

**NEVADA STATE  
FIRE SERVICE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMITTEE/BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES  
JOINT MEETING  
June 9, 2011 – 1:00 p.m.  
Virginia City High School  
92 R Street, Science Room, #28  
Virginia City, NV 89440**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Board of Fire Services**

**Members**

**Present:**

Bertral Washington - Chair of Board of Fire Services, Clark County Fire Department  
Dale Smith - Architect, Smith Design Group  
Lynn Nielson - Engineer, City of Henderson  
Pete Anderson - State Forester, Nevada Division of Forestry  
Elaine Pace - Training Officer, East Fork Fire-Fish Springs Volunteer Fire Department  
Michael Brown - Fire Chief, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District  
James Wright – Secretary to the Board of Fire Services, Nevada Fire Marshal Division  
Samantha Ladich - Deputy Attorney General

**Members**

**Absent:**

**Fire Service Standards and Training Committee (FSSTC)**

**Members**

**Present:**

David Fogerson – Chair of FSSTC), Deputy Chief Trainer, East Fork Fire & Paramedic District  
Peter Mulvihill - Assistant Fire Marshal, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District  
Lenny Mayorga – Battalion Chief, North Las Vegas Fire Department  
Gary Stevenson – Training Officer, Clark County Fire Department  
Alan Olsen - Training Officer, Winnemucca Volunteer Fire Department  
Samantha Ladich - Deputy Attorney General  
Bertral Washington - Chair of Board of Fire Services, Clark County Fire Department  
James Wright – Secretary to the Board of Fire Services, Nevada Fire Marshal Division

**Members**

**Absent:**

**Also present:**

Denesa Johnston – Administrative Assistant, Nevada State Fire Marshal Division  
Dennis Pinkerton – Bureau Chief, Nevada State Fire Marshal Division  
William Johnston, Chair, Carlin Volunteer Fire Department  
David LeBaron – Public Safety Coordinator, Truckee Meadows Community College  
Pat Irwin – Program Manager, State EMS, SON/LVFD  
Lori DeGristina – State Fire Marshal  
Wayne Eder - Director, UNR-GSA  
Linda Bingaman - Program Officer/Asst. Chief, UNR-FSA/Carlin VFD  
Gary Hames - Fire Chief, Storey County Fire Department  
Mike Heideman - Executive Director, Las Vegas Fire Department  
Chris Magenheimer - BC, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District  
Denise Baclawski - Executive Director, UNR Fire Science Academy  
Ross Rivera - Fire Chief, Ely Fire  
David Cleveland - Fire Chief, North Lyon Fire  
Mike Dzyak - Lieutenant, State Fire Marshal  
Arnold Wilson - Winnemucca City Fire Department  
Morris Freeland – Virginia City

**Call to Order** – Bertral Washington, Chairperson, Board of Fire Services and Dave Fogerson, Chairperson, Fire Service Standards and Training Committee called the meeting to order.

II. **Verification of Notice of Compliance with Open Meeting Law** – Compliance by the Board of Fire Services and Fire Service Standards and Training Committee was verified.

I. **Roll Call and Introductions** – Roll was called for the Board of Fire Services and a quorum of eight members present was determined. Roll was called for the Fire Service Standards and Training Committee and a quorum of eight members was determined.

IV. **Approval of December 7, 2010 minutes for Board of Fire Services and Fire Service Standards and Training Committee**

**Michael Brown moved to approve the December 7, 2010 Board of Fire Services meeting minutes as presented. Lynn Nielson seconded the Motion. Motion carried.**

**Pete Mulvihill moved to approve the December 7, 2010 Fire Service Standards and Training Committee meeting minutes as presented. Lenny Mayorga seconded the Motion. Motion carried.**

V. **Board of Fire Services: Update on the Tahoe Regional Interoperability Partnership (TRIP) Communication Program** – Chief Magenheimer updated those present on the steps that have been taken to improve communication within the region as a result of the issues encountered during the Angora Fire event. He reported that per an agreement between Chief Brown and Chief Haley, Washoe County Sheriff, he has been assigned to the Washoe County Sheriff's office to work on regional communications. The counties surrounding Nevada were reviewed, and it was believed that a Joint Powers Agreement might be beneficial to address some issues. Washoe County did not agree to participate.

