

NOVEMBER 1995



FIRE ACADEMY NEWS

Fire Safety Advisory Council outlines Recruit program history

In October 1994, the Justice Institute Fire Academy delivered a fully accredited Recruit Training Program on behalf of two fire departments. The program was nine weeks long, met the NFPA 1001 Level I and Level II Standard, and was offered on a pre-employment basis where the recruit candidates paid their own tuition.

As this was a new direction by the Justice Institute in partnership with the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labor and the participating fire departments, the direction and content of the program did not have any input from the BC Fire Chiefs' Association (BCFCA) or the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Association (BCPFFA).

Cont. on page 2.



Graduates of the 2nd Recruit class assembled June 10, 1995 in the foyer of the JI New Westminster Campus with Maple Ridge Campus Manager Dan Murphy and Instructor Merlin Klassen. Graduating class (not in order): Tim Ipsen, Trevor Litchfield, Gary Nylund, Brad Wilson, Delta Fire Dept.; Bryan Kongus, Grant Wyenberg, Richmond Fire Dept; Kevin Hegarty, Sheldon Hillier, Danny Kehler, Ronald Langman, Pete Lindgren, Brent Marriott, Allan Martens, Todd McLaren, Michael McNamara, Evan Miller, Richard Olsen, Richard Pasqua, Jay Pinchin, Joe Radovich, Mark Seter, Richard Sloan, Colin Snyder, Mike Wallace, Surrey Fire Dept.

Recruit Training Program clarified

In a recent letter to all Fire Chiefs in the Province Fire Commissioner Rick Dumala outlined the following clarification of the Fire Academy Recruit training program.

"The BC Fire Safety Advisory Council at its October 24, 1995 meeting adopted a set of conditions to apply to the Recruit Training Program being offered by the Justice Institute of BC, Fire Academy.

The conditions, which resulted from a series of meetings between representatives of the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Association, the Fire

Chiefs' Association of BC, and the Fire Academy deal with utilizing local training staff thereby enabling the fire departments to train their own recruits, broadening the ability of departments to participate in both the screening and training program, limiting the number of recruits to be trained, broadening the recruit screening process, establishing rates of pay and qualifications for adjunct instructors, and lengthening the course program from its present nine weeks to twelve weeks duration. The complete summary of these conditions is attached.

The Fire Safety Advisory Council feels that this agreement achieves most of the primary objectives of all the parties. The new format provides an opportunity for fire department training staff to remain involved with recruit training and, at the same time, to have more time available for training fire department personnel. In summary, the new conditions allow fire departments either to participate in the Fire Academy Recruit Training Program, or to train their own recruits in a manner consistent with Fire Academy accreditation policies, or to continue with their individual local recruit training programs."

At a meeting of the Fire Safety Advisory Council held December 8, 1994, the BCFCFA and the BCPFFA requested an opportunity to offer input to the direction and format of the Fire Academy Recruit Fire Fighter Training program.

The matter was referred to the Training Delivery Committee of the Council, who appointed a working committee consisting of Bob Aldcorn representing the Fire Academy, Bruce Hall representing the Fire Chiefs' Association and Bob Brett representing the BC Professional Fire Fighters Association.

The Committee was asked to review the concerns the BCFCFA and the BCPFFA had about the Recruit Program and recommend how the program could be modified to achieve its original objectives and also receive the endorsement of the BCFCFA and the BCPFFA.

Objectives:

- The committee realizes the support of the BCFCFA and the BCPFFA is critical to the long term success of the Fire Academy Recruit Fire Fighter program.
- The committee supports the original objectives of the Fire Academy Recruit Fire Fighter program to training recruits to an internationally accredited standard.
- The committee also endorses the design, course content and method of delivery of the Fire Academy Recruit Fire Fighter program.
- The committee agrees the Fire Academy Recruit Fire Fighter program should be delivered in a manner that will not result in the reduction of staff in fire department training divisions.
- The committee also agrees that individual fire departments that wish to train their own recruits may do so in cooperation with the Fire Academy in a manner that is consistent with accreditation policies or by utilizing their internal recruit training program.

