

**NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION**  
**NFPA 1001 Visiting Committee**  
**AGENDA**  
**Thursday, March 5, 2020**

2:00PM NH Fire Academy – Classroom 5&6

**The Visiting Committee is tasked with reviewing the current program and available curriculums to determine what shall be included in the updated NFPA 1001 Firefighter I and II programs. These programs must continue to meeting the requirements of the NFPA standard and ProBoard. The FST Commission states the program should minimize the overall course time, offer as much of the course online as possible, maximize training time on practical skills without adding course hours and overall, focus on the basics and meet the minimum standard.**

Present members: Sandra Vilchock, Scott Hunter, Deborah Pendergast, Jeremy Thibeault, Nancy Carney, Phil Neily, Mick Costello, Randy Beaton

Absent members: Robert Buxton, Jim Lewis, Tim Joubert, Max Chaisson

Staff: Daniel Tice, Jeffrey Phillips, Scott Cathy, John Keller

Public: Bryan Nowell, Doug Miner, Eric Wilking, Allan Clark

**Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes by Sandra Vilchock seconded by Randy Beaton. Approved. Jeremy Thibeault abstained**

- I. Basic Forestry
  - a. DNCR presentation  
Bryan Nowell and Doug Miner gave hand out and presented material which outlined three potential options. DNRC recommended Option 1.

Option 1: S-130, S-190 and L-180 total of 28 hours

Option 2: S-130, S-190 24 - 26 hours, L-180 could be done online

Option 3: S-130 20 hours

Deb Pendergast asked about the instructors for this class.

Bryan Nowell explained there are certain requirements that are needed to be a lead for the course outlined by NWCG. To be a lead in an NWCG program the instructor would need to be a Single Resource Boss, most NH Rangers meet these requirements.

Dan Tice asked on the breakdown of the S-130?

Doug Miner explained the next page in the sheet breaks down the components of the program.

Bryan Nowell stated the program would be more hands on rather than death by PowerPoint following the model of the other programs.

Scott Hunter asked if a non-NWCG program is selected would Forest and Lands still have the ability to run these programs?

Bryan Nowell stated that he has been tasked with working on having this program available and is taught in DNCR joint training weekend.

Scott Hunter asked if the need for this training was would they do have the ability to fill the need?

Bryan Nowell stated yes.

Scott Hunter asked for a clarification on if their recommendation meets or exceeds the standard?

Bryan Nowell stated there is nothing in the standard that states the program does not restrict it from exceeding the standard. Forest and Lands feels this program meets the program.

Jeremy Thibeault stated there is an 8-hour difference between Option 3 and the initial recommendation.

Doug Miner stated the legislature feels the Wildland firefighting was an issue and covers the cost of the fire and worker compensation. He feels this is a minor increase with the benefits of reduce the cost and potential injury. How would we encourage these people to go back and get the people the additional training?

Max Chaisson asked if the online portion of the committee's recommendation has not been created correct?

John Keller stated it would have to be developed.

Eric Wilking asked the same question about how Hazmat Operations works?

Jeffrey Phillips stated Hazmat Operations is different since the NFPA standard requires the components of Hazmat Operations.

Jeffrey Phillips stated the NFPA 1051 is not a requirement of NWCG. You can still have the NWCG program with the NFPA 1051 certification. Wildland deals more with the NWCG certifications rather than NFPA. Additionally there are only 4 accredited agencies in the ProBoard system.

Deb Pendergast stated there are more formal steps of the process. It will then go to the Curriculum Committee, the Commission, public hearing and comment and then for Commission approval.

Jeremy Thibeault asked if the Curriculum Approval flow sheet be distributed to the members

Scott Hunter stated that he wants to make sure the recommendation that comes from the Visiting Committee should meet the requirements of what the Commission has set forth. He reread the task of the committee and broke down the components of what the group was tasked with. He also feels the online content time should be counted in student hours. He continued to state that he is not advocating to reduce the training but create a new norm.

John Keller stated the problem is if we create a gap with a basic level program there will need to be something to fill the gap with new educational program.

Max Chaisson stated he feels there is a gap now with the existing program.

Randy Beaton asked Scott Hunter if he has have talked with Chiefs about what their expectations of students that come out of the Fire Academy.

Scott Hunter stated that he recognizes the differences between each department

Mick Costello stated with the mission the group was given, he feels the committee has met the mission of the minimum requirements.

Allan Clark stated he represents the non-career chief, member of the Commission and the Chair of the Curriculum committee. He wants to make sure the committee knows the customer is the Fire Chief. We need Firefighter I, not watered down but taught to the standard. Mutual Aid districts are creating their own classes and would recommend public hearings before it goes to the Curriculum Committee.

**Motion by Jeremy Thibeault to table Forestry, second by Max Chaisson. All in favor all approved**

b. Fire Behavior

John Keller was asked by Tim Joubert to speak about the additional hour to show students how normal combustibles would look like.

Jeffrey Phillips followed up based on staff concerns and recommendation that the additional hour is not added to the program and a potential solution would be filming of the Fire Investigator pods during the next course and then integrate that video into the online modules.

**Motion by Max Chaisson to accept original recommendation without the additional hour, second by Mick Costello. All in favor all approved**

Jeremy Thibeault state the including video of the burn of the Fire Investigator burns would be acceptable.

II. Firefighter II breakdown

Deborah Pendergast asked if we can get an explanation of the Fire Suppression module?

John Keller stated in Firefighter II student have to make decisions and to function under general direction. He stated the additional hours would allow for additional repetitions for the students.

**Motion by Mick Costello to accept Firefighter II as presented, second by Deb Pendergast. All in favor all approved**

Eric Wilking asked if we were going to have to built a gap between Firefighter II and Firefighter III

John Keller explained the history of the Rescue Skills modules an how it was designed to meeting the general Rescue Technician chapter. At this time all the skills taught in these programs are re-taught in the corresponding Firefighter III program.

Jeffrey Phillips also stated the Commission would need to examine this if this proposal went forward to determine how they wanted to deal with the prerequisite requirement of all the Firefighter III programs.

- III. Open Discussion
- IV. Schedule next meeting date  
Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 2:00

**Motion by Scott Hunter to adjourn, second by Sandra Vilchock. All in favor all approved**

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