

**NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION
NFPA 1001 Visiting Committee**

**MINUTES
Thursday, January 23, 2020**

6:00PM 32 Vernon St Keene, NH

Members: Robert Buxton, Randy Beaton, Tim Joubert, Max Chaisson, Sandra Vilchock, Scott Hunter, Mick Costello, Deborah Pendergast, Jeremy Thibeault

Staff: John Keller, Jeffrey Phillips, Ted Tillson, Andy Anderson

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes by Sandra Vilchock seconded by Randy Beaton. Approved

Motion by Scott Hunter to revisit the minutes, seconded by Sandra Vilchock

Chief Hunter stated on items f, he voted against the motion

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes by Randy Beaton seconded by Sandra Vilchock to approve the minutes as amended. Approved

I. Training Modules review (overviews attached)

a. **Basic Forestry**

Ted Tillson presented an overview of the current program. We currently conduct the online NWCG program; which takes students approximately 20 to 30 hours to complete the work online. After the students complete the online work, a 3-4 hour review of the material takes place before moving on to the practical portion of the program. There is currently an 8-hour practical that is outlined in the overview sheets. Student will then participate in hands on stations to learn the different skills and then Instructors provide a briefing to students and then conduct burn evolutions. At the end of the day the instructors and students conduct a hot wash of the day to review everything that they went over. A typical day last about 9 hours to complete everything and get everything back in service.

The general student feedback we receive is negative towards the online program. They find it too long and too much information and have difficulty running the online program. When the initial program rolled out the Division utilized the NWCG site and have so many technical issues. Our staff redeveloped the exact program to host it on our site; which significantly reduced these issues. We have spoken with area fire chiefs in what they are looking for on the forestry portion of the course and found the general consensus is they are looking for the skills firefighters would utilize to fight fires in New Hampshire.

The recommendation is to create about a 2 hour online program to give them the basic knowledge needs for the classroom portion. Create a lab that would go over tools,

hose, IRPG, back pack pumps so students have what they need in NH. 6 hours practical piece would be very similar to what we are teaching today with the exception of the removal of shelter deployments, firing devices, water drops. Based on student evaluations the practical portion of the course gets much better evaluations than the online. We do not recommend abandoning the NWCG program but rather work in conjunction with DNCR to offer these programs specifically for the student who wish to expand their knowledge in this specific area.

Max Chaisson: Are the online classes going to be developed by the Academy?

Ted Tillson: Yes all these online programs would be developed the same way other Firefighter I modules are developed

Jeremy Thibeault: Are there funded concerns if Wildland FF I was removed to be able to offer it outside the Firefighter I?

Ted Tillson: Staff did talk about it and we would still be able to provide the training

Pendergast: Yes the Division would still be able to offer this program similar to other modules

Jeremy Thibeault: Asked about students being ineligible for testing for Firefighter I due to the failure of WFI?

Max Chaisson stated that typically 1 or 2 students may be ineligible due to Wildland FFI and these are typically the same students who struggle with test taking.

Bryan Nowell: Is the program students are taken the same as NWCG?

Ted Tillson stated the Division redeveloped the NWCG program on our systems to include the quizzes to reduce the number of technical issues student were having.

Bryan Nowell: Follow question the one, Bryan stated that NWCG does not have a test and is for Wildland FFI ProBoard

Ted Tillson: Test that is being issue is a ProBoard test which leads to ProBoard certification

Mick Costello: How is the testing different in the new recommendation?

Ted Tillson stated there is no separate test needed for this portion since the Wildland Firefighter I certification would not be part of Firefighter I.

Max Chaisson: Asked if the recommendation would remove Wildland from FFI and is there a section in Fire Engineering

Tillson and Phillips: Yes, there would be no longer having a Wildland FFI certification as part of Firefighter I and the text covers the NFPA standard this area.

Nancy Carney state that we may find that smaller communities that might send students to just the Wildland course rather than the a full firefighter I course to meeting their needs.

Bryan Nowell stated that his agency is responsible for wildland fire. Also there is an increase in the number of hours when being converted to online. Bryan also stated this was not entirely about being a feeder program for just out of state crews but also to make sure firefighters are safe.

Mick Costello stated there is a lot of information about this topic and feels there should be more time before a decision is made.

