

December 2003

SARS, MAD COW, WEST NILE AND THE BLACK OUT OF 2003... WHAT'S NEXT!

President's Message

IS IT TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Holy Shoot! Where has the year gone? Are you sure this isn't spring not winter? Wait, we did play golf not too long ago and somebody won. You'll hear about that later in this issue.

Congratulations to all of the participants, you made the 2003 version a success once again. This year's contribution has been sent to Lambton College to support two more students in the Fire Science Technology program and more potential employees for each of us. More dedicated people into the field. That's not a bad thing. All in the name of a really good guy who didn't play golf, Bill Beatty. He sure did fight fire and respond to other emergencies though. That was his "bag".

Makes on think of our organization, one to which Bill gave much time. Are we really a "fire" organization or have times changed. When I was running around Northern Ontario in the early 80's, trying to get members to join this then new association, I talked to mostly fire chiefs of the various businesses in Northwestern Ontario. I'm not sure that the people today have those same responsibilities. As a matter of fact, I know they do not. Today, the responsibility covers all kinds of response from medical to hazmat to fire to who knows what? *Times have changed.*

Perhaps it is time we changed the title of the organization. Not the intent! The intent is very good. To continue to help each other in the business with information, contacts, to act as a source of information, training and mutual support. That's the good part. It is only the name that may be misleading. **The Ontario Industrial "Fire" Protection Association.** There it is right there "Fire"! Does this limit our perception in the minds of someone reading this title? Do we attract new members with this title?

If you look at our seminars, our primary way of getting information out to our members and others, we deal with TDG, emergency planning, bomb threats, confined space, hydrants, and a whole host of other subjects. Most not having to do strictly with fire. When we look at who attends the seminars, most of the people are not members of the O.I.F.P.A. Wait a minute,

something is wrong here! They spend the time and money to come to the seminar but do not join the organization? What are we missing? Is it perception? Wrong perception? **We are more than fire!**

At a recent (Saturday) board meeting (Thanks for coming on Saturday people!) we discussed this very topic. Some suggestions were to change the name to “Ontario Industrial Fire and Emergency Response Association”, “Ontario Industrial Emergency Response Association”, leave it as the “Ontario Industrial Fire Protection Association” but advertise it differently, and several others. I would like some discussion to go on before the Annual General meeting (AGM) so this may hit the floor with some thought having been given to it. Send your comments to me at rhansen@northsafety.ca or Greer Gordon at the office. We look forward to your views and comments, even if you think we’re crazy!

Speaking of the AGM, somewhat of a switch this year. I am please to announce that our Annual General Meeting will be held on April 27, 2004 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association at the Metro Toronto Convention Center. We will have our own meeting room on the bottom floor and you will have access to the full trade show, the largest of its type in Canada for a full afternoon. We will also have a booth in the trade show to help us advertise and attract new members to the Association. IAPA is on the safety side and OIFPA on the fireside, not a bad combination. We will also have two speakers in the main IAPA conference, a first for our organization. The tentative speakers are Cyril Hare on Emergency Planning and Bret Bailey on Bomb Threats. Good exposure for our efforts, especially since full day seminars will be held later in the year on these very topics. Further information will be forwarded to you soon, so book your time now!

Seminars for the last half of 2003 did not fare so well. Some had to be cancelled. The Board has decided that the format of the seminar presentations should be changed to offer more value, which means holding full day seminars on several new, exciting topics to be announced shortly. If you have suggestions, it’s not too late to get them in to us and perhaps we can put together something in your topic of interest. That’s what we’re here for! Let one of us know, or simply call the office.

Last, but far from least, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors of the Ontario Industrial (?) Association, I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous and Prosperous New Year!

Rick Hansen

Seasons Greetings



8th Annual Wm. Beatty Golf Tournament

Another successful tournament was held this year with glorious weather at the Niagara Parks Whirlpool Golf and Country Club, Niagara Falls. Yes, it was the 8th year of a golf tournament that started out to be an “old boys” -- let get the guys together on behalf of ‘ol Billy.

If it was making money for his newly created Fire Science Technology Course for Lambton College or the Ontario Industrial Fire Protection Association, he was all for it.

