



**Fire Fighter & Fire Safety Inspector Sub-Committee**

**STATE BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL, FIRE AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES  
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**FINAL MINUTES**

Minutes of the Fire Fighter & Fire Safety Inspector Subcommittee meeting held at the Ohio Department of Public Safety, 1970 West Broad Street, conference room 1106, Columbus, Ohio 43223. On July 9, 2019 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

**I. Call to Order**

Timothy Thomas (Chair) called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

**II. Roll Call**

- a. Committee Members Present: Timothy Thomas (Chair), Dudley Wright (Vice Chair), Phil McLean and Steve Robinson
- b. Committee Members Absent: Jeremy Guenther
- c. DPS and EMS Staff Members Present: Melvin House, Executive Director of EMS; James Burke, Chief of EMS Education and Testing; Ted Kienzle, EMS Program Administrator II; Kris Miller, EMS Program Administrator II; Doug Orahood, EMS Fire Testing Development; Joe Posey, EMS Program Administrator II; and Sarah Hall, EMS Administrative Professional II
- d. Public Present: Larry Ables, Dave Belcher, Jeremy Carnes, Thad Cullison, Patrick Ferguson, Dick Glessner, Johnny Mason, Joe Minocchi, Tim Morrison, Dan Reed, Jack Smith, Kip Smith, and Scott Wallace

**III. Open forum**

**Review and approval of the Fire Fighter & Fire Safety Inspector Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2019**

***ACTION: Motion to approve the Fire Fighter & Fire Safety Inspector Sub-Committee meeting minutes from May 14, 2019. Mr. McLean – First. Mr. Wright - Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.***

**IV. Executive Director House Report:**

- a) Executive Director House announced that Kevin Uhl has delegated Bill Mastroianni as a member of the Fire Fighter & Fire Safety Inspector Sub-Committee.
- b) The Ohio EMS is continuing to work on improving attrition and pass rates. The Firefighter I and Firefighter II pass rates are excellent; the attrition rate is high. Volunteer Firefighter first attempt exams are poor; the attrition rate is low. The Ohio Division of EMS has been collaborating with the Action Video training system as an additional resource in training. The original training videos

were available for view as of June of 2018. Students who have trained with the videos have higher pass rates. Action Video Training has produced twenty additional videos. The cost of access to all videos will be \$30.00 per year beginning January 1, 2020. The training website is designed with a tab for Ohio students and is very user friendly. The Ohio EMS will be developing a promotional campaign to provide training awareness and will consider expanding the Action Video Training above the Firefighter I level. Individual training facilities will determine if the video training cost is a part of the tuition charged; however, students can sign up without an affiliation. Executive Director House would like a facility to pilot a course using the Action Training videos in conjunction with power point presentations developed by the Ohio Division of EMS. An ending course review is to be administered tracking progress, attrition and exam scores.

- c) Great Oaks training facility reported they were requiring the same entrance requirements for Volunteer Fire Fighter as the Fire Fighter I, as a result the students for the Fire Fighter I course increased.

#### V. Ohio Fire Marshal Report

Jack Smith from the Ohio Fire Marshal's office reported the amount of fireworks injuries for 2019 were the equivalent of 2018; however, the injuries were more severe.

Executive Director House opened a discussion, NFPA 1001 standards which require medical examinations for the FFI and FFII certification level. The cost is \$465.00 per person. Mr. Smith stated he would research the possibility of a grant that would help cover the cost.

#### VI. Ohio Fire Organizations Report

The Ohio Fire Service Instructors in collaboration with the Ohio Fire Academy had another successful Ohio Weekend at the National Fire Academy on June 28 -30, 2019. The new transportation format worked well and coordinators are settling the final details of courses and dates selected for the Ohio Weekend 2020. Ohio Fire Organization Instructor Development event will be held October 24 – 25, 2019 At the Ohio Fire Academy. Chief Buckman will be providing training for company level officers, in the development and delivery of tabletop in-house exercises, focusing on retaining and engaging department members along with behavioral health training.

