

INFORMAL CONSIDERATION

June 12, 2014

Petitioner: Basin Volunteer Fire Department
Fire Chief: Richard Rhodes
Contact: Richard Rhodes and Dwain (Butch) Moran

Retirement System: VFCA

Request for Board Consideration:

The Basin VFD is requesting that the Board accept the late filed Annual Certificate filed on December 24, 2008 for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the amended Annual Certificate filed on June 22, 2011 for the fiscal year 2008-2009. The Annual Certificates were signed by the Fire Chief and notarized. Included was the training documentation by fiscal year as is required. See details below.

How many fiscal years is the department requesting to file?

One late filed for FY2007-2008

One amended for FY2008-2009

How many specific years of service are being requested?

1 year (FY2008); 6 members – 1 member is already receiving a pension benefit

1 year (FY2009); 1 member

Has the actuary evaluated the impact of these years of service on the VFCA plan?

NO

Has the volunteer fire department filed the necessary qualifications as required by State law?

Yes

Was the appropriate training documentation submitted?

Yes

How many times has the department filed late in the last 10 years?

- 1. FY2005-2006 filed on August 18, 2007 (no credit given, no training documents received).**
- 2. FY2006-2007 – no annual certificate was filed.**
- 3. FY2007-2008 – Being presently considered.**

Give details of any problems:

Working with more than one fire chief and the breaks in the receipt of the information, makes for a long process.

Correspondence in regards to FY2007-2008 late filed annual certificate:

- December 24, 2008: MPERA receives the FY2007-2008 VFCA Annual Certificate with 11 members listed to receive credit. The due date for filing of this certificate was September 1, 2008.
- December 28, 2008: Diann Levandowski sends letter to Fire Chief Jackie Columbe asking for the training documentation for the late filed FY2008 Annual Certificate.
- March 23, 2009: Diann receives a phone call from Fire Chief Columbe asking for a *Credited Years of Service* report for the department. FC Columbe was asking about past years Basin VFD had not filed for credit. FC Columbe indicated that the fire department had some of the training records destroyed by a disgruntled firefighter and were trying to gather training records from the individual firefighters.
- March 27, 2009: Letter and report were sent to FC Columbe detailing the information that she was requesting during the March 23, 2009 phone conversation. At this time the FY2007-2008 training documentation was again requested.
- August 26, 2009: Letter received from new Fire Chief Richard Rhodes informing MPERA that he was new fire chief as of May 1, 2009.
- October 14, 2011: Due to the new 2011 legislation, limiting the time of filing late/amended annual certificates, a phone call was received from De De Rhodes requesting a blank annual certificate for FY2007-2008 and a letter detailing what was considered certified training documentation.
- October 21, 2011: Letter and blank annual certificate was sent to FC Richard Rhodes.
- December 13, 2011: Receipt of FY2007-2008 VFCA Annual Certificate and individual sheets of training documentation. The training was input by MPERA staff into an Excel spreadsheet. (Training was not certified).
- February 3, 2012: After review of training spreadsheet, Allison Petty sent letter to FC Rhodes asking questions about some of the training documentation that was received on December 13, 2011.
- February 8, 2012: MPERA receives letter from FC Rhodes answering the questions posed in the February 3, 2012 letter.
- February 5, 2014: Ali receives a phone call from DeDe Rhodes, President of Basin VFD, about her and the fire chief's membership in fiscal year 2008. She states that the entry date should have been May 2007 and that Richard should have received credit for FY2008.

- February 7, 2014: After review of the updated training information, Ali Sturm sent letter to FC Rhodes asking for a new Annual Certificate to be filled out with **all** names of members who had the 30 or more hours of training that were determined from review of the training spreadsheet. Through the update and review of the information, it was determined that one member who qualified for credit was left off of the annual certificate filed on December 13, 2011. This same member has three different entry dates into the department.
- April 3, 2014: Revised FY2007-2008 VFCA Annual Certificate received by MPERA.
- May 5, 2014: Letter sent to FC Rhodes requesting a letter be sent to certify the training documents for FY2007-2008 and FY2008-2009. Also, confirmation of his entry date into the Basin VFD.
- May 27, 2014: FC Rhodes hand delivered the letter of certification and filled out a new membership card with the entry date of May 2007.

Correspondence in regards to FY2008-2009 amended annual certificate:

- June 28, 2011: Letter to Roxanne Minnehan concerning the amendment of the FY2008-2009 VFCA Annual Certificate for one member. Training documentation was received; training taking place with Boulder Fire Department because member moved to Boulder during the year.
- February 7, 2012: After review of training spreadsheet, Allison Petty sent letter to FC Rhodes asking questions about some of the training documentation that was received on June 28, 2011.
- February 9, 2012: Letter received from FC Rhodes answering the questions that were asked in the February 7, 2012 letter.

RELEVANT LAW AND RULES:

Montana Code Annotated

19-17-108. Credit for service as volunteer firefighter – records. (1) The annual period of service that may be credited under this chapter is the fiscal year. A fractional part of a year may not count toward the service required for participation in this system. To be eligible to receive credit for any particular year, a volunteer firefighter shall serve with a fire company throughout the entire fiscal year.

(2) The years of service are cumulative and need not be continuous. Separate periods of service properly credited with different fire companies must be credited toward a member's eligibility for full or partial benefits.

(3) A volunteer firefighter must receive credit for service during any fiscal year if:

(a) during the fiscal year, the volunteer firefighter completes a minimum of 30 hours of training in matters pertaining to firefighting under a formal program that has been formulated, supervised, and certified to the board by the chief or designated official of the fire company;

(b) the volunteer firefighter's participation in the training program is documented in the fire company's records filed and maintained by the chief or designated official; and

(c) the fire company maintained firefighting equipment that is in serviceable condition and owns, rents, or uses one or more buildings used for the storage of that equipment that all together are valued at \$12,000 or more.

(4) The chief or designated official of each fire company shall keep and maintain training records for each current and former volunteer firefighter who is or was a member of the fire company.

19-17-402. Certificate of eligibility. The chief or designated official of each fire company that claims eligibility under this chapter shall, on or before September 1 of each year, file a certificate on a form to be provided by the board, subscribed and verified under oath before a notary, stating whether the company qualified under 19-17-108(3) during the preceding fiscal year. The certificate must contain the date of organization. The certificate must list the full name, social security number, and date of birth of each member of the fire company who was a member for the entire fiscal year and satisfactorily completed 30 hours of training during the preceding fiscal year, as required by 19-17-108(3). The certificate must be maintained by the board for the purpose of establishing service for members and eligibility for benefits.

