

FINAL

**FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES April 10th, 2007**

Chaired by: Phil McLean

Meeting Date and Location: April 10th, 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: Richard Rucker, Doug Orahood, John Kennington, Melissa Vermillion, Thomas Macklin, Jacqueline Tunson and Heather Reed Frient

Guests: Jim Holcomb, Tom Beatty, Jeff Cotner, Stew Atwood, and Charlie Dixon,

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 13th, 2007 FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES.

ACTION: Motion to approve the March 13th, 2007 Committee minutes. Steele first. Gates second. None opposed. Motion approved.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. McLean welcomed everyone to the April meeting and had guests introduce themselves.

Legal Report, Heather Reed Frient

Ms. Frient stated that some of the fire rules have been rearranged in order to condense the rules and to help the reader more easily find the rules they need. Curriculum rules have been combined with the charter rules (Chapter 11); certification issues have been combined with continuing education rules (Chapter 20); instructor issues will all be under Chapter 21; and the professional standards and disciplinary rules will be under Chapters 22 and 23, respectively.

Fire Report

Mr. Orahood presented reports for March. He asked the committee to take a look at the March 2007 numbers for fire safety inspectors and noted there was a big increase in volunteers compared to March 2005 and March 2006.

Web Based Testing. Doug Orahood

Mr. Orahood stated the test for volunteer firefighter 1 and 2 has been completed. The technique examination for instructors is online and will begin testing. Mr. Orahood said due to trying to figure out how to place the photos online the fire safety inspector test will take a little longer. Mr. Orahood passed out a test report of the number of tests that have been performed since web based testing began on March 8th, 2007. The biggest concern thus far has been the volunteer exam. Overall for firefighter 2, twenty people have taken the test since March 8th, 83% is the average score with a 97% pass rate. Firefighter 1's pass rate is 91% with an average score of 80. There have been 125 Volunteers test and the pass rate is about 52% with the average score being 71.

Mr. Orahood stated that the tests were taken in different parts of Ohio. He told the committee that if they would like to see the reports that have been received from the web based testing, he would be glad to sit down with them and show them.

Mr. Orahood asked the committee what type of data / statistics they would like to receive. He stated if there is a report not being provided, he would speak with the IT Department to see if those reports can be developed for the committee's use.

Mr. Mankins asked what the entrance requirements are for the schools that have a poor success rate.

Mr. Gill said the charters should be weeding out the bad instructors. Mr. Beatty said he agreed with Mr. Gill regarding the ability to evaluate the instructor's capability.

Mr. Orahood asked if the committee would like to have a report that is done by topic area to show the performance. Mr. Orahood stated that the biggest amazement is the interior attack, the SCBA's and ventilation.

Mr. Orahood said the adult education director, or whoever proctors the exam at every school for their students has the ability to run off an individual report that will show how each student did in each topic area. They can also run a group report to show the instructor of each topic area of how the class performed in those topic areas as a whole. So he can get an overall view of how the class did as long as they are not weeding other people from outside classes in there. The two reports that are currently set up are the overall results and a group report.

After much discussion Mr. Orahood asked for clarification as to what the committee was looking to see; did they want an overall report of how the performance of each test is performing statewide?

Mr. Orahood said the three digit school code is gathered in the information and that it is possible that the school code can pull up each school's performance at each level and then we can evaluate how they're performing. It's going to get into a legal situation whether he can divulge one school statistics against another school's statistics.

Mr. Beatty stated that we have an obligation with continuing education to keep people abreast as to what's happening with the programs.

Mr. Orahood stated he would send an e-mail to all the schools and request them to send the testing statistics of the paper test for the past year. He said he was not sure what the response would be, but he would certainly ask.

Mr. McLean asked if the fire instructor technique exam need to be updated to match the current book level.

Mr. Orahood said it has been updated and it matches the current curriculum and went on line April 9th.

Mr. Orahood said he and the EMS Education staff reviewed the test process extensively and eliminated questions as necessary.

Online Charter Application Renewal Process

The EMS Education Department is nearing completion within the next month or two. Once it is completed Mr. Orahood will begin working with the Information Technology Department to model fire; individuals will then be able to apply for and renew a charter online. They will also be able to fill out information on charter reports and keep it updated as changes are made in each program. When it's time for renewal, that information will automatically update and be sent to the Division of EMS. The Board and Education committee is working on rule changes to match fire and will hopefully be completed in the next couple of months.

