

# Governor's Fire Service Policy Council

1:00 p.m. • Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Special Districts Office/OFCA Conference Room

## Minutes

### Members

- Greg Keller, OFCA (Chair)
- Scott Mullen, OVFA (V Chr)
- Kelly Bach, SFFC
- Bob Borra, Insurance Providers
- Tammy Fitch, League of Oregon Cities
- Eric McMullen, OFMA
- Tad Pedersen, OSFM
- John Stein, General Public
- George Warren, OFDDA

### Ex Officio

- Tim McLain, OSP
- Joe O'Leary, Governor's Office
- Eriks Gabliks, DPSST

### Visitors

- Bob Livingston, SFFC
- Donna Disch-Curtis, OSFM

### Executive Staff

- Randy Simpson, State Fire Marshal
- Laura Drager, Staff
- Sue Garfoot, Staff

### **Welcome/Introductions**

Chair Greg Keller called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The roster was circulated for members and guests to make corrections and sign.

### **Changes to the agenda:**

None

### **Minutes:**

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. **George Warren made a motion to accept the minutes. Tad Pedersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Communications:**

None.

### **Guest/Visitor Input**

None.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Structural fire air monitoring task force update**

Jeff Miller from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue gave an update on the combustion monitoring project they are researching. A 1959 Fire Engineering magazine with an article on toxins in smoke was passed around to illustrate this concern has been around for a long time. With a power point presentation, Miller explained the progress made in monitoring hazardous bi-products from fires. Every fire is essentially a complex and dynamic hazardous waste site. The hazard to responders, exposed citizens, and the environment is airborne causing respiratory and dermal exposures. The concern is the change in the chemicals when they're removed from the site; they continue to off-gas. There are over 20 extremely dangerous chemicals that can be expected to be present at every fire and many more at complex occupancies. Until now there were no long term studies.

Equipment needed to monitor the chemicals are 1) a chemical detector, 2) a particulate meter, 3) separate detectors for gases, and 4) run-off sampling and monitoring equipment. The air monitor

costs \$280,000. The hope by the producing company is to bring the price down. DEQ and EPA may assist.

This program can benefit fire investigators, firefighters, neighbors, nearby streams and the environment. After extinguishment, determination can be made when safe atmospheric levels are present for firefighters and investigators to re-enter a fire scene, and document hazardous exposures for short and long term, meeting the intent of the presumptive cancer legislation passed (3/09). If the levels of hazard the environment has been exposed to are detrimental, this allows adequate DEQ notification and assistance.

The goal of the study is to

- Determine, while at a fire scene, whether it's safe to take off SCBA, and use decontaminating procedures right after the fire.
- Establish what the hazards really are at a fire, hot/cold zones.
- When to send investigators in. Correlate with PID monitor.

**Action:** Staff will email the charter to group.

### **IMT Type 3 task force update**

Simpson reported the federal requirements have caused a delay so we'll wait instead of doubling the work, it makes better business sense. DPSST is forming a task force for training requirements, once that is done a template will be created.

### **Legislative update**

Donna Disch-Curtis reported today is the deadline for bills to move through the first house. If they haven't they are set aside until the next session, if there's interest in resurrecting them. She gave a quick summary of bills affecting the OSFM/fire service:

- HB 5038 – OSFM fee bill for fireworks. If the bill doesn't pass, OSFM will continue running their licensing and permits for fireworks until current funds run out and cease to operate the program. By statute, the OSFM fireworks program is to be self-funded.
- HB 2539 affects any city with over 300,000 people, designates timeline for fireworks. The OSFM will not be able to follow through on expectation of HB 2539 if HB 5038 doesn't pass.
- HB 2950 limits State Fire Marshal or local approved authority to one inspection of alteration or construction of building or structure for compliance with Fire and Life Safety Code or local fire and safety code. Amendments to the bill wiped away the language pertaining to the OSFM and wiped away the residential and structural boards at BCD combining them into a single board with a focus on energy. The amendments also removed any representation of the fire service on the new board that had been on the previous boards. This may be a concern to the fire service.
- HB 3450 prohibits transferring title to single-family dwelling or multifamily housing that has carbon monoxide source unless dwelling or housing is equipped with carbon monoxide detector. Prohibits issuing certificate of occupancy for dwelling or housing having carbon monoxide source unless dwelling or housing is equipped with detector. A work group of fire service personnel from various fire departments have been critical contributors to amendments resculpting the bill to make it better legislation.
- HB 2457 allows a journeyman plumber to design and install fire sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings. The Joint Fire Service Legislative Committee is comfortable with the provisions of HB 2457.

- Seven bills regarding the indoor clean air act – cigar bars, hookah bars, etc. OSFM has been working with the Oregon Health Division and if any one of the seven bills pass there will be an amendment to remove the SFM and assistants from the authority to certify air ventilation systems in cigar bars. The Health Division will take on that responsibility. If none of the bills pass, the OSFM will craft an agreement with Health Division transferring that authority to the Health Division.

Check our web site for more information.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Council offerings of ideas, direction**

- **Open burning.** DEQ, EPA, and OSFM get involved and have to answer complaints. OSFM does not regulate permits; it falls mainly on DEQ. If burning illegal materials or on wrong days, DEQ can cite. McMinnville Fire recently informed their area they were not responding to other than hostile fires. DEQ has started stepping up. The council agreed to wait and see for six months. This issue could become an unfunded mandate.
- **Continual funding for Urban Search & Rescue.** Find solutions for funding and training.
- **Relation with ISO.** WFCA is working on developing a relationship or process to help make changes in the rating system. There is a new system in the works.
- **Volunteer compensation** in the northwest.

**Action:** Council representatives solicit at least one topic from your organization to discuss at the next meeting. Notify staff prior to the meeting of topic(s) for discussion.

## **REPORTS**

### **SFM Budget, Policy option packages, legislation**

The OSP/OSFM budget presentation is scheduled to start today. Simpson will be presenting the budget and will discuss the fireworks fee bill, the US&R program and will offer to monitor the Fire Insurance Premium Tax (FIPT) money for firefighter training. If a US&R visual is needed, the trailer cache can be opened and displayed to legislators. We're looking back at the original intent of the program. The insurance industry has support using FIPT for the US&R program if funds are available.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Review Council charter**

Council charter review was tabled until the next meeting, as Simpson had to leave early for the budget presentation.

### **Council Member Reports**

**OVFA** – Scott Mullen had nothing new to report.

**OFDDA** – George Warren had nothing new to report.

**OFMA** – Eric McMullen reported on the upcoming conference; they are trying to get affordable education to members and are following legislative measures that affect the fire service. Regarding the rulemaking on sprinklers; they're putting a package together for local jurisdictions to adopt sprinklers. With the economy down, costs cannot be added to housing construction.

Recovery time is needed before considering it again. It was huge to have both builders and codes experts together at the table.

**OSFM** – Tad Pedersen had nothing new to report.

**OFCA** – Greg Keller shared about the OFCA conference in Eagle Crest. The event was well attended last week with several good speakers.

**Adjourn**

**George Warren moved to adjourn and Eric McMullen seconded.** The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Next meeting date: July 28, 2009