



## Volunteer Fire Department Assistance

### Cooperative Fire Management Briefing

March 2003

Local fire departments benefit greatly from several assistance programs that provide funding and equipment to increase fire and emergency response capacity. These programs are partially federally funded through the USDA Forest Service, and managed by DNR Forestry in cooperation with the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association.

### Firefighter Training

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, in



*Students in northeast Minnesota receive fire shelter training.*

cooperation with the Minnesota State College and University system, provides wildland firefighter training to fire department personnel and interested citizens. Annually, 600 to 800 firefighters receive wildland fire training. Wildland fire training is

offered through a variety of venues. Through the strong partnership with Minnesota Community and Technical Colleges, which handle registration and logistics, while DNR Forestry provided nationally qualified instructors. In Minnesota, much of the fire department training is delivered through 10 or 12 Minnesota State Fire/EMS/Rescue Schools. At 4 to 6 of these schools, wildland fire classes are offered. Probably one of the most successful method for providing wildland fire training is through the Mesabi Wildland Fire Academy. At the Academy, approximately 500 students can choose from 15 different wildland fire classes. In addition, DNR Foresters offer customized wildland training to fire departments, in their fire hall, on regular training nights, as their schedule permits.

### Wildland Fire Equipment Sales

Under the Minnesota Incident Command System (MNICS), the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center, which is located in Grand Rapids, MN, was formed in 1990. By merging the U.S. Forest Service Northeast Regional Fire Cache



*Nozzles and other equipment may be purchased by fire departments.*



*Wildland firefighting equipment, such as shovels, helmet, fire resistant shirt, gloves and shovel are available for fire department purchase.*

and the Minnesota DNR's Fire Equipment Cache, provided a unique opportunity to fire departments in Minnesota. The Federal/State partnership allowed the sale of wildland firefighting equipment to fire departments. Commonly used wildland fire equipment is sold to fire departments at cost by the State.

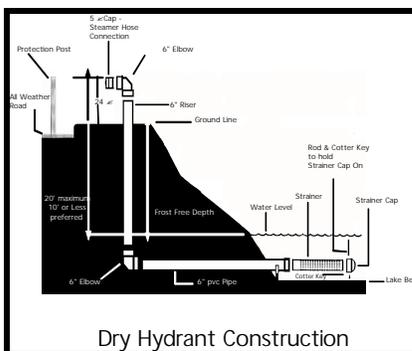
The Wildland Fire Equipment Sales and other Rural Fire programs have strengthened the partnership with the DNR and fire departments, which increases the safety and efficiency of wildland firefighting.

## Dry Hydrants

Dry hydrants provide water supplies in rural areas beyond municipal water systems. By their design, dry hydrants allow a water source, such as a lake or river, to be utilized even when the ground is frozen and the water body may be covered by 3 feet of ice.



*Typical dry hydrant installation.*



*DNR produce dry hydrant pamphlet.*

The Minnesota DNR Forestry promotes the installation of dry hydrants as a water source for firefighting. Dry hydrants are encouraged through the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant and through exhibits at the Minnesota State Fire/EMS/Rescue Schools.



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry, Fire Management Section

Visit us at: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/fire](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fire)