

## **Fire Policy Committee Minutes**

### **August 27, 2025**

The Fire Policy Committee (FPC) of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (Board) held a regular meeting on August 27, 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 09:01 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  
Gary Denney, Community College Fire Programs  
Joseph Morneau, Oregon Fire District Director's Association  
Rose Douglass, Oregon Fire Training Association  
Andre Lindauer, Public Member  
Isaac McLennan, Non-Management Firefighter

#### **Absent Members:**

Shawn Olson, Oregon Fire Marshals Association  
Lauren Johnson (Designee Andy Ponce), Portland Fire & Rescue  
Levi Hopkins, Forest Protection Agencies  
Vacant, Oregon State Fire Fighters Council

#### **DPSST Staff:**

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



#### **1. Introductions**

Introductions of members were presented.

#### **2. \*Meeting Minutes**

Approve the February 26, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

- *The committee came to a consensus to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2025, FPC meeting.*

### 3. Discretionary Case Review Quick Sheet

Presented by Fire Certification Supervisor Brooke Bell-Uribe

### 4. \* Shawn Mullen; DPSST No. 21394

Presented by Fire Certification Supervisor Brooke Bell-Uribe

DPSST received an application for certification for Shawn Mullen on December 23, 2024. During routine background and criminal history check on applications for certification, DPSST staff found that Mullen had a criminal conviction in their history. On February 7, 2024, Mullen plead guilty to Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 813.010(4) and Reckless Driving, ORS 811.140, both misdemeanor Class A's, in the state of Oregon. These convictions carry a sentence of which not more than one year of imprisonment may be imposed.

This case requires review by the Fire Policy Committee (FPC) because the conviction occurred within the last five years, and the conviction involves destruction of property.

### August 27, 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 <b>aggravating circumstances</b> , including the amount of alcohol consumed along with the high blood alcohol content, his age and tenure in the fire service should have lead him to have better judgment, his original plea of not guilty, the possibility of serious harm or death to himself or others, and that he is a leader in the fire service.			
The FPC identified the following <b>mitigating circumstances</b> , including Mullen's verbal mitigation, demonstrating an understanding the gravity and effect of his actions, wanting to be of service to his fellow firefighters and community, Mullen was cooperative with law enforcement, he made the call to 911, and behaved as appropriately as possible in this incident. Additionally, he has taken responsibility for his actions, the letters of support from peers and friends, and the wording of the written rule causing this case specifically to be shown to the FPC.			
The FPC came to consensus that staff captured the identified aggravating and mitigating circumstances of this case.			
Isaac McLennan moved that the FPC take NO ACTION against Mullen's application for certification.	Jack Carriger	8 ayes	Motion Passed Unanimously

## 5. \*Andrew Lawrie; DPSST No. 42329

Presented by Fire Certification Coordinator Brooke Bell-Urbe

DPSST received an application for certification for Andrew Lawrie on May 30, 2023. During their routine background and criminal history check on applications for certification, DPSST staff found that Lawrie had a criminal conviction in his history. On April 19, 2023, Lawrie plead guilty to and was convicted of Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree, Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 164.354, a Misdemeanor Class A, 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 property damage, this case requires review by the FPC.

### August 27, 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 <b>aggravating circumstances</b> , including the nature of the act and the lack of cooperation with law enforcement.			
The FPC identified the following <b>mitigating circumstances</b> , including Lawrie's commitment to changing his life, letters or support from his peers and co-workers, the lapse of time since the incident, he was not representing the fire service or public safety at the time of the incident, he has demonstrated consistent behavior post incident, and he is committed to volunteering for his community.			
The FPC came to consensus that staff captured the identified aggravating and mitigating circumstances of this case.			
Rose Douglass moved that the FPC take NO ACTION against Lawrie's application for certification.	Andre Lindauer	8 ayes	Motion Passed Unanimously

## 6. Administrative Action

Presented by Fire Certification Compliance Specialist Chantel Hawes

### Houck, Darron L. DPSST #11696-Discretionary Review

Houck was certified in NFPA Driver, NFPA Pumper Operator, NFPA Apparatus Equipped with an Aerial Device, NFPA Mobile Water Supply Apparatus, Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2), Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1), Engine Boss, Single Resource (ENGB), Crew Boss, Single Resource (CRWB), NFPA Fire Fighter I, NFPA Fire Fighter II, NPFA Fire Instructor I, NFPA Fire Instructor II, NFPA Fire Officer I, NFPA Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue Operations Level, and NFPA Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue Technician Level. On or around April 15, 2025, Houck was

convicted under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 167.057, Luring a Minor and ORS 162.415, Official Misconduct in the First Degree. As part of Houck's probation conditions, they are required to forfeit their firefighter's licenses (certifications).