The BCFCFA, the BCPFFA and the Fire Academy agree to support the Fire Academy Recruit Fire Fighter Training

program if the following conditions are met.

1. Fire Department Training Divisions

The Fire Academy will, in cooperation with the local fire departments, utilize the staff in training divisions of the participating fire departments to instruct courses for recruit training.

The extent of the training to be done by the fire departments' training divisions in the Fire Academy Recruit program will be jointly determined by the chiefs of the participating departments and the Fire Academy.

2. Fire Department Recruit Training Accreditation

Fire departments can train their own recruits to an accredited level if the training is consistent with the Fire Academy accreditation policies.

The procedures for accreditation are still being developed, however it will involve written and practical examinations conducted by the Fire Academy on a cost recovery basis.

Instructors also have to meet the Fire Academy qualifications which are TO I and TO II and several years experience in the fire service.

3. Participation

Fire Departments can utilize the Fire Academy Recruit Fire Fighter program by:

- a) participating in both the screening and training program, or
- b) screening candidates themselves and sending the recruits to the Fire Academy for training

4. Number of Recruits Trained

The Fire Academy will not train more recruits than there are positions to be filled. Fire Academy recruits will either already have been hired or have offers of employment upon successful completion of the program.

Screening Process: Recruits can be screened in two methods.

- a) *Fire Academy Screening Process* - Recruits that meet the Fire Academy basic qualifications will be screened by a panel including representation from the participating

departments, the Fire Academy and the BCPFFA.

- b) *Fire Department Screening Process* - Recruits that meet the participating fire departments' basic qualifications can be sent directly to the Fire Academy for training

5. Fire Academy Adjunct Instructors

BCPFFA members can perform instructor services at the Fire Academy if the individual members obtain written approval of his or her BCPFFA local on an annual basis.

All Fire Academy adjunct instructors shall be qualified to the TO II level and have several years of fire service experience.

6. Fire Academy Adjunct Rate of Pay

The rate of pay for Fire Academy adjunct instructors will be based on the Vancouver Fire Department Captain's rate.

Course Content, Duration and Tuition

As a result of the introduction of the new BC Fire Fighter Standard, additional training is now required at the recruit level.

To meet the new standard, the present Recruit Fire Fighter program will expand from nine weeks to twelve weeks. This change will qualify students for the student loan program.

The additional three weeks will allow for training recruits to the NFPA 472 Hazardous Material: Operations Level (which is consistent with the new BCFF Standard). It will allow time to train the recruits to the requirements in the new Provincial Standard (sprinklers, building construction, fire prevention, and public education). Spinal management will also be included.

The extended time frame will also allow time for a brief work experience assignment at a fire hall and an additional written project requiring library work. To cover the additional instructor and material costs, the tuition will increase to approximately \$4,500.00.

New operational guidelines

Based on approved recommendations formulated by the Fire Fighter Certification Program Exam Review Committee, the Academy implemented three new operational guidelines effective September 1, 1995. The provision of oral examinations is a new service provided for the benefit of the fire service. The Fire Chief may make a request for oral exams for specified students to be administered by an Academy evaluator. A fee of \$40 will be charged per oral examination.

The examination cancellation fee and the limitation of evaluation session requests are operational guidelines necessitated by fiscal restraint and an inability to increase staff in relation to increased workload.

The cancellation fee of \$10 will be charged to departments for each Fire Fighter Certification Program written/practical examination not completed. There is a policy for exemption of these charges under cases of illness, injury or when a student has been unable to complete an evaluation due to circumstances beyond the control of the student or of the department.

Thirdly, departments with 70 or more fire fighters actively involved in the Fire Fighter Certification Program will be limited to four evaluation sessions per month. Departments with fewer than 75 fire fighters actively involved will be limited to two evaluation sessions per month. All evaluation session requests will be limited to seven subjects (written and/or practical) per request.

