

**VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD**  
**Fire Prevention and Control Committee**  
**April 8, 2010**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Michael Reilly – Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators  
Elaine Gall – Virginia Fire Prevention Association  
Carl Garrison – Virginia State Forester  
Robert Scott – Insurance Industry Representative  
Felix Sarfo-Kantanka, Jr – General Public  
Brian Mullins – Virginia Board of Housing & Community Development

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Joe Wilson – Industry (SARA Title III & OSHA)  
*Ed Altizer – Committee Chair – Virginia State Fire Marshal*

**VFSB MEMBERS PRESENT**

Rick Burch	Ken Jones	Kaye Brown
Ken Brown	Tom Moffett	Mike Armstrong

**AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT**

Billy Shelton	Dave Jolly	Russ Chandler
Brook Pittinger	Christine Lopilato	Tony Dennis

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Kurt Kight

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chair asked if there were any additions and/or corrections to the minutes of the February 2010 meeting. With no changes to the minutes, the February 25, 2010 meeting minutes were approved.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

**Unfinished Business:**

A. No unfinished business

**New Business:**

A. No new business

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments made at the Committee meeting.

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

The following report was provided by Russ Chandler:

**Fire Data:**

We cannot stress enough the value of statistical data to help in solving many of the issues facing the fire service today. Under Brook's leadership, Dwight and Renee have done a superb job of providing us those facts that are necessary to find solutions for the fire safe needs of the fire service and the community. I understand the full report for 2009, if not already available, will be available this month.

However, these numbers are only as good as, what is submitted by the localities. A full picture cannot be seen until we have 100% compliance in the submittal of data on our Virginia Fire Reporting System (VFRS). Furthermore, we cannot have complete data until localities, both those individuals in suppression and prevention, go back to their reports and update or complete their data. There are too many fields in this data being categorized as unknown. From the investigative aspect, there will always be unknowns, more than the fire chief may want but better to seek the truth and sometimes we just don't know what happened.

That being said, 29% is defiantly too high of an unknown ratio and collectively we are working on solutions. Chief Bailey is advocating our fire marshals from across the state make more of an effort to go back and update their findings in the FSTRS system. We are including this factor in our Fire Investigator 1033 courses and even mentioning it in Fire Inspector 1031 even though it is not part of their domain.

**VFMA:**

The Fire Inspector 1031 program has conducted several schools. The first this quarter was in Loudoun County with 31 students. Then in March, the VFMA held its second school in Hampton, Virginia with 14 students. All students were from the Tidewater area. Fredericksburg Fire will host the next 1031 school that takes place this month.

The Fire Inspector 1033 program conducted its first school this year in Virginia Beach. The class had 24 students from the area, and was held at the Virginia Beach Training center. The next scheduled class is in Loudoun at the beginning of May.

The VFMA has begun the 2010 Law Enforcement School this year at Fort AP Hill, with 32 students. The class is from Arlington, Suffolk, Fairfax, District of Columbia, Hanover, Henrico, Albemarle, Roanoke, Lynchburg, Richmond, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, Winchester, and Stafford Counties.

The instructors are from the FBI, ATF, Virginia State Police, Secret Service, Hanover, Portsmouth, Henry County, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Prince George, Division of Consolidated labs, Medical Examiners Office, and Loudoun County.

The Public fire Educators side of the VFMA has conducted several classes in Pub Ed I and Juvenile Fire Setter over this quarter. All classes have had at least 15 students in each and some are over 20. We have been to Roanoke, Martinsville, Arlington, Spotsylvania, as well as Ft. Lee Virginia.

**Virginia Fusion Center:** *(Senior Analyst Tony Dennis also did a PowerPoint presentation)* For the past several months, the Virginia Fusion Center (VFC) has been short several positions for various reasons. During this time, Senior Analyst Dennis has been assigned additional duties to assist with the workload. Some of those duties included handling Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMG's) as a specialty, producing an intelligence product on Illegal Internet Gambling as a possible upcoming trend, assisting with criminal street gang entries into various databases, and increased Watch Center rotations. Additionally the Senior Analyst took his turn as Acting Lead Analyst for the Domestic Terrorism/Gang Unit as there was a vacancy in that position during this time period.

