

**VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD
Fire Prevention and Control Committee
August 17, 2007**

A regular meeting of the Committee on Fire Prevention and Control was held at the Hampton Convention Center in Hampton, VA at 1:00 pm. Mr. Michael Reilly served as Chair.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Altizer
Dennis Mitchell
Brian Mullins
Michael Reilly -Chair
Barbara Hamm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Susan Williams
Carl Garrison

VFSB MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Kollman
Ken Jones
Tom Moffett

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Russ Chandler
Teresa Duncan
Brook Pittinger
Christine Lopilato
Billy Shelton

GUESTS PRESENT

Robbie Dawson – VFSB Code Subcommittee
Jeff Flippo – Frederick County Fire & Rescue
Glen Dean - DHCD
John Miller – VDOF
Jim Reed - SFMO

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair asked if there were any additions and/or corrections to the minutes of the June 2007 meeting. With no changes to the minutes, the June 1, 2007 meeting minutes were approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Unfinished Business:

- A. Update on Fire Prevention and Control Document
- B. CO Monitor Policy
- C. Fire Marshal move - update

New Business:

- A. Policy regarding committee meeting start times

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments made by the public.

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

Russ Chandler provided the following information:

National Professional Qualifications Board (Pro-Board)

- 22 Pro-Board Accredited Courses
- 36,326 Pro-Board registrations as of 5/10/07

Fusion Center

- Full time position candidate has been selected and the agency is waiting for their in depth background check to be completed.
- Needs to be addressed; how to disseminate confidential information to fire service
- Fire Marshal listing for those with Police Powers

Virginia Fire Marshal Academy

- Hired Bobby Bailey as the Chief of the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy
 - Already scheduled to head up Burn Team in Marion (thus his absence)
 - Starting Monday will spend the next three to six weeks orienting him to the job
- **Outgoing Report from Deputy Chief Karl Mercer**
 - Established Certified Forensic Fire Investigator Modules 2 and 3
 - Provided technical advice and assistance to various Fire Marshals on pending criminal cases
 - Currently conducting research into removal of soot for forensic examination, abstract submitted to American Academy of Forensic Science
 - Established Partnership with the Virginia Department of Forensic Science for training

- Participated in the first Digital Basic Crime Scene Photography class.
- Established a Partnership with the Virginia State Police to exchange instructors for Fire Investigator training
- Submitted training on Fire Marshal duty and scope to the Virginia State Police Basic School
- Revised testing for 1031 to meet Pro-Board standards
- Conducted Basic Law Enforcement Training for the Virginia Department of Forestry
- Conducted HAZMAT training for Special Agents of the State Police
- Participated in CORE/1031 review committee
- Conducted Investigator training in Southwest Virginia
- Provided research and information to the Director for legislative action on Title 9 issues
- Reduced customer service complaints from average of 8 to 10 per month to an average of 1 per month
- 75% completion of FSTRS entries – deadline for project completion is January 1, 2008.

Burn Cells for Fire Investigator 1033

- Ideal situation would be to have concrete cells at Fort Pickett, but no lodging yet
- Potential use of container boxes that will need to be placed on tractor trailers for transport
- Two cells in each container, four containers 8 cells with 3 students each; 24 students
 - Vehicle fires; 2 each for the other six students.
- The on-going cost of:
 - Transport
 - Build-out with lumber and sheetrock
 - Water retention and disposal

COMMENTS FROM THE VDFP LIAISON Grants and Local Aid Manager

Christine Lopilato provided the following information:

- VFIRS grant program closes August 31, 2007 and all applications must be postmarked by that date.
- Training mini-grant program closes September 30, 2007 and all applications must be postmarked by that date.
- Total grant funding for Be Fire Safe, VA! CO Detector program was \$117,000. The grant program was able to meet all requests for CO detectors made through the Be Fire Safe, VA! CO Detector program.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

There will be a rectification program at the Greenwood Fire and Rescue Company for 1033 and 1035 recertification. The recertification program will be instructed by Dave Diamantes. POC: Jeff Flippo.

Mike Reilly thanked Billy Shelton for VDFP's hard work in supporting the VFSB.

