

Spring/Summer 2021



Faribault Fire Department Hot Spots

Welcome to Hot Spots, the Faribault Fire Department newsletter. Hot Spots features information about the Fire Department's operations, training, response, safety tips, emergency management, and other points of interest.

ADMINISTRATION

Dustin Dienst, Fire Chief
Beth LaCanne,
Administrative Assistant

SUPPRESSION

Captains

Matt DeGroot
Joel Hansen
John Milewski

Firefighters

Chris Bauer
Jason Bauer
Josh Bauer
Alex Bolster
Alex Hanson
Rick Martinez
Brandon Ableman
Ryan Angelow
Jonah Baer
Ryan Bauer
Trevor Bauer
Andy Boevers
Jon Bolster
Brian Brazil
Marc Chmelik
Patrick DeGroot
Luke Donkers
Zach Greeney
Daniel Gruber
Benjamin Jirik
Chad Kreager
Alec LaCanne
Jeff LaCanne
Richard Momberg
Richard Rein
Jonathon Sheridan
Matthew Shuda
Jon Vargo
John Wunderlich

Faribault Fire Department
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507-334-8773

A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF

Severe weather can strike at any time, no matter the season. We know this as late September of 2018 is still fresh in some of our minds. We all know that we can't control the weather but we can prepare for it. Preparation includes having a plan of action for different types of severe weather. This plan needs to be flexible as weather does what it wants when it wants. You need to minimally think through or talk through your plan with those that will participate in the same plan with you. And you need to have multiple plans based on multiple locations. These plans save precious moments which can mean the difference between life and death.

FLEET FACTS: NEW 2116

2116 is our tanker/tender and it's primary responsibility is to transport water. 2116 is a 2018 Freightliner M2 112 chassis. Below is a list of the specifications:

- 450 HP Cummins L9 Engine
- 3,000 Gallon Poly Water Tank
- 500 Gallon per Minute PTO Driven Hale Water Pump (pump and roll capable)
- Rear Stainless Steel Newton 10" Square Dump Valve with 36" Telescoping Chute
- Dual Stainless Steel "Tip-Down" Portable Tank Carriers and 3,000 Gallon Portable Tanks
- Whelen LED Traffic Advisor
- Whelen LED Telescoping Scene Lights
- Electric Rewind Hose Reel with 100' of 1" Hose

2116 is our hydrant when we don't have a hydrant. We count on 2116 to bring us water for all of our fires

outside of the city limits. New 2116, as we call it, carries 1/3 more water than our previous 2116. Fires continue to burn faster and hotter because of synthetic materials. The faster we can put a larger volume of water on the fire, the better our chances for extinguishing it early. 2116 helps us accomplish that along with many other upgrades over our previous model. Give us a call if you have any questions about NEW 2116!



INCIDENT INSIGHT

It is grass fire season! Preparing for grass fires, or wildland fires, encompasses two things: equipment and training. We have awesome equipment that is maintained year-round, as this equipment can be used at any time for any kind of fire.

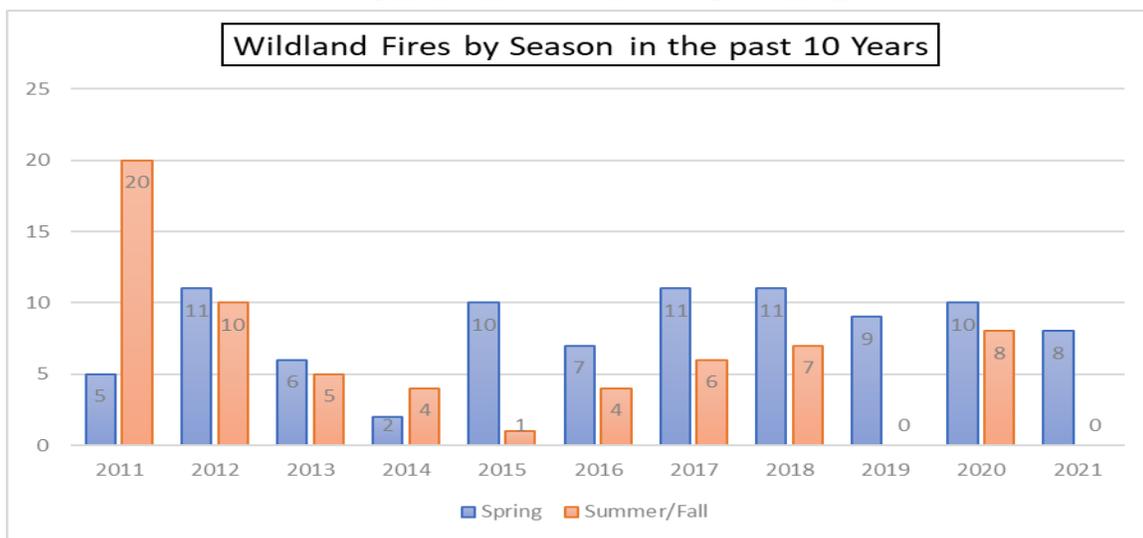
As we come out of winter weather we do shift some of our equipment readiness from cold weather conditions to warm weather conditions. This typically includes adding water to tanks that we kept dry during freezing weather. Our equipment is ready and now it is time to train.

We are blessed to have the River Bend Nature Center in our city limits. The nature center contains ideal locations for us to conduct prescribed burns. These prescribed burns don't only benefit the fire department by providing real

life grass fire training, but the burning of the native grasses growing in the areas that we burn is the best management tool for this resource. We work closely with nature center staff to choose the sites to be burned. There is a rotation of areas that we burn as a part of the management plan. This hands-on training is the best form of training for this type of incident.



WILDLAND FIRES



BURNING PERMITS & BURNING BANS

Open burns for grass fires require a burning permit.

