

MINUTES

INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

July 27, 2009 6pm (EDT)
Terre Haute FD
28 S 9th St
Terre Haute IN 47807
812-234-8653

A. BOARD CALLED TO ORDER at 6:05 pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present

James Greeson
Jack Kerney Sr
Jerry Nulliner
Bradley Thatcher
Darrick Scott
Ab Crosby
Jeff Hayes

Absent

Thomas Hanify
Candice Ashby

Representative Hinkle was in attendance at tonight's meeting.

C. MINUTES REPORT FROM June 18, 2009

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

D. VARIANCES

No requests at this time.

E. APPEAL REQUESTS

No appeals at this time

F. STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORT- JAMES GREESON

- The Marshal handed out the new organization charts. The Hazmat team is now under Jim Bennett, and the district coordinators have changed. This is so that we have better coverage throughout the state, and we have more representatives in each district. Geri Husband is the assistance director in these areas. The other chart shows that Mike Bigler is now the assistant State Fire Marshal, the code compliance officer is still vacant at this time, but I hope to hire someone in the next week or so. Our EMS data collection is a new system. The Firenet software is free to fire departments. Pam Bright has moved over to the Fire Marshal's Office to assist with the training programs.
- There was a statute change pertaining to the fees that can be charged. The changes in this code are on the Fire Marshal web site. There is a list of the amendments. IC 36-8-12-13, deals with the recommended charges allowed by the State Fire Marshal. IC 36-8-12-16, also deals with the recommended charges and tightens the administrative fees charged by an outside agent. This is for fire departments only. Also, IC 36-8-12.6 deals with direct pay to the fire department. This was instigated because of a company that has been billing residents' huge bills for the fire department services. These bills can range from \$4500.00 to tens of thousands of dollars. You need to go to the web page, www.in.gov go to Fire and Building Safety, go to the Fire Marshal Office and then follow the links.

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

- There were changes made to training division also. The EMS compliance is now under the certification team. Gail Fennell is now with certification, and the field service division still has the field managers out in the

districts. The regulation of ambulances, providers etc, is now under certifications. On July 1, a new statute went into effect for a position on the EMS Commission, for the Director of Preparedness and Training. I assumed my position and the first meeting was July 17th. Mike Garvey served many years as the representative of the state, and he was the secretary on the Commission. He is now the Chief of Staff for Homeland Security. The position as secretary for the commission has been assigned to the Fire Marshal. Also, I have assumed the position as the state EMS Director.

- Many of the functions we do as EMS will be moving to an on-line status. There will be few inspections; you will apply for this on-line. By renewing on line, you are attesting to the fact that you have complied with all rules, laws and regulations. We will be doing spot checks on this, and if you are non compliant, there will be a fine system in place. This will streamline the process and I think it will be more customer friendly.
- Also, you all know Julia Fox; she is now the State EMS Training Officer. She will oversee the functions that our agency is responsible for.
- I have asked that Jim Abraham or Karri Dillon be at all board meetings, so that we can get a status of certifications. We will do this on a quarterly basis and we will update the statistics for the year. The board needs to tell us what you want to see with these statistics.

H. CERTIFICATION BRANCH CHIEF, JOHN BUCKMAN

- We have completed 60 course audits now. People are responding properly, all information is submitted.
- Mandatory changes, if you look at the handout, for the check off skills for mandatory, we have adopted the IFSTA Essentials for Firefighter 1/2, and from this same book, we are creating the mandatory. This puts it in one book that can be supplied through the district councils. This way, the mandatory and Firefighter 1/2 compliment each other. We then have a bridge that takes you from Mandatory to Firefighter 1. You are not repeating the

information that you received in mandatory training. Once you have mandatory, you would complete the balance of the skills, and text, and take the Firefighter 1 Bridge test to receive your Firefighter 1. The mandatory training is good for 180 days, so the practicals would still be good for the firefighter 1. We have a power point that has been given to us from South Carolina for Mandatory. We are looking at January for this option to become available.

