

Birtle emergency crews are always ready for action

The Town of Birtle and its surrounding rural municipality has a top-notch volunteer fire department.

There are 16 members in the department. Members are divided into 2 teams, each with a captain.

Fire Chief Gerald Birch has two deputy chiefs, Kevin Hickman and Jack Stewart, underneath him.

The Town has 20 Conference Phones. Each member has a phone in his residence plus additional phones at the firehall, Highways Yard, and Phil's Auto Body.

Members attend training sessions the fourth Monday of every month and regular meetings every second Monday. Fire Chief Birch attends a Mutual Aid meeting for the West Central Mutual Aid area on the first Monday of every month.

The department has all the necessary fire-fighting equipment and more.

The main truck is a 1984 GMC fire truck with 840 gallons per minute (gpm) pump, and radio equipped with outside speaker. The pumper has a 1070 gallon capacity.

The second truck is a 1963 Fargo with 750 gallon capacity, 500 gpm pump, and radio equipped with outside speaker.

As well the department has a 1975 Equipment Rescue Van with radio and speaker.

The department has all the usual fire-fighting equipment including Jaws of Life, generator plant, flood lights, porta tank (1000 gal.), air packs, and portable pumps.

All members have certificates in CPR and or First Aid, as well as having their Level I fire-fighting training.

Birtle and area are patrolled by the Shoal Lake's RCMP detachment. If the need arises they can be reached by phoning Shoal Lake at 759-2344. If there is no answer in Shoal Lake call an operator and ask for Zenith 50000.