

MINUTES

Nevada State Board of Fire Services
September 27, 2022

Locations:

Fire Shows West @ Grand Sierra Resort
2500 E Second Street, Reno, NV 89595

And teleconference:

Teleconference to 775-687-0999, Participants Code 47525#

Board Members Present:

Kelli Baratti
Mike Dzyak
Nicholas Moriarty
Jack Snyder
William Snyder
Dale Way
Stephen DiGiovanni

Board Members Not Present:

Mark Briant
Jeffrey Buchanan
Kacey KC
Thomas McCleister

Others Present:

Connie Etchison - Administrative Assistant, State Fire Marshal Division
Nicole Hoekstra – Administrative Assistant, State Fire Marshal Division
Dennis Pinkerton – Bureau Chief – Training & Certification, State Fire
Marshal Division
Matt Peterson – Elko
Richard McKnight, State Fire Marshal Division
Ryan McIntosh – Central Lyon
David Neschke – ASC Group
Nathan Hastings – State of Nevada, Senior Deputy Attorney General
Pat Irwin – LVFD
Sean Stratton – State Fire Marshal Division
Bob Sullivan - NFPA
Lynn Nielson - Fire Protection Engineer, City of Henderson

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR** (Non-Action Item.)

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Kelli Baratti.

2. **VERIFICATION OF NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW** (Non-Action Item.)
Connie Etchison confirmed compliance with the Open Meeting Law
3. **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS; verification of quorum** (Non-Action Item.)
Connie Etchison called roll. Seven (7) board members were present. A quorum was established.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (Non-Action Item.)
There were no public comments.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 24, 2022 MEETING MINUTES** (Discussion/For Possible Action.)
Dale Way made a motion to approve the minutes and Steven DiGiovanni seconded. Motion carried.
6. **CITY OF HENDERSON - LYNN NIELSON** (Non-action item)
Lynn Nielson stated conservation of water remains a strategic priority for the City of Henderson. On August 16th of 2021, the Federal Government prompted by decreasing water levels in Lake Mead issued a Tier 1 Water Shortage Declaration on the Colorado River which affects the Las Vegas region here. In January of 2021, Southern Nevada's water allocation was reduced by 7 billion and that's B, billion gallons. The Colorado River is facing unprecedented and accelerated challenges and a tier 2 water shortage declaration was issued by the Bureau of Reclamation last month. And this means that Southern Nevada's water allocation will be further reduced. We anticipate that will be anywhere between 2 and 4 billion gallons based on the existing agreements that we have. And so, to help reduce Southern Nevada's consumptive water use, the Nevada Legislature, as you're probably aware, passed Assembly Bill 356, AB 356 in 2021 that prohibited certain uses for the Colorado River. We have been working with our Utilities Department here at the City of Henderson to take a view of fire protection systems to try and find out what we can do what fire protection systems to do. And it may seem like a very small part but to do our part to also reduce the amount of water that is not being returned back to Lake Mead. And so, what I shared yesterday, which was, hopefully, sent to each one of you is a draft document. It's just a document that internally, here in the City of Henderson, like I mentioned we've been working with our utilities department, our Fire Chiefs have been somewhat involved in this. So, we've just been talking about what can we do for various fire protection systems to reduce the water usage. About a month ago I did contact Chief Dzyak and let him know that we were embarking down this path. And he recommended that I come before the Board and tell you some of the things that we're considering doing and that get input from the Board as we continue down this path and figure out exactly where we end up with this, to help do the part of saving water for our community here. So, to that end, each one of you probably have that document, you may have it in front of you or may have been e-mailed to you. But essentially in that document, we have the system side of it, seven different items: Wet Sprinkler, Dry Sprinkler, Fire Pumps, Pre-Action Hydrant, Backflow, and Pressure Reducing Valves. We took a look at each one of those to say what can we do to reduce the amount of water usage and yet at the same time maintain fire protection systems on the level of safety that we have now. Keep in

