

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

**March 9, 2009
Vincennes Twp FD 6pm
1265 S Hart St
Vincennes IN 47591
812-882-4261**

A. BOARD CALLED TO ORDER

6:05 pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present

James Greeson
Jack Kerney Sr
Bradley Thatcher
Ab Crosby
Jeff Hayes

Absent

Thomas Hanify
Darrick Scott
Jerry Nulliner
Candice Ashby

Also present:

Larry Bartlow, Hillsdale FD; James Southard, Hillsdale FD;
Paul Barlow, Montezume FD; Evan Wheeler, Hillsdale FD;
Charles Farmer, Scott Twp Fd; Adam Farrar, Scott Twp FD;
Tim Smith, Vincennes Twp Fd; Eddie King Vincennes Twp Fd

C. MINUTES REPORT FROM JANUARY 2009

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

D. VARIANCES

1. Jason Meeks requested a variance for Wildland Firefighter. This was tabled at the November meeting requesting more information and again tabled at the December meeting, and Jerry Nulliner was going to call and talk to him.

Staff recommends denial. The training he has completed is over 10 years old. The in-service courses that he indicates satisfy his continuing education are not directly related to Wildland fire.

Deny – Wildland driver operator

There are no standards. There is no written test. If we give it to one then we might as well give it to every living firefighter in the state that is currently certified as a driver operator. We are opposing this because it creates a certification mill that adds no value and in our opinion detracts from the credibility of the certification system.

Ab Crosby made a motion to deny. Jack Kerney seconded the motion. Jerry Nulliner sent an e-mail stating that he approved. There was no further information available. Motion passed. The age of the certifications and continued education, and we have no structured class at this time were taken into consideration.

2. Dale Waters requested variances for Instructor I, and Instructor II/III. He is currently a Primary Instructor and has worked in EMS since 1980.

Recommend approve with the caveat that they pass the crossover test. He must become certified in some fire certification category in order to be able to serve as a lead instructor based upon new board rules. The letter if you approve the certification would also include a statement that says they can serve as an evaluator only if they have specific skills or knowledge on the skill being evaluated.

Jeff Hayes made a motion to approve. Ab Crosby seconded. Motion passed.

3. George Schulp requested variances for Instructor I and Instructor II/III. He has been active in fire and EMS since 1981. He is a Primary Instructor.

Recommend approve with the caveat that they pass the crossover test. He must become certified in some fire certification category in order to be able to serve as a lead instructor based upon new board rules. The letter if you approve the certification would also

include a statement that says they can serve as an evaluator only if they have specific skills or knowledge on the skill being evaluated.

Bradley Thatcher made a motion to approve. Ab Crosby seconded. Motion passed.

4. Craig Mueller requested a variance for Rope Rescue Operations and Technician.

Staff recommends denial. There is a written test in place. The training he indicates he has taken can be used to indicate the practical skills for the category he desire.

James Greeson made a motion to deny. We have a test in place. Bradley Thatcher seconded. Motion passed.

Jeff Hayes inquired what was different about this request. In the past we have approved requests when testing was in place.

John Buckman responded, In this particular field, we have not been granting variances.

5. Jason Clark requested variances for Confined Space Awareness, Operations and Technician.

Staff recommends approval. His training was completed through Progressive Rescue Solutions and the board has approved this training in the past.

James Greeson made a motion to approve. Bradley Thatcher seconded. Motion passed. The training through Progressive Rescue is far more in depth that anything Indiana could be putting on.

6. Gary Halter Jr. has resubmitted his request for Instructor II/III variance. He has included course transcripts and a listing of classes he has taught.

He is also requesting a variance for Fire Officer I based on the same information.

Staff recommends approval for Fire Officer based upon the course work as part of his degree. Deny instructor II/III – the transcript does not indicate any public speaking, presentation skills development or other KSA associated with an Instructor II/III.

James Greeson made a motion to approve Fire Officer I, and deny his request for Instructor II/III. Bradley Thatcher seconded. Motion passed.

7. Thomas Sumers requested variances for Fire Officer II, III, an IV. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology, and a Associates degree in Welding Technology. He has been the president of a company for 15 years dealing with Budgets, payables, receivables, shipping, employment, and govt paperwork. He believes this covers the objectives for the request.

Staff recommends denial. He does not show the knowledge or skills for life safety, emergency services delivery, investigation, comprehensive health and safety issues, etc. that are required for these certifications.

Ab Crosby made a motion to deny. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed. The knowledge and skills are not covered in the information submitted.

E. APPEAL REQUESTS

No appeals at this time.

F. STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORT- JAMES GREESON

- Investigations this month have investigated 3-5 fire deaths so far.
- Our office was involved in the Fire Leadership in the last 6 weeks around the state. We finished this up Saturday. We had a very good attendance for these. We had representatives from all departments in attendance for questions.
- Jim Bennett is responsible for working at the ESF-4 desk in the EOC during a disaster. I encourage you fire chiefs to contact me and I will pass it on the information if you want this training or to help us out in an emergency.
- Gary Robison and Mark Nelson are conducting workshops for Firehouse software. Their schedule is on the Fire Marshal web page so that you can register for this if you want the training.

- Jim Bennett applied for a fire prevention grant, \$301,000.00 for the hearing impaired smoke detectors. These work off strobe lights and vibrations. These cost \$300.00 each and this will be getting these out. If you know of someone that needs this, contact me at jgreeson@dhs.in.gov and let us know so that we can add them to our data base on this.

G. HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING DIVISION REPORT; DIRECTOR BRADLEY THATCHER.

- The training division conducted 3 EMS preparedness conferences over the last 6 weeks. They were very well attended. We talked about a different approach to EMS training. We also participated in the Fire Chiefs seminar at there were about 350 total attendees.
- The 2009 budget requests from the fire districts have been received. Total of the request exceed the amount we have available so we will be making some reductions.
- We have come up with another \$500,000.00 grant. This will be used for the Technical Rescue Training and we will be applying this throughout the state. Currently there are 5 locations that have stepped up to take the lead on this training. They are Fishers, Clay Twp, IFD, Evansville and Lafayette fire departments.
- The NFA weekend includes 158 firefighters that will be attending this year.

H. CERTIFICATION BRANCH CHIEF, JOHN BUCKMAN

1. Prerequisite requirements

- Jim Abraham, we have prerequisite issues that we need to deal with. We still have people taking tests that they are not qualified for. We do not want to void test. We have no intention of making this any harder on the firefighter. We have come up with a solution of simply enclosing a letter with the test packets explaining the legal mumbo jumbo I certify that “show the fire rule” meet the prerequisite for the exam. This way we would

be holding the lead evaluator and lead instructor accountable.

- If they take a class out of order, they cannot take the test. Right now, in the proctor directions, this is listed. Now we are going to be issuing a check sheet that requires the proctor to sign that he checked every student. This message is not getting to the firefighter. We need to put a disciplinary procedure in place for the proctors that do not comply with the rules. We can make a notice when you register for the course, that informs the instructor to check at this time to see if the students are eligible to take the written test. We can also put this notice in the IVFA notices a few times to try to cover the field. On the prerequisite listing, you must be certified Basic Firefighter before you can be certified Firefighter 1.
- * There was a discussion on requirements and how they can differ from one district from the other. The Fire Departments can set their own standards. I.e., Department 1 can combine mandatory, basic and firefighter ½, another fire department can teach a mandatory class on its own. A department can require a new recruit to be mandatory, basic, hazmat awareness and operations, and Firefighter ½ within 12 months of joining. Another department can require mandatory only. No further training required. It is up to the individual fire department. The board sets the minimum standard required. A district or an individual fire department can determine that they want you to exceed the minimum standards.
- There should be specialized training. If I am in a rural community, I do not need to know how to fight a high rise fire. If you are in an inner city, you should not have to know how to fight rural fires. This is something we will have to look at, and see if anything can be done. Cross training is crucial in firefighting but let's see what if anything can be done on this.
- We are trying to speed up the certification process a little bit. Right now we are between 4-6 weeks and we are closing in on the 4 week range turn around.
- Electronic recertification is available on line now. This will reduce the time. Certification can be returned within a week. We do not control the post office. This type of recertification will be required eventually.

- We have started auditing practical skills. We are sending out letters asking some questions and you will have 21 days to respond. One of the first to be audited just happens to be a board member. This is strictly random drawing.
- You will be able to find your PSID numbers by name only. Simply type in your name, and find yourself on the list and you can get your number.
- We are able to give fire department rosters now complete with PSID numbers. Call the office and ask. This will be e-mailed to you within 2 -3 days.
- The question was asked about challenge testing. Why is this allowed? The boards position in 1996 was that they were not going to mandate curriculum they were going to mandate objectives.
 - If you take a class, and you pass a skills level and pass a written test, or if you don't take a class and you pass a skills level and pass a test, what is the difference?
 - You can learn a lot by taking a class. There is a lot of interaction, drills, participation, and you would miss all of this training by not taking a class.
 - If you pass the skills and written test, then it doesn't matter if you took the class or not.
- When you are recertifying for Instructor I and Instructor II/III, you can use the same hours for instructional hours.
- You must complete the practical skills prior to taking the written test. Then you have 3 attempts to pass the written test. If you fail the written test after 3 attempts, you will have to retake the practical skills.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS- JUDGE TEEGARDEN

1. Non final order of dismissal, 08-05 Mark Brown.
Appealed his test score.
Attempted to contact for telephone conference and we could not contact him.
Jeff Hayes made a motion to deny. Ab Crosby seconded.
Motion of dismissal passed.

2. Status of Conference, 08-03 Michael Flatt, appealing test score.

It was recommended that he file for a variance. He was taught out of one edition and tested on a newer edition.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Electronic application for recertification. Discussed under certification issues
2. ISAC update – testing status- no discussion at this time

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Denial of variance requests from Doug Cox and Chris Hall. They were asked to supply documentation showing the similarity of the NFPA Standard and the SAR program in December 2008. To date no documentation has been submitted.

Bradley Thatcher made a motion to deny the variance requests. Jeff Hayes seconded. Motion passed.

2. Instructor recertification time frame. IC 1-1-5.2 This becomes effective 01-14-2010. You will then need to adhere to the new rules.
3. Election of Chair; Vice-chair and Secretary.

Ab Crosby made a motion to re-elect:
Jerry Nulliner, Chair
Jack Kerney Sr. Co-Chair
Jeff Hayes, Secretary.
Jeff Hayes seconded. Motion passed.

4. Testing irregularities investigation

No discussion at this time.

L. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8PM.

Next Meeting
April 27, 6PM
Rensselaer VFD 6pm
21 S Cullen St
Rensselaer IN 47978