

Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association
Meeting Minutes
Wyoming Fire Academy
January 8, 2010
12:30 P.M.

Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order by President Randy Vickers at 1230 hours.

Roll call: A roster was sent around the room for the members to sign.

President Randy Vickers advised the audience the meeting would begin with two presentations. The first presentation was from Doug Bartlett of Global Traffic Technologies, a company which provides traffic management safety for emergency services vehicles. These signal preemption systems improve response time and reduce crashes at controlled intersections for emergency vehicles responding to incidents. There are two types of systems, infra red and strobe emitter, these systems must be integrated with the cooperation of WYDOT and the municipalities served. Agencies who are interested in this technology can contact Doug Bartlett at 425-347-6208 or doug@advancedtraffic.com.

The second presentation was provided by Ray Bizal, California Western Regional manager for the NFPA Fire Safe Cigarette Program, www.firesafecigarette.org. Wyoming is the only state in the nation that has not sponsored a bill regarding the Fire Safe Cigarette Program. This bill requires cigarette manufactures to produce self extinguishing cigarettes, and provides consistent regulation in each state. Senator Hank Coe, ATRIA and the Wyoming State Fire Marshals Office are sponsoring the bill during the 2010 legislative session.

The meeting was called to order by President Randy Vickers at 1310 hours.

Minutes of last meeting: Randy Vickers asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes from the last meeting.

Motion #1: Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting was made by Craig Haslam.

Second: Marlene Aitchison.

Motion carries, minutes approved.

Treasurer's report: Gene Diedtrich gave the treasurer's report. Starting the period of May 22 - December 31, 2009 the account balance was \$10,586.14, with receipts totaling \$128,607.85. \$81,333.59 was expended leaving a balance as of December 31, 2009 of \$57,559.80. The bulk of the deposits were from the SAFER grant as \$127,415 request for funds were received, of that amount \$80,958.46 has been expended. Of the \$57,559, \$46,456 is still attributed to the SAFER grant, \$11,404 is unrestricted. Phil Oakes reminded everyone there is approximately \$870,000 still available from the SAFER grant, the money from the grant needs to be expended in the next year, please contact Phil to find out how your agency can apply for funds from the grant.

Motion #2: Dennis Estes moved to accept the treasurer's report.

Second: Mark Young

Motion carries, treasurer's report is accepted.

Committee reports:

State Fire Council: Mark Young reported the council recently met via teleconference, there were no appeals before the council and no new business, and the council heard administrative reports from the State Fire Marshals Office. The next meeting of the council is set for April, in Sheridan. If you have any issue which you would like to place on the agenda please contact Mark, as he is the fire service representative on the council.

Missouri Valley Chiefs: Mark Young reported he is the WY representative on the board of directors of the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs and the International Fire Chiefs Association, if you have any issues please bring them to Mark. The next conference meeting date is July 7-9, 2010 in Colorado Springs, CO; the IFCA conference will meet on August 24-28, 2010, in Chicago. For more information visit the website at www.mvafc.org/

Certification Committee report: John Rutherford reported subcommittees have been set up to review the NFPA standards which are to be updated to the 2009 edition; the standards are ADO Pumper and Aerial, Fire Officer, Inspector, and Public Fire and Life Safety Educator. The committee has been reviewing and has approved the update for the Wyoming Firefighters Policy and Procedures Manual. The committee has also reviewed and approved the Committee on Accreditation self - study document required by Pro Board, a site visit will be conducted by Pro Board this spring. Rita Lee provided information and hand outs regarding the Fire Department Recognition Program. Fire Departments can receive recognition for their participation in the Wyoming Firefighters Voluntary Certification Program at the levels of excellence, gold silver, bronze or participating department. For example; if a department has 30 members and 29 are certified as Firefighter I then the department would be recognized at the Gold level for Firefighter I. If they have 25 members that are Firefighter II then they would be at the Silver level for Firefighter II and so on for the five recognized levels. If a department does not participate in a level, indicate on the application as none applicable (NA). Information regarding the recognition program will be mailed to each fire department additionally; the information will be placed on the SFMO website <http://wyofire.state.wy.us/>. For further information contact the Certification Coordinator at 307-777-7288. The committee has also been discussing and will move forward with rules to implement term limits for the members of the Certification Committee.

Legislative report: Marlene Aitchison reported the legislative session will start on February 8th this year, it is a budget session, which means it is a short session lasting only 20 days. Individuals who are interested in helping to lobby for issues during the legislative session should sign the sheet being passed around. Rooms will be available this year at the Holiday Inn. Emails will be sent out on a daily basis in order to keep members abreast of legislative issues during the session.