Eight years of holding this successful golf tournament has helped us assist 14 students over the past seven years and we still have money in the bank for the future. We are very proud of this event and with the help that we receive from our various contributors and participants we will continue to support students in the Fire Science and Technology program at Lambton College

This year we thank the following for Tee-sponsorship -

- Atlantic Packaging
- Bruce Power
- Suncor Energy Projects
- NRTC Ltd.
- North Safety Products
- Unilever Canada
- S.A. Armstrong
- St. Clair Township Fire Dept.
Corunna Station
- Ontario Fire Marshal’s Public Fire
Safety Council
- Angus Fire
- Securitas Canada
- Draeger Canada
- Capp Marketing
- Lakeshore Hydrant Services
- MeadWestvaco
- Lambton College- Industrial Fire
School
- Team One Environmental Services
- ESSO
- Fire Monitoring of Canada
- Levitt Safety
- DuPont Personal Protective Apparel
- Dana Canada
- Resqtech Systems
- Fire Fighting in Canada
- **THANK YOU ALL!!!**

Our overall winners for the day were –

LOW GROSS

BLAKE WILLOCK

LOW NET

ANDY HESS

LONGEST DRIVE

RAY PLEASANCE

CLOSEST TO THE PIN

KURT BALSER

And our sincerest thanks for **Holly Barkwell-Holland, Fire Monitoring of Canada**, who consistently joins us with a four-some and wins for the ladies! Congratulations.

*Our sincere appreciation to all of our golfers
who joined us again this year to make our
8th Annual Wm. Beatty Golf Tournament another success!!!!*

Stop Static and Refuel Safely with Every Fill-up

The Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to try to educate people to fires caused by static electricity at gasoline filling stations. They have researched over **150** cases and the findings were surprising.

Almost all cases involved the person getting back into the vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas, when finished they went back to pull the nozzle out when a static spark ignited the fuel vapours.

Safe Refueling and Fuel Handling Guidelines for Consumers

Here are consumer refueling and fuel safety guidelines that will help keep you and your family safe when refueling your vehicle or filling up gasoline storage containers:

- . Turn off your vehicle engine while refueling. Put your vehicle in park and/ or set the emergency brake. Disable or turn off any auxiliary sources of ignition such as a camper or trailer heater, cooking units, or pilot lights.
- . Do not smoke, light matches or lighters while refueling at the pump or when using gasoline anywhere else.
- . Use only the refueling latch provided on the gasoline dispenser nozzle, - never jam the refueling latch on the nozzle open. . **Do not re-enter your vehicle during refueling.** . In the unlikely event a static-caused fire occurs when refueling, leave the nozzle in the fill pipe and back away from the vehicle. Notify the station attendant immediately. Do not over-fill or top-off your vehicle tank, which can cause gasoline spillage. Avoid prolonged breathing of gasoline vapors. Use gasoline only in open areas that get plenty of fresh air. Keep your face away from the nozzle or container opening.

When dispensing gasoline into a container, use only an approved portable container and place it on the ground when refueling to avoid a possible static electricity ignition of fuel vapors. Containers should never be filled while inside a vehicle or its trunk, the bed of a pickup truck or the floor of a trailer.

Hydrogen Explosion...

Exactly one week after the August “Black-out” the early evening was shaken by a severe blast. An explosion had occurred in an Oil manufacturer’s hydrogen processing unit’s compressor building. The blast was heard as many as twenty miles away and damage to the compressor building, pipe work and ancillary structures were severe.

Fortunately, there were no injuries although one person came very close. An operator working on a landing near the top of the compressor building heard an exceedingly loud roar of escaping gas. Experience told him this situation was dangerous abnormal and the best tactic was to get to a safer area and try to determine what was happening. The operator managed to get down from the platform he was working on and about 50 feet down the street when the building he had been work on exploded.

Corrugated roofing shards rained down on the process area for hundreds of feet around. The blast concussion knocked the operator to the ground. Shaken, he picked himself up and looked in amazement at the bulged walls and shattered roof that only a second ago, was a sturdy building. With horror, he looked to the area where he had been working and saw a wide pillar of highly pressurized burning hydrogen totally engulfing the spot where he had been working... seconds ago.

Hydrogen as many of you know, is the lightest gas on the periodic table, and it is extremely flammable. Flammable limits of gasses and vapours are measured in the percentage of their concentration in a normal atmosphere. The lowest concentration of gas that will ignite in normal atmospheric conditions is called the Lower Explosive Limit. Beneath this level, there is not enough of the flammable material to provide an ignition. At the other end of the scale, the Upper explosive limit is the measurement where the concentration of the flammable material is greater than the available oxygen in the atmosphere can support combustion, or in other words, the mixture is too rich. The measurement between the Lower and Upper Explosive limits is called the explosive range.

