

FINAL

**FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2010**

Chaired by: Phil McLean

Meeting Date and Location: July 13, 2010, Ohio Department of Public Safety 1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Committee Members Present: Phil McLean, Dudley Wright, Terry Gill, Richard Sacco, Jim Steele, Bob Babb, Mark Lundy

Committee Members Absent: Mark Mankins

Staff Present: Doug Orahod, John Kennington, Rachel Moore, John Sands, Vanessa Mertz

Guests: Captain George J. Hudale, Central Ohio Fire Museum; Jay Louks, Columbus State; Jim Holcomb, Violet Township Fire Department; Dave Belcher, Ohio Society Fire Service Inspectors; Chris Posante, Cleveland Fire; Mark Vedder, Solon Fire-Rescue

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MAY 11, 2010 FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR (FFSI) TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES

ACTION: Motion to approve the May 11, 2010, FFSI committee minutes. Steele first. Sacco second. None opposed. Motion approved.

OPEN FORUM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT, Richard Rucker

No report.

OHIO SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE UPDATE

The last few corrections and additions to the volunteer course objective check off sheets are done and they are now posted online. There is an Instructor Development two day conference being held at the Columbus Division of Fire on October 15 & 16.

HAZ MAT TECHNICIAN

Mr. Gross, from Ohio Haz Mat Tac, has decided to petition to certify Haz Mat Technicians, the same way as firefighters and EMT's are certifying. At the meeting to explain some of the background of the certification as there is no certification for a Haz

Mat Technician. They follow OSHA and NFPA guidelines. A number of years ago the Ohio security task force began putting together curriculum to put standards to training for Haz Mat. They produced a couple of books relating to this training, The Ohio Haz Mat and WMD Awareness book, came out with a six hour official training course built with Office of Domestic Preparedness funds so it was certified as a federal level course. Designed to meet OSHA 1910-120 awareness level standards and also took all the NFPA standards at that point for awareness, and included them in the book, so that the book would meet the NFPA standards. The second book produced from task force was the Ohio Haz Mat and WMD Operations course. This course goes into two modules: the first module meets all of the OSHA requirements and addresses all of the NFPA requirements that were in effect at the time. Module two met all of the Office of Domestic Preparedness requirements for the First Responder at the operations level to a terrorism incident. Since that point NFPA drastically changed and the book right now is currently undergoing some adjustments. Module three will be introduced to the Ohio Haz Mat and WMD Operations that will address the core competencies that NFPA now has. There are six Ohio Fire Academy IFSAC competencies that are built into that book, unit tests and a final test at the end of book. Final series is the Haz Mat and WMD technician that is built to meet OSHA standards it includes all the requirements of the new NFPA technician, module two is the Office of Domestic Preparedness there are forty two competencies there is a fifty question test, and an eight hour refresher course. Proposing for the State of Ohio to adopt the standards that are put forth in that book to create an actual certification level of Ohio Haz Mat Technician. Some of the questions that were brought up were should we also look at the awareness and operations level, at this point the TAC would not recommend that you certify everyone at the awareness and operations level for a couple of reasons 1: if FF1 & FF2 and EMT-B there is some Haz Mat requirements that probably meet the awareness level and as far as the firefighter goes, definitely meet the operations level. Would propose a 40 hour minimum course is what is required to be certified as a Haz Mat Technician, WMD certified also and 8 hours of continuing education per year to keep up the certification. Estimate about 1,000 to 10,000 will get certified at the technician level. In the three courses that were built, its free to any school to get the disk to teach from, the Ohio Fire Academy has had certified Train the Trainer courses and has over 596 awareness instructors, 195 operations instructors, and currently there is 44 technician instructors. Mr. McLean stated that this seems the most practical and organized of certifications for the state to add. A lengthy conversation ensued. Mr. Lundy, Mr. Wright, Mr. Steele, Mr. Babb, and Mr. Sacco support a certification for Haz Mat Technician as opposed to a credentialing. The committee can develop a group to work on this.

CERTIFICATION REPORT, John Kennington

Gentleman appealing to the committee asking the board to reactivate his certification, which expired on May 8, 2010. He tried to renew his card, and was not able to log on, he called the Division to make them aware of his being unable to log on. He received another email notification that his certification was about to expire, left a message for the division and did not hear back from anyone, he got a new password, and by the time he went back on to renew, his card had already expired. Had been certified since 1977.

ACTION: Motion to recommend to the Executive Director to approve reinstatement. Steele first. Sacco second. Gill, Wright, and Lundy voluntarily abstained from voting as they personally knew this individual. None opposed. Motion passed.

ACTION: Motion to recommend to the Executive Director to approve reinstatement for eleven individuals unable to renew due to military service. Steele first. Babb second. None opposed. Motion passed.

ACTION: Motion to recommend to the Executive Director to deny reinstatement of gentleman who was unable to complete continuing education due to job injury. Babb first. Wright second. None opposed. Motion passed.

ACTION: Motion to recommend to the Executive Director to deny reinstatement due to non renewal because of lack of computer and lack of computer knowledge. Babb first. Sacco second. None opposed. Motion passed.

ACTION: Motion to recommend to the Executive Director to deny reinstatement because of non-renewal due to living in another state. Steele first. Wright second. None opposed. Motion passed.

