

Fire Education/Advisory Commission, Division of Fire Safety

December 4, 2024

Agenda

The Missouri Fire Safety Education/Advisory Commission works to provide training and continuing education to the fire service throughout Missouri.

Portions of this meeting may be closed pursuant to RSMo 610.021 (11 & 12)

Roll call: 1000 hours

Fire Education/Advisory Commission: Brian Zaitz, Alan Braun, Dan Manley, Tracy Wiley, Bruce Lipe (Webex)

Staff: SFM Tim Bean, DC Greg Landwehr, Amanda Williams, Brock Biggerstaff, Justin Merritt, Pete Martin, Julie Voss, Scott Stoneberger

Guests: Aaron Bockhorst (Ferguson FD), MUFRTI (Harry Ward, Gail Hagans, Tracy Gray), Lisa Jobe (MERC), Norm Hinkle (Boone County FPD), Students from the Fire Investigator class, fire service members from around the state via Webex

Approval of Minutes from 9/6/2024 meeting:

Motion: Brian Zaitz Second: Dan Manley In favor: All Present

Legislative Updates, Division/Staffing Status – Tim Bean, Fire Marshal

- Tone around JC is there is a lot of new faces coming in, 30-40 freshmen state reps in the house and around a dozen freshmen senators
 - With new faces comes education, a lot of questions about state government
- Rumbblings of the house having some issues this year playing well
- Transitions are happening now with Governor Kehoe, making appointments for cabinet
 - Inauguration is Monday, January 13
- Staffing
 - Pete Martin is now full time with the Training and Certification Unit
 - Three resignations in December: Boiler Inspector open in Region C, Investigator in Region G resigned, Boiler Admin Assistant resigned

Training Unit Report – Greg Landwehr, Deputy Chief

- Certification course, testing and certifications issued statistics.
 - FY25 July 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024
 - 180 certification classes completed.
 - 2328 certification exams administered.
 - 1806 Certifications issued.
 - 242 certifications recognized through reciprocity.
- Contracted Training update
 - FY25 financial and course request report (GR: approx. \$970k per year, CEPF: approx. \$90k per year)
 - 367 classes requested totaling \$1,619,465.00.
 - 26 classes approved totaling \$145,670.00 not yet scheduled.
 - 94 classes scheduled totaling \$412,581.00.
 - 73 classes completed totaling \$341,421.00.
 - 9 classes cancelled totaling \$52,396.00.
 - 164 classes requested totaling \$667,397.00.
 - CEPF funds will not be available July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 until a bill is passed to put the funding back in place (currently with the house, sponsor is Tim Taylor, will bring funds back for FY26)
 - Fully obligated for this year
 - Will need to hold back some Fire Ed money for next year (\$250k spending authority) to cover HazMat
 - GR fund has \$203k remaining for this year not yet obligated
- NFA Courses (\$20,000 per year)
 - (Federal FY24 fiscal year 10/1/24 – 9/30/25)
 - 9 two-day and 1 six-day class has been scheduled
- NFA Grant FY24
 - Over obligated for FY24
- NFPA Standard updates
 - NFPA 470-2022 – Hazardous Materials

- Updated to the new standard July 2024
- NFPA 1006-2021 – Technical Rescue
 - Updated to the new standard July 2023
- NFPA 1010-2024 – Fire Fighter and Driver Operator
 - Process has begun to update to the 2024 edition
 - Expected release to Missouri's Fire Service July 1, 2025
- NFPA 1020-2025 – Fire Instructor and Fire Officer
 - NFPA documents expected to release January 2025
 - Implementation planned July 1, 2026
- NFPA 1030-2024 – Fire Inspector, Plans Examiner, Fire Marshal, Pub Ed, and PIO
 - Update due by December 31, 2024. We were granted a six-month extension from The ProBoard to complete by July 1, 2025, this will be the roll-out of the new levels of First Responder Inspector and Fire Inspector
 - SME committee has been established for complete review of policy, skills, and correlation of the cognitive test bank.
- NFPA 1033-2022 – Fire Investigator
 - Updated to the new standard January 2024
- NFPA 1550 Incident Safety Officer
 - Standard released in January 2024
 - Update due by June 30, 2026
 - Nothing to report currently.
- Tim Bean: It was brought up in the field, that if we ask for more money for training to cover all of the requested training, will that stretch out training partners too far that they cannot handle the course load?
 - Discussion had, there are requests to cover more money and more training, currently our training partners are handling the approved requests well

Old business:

