

**FINAL**

**FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 13, 2012**

Chaired by: Jim Steele

Meeting Date and Location: November 13, 2012, Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

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

Committee Members Absent: Mark Lundy

Staff Present: Doug Orahod, Melissa Wulliger, Melvin House, John Sands

Guests: John Peters, Ohio Rural Fire Council; Jim Paulett, Granger Fire Department; Jim  
Burneka, Firefighter Cancer Support Network; Scott Walker, State Fire Marshal/Ohio  
Fire Academy; Ted Huffman, Ohio Fire Charter Collaborative; Geof Garrison, Sinclair  
Community College; Brad French, Dayton Fire Department; Steve Goheen, Clark State  
Community College; Bill Mallory, EMS Board/Madison Township Fire Department

The meeting was called to order at 10:02AM.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2012 FIREFIGHTER AND  
FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR (FFSI) TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES.**

**ACTION: Motion to approve the September 18, 2012 FFSI committee minutes.**  
McLean First. Sacco Second. None opposed. Motion approved.

**OPEN FORUM**

Jim Burneka, brought before the committee a program designed to teach awareness and prevention of cancer, he is active with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. He explained that due to the many hazards and things that a firefighter is exposed to in their line of work, they run a greater risk of being diagnosed with cancer. He feels an orientation should be added to initial firefighter training to educate firefighters about the risks involved with this career. According to extensive studies done about cancer and firefighters, it has been found that one out of every three firefighters will be diagnosed with cancer; they have a much greater risk of developing cancer than the general public. The Firefighter Cancer Support Network has put together a presentation that explains the risks of developing cancer from this line of work, and how it can be prevented. Mr. Burneka feels this should be added to the health and safety portion of the firefighter 1 & 2 training. Firefighters are aware of the many risks involved with their occupation, but many of them really have no idea that their risk of developing cancer is greatly increased

based on the many things that they are exposed to in the performance of their daily job. The Ohio Fire Academy fully supports educating firefighters about the risks involved. Ohio is a leader in cancer prevention and awareness. A NIOSH study regarding this information will be coming out in 2014; most of the current research and information came out of a report done in Cincinnati in 2006. The Cleveland Clinic is also backing this study and education that can aid in the prevention of cancer. Cancer testing is different for individuals in this career. Mr. Steele inquired if there is a program that has been created for training on preventative measures. The program that Mr. Burneka introduced would take around 30 minutes or so and should be added to initial training, they want all the firefighters in Ohio to know that there are options available for any firefighter who is diagnosed with cancer. The program is not yet available on their website, but should be coming soon. The Ohio Fire Academy is willing to have instructors do a train the trainer in order to have people ready for this program. This program is for everyone whether they are part time or career firefighters. This program is not yet available as continuing education from the Ohio Fire Academy yet, but they are working on getting this set up for providing continuing education credit. They want to make it available on the fire marshal's website.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. House stated that the certification department has been meeting with individuals from the Administration Division of Public Safety to map out a more user friendly certification process. The purpose is to improve workflow and to ensure that everyone gets the proper certification cards, and they are also working with the IT department, to make it a more streamlined process. The division would like to incorporate the use of the internet more in order to make the certification process simpler, improvement is coming.

Mr. House also thanked everyone who attended and participated in the Fire Rules Stakeholders meeting. There were representatives from nearly every stakeholders group at the meeting.

Mr. House has been meeting with people all over Ohio and gotten some great feedback on the rules, and the changes that have been made up to this point.

#### OHIO SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE UPDATE

Mr. Goheen shared the report. The Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors is working on laying out the 2013 calendar for regional meetings.

#### STATE FIRE MARSHAL/OHIO FIRE ACADEMY REPORT

Mr. Walker shared that there has been a general facelift of the facility. There are individuals from the academy, traveling out to Iowa for grain rescue training so that they can become train the trainers, and bring back the expertise in training from what they learned.

## CERTIFICATION REPORT

None

## FIRE COORDINATOR REPORT

Mr. Orahoad shared the certification report with the committee. They are in the process of updating the item bank for the Fire Safety Inspector, so that online tests can be created in our new testing system. They did have a few software issues during the process, but they seem to be resolved as of right now, the biggest issue has been trying to add the photos to the open book portion of the test.

Practical skills testing, there have been three pilots held at Clark State, and everything seems to be working fairly smoothly. Ohio Fire & EMS Expo, their drive is to create an Ohio FDIC program. The Division will be speaking at it, and they are looking for additional speakers throughout the state for next year's expo. The date for next year's expo looks to be September 26-27<sup>th</sup>.

Public Safety Instructor curriculum, they are hoping to finalize the curriculum to get it forwarded to the committee for review. Right now the books that are referenced for Ohio Firefighter training are Jones & Bartlett, Delmar, and IFSTA.

## CHAIR'S REPORT

None

## NEW BUSINESS

There is going to be a significant amount of time spent on the review of the fire rules. One of the biggest concerns in response to the rules is the cost that is going to be associated with the new required skills testing.

Comments and concerns on the following rules:

4765-11-01—Can a current copy of the NFPA standards be forwarded to all the chartered institutions so they are up to date.

4765-11-03—The student to instructor ratio, can it be changed to make it an even number instead of odd. If the ratio is changed to have fewer students per instructors, this will cause the cost for running fire programs to increase. The committee decided to leave the rule as it is.

