This past fall was extremely busy with fire training.

The Fall Block I training for the new firefighters in the Lakes area was a good class to teach because of their eagerness to learn. The Halstad area just started their Block I which will finish in January.

We are offering nine separate blocks of training this Spring. Blocks are scheduled in the following areas: Carsonville, New York Mills, Detroit Lakes, Halstad and Dilworth. The complete schedule for spring semester is attached to the newsletter. There are plenty of opportunities for students to make up missed classes.

Our region will be hosting two fire schools this spring. The schools will be held in Mahnomen on February 7 & 8, 2009 and in Moorhead on March 14 & 15, 2009. The flyers for these schools have been mailed and people are already registering for classes. If you want a particular class, register early.

There will be two other fire schools in the northern half of the state: Alexandria on March 21 & 22, 2009 and Brainerd on March 28 & 29, 2009. We have worked together to offer classes that can be taken at each school.

A new class entitled “Crew Resource Management” will be available in early February. This class is designed for fire department Company Officers and Chief Officers. The class will be 8 hours in length.

Certification Board tests are going strong in our area. Detroit Lakes will be testing in January and Audubon is discussing scheduling a test in early spring. If you need to schedule certification tests for your department, contact the Minnesota Fire Certification Board at 1-866-566-0911. The website for the Certification Board is www.mfscb.org.

If your department is planning on buying turnout gear in the next six months, be aware that the price will be increasing due to the cost of fabric materials. Rick has been in contact with several vendors that have stated that due to increased material cost, gear prices could jump as much at 15%. Just a thought on how we can all help each other during these tough economic times—you can check with other departments in the area and order in bulk to bring down the price. The same goes for training - we already do this with the new firefighters but we could also bring departments together for other classes as well.

**IMPORTANT REIMBURSEMENT NEWS**

On, December 16, 2008 the Minnesota Fire Training & Education Board approved reimbursement procedures for fire departments in the State of Minnesota. Fire departments can apply for reimbursement for fire training that has been conducted since July 1, 2008 and training that is planned through June 30, 2009. There is over 1 million dollars available for reimbursement. The applications should be available by the second week in January. As soon as the application process starts, we will notify the departments through various means. There will be a presentation on the process at the January 15 regional meeting in Dent.

AREA DEPARTMENT NEWS

Moorhead Fire has an air compressor for sale. Contact Moorhead Fire at 218-299-5432 and ask for the shift supervisor.

Dilworth Fire also has an air compressor for sale. Contact Kurt Kennedy, Fire Chief at 701-238-6757.

Audubon Fire has some upcoming events, see the enclosed flyer for details.

If you have any news you would like included in the next newsletter, please send the information to Denice.