MPERA ARM

2.43.5001 BASIC UNIT OF SERVICE (1) As of July 1, 1965, the basic unit of service for volunteer firefighters is one fiscal year. Volunteer firefighters not continuously on the active membership list of a single qualifying volunteer fire company for the entire fiscal year shall not be listed on the annual certificate and shall not receive credit for service under the Volunteer Firefighters' Compensation Act (VFCA) for that fiscal year. A volunteer fire company qualifies to participate in the VFCA if the requirements of 19-17-402, MCA, are met.

(2) A volunteer firefighter shall receive one year of credit for service under the VFCA for each two full fiscal years of service performed prior to July 1, 1965. (History: 19-17-203, MCA; IMP, 19-17-201, 19-17-401, 19-17-402, MCA; NEW, 1986 MAR p. 1454, Eff. 8/29/86; AMD, 2003 MAR p. 1188, Eff. 6/13/03; AMD & TRANS, from ARM 2.43.801, 2008 MAR p. 2467, Eff. 12/01/08.)

2.43.5002 FAILURE TO FILE REQUIRED REPORTS (1) In order to receive credit for service under the VFCA, volunteer fire companies must file an "annual certificate" with MPERA. The certification is a report by the fire chief that the members listed on the certificate were active for the full fiscal year and also had the required 30 hours of training. This report is on a fiscal year basis (July through June) and is due by September 1 of each year. The annual certificate is signed by the fire chief and notarized. Annual certificate forms are provided by MPERA.

(2) Annual certificates filed after the September 1 due date must be appealed to and considered by the board for approval. Information provided to the board by the fire chief or designated official must include:

- (a) the original, notarized annual certificate;
- (b) certified training documents showing the required 30 hours of training per listed member;
- (c) a letter from the fire chief explaining why the annual certificate was not filed timely; and
- (d) if requested by the fire chief, oral argument before board. (History: 19-17-203, MCA; IMP, 19-17-201, 19-17-402, MCA; NEW, 1986 MAR p. 1454, Eff. 8/29/86; AMD, 2003 MAR p. 1188, Eff. 6/13/03; AMD & TRANS, from ARM 2.43.802, 2008 MAR p. 2467, Eff. 12/01/08.)

Basin VFD

Acceptance of past Certificates that increase members' years of service

Summary:

This was a long process due to working with two separate fire chiefs and the information being requested many times. Some of the information was conflicting at times with what appeared in the database and what was sent. Communication and understanding the communication, was key in this consideration.

Pursuant to § 19-17-112 (5), MCA, a late filed certificate must be filed within 3 years of the due date. FY2007-2008 Annual Certificate was due on September 1, 2008. The certificate was received in December 2008 and the training documentation was received December 2011. The receipt of the information is within the time limit.

Also, pursuant to § 19-17-112 (5), MCA, an annual certificate may only be amended once. The FY2008-2009 Annual Certificate has never been amended before and the information was received within the time limit.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD

June 12, 2014

Topic: Basin VFD

Acceptance of past Certificates that increase members' years of service

Staff recommendation:

Staff recommends that the five members listed on the late filed FY2007-2008 VFCA Annual Certificate and the one member listed on the amended FY2008-2009 VFCA Annual Certificate, be granted a year of credited service for the fiscal year they are listed to receive.

Board Motion:

Uphold Staff Recommendation

Other.

Moved by

Seconded by

Vote

BASIN V#8040
Training records for FY 2007-2008

date	class	Name										Description												
7/4/2007	digging hoses & fire line training	Chelsie Cary	Jackie Colombe	Jim Culbert	Tom Elliott	Robert Glover	Charlie Goodwin	Chris Goodwin	David Hartman	Dan Harrison	Brad Johnson	James Maher	Earl Martin	Butch Moran	Teresa Nance	Jason Norman	Rhonda Rachlis	DeDe Rhodes	Richard Rhodes	Carrie Robertson	Joseph Robertson	Scott Sherwood	M Williams	
7/8/2007	capitol cleanup after fire																							
7/12/2007	hose, pump & water training truck #1																							
7/19/2007	cutting cars & foaming training																							
8/6/2007	extinction training																							
8/9/2007	truck & pump operation																							
8/16/2007	engine & pump training																							
9/13/2007	truck & engine maintenance equipment																							
9/20/2007	maintenance & check over																							
10/4/2007	fire line training																							
10/8/2007	walk-thru alarm fire alarm																							
10/11/2007	truck training																							
10/11/2007	fire prevention																							
10/18/2007	SCBA training																							

**Updated 2/23/12 with information from letter received from Basin on 2/14/12.

Training consisted of cutting cars and foam systems. Fire departments utilize what we call the "tools of life". We learn to be safe and quick with the following tools - jaws, punches, axes, bar jacks, and cutters. These tools are called extinction tools. Foam systems are used to make "water wetter". This allows brush trucks to carry smaller amounts of water but accomplishing the firefighting task at hand. This training is when vehicle wrecks go wrong. Sometimes we need to remove the people from the vehicle by using the tools of life. There are various tools and each operates differently. Operators of the engine and their pumps are essential. You must get wets stuff on the red stuff or things just won't go well. There are various pumps on each engine for various purposes. Each engine is different.

Vehicle Maintenance does not qualify for training hours.

Equipment Maintenance does not qualify for training hours. Every year Montana has a huge potential for wildland fires. Our fire dept has felt this sting in the past. We always use outside professional fire fighting companies and in-house training to make sure we are ready for the call. This training consists of fire line training, engine training, hose training, pump and roll, marking a path/spot fire and the appropriate PPE's to. It makes the whole process go a lot faster and smoother. We take opportunities to tour through various buildings in our district. We are looking for construction, barriers, placement of the rooms and hazards.

Training consisted of Structure Pumps and Dratling because of the time of year. Preparing for structure/chemistry fires.

If we can educate the public and fire fighters on the prevention, we can all have a safe and happy life. We use these opportunities to educate everyone on different ways to protect their property, family and themselves. We also use these opportunities to educate the public how to react when we are on scene.

Personal Protective Equipment and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus are the main safety tools for a fire fighter. We are continually trained on which PPE to wear, how fast you can get into them (usually 45 sec) and which situation requires which PPE. SCBA's are worn on various situations. Usually on structure fires or vehicle fires.

