the above address, or go to their website for more information.

## Division Updates

*Public Education - On Aug. 19th-21st Chair of the Public Education Division, Brian Starkell, along with Mike Kwasnica, Cathie Basset and Shannon Zook travelled to Winnipeg to meet with the team responsible for securing the Public Education Trailers in the province of Manitoba.*

*We are hoping to build a similar project here in our province. Please stay tuned for updates!*

*Inspectors' - On Sept. 23rd and 24th the Phil Acklands Inspecting Commercial Kitchens Course was held in Saskatoon. There was positive feedback from the 51 participants indicating it was an enjoyable and informative training.*

*The Inspectors' Division will also be hosting a course entitled **Fire Investigations-The Interactive Relationships Between Agencies in Regina in February 2015.** This course will be presented as informational seminars in a non-accredited presentation format. We will update you with further information as we have it.*



Public Education Trailer

## More on Public Education....

On October 20th, 2014 SAFC Public Education Division Chair Brian Starkell, SAFC President Trent Lee, SAFC Executive Director Shannon Zook met with Deputy Commissioner Mieka Cleary and Yvette Yuzak who is the Project Lead for Public Education within Emergency Management and Fire Safety.

This meeting was to discuss EMFS's Public Education Strategy and what SAFC's Public Education Division's goals and plans are so that both groups can support and augment the activities the other has planned. We will be working closely as we move forward on these important activities.

## Around the Province

On Saturday June 14th, 2014 the grand opening of the James Rudd Memorial Fire Hall occurred in Kamsack, SK. The new building on Nykolaishen Drive replaced the original fire hall built in 1947. There were dignitaries and politicians in attendance and Chief Kevin Eskra and Deputy Chief Doug Lapchuk brought greetings from the SAFC and SVFFA respectively.



L to R: Ken Thompson, Mayor Gardner, Erla Rudd, Earl Rudd, Jim Pollock, and Roberta Rudd



## Ask the Chief

There is a wealth of knowledge amongst the Fire Chiefs in the province of Saskatchewan. This section of the newsletter is where members of the Provincial Fire Service can submit questions to be answered by our more seasoned Fire Professionals. The answers will be printed in the next newsletter, as well as sent individually to the person submitting it. This will be a way to share information with the membership, if one person has a question, chances are good that many others do too! Please submit your questions to Shannon Zook [executivedirectorsafc@gmail.com](mailto:executivedirectorsafc@gmail.com).

### 1. Why is the Dalmatian dog the official mascot of the Fire Service?

Historically when the Fire Brigade went out with the Horse drawn carriage the unique black and white pattern of the Dalmatian scared off the numerous stray dogs that liked to chase along the wagon which slowed down the progress of the team on their way to the fire. The Dalmatian assisted in keeping the pace for the horses and it is also believed that the presence of the Dalmatian helped in scaring off rodents such as rats and mice in the Fire hall.



## 2015-SAFC's 65th Annual Conference

Fire Chief Denis Pilon, the City of Swift Current and the SAFC look forward to seeing you at our annual conference and tradeshow. This exciting event will be held from April 16th-18th, 2015 in Swift Current. This year's theme for the conference is *Situation Awareness Matters-helping you see bad things coming.....in time to prevent bad things happening*. The conference will be held at the Credit Union I-Plex, and conference hotels will be the Holiday Inn Express, the Home Inn and Suites, the Days Inn, the Motel 6 and the Best Western Plus Inn. Please visit our website for booking information.

## A Call to Our Past Trade Show Vendors and Sponsors....

Space is limited at the I-Plex, please register early to ensure your spot is secured! Information letters will be sent out shortly to all past vendors and potential Sponsors to ensure that individuals have opportunities to register early. Registration will be available shortly on our website.

## Contact Us

Please phone or email if you have questions about the SAFC or anything in this newsletter

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.safc.sk.ca](http://www.safc.sk.ca)

SAFC-The Voice of the Fire Service Industry in Saskatchewan

## Photo Credits

Page One- SAFC Board of Directors-Leanne Banga

Page Two- Humboldt Training School, Mike Kwasnica

Page Three- Public Education Trailer in Winnipeg-Brian Starkell

Page Four- K a m s a c k Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening, Leanne Banga

*Thanks to all of our Photographers who contributed photos to our newsletter!*

