

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD
Fire Prevention and Control Committee
December 2, 2010

A regular meeting of the Committee on Fire Prevention and Control was held at the VDFP Headquarters in Glen Allen, VA at 11:15 am. Mr. Ed Altizer served as Chair, in Elaine Gall's absence.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Ed Altizer – Virginia State Fire Marshal
Michael Reilly – Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators
Carl Garrison – Virginia State Forester
Joe Wilson – Industry (SARA Title III & OSHA)
Temporary Assigned - Mike Armstrong – VA Chapter of International Society of Fire Service Instructors

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Brian Mullins – Virginia Board of Housing & Community Development
Felix Sarfo-Kantanka, Jr – General Public
Elaine Gall – Committee Chair – Virginia Fire Prevention Association
Robert Scott – Insurance Industry Representative

VFSB MEMBERS PRESENT

Kenneth J. Brown – Virginia State Firefighter's Association
Bill Kyger – Association of Counties

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Billy Shelton	Erin Rice	Dave Jolly
Brook Pittinger	Christine Lopilato	Matthew Smith
Bobby Bailey	Glenn Dean	

GUESTS PRESENT

Ed Rhodes	Robbie Dawson	Kurt Kight
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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 October 2010 meeting. With no changes to the minutes, the October 7, 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. Training Mini Grant Applications

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

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

Bobby Bailey provided the following report, in Russ Chandler's absence:

- The National Fire Protection Association reports that the clock is ticking on our fire picture. Statistically in dealing with national fire losses, they have the following statistics:
 - A fire department responded to a fire every 23 seconds.
 - One structure fire was reported every 66 seconds.
 - One home structure fire was reported every 87 seconds
 - One civilian fire injury was reported every 31 minutes.
 - One civilian fire death occurred every 2 hours and 55 minutes.
 - One outside fire was reported every 49 seconds.
 - One vehicle fire was reported every 146 seconds.
- We have relied on these statistics for a wide range of uses from justification for personnel, equipment and for selling fire safety to the public. Statisticians do not have all the figures because there are many entities that do not report their fire losses to any other authority other than their own organization. As such, they become part of the fire problem themselves by not sharing that information. However, things are improving and Virginia is now part of the solution.
- Through the efforts of this Board, staff of the Agency, and the cooperation of the various fire related associations we now have **83%** of Virginia's fire departments completing and submitting fire incident reports which can not only be counted here but at the national level as well.
- This is significant for a multitude of reasons, but one fact has consistently been prevalent in the last few years. Today, when you look at Virginia's fire problem, you see a mirror of the fire problem across the country. Brook and her team have provided us with a snapshot of fire data for this year. It shows that the leading causes of fires in Virginia are cooking related incidents, same as the national statistics. It also shows that the majority of fire runs are not fires but EMS related calls for the sick and injured. This is not a shock for any of us today, but what we surmised in the past for the state can now be validated and confirmed.

- We have many to thank for this, from the person completing that report at two in the morning, to staff forwarding that data to VDFP, to Rene and Dwight who compile, verify and analyze this data and to you, representatives of the fire service and other interested parties who can take this data and use make the Commonwealth a safer place to live and work.

VFMA

- The VFMA completed its Fire Inspector School in Roanoke County with 14 students representing Roanoke County, Stafford County, Town of Pulaski, Bedford City, Chesapeake City, Carillion Clinic, Immigration Center of America, and Winchester Fire Department. The class was held at the Roanoke Fire Training Center, as always, they were a great host providing exceptional support.
- We conducted a Fire Inspector School in Arlington with 32 students in the class. The students were from Arlington Fire and Washington DC Fire. The entire Inspections Division from the DC Fire Marshal's office is participating in the program. Chief Faust from DC Fire has requested to come on board with the VFMA training. Class covered the Virginia codes along with specific laws from DC. The class was very well received.
- A Fire Investigator 1033 School was conducted in Charlottesville Virginia with 11 students. The students were from Virginia State Police, Albemarle County, City of Staunton, City of Charlottesville, Arlington County, Bedford City, Lynchburg City, Augusta County, Shenandoah County and Rockingham County. The class was held at the Virginia Department of Forestry Building (Warehouse Facility) just off Rt. 29 in Charlottesville. Much appreciation to Forestry for their assistance, this was a great facility and a convenient location for the majority of the students.
- We also recently finished our Fire Investigator 1033 School held at the Richmond Fire Training Center. The school had 24 students from the Virginia State Police, City of Colonial Heights, Richmond City Fire and Police Departments., Chesterfield County, Roanoke County, Fairfax County, Quantico Marine Corp Base, Stafford County, City of Petersburg, Gloucester County, King George County, Westmorland County and King William County .
- The Public Fire Educators Section of the VFMA has conducted several classes in Pub Ed I and Juvenile Fire Setter over this quarter. Public Fire Education Coordinator J. D. Jenkins conducted classes in James City County, Northern Virginia, City of Richmond, City of Virginia Beach, and City of Hampton. The classes totaled 56 students in all.
- The VFMA conducted a demonstration this quarter for the International Association of Engineers and Scientists in Hampton showing the new burn cells for both VFMA and the Mobile Burn Units.