On June 26, 2025, DPSST Staff sent a letter to Houck that included a form for voluntarily relinquishing certifications. Rather than going through the Fire Policy Committee (FPC) and Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (Board) revocation process, Houck signed and returned the form on June 29, 2025. As of July 16, 2025, all of Houck's fire fighter certifications have been surrendered.

**7. \*Purposed Rule Change for OAR 259-009-0005, OAR 259-009-0062, and OAR 259-009-0065**

Presented by Brooke Bell-Urbe and Jennifer Howald

**Background:**

On February 11, 2025, the NFPA Apparatus Task Force convened at DPSST to review and discuss the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1010: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Firefighters, *2024 Edition*, specifically focusing on Apparatus- Driver/Operator content (Chapters 4 and 11–17). Currently, the Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) related to NFPA Apparatus-Driver/Operator qualifications references the 2017 Edition of the NFPA 1002 standard.

To consolidate and simplify its professional qualification standards, the NFPA has combined several standards into the new NFPA 1010 standard. This updated standard now encompasses NFPA Firefighter (NFPA 1001), NFPA Apparatus-Driver/Operator (NFPA 1002), NFPA Airport Firefighter (NFPA 1003) and NFPA Marine Firefighting for Land Based Fire Fighters (NFPA 1005). To ensure each certification area receives the attention it deserves during the review process, DPSST staff chose to establish separate task forces for each topic. The goal of the NFPA Apparatus Task Force was to evaluate the currently adopted standard and compare it to the 2024 Edition of NFPA 1010.

As a result of their work, the Task Force emphasized the importance of Oregon's fire service maintaining alignment with the most current NFPA standards and recommended adopting the 2024 Edition of NFPA 1010 (Chapters 4 and 11–17) into OAR.

**Recommendations:**

The Task Force made the determination to adopt the 2024 Edition of NFPA 1010 (Chapters 4,11-17) into OAR to maintain consistency with other standards and to uphold the professionalism of having national standards for the Oregon fire service to attain and maintain.

The Task Force discussion for the updated standard focused on the transition from NFPA 1002 to NFPA 1010, which includes the introduction of a new chapter for General Requirements

(Chapter 4). This chapter applies to all certification levels outlined in NFPA 1010 and sets foundational expectations.

There was discussion related to General Requirements section 4.4.1.10, which states that personnel must meet traffic incident management requirements as outlined in NFPA 1091 or an equivalent program determined by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). Staff will include relevant class information in the guide to assist with compliance.

There was additional discussion about section 4.5\* (see Annex A.4.5), emphasizing the need for personnel to remain current in their knowledge and skills. It recommends annual continuing education or skills demonstrations. The Task Force determined that, at this time, it is most appropriate for the AHJs to determine their own competency demonstration process internally. The Task Force also discussed the potential impact of this recommendation on Oregon's current biennial Maintenance Re-Certification cycle and concluded that no changes would be required unless the standard language is updated from a suggestion ("should") to a mandate ("shall").

Minimal changes were made to the NFPA Apparatus-Driver/Operator series, with most revisions being editorial or semantical in nature. However, new Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) were added in several chapters, expanding the scope of certification. Chapter 15 (NFPA Apparatus – Wildland Fire Suppression) and Chapter 16 (Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting) now include JPRs related to Communications, Preventive Maintenance, and Driving. Similarly, Chapter 17 (Apparatus – Mobile Water Supply) added JPRs for Communications and Preventive Maintenance. The Task Force acknowledged that the removal of the Communications JPR from Chapter 11 (Driver/Operator) could impact agencies with job descriptions that specifically list these responsibilities for single-role driver positions.

Certification prerequisites remain unchanged under the updated standard. However, clarification will be added to the guide to support AHJs who choose to certify individuals in NFPA Apparatus – Wildland Fire Suppression and Mobile Water Supply through task book completion alone, provided the individual already holds certification in NFPA Apparatus – Pumper or an equivalent level. This flexibility remains at the discretion of the AHJ and will be explained in the Guide to Certification.

Changes to the applications for certification, task books and Guide to Certification are outlined in the following sections.

The remainder of the changes to the 2024 standard are semantical and would not have a major effect on the Oregon fire service.

- *Jack Carriger moved to recommend that the Board adopt the recommendations provided by the NFPA Firefighter Task Force. Claire McGrew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
- *The FPC came to consensus to affirm the fiscal impact statement presented by staff.*
- *Rose Douglass moved to recommend the board approve the filing of proposed rule changes for OAR 259-009-0005, OAR 259-009-0062, and OAR 259-009-0065. Jack Carriger seconded the*

*motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**8. \*Purposed Rule Change for OAR 259-009-0005, OAR 259-009-0062, and OAR 259-009-0065 - Housekeeping**

Presented by Brooke Bell-Urbe and Jennifer Howald

**Recommendations:**

The Department recommends the following proposed rule changes as a housekeeping update to remove outdated rules for certifications that are no longer issued.

