

FINAL

**FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2008**

Chaired by: Phil McLean

Meeting Date and Location: February 12, 2008, Ohio Department of Public Safety, 1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Committee Members Present: Bob Babb, Jim Steele, Richard Sacco, Mark Lundy and Mark Mankins

Committee Members Absent: Brent Gates, Terry Gill

Staff Present: Summer Boyer, Jim Calco, Aleta Dodson, Heather Frient, Dink Heinzman, John Kennington, Lorrie Laing, Thomas Macklin, Doug Orahood, Richard Rucker, Yvonne Tertel, and Melissa Vermillion

Guests: Pat Foor and Bill Grubb, Delaware Area Career Center, and James Holcomb

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 8, 2008 FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES

ACTION: Motion to approve the January 8, 2008, Committee minutes. Steele first. Sacco second. None opposed. Motion approved.

OPEN FORUM

Doug Orahood introduced the two new regional coordinators, Dink Heinzman and Jim Calco, who will be handling site inspections at the schools and meeting with some of the fire associations around the state. Mr. McLean welcomed them aboard and looks forward to their assistance.

STAFF REPORTS

Assistant Attorney General Report, Yvonne Tertel

Ms. Tertel said the first fire case has been opened and the fire case review committee will need to meet sooner than expected. Mr. Mankins requested a brief training regarding the case review process be held for the sub-committee members.

EMS Staff Legal Counsel, Heather Frient

Ms. Frient touched briefly on disciplinary actions the committee would begin doing and stated that a quorum would be needed in order to vote. The current rules need to be revised in the future to put in place the framework of when a new chair needs to be nominated, term limits for

the members, etc., as the current rules regarding such issues are not specific to the fire committee.

Ms. Frient and Ms. Vermillion will present the fire investigative policy and process at next months meeting. One person from the fire committee will be on the case review team and will always have to abstain from voting. One firefighter from the EMS Board will also sit on case review, for at least the first year, to provide consistency on disciplinary issues.

The fire committee members do not need to fill out the Financial Disclosure Form for the Ethics Commission; however, everyone is still bound by the laws.

Ms. Frient briefly discussed open meeting requirements, decorum and other issues to be cognizant of while holding meetings.

Fire Charter Report, Doug Orahood

Mr. Orahood said in the 18 days since the online process has been in effect, 4,130 applications have been received online: 888 volunteers, 281 Level 1 firefighters, 2,035 professional firefighters (Level II), and 926 fire safety inspectors. John Kennington indicated there have been a few glitches with the printing of the certification cards, which have since been corrected. Another issue still being worked on is getting the fire instructor application/renewal online. Mr. Steele has received inquires from applicants regarding an agency box that pops up. They are advised to leave blank. Mr. Kennington said they are working on getting a complete list of all fire departments as the database only contains the fire departments that have EMS. An announcement will be made once this is corrected. For now, the individuals can put in an agency affiliation if they choose to do so. Mr. Orahood is asking individuals fill out the EMS agency form that is on the website and fax it in so their agency can be manually added into the database. Mr. Steele asked whether the Fire Academy had provided a database and Mr. Kennington said they did not. Mr. Orahood said the information the State Fire Marshall has available does not contain e-mails and the difference between the EMS database and theirs is about 400 departments.

Mr. Orahood was contacted by Captain David Murphy asking about utilizing a P100 portable fire extinguisher training to meet the objectives 43.3 and 43.3(a) class B fire extinguisher training to satisfy the NFPA. This issue would be investigated further by the committee.

***** Mark Lundy arrived 10:21 a.m. *****

Mr. Orahood received an inquiry asking if continuing education for industrial firefighters and fire brigades can be approved by the fire chief or public safety coordinator at a plant not affiliated with a fire agency. Mr. Mankins said if the individual is a certified firefighter and is receiving training, it doesn't matter if he gets it at a volunteer or paid fire department or fire brigade; the supervisor or fire chief can approve that training. Mr. McLean said the plants usually have someone dedicated as the fire chief or representative over the emergency response team, and many of them are certified through state certifications, holding either the 36, firefighter I or 40 hour medical responder course. They are functioning as the first response for the facility after they initiate the 911 call. Ms. Frient said ORC 4765.55 says under the option of continuing education that it can be through a local entity. She said a "local entity" is clarified in

rule 4765-20-13 as being an “in service training program conducted by the applicable affiliated fire department.” She found a few ORC sections mentioning fire brigades, but no sections actually defined them. Mr. Steele said the part that concerns him about the 4765-20-13 rule regarding options for firefighting CEs is that a chief can approve it. He believes an interpretation needs to be made that someone operating an industrial fire brigade per OSHA rules, even though they don’t have a FDID number in the state of Ohio, can approve CEs. Mr. Steele would prefer the term industrial brigade be used. A lot of the program directors are tied to a local college or JVS, are affiliated with another fire department, and might have their own FDID number. A discussion was held regarding adding further specification to the rules, but Mr. Babb thought nothing should be done and Ms. Frient said the committee needs to remain consistent.