DNQ 2 hours

DNQ 2 hours

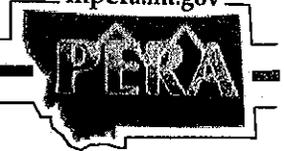
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

mpera.mt.gov

STATE OF MONTANA



HELENA (406) 444-3154
TOLL FREE (877) 275-7372
FAX (406) 444-5428

100 N. PARK, SUITE 200
PO BOX 200131
HELENA, MT 59620-0131

December 29, 2008

Jackie Columbe, Fire Chief
Basin VFD
PO Box 119
Basin, MT 59631

Dear Fire Chief Columbe:

This letter is in regards to the late filed VFCA Annual Certificate for FY2007-2008 that was received in the Montana Public Employees' Retirement Administration (MPERA) office on December 24, 2008. Annual Certificates are to be filed on or before **September 1st**. The Public Employees' Retirement Board (PERB) has decided that late certificates, when filed properly, accompanied by a letter of explanation from the fire chief and **certified** training documentation for the 30 hours or more of training, will be considered for acceptance.

The training information must be based on fiscal years (July 1st thru June 30th) and in an easily readable format. Training documentation must include the following:

- ❖ The date the training was offered;
- ❖ Title of the training;
- ❖ Description of the training;
- ❖ Hours of training;
- ❖ Each member's of training for each class.

Training does **not** include business meetings, emergency calls or vehicle or hall maintenance.

Please send the necessary **certified** training documentation as stated above and a letter of explanation. Your members will be considered for approval upon receipt of the required documentation.

If you have any questions, please write or call me at 406-444-3193 or toll free 1-877-275-7372 ext 3193.

Sincerely,

Diann Levandowski

Diann Levandowski

Assistant Fiscal Services Bureau Chief

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION



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mpera.mt.gov



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100 N. PARK, SUITE 200
PO BOX 200131
HELENA, MT 59620-0131

March 27, 2009

Jackie Colombe, Fire Chief
Basin VFD
PO Box 119
Basin, MT 59631

Dear Fire Chief Colombe:

This letter is in response to your telephone call on March 23, 2009 concerning the past years of credit that have been filed with Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA) for the members of the Basin VFD. Enclosed you will find the requested Credited Years of Service report for your members.

In looking through the paper file on the Basin VFD the following are my findings:

1. The Basin Volunteer Fire Department was established/organized July 1, 1905. The Volunteer Firefighters' Compensation Act (VFCA) start date with MPERA is July 1, 1950.
2. The file contains the following filed Annual Certificates:
 - Fiscal year (FY) 1968 Annual Certificate.
 - MPERA's July 30, 1987 computer print-out on bar paper. This was verified by the fire chief for correct credited years of service, SSN, Date of Birth and entry date into the Basin VFD.
 - Annual Certificates for fiscal years: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003 (reproduced, not MPERA original), 2004 (reproduced, not MPERA original), and 2005.
 - Received FY2005-2006 Annual Certificate on August 14, 2007 (copy enclosed). This is considered a late file and was put in as FY2006-2007 credit, but credit has been taken off because the Annual Certificate is actually late. Will need complete certified training documentation for this year to count towards credit.
 - Meeting/Training sign in roster for FY2000-2001 was received in MPERA's office on April 9, 2002. Letter was sent out to Fire Chief Dwain Moran on April 9, 2002 informing him that MPERA had not received Annual Certificates for fiscal years 2000 and 2001. The meeting/training documentation that was received for FY2001 did not include the date or a description of the training. Annual certificates were sent with the letter for FY2000 and FY2001 and request for complete training documentation for both fiscal years.
 - Received April 30, 2003 from Katy James, Sec/Treasurer: Letter giving a brief explanation of what is/was involved in the training received by each of the members for

fiscal year 2002; Roster of members to receive or not to receive credit; and a training Excel spreadsheet with training; # of hours, and name of member.

- On September 3, 2004 a letter from Fire Chief James Maher and training documentation for FY2003-2004. Letter from Chief Maher highlights conversation that was had with Barbara Quinn about the filing of the FY2003-2004 Annual Certificate.
- On September 7, 2004 letter was sent to Fire Chief James Maher on a few items of concern with the Basin VFD.

Concerns:

- The MPERA has received your fiscal year 2004 Annual Certificate but is **unable to accept the service for your members** because the department's qualifications are not up to date. (This was resolved on September 6, 2005 after another letter was sent to the fire chief).
- It appears that the Annual Certificates are being scanned to send back to our office. Please **DO NOT** alter the Annual Certificate in any way except to add members if necessary. MPERA requests that you send back to us the original, notarized document.
- MPERA received training documentation for fiscal year 2002 but not Annual Certificate. We requested the Annual Certificate in April 2003 when the training records were received but have received nothing.
- The Basin VFD is missing Annual Certificates for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002. Late Annual Certificate can be filed if training documentation accompanies them. Members only receive credit if the late certificates are approved by our Board.

To summarize what is missing is the Annual Certificates for fiscal years: 1969 through 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2007. I have the late filed Annual Certificate for FY2008 but am still waiting the training documentation that I requested in my December 29, 2008 letter. I will also need the training documentation for FY2006 to verify the Annual Certificate that was received on August 14, 2007.

The earliest entry date listed on the enclosed Credited Years of Service report is July 1, 1974 for Sandra Rachlis. The next member with an earlier entry date is 1/1/1978 for Patrick Eckman and then 1/1/1980 for Dwain Moran. The rest of the entry dates on the members are in the 1990s or 2000s.

I have enclosed Annual Certificates for the late filing of fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2007. Remember that these Annual Certificates must be accompanied by complete certified training documentation and a letter of explanation to the Public Employees' Retirement Board as to why the certificates are being filed late.

If you have any questions, please write or call me at 406-444-3193 or toll free 1-877-275-7372 ext 3193.

Sincerely,

Diann Levandowski

Diann Levandowski
Assistant Fiscal Services Bureau Chief

Enclosures

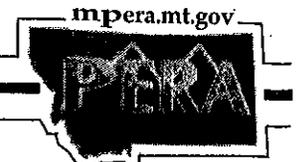
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FAX (406) 444-5428



100 N. PARK, SUITE 200
PO BOX 200131
HELENA, MT 59620-0131

October 21, 2011

Richard Rhodes, Fire Chief
Basin VFD
PO Box 119
Basin, MT 59631

Dear Fire Chief Rhodes,

The Public Employees' Retirement Board (PERB) has decided that late or amended certificates, when filed properly, accompanied by a letter of explanation from the fire chief, and **certified** training documentation for the 30 or more hours of training, will be considered for acceptance. Beginning July 1, 2011, only late Annual Certificates that are filed within 3 years of the original Annual Certificate due date will be considered. The due dates of annual certificates are September 1 of each year for the previous fiscal year (ie FY2007-2008 was due September 1, 2008). An annual certificate may be amended only once.

