

Minutes from TIESB Meeting
1:00PM, Monday, October 7th, 2013
Eastman Chemical Company
Longview, Texas

I. Call to Order

Keith Russell called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and invited everyone to stay for the 42nd Annual Northeast Texas Fire School later in the evening.

II. Roll Call

12 Members present: Kent Delaney; Paul Hanneman; Todd Johnson; Robert Moore; Keith Russell; Brett Steed; Terry Boyett; Rodney Kovalcik; Michael Barley

6 Members absent: Rick Deel; Corky McCool; Gerald Sherman; J. D. Lowe; James Purcell; David Cave; Lee Ray Kaderli; Steve Pollock; Chuck Richardson

SFFMA Staff present: Kevin Creamer, Industrial Coordinator;

Guests: David Wade – Executive Board Liaison; David Gray – LyondellBasell Chemical; Gordon Lohmeyer – TEEEX; Lynn Bizzell – TEEEX

III. Committee Members Review YTS Reports

There were no reports to review. Mr. Russell asked Kevin Creamer for a report on how the update on the YTS and Vehicle Registration forms were going. Mr. Creamer reported that he had gone through the forms to determine what fields would need to be added to the database to allow more automation of the process(es). Some of the rather important fields such as vehicle type and registration type had not been tracked using the database. Austin staff members are also to receive training later in the month on how to automate some of the recurring items. Mr. Creamer clarified that with vehicle renewals, unless there is a major change to the vehicle (e.g., signage, plate #) then new photographs would not be needed.

Paul Hanneman asked if it would be possible to get the scanned YTS reports out to the area committees for review prior to the meeting. Mr. Creamer agreed this would be a great time-saver and would do so for future submissions.

IV. Approval of Minutes from June 21, 2013.

On motion by Robert Moore and seconded by Paul Hanneman, the minutes were 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) **In Progress**

Mr. Richardson was not in attendance

B. October '10 Meeting status

1. Set up meeting with TEEEX to discuss development of industrial class for municipal firefighters (Paul Hannemann) **In Progress**

Robert Moore stated that TEEEX is in the process of putting together the curriculum for the class. Their curriculum group is working with an industrial instructor and a municipal instructor to get it interfaced. The group gave a presentation to the senior staff on the course and they may end up with two courses: awareness and a longer, more comprehensive, hands-on course.

Mr. Moore stated the course had been moved up in priority with the curriculum group. Gordon Lohmeyer noted that they had spent a week working on the course and would get together for another week in College Station working on it. Lynn Bizzell added that they hoped to have it done by the first of December. Mr. Moore stated that the class would be aimed more toward awareness rather than dealing with sizing up the situation before getting into dealing with it.

Mr. Hanneman added that this item began with beginning discussions of TIFMAS they would need a standard of training for calling on firefighters to reply to industrial situations.

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) **CLOSED**

Mr. Creamer clarified that it would not be covered, as in order to get the waiver they have to be responding from out-of-state or be a 501(c)(3). With SFFMA being a 501(c)(6), then solely membership would not allow the waiver.

There was discussion of the basis of the request, and clarified it dealt with getting a waiver so industrial wouldn't need to have the EMS responder on the vehicle, but just a firefighter or ECA to assist the driver.

C. April '13 Meeting status

1. Draft letter to send to new members upon appointment (Robert Moore) **OPEN**
2. Update YTS letter to better explain need regarding ESD ad valorem tax exemption (Kevin Creamer) **OPEN**
3. Review vehicle registration signage & pin-striping requirements (Gerald Sherman) **OPEN**

D. June '13 Meeting status

1. Review 2012 YTS reports to determine how many are NIMS compliant (Kevin Creamer) **OPEN**
2. Create a position paper on certification standards (Lee Ray Kaderli) **OPEN**

E. October '13 Meeting status

1. Digital Review of YTS reports (Kevin Creamer) **OPEN**
2. E-mail out the legislation information to the Board (Kevin Creamer) **OPEN**

