

MINUTES

INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 6PM (EDT)
MARION, CITY HALL
1ST FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
301 S BRANSON
MARION IN 46952
765-668-4474

A. BOARD CALLED TO ORDER at 6:10 PM

B. ROLL CALL

Present

Jerry Nulliner (Chairperson)
Jack Kerney (Co-chair)
Jeff Hayes (Secretary)
James Greeson (Fire Marshal)
Thomas Hanify
Bradley Thatcher
Candice Ashby

Absent

Ab Crosby

C. MINUTES REPORT FROM July 27th, 2009

Jeff Hayes made a motion to change wording on page 8, he was not representing the J. Everett Light Career Center at this meeting.

The motion was seconded by Bradley Thatcher. Motion passed.

D. VARIANCES

1. James McIntosh requested variances for Fire Officer II and Fire Officer III. He has met the prerequisites. He is District Chief of Special Operations at the Fort Wayne Fd; he is currently attending Indiana Wesleyan Univ. in pursuit of a Bachelor Degree in Management.

Due to continuous education and current goals, his job duties and requirements, staff recommends approval.

James Greeson made a motion to approve. Bradley Thatcher seconded the motion. Motion passed.

2. Arthur Jones requested a variance for Instructor II/III. His certification expired in January 2009 and he accidentally let it lapse. He would like it reinstated. He took the crossover test in 1997 and has stayed current until now. I have requested a copy of his recertification documentation and to date, I have not received anything.

Staff recommends denial. He is 7 months past his due date and this is the first we have heard of any problems.

Tom Hanify made a motion to table. Staff will write a letter requesting his recertification paperwork to be received in the office no later than October 12th 2009. At that time, the request will be resubmitted to the board for consideration. If the paperwork is not received, the request will be denied.

3. Charles Lovins Jr. requested a variance to the 3 year recertification on Instructor II/III. In the past he has received a reminder letter. This last year he did not receive the letter and his Instructor II/III certification expired. He is requesting this to be reinstated. I have requested the recertification documentation and to date, I have not received it.

Staff recommends denial. As an Instructor it is his responsibility to keep track of his recertification period.

Tom Hanify made a motion to table. Staff will write a letter requesting his recertification paperwork to be received in the office no later than October 12th 2009. At that time, the request will be resubmitted to the board for consideration. If the paperwork is not received, the request will be denied.

4. Stanley Frank requested a variance for Instructor II/III. He is currently a Primary Instructor and an active member of Poland Fire Territory.

Staff recommends approval pending his passing of the Instructor Recertification test.

Bradley Thatcher made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Tom Hanify seconded the motion.

5. Timothy Faulk requested variances for Driver Operator Pumper; Fire Officer I; Fire Officer II; Fire Officer III; Fire Officer IV; Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics; Investigator; and Safety Officer. He has an Associates Degree in Fire Science, and a Bachelor of Science. He has 35 years experience as a Firefighter, he now teaches courses through Ivy Tech. He is a member of the National Association of Fire Investigators. His EFO certification surpassed the NIMS training that he would receive from us. He has enclosed the syllabus that he has created to teach multiple classes at Ivy Tech.

Staff recommends approval based on education, job performance and on going activities.

Bradley Thatcher made a motion to approve staff's recommendation. Jeff Hayes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

6. Greg Main requested variances for Fire Officer III and Fire Officer IV. He holds a Master of Science Fire and Emergency Management Administration from Univ. of Oklahoma, multiple

NFA courses and other classes. Transcripts and certifications are enclosed.

Staff recommends approval. He has ongoing training and has met the requirements.

Bradley Thatcher made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Tom Hanify seconded the motion. The motion passed.

E. APPEAL REQUESTS

No report at this time.

F. STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORT- JAMES GREESON

The foundation grant is now available. This grant is available once a year, in the amount of \$4000.00. Anyone can apply for this grant. This grant is annual, so if you are fortunate enough to get one this year, you would also be eligible January 1st for another grant. Get with Gary Robison if you need help in filling out grant applications or Mary Fields. This grant is available for equipment, computer equipment, anything that you need in order to do your job. Also available is the CBERN grant. Information on these grants is available on line or you can contact our office.

We have had over 60 requests to assist in fire investigations since the last meeting in July.

We are getting in the cold season so we need to educate the population again on the do and do not in space heaters, and Christmas tree care.

G. IDHS TRAINING DIRECTOR, BRADLEY THATCHER

The mobile hazmat training prop is currently District 10 in the Evansville area and will be moving to District 6 in Anderson. There were about 125 firefighters that benefited from this training in District 10 just this past week. The live fire training prop is in Lafayette, District 4, and it is going to be moving to District 1. We are still training a lot of firefighters with the props.