Chief Magenheimer:

- Reviewed the four core radio systems in Nevada, and noted the obstacles in trying to tie these in with the areas that are still working with the Legacy VHS systems. Some funding was available through the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, and it will be focused on the TRIP Program. There is sufficient funding to tie dispatch centers in eight counties that are still using VHS back into the four 800 core radio systems. Dispatch centers in these counties were reviewed to see which ones have the ability through fiber and microwave equipment to enable them to accomplish this tie-in. Douglas, Storey, Lyon and Carson Counties were the focus, and the dispatch centers going out to Elko (Pershing, Lander, Humboldt and Elko) will also be picked up. IP switches will be installed in the dispatch centers to link them together as well as linking these VHS systems into the 800 core system.
- Reported that the State of Oregon has just awarded a contract for an 800 radio system, and they have been contacted to determine if it would be feasible to link their system into Washoe County's system. Also, work is being done with Plumas County through some funding they have to determine if they can be linked in with Washoe County's system. Studies are underway with the tribal entities to see how they could be linked together. To begin with, they will be focusing on the fourteen most rural entities.
- Noted that a section of the 700 radio block was eliminated for digital television. President Obama has stated that he would like that to become a public safety broadband radio system. Chief Magenheimer pointed out that this is a very ambitious and expensive project, and the State of Nevada has applied for a waiver. This is tied up at the present time awaiting the FCC's determination of what is public safety and what is not.
- Reported that an Interoperability Communications Fog Manual is being developed. Everyone's frequencies would be placed in the manual, and the goal is to format this information similar to a FOG Manual. This would allow you to see the dispatch centers and frequencies while you are traveling. Chief Brown commented that the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Nevada Affiliate received grant funding towards the creation of the manual through partnerships with other public safety agencies. The template used by the State of California will be used as it is a proven system. He commented on the successes that are being seen in linking the various systems together.

Chief Washington requested an update on any work being done in the area of the narrow banding. Chief Magenheimer replied that this is another issue. The work that he has reported on just allows Legacy systems to tie in, but those systems will still have to address their narrow banding issues on an agency-by-agency basis in order to meet the nationwide requirement that begins in January 1, 2013. Chief Washington stated that he would like the record to reflect that the Board of Fire Services will do all it can to make sure that all of the affected agencies statewide are aware of the requirement and the deadline for adherence to it since non-compliance will affect the agency's ability to communicate. Also, fines will be imposed if the agency is non-compliant.

VI. **Fire Service Standards & Training Committee:**  
**Board of Fire Services:**

**Discuss Bills or Bill Drafts from the 2011 Legislature affecting the Nevada State Fire Marshal Division - Chief Wright** commented that it was difficult to keep track of the various bills during the legislative session. He reported that to the best of his knowledge, the following was the status of the various bills being tracked. He pointed out that it won't be known for sure what bills were passed until the Governor signs them. Chief Wright reviewed the following legislation:

- AB 30: authorization for emergency lighting for uniformed response divisions within the department – passed.
- AB 304: minors being allowed to perform with fire. Bill was amended to allow 18-year-olds as an apprentice and becoming fully approved at 21 to perform at a permitted event – passed.
- AB 526: dealt with the Division's requirement to inspect state buildings on an annual basis. He noted this can no longer be done due to staff reductions. Buildings can now be prioritized for inspection based on occupancy hazard, e.g. where people sleep or are confined will have a higher priority – passed.
- SB 439: dealt with combining the Fire Services Board and the Fire Service Standards & Training Committee. The Assembly had issues with it as they believed the proposal was to develop a new Board. They also expressed concerns regarding the membership of the Board. Bill amended to add a firefighter position as member of the Board – passed.
- SB 40: dealt with coordination of Code adoption with Public Works. Bill was rewritten so that Public Works would take State Fire Marshal's regulatory authority away, and they could no longer develop their own regulations. Following discussions, this language was removed but some agencies will still have issues with various provisions contained in the bill – passed.
- Residential Fire Sprinkler Bill: following one hearing with many opposing views presented, the bill was pulled.
- Homeland Security: dealt with the composition of the Commission and items within NRS 239C – passed.

