



Fire Marshal's Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday October 30, 2012
10-2 pm CDT
Department of Public Safety Building – 2nd Floor Conference Room

In attendance:

Board Members - Richard Broderick, Michael Harstad, Jim Strain, Jerry Diamond, Rick Gustad
DPS Fire Marshal's Office - Glenda Marks, Doug Hinkle, Paul Merriman

Meeting Minutes

Call to order and roll call – Paul Merriman

Mike Harstad introduced a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Strain and the minutes were approved.

Paul Merriman and Doug Hinkle with the Fire Marshal's Office provided office updates on attendance at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service and the SD Firefighters Memorial Service, SD Firefighter Essentials Grant Program, Legislation, NFPA State Fire Marshal's Forum, NFA Training Grant Status, State Fire School 2013, Class A Alpha Dress Uniforms SFMO personnel, and the upcoming SD Fire Instructors Class & Conference.

Jim Strain and Doug Hinkle highlighted the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service attending as escorts for the families of William & Jacob Waldner, and the families of Trampus Haskvitz. Paul Merriman commented on the high attendance at the SD Firefighters Memorial Service and passed along thanks to the SD Firefighters Association Board for their efforts.

The Board discussed protocols regarding the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Template for Line of Duty Deaths. North Sioux City Fire Department inquired as to whether South Dakota had anything set up.

The group discussed the upcoming legislative session in follow up to the first FMAB Meeting. Will continue to research the use of Chinese lanterns as a group, in addition, Jim Strain provided information on STAR exploding targets and discussed how they have impacted the wildland fire issues across the country as well. The Association of County Commissioners will be sponsoring legislation regarding counties authority to ban the use of fireworks, giving them similar authority to that of municipalities. The Fire Marshal's Office passed along and additional fireworks section regarding public displays for review by the DPS Legal & Regulatory Division.

Class A uniforms for Fire Marshal Staff was again discussed during the meeting. It is the feeling of board members that the Fire Marshal and key staff have uniforms when representing the office at Firefighter funerals, Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service and similar events. Jim Strain will work with Doug Hinkle to review conservative uniform options and associated costs and present at the next FMAB Meeting.

Jim Strain and Rich Broderick asked if the the Fire Marshal's Office has looked into the possibility of changing from Class A to Class B retirement based on recent changes made to the law, and would support the office in pursuing this endeavor.

Jerry Diamond reported to the board that the Independent Insurance Agents of South Dakota have set aside \$10,000 to award grants to volunteer fire departments in SD in 2013. The IIASD group will discuss at their board meeting in December and report back, the tentative plan is to match each FF Essentials Grant issued by the FM Office, further assisting fire departments wishing to host a Certified Firefighter Class.

Rick Gustad advised that planning for State Fire School in Belle Fourche 2013 is underway, the next meeting is planned for January, and a list of tentative list of classes has been put together. Rick also reported that State Fire School 2014 in Aberdeen is tentatively being planned for the 1st weekend in April rather than the traditional June dates.

Mike Harstad discussed the success they have had with their firefighter recruitment and retention program in the SE part of the state. Through a SAFER Grant, the Minnehaha County Fire Chiefs Association was able to launch a program geared towards getting people interested in the field of emergency services.

Mike Harstad mentioned that the Crooks Volunteer Fire Department received a thermal imaging camera through the 500 for Life Program. 500 For Life partnered with Fireman's Fund Insurance Company's Heritage Program and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to qualify and prioritize fire departments to receive these thermal imagers based on criteria such as the number of fires fought each year and the amount of funding available from the municipalities they serve. This ensures that the fire departments that need them the most and can afford them the least are the first to receive them. The Fire Marshal's Office will forward this information out to its Fire Chiefs list.

Rick Gustad provided information to the group regarding Platte Volunteer Fire Departments new mobile live fire training unit. This unit allows for confined space, RIT, technical rescue team, ventilation, forcible entry, fire behavior, fire scene salvage and other training opportunities in a controlled environment.

Rich Broderick spoke about a proposed idea to create a Fire & Life Safety Group in SD, meeting under the heading of the SD Fire Chiefs Association. The group if assembled would be a forum for fire prevention officials to discuss code related ideas.

Jim Strain stated that their office will now be called the State Division of Wildland Fire.

The next FMAB Meeting will be held Tuesday January 29, 2013, from 10-2 p.m. at the DPS – Sutherland Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room in Pierre.