

**MINUTES
INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER PERSONNEL STANDARDS
AND EDUCATION**

**June 19, 2008 9 AM
Indiana Volunteer Firefighter Assoc. Convention
Belterra Hotel and Casino
777 Belterra Dr
Florence IN 47020
888-235-8377**

A. BOARD CALLED TO ORDER 9:05 Am

B. ROLL CALL

Present

James Greeson
Thomas Hanify
Jack Kerney Sr.
Jerry Nulliner
Bradley Thatcher
Candice Ashby
Jeff Hayes

Absent

Charles Hall
Ab Crosby
Darrick Scott

Jerry Nulliner thanks the IVFA for hosting the meeting this year.

C. MINUTES AND STATISTICAL REPORT FROM MAY 2008.

Tom Hanify made a motion to amend the minutes. Page 3, section 5, add, (continued education hours can include in house teaching, refresher courses, etc. and it does not have to be a registered course in order to be eligible for continued hours.) James Greeson seconded. Motion passed. Jack Kerney made a motion to approve the statistical report. Jeff Hayes seconded. Motion passed.

E. STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORT- JAMES GREESON

James Greeson introduced himself. He is the new State Fire Marshal. Effective May 12th 2008. He spoke about how impressed he was in the disaster areas with the volunteer firefighters. They went over and above what they were asked to do. The team work was astronomical. If you have any questions or if you need anything give him a call.

**F. HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING DIVISION
REPORT; DIRECTOR BRADLEY THATCHER.**

The Infrastructure training grants, round 1 is just about completed. We are waiting on one more for signatures. Round 2 has 2 complete, waiting on 6 more for signatures. Round 3 will be final in the next couple of weeks. The Courage To Be Safe is rapping up. We have put on 28 classes around the state. The 08-09 Fire Grants are being finalized. We have 5 complete and we are still waiting on the other 5 for signatures. We are getting started on the computer based fire testing at the Ivy Tech campuses. The projected start date is Sept 1, 2008. We are starting with Firefighter I/II, Instructor I, II/III, and the Fire Officer tests. This is the written test only. The fee will be \$15.00 per test in order to do this. We are paying the fee on the Firefighter I/II all others you will have to pay. We will be only paying once for you to take the Firefighter I/II. If you fail, the retest expense will be on you. You will be able to take this testing at all Ivy Tech campuses. You will also still be able to take test in the manner that you have been taking them. This is a voluntary step. The Live Burn Trailer will be in the parking lot this afternoon. If you would like to see a demonstration on this, it will be in the far parking lot.

G. CERTIFICATION BRANCH CHIEF, JOHN BUCKMAN

1. We have sent the Technical Rescue Instructor material to all Fire Dept. If your Fire Dept address is a Po Box, you will need to get hold of us and give us a street address so the FedEx can deliver it. Any Instructor can teach this class right now, and we will supply the student manuals for the class upon request.
2. 2008-2009 budget is \$2million dollars. This includes 71% going direct to the districts and the balance is misc. Salaries, Office supplies, etc.
3. The certification office is now at full strength. Fire certifications are running about 3 weeks for processing.
4. The on hold list has dropped from 100 to 34. These are tests that cannot be processed due to errors in the test packets.
5. We have 20 tests that have expired. These are older than 90 days and are going to be invalidated. They will be getting a letter stating this.

6. We have posters for recruiting available now. We are not going to mail them out, but they are available here.

Question: In the tests that are going to be invalidated, are the students going to be penalized. Why are we penalizing the student, when the problem is not his. Does the student even know there is a problem? No! The state communicates with the Instructors and proctors. The student has the right to appeal the decision to invalidate the written test due to something beyond their control. It is possible to put a notice on the written test book that "Practicals must be completed within 90 days of test date" this way the student is aware that there is a time frame involved.

Question: If an Instructor/ Proctor/Lead evaluator does not follow through, can the names be posted on the web page so that departments know that using these people could cause problems? Legal issues could arise from this. Send a check list for the student explaining the process involved, that they have to initial so that we know that the student is aware of what is needed.

Legal counsel: states that if you do not get a response within so many days, send an order suspending the Instructor certification. The instructor can appeal this, but he is suspended until he appeals this decision.

Comments: Why can't the state take care of this problem? Why are you letting this drag on and on. Take care of the problem. The state is trying to find a workable solution so that the problem will not happen. In the new rules effective in January, the practicals must be completed prior to the written test. This will solve a lot of the problem.

H. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS- JUDGE TEEGARDEN

I am working on the two that you gave me last month. There is nothing else in the works.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Administrative Rules, 07-450

This has a new name due to a publication glitch. 08-0429 is now the new number. The public meeting will be in September at the Plymouth meeting.

On page 17-18 under instructor I, to maintain certification must complete ...6 hours of attendance... same thing with the instructor I/III on page 18. There will be a cd, and hopefully an on line course that they will be able to take, that will cover these 6 hours of education.

The state will bring a group of people together to create a curriculum.

On page 11, section 9(d) on reciprocity it talks about having to take the instructor test. This should read that they must complete

the 25 question test pertaining to the Board of Firefighter Personnel Standards and Education rules and regulations. They might have experience teaching in other states, but they need to know the rules pertaining to Indiana. This does include IFSAC. **“This is for the Instructor reciprocity only”**

Jerry Nulliner explained that right after we have these rules finished; we will be immediately going to the balance of the rules dealing with the NFPA Standards. What we have are outdated. Some of our standards go back to 1999. One good thing that has come out of these changes, is that they got everyone reading the rules. Usually no one reads them, but with some of the controversial changes made, everyone picked up the rules and read them.

2. Continued education hours

This was discussed earlier.

3. Investigator recertification

The **proposed** changes in the Investigator license would be that the certification would expire after 3 years. You would have to have continued education as you do as an Instructor in order to keep this certification. There would be so many hours that you have to have in certain categories. You would not be able to complete all hours in one category. Question was raised on whether this would include the Master Fire Arson Investigator. This is not in the proposal at this time.

Jerry Nulliner has been approached on whether this is going to affect other certifications. This should. If you are certified as a Hazmat Technician in 1988, you are not qualified today. However, according to our rules, you are still certified. This is something that we are going to be looking at in the future.

Comments:

1. People that hold 10-12 certifications are going to be so busy trying to recertify, that they will not have time to respond to fire.
2. Other firefighters do not have time on shift to take this extra training. They have full time jobs to keep up with.
3. Prosecutor's office will not take testimony from investigators that have not had on going training. Many cases are let go because of this.
4. This should not be retroactive. If this passes, they should have 3 years from the date this becomes affective in order to recertify.
5. This sound like the prosecutor wanting us to do their work?
6. Possibly the old masters taking a crossover test like the Instructor's used to do.

7. Grandfather the old masters and then they would have 3 years to get 30 hours of continued education.
8. We need to look at what the courts are requiring before we put something in place that will not help anyone.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Jerry Stigall –petition for review- revoked certifications due to age.
2. Michael Flatt Sr. asked for review of his Instructor I test results. He was taught from the 2007 edition and test was based on the 2006 edition.

Tom Hanify made a motion to send both to Judge Teegarden. Bradley Thatcher seconded. Motion passed.

K. VARIANCES

The following requested a variance for Recue Tech- Surface Water Rescue.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Steven Joyce | 2. Stephen Harmon |
| 3. Jason Bulta | 4. Jameson Hicks |
| 5. Korey Duvall | |

Staff recommends approval

Jack Kerney made a motion to approve. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

6. Scott McCrindle requested variances for:
Confined Space Rescue Awareness; Fire Officer 2, Fire Officer 3; Fire Officer 4; Rope Rescue Awareness; Vehicle/Machinery Awareness, Operations and Technician.
He is an EMS instructor for vehicle extrication, Mr. McCrindle has enclosed documentation for the training in the areas that he is requesting certification for.

Staff recommends approval.

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

7. Michael Ragone requested a waiver of the one year requirement for Instructor I and II/III based on Fire Science degree in 1982. He has been a firefighter since 2007, took the Instructor I and II/III

test in December of 2007. He took his Firefighter ½ test in March of 2008. He would like his Instructor I, II/III released based on passing his FF ½.

Staff recommends denial. There is not enough information submitted of experience in teaching or the fire service.

Jack Kerney made a motion to deny his request. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

L. RECIPROCITY REQUESTS

1. Steven M. Rose requested reciprocity from Michigan for Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2 and Hazardous Material Operations.

Staff recommends approval

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed. Michigan must complete 80% of a class. Indiana does not require you to have a class. Michigan is much more restrictive than Indiana.

M. MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:20 Am

Reminder: Septemberr15th 2008, Plymouth FD, Plymouth Indiana, will be the public hearing on the Administrative Rule changes.

NEXT MEETING
July 28, 2008 6PM
Lafayette FD
2070 S 500 E (Training Center)
Lafayette IN 47901
765-476-4400