

Fire Policy Committee Minutes
November 19, 2025

The Fire Policy Committee (FPC) of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (Board) held a regular meeting on November 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Boardroom at the Oregon Public Safety Academy located at 4190 Aumsville Hwy SE, Salem, Oregon. The meeting was called to order at 09:02 a.m.

Committee Members:

Chris Heppel, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Mariana Ruiz-Temple (Designee Claire McGrew), Oregon State Fire Marshal
Jack Carriger, Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association
Lauren Johnson (Designee Andy Ponce), Portland Fire & Rescue
Levi Hopkins, Forest Protection Agencies
Rose Douglass, Oregon Fire Training Association
Andre Lindauer, Public Member
Shawn Olson, Oregon Fire Marshals Association
Isaac McLennan, Non-Management Firefighter

Absent Members:

Gary Denney, Community College Fire Programs
Vacant, Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
Joseph Morneau, Oregon Fire District Director's Association

DPSST Staff:

Phil Castle, Director
Kathy McAlpine, Deputy Director
Jennifer Howald, Administrative Rules Coordinator
Marie Atwood, Director of Professional Standards
Kayla Ballrot, Fire Program Manager
Brooke Bell-Urbe, Fire Certification Supervisor
Chantel Hawes, Fire Certification Compliance Specialist
Madison Hockett, Fire Program Support Specialist



1. Introductions

Introductions of members were presented.

2. Meeting Minutes

Approve the August 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

- *The committee came to a consensus to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2025, FPC*

meeting.

3. **Discretionary Case Review Quick Sheet**

Presented by Fire Certification Supervisor Brooke Bell-Uribe

4. * **Christopher C. Wade; DPSST No. 30403**

Presented by Fire Certification Compliance Specialist Chantel Hawes

DPSST Staff received notice that Chief Christopher Wade had been arrested on May 3, 2025. Staff tracked the court case and found that on August 11, 2025, Christopher Wade was convicted of and plead guilty to Disorderly Conduct in the Second Degree, Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 166.025, and two counts of Harassment, ORS 166.065(3), all Misdemeanor Class B's in the state of Oregon. This conviction carries a sentence of which not more than one year of imprisonment may be imposed.

Due to the misdemeanor conviction which occurred in the last five years and the underlying conduct that involves violence against a person, this case requires review by the FPC.

November 19, 2025 FPC Discussion

<i>Fire Policy Committee Discussion/Consensus and Vote</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
The FPC came to consensus to adopt the staff report as the basis for its recommendations.			
The FPC identified the following aggravating circumstances : this incident involved two victims, as a Fire Chief he is held to a higher standard of behavior, the committee felt it would be difficult to hold others to a high standard with his demonstrated behavior, his actions will negatively affect the morale of his fire department, court fees are not completely paid, there is no documentation showing his completion of the drug and alcohol abuse assessment, his version of the incident does not seem to tell the whole story, the deflection of responsibility for issues at his department, lack of accountability for his actions and the overall tone of his letter.			
The FPC identified the following mitigating circumstances : including Wade's verbal & written mitigation, that this was a one-time singular event, that he understands the negative impact of his actions on himself and his fire department, his years of service and what he has done for his community, his stated completion of the anger management course.			
The FPC came to consensus that staff captured the identified aggravating and mitigating circumstances of this case.			
Andy Ponce moved that the FPC take ACTION against Wade's certification because this is unacceptable behavior from a Fire Chief and this	Jack Carriger seconded the motion because of lack of responsibility and accountability in	9 ayes	Motion Passed Unanimously

will affect his ability to manage his agency.	which Wade took in this situation.		
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5. *Clifton W. Booher; DPSST No. 13295

Presented by Fire Certification Compliance Specialist Chantel Hawes

DPSST received a Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) alert that Clifton Booher had been arrested on February 5, 2025. DPSST staff tracked the court case and found that on July 16, 2025, Clifton Booher was convicted of and plead no contest to Disorderly Conduct in the Second Degree, ORS 166.025, a Misdemeanor Class B in the state of Oregon. This conviction carries a sentence of which not more than one year of imprisonment may be imposed.

Due to the misdemeanor conviction which occurred in the last five years and the underlying conduct that involves violence against a person, this case requires review by the FPC.

