

FINAL

**FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES March 13th, 2007**

Chaired by: Phil McLean

Meeting Date and Location: March 13th, 2007, Ohio Department of Public Safety, 1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Committee Members Present: Brent Gates, Terry Gill, Mark Mankins, Jim Steele, Richard Sacco and Bob Babb

Committee Members Absent:

Staff Present: Doug Orahod, John Kennington, Melissa Vermillion, Thomas Macklin, PR Casey, Jacqueline Tunson and Heather Reed Frient

Guests: Jim Holcomb, Pat Foor, Ron Browning, John Wilt, Gerald Robinson, Charlie Dixon, Randy Hormann, and Michael Vedra

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 10th, 2007 FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES.

ACTION: Motion to approve the January 10th, 2007 Committee minutes. Steele first. Babb second. None opposed. Motion approved.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. McLean welcomed everyone to the March meeting and asked guests to introduce themselves.

ACTION: Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation by role call vote at 10:12 a.m. Gates first. Mankins second. None opposed. Motion approved.

Phil McLean	Here
Brent Gates	Here
Terry Gill	Here
Jim Holcomb	Here
Richard Sacco	Here
Jim Steele	Here

Bob Babb Here
Mark Mankins Here

*****Committee returned from Executive Session at 11:25 a.m.*****

ACTION: In the matter of EMS Case No. 2006-541-08, the Fire Committee recommends to the Executive Director to negotiate a consent agreement with the above mentioned party. Mankins first. Babb second. None opposed. Motion approved.

Fire Report

Mr. Orahood presented reports for February and March. He stated there was two new charters added and approved bringing the total to 71. (East Palestine Fire Department and Zanesville Fire Department)

Web Based Testing. Doug Orahood

Mr. Orahood said we have started testing with the web based testing system. He passed out the user manual and stated that it is different than what we were working on. Mr. Orahood said the web based software was developed by the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Information Technology Department and he spoke briefly of how the test will be set up and how the schools will log in the students. Once the student have taken the test they will be able to get the results of the test, the school will be able to print out a report of all the students' results, and be able to break down an individual to see how they performed in each topic area. The test was developed within the Department of Public Safety and as problems arise with the servers we will be able to fix them.

Mr. McLean asked if there should be a user's introduction class offered for web based testing with regard to communication.

Mr. Orahood said he didn't feel there was a need to hold a class. He stated that it is very easy and that if need be he can assist anyone that may experience any problems over the phone in approximately 5 minutes. He said the test security that the schools are currently under now will be the same.

Mr. McLean stated that there will be no cost for fire test, but that it doesn't say that a chartered institution wouldn't charge the students to test them.

Mr. Orahood said the chartered institution could charge especially if it's a retest or if they're testing someone from outside their program.

Mr. Orahood stated that if a student takes a test in the evening through a chartered institution and an issue arises with the servers they would not be able to take the test and

would need to reschedule to take the test. Mr. Orahood said he didn't expect that it would happen often, but that it is a possibility.

Mr. Mankins asked will at some point the instructor's technique exam be placed online.

Mr. Orahood said that the exam has been given to IT for installation on the web, but is waiting on confirmation. The Data Service Request has been submitted and the test has been given to the IT Department and waiting for Executive Director Rucker to sign off on it and it will then be placed on the web.

Question from the audience addressed to Mr. Orahood – the gentleman stated that in the overview it says that you need to have a minimum of five students required to take the exam. He asked if that was for retesting.

Mr. Orahood said an individual who is retesting would either need to wait for that school to hold another test session or go to another charter. We are trying to avoid the test becoming a test on demand because it's difficult administratively to set up for one person.

Mr. McLean said he felt that as the committee continues to move ahead with the web based testing and requirements and the charters that we also think about conducting another directors update meeting, and as we continue to get all the issues worked out and it is fine tuned he felt there should be some guidelines given to the charters again that would hopefully solve some of the problems that we may incur.

Mr. Orahood stated that the next Director's Conference update is scheduled for June 2008.

Mr. Orahood passed out the new drafted and developed Equivalency Application Form and asked for approval to have it placed on the web site.

ACTION: Motion to approve the new Equivalency Application Form and have it placed on the web as written. Steele first. Gates second. None opposed. Motion approved.

AG/Legal Report, P.R. Casey/Heather Reed Frient

No report given.

