

FINAL

**FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2011**

Chaired by: Phil McLean

Meeting Date and Location: January 11, 2011, Ohio Department of Public Safety 1970
West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Committee Members Present: Phil McLean, Dudley Wright, Richard Sacco, Jim Steele,
Bob Babb, Mark Lundy

Committee Members Absent: Mark Mankins

Staff Present: Doug Orahood, John Sands, Rachel Moore, John Tauber, John
Kennington, Richard Rucker, Melissa Vermillion, Brian Pfeffer

Guests: Ted Huffman, Cuyahoga Community College; Bob Szabo, Cuyahoga
Community College; Dave Belcher, Violet Township/Ohio Society of Fire Safety
Inspectors; Steven Wallis, Ohio Rural Fire Council; John Peters, Ohio Rural Fire Council

The meeting was called to order at 10:01AM.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2010, FIREFIGHTER AND
FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR (FFSI) TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

ACTION: Motion to approve the November 9, 2010, FFSI committee minutes.
Steele first. Sacco second. None opposed. Motion approved.

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Wanting to hold a hybrid online/classroom Fire Instructor course. Bob Szabo, presented the course set up before the committee. Their plan is to do 32 hours of the course as in classroom time, and the remainder would be online. They would begin the class with three eight hour days, and then do the online training, and the class would end with one more 8 hour day in which the students would present a power point lesson that they created on their own. The first 8 hour class would consist of going over the login process, how the online part would work, then going into how to write good objectives, and lesson plans. Day 2 students spend almost 8 hours in the computer lab learning PowerPoint and how to make effective presentations. Day 3 is the 8 hour NFPA 1403 live burn training. The next time that the students will be seen in the classroom is the very last day of the program where they come to class with a prepared lesson plan, PowerPoint presentation, and they will do a 20-30 minute presentation in front of the class, on how to instruct or something related to instruction in the fire service. The other 34 hours of class is done online. Basically the students will do a chapter or 2 chapters every week, it is

spread out over 8 weeks and gives them a lot more time to get the homework done, and when they come back and all that is completed, that is when they test. Also 10 hours of student teaching involved, where the students will go back to their department and work with a current certified Fire Instructor, and get in their observation, and teaching. Cuyahoga Community College teamed up with Pearson for the online course. The students register on the website where it says student, once they are a returning user, they can just log on with their username and password. Powerpoints, course documents, and announcements are available online for one week at a time. There is a message board that gives assignments, information, and quizzes. A hard copy is passed out in the beginning of the course, and is also available online for anyone who may have misplaced their course schedule, paperwork. The online quizzes are graded after they are taken to let the students know how they did. External links are included also to assist in training, and there are discussion boards as well. The course instructor has access to see who is logged in and using the discussion board. Also has a grade book for the quizzes. Each student is given a skill sheet book as well. Online training and skill sheets are checked off; there is also a skill sheet for the final presentation for evaluation. They would like to run the Fire Instructor course in the Spring of 2011, then show evaluations and test scores when it is completed. Mr. McLean stated that he was a little surprised that Cuyahoga held a class online and got the students certified as Fire Instructors without approval from the Fire Committee. The students should be putting in 4-6 hours a week online to fulfill hours for training. Mr. Orahood stated that the Division of EMS was made aware that Cuyahoga Community College was conducting the online course before receiving permission from the committee, and were told to cease until approval from the committee. The committee is going to be working on rules governing the online classes and training. Mr. Steele wants to review the information on the hybrid course before a motion can be made to pilot the course.

ACTION: Need to review all the information before deciding to approve the online Fire Instructor course.

OHIO SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE UPDATE

Setting up a Firefighter I Transition course.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL/OHIO FIRE ACADEMY REPORT

Frank Conway came with the report, he stated that they are currently conducting a NFA class and working on a juvenile fire setter program, and working on course offerings for the next fiscal year.