mind all of this is draft, all of this is discussion and the main thing I hope to get from the Board, whether we get it in this meeting or if you feel so inclined to share it with me after, we are looking for input. So, we can develop something that can work perhaps not just in Henderson but regionally here in the greater Las Vegas Valley area to help reduce the flow. And then once we do this, we have some notes at the bottom such as what are we going to do for enforcement, what we're going to do for accountability of the items above. Take a look at pros and cons to determine water saved and what will save the most water. Here's a good example, opening up hydrants outside on the street, that water we don't get credit for at all when it goes back to Lake Mead. What can we do to make sure you receive credit for that water in the future? We talked about certain things are still a problem, particularly for the things that use a lot of water. Then phase 2, we have also talked about taking a look at new system installations and making sure we put provisions in buildings. For example, to capture main drain discharge that always goes into a sewer, but it isn't going back to Lake Mead, those types of things. Making sure that all of our fire pumps end up with flow meters on them to make sure that we don't have to discharge so much water, but we can measure it with the flow meter which should help save some water. There are certain things we can do and so that's one of the next phases is to figure out what we can do in the future. And one of the items that Chief Dzyak made crystal clear, and I've shared this with our group, we will have a sunset clause on all of this. We hope with this drought that we're under doesn't last forever. We hope that someday the snowpack returns and the water coming into the Colorado basin improves and we get out of this horrible situation that we find ourselves in right now. And that is why we're going to put a sunset clause that after X numbers of years we'll revisit this. We haven't determined the X, it might be three, it might be five. We revisit it and if the conditions have improved, all of this goes away. If they haven't improved, we reset the sunset clause, so that we look at it again and whether it's three years, five years, whatever the case maybe. So, that gives hopefully a little bit of background as to what it is we're trying to do and how we're trying to accomplish it. And I would certainly open up to any input you got right now, and I'll just take notes on my copy I have on my computer. But likewise, if any of you want to e-mail me your comments, I would certainly welcome that as well.

Kelli Baratti opened it up to Board members for any questions or comments or discussion.

Mike Dzyak stated he just wanted to clarify with the Board that he did speak with Lynn, that he did feel that this was the appropriate place to start with this, to let all of you know that he's not opposed to this amendment. He and Lynn had discussions in order for a City within the State to do this, you're going to lower the standards. I mean this is not going to be an NFPA compliant. And in order to do that, then I would have to basically say this is going to be allowed if a City or County, however we want to word this, wants to adopt these specific items that would end up getting approved, then that would be on me. Sort of like what we did in the pandemic, we had issues with inspections, that I had to do temporary holds on, said, okay you don't have to go in every apartment right now. It's a reality and it's a reality very much for the South. So, I'm not opposed to that but it's speaking to Lynn's point, the three years, five years that's got to be my call, so that I can put it up and lift it. And as long as we control it that way and I think that's more than reasonable. And speaking again to

Lynn, I would love to see FPAN give us a document on this to say the Fire Prevention Community of Nevada is on board with whatever specifics come out, and I like a consensus. So, I think the bigger part of the fire service that signs on to this, the more comfortable I would be in allowing that. But I think this Board is where it should start as representative of the fire service throughout the state.

Dale Way stated he thought he already got a really good framework for that is probably some of the information that needs to be developed would be the potential water savings across the Las Vegas Valley in sprinklered or protected buildings, just by doing this. Again, I agree with Chief Dzyak on the having that sunset clause. I think that there would probably be the need to revisit maybe annually in the spring after you can see when the snowpack at the Rockies can make those determinations a little more readily. And if it comes a good year, they end it and bring it back to normal NFPA requirements, but I also agree drastic times will call for drastic measures and I think they got it, so, I might also consider, one other way they could ensure system function without going through some of these full tests.

Mike Dzyak stated those are great points. Like I said, it's easy. If we don't need to change NAC, if we don't need to get a BDR and all it is a memo which is what I did during the pandemic for those things. This is not a hard thing to do and then, like I said, once I feel like the Fire Service is on board with this, I don't like doing the unanimous things on my own, but once that's done then it's just easy. And then, you guys can come back to me and say, hey that thing is going to sunset. Let's not sunset it because this is our water situation. We can just extend it and place it. It doesn't take up a quorum, it doesn't take a Board, all I have to do is do the memo.

Kelli Baratti asked for any other questions or comments.