REPORT FROM THE CODE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Robbie Dawson was recognized as the new Code Subcommittee Chair.

Robbie Dawson thanked the Board for sending him and Steve Hall to the ICC meeting in Rochester, NY.

The subcommittee members are currently serving on 4 DHCD Workgroups for proposed code changes.

The following Code changes were discussed at the last subcommittee meeting:

- Sprinkler attics in R2 dwellings – for age 55 and over dwellings.
- Ambulatory centers categorized as I5 facilities.
- Fire rating changes for soffits and eaves
- UL-300 standard change for stove hoods

Next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2007.

Wildland Urban Interface Update: Dennis Mitchell stated that the code change will include DOF information.

Ed Altizer provided 3 code change documents:

- Enclosure 1 – ICC form – 407.8 Special Locking arrangement (For I2 facilities) – opposition to item 5. This code language is currently in the VA code, but not the federal code.
- Enclosure 2 – Section 805 – Decorations & Trim. The Fire Board code committee has submitted the proposed changes.
- Enclosure 3 – Section 3302 Definitions – licensing requirement for pyrotechnic shooters. Glen Dean stated that there are several localities that currently have pyrotechnic certification programs established. The challenge is to prove minimal competency for performing pyrotechnic displays. The certification program will also be an educational program. If the code change is accepted it is anticipated to be an 18 month process to address all issues and finalize a certification program. Ed Altizer added that it currently costs \$187 for a 3 year blasters certification and it does require CEUs.

REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

John Miller provided the following information:

- The agency is dealing with the summer forest fire season – there are approximately 35 working out of state.
- Virginia is starting to experience fires caused by lightning strikes due to dryness.
 - 700 acre fire in Clifton forge caused by lightning.
- VDOF is going to have a burnout day on Sunday, 8/19.
- For FY08, VDOF received 106 applications for dry hydrants, but were only able to fund 76.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Topic: Update on Fire Prevention and Control document

Motion: NA

Discussion:

Mike Reilly stated that the workgroup met Wednesday, 8/16/07 and they have completed the draft outline for the first eight chapters, the only chapters left are summary and recommendation chapters.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at 1 pm.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: Update on the Be Fire Safe, VA! Carbon Monoxide Grant Program

Motion: NA

Discussion:

Mark Buff, VDFP, provided the committee with the following information:

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) and the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB), in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) branch of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), are coordinating the delivery of a Carbon Monoxide Alarm Grant Program in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The program targets populations most at-risk including: households with small or unborn children, households with elderly residents, households

on fuel assistance programs, and households that include individuals with heart or lung problems. Fire departments, public agencies, non-profits, and all other community organizations charged with delivering fire/life safety related education and/or services in Virginia were eligible to apply for the grant. The program includes a requirement for applicants to be either a current VFIRS participant or partnering with a VFIRS participating department for reporting purposes. The grant application period ended June 1, 2007. We received completed, eligible applications from 40 departments/organizations requesting a total of 5,800 CO alarms. All 40 applicants were accepted in the program.

Program Highlights

- Guidelines – Clear, easy to follow guidelines were developed for applicants.
- Funding – Total funding for this program through VFBS, VDFP and SFMO/DHCD is \$117,000. Of that amount, \$110,374 has been expended for the purchase of 5,800 CO alarms. The remaining funds will be utilized for purchase of educational/marketing/administrative costs of the program.
- Alarms – A waiver was granted by State Purchasing to allow purchase of CO Detectors with digital readout to provide the highest level of carbon monoxide detection. The CO alarm that was purchased for use with the program is the First Alert/BRK CO410B Model. Free smoke alarms are also being made available to grantees by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Grantees may request up to 75 smoke alarms.
- Education – Part of funding is being used to produce/purchase educational material on the dangers of carbon monoxide, as well as information on how to use and maintain the CO alarms we provide. Free materials have also been obtained from the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) and First Alert/BRK (the manufacturer of the alarms).
- Marketing – An intensive Public Information campaign will accompany the rollout of the CO alarms to include all media (print, radio, TV, etc.). Grantees will also be provided marketing kits for promoting the program within their communities. Kits will contain CDs with sample press releases, radio PSAs, information for installers, additional home and fire safety information for homeowners and more.
- Training – Grantees will receive appropriate training on the installation, use and maintenance of the CO alarms at the seven (7) regional distribution events. They will also receive guidance on the administrative requirements of the program and use of the marketing materials that they will be provided.
- Grantees – The following departments/organizations have been awarded CO alarms.

