

FINAL

**FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2011**

Chaired by: Jim Steele

Meeting Date and Location: May 10, 2011, 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, Mark Lundy, Mark Mankins

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Doug Orahod, Rachel Moore, John Kennington, Ellen Owens, Robert
Reutenik, John Sands

Guests: Deanna Harris, EMS Board; Dave Belcher, Violet Township/Ohio Society of
Fire Service Instructors; Jeff Cottner, Bloom Township/Ohio Society of Fire Service
Instructors; Charlie Dixon, Columbus, Ohio/Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors; Bill
Schuck; Bill Mallory, EMS Board

The meeting was called to order at 10:01AM.

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

ACTION: Motion to approve the March 8, 2011 FFSI committee minutes. Sacco
first. Lundy second. None opposed. Motion approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ellen Owens is serving as the Interim Executive Director of EMS until the position is permanently filled. Ms. Owens reported on the meeting that was held on May 3, 2011 regarding fire reinstatements, it was decided that no grace period will be given for fire certification expirations, they will be leaving the rules as is. Individuals who have expired will be allowed to submit a reinstatement application, then they will go through the case review process and with the advice and council of the Fire Committee, the executive director will ultimately have the final decision on whether or not they will be reinstated. A non disciplinary consent has been set in place for all the individuals whose fire certifications have expired, no fines will be imposed. Ms. Owens stated that we are trying to reach out to these individuals in any way that we can in order to get them back into the fire service if they are interested, but our primary focus is protection of the profession, and protection of the people they serve. Mr. Kennington stated that he is

working with the IT department to find out all the firefighters who have expired, and if they are still living and practicing. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Ms. Owens requested assistance from the Fire Committee to contribute information related to the fire service to be included in the division of EMS's newsletter the Siren.

OHIO SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE UPDATE

They are working on a program to entice Volunteer Firefighters to continue their fire education to train up to at least a Firefighter level 1. Most Fire Instructors and members of the Fire Committee are not satisfied with the 36 hour Volunteer Firefighter program because there really is not enough training to function properly as a practicing firefighter, but it can not be done away with as it is in law. A fifteen member committee was created to try to entice current Volunteer Firefighters to move up to the Firefighter 1 level. They want to break the training process into three parts/modules, it can last as long as is deemed necessary anywhere from 1 to 3 years to complete. The Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors is looking for the approval of the Fire Committee to go ahead and get this training program set up and running. The plan is to take phase 1, then test out of that phase to move on to the second phase, then test out of that phase to move on to the third phase. Once they take and pass all the phases they will move on to the state test in order to get their certification. It must be taught by a certified fire instructor and run through a state chartered training program. The Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors is requesting that the EMS division be the ones to design the test. Mr. Orahood stated that developing multiple tests for this process would be very difficult and time consuming. Mr. Orahood feels that the phase tests should be developed by the individual fire charters; he believes that they have the subject matter experts available who can assist in setting up the testing material. The test to get certified should continue to be the one currently used by the state to grant Firefighter 1 certification. His concern is if the state developed the tests at the end of each module, what if the participants in the class could pass one of the modules and not the others, where would they be as far as going on to the state test in order to get certified. Mr. Wright feels there shouldn't be a difference between taking the regular Firefighter 1 program and the three module program. Everyone should have to take the exact same test whether they take the program in one, or three years. The knowledge base is the same, but the time to complete the training is where the course is different. Mr. Dixon feels a modular test will be a more balanced test used to get certification. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Waltemire would like to see a pilot of the modular testing/training for the Volunteer to Firefighter 1. Would like to lay out the training pilot to show the committee how it would work. Mr. Waltemire will work with the Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors to create a road map for this proposed training process. As of yet no one has done this process, because there is not a system out there to do it.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL/OHIO FIRE ACADEMY REPORT

None.

CERTIFICATION REPORT

None.

FIRE COORDINATOR REPORT

Practical skills sheets, Mr. Orahood met with Form Management to put the skill sheets into electronic format, to be placed on the Division of EMS website. Before they can be put on the website electronically, there needs to be a decision on which of the skill sheets can be simulated or verbalized, and which ones must be demonstrated. All the mandatory skills that were decided on by the committee must be demonstrated by all the students at all the schools.

A ten minute break was taken at 12:02.