Chief Vickers advised the bills which have been recommended by the legislative committee to support during this legislative session will be voted on by the members attending the meeting yea or nay. The following bills were announced by Marlene Aitchison and voted on by the Fire Chiefs Association members attending the meeting:

1. **Safe Cigarette Bill:** All those in favor of supporting the Safe Cigarette bill signify by saying yea. Members vote to support this bill.
2. **HB10:** Electrical low voltage licensing to include landscaping and irrigation wiring systems. Chief Vickers asked if the committee has a recommendation. Marlene advised, the committee supports the bill. Members vote to support the HB10.
3. **HB15:** This is a Corporations Committee Bill, the Fire Council and Electrical Board has been very active in the discussion on this bill during the last few months. During an audit of the SFMO by the LSO several issues were uncovered regarding electrical issues, this bill addresses those issues.
 - A. The bill transfers authority from the Fire Council and Electrical Board to the SFMO in the area of appeals. Appeals to the Electrical Board will be sent to the SFMO, if the appeal is rejected by the SFMO, the Board and Council would then hear the appeal. The International Bill Code would be added.
 - B. Inserts language, upon request the SFMO will investigate electrocution deaths.
 - C. Plan review and remodeling license will increase from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

D. Currently for electrical licensing and permits the SFMO keep 50% for operations of the electrical division; the other 50% goes to the general fund. Because of the increase of the cost of office space and salaries, the bill inserts language to increase the split of funds to a 60/40 split.

E. Electrical permits will be raised to \$50.

Chief Vickers asked if the committee has a recommendation. Marlene advised the committee supports the bill. Members vote to support the HB15.

4. **Senate File 4:** This bill concerns special district elections. It is the consensus of the legislative committee the bill should be amended for a provision to allow an option for special districts to do their own elections, by following state statutes accordingly and following the requirements of the county clerk. Chief Vickers asked if the committee has a recommendation. Marlene advised the committee supports the bill with an amendment as suggested. Members vote to support the Senate File 4.

5. **Senate File 5:** This bill concerns making special districts public records available for the public. Records would be made available during regular office hours 20 hours a week. If you do not have regular office hours the records must be filed with the county clerk for public access. Chief Vickers asked if the committee has a recommendation. Marlene advised, the committee's recommendation to oppose this bill, as it is an added burden to the fire districts to provide these documents to each county clerk. Chief Vickers advised, the Fire Chiefs Association will oppose Senate File 5 based on the additional burden to the fire districts, and also in accordance with the recommendation of the Rural Fire Association recommendation. Members vote to oppose Senate Fire 5.

6. **Fire Ban Statutes:** Not yet in bill form regarding a control burn gone bad where the cost of the fire could not be recouped. Fines up to \$750 and jail time up to six (6) months could be imposed and fire cost could be recouped. If your county is a part of the fire suppression fund, the monies would go into that fund or to the fire department which actually incurred the cost of fighting the fire whether the department is volunteer or paid. Rural Fire Association chose to support this idea if it was to come to fruition and this would be the recommendation of the Fire Chiefs Association also. Members voted to support proposed legislation to upgrade the fire ban statute and to recoup costs incurred for responding to these types of incidents.

7. **SFMO Budget:** To support the budget as it is being presented. Members voted to support the SFMO budget.

8. **Workers Compensation Issue:** This issue arose when workers compensation denied compensation to a volunteer firefighter injured during a fire convention event. At the present time the statute covers firefighting, firefighter training, and equipment and building maintenance. Senator Dan Dockstader of Lincoln County will try to work with LSO to insert language into the statute to enhance workers compensation coverage to cover other phases of firefighter activities such as social events and travel to meetings, when authorized by Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). Chief Vickers asked those in favor of supporting the expansion of the definition of worker compensations relating to volunteer firefighters. Members voted to support the expansion of firefighter related activities

9. **OPTICom Systems:** Advance bill to retrofit travel lights where WYDOT would incur the expense of updating the traffic systems. Discussion was held; Chief Reitz will talk with legislators and keep the committee posted. However, with the short fall in the state budgets this may not be an opportune time to bring this item forward.

The members voted in support of legislative language to direct WYDOT for payment for all new installation of OPTICom receivers not emitters on the emergency vehicles, and to direct WYDOT to format a plan to retrofit OPTICom receivers on all existing traffic lights.

10. Plan A Firefighter Pension: Chief Young asked for the Chiefs Association support to help monitor the Plan A Pension during the legislative session, please put this on the legislation list. All those in favor of supporting the Plan A Retirement plan signify. Members voted to support and monitor the legislation.

