

Nevada State Board of Fire Services  
June 21, 2018, 2:30 PM  
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
White Pine County Library, 950 Campton Street, Ely, NV 89301  
Videoconference to:  
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
2621 Northgate Lane, Suite 12, Carson City, NV 89706  
Nevada Cooperative Extension  
8050 Paradise Road, Classroom D, Las Vegas, NV 89123

### **Approved Minutes of Board Meeting**

#### **Members Present:**

Eric Guevin  
Elaine Pace  
Kelli Baratti  
Kacey KC  
Bart Chambers, State Fire Marshal  
Nick Moriarty  
Terry Wilferd

#### **Members Not Present:**

Jeff Buchanan  
Domingo Cambeiro  
Bill Erlach  
David Fogerson

#### **Others Present**

Gwen Barrett, Executive Administrative Assistant, State Fire Marshal Division  
Katie Brady, Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office  
Dave Groneman, Assistant Chief, Central Lyon County Fire District  
Mike Heidemann, Executive Director, Nevada State Firefighters' Association  
Tom Martinez, Training Officer II, Training Unit, State Fire Marshal Division  
Dennis Pinkerton, Bureau Chief, Training Unit, State Fire Marshal Division

- 1. CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR (Non-Action Item)**
- 2. VERIFICATION OF NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW (Non-Action Item)**  
Chair Guevin confirmed with Gwen Barrett that the meeting is in compliance with Open Meeting Law.
- 3. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS (Non-Action Item)**  
Roll was taken and introductions made. A quorum was established.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Action Item)**

Eric Guevin stated former member, Jo Anne Hill, put electronic registrations up for FireShowsWest and encouraged members to check that out.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 19, 2018 MEETING MINUTES (Discussion/For Possible Action)**

Eric. Guevin asked members if there were any changes to be made to the January 19, 2018 meeting minutes. Elaine Pace said that she had some small grammatical changes and with those changes, she made a motion to approve the January minutes.

**Elaine Pace motioned to approve the January 19, 2018 meeting minutes as corrected. Kelli Baratti seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.**

**6. REPORT FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION TRAINING UNIT (Non-Action Item)**

A. Dennis Pinkerton provided an update on Pro Board Accreditation. He is three-quarters of the way through the application process and the Pro Board self-study part of the application was the only hang-up and he's going to see about getting samples so the Training Unit can see what is expected for the self-study. Eric Guevin asked about the projected timeline and Dennis Pinkerton responded that if they could get a good response from the Pro Board, it would probably be a month or two to get everything together. They will then ask Pro Board to do a cursory review of the accreditation and self-study, incorporate their suggestions, and then they would put it back to the general membership.

B. Tom Martinez introduced himself and gave an update on the progress of implementing the Fire Service Instructor Ethics Courses. He stated that in the last six months, in conjunction with Proctor Evaluator Recertification, approximately 230 people went through the Ethics Course. Additionally, the curriculum went online making it available 24/7. Tom Martinez and Richard McKnight found that many training academies were not getting the ethics portion into their basic academies, however many have jumped on board and said that they're definitely going to start pushing more ethics in their curriculums.

Elaine Pace asked how many proctor evaluators are there. Dennis. Pinkerton said there are 540. Tom Martinez reminded members that that figure includes some who might not be renewing, such as retirees and those who don't want to participate anymore and it is up to the agencies as to whom they send and estimates that they would add another 200 by the end of the year.

C. Tom Martinez gave an update on the Exterior Support Firefighter Program. He said the program is up and running and there are several agencies interested: Lovelock Fire Department and West Wendover are going through the process. Jackpot Fire, Central

Lyon and Mineral County are interested. If an agency goes through their Resource One account, there will be no charge, other than the \$40 cost of the manuals. There are no fees for certifications at this time. The Exterior Firefighter program and the Firefighter 1 transition program are also under this umbrella. The information is available on the web page and if necessary, minor changes might be made to the program to make it more accessible and workable for the agencies in the future.

Tom Martinez said he and Chief Groneman discussed the parameters of the Exterior Support Firefighter program. Under this certification, the trainees should not be entering any live fire scenes. Since part of the program includes exposure to the live fire training, they are seeing how they can move the 1403 (all the live fire stuff) into the Firefighter 1 transition training, keeping it exclusively to the exterior support function. If an agency has an Explorer Program, they will be able to issue a course completion certification. This is not an official certification; just a course completion. This way certification can be given to those under 18. Part of the Exterior Support Program is the Hazmat Awareness Certification requirement. Since you cannot issue that certification to anybody under 18, Fire Service will exempt or remove that portion, and candidates will not be eligible to enter the Firefighter 1 transition until they get the Hazmat Awareness. It is being opened up to the Explorers to pique interest and expose young adults to the work of the fire service. Chief Chambers asked Tom Martinez if Mesquite was still showing an interest in the program. Tom Martinez said he thought they would get started in late summer or fall. Chief Chambers added that we need ensure that candidates will not receive that training until they're of age to complete it or work their way to a Firefighter 1 certification. Tom Martinez agreed.

