

**Fire Policy Committee
Minutes
May 16, 2008**

The Fire Policy Committee of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training held a telephonic meeting at 9:00 a.m. on May 16, 2008 from the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem, Oregon. Chair Jim Whelan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Attendees via Telephone Conference Call

Committee Members:

James Whelan, Oregon Volunteer Firefighters' Association, Chair
Charles Chaffin, Oregon State Fire Marshal's Association
Larry Goff, Oregon Fire District Directors' Association
Kevin Gray, Non-Management Firefighter
William Lafferty, Oregon Department of Forestry
Dave Sprando, Portland Fire & Rescue

Committee Members Absent:

Kelly Bach, Oregon State Fire Fighters Council, Vice Chair
William Klein, Community College Fire Programs
Nancy Orr, Oregon State Fire Marshal
Mark Prince, Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association
Rod Smith, Oregon Fire Instructors Association

DPSST Staff:

Eriks Gabliks, Deputy Director
Terry Riley, Fire Program Supervisor
Julie Olsen-Fink, Senior Fire Certification Coordinator
Tami Hinshaw, Executive Assistant



1. Minutes from February 15, 2008 meeting

Kevin Gray moved to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2008 Fire Policy Committee meeting. Chuck Chaffin seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

2. Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Submissions

Eriks Gabliks explained that a committee was established to oversee the construction and the names placed on the Oregon Fallen Fire Fighter's Memorial that we are proud to have located on the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training campus in Salem. Since that committee's work was done, they no longer exist. Any new nominations to the memorial come to the Fire Policy Committee for review and approval. Upon committee approval, we will have those names engraved onto the memorial wall and work with the agencies so they can reach any family members that may be interested in attending the memorial ceremony.

There are 12 firefighter deaths submitted by Portland Fire & Rescue and the Tillamook Fire District. Each took place before the National Fallen Fire Fighter's Memorial was established in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The documentation submitted by both organizations supports the deaths occurred while the personnel were on-duty.

Submissions for Memorial Inclusion

Fred H. Rittenour

Incident Date: February 1, 1923
Agency: Portland Fire & Rescue
Incident Location: 6049 SE Stark Street, Portland (Station 19)
Incident Information: Rittenour died when he fell from a loft in the engine house at Station 19.

Walter McBride

Incident Date: December 19, 1929
Agency: Portland Fire & Rescue
Incident Location: 900 SE 35th Avenue Portland (Station 9)
Incident Information: McBride was found unconscious in bed at Station 9, possibly due to a stroke or hemorrhage of the brain. He was taken to the hospital and later pronounced dead.

Henry Krimbel

Incident Date: August 16, 1930
Agency: Portland Fire & Rescue
Incident Location: Counselor Apartments
Incident Information: Krimbel fell through a skylight at a 3rd Alarm fire at the Counselor Apartments on August 16, 1930 (Box 3276). He suffered spine and kidney injuries from the fall. He returned to work for a time but died on October 23, 1932 apparently due to kidney damage from the effects of the prior fall.

Clemmet Kemmer

Incident Date: April 21, 1933
Agency: Portland Fire & Rescue
Incident Location: 45 NE Russell Street (Station 8)
Incident Information: Kemmer died of a heart attack while on duty at Station 8. He was playing handball as part of the physical fitness program.

Gustave Adolph Stephan

Incident Date: June 26, 1933
Agency: Portland Fire & Rescue
Incident Location: 68 NE Stanton
Incident Information: Stephan (a theater Inspector) died of an apparent heart attack at 68 NE Stanton, where he stopped to rest after having taken ill while on duty. He died at that site.

Harry R. Howard

Incident Date: December 31, 1939
Agency: Portland Fire & Rescue
Incident Location: 5247 N Lombard St. Portland (Station #36)
Incident Information: He had an apparent heart attack (coronary thrombosis) while on duty.

