



MONTANA CAREER FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

President: Brent Christopherson
1st Vice President: Frank Odermann
2nd Vice President: Greg Megaard
Treasurer: Jason Manley
Secretary: Steve Hester

Web Page: <http://www.montanacareerfirechiefs.org/>

Quarterly Meeting: September 29, 2010

In Attendance:

Brent Christopherson	Assistant Chief	Missoula Rural Fire Department
Steve Hester	Assistant Chief	Great Falls Fire Rescue
Greg Megaard	Deputy Chief	Bozeman Fire Department
Dirk Johnson	Deputy Assistant Chief	Great Falls Fire Rescue
Michael Painter	Fire Chief	Missoula City Fire
Randal McCamley	Fire Chief	Great Falls Fire Rescue
Derrick Rogers	Fire Chief	Miles City Fire Department
Jeff Miller	Fire Chief	Butte Fire Department
Jason Shrauger	Fire Chief	Bozeman Fire Department
John Bibler II	Fire Chief	Frenchtown Fire
Bill Colwell	Fire Chief	Missoula Rural Fire District
Frank Stanley	Deputy Chief	Frenchtown Fire
Steve Larson	Fire Chief	Helena Fire Department
Greg Megaard	Deputy Chief	Bozeman Fire Department
Butch Weedon	Director	Mt Fire Services Training School
Craig Trapp	Fire Marshal	Helena Fire Department
Gary Howard	Assistant Fire Marshal	Missoula City Fire

Guests:

Joel Fassbinder	Vice President	Mt State Council of Professional Firefighters
Joseph Sands	Lobbyist	Mt State Council of Professional Firefighters
Rick Ryan	Sec/Treasurer	Mt State Firemen's Association
Ed Cleary	President	Mt State Firemen's Association



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MEETING MINUTES:

1. 1345 MCFCA Meeting was called to order
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Role Call: Billings FD and Lewistown FD not in attendance
 - c. MCFCA April 2010 Minutes approved

2. Legislative Issues and Discussion: Representatives from the Montana State Council of Professional Firefighters and the Montana State Firemen's Association discussed with the MCFCA members (from here on referred to as the "Members") had an open discussion about the following legislative topics, which both organizations have in common.
 - a. Include firefighter overtime as a part of wages for retirement
 - b. Develop disease and illness presumptive legislation to provide medical coverage for fire service occupational illnesses and diseases like specific cancers, and lung/heart disease.
 - c. Stop legislation that may curtail legislation for future state residential sprinkler systems. Letter supporting Residential Sprinkler Coalition from MCFCA, see attachment 1. (i.e. Defensive posture)
 - d. Address the important fire service issues with legislative changes that shall be made this session for Medical Marijuana. Talking paper offered to MCFCA by Chief McCamley, see attachment 2.
 - i. Mt State Fire Marshall shall offer official position to include a means to provide inspection of commercial grow and treatment facilities.

3. Fire Marshal's Committee Report:
 - a. 12 members present during the meeting



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- b. Budget; FM Trapp requested \$250.00 to offer training to FMs in future meetings and for other financial needs of this sub-committee. Members discussed the budget issue and asked FM Trapp to offer a detailed budget which shall be considered by the Members.
 - c. The Members discussed what the purpose and charter was for the MCFCA committees. Were they advisories to the MCFCA and wouldn't these committees support the goals and mission of the MCFCA? Members thought it would be a good idea to provide FM committee a clear description of its' role and responsibility to MCFCA. Additionally other sub-committees should be provided the same information.
4. Total Education Solutions and Technology Inc. (TEST): Offered a demonstration of the webinar programs and offered some ideas to have meetings on their program. See attachment 3 for details on cost and software/hardware products.
 - a. A discussion was held with Montana State HazMat Teams during the previous days State HazMat Team Advisory meeting to help pay for the cost of the program.
 - b. A question was asked about the cost based on the less expensive webinar systems which cost one department less the seventy dollars a month.
 - c. Recommended that the system be used for a MCFCA or Consortium meeting to get first hand experience with this program.
5. Finance Report:
 - a. The finance report wasn't provided since the MCFCA treasure was not present.



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6. EMS Committee Report:

- a. There will be an emergency care conference call next week and report provided afterwards.
- b. Members discussed the MT EMS division requests for medical reports and the challenges that loom ahead if the programs is imposed by the state.

7. Training Committee:

- a. This committee briefed the members about the possibility of developing a certified firefighter course curricula with IFSAC and Pro-board.
- b. Director Weedon stated that as long as the state held IFSAC and Pro-board certifications other state organizations could not. However if there was a particular certification not held by Mt Fire Services Training School, then another entity could submit their program for certification through these agencies. He warned that there is a lot of work involved with developing, certifying and maintaining these programs.
- c. The Training Committee will no longer pursue a MCFCA fire service certification program.
- d. Director Weedon noted that his staff are working on a fire officer I certification program and are close to making this available. Until than FSTS offers a State Fire Officer I certification.

8. MCFCA Website:

- a. All members liked the improvements to the web site.
- b. There has been a legislative page added that will track legislation as it happens when the legislators are in session.

9. Annual MCFCA Conference/Dinner:



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- a. Members considered conducting an annual meeting/dinner that would be an opportunity to get together to network and to offer a more social opportunities.
- b. One recommendation would be to have this meeting in January when the legislators are in session to meet legislators and to offer the Members as resources to ask questions and to offer "our" views on legislation pertaining to public safety.
- c. There may be "taking" papers offered on subjects that the MCFCA has an interest which could be offered to legislators as they are met.

10. MCFCA ID Card:

- a. Members voted to craft an ID card for MCFCA members. A couple of options were offered. Bozeman and Great Falls administrators will come up with some options that will be sent out to the members for their review.

