



## Missoula County Fire Protection Association

- **March MCFPA General Membership Meeting**

7:00 PM, Tuesday, March 26, 2013  
Missoula City-County Health Department  
301 W. Alder, Missoula -- (406) 258-4755

1. Call to Order (Matt- Chair)
2. Introductions (All)
3. Approve January Minutes / Financial Report / Correspondence Received (CJ- Secretary/Treasurer)

### OLD BUSINESS

- A. Assessments Received
- B. Day Spring Thank-You (CJ)
- C. Lunch Per Diem for Puppeteers (CHAD)
- D. Approved on the replacement of Puppets- Done. No bill has come in. We are still waiting on the stage. A bill will be forthcoming. Chad will have some intel on the vendor.

### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Trailer Cover for MCFPA Trailer (Chad)

Lacking a place to store it, Chad recommends a cover for the trailer as it will have to be outside. Big Sky Tent and Awning quoted \$1,200-\$1,500. Guaranteed for 10 years with zipper by the main door to get in and out and covering the wheels. A motion was made to approve purchasing a trailer. All were in favor of purchasing a cover for the trailer. Chad will get the ball rolling

- B. Hamilton Wildfire Preparation Workshop (CJ)

If you could put it in your trap lines, that would be great.

- C. Webpage vs. Social Media (Glenda Wallace)

Glenda would love to share things with a larger audience. Should we branch out to social media? She would like to magnify our web presence using Facebook and Twitter. When private business goes to Twitter there is an interaction that takes place. It wouldn't take long to set it up and link to us. Brent would like to get some reports on how many hits we're getting. There was great support for the idea. Glenda is enjoying that she has latitude to post on the site and she could certainly post to Facebook at the same time. Perhaps an hour a month we could get folks to like us with outreach, and as fire season comes around, we'd like to use it to post fire danger/prevention messages.

There would be two images we'd need to put on the site. We could start marketing that at our conferences. The extra costs would be minimal. IMTs and FDs are using it, and there are policy guidelines that we should adopt. Adrienne mentioned she would send a copy of the county's policy.

A motion was made to get up administrative action to build our Facebook page with board access. We will consider guidelines to put in place for the postings. We'll initially use Glenda to set up, and then board members could gradually take this on.

#### D. Spring Training (Cory Calnan)

MCFPA Spring Training Scenario in Seeley. Blackfoot Fire Protection Area will host a structure burning exercise. A contract to mitigate asbestos has been let. All the funding is in place, and none is requested of the board. All the FDs have been contacted and are shooting for early June for implementation. In years past MCFPA has supported a meal for the day, and we'll look into that.

#### E. Match Safety Assistance Request (ALL)

HELP IS NEEDED, big time. MRFD has provided an engine crew, but there have been no other volunteers after the first request. The five match safety rules have been reworked. It needs to be interactive, update the pictures, and have added a campfire component. The idea is the same, 4-5 folks at each site so we can split the kids. There was only one class that didn't have a smart board, so the content is being revamped. CJ will re-fire this to the MCFPA trap line with a greater sense of urgency. Sarah Kennett will have the confirmed schedule out on 3/27.

This would be a great time to take pictures, so we'll have a camera at each event.

#### F. Outdoor Burning Update (Sarah)

Burning opened March 1<sup>st</sup>. As of 1830 today 2,003 permits were sold, up from 1,200 this time last year. We sent a postcard to everyone who bought a permit last year, "Here is your permit number, it's time." It was found to be very helpful. Seeley had a ton of people come in before March 1<sup>st</sup> to activate it. Could we look at the timing of the mailing. Health Department kicked in \$1,100 for the mailing and MCFPA put in \$710 to buy the postcards. So far, 800 folks who did not buy one last year bought this year. Missoula Rural (214) and Frenchtown (183), Seeley (47), Health Department (29), Greenough (73) were paid in cash, so the flow into stations is only 20-25% of total permits.