Dr. Elinor Powell resigned October 31, 1995

New appointments by the Minister of Skills, Training and Labour to the JI Board include: Dawn Black, well known in the New Westminster community; Robert Brett, Lieutenant, Vernon Fire Dept and Pres. BC Fire Fighters' Assoc.; Douglas Campbell, BC Provincial Court judge and adjunct professor at SFU Department of Criminology; Rupinder Grewal, child and youth care counsellor with Surrey Community Resource Society and Brett Hodgins, Fire Chief, Penticton Fire Dept and President, BC Fire Chiefs' Association.

Mal Hughes and Hal Jenkins were re-appointed for two year terms, with Audrey Sampson and Florence Wong continuing for three year terms. Dr. Elinor Powell has resigned effective October 31, 1995.

Florence Wong was elected chair and Mal Hughes vice chair at the September 6 board meeting.

Fire Commissioner Rick Dumala joined Academy staff at the opening ceremonies for the JI New Westminster campus.





Our fall and winter training schedule is very busy with a wide variety of courses offered. Some of the courses coming up in November-December are Med A-1, B-2 and C, Training Officer II, Incident Command, Hazmat Operations, Hazmat Awareness, Instructional Techniques, Auto Extrication I & II, Basic Tank Car Safety. In January, a Basic Fire Science course is scheduled as well as Executive Development, Live Fire I, Industrial Fire Fighting, Fire Investigation I and others.

For more details, consult the schedule mailed out recently with our new catalog of courses. If you do not have this schedule or need an additional copy of the catalog, call the Academy at 528-5657. A \$2 fee to offset mailing costs is charged for each additional copy of the catalog.

FPI-10 and 11 available

FPI 10: Flammable and Combustible Liquids and Compressed and Liquefied Gases material has been printed and is available.

FPI 11 Fire Prevention Practice has been sent to the graphic artist for final preparation for printing. We expect the material to arrive here in the next few weeks.

Students enrolled in the Fire Prevention Inspector course can now apply to enrol in these blocks.

Field Trainer program

Administration of the Field Trainer program has been moved from the FSTC to the Academy offices at New Westminster. The program, since its inception, has been under the direction of Dan Murphy with clerical support by Melanie Tadra. Both individuals have done an outstanding job in developing and coordinating the program. Moving the program to New Westminster will free Dan and Melanie for program activities at FSTC.

Field Trainer program is now under the responsibility of Deputy Director Bob Aldcorn with coordination by Jack Tyler (528-5657). June McCormick (528-5663) will provide clerical support.

Emergency Vehicle Operation

The Academy has recently received the Emergency Vehicle Operation (EVO) Instructor's Guide. This manual is the result of a partnership and was developed by a committee consisting of Dan Murphy, Fire Academy, Keith Boswell, Surrey Fire Dept. Lorne Mutter, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services and Ron Lipchuk and Reo Jerome both of Surrey Fire Dept.

This guide, along with the Pumps and Pumping Edukit, meet the requirements of NFPA1002. Fire Department Vehicle Driver/Operator, except for the section dealing with elevating apparatus. The Academy will have copies of the manual available for purchase by January 31, 1996.

Fire Departments, utilizing the manual, will be able to train personnel, who can then be examined by Academy certified personnel. It is anticipated that six individuals can be examined in a day.

More information on the program will be forthcoming.

UBC Workshop - Fire Science & Fire Investigation

The Academy is hosting a five day workshop in Fire Science and Fire Investigation in May, 1996, at the JI New Westminster campus, in conjunction with the University of British Columbia.

The workshop runs from May 13-17, and is designed to assist in establishing probable fire cause, ignition, fire spread and subsequent event scenarios based on the application of current scientific knowledge to the fire related evidence. The course will benefit fire protection engineers, fire investigators, coroners, forensic scientists, police, and fire officials who may be called on to conduct or participate in fire investigations.

The workshop will be presented by an international team of experts led by Dr. Dougal Drysdale, Head of the Fire Safety Unit at the University of Edinburgh. Other speakers include Dr. Chris Foster of Dr. J.H. Burgoyne and Partners Consulting Engineers, London, UK (specializing in fire and explosion investigations) and Dr. John De Haan of the California Criminalistics Institute.

