

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

### Special Meeting minutes

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Commission on Fire Prevention and Control

34 Perimeter Road

Windsor Locks

The meeting was called to order at 18:05 with the following representatives present:

Al Hawkins –at Perimeter Rd.

Les Shull –at Perimeter Rd.

Chris Tracy –at Perimeter Rd.

Chet Haber –at Perimeter Rd.

Jeff Morrissette –at Perimeter Rd.

Bill Trisler –at Perimeter Rd.

Steve Veneziano –on telephone link

Ken Hanks –on telephone link

Chris Perietti –on telephone link

Guests:

Geoff Herald – at Perimeter Rd.

This meeting was for the purpose of reviewing the NFPA 472 Standard, 2013 Edition and to discuss the implementation of this new standard in the Firefighter I certification process.

Bill Trisler opened the discussion by presenting a sheet that he had prepared to present the issues (see attached) The sheet outlined the Competencies outlined in the NFPA standard for the Hazardous Materials Operational under the new standard. The standard details the “core competencies” in Chapter 5 of the standard. In Chapter 6 the standard outlines the mission specific responsibilities. Those responsibilities cover the functions generally assigned to fire suppression, law enforcement including evidence preservation and sampling, response to illicit labs, and response to improvised explosive devices and improvised explosives laboratories. While the core competencies apply to all responses to Hazardous Materials Releases, the Mission Specific functions are responder task oriented. Many of these functions are not appropriate for fire suppression forces.

Bill went on to point out that the Pro-Board has rendered the opinion that the mission specific functions are stand alone and relate to product control and PPE. There are 49 reexamination variables just to re-test for the Hazardous Materials Operational standard. 150 question test with 3 to 5 questions on site-specific skills. From a test construction standpoint we could take the skills off of the written testing and move them to the psychomotor skills evaluations. This would allow for remediation and retesting of skills that were not successfully demonstrated.

NFPA 1072 is taking a very technical approach to mission specific skills. Gross and technical decontamination would continue to be fire service related. Evidence preservation and response to illicit labs would probably more appropriately be assigned as law enforcement functions.

Chris Tracy reported that mission specific functions were attempting to expand the level of training in CT. Many of these skills are under FBI prevue and going forward would be better left to those functions. Fire service responses should be charged with assessing the appropriateness of utilizing the suits that were available for a particular release.

The AHJ would have the responsibility to provide suits that would be applicable to known chemical hazards. Chris suggested that we deal with fire control aspects of flammable liquids and solids. This thought process would provide for fire suppression forces to focus on product control, PPE, and decontamination.

Certification to specific functions could be provided for POST (Police Officer Standards and training) for their mission specific requirements. There was significant discussion about the core competencies in the standard and the applicability to Fire, Police and Public Health functions.

NFPA 1001 has pushed the Operations functions into Firefighter I.

Ken Hanks offered that this stance threatens to chase new recruits out of the fire service because they are not competent to proceed in the Hazardous Materials program.

Chris offered that the mission specific functions should be offered in an “a la carte” manner as needed to provide for the specific functions of the disciplines.

The consensus of the meeting was that we support the Core Competencies and the Mission Specific Functions of: Evaluation of PPE, Gross Decontamination, Technical Decontamination, Product Control, Air Monitoring and Sampling, and Victim Rescue and Recovery.

Bill Trisler and Chris Tracy will solicit input from attendees at the Connecticut Fire Chief’s Association meeting in November.

Jeff Morrissette reported that checks were just received for the regional fire schools quarterly allotments.

Motion to adjourn by Chris Tracy, seconded by Chet Haber. Meeting adjourned at 18:47.

Submitted by Al Hawkins