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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

We have at the R.M. of Viscount been researching the purchase of a new fire truck for about 3 years. The R.M. was previously equipped with a 1977 firetruck that was still perfectly useable, except for one thing. Because we are a Rural Fire Department, our firemen always wanted to have as much equipment as possible at a fire scene and so our truck was always loaded to the max with equipment and twelve hundred gallons of water. We had no problem when the truck was able to stick to the gravel roads, but when called on for field fires or areas where the terrain is rough we had trouble getting around, and on one incident we even got stuck. In the mean time the "Rural First Responder Program" was initiated by the Health District and with 10 newly trained First Responders we started looking for some type of Rescue Unit for them to use.

The answer to both our problems came when our Fire Chief spotted the "Hub Snuffer" at the Saskatchewan Fire Chiefs convention. While we were mainly interested in it for a Rescue unit, the demonstration put on by Jim Heywood of Summit Fire Protection Services proved that to be of lesser importance, and instead we saw the answer to our Fire Truck dilemma.

The ability of the Snuffer to generate the volume of foam it does basically gives us better fire fighting capacity than our big pumper, and we only have to carry 250 gallons of water. With less water to carry the unit is light enough to go anywhere. The Snuffer unit is mounted on a heavy duty one ton frame with dual wheels and 4 wheel drive. Because of the small size and the quickness of the Snuffer we feel we have reduced our response time by 25%.

It is our Fire Department's policy to roll with the Snuffer and our pumper so as to provide backup as well as an extra 1200 gallons of water with the second truck, but in 2 of the 4 fires they responded to this fall the fire was extinguished by the Snuffer before the 2nd unit arrived.

Since taking delivery of the unit in July of 1997 our Firemen have used the foam injection suppression to extinguish vehicles, tractors, buildings and crop fires and in each instance they were totally impressed with the performance of the "Snuffer".

We are also finding the use of foam injection very cost effective. We used to generate a poor quality foam with our pumper, but it used a 3% solution so we were using a \$180.00 pail (20L) of foam for every 150 gallons of water, as a result it was only used on oil or vehicle fires. We are now able to use a less expensive foam (\$90.00 for 20L), and with a .2% solution we generate a foam that you could shave with. We now use foam on all fires so as to reduce our water usage. We are totally convinced that for our application foam injection is the way to go.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick Clavelle: Administrator and Fire-fighter