



Fire Marshal's Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 3, 2013 – Conference Call
10 am – 12 pm CDT
Independent Insurance Agents of South Dakota
Ft. Pierre, SD

In attendance:

Board Members - Jerry Diamond. By phone – Rick Gustad, Jim Strain, Mike Harstad.
DPS Fire Marshal's Office - Glenda Marks, Doug Hinkle, Paul Merriman.

Conference Call was held due to inclement weather.

Meeting Minutes:

Call to order and roll call – Paul Merriman

Michael Harstad introduced a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Rick Gustad and the minutes were approved.

Fire Marshal's Office Updates: Paul & Doug

Deputy Marshal Steve Harford successfully tested and received the endorsement of Certified Fire Investigator, accredited through the International Association of Arson Investigators. Deputy Marshal Paul Coon has submitted application to IAAI, upon acceptance a test date will be scheduled in the near future.

The Firefighter Essentials Grant Program was a success last year and the office has received a lot of positive comments from the fire service. The program will continue in 2014, the Independent Insurance Agents of SD will discuss their continued support of the program during their end of year board meeting being held in December.

Updates and programming changes to the SD Fire Incident Reporting System are now complete. A quick reference guide and program overview have been sent out to all fire departments in SD in an effort to make the process more user friendly and to promote better fire reporting.

The office is currently working with the Insurance Services Office (ISO) on community risk reduction activities which should positively impact the public protection classification for communities across SD. ISO will be assigning a liaison to SD in the coming months with the position being located most likely in Rapid City or Sioux Falls. Mike Harstad recently took part in an ISO audit and reports some positive changes in the process.

Data collected in the Firefighter demographics study will be used as a starting point to develop statewide recruitment and retention initiatives. Recruitment and retention of firefighters will remain an agenda item in future FMAB meetings.

Other Business/Discussion:

Jim Strain and Doug Hinkle briefed the group on the structural fire protection mobilization plan. The plan was put into place after the Myrtle Fire near Pringle, SD. The plan was developed to pre-identify local resources that may be available to provide structure protection during large scale wild land fires. Fire departments do not need to meet NWCG qualifications to participate in the plan.

Jim Strain discussed potential legislation regarding a ban on the use of exploding targets in the Black Hills Fire Protection District.

Jim Strain informed the group that the Division of Wildland Fire will be moving from the current location at the airport, to their new location.

Jim Strain reported to the group that contracts are in place with state air resources to provide fixed wing air support during forest service and BIA wildland fires. Jim also updated the group on the cross boundary project with the state of Nebraska - setting up air tanker bases in Alliance, Valentine, and Chadron.

Mike Harstad reported on proposed updates to NFPA 1901-Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus, potential impacts, and what they could mean to SD Fire Departments.

Mike Harstad discussed the certified firefighter curriculums in use in SD, and asked whether or not it would be possible to consider going to one standard curriculum across the state, or studying which curriculums are the most popular. Rick Gustad mentioned online testing/training and looking at this as a possibility in the future.

Jerry Diamond updated the board on the Independent Insurance Agents of South Dakota matching of funds related to the firefighter essentials grant program. The IASD Board feels the program is a good way to support firefighter training in SD, and is interested in providing a match again this year. This is an agenda item for the boards December meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rick Gustad and seconded by Jim Strain.

Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting will be held Tuesday March 18, 2014, from 10-2pm at the St. Josephs Indian School in Chamberlain.