VI. Communications

A. Committee Reports

1-4. Area Committees

- a. Area 1 – Area Chair Brett Steed: 0 YTS pending for Area 1
- b. Area 2 – Area Chair Kent Delaney: 0 YTS pending for Area 2
- c. Area 3 – Area Chair David Cave: 0 YTS pending for Area 3
- d. Area 4 – Area Chair Keith Russell: 0 YTS pending for Area 4

5. Codes, Standards & Legislation Committee – Robert Moore

Robert Moore gave an update on the leadership changes at the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. Tim Rutland is the interim Director, and has done an excellent job to work with the SFFMA, TEEX, Texas Forest Service and all other agencies. He's also done a good job of soothing some "open sores" from the previous administration.

TCFP has started the process of hiring a new director and began the interview process two weeks ago. They have reopened the application with the updated job qualifications being posted today to try and get a larger pool of applicants. There has been a committee established of Mr. Moore, the chair Steve Tull, and John Gillette to review the new applications and drop the most qualified down to 5-6 and re-interview.

There was a question of whether the study has begun, and Mr. Moore clarified it had not yet begun. There was a recommendation made by the union that TCFP perform the study. They wanted to choose the person who would do the study, etc. and as commissioners felt that the study would need to be done by the Commission. Although the stakeholders needed to be involved in the study, the study needed to be driven by the Commission and under the Commission's name. Mr. Moore said there was a meeting scheduled for October 22nd to start the process and will let the stakeholders know so they can send an appropriate number of representatives.

Paul Hanneman added that the first meeting was on the 21st and asked whether Rick Deel had any communication regarding the meeting for the industrial side. Mr. Moore clarified that Chris Barron would receive the notice as SFFMA is a stakeholder.

Mr. Moore noted that the commissioners and TEEX had been pushing for ProBoard approval and have finally gotten that through the advisory committee. It was approved unanimously by the commissioners at the past meeting and has to go through one more reading on January 16th. Once that is done, then TCFP will recognize ProBoard certifications for the current version of NFPA standards. This means that TCFP would recognize TEEX training and testing procedures for issuance of certifications. The effective date will be set on January 16th. Certifications based on previous versions will be accepted with payment of the \$85 fee to become certified.

Mr. Moore noted that this has been a long process, with TEEEX having been working on it since Les Bunte tried several years ago. Rather than comparing IFSAC to ProBoard, the latest attempt was based on TCFP doing an audit on just the ProBoard procedures.

The change doesn't really affect the industrial firefighter, but could affect those volunteers who want to get TCFP certification in a certain area that are also on industrial fire brigades. They currently have 12 certifications, but once the final reading takes place, then there will be a push for the remaining certifications: rescue, etc.

6. Board Membership – Robert Moore

There are currently 2 openings – Slots 14 and 15. He noted that the board should still try to get someone from far Southeast Texas area around Beaumont or Port Arthur and asked if anyone had suggestions to have them contact him and he would get an information packet out to them.

7. TEEEX Advisory Board – Keith Russell

Mr. Russell stated there would be a new advisory meeting this coming Thursday. The reports they continue to hear about infrastructure and improvements are incredible. Schools this year (specifically Industrial) went very well.

Mr. Moore added that the bunker gear drying facility had been completed and dedicated to Pat Barrett during Annual School, and is functioning very well. It may not get the gear completely dry, but it won't be dripping wet anymore. The old bunker gear drying building had been retrofitted and will fit 150 sets of gear. Another bunker gear drying building has been approved for the marine area that could also be used for overflow.

There used to be a CMTS training center in Galveston, but a decision was made about three years ago to shut it down, giving the facility back to TAMU-G. The CMTS has been resurrected and the building taken back from TAMU-G and the courses being reintroduced. The agency director has agreed to put money into the facility which was pretty hard hit by Hurricane Ike, and the building has been repaired and retrofitted.

