



Texas Industrial Emergency Services Board

State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

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Minutes from TIESB Meeting

9:45AM, Friday, April 12th, 2013
Dow – Deer Park Facility, “White House”
Deer Park, Texas

I. Call to Order

Chairman Rick Deel called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m., and thanked Kent Delaney for hosting the meeting.

II. Roll Call

11 Members present: Terry Boyett; Rick Deel; Kent Delaney; Paul Hanneman; J. D. Lowe; Gordon Lohmeyer for Robert Moore; Chuck Richardson; Keith Russell; Gerald Sherman; Brett Steed; David Wade – Executive Board Liaison

7 Members absent: Todd Johnson; Corky McCool; Rodney Kovalcik; Lee Ray Kaderli; James Purcell; David Cave; Steve Pollock

SFFMA Staff present: Kevin Creamer, Industrial Coordinator

Guests: David Gray – LyondellBasell Chemical

III. Committee Members Review YTS Reports

The committees began reviewing the **33** submitted reports prior to the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

IV. Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2013.

Minutes approved.

V. Action Items

A. February '10 Meeting Status

1. Verify with Trey Blocker if it would be better to insert in the Vehicle Criteria document to reference DSHS criteria with appropriate TIESB exceptions as warranted or leave alone. (Chuck Richardson – EMS Committee)

Mr. Richardson provided a position statement from the EMS committee that had been provided to Chris Barron and Trey Blocker to amend wording as Article 44470 from Vernon's Civil Statutes no longer exists. One possible change to the document provided was to update the wording to “at least an ECA” rather than requiring “at least one ECA”, to allow two paramedics, etc.

Rick Deel asked Mr. Richardson to check back with him in a week if he's had no response. **In Progress**

B. October '10 Meeting status

1. Set up meeting with TEEX to discuss development of industrial class for municipal firefighters (Paul Hannemann) **In Progress**
2. Determine if Texas Administrative Code Title 25, Health Services Part 1, Chapter 157, Subchapter B: Emergency Medical Service Provider license for first responder organizations, covered through membership in SFFMA (Kevin Creamer) **In Progress**

C. June '12 Meeting status

1. Provide information on legislative notices to TIESB (Chris Barron) **Closed**

D. October '12 Meeting status

1. Provide spreadsheet of NFPA standards review dates (Dave Snell) **Closed**

E. January '13 Meeting status

1. Update Committee Roster (Kevin Creamer) **Closed**
2. Create 2012 minutes PDF files and post on website (Kevin Creamer) **OPEN**
3. E-Mail membership application to Michael Barley and have him forward to Robert Moore (Kevin Creamer) **Closed**
4. Forward updated artist rendition of new building to Board (Chris Barron) **Closed**

F. April '13 Meeting status

1. Draft letter to send to new members upon appointment (Gerald Sherman) **OPEN**
2. Investigate possibility of mutual aid meeting annually (Rick Deel) **OPEN**

3. Update YTS letter to better explain need regarding ESD ad valorem tax exemption (Kevin Creamer) **OPEN**
4. Review vehicle registration signage & pin-striping requirements (Gerald Sherman) **OPEN**

VI. Communications

A. Committee Reports

1-4. Area Committees

- a. Area 1 – Area Chair Brett Steed: 1 YTS pending for Area 1: Approved
- b. Area 2 – Area Chair Kent Delaney: 22 YTS pending for Area 2: All approved – three pending signatures
- c. Area 3 – Area Chair David Cave: 6 YTS pending for Area 3: All approved – one pending signatures
- d. Area 4 – Area Chair Keith Russell: 4 YTS pending for Area 4: All approved

Most reports covered all areas with only a few leaving out medical.

Kevin Creamer raised the question of when facilities could opt out of YTS submission, and whether they should be paying the participation fee. He clarified the participation fee based on the number of employees is: 1) separate from the \$120 annual membership fee, and 2) allows submission of the YTS the following year.

The YTS must be filed to be considered participating prior to establishment of the emergency services district in order for the facility to be exempt from the ESD taxes. If the facility starts submitting reports after formation of the ESD, then the Texas Industrial Emergency Services Board cannot provide help in establishing exemption. If a facility lapses in their submission, and the ESD becomes aware of the situation, TIESB cannot provide help. Missing a year would become a litigation issue to be established by the interested parties' lawyers.