People who want the permit mailed out (333 so far) are a bit of a drain. 1,116 burns have been activated. April is the peak month; so in the next few weeks, there will be a lot of folks burning. There has only been one angry phone call, so "well done everyone."

If the system goes down, the FDs are trying to get the inputs for them at a later time, and send them on their way with permit in hand.

At some locations, and MRFD gets the brunt, some permits are being issued without a burn location, and that is an expensive fix. It is necessary input, and the webpage needs to alert folks to the real problem.

Financials: The health department footed the majority of the costs (37k in 2012- \$4,800 for the phone bill). \$21k was raised. \$5,226 was given back to the county, so CHD is 15k in the hole at this time. We anticipate \$12k in revenue this year. It is slow and steady, but eventually the costs should be fully recouped. \$5 permit is sold, Montana Interactive gets \$2, and CHD gets \$3. While this isn't a money-making scheme, we're attempting to recover our costs. MCFPA could receive its monetary investment in the building of the program back over time.

New Improvement Coming: There will be a default choice of scheduled "burn time" from 9-4. There will be a choice to go with manual input as well, in an attempt to make the system more customer-friendly.

Burn Violation Notices- please comment on them and let Sarah have some feedback and request how many you'd like to have for your patrollers/responders.

G. Missoula Osprey Bobble Head Night July 12 (Cindy)

\$1,500 was awarded from BLM. This year is a volunteer fire fighter. They are making the model. CJ will put out the proof, and please feel free to comment on the design. The night of the game is a Friday. We'll need engines and volunteers to hand out bobble heads. 750 folks get one, and each agency that contributes gets a cache. Smokey gets to fire out the first pitch, so we'll ask Missoula RD to donate Smokey and a helper. In 2012 there were four interagency engines. MCFPA, DNRC, BLM, and Lolo will be donating for the effort.

Chrystal will be here working vice-Cindy.

H. 2013 VFA Grants will be out shortly. Matt will push that to the chiefs. Frank will write it and submit it, and Matt will disperse the checks.

## **Training**

- Training Officer's Forum May 4-5 @ Ruby's Inn. Call John Marshall for the schedule. The itinerary will be pushed soon.
- There are spots available for L-380, so local government may have some seats. ICS-300 is going to be May 11-12 in Seeley. There is room for more folks. The one in Missoula next week is full, but Seeley has openings.

Round-Robin

Cory Calnan, Clearwater: There will be some openings for seasonals. The Seeley Swan fire plan should be blessed shortly. Spring Training will be @ Lubrecht, schedule to follow

Trucker, Missoula RD: Pile burning at this time. MRFD+ Lolo will be doing a burn. 6 new folks will be hired.

Sarah, County Health: Big pile of dirty debris was on fire, and was put out as soon as possible. People are looking for bonfire permits. You don't need a bonfire permit for a campfire. Sarah will be going to Frenchtown to explain regarding bonfire permits. Tomorrow, Missoula city FD will be burning down a house, hopefully just one, as the permits have cleared.

Florence Fire: 32 acre brushfire after one inch of snow. One fft in EMT class

DNRC NMLO: Hiring in the units

Adrienne: Nothing to report, everything is good.

Seeley RD: Hiring a few temps, AFMO position is at the review of applications, hiring a lookout.

MCFD: Burning a house down tomorrow. There are other houses close, one with vinyl siding that has a wall newly constructed. Lots of training has taken place. 3 new ffts coming on in April.

MRFD: New trailer ordered for storage.

Swan Valley: We exist.

Joe Calnan: Hired behind Adrienne, Taylor Blakely from Ninemile area has been there a week. There is a lot of burning going on in Frenchtown. All good so far.

Missoula RD has a new Type 6 that can come to bobble head night.

Matt Hall: Set up a basic April 27-28 on the weekend for S-130, S-190.

Chrystal: We are working on the Montana version of "Ready, Set, Go," and we'll get that out in another meeting.

Motion to Adjourn 2030, motion approved.

Frenchtown, May 15<sup>th</sup>...good to go