- This **DOES NOT** change the Basic Firefighter. This is still in effect. You will have to have the Basic Firefighter before you can progress to Firefighter 1.

Karri Dillon gave a report on certifications issued.

From April 1 2009 thru June 30 2009

Firefighter 1/2 440 certs issued

Fire Officer I 75

FOST 283

HMA 614

HMO 325

Instructor I 437 this includes recertification's

Total fire certifications issued during this period is 6234

Some of the HMA/HMO are from the variances from last month.

The next meeting we will have the second quarter from 2008 and the second quarter from 2009 so that you can compare what we are doing from last year.

- Turn around time right now for certification is 6-8 weeks from the time we receive the tests.
- We are in the process of putting as much as we can on the web site. This is easier on you, it is quicker and more accurate, and it is easier on the staff.

Karri Dillon introduced herself, as the new test manager. The system has not changed. The change has come in because we have more people taking test now than we have ever had. We have not increased the staff. This is part of the problem. When testing is done electronically, that is less time that the staff has to handle the paperwork. It is all downloaded and this speeds the system up. If Ivy Tech wants to do testing with a career

center, this is between the career center and Ivy Tech. We deal with Ivy Tech.

- If a person takes a test at Ivy Tech and fails, he retests at the fire department, what does he use as a course number. As long as the paperwork is in the office, practicals and application, he can take the retest at the fire department. If he is the only student testing, the proctor needs to apply for a retest for him on line.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Complaint letter about Marshall VFD

A complaint came in about a pipeline explosion and the concern was that the Fire Chief shows up with his kids in the car and many other civilians came to watch in the danger zone and there were children all around.

Some of the firefighters brought their camera's and were taking pictures, and the whole incident was highly unprofessional. Jeff Hayes made a motion for the staff to do an investigation on this incident. Darrick Scott seconded. Motion passed.

- The Fire Marshal requested a meeting with Representative Hinkle to see if something can be put in place for guidelines for fire departments and fire chiefs relating to responsibilities.

2. Fir Officer Strategy and Tactics, Dave Probo

- We are still working with NFA because they are still having some trouble on the practical issues. We are continuing to look for alternative solutions for the practicals. So this is ongoing. It will be at least 6 weeks before this issue is resolved.
- The NFPA standards are on going. We set up workgroups to look at the current standards and compare to the standards that we are using at this time. I have heard back from 2 of the 5 groups. There is not much change in the standards. Firefighter ½, Driver Operator, and Hazmat are almost completed. We will give a final report at the September board meeting. Tech Rescue is

on going. This one has significant changes. We are hoping that these will all be completed by the next board meeting. They are also looking at the practical skills and making sure we are in compliance with these.

- Currently, there are 143 individual skills that have to be evaluated for Firefighter 1 and 2. We are looking at picking x number of skills that will make up the actual skill test. The principle would be the same as the written. If you wanted to cover every issue in the written test, the test would be 1575 questions long. The computer randomly selects a group of questions and that is what is tested. Same thing with the practical skills. If you are taught all parameters of the skills, you would be tested on x number of the skills. This is something that we are looking at. If this is something that you want to do, let us know. If there is no interest in getting this Ok'd, then let us know that too. We would be setting up scenario's that would be used as the practical skill exam. You would still have to complete all skills through the class.

3. Age requirement as a prerequisite

The staff was assigned the project of looking at allowing students less than 18 years of age to test and receive certification. We have listed both pro's and con's on this issue. We are not asking for a vote at this time. This is for discussion only.

- Certifying students under 18 with a provisional certifications
- OSHA prohibits under 18 using some equipment
- Student is allowed to do this if under the umbrella of a career center
- Child labor laws
- EMS, 1st responder 14 years old. AIDS, HIV Hepatitis would be comparable threats to the individual similar to the threat as a firefighter
- Fire Dept. currently using persons under the age of 18 that are not certified.

