



2022 Fire Conference

The 2022 Fire conference has been a very beneficial conference for me and Johan to attend and will be advocating to attend the future conferences to come. In signing in for the conference I made sure I did not attend the same classes as Johan so we can bring more knowledge to our fire Conference, so this is what I have learned from my time at the fire Conference.

The first two days of my Conference was in the maintenance and inspections. I feel I have a more of a foundation in trying to receive a new water tender to replace the tanker we have today. There are a lot of exemptions for first responder vehicles, like the amount of weight that can be on a large vehicle. In attending the class, I have learned what to look for, as the mechanical side of things go. There are certain lengths the breaks must be under and other items on the vehicle that is not supposed to move at all. I also learned of several programs to help keep track of vehicle maintenance and inspections which I hope to explore more in the next couple of days.

Wednesday was the official opening sessions for the conference and fire chiefs' meetings. I did attend the rural fire chief meeting and learned the contacts for training on the fire side. I also learned that the AFG Grant may not be the best option for the use of purchasing a new water tender as they may deny us due to the lack of FF1 and FF2 training. I might be able to start a discussion with other vendors in them helping us work on a grant. I also learned about the state-run program call BFAST. This is a state-run department which allows rural fire departments to have access to fire training, SEREMS for Fire for example. I will be using this to find training we need for our fire department.

There was also a vendor trade show which I saw a couple items which I believe would help the fire department function smoother. Both of which is something I will present on another presentation when ready.

The next day was a community support which was not much of a class but a talk about how the fire chief's fire department handled their community outreach. I do believe there some value for the class, but it may not be adding anything new for us as we are already doing the work for that. The second half of the day may open some options for us, however. The next class was the Burn Trailer overview. This class was to go over the new burn trailer the state of Alaska purchased, which they would bring to rural communities in Alaska. This trailer is capable for providing simulated fire for firefighters to run training scenarios during training. This is something I would like to work with the National Park Service to see if we can have a week or two training with this trailer. This would possibly allow us to add Fire Fighter 1 and/or 2 firefighters to the cadre of volunteers.

The next class was Does your Training Meet the standards which I have learned about different departments how they work with their training and which standards we should follow. While there is a starting point on our paperwork, we do not have anything to reference for moving forward in a volunteer career. While I am not going add anything drastic, I would like to add on to the training for the fire department. While the class did not go over the how in detail, it showed their department's training record and how they use it to rank their staff. The item I would like to set up four department is a step-by-step process. The first step would be to have a list of training skills which every volunteer be able to do in their perspective field whether is just fire, EMS, or both. Next would be items they should have if they wanted to move along in the volunteer career, nothing huge, and things they may be crossing off without knowing.

I want to thank the city for allowing us to attend the 2022 Fire Conference in Fairbanks and will be putting a request for funding for the 2023 fire conference in Valdez.