

## FINAL

### **FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

Chaired by: Phil McLean

Meeting Date and Location: May 10th, 2007, Violet Township Fire Department, 8700 Refugee Road, Pickerington, OH 43147

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

Committee Members Absent:

Staff Present: Richard Rucker, Doug Orahod, John Kennington, Melissa Vermillion, Jacqueline Tunson and Heather Reed Friend

Guests: Jim Holcomb, and Charlie Dixon,

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

#### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES.**

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Committee minutes. Steele first. Gates second. None opposed. Motion approved.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Mr. McLean welcomed everyone to the May meeting.

#### **Fire Report**

Mr. Orahod presented the certification report for April. He stated there were currently 71 charters and that 7 have asked for additional time to submit their renewal packet that was due April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Orahod stated as of May 9<sup>th</sup>, there are fourteen that have not been sent in for renewal and is due by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Web Based Testing, Doug Orahod**

April's web based testing report reflected that there were 81 volunteers who passed and 36 that failed for a total of 117. The total number since web based testing began on March 8<sup>th</sup> is 560. The volunteer is up to 69% from 52% when it first came out in March.

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Mr. Orahood said he felt that was attributed to the test being new and now the students are starting to adapt. The total for firefighters that have tested and passed is 274.

Mr. Rucker said he was very pleased with all the hard work Mr. Orahood did to get the web based testing going and said he felt the results are great.

Mr. Orahood said that IT had worked out the issues that we had when we first start doing it. The IT Department has been very responsive in working and getting those situations repaired. Mr. Orahood stated that if for some reason a student is kicked out of a test it will now save the test every 45 seconds.

Mr. Gill asked Mr. Orahood if the web based test is the same as the written paper test.

Mr. Orahood said no; they have always been a different test. When we only had the paper test the questions were frequently changed.

Mr. Gates said the problem he is having with the 1 A test is that the test has been changed and he is still teaching with the old objectives. Mr. Gates stated he teaches one hour of ventilation for the 36 hour class. Mr. Gates stated his concerns with questions on the test not being in line with what is actually being taught in the course.

Mr. Orahood said the objectives that are currently being used now are old and need to be updated.

Mr. McLean asked if we have the ability to move or adjust the courses around on the 36 hour course.

Mr. Orahood stated that the old objectives that are currently out there were developed by the committee years ago and the numbers do not correlate with the NFPA objectives. The item bank that we build the test out of comes from the same item banks that are based on the NFPA standards.

Mr. Gill asked if it would have been easier to update the objective numbers instead of the objectives.

Mr. Orahood stated that some of the objectives are different now.

After much discussion the issue is that the test is not testing the basics on the 36 hours course. There are not test questions that match up with the subjects and or topics. The topics need to be updated. The standards of the objectives need to be tied to the standard of the test.

Mr. Gill said he felt the 36 hour course should be left as it is. He stated in order for Mr. Orahood to do the test and have the test match up with the objective numbers, the old list needs to be changed to the new objective number. The objectives don't need updated and the NFPA objectives should be in all three books.

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Mr. Dixon stated that he felt the problem was with the test. He said he understood Mr. Orahood's frustration is that the test banks do change and stated that if you are not teaching something it should not be on the test.

Mr. Orahood said he needed direction from the committee

The consensus of the committee was to leave the recommended hours guide alone, change the numbers and the objectives to match the topics.

It was decided that some of the committee members would get together and work on updating the NFPA numbers and match them with the right topic.

### **Live Fire Training**

Mr. Orahood e-mailed the committee rules for review from Florida requiring instructors training for live fire training. Mr. Orahood asked the committee if they would be interested in establishing rules along those lines while the fire bill rules are being drafted.

Mr. McLean said he was in favor of taking it a little further and looking at. He thought it would be important especially for the times that we do live burns in acquired structures.

Mr. Orahood said it would give the committee more control if there is a violation regarding the administrative code.

Mr. McLean said as an option we should look at the continuing education for fire service instructor to get the 1403 criteria for live burn. He suggested making it a part of the criteria for existing instructor's continuing education.

Mr. Holcomb stated that EMS and fire have got to be together on the topic of live burn.

The committee was in agreement that it would be a good idea to put something in place.

Mr. Rucker stated he felt with the training injuries and deaths that the committee would not be acting responsibly if they ignored the concept of requiring instructors to do specific training on conducting live fire.

Mr. Orahood said there are several people in the state that are very diverse in live burn training who could develop a good course.

Mr. Orahood stated he would find out what their levels are, draft something for Ohio using Florida's as a model for the committee to review.

### **Chairs Report, Phil McLean**

#### **Equivalency Discussion Fire Service Inspector/Instructor**

Mr. McLean said that the intent of the committee was to help Mr. Orahood streamline the equivalency process which hasn't worked very well in the past. It's given him a lot more

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things to do. There have been issues with IFSAC and Pro-board certificates are not as clear cut as we thought it would be. Mr. McLean stated we could leave the fire training equivalency for firefighter's 1 and 2, but if they want to become an instructor and an inspector they need to take the Ohio course.

After some discussion the committee agreed on a lesser course for the instructor, but when dealing with inspectors felt they should take Ohio course. The inspector has to take the entire Ohio course. The instructor has to take the pre-test, the knowledge test, do the student teaching and take the 8 hour module.

**ACTION: Motion to adopt equivalency for Fire Safety Inspector to take Ohio course and Fire Instructor to take pre-test, the equivalency test, student teaching and the 8 hour module and must have a level 2 certification for pro-board or IFSAC.** Mankins first. Babb second. None opposed. Motion approved.

### **Driver's Training Discussion**

Mr. McLean reiterated that at the last fire committee meeting Mr. Jeff Cotner, Ohio Fire Academy, provided the committee with the driver training program and talked about the 16 hours; 8 hours of classroom, and 8 hours of driving. Mr. McLean stated he liked the concept because it is tied to NFPA and has a lot of information related to the skill in the classroom. He felt that as the committee goes through and updates the topics and hours, the driver's training should be incorporated.

Mr. McLean said he did a presentation at Bowling Green during which he asked the fire officers how many hours of driving they thought the committee should require; they said somewhere between 8 and 16 hours.

### **Legal Report, Heather Reed Frient**

No report given.

Mr. Orahood stated that Ms. Karen Unver who is also the AAG for the EMS Board will serve as the AAG for the Fire Committee as well.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No comments brought forward.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Gill said he completed some additional research regarding the IFSAC and pro-board. He researched Texas A&M, Okalahoma State and Wackenhut's web sites had some information he wanted to share with the committee. The last individual who was brought before the committee who worked for Wackenhut had went through their fire training

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program. Mr. Gill's findings were that in order to be hired by Wackenhut you have to have a firefighter 2 certification from some state to get hired.

**ACTION: Motion to approve revamping the equivalency for firefighters to test at their level of certification.** Sacco first. Babb second. None opposed. Motion approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.**