

Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade News



An unidentified member of the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade attends to one of the cattle trapped inside the overturned trailer on Highway 104. (Peers Photo)

By Clair Peers (OBFB Publicity)

Looks like an early spring for sure. Firefighters from all Brigades had a rash of calls for grass fires in March when the weather got nice and dry conditions came early. There were no serious fires, but a few close calls. Since then we have had some damp weather, which has helped out. A reminder though, that, although the grass is getting

green now & the threat of grass fires is minimal, it only takes a few days of sunny weather to dry the forest and bush again. So it is still important to be extra careful & vigilant. If you see a potential problem, don't hesitate to call 911 and report it. A few minutes can make a big difference.

OBFB has ordered a new Emergency Response Truck

that will replace the Medical First Response Suburban that is now in service. The new rear dual wheel 1 ton will also replace the old 1974 Chevy 4WD that serves as a forest & bush fire unit. Watch for news more on that.

2011 is the 50th anniversary of the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade. We are looking for any historical info, pictures etc you may have to add



Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade members played an important role in rescuing cattle at the freak accident on Highway 104. (Peers Photo)

to the data that is already being compiled. If you think you have anything of interest, send an email or call Walter at 897 6025

In the last couple of months we have had the usual number calls, but nothing too serious except for the one you heard about last week involving a cattle truck on the 104 highway.

At approximately 10:30 pm April 8 a cattle truck loaded with Sheep and cows headed to PEI, left the highway between exits 12 and 13 on the 104 west bound lane (Debert and Masstown).

Firefighters were dispatched to the scene and remained until 2:00 am. On arrival at the scene, Chief Greg Muise made the quick determination that in the best interest of everyone; the highway should be closed off in both directions. With the assistance of Department of transportation and RCMP the 104 was blocked & traffic was re-routed to the old trunk 2 highway.

The driver of the truck was taken to Colchester Hospital & later released. Several cattle and sheep escaped from the trailer through a hole in the roof. The highway was closed

all night to prevent risk of collisions with cattle that were roaming. A car hit one sheep shortly after the mishap.

Firefighters used a saw to cut through the steel door of the trailer so the remainder of the trapped animals could be removed. Several cows had to be euthanized by a veterinarian called to the scene. The cattle were off-loaded to another truck with the assistance of local farmers and cattle truckers, who also showed up to help. Highway caution signs remained for the next few days.

Residents who don't have a proper property number marker placed at the end of the driveway are reminded, we have lots of approved signs on hand & will install them upon request at a cost of \$25.00 payable to The Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade.

It is important to have these illuminated signs. When a call comes in to 911, dispatch gives your number to the Police, ambulance, fire department etc. Precious minutes can be wasted if we can't see your number.

If you need a number call 897 6025 or any firefighter or just go to our website <http://www.onslowbelmontfb.ca/> Next month watch for an article on the illegal use of handheld devices in Motor Vehicles and the hazards they cause.

Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade News can be viewed at: Website: <http://www.onslowbelmontfb.ca/>

If you feel the need to light a fire, think about the potential consequences and also how smoke will affect your neighbors. Some towns, villages and municipalities have banned open fires unless they are done in approved outside burning appliances. In Colchester County burning permits are required after April 15. Residents may apply for a permit at the nearest Department of natural Resources office.

WHO NEEDS A PERMIT?

FROM DNR WEBSITE; Anyone who wants to set a fire in or within 305 meters (1000 feet) of the woods in Nova Scotia during the fire season. Some municipalities may require an additional permit or may prohibit any burning.

Here is the web site with info

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/paal/ndxdnr.asp>

Further to that if you go to this site you can read up on the **"COMMON MYTHS ABOUT GRASS BURNING"**

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestprotection/wildfire/firecentre/grass-burning.asp>, you may understand why it makes absolutely no sense!!

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