

Fire Event

The fire event requires early planning to ensure that the facility will support the design and layout of the fire event. It is critical that communication and coordination begins early with Spruce Grove Fire Services. In the past, during the first week of April a meeting was setup with Dean Colthorp to gain access to the venue, walk him through the proposed event to ensure that the grounds and the equipment on site would support the scenario.

A few key considerations when planning the event:

- Ensure the flow from one fire prop to another is spaced sufficiently so teams can differentiate between fires.
- Setup water based props at the far end of the grounds so the water doesn't affect the main traffic areas.
- If utilizing the propane props make sure that Spruce Grove Fire can size the fire appropriate to the extinguishers type and capacity. Also, that the atomizer will support a consistent flame size for each team.
- There is only one fire hydrant on the east side of the grounds that is setup for good access to the fire truck. This restricts where the fire truck can be positioned.
- Spruce Grove fire uses wood mixed with the propane props so these props need to be emptied ensuring the fire is consistent (only gas) between teams. Even though propane props don't need to be pre-heated they should be burnt off before the first team goes.
- The propane props are mostly stationary, but the fuel pans can be moved. This will influence how you plan and layout the scenarios. For the large fire pans, make sure you have a large forklift or telehandler available to move them where you want them. Spruce Grove may be able to help but do not rely on them to be available on a moment's notice.
- If you are using a casualty near a fire, use a rescue randy. The heat from the fire can be overwhelming for a person over the duration of a day.
- Account for having bunker gear for your volunteers. Any volunteers putting the fires out, adding fuel or igniting the prop should be in bunker gear.
- The tent company like to see the utilities marked before installing the tent pegs. About a week prior to the event the site will need to be called before you dig come and mark these utilities.

As the event date approaches review the AMSA Fire Event Procedure/Policy. Ensure that Spruce Grove Fire Services has reviewed the procedure and are familiar with the lockout and access agreed upon.

Event Setup Day

You will need the gate access key fob and the site access key. Follow the lockout procedures as outlined in the procedure. As the AMSA event Head Judge you are responsible for the key and gate fob, do not lose them and do not give them to someone unless authorized to do so. The grounds can be rutted so having a way to drag and smooth the yard will prevent ankle injuries and STF incidents. You will need a telehandler or forklift to move pans around and a qualified operator to run it. Typically, the only contractors coming to the grounds are the port-a-potty and tent rental companies. Don't forget about the marking of utilities.

Day of Event

Start early. Meet with your judges and volunteers and do a dry run. Firefighting goes quick, the judges need to be very focused and not distracted to ensure all the judged components are evaluated accurately. It is better to have more judges with specific focuses than less judges following the whole event. Fires can be out in seconds, so your team need to be sharp, observant and ready as the team begins so technique and other judging criteria are not missed. Only use fire trained people when igniting fuels and providing backup. Ensure that all judges and volunteers working near the fire and fuels are protected (bunker gear or suitable fire gear).