

FINAL

**FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2012**

Chaired by: Jim Steele

Meeting Date and Location: May 8, 2012, Ohio Department of Public Safety 1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Committee Members Present: Jim Steele, Dudley Wright, Eric Waltemire, Richard Sacco, Bob Babb, Mark Mankins

Committee Members Absent: Mark Lundy, Phil McLean

Staff Present: Rachel Moore, John Kennington, Doug Orahood, Ellen Owens

Guests: Jeff Cotner, Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors; Bill Mallory, EMS Board; Scott Walker, State Fire Marshal, Ohio Fire Academy

The meeting was called to order at 10:04AM.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 13, 2012 FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR (FFSI) TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES ALONG WITH THE CHANGES DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING.

ACTION: Motion to approve the March 13, 2012 FFSI committee minutes along with the changes discussed during the meeting. Wright First. Waltemire Second. None opposed. Motion approved.

OPEN FORUM

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Leaming was away at an EMS Director's conference, so Ellen Owens sat in the meeting on his behalf. There was no executive director's report for the committee.

OHIO SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE UPDATE

They finished up the Fire Instructor Updates around the state. Mr. Cotner stated that this was his last meeting as the President of the Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructor's he has completed his four years as the President.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL/OHIO FIRE ACADEMY REPORT

Mr. Walker presented the State Fire Marshal report, there are several projects going on at the Fire Academy right now. Coming up on June 23, 2012 is the Muster & Expo for families to attend to get a feel for what goes on out at the Fire Academy. July 14-15, the State Fire Marshal is going to be assisting at the Ohio Fire Chiefs conference. On September 19, 2012 there will be a hands on training available as part of the Fire & EMS expo at the Columbus Convention Center.

CERTIFICATION REPORT

Mr. Kennington shared the certification numbers from the previous month as well as the year to date, with the committee.

FIRE COORDINATOR REPORT

Mr. Orahod shared the Fire Coordinator report, he stated that the Fire Safety Inspector update has been created and 360 new items were added for creation of the Fire Safety Inspector test, and he is currently working on building the item bank. A new Fire Safety Inspector open/closed book test has been created and presented at the Fire Academy; a second one will be given on Friday May 11. The evaluator's training manual for doing the fire skill sheets testing is being finished up.

Mr. Orahod is also working with the State Fire Marshal to combine the Fire Awards with their awards program on September 20-21 at the Fire and EMS expo. The tentative time for the Fire Awards will be 1:00pm on September 20. Program Director updates will also be presented during the expo; this should allow more people to be able to attend at one time rather than having meager attendances. An online testing module is being created that will allow us to be able to download test item banks in order to be able to create multiple random tests, also adding to the security of the Division of EMS' online testing system. The online testing module will allow for the Division of EMS to electronically send test questions out to subject matter experts for their response and validation in order to be used as part of the test bank for creating the certification tests.

Fire Rules, current revisions are being done on the fire rules, Chapter 11 is done, Chapter 20 is almost completed, and Chapters 21-23 should be completed fairly quickly. Also, all the fire rules are up for their regular five-year review. Mr. Orahod will be working with Melissa Vermillion and staff to go over any changes or updates that will need to be made, and then the rules will go to legal for review, then they will come to the committee hopefully by June for comments and discussion. After the rules are approved by the committee, the division will begin work on the Common Sense Initiatives as part of the Governor's process. Mr. Orahod stated that he is hoping to have this done by May so they can post the rules on the website for about a week or two for any comments or suggestions made by individuals out in the field. He is hoping to have all this done by the July meeting in order to get the rules completed and voted on, so we can move on with the whole rules process.

Reinstatement rule, if continuing education is completed before an individual has expired, but they fail to renew their card, within 90 days after their expiration date, they can pay a \$75 fee to get their certification back. It was discussed after the work group in April, that if an individual hasn't yet completed their required continuing education before they expire, they will need to complete all the hours that they are missing and then take the reinstatement exam in order to get their card back. From 0-6 months after their expiration date, anyone who did not complete all the required 54 hours of continuing education, will have to complete the hours that are needed to add up to that 54 hours, any hours that were completed during their three year certification period can be used as part of those 54 hours, then they will take the reinstatement exam, then they can get their certification back. From 6-18 months, they will need to have the original 54 hours completed, as well as an additional 18 hours and the reinstatement test in order to get their certification back. After the 18 months, they would have to go back and train all over again to get their certification back. The only individuals who would be able to pay the \$75 fee to get their certification back would be those who did complete all their continuing education during their three year certification period but for some reason they did not get renewed. They only have the initial 90 day period after their expiration to show that they did in fact complete that continuing education and to pay their fee to get their certification back. A lengthy discussion ensued.