The meeting was resumed at 12:11

September 30, 2011 is the timeline for all the ProBoard preparation to be completed so we can start issuing certificates. Mr. Wright is meeting with the Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors to make sure that there aren't any mistakes on the skill sheets so it won't have to be fixed after everything has been completed. The committee plans on having any final changes on the skill sheets done by July 12.

During the committee meeting it was decided by the committee that Skill Sheets 001, 002, 008, 010, 013, 025, 026 will be mandatory for all students at all schools. Skill Sheets 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 009, 011, 012, 014, 015, 016, 017, 018, 023, 027, 028, 029, 030 must be demonstrated by the students and can not be simulated/verbalized. Skill Sheets 019, 020, 021, 022, 024 can be simulated/verbalized. Once the skill sheets have been finalized, the skill sheets have to be developed electronically by an individual in Form Management, because every form used by the state needs to be tied in with a form number. The skill sheets have all been approved all Mr. Orahood needs is corrections, then he will send it out to the committee, and give them a week to respond back, then they will be finalized and he can begin the process of having them created electronically. Mr. Orahood is working on a practical skills evaluator training guide; he is using Alabama's as a model.

Rules revisions: 4765-11-01 (N) a clarification was made to the definition of a full time firefighter. 4765-11-03 added testing information for security; it needs to be finalized before it can continue through the process. 4765-11-05 is good to go. 4765-11-10, 11-11, 11-12, 11-13 are okay. 4765-11-15, 11-17, 11-18 are not completed yet. The 1403 Live Fire Training course needs to be finished and all new instructors will take the new 1403 course when it has been completed.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Steele asked if the committee would be willing to get together for another rules meeting. He is looking to set it sometime around the first part of June.

Haz-Mat Tech- 40 hour course that was proposed, Mr. Lundy is working with the committee; he is also working with Mr. Orahod on a survey. Mr. Steele is all for the Haz-Mat Tech course.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Orahod attended a meeting regarding a search and rescue course, one of the instructors set up to teach the course had lost all his fire certification cards due to expiration. He is developing a Search & Rescue class and wants to be an instructor. Mr. Orahod explained to him that whoever teaches a class that will lead to a certification, the instructor must be certified through the state of Ohio. Courses are being developed through FEMA, it is Ohio approved, but does not currently lead to certification and it is not set up through the Division of EMS. Mr. Orahod asked if we should set up links to this through our Ohio EMS website. Federal grant money was given for use in this course.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Huffman sent in some information about his hybrid online/in class Fire Instructor course. Mr. Steele reviewed the information that Mr. Huffman sent in and submitted to the committee notes in reference to the paperwork requested by the committee. Mr. Orahod advised Mr. Huffman to wait until he receives permission from the Fire Training Committee before he went ahead and started a hybrid Instructor course. The presentation that was given by him was completely different from the one presented by Bowling Green State University. Mr. McLean feels that Mr. Steele's summary notes on Tri-C were right on the money. He feels that the committee should use Bowling Green State University as the benchmark for future online hybrid courses. Mr. Orahod feels we need to give Tri-C some guidelines for creating the online hybrid course. Not every school has the same funds available that BGSU does. It was also stated that Tri-C is short 16 hours of face to face contact in their course outline. Mr. Steele doubts that the 3rd day meets the required 1403 standard taught in the Fire Instructor curriculum. Mr. Wright doesn't see any classroom teaching on how to teach. Mr. Steele finds the course insufficient, he feels that Mr. Huffman needs to realign and resubmit his Instructor course proposal. Mr. Wright stated that it seems that it has the students working on their final project before they have learned anything. The hours and set up are not even close to what the rule says. Mr. Huffman needs to show that he is meeting the hour requirements of the Fire Instructor course. Mr. Huffman needs to show a breakdown of time that is spent on each topic. Mr. Huffman needs a logical framework for the course and needs to show that students are actually participating online. The Committee's consensus was that

the proposed hybrid online/in class course needs to be restructured to add more face to face instruction time. They need to be able to track hours and participation of students and instructors and show how this is done.

Once approved, Tri-C needs to do a pilot and submit data to show how the class went, how the hours for students and instructor were recorded etc. He needs to show a logical method of training, with a structured framework.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Mr. Steele entertained a motion to adjourn. McLean first. Wright second. None opposed. Meeting adjourned at 1:15.