

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Educational Committee

### Meeting minutes

January 29, 2003 - 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Company #3

The meeting was called to order with the following members present:

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn, Robert Norton, Jr.  
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Lloyd Niles, Al Hawkins  
Fairfield Regional Fire School – Scott Bisson  
Hartford Fire School – Chet Haber, Michael Jepeal  
Middlesex Fire School – Jay Woron  
Wolcott State Fire School – Robert Massicotte, Paul Perrotti  
Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Peter Wols  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Scott Potter, Neil Burrows, Charles Stankye, Jr., Ted Schroll  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson, Richard Nicol  
Connecticut Fire Academy – State Fire Administrator, Jeff Morrissette  
Guests – Fred Piechota, Director of Certification; Ed O'Hurley, Certification Coordinator

There were no representatives present from:

New Haven Regional Fire Academy

#### 1. Changes in certification testing – Fred Piechota, Ed O'Hurley

Fred and Ed discussed the live burn requirement for Firefighter I and II levels of training. There is currently no formal procedure for evaluating these skills. A form is in place that allows a sign-off by either a director of a regional fire school or a fire chief. IFSAC does not like the current sign-off format. The certification office would like notification of live burn dates. They intend to send personnel for spot verification. There is an interest in better standardizing how all practical skills testing is performed. All future skills testing would utilize the 2002 edition of NFPA 1001.

The CFA is also interested in investigating various methods of instructor evaluation and development. Discussion has taken place about the possibility of a continuing education requirement to keep instructors skills current.

#### 2. Lobbying efforts update for capital funding

Charlie Stankye urged that all ongoing efforts included all of those legislators that have been involved in the support for our funding.

There was a review and comment session on a proposed letter for distribution for those legislators that had signed on to the H.B. 5270 presented last session. The intent of that letter was to make sure that those legislators were aware that the conditions at the existing schools have continued to deteriorate at an alarming rate and that no funds were authorized during the 2003 session.

Nancy Wyman had commented that if the project gets on the bonding commission agenda that it would not need to go back to the house. There remains a lot of confusion by several legislators, as well of several of our committee members, as to how this effort needs to proceed.

There was a suggestion that a letter should be developed to chairs of all state fire service organizations to solicit their active support.

### 3. Alternate funding sources discussion

There was discussion about increasing student tuition to reflect the full cost of operating the regional fire schools. Concern was expressed that this action would benefit those instructors that are freelancing their own programs without facilities.

Jeff Morrissette brought up that the State of Vermont has incorporated burn buildings into their homeland defense plans. They intend to build ten new burn buildings with federal homeland defense money. The fire service has a much greater role in the homeland defense planning in Vermont than in Connecticut.

Bob Massicotte reported that the Wolcott school doesn't do many burns for outside departments. Most of their burns are for their own Firefighter I and II programs.

### 4. Burn buildings evaluations

Rich Winn advised that the Burrville school has plans to have an engineering evaluation performed on their burn building this coming weekend.

The directors of the ECFS in Willimantic are reluctant to conduct an engineering assessment. Their feeling is that an engineer would tend to be cautious about certifying the structural integrity and would probably place the burn building out of service. The structure is deteriorating rapidly, evaluation would probably be necessary in the near future.

### 5. Other items from membership

Scott Bisson reported on the National Incident Management System. Future F.E.M.A. will be contingent on the adoption of this I.C.S. system. A draft has been distributed on a National Credentialing System by the Nation Fire Academy.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, February 26, 2004 at 19:00, probably in Wethersfield.

Al Hawkins, chairman