

OCTOBER 1996



FIRE ACADEMY NEWS

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The JI Fire and Safety Training Centre — where emergencies are resolved daily!

On any weekday, and most weekends, the Fire and Safety Training Centre — F&STC, as it is referred to by most of the employees, is a busy place, with as many as 100 people being instructed in the arts of emergency response — firefighting, auto extrication and dealing with hazardous materials releases, to name a few. Fire trucks may drive past, siren and lights active, heading for the burn building, while students in astronaut-like garb respond to simulated chemical leaks on the rail tank cars.

The busy scene is repeated almost year round, as students come from across Canada, and even some from Washington State, to learn how best to respond to emergency situations. Firefighters, mariners, industrial workers and government employees; all come to experience the hands-on training on which the faculty and staff of the F&STC pride themselves. Theory in the classroom, followed by practical application in the field, using simulations which are as realistic as possible — and there is nothing simulated about the fires. Whether it be the faint suspicious puff of smoke from the burn building, the detection of hot steel at the ship or the full rolling blaze of the T-pit, the students respond in a safe but aggressive manner to contain, confine and extinguish.

At times the training grounds resemble a war zone with dozens of car bodies, dismembered reminders that learning has taken place here, in how to

safely extricate a patient from the wreckage. Burnt-out wrecks in neat rows may denote where the personnel of BC Ferries have been learning how to combat vehicle fires.

The Centre is not unique, but few training schools offer the diversity of training available here. It is certainly the most unusual school of its type in Western Canada. This is partly explained by its unusual history.

In 1968, the Marine Training Centre (located on Dundas Street), part of the Vancouver Vocational Institute, established a small fire training ground at

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Boundary Bay, for the purpose of training mariners. The International Requirements for Certificates of Competency demanded some (basic) firefighting training.

In 1983, this school moved to the present location in Maple Ridge, near the Golden Ears and Blue Mountain. The JI was to share the site with the Pacific Marine Training Institute, which the old MTC had become, but funding for this was delayed. However, in 1994, the JI proudly opened the burn building, and the Fire and Safety Training Centre came of age, as a facility to serve the needs of fire departments, industry, transportation and marine personnel.

The experience gained from years of fire training, whether by the Fire Academy at the burn buildings of Nanaimo and Fort St. James, or from PMTI training the hundreds of mariners who attend the school each year, is now being made available to all who require the skills of firefighting. The Centre is now an integral part of the JI Fire Academy.

Perhaps the most exciting development has been the initiation of regular recruit firefighter classes. For twelve weeks young men and women attend classes to learn the basics of their profession. They are rigorously tested and learn the best that the Centre can give, drawing from all the training programs

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Tried, tested and screened

The Fire Academy is initiating another selection process this September for the Fire Fighter Recruit Program. Since its inception there have been a number of questions asked regarding the screening process: what's involved?; what steps need to be taken?; how to apply?; and where to get the information? To help clarify and answer some of these questions the following is a brief summary of the process.

Watch the Career Section of the Sun and Province papers. To initiate the screening process, an advertisement is placed in the Career Section of the Sun and Province papers. At this point, application packages are available for pick up at the Justice Institute Registration Office.

Prepare to be Tested: Candidates are required to complete a series of tests which include a written examination, Justice Institute medical examination and a physical performance assessment. This process is similar to what Fire Departments have done in the past with one significant difference — the cost and responsibility for completing each step lies with the candidate.

Update your Resume: Upon successful completion of all three test compo-

nents candidates should next submit their application with resume to the Justice Institute Registration Office. After this information has been received a panel of Fire Officers will review and screen the applications in order to determine a short list of candidates for interviews.

Prepare for an Interview. A selection panel including representatives from participating Fire Departments, the Fire Academy and the BCPFFA will interview the short-listed candidates and notify those that are successful.

Attend the Course: The successful candidates will be required to successfully complete the Justice Institute Fire Academy Recruit Program before being confirmed as a probationary fire fighter.

More detailed information about the process is available for pick up at the Justice Institute Registration Office or the Academy Reception Area. Or call the Recruit Screening Process Information Line at 528-5662.

Recruit Firefighter Training

In an effort to better plan for the delivery of the Recruit Program, we ask that all Fire Departments who are planning to hire people in the next year or so and want to have them trained at the Justice Institute Fire Academy notify Bob Aldcorn, Deputy Director of the Fire Academy at 528-5671.

The Recruit Firefighter Training Programs will be offered on the following dates in 1996 & 1997:

January 6 - March 28, 1997

March 3 - May 23, 1997

April 28 - July 18, 1997

September 15 - December 5, 1997

The Recruit Program qualifies the student to the BC Fire Fighter Standards and NFPA 1001 Level I & Level II, First Responder Level III including AED, and Management of Spinal Injuries and Hazardous Material Response to the Operations Level.



Recent Fire Academy Recruit Firefighter Training Classes: Class 3 – Thundering Third and Class 4 – The Fighting Fourth. (Photos by Charlotte Klassen)

Road Sense Driving Course and Legal Issues presentations big hits on the Island

By Al Lund, Director, PTEC

The north part of Vancouver Island was a busy place for training earlier this year. One hundred and fifty three firefighters representing twenty-one Fire Departments attended PTEC's Road Sense Driving Course and Legal Issue's Presentations. The January courses were hosted by Chief Rick Bentley of Comox Fire Department. Firefighters from the Comox, Coal Harbour, Coombs-Hilliers, Cortez, Courtenay, Cumberland, Deep Bay, Denman Island, Fanny Bay, Hornby Island, Parksville, Quadra Island, Sayward, Union Bay, and Zeballos participated over the two days.