The workshop includes an optional examination which will provide successful candidates with a UBC Certificate in Fire Science and Fire Investigation. Cost is \$1,700 with examination; \$1,350 without examination.

For more information please contact Dr. Lucia Cheung, UBC Continuing Education (604) 822-3347, Fax. 822-3449.

NASPTDFT coming to Canada

The Academy is hosting the 1996 Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Association of State, Provincial and Territorial Directors of Fire Training at the JI October 2-6, 1996. This is the first time the event is being held in Canada. Guests will be registered at the Inn at Westminster Quay and sessions will be held at the JI Campus.



Holley accepts advisory position

Gerry Holley has accepted the position of co-chair of the FSTC Advisory committee, along with Director Paul Smith. Gerry is Supervisor, Plant Protection for Weyerhaeuser Canada's Kamloops Pulp Mill, a position he has held for 20 years. Gerry's responsibilities include plant security for the 600 employee pulp mill, management of the mill's fire prevention and emergency response programs, including the safe handling and transportation of hazardous materials and dangerous goods.

Gerry maintains a close working relationship with the City of Kamloops Fire Department, RCMP personnel, corporate insurance representatives, the BC Ambulance Service and the Justice Institute. He is a member of the Industrial Fire Protection Section, National Fire Protection Association and the Industrial Section, Fire Chiefs' Association of BC.

Dedication ceremonies in June for the Live Fire training building in Maple Ridge drew enthusiastic comments from the Hon. Darlene Marzari, with Director Paul Smith and JI Board past chairman Bob Stewart looking on.

FSAC STANDARDS AND CURRICULUM COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Fire Safety Advisory Council Standards and Curriculum Committee sent the proposed BC Industrial Fire Brigades Standard out for comment.

The Standards & Curriculum Committee has received comments from the Fire Prevention Officers' Association regarding the proposed BC Fire Inspector Standard, which was sent out to interested parties for comment.

The Committee received queries for clarification of the status of existing curriculum materials and compliance with the new BC Fire Fighter Standard. It is the position of the Standards and Curriculum Committee that the following statements should address some of the outstanding concerns.

Training that has already been completed successfully is recognized as equivalent to the new BC Fire Fighter Standard, Level I. Existing volunteer fire fighter certification will not be revoked).

Those enrolled in a recognized program, i.e. Volunteer Fire Fighter Certification program, Edukits, IFSTA Essentials 3rd Edition Curriculum, are recognized for the subjects that they have successfully completed.

As new curriculum becomes available departments will be notified and fire fighters with uncompleted subjects in the Volunteer Fire Fighter Training Standard will be trained to the new curriculum in these subjects.

A task group comprised of training officers representing career, volunteer and industrial fire departments is currently analyzing existing curriculum including IFSTA Essentials and BC Volunteer Fire Fighter Certification Program (Edukits) to ascertain compliance with the new BC Fire Fighter Standard. This analysis is expected to be completed by December 31, 1995.

The analysis to date indicates that the Essentials of Fire Fighting Curriculum will address the major portion of the BC Fire Fighter Standard.

The Standards & Curriculum Committee met in Richmond September 11 and 12. Future meetings are scheduled for December 6 and 7. The Advisory Council met on October 24 in Victoria.

TransCaer: Hazmat partnerships that work

by Terry Litchfield, CXY Chemicals



Preparing for that "hazardous materials" incident is not always the top priority for many fire fighters, but it can be one of the most challenging and important.

For many fire departments, finding access to information on response to chemicals and other hazardous materials is not always easy. Recognizing this, TransCaer has set out to increase awareness and preparation for that inevitable incident involving flammable, corrosive, explosive or toxic materials.

TransCaer, which stands for Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response, encourages sharing of emergency response information among "partners", which include carriers, first responder groups, government agencies and the public.

