

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD
Fire Prevention and Control Committee
February 24, 2011

A regular meeting of the Committee on Fire Prevention and Control was held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, VA at 11:00 am. Elaine Gall served as Chair.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Elaine Gall – Committee Chair – Virginia Fire Prevention Association
Brian Mullins – Virginia Board of Housing & Community Development
Ed Altizer – Virginia State Fire Marshal
Michael Reilly – Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators
Joe Wilson – Industry (SARA Title III & OSHA)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Felix Sarfo-Kantanka, Jr – General Public
Carl Garrison – Virginia State Forester
Robert Scott – Insurance Industry Representative

VFSB MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Moffett – Virginia Professional Firefighters Association
Mike Armstrong – VA Chapter of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Billy Shelton	Christine Lopilato	Dave Jolly
Brook Pittinger	Angela Thompson	Matthew Smith

GUESTS PRESENT

Charlie Singleton Jeff Flippo

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair asked if there were any additions and/or corrections to the minutes of the December 2010 meeting. With no changes to the minutes, the December 2, 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

No public comments were made.

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

Dave Jolly provided the following report on behalf of Russ Chandler:

- The 2010 VFIRS statistics will be finalized March 5th. We have consistently seen that cooking and heating related fires stay at the top of the fire cause category for structure fires. Of interest is that the open flame category has edged out the incendiary fire category ever so slightly, but it is at least a downward trend.
- From the agencies reporting to the VFIRS we see that there were **636,801** responses in Virginia for 2010 (as of 2/7/11). That is 1744 calls each day in our Commonwealth. As known, most runs were for EMS related incidents. Vehicle accidents alone created a total of 43,435 runs. The most tragic statistic of all is that we lost 124 civilians to fire with another 642 injured. Our own fire departments experienced 426 firefighter injuries with four losing their lives.
- Brook, her team and Division Chiefs should certainly be commended for their outstanding effort to obtain 84% participation in the Fire Incident Reporting System. In addition, we must endeavor to bring on board the remaining 16 percent of the departments not participating so we can finally have a true picture of Virginia's fire problems, so we can find even more solutions to create even more reductions in our fire losses.

Virginia Fire Marshal Academy Report

- The Academy conducted several Fire Inspector 1031 schools this quarter. The first school was in Arlington, Va. with 32 students in the class. They were from the District of Columbia Fire Department and the Arlington County Fire Department. The second school was at the Hampton Fire Training Center with 18 students in the class. Students attending were from Prince William County, Newport News, Town of Chilhowie, Hopewell, Fairfax County, City of Poquoson, Norfolk, and Carrollton.
- The VFMA conducted two Fire Investigator 1033 schools with one in Richmond and the other in Virginia Beach. Students for these two schools were from the following fire departments: Colonial Heights, Chesterfield, Fairfax County, Chesapeake, Richmond City, Henrico, Quantico, Virginia Beach, Navy Regional, Newport News, Norfolk, King George, Currituck County (North Carolina), Spotsylvania County, Hopewell, Gloucester,

Stafford, King William County, Petersburg, Williamsburg and Westmoreland County. Also in attendance were police officers from Chesterfield, Richmond City and Virginia State Police.

- The Public fire Educators have conducted several classes in Pub Ed I and Juvenile Fire Setter during this quarter. Public Fire Education Coordinator J. D. Jenkins conducted classes in Richmond, Glen Allen and at Fort Lee. The classes totaled 48 students in all. All the students were from the Richmond Metro area.
- We also conducted an Environmental Crimes class in Charlottesville with 13 students from Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Lynchburg, Warren County, Fairfax, City of Danville and staff from Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
- The VFMA also conducted several joint exercises with the local Fire Chapters from both Richmond and Charlottesville. There were over 90 students in the classes between the two. The classes were on Fire Inspections topics for in service credit hours, which are needed to comply with state standards.
- The Fire Investigator 1033 curriculum is going to expand to four weeks. This will still mirror the NFA program and add hours needed to meet the JPRs for testing and meet IFSAC accreditation.

COMMENTS FROM THE VDFP LIAISON Fiscal Services Director

Christine Lopilato provided the following information:

- Training Mini Grants – FY2011 funding approved of \$118,323 to 42 jurisdictions.
 - The has distributed the award letters to all recipients. Once the award acceptance certifications are received from all recipients the grant funds will be released.
- Angela Thompson, the Agency's new Grants and Local Aid Manager, was introduced.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Elaine Gall commented that Carl Garrison could not be at the Fire Prevention & Control committee meeting today, due to the large number of recent wildfires and Elaine would provide his report to the Committee under the Department of Forestry's agenda item.

The new Statewide Fire Prevention Code goes into effect on March 1, 2011 and training is available at the upcoming Virginia Fire Prevention Association Conference.

REPORT FROM THE CODES & STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

Ed Altizer provided the following information, on behalf of Robby Dawson:

- The Board of Housing and Community Development (BHCD) approved the 2009 Statewide Fire Prevention Code in January and it goes into effect March 1, 2011. Updated codes will be printed by the International Code Council and should be available soon.
- Brian Mullins noted that BHCD is willing to work with VDFP and the State Fire Marshals Office to annually review the SFMO fees.

REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Elaine Gall provided the following report, on behalf of Carl Garrison (Enclosure 1):

- Valentines Day and February 19th proved to be horrendous days for Virginia forest fires. In fact, it was the second single worst fire day in DOF modern history.
- On Feb 14th, Valentine’s Day, Virginia had 103 fires that affected 828 acres. Of these fires, there were a total of 18 homes/structures damaged, but there was 218 homes that were protected. The Feb 19th – 20th fires by number are as follows (preliminary figures), 190 fires burned 7,608 acres with 104 homes/structures damaged and 896 protected.
- If we include the Feb 14th and Feb 19th fires together, Virginia can say that we have had more homes/people evacuated-impacted by wildfires during these 2 weeks than we have had in ANY previous year. These figures further emphasize the challenge we are facing in Virginia related to increasing population and growth in the Wildland Urban Interface. FIREWISE is more important than ever! We need to promote it vigorously and homeowners and community leaders need to know what they can do to help mitigate the impact from wildfires. The following link, www.firewisevirginia.org, is a very good website to go to for information. In addition, www.vasmokeybear.blogspot.com is another good site to visit for more information on the recent fires and other fire-related information.
- One important “fact” is that we have had NO serious injuries or fatalities in suppressing these fires. While there have been a few injuries on the fire line, as far as we know everyone was either treated on scene or in the emergency room and all of them have returned to work or been released to go home.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 11:43 am

Clerk of the Committee
Matthew C. Smith

REVIEWED BY:



David Jolly
Division Chief of Quality Assurance and Control

March 2, 2011

Date

Enclosures:

1. Department of Forestry Report