The Search and Rescue Academy will be hosting its conference Sept 25-27 at Camp Atterbury. It will be dealing with both urban and wilderness search and rescue. Take a look at our web site and you will find the information.

H. STATE FIRE TRAINING BRANCH CHIEF, JOHN BUCKMAN.

The Emergency Response Guidebook video is available. It is a 22 minute video with a 10 question test at the end of it. This teaches you how to use the ERG book. It is on our web. We do not give out guidebooks for training purposes. We have a grant that allows us to give these books throughout the state for emergency vehicles. They are not going to be issued for training purposes.

I would like to recognize Paul Thompson. He has been nationally recognized by Firehouse Magazine. He and his partner, Anthony Monday, rescued a female from a burning house. Other victims informed him that there was an elderly, disabled female still in the burning house and he went back in to find her.

On the DHS website there is an hour long audio on the rules of the fire board. This is free of charge. Those instructors that need in-service hours can use this. We are currently discussing if we should have a test at the end of it.

**1. Steve Walters, Wildland Firefighter;
Mandatory Curriculum and Firefighter I Bridge
course.**

We are looking to repeal the Wildland Firefighter certification. This certification does not come close to meeting the standard

and have never had a written or practical testing in place for it. We have only had approximately 300 certify through variance since the conception of this certification in 1996. The DNR has a course that you can take and this is a national recognized course. This course, as per the standard, has a physical agility test that we have never required for our certifications. Therefore, we are requesting the repeal of this certification on both I and II levels.

Tom Hanify asked that there be more study done on this before the board starts repealing certifications.

Jerry Nulliner requests of the staff to do more investigating on recertification requirements for this and all other certifications and report back to the board. Staff needs to look at what other states do for this as far as recertification on certifications.

There is concern about the hazmat certifications that are issued for life and no additional training is ever required.

We are also looking at creating a bridge class for Firefighter I. This would consist of the balance of the standard, both written and practical, that were not completed in Mandatory. Mandatory was created from the Firefighter I, IFSTA Essentials. Firefighter I would complete what is not covered in Mandatory. This would stop the duplication of training. It would also make it easier for a Firefighter to get the Firefighter I certification. This would only be eligible for the student if he completed the Essentials Mandatory training. Everyone else would still be required to complete the full training. We are looking to go live on this on November 1st, 2009. The CD that is now available has the power point for the Instructor, and all information needed to teach this.

We will put the SIDS power point on line so that the student can get this done. The CPR and blood point pathogens are not included in the Firefighter 1 curriculum. The student needs to go to the Red Cross or another agency to get this training.

John Buckman added the following:

We are not going to print anymore mandatory manuals. You need to start promoting this program.

Under this program, you complete the mandatory, and then within 6 months you take the firefighter one bridge.

Clarification on this is: practicals taken for the mandatory and

to be used for the Firefighter 1, per the rule, practical skills are good for 180 days after testing. If you take the mandatory and complete the skills, they do not expire if all you take is the mandatory. You cannot use them as credit for the Firefighter I bridge. In this case the skills are only valid for 180 days as a credit for further testing.

I. IDHS CERTIFICATION CHIEF, RICK ARCHER

Rick Archer was introduced as the new head of certifications. Rick comes to us from the exercise program. Rick handed out the statistics for the last 2 months. This shows that certifications being issued are still up from this time last year.

J. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

No report at this time.

K. OLD BUSINESS

1. Dave Probo, NFPA committee status, FF ½ practical examination.

Dave asked if we could go ahead and with the standard changes with the exception of the Rescue Levels. All of them are moving along with the exception of the NFPA 1006 and the NFPA 1670. The changes in these are astronomical. They are confusing and it will take time to decipher the changes.

The FF ½ practicals – staff would like to make some changes. The student would be required to complete all practicals under an instructor's supervision, but testing would be a random of 5-6 skills only. The student would not be required to be tested on all 120+ skills. To be clear, the student would be required to complete all skills during class and with an instructor supervising. The actual test would consist of randomly selected skills. This is exactly what we used to do and EMS still does.

Another topic, staff would like the board to consider a rule change. The proposed change would allow a 16-17 year olds to take the written/practical skills exam and if they pass, we

would issue a certification that would become effective on their 18th birthday. This way, staff does not have to do everything twice, which is what we would have to do if we issued a probationary, the student would have the certification for college credit hours, but it could not be used as an active firefighter certification until their 18th birthday. It would be on the certification as an effective date of XX-XX-XXXX. This is the best solution we could come up with on the age requirement.

L. NEW BUSINESS
No report at this time.

M. MEETING ADJOURNED 8:40pm

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