Begun by members of the Canadian Chemical Producers' Association as part of CCPA's Responsible Care initiative, TransCaer is active throughout the lower mainland, and beyond, in meeting with community groups, fire and police departments and interested members of the public. TransCaer is led by a committee of chemical producers and "partners" who meet four times per year, usually in the Greater Vancouver area.

Many TransCaer members represent some of the largest producers of chemi-

cals in British Columbia and so are well prepared to offer advice on their chemical products and emergency response planning in general.

TransCaer partners include the major rail carriers (CN, CP, BN and BC Rail) and marine carriers (eg. Rivtow Marine) as well as major highway carriers all of whom are active in emergency response planning and communication.

One of the "tools" used in hazardous materials awareness is an eight-hour training package developed by CCPA and the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs. The package, which includes a video, leaders guides and participants workbooks, is especially useful to volunteer departments which otherwise would not have access to in-house training.

For more information on TransCaer, or to contact the chemical producer or TransCaer partner nearest to your community, contact Brian Lockhart - CCPA (925-3654); Mike Martel - Dow Chemical (986-4391) or Terry Litchfield - CXY Chemicals (924-2808).

MAPLE RIDGE CAMPUS NEWS

Progress report

Funding received for completion of the live fire training structure saw application of refractory to eight rooms in September and installation of propane training props commencing in November. The water treatment plant came on line and was operational at the end of September.

VIFFA Evolutions

The Vancouver Island Fire Fighter Evolutions July 29, 30 in Langford, Vancouver Island brought out 21 departments for the many events. The Port Alberni Shield was presented to Langford as the host department.

Event winners:

Horseshoes - winners Cherry Creek #1 Team; 2nd Place, Wellington #1 Team; *Saturday Mixed Department Mystery* - winners Rick Steen (Metchosin), Warren Congas (Cowichan Bay) Craig Gooding (Harewood), Rick Hastings (Cedar); *Saturday Fun Mystery* - winners Wellington, 2nd place Metchosin, 3rd place Willis Point and Crofton; *Tug of War* - winners Cowichan Bay, 2nd place Crofton; *Decorated Campsite* - winners Chase River, 2nd place Sahtlam, 3rd place Cowichan Bay; *Best Skit* - winners Sahtlam, 2nd place Cowichan Bay; *Ladies Hose Lay and Water Target* - winners Sahtlam, 2nd place Cowichan Bay, 3rd place Wellington; *Senior Make and Break* - winners Lantzville, 2nd place Duncan, 3rd place, Cedar; *Individual Ladies Hose Roll* - winner Kathy (Harewood), 2nd Sandra (Duncan). *Ladies Team Hose Rolling* - winners Wellington, 2nd place Cowichan Bay, 3rd place Harewood; *Mens' Hose Lay and Water Target* - winners Cowichan Bay, 2nd place Wellington, 3rd place, North Cowichan; *Ladysmith's Blowers Trophy* - winner Willis Point; *Sunday Mystery* - winners Cherry Creek, 2nd place Duncan & Wellington; *Cherry Creek Trophy* for most points for attendance and participation to Sahtlam, 38 points, Cowichan Bay, 2nd with 34 and Wellington 3rd place with 23 points.

FSAC looks at Fitness Standard



A big smile and lots of enthusiasm for the JI and the Fire Academy make Jane Garapick a pleasant person to work with. Jane performs secretarial duties for the Fire Safety Advisory Council, Standards Curriculum Committee, and for the Fire and Safety Training Centre Advisory Committee.

The FSAC Standards and Curriculum committee is presently working on a proposal for the initial review of a fitness standard for the Fire Service of BC. This work has involved discussions with fitness consultants in regard to the review of NFPA 1583, Recommended Procedure for Fire Fighter Physical Performance and Conditioning Programs.

The Committee has also completed work on the development of Standards and Curriculum Process Models. The first objective is one of providing the client/user groups with a better understanding of how the standards evolve and who is involved in the process. The second objective is to provide the client user group with an overview of the status of the standards under review.

