

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD
Fire Prevention and Control Committee
December 3, 2009

A regular meeting of the Committee on Fire Prevention and Control was held at the VDFP Head Quarters in Glen Allen, VA at 11:00 am. Mr. Ed Altizer served as Chair.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Altizer – Committee Chair – Virginia State Fire Marshal
Michael Reilly – Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators
Carl Garrison – Virginia State Forester
Elaine Gall – Virginia Fire Prevention Association
Robert Scott – Insurance Industry Representative
Felix Sarfo-Kantanka, Jr – General Public
Joe Wilson – Industry (SARA Title III & OSHA)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Vacant – Virginia Board of Housing & Community Development

VFSB MEMBERS PRESENT

Rick Burch	Kaye Brown	Ken Jones
Ken Brown	Mike Armstrong	

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Billy Shelton	Russ Chandler	Steve Grainer
Brook Pittinger	Dave Jolly	Bobby Bailey
Christine Lopilato	Glenn Dean	

GUESTS PRESENT

Kurt Kight	Ed Rhodes
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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair asked if there were any additions and/or corrections to the minutes of the October 2009 meeting. With no changes to the minutes the October 8, 2009 meeting minutes were approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business items discussed.

New Business:

- A. Training Mini-Grants

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

**COMMENTS FROM THE VDFP LIAISON
Branch Chief of Training & Technical Services**

The following report was provided by David Jolly on behalf of Russ Chandler:

VFIRS:

Thanks as always to those fire departments participating to the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System. Thanks to their input, we are able to capture valuable statistics that give us a broad picture of the incidents being handled by Virginia's firefighters.

Those statistics compiled by Dwight Crews and his team show us what has occurred to date this year:

- There were 428,611 incidents reported
- Of those incidents, 18,768 were fire incidents
- Firefighters reported responding to 35,993 false alarms
- EMS calls tops the list with 281,108 incidents
- The top three fire causes in residential occupancies were:
 - Cooking: 31%
 - Heating: 16%
 - Open Flame, ember, torch: 5%
- There were 1,630 incidents labeled as unknown, this was 29% of total fire incidents
- Total fire loss was \$201,610,224
- There were 294 civilian injuries and 45 civilian deaths
- Fire Service casualties reported as 247 injuries with 2 firefighter deaths

Virginia Fire Marshal Academy:

In addition to the many schools that are on-going our VFMA team has been working hard setting up and installing audio visual equipment in the new training room located at 1043 Technology Park Drive in Glen Allen. The new room is equipped to handle a typical 1031, 1033, 1035 as well as many other fire type courses. This process is one of the last projects that moves the entire VFMA staff and operations into the 1043 space. We are very proud of the accomplishments of staff to make this a very positive workspace, meeting the needs of staff as well as visitors to our facility.

**COMMENTS FROM THE VDFP LIAISON
Director of Finance**

Christine Lopilato provided the following information:

- VFIRS Hardware Grants – awards to 15 jurisdictions for \$25,000
 - Agency staff has sent award letters requesting acceptance certifications, due back by 11/30/2009
 - All acceptance certifications have been received
 - Funding will be disbursed by 12/31/2009
- Training Mini Grants – applications received by postmark deadline of 9/30/2009
 - 47 applications requesting \$338,816 in funding
 - Evaluation matrix from senior staff was sent to all Committee members for review along with copies of all applications
 - Recommending 41 jurisdictions for \$176,464

Topic: Training Mini-Grants – Enclosure 1

Motion: Accept the recommendation to award funding up to \$176,464 for FY10 Training Mini-Grants applications.

Discussion:

The Training Mini-Grant program is funded by the FPF interest earnings.

Vote: unanimous

Action: motion carries and will be presented at the Administration, Policy and Finance Committee meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ed Altizer stated that the Agency sent a memo out in the Fall of 2009 regarding the usage of G3 sprinklers (also posted on VDFP's website – www.vafire.com). Based on extensive testing of these sprinklers, it was determined that they were no longer safe for usage in state buildings. The Agency has written a second memo on this subject in order to provide greater clarification and that memo is also available on VDFP's website.

Elaine Gall reported that the VFPA Fall Conference was very successful and next year's conference is scheduled for the 1st week of November 2010.

Mike Reilly stated that the BHCD/VFSB Meet-and-Greet went well and was a great opportunity for the two Boards to discuss current code changes and issues.

REPORT FROM THE CODE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Code Subcommittee meet on Thursday, October 15, 2009 beginning at 10 am at the VDFP Headquarters office in Glen Allen. The committee reviewed the code proposals by DHCD that were recently posted on the RIS.

It was reported that the Sub-Committee Chair is waiting for a letter from ISO regarding their decision to modify ISO ratings based on code changes made to state and local codes. This change will affect any building insured (not just new construction).

The following code changes are being followed by the Sub-Committee:

- Cleaning schedule change for hood and duck work systems in commercial restaurants;
- Portable fire extinguishers in buildings with sprinkler;
- Residential Sprinklers;
- Public School Sprinklers;
- Urban Wildland Interface Code changes; and
- Assisted Living facilities – evacuation times;

The next Code Subcommittee meeting is schedule for Thursday, January 7, 2010 beginning at 10 am at the VDFP Headquarters office in Glen Allen.

REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Carl Garrison reported that (Enclosure 4 – handouts for below covered items):

- The US Forest Service budget was signed into law in the beginning of November 2009 and the funding was increased by approximately 22%.
- The Flame Act – has been signed by the President and allows for additional federal funding resources for state's to use for forest/wildland fire suppression activities.
- The 2009 Fall Fire Season, which runs from October 1 – November 30, is now closed and this was the lightest year in past 15 years. This year there were 26 fires and a loss of 640 acres. Virginia is still below the national average for forest fires.
- Dry Fire Hydrants – installing 44 new dry hydrants and conducting 6 repairs.
- Fire Wise VA – there have been 4200 communities identified within VA that qualify for the Fire Wise program. VA currently has 34 Fire Wise recognized communities. VA is currently ranked 6th in the nation for the total number of Fire Wise communities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Topic: Training Mini-Grants

Motion:

Discussion:

Please see the motion under the Director of Finance's section.

Vote: unanimous

Action: na

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 12:07 am

Clerk of the Committee
Brook M. Pittinger

REVIEWED BY:

Russell E. Chandler

Russell E. Chandler
Brach Chief of Training & Technical Services

December 3, 2009

Date

Enclosures:

1. Training Mini Grant Matrix
2. Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS)
3. Residential Sprinkler Facts
4. Department of Forestry Handouts