The Department engages with the Oregon fire service regularly to ensure that the standards for certification remain relevant and sustainable for fire service professionals. Since 2017, the following certifications have been phased out.

*Fire Ground Leader*

Effective December 31, 2019, DPSST stopped issuing new certifications and all issued certifications became inactive on December 31, 2022.

*Hazardous Materials Responder (DPSST P-12 1/96)*

The history for this certification reference is unknown. It may have been maintained as the historical recognition of the certification in place prior to the use of NFPA 472 for hazardous materials certifications (2009-2018). As referenced below NFPA 472 was replaced by NFPA 1072 in 2018.

*NFPA 472 certifications for Hazardous Materials Safety Officer, Tank Car Specialty, Cargo Tank Specialty, Intermodal Tank Specialty, and Marine Tank Vessel Specialty*

NFPA 472 was replaced by NFPA 1072 as the standard used for hazardous materials certifications. Effective February 1, 2018, DPSST stopped issuing new certifications and all issued certifications became inactive on December 31, 2018.

*Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Certifications for Logistics Manager, Rescue Company Officer, Rescue Team Manager, Safety Officer, Search Company Officer, Search Team Manager, and Task Force Leader*

Effective July 1, 2017, DPSST stopped issuing new certifications and all issued certifications became inactive on December 31, 2018. When the Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce met in 2017, they requested that these certifications be “archived” for a period but remain available for reconsideration in the future. Readopting these certifications in the future will require a new review of this Oregon-specific standard by a certification Task Force, approval by the Fire Policy Committee and the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training, and administrative rule changes to support readoption of the certifications. Removing these inactive certifications from the rule at this time does not prevent them from being readopted in the future. Removing these inactive certifications from the rule does not affect the remaining four US&R certifications.

- *Isaac McLennan moved to recommend the board approve the proposed rule changes as a housekeeping update for OAR 259-009-0005, OAR 259-009-0062, and OAR 259-009-0065. Rose Douglass seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
- *The FPC came to consensus to affirm the fiscal impact statement presented by staff.*

**9. \*Brian R. Wolgamott– Fire Planner, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Wall Nomination**

Presented by Fire Certification Coordinator Brooke Bell-Urbe

United States Fish and Wildlife Service Fire Planner Brian Wolgamott passed away after a two-year battle with cancer on November 28, 2024. Wolgamott’s cancer was designated as occupational by The United States Department of Labor Office of Workers’ Compensation Program.

- *Claire McGrew moved that the committee approve adding Brian R. Wolgamott to the Oregon Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Wall. Jack Carriger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**10. Agency Updates**

Presented by DPSST Director Phil Castle

- The revenue forecast was released and shows a \$888 million reduction in the General Fund Revenue for Oregon. Oregon is also predicted a \$15 billion shortfall over the next three biennium’s based on federal fund reductions but as of now there are no changes to DPSST’s budget or funding.
- DPSST is preparing for two major system upgrades—our Case Management System and our Learning Management System—both of which will be funded through bond support.
- DPSST is prioritizing the update of our Learning Management System, recognizing its significant impact on firefighters and other public safety professionals across the state. The implementation of this project is expected to take approximately two years. Additionally, with the upcoming upgrade to our Case Management System, we aim to enhance our ability to provide meaningful data from cases and items presented in all Committee Meetings.
- DPSST’s Leadership Team is now fully staffed and operating exceptionally well.
- A fifth Basic Academy class is being added in October, which may impact Fire Training activities on the DPSST campus.

Presented by Fire Program Manager Kayla Ballrot

- The Fire Program’s goal is to open Winter Fire Registration on September 2, 2025.
- This year’s Winter Fire School will feature nine two-day National Fire Academy classes, along with a Vehicle Extrication course and the newly introduced Support Person Academy.
- We have several upcoming two- and six-day National Fire Academy classes scheduled for

this fall and into early next year. Firefighters can register for these courses through the DPSST Fire Program Eventbrite page

- The Five Corners Plan training continues to see strong success across the state, with multiple Active Threat and Off-Road Vehicle Operator classes completed—and more on the way. Fire and Law Enforcement teams are actively working to expand joint training opportunities to additional regions in Oregon in the near future.
- We've recently received a new Roof Vent Prop and are making steady progress toward acquiring the two F.L.A.G. props and the Vehicle Fire prop funded through the FY 2023 AFG Grant. At this time, there are no updates regarding the FY 2024 AFG Grant.
- An upcoming Airport Firefighter Taskforce is being organized, and we're currently seeking firefighters who are interested in serving on this team.
- We're pleased to welcome Chantel Hawes to our team as our new Compliance Specialist. She will be presenting at future FPC meetings.

**11. Next Fire Policy Committee Meeting – November 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**

Meeting is adjourned at 10:40 a.m.