11. Three bills were brought to the attention of the Legislative committee to monitor these bills are:

Senate File 15 - title 25 revisions for emergency detention.

Senate File 20 - no texting bill, this exempts emergency vehicles.

Senate File 23 - unemployment compensation changes amending statutes regarding casual labor at \$50 enumeration, which would affect unemployment costs.

Fallen Firefighters Memorial: Gerald Phipps, Academy Coordinator reported the memorial will be held on April 10, 2010. The memorial ceremony this year will be dedicated to two fallen firefighters whose names did not previously appear on the memorial. This incident occurred on August 18, 1970; a pilot and co-pilot flying a B17 air tanker crashed during operations on the Dry Creek 2 Fire, just west of Crowheart.

Constitution and Bylaws: Report given by Gene Diedtrich. The last two years there has been a \$100 dues fee to each fire department and \$30 for additional membership per department. This fee schedule has raised an additional \$6300 during the past two years. It is the recommendation of the treasurer Gene Diedtrich, the association stays at the same fee schedule for at least one more year and revisit the fees again in 2011.

Motion #3: Chief Randy Vickers moved to retain the fee structure for the year 2010 at \$100 dollars per department with an additional fee of \$30 for each person above one.

Second: Jerry Munger.

Motion carries.

WFA: Gerald Phipps, Academy Coordinator reported a total of 1500 students were instructed at Fire Academy during the year 2009. In March of 2009, the IFI course was moved from the Law Enforcement Academy to the WFA. In May, the Haz/Mat Technician training course was held with a total of 28 students participating. In June, two Wildland Fire Investigation course were held; this course will be not instructed in 2010. Academy improvements were: upgrades to the facility to become ADA compliant, SCBA compressor is in service, Campbell County Fire Department donated a fire engine to the Academy, and Fremont County Fire District houses the apparatus for the Academy. WFA website students can check the website for a class roster to see if you are enrolled in a course. April 19-23rd Fire Cause Determination course, which has replaced the Initial Fire Investigation course, is being instructed; please call Ashley Kroner to enroll. Firefighter practical training will be held April 23-25th, continue to check the WFA website, as firefighter practical training will be held again during 2010. The Haz/Mat Technician course will be held May 17-28th. Students will have lodging at the CWC dormitory. Command and Control of Incident Operations will be instructed on May 24-29th, we must have 20 students enrolled by April 23rd in order for this class to go forward. Coordinator Phipps thanked the following agencies for their help and donations, WFA Staff, Homeland Security, Campbell County Fire Department, Rawlins Fire Department, Fremont County Fire District, State Forestry and the State Honor Farm forestry crews.

NVFC: Brad Carroll reported the council meets twice a year. This year the Council had incorporated EMS as a larger part of the organization, along with setting up a separate section for those EMS responders who are outside the scope of fire department attached EMS. Brad serves on the Health and Safety committee. The BEST poster has been developed to identify safety priorities departments can do to have a positive effect on the health and safety of firefighters. BEST stands for behavior, equipment, standards, training. With the help of Provident Insurance who provided the funding, the BEST poster has been mailed out to departments nation-wide. Heart Healthy and Seat Belt use are two of the initiatives the Council will continue to work with during the coming year.

IAFC-VCOS: Ron Smith reported VCOS the volunteer section of the IAFC, the chairman reminds you the SAFER grant has been extended as far as the recruitment and retention grant due to lack of applications.

VCOS in conjunction with IAFC will be sponsoring a class in Evergreen, CO in April on how the process will work regarding the changes coming from ISO. VCOS still sponsors Beyond Hoses and Helmets classes if you are interested please contact Ron. The annual symposium will be held in FL again this year; scholarships are available for those of you that would like to attend. Recently released a report on cadet fire programs, for those departments who have these programs the report lists guidelines to follow. If you are not a member of the IFC and you would like to become a member, make sure to check the box to also be a member of VCOS.

Nominations and Elections: Craig Haslam reported elections will be held in April. This will be the end of Chief Vickers term as president of the association, Chief Armstrong will move up to the president's position. The second vice-president position will be open, please contact Chief Armstrong or Chief Haslam with your nominations for this position.

WY Association of Arson Investigators: No report from this committee.

Chief Vickers spoke of the arson dog provided through the funding efforts of the State Fire Marshals Office, WY Office of Homeland Security and State Farm Insurance. John Rutherford of Rawlins Fire Department is the handler for the dog. This resource is available to fire departments at no cost by contacting Rawlins Fire Department. Chief Hannum of Rawlins Fire Department thanked John Rutherford for providing this resource and being available and willing to travel when requested throughout the state.

