



BOARD FOR FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2019 10:00 AM
Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association (IVFA)
Blue Chip Casino
Michigan City, Indiana 46360

NOTE: All variance request must be received no less than 20 days prior to the Fire Board Meeting to be put on the Agenda.

A. Call to order

Board Members Present

Eric Drieman (Chair); Tom Hanify; James Greeson (State Fire Marshal); Greg Wyant; John Smith; Genoio Brabson; Mike Schantz Proxy for John Brown (Director of Training & Preparedness and Director of Planning)

Board Members Not Present

M. Burke Jones; Eric Gentry (Vice Chair); Rob Lund (Secretary); Jason Rogers; 1 Vacant Seat (Chris Johnson)

Other Staff Members Present

Mike Schantz; Michelle Allen; Donna Saine; Wade Walling

B. Consideration and approval of March 25, 2019 Fire Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by *1st John Smith, 2nd by Genoio Brabson*, the remaining board members stated “Aye” in agreement to approve September meeting minutes. *Motion carries*

C. New Variance requests (staff recommends approval)

1. Raphael Bayless 8144-3402 - FO3 Variance Request

Motion to approve 1st John Smith, 2nd Greg Wyant all voting members voted “Aye” to approve. *Motion carries.*



2. Austin Cook 5839-6762- FO1 Variance Request

Motion to approve 1st Greg Wyant, 2nd Tom Hanify all voting members voted “Aye” to approve. *Motion carries.*

3. Constantine Danielides 1983-5989 FO1 Variance Request

Motion to approve 1st Tom Hanify, 2nd James Greeson all voting members voted “Aye” to approve. *Motion carries.*

4. Aaron Bell 5657-5137 FO2 Variance Request

Motion to approve 1st Tom Hanify, 2nd Genois Brabson all voting members voted “Aye” to approve. *Motion carries.*

D. New Variance requests (staff recommends denial) – **None at this time**

E. New Variance requests (staff has no recommendation) – **None at this time**

F. State Fire Marshal Report – James Greeson

1. **Executive Leadership program** – 5 modules have been created. The modules range from budgeting, grants, and general leadership just to name a few. The schedule for these modules can be tailored to fit your departments need. Please register for this program through your Acadis portal account.
2. **Fire Academy** – An additional Fire Investigator will be hired for the southern part of Indiana.
3. **Drones** – 3 HazMat Technician Specialist have received their license to fly these drones. They can be requested to fly these drones in areas that Emergency personnel cannot access.
4. **Image Trend** - Randell Eimerman reimerman@dhs.in.gov can help with any questions you have about reporting or getting signed up.
5. **Fireworks season** – Reminder for Fire Chiefs to sign off on Fireworks permits in their jurisdiction. If you have any question please visit our website at <https://www.in.gov/dhs/2810.htm>
6. **Get Alarmed** – We received a grant last year to purchase 10,000 regular smoke alarms along with 1,000 Deaf and Hard of Hearing smoke alarms. Our office was informed of a house fire in Putnam County where all the residents of the home made it out safe. The family had recently received and had a smoke alarm installed through the “Get alarmed” program. Please visit <https://www.in.gov/dhs/getalarmed.htm> for more information about this program.

7. Fire Academy partnership with the Indiana State Fairgrounds – We have almost reached an agreement to do some training and classes there.
 8. Legislation – Has passed a law that can take the workers comp viability off of the employer. Now volunteer firefighters are able to leave they job to make fire runs. Hopefully this change will allow rural areas to have better response times.
- G. Director of Training/Preparedness & Planning – Mike Schantz proxy for John Brown
1. Arson accelerant search K-9 – is available for use please contact Lillian Hardy at lhardy@dhs.in.gov if you feel you may have a need for these services.
 2. State Level Exercise – Will be conducted in Rochester Indiana on August 29th and 30th.
 3. The Federal Radical Emergency Preparedness [REP] exercise – will be a hybrid functional table top exercise. The Incident Management and Emergency Management teams in districts 1,2,3, and 4 will be participating in this exercise.
- H. Academy Administrator – Training Program Director– Mike Schantz
1. Acadis Scheduling Module – will be the next upgrade will receive. It will include the ability to schedule training trailers, view course rosters, and radical searches.
 2. Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations, and Technician – currently under review
 3. Fire Officer 1 – was beta tested and is currently being completed.
 4. Vehicle Machinery and Operations – a committee has been formed and will be researching curriculum for the new standard.
 5. Firefighter I and II – will be under review starting in September.
- I. Administrative Proceedings/ Non-Final Orders – Legal – Michelle Allen
1. Re-adoption of 655 IAC – Keeps rules in place that are due to expire January 1, 2020
Motion to approve 1st Tom Hanify, 2nd Jason Rogers all voting members voted “Aye” to approve. *Motion carries.*
 2. Re-adoption of emergency rules – emergency rule updates from August 14, 2019 to December 14, 2019.
Motion to approve 1st John Smith, 2nd Tom Hanify all voting members voted “Aye” to approve. *Motion carries.*
- J. Old Business –
1. Fire Board Rules Re-write (655 IAC) Fiscal information
655 IAC Rule Rewrite – at this time I am compiling all of the changes. I will be sending a letter to the Governor for approval to move forward with the rewrite.
- K. New Business – None at this time
- L. Open discussion, comments, questions?

