SUMMER 2008

This has been a very busy year, so far, for fire training in the state—especially in our area. We had a very successful fire school in Detroit Lakes. There were close to 300 students and over 20 different classes at the school.

There have been quite a few fire departments in the area that have taken their Firefighter I State Certification test. Vergas, Dent, Lake Park & Moorhead have all completed the Certification test. Audubon, Detroit Lakes and Hawley have all inquired about doing their Certification test this fall. For more information on Firefighter I Certification tests, contact the Certification Board at www.mfscb.org.

There will be some changes in the Firefighter I & II block training that we offer starting this Fall. The new standard for NFPA 1001 will require that HazMat Operations is completed to be in compliance and to be certified. We will be adding this course as a separate block of training. It will be up to the local Fire Chief and/or city to decide to send their firefighters.

We held the NFA course—"Introduction to Wildland/Urban Interface" on April 26 & 27 in Detroit Lakes. People who attended said this class should be offered again so we will be offering it at the Mahnomen fire school on February 7 & 8, 2009. We will also have a fire school in Moorhead on March 14 & 15, 2009. If you have ideas for classes to be offered at either school, let Denice know.

We will be offering one class a month in the Becker/Ottertail area and the Norman/Clay area. The classes will be open for anyone to attend. The schedule for these classes is included in this mailing.

The Firefighter Training & Education Board has made a lot of progress. Jeff Swanson & Rick Loveland will be keeping the area updated of news. The Board is very close to hiring an Executive Director. After the director is hired, there will be some real quick progress.

Attached to this newsletter is the “Pension Division Newsletter” that gives a Legislative update on the Omnibus Pension Bill.

AREA DEPARTMENT NEWS

There will be a softball tournament in Lake Park on July 26th. In the past, fire departments have entered and had a great time. Contact Earl Kommer at 218-532-2790 for more information.

Merle Hanson, Dilworth Fire Department, is looking for steel SCBA tanks. He can be contacted at smkteddi@yahoo.com.

If you have any other news you would like to report for the September Newsletter, please send the information to Denice.