CERTIFICATION REPORT

Totals for 2010: Initial certifications: Volunteer--1354, Firefighter I--923, Firefighter II--1707, Fire Safety Inspector--478. Certification renewals: Volunteer--3200, Firefighter I--803, Firefighter II--5969, Fire Safety Inspector--2848. Once the emt and fire cards are moved to the same date, there should be a drop in the number of audits, as the people who renew will only be pulled for an audit on 1 of their certifications, not on their multiple levels of certification.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

There is a new administration at Public Safety, Thomas Charles is now the new director of public safety, and Craig Mayten, is now the assistant director. Joe Montgomery is the chief of staff. Chief Legal is Jim Kanepa. Heather Reed-Frient will be moved back into the position of full time legal council for the Division of EMS. Mr. Charles has a good working relationship with the Fire community, and always has, so we should be in good hands.

FIRE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

A letter was sent to the Division of EMS from an assistant chief requesting a statewide grandfathering of 36 hour volunteer firefighters based on experience. Mr. Babb stated that there is already an education process in place to accomplish this. The committee considered this option, but stated that it is not appropriate for Ohio. Mr. Orahod will develop a letter in response to this request, stating that it is not appropriate for Ohio. Mr. McLean stated that he feels there are so many options right now, certifications, continuing education, and numerous Fire Charter training locations.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. McLean has been a member of the Fire Committee for a number of years, and has headed the committee for 10 of those years, so he feels that it is time for him to step down as the chairman.

Mr. Babb nominated Jim Steele as the Chair, Mr. Sacco seconded, Mr. Lundy third. Mr. Steele accepted the nominations, all in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Babb nominated Mr. Wright as the Vice Chair, Mr. Sacco seconds the nomination, Mr. Wright accepts the nomination, all in favor, motion approved.

ProBoard skill sheets; we need to move forward on them. Mr. Sacco said they seem okay. Mr. McLean, and Mr. Steele reviewed the sheets, and said they would be a useful tool. They are not meant to replace the objective check off sheets, but to supplement the training programs.

Motion to approve the skill sheets as developed. Steele first. Wright second. None opposed. Motion passed.

Skill testing will be for everyone, ProBoard will be an option. Mr. Conway was inquiring how this will impact the schools which are currently IFSAC and ProBoard accredited. A correlation needs to be established between the skills training at those schools, and the skills testing for the state. IFSAC is mandatory at the Fire Academy. Some members of the committee fear this will cause a financial burden on fire charters. They want Doug to draft a proposal of the testing process. Number 8, 10, 13, and 24, are the skill sheets that the committee wants to make mandatory. Mr. Babb also recommends that number 1, and 2 should be mandatory after the course is complete they are a life saving issues, states

Chief Steele, and there should be 2 random skills for a total of 8 skills that each student will be tested on. The random skills that will be chosen will be the same for each class; they will be built into the computer generated testing system. Mr. Orahood put the foundation into place for the testing process. Committee goals, rules need to be drafted for ProBoard; Mr. Pfeffer will be assisting with the writing of the fire rules. What additional rules will be needed, how to grandfather firefighters into ProBoard, online training, distance learning, need to take another look at those. Future curriculum and certifications need to be discussed. Mr. McLean feels that the Haz Mat Tech certification would be a good model for future certifications that will be offered in Ohio, and that it would be the easiest to create right away, and the clearest cut.

CHAIRS REPORT

Mr. McLean has completed the 1403 course and it can be taught as an 8 hour awareness course, and if it is going to be taught as a 3 or 4 day course there is a schedule. The training can be ended on day 3, if they want to include the live burn, and have another test, there is a proposed 4 day schedule. A new handout from January 2010 EPA is included in the course paperwork. Ohio does not have the authority to issue credentials for something such as the 1403 Live Fire Training course, they do want to add it to the existing curriculum to get a certification. Mr. Orahood suggested to maybe bring instructors here to the Department of Public Safety for a train the trainer class.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 11:50 PM Mr. Steele first, Mr. Wright second.