#### VII. EMS Fire Education Report

EMS received a late fire award nomination from the Whitehall Division of Fire in the category of the Fire Department of the Year. The nomination was omitted from the original packet until a motion was approved to allow the late entry.

**ACTION: Motion to accept the late entry from Whitehall Division of Fire.** First - Mr. Mclean. Second - Mr. Robertson. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

The subcommittee members voted utilizing the nomination sheets provided. Chief Burke counted the votes to determine recipients and forwarded the information to the State Fire Marshal.

#### **The recipients of the Ohio Hall of Fame Fire Service and Ohio Fire Awards are as follows:**

Fire Department of the Year: Canal Fulton Fire Department  
Fire Service Instructor of the Year: Lieutenant Jay Compson  
Fire Officer of the Year: Captain Slade Schultz  
Fire Prevention Educator of the Year: Captain Brett Heidecker  
Fire Educator Lifetime Achievement: Lieutenant Jack Vasbinder

**VIII. Old Business**

In the May 14, 2019 FF & FSI Sub-Committee meeting, a motion was approved to distribute Fire Fighter I and Fire Fighter II certification level skill sheets to the fire charters for review and Chief Burke has received helpful comments. Subject matter experts are meeting to discuss proposed skill revisions. The data will be available at the next FF & FSI Sub-Committee meeting for review. The results will be on the September meeting agenda.

Chief Burke created data sheets displaying the Ohio Fire Instructor certification quantities by county for each of the following levels: Assistant Fire Instructor, Fire Instructor, Fire Safety Inspector Instructor, and Live Fire Instructor. Executive Director House explained many retired fire fighters who have had decades of experience have let their fire fighter cards expire. The rule to be a Fire Safety Inspector or Fire Safety Inspector Instructor is to have an active fire fighter certification. If the current rule is alleviated, it would allow former certified fire fighters in good standing to gain fire safety inspector and fire safety inspector instructor status resulting in an increase of Ohio inspectors and inspector instructors. Executive Director House, inquired; "Why would we not allow a person with years of experience become a Fire Safety Inspector or Fire Safety Inspector Instructor?"

Mr. McLean asked about progress on the possibility of a Fire Safety Inspector Instructor Emeritus. Chief Burke found that a rule change would be required to have such a designation. However, currently it is permissible to have a guest lecturer as long as a certified fire safety inspector instructor is in the room.

In an effort to ensure compliance with NFPA 1403, The Ohio Division of EMS is in the process of developing a Pre-Burn Plan for 1403 Compliant Burn Facilities and a Pre-Burn Plan for Acquired Structures. Checklists to identify the portions of the burn plan that are to be completed throughout each phase from course submission to the post burn will be available. The proposed documents are intended to set a standard for acceptable burn plans to ensure compliance with NFPA 1403.

Chief Burke introduced Ted Kienzle as the new Education Program Administrator II for the Ohio Division of EMS. His primary function will be fire with a secondary role with EMS. Mr. Kienzle retired in February of this year from the Norwich Ohio fire department; he expressed his appreciation for the chance to work with the Ohio Division of EMS.

Steve Robertson is retiring from the Fire Fighter & Fire Safety Inspector Sub-Committee. Executive Director House presented a plaque of appreciation for all of the years served on the committee. Thad Cullison will now fill the empty seat. Mr. Cullison introduced himself as T.J. Cullison having a twenty-two year affiliation with the Ohio Division of Fire.

Chief Burke stated that, the Fire Safety Inspector skill sheets are 90% complete and will be presented to the FF & FSI Sub-Committee by September for approval for a January 1, 2020 start date. The Hazardous Recognition Officer skill sheets will be fine-tuned and become part of the Fire Inspector I skills.

**IX. Adjourn**

**ACTION: Motion to adjourn at 11:34 am.** Mr. Robertson – First. Mr. McLean– Second.  
None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at the Ohio Department of Public Safety, 1970 West Broad Street, Conference Room 1107, Columbus, Ohio 43223. 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.