

Evaluation Summary Report

South Dakota Firefighters Association

Event: 2012 SD State Fire School - Yankton

2/2/2014


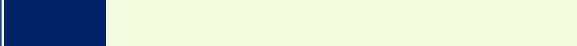
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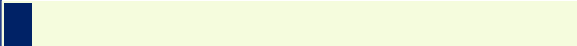
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Text Response



2. Did you use the On-Line Registration System to register for Fire School?

#	Answer		Responses	%
1	Yes		105	84.7%
2	No		19	15.3%
	Total		124	100%



3. Did you find the online system easy to use and navigate?

#	Answer		Responses	%
1	Yes		105	84.0%
2	No		6	4.8%
	Total		125	100%





4. Were the payment options adequate?

#	Answer		Responses	%
1	Yes		107	85.6%
2	No		7	5.6%
	Total		125	100%

5. If online payment via 'e-check' was offered, would you use that payment method?

#	Answer		Responses	%
1	Yes		50	40.0%
2	No		57	45.6%
	Total		125	100%

6. How far in advance of Fire School do you feel registration should begin?

#	Answer		Responses	%
1	30 days		18	14.4%
2	60 days		73	58.4%
3	90 days		33	26.4%
4	120 + days		1	0.8%
	Total		125	100%

7. This year the registration fee was \$60. What is your opinion in regard to the cost of registration?

#	Answer		Responses	%
1	Not high enough		24	20.5%
2	Just right		90	76.9%
3	Too expensive		3	2.6%
	Total		117	100%

8. As costs increase to host Fire School the registration fee sometimes needs to be increased. What do you feel is a fair amount?












#	Answer		Responses	%
1	\$60		43	34.4%
2	\$75		67	53.6%
3	\$100		11	8.8%
	Total		125	100%

9. State Fire School has always been held in early June. Is this a good time of year for school or would another time allow for better attendance?



#	Answer		Responses	%
1	Yes - June is as good as any other time		94	75.8%
2	No - Too much going on in June, another time of year would increase attendance		30	24.2%

	Total		124	100%
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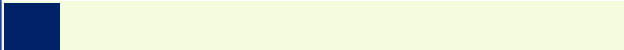
10. In your opinion when is the best time of the year to hold State Fire School?

#	Answer		Responses	%
1	Janurary		1	0.9%
2	February		7	6.0%
3	March		8	6.8%
4	April		7	6.0%
5	May		5	4.3%
6	June		80	68.4%
7	July		1	0.9%
8	August		4	3.4%
9	September		1	0.9%
10	October		2	1.7%
11	November		0	0.0%
12	December		1	0.9%
	Total		117	100%


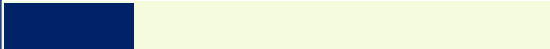
11. Did you feel that the class offerings were adequate and offered enough variety to attract firefighters of all experience levels?

#	Answer		Responses	%
1	Yes		107	86.3%
2	No		17	13.7%
	Total		124	100%

12. This year we offered 4 hour classes as well as 8 and 12 hour classes. Did you like that format and should we continue to offer 4 hour classes?

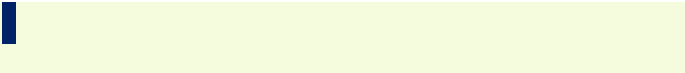



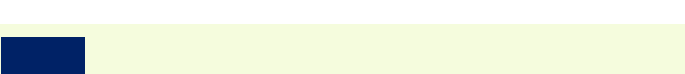
#	Answer		Responses	%
1	Yes		114	91.9%
2	No		10	8.1%
	Total		124	100%

13. This year we had a general session keynote address by Chief Lasky and no other classes were offered during that time? Do you like the idea of a general session? Is that something we should continue doing?


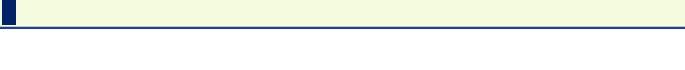
#	Answer		Responses	%
1	Yes		100	80.6%
2	No		24	19.4%
	Total		124	100%

14. What would you say is the biggest contributing factor that keeps others from your department from attending State Fire School?

#	Answer		Responses	%
1	My Department Officers didn't encourage attendance or didn't provide the information to the Firefighters.		2	1.6%
	The information advertising State			

2	Fire School was not sent to everyone on my Department.		2	1.6%
3	Financial - It's too expensive to attend.		4	3.3%
4	Time - Everyone is too busy and has too many things going on.		72	58.5%
5	Attitude - Firefighters don't feel they need the training or knowledge.		28	22.8%
6	Other - Please leave comments at the end of this survey.		15	12.2%
	Total		123	100%

15. Will you be recommending to others on your department that they make an attempt to attend State Fire School in future years?

