

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION
Curriculum Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 6, 2022

9:30am Classroom 6&7

Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH 03301

Curriculum Committee Members present: Allan Clark, Eric Wilking, Bill Campbell

Curriculum Committee Members absent: Jason Greene, Jeffry Beard

Commission Members: None

Staff: Jeffrey Phillips, Arnold Anderson, Scott Doherty, Scott Cathy, Theodore Tillson, Jeffrey Allison

Public: James Paquette

Commissioner Clark called the meeting to order at 9:44am.

Motion to accept Minutes from September 1, 2021 by Wilking, Seconded by Clark. Motion passes

Commissioner Clark stated the Commission is going to be looking at reassigning Commission members to the different committees for the Commission. If you are interested in remaining on the committee please advise Commissioner Buxton.

Assistant Director Phillips gave an update on the CDL training system under DMV. The Federal Government has established a training requirement that must be completed prior to individuals being eligible to test for their CDL license. The Division has been working with DMV to understand the requirements and what will be needed to move forward. The Driver-Operator All Vehicle training program mirrors the skills and pre-trip inspection that is used during the CDL test. Additionally, it has been found that current NH legislation prohibits new training agencies that have not gone through the 2 year driver education program. The Department is looking into legislation which would create a pathway for agencies to become CDL training agencies.

Assistant Director Phillips gave a history of the 1072 visiting committee, this is one of the last visiting Committees that was established under the other process.

The following is a brief overview of the changes proposed to the Hazardous Materials Technician course. The Visiting Committee met under the premise that eventually the cognitive learning. I.e. Lectures, would eventually be transitioned to online learning format. In the interim however until such time that development occurs, we have included the lecture series within the program.

The committee selected overwhelmingly to utilize the IFSTA curriculum. This is a provided curriculum with PowerPoint, lecture notes and practical evolutions. The current program (Jones & Bartlett) is 9.5 Days in length, with 1 additional day for written and practical exam, totaling 75.5 contact hours. The IFSTA curriculum was developed into a schedule with the required skills based on the NFPA 1072 Standard. After careful consideration utilizing a full lecture/practical schedule, we have developed the course you can see by the submitted schedule.

The new course would need to be increased to 91 Contact hours, or 13 days with 1 additional day being an exam and practical day. We found no other solution based on number of slides, and required practical evolution be able to do the course in less time.

After the 2 pilot courses, we will have a better idea on what works and does not and maybe able to shorten the course, but we feel it will still be more that the hours than the current course. Once the availability of moving lectures to the OLA, the course will be shortened significantly. However, the Visiting Committee still found the necessary practical and reinforcement days totaling 80 hours. The new curriculum and standard outline cover task areas that had been missing from the previous curriculum. Namely, significantly more content with regards to Metering Devices, Product Control, Decontamination and Product transfer.

We found very minimal additional supplies that would be needed over our current cache and saw no significant purchases required. Both the current and proposed course utilizes an additional day for testing. We are currently evaluating new ways to be able to utilize reinforced testing during the course and during the last day of scenario day. If this can be accomplished within the ProBoard standard we will be able to have 1 less day that students would need to attend.

Commissioner Clark asked what the max number of students

Jeff Allison stated 24 however the program would require to have a minimum of 12 students.

Discussion on having the practical testing be more of a scenario based exam rather than an individual skill based exam.

Students would only have to pass the examination once and if needed for the second scenario would be non-graded participates

Commissioner Clark asked what is the minimum number of students needed for the course? The recommendation is 18 with a max of 24.

Jeff Allison brought up the written exam has always been 50 questions. Historically, it was 50 due to the limited availability of questions.

Commissioner Wilking asked if 50 questions provided an adequate number of questions to show the students had enough knowledge of the topic and provided the recommendation of increasing the exam from 50 to 100 questions.

Long term plan for this program will be make it hybrid and move the PowerPoint to online delivery

Question was asked how often the program was run?

Jeff Allison stated typically once or twice a year.

Motion by Commissioner Wilking, seconded by Commissioner Campbell to approve curriculum based on a specific course orientation added to the program, class size 12 to 24, exam be increased from 50 to 100 and move the program from in class lecture to online content. Passed unanimously to recommend to the Commission and hold public hearings.

