

Fire Policy Committee Minutes

November 16, 2016

The Fire Policy Committee of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training held a regular meeting on, November 16, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Boardroom at the Oregon Public Safety Academy located at 4190 Aumsville Hwy SE, Salem, Oregon. For more information please contact Mona Riesterer 378-2431

Committee Members:

Greg Marlar, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, Chair
Dave Jones, Oregon Fire District Directors Association, Vice-Chair
Jeff Hamilton, Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
Tom Williams representing Chief Mike Myers, Portland Fire & Rescue
Bill Klein, Community College Fire Programs
James Oeder, Oregon Vol. Fire Fighters Association
John Rinier, Oregon Fire Marshals Association (teleconference)
Jim Walker, Oregon State Fire Marshal
Jim Whelan, Oregon Fire Instructors Association

Absent Members:

Patricia Connolly, Non-Management Fire Fighter
Ron Graham, Forest Protection Agencies

DPSST Guests and Staff:

Eriks Gabliks, Director
Linsay Hale, Professional Standards Division Director
Julie Olsen-Fink, Fire Certification Supervisor
Mona Riesterer, Professional Standards Assistant
Jennifer Howald, Rules Coordinator
Kayla Ballrot, Compliance Specialist
Tina Diehl, Fire Certification Specialist
Dave Beatty, Traffic Safety Coordinator



1. *Minutes

Approve August 24, 2016 meeting minutes

Jim Walker moved that the committee approve the minutes of the August 24, 2016 Fire Policy Committee meeting. James Oeder seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

To see a complete record of the Fire Policy Committee minutes, please go to:
<http://www.oregon.gov/dpsst/BD/pages/firepolicycommitteemeetingminutes.aspx>

2. ***Revocation Case Review for Geanna Harrison DPSST #F29821-Warrenton Fire Dept/Clatsop County**

Presented by Kayla Ballrot (Item #3 on the agenda)

Kayla presented the Fire Policy Committee with a short power point on the amendments to the fire service certification denial/revocation rules.

The case presented to the Fire Policy Committee is whether Harrison's conduct surrounding her arrest and conviction for Fourth Degree Assault, ORS 163.160, should result in the revocation of her NFPA Operations Level Responder and Wildland Interface Fire Fighter certifications and denial of her application for NFPA Fire Fighter I certification for failure to meet the minimum standards for a Fire Service Professional.

Dave Jones moved that the Fire Policy Committee adopts the staff report as the record upon which its recommendations are based. Jim Whelan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

By discussion and consensus, the committee determined that Geanna Harrison's behavior did violate the core value of **Honesty**, as defined in Administrative Rule based on Harrison was not straight forward with investigators and denied having contact with the victim on June 11, 2014. After being confronted with the evidence Harrison admitted to physically assaulting her ex-boyfriend.

Jim Whelan moved that the Fire Policy committee find that the Fire Policy Committee find that Harrison's violation of the core value of **Honesty**, when considered alone, does rise to the level to warrant revocation of Harrison's certification and denial of her application for certification. John Rainer seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-7 with Bill Klein, Jim Walker, Greg Marlan, Dave Jones, Tom Williams, Jeff Hamilton and James Oeder voting nay.

By discussion and consensus, the committee determined that Geanna Harrison's behavior does not violate the core value of **Professionalism** as defined in the Administrative Rule.

By discussion and consensus, the committee determined that Geanna Harrison' behavior did violate the core value of **Justice** as defined in the Administrative Rule based on the conviction of Fourth Degree Assault.

Jeff Hamilton moved that the Fire Policy Committee find that Harrison's violation of the the core value **Justice**, when considered alone, does not rise to the level to warrant revocation of Harrison's certifications and denial of her application for certification. Jim Walker opposed. The vote carried 8-1, with Jim Walker voting nay.

By discussion and consensus, the committee determined that Geanna Harrison's behavior did involve **Mitigating Circumstances** by there was not being any previous history of similar behavior prior to the current incident. Harrison was being stalked and harassed by the individual. She has complied and done everything the courts have asked of her. She proves to be a good standing member in her department and she has reached out to DPSST in regards to her certifications showing that she is concerned about the results of her certifications. The mitigating letter shows that she is a valuable person and has worked to move on from this incident.

By discussion and consensus, the committee determined that Geanna Harrison's behavior did not involve any Aggravating Circumstances.

After considering the totality of the case, Jim Oeder moved that the committee recommends to the Board that Geanna Harrison's certifications **not be revoked** and the application for certification **not be denied**. Jeff Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ***Revocation Case Review for Lyndon Johnson DPSST #F33221 – Evans Valley Fire District #6**
Presented by Kayla Ballrot (Item #4 on the agenda)

The case presented to the Fire Policy Committee is Johnson's conduct in his arrests and subsequent convictions of Assault in the Fourth Degree, which is a disqualifying crime under OAR 259-009-0070(4)(c), and whether his NFPA Fire Fighter I should be revoked as a result.