#	Answer		Responses	%
1	Yes		122	99.2%
2	No		1	0.8%
	Total		123	100%

16. The schedule at State Fire School gets fairly busy, with opening ceremonies, classes, business meetings, evolutions, parade, meals. Do you feel the schedule is too busy or that some of these things should be held at a different time?

#	Answer		Responses	%
1	Yes		37	30.1%
2	No		86	69.9%
	Total		123	100%

17. What do you feel is the MOST important activity during State Fire School?

#	Answer	Responses	%
1	Opening Ceremonies	3	2.4%
2	Classes	108	87.1%
3	Evolutions	12	9.7%
4	SDFAs Business Meetings	0	0.0%
5	Meals	0	0.0%
6	Vendor Show	1	0.8%
	Total	124	100%

18. What do you feel is the LEAST important activity during State Fire School?

#	Answer	Responses	%
1	Opening Ceremonies	17	13.9%
2	Classes	1	0.8%
3	Evolutions	36	29.5%
4	SDFAs Business Meetings	22	18.0%
5	Meals	39	32.0%
6	Vendor Show	7	5.7%
	Total	122	100%

19. Please share any comments you might have in regard to State Fire School. Ideas you might have to improve attendance or improve the event overall.

Text Response

Time for DOT's was wrong. There is not enough time on thursday to do it and alot of people missed it.

later in june would be better for our department. I liked the classes and trianing . business isnt for me . I need to know more for trianing .

We can only send so many people to fire school because we are a volunteer department with only 30 members to service an 81 square mile radius so we have to be sure to have people in district the sometime fire school goes

We only allow a certain precentage of firefighters to attend fire school. Someone has to stay home. We usually have a waiting list of attendees.

More time in order to visit with vendors or others from around the state. Seemed to have every thing crammed in to short a time

I feel that the classes need to be at these full days just so people can get more info on the and take hold of more , just seams 4 hrs is not enoff time to learn much of anything.

Trying anything different can't hurt your attendance. South Dakota only has a 1/3 to 1/2 the number of attendees campared to North Dakota or Nebraska.

Don't have speakers from large paid departments. All they do is brag about themseleves. Get speakers from larger vol or combination departments. We can relate to one another. Have a 12 hour vendor class in which they can do round table talks, explain their products and demo's. Most of the vendors are unhappy with the last few fire schools.

We did not really get much info about the schedreal untill a couple weeks before it if we were more aware of the schedule we would have partisapated more. It would be cool if we could take motable classes next year.

Do not do the general session - like chief lasky again - total waste of time

The time of year needs to change. Just have a school then in the spring or summer have a social event to have all the other activities.

Classes to start at 9 and end at 4. So have time

If evolutions goes away we would have a huge drop in attendance for state school.

Department only sends a limited number of members to fire school due to manning.

the parade should be added to the list of LEAST important things. I dont think a different time of the year is any less busier than June. And if the evolutions were held at a separate time, it would be cost prohibitive for both the department participating AND to the association, because the board members would have to attend them as well. Also, although hands on classes are great, for those of us that have been to schools for years & we might be 'older', maybe there should be more just classroom type classes. Additionally, beings as about every grant out there requires IC classes and wildland classes, I think it is necessary to provide those types of classes EVERY year in addition to the classes that are put on. If fire school provides these every year, then more people would slowly end up getting the required courses in order to apply for grants or go to wildland fires. In my department, many members dont have any of the classes because they rarely attend classes we put on at our station, but maybe they'd take that class at fire school if they went. Either way, the should be offered every year - weather anyone takes them or not.

As for the schedule, its only as busy as you want it to be. Attendees are not required to go to meals, opening, the parade or other parts of fire school. So if the schedule stays similar to the way its been, if someone doesnt want to go to a function, they dont have to. It is apparent that there are still board members that dont want any 'fun' activities at fire school - if thats not the case, why are the questions worded as they are?? Face it, the evolutions, BBQ's and other 'fun' stuff is part of fire school and should stay that way. If people only want training, then come to just the classes. It is apparent that just a training session isnt being attended like it was supposed to - meaning the Mid Winter Muster. For those just wanting training, its obvious that the Muster isnt being attended as it should. So, making fire school 'just' a training session will make attendee numbers drop. Same with a different time of year....every month has its plusses and minuses. Early June works best - the crops arent quite ready to combine; the calving season is pretty much done; for the most part school sports are done for the summer. Somethign that might help numbers is central location. Thats about the most sensible thought of trying to gain attendees, yet to make it equal for driving purposes. Various towns could still bid for it like it is now, but they'd be in charge of putting it on (and making profit) even though it wouldnt be in their home town. That way the central South Daktoa FD's wouldnt be required to put it on every year.