Steve DiGiovanni stated he did e-mail some comments for Lynn yesterday, but he'll reiterate some of those items. We have a question, or I guess a concern with the main drain test going to five years. There's a concern that we have a lot of construction that's occurring and maintaining the supply to all sprinkler systems is important and having a five-year gap to ensure that seems excessive to us. So, we're hoping to see that drop. I proposed even like a two-year timeframe for that, so that's on 1A. On 3 with fire pumps, there are some concerns with all of these items. Items A and B have no flow tests. So, we're wondering why that would make an impact on this, so we want, hopefully, to see those remove. With respect to the actual fire pump testing, we get fire pump results from tests that show failing and became encourage and pressing out how long we're going to check the pumps, to make sure that we catch the chain conditions is a little bit faulty. You can already go 5% below the curve and call it good, and that's without any safety factor. Having to go even further below the curve and have that extended out for any amount of time is a little difficult for us. And then for number 5 with the fire hydrants, we're concerned about not testing all the fire hydrants on an annual basis. We would have no issue, we can discuss rather than a full minute each hydrant, maybe doing a full minute to the most remote hydrant for session purposes. And then, kind of just opening and closing hydrants with 15, 20 seconds of run maybe, just flush their supply lines, alternating the hydrants is very concern. Everything else seems okay to us but we did have some concerns and I do want to mention that.

Kelli Baratti asked Lynn if he had heard of any of the other jurisdictions that are in the same boat along the Colorado River, Arizona, California; are you hearing anything from your counterparts that that they might be looking at some of the similar proposals that you're making?

Lynn Nielson stated in the research that we did; we saw that down in Phoenix they made changes as well to some of their frequency in operating fire protection systems. They put out a one pager of changes that they made, but we have not contacted, for example, any of the others, other lower Colorado Basin states to see what they are doing but we could certainly do so. I could reach out to other State Fire Marshals, like Utah for example or even Colorado. And each one of them I have no problem reaching out to them to find out, but I have not done that yet, Kelli.

Kelli Baratti stated, for me personally, I think it would help the State Fire Marshal and the larger Board of Fire Services just to have an idea of what other people who are being impacted the same way that our Southern Nevada folks are and just see what they're doing. I think it would be interesting to know and it might provide some enlightenment for you folks as well.

Lynn Nielson stated he appreciated the Board's time and appreciate the Board allowing me to come before the Board and give this presentation. And I realized it's not actionable, but I've definitely taken notes, and these are items that we'll take into consideration in every account and thank you all.

Dale Way stated he had one follow-up. You had mentioned talking to utilities. I know Henderson has its own utility as far as water, North Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Valley Water District have. What discussions as far as like reclaiming the water because you're saying that any of the water that goes out into the gutter from fire protection is not, I guess credited back to the water purveyor. So, is there discussions that you had?

Lynn Nielson stated there are and there was, you can imagine, they have concerns with certain systems, particularly any system that's glycol. They have concerns with that, any additive like that, they're very concerned about. But in general, brackish sprinkler water, they don't have a problem at all treating that and cleaning that and sending that back out to Lake Mead. So just the fact that it's been in a sprinkler pipe for maybe a year, two years, whatever they're not too concerned about that.

Dale Way asked if there is something that's in the works right now or discussions are being had to, I guess, overcome that because of the glycol generally that's been used for a long, long time is food-based, food grade glycol? I've never really fully understood their concern there, is if you're cleaning the water, you're cleaning the water. It doesn't matter what goes back in there. I mean obviously there's accidents on the street where oil, antifreeze, et cetera for is pushed into the gutter or even flown in there by firefighters in the water. So, at some point that water is still cleaned and then sent back into the system, or I guess somehow oil obviously could be separated but some of the other things and be a little more challenging, it feels like.

So, I was just wondering if there's any set up that you're finding that you'll be able to reclaim X number of gallons towards that?