Joseph Frederick Allerton

Incident Date: August 30, 1945
Agency: Portland Fire & Rescue
Incident Location: Oregon Shipyards (illness initiated at this fire)
Incident Information: Allerton was commanding the fireboat at the Oregon Shipyard fire and reported sick following the fire and never returned to duty. He died of bronchial pneumonia on October 2, 1945.

William Inglesby

Incident Date: July 19, 1946
Agency: Portland Fire & Rescue
Incident Location: 10803 NW Front Avenue Portland (Station #33)
Incident Information: Inglesby died while on duty at Station #33 (no information on how he died)

Gregory A. Warner

Incident Date: December 23, 1946
Agency: Portland Fire & Rescue
Incident Location: 2401 NW 23rd Avenue Portland (Station #6)

Incident Information: Warner responded to a fire with Station #6 and, upon return to the station, suffered a heart attack. He died December 30th.

Marion Stark

Incident Date: March 31, 1947
Agency: Portland Fire & Rescue
Incident Location: 45 NE Russell Street Portland (Station #8)
Incident Information: Stark was found dead of a heart attack in bed at fire Station #8 in the morning of his shift.

Jack Stephens

Incident Date: February 8, 1971
Agency: Portland Fire & Rescue
Incident Location: 630 SW Gaines Road (Station #2)
Incident Information: Stephens died of an apparent heart attack following Run #843 to 329 SW Woods for a “smoke scare.” After returning he went to bed and was found deceased at shift change.

Clayre Lavon Miller

Incident Date: February 17, 1949
Agency: Tillamook Fire District
Incident Location: City of Tillamook
Incident Information: As a member of the Tillamook Fire District, Firefighter Miller was assisting residents of the City of Tillamook during a massive flood. Miller suffered a heart attack while launching a boat to rescue citizens affected by the floodwaters.

Criteria for Oregon Fallen Fire Fighter’s Memorial

The criteria for the Oregon Fallen Fire Fighter’s Memorial were adopted by the Oregon Fallen Fire Fighter’s Memorial Committee on November 7, 2005. The Oregon criteria are identical to that which is used for the National Fallen Fire Fighter’s Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland. By doing this, the criteria is the same and a fallen firefighter is honored on both the state and national memorials.

Line-of-duty deaths shall be determined by the following standards:

1. (a) Deaths of firefighters meeting the Department of Justice's Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program guidelines, and those cases that appear to meet these guidelines whether or not PSOB staff has adjudicated the specific case prior to the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service; and

(b) Deaths of firefighters from injuries, heart attacks or illnesses documented to show a direct link to a specific emergency incident or department-mandated training activity.

2. While PSOB guidelines cover only public safety officers, the Foundation's criteria also includes contract firefighters and firefighters employed by a private company, such as those in an industrial brigade, provided the deaths meet the standards listed above.

Some specific cases will be excluded from consideration such as deaths attributable to suicide, alcohol or substance abuse, and other gross abuses.

Staff recommends that the names be approved for the Oregon Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial.

Kevin Gray thanked Chief Dave Sprando and Portland Fire & Rescue for their hard work in gathering the names. It's very much appreciated.

Kevin Gray made a motion to put onto the memorial wall the names submitted for inclusion from DPSST staff. Dave Sprando seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

3. Good of the Order

The next FPC meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2008. Kevin Gray asked if the meeting could be moved to a different date due to several of the committee members were going to be out of town and unavailable. The FPC agreed and Julie Olsen-Fink will work with staff and other members of the FPC to come up with an alternative date that is agreeable.

Chief Dave Sprando thanked everyone for allowing him to participate on the committee. He sees it as the future of where the Oregon Fire Service is going. Chief Sprando stated "Through the leadership that comes from that committee (FPC), particularly through the strategic planning, he really likes where it's going. Thank you for the opportunity and I know you'll be doing great things in the future."

Chief Jim Whelan thanked Chief Sprando for his participation and said he has done Portland proud by his representation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.