

FINAL

**FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2010**

Chaired by: Phil McLean

Meeting Date and Location: November 9, 2010, Ohio Department of Public Safety 1970
West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Committee Members Present: Phil McLean, Terry Gill, Jim Steele, Bob Babb, Mark
Mankins, William Mallory

Committee Members Absent: Dudley Wright, Richard Sacco, Mark Lundy

Staff Present: Doug Orahod, John Sands, Rachel Moore, John Tauber

Guests: Patrick Beckley, Ohio Fire Academy; Frank Clay, Sinclair Community College;
Geof Garrison, Sinclair Community College; Scott Walker, State Fire Marshal, Ohio Fire
Academy; Jeff Cotner, Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors; Steve Wallis,
ORFC/AEP; John Wilt, Columbus Fire; Mike Vedra, Columbus Fire

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

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2010, FIREFIGHTER AND
FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR (FFSI) TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

ACTION: Motion to approve the September 14, 2010, FFSI committee minutes.
Steele first. Mankins second. None opposed. Motion approved.

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Ann Light came with an update on their proposed hybrid Fire Safety Inspector class, it
has been run past the Ohio Fire Officers Association and they have approved it. The
class will be limited to 20 students at a time. They want to run a pilot of the inspector
class in May of 2011. The students will be taking the same test as the current inspector
classes take for certification. The committee would like to see some statistics, on the
make up of the class, who attended, and how it was perceived by the fire service.
Bowling Green State University is not opposed to having a couple of Fire Safety
Inspector Instructors go through the course in order to make sure that the curriculum is
being taught consistently. Ms. Light is in the process of getting in contact with a few of
the Fire Safety Inspector Instructors to go through the course to review it.

**ACTION: Motion to approve the Fire Safety Inspector online pilot course for May
at Bowling Green State University.** Mankins first. Babb second. None opposed.
Motion approved.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL/ OHIO FIRE ACADEMY REPORT

No update. Just closing out the end of the calendar year.

OHIO SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE UPDATE

Had a successful fall conference.

CERTIFICATION REPORT

Mr. Sands filling in for Mr. Kennington, brought before the committee three requests for exemption.

First request, individual was on active military duty during their certification period and would like to be exempt from their continuing education.

ACTION: Motion to recommend to the executive director exemption from continuing education due to military service. Steele first. Babb second. None opposed. Motion approved.

Second request, individual wanted to be reinstated due to medical complications causing them to miss their renewal period. They would like their Firefighter 2, Fire Safety Inspector, and Fire Instructor reinstated. All supporting documentation was included showing that this individual did have a legitimate medical situation. Individual had also completed all required continuing education for renewal.

ACTION: Motion to recommend to the executive director to reinstate this individual due to medical complications. Babb first. Mankins second. None opposed. Motion approved.

Third request, individual wanted to be reinstated due to medical hardship. Had a seizure during their shift, and has not been able to renew their card. Was unable to complete continuing education and renew because of being off duty from the seizure. Has been put on desk duty, and can not run actively with the department for 5 years from date of seizure 1/8/08 due to department and NFPA standards of being free from seizures. Individual expired on 10/4/10 and would like to be exempted from continuing education and be reinstated. The committee members stated that there was not enough supporting documentation to make a decision in this matter.

ACTION: Motion to table reinstatement and exemption from continuing education until further supporting documentation can be reviewed. Steele moved. None opposed. Motion approved.

FIRE COORDINATOR REPORT

The EMS/Fire Conference was very successful, lots of good feedback was given. The Ohio Fire Awards went very well; the Director and Assistant Director of the Department

of Public Safety attended the program. This award program will continue to be an annual event, held during Fire Prevention Week.

