



BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

May 4, 2020 6:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

WEBEX

Virtual meeting conducted due Covid-19

Indianapolis, Indiana

NOTE: All variance requests must be received no less than twenty (20) days prior to a meeting of the Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education in order to be included in the agenda.

A. Call to order – 6:00 PM – Meeting called to Order

Board Members Present

Eric Dreiman (Chair); Eric Gentry (Vice Chair); Jason Rogers (Secretary); Tom Hanify; Wade Walling Proxy for Joel Thacker (State Fire Marshal); John Smith; John Brown (Director of Training & Preparedness and Director of Planning); M. Burke Jones; Rob Lund

NOTE: Due to the Board Members attending via webinar all votes were taken by roll call vote, with members stating their name and their vote.

Staff Members Present

Joel Thacker; Wade Walling; Elizabeth Westfall; Donna Saine; Phil Mellencamp; William Huffer; Paul Bradley; Regine Johnson; Anthony Knight; Eric Funkhouser; Patrick Fisher; Zach Westfall; Jonathan Whitham; Kristi Shute

B. Consideration and approval of December 5, 2019 Fire Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes 1st by John Smith, 2nd by M. Burke Jones; all voting members voted to approve the December meeting minutes. *Motion carries.*

C. New Variance requests (staff recommends approval)

1. Notice of Approved under 18 testing and skills variance requests.

Motion to approve 1st by Eric Gentry, 2nd by Rob Lund; all voting members voted to approve. *Motion carries.*



2. Indiana Task Force One - requesting a variance to allow twenty-five (25) students to test out of order for Operations and Technician level Rescue courses. The courses will be Vehicle Machinery, Rope, Swift Water, Confined Space, Trench, and Structural Collapse.

Motion to approve 1st by Tom Hanify, 2nd by M. Burke Jones; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.

D. New Variance requests (staff recommends denial) -

1. Gregory Peete 5565-7852 - Request for Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 issued date be back dated so that he may test Instructor 1.

Motion to deny 1st by Jason Rogers, 2nd by Rob Lund; all voting members voted to deny the request. Motion carries. Following the vote, Mr. Peete withdrew his request.

Mr. Peete then requested that the board grant him permission to test out of order for Instructor 1 and Fire Officer 1 in lieu of his request above.

Motion to approve 1st by Eric Gentry, 2nd by Jason Rogers; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.

2. Jeffrey Freeman 4444-1296 - Request for Instructor First Class and Instructor Second Class certification to be “Grandfathered” to Instructor 1.

Motion to deny 1st by John Smith, 2nd by John Brown; Jason Rogers abstained and the remaining voting members voted to deny the request. Motion carries.

E. New Variance requests (staff has no recommendation) –

1. Jim Baker 8870-8933 - Request for reciprocity from Kentucky State certifications and Training Hazardous Materials, Hazardous Materials Operations, Firefighter1, and Firefighter 2

Motion to deny 1st John Smith, 2nd Tom Hanify; all voting members voted to deny the request. Motion carries.

2. Nathan Stoermer 3878-0396 - Fire Officer 2 – 68 points

Motion to approve 1st Eric Gentry, 2nd Rob Lund; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.

3. Nathan Stoermer 3878-0396 - Fire Officer 3 – 68 points

Motion to approve 1st Jason Rogers, 2nd Eric Gentry; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.

F. State Fire Marshal Report – Proxy for the Fire Marshal Joel Thacker - Wade Walling
Introduction of Joel Thacker as the New State Fire Marshal.

Public Safety Academy Structure -

Elizabeth Westfall has been promoted to Director of Operations for the Academy.

William Huffer has been promoted to the Academy Logistics manager. Mr. Huffer will be working in conjunction with the District Fire Training Program Managers, Coordinators, and Councils. He will also be coordinating with local fire departments to schedule the training trailers, props, and other course related materials.

The Academy has been approved to hire 300 new positions. It is moving away from using contracted vendors to support fire training instructors and the District Fire Training Councils. This will help IDHS reduce overhead costs. Funds will be reallocated back to into fire training. The Academy is onboarding the District Coordinators and will hire additional Instructors later.

- Paul Bradley, Program Manager, will cover Districts 1, 2 and 3.
- Phil Mellencamp, Program Manager, has rejoined the team and will cover Districts 4, 5, 6, and 9.
- Zach Westfall, Part-Time Program Manager, will cover districts 7, 8, and 10.
- Jim Campbell, Part-Time Program Manager, will be handling NFPA updates and other duties as assigned.

Granting Funds – Local fire departments can now apply for training funds. This was changed in response to many departments not having the means to participate in the district fire training model. This does not affect the state budget for fire training.

Budget Cycles/Performance Periods – These have been changed from annual to semiannual periods, and will now run July 1– December 31 and January 1– June 30. The deadline to request funds is June 15.

Notice of funding for Specialty Training – Funds are available for continuing education purposes outside of normal fire certifications. This information is located in Acadis.

Elizabeth Westfall

Additional Funds – There are additional funds available and a scoring committee will evaluate funding requests. This will be a competitive process.

Fire Challenge exams – State Challenge Exams will move to State Primary Sites beginning July 1, 2020. All written challenge exams will need to be proctored by State staff, which can be District Training Instructors, Coaches, or Program Managers. Procedures for this process will be available in the next couple of weeks. This process will help ensure that the integrity of written tests is intact. The training site locations were chosen so that students would not have to drive more than forty-five (45) minutes for training. Staff is working with the training sites to add more computer work stations for online training and testing.

