

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD
Fire Prevention and Control Committee
June 4, 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

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

VFSB MEMBERS PRESENT

Ken Jones
Billy Kyger

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Billy Shelton	Dave Jolly	Russ Chandler
Brook Pittinger	Christine Lopilato	Erin Rice
Glenn Dean		

GUESTS PRESENT

Jenny Collins	Charlie Singleton	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 April 2010 meeting. With no changes to the minutes, the April 8, 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

Jenny Collins, OEMS Advisory Board Chair, advised the committee that the EMS strategic plan is currently out for comment at:

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/OEMS/EMSPlan/PublicComment.htm>. The plan will be adopted in August by the OEMS Advisory Board and subsequently by the Dept of Health Board. All Board members were encouraged to review the plan and forward comments to the OEMS Advisory Board.

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

The following report was provided by Russ Chandler:

- So far this year we have reported 5,398 fires in the Commonwealth resulting in an estimated 65 million dollars in loss. Worse yet, there were 22 civilian deaths and 115 injuries. The fire service suffered one loss of life and 96 reported injuries. These statistics prove more than ever, that we must be vigilant in the pursuit of any opportunity to improve our prevention activities; from the adoption of stronger, more up to date, fire codes, to the continued endeavor to have residential sprinkler systems in the homes of our citizens.
- The Virginia Fire Marshal Academy is doing their part with an outstanding cadre who help us deliver quality instructions to our Fire Marshals in the field. The Chief of the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy, Chief Bailey, provides the following report:
 - The Fire Inspector 1031 school in Hampton may have had only 9 students from the Hampton Roads area, but they were an outstanding group. There was a good cross section of individuals already assigned to the Fire Marshals office, those who hope for that FM position in the future and even a representative from the private sector. She was there to provide her facility with a safer place to work and visit. The next VFMA1031 School will be held at the VFMA training room in Glen Allen in June.
 - The recent VFMA 1033 Fire Investigation School was in Loudoun with 20 students from the northern Virginia area. The Loudoun County Fire Training Center was the host with students from Washington DC, Loudoun County, Fairfax County, Page County, Fauquier County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria Fire Departments. Also in attendance was staff from the Fauquier County Sherriff's Office.

- The Law Enforcement School of 2010 was a huge success. There were 32 graduates from the state as well as 5 from the District of Columbia. The school was held at Fort AP Hill and the facilities were much better than expected. The school saved jurisdictions over \$65,000.00 in lodging costs alone. Costs savings to VDFP was over \$12,000.00.
- The VFMA Public Fire Educators section has been busy gearing up for this year's upcoming classes. Our Pub Ed Coordinator, JD Jenkins, has been nominated for several national committees and is preparing several classes for the Charlottesville, Northern Virginia and Bristol area.
- The VFMA conducted 2 in-service schools for the Virginia State Police this quarter. We gave in-service training to 19 special agents in the area of Haz-Mat, evidence collection and a set of burn scenes to investigate using our VFMA Investigation Burn Cells during the 2 week class.
- Russ Chandler attended the recent NFPA 921 Committee on Fire & Explosion Investigations meeting. They completed the work on the "Report on Comments" process which is the last hurdle to producing the next version of the NFPA 921 text. There were some major changes, most important is the deletion of "negative corpus" from the text which is important to assure a more accurate and scientific investigation.

COMMENTS FROM THE VDFP LIAISON

Fiscal Services Director

Christine Lopilato provided the following information:

- Annual Packages sent out June 2nd; annual packages include FY10 and FY11 ATL financial reporting documents, FY11 Training Mini Grant Applications, and FY11 VFIRS Hardware Grant Applications
 - Application Submission Reminders:
 - FY11 VFIRS Hardware Grant applications are due postmarked by August 31, 2010
 - FY11 Training Mini Grant applications are due postmarked by September 30, 2010

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ed Altizer reported that the State Fire Marshal' Office (SFMO) has recently filled one of the vacant inspector positions for the Northern Virginia Office and also filled three supervisory positions in the Glen Allen, Hampton and Roanoke offices. The SFMO is currently in the process of hiring another inspector for the Glen Allen office.

