

LOCAL 2461 UPDATE



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2461 IN THE NEWS

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- [Strathcona County Firefighter Awards Queens Jubilee Medal](#)
- [Strathcona Firefighters and Vets Save Dogs Life](#)
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LOCAL NEWS

71-year-old man arrested for arson to own property

Written by Brandon Zdebiak Thursday, Jan 05 2023, 3:52 PM



LOCAL NEWS

Strathcona County firefighter awarded Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal

Written by Brandon Zdebiak Wednesday, Jan 04 2023, 2:30 PM



Strathcona County firefighters and vets save dog pinned during car crash

Written by Brandon Zdebiak Wednesday, Feb 15 2023, 11:39 AM



A small dog was rescued by Strathcona County firefighters from a car crash early last week. Photo provided via Facebook.

News / Local News

Fire destroys Clarkdale Meadows home

Travis Dossier

Published Dec 01, 2022 • 2 minute read

[Join the conversation](#)





From December 4th – 7th, 2022, the APFFPA held the annual Fall Legislative Conference. This is a chance for all Albertan Locals to gather in Edmonton and lobby their Provincial Representatives. This year the lobby items focused heavily on the EMS crisis, but as well as expanding our presumptive cancer coverage and pension options.

The APFFPA has created a website to clearly communicate our issues and as a reference for our elected officials. There has recently been movement on our presumptive cancer coverage, and the current government has been working on fixing the EMS crisis. We met with Minister Glubish who was receptive to our cancer lobby.

Political lobbying is an important part of our union. If we don't communicate with the decision makers, we can't influence change. The IAFF has always focused on presenting the problem, but also solutions to those problems. This website is part of that strategy:

[APFFPA Solutions Website](#)

[2461 2022 FALL LEG
OVERVIEW VIDEO](#)

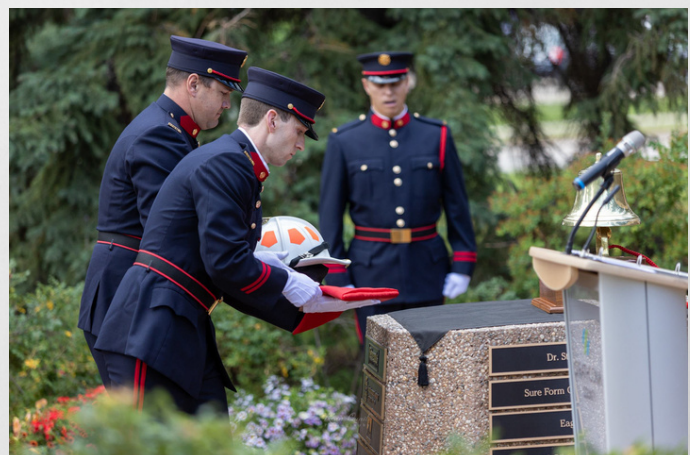
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The Memorial Foundation submitted a resolution at the 2023 AGM. To help with the long term sustainability of the Foundation it was proposed that \$2/member/month will be collected. This funding will help with the general administrative costs associated with running the Foundation. The resolution passed.

History of the Memorial

The memorial wall is a 6'x15' bronze memorial plaque designed by the artist Zazo. It depicts events from an actual incident in the Mills Haven neighbourhood where Strathcona County's integrated services were critical in a safe rescue and response. Residents were safely rescued from the fire by a firefighter on a ladder and handed over to awaiting fire fighter/paramedics where the residents were assessed and treated; all while a fire attack was being performed to extinguish the fire.

[2023 MEMORIAL
FOUNDATION UPDATE
VIDEO](#)



Recruitment Now Open

The Department is looking to fill up to 12 positions, with the potential of a few more depending on long term leaves.

The Executive recently signed an MOA allowing non-IAFF applicants to be recognized for their emergency services experience. We hope this will help boost applicants and the quality of candidates.

Please spread the word. If you know of a quality candidate please forward their information to Chief Terry and direct them to this [application link](#).

