

**Fire Policy Committee  
Minutes  
August 17, 2007**

The Fire Policy Committee of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training held a regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. on August 17, 2007 at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem, Oregon. Chair Jim Whelan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Attendees**

**Committee Members:**

James Whelan, Oregon Volunteer Firefighters' Association, Chair  
Charles Chaffin, Oregon State Fire Marshal's Association  
Kevin Gray, Non-Management Firefighter  
William Klein, Community College Fire Programs  
William Lafferty, Oregon Department of Forestry  
Nancy Orr, Oregon State Fire Marshal  
Mark Prince, Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association  
Rod Smith, Oregon Fire Instructors Association  
Don Palmer, Portland Fire Bureau (for Chief Dave Sprando)

**Committee Members Absent:**

Kelly Bach, Oregon State Fire Fighters Council  
Larry Goff, Oregon Fire District Directors' Association

**DPSST Staff:**

Eriks Gabliks, Deputy Director  
Julie Olsen-Fink, Senior Fire Certification Coordinator  
Anita DeVilliers, Fire Certification Coordinator  
Tina Diehl, Fire Certification Specialist  
Thelma Denney, Fire Program Support Specialist  
Harry Ward, Fire Training Coordinator  
John West, Fire Training Coordinator  
Patrick Wineman, Fire Training Coordinator  
Theresa King, Professional Standards Coordinator  
Marilyn Lorance, Standards and Certification Supervisor  
Bonnie Salle, Certification Coordinator

**Guests:**

Jay Alley, Stayton Fire District  
Don Arbuckle, Boring Fire District  
Sarah Colvin, Oregon State Fire Marshal  
Ed Hartin, Gresham Fire & EMS  
Ron Haverkost, OR-OSHA  
Clay McCrea, Hood River Fire Department  
Ian O'Connor, Forest Grove Fire & Rescue  
John Shull, Scappoose RFPD

**1. Minutes from February 16, 2007 meeting**

*Mark Prince moved to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2007 Fire Policy Committee meeting. Kevin Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.*

**2. NFPA 1005 Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Fire Fighters**

Julie Olsen-Fink reviewed the issue before the Committee.

The Fire Certification Program of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) received a request from Joey Davis of Clatsop Community College requesting the state adopt a new standard in Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Fire Fighters. This request was presented to the Fire Policy Committee at the February meeting. The FPC recommended DPSST conduct outreach to the state for a comment period to determine if this standard would benefit the Oregon fire service.

DPSST received public comments from Captain Don Palmer – Portland Fire Bureau, Chief Bill Sharp – Brookings Fire and Rescue, and Assistant Chief Devon Wells – Hood River Fire Department.

**Action Item 1:** Determine whether or not the comments require creating a Task Force to evaluate and look at the standard.

Copy of NFPA 1005, 2007 Edition handed out for review. Discussion occurred.

*Kevin Gray moved that we implement or get a Task Force convened for Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Fire Fighters and to have the staff prep all required resources to implement NFPA 1005 by the next meeting. Bill Klein seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.*

**3. Live Fire Training Instructor Standard**

Deputy Director Eriks Gabliks gave the overview of this issue to the Committee. This comes to the FPC from the Oregon Fire Instructor's Association (OFIA) which recently passed a resolution at its 28<sup>th</sup> Annual OFIA Conference which was held April 27-28, 2007 in Keizer, OR. The author of this resolution, Ed Hartin from Gresham Fire & EMS, is here today.

The issue comes up that there have been an increased number of injuries and even some fatalities in Live Fire Training. Oregon has adopted NFPA Standard 1403 for Live Fire Training and we have worked with Oregon OSHA on their Fire Service Advisory Committee. They basically concur with this, but the OFIA resolution is asking that the state look at doing more in this area.