Accomack County	Accomack County Dept. of Public Safety
Arlington County	Arlington Agency on Aging, Personal A
Bedford County	Bedford County Dept. of Fire and Rescue
Blacksburg City	Blacksburg Fire Department
Bristol City	Bristol Fire Department
Carroll County	District 3 Governmental Cooperative
Carroll County	Carroll County Emergency Services
Colonial Heights City	Colonial Heights Fire & EMS
Danville City	City of Danville Fire Department
Dinwiddie County	Dinwiddie Fire and EMS
Fairfax City	City of Fairfax Fire Department
Fairfax County	Fairfax County Fire and Rescue
Franklin County	Franklin County Public Safety
Grayson County	Fries Vol. Fire Dept and Rescue Squad
Grayson County	District 3 Governmental Cooperative
Harrisonburg City	Harrisonburg Fire Department
Henry County	Henry County Fire Marshal's Office
Hopewell City	Hopewell Bureau of Fire
King George County	King George Dept. of EMS
Lynchburg City	Lynchburg Fire and EMS Department
Martinsville City	Martinsville Fire and EMS
New Kent County	New Kent County Fire and Rescue
Newport News City	Newport News Fire Department
Northampton County	Eastern Shore Area Agency on Aging
Page County	Stanley Vol. Fire Department
Patrick/Henry County	Patrick Henry Vol. Fire Department
Petersburg City	Petersburg Fire Department
Pulaski County	Pulaski Fire Department
Radford City	Radford Fire Department
Richmond City	Emergency Shelter, Inc. aka Home Again
Roanoke City	City of Roanoke Fire and EMS
Roanoke County	LOA Area Agency on Aging
Shenandoah County	Shenandoah County Dept. of Fire & Rescue
Smyth County	District 3 Governmental Cooperative
Victoria (Town)	Victoria Fire and Rescue
Warren County	Warren County Dept. of Fire and Rescue
Washington County	District 3 Governmental Cooperative
Winchester City	Winchester Fire and Rescue
Wise County	Lenowisco Health District
Wythe County	District 3 Governmental Cooperative

Timeline

- June 1 – application period ended

- June 8 – Award letters were mailed to grantees
- June 22 – Acceptance letters from all grantees were received at VDFP
- July – Noland Company won bid to provide alarms and order was placed with First Alert
- August – Distribution events have been scheduled in each VDFP Divisional area

August 21	Division 1 (Glen Allen)
August 22	Division 5 (Hampton)
August 24	Division 4 (Marion)
August 28	Division 7 (Leesburg)
August 29	Division 2 (Orange)
August 30	Division 3 (Farmville)
August 31	Division 6 (Roanoke)

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: State Fire Marshal Office move - update

Motion: NA

Discussion:

Teresa Duncan stated that VDFP will be meeting with DHCD in August 27, 2007 to begin discussing the transfer.

Mike Reilly stated that the Board has concerns regarding DHCD's current reorganization efforts of the SFMO.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

NEW BUSINESS

Topic: Policy regarding committee start times

Motion: NA

Discussion:

Dennis Mitchell stated that he would like to continue to start the Education and Training committee meetings at 9:30 am.

The October Committee meetings are scheduled to begin at 9:30 am, 1 pm and 3 pm.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 2:38 pm

Clerk of the Committee
Brook M. Pittinger

REVIEWED BY:

Russell K. Chandler

Russ Chandler, VDFP Liaison

August 21, 2007
Date

Enclosures:

1. Enclosure 1 – ICC form – 407.8 Special Locking arrangement
2. Enclosure 2 – Section 805 – Decorations & Trim.
3. Enclosure 3 – Section 3302 Definitions – licensing requirement for pyrotechnic shooters.