



#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Andover, Minnesota Fire Department

#### **APPLICATION:**

TetraKO attacks nighttime wildfire in thicket.

#### **SUMMARY:**

The Andover, Minn. Fire Department is called on for mutual aid by the neighboring city of Anoka to battle a fire that is in a wooded area with thick cover and rough terrain. The department's newest firefighting vehicle, a 6 x 6 ATV, carries a 50-gallon tank that has been loaded with TetraKO water enhancer. The ATV positions itself close to hotspot areas to enable firefighters to quickly attack help prevent the fire from spreading.



#### **FIRE INCIDENT REPORT #17:**

Due to a wet spring and early summer in 2011, the wildfire season in the Twin Cities metro area has been a relatively calm one. But, as fall comes to a close, the weather has been drier, allowing for wildland fires to become more of a problem. The Andover department was called to the scene of a small fire on the border of its community.

"It was a Saturday night and we were facing a woods and grass fire along the Rum River," said Jeff Dexter, Lieutenant for the Andover Volunteer Fire Department. "The fire was burning in very dense brush. The only access we had to the fire was by entering a wooded area through a homeowner's backyard with our Polaris ATV loaded with TetraKO."

The fire department's Polaris is set up with tracks on the back two axles, a small fire pump, and a 50-gallon water tank filled with TetraKO. "Andover's public works guys helped build it," states Dexter. "The thing is basically a small army tank!"

Despite its small footprint, the Polaris carries a lot of firepower. "We have several different water resources we run off of it," says Dexter. "The rig is set up so you can sit inside the cab, or walk alongside with a hoseline. And with TetraKO inside the tank, it really has some knockdown power!"

On this nighttime fire, firefighters on the ATV were able to chase down flare-ups. "We used the TetraKO to attack the hot spots," said Dexter. "We'd stop and shut off the headlights for a moment. Anywhere we could see orange embers glowing in the dark, we just aimed the TetraKO and laid that stuff over the top and smothered it. We had limited areas in which to position the Polaris, so it was a matter of getting close and running the hoseline to where we could hit the hot spots."

"We were able to blanket burning areas with TetraKO," said Dexter. "Most everyone in the Andover department has used TetraKO. **Our guys can all tell the difference in the product's knockdown capability. There is a difference in how fast it brings the heat down on a fire.**"

The Andover department will run the ATV loaded with TetraKO until winter, when it will be converted to an ice rescue machine. But next spring, it'll change back to a wildland rig. "We can put a lot of fire out with that thing."



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