Fabian Martinez - Hobart Fire Department addressed the Fire Board about doing away with the Final Exam for Extrication.

1. The publisher does not have a test bank right now. It would be costly to create one ourselves. I feel it would be difficult to vet or survive a legal challenge.
2. We would like to conduct more quizzes to capture the students' retention. This would be done by using the LMS [Learning Management System].
3. We could reinforce the more pertinent information on the training ground.
4. I would like to spend more time with the students with the hands on portion. I teach these subjects all the time to the fire service and the general industry all the time. I have come to realize doing the job is more important than knowing the why of the job. It takes time to gather experience for the information to make sense.
5. Another option would be to include hands on and classroom time to increase student to Instructor hours. We would have a discussion about what will be covered. Quizzes would be given instead of the final test. Ultimately I would like to see a more hands on learning/teaching style of class for all of the Rescue courses.

Eric Dreiman – Thank you for taking the time to address the Board today. Unfortunately we just saw this before the meeting and can not rule on this today. I would like to refer you back to IDHS staff to address your concerns and suggestions.

Tom Hanify – This is an interesting concept, but I am not sure I agree with it. I have heard this a few times over the years. I feel that cognitive testing is in place for a reason.

Russ Shoaff - Operations Chief Westfield Fire Department

I was also on the vehicle committee. One of the concepts that IFSTA allows is the use of LMS [Learning Management System] to receive a book and study guide prior to testing. When we have these classes there is never enough time to research and fully learn the material in a true cognitive manner. To address what we are trying to do is find a way to do more of hands on training. We would like to do this training in the same amount of time we are doing now. I am open to trying this.

Tom Hanify – I did not hear him say no test. I heard look at how we test and that is something that could be discussed.

Greg Wyant – Are you talking about Vehicle Machinery or Vehicle Extrication?

Russ Shoaf – We are speaking to the Vehicle Machinery portion.

Greg Wyant - Does Vehicle Machinery have practical skills included now?

Russ Shoaf – Yes

Greg Wyant - Your proposal would be to modify those skills or would you leave them alone? Are going to add to the practical skills? Or are you satisfied with the practical skills offered now?

Fabian Marti – based on the NFPA standard we would add more hands on practical skills.

Steve Anderson - Is this a Committee recommendation?

Russ Shoaf – Yes

Steve Anderson - Can we get a list of the committee members?

Mike Schantz - We need to get the members back together so we can get the list of members updated.

Eric Dreiman – Asked were there any more comments concerning this matter?

No other questions or comments were made and this conversation ended.

Second open discussion

Jason Rogers/ Marshal VFD– I have heard that with the proposed new ICS-655 Fire Board rule re-write Instructors will not be able to instruct family members. In the rural areas that will hurt the training process. On the department I am currently with there are 8 people that are related. In a neighboring department there are 3 family members on it. This change will hurt our departments a lot. Is there any way we can take another look at this?

Eric Dreiman- We have had discussions about this and we have not made a final determination about it. John Smith has been a part of the discussion and he has voiced his concerns about it. We are still trying to work through all of the concerns. We are trying to maintain the integrity of the fire testing process too.

Jason Rogers – Is there any way to send a questionnaire out to the rural fire departments and explain what you are looking at? This is the first time I am hearing of this. I found out about it through someone at another meeting where it was being discussed. Instructors are not a wide thing in my area.

Eric Dreiman – The way the process works is that there will be an opportunity for the public to voice their concerns. We announce our public meetings but we do not announce our work group meetings. In order to get through the re-write changes this was not open to the public. In the meantime I am not opposed to hearing other feedback. Your concerns are being heard. I believe your concerns are valid. We are trying to come to a common ground

Tom Hanify - I have some clarification. What we talked about was testing not instructing. Testing and evaluating family was what the conversation was about. This was proposed in order to keep the fire industry professional. The nepotism law that was passed a few years ago is what we were addressing. I do not disagree that there will be challenges. If we are going to be seen as professionals we need to make this change. We are not changing the process for instructing. This is already in the code in state law.

John Smith – When it was originally proposed in March Instructing was included. I believe we did take care of this in March and Instructing was removed.

Tom Hanify – I do believe having someone teach you that knows you can be beneficial.

Eric Dreiman – I apologize I knew we discussed this.

Greg Wyant – Will testing and evaluating still cause you hardship at your department?

Jason Rogers – It will in our area because we do not have a lot of Instructor in the area.

Greg Wyant – What is the Proctor requirement?

Donna Saine – Teachers or someone that is part of a training institution.

Greg Wyant – I think you would want to be able to say that there is not a chance that a test was compromised. We will work on making sure it is clear what the requirements are of who is allowed to proctor and evaluate.

James Greeson – Firefighters are out here risking their lives. It is critical that skills and teaching is done properly so that no one is put at risk. Maybe you can have a discussion with your organization and you can propose a solution to this situation. We are always open to ideas

Eric Dreiman- Does anyone have any more questions or comments? That was the last item on the agenda.

Fireboard Webinar Information for this meeting:

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2884630725255048449>

Webinar ID: 208-165-587

Motion to adjourn by Tom Hanify, 2nd Greg Wyant, all voting members stated “Aye” to approve. Meeting is adjourned.

Next meeting: August 5, 2019 **6:00 PM**
Delaware County EMS Station #3
4501 East Memorial Drive
Muncie, IN 47305

Approved: _____
Eric Dreiman, Chairman

Date: _____