In the performance of these duties, the Senior Analyst handled 26 SP267's (State Police Field Intelligence Report), four SP302's (State Police Gang Submission Form), four Requests for information and produced two intelligence bulletins. When an SP267 is received, it requires several database checks to be conducted on the person or group of interest, an information report to be produced and entry into the Tactical Intelligence Processing System (TIPS). When an SP302 is received, it requires the same as a SP267 and additionally entry of the individual into the Virginia Criminal Intelligence Network (VCIN) as well as GANGNET (a regional database for tracking criminal street gangs and the members).

A project that the Senior Analyst has been working on since he started was a comprehensive Fire Marshals contact list. The list contains all of the law enforcement certified Fire Marshals in the commonwealth and is quite dynamic because of the number and because of the trend of constant transfers in these localities. An audit was recently completed on the list.

Another project the Senior Analyst has been assigned to is a multiple seal intelligence reporting system for the Metropolitan Council of Government Fire Chiefs. This product is in its infancy and a regional intelligence requirements document is in the process of being established. Once this is established, the group can move forward with multiple

seal intelligence reporting. This will be an excellent asset to share intelligence with the fire community and will be produced on a regular basis.

During this period, the Senior Analyst attended a week long Foundations of Intelligence Analysis Training Class at the Virginia State Police Academy. He also attended a two-day Certified Forensics Fire Investigator Module III class.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE VDFP LIAISON Fiscal Services Director**

There were no comments made.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Mike Reilly stated that he has invited several individuals from Northern Virginia to address the full Board tomorrow regarding fire prevention activities.

### **REPORT FROM THE CODE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

Ed Altizer provided the following information:

Below are some of the SFMO and Fire Board Code Changes discussed at the BHCD Work Group 1 on March 25, 2010 and the agenda for BHCD Work Group 2 on April 8.

- Fees for the SFMO – There was much discussion, with one person speaking in opposition. The proposal will be heard again on April 29th. I had advised several organizations that would be affected of the proposal and meeting date including an announcement at the Child Day Care Council Meeting. The proposed fees would be for Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs), child care facilities and adult day care facilities licensed by the state. The proposed fees are below:

**107.14 State annual inspection permit fees.** Annual fees for inspection permits issued by the State Fire Marshal's Office for the inspection of buildings shall be as follows:

**5. Child Day Care Centers, SRCF, Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Day Care Centers licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services based on licensed capacity.**

**5.1. \$50 for 1 to 8 licensed occupants.**

**5.2. \$75 for 9 to 20 licensed occupants.**

**5.3. \$100 for 21 to 50 licensed occupants.**

**5.4. \$200 for 51 to 100 licensed occupants.**

**5.5. \$400 for 101 or more licensed occupants.**

- Elevator keys – Proposal would require all new fire department elevators in the Commonwealth to have a standard key. The proposal would allow fire departments better access to the elevators during emergencies. Existing buildings would be required to have standard keys or make current keys

available through the use of key boxes. There was considerable support and limited opposition but a consensus to move forward.

- Range hood cleaning schedule – After discussion that included consumer groups, the consensus was to move the proposal forward which would clarify the cleaning schedule and requirements for cleaning range hood ventilation systems.
- Fire alarm testing – Proposal would clarify current requirements for required maintenance and testing of fire alarm systems. The change would identify inspection and maintenance requirements from NFPA 72 and the Statewide Fire Prevention Code and require those providing the maintenance to provide the owner with a checklist of items inspected, tested and serviced. After discussion that included consumer groups, the consensus was to move the proposal forward.
- Portable space heaters – The proposal would set a standard for listing by a recognized testing laboratory that portable heaters must meet. The current code implies the requirement but does not state the required standard and is therefore not clear on what necessary for an approved device. The consensus was to move it forward.
- Assisted living code change – Based on meeting with Emory’s staff, Ed is looking at a proposed revision to the code change submitted by the SFMO and supported by the FBCC. At the meeting, Ed’s understanding is that our proposal would move forward but the change would not reflect other items not directly related to ALFs. In short, it would remove unnecessary language not related to ALFs so I agreed that we could leave that out. We would just address the ALF proposals including the definition of ALF requested by several ALF associations, DSS, and VDH. The requirements for sprinklers in all facilities that would house persons incapable of self preservation and that they are located on the lowest level of exit discharge would remain. These two provisions were the main emphasis of the change. Ed is working on a revision to be presented at the April 29 BHCD Work Group meeting.
- The proposals for hospice facilities, CO Detectors and many other changes will be heard on April 8. If you do not have the entire package, let me know and I will email or at least attempt to email it. It is also at this website:  
<http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/StateBuildingCodesandRegulations/PDFs/codschanecycle/Agenda%20and%20Packet%20-%20April-8-10%20Meeting.pdf>