Lynn Nielson stated yes, the answer to that question, these are all things that we are looking at, Dale. For example, we are running reports right now to figure out the total number of systems, total number of fire pumps, total number of standpipes, so that we can do some analysis to figure out what the water savings might be based on these measures. Likewise in Henderson, we have the ability to track the number of antifreeze glycol complex systems and will take that into account as well. I would imagine we're not quite as cold as Northern Nevada and so we don't have quite as many. We rely a lot on insulation, but I would imagine we're going to have a certain percentage, exactly what that is, 5, 10% and then we'll take a look at what the savings is per system and make a determination if it's worth additional remediation treatment prior to discharge and what they might require, I don't know. So, that is definitely going to be factored into it but in this entire discussion, this is new territory for us in Southern Nevada. We have not even had to think about reclaiming our water from fire protection systems and making sure that it gets treated and sent back out to Lake Mead in the treated manner. This is new territory. We have never been down this road before, and we're looking at all of it, Dale.

Dale Way stated he never really investigated it because again when he was in Southern Nevada, we didn't really need to investigate it. But I've always heard quite a bit that California does do that, somehow, I know it, when they do test. I don't know the truth or validity of that. I always wonder if maybe this is the time to reach out that direction and see what they do as far as their testing and reclamation because obviously they got the same drought.

Lynn Nielson stated they have and as I mentioned to Kelli a bit ago, as I reach out to these other agencies along the Colorado River, obviously California is one of those and whatever information I gleaned, I'm certainly happy to share back with the state fire marshal and the board at the end when we develop our recommendations. So, that you know the sources of how we came up with all of this and certainly I know, again, this is not actionable, but I heard comments like working regionally. We're going to do that. I have been given an edict from my mayor and council since we are our own water purveyor and we are answerable independently to the Southern Nevada Water Authority, City of Henderson that I've been directed. I will find a way to save water, I have to. That's an edict that's been given to me.

7. **STATE FIRE MARSHAL ADVISORY REPORT - CHIEF MIKE DZYAK** (Non-action item)

Mike Dzyak gave an update on State Fire Marshal operational items. We submitted our budget to the Governor's Finance Office. I won't get into all the details of what they call now items for special consideration, but our budget adds were for two Las Vegas inspectors, one Administrative Assistant III for the Plans section, so that the current Administrative Assistant III doesn't have to do both plans and investigations, one Administrative Assistant II for the Training Bureau and two Sworn Officers for the Northern region. We don't really get any feedback yet at this point. Again, us being newly fee-based, really all they need to do, and I've been working hard to educate Legislators on this as well, to say, look, we think you have the budget

projections to support it and then they could say yes. And I will tell you that I added to them saying, look, you know, we have 20% plan review fee increases that are going in the hearing right now. And to keep that in mind, if they give us the authority for the positions, we can just not hire, we don't have to hire everything right away. We can wait until the funding stream shows up to do that, so I'm hoping, again, for solid consideration on those. So, after the Governors Finance Office (GFO), then we'll go to whatever they approved to go through the LCB and I feel like we're going to have a lot of questions but that's okay, we're ready. We received the State Fire Marshal's first tractor trailer. We got the semi that will pull both the investigative trailer and the new live fire training trailer. And I'm only going to steal a little bit of Dennis' thunder with that, but I'm really excited about all this. We should have the trailer next month, late October, early November at the least but physically that will be a great burden off us but I'm just excited to get that out here and have something that's new, that's up-to-date, modern, safe and then making sure that we can fund any restorative things that have to have it and get it recertified so that I can sleep at night. We're putting people in this thing and it's a safe situation. I do, on that note want to give props to my Training Bureau because these guys worked tirelessly. They absolutely have delivered on everything. I can't tell you guys how many times I have Chiefs coming in with the, hey, we would like a -- except when they leave their phones on -- and way to go, Rich. But no, I get Chiefs saying, hey, can we do certification for this? They are always Johnny on the spot. They always respond. Rich has just been a monster of getting us these grants throughout these grants. These don't happen. I mean, yeah, we're fee-based but these are huge. And Dennis and his team is doing a great job getting to witness some of the gas props and the NSFA Conference and like today and then this week and Fire Shows West. They do a great job providing training to the fire service and I rarely, I don't think I ever have had any negative comments from the outside, and then I would challenge all of the Fire Chiefs throughout the State that you have to tell us what you want. You can't just sit there and rumble in the corner. You've got to tell me what you need. I don't know and I don't have any fire trucks so, you guys tell us, and I am confident that my team in Training can get it done. Rich, from Training, just got us the SAFER Grant and I will let Dennis go into the details of that, but that was a big win for the volunteer rural fire services in Nevada and I'm very proud of the work that they're doing there on that. We are getting closer to a licensing system coming online. We have been just brutalized with how slow this process is going and trying to get through COVID. The industry asked us for ID cards so, I'm going to pass these around to the Board Members. The one with the State seal on it is what we have to do now because we're going to get pictures in time for this next renewal cycle. So instead of having some with pictures and some without, we're just going to do this until we can use this next 12 months to get us there until the next thing. So, when you inspectors are out there and prevention is out there, somebody pulls a card, you know it's them. You don't have to pull a driver's license to make sure that that's who it is. We also have their certification things on the back and the licensing bureau has just been working so hard. I'm not sure when we get the whole system up but it's getting close. When they can hand me a plastic card, I know we're getting close. With that, Susie Riolo retired from licensing after 27 years and there is a lot of experience goes with her. But she's luckily been training Becky Kling for, I don't know, probably 10 years now. Becky stepped up. We promoted her. She's now the Chief of Licensing. It was really great. That was probably the most seamless State