Guidance for training during Covid-19 - Fire training has opened again. A guideline has been put in place on how to conduct training during social distancing. This document can be found in Acadis.

Academy Bi-Annual Budget – The budget has been reduced by fifteen percent (15%) for the fiscal year 2021-2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Academy will not see the affects of this for years.

William Huffer – Grants for AFG and HMEP funds were used to acquire new training props, and an F350 to tow the trailers. Mr. Huffer provided a PowerPoint presentation on all the features the new trailers have to offer.

Indiana State Fire Marshal Joel Thacker

Update – A lot of the attention has been placed on COVID-19 but that is only one aspect of what IDHS does. As of May 4, 2020, Indiana has had 32 people die in house fires in 2020. The Fire Investigations Section has conducted or assisted in 160 investigations in 2020. EMS has been conducting certifications classes. Code Enforcement is still performing its duties.

As we start looking forward to working with everyone to increase training in Indiana.

This will be a busy month for Public Safety:

International Firefighter Day - May 4, 2020

Arson Awareness week – May 3 – May 9, 2020

Building Safety Month – May 2020

Emergency Medical Services week - May 17 - May 23, 2020

- G. Academy Administrator – Wade Walling – Report given during the Fire Marshal’s report.
- H. Director of Training/Preparedness & Planning – John Brown
All activities are on hold due to COVID-19. There will be a slow roll out of training.
- I. Administrative Proceedings/ Non-Final Orders – Legal – Kristi Shute – None at this time.
- J. Old Business – None at this time.
- K. New Business –
Eric Dreiman – Discussion regarding Variance Requests from Kentucky. Kentucky does not require practical skills as part of their certifications process. Eric Dreiman made a motion to only accept Kentucky certifications if proof of skill proficiency is submitted with a completion date that is within the last 180 days.
Motion was withdrawn and tabled until the next meeting.

1. Indiana Statewide 911 Board – Presentation via PowerPoint by Edward Reuter.
2. Mark Olsen - Request to approve position-specific teams for qualifications and certifications for Incident Management Team, National Qualification System, and NIMS Typing Response Teams. Eric Dreiman requested Wade Walling and John Brown to conduct research before the Board can make any decisions. Jonathan Whitham stated that the matter can be handled internally.
3. Elizabeth Westfall – Curriculum update/proposal
 - a. Module A, B, C, and D testing process.

After researching the current Module System, staff has discovered that there is not a difference in testing, written exams, or certifications associated with the module system versus regular testing. Ms. Westfall would like the Board to vote on dissolving the Module System and adopting a new version that would allow students to test and would make practical skills valid for two (2) years. A few members stated they are concerned with the skills being valid for two (2) years. Jonathan Whitman stated that a non-rule policy can be adopted until it can be adopted as a rule. Tom Hanify asked whether the new model can be tested for two (2) years and then the Board can decide if it wants to add this as a rule?

 1. Change number of questions on Firefighter 1 exam to seventy-five (75) questions.

Motion to approve 1st Tom Hanify, 2nd Eric Gentry; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.
 2. Establish a 2-year Temporary Variance.

Motion to approve 1st Eric Dreiman, 2nd Eric Gentry; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.
 3. Dissolve the Module curriculum program effective July 1, 2020.

Motion to approve 1st Wade Walling, 2nd Eric Dreiman; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.
 - b. Rope Rescue Committee - CMC Rope Rescue 5th Edition book proposal – Anthony Knight

Motion to approve 1st by John Brown, 2nd by Jason Rogers; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.
 - c. Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, and Mandatory Committee – Patrick Fisher
Adoption of IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting 7th edition for the new curriculum.

Motion to approve 1st by Eric Dreiman, 2nd by Eric Gentry; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.

- d. Vehicle Machinery Committee Beta Testing– Fabian Martinez
Test questions are currently being written for this test.

Motion to approve 1st by Eric Dreiman, 2nd by Tom Hanify; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.

- e. Instructor 1 – (Tentative) - Eric Funkhouser – six (6) people are on this committee. Mr. Funkhouser provided an update on the progress of the committee.

4. Eric Dreiman – Grant an extension for testing and practical skills examinations due to the 2020 COVID-19 restrictions.

Motion to approve 1st by M. Burke Jones, 2nd by John Smith; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.

- L. Open discussion, comments, questions?

Motion to adjourn by M. Burke Jones, 2nd John Smith, and all voting members voted to approve. Meeting is adjourned.

Fireboard WebEx Information

<https://indiana.webex.com/indiana/j.php?MTID=m70efe0e02cedabae7d2b48cb6d8288ed>

Meeting # (477 497 474):

Join by phone

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Join from a video system or application

Dial [477497474@indiana.webex.com](tel:477497474)

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Next meeting: June 17, 2020 IVFA - Convention

The June meeting was to be held at the IVFA Convention, which has been cancelled until further notice. The Board will determine where the next meeting will be held in person or virtually. This information will be release as soon as a

decision is made. It will be placed on the Board's website under Meeting Dates/Times/Locations

Approved: _____
Eric Dreiman, Chair

Date: _____