

MEETING MINUTES

Oregon Fire Casualty Review Committee



Meeting Date: Thursday, August 16, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Location: Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal
Mt. Hood Conference Room
4760 Portland Rd. NE
Salem, OR 97305

Attendees:

Claire McGrew, OSFM Fire & Life Safety Education
Dave Gullede, OSFM Data Unit
Krista Fischer, OSFM Youth Fire Intervention
Jeff Cranford, MFD
Kristina Deschaine, OSFM
Curtis Ryun, Oregon Burn Center
Tim Birr, Public OFSC
Bryan Emmons, Public at Large
John Phillips, OSFM Data Unit
Renee' Stryker, OSFM Fire & Life Safety Education

Guests:

Esther Moe, OHSU

Introduction:

- Dave Gullede called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.
- Grammar corrections identified for the May 24, 2012, meeting minutes.

Agenda Items:

The committee agreed that sending out meeting packet one week prior to meeting electronically works well. The committee agreed on the summary of the injury reports that comes out rather than over 100 NFIRS reports that would require review. The summary of injuries will continue to be sent out.

Dave: Asked members to verify their information on the committee roster is up to date and accurate, let Renee' know if information needs updated.

Committee Charter:

Dave: At the last OFCRC meeting, a draft copy of the OFCRC Committee Charter was distributed; members had been asked to submit recommendations within a week. A few small changes were submitted which are now reflected in this updated copy.

Krista: Whether or not, on page 1 paragraph IV under structure is it correct to have the word "shall" or should that read as "may". There was discussion amongst the group.

Action Item (not listed on agenda) To accept the Committee Charter of the Oregon Fire Casualty Review Committee as is.

Motion to accept: Curtis Ryun

Motion 2nd by: Tim Birr

Motion passed unanimously

Action Item (not listed on agenda) To adopt the Committee Charter of the Oregon Fire Casualty Review Committee

Motion to accept: Tim Birr

Motion 2nd by: Kristina Deschaine

Motion passed unanimously

Oregon Fire Injury Report:

Dave informed the group there were a few small formatting changes submitted for the Fire Injury Review 2007-2011 Report. One recommended change submitted was the pie chart graph on page six "*not reported*" with the formatting changes that have been made, this is why the chart has changed. Sixty five percent of the data that comes out of NFIRS has does not list what the activity was. If you send out the chart of items captured, this is how the chart with percentages will look.

The group discussed the 65% of information listed on the chart that is "*not reported.*" It has to do with reporting and there are various reasons why it is not included.

Dave: Explained to the group why it comes up as "not reported." It has to do with the reporting software systems that are being used. He explained how and why it would come up listed this way. He informed the group that the departments are realizing how important this information and data is. There are some entities, which use FireBridge while others do not. It comes down to need and cost.

Bryan: Noted on page four lists 4% injury data includes stats of injuries even though there were residential sprinkler systems installed.

Dave: The sprinkler injury stats can be added to the chart. The consensus was to add this to the chart. The group chose the second chart, which shows "not reported", to include the text instead, to reflect only incidents reported.

Dave: Gave a brief of the fatality report, which the Data Unit has provided for this group. He asked that members print if they want a hard copy. There are over 100 incident reports for the injuries. Rather than print these out the Data Unit has produced this summarized report. There was consensus from the group, the summary brief was ample information and to continue this type of information in the future.

Dave: Informed the group of the handout "Oregon Residential Fires" with civilian injuries 01/01/2012-7/31/2012, and asked how would this group like to have it formatted, what exactly do they want to have included. The consensus was the report is very information and the format is good. The identifying factors were the fire in homes and not multi-family structures, cooking related injuries and fire involving males. Most of the injuries are very minor and non-life threatening.

The group discussed the data on the handout, injuries and percentages. There was lengthy discussion on the smoking injuries and deaths related to smoking. Every state has some type of law that deals with fire safe cigarettes. When reviewing the fatalities Dave mentioned that most of those are cigarette related. A question was asked, what other state laws are. The testing done on safe cigarettes was based on, bedding, furniture, and how flammable some items are when they catch fire from a safe cigarette.

Jeff: Is concerned for the way the public is educated, there is a real need for additional and informative materials that the public receives. This should include fire safe cigarettes, injuries, fire, fatalities, smoking outside and cigarettes not being properly extinguished.

Curtis: Fires are increasing from persons now smoking outside instead of the past where persons were smoking in their homes. The increase of outside fires has greatly increased with persons smoking outside their homes or a certain distance from a building because of laws.

Kristina: Informed the group it does not matter where cigarettes have been purchased, fire safe cigarettes still responsible for fires. Many folks do not understand that in certain circumstances fire safe cigarettes do not go out. There is a great concern on persons who already have health problems and issues, may have breathing problems, emphysema, or are on oxygen. Many smokers are not aware of what fire safe cigarettes are.

Dave: Provided information on what other state laws are and that New York was the leader. Among the leading causes of fire injuries and fire fatalities in Oregon is smoking.

Curtis: The burn unit sees horrible injuries from the smoking around oxygen. Their injuries cause persons to stay in the hospital for a considerable longer amount of time and the cost is substantial.

Review of Current Casualties:

Dave: The 2012 Oregon Fire Statistics are ran monthly and broken down by residential, non-residential and smoking. He has wanted to start a project for quite a while, to begin compiling the totals in an analysis project to include dollar amounts of property loss from the fire. The information is out there, with limited staff, he has not been able to start on this project or pulling any of data yet. The information is of fires only it does not include fatalities or injuries. He hopes to start compiling data that will look at fatalities and injuries and come up with dollars amounts.

Dave: The long-term plan is to get all the departments reporting and reporting completely. Once all the departments are, 100% on-board with reporting, then start to focus on the non-required elements.

It was decided the OFCRC meeting information and packets be sent via email, if committee members want they can print hard copies. If for any reason members are unable to print something they want at the meetings, contact Dave via email. The OFCRC secretary will provide a few copies at each meeting.

Action Item (not listed on agenda) To adopt the Oregon Fire Injury Review 2007-2011

Motion to adopt: Tim Birr

Motion 2nd by: Jeff Cranford

Motion passed unanimously

Other Business: none

Good of the order: none

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next meeting

The next meeting is November 15, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at OSFM, Mt. Hood Conference Room.