Hydrogen has a very broad explosive range; meaning that it is flammable at most levels of concentration. The Lower Explosive Limit for hydrogen is roughly 2 percent in normal air while the Upper Explosive Limit is as high as 75 percent in normal air. Any concentration between these two points is explosive. As a comparison, propane, such as the fuel for our barbecues, has a lower explosive limit of 2.4 and an upper explosive limit of 9.5, a much narrower explosive range.

Under certain conditions, hydrogen in small amounts may easily dissipate in the atmosphere with no harm done. In a situation where hydrogen is under pressure and leaks into the atmosphere, it can ignite spontaneously with a near invisible flame. Being so light, one would not suspect it to cloud or pool as leaking propane a heavier gas does. These principles take on different dynamics when you are dealing with hundreds of thousands of cubic feet of hydrogen at over 3000 pounds pressure per square inch.

Beneath at ground level and about twenty feet aside from the platform the operator was working on, a three-inch pipe had over time corroded at an elbow. Through a one-inch crack about an eighth of an inch wide, hydrogen roared out at 3,000 psi flooding a process area and the interior of the compressor building. Almost immediately, the widening cloud reached its explosive range and ignited over 60 feet from the source of the leak.

As stated earlier, the damage to the building from the explosion was severe, and not what would have been expected from a “normal” explosion. Blast imprints (buckled wall surfaces, ripped pipe cladding and building panels wrapped around pipes or impaled on valve stems) all showed that the explosion took place outside the west wall of the compressor building. The west wall was buckled inward over two feet in places. From this point, directly across the compressor building, the east wall was also blown and structural beams and supports were all that kept the wall cladding material roughly in its original location. Hydrogen collected beneath the roof of this structure and the force of the blast shattered the roofing material strewing it over a wide area on the east, away from the direction of the blast.

The velocity of the hydrogen escaping the confines of its pipe at 3,000 psi, allowed the hydrogen to travel as far as it did before the front wave of gas had dissipated from a very rich concentrated stream to a cloud of gas in its explosive range. The reason the explosion did not occur closer to the leak source may be in part by the “wave” of gas actually pushing air in front of it. This push could have gone on until the air was able to overcome the momentum of the gas and began to mingle with the hydrogen. This was a true “Unconfined vapour cloud explosion”.

The characteristics of gases vary tremendously. Lighter than air gases such as hydrogen, can completely permeate an atmosphere and cause a wide based explosion as in this situation and most likely, in varying densities or concentrations of gas. The blast zone outside the building on the west and the blast that occurred inside the building were likely two separate clouds, one igniting off the other almost instantly.

Heavier than air gases such as propane, have been known to travel great distances in ditches and low lying areas before they find a source of ignition. The difference is, heavier than air gases may tend to remain more localized as a cloud and the area where a dissipated cloud fringe may form and explosive range will be short and better defined than you will find in a rapidly diluting cloud like hydrogen. Remember too, light and heavy gases will accumulate in different locations. Hydrogen will collect in ceilings and high places, where heavier gases, in trenches, valleys, basements and other low levels.

In considering storage of flammable gases, remember that higher-pressure gases will travel farther before they are diluted to an explosive range in any direction. Look for gas collection points both above and below and ensure you can deal with gas accumulations before they explode.

Bret Bailey

Breaki ng News

for the Ontario Industrial Fire Protection Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – TUESDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2004 will be held at the Toronto Convention Centre in conjunction with the IAPA Conference.

The OIFPA will have a booth at the Conference for three days as well as the members will be invited to the Annual General Meeting for the morning of Tuesday, April 27th and then will have the afternoon to review the Exhibitor Floor for the afternoon.

Cyril Hare will be speaking to the attendees on Emergency Planning and then **Bret Bailey** will speak on Bomb Threat and Security. Both of these topics will be held at a later date for a full one day seminar to the members of the OIFPA.

The cost for the members of the OIFPA will be \$150.00 plus G.S.T. to attend for that day.

All details will follow in an upcoming mailing.

Upcoming Seminars for 2004

All to be finalized the first of the year but the following are tentative one day seminar topics

- .1 **Ontario Fire Code – Part 4** - once passed all the information that you will need to know.
- .2 **Firefighting and the New Electrical Code** – all the changes that have been implemented and you should know.
- .3 **Confined Space Entry and Rescue** – scheduled for the middle of March at Echelon Response and Training Inc., Stoney Creek. Date to be confirmed.
- .4 **Bomb Threat and Security** – updated information by Bret Bailey scheduled for April / May and location to be determined.