transition I've ever seen. Once Susie's retirement date came in, DHRM worked with us, so we are able to put Becky in and now we are currently looking to hire an Administrative Assistant II to work for Becky in Licensing. Last, but not least, the October 8th Public Safety Day. So, we are going to have a Nevada State Fire Marshal Public Safety Day event, we have handouts right here, everybody grab one if you're not working for me already. We have secured two helicopters. We got the Care Flight helicopter and the National Guard's going to bring up a bird up there. We have boatloads of vendors. We have food. We have a DJ. We have Lyon County SO, North Lyon County Fire Protection District. A lot of Public Safety agencies are going to come out for this and we're going to reach out to the communities. And my plan is, if this is successful, we want to do this in a different location every year, support the other AHJ's. So, places where we're responsible for that, get out to those communities, not just always do it in a metropolitan area. We can do it in Elko, we can do it Ely, we can do it in Tahoe, you know, where we're going to mix it up if it's successful. I really think it's going to be. So far, we've gotten a lot of positive feedback. We got our stuff out in the social media. We have a lot of vendors calling in asking them this is free, say hey, do you want to set up, you want to recruit, you want to do whatever. But it's going to be big doing so, even if your agency isn't out there, take your family, take your kids. We always have the handouts, and we'll have some hotdogs and treats, and we'll have food trucks out in the front and Dennis and his crew are going to fire up the giant propane prop and do some training with North Lyon Fire and demonstrate the capabilities. I really think it's going to be an awesome time. So, make sure you don't miss that. And last but not least, Pete Mulvihill from Fire Shows West asked me to tell everybody who wishes to attend the keynote speaker at 3:00 is free to do so. You just walk through that door, and you can sit down and listen. I guess he's really got a basketball or something. He is supposed to be really good. They also said to talk to him if you wanted. If you didn't already have a pass to the conference, they have some guest passes over there, so, if you want to go hit them up. They're going to have vendor booths and everything.

Jack Snyder stated on your report, you said you were looking at two positions for Northern Nevada. Is there any way at looking at them coming to the rural Nevada or do you have a specific area or is that still to be determined?

Mike Dzyak stated if you're talking about the Officer positions, if I can get them, they would still have to come from Carson City. Here in lies the problem. When Officer Boykin retired there's no one to train an Officer in fire investigations out there and how we do it. I feel like Elko is probably a reach. If we can garner the support and the staff to possibly look at going into Winnemucca, and slowly moving outward. Right now we always have a Lieutenant or a Sergeant that's a supervisor on call that can authorize overtime and we have an Officer, at least one Officer in the North and one in the South that's 24/7 on call. They're paid to do it and they respond to fires now. So, it's no more half measures. We are 100% 24/7, 365 capable. Officer Knaak finished up his training and received his Arson Investigator Skill Pin and now we have Douglas Rischbieter who we hired on and he's doing great. He's about five, six months into it. We're just getting them all trained up and sending them on every fire. The Northern guys are doing a lot more fires than the Southern guys. The Southern guys go back and forth to Pahrump pretty much, but I have charged the Sergeant down there to get out to the rural areas on the Eastern side and say hey, we know

