

# Governor's Fire Service Policy Council

1:00 p.m. • Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Office of State Fire Marshal • Mt. Hood Conference Room

## Minutes

### Members

- Greg Keller, OFCA (Chair)
- Scott Mullen, OVFA (V Chr)
- Kelly Bach, SFFC
- Bob Borra, Insurance Providers
- Tammy Fitch, League of Oregon Cities
- Eric McMullen, OFMA
- Tad Pedersen, OSFM
- John Stein, General Public
- Bob Reeves, OFDDA

### Ex Officio

- Joe O'Leary, Governor's Office
- Cameron Smith, Gov's Office
- Tim McLain, OSP
- Eriks Gabliks, DPSST

### Executive Staff

- Randy Simpson, State Fire Marshal
- Laura Drager, Staff
- Sally Cravinho, Staff

### Visitors

- Jim Walker, OSFM
- John Caul, OSFM
- Genoa Ingram, OFDDA
- Anita Phillips, OSFM
- Claire McGrew, OSFM
- Mariana Ruiz-Temple

### **Welcome/Introductions**

Chair Greg Keller called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The roster was passed around for any changes. Chair Keller introduced Bob Reeves to the council. Reeves will be representing the Oregon Fire District Directors Association.

### **Changes to the agenda:**

None

### **Minutes:**

Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. **Eric McMullen made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Tad Pedersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Communications:**

None

### **Guest/Visitor Input**

None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Structural fire air monitoring task force update**

Jeff Miller, TVF&R, gave an update on the Air Monitoring Structure Fires study. A summary of the presentation was handed out. Recent tests were made over a period of 6 to 7 days in February by the specialized portable device – the UV Spectrometer. It detected some of the chemicals found in 36 structure fires before, during and after structure fires including the fire investigation phase. Data was documented on a form and kept in multiple files. Miller suggested changes based on exposures might need to be made in the current local, state and national standards when the study is completed.

The advisory panel for the study included representatives of OR OSHA, DEQ, a DHS toxicologist, and medical director. Miller's presentation showed a data graph detailing the chemicals found at fire scenes in their study. On infrequent occasions, fires had very dangerous chemicals such as mercury. Surprisingly, the 75' to 80' distance of the rehabilitation area was

questioned after the UV Spectrometer showed chemical exposure. A summary of the chemical effects found on the body after exposure to fires was shown in graph form.

Miller and the advisory panel recommend continued monitoring for all the chemicals found at fires during the study. One option for this to occur in the future would be to downsize the UV Spectrometer, use it with remote control, and forward the information via phone line. The safety of firefighters in the future is paramount and this information helps us realize the amount of exposure. Other options will also be explored.

Chair Keller thanked Miller and TVF&R for taking the time to do the study for the safety of our firefighters. Group discussion ensued and the following points were brought up.

- The fire apparatus used in the study was new and working properly (excess fumes from apparatus did not appear to taint the air).
- The study's data shows the monitoring equipment found chemicals we would not expect to find.
- The ultimate goal of this study is to use this practice for the safety of firefighters.
- All were concerned about chemicals they've been exposed to in the past.
- Grant funding would help the study continue.

A final recommendation from the task force should be available at the next quarterly GFSPC meeting.

#### **Fireworks law review update**

Anita Phillips, OSFM License & Permits manager, updated the council on the fireworks law review meetings. There will be another meeting in a couple of weeks. Things are proceeding well at this point and the legislative concept will be done.

Donna Disch, OSFM Sr. Policy manager, mentioned the challenges of the legislative concept, adding the law enforcement information to the concept. The challenge is pulling it completely apart and putting it back together in a framework that will make more sense. Separate what is legal and what is illegal. They have divided it into the following sections: administrative, manufacturing, storage, sales, transportation, use, and law enforcement. This will make it easier for the long term goal and to understand and comply.

#### **Carbon monoxide program update**

John Caul, OSFM Codes deputy, reported the second meeting went well and discussed the definitions. This seems to be a reoccurring thing. A draft was done and will be sent out. The next meeting will be March 18, 2010. A temporary rule might be put in to hit the July deadline date and then a permanent one will be done within the 6 month period.

#### **Oregon Sprinkler Task Force Charter**

Eric McMullen reviewed the new Oregon Sprinkler Task Force Charter included in the handout packet. The task force supports the current goals and activities of the statewide Oregon Sprinkler Coalition. They are asking the building codes division to leave the mandatory requirements for sprinklers in the code and to leave national code alone. The coalition is not being run through another state agency; it's a coalition of stakeholders.

**Action:** McMullen will give list of members to staff to update the charter.

Under Goals and Objectives 1) *Select a member of the council to participate as a member of the Oregon Sprinkler Coalition*, McMullen asked if anyone was interested in representing the GFSPC on the coalition. No one volunteered and Chair Keller asked the council to think about it and get back to him prior to the next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Fire Bridge Data Reporting System**

SFM Simpson introduced Claire McGrew, OSFM Data Manager. She reported the Fire Bridge program rolled out on January 1, 2010 and there have been some pretty good successes right up front. Training around the state took place in the last quarter of 2009. This entailed switching the fire departments over from the previous database.