FIRE COORDINATOR REPORT, Doug Orahood

Continuing to push through the audits. The biggest problem is that they are not being properly signed, they must be signed by a Program Director or a Fire Chief.

Life Safety Initiative, Doug can start drafting the rules to add the 4 hours of Life Safety Initiatives to training and can give them to the committee. The Firefighter 1 training would need to be 152 hours to include the 16 hours of Haz Mat Awareness and Operations. In 2008 the NFPA went from awareness to operations in the Firefighter 1 curriculum. 16 hours operations, and awareness is 8 hours. The Haz Mat Operations course is in the Firefighter 1 curriculum, but wouldn't be needed in the Firefighter 2 transition course. **Motion to make a change to recommended hour guide, Firefighter 1 & 2 reduced from 20 hours to 16 hours, Firefighter 2 Transition course will be changed to 0 hours, and Firefighter 1 will be 16 hours for Haz Mat training.** Lundy first. Gill second. None opposed. Motion passed.

Ohio Fire Awards, nomination form is online, one has been received already.

Fire Program Director Conference will be held at the Department of Public Safety on October 7 & 8, in the ODOT auditorium. The agenda is being finalized, the fire awards will be given on the first day of the conference. The Fire Award program will be at 8:30, and the director's conference will begin at 10:00.

Pro-Board, our application has been submitted and received by Pro-Board, the submission was good. There will be a site visit here in the second week of October we will hopefully become accredited by the end of that month. We are using the Alabama Fire College skill sheets as a template to create our own. There was good feedback on the skill sheets that Mr. Orahood worked on.

The committee wants skills testing across the board, not just for ProBoard, at the Firefighter 1 & 2 levels, not used in the Volunteer course or for training, because it doesn't meet the objectives, and doesn't qualify for ProBoard. ProBoard will just be an optional step if they choose to get it. They will have to take the skills testing before they sit for the written test. Every skill on the skill sheets is critical, they all must be met in order to pass. Grandfathering and equivalency for ProBoard needs to be reviewed, the representative from ProBoard suggested that anyone wanting to be grandfathered or wanting equivalency for ProBoard should take the practical and written test to get certified. Even if they come into Ohio with a ProBoard certificate. Mr. McLean may need to meet with our ProBoard representative to discuss this particular matter. Do we want to require a practical skills test for all people coming into Ohio, or just leave things as they are. It shouldn't be easier for someone coming into this state to become certified than it is someone who trains in this state. Mr. McLean asked if we could put a check box on the equivalency application for ProBoard that asks if they are currently functioning or not, and underneath if they check I am not, you may be subject to written testing, practical testing, or something like that. There needs to be a way to verify it. Mr. Kennington believes that anyone coming into the state with IFSAC or ProBoard should have to meet the same requirements as someone who trained in Ohio, they should have to show how they have had training in the last eighteen months, verify training by a certificate of completion, or signed off by a Fire Department so we can verify it in another state, that would solve the whole problem to know that they have met the same requirements as anyone in the state of Ohio, because they have had to do some kind of active training and continuing education. If it is older than eighteen months, they should have to test. Mr. McLean asked so anyone who comes into Ohio from a state that doesn't have continuing education is going to have to test? They need to show proof that they did training that would somehow coincide with what is required here in Ohio to maintain certifications. Mr. Steele stated, we should have some kind of flexibility because Ohio doesn't have all the certifications that every other state has. Mr. Kennington, and Mr. Orahood will work on a draft of rules. Those who want to offer ProBoard will have to submit a self study, similar to what the state had to submit, only an abbreviated version, to show that they can appropriately test and run the skills stations. Everyone who wants to be accredited for ProBoard will need to meet the rules of ProBoard.

CHAIRS UPDATE, Phil McLean

Frank Conway is back working part time at the Ohio Fire Academy and is hoping to be back to full time soon.

NFPA 1403 Live Fire Training, the goal is to complete the syllabus, a draft should be ready for review in September. A June 15 meeting with the Ohio Fire Alliance was

scheduled to plan the certifications general direction, and guidance as the Fire Committee is doing some long range of certifications.

A call was received about an online Fire Instructor class being conducted at a fire charter and no one had knowledge of this. Nothing is written in the rules to say they can not do an online class, but they need to be approved by the Fire Committee first. Mr. McLean requested a complaint to be sent in, because it can not be investigated until a written complaint has been received. Mr. McLean is calling the institution to find out why they have not requested permission from the Fire Committee, and to ask them to come before the committee to show their curriculum and properly request permission and get approval. Mr. Orahood will start drafting rules for online training.

NEW BUSINESS

Jay Louks of Columbus State is receiving calls for people who are going to do reinstatement tests for him to sign off on their online training. These people he does not know they are just calling him up, because they know they can take the reinstatement test for free at Columbus State but they also want him to sign off on their online training. He will not sign off on their online training, he may do it for his own students who he knows, but not someone who did not train with them, but wandered in needing a signature. Mr. Orahood told Mr. Louks that he is under no obligation to sign off on someone's online continuing education. If they want to do training through Columbus State, and want to take it online, they should go to the online program that Mr. Louks has approved through Columbus State to sign off on.

Mr. Holcomb will be working only part time starting in August and then through the end of the year.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion to adjourn. Lundy first. None opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:43 PM.