Chairs Report, Phil McLean

The chair thanked everyone for their attendance during the two day workgroup session held in February to work on the drafting of the Fire bill rules. He commented that the committee got through twenty-five sections of the twenty-eight rules.

Driver's Training Discussion

Mr. McLean said that the committee talked a little bit about the driver's training status at the two day workshop and asked if that was coming up at next month's meeting.

Mr. Gill asked the Chairman if he would like for Jeff Cotner to come to next month's meeting.

The Chairman said he felt it would be a good thing to do and asked the committee for their thought. The committee was in agreement for Mr. Cotner attendance at next month's meeting.

Mr. McLean gave a brief update of what coordination has been done between the three entities that made a presentation to the committee in December 2006. There has been some communication between a couple of them (Drive Team and VFIS), and there has been some attempt to bring some of the goals and strong points together. Mr. McLean stated he was not sure how it is going to work out, but he felt the committee will know more after next month's meeting.

Firefighter I and II Objectives

Mr. Orahoad said the driver training ties in with the goals and objectives for increasing the hours for Firefighter 1 and 2. He asked the committee to be prepared to discuss at next months meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dixon of the Ohio Fire Academy said that their reaccreditations with IFSAC are up in July and their contractor is rewriting it. Chief Gill mentioned the academy attending a meeting and having some discussion on IFSAC with fire safety inspector as well as IFSAC for the fire instructor program. Mr. Dixon told the committee that Mr. Jerry Robinson accompanied him to answer any questions that the committee may have.

Mr. McLean said that one of the things that came up at the work session held in February was IFSAC accreditation for fire inspector and a fire instructor. We've granted IFSAC accreditation for firefighters at level 1 and 2 and without bringing up a lot of past history in the early stages and it was explained to the committee that it was a "no pain" process and that it mirrors the state of Ohio training standards in the practical check off sheets and testing. Mr. McLean stated that we moved into that process and after a couple of months Mr. Orahoad began experiencing quite a few problems with regards to receiving letters and other documentation that stated that individuals were IFSAC approved. However, documentation and other items to support that were unavailable. When we re-questioned them other pieces of documentation was produced that met IFSAC accreditations and IFSAC certifications, but when compared to the practical check offs and the hours of skills that is required in Ohio there were a lot of things that had basic holes in them which gave the committee a red flag to say "what's going on". The

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committee would like to know what do we do with the inspector and the instructor and that is why you're here to explain what the equivalency is for the inspector and instructor.

Mr. Robinson said if an individual says they are an IFSAC certified firefighter at either level 1 or 2 what that person is saying is that they have met the training standards that are outlined in and NFPA 1001 course.

Mr. Orahood asked Mr. Hormann if the 8 hour module that is currently being taught to fire safety inspector would be sufficient.

Mr. Hormann said the 8 hour module covers mainly the fire code and a lot of administrative aspects for the purposes of education.

Mr. Gates said that there needs to be a separate component of that – its hard to compare hours for hours.

Mr. Orahood asked if IFSAC required a written test or just a practical test?

Mr. Robinson said they require both.

Mr. Gill asked if the committee would like to develop a course and allow individuals to complete it in 24 hours or require that they take the whole course because they're in Ohio now.

After a lengthy discussion regarding whether or not the IFSAC test was significantly the same it was concluded that we don't give individuals an Ohio instructor's card because of their IFSAC.

New Business

Mr. Kennington said the language that had been discussed about placing on the badge that was issued to the Deputy Registrar's office is on hold at this time. He stated that the committee and Executive Director Rucker will need to talk about the implementation of the certification process that is going to encumbrance the firefighters with HB 401. He stated we will either need to come up with an application process for each active firefighter that's in the field now and how we would notify the individuals need to be discussed.

Mr. McLean asked Mr. Kennington to put together a proposal for next month's meeting.

Mr. McLean read a letter he received from Chief Wolf which extended an invitation to some one on the committee to attend their next meeting to discuss rules for in service training as a result of HB 401. The meeting is scheduled for April 11th, 2007 and stated he would provide details closer to the date.

Chairman McLean and Mr. Orahood will attend.

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Old Business

Mr. McLean distributed copies of the letter he wrote to the Director of the Department of Public Safety, Henry Guzmán on behalf of retaining Richard N. Rucker as Executive Director of the EMS Firefighter and Fire Safety Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.