There is a general information session booked for March 25th at Station 6 from 9am - 3pm.

“

COUNTY RECRUITMENT
VIDEO



MELANSON RETIRES!

Our favorite motivational speaker has retired. After 36 years of dedicated service Chief Melanson's last day was January 23rd. Thanks to everyone that made it out to Blues On Whyte to send him off. Now the only ones that have to worry about him yelling are his cows.

A wooden engraved retirement gift was given to him by Three Platoon as well as a union plaque and monetary gift.

I'm sure if you need help moving, building, or putting in fence posts, he will still be the first to come help.

We wish Melanson all the best in retirement.



CONGRATS TO MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the recent recipients of the Queens Jubilee and Alberta Emergency Services Medals.

Queens Platinum Jubilee Medals recently awarded outside the department:

- Cpt Glen Hunker
- FF Tyler Brady
- FF Elliott Davis
 - FF Eric Lowe
- Katie Bickell (Spouses Association)

Members awarded the Queens Platinum Jubilee Medal:

- Div Chief Jeremy Rudrud
- Cpt Jay Hoffos
- Lt Iain Clavelle
- Lt Jason Coveney
- FF Warren Hartley
- FF Matthew Nixon
- FF Iain Thomas

Members awarded the Alberta Emergency Services Medal (12 years of service):

- FF Wes Abel
- FF Brad Dicks
- FF Brad Kudrowich
- FF Alex Ulmer
- FF Steve Johnston

Members awarded the Alberta Emergency Services Medal 22 year bar:

- PC Terry Smith
- Lt Chris Keen

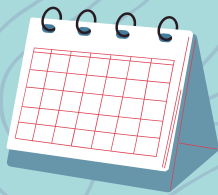


Alberta Emergency Services Medal

FYI: The Department has applied to the Province for all those eligible for the Alberta Emergency Services Medal (over 100 applications). They have been waiting for those applications to be approved. If you have time outside of SCES, please submit proof to the Honours and Awards Committee.

The Alberta Emergency Services Medal (AESM) honours emergency services personnel who are involved in supporting emergency prevention, preparedness and response in Alberta, and who have committed 12, 22, 32, 40 years of service

1



2

To be eligible for the medal, personnel must have been serving on or after January 1, 2000, in a sector of the Alberta emergency management system.

The Honours and Awards Committee applies for the AESM and at the Federal level, the Fire Services Exemplary Services Medal, on the members behalf once their time satisfies the eligibility requirement

3

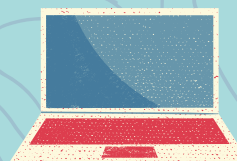


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Unless a member has provided the committee documentation of previous eligible service, their start date with SCES is what they go off of.

[Click here for the Alberta Emergency Services Medals Website](#)

5



Questions? Ask the [Honours and Awards committee](#)

PFAS

The "Forever" Chemicals



WHAT IS PFAS?

Per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a largely unregulated group of toxic, human-made chemicals. Their carbon-fluorine bond is nearly indestructible, they don't break down in the environment, and they are highly mobile in air and water. PFAS are used in hundreds of consumer products including non-stick coatings, textiles, food packaging, firefighting foams and gear, pesticides, carpets, artificial turf, furniture, car seats, outdoor gear, cosmetics, and many more.

Our Issue:

PFAS chemicals are found in all layers of firefighting bunker gear. They have also been found in firefighting foam and duty wear. PFAS-free DWRs for outer shells were made available in late 2022, so any gear purchased before that has PFAS in all layers, but also the PFAS originating in the moisture barrier migrates to all layers of the gear.

Exposure to these chemicals has been proven to cause cancer. It is concerning that fire fighters PPE contains chemicals that harm them. This is an unnecessary and unacceptable risk. Cancer continues to be the #1 killer of fire fighters.

The other concerning point is the IAFF believes the manufacturers of this gear have knowingly used these chemicals for decades and have underreported and understated the seriousness of this issue. These bunker gear manufacturers/chemical companies are being compared to cigarette companies in the scope and scale of the misrepresentation of their products and the associated cancer risks.



PFAS



Is there a solution?

According to the IAFF: "Identifying safe and effective PFAS-free materials for turnout gear is a long and challenging process."

Unfortunately, at this time there are no manufacturers that provide a completely PFAS free set of gear. We expect there are companies working on a solution, but for now, all firefighting gear contains some level of PFAS chemicals.

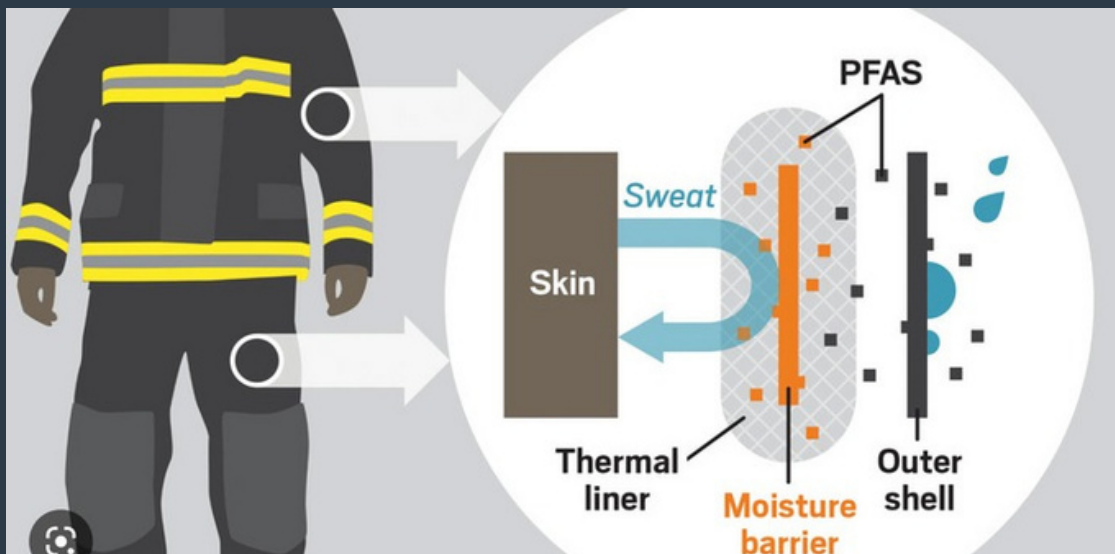
So what do we do?

- Limit your exposure to your bunker gear
- Do not run or workout in your gear
- Do not bring it into your living area or vehicles
- Do not shovel snow with your gear on
- Limit your time in your bunker gear as much as possible
- If you have expired/old gear, use your newer set
- Wash your hands after handling your gear
- Don't let kids wear the gear

What is SCES doing about PFAS?

Material management is aware and watching this issue. They have attempted to source PFAS free gear, but as described above, there just isn't an option at this time.

They have sourced PFAS free fire foam, confirmed our wildland gear and duty uniforms DO NOT contain PFAS and are in the process of changing out our non-stick pans for PFAS free pans.



ALBERTA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

The annual Spring Convention is a month away. This year Local 5277 Fort Saskatchewan is hosting. Fort Sask was picked as a sign of unity, all Alberta Locals will show up and support one of the newest Locals as they fight for their first contract and for safe staffing. When we come to town, the local politicians area aware. They must recognize that their decisions put firefighters and citizens at risk.

This was similar to last year, when the convention was held in Canmore as they struggled in their fight for more staffing. In a small win, they are now hiring two more full time members.

The theme for this year is "Strength Through Unity." Our members face obstacles everyday on the frontlines. But through working together we navigate and overcome these hurdles. Speaking of Albertan unity: Edmonton has voted to re-join the APFFPA. This will occur on March 30th.

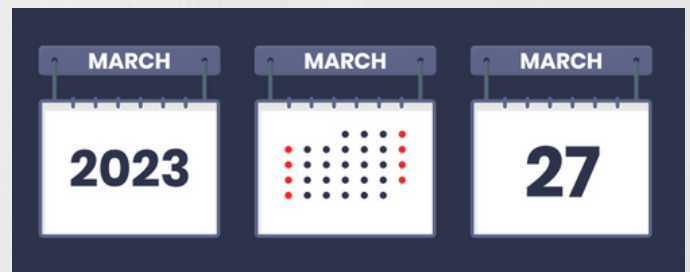
We continue to work united to solve issues facing Albertan Firefighters.

This years main topic will again be EMS. The APFFPA has continued to lobby for concrete change. You will see in the near future, a public, issues based campaign. It will focus the publics attention that we need to be "Close to home." When an emergency hits close to home, help needs to be close by. Too often our communities are left without access to EMS.



NO MARCH UNION MEETING!

All of the Executive Board will be out of town the end of March and we unfortunately had to cancel the March Regular Union Meeting. This newsletter will help pass on important info in the meantime! The next union meeting will be May 29th @ 1900.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- March, April, May, June - Negotiations continue
- March 27th - Retirees coffee, station 5. 10am
- March 27th - Union meeting CANCELLED
- March 27th - 29th - IAFF Spring Legislative Conference
- April TBD - Spouses Get Together
- April 30th - May 3rd - APFFPA Spring Convention in Fort Sask
- May 29th - Regular Union Meeting @ 1900

2023 MEDICINE CUP

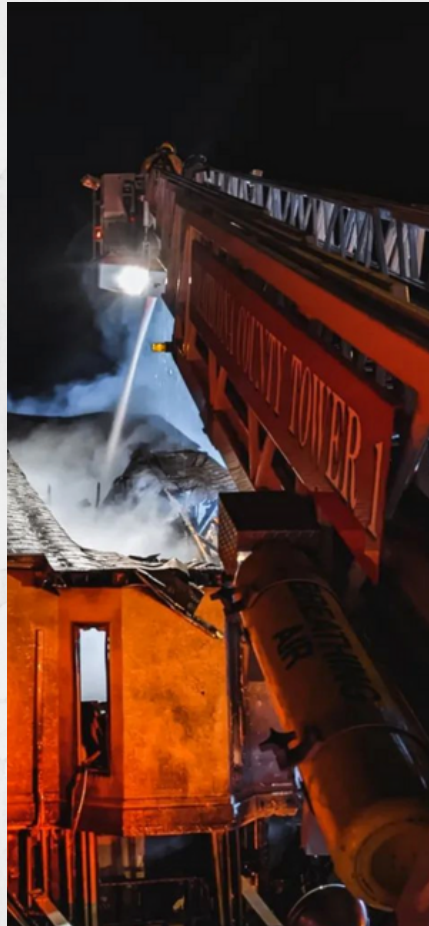


STRATHCONA FIREFIGHTERS



LIAISON ITEMS

- Meeting with Associate Commissioner
 - The Exec met with Jason Chance. This was an opportunity to ensure the EMS Committees report has reached his level, that it is understood, and that our members wishes are being taken into account during negotiations with AHS EMS.
- Paramedic School
 - Management expects to put two members through school this year, potentially three depending on budget.
- ACP vs. PCP ratio
 - Currently this ratio sits at 40% ACPs.
 - Many...many...many hours have been put into discussions/meetings over the ability to go to BLS, seniority based manning, inequity between ACPs and PCPs, and solutions to these issues.
- Carry Over of Classification MOA
 - This MOA will recognize past emergency services experience for new members. A new member may now start at up to a 1st class wage. This will help with recruitment and make switching to SCES more attractive to experienced workers.
- EDP
 - The annual EDP review is again happening. There have been questions around safety codes being included in EDP letters. Safety codes has been in a senior FFs EDP for quite awhile, but for approx 10 years the courses have not been available. This year, the courses are again available and are being included in members EDP. This is an awareness level course, is a one time course (does not expire), and does not require ongoing CE credits.



- EMS contract negotiations - Management met with AHS recently to lay the groundwork for negotiations. They have assured us that they are working closely with the other integrated services, are looking to protect our members wellbeing, and will advocate for important changes to the Provincial EMS system. They have said the EMS Committee report is being utilized in negotiations. See Chief Paulson's email from Feb 12th where he gives a good overview.
- Negotiations - Negotiations have started. Our first meeting was on January 23rd. Initial impressions are they are willing to work together to find solutions and create a better working environment. It is recognized our workforce has been stressed and improvements are needed. Cautiously optimistic.....
- Benefits Review - We have met with HR and have presented our benefits review package. There are items we are waiting to hear back from them on to continue working to improve your benefits package.
- The EMS working group - Capcara has directed the platoons to gather manning information. Once data is gathered the committee will review. This is to review the ACP/PCP disparity, seniority seat assignments, ALS vs. BLS ambulances, and to generally see if manning is being conducted in an equitable way.
- SCES Master Plan expected to be released in June. This will be our departments 10-12 year plan.
- Platoon Balancing - We spent a sizable amount of time dealing with the recent platoon moves. We continue to work on language solutions to improve the process.
- Overtime Bank - Discussion around resetting of hours vs. Not

UNION SHIFTS

These are the union shift needed this spring. If you can pick up a shift text Eric at 780-915-8488. All shift are also found on the app.

- March 26th NIGHT for DAVIS
- April 19th NIGHT for DAVIS
- April 30th NIGHT for LOWE
- May 1st NIGHT for LOWE
- May 2nd DAY for GAUVREAU
- May 3rd DAY for WOODLAND
- May 3rd DAY for GAUVREAU
- May 29th NIGHT for DAVIS
- May 29th NIGHT for WOODLAND



RESOLUTIONS

In preparation for the May Regular Union Meeting we have a number of resolutions to debate.

While we can only amend our Bylaws at an AGM, we can amend our Operating Guidelines at any union meeting that has quorum. The following resolutions are to update our Operating Guidelines.

Resolution #1: Operating Guideline Formatting

Submitted by: Secretary Lowe

WHEREAS, Our Operating Guidelines are one of two documents used by our Local to guide day to day decisions and,

WHEREAS, The current Operating Guidelines have a variety of formatting issues that make it difficult to read, find language and understand, and,

WHEREAS, To increase readability and to provide clarity, new formatting is needed, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Operating Guidelines be amended to use the same formatting as our Locals Bylaws.

COST ESTIMATE: \$0

Resolution #2: In Progress

**HAVE A
RESOLUTION TO
SUBMIT? SEND IT
TO ERIC**



BARGAINING

This continues to be the biggest topic members ask about. And with good reason. A well thought out and fair contract has massive implications on a workforce. The negotiations team met with management on January 23rd to exchange proposals. During the initial meeting ground rules were set, the schedule discussed, and proposals reviewed. This round of bargaining has us optimistic - Both sides are (mostly) amicable and willing to discuss issues in an open and honest fashion, we are in a period of growth, and changes in HR and management mean a more favorable atmosphere. Our next bargaining dates are set for March 20th, 21st and 22nd.

Revised Payroll Cutoff Dates

Payroll has needed to change our cut off dates. Please note your shift calendars are no longer accurate. The Revised payroll cutoff dates are: March 21st, April 18th, May 22nd, June 20th, July 19th, Aug 21st, Sept 19th, Oct 20th, Nov 20th, Dec 17th.

2461 Social

WE HAVE A TON OF NEW FACES AROUND THE HALLS. LETS BRING OUR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS OUT SO EVERYONE CAN GET ACQUAINTED. (THAT MEANS LEAVE THE KIDS AT HOME!). DETAILS ARE BEING IRONED OUT, BUT WE PLAN TO RENT A SPACE TO ENJOY SOME FOOD AND DRINKS.



April | Time & Location TBD

Obviously More Information Is Needed. It will come!