5. Codes, Standards & Legislation Committee – Robert Moore
Rick Deel asked this item be held until David Wade was able to address the legislative session as Mr. Wade was currently on a call with the new Texas Emergency Services Political Action Committee (TESPAC).

6. Board Membership – Robert Moore
There are currently 2 openings – Slots 14 and 15

Rick Deel mentioned there was a fumble in ensuring that Michael Barley was put on the Board to replace Dave Snell in Slot 17. David Wade confirmed that he had appointed Mr. Barley to the Board. Mr. Deel will contact Mr. Barley personally.

Gerald Sherman said he would draft a letter to send to new members.

Mr. Deel recalled that someone had said they would try to contact someone in the Port Arthur area to possibly fill one of the vacant slots in order to bring them back into representation.

7. TEEEX Advisory Board – Keith Russell
Mr. Russell announced the next meeting would be held May 2nd. The SLT meeting would be held the same day.

Gordon Lohmeyer added that last year they had 737 students, the largest group since 1996, and 200 already registered for this year well ahead of usual. Spring School was the largest in its existence as well. Hopefully these are emerging trends and they will start growing again.

Tentatively the ribbon cutting for the new Pat Barrett drying building will be June 8th, and Robert Moore will send out the official announcement.

TEEEX-ESTI has a 10-year plan for expansion and improvements to be unveiled next Tuesday, April 16th. It's a multi-phase/multi-year plan to start removing the rope rescue props to the recently purchased 17 acres adjacent to Disaster City.

Mr. Lohmeyer asked board members to check the website TEEX.org/fire and review the Health & Safety tab on the left-hand side. TEEEX has worked with Dr. Tim Lightfoot from the Huffines Institute at A&M to develop a medical self-assessment tool for the volunteer firefighters to determine their fitness for duty. This wouldn't preclude an actual doctor's assessment.

8. Texas Chemical Council –Rick Deel
Mr. Deel was not able to attend the last meeting due to schedule conflicts.

Training Committees

9. EMS – Chuck Richardson

There is a full one-day training track at the SFFMA convention this year, and they are currently working with TEEEX to have them certify the training to count toward CE hours.

Mr. Richardson said he'd not heard anything further about changing the required hours for ECA.

He confirmed that currently state EMS certification is contingent on initial National Registry certification, but that it does not have to be subsequently maintained to keep state certification.

The next EMS committee meeting is scheduled for June.

10. HazMat – Lee Ray Kaderli

There was discussion of recent oil leaks.

Rick Deel said he would work with mutual aid organizations to establish networking at a face-to-face meeting.

Gordon Lohmeyer added that the shifting of ProQual standards chapters 1-7 from NFPA 472 to 1072. They had gotten a copy of the update and there are only cosmetic changes for Awareness through Technician. There would be changes for what remains in 472 (e.g., highway, rail, intermodal) especially the railcar section. They are updating the standard to remove some of the old pressure regulating devices that aren't used but still referenced. Currently they're attempting to get NFPA to cycle 472 and 1027 on the same schedule to make consistent changes easier.

11. Marine Firefighting – Rodney Kovalcik

Rick Deel mentioned that the Port of Houston should be receiving the first of three fire boat this Fall.

12. Firefighting – J. D. Lowe

Mr. Lowe noted that due to its resources RTFC is able to offer testing of fire equipment/foam and he could provide feedback just to the TIESB board members.

Rick Deel asked if anyone had used the new Flourine (PFOA?) foam, how it performed, and whether it meets NFPA standards.

There was discussion of recent purchasing trends.

13. Organizational Membership – David Cave

Kevin Creamer mentioned there was an increase in the organization dues rate from \$100 to \$120.

Membership usually runs about 80-85 active members, with 65 already paid for 2013. Third notices for billing will be going out shortly. Advanced Aromatics in Baytown just e-mailed in membership to bring the count to 66.

14. Texas A&M Forest Service and State Incident Management Team – Paul Hanneman

Mr. Hanneman shared that TDEM reported they were in the process of completing their hurricane planning for pre- and post-landfall. Annex F is up for renewal and they plan to go back and retool it to include general information.