Another inquiry Mr. Orahoad received was regarding whether a Sheriff can train deputies as first responders, and sign off on their continuing education. Mr. Mankins said there are some counties where they train deputies to a Level I so they can operate a hose stream for an auto extrication. Mr. Mankins said this is a local jurisdiction issue. Mr. Sacco said if a sheriff is supervisor of a local entity, he can sign off on CE even if he is not an instructor or certified firefighter. Mr. Steele wondered if there are any firefighters who are an accredited institution. Mr. Rucker said the Union County Sheriff certified each of their deputies as EMTs.

Mr. Steele pointed out the EMS side is different. Mr. Macklin said they have to have a medical director and certified instructor to have a CE site. Most of the fire department with EMTs are familiar with the rules. Mr. Steele said on the fire side, you have to have a program director and fire chief, but surmised you could call a sheriff a program director. Mr. Mankins asked what the definition of a program director was and Ms. Frient said it is “someone who conducts the daily business and operation of the fire training program.” Mr. McLean asked if they could recommend the sheriff go to a local JVS charter school, present the training they are doing to the program director and see if they will sign off on it. If the program director is good with it, that would be a much easier solution than changing the rules. Mr. Orahoad said the Division cannot force the Sheriff to go, but can recommend it, and then the program director is responsible. Mr. Rucker recommended the sheriff go to a JVS program director.

Mr. Orahoad brought up the issue of fire safety inspectors who have no department affiliation for discussion. Mr. Macklin said a lot of inspectors are hired by township trustees as a “consultant inspector”. A discussion was held that if a firefighter is retired and acting as an inspector, do they need to be a certified firefighter. Inspectors can renew with all CE hours in just inspection. Mr. Kennington said at some of the fire meetings, some retirees are feeling disenfranchised, like they are being pushed out of workforce because they are not going to be permitted to continue in the areas they can still be effective in, which is fire safety inspector. Ms. Frient said they can retire and still be a fire safety inspector. Under 4765-20-16, thirty hours of continuing education over a three-year period is required. Mr. Steele said he would prefer they have the same amount of CE hours as the firefighter 54 hours in addition to the 30 hours.

Mr. McLean said under 4765-20-01, it says “no person shall provide firefighting, fire safety inspector, follow instruction or other related services without possessing the appropriate certificate issued by the Executive Director.” Mr. McLean said if someone is functioning as a fire safety inspector, whether they’re retired or not, it behooves them to have a current

firefighting card to keep up with techniques, skills and building codes in order to back up his expertise in issuing citations.

Rule 4765-20-03 says to be enrolled in the fire safety inspector curriculum you have to be a firefighter. Mr. Sacco said this was written to keep anybody from doing training. In 4765-20-07 it is called "fire training" (which includes both firefighter training and FSI training) and there is no rule specifically for fire safety inspector renewal, just that they have a renewal of fire training. Mr. Mankins said if they are injured on the job or retired, as long as they were initially certified as a firefighter and keep up their continuing education, they can keep their inspector card. Under 4765-20-16, they need 30 hours CE to be an inspector, and 54 hours to be an instructor. Ms. Frient said to enroll in the curriculum, you must be a firefighter; however, once initially certified as an inspector, it is not necessary to keep the firefighter certification. Mr. Babb said there are a lot of instructors who were never firefighters. Years ago you could become a fire safety inspector if you went through the course, but did not need to be a firefighter. Mr. Steele was not pleased, but said that he would comply with whatever the rules and law state. Mr. Mankins said if the person is both the fire safety inspector and arson investigator for a fire department, that's a little different. Irregardless, it would fall back to local jurisdiction and the Fire chief is responsible.

Clarification was made that fire instructors must maintain their firefighter certification, but inspectors do not.

Mr. Orahood said the fire rules roll out meetings have gone well. Attendance at the meetings has average around 100, with around 140 at the Bowling Green and Fire Academy meetings. Chief Steele has received multiple calls from volunteers saying they have experienced difficulty attending the meetings as there were no evening ones scheduled. Mr. Orahood said most of the meetings are scheduled on the weekends for everyone's convenience.