Jim Walker moved that the Fire Policy Committee adopts the staff report as the record upon which its recommendations are based. Dave Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

By discussion and consensus, the committee determined that Johnson's conduct did not violate the core value of **Honesty** as defined in the Administrative Rule.

By discussion and consensus, the committee determined that Johnson's conduct did not violate the core value of **Professionalism** as defined in the Administrative Rule.

By discussion and consensus, the committee determined that Johnson's conduct does violate the core value of **Justice** as defined in the Administrative Rule per OAR 259-009-0070(4)(c) by being convicted of the crime of Assault in the Fourth Degree.

Jim Walker moved that the Fire Policy Committee find that Johnson's behavior did violate the core value of **Justice**, when considered alone, rises to the level to warrant revocation of Johnson's certification. Tom Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

By discussion and consensus, the committee determined that Johnson's behavior did involve **Aggravating Circumstances** by showing the same pattern of behavior in 2010 and 2011. Johnson did not provide any mitigating letter to the policy committee.

By discussion and consensus, the committee determined that Johnson's behavior did not involve any **Mitigating Circumstances**.

After considering the totality of the case, Tom Williams moved that the Committee recommends to the Board that Johnson's certification be **revoked**. Brian Oeder seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim Walker moved that the committee recommends to the Board that Lyndon Johnson's ineligibility to reapply for certification for a period of twenty four months. John Rinier seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-1, with Jim Whelan voting nay.

4. ***Revocation Case Review for Christian Fritz DPSST #F28303 – Sandy RFPD #72**

Presented by Kayla Ballrot (Item #2 on the agenda)

The case presented to the Fire Policy Committee is whether Fritz's conduct resulting in his discharge from Sandy RFPD #72 meets the Board established Discharge for Cause standards resulting in the permanent revocation of his fire certification.

Dave Jones moved that the Fire Policy Committee adopts the staff report as the record upon which its recommendations are based. Jim Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

By discussion and consensus, the committee determined that Fritz's behavior did involve **Aggravating Circumstances** by failure to report to the conviction to his employer within the five day time frame. This is Fritz's second DUII. Fritz was dishonest in his story to the arresting officer of how much alcohol he had consumed.

By discussion and consensus, the committee determined that Fritz's behavior did involve **Mitigating Circumstances** by following through with his court appointed restitution and did admit to his initial arrest.

After considering the totality of the case, Dave Jones moved that the Committee recommends to the Board that Fritz's discharge meets the Board-established definition of a Discharge for Cause for certification purposes and must result in the revocation of his certifications. John Rinier seconded the motion. The motion was defeated with a 4 to 5 vote.

A second motion was introduced by Jim Walker to move that the Committee recommends to the Board that Fritz's discharge does not meet the Board-established definition of a Discharge for Cause. Jim Whelan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 to 4.

5. **Staff Update**

Julie Olsen-Fink Reported:

Winter Fire School is scheduled for February 2017. We have approximately over 300 firefighters scheduled to attend. The regular fire courses will be presented as well as Dallas Fire Department Vehicle extrication class will also be offered which is currently full. DPSST will be offering through DPSST Fire Coordinators a driving class which is full as well.

Staff has been working on maintenance certification. There are 89 recertification packs returned and approximately 211 fire departments that are quickly working on getting information sent in before the close date of December 31, 2016.

Courses and curriculum that have or will be expiring, staff has been working on updating the course numbers into the data system for 2017.

Urban Search and Rescue has met and discussed the value of retaining the program and will meet in December to further discuss the program.

Fire Training would like to let everyone to know that there is a program offered for the regional fire trainers and is available for teaching. The program ranges from flammable liquids and gas, to firefighter 1/skills, firefighter self-rescue and ventilation instructor 1. If you or anyone within your department is interested please contact Rich Daniel at DPSST Fire Training.

DPSST will be offering from January 9th-14th, 2017 the NFA Command and Control of Incident Operations class. Registration is now open for enrollment. Please contact Rebecca Carroll at DPSST if you are interested. Information is also on the website and Fire Bulletin.

Linsay Hale Reported:

We have three legislative concepts that were approved by the Governor's Office and will be moving forward through the process in 2017. The three concepts include:

- Addition of citizen members to the Policy Committees
- Clarification of DPSST's Fingerprint Authority
- Emergency suspension of armed private security providers who fail to complete their annual re-qualification

Linsay explained the strategic initiative of the Professional Standards Division for 2017 will be focused on better serving as a resource for our constituents by providing education about standards and certifications/licenses both in person and on the web. We are looking at a couple of different options for the upcoming year including hosting a Professional Standards Conference geared towards training officers, line level staff and providers who are required to interact with DPSST on a daily basis. We have been reviewing current processes to make them more efficient for our constituents.

Eriks Gabliks Reported:

Fire Policy Committee Membership

Eriks shared that he had a very good orientation meeting with Portland Fire & Rescue's new Chief, Mike Myers. Chief Myers is new to Oregon having come from Las Vegas. Chief Myers was very interested in the work of the Board and its Fire Policy Committee and pledged that he and Portland would be actively engaged and also ensures Portland has representatives on task forces. Chief Meyers indicated that if his schedule would not allow him to attend a Fire Policy Committee meeting, he would send Deputy Chief Tom Williams in his place. Eriks welcomed Chief Williams to the meeting and the Fire Policy Committee.