- .5 **Hazardous Waste** – complete understanding of the waste stream system from start to finish to be held at the Holiday Inn, Oakville – Date TBC.
- .6 **Sudbury** – for all those in the north country we are coming back with a full day of information to be determined and date to be confirmed.

All completed information will be forthcoming to you in the new year. However, if you have a topic that you would like to have presented, contact the office and let us know. We can find the speaker and the location. Give the Board of Directors the challenge of a “Hot Topic” of interest and/or concern for the members.

PELHAM FIRE DEPT. TRADE SHOW

Thank you for the Pelham Fire Dept and Volunteers who invited the O.I.F.P.A. to join them at their 1st Annual Trade Show Saturday, September 6th, 2003

We look forward to participating again next year.

Membership Update...

Change your records:

Karen Floyd
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The Niagara Parks Commission
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Fax: 905-356-9019
E-mail: kfloyd@niagarparks.com

Mel Humber and Tom Kirkwood
DuPont Canada
Now **Investa Canada** as of January 1, 2004
Telephone and Fax remain the same.
e-mail changes.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

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**THANK YOU from the Members of the OIFPA
for the continued support to our Association to**

Fire Fighting in Canada
The Messenger –OFM
Canadian Security

Fire Services Journal
Industrial Emergency
Canadian Firefighter

IN THE LINE OF DUTY?

Part of an article By Brian Gray

Taken from The Toronto Sun, Friday February 7, 2003

The Toronto Professional Fire Fighters' Association spokesman Rick Berenz reported that Cancer resulting from years of fighting fires is an all too common event.

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board for benefits recognizes certain cancers as workplace-related for firefighters because of the "chemical soup" they possibly face every time they do their job.

It is becoming obvious that employees faced with workplace environments that contain toxins, chemicals and pollutants, as well as those working in a high stress environment, are at higher risk of cancer and other diseases.

Scientific studies have shown that proper cellular communication is crucial in protecting the body from disease. There is no question that when cellular communications break down, so does our health.

When immune cells mistake the good guys for the bad guys and engage in cell-to-cell combat, auto-immune diseases can develop. In the case of Cancer, the uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells is permitted to reproduce due to serious immune collapse. Cancer is permitted to grow unchecked because our immune surveillance system falls asleep.

Glyconutrients are shown to modulate the immune system, therefore helping the body fight cancer in four ways: First, by stimulating the immune killer cells to destroy cancer. Second, by increasing the production of substances to target and destroy malignant cells. Third, they activate T-cells to recognize invaders and destroy them. Fourth, they help to regulate when cells die off. When this safety mechanism fails, cancer cells are allowed to keep replicating.

Studies have also shown that Glyconutrient supplementation enhances the effects of chemotherapy and protects the healthy cells. People consuming Glyconutrients report far less side effects from their treatments, less infections and better tissue and muscle health.

For more information on Glyconutrients and Cancer and other health problems see www.glycoinformation.com

Call (905) 681-8186. or e-mail www.marlen@skylinc.net

SEMINAR IN REVIEW....

Peterborough –Fall Protection – Rescue Retrieval System and Gas Monitoring was a huge success and well received from all participants. Acklands Grainger had an excellent presentation to those present and all participants went away with a wealth of knowledge

Sudbury – Confined Space: Entry and Rescue The first Luncheon Seminar to be held in the North for a number of years took place on September 19th at the Alertech Fire Training facility in Azilda, Ontario. Draeger Canada Canadian Mining Manager Ray Dufour presented the history of rebreather apparatus and demonstrated the Draeger 4 breathing apparatus. Jason Bewers and Eric Cotter from Rescue 7 provided an interesting view of Confined Space Rescue and had on display a selection of retrieval equipment and medical equipment including a 'smart' BVM and a new defibrillator. Rick Hansen coordinated the seminar, which was hosted by Falconbridge Ltd. Following lunch, a tour of the Trillium Centre building and an Alertech technician conducted the Alertech Fire training ground. Attendees had an opportunity to view the 5 story Training Tower, Confined Space training module, Flashover Simulator, dedicated pads for Auto-ex, Hazmat, Live burns and Pumper operations.

Considering the spring seminars had to be cancelled due to SARS these two seminars were a great comeback. Thank you to all participants, hosts and speakers.



It is never too early to start planning for the
9TH ANNUAL WM. BEATTY GOLF TOURNAMENT

We are looking into moving it up a week to
September 16th, 2004 and we will remain at
Niagara Parks Whirlpool Golf and Country Club
Price remains the same at **\$150.00 plus G.S.T.**

Vehicle Safety: "NEVER" USE CRUISE CONTROL ON WET PAVEMENT

A 36-year-old female had an accident several weeks ago and totaled her car. A resident of Kilgore, Texas, she was traveling between Gladewater & Kilgore. It was raining, though not excessive, when her car suddenly began to hydroplane and literally fly through the air.