ProBoard Accreditation- Ohio is the only state with ProBoard that offers testing and certifying online, we have been contacted by Colorado expressing their interest in the testing and certifying process utilized in Ohio. The Division of EMS is working on a new database that is scheduled to go active on 1/1/11. For us to be able to build our practical skills testing in electronic format with the web based testing, we need to come up with the skill sheets, and have them approved to move forward with the accreditation. The Objective check off sheets will not be gotten rid of, they will still have to be used by the instructor and the student to check off as they go through the course. The skill sheets are for one purpose, which is a testing document, a tool for the evaluator to use when the student is being tested on the actual skill. The skill sheets will not replace the check off sheets or the skills that are taught in the course, it is only a testing tool and a testing mechanism. The rules have not yet been written to require skills testing. Mr. Gill stated that he assumed that everyone in the state was already using skill testing as part of the training and certification process. He also asked is the timing right to introduce rules for skill testing, something which will create more of a financial burden on fire charters, when there will be changes in the state government with the new governor taking over the beginning of next year. Mr. Orahood stated that skills testing can be a checks and balances process. The Ohio Fire Academy does skills testing in their training. Scott Walker of the Ohio Fire Academy said skill testing is a vital component, in training and validates an individuals training, it also helps create top quality firefighters. Mr. Walker also stated that trying to move forward with something that is an unfunded mandate probably won't work right now, with the state of Ohio's current political scheme. Fifteen skill stations are used in the training of Firefighter 1 & Firefighter 2 candidates at the Ohio Fire Academy. Mr. Orahood is proposing four mandatory skills be done during the training course, and four random skills be done after the course. Mr. McLean stated that using the skill sheets as study documents will cost the fire charters more money. Mr. Orahood stated that they are trying to keep costs down for charters by simulating some of the skills testing and reducing the number of skill sheets required on testing day; that will reduce the number of instructors needed to evaluate the skills testing. A lot of schools are ready to jump on board with the ProBoard training. Mr. McLean feels that some work needs to be done on the critical skill sheets. Mr. Walker states that simulations should not be done, but they should use real world testing as far as skill sheets are concerned. ProBoard is okay with simulation being used on some of the skill sheets. Everything listed on the skills sheets is considered a critical step and should be completed properly to pass. Current IFSAC and ProBoard schools in Ohio need to follow a correlation of skills in order to comply with Ohio's ProBoard accreditation. A training program will be developed for the schools and the evaluators, for ProBoard evaluation. We need to get the skill sheets approved, get the process developed electronically, and when the rules are developed, we can get this process completed. Mr. Orahood's goal is for this to be done sometime after the first of the year. We can not start testing for ProBoard until we have the process ready. ProBoard is an option for chartered institutions, they can do ProBoard or not. Mr. Steele stated the Ohio Fire Chiefs are surely in support of skills testing. They think it is positive for the Ohio fire service, a

good asset and they think it needs to be done. From that leg of the committee and the Fire Alliance, they are backing it 100%. To the original question about the skills sheets, Mr. Steele does not like all 30 of the skill sheets, he does not think some of them coincide well with the Firefighter 2 program and need to be modified, but there are some good ones in there. He would like to know what the four mandatory ones will be. Mr. Orahoad stated that he approached the subject of simulating some of the skills with the ProBoard, and simulation is accepted by them, and they are NFPA approved, so it is allowed with some of the skill sheets. Not everyone is going to have the resources to really perform the skills, the committee can sit down and review the skill sheets to decide which skill sheets must be done completely, and which can be simulated, as long as there is a validation process of those standards, and that is part of the electronic process to gather statistics. We are not looking at a complex system where it is going to take a lot of data entry work, we are talking about building the skill sheets into an electronic database that when you go in and register students through the web based testing, you would simply go to the skill sheet. If they pass the skill sheets and do all four, they are now eligible to go to the written test, if they fail it, they are going to be stopped, and won't be permitted to go to the written test until all skill sheets are passed.

Mr. Walker stated that the Ohio Fire Academy would like to sit down with the Division of EMS to discuss the ProBoard process and their concerns, he stated that he believes it is for the agencies to discuss, not for the public forum. We will be sitting down with Frank Conway of the Fire Academy, Mr. Steele and Mr. McLean stated that they want to be present for this meeting.