you're having fires out here. This is what the law says. You're supposed to be calling us and we have the capability to support it now. It's hard to do that and then say, yeah, I don't have anybody to go out, but that's not the case anymore. If I get two inspectors, I send them to the South. If I got two Officers, they come up North into Carson. And if for whatever reason we could manage to, you know, somebody wanted Winnemucca, wanted to stay up there, we could consider opening up a branch. It's not out of the question, we just got to see because I might tell you that DPS is really short of cops so, those transfers, everybody wants to come play for the Yankees. They want to be Fire Marshals, but we only have so many slots, but the pickings are getting so slim and it's hard for me to justify taking from NHP and Parole and Probation, taking those officers over there because everybody's hurting. So, we'll just have to see. A, do I get the position? B, can I afford the position when they come open? And then if I can, how am I going to fill those positions. We're hoping that we have an offer out to an Inspector, a Fire Inspector in the North. So, if we get the word from DHRM that we can hire, then hopefully, we'll have that position filled too and that'll ease up. But all the Officers are ICC certified so all of them can go out to help with the inspections as well.

8. STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION TRAINING ADVISORY REPORT - DENNIS PINKERTON (Non-action item)

Dennis Pinkerton stated he had a few things he'd like to add to our June meeting. When we came back to certification statewide, I just did a report for the Governor's report. And for the '21 to '22 [inaudible], we had 557 training events statewide. And out of those, 264 were in FY '21 and we certified 1,392 people. And FY '22 which just ended in June, there's 293 testing events and we certified 2,135. So, these guys that are doing accreditation for certification, my staff is doing a wonderful job. It's just amazing that we're having that many events in one calendar year. I would like to touch on the Fire Officer Program that I touched on June. It's the new program that we just rolled out and it has to do with the IFSAC accreditation. We needed to provide a skills document for the accreditation. So, we came up with skills and those skills documents have to be pre-loaded into our system so we get can upload those skills documents in our web-base management system now. And they get reviewed by my staff and they can either be accepted or not on the web-base, so they immediately get the answers if they got accepted when I was testing. So, it's a good thing. Our web-based management systems is going full blown. We are doing all these testing and certifications go through that system and they get documented and they get housed there. So, everybody seems to be happy with that system so, we're rolling out a few more additions to it. They just got a maintenance contract with the systems owner and we're going to stay on top of that. So, the next thing I'd like to talk to you about is the live fire training trailer. It is going to be here on the first part of November. That's the trailer that I talked about in June. Our portion of that trailer as a State Fire Marshal is contribution that is \$220,000 and the FEMA will be giving the \$720,000 from that grant. And with that grant, our grant writer, Richard McKnight is doing a wonderful job. We were asked to take over the staffing the AFG grants for the SAFER Grant for the volunteers from the Chief's Organization because I guess it wasn't doing too well. So, Rich applied for a grant, and he got a grant to get \$779,000 for this funding. It's a 4-year grant. It is going to cover personnel, travel, equipment, contractor employees and other things. So, what this grant basically does, if nobody knows about this SAFER Grant, the first thing it'll be entry level

physicals for new volunteers. It'll pay up to \$400 per exam for 100 newbie recruited firefighters in a year. And that totals \$40,000 a year. The next thing it'll be -- the first 50 newly recruited volunteer firefighters will get \$3,000 for their protective clothing as some of the clothing, hats, and so on for a volunteer. The third thing is a coordinator and that's the \$41,995.20 to adhere to the grant stipulations so, we have to report the grants when it happens. And then we have a recruitment and retention coordinator and that's for travel and that's a \$6,000 a year item. So, this is just paying for the cost of a vehicle and that. And then the last but not soon enough least, if there's going to be one. We're going to pay an annual insurance premium for accidental death and disability insurance for at least 1,000 firefighters statewide, and that's the annual fee. So, it's capped to be at \$4,000 cost annually. So, that's what's happening with the SAFER Program and that's going to kick off very, very soon.