REPORT FROM THE CODE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Ed Altizer provided the following information from the latest ICC Hearings:

- Membrane protection for lightweight construction

- **R501.3 Fire protection of floors.** Floor assemblies, not required elsewhere in this code to be fire resistance rated, shall be provided with a ½ inch gypsum wallboard membrane, 5/8 inch wood structural panel membrane, or equivalent on the underside of the floor framing member.

Exceptions:

1. Floor assemblies located directly over a space protected by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section P2904, NFPA13D, or other approved equivalent sprinkler system.
 2. Floor assemblies located directly over a crawl space not intended for storage or fuel-fired appliances.
 3. Portions of floor assemblies can be unprotected when complying with the following:
 - 3.1 The aggregate area of the unprotected portions shall not exceed 80 square feet per story
 - 3.2 Fire blocking in accordance with Section R302.11.1 shall be installed along the perimeter of the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.
 4. Wood floor assemblies using dimension lumber or structural composite lumber equal to or greater than 2-inch by 10-inch nominal dimension, or other approved floor assemblies demonstrating equivalent fire performance.
- CO detectors were continued for all residential and institutional uses
 - Self closing devices on doors between garages and living spaces will be required because the garage requires a fire separation. Self closing doors are important to maintain that separation.
 - Landscaped roof safety provisions were passed to help with firefighting operations and ultimately structural safety. As an example, vegetation watering provisions were added which would limit water quantities and thus weight to the structure.
 - Provisions for standardized keys for emergency elevator operations were provided that would allow key or lock boxes for existing situations. The purpose is to give better access and control to fire departments in an emergency.
 - Photovoltaic safety provisions were passed relating to access, shutoffs and other safety provisions such as venting.
 - Provisions for assisted living facilities as defined in Virginia that continue to require sprinklers in all facilities classified as residential or institutional uses including one and two family dwellings used for that purpose. This was an ICC Code Technology Committee proposal after several years of study. This proposal does not permit any resident not capable of self perseverance in a facility unless classified as an I-2 that includes facilities such nursing homes or other licensed facilities. Current Virginia requirements are far below the protection required by current code and will fall farther behind based on the 2012 code when it is considered.

Both national model set of model codes now contain provisions that far exceed Virginia's provisions for resident safety. The provisions in both national model codes were passed after much study and support by hundreds of experts over many years.

- Basements. Where any portion of a *basement* is located more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) from openings required by Section 903.2.11.1, or where walls, partitions or other obstructions are installed that restrict the application of water from hose streams, the *basement* shall be equipped throughout with an *approved automatic sprinkler system*.
- The threshold for Sprinkler protection in buildings for the Storage and Sale of upholstered furniture were reduced based on the size of the area for that use. The requirements could be based on the size of the area used for upholstered furniture rather than total size in some cases.
- Board of Housing and Community Development Codes committee will meet on June 7 at the Virginia Housing Center on Cox Road in Glenn Allen to consider several proposed changes for the 2009 set of codes. Included will be discussions for sprinklers in 1 and 2 family dwellings and townhouses sprinkler protection for licensed facilities for the care of citizens in Virginia with additional provisions for sprinklers in all new facilities housing residents not capable of self preservation. See notes above regarding this subject under the ICC Dallas meeting report.
- The BHCD full Board will meet on July 26 to discuss all proposals and adopt the proposed 2009 regulations expected to become effective in mid to late October.

REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

There was no report from the Department of Forestry.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 11:43 am

Clerk of the Committee
Brook M. Pittinger

REVIEWED BY:

Russell K. Chandler

Russell K. Chandler
Branch Chief of Training & Technical Services

June 8, 2010

Date

No Enclosures.

APPROVED