

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD
Fire Prevention and Control Committee
April 7, 2011

A regular meeting of the Committee on Fire Prevention and Control was held at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Headquarters in Glen Allen, VA at 11:00 am. Mr. Michael Reilly served as Chair, in Elaine Gall's absence.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Reilly – Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators
Brian Mullins – Virginia Board of Housing & Community Development
Felix Sarfo-Kantanka, Jr – General Public
Carl Garrison – Virginia State Forester
Joe Wilson – Industry (SARA Title III & OSHA)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Elaine Gall – Committee Chair – Virginia Fire Prevention Association
Robert Scott – Insurance Industry Representative
Ed Altizer – State Fire Marshal

VFSB MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Kyger – Association of Counties
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
Russ Chandler	Erin Rice	Dennis Price

GUESTS PRESENT

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 2011 meeting. With no changes to the minutes, the February 24, 2011 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**

Russ Chandler provided the following report:

VFIRS Statistics

- The agency's Information and Statistics team of Dwight Crews and Renee Tabb continue to do wonderful work with fire incident data and encouraging fire departments to use the Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System. From a Prevention and Control standpoint, we continue to focus on the breakdown of data on *Intentional / Incendiary Fire Incidents*. For the past four years (2007-2010), there has been a steady decrease in the number of incendiary incidents, which reflects a continued decrease in the Total Property Loss. This past year we had only 1,398 reported incendiary incidents with \$42,600,519.00 total property damage.
- However, with undetermined and un-reported incidents there may be an increase in the actual number of incidents. The agency continues efforts to have fire incident reports updated with the results of fire investigations. In addition, Chief Bobby Bailey continues spreading this message to Fire Marshals across the state in hopes of lowering the number of unknown fire causes, which can give us a clearer picture of Virginia's true fire problems.

Virginia Fire Marshal Academy (VFMA)

- The Virginia Fire Marshal Academy has been extremely active, and today they are preparing for the upcoming Law Enforcement School for Fire Marshals. The Law Enforcement School class starts this coming Monday, April 11, 2011 at Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline County and will run for nine (9) consecutive weeks. Since the February Board meeting the Academy has conducted the following trainings:
 - Fire Inspector 1031 School in Hampton with 15 students. Students in attendance were from the following fire departments: City of Hampton, City of Norfolk, Town of Chilhowie, Fairfax County and Prince William County.
 - Fire Inspector 1031 School in Arlington with 25 students. The students were from Arlington County, Albemarle County, Frederick County, City of Alexandria, Fairfax County and City, Prince William County, George Mason University, City of Winchester, and a special guest from California who is

being sent to Afghanistan to do inspections for the Department of Defense (private contractor).

- Fire Investigator 1033 School in Virginia Beach with 18 students from Virginia State Police, City of Norfolk, City of Newport News, Currituck County, NC, City of Virginia Beach, Chesapeake County and Navy Mid Atlantic Regional. The class was held at the Virginia Beach Fire Training Center.
 - Fire Investigator 1033 School in Roanoke County with 12 students from Pulaski Sherriff's Office, City of Roanoke Police Department, Roanoke County Fire, Patrick County Fire, and Henry County Fire.
 - Environmental Crimes School at the Virginia State Police Headquarters in Chesterfield with 25 students from Virginia State Police, Henrico County Fire, and Chesterfield County Fire.
 - Engine Company Inspections class for the entire Richmond Airport Fire Department. The class was held at the Richmond Airport. The class took place over a 2-week period.
 - Two In-Service classes on Fire Investigations and Inspections at the Virginia Beach Pavilion for the State Chief's Conference. Training was conducted for a total of 35 students.
- Recertification of Fire Marshals - The Virginia Fire Marshal Academy still requires recertification for both Fire Inspectors (NFPA 1031) and Fire Investigators (NFPA 1033). In the past, this was very labor intensive, but the Fire Service Training Record System (FSTRS) has been enhanced to make it easier to track recertification training. The associations that conduct the training simply fill out the proper forms, forward to the agency and the data is uploaded. Students need only review their records on line to ensure accuracy. Investigators and Inspectors can download their training status showing their 40 (investigator) or 16 (inspector) hours of recertification training to their Chief Fire Marshal for validation and recertification.
 - Russ Chandler commended the Bobby Bailey for his continued assistance delivering Mobile Burn Trailers. He has certainly gone above and beyond with this assistance and maintaining the Virginia Fire Marshals Academy operations.

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

Christine Lopilato had no new information to report.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Michael Reilly commented that the Virginia Main Street "Community Milestone" Awards are a great community revitalization program and from a fire marshal perspective it is great to see areas being revitalized that are susceptible to intentionally set fires and blight.

Michael Reilly reminded the Committee members of the Virginia Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service on Saturday, June 4, 2011, which will be honoring seven fallen firefighters and three fire service canines.

Brook Pittinger notified the Board of the death of David Gabriel "Gabe" Couch, of Meadows of Dan Volunteer Fire Department, who died in a car crash on the way home from training on Saturday, April 2, 2011.

REPORT FROM THE CODES & STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Codes and Standards Subcommittee has not met yet this year. Brian Mullins reminded everyone that the approved 2009 Statewide Fire Prevention Code went into effect March 1, 2011, with final adoption on April 8, 2011.

REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Carl Garrison provided the following report:

- Governor has signed the Budget Bill; the Department of Forestry has received an additional \$5 million over the next five years to replace old vehicles and equipment, and save four positions.
- The United States Forest Service has developed a research paper and flyer on the Economic Benefits of Wildfire Prevention Education; see **Enclosure 1**. Through the analysis, wildfire prevention education helped reduce four main areas of human started wildfires and a benefit to cost ration of \$35 to \$1.
- For FY 2011, the Dry Hydrant Grant program is on track to complete all projects by May. For the upcoming fiscal year, there were 74 applications for new installs and seven (7) for repairs, which exceed the current funding level of twenty-five percent.
- The State Wildfire Academy is set for June 1 - 4, 2011 at Longwood University. Registration has closed with all classes being fully booked, and should have over 400 students in attendance. Currently working to invite both the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Secretary of Public Safety to visit and observe the training.
- There has been continued wildfire activity. Virginia is currently above the Ten Year average for the number of fires for this quarter and significantly above the number of acres burned. Since the beginning of the year, there have been 526 fires consuming more than 16,043 acres.
- The 2009 Woodland Home Community Survey for Virginia has been completed, which is available on the Department of Forestry website. Virginia has more than 5,200 woodland home communities and is the only state that tracks its woodland home communities.
- Steve Counts of the Department of Forestry received the Governor's 2010 Fire Service Award for Excellence in Fire Service Training for his work with wildfire training in southwestern Virginia.
- This year is the United Nations International Year of the Forest. Each state has selected a school, through its Project Learning Tree Program, to create dioramas illustrating the forests and forestry products from their states and each have been presented at the United Nations. The United States Secretary of Agriculture has pledged and tasked the

U.S. Forest Service to promote the utilization of wood products in buildings while maintaining its commitment to certified green building standards.

- Finally, March was the 100th Anniversary of the Weeks Act, which created the Eastern National Forest system and provided the Federal government the ability to purchase private lands to protect headwaters and work with state and private organizations for fire protection efforts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 11:50 am

Clerk of the Committee
Matthew C. Smith

REVIEWED BY:

Russell K. Chandler

Russell Chandler
Branch Chief of Training and Technical Services

April 12, 2011

Date

Enclosures:

1. Economic Benefits of Wildfire Prevention Education