

MINUTES

INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

October 26, 2009 6PM
Scottsburg VFD
185 S Lake Rd N
Scottsburg IN 47170
812-752-7287

A. BOARD CALLED TO ORDER at 6:10 pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present

Jerry Nulliner
Jack Kerney
Jeff Hayes
James Greeson
James Bennett

Absent

Thomas Hanify
Candice Ashby
Ab Crosby

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM Sept 14, 2009

Jack Kerney made a motion to approve minutes as submitted.
James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

D. VARIANCES

1. Eric Balliet requested a variance for Instructor II/III. He is an Instructor I and a Primary Instructor. He is currently assigned to a training house in the cities urban district.

Staff recommends approval providing he passes the Instructor Reciprocity test.

James Greeson made a motion to approve. James Bennett seconded. Motion passed.

2. Timothy Smith requested a variance for Instructor II/III. He expired in April 2009. He did not get a reminder letter. His Instructor I expired in 2006.

Staff recommends denial. It is the responsibility of the Instructor to maintain his certification.

Jeff Hayes made a motion to approve the request from the instructor. There was no notification that we were not going to send reminder letters out. Until we get the word out that there is a policy change on this, I do not believe we can hold them responsible. James Greeson seconded. Vote was 4-1 approval. Jack Kerney asked to delay in setting up a drop dead date for this type of variance so that it can be set up with the IVFA news letter. He can put this on the front page so that everyone knows that no reminder letters will be no longer be mailed and it is the responsibility of the individual to recertify on time.

3. Vito Palumbo requested variance for Instructor I, II/III. He is currently a Primary Instructor.

Staff recommends approval providing he passes the Instructor Reciprocity test.

James Greeson made a motion to approve. Jeff Hayes seconded. Motion passed.

4. Charles Lovins request for reinstatement of his Instructor II/III was tabled at the Sept. meeting. He has complied with the request to provide documentation of recertification hours.

Staff recommends denial. It is the responsibility of the Instructor to maintain his certification.

Jack Kerney made a motion to approve the variance request. Jeff Hayes seconded. Motion passed.

The following individuals requested variances for mandatory testing. They will not be 18 years of age at the time of the written/practical test and would like to be allowed to complete all testing prior to 18 years of age.

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| 5. Steffeny Hensel | 6. Ken Skidmore |
| 7. Arman Johnson | 8. James Birch |

- | | |
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| 9. Cassi Cronin | 10. Tony Turner |
| 11. Tyler Davis | 12. Ryan Gold |
| 13. Robert Doty | 14. Sean Hannon |
| 15. Shawn Morgan | 16. Zach Gibbons |
| 17. Zack Stacy | 18. Daniel Enriquez |
| 19. Duane Watson | |

Staff recommends approval. Certifications will not be issued until they are 18 years of age. Jeff Hayes was the instructor of the class. These students are from the J. Everett Light Career Center, and the written test will be held on December 4th. They will not be eighteen at that time. They are currently 17 years old. Certification will not be issued prior to 18 years of age. James Greeson made a motion to approve. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion approved.

E. APPEAL REQUESTS

None at this time.

F. STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORT- JAMES GREESON

We are getting a new Code Compliance Officer (Building Commissioner). His name is Scott Perez. He will be starting on Monday, November 2. He is local, from the Indianapolis area.

Halloween is coming up, and haunted house permits are coming in. Use common sense on the costumes.

Little Nashville fire is still under investigation. ATF is assisting us in this investigation.

I will be in Mitchell, and Oolitic tomorrow in grade schools for a safety class.

G. IDHS TRAINING DIRECTOR, JAMES BENNETT

I have taken Brad Thatcher's place. He has resigned his position in training. I was hired almost 2 years ago in the State Fire Marshal Office. I was on the Board of Directors in the Indiana Fire Chief Association. I was in a meeting with Director Wainscott earlier today, and he has suggested that we bring the board meetings back to central Indiana. What with the gas prices this would be more economical. About half of the attendance at these meetings are staff.

Jerry Nulliner spoke about a department that requested our meeting be held at their department, and when we did, other than showing everyone to the meeting room, no one from the department attended the meeting. The Chief had specifically requested that we have a meeting there, and even the guys on duty did not attend the meeting. Having the meetings more central located and having the meetings quarterly or 6 meetings a year would not be a problem. It is possible to have an audio on the web for the meeting. This way, if the public could not attend the meeting, they could at least listen to the meeting. If you had an issue, you would have to physically attend the meeting but it could be

arranged for this to be broadcast audio. Meetings could still be in the evenings if necessary. The Marshal would like maybe 2 of the meetings to be out further in the state.

H. IDHS TRAINING BRANCH CHIEF, JOHN BUCKMAN.

1. Sample of testing audit reply, Griffith FD there was a book, passed around to board members showing how an audit was responded to. John passed out handouts showing the audits that have been completed and those that are still pending waiting for response.