The **certified** training information must be based on fiscal years (July 1st thru June 30th) and in an easily readable format. Training documentation must include the following:

- ❖ The date the training was offered;
- ❖ Title of the training;
- ❖ Description of the training;
- ❖ Hours of training;
- ❖ Each member's hours of training for each class.

Training does **not** include business meetings, emergency calls or vehicle or hall maintenance.

Enclosed you will find a blank Annual Certificate for FY2007-2008 as requested in my phone conversation on October 14, 2011 with De De Rhodes. On the enclosed blank annual certificate, please include names of all members that qualified for credit that fiscal year. Remember that an annual certificate may be amended only once.

If you have questions, please call me at 406-444-3193 or toll free 1-877-275-7372 ext 3193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diann Levandowski".

Diann Levandowski
Assistant Fiscal Services Bureau Chief

Enclosure

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
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mpera.mt.gov



100 N. PARK, SUITE 200
PO BOX 200131
HELENA, MT 59620-0131

February 3, 2012

Richard Rhodes, Fire Chief
Basin VFD
PO Box 119
Basin, MT 59631

Dear Fire Chief Rhodes,

This letter is in regards to the training documentation included with the late FY2007-2008 Annual Certificate received in our office on December 13, 2011. I have looked over the training documentation and have questions that will need to be answered before this can be presented to the Public Employee Retirement Board (PERB) for consideration on granting the credited service. The following are the questions needing answered and further documentation that will be needed.

1. The training documents received do not have sufficient information to be able to determine whether training hours can be used. Please provide additional information on the training, describing the type of training that took place.
2. July 19, 2007 – cannot read what kind of training. Please provide additional information.
3. September 13, 2007, September 20, 2007, and November 15, 2007 – engine/vehicle/fire hall maintenance does not qualify as training; therefore these will not count toward credit for service.
 - a. November 30, 2007 – Check on Engine #1 and clean chimney – not sufficient information on the checking on engine #1. This would fall under engine/fire hall maintenance which does not qualify as training.
4. October 11, 2007 and November 8, 2007 – Trucks and Truck #1242 does not describe the type of training performed. Please provide additional information.
5. December 12, 2007 – trucks and gear for new members – please provide additional information how this qualifies as training.
 - a. April 10, 2008 – trucks, put new gear away, and stow old stuff away – please provide additional information how this qualifies for training.

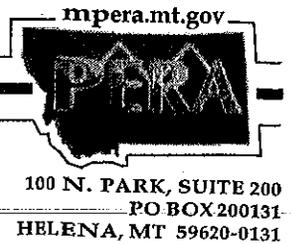
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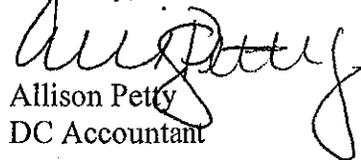


6. February 22, 2008 and March 24, 2008 – Two CPR classes for Rhandi Rachlis within a month of each other at six hours each. Why did this person take two CPR classes in the same year?
 - a. February class originally states that it was a three hour class, why was it changed to six hours?
7. February 28, 2008 – Round Table Exercise – This is an event and does not appear as training. Please explain the Emergency preparedness exercise and how it qualifies as training.
8. March 13, 2008 – No training mentioned. Please provide additional information.
9. April 21, 2008 – Please provide the days and hours this basic firefighter training took place in order to equal the 40 hours.
10. May 15, 2008 – Back burning, burned back lot next door – please provide additional information how this qualifies for training.
11. June 4, 2008 – trucks, radios, and turnouts – please provide additional information on the type of training that took place.
12. June 11, 2008 – Tri-County Community Emergency Response Team Meeting – This is meeting and not considered training. This will not count toward credit for service.

Please provide me with the above information **on or before February 22, 2012**. If the information is not received on or before February 22, 2012, I will have to proceed to the PERB with the information that I have already. This would mean the information and hours in question would not go toward the firefighters' credited hours.

If you have questions please contact me at 406-444-9173 or toll free 877-275-7372 ext. 9173.

Sincerely,


Allison Petty
DC Accountant

Enclosures

RECEIVED

FEB 14 2012

RETIREMENT BOARD



February 8, 2012

PERA

100 N. Park, Suite 200

P.O. Box 200131

Helena, MT 59620-0131

Dear Ms. Petty,

This letter is in response to your letter dated, February 3, 2012, concerning the training records for Basin Volunteer Fire Department from FY 2007-2008. Below please find the information you requested. I have highlighted the training hours that do not qualify for PERA. I am also providing a brief synopsis of fire fighting trainings.

7-19-2007 *OK* Training consisted of cutting cars and foam systems. Sometimes vehicle wrecks are bad. When this happens, fire departments utilize what we call the "tools of life". We learn to be safe and quick with the following tools. Jaws, punches, axes, bar jacks and cutters. These tools are called extrication tools. We actually get to cut vehicles up. We train on the various vehicle types and placements of each tool for quick extraction and safety.

Foam systems are used to make "water wetter". This allows Brush trucks to carry smaller amounts of water but accomplishing the firefighting task at hand.

9-13-2007 I agree with your findings this will not qualify

9-20-2007 I agree with your findings this will not qualify

10-11-2007 *OK* Training consisted of Structure Pumps and Drafting because of the time of year. Preparing for structure/chimney fires.

11-8-2007 *OK* Training consisted of Brush pumps because of Truck 1 and 2 being listed on the training sheet and new members.