Some options for the FPC to consider:

- Develop a stand-alone certification standard for Live Fire Instructor.
- Develop and implement a class or competencies that address NFPA Standard 1403 and include them as a requirement for NFPA Fire Instructor II certification.
- Ask DPSST Staff to develop an awareness class that provides information on NFPA Standard 1403.
- Or other options that are available to you.

Ed Hartin explained the Resolution #2007-02 to the Committee.

General discussion occurred with comments from: Don Arbuckle, Chuck Chaffin, and Kevin Gray.

Eriks Gabliks explained that DPSST's CD on live fire training was put into place a number of years ago and it is updated every two years. The CD is a "how to". It takes NFPA Standard 1403 for Live Fire Training as the base and it tells you not just how to do it but what to consider. It includes a check-off list with concerns, how to make sure everyone is safe, and crew accountability issues that are involved. Two years ago DPSST worked with Oregon OSHA when they looked at the NFPA Standard 1403 and added some additional information based on work that was done with Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, and some other agencies. Actually, many of NIMS related compliance pieces were implemented into that as well.

The challenge is that there is a large majority of agencies that do this very well and are very aware of the dangers involved, but it doesn't stop the small community or somebody who doesn't want to follow the existing standards to do whatever they want to do. If you look at many of the firefighter fatalities, they didn't follow NFPA Standard 403 or they modified it.

John West explained the requirements for training on the Mobile Fire Trailer. Eight-hours are spent getting trained on its operation, the safety features that are built into it, and how they are maintained and calibrated. There is a lot of behind the scenes training as well as the actual hands-on portion of working with the individuals inside the trailer itself during the live fire exercises.

Eriks Gabliks' passed out a handout showing fire agencies with no certifications and who are not accredited with DPSST.

**Action Item 1:** Staff asks that the Fire Policy Committee evaluate the OFIA resolution and make recommendations regarding this policy.

***Kevin Gray moved to develop a Task Force to look at live fire standards and come back with a recommendation. Bill Klein seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.***

#### **4. Revocation and Denial Task Force Update**

Copy of proposed rule handed out.

Julie Olsen-Fink gave an overview that back in 2000 the members of the Fire Policy Committee asked the Fire Certification Section of DPSST to establish a Task Force to go thru the process to evaluate revocation and denial. Over the course of the last seven years it's been a long journey to get where we're at today. Those currently serving on the Task Force are:

- Jim Whelan, Chair, Stanfield Fire Department
- Jim Beery, Portland Fire Bureau
- Steve Schneiderman, Oregon Volunteers Firefighters Association
- Mark Prince, Hillsboro Fire & Rescue
- Kevin Gray, Springfield Fire & Life Safety

Established thus far is a draft of the proposed Administrative Rules to present to the FPC and hopefully be able to move forward and present to the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training at the next Board Meeting.

Theresa King reviewed the draft Administrative Rules comparing the Law Enforcement side to the Fire side. The rules before you today are a combination of those and all the work group efforts from the fire safety personnel. There are three items where discussion and consensus from Committee members is needed before the proposed Administrative Rules can be completed and prepared to publish for comment.

***Consensus agreed*** on proposed changes to definition of "Discharge for Cause".

***Consensus agreed*** on an appropriate initial minimum period of ineligibility for certification in cases where revocation or denial is recommended of ***30 calendar days***.

***Consensus agreed, as it reads***, on whether aggravating and mitigating circumstances listed are a) appropriate, and b) complete.

Bonnie Salle explained the Action Items for motions.

**Action Item 1:** Determine whether to recommend filing the proposed language for OAR-259-009-0070 with the Secretary of State as proposed rule.

**Action Item 2:** Determine whether to recommend filing the proposed language for OAR-259-009-0070 with the Secretary of State as permanent rule if no comments are received.