Coming up there will be work started on over near Disaster City on the recently purchased 18 acres. We will start putting in roads and infrastructure, as part of the 20-year improvement plan to move all of rescue over there to create one Rescue Campus. One other project is the emergency generator and firewater pumps for about \$1.1million. Mr. Russell asked for an approximate gpm for the pumps and Mr. Lohmeyer clarified it was a 1000hp generator adding bringing everything up to 10,000gpm.

Mr. Moore also discussed the Regionalized Extension program. They had gotten away from the regional idea a few years ago, but have reinstated the regional concept. There are people who live in the regions where they are assigned and can find adjunct instructors in that area to work with them to provide training to the fire departments/teams in that area. It's more for the volunteer/municipal sector and not really for the industrial side.

8. Texas Chemical Council –Rick Deel

Gordon Lohmeyer noted that although he had not gone to the last meeting, their past event was well attended, and the show is growing again.

Mr. Russell asked Mr. Lohmeyer to discuss the presentation he gave at the last event. It was on Incident Management for Industrial Responders to bridge the IM gap. There were about 80-90 people in the session. Mr. Russell also noted that Mr. Lohmeyer had received compliments from many sources that it was a very good presentation.

Training Committees

9. EMS – Chuck Richardson
No Report.

10. HazMat – Lee Ray Kaderli

Todd Johnson noted that he had been up in Canada on the train derailment. The outcome will be a push on checking railcars that the placarding/grouping is correct. The derailed train was actually listed as Alaskan crude oil with an MSDS from Marathon with a packing group 3. It's been determined now that the crude was actually Balkan crude out of the Dakotas that has a flash point much greater in packing

- group 1. They're reexamining all of the cars, and my understanding is Transport Canada initiated, but the US did go up there and they're going to start a huge push throughout the US. There will probably be legal fallout all the way back to the people who loaded the cars and will affect all of the loading facilities.
11. **Marine Firefighting – Rodney Kovalcik**
Houston Port Authority has purchased three fire boats. Two are 70-foot fire boats capable of 1200gpm and can cruise about 40 knots, so they can move right up the ship channel. The other one is about 15-17 knots, with about 4000gpm capacity so these are just massive boats. David Wade added that they had only taken possession of one, and are waiting on the second one in the next couple of weeks. The third should be later this year or the first quarter of next year.
 12. **Firefighting – J. D. Lowe**
Mr. Russell noted that they were working on the 42nd Annual Northeast Texas School, and are always very proud as a company to put that on. There is quite a bit of heritage going back to previous leaders in the company. Tonight, one of the props on the field has tonight and two more burns at the end, and will be mothballed at the end of the firefighting season. He expressed thanks to Chief Moore and Chief Lohmeyer, as they were able to bring one of the Eastman engineers down to A&M to review different sides of the project and work with their staff to determine what would be needed for a new prop. About \$700,000 later we think we have a design we can have y'all out to a burn in the next couple of years.

Mr. Moore asked how he was able to get a full prop under \$1million. (laughter). Mr. Russell clarified that was due to them being able to work so well with TEEX to get the details worked out ahead of time.
 13. **Organizational Membership – David Cave**
With Mr. Cave not in attendance, Mr. Russell asked Kevin Creamer if he had any input. Mr. Creamer noted that on the actual membership application TIESB had been asking for the Emergency Response Training Coordinator and the Management Official and wondered if it was necessary to track in addition to the contact person.

Mr. Russell clarified that it used to require senior site management, but that having the information required, there was a working knowledge at a higher executive level of the process, and wondered if there would be support loss without the information.

Mr. Creamer suggested whoever they indicate is the Emergency Response Training Coordinator could be added as what is now tracked as the Certification Coordinator. He noted he is trying to best utilize the existing database fields to meet TIESB needs. There is a separate contact person already, and wondered if it would be possible to notate the Fire Chief field as the management official.

