

FINAL

FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES January 10, 2012

Chaired by: Jim Steele

Meeting Date and Location: January 10, 2012, Ohio Department of Public Safety 1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Committee Members Present: Jim Steele, Dudley Wright, Eric Waltemire, Richard Sacco, Phil McLean, Bob Babb

Committee Members Absent: Mark Lundy, Mark Mankins

Staff Present: Rachel Moore, John Kennington, Jeffrey Leaming

Guests: Steven Wallis, Ohio Rural Fire Council/AEP; Fred Redfern, Crooksville Fire/Mid-East Career Center; Frank Clay, Sinclair Community College; Geof Garrison, Sinclair Community College; John Peters, Ohio Rural Fire Council; Allen Daugherty, Buckeye Career Center; Jeff Cottner, Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors; Scott Walker, State Fire Marshal/Ohio Fire Academy; Steve Robertson, Columbus Fire; Randall Hormann, Tri-C.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02AM.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2011 FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR (FFSI) TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES

ACTION: Motion to approve the November 8, 2011 FFSI committee minutes. Waltemire first. McLean second. None opposed. Motion approved.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Frank Clay of Sinclair Community College addressed the committee regarding the fire skill sheets, he came up with a three page handout with some rough numbers of how much it would probably cost for the Fire Charters to be able to run the skills testing.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Leaming circulated a document to the members of the committee which showed the difference between reinstating an EMS card, and reinstating a Fire card. The main reason this was brought about was in response to the individuals who are not going into the system to renew their certifications, then when they expire they don't want to have to retest or retrain, they just want to have their cards given back to them. Some individuals were under the impression that when they sent in their paper renewal application for their EMT card, that renewed every certification that they had, this is not the case; it only

renewed the certification that was listed on the paper. Mr. Leaming wanted to know if the committee would be willing to start allowing a fee of \$75 to be assessed for anyone who did complete all their continuing education and can show proof of it, within the 90 days after their expiration. They could reinstate without taking a test or having to retrain. They would automatically be pulled for an audit to make sure that they did complete the total number of required CE's before they would be allowed to pay the fee for reinstatement. Currently there is a paper application for renewing EMS certifications, but not the Fire certifications, we are hoping to eventually do away with all paper applications and make the process completely automated. Mr. Leaming wants to give expired firefighters a 90 day period to pay the fee in order to get their certification back. When the 91st day hits though, they would need to take the reinstatement exam in order to get their certification back. Mr. Leaming stated to the Committee that he brought this before them for their advice and counsel on this matter. Mr. McLean feels that Mr. Kennington should write up a proposal for how this would work out, and it should be given to Mr. McLean to review. The fee would be \$75 if it is decided upon to go through with the process of letting people reinstate their fire certifications. This was brought about because for EMT's they have to show that they completed all the continuing education and pay the fee and they can get their card back, this is not allowed with the fire card, once they expire, they need to take the test to get their card back, this has created some frustration and animosity among individuals. Another consideration is that for EMT's they can take a test in lieu of continuing education to recertify, but firefighters have to wait till they expire in order to take the test. Mr. Waltemire is very interested in seeing a breakdown of the areas of the state where there are the most reinstatements, and who would benefit the most from being able to get their certification back during the first 90 days after their certification expiration. They would show the hours and have them signed off by their chief or a program director and we would approve them, then they would pay their \$75 fee and then they would be reissued their certification. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Waltemire would like to make a motion that the committee support this process to do a 90 day window and have reports come back to the committee to see how many people are being impacted by this, how many people we may be helping with this, and who is still falling through the cracks. He would like to see the statistics and track it for the next year. Mr. Steele doesn't feel that he has seen any statistics that give him the idea if this is a good or bad idea, he feels that they can vote on a motion, but it is fairly premature, he feels that they probably need to speak with the Alliance members and get an idea where the fire service stands as a whole. We probably need to see a recommendation on paper that spells this out. Mr. Mankins agrees, he would like to see this in writing. Anyone who applied for this process would automatically be audited; they would have to prove that they completed the training.