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)

Eriks shared that DPSST Fire Training Supervisor Rich Daniel was working on an AFG grant for FY 2016 replace the Mobile Fire Training Unit (MFTU). This unit is more than a dozen years old and has trained thousands of career and volunteer firefighters around the state. The MFTU is starting to show its age and wear and has become undependable resulting in classes being cancelled. The AFG will be submitted in a few weeks and scoring of grants is scheduled for January 2017. DPSST is going out to bid on fire training equipment purchased under a FY 2015 AFG grant that will provide two additional car fire training props, replace two Flammable Liquids and Gases (FLAG) trailers, and equip a wildland firefighter training cache trailer for 40 students.

Firefighter Cancer Support Network Training

The Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) has developed a one-day train the trainer class, "Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service." DPSST is working with FCSN, the Oregon Fire Instructors Association and the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association's Safety and Health Section to coordinate delivery of at least five train the trainer classes over the next six months. The first class is

scheduled for December 9, 2016 at TVF&R. DPSST is pleased to help make this training possible and has pledged additional funds if additional locations need to be added.

DPSST to Offer Micro-Grants to Regional Fire Training Associations

DPSST has received a \$20,000 grant from the FEMA to help support the regional delivery of National Fire Academy (NFA) classes around the state. DPSST has sent out an electronic notification to the regional fire instructors associations of the Oregon Fire Instructors Association making them aware of this opportunity. Grants will not be available until October 1 and training provided under these grant funds must be completed by June 1, 2017. DPSST is pleased to be able to receive this FEMA grant and values the regional partnerships through micro-grants which enable fire service personnel to receive NFA training at the local level.

Haz-Mat Awareness and Operations

In response to requests from the Office of State Fire Marshal and volunteer fire departments around the state, DPSST fire training coordinators will once again offer both Haz-Mat Awareness and Operations classes upon request. DPSST will also host a Haz-Mat Awareness and Operations Train the Trainer class offered by the IAFF after the first of the year at the Oregon Public Safety Academy.

High Threat Tactics, Techniques and Treatment" (HT4) Course

DPSST is pleased to provide another grant to the OFCA EMS Section to continue the work their Training Committee has been doing on active shooter response. The High Threat Tactics, Techniques and Treatment" (HT4) Course has been well received and is in demand around the state. Agencies interested in having this class delivered free of charge in their region should contact Chris Heppel, EMS Officer, Lane County Fire Authority by phone at 541-688-1770 or email at cheppel@lfr.org

Active Shooter Training Management

DPSST continues to address this important issue with public safety agencies around the state. This work group is developing a management training course (table top) and quick action guides that can be used to help manage an incident for the initial 72 hours. The work group lost some momentum over the summer and now hunting season but should finish its work in a few months. While the group has not met, members are completing tasks they have been assigned on specific areas of command.

Mental Health Crisis Intervention Response & Training

DPSST continues to facilitate a work group made up of law enforcement, fire, EMS, 9-1-1, and mental health professionals looking to develop a statewide framework for response to people in crisis. This work group has created two sub-groups, one to look at training needs of public safety personnel, the other to develop the framework. DPSST, thanks to funding from the Oregon Health Authority, is developing and delivering classes on this important issue around the state. The classes range from the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) class all the way to one-day topic specific classes for 9-1-1 personnel and first responders. More than three dozen classes are scheduled around the state with more to follow.

Oregon Task Force on School Safety

DPSST continues to participate in the legislatively created Task Force on School Safety which is coordinated by Superintendent Travis Hampton of the Oregon State and Chaired by Sheriff Craig Roberts of Clackamas County. Chief Ted Kunze serves as the fire service representative on the group. Task Force meeting minutes, rosters, and supporting documents can be found on the group's webpage at: <http://www.oregon.gov/osp/Pages/Task-Force-on-School-Safety.aspx>

On-Line Fire Instructor I Student Challenges

Eriks shared that DPSST Fire Training Supervisor Rich Daniel and his team were working to address concerns about the on-line Fire Instructor 1 class. The issue is not the class. The issue is that some students sign-up for the course and drop out never completing the work or students show up to the in-person class with limited knowledge of the on-line pre-work. This is a concern that many have in the on-line learning environment where students toggle through the work and quizzes only looking at the material briefly and not actually reading it. Eriks shared that DPSST fire training coordinators administer a test on the first morning of the in-person class and if the students do not pass they are sent home. No decision has been made and DPSST staff is working with fire instructors and course hosts to clarify expectations of students enrolling in the class.

6. Next Scheduled FPC meeting – February 22, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

** All documents reviewed and discussed in this meeting are subject to Oregon Public Records Law (ORS 192.410 to ORS 192.505). These documents can be requested by contacting DPSST at dpsst.records@state.or.us.*