Elaine Pace asked if the SCBA was part of this, and if so, was it under the personal protective equipment section right now? Tom Martinez confirmed and said candidates can get the elements of the training, but not the live fire portion. Candidates cannot be part of live fire training until they go into the Firefighter 1 transition. He stated that safety is the #1 priority, especially in the Explorer Program. Elaine Pace inquired about trainees who get certified as an Exterior Firefighter and SCBA and they might go to an interior. Tom Martinez said Fire Safety was looking at moving that to the Firefighter 1 transition training and added that Chief Groneman also brought that issue up in their discussion. Tom. Martinez reminded members this is a work in progress and nothing has been put in place or anything been made available for agencies and thanked everyone for their input and encouraged members to continue with feedback going forward.

Mike Heidemann asked for some clarification on the live fire training; about putting candidates into the fire props if they do not have the certification, but they do have their physicals and have been fit tested. How is that going to affect the Department's ability to use the car props and things like that with people who don't hold the certificate? Dennis Pinkerton stated that in Nevada, you do not have to be certified to do anything fire related; it is up to the AHJ. In this program, the AHJ is required to sign off that the individual has had sufficient training to be in a live fire situation. This is a program to get people involved and give them an avenue to get their Firefighter 1.

- D. Dennis Pinkerton provided an update on the progress of the FireTrex system. He said the contract was signed and the funding has been approved. The code is written, and the website is there. The data conversion has been a difficult task with 18 years of Excel spreadsheets. There are other considerations: certificates need to be examined; should some things go in the system or not; is all the information accurate; etc.? The conversion is going forward, and it's within the timeframes of the contract. There are 12 filing cabinets' worth of miscellaneous data from 1978. A consideration to be made is to request individuals to submit their certifications to add them to that database. Another avenue would be to enlist/hire some help and start from the oldest first and go back and load into an Excel sheet or into the database program itself, which might cost the State a lot of money. The system should be ready to test in a couple of months. Dennis Pinkerton explained that part of this program is a train the trainer module; there will be web-based training to all the training officers in the state, and if necessary
- E. Dennis Pinkerton stated that people want a timeline on the Test Bank validation. He said, "Because the training material for the Hazmat Awareness and Operations program has changed, we're looking for help validating our awareness and operation Test Bank in late September, early October. Then the next one we would be validating would be our Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2 program, and Instructor would be after those. Elaine Pace asked if Fire Service was going to use the next version of Hazmat, and Mr. Pinkerton confirmed they would for all future classes.

**7. UPDATE ON THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI) (Non-Action Item)**

Chief Chambers gave the following update in regard to the WUI information: we have six gigabytes, if not more, of information that was provided from CAL FIRE and a nationally recognized training and educational curriculum. The Chief said he looks forward to cooperative training between the two states; it will be opened up to all agencies within the state of Nevada to send personnel over. They are looking at a two-day course and a potential exercise with the people going to CAL FIRE and tracking them through Ross or DEM as part of an exercise without impacting the fire season to get the system in place. Chief Chambers went on to say he spoke with CAL FIRE and the State Fire Marshal's Office in California about obtaining this information, changing the names in certain areas, finding out what's going to be conducive for Nevada's geographical area, and working with the State Forester in Nevada. They are looking at a 40-hour class to ensure those municipalities that would be going on strike teams or task force into areas of California to understand the finite elements of wildland firefighting. This is just for fire suppression personnel.

**8. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNING THEIR VARIOUS CONSTITUENT GROUPS THEY REPRESENT ON THE BOARD (Non-Action Item)**

**Kelly Baratti** reminded members that they still have a lot of the latest Emergency Response Guides, if anybody needs some. Her second comment was that her division will be reaching out

over the next two months and touching base with all the local jurisdictions, which ties into the new mutual aid law to do an inventory of resources available for mutual aid.

**Eric Guevin** is getting the message out about illegal fireworks, including people who migrate off reservations with them. He said California does a great job at Stateline, where they'll have a collection point.