Mr. Hanneman mentioned that there is a bill this Legislative Session having to do with assisting TFS, with a rider regarding wildland fires. This is being pushed by Timber Industry Management Organizations (TIMOs) and the Texas Forestry Association. David Wade asked if this was an issue that SFFMA/TESPAC needed to be involved in amending to include "all hazards" response.

Rick Deel said TDEM had sent out for input regarding the state plans for hurricane response and re-entry. He will forward the information to the Board for review. There was general discussion on re-entry and credentialing when re-starting plants on the coastline.

Mr. Hanneman noted that there will be a major exercise the week of Industrial School, scheduled July 17th through the 20th. It would be with SOC linked to Dallas and Beaumont if anyone has input.

15. Certification Committee – Lee Ray Kaderli

No report

B. Executive Director's Report – Chris Barron

No report

C. Industrial Coordinator Update – Kevin Creamer

The Austin office is in the processing of testing a major update to the database. New features include increased ability to update the website and to automate procedures.

Mr. Creamer asked whether vehicle renewals needed photos. It was determined that they would only be needed if there were major vehicle updates. There was discussion on “stealth striping”/pin-striping and whether they would meet NFPA standards on vehicle registrations.

David Wade brought up the topic of individuals equipping their personal vehicles with company logo, etc. and whether they would be allowed to register the vehicle. It was determined the vehicle would need to be the property of a member facility in order for TIESB to issue registration. Gerald Sherman said Mr. Wade should get him the particulars so that he could discuss the situation with the individual.

B. President's Report – David Wade

David Wade gave an update on the status of the new SFFMA building.

Mr. Wade mentioned that registration for the SFFMA has gone online and there is an industrial track this year. The schedule has been rearranged to move some of the activities. Pumper races that were on Tuesday afternoon have been moved to Saturday, and the time for some activities has been shortened to free up time for training sessions. Based on surveys, the membership feels that training is the key to future conferences, but they would be keeping the family atmosphere.

On TESPAC, they were organized to raise money, and have weekly conference calls during legislative session to track bills.

SB 766, The Volunteer Firefighter Protection Bill is an amendment to government code 419 and it provides protection from certification regulation on volunteer firefighters. A volunteer is defined as a volunteer or a part-time firefighter, or an industrial emergency response team. The bill would prevent any state agency from imposing a certification requirement on a volunteer firefighter, but does allow for local jurisdictions to make that decision. They are currently working on a companion house bill. There was some opposition expressed by the firefighters union. The Texas Fire Chiefs' Association had some initial reservations, but expressed it openly, and after their input minor changes were made to meet their approval.

Regarding the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, HB 3660 is currently in subcommittee as a companion to SB 1 which would move their functions to a new agency. Following that, the authority to spend money would need to be established. Currently \$1.3 million has been appropriated to Texas Department of Insurance, so it would need to be re-appropriated. The official position of SFFMA is that we're neutral on the decision.

Rep Bill King drafted a bill that would change the conceal carry law to give firefighters and ems personnel the right to carry, just like law enforcement does. The bill was changed from the original draft to only impact counties with a population of 50,000 or less. It's kind of a starting point to get through and work from there.

VII. Old Business

A. First Responder Advisory Committee (FRAC) – Identity and Credentialing – Rick Deel

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

B. Industrial Fire School – Rick Deel

Mr. Deel noted there was an interesting demonstration on remote response to emergencies.

C. Limits of Liability Proposed Legislation – Rick Deel

Mr. Deel is trying to get the latest wording on proposed legislation, and is in communication with legislative resources from different agencies.

D. Texas Commission on Fire Protection – Chris Barron

Covered under President's Report

VIII. New Business

None

IX. Announcements

A. Ex-Officio Members

None

B. Review of new Action Items

See Above

C. Roundtable Discussion

David Wade mentioned there was discussion during the TDEM conference that the National Hurricane Center might change the way they categorize storms. Right now the categorization is based on wind speed only, and they're looking at taking into consideration other characteristics including storm surge.

D. Next Meeting

1. June 21, 2013 – 8:00AM – 11:00AM: SFFMA Annual Conference – The Woodlands Waterway Marriott (1600 Lake Robbins Dr)
2. October 7, 2013 – 1:00PM – 4:00PM: Longview

X. Adjourn

Motion made by Terry Boyett and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed.