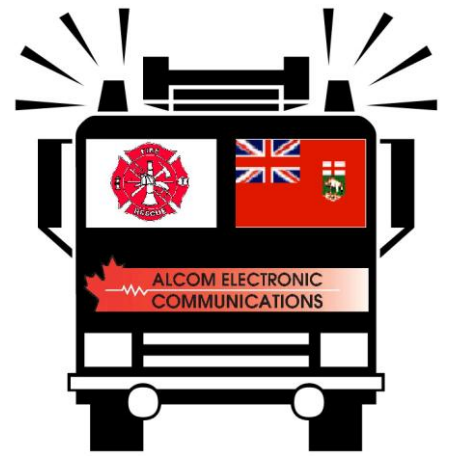


# FIRE SERVICE RADIO NEWS

January 2012



## St. Pierre Fire Departments Takes Delivery of a Brand New Multi-Purpose Truck

St Pierre Fire Chief Patrick LaRoche is extremely pleased with the new truck recently delivered by Grunthal Emergency Vehicles. For over eighteen years the department was using a bright yellow converted ambulance, dating to 1984, as a rescue van. As Chief LaRoche explains reliability and safety were becoming increasing concerns; "We were thinking one day, when is it going to fail? The steering was getting bad and you had to crank it again and again to get it to start."

When LaRoche took over as Fire Chief in 2010 the Municipal and Town councils had already been told of the need to replace the rescue van in a timely manner. They were pitched on a plan to invest \$220,000 in a new rescue truck.

Planning for the new truck got started in earnest in November of 2010. The first decision made was to get more bang for the buck by changing the plan to a combined rescue and grass fire truck. To do this a more compact design was chosen than for a typical rescue and a pump, tank and front mounted nozzle were added.

In addition to getting more value from this design the smaller chassis also lowered the budget substantially, coming in at around \$160,000. According to LaRoche the savings of \$60,000 softened the blow to the two councils and made it much easier to get their agreement to proceed quickly. The two councils granted their approval in January 2011 and soon thereafter the order was awarded to Grunthal Emergency Vehicles.



### Manufactured by Grunthal Emergency Vehicles

- Ford Super-Duty F450 Crew Cab Chassis
- 6.7L Power Stroke V8 Turbo Diesel
- SCBA Seating for 3 Equipped with MSA Breathing Apparatus from ABC Fire & Safety
- 18hp Honda Hale Pump with Electronic In-Cab Control System including Progressive Throttle
- 300 Gallon Tank
- Elkhart Brass Remote Monitor Nozzle with In-Cab Control System
- Intrinsically Safe Motorola XPR6350 VHF Portable Radios with Gang Charger



LaRoche and his team had some very specific expectations of this new truck. First they wanted the back seats in the crew-cab truck ripped out and replaced with three SCBA seats. Another feature they decided to add is the ability to start and prime the pump from inside the cab while on route.

When going to a motor vehicle crash or car fire these two features will save substantial time when seconds count. Three firefighters arriving on scene will be ready to go with their SCBA equipment and the water can be applied to a burning car without delay.

The jaws, cribbing, airbags, flashlights and traffic control signage are all on board the truck. It also carries a bank of six Motorola intrinsically safe rated portable radios ready to be deployed when arriving on scene.

It was important to LaRoche that they be able to grow the capabilities on the truck as budget allows. It was designed with enough storage space that more equipment can be added in the future including the stabilizing rods and bigger airbags that the department has on its wish list. The front of the truck is set-up so that a winch can be added without modification being required.

LaRoche is thrilled with the help he got in perfecting the truck design from Alex Hiebert of Grunthal Emergency Vehicles. "The idea of putting the nozzle on the front and being able to start the pump from in the cab came from Alex." says LaRoche, "He was awesome in helping out with everything."

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## Meet Rory Broder, Our Public Safety Communications Consultant

In the summer of 2009 Rory Broder accepted a position as a Communications Consultant with Alcom Electronic Communications. After receiving certification through Motorola's Radio Communication Representative training program Rory began providing customer service to Alcom's agricultural and commercial customers throughout South Eastern Manitoba.

In early 2010 Rory was tasked with responsibility for customer service for all public safety and municipal services clients throughout rural Manitoba. He now spends the bulk of his time working with Fire Departments, Municipal Emergency Coordinators and Public Works Managers. His efforts are focussed on helping them make sure their departments have the right communication tools to address day-to-day operations and large scale emergencies.

This assignment means Rory spends a lot of time on the road visiting fire departments throughout Manitoba. Rory says that he always learns something new whenever he visits a fire hall. "My customers have been my greatest teachers, helping me to understand just how important reliable communication solutions are to their operations. I get a great deal of personal satisfaction from seeing how the radio and paging systems we provide contribute to safety in our communities."

For over twenty-five years Alcom Electronic Communications has been trusted by public safety agencies throughout Manitoba to provide reliable communications solutions. Rory is committed to keeping up this tradition of superior service. This past October Rory received Expert Level Certification from the Motorola Solutions Learning Management System and he continues to engage in training programs to advance his knowledge and skills.



To learn how Alcom can support your Fire Department please contact

**Rory Broder**

Communications Consultant  
Public Safety & Municipal Services

**204-237-9099**

**1-800-579-2820**

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## Intrinsically Safe Radios & Pagers, An Essential Safety Consideration

When most any electrical equipment is used in a hazardous atmosphere there is the risk that electrical sparks and abnormally high temperatures within device components could ignite flammable or explosive substances in the surrounding air. Originally developed for process control instrumentation in hazardous areas, intrinsic safety is a concept essential for fire fighting and rescue operations.

Two-way radios and pagers commonly used by fire departments are examples of electrical equipment that, if not intrinsically safe, can be a source of ignition in combustible atmospheres. Intrinsically safe radios and pagers are designed to mitigate those risks.

Common situations where a hazardous atmosphere could be present include; chemical spills, motor vehicle crashes, confined space rescues, gas leaks, grain elevators and feed mills. When attending to any one of these scenes using radios that are certified as Intrinsically Safe will help you to ensure that your personnel are operating as safely as possible.

Factory Mutual (FM), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) are three accreditation bodies whose intrinsically safe certifications are commonly available in the North American market.

For any radios that your department may use in potentially flammable and explosive atmospheres be sure they are compliant with intrinsically safe standards.

Factory Mutual  
Intrinsically Safe  
Certification is standard  
with the Motorola  
Minitor V Pager



**MOTOTRBO  
XPR6350**  
CSA IS  
Certification  
Available

IS/Div 1, CL I, II, III, Grps C, D, E, F, G  
When used with Motorola battery PMNN4069A,  
PMNN4102A, Temp Code T3C,  
Amb Temp -20° C to +60° C, See mnl 6871532L01

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