

FINAL

**FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2010**

Chaired by: Phil McLean

Meeting Date and Location: September 14, 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, Mark Mankins

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Present: John Kennington, Rachel Moore, John Sands, Jan Greenlee, Renee Allen,
Melissa Vermillion, Heather Frient

Guests: William Bartoe, Zaleski Volunteer Fire Department; Tammy Reeves, Zaleski
Volunteer Fire Department; Rich Reeves, Zaleski Volunteer Fire Department; Steve
Hamilton, Moraine Fire Department; Jeff Eitel, Moraine Fire Department; Dave Belcher,
Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors; Chuck Balaj, Oakwood Fire Department;
Charlie Dixon, Columbus Fire/Ohio Fire Service Instructor; Kerry Fisher, Bowling Green
State University; Ann Light, Bowling Green State University; Brandon Loboschefski,
Maumee Fire Department/Bowling Green State University; Scott Walker, State Fire
Marshal/Ohio Fire Academy

The meeting was called to order at 10:03AM.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JULY 13, 2010 FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE
SAFETY INSPECTOR (FFSI) TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

ACTION: Motion to approve the July 13, 2010, FFSI committee minutes. Steele
first. Sacco second. None opposed. Motion approved.

OPEN FORUM

Presentation from Bowling Green State University by Ann Light, for approval by the
committee for an online Fire Safety Inspector training course offered by them. Ms. Light
said they have been doing a hybrid online instructor class there since October 2006.
Since that time they have had over 122 people complete that class. The average grade on
the instructor techniques exam after completing their training class is 78%. They have
continuously updated that class and have had to present it before piloting the class, and
then have come back several times afterwards to show course stats, etc. One of the
components at that time was that they incorporated a Live Fire component at the end.
The classes are designed to be hybrid classes, this is very intensively led by the

instructors, not a go online and simply watch powerpoints, take the quiz and then they are all done. Basically the procedure for people coming into this class is that they are screened for eligibility, they are informed of online requirements, and how to set up access, and are provided with orientation materials. This class format is not for everyone, if done right and done well it is more work for the students as well as the instructors. The students will then participate in four weeks that will be broken down in modules of online work, online discussion, assignments that need to be handed in, and they have interaction with the instructor. They are able to get a status report as to whether or not they are functioning at the level they should, and whether or not they are able to continue on into the basic training part that is the 32 hours of face to face class time. After they have completed the online training they will arrive at orientation for the face to face instruction. When they successfully complete all those requirements they will be allowed to sit for the state exam. The benefits of this are that they can integrate online electronic communications, and make them more accessible to people who have a difficult time taking that much time off work. The system at Bowling Green, is the blackboard system, it is secure and authenticated so that the students have to set up their own accounts with their social, birthdate, and address; they are required to authenticate each time they log in. The discussion forums are run like a classroom where you have instruction and students have to respond to questions, they have to respond to each other, they have to bring a certain number of original ideas back to class. They need to respond to other's comments, there is no such thing as lurking in the back of the classroom half asleep, the instructors can see who is logged in and see who is participating, how long they are online etc. The course consists of 40 hours of online work, and a minimum of 32 hours face to face class time. It is four weeks in length; each week requires completion of reading assignments, discussion board postings, submission of skills tests, and quizzes. Weeks 1-4 are a minimum of 8-10 hours per week. The instruction is very well laid out, skills tests; at least 10 of 23 should be passed as a minimum objective of the class. The digital drop box portion of blackboard is the secure site where they can submit class assignments. There is an online orientation prior to taking the class. There will be an email orientation, and they will have to register with BGSU through email. Registration will be cut off several weeks before class so they can be contacted and they will be presented an online tutorial how to get into a discussion board, how you submit assignments, how you put things in the digital drop box. They will be given plain instructions before the class starts, not a typical 80 hour Fire Inspector course. The computer program is able to keep track of how long people are online, and participating, it has a statistic center and a grade center. Mr. Gill feels this plan should be run by the OFOA group for approval to get it up and running, they should be given a timeline to approve it by, so it can get set up to go. Mr. Orahod should contact the OFOA about having Bowling Green State University to present their presentation to get their course started.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT, Richard Rucker

No report.

OHIO SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE UPDATE

They are pitching a two day conference on October 15 & 16 at Columbus Fire Training Academy.

The Ohio Fire Academy hosted the 1403 Live Fire Training last weekend and had 42 participants; they came from various states in addition to Ohio.

CERTIFICATION REPORT, John Kennington

A gentleman came before the committee to request exemption from continuing education; he was stationed out of state and the country during his certification renewal period, and would like to be reinstated.

ACTION: Gather data, and have the gentleman fill out a reinstatement application, the committee will be in touch.

A gentleman appealing to the committee to have his status changed to Level 2 Firefighter. Has been a full time firefighter for 22 years, he took the 200 hour career training course for Firefighter 2. Has a Volunteer Firefighter card, but never got a Firefighter 2 card after taking the 200 hour career training course.

Four individuals appealed to the committee to reinstate their cards without needing to retrain. Computer glitches caused them to miss out on their renewal period. None of them signed up on the initial January 24, 2009 date to get their new expiration dates. They are requesting to please be allowed to reinstate their fire cards without the need for retraining.

ACTION: Can fill out reinstatement applications that will be presented to the legal department and it will be determined from there what the next step is.

A gentleman spoke on behalf of five individuals in their department who due to computer glitches missed the renewal process. Four of the five did the initial renewal in January 24, 2009; one of them missed the process completely. Mr. Kennington suggested that each of them submit as a secondary email address, their employer's address so that they can be held accountable by them. They wish to be reinstated with no penalty. They need to know that they currently are not able to be active firefighters, until a decision is made on their certifications.