The Hazardous Material Technician Recertification Proposal

The Chairman asked for this information at the Sept. meeting. This is a draft only.

Proposed rules IF we go for recertification:

- Recert every two years
- Technician would require 12 hours yearly with a written test
- Operations level would be required to train 8 hours yearly
- Awareness level would be required to train 4 hours per year
- Attach a fee for recertification
- We still have to get a fiscal impact statement from around the state. The cost of instructor's and back fill would have to be considered.

Instructors that have expired that want a variance for reinstatement:

We need a cut off date for these. How long do we continue to give these guys instructor recert before we hold them responsible?

We are still having major issues with the rule stating that all prerequisites must be met prior to testing. We are having major problems with this. We have boxes full of testing that is invalid. January 1 we will not accept these tests anymore. The evaluators, proctors and instructors are all lying when they let these individuals continue to test. This is causing the staff to spin their wheels, we are so busy with these tests that they cannot complete the correct tests.

Mara Snyder stated that these tests need to be sent back. We should not be keeping these tests. If we keep these tests, then you should not be sending out discipline letters. You need to either deny all tests, and sanction all proctors or do not sanction any of them.

The letter that John sends out gives 90 days to complete all missing information.

The application that the student signs states that under penalty of perjury, I attest that I have completed all prerequisites. The students are outright lying. The proctor, and evaluator that check the sheet stating that they have verified that the student qualifications, are lying.

Fire Officer 4 – In the past we have not had practical skills for this certification. We are formatting these now.

Work Day

We need one full day to go over all the rule changes that we would like to do. We also need to update certification rules. The proposed date will

be December 14, 2009, location TBA. This will be an open meeting. This will start at 9am and continue until we are through.

2. Dave Probo – NFPA – there are recommended changes to the certifications. These will be posted to the web page so that everyone can see and make comments on. Keep in mind these are proposed changes only from the workgroups.

- NFPA 1001, the standard is stating that you have 1 minute to doff/don. We would like to change the wording to give them 1:20 to doff/don. IFSAC states that we cannot change the wording for this. They want us to change practical skills.
- Also, NFPA 472, major changes were in made and we do not believe some of them are beneficial to the state. Not all departments can afford all of the equipment that would be required for the skill.
- Inspector skills, they are talking about combining I/II since there are so many skills.
- FO, Instructor, Safety Officer and Investigator. These are basically administrative type skills that NFPA has added to them.

FOST

We have gone to a single book for this course, Brady, Strategy and Tactics on the fire ground. A power point of the old practicals compared to the new practical skills was shown. This is a computer based testing on the a portion of the practicals, and the student is required to complete 2 of 6 of the skills. The program prints out a completed list with grade, and this would then be taken to the evaluator.

I. IDHS CERTIFICATION CHIEF, RICK ARCHER

1. The staff has issued 2904 certification during 9/1/09 thru 10/23/09. At the same time that fire is looking to revise rules the EMS side is also looking to do the same. We would like to bring the two sides somewhat similar. We would like to utilize the best part of both so that fire and EMS run smooth. We would like to see if we can have the Instructor certification expire at the same time as their ems certification. This way, we can update all at the same time.

Question as to if we have to recertify multiple certifications, can they all have the same expiration date

- there would not be a problem doing this.

We are currently grading exams at this time that we received on Oct. 5th. There is a strong possibility that we will be losing 2 of our staff due to economical cutbacks.

Jeff Hayes has asked that a report be created. Comparing each quarter from last year to this year.

James Bennett announced that Rick Archer has been named as our new State EMS Director.

J. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

None at this time.

K. OLD BUSINESS

1. Wildland Firefighter I/II certifications, Steve Walters
Drew Daley from DNR has submitted documentation stating that the state program as it is, has no value at all. If we keep the certification, then we need to create a program for this or repeal the certification totally. We are doing more harm than good by keeping the program as it is.
This will be taken under consideration at the December 14th meeting.
2. Testing for less than 18 years of age. There has been no decision on this at this time. We will continue to list it in old business.

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. Authorization for Law Judge, Gary Bippus, Mara Snyder
Motion for Authorizations for Administrative Law Judge
Move to authorize Gary Bippus to serve as administrative law judge for the Board, including, without limitation, the authority to:
 1. Assume all pending administrative cases before the Board;
 2. Act as administrative law judge for all new cases to come before the Board;
 3. Hear and rule upon petitions for stays of enforcement; and
 4. Hear and decide appeals to Emergency Orders issued with respect to one or more violations of the board's rules or applicable statutes.

M. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:45pm

NEXT MEETING:

**Greensburg Learning Center
422 E Central Ave
Greensburg IN 47240
812-663-8671**