

THE RURAL FIREFIGHTER

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Nebraska Forest Service

www.nfs.unl.edu

NFS is Moving!

After many years of sharing office space in a variety of buildings on the University of Nebraska East Campus, the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) is slated to move into a home of our own. We will still be on East Campus, but we will finally be in a building with office space earmarked exclusively for NFS—Forestry Hall.

Dedicated as the Animal Pathology and Hygiene Building in 1919, Forestry Hall has served as home to a number of programs since it was constructed as part of the University's original Veterinary Complex. Most recently, Forestry Hall

was known as Natural Resources Hall as it was used for teaching, research and outreach by programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. With the completion of renovations to Hardin Hall in 2006, most of the building's occupants were relocated, leaving a majority of the structure vacant.

Forestry Hall was designed by Coolidge and Hodgson Architects in the Craftsman style, similar to other buildings constructed on campus at the time, as well as many homes in the area. As constructed, the building totaled 12,997 square feet on three levels, with spaces consisting of classrooms, laboratories and offices. Renovations to Forestry Hall began early in the summer of 2009. No significant renovations had been done to the building since the mid 1960's, so there was a lot of work to do. Heating and air conditioning system upgrades were sorely needed, offices were added or converted and fire code, life safety, accessibility and energy efficiency issues were addressed.

The Fire Shop, fuels and fire prevention personnel should not be affected by the move, just those of us in Lincoln. None of us look forward to packing, but the move is a short distance

and we're excited to be in a new home. The move is scheduled to take place this spring, tentatively during the month of March. We'll try to keep disruptions to our level of service to the bare minimum, but please be patient with us as everything gets boxed up, broken down and packaged for the trip. Our address and phone numbers will change, but we'll let you know all the new information in the May issue of the Rural Firefighter.



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Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy



NEBRASKA WILDLAND FIRE ACADEMY

The Third Annual Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy (NWFA) is set to take place April 10–18, 2010 at Fort Robinson State Park in the Pine Ridge of Nebraska. Information is available at www.nfs.unl.edu.

This year, the NWFA has added three new courses (see list below), but the registration fee remains just \$30 per class. Thanks to a partnership with the Nebraska Society of Fire Service Instructors, electronic nomination and payment is now available.

Eight classes will be offered this year:
 S130/S190/L180 Basic Firefighter
 S131 Advanced Firefighter
 S230 Single Resource (Crew Boss)
 S231 Engine Boss
 S270 Basic Air Operations
 S290 Intermediate Fire Behavior
 P310 Fire Prevention Team Member
 RT130 Fireline Safety Refresher

Nominations are needed for each firefighter attending classes and are due March 5, 2010. See you there!



The 2010 NWFA is dedicated to Emil Daugherty, Fire Chief, Crawford Fire Department.



Emil left us unexpectedly in December 2009. He supported the NWFA since it started and he will be greatly missed.

Tips From Tex

As we enter the New Year, have we taken the time to look at and evaluate our Mutual Aid Association or our fire department? Have we thought of ways to improve our mutual aid association as far as attendance at meetings, training events or updating our mutual aid resource directory? What about the fire department? Do you have a plan for replacing SCBA, PPE or even that 30 year old pumper or tender? As a person with the title of president or fire chief, this makes you the leader of your group and the responsibility of getting these things done lies directly on your shoulders. Believe it or not, this is probably the easiest decision that you can make this year and the most sweating and grunting that you will be subjected to, will be a couple of hours pushing a pen. The rest of the work (sweating & grunting) is done for free, by the NFS. Namely me.

There are many mutual aid associations out there that have asked to update their directories over the last five years and I'm still waiting to receive your information to begin work on them. I could put some pressure on you and call you out in this article but you know who you are. There are several fire chiefs who wanted a community plan prepared for their department. How can you prepare a budget if you don't have a plan? Again, I'm still waiting. So, will you take the bull by the horns and get done what needs to be done as a leader; or will you just be the person who "holds the title?" Believe me; I understand that it's not all cake and ice cream when you're a leader. But you must also understand that the successes or failures of your organization are a direct reflection on those leading it.

The community plan has always been done at no cost to the fire department and the mutual aid association is only charged for the printing cost of the directory books. The cost normally runs anywhere from \$200 - \$400, depending on the number of books needed by each department within the association. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please give me a call or send an e-mail.

At fire school this year, we will again hold our Elected Officials class on Saturday afternoon as we did last year. We received such a good response for scheduling it that way, we decided to do it again. If you think you have some rural board members who would benefit from coming to this class, start talking with them now. Class size will be limited to 30. We are also trying something new this year based on an idea that was shared with me, so I can't take all the credit. It's being called the "Fire Chiefs Toolbox". This class is being designed toward the new fire chief who has 2 years or less "on the job," and anyone who is looking toward becoming an officer or chief in their department. Topics will be presented by the State Fire Marshal, Nebraska Forest Service, Health & Human Services and fire service legal experts. Sunday morning will conclude with a roundtable discussion with some "old seasoned" fire chiefs from across the state. This will be done in an open format so you will have the opportunity to ask questions as they share with you their experiences, many lessons learned, tricks of the trade, people and budget issues and any eye opening experiences that they have dealt with during their tenure as fire chief. It is our hope that should this class get a good response from the students, it could turn into a 3-4 day academy type class. Stay tuned.