Mr. Orahood said he had an equivalency application for which he needed some feedback from the committee.

Mr. McLean said based on the application process that was developed for equivalency and the way the individual filled his out, none of the practical skills or topics were checked as completed or done.

Mr. Gill said the committee was going to have to stop emphasizing the hours. If the person received the knowledge and if they passed an IFSAC or a pro-board written test, they have that knowledge. He was under the impression that if the person has the certificate, they should receive a fire card; if they don't have a certificate, then they should go through our process.

It was determined that either we recognize IFSAC/Proboard or we make them test.

Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee

Mr. McLean asked the committee if they would like red flagged issues to be brought before the committee for discussion or do we want to revamp the program and have one standardized process. Mr. McLean asked if the committee would like to deal with red flag issues or do we want Mr. Orahood to deal with them himself.

Mr. Gates said he felt that if Mr. Orahood receives an incomplete application that he send it back and ask them to fill it out correctly in order to be considered. The consensus of the Committee was to continue to do it the way it is currently.

Mr. McLean stated that due to the inconsistencies he would prefer that if Mr. Orahood receives an issue that he considers a red flag issue that it comes before the committee. Mr. McLean said he feels with continuing education and everything else we're going to be faced with we're going to have more of the same things along this line to deal with on a case by case basis.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Richard N. Rucker informed the committee that the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters nominated William Mallory Jr. to the EMS Board as a fire representative and Governor Strickland appointed Mr. Mallory to fill the vacant Board seat. He is currently employed by Madison Township Fire Department in Groveport. Mr. Mallory will be contacted to determine whether or not he will sit on the Fire Committee or if he plans to designate someone else.

Chairs Report, Phil McLean

Mr. John Kennington said the committee will need to come up with a structure that will incorporate contacting the different fire departments for the on line application process.

Mr. Mankins asked how much dual fire EMS is there?

Mr. Kennington stated he didn't have an exact amount, but estimated about 30,000 or more.

Mr. McLean said he did a presentation on March 22nd, 2007 at Tri-C on HB 401, and there were about 150 individuals in attendance predominantly from Cuyahoga, Lorain County and some from down south in attendance. He stated it was very well received and had a lot of questions regarding the bill.

He also did another presentation on March 31st, 2007 at the Southern Ohio Fire and EMS school.

Mr. McLean informed that committee that another date or dates need to be set to continue work on the rules. The dates decided amongst the group were May 10th and 11th, 2007 at Violet Township Fire Department.

The regular Fire Committee meeting date for May was moved to the morning of May 10th at 8:00 a.m. before continuing with the drafting of the rules. Ms. Tunson will contact Ms. Dodley to have the information changed on the EMS web site for fire.

Mr. McLean asked the committee to give some thought to the issue of notification and how we can notify the fire departments and the voluntary on line certifications process and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.

Driver's Training Discussion

Mr. Jeff Cotner attended the meeting to give some insight as to the type of training that's being done at the Fire Academy and passed out a handout. He referenced the meeting that took place a couple months ago and that the intention of the Fire Committee was for the three entities to get together but that the other two entities have monetary situations and the OFA doesn't. The handout gave some information on the 8 hours of training and 8 hours of classroom followed by a day of some type of practical driving application. If you look at the firefighter it's still 25% in driving and if you look at what's in the state objectives right now for the firefighter 1 and 2 how many objectives sheets are there on driving. Mr. Cotner said there are none, but there are five or six objective sheets for hazmat. Mr. Cotner stated he felt that we should challenge the issue from the training aspect and say that we are going to require some driver training in Ohio. Whether it's done on continuing education or whether you change rule in the hours for the firefighter 1 and 2 programs.

Mr. McLean thanked Mr. Cotner for putting the handout together. He told Mr. Cotner the committee had started looking at this hour's guide that was given to the committee a few months ago and said the committee needs to give some thought to incorporating driving, WMD and NIMS and how can we increase hours if need be on the 120 and 240 course.

Equivalency Discussion Fire Service Inspector/Instructor

Mr. McLean asked the committee's thoughts based on what we heard last month on giving equivalency when we think about a fire service instructor and or an inspector

Mr. Gates stated he was not ready to make a decision or say one way or the other. He didn't feel there was enough information.

The committee will revisit and talk further about it during the 2 day workgroup sessions May 10th through May 11th.

NEW BUSINESS

No comments brought forward.

Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee

Old Business

No comments brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.