I did enjoy the general session and would like to have it again! But I felt that the instructors had to rush through the information due to the 4 hour class time.

enjoyed the general session but beleive it should be held on the last day to kept people there or in the morning so people don't leave or have in the morning with classes in the afternoonI felt it was too easy for people to leave.

Woonsocket firefighters are usually agriculture employed. Early june is tough to get away. Enjoy the classes.

My first fire school, enjoyable experience but I have nothing to compare to.

I thought this years school was excellent. I love the idea of a big name speaker for a general session. I think a VERY unpopular choice to increase attaadance would be for the state to have MINIMUM requirements for certain training every two years to keep the FF1 and FF2 certifications. Mandatory hours are NOT a bad thing, yet they are always advertised as something that no one wants to go ahead and say we need.

Not enough time to plan. class schedule comes out too late. Limited class size and time of registration by our dept, if the class is closed, then some wont go. the late registration is my dept's fault.

maybe april

If classes are held during winter months, hands on classes would be difficult. this was expressed by North Dakota instructors

More items for new firefighters to complete their FF I/II courses. When to hold State School? June is the only time we have done it. But it works good for me.

There does not seem to be an ideal time of year these days with so many activities especially for volunteers with kids. June is as good as any. The cost is not too much. The biggest thing keeping people away is the busy schedule everyone keeps, along with poor attitudes when it comes to more training.

I think you will have some people that cannot go whenever you schedule it. How is attendance at the District Schools? What happens to them if you change to 2 separate State Schools? Does the Mid-Winder Muster go away? Some would rather have State school during the week and keep the weekends for family. First weekend falls on Guard drill weekend.

loved the 4 hour classes. this gives you more chances to learn. but didnt have many 4 hour classes on friday afternoon would have liked to see more. other wise great choices of classes well done. thank you

Fire school in it's current form is outdated and needs changed. Fire School should be a SCHOOL!! Training should be the focus, not the

meetings, not the parades, not the games. Cutting class time short to fit in the festivities is a poor way to attempt to instruct students. I know that people can catch classes elsewhere, BUT I have the board state that Fire School is the only training that some firefighters ever get. If this is their only chance to train and then you cut the class short, what kind of message are you sending to that firefighter about the importance of fire school? Expand Fire School another day and let 24-hour sessions be brought in to help students get more training. This would allow technician-level training, more wildland classes, and other specialized or in-depth training. June is getting to be too busy a month for people. I have seen ND's Fire School in Feb and it was amazingly well attended and they did live fire and water drills even in single-digit temps. I had thought that the temp would be limiting, I was wrong, The winter time may be a good time to look at.

Keep up the good work!!!

I don't feel here is a perfect time for fire school. I think firefighters go for all the activities, not just one. If you take away any activity then that person just may not come.

I am not sure we had 10 then only 5 ended up going I think they were a lot got credit for the general session that did not attend

New ideas, more enacting changes versus talking about changes, more involvement of board members within their districts and an increased push by board members and fire chiefs to promote, sell, and push South Dakota firefighters to attend fire school. Focus on classes and training (That's the purpose of fire school). Parade, evolutions, social events have served a purpose but should no longer be the focus. This may mean excluding them from the school. The time for change has come.

The time of year is really hard for our department as we are a rural department and deal with the farming at this time of year.

As a 16yr ff 10yr asst. chief definitely need to have Chief Lasky back every year or at least every other year he is an extraordinary speaker!!!

With a small town fire dept. we have to limit how many members can attend. Keeping the date in June works for our Fire Department, if held earlier public schools are still going on and this would take away from our attendance because of school activities.

have the school in the winter most of our firefighters are farmers and ranchers and we all know they are busy in the spring and early summer.

Lasik was good but not worth the cost. education is what we need, the push for higher attendance like ND & NEB. is not important as SD provides educational options thru out the state on much more regular time thru out the year. forcing mandatory hours on fire fighters is bound to cost members, but agree it is a good idea to look into.

20. Text Insert - 50

Text Response