- 11-15-2007 I agree with your findings this will not qualify
- 11-30-2007 I agree with your findings this will not qualify
- 12-12-2007 *OK* Training consisted of PPE and structure pump training because of new members.
- 2-22-2008 *OK* Training consisted of 6 hours of classroom and practical training for CPR and AEDs. Several of our fire fighters are trained as EMRs (First Responders).
- 2-28-2008 Training consisted of team exercises covering foreign and domestic terrorism. Training also included various scenarios for terrorism disasters and solutions to these events.
- 3-13-2008 I agree with your findings this will not qualify
- 3-24-2008 I called the trainer on of this class to confirm there were two trainings. Unfortunately, Judi McCall could only confirm the first class on 2-28-2008. Therefore this training is not confirmed or qualified for PERA hours.
- 4-10-2008 I agree with your findings this will not qualify
- 4-21-2008 *OK* This is a private firm called Peanut Pie. We use them for wildland training every year. The days of training were from 4/18/2008 thru 4/21/2008 between the hours of 8am to 6pm. This training consists of 10 hour days of classroom and practical exercises. You did not list Jim Maher and Jackie Colombe. They teach this class and participate in all aspects of this training. They should get 40 hours credit each.
- 5-15-2008 *OK* Back burning is a normal practice when fighting a wildland fire. You remove the fuel from the approaching fire. This removes one part of the fire triangle. This exercise was used to train Butch on this general practice.
- 6-4-2008 *OK* Training consisted of wildland truck pumps and proper radio procedures during wildland fires. It also included PPE training for Tom Elliott.

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FEB 14 2012
RETIREMENT BOARD



6-11-2008 Training included classroom instruction on wildland fire environments; reduction practices; wildland fire behavior; wildland fire history and paths. This training was divided into three categories: Awareness, Fire Fighting Approaches and Citizen Involvement/Prevention. ?

Two more additional corrections need to be made to the records.

First, on 5/31/2008 you have 2 hours of training for Charlie Goodwin. This is incorrect. This training belongs to our new member, Chris Goodwin. Chris and Charlie are distant cousins. XOK

Second, I did not list myself as qualifying this year. These records were displaced and hard to locate. When I started reporting the training to PERA as chief, I had to establish a beginning date for DeDe Rhodes and myself. That date was set at 5/07/2008.

I hope this answers all of your questions and concerns. Thank you for looking into this matter for us.

Yours truly,

Richard Rhodes, Chief

Basin Volunteer Fire Department

dr



Fire Fighter Training 101

Fire fighters train on a wide range of topics and team building scenarios. Below are a few trainings we utilized during the FY 2007-2008.

- ✓ **Communications:** Safety is first and foremost important when you are fighting a fire. It is key to the safety of not only the fire fighters but also the public and other emergency responders. Most fire fighters are killed due to a lack of the proper communication procedures.
- ✓ **Driving:** The fire engines usually weigh a lot with extra weight for water. We train on driving, maneuvering and parking these vehicles due to the various scenarios.
- ✓ **Engine/Pumps:** Operations of the engine and their pumps are essential. You must get wets stuff on the red stuff or things just won't go well. There are various pumps on each engine for various purposes. Each engine is different.
- ✓ **Extrication:** This training is when vehicle wrecks go wrong. Sometimes we need to remove the people from the vehicles by using the tools of life. There are various tools and each operates differently.
- ✓ **Fire prevention:** If we can educate the public and fire fighters on fire prevention, we can all have a safe and happy life. We use these opportunities to educate everyone on different ways to protect their property, family and themselves. We also use these opportunities to educate the public on how to react when we are on scene.
- ✓ **Foam:** There are various foam applications and various scenarios for the use of foam. As I stated before, foam makes "water wetter". This allows fire departments to make better use of our best resource....water.
- ✓ **Gas:** Rarely but it does happen when someone punctures a gas line. We train on how to handle this situation and what to expect if things go wrong.

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Hazmat: Since the fire department is responsible for scene safety per MCA, it is very important for us to learn what to watch out for on a hazmat situation. Active members of the fire department get additional training on how to protect the scene and how to decontaminate each other after a scene.

✓ **Hoses and Pumps:** In order for the water to get to the scene, we need to use hoses and pumps to deliver this precious resource. We use various size and type of hoses depending on the situation. Operating the pumps is key to water delivery. You need to know how much pressure to deliver to the line man. Too much and he is in the air. Too little and he is very mad at you. Every engine is different. Continuing training keeps you up on what your engines will do.

✓ **Hydrants:** If you can't get water from the fire hydrant, you will probably run out of water on a structure very fast. We use hydrant training to show how to wrap a hydrant and test them for any repairs that need to be made.

✓ **Medical:** Unfortunately, we do arrive on some scenes where a limited amount of medical training is useful. CPR and AED training is part of our regular training schedule.

Mop Up: There are three parts to a scene. First is arrival and set up. Second is putting out the fire. Third is mop up. If you don't do a good job at mop up, you will be back to step two. Fire departments also need to preserve any evidence at the scene for the State Fire Marshals.

✓ **NIMS:** The federal government requires us to go through National Incident Management Training. Usually on a wildland fire, multiple agencies are dispatched. Without a clear set of leadership, the whole scene falls into chaos.

✓ **PPE/SCBA:** Personal Protective Equipment and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus are the main safety tools for a fire fighter. We are continually trained on which PPE to wear, how fast you can get into them (usually 45 sec.) and which situation requires which PPE. SCBAs are worn on various situations. Usually on structure fires or vehicle fires.

✓ **Public Service:** This is similar to Fire Prevention. The format is usually just a little different. Again, we use these opportunities to educate everyone on different ways to protect their property, family and themselves. We also use these opportunities to educate the public on how to react when we are on scene.

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✓ **Rescue:** Not all fire calls require rescue. However, it is useful to be trained on different rescue techniques. Such techniques would include immediate removal from a vehicle on fire, removal of a victim from first floor of a building, removal from a roof, removal from a lower level and removal from the second story or higher. Each position of the victim requires a different technique. Then there is the weight factor we usually have to factor in.

✓ **Response:** Quick response is key to a quick outcome on a structure fire or vehicle wreck/fire. We use various scenarios to train fire fighters on what to plan, what to grab, how to park and how to handle the scene for safety.

Team scenarios: Well these trainings sum up what the previous trainings do. We give the fire fighters a 3X5 card with limited instructions. They have to proceed to the scene. They get another card with limited instruction and scene set up in on the way. A third card shows the fire situation. We progress into the putting out the fire part and a fourth card shows different unforeseen outcomes. The fifth card is mop up.

✓ **Walk thrus:** When a fire department knows the building they are responding to, it makes the whole process go a lot faster and smoother. We take opportunities to tour through various buildings in our district. We are looking for construction, barriers, placement of the rooms and hazards.