Need a motion to move forward with the skill sheets. Mr. Babb is for the skill sheets as long as they are constantly evolving. Are we okay with skill sheet testing?

ACTION: Motion to accept and move forward with the completion of the skill sheets. Steele first. Babb second. None opposed. Motion passed.

How should we proceed with the further development of the skill sheets, we will schedule a workgroup.

Just the four random skill sheets will be done at the end, if decided upon by the committee. Assessors should not be the same people who taught the skills during training. The skill sheets can be done during the course. The division of EMS will conduct a training program for the instructors and instructor trainers for ProBoard. We need to get this approved and the rules written. It may be in April or May till we can get this process completed and begun. ProBoard will be an option for all fire charters. Sinclair Community College has been doing ProBoard for 6 years now, and does critical skills during and after their classes. A workgroup needs to be set up to look at Sinclair's skill sheets, the Ohio Fire Academy, Great Oaks, and Sinclair will be invited.

The EMS Board members, and the executive director are requesting that an annual Fire Alliance meeting be planned to discuss reinstatement, reciprocity, and fire rules. Tuesday December 14th, was suggested as the day to have this meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

1403 Live Fire Training, how long will the course be? It is being recommended to use 3 or 4 days to complete the course. They are still on target to complete the training course by the end of this year. Mr. Babb is good with the course; he feels that they should have a couple pilot programs to see how the course would work if held for 3 days, and if held for 4 days. The Division of EMS can only create certifications not credentials nothing in the Ohio Revised Code gives the Division of EMS the ability to create a credential, we only have the authority to create certifications. Mr. Mankins believes a four day program is a good idea, but we should do a pilot. Mr. Gill said sure. Mr. Steele wants to have a pilot class, and believes it should be a 3 day minimum. Mr. Walker said there should be a pilot program. They will leave the day 1 through day 4 schedule as it is, and further explore the leads on people interested in piloting the program, they should leave the schedule as it is and run the pilot program. The Ohio Fire Academy would be happy to pilot one of the 1403 courses. Mr. McLean will get out to the committee the revised power point and the teaching copy to go along with the 1403 Live Fire Training program. His goal is to develop the instructor book that goes along with all those slides that were created for the training program.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Orahood is hearing about issues in the field about the Volunteer disclaimer form that was sent around, regarding a Volunteer Firefighter going into a live burn. This disclaimer is causing a lot of frustration with Volunteer Chiefs thinking that they have to train everyone to the Firefighter 1 level before they can go into an interior fire. The questions are being addressed as they come in, and they are explaining to them that the liability responsibility has always been there, its nothing new, that when an individual comes out of the Volunteer Firefighter certification program they have to have additional training to be prepared to go into an interior fire situation. Nobody is doing away with the Volunteer Firefighter certification, we are not requiring Volunteers to become level 1 Firefighters, the disclaimer form is used as a tool to make the chief aware of what a Volunteer Firefighter is trained to do during that course. Mr. Orahood will probably soon be taking a trip down to Adams County to discuss and address some of these issues.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Steele inquired about the Haz Mat Technician certification that was proposed in the July Committee meeting. Have they received any further information on it? Brian Pfeffer went to a meeting at the EMA and heard some differing information about the Haz Mat Tac. They are working on updating the Haz Mat training to meet the current NFPA standards. Mr. Orahood will go to the next EMA meeting regarding the Haz Mat Tac, discussing the difference between certification and credentialing. All the groups involved need to come together to discuss this proposed certification. Mr. Steele would like to see a more coordinated effort to create the Haz Mat Tech. certification.

This may be Mr. Gill's last meeting with the Fire Committee after nine years of serving on the committee. Also a thank you to William Mallory for filling in with the committee today.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 11:23 PM by Phil McLean.