Brett Steed stated they'd need to keep the Management Official so they have someone to keep on top of the ESD exemption. Without the management buy in we'd have problems with the validity of the exemption from the tax dollars. Mr. Steed noted we may not need to track the information, but would probably still want to keep the information on file in case of subpoena for record. Mr. Creamer noted that he would go ahead and add the field to the database so that it could be added for review by the company on an annual basis.

Paul Hanneman asked what would happen if a contact person left, then someone above them would become the person to name a new contact.

Mr. Russell asked how many current members there were and Mr. Creamer started verifying. Mr. Wade asked if during vehicle registration their membership was verified and if registrations would be rejected if they were not. Mr. Creamer stated that yes membership is verified and registrations are rejected without current membership. He further added that renewal notices also show which vehicles are currently registered to the facility and that membership is required to maintain registration. Mr. Creamer verified there are 88 current members and pointed out the list of facilities provided that was printed effective the day before the meeting. He further asked if the board members would review the list that included inactive facilities from 2011 and 2012 to notify him of those that may have undergone a name change.
 14. **Texas A&M Forest Service and State Incident Management Team – Paul Hanneman**
Mr. Hanneman stated that the NSF was continuing to be updated and Rick Deel was trying to get an updated copy. There is also a push to add hazard-specific annexes such as wildfire annex. Mr. Hanneman was against that and needed to be concentrated on firefighting under Annex F.

There is a new INT Coordinator since David Koenig had retired, Charles 'Boo' Walker. Mr. Hanneman noted that Mr. Deel sent out a training announcement of things going on in the Houston area, with additional information coming out from TDEM on mission specific classes. Mr. Walker is one of two national area commanders (there should be four). Mr. Hanneman continued that there is a new steering committee for All Hazards INT with Mr. Deel serving as the representative for the private sector and volunteer organizations.

Mr. Russell noted that he and three other Eastman employees along with Brett Steed had attended one of the Type 3 courses and it was very good. He was not sure of all of the processes needed to attend the class, but recommended it as he and the other staff members had gotten a lot out of it.

Mr. Hanneman added that they had started out with the CIMA group ten years ago, but development of the private sector IMT. Some other private sector folks from the volunteer side are trying to develop ... but in a sense they're just trying to make money. The intent is to have one per COG.

15. Certification Committee – Lee Ray Kaderli
No report.

16. Industrial Fire School – Lee Ray Kaderli
Mr. Russell noted they had a great school last year and they will hopefully see days of 1000 attendees. Mr. Moore noted they had about 6-9 less this year than the year before, about 700 students.

Mr. Russell added that they continue to make improvements in safety and grades. He reminded the board they had been introduced to a new TEEEX staff member and thanked Mr. Moore and Lohmeyer for bringing him to the meeting. Mr. Sherman also noted he'd just had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Meek, the Safety Manager for TEEEX, and Chief Lynn Bizzell.

Robert Moore added that regarding the Reed Arena field testing on Thursdays, they asked for help and received it. There were no issues with instructors arriving late that they'd had in the past. Also, during the site visits with TCFP to review the testing processes/procedures they were over at Reed Arena and saw the processes and it was one of the things that won them over – how well that went, how many students we had, and the number of testing activities – and still remained secure.

17. Vehicle Registration – Gerald Sherman
Nothing further to report.

B. Executive Director's Report – Chris Barron

In Mr. Barron's absence, Mr. Creamer noted that the Austin staff took a tour to see how things were progressing and it's coming along really well. The last of the roofing was to go on that week along with the last of the rock going on the exterior, and finishing up the drywall. The current plan is to move in sometime in December with a grand opening sometime after the first of the year. We just received a bid on the current building well over the asking price. Mr. Wade added that there is a bidding war going on with the current building. It was listed as \$500,000 and currently up to \$565,000 cash. Mr. Creamer added it had gone on the market on Friday and offers were made starting Monday. Commercial real estate is at a premium in Austin and the office is located near a major intersection. The new building will have 3-4 times the current amount of parking.