✓ **Wildland Fire Line:** Every year Montana has a huge potential for wildland fires. Our fire department has felt this sting in the past. We always use outside professional fire fighting companies and in-house training to make sure we are ready for the call. This training consists of fire line training, engine training, hose training, pump and roll, marking a path/spot fire and the appropriate PPEs.

MONTANA PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION



STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR

ROXANNE MINNEHAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF MONTANA



HELENA (406) 444-3154
TOLL FREE (877) 275-7372
FAX (406) 444-5428

100 N PARK, STE 200
PO BOX 200131
HELENA MT 59620-0131
mpera.mt.gov

February 7, 2014

Richard Rhodes, Fire Chief
Basin VFD
P.O. Box 119
Basin, MT 59631

Dear Fire Chief Rhodes,

Per our conversation, you wish to amend Basin VFD's Annual Certificate for fiscal year 2007-2008. The Public Employees' Retirement Board (PERB) has decided that late or amended certificates, when filed properly, accompanied by a letter of explanation from the fire chief, and certified training documentation for the 30 or more hours of training, will be considered for acceptance. Beginning July 1, 2011, only late Annual Certificates that are filed within 3 years of the original Annual Certificate due date will be considered. The due dates of annual certificates are September 1 of each year for the previous fiscal year (ie FY2007-2008 was due September 1, 2008). An annual certificate may be amended only once.

The **certified** training information must be based on fiscal years (July 1st thru June 30th) and in an easily readable format. Training documentation must include the following:

- ❖ The date the training was offered;
- ❖ Title of the training;
- ❖ Description of the training;
- ❖ Hours of training;
- ❖ Each member's hours of training for each class.

Training does **not** include business meetings, emergency calls or vehicle or hall maintenance.

The late Annual Certificate and all documents must be received within 90 days of the letter date in order for your request to be considered.

Enclosed you will find a blank Annual Certificate for FY2007-2008 and a copy of the FY2007-2008 annual certificate that had been filed with MPERA. On the annual certificates, please include names of all members that qualified for credit during the fiscal year. Don't forget to fill in all information (SSN, Birthdate, VFCA Entry Date, and a Y or N in the Credit Column) for each member listed or they will not receive credit. Remember that an annual certificate may be

amended only once and the original, notarized certificate must be returned to our office, not a copy or fax will be accepted.

Per Montana Code Annotated 19-17-112 (5):

~~“The current fire chief shall file any late or amended annual certificates and the associated~~ certified training records within 3 years of the original annual certificate due date. An annual certificate may be amended only once. The board shall consider and may approve late filings. Information provided to the board by the fire chief must be in accordance with the board’s rules.”

The late Annual Certificate and all documents must be received within 90 days of the letter date in order for your request to be considered.

If you have questions, please call me at 406-444-9173 or toll free 1-877-275-7372 ext 9173.

Sincerely,



Ali Sturm
Accountant



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APR 29 2014
RETIREMENT BOARD

April 26, 2014

Public Employee Retirement Administration

100 N. Park, Suite 200

P.O. Box 200131

Helena, MT 59620-0131

To Whom It May Concern:

Basin Volunteer Fire Department is formally requesting a hearing with the PERA Board via this letter. Dwain (Butch) Moran has been a member of this fire department before 1997. Basin Volunteer Fire Department has retained records showing the above statement. Dwain (Butch) Moran shows credit for the following fiscal years: FY 1997; 1998; 1999; 2003; 2004; 2005; 2010; 2011; 2012; 2013

Unfortunately, fiscal years 2000; 2001; 2002; 2006; 2007 cannot be recovered under current Montana law. However, Basin Volunteer Fire Department is requesting this hearing for the fiscal years of 2008 and 2009. Basin Volunteer Fire Department has been in correspondence concerning these two years for several years. Basin Volunteer Fire Department has supplied to PERA all of the documentation requested by PERA.

Therefore, Basin Volunteer Fire Department request the date of Thursday, May 8, 2014 and a time of 10:00am for the above hearing.

If you have any questions on this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Rhodes".

Richard A. Rhodes, Chief

Basin Volunteer Fire Department

Federal Id: 39-2049374

406-465-1836

MONTANA PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION



STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR

ROXANNE MINNEHAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF MONTANA



HELENA (406) 444-3154
TOLL FREE (877) 275-7372
FAX (406) 444-5428

100 N PARK, STE 200
PO BOX 200131
HELENA MT 59620-0131
mpera.mt.gov

May 5, 2014

Richard Rhodes, Fire Chief
Basin VFD
PO Box 119
Basin, MT 59631

Dear Fire Chief Rhodes,

This is in response to your letter dated April 26, 2014. Due to the request for a hearing not being received the recommended 21 days before the Public Employees' Retirement Board (PERB) meeting on May 8, 2014, we are unable to accommodate your request for the hearing for the May meeting.

However, we will be adding Basin VFD's Informal Consideration to the June 12, 2014 meeting and will send you a letter the week before with the time that the Informal Consideration will be heard and considered by the PERB.

In reviewing the received information again for the requested years of credited service, fiscal years 2008 and 2009, there are still questions that need to be answered and a letter certifying the training documentation as was requested from the beginning of this process.

Requested items to be sent immediately:

1. Certification of the training documentation that was received. You may write a letter certifying all the training documentation for FY2007-2008 and FY2008-2009.
2. Discrepancy with Richard Rhodes' entry date. Will need fire department meeting minutes, or an application that was filled out at the time of entry to the Basin VFD, or in writing, verification of Mr. Rhodes' entry date.
 - a. Original filed Annual Certificate for FY2007-2008 received December 24, 2008, has 1/1/2008 as entry date.
 - b. FY2008-2009 received August 8, 2009 has 2008 as entry date. Letter was sent to the Fire Chief Richard Rhodes asking for a complete entry date (MM/DD/YYYY). On October 6, 2009, received phone call from Richard's wife, DeDe Rhodes saying that Richard and her entry dates were 5/8/2008. (This is the entry date in the database and was the confirmed entry date from the member's spouse).

- c. Revised certificate received April 3, 2014 has an entry date of **5/7/2007**.
- d. Received a phone call from DeDe Rhodes about the entry date for her and Richard being May 2007 instead of May 2008.

~~Please send the requested information as soon as possible so staff is able to put together the information for the June 12, 2014 PERB packet.~~

Sincerely,

Diann Levandowski

Diann Levandowski
Assistant Fiscal Services Bureau Chief

Received 5/28/2014



May 20, 2014

Public Employee Retirement Administration

100 N. Park, Suite 200

P.O. Box 200131

Helena, MT 59620-0131

To Whom It May Concern:

Basin Volunteer Fire Department is formally certifying the training documents sent to PERA pertaining to the FY 2007-2008 and FY 2008-2009 years.