ACTION: Motion to approve the fire reinstatement process as discussed. Babb First. Waltemire Second. None opposed. Motion approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. McLean forwarded his report to Mr. Steele regarding the 1403 training update. He stated that an 8 hour class was held in Medina, 14 people attended, the training went very well. There is a request that was made to Mr. McLean to offer one in Southwest Ohio. The plan is to have all individuals who are training to become Fire Instructors to complete the 24 hour Fire Training module at the end of their course; this would change the total required Fire Instructor training hours from 72 to 88. New Assistant Fire Instructors will need to take the 8 hour awareness course. The course would need to be taught by a train the trainer. They also want to set up the 8 hour awareness course online so that everyone who is currently certified as a Fire Instructor will need to take it as part of their required continuing education hours during every three year certification cycle.

Education committee, Mr. Mankins stated that they are working on condensing the Public Safety Instructor Course from the 50 hours of general adult education training down to 40 hours, and want to make it consistent for any public safety instructor's across the board. On top of that 40 hours of general adult education training, the Fire side would roll out their own fire related module, EMS would have their own training module, and Fire Safety Inspector Instructor would have their own module. The biggest rule change that would be associated with this would be the changing of it from 50 hours to the 40 hours for the basic curriculum.

Hybrid Fire Instructor course at Cuyahoga Community College West, Mr. Steele asked if it has been started yet and what are the results of this. Mr. Wright asked Mr. Huffman of Tri-C to have a presentation regarding the hybrid pilot for the committee at their meeting in July.

NEW BUSINESS

The State Fire Marshal/Ohio Fire Academy wants to develop a collaboration with program directors from the Fire Charters around the state. Scott Walker is the contact person at the Ohio Fire Academy. This was proposed in order to assist with the skills based testing, namely for the smaller schools/charters that don't have the resources, funding, or facilities to be able to complete the fire skills testing.

There is also a proposal from the Ohio Fire Academy to put the Volunteer Firefighter course online, making the curriculum components more accessible for individuals who are interested in training, but are unable to because of schedules, they would also come in for hands on training. Quizzes, mid-term, and the final exam would be done online with the state certification examination done onsite at the Ohio Fire Academy. Individuals would have to pass each module in order to move on to the next training module. Before they would be able to be certified, they would be tested by a certified instructor with hands-on skills testing to make sure that they are competent in the skills that they trained on. The pilot for this online Volunteer Firefighter course is currently being drafted by the Ohio Fire Academy, if approved, and tested successfully, they will share this idea and training with other schools around the state. Mr. Orahood stated that division would need to send the request to Mr. Ford for a legal review. The committee requested that the Ohio Fire Academy submit a detailed proposal for how the course would be conducted.

OLD BUSINESS

Haz Mat Tech certification. A survey was sent around to all Fire Departments around the state asking how many operated a Haz Mat Team, or would be interested in that becoming a certification in Ohio. A majority of the departments that responded to the survey do not run Haz Mat Teams; many times it is more of a countywide thing rather than individual departments. It was thought that people may possibly think that the state was considering making Haz Mat Tech certification a requirement, this is not the case, it is just being considered as an optional certification. The Tac, would just like the opportunity to be certified as a Haz Mat Tech available for anyone interested. The Tac would like for anyone who can provide a 24 hour course completion certificate to be grandfathered into the certification, and anyone else who is interested in becoming one will need to follow the 40 hour training to get the certification. Is there a recommendation that can be taken back to the Haz Mat Tac, further conversation on the topic was over.

A committee workgroup was held on April 12, 2012.

ACTION: Motion to approve minutes from April 12, 2012. Waltemire First. Sacco Second. None opposed. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Mr. Steele entertained a motion to adjourn. Wright First. Waltemire Second. Meeting adjourned at 11:25.