State Fire Marshal Office: State Fire Marshal Lanny Applegate also thanked John Rutherford and the Rawlins Fire Department for providing the arson dog. Regarding the SFMO budget, the budget sustained a 10% cut in the spring of 2009; however, the budget for this biennium looks favorable as submitted. An administrative position is open at the Cheyenne office, applications have been taken, and interviews will be conducted on January 12-13th. Will be offering a Continuing Education class for electrical. IAEI conference will be held in Sheridan, Thermopolis and one will be held in Cheyenne on March 12th, information regarding the course will be mailed out. The SFMO staff would like to extend our appreciation to the Fire Prevention and Electrical Board and members of the Certification Committee for their help and expertise. Thank you to State Forestry and Office of Homeland Security who provide pass through grants to help with funding the WFA and firefighter training. Brad Carroll will be attending the Youth Fire Prevention Program, this is a train the trainer course and Brad will bring this program to the rest of the state.

Assistant State Fire Marshal Mike Carlson reported for any city, county, district, fire department or building departments doing plan review or inspections there will be a two day ICC class available. The class will be customized to primarily cover the life safety portion of building plan review and fire sprinkler alarm code. The course will be held at the WFA on April 29-30th. The class can be used for recertification hours; it will be available to inspectors and plan reviewers. The entire cost of the class will be covered by the SFMO. The class will be held in conjunction with WCBO and WAFAM. Applications will be available by the end of January for enrollment.

Training Division Manager Phil Oakes reported Brad Sarff, Lou Simpson, along with other instructors, are available to do WYO Link training, please call to set up this training. The Haz/Mat Conference will be held March 18-20th at the WFA and at CWC, college credits are available. The training will also cover continuing education hours for Haz/Mat Technician recertification hours. The Chief Officer and Company Officer Symposium is March 25-27th in Casper. The symposium is being sponsored by the SFMO, Casper College and the Wyoming Fire Chiefs Association. WFIRS reports are due by February 15th; this is the cutoff date to have all reports included to complete the annual report. Reports will still be taken after this date; however, the call numbers will not be included in the annual report for 2009. There are 11 NFA direct delivery courses available during 2010, 20 students are needed in advance in order for the course to go forward. If you are interested in a NFA direct delivery course contact Phil at 307-777-7288. The certification program will under go a site visit from Pro Board in mid to late May of this year. These visits are conducted every five years by Pro Board. A reminder, the Wyoming Fire Chiefs Association, through a

SAFER grant has available \$870,000 to cover such items as shots, physicals, scholarships to attend training, college scholarships, cadets programs and fire department awards. There are 16 months left to expend these funds, please contact Phil Oakes at 307-777-7288 for further information on the SAFER grant.

State Forestry: No report.

Office of Homeland Security: Kim Lee reported approximately \$90 million in grant money has been provided to the State of Wyoming in the last seven years to first responders. Regional Response Teams have been a great success; there have been 131 call outs in the last six and half years, most calls are hazardous materials spills and WMD's with white powders or bomb calls. If regional response assistance is needed in your area, departments can call 24 hours day for deployment of the response team in your area. WYO Link is the largest public safety project in the history of the state of Wyoming; \$60 million has been appropriated by the state legislature for this project. At this time there are 55 agencies on WYO Link. The completion of all towers for the project in the northwest part of the state should be completed in 2011. The legislature will approve \$5-6 million in operations cost to finish this public safety project.

Fire Instructors: No report.

Rural Firefighters: No report.

Department of Health: No report.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Gene Diedtrich reported, in order to help with the legislative lobbying effort the Chiefs Association in the past has given \$4,500. Gene Diedtrich made the motion for the Fire Chiefs Association to donate \$4,500 to the 2010 legislative lobbying effort.

Second: Craig Haslam.

Motion carries.

Gene Diedtrich advised, the Fire Chiefs Association and the Firemen's Association traditionally share the dues to the National Volunteers Fire Council. The share of the dues last year was \$250.00 apiece. Gene moved to do the same for the year 2010. Randy Vickers asked all those in favor of paying half of the NVFC signal by saying yea.

Motion carries.

The next meeting of the Fire Chiefs Association will be:

April 10, 2010, 0900 hours at Riverton Fire Station #1

A steak fry, hosted by the Riverton Fire Department at Station #1 will follow after the meeting,

The Fallen Firefighters Memorial service will be held at 1300 hours.