COMMENTS FROM THE VDFP LIAISON Fiscal Services Director

Christine Lopilato provided the following information:

- VFIRS Hardware Grants

- Award letters have been sent to 15 jurisdictions approved for grants totaling \$25,000; all Certification Acceptance documents have been received by grant recipients; funds will be disbursed by 12/31/10.
- Training Mini Grants, **see Enclosure 1** – applications received by postmark deadline of 9/30/2010
 - 76 applications requesting \$503,657 in funding (as of 10/15/2010), including 2 disqualifications for improper certification/signature
 - Senior Staff has conducted an extensive review of all applications; Senior Staff evaluated each applicant based upon 1) the applicant's ability to submit a completed application with appropriate supporting documentation to justify grant funds requested, and 2) the applicant's project scope and how the project met the objectives of the Training Mini Grant Program.
 - Considering limited funding, Senior Staff is recommending funding for 42 jurisdictions totaling \$118,323.
 - This strategy will leave adequate funding to sustain the Training Mini Grant Program through FY2012.
 - All applications were scanned into pdf files and cataloged by jurisdiction name on CDs and sent to all Fire Prevention and Control Committee members for review/reference. In addition, the evaluation matrix spreadsheet was included on the CD for review for Committee members to understand the recommendations of VDFP Senior Staff.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ed Altizer reserved his comments for the Code Sub-Committee section.

REPORT FROM THE CODE SUB-COMMITTEE

Robby Dawson provided the following information:

- The 2009 Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) and Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) development processes are coming to an end.
- The Board of Housing and Community Development (BHCD) has adopted the USBC and SFPC.
- The Codes and Standards Sub-Committee and the State Fire Marshals Office petitioned for additional comments on several of the Code Section updates. **See Enclosure 2** with the exception of 13 VAC 5-63-210 M 68 and M 69.
- Deadline for submitting comments to the Board of Housing and Community Development is December 27, 2010. At this time we are unsure whether a public hearing period will be held.
- Mike Reilly discussed the importance of having VFSB representation at the BHCD meetings to ensure that our concerns are heard.
- Additionally, the Sub-Committee will be coming back to the Board in the new year to discuss and formalize the membership of the Codes and Standards Sub-Committee.

REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Carl Garrison provided the following report:

- The Department of Forestry (DOF) has finalized their Forestry State Assessment and Strategic Plan, which is available on their website. A summarized State Assessment and Strategic Plan was provided to the Board Members along with a Wildfire Risk Assessment Map for the Commonwealth, **see Enclosure 3**.
- Annual Forestry Report Card for 2010 is available on their website.
- As of Dec 1st there have been 891 fires, which consumed 7,961 acres. This is below the 10 year average of 1,100 fires and 10,000 acres consumed.
 - The timely weather fronts have helped reduce the Commonwealth's losses.
 - During this forestry fire season 376 homes were threatened, however, only 2 homes and 15 other structures have been damaged.
- The Dry Hydrant program in 2010 installed 34 new dry hydrants and repaired 24.
- The Dry Hydrant program for 2011 is underway, so far scheduled for 37 new installs and 12 repairs.
- The Wild Land Fire Academy has been schedule June 1-4 at Longwood and registration will open in January.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Unfinished Business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Topic: Upcoming Law Enforcement School at Fort A.P. Hill

Motion: Recognize the U.S. Army Base at Fort A.P. Hill for their continued support of the Law Enforcement Fire Marshal Academy.

Discussion: Bobby Bailey discussed during his Board report, that due to a grant received by the Base for its support of outside entities. VDFP will be able to host the Fire Marshal Law Enforcement School at a greatly reduced cost to the local jurisdictions.

Vote: unanimous

Action: Present to the Full Board.

Topic: Training Mini Grant Applications, Enclosure 1

Motion: Accept from Staff as submitted the FY2011 Training Mini Grant Recommendations.

Discussion: The Director of Finance presented the recommended Training Mini Grants to the Committee as submitted in the Enclosure. Mike Reilly commended staff on the hard work of developing the recommendation list, as it is not an easy task.

Vote: Unanimous

Action: To present at the Committee on Administration, Policy and Finance.

Topic: Code and Standards Promulgation, Enclosure 2

Motion: In accordance with §27-97 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) supports the comments by the VFSB Codes and Standards Sub-Committee Chairman, Chief Dawson and State Fire Marshal Ed Altizer on petitions that have been received in regards to the 2009 Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and the Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC).

Discussion: The intent of this motion is to have a letter drafted from the VFSB Chairman to the BHCD in support of the petitions of the VFSB Codes and Standards Sub-Committee and the State Fire Marshal.

Vote: unanimous

Action: Present to the Full Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 12:35 pm

Clerk of the Committee
Matthew C. Smith

REVIEWED BY:

Robert P. Bailey
Robert P. Bailey
Virginia Fire Marshal Academy Chief

December 2, 2010
Date

Enclosures:

1. FY2011 Training Mini Grant Application Evaluation
2. [BHCD] Petitions Received – 2009 USBC, SFPC
3. Department of Forestry Wildfire Risk Assessment