

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD
Codes and Standards Subcommittee
Friday, October 23, 2015

A regular meeting of the Codes and Standards Subcommittee was held at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs in Glen Allen, VA at 10:00 am. Captain George Hollingsworth served as Chair.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

George Hollingsworth – Subcommittee Chair
Charles Altizer – VFSB – Virginia State Fire Marshal
Elaine Gall
Perry Weller
George Fitzgerald
*Glenn Dean (*appointed by the Chair*)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Bailey - Virginia Chapter of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors
Steven Sites, Fire Marshal Manager, VA Dept. of Fire Programs

VFSB MEMBER PRESENT

James R. “Robby” Dawson - Chair of the Fire Prevention and Control Committee

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Mohamed Abbamin Melvin Carter

GUESTS PRESENT

Ed Rhodes Joey Bonn George Martin Danny Hall C.D. Throckmorton

CHANGES IN THE AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion: Tannerite
- B. Discussion: Virginia – ICC Code Cycle
- C. Amtrak
- D. Conversation: Emergency Egress and Rescue Openings

PUBLIC COMMENTS

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

George Hollingsworth chaired the meeting. Mr. Hollingsworth mentioned that the Subcommittee would review the items mentioned on the agenda and at the end discuss future meetings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Unfinished Business

NEW BUSINESS

Topic: Tannerite

Motion: NA

Discussion: Ed Altizer introduced Mr. Dick Hickman – Senate Finance Committee. Mr. Hickman stated that during the 2015 General Assembly Session, Senator Carrico introduced a resolution (SJ279) to establish a nine-member joint subcommittee to study the dangers of Tannerite and make recommendations on restricting the amount that can be purchased legally in Virginia. The resolution was referred to the Senate Finance Committee for additional study and investigation. In June 2015, State Fire Marshal's Office staff met with Senate Finance Committee staff to discuss the dangers of Tannerite and explore the feasibility of regulating Tannerite through the Statewide Fire Prevention Code.

State Fire Marshal, Ed Altizer presented information to the Subcommittee on September 17, 2015 on the danger of Tannerite and other binary exploding targets including videos, a comparison of exploding targets with other explosives including binary explosives widely used in construction and in quarries. Ed Altizer cited that he also discussed current regulations and state laws regarding explosives. The Subcommittee chair asked SFM Altizer if he thought current laws and regulations contained sufficient language to regulate the exploding targets or did state law require amendments. SFM Altizer responded that he felt the laws regarding explosives including those establishing the SFPC were adequate and that the SFMO was currently working on code changes to the State Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) which is to be submitted during the next Virginia Code Change Cycle. The process would take one and one half to two years to complete. The Sub Committee asked to be advised of progress during the next two months.

Ed Altizer indicated the matter of Tannerite's use was presented to the Attorney General's Office. It sought to inquire whether the recreational use of Tannerite violates Code of Virginia 18.2-85, in relation to the statute that makes it a Class 5 felony to use or possess an explosive material, unless for a lawful purpose.

Ed Altizer and Glen Dean added that based on the Office of Attorney General's official advisory opinion dated October 1, 2014 - the use or possession is not illegal as long as it is used for a lawful recreational use. **Enclosure 1**

A discussion ensued discussing the code changes to the SFPC Section 107.2 and 5605.1 regarding explosive manufacturing related to tannerite. Below is a highlight of the updates.

Code Changes: Proposal of code changes are outlined on **Enclosure 2**

- Code(s) and Section(s): SFPC Sections 107.2, 107.13, 5605.1 and 5605.1.1

See proposed changes below;

Vote: NA

Action: To present to full board.

Topic: VA ICC Code Cycle Process

Motion: NA

Discussion: Glen Dean stated the Fire Code changes for 2018; submit proposals by early January 2016.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: Schedule of Future Meetings

Motion: NA

Discussion: Robby Dawson cited that the state code will be modified between January 2016 to January 2017, and thus the Code Subcommittee must meet. George Hollingsworth recommended for the subcommittee to set up meetings following the scheduled fire code workgroups. The Code Subcommittee will wait until the workgroup initiates/concludes their meetings.

Membership – George Hollingsworth asked for guests to submit their names to Robby Dawson if they are interested in being on the committee. C. David Throckmorton has submitted his information so he can be considered for a membership on the Code Subcommittee.

Vote: NA

Action: NA

Topic: Amtrak

Motion: NA

Discussion: Ed Altizer advised that an inspector sought to conduct an inspection at Amtrak. He was advised the area is regulated by federal government and thus local government cannot inspect. The group spoke about the uniqueness of the area being inspected.

Vote: NA

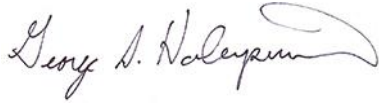
Action: NA

ADJOURNMENT

The Subcommittee adjourned at 12pm.

Clerk of the Committee
Mohamed G. Abbamin

REVIEWED BY:



George Hollingsworth, Committee Chair

Friday, October 23, 2015

Date

Enclosures:

- 1) Code Change Form -SFPC Section 107.2 and 5605.1 - **Enclosure 1**
- 2) Attorney General Opinion - **Enclosure 2**

APPROVED