November 19, 2025 FPC Discussion

<i>Fire Policy Committee Discussion/Consensus and Vote</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
The FPC came to consensus to <i>NOT</i> adopt the staff report and asked DPSST Staff to request the Strangulation Kit. This case will be reviewed with the addition of the new information at the February 2026 FPC meeting.			

6. Administrative Actions

Presented by Fire Certification Compliance Specialist Chantel Hawes

Barrett, Thomas A. DPSST #26962 - Discretionary Review

Barrett was affiliated with Merrill Fire Department and is certified as a Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) and an NFPA Fire Fighter I. On or around February 20, 2025, Merrill Fire Department discharged Barrett from their fire service agency. Subsequently, DPSST Fire Certification staff requested the termination letter and underlying investigation that led to his discharge. Upon review, staff determined that Barrett’s discharge meets the Board-established definition of a discharge for cause as defined in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 259-009-0120 due to his behavior of abuse against a member of the department while acting under the color of office.

Staff issued Barrett a Notice of Intent to Revoke Certifications and Proposed/Final Order on Default. Due to no response for a hearing, Barrett’s fire certifications were revoked on October 7, 2025.

Clark, William K. DPSST #42365 - Discretionary Review

Clark was affiliated with Dundee Fire Department and is certified in NFPA Hazardous Materials Awareness and NFPA Hazardous Materials Operations. On or around January 11, 2024, Dundee Fire Department discharged Clark from their fire service agency. Subsequently, DPSST Fire

Certification staff requested the termination letter and underlying investigation that led to his discharge. Upon review, staff determined that Clark's discharge meets the Board-established definition of a discharge for cause as defined in OAR 259-009-0120 due to his behavior of harassment while acting under the color of office.

Staff issued Clark a Notice of Intent to Revoke Certifications and Proposed/Final Order on Default. Due to no response for a hearing, Clark's fire certifications were revoked on July 31, 2025.

Senn, Emanuel DPSST #42977 - Discretionary Review

Senn was affiliated with Forest Grove Fire & Rescue and is certified as an NFPA Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator, NFPA Apparatus Equipped with Fire Pump, and Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2). On or around June 13, 2024, Forest Grove Fire & Rescue discharged Senn from their fire service agency. Subsequently, DPSST Fire Certification staff requested the termination letter and underlying investigation that led to his discharge. Upon review, staff determined that Senn's discharge meets the Board-established definition of a discharge for cause as defined in OAR 259-009-0120 due to his behavior of harassment while acting under the color of office.

Staff issued Senn a Notice of Intent to Revoke Certifications and Proposed/Final Order on Default. Due to no response for a hearing, Senn's fire certifications were revoked on July 31, 2025.

7. Agency Updates

Presented by DPSST Director Phil Castle

- The latest revenue forecast indicates a \$63 million shortfall in Oregon's General Fund. In response, all state agencies have submitted a 5% reduction plan. DPSST is proactively operating as efficiently as possible in anticipation of this reduction.
- While agencies were asked to present their 5% reduction strategies during Legislative Days, DPSST was not among those selected. Additional details are expected during February's Short Session.
- DPSST is moving forward with the process of implementing the new Learning Management System.

Presented by Fire Program Manager Kayla Ballrot

- The federal government shutdown has ended, and the National Fire Academy (NFA) is back in operation! Fortunately, the shutdown had minimal impact on DPSST. Staff will now resume submitting class documents that were delayed during the shutdown.
- Registration for this year's Winter Fire School is going strong, with many classes already full. Thanks to NFA's return, we're excited to offer nine NFA classes this year.
- The Support Person Academy will be featured at Winter Fire School, along with several additional academies scheduled leading up to February.
- The Five Corners Plan training for 2025 has concluded. Our final joint training of the year,

the Off-Road Vehicle Operator course near Roseburg—wrapped up at the end of October.

- The NFPA Driver Series has been updated and incorporated into Oregon Administrative Rule. Updated forms and task books are now available on the DPSST Fire Program website, and a revised Guide to Certification will be published soon.
- The Airport Firefighter Task Force recently met, and updates are expected at our February meeting.

8. Next Fire Policy Committee Meeting – February 25, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting is adjourned at 10:23 a.m.