

6/3/05

**Education on Oilfield Fire Safety
Project Summary**

This multiple education and marketing project will provide education to 3,000 volunteer and staff firefighters in western and central North Dakota and other state officials about oilfield fire safety and encourage them to learn more about oilfield fire safety by attending trainings at the Dickinson-based Williston Basin Oilfield Fire Training facility. This facility is in the planning stages with development funding becoming available in August 2005. The target date for the first live burn training is the fall of 2006.

Project Description

This project is a continuation of a successful grant last year where 2 North Dakota firefighters were trained in Ohio on oilfield emergency. The firefighters, Hilary Hartman of Dickinson and John Nixon of TESORO Mandan subsequently trained 32 North Dakota firefighters on oilfield fire safety in September 2004.

Western North Dakota firefighters have expressed a need for this type of continuing education. Lightning often sets tank batteries on fire and volunteer fireman are often unfamiliar with the oilfield pad and how the tank batteries are set up. This Association provided periodic reports on the previous grant and the work was finished January 31, 2005.

This project will provide education with a quarterly written and mailed newsletter, video materials and marketing products to bring additional information about oilfield fire safety year-round and to promote upcoming trainings at Dickinson in the Williston Basin oilfield fire training facility. The printed newsletter will be sent to volunteer firefighters, county commissioners, legislators and state officials. The newsletter will provide oilfield fire training tips plus information about upcoming classes at the Dickinson facility. The marketing materials will introduce firefighters at the State Fire School in February 2006 to the new training facility. The educational books will be used in the classroom portion of the trainings. Electronic mail will also be used when available as another avenue to educate the firefighters.

It's anticipated the first class will be in the fall of 2006. WBOFT has a one-time state allocation to create the physical site. The funds from this project will not only educate the firefighters but local and state officials as well.

Standards of success

The North Dakota firefighters will evaluate the training in the fall of 2006 and the, spring of 2007. These results will be given to the North Dakota Oil and Gas Research Council administrator.

Background

The State Firefighter's Association conducts fire schools every year and has extensive experience with organizing such trainings. One of the Dickinson firefighters, Bob Sivak, is a trustee of the State Firefighters Association and will be a lead training officer for the Williston Basin Firefighting Training facility along with Hilary Hartman and John Nixon. Dickinson's city administrator, Greg Sund, will also be a team member. Sund also serves on the Executive Committee of the Association.

Qualifications

Grant applicant, Vicky Steiner, has been employed as the Executive Director of the North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties since 1986. Steiner has a degree in Communications with a minor in Marketing from Moorhead State University.

Value to North Dakota

Front-line firefighting response is vital to preventing loss of life and containing property and environmental damage. The first responders to oil and gas incidents are usually volunteer firefighters. Many of them have limited knowledge about the oil field. They may be competent firefighters but may have no formal training or experience with the hazards of the oilfield. For example, they would likely not know which procedures would prove most effective, how to contain the incident, and how to minimize personal danger. They may not know of the types of chemicals at the site. And they need to know which parties to notify or how to contact them. The oilfield fire training covers communication, evaluating the incident, responses to production site emergencies, responses to drilling site emergencies and other resources with a hands-on tank battery fire demonstration.

After the Oilfield Fire Training seminar in Mandan September 25, 2005, several of the firefighters thanked the trainers for putting on the workshop. The evaluations were positive and there were requests for additional training and a longer classroom session. One of the Dickinson volunteer firefighters asked for more time on the workbook session with the oilfield terminology of equipment. He said it was a lot of information to absorb in one day.

This grant will provide smaller amounts of information to allow learning to occur year-round. The written and electronic messages will also provide training dates at the Dickinson site to ensure successful participation in the live fire prop school in the future.

Partners for Affordable Energy achieved excellent response on learning and memory of message on their newsletter marketing efforts. They moved the concept of lignite coal-fired power generation from a 40% approval rating to 60% in eastern North Dakota with a grassroots marketing effort which included a frequent newsletter. A sample of this newsletter is attached. Their success indicates that learning from a newsletter in this format can be successful and have a positive impact on the readers. It will also improve the participation at the new Williston Basin Oilfield Fire Training facility.

Management

The North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties Executive Director Vicky Steiner will manage the project. She will organize and develop the marketing materials along with Lois Hartman, North Dakota State Fire Association Executive Director and the Dickinson city administrator Greg Sund. The North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties will make the payments; record funds used for the project and provide the financial record to Karlene Fine. The North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties completed an audit in 2004 with Linda Steve, C.P.A., Dickinson, North Dakota.

Timetable

The printed newsletter will be published four times a year for two years. The other educational and marketing programs will be carried out in the two year contract period. The video project will be completed in the first six months of the contract.

Budget- for two years (August 1, 2005- July 31, 2007)

\$ 15,200	3,500 created, published content on oilfield fire safety, digital photographs, , front and back newsletter, two fold, mailed in envelope with pre-sort bar coding on envelope, computer label database, three colors, two fold, 8 times in two years, timetable established by contract mailed to volunteer, staff firefighters in western North Dakota also mailed to legislators, state officials and energy association directors
\$ 3,500	complete video editing of raw video footage of Sept. 25 oilfield training, 25 copies for western county fire stations and state office
\$ 4,000	State Fire School exhibit and materials for Williston Basin Fire Training Facility to introduce firefighters to the facility (2 years)
\$ 5,000	Education materials for classroom (100 training books- 2 classes)
\$ 2,300	Electronic website class registration, database maintenance on newsletter list (2 years – 30 hours at \$75 an hour to web site firm)
Total	
\$30,000	Two year funding Match \$186,500 in-kind labor and other funds

Matching Funds

The Williston Basin Oilfield Fire Training facility secured a \$100,000 appropriation from the ND Insurance Premium Tax fund for a one-time grant to build a facility southwest of Dickinson, ND to train volunteer firefighters on oilfield fire safety.

The city of Dickinson will also receive \$50,000 from the Energy Impact fund for construction of fencing or other building materials needed to fit the props into the seven acres of city property. The city of Dickinson is donating at least 7 (seven) acres of city land for this project near their existing training facility. Seven acres in that area of the city are worth approximately \$2,500 an acre or \$17,500.

The oil field industry has offered three props that will be staged for live fire burns. These props of undetermined monetary value are older pieces of equipment that are no longer used in the oil field.

The in-kind labor from the North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties and the City of Dickinson fire department to complete this two-year project is estimated at \$19,000.

Total matching funds are \$186,500.

Because this is a new facility, the first two years will be critical to its success. The groups working on this project recognize that reaching volunteer firefighters will ensure good participation in using this new facility. This is a joint state and local effort.

The North Dakota Firefighter's Association will be included in the selection of newsletter topics and may also include their training date information in this newsletter.

Tax Liability

The North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties does not have a tax liability. It is a non-profit organization. Tax documents are available to the public.

Appendices

Copy of an article about the TESORO oilfield training 2005

Photos of TESORO oilfield fire training 2005

Sample of template for newsletter- Partners for Affordable Energy newsletter