- Update on Training Contracts FY24
 - NFA contract has been renewed
 - Certification testing and class contracts are due December 31, 2024 and are with OA for renewal
 - Vendors should receive mid-December
 - Vendors can increase prices up to 5% for each class
- RFPs for Training Contracts FY25
 - Issue getting evaluators for FF1&2 EOC skills (DFS-TU taking on some of those evaluations), so will likely put out an RFP for evaluators
 - Will be stand-alone, similar to the MUFRTI Live Fire skills testing, would be an evaluator package for end-of-course skills
 - Will not look to employ individual evaluators
 - Will go out to the vendors for bid as a package
 - Half-dozen classes this year that had issues getting evaluators for end-of-course skills
 - Vendor list for evaluators? (Mark Cannon via Webex)
 - MUFRTI has contract for fire control, TTRS has contract for Tech Rescue
 - Mark stated that in his request for evaluators, he has started including compensation and other info in his requests or he gets no interest
 - If vendors are going to be sending evaluators, Mark requests the opportunity to review the list of evaluators to ensure that they are individuals who are meeting the same standards that the students are expected to meet and are leading by example
 - Greg L.: Any issues with evaluators that come up need to be reported to DFS-TU to handle if evaluators are not meeting expectations of DFS, the host entity, and the NFPA standards
 - Tim Bean: Do we have evaluations that are filled out by the students regarding evaluator performance?
 - Greg L.: We don't have a survey that goes to the students but that is something we can send out. We are mandated by IFSAC and ProBoard to evaluate our evaluators, but with the workload and staffing we currently have, this is happening few and far between. Some phone interviews have been done with students where in-person reviews were unable to be conducted.

New Business:

- FY23 AFG grant

- In process of tablet purchase
- Nothing else to report.
- FY24 AFG grant to submit
 - Application period opened Nov. 12, 2024, and closes on Dec. 20, 2024 at 5 p.m. ET.
 - We are thinking about a prop trailer to complete a cache of equipment for Fire Fighter I and II. Props to include a 2 forcible entry prop with built-in ventilation prop, 2 vehicle extraction prop with full set of extrication tools, 2 thermal imaging cameras, 2 gas detectors, etc. Any props that volunteer departments may not have access to.
 - FireVent is a vendor who makes these props, catalog presented to the commission for viewing
 - Estimating \$150-200k, match would be approx. \$25-30k
 - Justin Merritt: Items are derived from comments from current and past evaluations on what is missing at departments where they evaluate and recommendations from the SMEs from the committee for the new standard update
 - Harry Ward: Be cautious with the vent prop as the metal can be easily bent if students and operators are not properly trained to use the prop; has used these kinds of props in the past and would never leave the trailer for repetitive use without supervision of the prop manager; need to plan for staffing on day of use
 - Motion to approve preparing the grant: Brian Zaitz
 - Second: Tracey Wiley
 - In Favor: All Present
- Prop Possibilities for next AFG grant
 - Pump simulator
 - IFSI (Illinois) uses for certification testing
 - Takes wear and tear off of department's apparatus
 - \$250k cost for this prop
- Fire Officer Discussion
 - 12 SMEs were contacted regarding revamping the instructor requirements for the Fire Officer Program (all levels)
 - It will be a resume-type approval for being an instructor on the Officer levels
 - Going beyond minimum requirements for certification and looking into experience (are you currently operating in an equivalent or higher level for the level you desire to instruct)
 - Greg and Brock received feedback from the SMEs and will be incorporating that into policy for the SMEs to review and approve

Other business

- Comments/questions from guests
 - Lisa Jobe: Terry Castle is current acting director for MERC
 - Aaron Bockhorst: NCTA was considering requesting contracted training for Fire Officer III, but had a concern about the instructor(s) who would be teaching it, so decided to fund it internally; happy to hear that we are working on better ways of policing who is teaching and evaluating for our programs, especially the higher levels
 - Tim Bean: Keep serving until someone tells you that you can't. There are a couple openings on the board that we would like to fill (career chief, career firefighter). There is an online application for those positions and if anyone knows anyone or is interested themselves, put in an application through the Boards and Commissions website.
 - Tracy Gray: DFS website under the Fire Ed commission is not up to date on minutes and agendas (only updated as of 2019)
 - Greg L. would look into getting it updated
 - Tracey W.: Are we under Sunshine Law where we have to post agendas and meetings?
 - Greg L.: WE have to post agendas 24 hours before the meeting,

Upcoming Meeting Dates and Times

- March 5, 2025 at 10 am
- June 4, 2025 at 10 am
- September 3, 2025 at 10 am
- December 3, 2025 at 10 am

Motion to Adjourn: 1130 hours

Motion: Dan Manley
 Second: Brian Zaitz
 In favor: All present