The following discussion was held:

- Lynn Nielson requested to know if SB 439, as it is currently written, is enacted would there be one or two boards. Chief Wright replied that there will be one board with ten voting members as agreed to, with the addition of one firefighter. Mr. Nielson requested to know if there are any timelines established. Chief Wright responded that it would be effective July 1, 2011, and the LCB is drafting changes. He pointed out that they will need to work closely with the Governor's appointment office. Pete Mulvihill pointed out that per Section 8, if a person is currently serving on the Board of Fire Services, those terms all end June 30, 2011.
- Elaine Pace requested that an e-mail be sent out with an update of the bills that were signed. Chief Wright replied that Denesa Johnston will send out an e-mail when the information is received.
- Chief Rivera requested to know if AB 526 would affect inspection of schools. Chief Wright replied that it would not, as it applied only to state owned buildings, and the locals have all of the School Districts except for Clark County.

Chief Washington recommended that on the next meeting agenda an item be placed regarding bill drafts for the next legislative session.

**VII. Board of Fire Services: Update on annual fire/safety prevention school inspections for Clark County School District –** Lynn Nielson commented that he requested that this item be placed on the agenda in order to have a general discussion and to ascertain the status of school inspections in Clark County. He provided a brief summary of the history of school inspections in Southern Nevada. He commented that he has received feedback from some personnel that have been deputized by the State Fire Marshal's Office to conduct the inspections on their behalf. They would like to know how the information they have been providing to the State Fire Marshal's office is working. Chief Wright reviewed the issues that arose when the interlocal agreements were cancelled, and the liability concerns that were encountered. He noted that he was authorized to appoint special deputies to conduct the inspections. This has been done in Henderson, Las Vegas and North Las Vegas. Any immediate life safety concerns that were identified would be dealt with by the deputized entity with notification to the State Fire Marshal's office. There have been a few instances where the deputized inspectors have stepped outside of that delegation, and the State Fire Marshal's office has had to work with them to work through the issue. The feedback received has been good. Discussions are underway with Chief Washington to bring Clark County on board with the process. Chief Washington commented that Clark County Fire Marshal now has a letter with the District Attorney's office to go ahead and get their schools taken care of by the June 30, 2011 deadline.

**VI. Fire Service Standards & Training Committee: Discussion regarding the University of Nevada, Reno, Fire Science Academy-Carlin application for Pro-Board Accreditation –** Wayne Eder, Director, UNR Fire Science Academy introduced himself. Using a slide presentation, he reviewed the Fire Science Academy and Pro-Board process. He noted that it is critical that the Academy receive third-party accreditation, and Pro-Board is becoming recognized in the private industry for industrial firefighters. The objective is to seek accreditation that is not in any way in conflict with the existing state fire training program. UNR, Reno wants to meet the goal of serving their clients while remaining competitive with their main competition, Texas A & M. At this time, a request has been submitted to Pro-Board for accreditation in two areas: Incipient Industrial Fire Brigade Member and Advanced Exterior Fire Brigade Member. He emphasized that this has nothing to do with the Firefighter I and Firefighter II Programs, but is a different standard. A site visit was conducted by Pro-Board, and

they had some minor recommendations which have already begun to be implemented. They will meet in July, 2011 to determine if UNR, Reno is a potential for their accreditation. There will be no financial impact to any state agencies from this action. In addition, the desire is to work with the State Fire Marshal's office with the IFSAC program to start delivering some classes in Elko County to complement services. The following discussion was held:

- Pete Mulvihill commented that he was trained as an industrial firefighter through UNR's program in the mid-80s. He expressed his support of their program, and requested that Mr. Eder briefly review why they weren't pursuing IFSAC accreditation. Mr. Eder replied that Pro-Board accreditation was a project that was on his desk when he assumed the position. One of the reasons for pursuing Pro-Board accreditation was to lessen the burden on the State Fire Marshal's office, and to move into the industrial fire arena. Mr. Mulvihill commented that details need to be worked out to ensure that there is a separation between the instructor and evaluator. He noted that the NFPA Standard is detailed as to how you can work your way up to an instructor, and UNR's program doesn't seem to be very far developed in this area as compared to what the state is already practicing on the municipal service side. Mr. Eder responded that since the package was submitted for this meeting, this has been revised to clearly demonstrate this separation based on Pro-Board's recommendations.
- Chief Fogerson stated that he would like to see a Memorandum of Understanding between the State Fire Marshal's office, the State Training Committee, and UNR that leads everyone forward and states that the Fire Marshal reserves the right to be the parent of Pro-Board. Mr. Eder replied that UNR would support this.
- Lori DeGristina asked the following questions regarding UNR's Pro-Board re-submittal:
  - \* Under "Classification of Entity", why was "State Entity" checked rather than "Interstate Non-Profit"? Mr. Eder replied that they were directed by Pro-Board to check "State Entity" since the Academy is part of the UNR system with the caveat that they are not the state certification system.
  - \* Who is going to be certifying the HazMat stuff? Mr. Eder replied that currently the HazMat is contracted out to an outside firm that does the HazMat training. He noted that his long term goal would be to utilize the IFSAC certifications and utilize that program.
- Chief Washington requested to know if the Academy utilizes grants, and Mr. Eder responded affirmatively. He reviewed the various funding avenues that are being pursued. He noted that current news in this area is contained in a monthly e-mail, and he will put anyone who wishes this information and furnishes him their e-mail address on the mailing list.

