

FIRE SERVICE RADIO NEWS

July/August 2014



MAFC Conference Hosted by Riding Mountain Mutual Aid District – A Great Success

The 2014 MAFC Conference held in Dauphin Manitoba was a great success. It started with golfing on Thursday morning at a gorgeous and challenging golf course located in Gilbert Plains. This was followed by the trade show located at Dauphin's Credit Union Place. The venue was ideal for the event with plenty of room in the arena for trade-show booths and equipment displays. Just outside the arena there were live vehicle extraction demonstrations. The trade show was well attended both Thursday evening and Friday afternoon.



The final event for the 2014 MAFC Conference was the Saturday evening banquet. At the banquet a draw was held for the Fire Chief's Vehicle Package supplied by SeaHawk, Pro Outfitters and Alcom Electronic Communications. The prize package, which includes complete vehicle lighting, controller, siren, Motorola Mototrbo XPR2500 Digital VHF Radio and complete installation, was won by Dick Vlaming, Chief of Springfield Fire and Rescue Service.

Congratulations Dick!

Next year the MAFC Conference will be hosted by Northeast Mutual Aid District. We look forward to seeing you there, June 4, 5, 6 at South Beach's Casino and Resort. Alcom will be there!

A huge thank-you goes out to Riding Mountain Mutual Aid District for organizing and hosting this very successful conference.



On Display in Dauphin: Fort Garry Fire Trucks pumper outfitted with two Motorola XTL 2500 dual-head radios supplied by Alcom. One radio for on-scene and one for wide-area communications.

Dual-head configuration allows full control of the radios from both the cab and the pump panel.

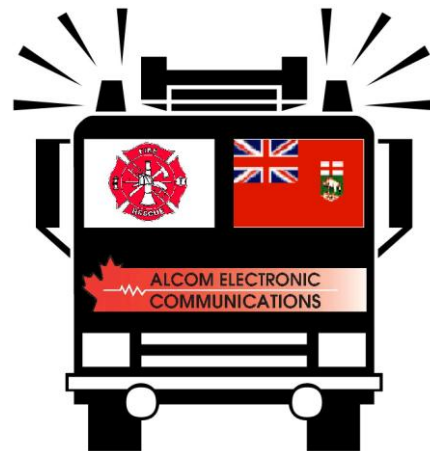
A promotional banner for Motorola radios. On the left, two firefighters in full gear stand next to a red fire truck. The main text reads "SPEED UP RESPONSE. STEP UP SAVINGS." in large, bold, white letters. Below this, it says "NOW THROUGH AUGUST 22, 2014". On the right, a black box contains the text "save UP TO \$2200" in white.



MOTOROLA, MOTO, MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS and the Stylized M Logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Motorola Trademark Holdings, LLC and are used under license. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ©2011 Motorola, Inc. All rights reserved.

FIRE SERVICE RADIO NEWS

July/August 2014



Kevin Wittmeier Loves Road Trips. Has He Visited You Yet?

Communications is a critical issue for any public safety agency. Getting an understanding of your communications needs is necessary before the right solutions can be designed and implemented.

Since joining Alcom nearly two years ago, Kevin Wittmeier has been going on regular roads trips to meet with rural fire departments. These visits allow Kevin to gain an understanding of their needs, in depth and in person.

Kevin is Alcom's public safety specialist. He is responsible for customer service for Alcom's clients involved in public safety and municipal services and spends most of his time working with rural fire departments, public works departments and school divisions throughout Manitoba.

"I recognize the challenges that fire departments face, with high demands for service and very limited budgets," explains Kevin, "and the best way I can help them meet those challenges starts with getting familiar with their specific individual situations. That means coming out to the fire hall, learning what equipment is in place and how it is being used, finding out where the gaps in coverage are – and that applies to the paging system, cellular, FleetNet and VHF. Every fire department is different in these ways."

This applies at the level of the mutual aid districts as well. The geographic and topographical differences across Manitoba make the communication realities of each mutual aid district unique.

"Although each department is different, I have noticed some patterns," reports Kevin. "There are some issues that come up more than others when I am visiting a fire department."



"I love road trips!"

Kevin Wittmeier, Public Safety Communications Consultant

Here are some of the most common issues Kevin has recently helped fire departments to address:

- Finding the best place to keep radios in the fire hall.
- Operating FleetNet Radios (channels and zones).
- Increased safety with intrinsically safe equipment.
- How to send pages from the incident command radio to on-scene pagers.
- Frequency assignments – what channel to use for on-scene versus liaison with other agencies.
- Creating back-up systems and mobile command centres for emergency measures.

By investing the time to understand the distinctive circumstances of your individual fire department and mutual aid district, Kevin is better able to help you assess your needs and design solutions that help you keep your firefighters and your communities safe.

"I love road trips!" says Kevin.

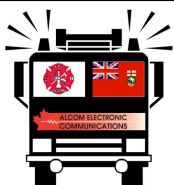
Invite Kevin out to your next training night or mutual aid meeting.

You can reach Kevin at the Alcom office at 204-237-9099 or by e-mail at kwittmeier@alcom.ca.

FIRE SERVICE RADIO NEWS

Receive this newsletter by email!
Send us an email requesting a
subscription today.

Send your request to rwaisman@alcom.ca



30th
Anniversary

#12 – 846 Marion Street Winnipeg, MB., R2J 0K4

204-237-9099
www.alcom.ca