Doug Minor brought us his thoughts of the reduction could potentially create a firefighter safety concern due to the removal of the NWCG program. He believes we would be doing an injustice if we remove this material from the program. Over 20 years ago the decision was made to combine the forestry program into the Firefighter I program. Would like to work on making sure the components are restored.

Ted Tillson clarified student would receive the Incident Command by completing ICS100 and 200 before class. We incorporate an IAP and the student are aware of the incident command system during evolutions. The Division met with DNCR less than a year ago to discuss issues with the NWCG programs and talked about the need to expand the instructors into different roles. We currently have 14 instructors, with many are nearing retirement age. NWCG has instructor requirements that need to be met to allow people to be a lead instructor.

Jeremy Thibeault stated the relationship between the Division and DNCR is outside the scope of the visiting committee

Bryan Nowell stated NWCG requirements dictate the requirements for lead instructors.

Scott Hunter has received a few phone calls. This basic forestry FFI module is a recommendation based by staff. He would like to see a recommendation from DNCR on what they feel the program should offer

Max Chaisson stated from a coordinators point of view 16 hours of PowerPoint is not an effective way to teach.

Doug Minor stated the recommendation is missing critical components of fire behavior and fire weather

Jeremy Thibeault stated he feels the staff recommendation still exceeds the 1001 standard

John Keller stated that he would like to see auto extrication in Firefighter I since it is an essential job of a firefighter but there is only so much that can be included that does not exceed the standard.

Jeremy Thibeault would like to see a recommendation from DNCR.

Doug Minor stated there are portions in the NWCG program that are covered in other modules in the Firefighter I program. Would like the opportunity to make the program to create a safe environment for firefighters on incidents. Is there a number of hours that is the target?

Scott Hunter stated the program should follow the 1001 standard.

Motion by Mick Costello to table, second by Scott Hunter. All in favor all approved

Motion by Scott Hunter to put in on the agenda for the next meeting, second by Director Pendergast. All in favor all approved

One public member spoke and stated she took the 16 hour program, and was not bored with it.. Then she took the program as part of Firefighter I. As a warden would like to see high quality training so people are prepared.

Chief Lord spoke about the letter that was distributed by Adam Thompson. Would recommend death by PowerPoint go away and more hands on training. If FSTEMS and DNCR can meet to discuss how the program can meet the needs of the NH fire departments. As Fire Chief that just put members through Firefighter I thought his students did not really come out with much about forestry. I did not feel that they learn what they need to take care of themselves.

Chief Hunter asked that DNCR to provide a recommendation of what they would recommend.

b. Fire Suppression

Ted Tillson provided overview of existing module and recommendation

Increase the number of hours to add an additional practical day. The individual has a limited amount of time for fire attack. This would build muscle memory for the students.

Scott Hunter: Does the recommendation no longer include dumpster fires?

Ted Tillson: Correct, there is nothing in the standard that specifically states dumpsters

Max Chaisson stated that during the burn day there are multiple evolutions are going on

Jeff Phillips stated the car fires evolution would include TIMs skills component and the additional time would allow for testing for the live fire training

Motion by Mick Costello to accept recommendation, second by Randy Beaton. All in favor all approved

Scott Hunter: Would the online module be the same amount of time as the classroom.

Jeff Phillips: Typically we find the online portion will take about 1/2 to 2/3 the amount of the classroom presentation takes.

c. Firefighter Survival

Ted Tillson reviewed the overview sheet

Current program has recently been moved online. There is nothing the specifically calls out Firefighter Survival but knowledge and skills are covered under multiple objectives of the standard

Director Pendergast asked if the number of hours are sufficient?

Max Chaisson state it was.

Randy Beaton: Are you implementing a RIT pack, swapping a bottle out?

John Keller state that exceeds the standard. Those types of skills are covered the RIT class or IAFF Fire Ground Survival

Sandra Vilchok asked for a clarification on the current program

Ted Tillson stated the online program was just completed.

Motion by Max Chaisson to accept recommendation, second by Mick Costello. All in favor all approved

d. Salvage & Overhaul

Ted Tillson reviewed the overview sheet

Tim Joubert asked if this module being taught in our current program and are props brought out to the programs?

Ted Tillson and John Keller both spoke about how sheetrock and sprinkler props are brought out for training. Ideally get an acquired structure

Motion to include Air monitoring into this module, seconded by Max Chaisson. Motion retracted

John Keller discussed a new recommendation to disperse air monitoring into different sections.