She was not seriously injured but very stunned at the sudden occurrence! When she explained to the highway patrolman what had happened he told her something that every driver should know - NEVER DRIVE IN THE RAIN WITH YOUR CRUISE CONTROL ON. She had thought she was being cautious by setting the cruise control and maintaining a safe consistent speed in the rain. The Highway patrolman told her that if the cruise control is on and your car begins to hydroplane (when your tires lose contact with the pavement) your car would accelerate to a higher rate of speed.

We all know you have little or no control over a car when it begins to hydroplane. The highway patrol estimated her car was actually traveling at 10 to 15 miles per hour faster than the speed set on the cruise control.

The patrolman said that all cars should have a warning on the drivers seat sun visor - NEVER USE THE CRUISE CONTROL WHEN THE PAVEMENT IS WET OR ICY along with the airbag warning.

Share this safety tip with others, especially people who drive for your organization. You might save a life.

INSERT – Thank you to “The Voice” for the article – Is Your Recruit Firefighter – “Air Aware?” October Issue 2003

Change in Membership Information

Notify the office of any changes to your membership.

Company Name, Position, Telephone / Fax Number
and

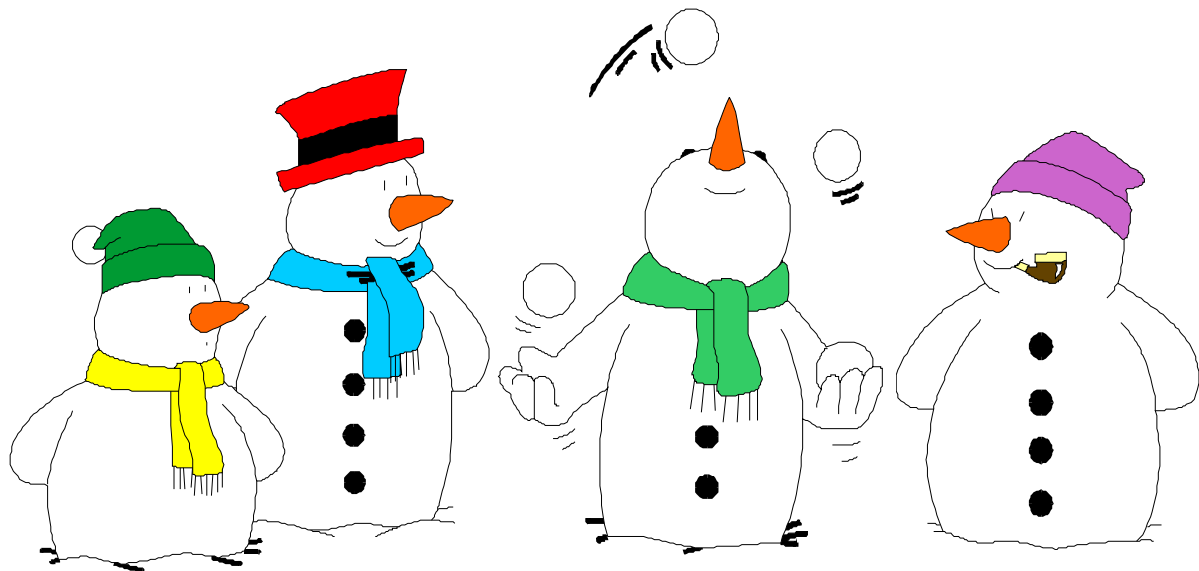
especially e-mail

It helps to keep our records up to date and you don't miss out on any information.

Board of Directors 2003 - 2004

Rick Hansen	President	North Safety Products
Doug Scale	Past President / Technical Advisor	Lambton College – Fire School
Bret Bailey	1 st V.P. / Newsletter	Target Zero
Cyril Hare	2 nd V.P.	Leber Rubes Inc.
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Bob Cowin	Membership	Lakeshore Hydrant Services
Syd Hopkins	Membership	PepsiCo Foods, Retired
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Greg Chorpitta	Golf Co-ordinator	Unilever
David Hill	Director	Echelon Response & Training
Shawn Kirwan	Director	Falconbridge (Sudbury)
Greer Gordon	Executive Director	O.I.F.P.A.

From all of us to all of you



HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND THE BEST OF EVERYTHING FOR 2004