

# Minnesota Fire Services Joint Council

## 2010 Legislative Conference



### FIRE SAFETY ACCOUNT - WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

APPROPRIATE \$4.4 MILLION CURRENTLY DEPOSITED IN THE ACCOUNT TO HELP YOUR  
LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS - HF 2844 Smith / SF 2502 Rest

Reimbursement goes directly to your local fire department to meet training demands for:

Fire Suppression, Apparatus Operator, Hazardous Materials Technician, Hazardous Materials Specialist, Auto Extrication, Fire Investigation, Fire Prevention, Officer I and Officer II, Fire Instructor, Confined Space Rescue, Water and Ice Rescue, Technical Rescue, Basic Animal Rescue Training, and Fire Inspection.

## Fire Safety Account

Session Laws 2006

Repealed hidden insurance tax on homeowners and commercial policies

Replaced tax with transparent fee & dedicated revenue to the Fire Safety Account

Funding provides much needed resources for:

- Funding the Firefighter Training and Education Board
- Office of the State Fire Marshal who provides code, investigation, data collection and inspection support to the Minnesota Fire Service

2010 Request - Appropriate \$4.4 million to Fire Safety Account from the Special Revenue Fund



Clockwise - Firefighter from all over Minnesota respond to Red River Flood event, Spring 2009; St. Paul Fire Department battles house blaze; St. Cloud Fire Department battles house fire.

## We need your **HELP** and **SUPPORT!**

Minnesota ranks 47th in the nation in per capita spending on fire service.  
(Mn Taxpayers Association)

20 years ago basic fire training was on how to put out fires and consisted of approximately 20 hours of time. Today's training includes anti-terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, hazardous materials, ice and water rescue, confined space and technical rescue, hybrid vehicles, personal injury crash rescue, medical training and (still) putting out fires! This same "basic" training today exceeds more than 220 hours to complete.

The Fire Safety Account is the first money going directly to fire departments to help ease the enormous burden placed on today's Firefighter and fire departments. Support HF 2844 (Smith) and Senate File 2502 (Rest).

Clockwise - Lake Johana Fire trains on car fire; Edina Fire & Task Force One train on high angle rescue; Hopkins Fire training on confined space rescue; Willmar Fire trains on propane emergency fires using a mobile training prop.





The Minnesota State Fire Department Association (MSFDA) has been representing fire departments since 1873. Currently, just under 600 of the 782 departments in the state are members. The MSFDA focuses on training and education for Firefighter, advocates at both the state and federal level for firefighter safety and training issues, and partners with all other fire service groups in the state in order to continue improving the fire service overall.



The Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters (MPFF) represents 1,600 full-time, professional fire fighters from 42 cities and fire fighting districts across the state. The MPFF works in conjunction with other fire fighter groups to promote issues relating to public safety, fire fighter training, fire fighter pay and benefits, and adequate funding for these issues.



The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA) consists of just over 2,100 members representing just under 600 of the 782 departments in the state. Members include fire chiefs as well as all other officer ranks in the department. The vast majority of the members are volunteers who come from all walks of life. The MSFCA has a strong working relationship with all fire service groups in the state with a focus on education, advocacy, and providing whatever support is requested from members.

## What does the Fire Safety Account Mean to Your Local Department?

We sincerely appreciate being awarded the grant dollars, like so many other departments we are experiencing budget cuts with our budget. If it wasn't for this award we would not have been able to meet the minimum annual requirements for our Firefighter. We just received a request from one of our tenured Firefighters with intent to resign. If it wasn't for the grant dollars we would not be able to replace him this year and finish sending two other new Firefighter through the firefighter I and II course.

*Fire Chief Randall D. Sorenson, Waconia Fire Department*

Our sincere thanks to your organization for this opportunity to receive assistance in training our volunteer fire department members. As you are well aware by the popularity of your program it is in much need for not only rural departments but all organizations. Having been granted funding last year we would like to commend you on the ease of the application and reimbursement process. Your communication to our department has been flawless with both mailings and e-mail correspondence and the website is a very functional and easy tool to navigate. Thanks for all your hard work in making this program a success.

*Lori Stull, Treasurer, Colvin Volunteer Fire Department, Makinen*

Thank you for the grant money that we received. (God Bless you). It will be very helpful in our training efforts. I was wondering if there was going to be another round of grants? You had mentioned something in our conversations. And when do you think we would hear something about it and need to submit another application? Thanks again and have a great day.

*Ron Lawrence, Training Officer, Princeton Fire & Rescue*

With the award from the MBFTE covering most of our classroom and instructor/contract costs, we were able to train our new Firefighter to NFPA 1001 standards and have them complete their Firefighter I certification through the State Certification Board. This would have been a difficult feat considering the budget constraints our City has been placed under.

*Fire Chief Marv Calvin, Willmar Fire Department*

**House File 2844 (Smith) Senate File 2505 (Rest)  
Supplemental Budget Appropriation  
from the Special Revenue Fund  
to the Fire Safety Account - \$4.4 million**

**\$3,000,000 - Minnesota Board of Fire Training and Education to reimburse fire departments for training to national standards**

**\$650,000 - Funding needed to support the five teams that comprise Task Force I; Minnesota's special rescue and structural collapse team. To date, these teams have received nothing since the original federal appropriations provided the equipment and initial training. Members have dropped from over 200 to approximately 120 due to lack of training.**

**\$575,000 - Funding for the States Chemical Hazardous Materials Teams (11) and Decontamination Trailers (15). Since initial federal funding for the Decontamination trailers (and inventory), there has been no funding for maintenance, insurance, replacement of inventory, or training. These two components comprise the states ability to respond to a chemical, biological or nuclear incident.**

**\$175,000 - Grant pool for cities/jurisdictions to hire assistance specific to studying and executing shared services agreements for fire protection.**

# Equipping Your Fire Fighter

## TRAINING

Fire Fighter I Training	\$850
Fire Fighter II Training	\$550
EMS Training	\$975
Haz Mat Training	\$450
Terrorism Training	\$100
SCBA Fit Test	\$75
FF Health Test	\$250
Background Check	\$50
Physiological Exam	\$250
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$3,550</u>

## STATION WEAR

Uniform Shirt	\$50
Uniform Pants	\$55
Uniform Jacket	\$115
Cap / Tie / Brass	\$65
Uniform Boots	\$135
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$420</u>

## COST TO OUTFIT A FIRE FIGHTER

Helmet	\$300
Coat	\$800
Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)	\$4,500
Gloves	\$90
Pants	\$600
Boots	\$250
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$6,540</u>



Long Lake Firefighters prepare to enter live fire training burn