Motion Scott Hunter to disperse meter operations in tools and equipment, O2, CO HCN into salvage and overhaul and LEL into utilities. Second by Mick Costello.

Sandra Vilchok asked if the instructors feel they can absorb the 4 hours into the other training modules

John Keller state it would be easy to accomplish this.

Motion by Max Chaisson to accept recommendation as amended, second by Randy Beaton. All in favor all approved

e. Utilities

Ted Tillson reviewed the overview sheet

Jeremy Thibeault asked what are the standard evolutions going to look like? Can this be worked into other programs?

Ted Tillson stated there is sufficient amount of information to have a separate program.

Sandra Vilchok: would there be actual photovoltaic props

Ted Tillson stated yes we would need to get them

Motion by Sandra Vilchok to accept recommendation, second by Scott Hunter. All in favor all approved

f. Ventilation

Ted Tillson reviewed the overview sheet.

Scott Hunter asked if this a full 4 hours

Ted Tillson state yes, it is a full 4 hours

Tim Joubert asked if you feel that after tools and equipment students are comfortable and capable of using tools?

Ted Tillson stated currently no but we are hoping with the new program it will improve it.

Sandra Vilchock asked about the instructor demo

Ted Tillson stated it was not required.

Motion by Mick Costello to accept recommendation, second by Randy Beaton. All in favor all approved

g. Water Supply

Ted Tillson reviewed the overview sheet

Chief Lord asked if we go over the royal hitch and clapper valves?

Ted Tillson stated that in the Seacoast you are seeing less portable tanks and more royal hitch

Scott Hunter asked to add LDH appliances.

Ted Tillson stated it could be added to the program.

Motion by Scott Hunter to accept recommendation with the additional of LDH appliances, second by Mick Costello. All in favor all approved

h. Hose

Ted Tillson reviewed the overview sheet

Max Chaisson asked if the committee was looking to pick a specific hose load today?

Scott Hunter recommended we add instructor demos of triple layer and minuteman to the lab

Mick Costello stated he would recommend the minute man as the primary load due to most departments around him utilize this type of load

Motion by Max Chaisson to accept recommendation with the minuteman as the main load and the instructor demo of flat load and triple layer load, second by Mick Costello. All in favor all approved

i. Search and Rescue (pending completion of overview sheet)

Ted Tillson reviewed the overview sheet

Jeremy Thibeault stated the NFPA reference is incorrect. Should be 4.3.9

Sandra Vilchock asked what is used for victims?

Ted Tillson stated we utilize hose dummies or rescue randy

Motion by Sandra Vilchock to accept recommendation, second by Randy Beaton. All in favor all approved

II. Open Discussion

Scott Hunter asked if the membership is Director Pendergast a voting member

Jeffrey Phillips stated she was as well as the Commission representative was and will update the list of members on the agenda and minutes.

Scott Hunter can we add the focus and tasks of the Visiting Committee to the minutes and agenda

Jeff Phillips: I will add a summary of purpose and task of the committee

Sandra Vilchock: Does anyone have access to the new fire engineering book?

Ted Tillson: Division has several copies and are available for members

Bryan Nowell asked if we have purchased the PowerPoints?

Ted Tillson state we do have the new program and will use it to develop the online programs.

III. Schedule next meeting date

Motion by Scott Hunter to discuss forestry at the February 13th meeting, second by Randy Beaton. All in favor all approved

Wednesday, February 5 @ 3:00 at the Fire Academy

Thursday, February 13 @ 9:00 at the Fire Academy

Membership:

Position	Name
FST Commission Rep	Jeremy Thibeault Alternate: Rob Buxton
Division Rep	Deborah Pendergast Alternate: Jeffrey Phillips
Career Chief	Scott Hunter, Bedford FD
Call/Combination Chief	Tim Joubert, Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS
Career Firefighter	Randy Beaton, Keene Fire Department
Career Firefighter	Mick Costello, Concord Fire Department
Call/Volunteer Firefighter	Sandra Vilchock, Nottingham

	Fire Rescue
Call/Volunteer Firefighter	Phil Neily, Canaan Fire Department
Instructor	Max Chiasson, Manchester Fire Department
Alternate:	Nancy Carney, Peterborough Fire Department
Alternate:	Jim Lewis, Hopkinton Fire Department