**Action Item 3:** Determine whether there is a significant fiscal impact on small business. ***Consensus agreed.***

*Kevin Gray moved to recommend the filing of the proposed language for OAR-259-009-0070 with the Secretary of State and also recommend filing the proposed language for OAR-259-009-0070 with the Secretary of State as a permanent rule if no comments are received. Rod Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.*

## **5. Fire Service Instructor Concerns**

Julie Olsen-Fink reviewed the issue that the Fire Certification Program of DPSST has noticed some changes in the documentation that is being received in regards to how it is effecting and impacting individuals applying for certification. Also concerns were received from the Oregon fire service regarding the “quality” of instructional level being delivered across the state. Three basic concerns presented are:

- Quality of instructors
- Quality of courses being delivered
- Hours versus Outcomes

Staff observations regarding documentation:

- Constituent concerns regarding “short-cuts” in curriculum to expedite class time
- Incomplete student rosters
- Appropriate documentation not being completed prior to teaching classes, i.e. F9-F form – information that verifies that they are competent to teach that course
- Notice of course completion forms not being presented to the students

Examples and the current OAR-259-009-0080 were discussed.

**Action Item 1:** Staff is seeking guidance and direction from the Fire Policy Committee. *Consensus is to have staff come back to the Fire Policy Committee with recommendations.*

## **6. Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial**

Julie Olsen-Fink reported for Brad Paris, Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard Commander. He wants to invite the members of the FPC to attend the Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial on September 15, 2007 at 1:00 pm here at the Oregon Public Safety Academy.

He is also making the request to incorporate three members of the FPC into reading the names of our fallen who are listed on the memorial wall. Jim Whelan, Bill Lafferty and Rod Smith volunteered.

The Honor Guard has created a brochure about the Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial. A little bit about its history and also what their future vision is. The first phase

has already been erected outside at DPSST. There is also a second phase which will include a statue, water feature, and a reflecting area. The Honor Guard is currently working diligently on raising funds to see the vision of the second phase come true. Each year the cost is approximately \$3,000 dollars to organize and facilitate the Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial. Speaking on behalf of the Honor Guard, donations from any of your training associations, that you would like to make, can be sent to the Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard. The address is on the back of the brochure

## **7. Stratification Update**

Eriks Gabliks explained that this issue came forward more than two years ago, from the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council (GFSPC) to evaluate how fire departments could have a deployment process that allows the local fire agency, and its governing body, to establish and provide a minimum level of service and the training required to meet such a level. The GFSPC sent their recommendations to the FPC and asked if it could be moved forward and adopt the training standards for that. The FPC could not take action on the proposal because it lacked specifics as to what training was needed for each of the proposed levels. The FPC asked the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) to assist in providing this information.

It is not done yet, but an update was given at the recent OFCA Conference in Redmond, Oregon and received a good feedback. The document is being fine tuned and will be presented at the upcoming OFCA meeting in November 2007. Then it will be coming back to FPC for final review and adoption.

## **8. Good of the Order**

- Chief Whelan stated that the Oregon Fire Marshal's Association had a question about whether or not we were going to adopt or look at NFPA Standard 1037.
  - Eriks Gabliks answered that Certification staff met last week and identified their steps to reach the strategic planning issues that are being outlined. The work group will be looking at the Inspector standard and at the same time bring in the Fire Marshal's discussion because there is a connection between the two.
  - Julie Olsen-Fink is organizing the work group and should know who will be participating on it in October 2007. Then a meeting will be planned for the first of the year. It's time to get folks up to speed with the most current NFPA Standard.
- Eriks Gabliks mentioned that the budget is finally thru and DPSST was able to get three additional staff positions for training. One will be dedicated for training at this facility and the other two will be working on the Code 3 Driving Program. We were also able to get additional funding for infrastructure for data so we can start moving into the online

certification streamlining. Eriks extended appreciation to State Fire Marshall Nancy Orr, her staff, the various fire service organizations, and the members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly and the Governor's office for their support and assistance.

- Harry Ward was introduced. He joins us from Missouri and is our new Central Oregon Regional Fire Training Representative. We're happy to have him here.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The next Fire Policy Committee meeting is 11/16/07 @ 1:00 p.m.