11. Open Forum:

- a. In January of 2011 there will be a National Fire Service Labor Management Initiative meeting in Phoenix AZ. Everyone was encouraged to attend.

12. Meeting was adjourn at 1730 hours (approximately)



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Attachment – 1

MONTANA CAREER FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



BIG SKY	BILLINGS	BUTTE
BOZEMAN	FRENCHTOWN	GREAT FALLS
HAVRE	HELENA	HEBGEN BASIN
LEWISTOWN	LIVINGSTON	LOCKWOOD
MALMSTROM	MANG AIR FORCE BASE	MILES CITY
MISSOULA CITY	MISSOULA RURAL FIRE	WHITEFISH

September 21, 2010

Montana Fire Sprinkler Coalition
Attn: Pat Clinch, Chair
P.O. Box 201415
Helena, MT 59620-1415

Dear Chair Clinch:


The Montana Career Fire Chiefs Association is proud to announce that the MCFCFA Board has voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution as our official position to support firefighter safety and life safety for the general public:

The Montana Career Fire Chiefs Association (MCFCFA) supports the adoption, in the State of Montana, of the residential sprinkler requirements, as set forth in the 2009 IRC, and

- 1. In order to reduce deaths from structure fires to zero and limit property damage from structure fires to the area of origin, the MCFCFA**
 - *Advocates for complete automatic fire sprinkler protection of all new occupied construction, including one-and two-family dwellings;*
 - *Supports efforts to educate the public on the benefits of fire sprinkler protection;*
 - *Supports efforts to educate Code Officials on the benefits of fire sprinkler protection;*
 - *Advocates for the elimination of codes, laws, or policies that discourage the cost effective installation of fire sprinkler systems;*
- 2. In order to reduce firefighter fire ground deaths to zero, the MCFCFA**
 - *Supports efforts to educate firefighters as to the benefits of fire sprinkler protection in reducing firefighter deaths;*
 - *Advocates for complete automatic fire sprinkler protection of all new construction, including one-and two-family dwellings.*

If adopted by the state legislature, we are confident that the installation of residential sprinklers will prevent the needless loss of life of countless citizens throughout the great State of Montana.

Respectfully submitted,


Brent L. Christopherson, President
Montana Career Fire Chiefs Association

Cc: Crosby Grindle, NFPA Regional Manager

MONTANA CAREER FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION * 305 WEST WATSON * LEWISTOWN, MONTANA 59457



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Attachment – 2

Montana Career Fire Chief's Association

Position Statement

Medical Marijuana Grow Operation

Montana Career Fire Chief's Association (MCFCA) members are responsible for safeguarding the health, property and environment for over 550,000 Montanans each day. As Montana's fire service professionals we recognize and support the need for state and local oversight of businesses operating indoor grow operations to ensure the safety of the public and emergency responders.

The MCFCA has identified three main areas of concern related to indoor grow operations and strongly encourages state and local lawmakers to consider these concerns during promulgation of legislation and local ordinances.

- **Fire danger:** MCFCA research into fires resulting from indoor grow operation show reason for concern. Structure fires in both commercial and residential occupancies are generally the result of overloaded electrical circuits and wiring. The elaborate lighting systems required for indoor grow operations in northern climates can easily exceed the original electrical service of the home or office. Additionally, these lighting fixtures can produce considerable heat and are a potential ignition source for combustible materials.
- **Chemical danger:** Research also indicates that herbicides, pesticides and carbon dioxide are used to enhance plant growth and health. Use of these chemicals in an indoor environment can present serious health and safety concerns for employee, residents and emergency responders. Other agricultural operations require training and licenses to ensure proper use, application and personal protection equipment when using agricultural chemicals. Legislature must ensure that grow businesses are also properly trained licensed and certified to prevent personal injury and environment contamination. We strongly recommend lawmakers identify and legislated adequate safeguards to address unintentional chemical exposures.
- **Educational Outreach:** MCFCA members recognize that many indoor grow operations will occur in residential occupancies which aren't subject to fire code inspection or enforcement requirements. These grow operation present the greatest potential for a serious fire, injury and property loss. We would encourage state lawmakers to impose a requirement on commercial indoor grow operations to help promote educational awareness of fire and burn prevention of residential growers.

In closing, MCFCA thanks you for the opportunity to express our concerns related to indoor grow operations. We understand and appreciate the many issues associated with this topic and hope to be to offer a public safety perspective for consideration.



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Attachment – 3
 TEST Information

QUOTE

Montana Consortium of Fire Chiefs

T.E.S.T.
 Total Educational Solutions in Technology, Inc.
 PO Box 2900 • Missoula, MT • 59806
 1-888-401-6950 • (406) 541-6950 • fax (406) 541-6949

Date: September 29, 2010
 Attn: Brent Christopherson

Bridgit Data-Conferencing Software	Price	Qty	Extension
Bridgit Server Software with Max Participants User License (100+)	8,500	1	8,500
SUBTOTAL			\$8,500

vClicker Assessment Software	Price	Qty	Extension
vClicker Mobile Edition – 100 participants	5,000	1	\$5,000
Annual Maintenance (not charged until beginning of 2 nd year)	625		
- Annual maintenance is required and includes software upgrades and hosting fees			
- Annual maintenance can be prepaid up to 4 additional years			
SUBTOTAL			

SMART Meeting Pro Premium (Needed for Instructors Only)	Price	Qty	Extension
1-4 licenses	999/ea		
5-9 licenses	899/ea		
10-49 licenses	799/ea		
SUBTOTAL			

TOTAL			
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Above is a quote for the items you requested. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information. When you are ready to order, just fax a Purchase Order to our office at (406) 541-6949.

Keep in touch.
 Liz Cunningham
 T.E.S.T., Inc.
liz@testkids.com