If you have any questions on this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard A. Rhodes".

Richard A. Rhodes, Chief

Basin Volunteer Fire Department

Federal Id: 39-2049374

406-465-1836

Received 5/28/2014



May 20, 2014

Public Employee Retirement Administration
100 N. Park, Suite 200
P.O. Box 200131
Helena, MT 59620-0131

To Whom It May Concern:

There seems to be some confusion as to when I entered the Basin Volunteer Fire Department and when I became chief. Attached are a few records to help with this matter.

I moved to Montana on September 1, 2006 from Texas. I lived in Boulder for a few months until I could relocate to the Basin area in the month of January 2007. Upon arriving in the Basin area, I sought out the volunteer fire department for information on joining this organization since I have several years' experience in firefighting from Texas. Very soon I became the assistant chief taking over Joe Robertson's duties. I became chief during the month of April 2009. Jackie Colombe stepped down to assistant chief and I took the chief position.

As you are aware, several training records and other files were lost due to the lack of a central location for keeping up with the records. Known records showing my activity started May 2008. Over the past few years, we have relocated some more of the lost records from various community members. During the reconciliation of these records, the training documents for FY2007-2008 were located and subsequently reported to PERA on behalf of Dwayne (Butch) Moran.

Your assistant, Alley, called the president of Basin Volunteer Fire Department, DeDe Rhodes, and asked her to redo the FY2007-2008 report to PERA reflecting the addition of myself which is reflected in these records. She discussed it with your assistant and located the Chief during that time to redo the application.

Please see the attached documents:

2006 Basin Volunteer Fire Department Roster

2007 Basin Volunteer Fire Department membership roster

2008-2009 Basin Volunteer Fire Department membership roster with titles

Basin Volunteer Fire Department Trustee Board Meeting Minutes for August 2007

Basin Volunteer Fire Department Trustee Board Meeting Minutes for March 2009 showing Jackie as chief

Basin Volunteer Fire Department Trustee Board Meeting Minutes for April 2009

Basin Volunteer Fire Department Trustee Board Meeting Minutes for May 2009 showing myself as chief

I hope this clears up any questions you might have about my status with the Basin Volunteer Fire Department.

If you have any questions on this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Rhodes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" being the most prominent.

Richard A. Rhodes, Chief

Basin Volunteer Fire Department

Federal Id: 39-2049374

406-465-1836



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JUN 28 2011
RETIREMENT BOARD

June 22, 2011

Public Employee Retirement Administration

100 N. Park, Suite 200

P.O. Box 200131

Helena, MT 59620-0131

Attn: Roxanne M. Minnehan, Executive Director

Dear Ms. Minnehan,

I am formally requesting a hearing regarding an addition to my Volunteer Fire Fighter Retirement Report for the year spanning 2008-2009. On this form I reported six (6) members of the Basin Volunteer Fire Department as qualifying with thirty (30) or more training hours. I inadvertently did not add Dwain Moran to the list.

Butch (Dwain) Moran was taking training through the adjacent Volunteer Fire Department located in Boulder, Montana. Butch moved to Boulder, Montana, during this year and is well within the recommended response mileage for the Basin Volunteer Fire Department. We also thought it useful for Butch to get trainings through other organizations in order to bring the new/different techniques to Basin for review and possible implementation.

Below is a list of Butch's training is listed for your reference. I am also attaching the documents supplied to me through the Boulder Volunteer Fire Department.

6-18-2009	2 hours
5-21-2009	2 hours
5-21-2009	2 hours
5-19-2009	2 hours
4-29-2009	2 hours
4-22-2009	1 1/2 hours

amending F4 2008-2009

returned 9/20/11
gl

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JUN 28 2011

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4-16-2009 2 hours
4-15-2009 2 hours
4-13-2009 1 hour
3-28-2009 2 hours
3-2-2009 2 hours
2-19-2009 2 hours
12-18-2008 2 hours
10-16-2008 2 hours
9-18-2008 2 hours
8-21-2008 2 hours
8-14-2008 2 hours
7-17-2008 2 hours
7-4-2008 2 hours

Butch Moran's training hours total up to thirty six and one half hours for this time period. Butch has continued to train with both Boulder Volunteer Fire Department and Basin Volunteer Fire Department. We consider him a great asset to our team.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

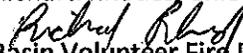
Yours truly,



DeDe Rhodes, President

Basin Volunteer Fire Department

Richard Rhodes, Chief



Basin Volunteer Fire Department



Jackie Colombe, Immediate Past Chief

Basin Volunteer Fire Department

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION

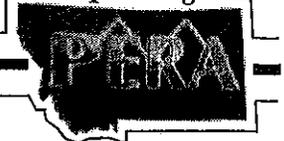


BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

HELENA (406) 444-3154
TOLL FREE (877) 275-7372
FAX (406) 444-5428

imperamt.gov



100 N. PARK, SUITE 200
PO BOX 200131
HELENA, MT 59620-0131

February 7, 2012

Richard Rhodes, Fire Chief
Basin VFD
PO Box 119
Basin, MT 59631

Dear Fire Chief Rhodes,

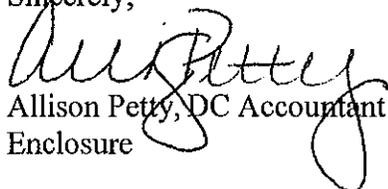
This letter is in regards to Butch (Dwain) Moran's training documentation, which was received in our office on June 28, 2011, for the FY2008-2009 Annual Certificate. I have looked over the training documentation and have questions that will need to be answered before this can be presented to the Public Employee Retirement Board (PERB) for consideration on granting the credited service. The following are the questions needing answered and further documentation that will be needed.

1. The training documents received do not have sufficient information to be able to determine whether training hours can be used. Please provide additional information on all of the training, describing the type of training that took place. Also, please further elaborate on these training dates:
 - a. April 13, 2009 and April 15, 2009 – Please elaborate on the type of training for "Essentials of Firefighting – Ch 1&2, 3&4".
 - b. April 16, 2009 – Please provide further detail on the training of "Hose & Engine".