Comox was a great host, providing an excellent lunch each day by the local gourmet firefighter chefs at Comox. The two days provided a great opportunity for the participants to interact and share information.

In late January, PTEC took the program a little further north to Port McNeil. Gloria Le Gal and Chief Larry Bartlett

at Port McNeil hosted the two day program with great success. Fire Departments from Port McNeil, Port Hardy, Coal Harbour, Hyde Creek, Sointula and Holberg were in attendance and were served a great lunch by the Port McNeil Pathfinder Girl Guides.

I also had the opportunity to visit the beautiful island of Sointula and visit with Fire Chief Linda Sowden. It was a pleasure to deliver our Road Sense Driving Course for the first time to firefighters. Their enthusiasm and participation in the program was greatly appreciated. All the departments in attendance were given a Road Sense Driving Video to use in their local communities.

Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week



Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week is September 22 - 28th. The goal is to educate as many Canadians as possible about the sources, symptoms and prevention of carbon monoxide poisoning. This year, the CAFC and First Alert are turning to fire departments in communities across Canada to help achieve this goal.

Fire Academy provides screening process service

The Fire Academy has been able to accommodate departments screening requests in a variety of ways. The screening process for the Fire Fighter Recruit Program is currently being used to:

- screen candidates for the Recruit Program
- screen Fire Department volunteers for their own in house training
- screen Fire Department volunteers to enter the Fire Fighter Recruit Program at the Academy.

If you are interested in this service contact Marianne Gottfried, Coordinator, Recruit Screening Process at 528-5664 for particulars and costs.

Accreditation by Delegation

The Fire Academy has completed the Guidelines for Accreditation by Delegation. These were mailed out to all Fire Departments on July 26, 1996.

The International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) provides for an Accreditation Entity to delegate its authority to a local jurisdiction. In delegating authority, the local jurisdiction must comply with all the By-laws of the Certificate Congress of IFSAC.

The Guide outlines the requirements a local jurisdiction will be required to meet in order to receive Accreditation by Delegation.

Additional copies of the Guidelines are available from the Fire Academy by fax request (528-5660), identifying name and mailing address.

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— building fires; hazardous materials response; marine firefighting; rescue and first aid.

Whenever possible, courses are designed to exceed the appropriate standards, whether NFPA, Transport Canada or other. Courses may be designed to meet the needs of a specific industry, training group or corporate client. In some cases, training will be presented at a client's own facility, which is not only cost effective, but ensures the course content is both site and product specific. This ensures maximum relevance to the learners.

The Managers of the Centre would be pleased to discuss training needs and programs offered. Call (604) 462-1000 or fax (604) 462-6149.

Fire Academy to host Conference

The Fire Academy will be hosting "The Association of State, Provincial and Territorial Directors of Fire Training Conference" October 3 to 5.

The theme of the conference is "A Canadian Perspective" with presentations on fire service training being made

by all Provinces and Territories with the exception of Quebec, who declined the invitation.

In addition to delegates from North America, three individuals are coming from the Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, England.

Pre-hydration and Heat Stress training video

By Rich Brideson

Retired Deputy Fire Chief
Victoria, BC

When the WCB Rules and Regulations, Section 68, made the wearing of full protective clothing (bunker pants) mandatory, it very quickly became apparent that a new problem, namely *metabolic heat stress*, was created.

The Victoria Fire Department had ten incidents of heat stress in the last few years; the majority with time lost to enable staff to recover. At three of these incidents, the fire fighters required hospitalization for treatment.

In conjunction with BC Ambulance Service (Mr. John Heavener, Mr. Randy L'Heureux, Mr. Bryce Miller, and Dr. Ken Buchanan), a Pre-hydration and



Heat Stress Recognition, Prevention and Treatment Program was created.

The final step to completion is underway with the production of a training video funded by WCB and produced by Artray Film and Video (a division of CHEK-TV). This video will be produced for firefighters (full-time, volunteer, industrial and forestry).

Block Tuitions

Block tuitions are now in effect for all Training Officer (TO) and Fire Prevention Inspector (FPI) Blocks. The Block tuition is \$50.00 and applies equally to all students.



**Contributions
to the
newsletter
are welcome.**

Please direct all material to
June McCormick, fax 528-5660.

STAFF NEWS



Ms. Anne Langdon leaves Fire Academy

Many people connected with the Fire Academy know Anne Langdon who was the Supervisor, Administrative Services, for the Fire Academy. Anne leaves the Academy on long term disability.

Anne started with the Fire Academy on September 13, 1989. She was the Supervisor of Support Staff and Secretary to the Director. She served on many committees including Recording Secretary for the Fire Safety Advisory Council and made several contributions to the Academy and the Justice Institute. Anne has relocated to an area where the air is cleaner and is doing well.

Administration of examinations by fire departments

On July 26, 1996, the Academy mailed to each fire department a copy of the Operational Guideline for the Administration of Examinations by Fire Departments.

Fire Departments meeting the eligibility criteria and following the Operational Guidelines will be able to administer and mark Fire Academy exams as and when required.



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The Fire Academy News is published by the Fire Academy, Justice Institute of British Columbia, 715 McBride Boulevard, New Westminster, B.C. V3L 5T4. Telephone 528-5657, fax 528-5660.

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