

FINAL

**FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 12, 2007**

Chaired by: Phil McLean

Meeting Date and Location: June 12, 2007, Ohio Fire Academy, 8895 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

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

Committee Members Absent:

Staff Present: Richard Rucker, Karen Unver, Doug Orahod, Thomas Macklin, John Kennington, Melissa Vermillion, Rachel Moore and Jacqueline Tunson

Guests: Stephen Rich, Tom Beatty, and Charlie Dixon

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MAY 10, 2007 FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

OPEN FORUM

Mr. McLean had the guests introduce themselves.

Mr. Orahod introduced Karen Unver. Ms. Unver is the AAG for the EMS Board and will also serve as the AAG for the Fire Committee as well.

ACTION: Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation by roll call vote at 10:04 a.m. Steele first. Mankins second. None opposed. Motion approved.

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

Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee

Bob Babb Here
Mark Mankins Here
William Mallory Here

*******Committee returned from Executive Session at 10:18 a.m.*******

ACTION: In the matter of pending litigation, the Fire Committee recommends to the Executive Director that the applicant needs to complete the application, take the written test for Firefighter I & II, complete practical testing, and HAZMAT awareness/WMC operations for the state of Ohio. Gates first. Mankins second. None opposed. Motion approved.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, Karen Unver

No report given.

STAFF REPORT

Doug Orahood:

Mr. Orahood shared with the committee that there have been a lot of enhancements made to the web based testing in order to collect data to generate reports the committee would like to see. To date, 1,250 candidates have been tested utilizing the web-based testing.

Some security measures have been put in place to help with the problems that were occurring during the first several weeks of web based testing. When taking the online test, the system is saving every 45 seconds in case of power outage. That way, the whole test doesn't have to be completely retaken. Mr. Orahood asked if the committee was comfortable enough to have the paper test removed from the schools, but the conversation was diverted to special needs students. If a person with special needs is going to test for certification, they need to elaborate what type of specific assistance they need to take the test. This must be indicated in the supporting documentation as well. The IEP needs to specifically say exactly what type of accommodation is needed (someone to read test to them, needs extra time to take it, etc.). They said they would do whatever the student and IEP request. Some schools are giving reading/vocabulary comprehension tests before students can start a course, which will help determine if a student has special needs.

John Kennington:

Mr. Kennington said according to EMS employee Sue Morris, there are 57,442 firefighter certifications. Approximately 30% of those are either deceased or no longer practicing, which brings the number down to around 42,000. Of those, approximately 28,000 are Firefighter/EMT combinations: 9,703 Level II Firefighter/Paramedics, 8,128 Level II Firefighters/Basics and 3,908 Volunteer Firefighter/Basics. When we begin certification

with HB 401, cards will be issued that will expired in 3 years from the person's date of birth.

Director Rucker:

Mr. Rucker had no news to report.

CHAIR'S REPORT, Phil McLean

Mr. McLean spoke about the Florida live fire training.

Mr. Babb described what "TRADE" is. The Training Resources and Data Exchange (TRADE) program is a regionally based national network designed to promote exchange of fire-related training information and resources. All states have representatives from areas serving populations over 1000,000. Mr. Babb is Co-chair in Region 5.

Mr. McLean recommended bringing the gentleman from Florida and his team to conduct the Live Burn program, or at least be able to get a closer look at their program and see if anyone here in Ohio would be capable of teaching such a program. Mr. Orahood provided handouts detailing some of the available programs.

Opened the floor up for discussion on NFPA 1403 from the Committee members. Mr. Steele said it's a viable certified option. It was recommended each fire charter have two instructors. The DVD with this information should be placed on additional DVD's for the next meeting, which also includes the Florida laws. Mr. McLean stated the committee has an obligation to take a look at the program. He felt it was something we need to do. The consensus from the Committee was they're in agreement. The Florida State Fire Marshall and State Fire Marshall Bureau of Fire Training Standards enforce the rules for live burns held for training. The differences between having live burn training in a safe, controlled setting (such as academy) versus an acquired structure was discussed. It was brought up that of the approximately 70 charter schools, only about 12 to 15 are holding instructor classes, and of the 52 hours, 8 of those are spent on 1403.

RULE MAKING RECAP

Mr. McLean indicated there are new updates in the current rule book from the two days spent at Violet Township. Mr. Orahood brought some things regarding the volunteer course to try and help understand the issues he's having with the volunteer objectives and trying to tie it in with the test.

Issues surrounding the web-based testing were once again discussed. Mr. Orahood stated the reason the test was changed was due to the fact that people knew the answers. Some people are upset because some of the test questions are on items not covered in the courses taught. Mr. Macklin said the problem is there are numerous instructors teaching different materials, and there is no way they can come up with one test for each instructor's curriculum. Mr. McLean feels they just need to tweak the questions and be done with it.

Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee

OFSA education posters are being mailed out and were available at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Steele tentatively scheduled a presentation in Stark County on July 19, 2007, and Doug Orahood will be giving a presentation in Delaware

OLD BUSINESS

Doug Orahood announced another position is being created to assist him with site visits.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion to adjourn. Steele first. Gill second.

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 p.m.