

Fire and Life Safety Competency Recognition Advisory Committee Minutes

10:00 AM ♦ Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Office of State Fire Marshal/Cache Mt Room

Members Present

Stacy Warner, Assistant Chief Deputy
Don Baker, North Lincoln F&R District #4
Al Gerard, Fire Marshal, Eugene & Springfield
Hugh Holden, Jackson County Fire District #3 (via phone)
Greg Keller, Fire Chief, Retired

Representation

Office of State Fire Marshal
Non-exempt Jurisdictions
Exempt Jurisdictions
Exempt Jurisdictions
Oregon Fire Chiefs Assoc / GFSPC

Others

Anita Horsley, Training & Development Specialist II
Connie Dalke, staff support

Office of State Fire Marshal
Office of State Fire Marshal

Members Absent

Mark Ayers, Assistant Training Division Director
Tom Bohm, Hermiston Fire & EMS
Gene Durnin, NW Automatic Fire Alarm Assoc
Debbie McDermott, Deputy Fire Marshal, McMinnville FD

DPSST
Non-exempt Jurisdictions
Industry
Oregon Fire Marshals Assoc

Welcome

Stacy Warner called the meeting to order at 10:14 AM. Introductions were made; this was the first meeting for Don Baker (welcome).

Approval of Minutes from July 13, 2010

Greg Keller moved to accept the minutes as written. Al Gerard seconded. All approved.

Implementation of Changes in Curriculum Elements

Competency recognition is based on training, technical certification, and experience. For the training piece, it was agreed early on, to establish a core curriculum that consists of Fire and Life Safety Awareness I and II, Basic Building Code, Basic Mechanical Code, and Oregon Fire Code Amendments.

The Basic Building and Basic Mechanical Code courses took awhile to develop. In the interim, the requirements could be satisfied by equivalencies.

Now that the Basic Building Code course is available on-line, and the Basic Mechanical Code course is available on disk, it's time to review the equivalencies. At the July meeting, the Committee recommended changes to the equivalencies. They also recommended that an Oregon Fire Code Amendments class should be required for maintenance as well. The State Fire Marshal has approved the recommendations.

Ideally, people should take the OSFM Basic Building Code and Basic Mechanical Code courses (in lieu of substituting an equivalency).

- > Basic Building Code Equivalency Changes
From ICC Fire Plans Examiner, or ICC Building Plans Examiner, or college course
To ICC Fire Plans Examiner plus Oregon Inspector Certificate, or ICC Building Plans Examiner plus Oregon Inspector Certificate, or college course

- > Basic Mechanical Code Equivalency Changes
From ICC Commercial Mechanical Inspector or college course
To ICC Commercial Mechanical Inspector plus Oregon Inspector Certificate, or college course

- > Oregon Fire Code Amendments Class Requirement For Maintenance
Add a new requirement to take an Oregon Fire Code Amendments class once every code cycle (three years) in order to maintain certification at the level of Fire and Life Safety Specialist I, Fire and Life Safety Specialist II, or Fire Marshal

Implementation

Stacy asked the Committee to agree on an implementation date for the code class requirement.

Discussion

OFMA and OSFM are making a big push for 1 to 4 Oregon Fire Code Amendments classes a year. Two classes were held before the new code went into effect. OSFM is conducting one in November, and Eric McMullen is teaching one in Clackamas in January.

OSFM will film their November class and, eventually, put it on-line in iLearn.

Amendments to the model codes (fire, building, mechanical) will be adopted in October 2012, and will take effect in April 2013. We're developing curriculum simultaneously as we craft language for the amendments.

Recommendation

Hugh Holden moved to require completion of a Fire Code Amendments class within the first year of the code cycle, beginning with the 2013 code cycle (that is, a person must take an amendments class sometime between April 2013 to April 2014 in order to maintain their recognition certificate). Al Gerard seconded. All approved.

Stacy will take the recommendation to Randy Simpson for approval.

OSFM will do a media blitz - announce the requirement in the *Gated Wye* and *Hot Spots* soon, and again in 6 months.

Recognition Brochures

Anita will update the program brochures to include information about the new equivalencies and requirement.

Tracking the Student Record

People who complete an Oregon Fire Code Amendments class will not need to submit anything to OSFM, to show that their certificate has been maintained. OSFM will take care of it internally. The class comes from us (either classroom or on-line), so we'll get their course completion information from the instructor's roster or from iLearn.

OSFM will do the same thing with the maintenance piece. The three maintenance requirements are: current ICC Inspector certification, current DPSST Inspector maintenance, and completion of an amendments class. OSFM will gather that information and update our database (student records).

Certificate Renewals

OSFM just did their first round of "renewals." These are the earliest participants in the program. Connie handed out a spreadsheet (a single page) showing the person's name, their recognition level, and the new "good through" date of their certificate. Anita explained that the expiration date of the recognition certificate has been synched with their ICC Inspector certificate.

Recommendation To Publish the Recognition Roster

OSFM has been consistent in providing statistics on the program. In addition to getting those numbers, the Committee liked the idea of a report that shows names and certificate information.

They recommended that OSFM publish it, before we announce the requirement to take a code amendments class.

Stacy said we'll run a complete report and post it to our web site.

Committee Member Representing Industry

Gene Durnin's term expired at the end of October, so we're looking for an industry representative for the Committee. The recognition program is a collaborative effort on the part of the fire service, building officials, and the industry. Each of those interests needs a voice.

New Business

Anita asked if OSFM should survey the fire service to get their input about the recognition program. The Committee recommended doing a report instead; something to show the breadth of the effectiveness of the program. The report could include an excerpt from the OSFM Annual Report.

Adjourn and Next Meeting

The Committee agreed to meet again on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 1:00 at OSFM.

Stacy adjourned the meeting at 11:28 AM.