



Fire Marshal's Advisory Board Meeting
Friday, January 16, 2015
10:00 A.M – 10:50 A.M. CST
South Dakota Department of Public Safety
Sutherland Building
Pierre, SD

Board members present: Jerry Diamond.

Board members joining by conference call: Rick Gustad, Jim Strain, Michael Harstad.

Department of Public Safety Staff present: Doug Hinkle, Paul Merriman, Glenda Marks

Others in attendance:

Kristi Turman – Director, Division of Emergency Services, SD Department of Public Safety.

Jay Esperance – Director, Division of Wildland Fire, SD Department of Agriculture.

Call to Order & Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.m. CST by Paul Merriman. Roll call was taken, and a quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve October 28, 2014 meeting minutes.

Moved by: Rick Gustad

Seconded: Jerry Diamond

Discussion: None

Minutes approved unanimously.

Fire Marshal Updates:

Paul Merriman provided updates on the days events, South Dakota Joint Fire Council Meeting, South Dakota Society of Fire Instructors Board Meeting, to be followed by the South Dakota Society of Fire Instructors Conference Saturday and Sunday January 17/18.

Doug Hinkle presented the training events calendar to the board, and will be forwarding a link for the training calendar out to all board members.

Paul Merriman updated the board on the South Dakota Smoke Alarm Grant Project, thus far the program has been successful, and additional alarms are on order. In follow up to this life safety initiative, a report was provided to the board, for year 2014, six fire fatalities were recorded in South Dakota, the lowest number on record since 1998 according to National Fire Incident Reporting System data. No firefighter fatalities were recorded in 2014.

Legislative Session 2015:

Paul Merriman gave an overview of the upcoming 2015 Legislative Session, reporting that a large number of bills had been filed thus far. Senate Bill 14 was discussed, as well as possible legislation

regarding fire department billing practices. A session calendar was provided for reference to all board members, and some key dates discussed.

The advisory board will hold a conference call in February (date to be announced), to further review and discuss any legislation affecting the fire service.

Firefighter License Plates:

Doug Hinkle and Paul Merriman discussed the new firefighter license plates, eligibility requirements, and the process for obtaining them. The Fire Marshal's Office has been working closely with the Department of Revenue and Regulation to get information out to the fire service regarding eligibility and availability. The license plate design was provided to all board members for view. Jim Strain brought forth a question regarding state fire fighting organizations and their ability to be recognized by DRR for plate issuance. The Fire Marshal's Office will work with DRR on behalf of the Division of Wildland Fire, and the SD Air National Guard Fire Department to help ensure they are recognized.

Certified Fire Investigator Program (CFI)

Jim Strain discussed CFI Trainer.Net programs, available through the International Association of Arson Investigators. The online program provides up to date training modules on every aspect of the fire investigation process. Jim also asked if the Fire Marshal's Office could maintain a list of all current certified fire investigators in South Dakota. The Fire Marshal's Office will continue to maintain and update a list for reference.

Paul Merriman asked if the Division of Wildland Fire could provide a list of certified wildland fire investigators to the office for reference. Jim Strain agreed, and added there are currently six total, three working for the Division of Wildland Fire, and three with the US Forest Service.

Paul Merriman discussed the certified fire investigator training program and the State Fire Marshal's Office. Currently two deputy marshal's hold the endorsement of certified fire investigator, with an additional marshal accepted to test.

Other Items/Discussion:

Rick Gustad asked that the board be kept up on legislative proceedings. Paul Merriman indicated that the office, as well as the Department of Public Safety Legislative Team track bills of interest daily, and the board would be kept abreast. It was decided that a conference call as forementioned in the minutes, would be held in February and as needed during the legislative session to help keep the board informed.

Jim Strain asked that the first responders credentialing project be added to a future agenda.

Next meeting Date/Adjournment:

The next meeting of the FMAB will be April 28, 2015 in Chamberlain.

