

MINUTES

INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

July 28, 2008 6PM
Lafayette FD
2070 S 500 E (Training Center)
Lafayette IN 47901
765-807-1622

A. BOARD CALLED TO ORDER at 6:15 PM

B. ROLL CALL

Present

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

Absent

Charles Hall
Darrick Scott
Ab Crosby

Quorum was present.

C. MINUTES FROM JUNE 2008

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

D. STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORT- JAMES GREESON

All of the state agencies are working on preparing a 2 year budget. In addition to this, the Building Fire and Safety people are working all out right now. This is a peak time of year, with the fairs going on and others getting ready to start. It is hard to keep up right now.

There has been a lot of last minute requests for elevator inspections.

Several issues with fire works, a hearing is approaching concerning violations. We are trying to create a record of violations on the fireworks issue. Every year you start with a clean slate regardless of the problems from prior years. We are trying to fix this.

The new smoke alarm law went into effect on July 1. When you rent an apartment, the smoke detector is required to be in working order. The tenant is required to keep working batteries in the battery operated and report any problems with the hard wired to the apartment management.

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

As many of you are aware, we actually shut our system down last week in order to install a new program. This is just about done, and this new data base will combine the EMS, Fire, EMA and Law enforcement into one data base.

New certification numbers are going to be issued and these will be called your public safety ID number. These will be issued in the next 2-3 weeks. They will be mailed to the address we have on file. If you do not receive this, call us. You will be able to go on line after you receive your PSID# and verify all of your certifications. With this new system, during a disaster, one of the Homeland Security people will be able to look and verify your credentials on site. Will be also able to continue to add to this data base with the Federal training that you take. Credit goes to John Buckman on this. He has put in a lot of long hours in order to get this done.

We have sample tests available on the web page now. We have Firefighter ½, Instructor I, and II/III, Fire Officer I and 2, Hazmat awareness and operations. We have also created new

tests. Some of the tests that you have been taking date back to 2005.

The Live Burn Trailer is going to be in District 3, on August 2-3. This is to get Instructors certified to teach using this. It will also be in District 6. Tony Pagano is off on medical leave, but when he comes back he will be joining us in the exercise program.

F. CERTIFICATION BRANCH CHIEF, JOHN BUCKMAN

We have reduced the hold list from 89 to 51 tests still on hold because of missing paperwork. We sent out 23 letters in the last 6 weeks and we have 24 that have not responded in any way. The students have been notified and it is up to the students now to get involved.

We have suspended 2 instructors.

One did a challenge test as Lead Instructor, proctor and lead evaluator. When we called him, he stated that he did not know his name was on there. Even though he signed the paperwork, he stated he did not know what he was signing.

The other one states that a student completed practicals for Instructor I, and II/III in one day. When we requested documentation on the completed practicals, he did not respond. I am finding out that we need procedures in writing. The staff has been issuing FF ½ without mandatory or basic being completed. We are not going back and voiding the certifications but this has been stopped. We are also changing certifications. When you complete a Firefighter ½ we have been issuing 2 certificates. We are not going to do this anymore. We are combining these on 1 certification. This includes, Firefighter ½, Inspector ½, Instructor 2/3.

The contract for Strategy and Tactics curriculum has been awarded to the Indiana Fire Instructors. We hope to have this curriculum as quick as we can. The Brady book is good but we do not have a practical exams.

We have posters, so if any one needs them, call Barbara and request them. She will send them to you. We had a position in the firefighter training division, called the section chief and we have hired Brian Mayo from Carmel and worked in our EOC. He will start on August 18th.

Firefighter training system in general is doing well. The sad part is that out of 2 million dollars, we turned back in \$700,000. This money went into the infrastructure money. Round 3 will be worth 1 million dollars. SO, for anyone that has not submitted for the infrastructure, now is the time.

A question was asked pertaining to the progressive disciplines. Hazmat Tech requires Hazmat awareness and operations. Some do not want to have to do the lower levels. The advice given at this time, is put the request in writing to the board. Let the board know what you want. You pick up this training in basic, and again in Firefighter ½. Why do you have to go and do it again for certification for technician?

Legal council advises that you need to watch the fiscal impact if you are looking at a rule change.

G. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS- JUDGE TEEGARDEN

1. 08-02, Louis Scarpellini, remand to the Board for action. Tom Hanify made a motion to approve his variance request for Hazmat Awareness and Operations based on education and training. Bradley Thatcher seconded. Motion passed.

2. 08-03, Michael Flatt, Instructor 1 test based on 6th edition, but was taught from the 7th edition. We are going to offer him the option of coming down and looking at the 6th edition book and the agency.

3. 08-04, Jerry Stigall, under age certification. There will be a conference call on August 21, 2008 to discuss this matter with Mr. Stigall's guardian.

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Administrative rules 08-429
Public Hearing will be on September 15th at the Plymouth FD. If you wish to make comments on the new rules, you must make them at this time. When the public Hearing closes, comments are no longer allowed.

This will be published August 6, 2008 and put on the web site.

2. Gean Devlin requested a variance at the Feb meeting. This request was tabled pending continued education hours. To date there has been no response. Staff is asking for the board to deny this request at this time.

Jack Kerney made a motion to deny the variance request. Bradley Thatcher seconded. Motion passed.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Tony Pagano is leaving the certification section. We would like to thank him for his years of service in the EMS field.

J. VARIANCES

1. Michael Ragone requested a waiver for the one year as FF ½ to qualify for Instructor I, II/III. He was denied in June due to lack of time in fire service and experience information. He is submitting his experience in training and the fire service documentation.

Staff recommends denial. He has not shown experience in teaching and his Instructor test was a challenge test. There was no classroom experience involved. We believe he needs more experience as a firefighter in Indiana in order to understand the implementation of the BFFPSE rules and regulations.

Jack Kerney made a motion to deny the variance request. Candice Ashby seconded. Motion passed. John Buckman explained that this is the individual that completed Instructor I, and II/III practicals in one day.

2. Bradley Springer requested a variance for Fire Officer 2 based on experience in the military and 20+ years in the fire service. He retired from the Ft Wayne FD 2006. He has Fire

Officer I, and Instructor I, II/III through the military. No IFSAC certifications.

Staff recommends denial. We have a written/practical test in place; also, Mr. Springer retired from the fire service in 2006. This is not an eligible certification for non-fire service persons.

James Greeson made a motion to deny the request for variance. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion passed.

3. Brice Lawrence requested variances for Vehicle/Machinery Awareness, Ops and technician based on classes through Scene of the Accident. The board reviewed the curriculum in March and determined that it met the standard.

Staff recommends approval. He has met all prerequisites.

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

4. Stan Shipe requested a variance for Instructor I. He is a PI and a Firefighter 2.

Staff recommends approval pending his passing the Indiana Instructor Update test. He has shown experience in teaching. He needs to pass the update test to show his knowledge and understanding of the BFFPSE rules and regulations.

Jack Kerney made a motion to approve. Bradley Thatcher seconded. Motion passed.

K. APPEAL REQUESTS

None at this time.

L. MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting closed at 7:15 PM

NEXT MEETING
September 15, 2008 6PM
PUBLIC HEARING
Plymouth Fire Department
9604 Sunnyside Dr
Plymouth IN 46563
574-936-2156

The Board Meeting will be immediately after.