



Montana State Fire Chiefs Association

Serving those who lead Montana's fire and rescue services

Date: 27 February 2007

To: Montana Fire Chiefs/Montana Fire Service

From: Steve Larson, President

Re: Legislation Update

As most of you are aware, we have reached the midpoint of the 2007 legislative session. The Fire Alliance has been working on a large number of bills for the fire service this session. Many of these bills may be viewed by clicking on the following link: www.montanafirechiefs.com and then clicking on Legislature. Please take the time to read these and send any comments to the Fire Alliance mfaoffice@montanafirealliance.org and/or myself (SLARSON@ci.helena.mt.us).

It would be extremely valuable to the fire service if you would contact your legislators while they are at home on break February 28 - March 4, 2007; please take this opportunity to let your representatives know that you are in support of this vital legislation. While it's important that we are being represented by our lobbyist John Semple, legislators prefer to hear from their own constituents.

If you are unaware of how to contact your state legislators, please go to the Alliance website at www.montanafirealliance.org. Near the center of the page you will find the [2007 Legislative Map and Contact Information](#). Click on your local area of this interactive map and it will tell you who your representatives are, along with their contact information.

One particular item of focus for the MSFCA is HB461, Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarettes. This bill is moving through the House and currently sits with the Appropriations Committee. Please offer your support of this bill; smoking has already been linked to four fatalities in the first two months of 2007 in Montana.

A significant portion of Montana's share of the Homeland Security funds over the past two years has been directed toward interoperable radio communications. While it's true that it will take Montana a long time to be completely at the interoperable trunked hybrid radio system, there are radios becoming available—particularly for departments with antiquated analog radios and who are ready to upgrade their current radios. Please contact your radio project director or State DES to find out how you can obtain these upgraded analog radios. Again, I urge you to review this legislation and to contact your local State representatives. We appreciate your time and effort in doing so.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SLarson".