

FINAL

**FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 2007**

Chaired by: Phil McLean

Meeting Date and Location: December 11, 2007, Ohio Department of Public Safety,
1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

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

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Richard Rucker, Yvonne Tertel, Heather Reed Frient, Doug Orahood, Summer Boyer, Thomas Macklin, John Kennington, Tim Erskine, Robert Ruetenik

Guests: James Davis, James Holcomb, Michael Vedra, Paul Montavon, Allen Walls, Stew Atwood, Jay Gretzinger, Lynn Yeaten, Parker Browne, Douglas Ott, Joe Minney, Clyde McKenzie, Tom Wallace, Bob Bates, William Mallory, Debbie Schiff, Mark Wolf, Rick Lee, Kenneth Bostick, Kyle Bussey, Terry French, Tim Detty, Timmy Barnitz, Charlie Dixon, Bill Hills, Brian Miller, Rodney Rehrle, Daniel Stitzel, and Patrick Mangan.

The meeting was called to order at 10:47 a.m.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER, 2007 FIREFIGHTER AND
FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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

OPEN FORUM

Phil McLean notified the audience that the Ohio State Firefighters annual conference will be held at the Ohio Fire Academy with a theme of leadership and training over the weekend, with the opportunity for firefighters to get about 25 hours of training over the 2-3 day period that can be counted towards continuing education. It will be offered for firefighter, fire instructor, and fire instructors. Mr. McLean acknowledged and thanked Mr. Holcomb for his assistance with the fire rules.

STAFF REPORT, Doug Orahood

Mr. Orahood passed out the fire report and asked the committee if they had any questions.

Mr. McLean read that 118 volunteer, 24 level I, 61 level II, and 34 fire safety inspectors were certified in the month of November; Mr. Orahood verified this. Mr. McLean told the audience that copies of the fire report were available to them to review, as in every month back to 2003.

FIRE CHARTER REPORT, Doug Orahood

Four site audits were conducted in November with three more scheduled for December. Clark State Community College was approved as a fire charter.

Mr. Orahood and Ms. Boyer are in the process of interviewing candidates for the newly approved Regional Coordinator positions. Several members of the fire service community have expressed interest in the two available positions, one in Northeast Ohio and one in Southeast Ohio. The tentative start date for these positions is January 1, 2008.

Ms. Boyer will be attending Lectora training in Cincinnati, January 21-22, 2008. This software will allow Public Safety to do online and web-based training. Mr. Orahood would like the committee members to keep the training in mind and think of ways the Division can deliver training online.

The online web-based testing now has the added feature of immediate certification upon passing the examination, unless they answer yes to a felony question.

The Division will be working closely with IT to develop an online continuing education tracking system as a tool for firefighters, fire chiefs, and fire departments to use to track their in-service training and continuing education. This is a voluntary system to benefit the fire service community. Mr. McLean asked if this would be used to audit firefighters. Mr. Kennington explained that this tool is for self-audit purposes only, as a way for firefighters to track the various continuing education hours they may have for their different levels of certification.

IT is also developing an online charter tracking system for the chartered fire training institutions to update their information online. This is expected to be developed in February.

About twenty firefighters from around the state have volunteered to assist in review and development of the Volunteer course curriculum, objectives, and testing item bank. The Ohio Fire Academy has offered room and board to the participants. A date is not yet set for this meeting. All suggestions for changes to the Volunteer course will be submitted to the committee for consideration and approval.

CHAIR'S REPORT, Phil McLean

The chair stated that driver training objectives is on agenda for the committee to develop based on driver training programs presentations they have seen.

The NFPA 1403 live fire training will be taking place January 2008 and is sponsored by the Division of EMS, Ohio State Firefighters, Ohio Fire Chiefs, Summit County Firefighters, Summit County Fire Chiefs, Akron Fire Department, University of Akron, the Ohio Fire Academy, the Ohio Society of Fire Professionals and Columbus Fire. Mr. McLean referred to Chief Ott from the Akron fire department to speak about the program. Mr. Ott stated that it will run January 7-10, 2008, at the University of Akron and consist of four 10 hour days will include classroom and practical sessions instructed by a group from the Florida State Fire School.

AG/LEGAL REPORT

No issues brought forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Steele asked who will be representing the committee and the Division at the Ohio Township Association meeting February 1, 2008. Mr. Orahood, Ms. Frient, and Mr. Kennington will be attending.

Mr. Steele asked what plan of action is in place to notify the public of the new rules once in effect. Mr. Orahood said an article will appear in the Ohio Fire Chiefs magazine and on their website in January 2008. The committee will also be holding 8 regional town meetings presenting the new rules and answering any questions. These locations have not been finalized yet but are in process.

Mr. Steele questioned why separate cards are currently issued for each different fire certification level. Mr. Kennington answered that the present card can not hold all certifications but it is an issue that IT is working on. The ultimate goal is to have one i.d. card with all certifications of fire and EMS combined; however new legislation to allow for this cannot be introduced due to the continuing moratorium on new fees. Mr. Kennington reviewed the registration and renewal process, as well.

OLD BUSINESS

Members were asked to pick up a binder for the NFPA 1403 training. The next committee meeting will be held January 15, 2008, because of the NFPA 1403 training taking place during the normally scheduled meeting day of January 8, 2008. Nominations for the committee chair and co-chair will take place during January 15, 2008 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion to adjourn. McLean first. Steele second. None opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.