4765-11-09 (A)—Volunteer FF training course, Question: Can the 36 hour course include a live burn? Answer: No, by rule. This course meets no NFPA standard, which is why the disclaimer was created. Mr. Waltemire believes that it is something that could be added by the Fire Charters as a prerequisite to the Volunteer program, but that it doesn't need to be added to the rule. It is decided to keep the current wording. (B)—Can a firefighter be a true firefighter without participating in a live burn? Mr. Steele feels that if a training program wants to bring the class back after they have been officially certified with the state, they have no jurisdiction over them at that point if they decide to conduct a live burn. The Committee is good with current wording.

4765-11-10—FF1 Transition course curriculum, the committee proposed the addition of the 4 hours of the Life Safety Initiatives to the course, are we testing for these hours and if so why would it be part of the certification process? Also the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course was added. Mr. Orahod, doesn't believe that everything that is taught in the curriculum must be tested. It can be done, but it could increase the number of items on the certification exams. The EVOC was added to the training program to keep them from requiring individuals to get a CDL in order to be able to drive the fire trucks and ambulances.

4765-11-11—Comment about the number of hours in the FF1 curriculum believe that it only totals 140 hours, the course used to be 120, 16 hours added for hazardous materials operations level, 4 hours life safety initiatives, and 16 for EVOC. Will there be exam questions for the additional hours? Some programs are only doing classroom for the 16 hours of EVOC, if a school is doing this; they are not meeting the objectives as far as the EVOC course is concerned. There are practical portions that need to be performed as part of the EVOC training.

4765-11-12—Haz Mat rule. (E) There is a question regarding previous training if it was completed within the past 24 months, can it be applied to an individual's initial certification period. If an individual comes back after that 24 month period, they will have to retake the training.

4765-11-15—Fire Instructor curriculum, a considerable discussion and comments were made on this one. It is believed that the methodology can be completed in 40 hours as opposed to the 50 hours it currently takes. A lengthy discussion ensued about the Live Fire training aspect of the instructor course, about implementing the 1403 curriculum in the fire instructor training course. The goal is to give all instructors an awareness level of 1403 live fire training. Mr. McLean feels that it needs to be part of the training to comply with the standard; he feels it is very important. Mr. McLean feels that continuing education for any level of fire certification is acceptable, but for the initial training it should all be in person, in the classroom and hands on.

4765-11-19—Written testing, there were comments dealing with technology issues, questions on personal computer use, designated printers, the printer hook up issue was deleted from the rule. It is going to be left up to the program director to make sure that nothing is printed out from the test, otherwise there will be consequences enforced by the Division. There needs to be no testing compromise, and it is the program directors responsibility to make sure that doesn't happen. Proctors, Mr. Orahod feels that no one who is a firefighter or fire instructor should be a proctor. The general consensus among the fire committee is that the proctors should not be fire instructors.

4765-11-20—Practical skills testing one of the biggest issues was the cost, some suggested assistant instructors be used to cut down on costs. The lead instructor cannot be the evaluator; we are deleting the requirement of having the skills stations set up 30 minutes before the testing begins. Students can't directly observe the other candidates doing the skills testing. Mr. Steele likes the idea of having the assistant instructors to help out with the evaluating of the skills testing. (B)(7) Certified assistant instructors and fire instructors will be allowed to evaluate skills. Lead instructors can't evaluate skills.

4765-20-08—(B)(4), Mr. Steele has some confusion on what is meant by this. This basically pertains to individuals who have been certified and practicing a good number of years, before the EVOC training was added to the course, before NIMS 100 & 700 were

requirements, etc. It was stated that that sounded more like reciprocity and not a reinstatement rule. Committee wants to get rid of it.

Comments were made stating that they wanted the 18 month reinstatement rule extended to three years instead of just 18 months to reinstate. Mr. Steele is good with the 18 month language.

4765-20-11—(B)(4)- training course should be equal to, not approximately, questions concerning this, we want to write this to say that it is allowable to have more than the required hours for Ohio certification when coming from another state.

4765-20-13—FF continuing education, non-affiliated card holder discussions, suggest that instructors receive ceu's for teaching, it is up to the program director or fire chief to decide if it is legitimate ce, we need to make this more clear in the rules. We recommend under (F), we insert "or" in the place of "and" for individuals who are not affiliated or individuals residing outside of Ohio

4765-20-16—FSI ce's one comment that they should be "forced" to update their education on new fire codes. The Fire Marshal's office used to put out code updates. The committee feels the word "forced" is not a good word to be used, but they do agree with having the individuals go through code updates. Mr. House feels this is something that could easily be done online.

4765-21-04—renewal of a certificate to teach, make appropriate changes to match with the previous 1403 discussion. Language about instructor ceu's, looks a lot like the language that was changed from a while back, why has it been changed to instructional ce instead of fire instruction.

4765-21-07—EMS instructor crossover to fire instructor, the same should be added as in the instructor training 8 hours for 1403 and 4 hours for administrative processes.

4765-22-02—Professional standards of conduct (M) brought up in stakeholders meeting, certified instructors should not be able to proctor any written examination.

4765-23-01—Investigation process, all complaints are filed with the division in writing, they will now start taking anonymous complaints, for the fire side as they do on the EMS side. Keep current language in place.

4765-11-12-13—question about adding to the initial training curriculum, the cancer awareness program. Maybe we can add it to the online ce available on our EMS website. That way it can be available to all fire and EMS personnel. Mr. Burneka feels that it is very important for all initial firefighters to take this program. Mr. Steele stated that he doesn't feel that they can make a decision about adding this to curriculum without having a chance to review the program. He is very much interested in having this program available for all firefighters throughout the state, but he would like to see it added as a ce available on the division website.

#### OLD BUSINESS

A 1403 Live Fire Training Pilot was conducted in Akron, they had about 14 attendees.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION: Mr. Steele entertained a motion to adjourn. Wright First. McLean Second. Meeting adjourned at 1:40.**