Mr. Orahood said the Fire Committee needs to develop an Assistant Fire Instructor course regarding NFPA 1403 and asked for volunteers from the committee. Mr. McLean said the committee needs to develop criteria to assist the charter schools. At this point, it should be left to the charter institution and recommend what they have currently in place since it is not written in the rules. Chief Steele asked what does the charter do now. Mr. Orahood said there is no requirement right now that they have to do anything. The instructor program requires they cover 1403, which is an 8 hour course; however, 1403 is only a part of that. Mr. Steele asked if during an audit inspection, would the charter get cited for doing only 30 minutes? Mr. Orahood said if that was the case, he would ask to look at their syllabus and advise they expand the course. Mr. Orahood said he cannot force them to do that if it is not in the rule. If the Division develops a program for 1403 and puts it on the website, Mr. Orahood believes most of them will use it. Chief Steele says EMS instructors can be a fire instructor, with no expectation of any knowledge of 1403 at all. He believes the Fire Committee needs criteria in place that must be followed on simple scene safety. If firefighters are going to go a live burn and 1403 is not being followed, his recommendation is to leave immediately. He said a lot of people come in with very limited experience.

Mr. Mankins will be on the EMS Board Education committee representing the EMS side looking at instructor content, the first 40 hours of methodology. Someone from the Fire Committee will

need to mesh the main 40 hours together to make sure we are on the same page and are still looking to do the same instruction.

Summer Boyer gave a brief overview of the LECTORA software system being utilized for development of online courses. It has the ability to insert videos, provide online testing, and can print certificates once the course is completed. Summer Boyer and John Sands will demo the EMS Trauma Triage course for them at a future meeting.

Mr. Orahod requested the committee if the volunteer training course should be put online at no cost. He also asked members to think about what direction the committee wants to proceed regarding online training. Mr. Mankins said some departments believe the state should provide free online training. He suggested they bring their feelings to the attention of their local organizations education person. He explained to them that the reason the trauma triage is online for free is because the course was widely unavailable across the state. Mr. Mankins told them if there was something very important the committee wanted all firefighters to learn, it could be provided online for free. Mr. Sacco asked how much fire training can and should be done online. Mr. Steele said if local jurisdiction signs off on the CEs, then it is okay. Mr. McLean said at some point the committee might want to limit online course hours per cycle. If firefighters do all their CE training online with no hands on training, at some point someone will suffer in the public, and the liability will lie with that Fire Chief.

Mr. Macklin attended the first meeting of the 36 hour workgroup and there was nothing to report yet. Mr. Orahod discussed driver training is currently not part of the 36 hour curriculum. He said it could be offered as an alternative or an additional course. The bottom line is the Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC) requires that course be completed by anyone who will drive.

CHAIR'S REPORT, Phil McLean

Phil McLean said 118 volunteer, 24 level I, 61 level II, and 34 fire safety inspectors were certified in the month of November, totaling 237.

Mr. McLean told the audience that copies of the fire report were available to them to review, as far back as 2003.

Chief Steele will be on the cover of the Ohio Firefighter (OFF) magazine regarding safety. Mr. McLean has an article on 1403 being published discussing why the group from Florida has been consulted and how the Fire Committee will look at the data and determine how to proceed--increase basic hours or offer an additional course.

The test for Fire Safety Inspector is still a paper and pencil test. Mr. Orahod continues to work toward getting this online.

Mr. McLean was invited by Chief Don Warwick to visit the Antrim Fire Department and gave a presentation of the new fire rules. The Antrim department is an all volunteer group serving 175 square miles, reports to 7 sets of trustees and 7 sets of administrators. They have a once a year meeting to give a state of the union meeting. The fiscal officer gave the breakdown of how they receive money to operate:

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\$28,250 Township Operating budget money
\$13,831 Fundraiser
\$10,000 Private donor
\$ 1,055 Bible school donation
\$ 1,000 Church donation
\$ 985 General donations
\$ 325 Garage sale
\$ 261 Ox roast
\$55,707

Out of this money, they pay \$9,200 for VFI insurance, \$5,300 truck maintenance, and \$3,533 for EMT training. They did 78 fire calls and 128 EMS calls. They are located in Guernsey County near the Salt Fork area and can drive up to 40 miles to respond to a call. Mr. McLean said it was very eye opening to look at the financial picture some departments must live with. They commended the Fire Committee for not having fees for testing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pat Foor, Superintendent, and Bill Grubb, Charter Director, of the Delaware Area Career Center presented a packet of information to the committee that included their organization chart, meeting minutes, forms, new student roster/absence form and sample schedules. The instructor ratio is back to 5:1. Mr. Orahood, Ms. Boyer and Ms. Vermillion visited the school and Mr. Orahood wanted to personally commend Pat and Bill on turning around the fire program. Mr. Rucker congratulated them on the professional approach and the Division appreciates the quick action on this. It is unprecedented.

OLD BUSINESS

The Fire Committee needs to continue work on driver training and 1403. Additional fire roll out meetings will be held over the next several weeks and into March.

Ms. Frient commended everyone for coming to the meeting in spite of the inclement weather

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion to adjourn. Steele first. Mankins second. None opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.