



# Montana State Fire Chiefs Association

Serving those who lead Montana's fire and rescue services

## Wildland Committee

TELECONFERENCE: 800-504-8071 / ACCESS CODE: 3404141

**Minutes**  
**November 12, 2008**  
**Dillon, MT**

### Attendees:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Fry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Martens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rich Cowger
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brett Waters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Marsh
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Monzie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Waldron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pam Okon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Hedrick	<input type="checkbox"/> Ted Mead	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Kuntz

**Guests:** Chad Nicholson (Missoula City Fire), Jason Diehl (Missoula City Fire), Mike McGinley (Beaverhead Co. Commissioner/MACO President)

### Business: Chapter 50

Discussion was held on the following issues and the following recommendations were approved:

- Engine rates will remain the same except for cost of living increase adjustment
- Ambulance rates: A draft proposal for ambulance rates will be forwarded to NRCG. The recommendation will be \$50.00/hour plus EFF personnel costs for EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P on a 16-hour day. If a transport takes place the ambulance will bill at their regular scheduled rates including mileage.
- Portable tanks will be added to the compliment list on water tenders. The minimum size required will be 1,000 gallons.

### Fire Chief Responsibilities

Discussion was held regarding the responsibilities of fire chiefs signing up engines and personnel. The discussion focused on the requirement for the Fire Chief to have knowledge of, and records to support, the training and qualifications of their personnel prior to red carding and signing certification papers.

It was also brought up that Fire Chiefs may only sign up equipment that is owned by the organization they represent. Equipment that belongs to someone other than the fire agency cannot be signed up as agency equipment. Proof of ownership is necessary.

## **Engine insurance**

County Co-op engines have always been covered by insurance provided by the State of Montana. This has been a problem for some of the State's legal counsel. DNRC is working with their legal counsel to clarify the insurance requirements prior to this year's fire season.

County Co-op engines do require that due diligence is used in their use. Trained personnel that are members of the fire agency are the only personnel that should be riding in these vehicles. Individuals under the age of 18 should not be on, or using these engines.

## **New Fire Shelters**

The new fire shelters will be required by the federal agencies in the near future. Be aware of this if you have engines or personnel that may be sent to federal fires.

## **Teleconferences**

In a cost-saving measure, the Wildland Committee will begin using the Chiefs' conference call link instead of DNRC's. This will result in considerable savings on the conference calls.

## **Legislation**

Senate Bill 51 required updating of the DNRC wildland urban interface guidelines. Work on this project has been taking place for some time and a final draft should be available for review soon. Mike McGinley, MACO President, was at the meeting and expressed MACO's concerns regarding these guidelines and fiscal requirements that may be attached to their adoption. MACO also has concerns about the guidelines being too restrictive for some parts of the State.

The Administrative Rules for Fire Wardens and SB-404 Legal Representation for State Firefighters have been written and are available on the internet. They can be reviewed on the MT.GOV website; go to Montana Administrative Register, notice #36-22-132.

## **Wildland Committee Changes**

Scott Waldron resigned as a representative of the Fire Chiefs. Bob Fry will step down as a representative of the Fire Wardens and will serve as an alternate. Scott Waldron was appointed to serve on the committee, filling Bob Fry's position representing the Fire Wardens.