**Chairperson Fogerson moved to direct the State Fire Marshal's office to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that keeps the State Fire Marshal's office as the parent organization in the Pro-Board Certification Standard for the Board's review. Pete Mulvihill seconded the Motion. Motion carried.**

**VIII. Board of Fire Services: Election of new Board of Fire Services Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson** – It was noted that this will be a future agenda item when the terms of the current members of the Board of Fire Services end on June 30, 2011 and new members are put place, and the Fire Service Standards and Training Committee is disbanded .

**VII. Fire Service Standards & Training Committee:**

**IX. Board of Fire Services:**

**Discussion regarding activities taken place at the State Fire Marshal Division since December 7, 2010** – Chief Wright reported that the biggest issue that was dealt with was in the budget process where tough reductions had to be made. The office lost a Deputy Chief position and four Investigator positions, two of which were already vacant. The two Investigators were Ray Pagni, who is retiring, and Tom Martinez, who is going to the Training Officer II position. The position will be moving from Elko to Carson City. The position of Plans Examiner was maintained, and hiring for that position is underway. Chief Wright commented that he is looking at new ways of doing business, and this will be a lean organization. He pointed out that some investigative services will have to be scaled back given the current staffing levels. He stated that discussion was held with the legislature regarding the concept of merging the State Fire Marshal, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security services. The legislature did not choose to pursue this concept, but staff is looking at it as more of an internal departmental integration. Chief Wright expressed how proud he is of the State Fire Marshal office staff.

Lynn Neilson requested to know the status of the documents that were submitted to the LCB regarding the Code adoption process just prior to the start of the legislative session. Chief Wright replied that the Governor put a prohibition on all regulatory changes. He stated that the documents still exist, and about three weeks ago he had discussion with the Governor's Senior Advisor. Once things get settled down, the Advisor indicated they would support movement on that package under the public safety exemption.

Lynn Neilson requested that the most recent organizational chart be sent to members via e-mail.

Chief Washington commented that if Chief Wright decided to move an Inspector position to Southern Nevada, Clark County Fire could assist in housing for the position. Chief Wright thanked him for the offer.

- X. **Board of Fire Services: Schedule next Board of Fire Services meeting** – Lynn Neilson stated that he would like to schedule the next meeting date. Samantha Ladich commented that the people currently present may not be members of the next Board. She suggested that the secretary schedule the next meeting when the new members are known. Chief Washington agreed.

**Lynn Nielson moved that the secretary select a date in the Fall for the next meeting of the Board of Fire Services after the appointments are made.** Chief Washington requested to know from legal counsel if this motion was appropriate given the way the agenda item is posted on the agenda. Samantha Ladich stated that it is her opinion that the motion is appropriate based upon the circumstances. Chief Washington requested that the motion be repeated. **Lynn Nielson made a motion that the secretary select a date in the Fall for the next meeting of the Board of Fire Services after the appointments are made. Dale Smith seconded the Motion. Motion carried.**

- VIII. **Fire Service Standards & Training Committee: Election of a new Fire Service Standards & Training Committee Chairperson** – No action was taken on this item.

- IX. **Schedule next Fire Service Standards & Training Committee meeting** – No action on this item was taken.

- XI. **Board of Fire Services: Call for public comment** – the following Public Comment was offered:

- Lynn Neilson requested a future agenda item regarding an update on NFIRS data and what the state is doing with the collection of this data
- Pat Irwin requested that he be placed on a future agenda to furnish a state report from the EMS perspective and the ties to the State Fire Marshal's office
- Chief Washington thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as the Chair of the Board of Fire Services.

- XII. **Board of Fire Services: Adjournment** - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. **It was moved, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.**

- XI. **Fire Service Standards & Training Committee: Adjournment** – **It was moved, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.**