Any controlled burn over 1 acre in size requires a burn permit through the local DNR office. The DNR Office in Faribault can be reached at 507-333-2012, ext. 223. The DNR office will approve the permit after inspecting the property and coming up with a fire management plan. Open burning permits require the applicant to follow a checklist to ensure life and property safety.

Did you know...

You can check to see if a burning ban is in place by visiting the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website at www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/ and then clicking on *Statewide fire danger & current burning restrictions* at the left. The map shows both the Fire Danger Rating and Current Burning Restrictions. You may also check with the County's Sheriff's Office or the Fire Department.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

We all have one (or should) but yet we don't give them much attention. That said, they don't need much attention. Try to take a look at them once a month. Check the gauge to ensure that there is pressure in the extinguisher. The needle should be in the green.

It is very important to keep your fire extinguisher handy. They tend to get stored someplace out of the way, but over time, can become buried behind other household items. In a home, it's not recommended to keep them in the kitchen, even though that is where most residential fires occur. Fire extinguishers should always be stored near an exit. This ensures that you have an exit behind you and do not get trapped by the fire.

The fire extinguisher shown in the image (below right) is an ABC type extinguisher. This is the most common extinguisher and is recommended that all homeowners have.

The larger the fire extinguisher, the more fire it will extinguish. However, larger fire extinguishers are also heavier. If you are unable to lift or handle it, you may not be able to use it when you need it most. When purchasing a fire extinguisher, be sure to get a size that you can handle.

WHAT TO DO WITH OLD FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

If yours has a pressure gauge, and the needle is in the green, even if the extinguisher is 10+ years old, it still may be good. If you are unsure how old your extinguisher is, or if it still works, you should replace it. You have to have confidence in your extinguisher if you are going to use it on a fire. The State of Minnesota and Rice County consider fire extinguishers as Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). This is due to the pressure inside the extinguisher. If the pressure is no longer present, then there is no hazard to an unsuspecting person handling the extinguisher. Ideally, if the fire extinguisher still has pressure inside but you want to dispose of it, it should be taken to the landfill and dropped off, free of charge. If the fire extinguisher is empty and/or unpressurized, it can be disposed of in the trash or recycling.



DID YOU HEAR THE SIRENS?

Scenario: A severe weather watch has been in effect all day. The sky is dark, looks ominous, and the winds are picking up. *Did you hear the sirens go off?* If yes, good! Likely, you were outdoors. But if you were indoors you may not hear the sirens.

Did you know you should not rely on outdoor sirens to alert you of severe weather when you are indoors? Siren activation is intended to warn those participating in outdoor activities of impending severe weather. When indoors, you should rely on other means of notification, such as TV, radio, a weather radio, or Everbridge Notifications.



BE PREPARED FOR SEVERE WEATHER

The biggest issue we have is being warned when severe weather approaching. We can't prevent severe weather, but we can be prepared to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. There are many ways to get notifications of severe weather, including:

- Through Apps and devices
- Listening to local radio stations
- Watch the weather forecast on TV
- NOAA Weather Radio
- Sign up for Everbridge Notification System

The Everbridge Notification System is free! Once you are signed up, you will receive emergency notifications on your cell phone, home phone, and/or email. Sign up through the City of Faribault website at www.ci.faribault.mn.us. Click on *Departments*, then *Police*, and *Emergency Info*.



SPRING SAFETY TIPS

YARD CLEAN-UP

Wondering how to dispose of sticks, leaves, & garden waste? They are to be composted.

The City of Faribault maintains a seasonal compost site.

- Located at 214 NE 14th Street
- Compost site is available only for residents within the City of Faribault free of charge
- Hours of Operation
Monday: 1 PM to 7 PM
Wednesday: 1 PM to 7 PM
Saturday: 8 AM to 4 PM
- Call the information hotline at 507-333-0390 for updates and more!

CAN I BURN YARDWASTE?

The answer is NO. In the city limits of Faribault it is illegal to burn any yard waste (including leaves and grass clippings) and you can be cited for doing so.

CAN I BURN MY GARBAGE?

The answer is NO. It is illegal in the entire State of Minnesota, to burn household garbage and you can be cited for doing so. Contact a licensed hauler for trash removal services. For a list of licensed haulers, call Heather at City Hall at 507-333-0353.



FIRE PIT SAFETY & REGULATIONS

We often receive inquiries about rules and regulations for fire pits or recreational fires.

Both are allowed within the City limits without a permit, but there are some regulations you should be aware of.



- Fires shall not be more than three (3) feet in diameter nor more than three (3) feet high.
- No fire shall be located less than 15 feet from any structure or combustible materials unless contained in a pit with a depth of not less than two (2) feet.
- Before a fire is lit, all of the ground within five (5) feet of the base of the fire shall be cleared of any combustible material.
- Fires shall be attended at all times by a person of suitable age and experience who is knowledgeable in methods of extinguishing fires and who has tools for extinguishing the fire readily available.
- Fires may be prohibited during a burning ban, so check first!
- Recreational Fires are defined as: "a fire for cooking, warming, or for recreational purposes burning only clean, untreated wood or charcoal."

GRILLING SAFETY

Warm weather is upon us! Keep these tips in mind to ensure a safe grilling season:

- Never use a grill indoors.
- Don't leave grills unattended.
- Keep your grill clean.
- Place the grill away from your home, deck railings and out from underneath the eaves.
- Check gas grill tubes and hoses before using a grill that has not been used in a while.
- Check the gas tank hose on propane grills for leaks before using them for the first time.
- When lighting a grill, keep the cover open. If it does not light in the first several attempts, wait five minutes before trying again.



DID YOU KNOW...

Most home fires involving grills are started by gas grills, not charcoal grills.