

# Governor's Fire Service Policy Council

1:00 p.m. • Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Office of State Fire Marshal • Mt. Hood 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
- Bob Reeves, OFDDA
- John Stein, General Public

### Ex Officio

- Cameron Smith, Gov's Office
- Tim McLain, OSP
- Eriks Gabliks, DPSST

### Visitors

- Jeff Miller
- Jim Walker, OSFM
- John Caul, OSFM
- Donna Disch
- Mariana Ruiz-Temple

### Executive Director/Staff

- Randy Simpson, State Fire Marshal
- Laura Drager, Staff
- Sally Cravinho, Staff

### **Welcome/Introductions**

Chair Greg Keller called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The roster was passed around for any changes.

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

SFM Randy Simpson asked to add the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA) to the agenda. It was added at the end of the agenda.

### **Minutes:**

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. **Kelly Bach made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Eric McMullen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

Minutes from the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting with past chair Jeff Johnson discussing the inception of the charter were attached to the agenda.

### **Communications:**

None.

### **Guest/Visitor Input**

None.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Jeff Miller, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, introduced his presentation on structural fire air monitoring and described how input was gathered for the advisory panel. A final meeting will be held to summarize all the information. Common chemicals that were found will be in the final report.

Similar studies are being done by Underwriters Laboratories and the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. Our study covers only gasses emitted, while Cincinnati's covers particulates, hoods and gloves. Miller has been in contact with the UL and asked if the council was interested in future studies on human health impacts, and whether they want to combine efforts with them. The UL found high levels of arsenic in furniture during their study. The concern is that this is

staying in our turn-outs. If you're able to smell it, it's there. Even though there was no fire damage in one apartment, there were levels of chemicals found in the area. The challenge is trying to find safe areas for firefighters, inspectors, and even bystanders. The future brings how to hone in on the safety of being around the chemicals. More washdowns need to be done for human health, and more blood draws to show the effects of how the chemicals enter the body.

SFM Simpson expressed an interest in moving forward with this for the sake of the OSFM deputy state fire marshals exposed to chemicals at fire scenes. If we partner with UL, we'll have one publication with both studies. This could help in soliciting a grant to support them.

Consensus of the group was to 1) continue to correlate data and finalize it, 2) bring the advisory committee members to the July meeting to thank them, 3) Oregon publish our data to keep it pure, then share with the others and possibly combine, and 4) further study investigator exposure. Seeking grant support is contingent on timelines and should be pursued. Contact OHSU for grant opportunities.

Chair Keller would like to have as many members of the advisory committee attend the next meeting as possible. Those who cannot attend could participate via conference call.

### **Fireworks law review update**

Donna Disch-Curtis, Office of State Fire Marshal, gave an update on the Fireworks Law Review, which is proposing changes to clarify language for the general public, the fireworks industry, law enforcement officers mandated to enforce fireworks laws and the courts adjudicating fireworks cases. The proposals will likely create additional permits as well as create a progressive enforcement with the help of law enforcement. Members of the Review represent not only the fireworks industry, but the fire service, law enforcement and citizen groups. The civil component enforced by OSFM will remain in the law. SFM Simpson proposed legislative concepts are primarily housekeeping aimed at clarifying language and making both interpretation and compliance easier. The OSFM has three proposed legislative concepts:

- ORS Chapter 479 on protection of buildings from fire;
- Clarification of smoke alarms statutes, which are also in Chapter 479; and
- Fireworks laws.

### **Carbon monoxide program update**

John Caul, OSFM Codes deputy, reported the OSFM Rule Writing Committee completed the draft rule and it will be implemented as a temporary rule for 6 months effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. The final rule writing will be in December. By October, Building Codes Division plans to have rules drawn up. We're relying on the associations to get the word out.

SFM Simpson assured having it as a temporary rule gives time to make changes if needed for the final. This will be done as a civil process. Landlords and attorneys are happy with this new rule. Information about the new rule can be found on the OSFM website:

[http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/CommEd\\_CO\\_Program.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/CommEd_CO_Program.shtml)

### **Oregon Sprinkler Task Force update**

Eric McMullen shared information on his meeting with the Oregon Sprinkler Coalition. The coalition is looking for membership. They have decided to go with sprinkler upcharges, not system development charges (SDCs). They expect the legislature to be involved with the sprinkler process.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Residential Sprinklers**

SFM Simpson stated the Oregon Sprinkler Task Force has the same people on it as the Oregon Sprinkler Coalition. He asked the council to rescind the charter for the Oregon Sprinkler Task Force as it is redundant. The chair's concern about communication was alleviated as Eric McMullen chairs the coalition. Consensus was to rescind the charter. McMullen will continue to report the activity of the coalition to the council.

Chair Keller asked McMullen for the names and positions of members of the coalition.

**Action:** Staff will send the list to GFSPC members with the minutes.

### **Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA)**

SFM Simpson asked for the support of the council to authorize him to represent Oregon as a signatory on the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA). The PNEMA promotes emergency management coordination and preparedness in the Northwest. Created by the Western Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee, the PNEMA includes Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and the Yukon Territory. This would help expedite deployment of resources to an incident, including hazmat, urban search and rescue, and incident command, and streamline the process to assist and get resources. We would follow our Mobilization Plan. Other states would follow theirs. Simpson asked for the support through the Superintendent of State Police, the council, and the governor.

**Eric McMullen made a motion to draft a letter to the Governor's Office in support of PNEMA. Tammy Fitch seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Action:** Staff will prepare a letter to the Governor's Office.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Review Council Charter**

Chair Keller reviewed the changes in the charter from the last meeting. We had more questions than we had answers. A discussion meeting was held with former chair Jeff Johnson on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

On page 2 under Customers/Beneficiaries, 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet, Emergency Medical Services is mentioned. Keller suggested adding an EMS representative to the council as an ex officio (non-voting) member. The idea was warmly received as it would be beneficial overall for the fire service. It makes sense to involve EMS because what we do involves them.

**Action:** An invitation will be extended to the Department of Human Services, EMS/Trauma Section Director Bob Leopold to attend the next meeting as a guest with the intent of making him an ex officio member, copying Grant Higginson, Claudia Black, and Cameron Smith.

Since the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council is established in the statutes, consensus was to wait and see if this works out and pursue changing the statute at the next opportunity.

On page 1, under Goals, 4<sup>th</sup> bullet the expectation that "*fire service personnel (paid or volunteer) in Oregon are adequately trained*" was discussed.

Concerns were:

- The fire service doesn't have coverage all over the state. The level of training is voluntary in smaller departments, plus they don't have the resources. If the OSFM sets a standard the fire departments will feel it's a mandate.
- The cities are concerned about being mandated to meet standards of training. Preference is to use best practices.
- Insurance companies are asking for qualifications. Bob Borra stressed the importance of the wording.

In the interest of time, this conversation will be continued at the next meeting.

## **REPORTS**

### **Council Member Reports**

Scott reported the OVFA is strong and not going anywhere. They are a working, cohesive group.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Next meeting dates: July 27, 2010, October 26, 2010, January 25, 2011

Meeting location: Office of State Fire Marshal