Mike Dzyak stated he can't express enough how proud he is of Dennis and Richard and their team for doing this. If we're not supposed to be doing this, I don't know what else we're supposed to be doing. There is Mike Heidemann from NSFA who came and visited me and said there was a need to do this with the size of the grant that Mr. McKnight scored, and as you heard, the things that we're able to do for firefighters and I think that this is definitely a positive thing across the board. We want to make sure we spend every cent that we can and get everybody what they need and at the last NSFA conference I sat in on a lot of talk about heart and lung, about physicals, and the more we can do to help especially the new firefighters, I think it's important. If you're going to get new volunteers to come and you have to provide them with good turn outs. You have to get them there their medical evaluations and then you have to insure them when they get hurt. And as Dennis just spoke to his statistics, I mean, they're training at record rates. And the training doesn't discern between a professional fire department and a volunteer. The volunteers are tasked with having to get out to these trainings and put them on, but Dennis' crew is putting them on all over and frequently so, if there's a lapse in there, I haven't seen it. So, I just want to say thank you Dennis.

Kelli Baratti stated this is amazing. The program both NSFA and you guys stepping up as a State Agency to help out to support our volunteer firefighters is absolutely critical and thank you so much for all your hard work.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-action Item)

Kelli Baratti stated she was going to take just a minute and share with the Board and those present that we're going to go back to something that was kind of done back in the day and add reports from the Nevada State Firefighters Association and the Nevada Fire Chiefs Association to the agenda as standing agenda items. They are critical. That's what we do. That's why we're here as a Board to not only support the State Fire Marshal and the advisory that him or her but to represent the Fire Service. I think in sharing and talking with some of the leadership, and I've spoken with Chief Dzyak about it, we thought that was the foundation.

Matt Petersen stated he was wearing two hats today, one on the Elko County Fire Chief and I'm also the Nevada Fire Chief representative for rural Nevada. So, it's encouraging to see that those officers are going to be coming on board. I'm sure you've seen an increase in calls at least from us in Elko County. We had a stretch

of 17 structure fires in row in a 3-week period. For us in Rural Nevada, that is an extreme taxing event. So, the support from Fire Marshal's Office and the investigations piece was very helpful. I'm going to continue to tag on what Chief Snyder talked about. We would love to see an Officer back in our area. For us and our neighbors, seeing that face on a regular basis, helping with the follow up and just getting to know the players and the game was extremely helpful for us. So, it's encouraging to see you put in for those positions and I'm going to continue to advocate for night shift over there in rural Nevada where everybody forgets about us til we screw up. It's encouraging to see that the State Fire Marshal's Office engaging with rural Nevada as well and they encourage some of those grants in that SAFER funding. I appreciate all that work. It's a heavy feat. We appreciate that. We hope to see you with some of that traveling training funds that you guys have a larger presence in rural Nevada. And for my neighbors, for Eureka County, Lander, White Pine, we also encourage, we would love to see those faces. I hope that your Public Safety Days is a success and we would love to be one of your future hosts.

Mike Dzyak thanked them for the comments. I always welcome the input. Without you guys telling us where the needs are, we can't really put the resources there and whatever regardless of interlocal agreements and regardless of location, the more resources we can get, the more it makes sense to put into the rurals. We understand that we have big responsibilities there. And I think in the future you're going to see more and more of that, it's just how do we do it. I think the first step was really important to get fee based. Once we got off from general fund and stop reverting \$1.2 million plus a year, it has really brought us into a place where we can now start talking about being more visible, seeing our faces there more. So, I'm glad to hear that.