DHCD, DBFR 2009 Code Change Process

April 8, 2010 Meeting Agenda Package

Workgroup 2 -USBC/SFPC Technical Amendments

USBC: VCC

<u>Code Change No.</u>	<u>Description of Change</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
C-307.1.....	Group H Fireworks.....	1
C-307.2(a), (b) and (c).....	Permissible Fireworks Storage.....	5
C-308.1.....	Assisted Living Facilities.....	10
C-308.2(a).....	Convalescent Facilities.....	17
C-308.2(b).....	Assistance in Exiting.....	19
C-308.3.1.....	Hospice Facilities.....	22
C-310.6(R302.1(6)).....	Separation Distance Proffers.....	25
C-310.6(R311.6.1).....	Accessory Structure Ramps.....	28
C-310.6(R314.2).....	Household Fire Warning System.....	30
C-310.6(R315.2).....	Carbon Monoxide Retrofit.....	32
C-310.6(R315.3).....	Carbon Monoxide Detector Type.....	34
C-310.6(R401.3).....	Lot Drainage.....	36
C-310.6(R408.3.1).....	Termite Inspections.....	38
C-310.6(R602.10).....	Wall Bracing (Revised 2006).....	41
C-310.6(R602.10.6).....	Wall Bracing Stem Walls.....	70
C-310.6(E3902.11).....	Arc-Fault Circuits.....	73
C-310.6(Appendix O)(a) and (b).....	Residential Gray and Rain Water.....	75
C-403.3.5.....	Fire Command Rooms.....	78
C-403.4.4 (a) and (b).....	High-Rise Emergency Responder.....	80
C-420.4.....	Group I-1 Smoke Compartments.....	83
C-422 (a) and (b).....	Ambulatory Health Care Facilities.....	85
C-424 (a) through (d).....	Fertilizer Tanks.....	94
C-424.4.....	Skirting.....	101
C-705.2 (a) and (b).....	Separation of Porches and Decks.....	103
C-708.14.....	Elevator Lobbies.....	107
C-903.2.....	Sprinkler Thresholds Group E.....	111
C-903.2.1.2.....	Sprinkler Thresholds Group A-2.....	115
C-903.2.7 (a) and (b).....	Upholstered Furniture.....	121
C-903.2.8.....	Sprinkler Thresholds Group R-2.....	124
C-906.....	Fire Extinguishers Group R-2.....	127
C-907.2.3.....	Voice Alarm and Corridors Group E.....	130
C-908.1.....	Carbon Monoxide Groups R and I.....	137
C-915.1.....	In-Building Emergency Communication.....	141
C-1005.1 (a), (b) and (c).....	Egress Width and Sprinklers.....	144
C-1007.7.....	Exterior Rescue Area.....	153
C-1018.2.....	Corridor Width Group I-2.....	156
C-1020.1.6.....	Stairway Identification.....	158
C-1021.2.....	Single Exit Buildings.....	160

The next Code Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for April 2010 beginning at 10 am at the VDFP Headquarters office in Glen Allen. The date of the meeting will be emailed to the subcommittee members and posted to VDFP's website.

REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Carl Garrison stated that:

- The 4 pm Burn Law is currently in effect.
- The Spring Fire Season has been fairly mild, up until the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in April.
  - To date, there have been 315 Spring fires.

- To date, there are 14 active fires on-going in the Southwestern portion of Virginia.
  - 10 active fires; and
  - 4 clean up stage.
- The annual Longwood Fire Academy is from June 2 – 6.
- Fred Turck will be receiving the Golden Smokey Award in September 2010.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 12:11 pm

Clerk of the Committee  
Brook M. Pittinger

#### **REVIEWED BY:**

Russell K. Chandler

Russell K. Chandler  
Brach Chief of Training & Technical Services

April 9, 2010

Date

No Enclosures.