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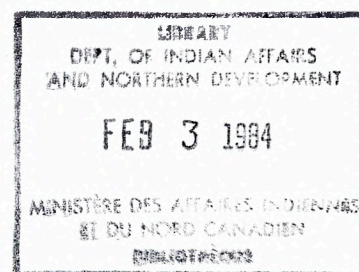
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TRAINING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

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TRAINING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

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TRAINING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This publication is intended for bands who are considering setting up a volunteer fire brigade, or who wish to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of a brigade already in existence.

It outlines the topics that should be included in a basic course, the facilities that should be provided, the qualifications needed for personnel and the types of firefighting courses available for volunteer brigades.

2.0 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

2.1 General Remarks

The primary duty of the volunteer fire brigade is to save lives. The secondary duty is to preserve property and stop the spread of fire.

2.2 Training Syllabus (1 week course)

Training should be given at the reserve by the Regional Fire and Safety Officer, DIAND or by fire prevention officers employed by the band. A suggested syllabus is attached as Appendix 1. It includes the following topics:

- a. chemistry of fire;
- b. principles of fire extinguishment;
- c. familiarization with tools, accessories and rescue equipment;
- d. emergency first aid course;
- e. use of ropes and ladders;
- f. use of nozzles, and streams of water and foam;

- g. driver/operator duties;
- h. fire pumps - operation and maintenance;
- i. principles of ventilation (practices and equipment);
- j. forcible entry/rescue practices and transportation of victims;
- k. self contained breathing apparatus;
- l. how to fight structural and ground fires;
- m. salvage and overhaul practices;
- n. organization of a fire brigade;
- o. fire prevention and inspection;
- p. communication; and
- q. records and reports.

2.3 Course Length

Normally the duration of a standard course for fire brigades is one week. Conditions and/or availability of the training area, fire equipment and instructors may alter the time requirements (see Appendix 1).

2.4 Training Schedules

The one week course should be supplemented by short practical sessions at least twice a month but preferably once a week. These sessions will help maintain the brigade's efficiency and will also ensure that the equipment is readily available and functioning properly.

The volunteer fire chief and the other trained fire fighter(s) should serve as instructors for these weekly training sessions. When available,

or as time permits the Regional Fire and Safety Officer may provide training beyond the basic requirements.

2.5 Training Centres

Firefighting courses should be taken at one of the following locations:

- a. on-reserve training sites as selected by the Regional Fire and Safety Officer;
- b. municipal fire departments or schools;
- c. provincial fire service schools;
- d. National Defence fire halls or fire schools.

3.0 PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Class Size

Class size will depend on the size of the reserve. Each course should have at least 6 students but no more than 25.

3.2 Instructors

Where physical activities are involved, as a safety measure, two instructors should be used to train the fire brigade. A senior instructor, normally a regional fire and safety officer, should be assisted by a fully qualified fire fighter (see 3.3).

3.3 Training Requirements for Personnel

3.3.1 Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief (Captain)

These officers should have at least 60 hours training and should meet provincial fire service standards. They should attend a full fire fighting course at a fire service school before being named to their positions (see 2.5).

3.3.2 Driver/Operator

Trained heavy-vehicle operators are necessary for bands that have acquired fire/pumper trucks. At least two firefighters should receive this training and, preferably, should each obtain a provincial operator's licence.

3.3.3 Special Tool Operator

Personnel should be trained and tested on the operation and maintenance of tools such as the Jaws-of-Life, breathing apparatus and ventilation gear. Manufacturers have qualified technicians to help with this.

3.4 First Aid Course

An emergency first aid course should be taken together with the basic firefighting course. The provincial Workers' Compensation Boards offer assistance and normally provide a rebate of up to 40% of the cost.

3.5 Forest Firefighting Course

For some reserves, forest firefighting training may be necessary. Courses are available through provincial forestry or natural resources departments and are usually free of charge.

4.0 FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Training Accommodation

A suitably heated and lighted room in a central location, preferably in a fire hall, should be provided for training purposes.

4.2 Training Site

A fire training site, close to the fire hall, should be made available. This site should be near the fire hall in case there is a fire during the training session.

4.3 Practical Training Budget

A budget requirement for the brigade should be calculated and funds allocated for practical training, and for extra hoses, accessories for dealing with fires in storage tanks, forestry pumps (relay type), and any other supportive type of equipment which might be needed.

5.0 REFERENCES

Canada. Department of Indian & Northern Affairs (DIAND). Engineering and Architecture Branch (E&A). Alberta Region. Volunteer Fire Fighter Study Manual.

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Office of the Province of Manitoba Fire Commissioner. Fire Service Training Course.

Note: Other sources include Department of National Defence and Transport Canada fire training manuals.

APPENDIX 1

FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING SYLLABUS

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
0800	Introduction	Protective clothing - Tools & Accessories	Portable Pump Practices	Breathing Apparatus and Rescue Equipment	Fire Prevention and Inspection
0900	Fire Brigade Organization	Familiarization			
0900	Chemistry of Fire	Ropes Care and Use	Ventilation Practices	Rescue Procedures	Records and Reports
1015	Extinguishment of Fires	Drills			
1030	Fire Extinguishment	Ladders Care and use	Training Area Procedures	Salvage and Overhaul Procedures	Manpower and Resource Planning
1200	First Aid Fire Extinguishers	Drills			
1300	First Aid (Emergency)	Hoses and Streams	Fire Fighting Training Area Procedures	Practical Training Area	Practical/Travel As required
1415					
1430	First Aid (Emergency)	Pumpers and Hydraulics Practices	Structural Fires Practical	Practical Training Area	Practical/Travel As required
1700					
1800	Evening Training as required	As required	As required	As required	Travel
2030					