McGrew presented the home page of the Fire Bridge via powerpoint describing the menus of each section and what they do. She explained how each department can use it for their own tracking. As of today, 2,006 people have been entered in the first month, which is a great improvement in getting data quicker and more accurately. Already 91 fire departments have entered information. Another benefit of this program is it allows the departments to know when they are 100% compliant. Looking at statewide mobilization resources, Fire Bridge allows better access and tracking resources.

Simpson mentioned that once data is entered into the system it is there forever. It will be great for the Governor's office to ask for specific data; we will be able to pull from this and have it quickly and accurately. It's a free program to the fire service and a huge tie-in for the entire fire service - 320 recognized fire agencies in Oregon. They will be able to track personnel and inspections, plus what equipment was used on each incident. The data is true and accurate. The system tells them if their reports are complete or not. The fire departments have to be compliant in order to receive their grants. Currently 62% are compliant.

The OSFM is working with DHS to report medical data response. The suggestion was made for the council to write a letter from the Chair to DHS. Group discussed options and decided to contact Oregon Fire Medical Administrators Association (OFMAA) to take this initiative forward as part of the EMS 2012 agenda.

**Action:** OSFM staff will contact OFMAA.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Review Council Charter**

Chair Keller referred to the charter last updated on February 2003.

#### **Mission statement:**

What's missing is the presentation. This group also looks at the health and safety of the fire service. The charter wording appears to focus more on the delivery end and not the internal end. To make it more balanced, we're looking at the people who provide the services to the citizens of Oregon.

Suggestions were made as follows: *To provide advice and guidance on issues of common interest, policies, and affairs that affect the fire protection and life of the ~~people~~ citizens and emergency responders of Oregon and those who protect it.*

**Goals:**

Under the 6<sup>th</sup> bullet a question was posed regarding the biennial report to the governor. Annually the OSFM forwards a copy of the OSFM annual report to the Governor's office, superintendent of State Police, and director of DPSST. It includes equipment and resources, as well as a report on the activities of the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council.

The 4<sup>th</sup> bullet brought a long discussion regarding how to measure if fire service personnel are "...adequately trained to appropriately, effectively, and safely prevent or suppress and investigate hostile fires..." Some parts of Oregon don't have adequate staffing. The local governing bodies make the decisions on their own policies and to decide the level service to provide. It's not this council's job to tell the Governor whether they are adequately staffed and trained or if they are not adequately staffed and trained.

Firefighters need to be trained and certified through DPSST to be eligible to mobilize under the Mobilization Plan (Mob Plan). This is going to be changed in the Mob Plan for 2010 so the Office of State Fire Marshal can respond adequately.

Suggestions for word changes in the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet: Substitute "*report*" for "*assessment*." Delete the word "*independent*."

**Objectives:**

Donna Disch summarized what was going on in 2003 to help the council understand the way the "Objectives" were written. Some of the issues were the FIPT, consistency issues and trying to get everyone on the same page. There were volunteer issues as well.

SFM Simpson suggested Chair Keller, Cameron Smith, and he meet with Chief Jeff Johnson who was the chair of the GFSPC in 2003 to discuss the history and get an understanding of why these objectives and goals were established.

**Action:** Staff will schedule a meeting with Keller, Johnson, Smith, and Simpson.

**Customers/Beneficiaries:**

Suggestion was made to add a State Department of Human Services EMS representative as an ex officio member of the council as they should be one of the stakeholders.

**REPORTS****State Budget overview**

Cameron Smith talked about the consequences of the tax measures if they pass or fail. Regardless of how it turns out we'll have to look at creative ways to increase revenue. What are the long term goals to fill in the holes come the February session? There is a lot of uncertainty out there.

**February Special Session**

Genoa Ingram commented on upcoming bills that may affect the fire service. The legislators have a very ambitious schedule and want to get through the session in a timely manner. Ingram and Disch will both be tracking bills and will collaborate during the session.

**Council Member Reports**

Disch made additional comments regarding our legislative future with a hand-out. One of the bills is the sprinkler design bill which goes over who can design and install them.

SFM Simpson reminded the council of the situation on the Cardlock bill. Anything left over will be going into a rainy day fund.

Eriks Gabliks reported on DPSST activities/training.

- Code 3 Driver Task Force
- Driver Training & Seat Belts
- Skid Truck Training Program: Trained Portland Fire & Rescue which paid off in the last snow storm we had
- IMT Task Force which incorporated Dept. of Transportation
- Interface Standards I-5 corridor vs Central Oregon needs
- Trained over 10,000 firefighters this year

Chair Keller referred to the four future meeting dates on the agenda, asking if anyone had any conflicts with any of these dates. All dates held except April 27<sup>th</sup> which changed to April 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Next meeting dates: April 20, 2010, July 27, 2010, October 26, 2010, January 25, 2011

Meeting location: Office of State Fire Marshal