Fire Officer Visiting Committee presentation

Fire Officer I

Need to add list of VC members to the packet

Captain Scott Cathy presented the final recommendation of the Visiting Committee.

The current Fire Officer I program consist of five, 8-hour, in class days and uses the Jones & Bartlett, Fire Officer: Principles and Practice, Third Edition textbook. The Visiting Committee has reviewed the IFSTA and J&B texts and has selected the J&B, Fire Officer: Principles and Practice, Fourth Edition textbook. The course delivery proposal is to pivot to a hybrid delivery. The new delivery would consist of three in-person, eight hour, class sessions and four, two hour, instructor led virtual sessions delivered over two weeks (two 2-hour sessions each week). One of the two hour, virtual programs, Preparing for Promotion, would be an opt-in session and not a requirement for the successful completion of the program. The instructor led virtual segments would cover the following topics:

- Community Relations and Risk Reduction
- Fire Department Administration
- Pre-Incident Planning, Code Enforcement and Cause Determination
- Preparing for Promotion (opt-in segment)

These virtual sessions cover Chapters 4, 5, 6 and Appendix A of the textbook.

Another change in delivery occurs during the Incident Simulation session. The students will be divided into two groups. Each group will have an 8 hour class to work thru incident simulations. This will provide increased competencies in managing incidents as a first arriving officer. This change is consistent with the Incident Simulation delivery in the Fire Officer II program.

In addition to the virtual lectures and in-person classes, the students would continue to have an online component of pertinent videos and articles associated with an online discussion forum and Project work to address specific JPR's in the standard.

AD Phillips stated VC really stressed to maintain an in-person delivery due to the skills of communication needed for Company Officer

Clark spoke about the VC committee process and also discussed in person delivery and the importance of writing for company officer. Committee was really active and most members attended most all of the meetings

Chief Wilking asked him to talk him through how the rubric works on grading projects:

Captain Cathy stated that when the student submitted their work online the rubric will be used against the student assignment.

Motion by Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Wilking to approve to program with a program specific orientation and expanded syllabus. Passed unanimously to recommend to the Commission and hold public hearings.

Commissioner Wilking asked how the Columbia Southern program worked within New Hampshire Assistant Director Phillips explained the Columbia Southern program and if students attended that program an obtained a ProBoard or IFSAC Fire Officer certification, New Hampshire would accept it as equivalent.

Fire Officer II

Captain Scott Cathy presented the final recommendation of the Visiting Committee.

The current Fire Officer II program consist of four, 3-hour, instructor led virtual sessions and one 8-hour in-person session and uses the Jones & Bartlett, Fire Officer: Principles and Practice, Third Edition textbook. The Visiting Committee has reviewed the IFSTA and J&B texts and has selected the J&B, Fire Officer: Principles and Practice, Fourth Edition textbook. The recommendation is to maintain the hybrid delivery format currently being offered. The instructor-led virtual sessions include:

- The Fire Officer II as a Manager
- Applications of Leadership
- Managing Community Risk Reduction Programs
- Administrative Communications
- Fire Cause and Determination

The one 8-hour, in-person, class will be Managing Major Incidents. This is the Resource Management-Incident Simulation day. The class will be divided into two group. Each group will have an eight hour in-person session. This is consistent with the current delivery of the Fire Officer II program.

In addition to the virtual lectures and in-person classes, the students would continue to have an online component of pertinent videos and articles associated with an online discussion forum and Project work to address specific JPR's in the standard.

Motion by Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Campbell to approve to program with a program specific orientation, expanded syllabus. Passed unanimously to recommend to the Commission and hold public hearings.

Firefighter I and II

Chief Anderson provided an overview of the Firefighter I/II Curriculum Analysis.

Curriculum Analysis document is attached.

The Curriculum Committed requested the document get updated with exam information, clear recommendations from the Division, an updated document showing the proper hours for the courses and work on a more detailed syllabus.

Discuss occurred on if Flashover should be a required part of the Fire Behavior course. Assistant Director Phillips stated he would reach out to the North America Fire Training Directors to poll other Academies.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Campbell at 1:03pm