- This would probably not change even if we lowered the age requirement
- Cost prohibitive for the state, issuing 2 certifications for the same person, same cert.
- Can the student physically perform all required skills?
- One skill requires rescue of an adult and carry down a ladder. The average adult Rescue Randy is 165 lbs. Can a 16-17 year old do this?
- Liability issues, if a 17 year old is injured, who is responsible.
- If they cannot complete all skills, can they come back when they are older / capable and complete just the missing skills?
- Teaches responsibility, learns accountability, respect for authority,
- Helps the student know if this is what they want before a fire dept, spends money on equipment and training.
- College credits are available for the students if they have state certification
- This would be eligible for career centers only.
- Career centers mandate that you have actual class time. Only allowed 10 absent day's total.
- Limit the age to 17 years old.
- Student must have a notarized affidavit from parents releasing the school from law suits.
- In most states, you must be 18 years of age in order to receive certification
- You have 17 year olds over in Iraq, why can't we certify as a firefighter or if we have to hold the certification until 18 years old, so be it
- Give these kids some kind of validation, some kind of concept to honor the training these kids have completed, and the work that they have done.
- If the school takes the students, drops them off at a fire dept for skills training, picks them up at the end of the training, the liability falls under the school. It was a school project.

- Talk with Ivy Tech, and see if there is some credit that can be given for the work these students are doing.
- Provisional certification, stating that at the age of 18 they qualify for a review process
- Most Seniors are 18 and most are 18 when they graduate
- Allow them to take the written and practical testing, but hold certification until they are 18 years old.
- Create a Junior certification, listing what they are not eligible to do. Up to the student to maintain their training, and request a cert at 18.
- From the Board's standpoint, we have a rule in place that says "18 years old is the prerequisite";
- Once you set up the precedent for this certification this would open the door for challenges to all other prerequisites.
- We do not want to solve the problem for 160 but cause problems with the other 6000 certifications.
- Limit to just mandatory and Firefighter ½ certification
- Change the verbiage to read, "to take the written/practical testing you must be 17 years old".
- Any changes would take 1 year to take affect.

There are about 160 students enrolled this year in certification classes. Approximately 30% will continue on and become firefighters.

Representing Career Centers: Martin McCrindle, Elkhart Career Center; Jeff Hayes, J. Everett Light Career Center; Gene Konzen, and Jeff Berning Ft Wayne FD and Anthis Career Center

Jeff Hayes made a motion to direct the staff to create a sample rule with guidelines for a provisional/ probationary certification for 17 years old to take testing and then at the age of 18, "trade it in" for a full certification. Jack Kerney seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Marty McCrindle, Career Centers, process of instruction
This was discussed in the above item; the process is that liability is on the instructor, the liability is on the school, funding is through the Dept of Education, There is no fiscal impact. How do we get there through the certification process?

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Re-adopt final Rule LSA 09-379

Readopts rules in anticipation of IC 4-22-2.5-2 providing that an administrative rule adopted under IC 4-22-2 expires January 1 of the seventh year after the year in which the rule takes effect unless the rule contains an earlier expiration ate. Effective 30 days after filing with the Publisher.

655 IAC 1-2.1

SECTION 1. UNDER IC 4-22-2.5-4 THE FOLLOWING IS READOPTED:

655 IAC 1-2.1 Training for Voluntary Certification Program (1996)

Bradley Thatcher made a motion to approve. Jeff Hayes seconded. Motion passed.

2. Darrick Scott formally resigned his position on the board. Due to family obligations and career paths, he feels he cannot give the amount of attention and time that this position requires. Darrick has been a board member for over 8 years, and has been a great benefit to the firefighters in the State of Indiana. We appreciate the years that he has been able to dedicate to this position.

K. MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:45 pm

NEXT MEETING

Sept 14, 2009 6PM (EDT)

City Hall; 1st Floor, Council Chambers

**301 S Branson
Marion IN 46952; 765-668-4474**