



News Release

For Immediate Release

FIGHTING FIRE WITH FOAM: NEW FIRE TRUCK

Altona, MB. July 21, 2022:

Altona Rhineland Emergency Services has a new truck in the lineup. The Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) truck is now in service as part of the ARES fleet, providing improved response.

Using Compressed Air Foam to fight fires has a number of benefits, and significant tactical advantages in suppressing structure fires.

Following the drought and water shortages in 2021, Fire Chief Greg Zimmerman and the Altona Rhineland Emergency Services presented a proposal to add a specialty vehicle to the fleet; a Quick Response Compressed Air Foam System truck.

Using a CAFS truck, the team can extinguish a blaze more quickly, with significantly less water. Conserving water is important, and using less water also means that there will be less water damage due to firefighting efforts, and less fire debris being washed out into drainage systems and the surrounding environment. Extinguishing the blaze more quickly protects the safety of our firefighters, reduces the damage done, and also ensures that the engines can be back in service more quickly in the event of multiple fires at the same time.

The first few minutes that firefighters arrive on the scene are critical. The CAFS truck requires fewer firefighters to operate, meaning that it can be deployed faster from the hall. This allows the first-arriving firefighters to do more in the first few minutes of the incident to protect their community.

This proposal was accepted by the Town of Altona and Rhineland Municipality councils, and the order was placed. The “new-to-us” truck arrived May 19, 2022 and was put into service on July 18, 2022 after ensuring all fittings were updated to our standards, and testing all systems. The \$115,000 investment fell well within budget for this addition to the fleet.

Quotes:

“I am excited to have this truck in service as it will improve our response times and provide a more efficient and safer way to fight fires. Thank you to both of our Councils for supporting this initiative that makes our communities safer.”

- Fire Chief Greg Zimmerman

“Altona Town Council is proud of the professionalism and commitment of the members of Altona Rhineland Emergency Services, and also feel our role as community decision makers is to support the team with quality, modern tools to keep our community safe. This latest acquisition meets those criteria, along with ensuring financial sustainability, and limiting environmental impact.”

- Mayor Al Friesen, Altona

“The Rhineland Council is very pleased to support the fire department in the use compressed air and foam equipment to fight fires. It will reduce response times, minimize fire damage, and lower capital costs. We commend the department for their commitment and dedication to community service and safety.”

- Reeve Don Wiebe, Rhineland Municipality

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