Until next time, stay safe.

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Nugget of the Day

A lot gets done when it doesn't matter who gets the credit.

One Stop Shopping for Fire Prevention Assistance

PROGRAM NAME Fire Prevention Program

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Communities, local organizations, businesses and/or concerned citizens in cooperation with the local fire department.

AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE

ASSISTANCE IN:

- Establishing a fire prevention program in your community.
- Workshops/meetings for developing and using community resources for a year-round fire prevention program.
- Continuing to develop leadership and provide motivation for on-going fire prevention programs.
- Providing the fire prevention committee with new ideas and determining the availability of materials.
- Facilitating meetings for community or local organizations to identify, resolve problems and in finding individuals to participate.
- Maintaining a program, finding cost and time-effective solutions.
- Becoming involved with a fire prevention cooperative. Currently, there are six across Nebraska.
- Assessing fire prevention needs through community planning (Community Wildfire Protection Plan - CWPP).
- Changing attitudes toward fire prevention.

ASSISTANCE BY:

- Providing materials and brochures developed specifically for Nebraska, delivered by Bob's "Bookmobile."
- Providing recognition for outstanding fire prevention programs.
- VFA cost-share dollars for the purchase of fire prevention materials and equipment.
- Fire Prevention Info newsletter, a quarterly newsletter.
- Teaming up with Injury Prevention Coordinator from DHHS.

ASSISTANCE FROM:

- Bob Vogltance and the award-winning Partners-in-Prevention (PIP). PIP recently received the Silver Smokey Award from the US Forest Service.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All activities are community-based and specific to the individual community.

PURPOSE

**BE PROACTIVE
IMPROVE PUBLIC RELATIONS
(DISPENSE WITH TRADITION)
PREVENT FIRES**

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Smokey Bear & Fire Prevention Materials

The Smokey Bear costume is available for use at fire prevention activities to deliver the fire prevention message. A \$25.00 deposit is required to use the costume. A pamphlet entitled "Smokey Bear Comes to Visit His Friends!" is available with guidelines for using the costume.



A variety of fire prevention materials are available for purchase. Most items are sold in quantities of 100. A new form listing current prices and items available is printed annually. It is also available on the Nebraska Forest Service website at www.nfs.unl.edu. Orders must be prepaid before shipping and include a 10% shipping and handling fee. Checks made payable to: Nebraska Forest Service.

To schedule a Smokey Bear visit or order fire prevention materials, contact:
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Sandy's Corner



The last few months have been “out of the ordinary” for me. Dealing with the death of a loved one is always difficult and having two surgeries in December a few weeks apart on both wrists and elbows didn't help. Top that off with recuperating and then coming down with a really bad cold during my Christmas break. It seemed to go from bad to worse. BUT, 2010 is a new year and although I am not fully recovered and still having a few problems, I am still able to work and for that I am thankful.

Don and I just wrapped up the final fire report last week, and sometimes it can be a challenge making sure all the “l's are dotted and the “t's” crossed. Thanks to each of you for reporting so faithfully during the year. If you are still “dragging your heels” doing on-line reporting, just visit with those fire chiefs who love the program. It seems like each week, I bring another fire department into the “fold,” so maybe next week it will be you. I'm more than happy to help walk you through,

if you need my assistance, but all the instructions are written very detailed on one page of your yellow monthly reporting card.

Now...to the area that causes me a great deal of “angst” each and every year – the reporting of Mutual Aid. This year we had 248 Mutual Aid calls reporting and I could only match up 43 leaving 205 that will go in the “Last Chance Holding” file. Since it is the beginning of a new year and I'm hoping for a better year, let's review the reporting of a Mutual Aid.

1. Only report a Mutual Aid IF it is a call to a wildfire and there were acres burned (grass, forest, crops). House and car fires are not to be reported unless acres were burned.
2. If you provided Mutual Aid and you know it was a wildfire with quite a few acres burned, you may want to check with the home fire department. We were able to resolve several calls when departments checked with each other.
3. If you are reporting using the yellow cards, it is not necessary to list acres. This is the home fire departments responsibility.
4. If you have doubts about what to report, just give me a call at

402.472.6623.

The long awaited move to our new building “Forestry Hall” on East Campus is in the near future. A tentative date is mid-March. During the few weeks preceding the move, activities in our current location are going to be disrupted as we pack boxes and have the movers take over. During that time frame, we will do our best to be responsive to your calls and requests, but we ask for your patience during this time.

Thanks again for all you do for your community and your fire departments.



Calendar of Events

February 7	Central Nebraska Mutual Aid Association Winter Fire School, Holdrege
Feb 19-21	NSFSI Les Lukert Winter Conf., Grand Island
March 6, 7 & 13, 14	S130/S190/L180 class Springfield Fire Dept. Springfield, NE
April 10-18	Third Annual Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy, Fort Robinson State Park
May 21-23	Nebraska State Fire School, Grand Island

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln does not discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.

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