The Public Education subcommittee has completed the initial review of NFPA 1035, Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator for the development of the first draft of the BC Standard. The Fire Training Officers' Association of BC is in the process of conducting the review of NFPA 1041, Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications for the FSAC Standards and Curriculum Committee.

Southern BC Auto Extrication Training Seminar and Competition

Maple Ridge Volunteer Fire Department and the FSTC, Maple Ridge will host the Southern BC Auto Extrication Training Seminar and Competition March 9 and 10, 1996. Location is the Old Library and the FSTC, Maple Ridge. Contact Kevin Perkin or Howard Exner at 467-7344.

STAFF PROFILES



Pat Abercrombie looks after processing of invoices and accounts for the Fire Academy. Pat is Deputy Director Bob Aldcorn's secretary and also looks after ordering of Academy memorabilia.



Melanie Tadla's friendly face is familiar to fire personnel taking courses at the Fire & Training Centre in Maple Ridge. Melanie provides secretarial support for several instructors including Merlin Klassen.

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...

New videos in the Library

The JI Library will soon have available two new fire service videos. One deals with the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) Validation process (V1416). This is a short video which explains how the IFSTA training manuals are validated and how members of the fire service can participate.

The second video, produced by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) (V1415) outlines the accreditation process for both the certificate programs, fire fighter training and the upper level degree programs.

Librarian April Haddad advises these videos will be available by December 18. The library can be contacted at 528-5598.

ARCS system in place



You may have noticed, on mail received from the Academy reference to a File # in the upper right hand corner. This is an integral part of the standardization of our files to conform to provincial ARCS/ORCS standards and the Freedom of Information Act. It is helpful if you quote this File # when replying to our mail. June McCormick, who worked with all JI academies on the ARCS/ORCS system, has been steering this project for us. We have completed organization of the administrative files and are now converting the student record hard files to the number coded system. Also involved in this project are receptionist Michelle Smith and student records clerk Sherri McLennan.



FIRE ACADEMY NEWS

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.

Newsletter staff:
Paul Smith, Publisher
Anne Langdon, Editor

Exam stats up!

In August, overall exam generating and marking activity broke all previous records! Previous highest totals in a given month were 3300 exams as compared to 3725 exams generated and marked in August. This effort resulted in getting very close to catching up on marking the backlog of exams.

Freedom of Information Act:

Release of student marks

In October 1994, the British Columbia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act came into force for BC colleges, including the Justice Institute. Under the Act, personal information, including educational program results, may be disclosed only if the individual consents to its disclosure.

As a result of this directive, the Academy has provided each department with a list of active students and requested authorization from each student to release information. For members enrolling in Academy programs in the future, forms will be provided for consent to release information as students enrol.

Results will continue to be released on a PASS/FAIL basis for the Fire Fighter Certification Program and Officer Training and Education Program. **Please return student authorizations as soon as possible.**

NOTICE!!!

Exam department

The examination department has in previous years closed during the Christmas break. This year, the exam department will remain open during regular working days in this period.

*Best wishes to all
for a happy and
joyful festive season.*



*From the faculty and staff at
the Fire Academy.*

STAFF NEWS

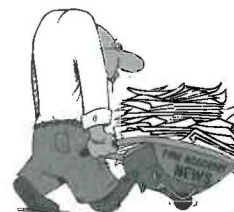
Welcome,
Michelle!



Michelle Smith was the successful applicant in a competition to fill the position as receptionist at the Academy. Michelle brings a good deal of enthusiasm to her job as our key receptionist and because she lives in New Westminster has been a big help to us in locating local services, and general directions to and from the new JI site. As well as providing a cheerful, informed voice on our phones Michelle is responsible for room bookings, assisting with the set up of a new file system, maintaining our mailing list data base and other general duties.

Congrats, Dennis

Congratulations to **Dennis Montgomery** on receiving the Training Achievement Award this year. Dennis received this in a presentation at the Training Officers' Conference in Castlegar.



Contributions
to the
newsletter
are welcome.

Please direct all material to
Anne Langdon, fax 528-5660.