

**VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD
COMMITTEE ON FIRE EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Five Year Strategic Training Plan Workgroup Meeting

A special meeting of the Five Year Strategic Training Plan Workgroup was held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, VA at 2:00 pm. Mr. Mike Armstrong served as Chair.

FE&T COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Armstrong – FE&T Committee Chair - VA Chapter of International Society of Fire Service Instructors

Tom Moffett – Virginia Professional Firefighters Association

Richard E. Burch Jr. – Full VFSB Chair - Virginia Fire Services Council

Kenneth J. Brown – Virginia State Firefighter’s Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Ed Smith –Virginia Fire Chiefs Association

Joe Wilson – Industry (SARA Title III & OSHA)

Kaye Brown – Virginia Municipal League

VFSB MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Altizer – Virginia State Fire Marshal

Elaine Gall – Virginia Fire Prevention Association

Michael Reilly – Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Billy Shelton

Matthew Smith

Dave Jolly

Don Hansen

Herald Good

GUESTS PRESENT

Glenn Gaines

Lee Day

Larry Gwaltney

AGENDA

- A. Review of Current Five Year Strategic Training Plan by Committee Chair
- B. Public Comment on Five Year Strategic Training Plan

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Mike Armstrong thanked everyone for attending and stated the purpose of the meeting: to go over the Five Year Strategic Training Plan; what has been accomplished thus far; and where we would like to go.

Topic: Review of Current Five Year Strategic Training Plan

Motion: N/A.

Discussion: A copy of the current Five Year Strategic Training Plan was posted on the Virginia Department of Fire Programs' (VDFP) website prior to the meeting for stakeholder review and feedback. A copy was also available for all attendees, see Enclosure 1.

Don Hansen reviewed the Agency accomplishments towards the current Five Year Strategic Training Plan Goals, see Enclosure 2. In addition, Mr. Hansen commented that the Mobile Burn Trailers (MBTs) began deployment effective January 1, 2011. In the past week, they have been deployed twice. Staff is performing a six month study of usage and feasibility before the full deployment is executed. The MBTs are being stored at the Ashland VDOT, a secure site, until the usage and feasibility study is completed.

In two weeks, in Wytheville, VDFP is offering an Incident Safety Officer (ISO) Train-the-Trainer in partnership with NFA at the Instructor Symposium. Michael Reilly asked if ISO's would need to take a new course. Staff commented that the NFA ISO course is not a certified course, because NFPA 1521 is not a ProQual Standard through ProBoard.

Currently, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) are working with the National Fire Academy (NFA) to develop a training course to meet NFPA 1600. VDFP chose to allow the above partnerships to create a course, instead of developing one without emergency management involved. VDFP is working with the above partnerships and VDEM, and is offering an *ICS Planning and Forms* course.

VDFP is utilizing the decommissioned Barrett Juvenile Correctional Center for secure storage of equipment. VDFP in cooperation with the Virginia Fire Services Board has developed a concept for a state operated fire training academy for specialized/technical training, while continuing to offer regionalized and local basic training. New Hampshire and South Carolina are good examples of this process. VDFP and the VFSB need to hear from the stakeholders if this is still a desire or not. Additionally, funding is an obstacle to create, utilize, and maintain a state operated fire training academy.

Vote: N/A

Action: N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC TRAINING PLAN

Attendees were provided a handout that contained the public comments received prior to the meeting, see Enclosure 3.

Glenn Gaines, Acting United States Fire Administrator, stated the USFA Strategic Plan is available online, in terms of training for the next two years; they are focusing on the online and blended learning course offering. To view the USFA's Strategic Plan, visit <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/about/strategic/>

In looking at the future, the USFA is working to determine the impact of ethanol and the utilization of social networks during emergencies. Mr. Gaines commented on the efforts to develop a National Deployment Strategy under the Disaster Relief Fund, in which national teams of firefighters could be requested to perform prescribed operations for states and localities during an emergency. In addition, the National Fire Prevention Association's (NFPA) NFPA 1001 Standard is being revised and ISO is shifting towards greater utilization of NFPA standards. The USFA is working with ISO to get adjusted Fire Loss Data or develop an algorithm to help calculate the loss, instead of forcing firefighters to estimate when completing NFIRS reports. The USFA is working with NIST to develop a device that can project the relative time until collapse and a firefighter tracking system to help track up to 100 firefighters in up to a 15 story high-rise building.

Mr. Gaines recommended visiting the USFA website, where almost 80 percent of their resource library, except textbooks are now available online. EFO papers are available through literature search and critical incident reports, with video interviews, are now available from their website.

Rick Burch proposed that we research a recertification or continuing education process for training. Don Hansen commented that we might not have the choice; NFPA has formed a Technical Review Committee to look at recertification under standards used by ProBoard and IFSAC. Virginia has been a leader, listening to the national level and listening to the stakeholders to develop a system that works for Virginia.

Larry Gwaltney thanked Don Hansen for the update and stated it was unfortunate that more stakeholders were not at the meeting. Larry stated that he likes the idea of more hybrid and online courses and the direction of Virginia's instructor programs. In addition, he was glad to see that NFA and VDFP are getting the NFA Leadership courses updated. In regards to ProBoard, he thinks the certification is important to a small number of people in Virginia, i.e. those that will be leaving Virginia, and that some see it as an impediment rather than a positive. He expressed interest and acceptance of regional and local delivery of the base line classes and the concept of a state fire academy for the specialty training classes.

Tom Moffett commented that he would like to see a long term policy/plan on what will go on to the Knowledge Center and a mechanism for determining what be placed on the system. In addition, he felt there was a need to develop more marketing strategies to increase its utilization by the fire service. Mr. Moffett stated that he would like to see an increased cooperative effort, with VDEM on Incident Management Teams (IMTs) for training and utilization. In addition, Mr. Moffett expressed his support of ProBoard certification and the possibility of developing a National Deployment Strategy through the Disaster Relief Fund.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4:14 pm

Clerk of the Committee
Matthew C. Smith

REVIEWED BY:

Donald E. Hansen

Don Hansen
Branch Chief of Training and Operations

February 25, 2011

Date

Enclosures

1. Five Year Strategic Training Plan
2. Status of Five Year Strategic Training Plan Goals
3. Public Comments Received Prior To Meeting