Please provide me with the above information **on or before February 24, 2012**. If the information is not received on or before February 24, 2012, I will have to proceed to the PERB with the information that I have already. This would mean the information and hours in question would not go toward the firefighters' credited hours.

If you have questions please contact me at 406-444-9173 or toll free 877-275-7372 ext. 9173.

Sincerely,


Allison Petty, DC Accountant
Enclosure

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February 9, 2012

PERA

100 N. Park, Suite 200

P.O. Box 200131

Helena, MT 59620-0131

Dear Ms. Petty,

This letter is in response to your letter dated, February 7, 2012, concerning the training records for Basin Volunteer Fire Department from FY 2008-2009. Below please find the information you requested.

- 7/4/2008 *OK* Safety and Staging: The positioning of a fire engine is key to not only fighting the fire but also the safety of the fire fighters and the public. Training is essential on this strategic placement. Fire fighters learn how to place the engine using the following factors. Street structure, building height, fire placement, water resources and public safety.
- 7/14/2008 *OK* Foam Use: Most fire engines are equipped with a foam system of some sort. There are several systems in the field. Our engines have a separate switch for making foam, a pux system located in the nozzle or a jug system called Barricade. Foam systems make "water wetter". They allow the water in the engines to last longer and accomplish more.
- 8/14/2008 *OK* J.C. Safety Fair: Fire departments feel that public awareness is a key component to fight the fire before it begins. We often go into the public for training. We show the public how to mitigate fire danger and how to react to fire threat. We also work with the public to show them how to respond to our actions on the fire for their safety in evacuation and scene safety. Because of the date, this training would be on wildland fires.

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- 8/21/2008 *OK* Truck Operation: Fire departments often have reoccurring training concerning several aspects of fire fighting equipment, operations and safety. This insures a safe outcome when the page comes in. This training had to deal with fire operations and equipment. It is essential to have a quick and accurate operation of the engine. The appropriate pumps to open, draft and pressure will assure a positive outcome.
- 9/18/2008 *R* Preserving Evidence: Unfortunately, in our line of business, fire departments do come across foul play. When we do, it is key to have the evidence in tact for the States Fire Marshal's investigation. As you can imagine, water can move, alter and destroy a crime scene very quickly. We must try to put out the fire, locate the origin of the fire and preserve the evidence as much as possible. When a building is fully involved, it is training that allows the fire department to ability to see through the ashes.
- 10/16/2008 *OK* SCBA: Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses. These are the back packs with air (not oxygen) that fire fighters wear in order for us to enter a location on fire. These SCBAs are required by OSHA and keep the fire fighters safe. They weigh around 40 pounds and are hard to maneuver in. OSHA requires training before you can use this safety equipment.
- 12/18/2008 *OK* Public Service Training: As I mentioned above on date 8/14/2008, fire departments utilize these opportunities to train and work with the public. Because of the date this training would be on structure fires.
- 2/19/2009 *R* SCBA: Please refer to the date of 10/16/2008. Again, fire fighters do repeat training over and over to assure a safe and high-quality outcome. We often use the State of Montana's live fire trailer. We use this structure when it is available. Fire fighters receive real live fire training. You should try it. Nothing like it. I promise.
- 3/2/2009 *OK* Fire Hose: When a fire department pulls up on the scene, you have to make split second judgments as to what size, placement and pressure hose to utilize. Training using various scenarios allows better judgment in the field.



- 3/28/2009 *OK* Extraction training: One of my favorite trainings. Sometimes vehicle wrecks are bad. Really bad. When this happens, fire departments utilize what we call the "tools of life". We learn to be safe and quick with the following tools. Jaws, punches, axes, bar jms and cutters. These tools are called extrication tools. We actually get to cut vehicles up. That's the fun part. We train on the various vehicle types and placements of each tool for quick extraction and safety.
- 4/13/2009 *OK* Essentials of Firefighting: This is the book that most fire departments train from. It is also utilized at the Montana Fire Academy. Often it is best to take some classroom instruction allowing the fire fighters to see various ways to perform in the field. This training covered Chapter 1 and 2 of this book. These chapters cover safety and fire behavior. Safety is always our #1 concern. If a fire fighter gets injured, the fire scene just became more complicated. The study of fire behavior is very important. It allows fire fighters an assessment concerning the attack on the fire and provides key clues to how it started.
- 4/15/2009 *OK* Essentials of Firefighting: See above. This training covered Chapter 3 and 4. These chapters cover building construction and PPEs (Personal Protective Equipment). Building construction determines how to enter a building and how to place the engine. PPEs are the equipment every fire fighter utilizes to stay safe.
- 4/16/2009 *OK* Hose and Engine: As mentioned above, when a fire department pulls up on the scene, you have to make split second judgments as to what size, placement and pressure hose to utilize. This training had to deal with fire operations and equipment utilizing hoses and water pressure.
- 4/22/2009 *OK* Water supply, Fire hose, Fire Streams: This training had to deal with fire operations and equipment using water. It is essential to have a quick and accurate operation of the tool called water. The appropriate pump pressure and stream type will assure a positive outcome. The various stream types are full, fog and semi fog. Different fire situation and fire behavior require different fire streams and capacity of the hose.
- 4/29/2009 *OK* Rescue/extraction: Again it is essential that fire fighters receive reoccurring trainings concerning the various tools, strategies, and rescue techniques we utilize. See information dated 3/28/2009.

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- 5/19/2009 *DR* Fire Extinguisher: You probably would not believe this but many people do not know how to use a fire extinguisher. This training dealt with the proper operation and scenarios for the utilization and placement of this tool.
- 5/21/2009 *DR* Fire Extinguisher and Elkhorn Treatment: This training consisted of live fire extinguisher training utilizing a large building with many occupants. Elkhorn Treatment Center was gracious to allow us to perform this training using their facility. Strategies and scenarios were practiced.
- 5/21/2009 *DR* Pump and Roll Trainings: This fire fighting technique is utilized for wildland fires. The brush truck rolls along the grass line while the fire fighter pulls a large red line across their body utilizing small amounts of water to stop or put out the wildland/grass fire. Timing and communication are key.
- 6/18/2009 *DR* Hydrant Training: As you can imagine, getting water on the fire is extremely important. This training has various training aspects. Placement of the engine, operation of the hydrant, communication with the engine's captain and proper pressure are key components to this training.

I hope this answers all of your questions and concerns. Thank you for looking into this matter for us.

Yours truly,

Richard Rhodes, Chief

Basin Volunteer Fire Department

dr