ACTION: They must submit reinstatement applications that will be taken before the Legal department and it will be determined from there what the next step is.

Heather Reed Frient stated that they are trying to streamline the process of reinstating fire cards. They are trying to have it mirror what some of the current policies are in terms of what steps should be taken to make sure that everybody has their chance to be heard. They are talking about having people complete a firefighter reinstatement application, they will be reviewed, and then if they haven't met the requirements in the rule at that point, an official notice of denial will be sent out. They will be sent a notice for

opportunity for a hearing, in that case there would be a right to request a hearing before a hearing officer and they will be able to present any documentation, exhibits, etc, in person, or in writing at the hearing, and this formalizes a bit more the processes that were already in place. That recommendation is going to be sent to the executive director before he makes any decisions with the advice and council of the fire committee. It's a few more steps, but is in the applicant's best interest to be able to devote more time to case documentation, so everyone gets their "day in court". They are in the process of drafting some new policies and procedures in regards to how this will be handled. Individuals with expired cards will need to complete a reinstatement application, they will receive a notice of denial, and they can request a hearing to present their case, then their applications will be sent to the Executive Director with advice and council of the Fire Committee, in order to be reinstated. New policies and procedures are being drafted to show how this process will end up working out. They will be requesting an exception to rule 2019, if specific exemptions are required, the rules can be written to allow for some wiggle room. This method is set up for people who missed the initial January 24, 2009 renewal date. It is going to be a Division of EMS policy laying out the steps that will be taken for the individuals who come aboard for an exception to rule 2019. Exceptions are only in place for further renewals after the 1/24/09 date, not for people who didn't initially renew their card.

Mr. Kennington spoke of 8 active military members who were unable to complete their renewals.

ACTION: Motion to recommend to the Executive Director to approve reinstatement of certifications. Wright first. Gill second. None opposed. Motion passed.

FIRE COORDINATOR REPORT, Doug Orahood

Fire Rules: Mr. Steele and Mr. McLean have numerous questions regarding the rules. The committee members will take the rules back and add questions and comments and email them to Mr. Orahood. Mr. Wright would like to see a synopsis to see what his intentions were in creating the document. Mr. Steele suggested going to Violet Township to hammer out changes to the rules in an all day session with an opportunity to have all parties present for online training rules. Some of the rules that were patterned off of the EMS rules do not translate well into Fire Rules. The main push was to put the four hours of training into FF1 and FF2.

Mr. McLean encouraged the entire Fire Committee to attend the Fire/ EMS Instructor conference on October 7, at 8:30 to participate in the fire awards.

The question was asked "How do you want to go about the testing mechanism for practical testing for ProBoard?" Mr. Wright stated that he is not against ProBoard, but feels it is taking on a life of its own, he asked when the skill sheets for the ProBoard were approved, the committee agreed to look at the process, but does not recall when they were approved by the committee. Mr. Wright feels it is being pushed along without going through the proper channels. Mr. Gill said that some of the charters have no

facilities to do the skills testing. Mr. Gill also stated we have a person who has zero fire experience writing out skill testing sheets that are going to be used to test students for ProBoard. He noted that he has a problem with that. Mr. Kennington stated, in Mr. Orahoods' defense that he has reviewed a lot of publications that have to do with skill sheets and wanted to present them to the Committee for additions, changes, and final approval. Mr. Orahood is not claiming that he has the expertise in putting together what should be done as far as skills testing, but requested comments to be added to the current skill sheets. Mr. Gill stated that his comments are not a criticism of Mr. Orahood, or the skill sheets. Mr. Steele stated that the skill sheets were based on the Alabama Fire College skill sheets, and not Mr. Orahood's brainchild. Mr. McLean told the committee to add questions or comments that they may have on the skill sheets and the rules, and they may have to have an informal workgroup to finish the product.

CHAIRS UPDATE, Phil McLean

There was discussion regarding the status of the fire modules for the Firefighter 2 course. The modules and curriculum will be taught based on the current skill sheets used for FF2. How will they test? Should there be a test after each of the modules is completed? One of the goals was to use the continuing education hours from that training time to enhance their certification.

Mr. McLean presented the committee with a 1403 Live Fire Training packet with a PowerPoint, and a class layout. The format has been redone, and it looks very similar; some stuff was added on the state of Florida Live Fire Instructor Course from 2008, it is a 40 hour class. Content of course, lists the nine chapters that are in 1403, the real questions that Ohio is faced with, and how are they effectively educating Ohio on the 1403 in the instructor's course. Information on where the Live Burn came from, studies from the UK on the 1402, the guide for building the training center, building the approved burn buildings, and a lot of data talking about the history. Class content, how the class will be conducted, how the training doesn't need to start in the yard of the acquired structure, they need to start in the classroom, clearly stated objectives. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Certifications versus credentialing. Under rule of the Division, they can only give and support a certification. Will the 1403 Live Fire Training move into a new certification? Some of the information was readjusted in the slide show. It has grown into a lengthy process. The division can not give a credential, they must support a certification. The 1403 Live Fire Training class schedule and how many hours would be needed per day were discussed. Mr. McLean requested the committee members make questions or comments on the 1403 PowerPoint, then rules and skill sheets and let him know. Mr. McLean wanted to set an October work session date to work on 1403 PowerPoint, class and training, and to work on the rules and skill sheets. October 19, is the date set to get a work group together to work on the 1403 Live Fire Training at Columbus Fire at 9:30.

Chief Steele was recognized in this month's addition of In Command magazine, for Ohio Fire Chief distinguished service award.

Mr. Steele attended the Ohio Fire Alliance meeting, 1403 was of high priority, and they stated that they would like a Haz Mat certification.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 PM.