Eric. Guevin said there are some concerns in his area with vacation home rentals. He said 53% of their residents in Tahoe Douglas are vacation home rentals. Realtors have been pushing sales of second homes that can be used as vacation rentals. There have been many fires in these vacation home rentals: cigarette smoking off balconies, dropping cigarettes, and causing grassfires right out the back; barbecues that have burned into the structures; planters that catch fire inside and outside buildings; over-occupancy in rooms that don't constitute a room by code. He and the DA are planning a trip down to Las Vegas to examine their vacation home rental program. They are looking at code adoption and just trying to figure out how to best regulate rentals in a safe, fair manner, with safety being key. Chief Chambers recommended that Eric Guevin get the Las Vegas information so they can glean it at the state level and can support the agency statewide for the Air bnbs. It's not just one jurisdictional issue; it is a statewide issue, especially for those areas that have resort fees. Eric. Guevin told the Chief he would definitely get those materials to him and went on to say the state is working with a company called House Compliance that tracks all the different home rental websites like Airbnb and RBBO. There's been an increase of 800% in vacation home rentals. The bottom line is these rentals are transient occupancy and can be dangerous if used as party houses.

**Nick Moriarty** reported that Southern Nevada decided to move forward with the adoption of new building codes. The report last meeting indicated that there was no agreement on the definition of "high rise" so there will be some discrepancies in the southern part of the state as far as what a high rise building is. Eric Guevin asked if they were going to what the base code or were they following what the state is requiring as a high rise. Nick Moriarty replied that Clark County and Mesquite were going to be consistent with the state's 55 feet, and the other jurisdictions will be going to base code at 75 feet. There were a number of different proposals that were brought forth during the code process, with no agreement on any one proposal, each building official will be adopting different criteria for a high rise. Chief Chambers stated this has been a hot-button topic and his office has to look at 477.030. Looking at the potential impacts, if this was to go to a hearing or lawsuit, is it going to make that case law in the impact to the other 16 counties? The Chief reminded members that he has to look at things globally and listen to the other jurisdictions before taking action. Chief Chambers has another concern about the impact this will have on firefighter safety.

Chief Chambers, for part of his report, stated the interaction with neighboring states in regards to reciprocity was moving forward.

The State Fire Marshal Division has moved through the first phase with Department of Public Safety in requesting an additional Inspector for the Las Vegas, additional two officers, a DPS Officer 2 and DPS Sergeant for Investigations: making it two officers in Las Vegas, two

officers in Elko, and Sergeant and Lieutenant in Carson City. The Division is looking at upgrading their Plans Bureau Chief and their Account Tech to a Management Analyst 1.

The Division is also looking at tablet-based inspections so they can serve their customers and agencies quicker, better, and meet the needs of the state.

**Kacey KC** gave an overview of the fire season. So far there had been 118 fires, 8,000 acres, in the 80%-92% human-caused. The Department has three helicopters, two fully stocked with helipad crews and buckets seven days a week. Everyone is on seven-day staffing except the crews who are on a five-day plan.

**9. SCHEDULE THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES (Discussion/For Possible Action)**

There was discussion on more frequent meetings and perhaps having a meeting in Las Vegas. The next tentative meeting date will coincide with FireShowsWest in November

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Action Item)**

Mike Heidemann reported the Volunteer Fire license plate will be replaced with a Firefighter license plate because there was a conflict with the Air Force Veterans plate. A jpeg of the plate is on the Nevada State Firefighters' Association website, and a hard copy sample would be rolled out in a few days. He went on to say he thought this was a good thing and might help draw even more sales for the volunteer license plate, whose proceeds goes to volunteer training. Mike Heidemann reported that there are a couple of legislative priorities that the association may be interested in. One of them is a revision to 616.070, which is the deemed wage for volunteer firefighters as it relates to Worker's Compensation. The last time that increased was in 1991, and it was at 75% of the wage that was available at the time for Worker's Comp. Mike Heidemann said the other issue is the distribution of the marijuana money coming into the state at an increased rate of what was projected and wants to see that public safety gets a fair share; it could enhance the training capabilities from the Fire Marshal Division. Based on the studies in Colorado and the increased amount of fires due to the extrication of the hash oils, electrical problems from grow lights, overloads of circuits, things like that, SFM is going to be affected. He wants to make sure public safety is not left out of those monies, because they are going to be the ones responding.

Chief Chambers stated he had received information in regards to a large fireworks confiscation and enforcement issue in California. The State Fire Marshal from California made mention of it to try and address the problem coming from Nevada. He asked Board members to let his office know if they hear something through their agencies and that way, Nevada can work with California to get the word out the way they're supposed to.

**11. ADJOURNMENT (Discussion/For Possible Action)**

**Kelli Baratti motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kacey KC seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.**