Mike Heidemann gave a report on what they are doing. I really appreciate you putting us back on the agenda as we have been in the past recognized. So, I'll actually go back to the SAFER Grant and congratulate Richard which I did the day that was announced. As Chief Dzyak said, I had gone on to him when he was Acting Chief and suggested this a good place to run this through, has come to fruition. So, I'm really looking forward to the information and deliveries from that grant. And I'll tag on to that a little bit more that on September 19th, a Senator from Michigan and one from Ohio, one Democrat and one Republican introduced some legislation to carry that on until 2030 because it will sunset in 2024 at this time. They had actually asked for a \$95 million increase. So, moving forward, that will give us the opportunity to work through this one and carry that forward. If you went to our conference in Virginia City which was fairly successful given the fact that we haven't had anything for a couple of years. We're really looking forward to a big conference in Elko this year, June 21st through 24th, so put that on your calendar. October 8th is going to be an interesting day. The last Firefighter Memorial at the existing memorial facility will be held October 8th at 10:00 a.m. That will be the last one that will be decommissioned and the new one will be ready to go. After the meeting, if anybody wants to see some pictures of the statues and the progress on the new one, I'll be happy to share. What else we got? So, legislatively we're looking at a few different things this coming year. I think I mentioned this at the NSFA conference that we're developing some draft language to increase Workers' Comp for volunteers. So, as you may or may not know, Worker's Comp for volunteers is at \$2,000 per month as a base and then of

course you get to 66 and two-thirds percent of that. This was put together in 1991 when it was 75 percent of what the career firefighter got. Since then, over the last 23 years, the increases have gone up across the board, but the volunteers have been left out. So, we're looking at doing something with that and working with some people to address the language. The other thing that I'm looking at, I had some conversation with PFSN. I have not gone to EMS and or law enforcement yet, but it is my belief that we need to have a line of duty death benefit in our State. We have a federal PSLV which due to circumstances with my close friend, Ben Jenkins, it's a quite a thing to work through to get that. We need to be able to help our families of the fallen public service. So, I think bringing all of the energies together because Public Safety is a team sport within the Highway Patrol, any public employee that is public safety, law enforcement, EMS, or fire, this is something that needs to happen and I got a couple ideas on where some of those funds can come from. The other thing that I've been a proponent of for a while now is getting some money from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration out to the rurals. As you know, many of the volunteer agencies out there and small combos are responding to incidents on the Interstate. There are 40 plus million visitors that come through 80 or 95 and they're going broke and they're losing people and they're not responding. So, this is something that I think on the national level needs to start, trickle down to the state, and have some formula on where that stand it out. Not sure that needs to be held out in the state, whether it be EMS or NDOT. I think maybe NDOT is a good spot for it, but to bring up full circle, I'm actually the representative for Nevada to the National Volunteer Fire Council. We just got awarded \$100,000 grant from NTSA to develop a rural EMS recruitment and retention program. So, I think that's a foot in the door. Go back at the end of October. We are going to ask for your sponsors addressing Legislation to get some of those funds coming down to the people that are protecting our highways and, you know, and not impact the local municipalities as much. I've actually spoken to a couple county commissioners here in our state about that and it will be spoken about tomorrow at the Nevada Association of Counties in Virginia City. So, get that out to everybody. It's not going to be a quick hitter, but they had been known to be much but quicker.

Matt Petersen stated the organization is starting to get back up on its feet, start moving forward. Chief Cochran asked me to ask for a potential standing item if you're up for it, is recruitment retention issue that's statewide, so that fire Chiefs throughout the state, any other agencies can talk about what they're doing with recruitment and retention. It's obviously an issue statewide. We talked to the Central Lyon County just today casually about it and those issues are pretty, it's the future of the fire service that we have to figure out.

Mike Dzyak stated they already put in future agendas. So, you guys will have the ability to talk about what you want to talk about in the public forum, so. And likewise, if you guys are out there talking to other associations that have an exit to the fire service, let them know, reach out to me and Kelli and I will get together and we'll figure out if we can give them a standing order.

Kelli Baratti stated that actually brings up one more thought. From both the organizations, NSFA and the Nevada Fire Chiefs, along with your standing agenda item or anyone in the room or the Board Members, if you happen to come up with

items that you feel that you would like the board to not only listen to but take action on, please get with myself or Connie or Chief Dzyak, and let's make sure we get you on the agenda in the proper format so that we can do for possible action. She asked for any last call for public comment and there was none.

10. ADJOURNMENT (Discussion/For Possible Action.)

Dale Way made a motion for adjournment. Jack Snyder seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.