

MnFAC Fire Safety Account Update and Final Action Alert
Letters/emails need to be sent no later than one week from
today

March 18, 2010

Status:

As of 9:00 pm Wednesday March 17, 2010 the Senate Public Safety Budget position restores \$4.4 million of the \$9.9 transfer out Governor Pawlenty proposed. The House Public Safety Finance position restores just \$1 million.

Next Step in the Process:

These bills will go to a conference committee comprised of an equal number of members from the house and senate, typically 3 to 5 members from each. House Public Safety Finance Chair Michael Paymar will be one of the members as well as his counterpart in the Senate, Senator Linda Higgins who is chair of the Public Safety Budget Division in the Senate.

Conference Committee:

The Senate position of restoring \$4.4 million is a very strong position, meaning, they have identified the money needed for the restored cuts and there is strong support of senate members to hold this position in conference. Thus, the goal is to obtain the House concurrence, however, this means the House will need to “find” or take money from some other program already funded and transfer those dollars to restoring the fire safety account monies. (at least to the \$4.4 million the senate does)

Final Action Step:

We need everyone to WRITE and/or EMAIL the following leaders in the house. They need to hear from us, they need to hear how important the money is, they need to know we care. The letter/email can be brief; who you are, your department and a short profile, and what this money means to you for training, regional response teams, and SFM support.

Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher
463 State Office Building
100 Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155
rep.margaret.kelliher@house.mn

Majority Leader Tony Sertich
459 State Office Building
rep.tony.sertich@house.mn

Finance Chair Lyndon Carlson
479 State Office Building
rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn

Ways and Means Chair Loren Solberg
443 State Office Building
rep.loren.solberg@house.mn.us

Public Safety Finance Chair Michael Paymar
543 State Office Building
rep.michael.paymar@house.mn

1. You can use the same letter to each one of them.
2. Copy Deputy Minority Leader Steve Smith (Chief Author) on each of your letters.
Representative Steve Smith, 271 State Office Building
3. Copy your House representative.
4. Please personalize your letter, sample letter below and another one attached.

Sample Letter:

March 18, 2010

Dear Representative:

I am writing you today to urge (implore, recommend, appeal, ask) your support of restoring money to the Fire Safety Account.

(Fill in for your department) The Spring Lake Park – Blaine – Mounds View Fire Department serves a population of 76,000 people with a combination department of 55 volunteers and 10 career members. These dedicated men and women respond to more than 1,200 calls every year and in addition, are required to attend a weekly 3 hour training session.

Training is the foundation for everything we do and is critical to keeping our firefighters safe. Like all, we have shared in the budget cuts including to our training budget. More than ever, we need these training dollars not only for the everyday job of crash rescue, EMS, and Fire Calls; but specialized training as well for example: Hybrid Vehicles, Ice and Water Rescue, Confined Space, Hazardous Materials, etc.

Fire Safety Account funds helps us train our people for the wide variety of tasks they are asked to do. LGA cuts have made it increasingly difficult to rely solely on local governments. Your understanding of the seriousness of our need would greatly be appreciated and in closing, I ask you once again to restore the money to the Fire Safety Account.

Sincerely,

Nyle Zikmund
Fire Chief