There is draft legislation from the LSC that is calling for a 60 day notification calling to let individuals decide how they want to be contacted regarding their renewal. A firefighter would let our office know if they wanted to be contacted by mail or email about their expiration. Also through this legislation it would leave the required continuing education hours for Firefighter 1 & 2 at 54 hours for the three year cycle, but drop the continuing education hours for Volunteer to 18 hours for the three year cycle. This legislation was introduced on 1/6/12.

OHIO SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE UPDATE

There are four upcoming Instructor updates. The Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors also extended an invitation to the EMS Division to come to the updates. The Instructor updates that are scheduled are on February 25th at Hocking College, on March 3rd at University of Akron, on March 17th at Warren County Career Center, and on March 31st at Bowling Green State University. The 2012 Fire Instructor Conference will be held on October 26 & 27 at the Columbus Fire Training Academy.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL/OHIO FIRE ACADEMY REPORT

There are several projects being worked on currently at the Fire Academy. They are expanding their combustible liquid training area. Their 24/7 online training continues to be very successful. Also Pat Wambo, a chief from Code Enforcement has recently moved out to the Academy to run the Fire Safety Inspector Program, they are glad to have him there.

CERTIFICATION REPORT

Mr. Kennington passed out a report that showed the number of certified EMS and Fire providers in each county in Ohio. He stated that there were 36,070 certifications issued in 2011. A certification is issued every fifteen minutes, around the clock 365 days a year. Mr. Kennington said that he was willing to create these reports for anyone who is interested in having this information; he would make it available to Chiefs and fire departments around the state.

FIRE COORDINATOR REPORT

Mr. Kennington filled in for Mr. Orahood. He presented for the committee the Fire Safety Inspector check off sheets, the skills sheets, and the hour guide. Mr. Walker stated that he thinks that the project is about 90% completed.

Mr. Leaming has been appointed to the State Fire Commission as a non-voting member, he was appointed by Director Thomas Charles.

A group of subject matter experts have been meeting together to work on cleaning up the firefighter skills sheets, all together they have been working on this project for about 18 hours, they have been working to clean up the skill sheets so that they can be more accurate and useful. Additional sheets will have to be added as well. Mr. Orahood is hoping to be able to have a meeting with the committee in early February so that they can review the changes that have been made on the skills sheets. One of the biggest concerns that have been brought up is the cost of running skills stations at the fire charters; they believe that there are some charters that will not be able to handle the financial burden. Mr. Robertson of Columbus Division of Fire stated that he takes this process very seriously, we have an opportunity to reduce the number of firefighter line of duty deaths, we want to get these rules right the first time. Mr. Clay of Sinclair Community College stated that there needs to be uniformity among the skills testing stations throughout the state so that everyone is trained and tested the same. Mr. Garrison of Sinclair

Community College stated that the completion of the electronic forms that accompany the skills testing will also create additional costs for the fire schools. Everyone supports the skills testing, they feel it is a very necessary process in order to properly and safely train firefighters. Mr. Leaming stated that he would speak with our IT department about creating a system that will let Instructors electronically submit skill sheets to prove that students passed the skills so that they can go ahead and take the state certification test. A hard copy of the skills testing sheets should be kept in the students files for review during site visits. Columbus Fire will be piloting some of the skills sheets with one of their new recruit classes in February 22. A lengthy discussion ensued.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. McLean presented a 1403 update for the committee. A class was held on December 8th, 2012, at Stark State and was a combined effort between Stark State, and University of Akron. A total of 78 people attended the class. Thirteen individuals showed up from the original seminar and were called Train the Trainers for this particular course. It was also asked if individuals who attended the 1403 training at the Ohio Fire Academy in 2008 could be considered Train the Trainers as well. Feedback for the 1403 course was very positive, they would like for this class to be offered to all instructors throughout the state.

Haz Mat Tech Survey, Mr. Orahod created the survey, and after viewing it; a few committee members mentioned some necessary changes. Mr. Steele wanted the members to view it, and send any changes and recommendations to him so that it can be finalized and sent out to all the departments around the state.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Mr. Steele entertained a motion to adjourn. McLean first. Sacco/Babb second. Meeting adjourned at 11:43.