Mr. Wade gave an update on the recent Legislative Session. The Union got involved in killing any of our bills and succeeded in that. There were a couple of liability bills that passed: HB 487/SB 1405 having to do with persons responding to manmade or natural disasters. It's more toward the people running heavy equipment to give them some liability coverage. The other was one for industry guys, HB2751/SB1267 "relating to liability of individuals providing labor and assistance to Texas Forest Service" giving them some liability coverage. Those were passed and signed by the Governor.

Mr. Creamer noted the database had been upgraded and they were working out the final kinks. One item of note was increased accessibility to industrial facilities. Individuals listed as the Chief or Coordinator of the facility would be able to make adjustments to the facility's roster. There are about 3-4 facilities currently participating in the SFFMA Certification Program and this cuts the total amount of dues for them and gives them more accessibility.

2014 membership cards will be hard plastic instead of the paper ones. Mr. Wade asked if there was a different design for industrial individuals, and Mr. Creamer clarified that was not currently an option due to most of the card being pre-printed.

- C. Industrial Coordinator Update – Kevin Creamer
Nothing further to report.

VII. Old Business

- A. Limits on Liability and TCFP – Rick Deel

Mr. Russell noted that Mr. Wade had already discussed the limits of liability. Mr. Hanneman suggested there had still been some liability issues still unaddressed and that's where Annex F would come into play, but now there is legislation in place. He suggested people run the new legislation by their legal staff. Mr. Russell noted that the Eastman site was located on about 6000 acres but don't have a lot of mutual aid processes in the area. There was a plant-wide drill earlier this year and the City of Longview participated with that. He continued that the legislation should be helpful due to the industrial incidents in the area rich in oil and gas, pipelines, etc.

VIII. New Business

- A. No new business.

IX. Announcements

- A. Ex-Officio Members

Mr. Wade noted that 2013 was a really tough year for the fire service as far as line of duty deaths. There has been a lot of national and local attention to the volunteer fire service and how they operate, and that's area where SFFMA tries to make sure they concentrate on firefighter safety, training, certifications. Mr. Wade noted that TEEEX would be coming on board as a 3rd party test provider. He continued that the SFFMA would deal with their certification program internally, relying on the district coordinators to gather information, verify it with Mr. Creamer, and engage through TEEEX to put together test dates/locations.

Mr. Wade asked for input on the Global Harmonization of Hazardous Materials. He noted that the volunteers would need to have additional information as this would be all new material. He further suggested that it would be good leadership for TIESB to package something to take to the volunteers (e.g., PowerPoint). Mr. Hanneman suggested maybe a webinar put together by TIESB through SFFMA might be a good solution. Mr. Moore added that a good way to hit a large audience was to put information on the web such as a 4-hour presentation on the information and suggested TEEEX could add it to their website. There was a question on the implementation date and Mr. Wade clarified it was to take place in steps, and suggested he would get with the training committee for the 2014 conference in Lubbock to add a class there. Mr. Lohmeyer stated their people were providing training based on the 2012 standard that would not be updated until 2016, and the new 472 standard wouldn't be updated until early 2014. Mr. Wade stated he'd like this group to take the lead on this item.

Mr. Wade also added that the departments out west are having major issues with the oil and gas industry. The volunteers that are still there don't have the time to actually volunteer, and there has been more than a 400% increase in major accidents. The departments are in need of some PPE and possibly donations so he would be looking at industry around the Houston Ship Channel to maybe get some supplies out to them.

- B. Review of new Action Items
See Above

- C. Roundtable Discussion

Brett Steed stated he had recently attended the Gas Producers Association (GPA) in Denver, Colorado and one of the members from a pipeline company called CrossTex developed a Field Operations Guide (FOG) for his company. He noted most of the members probably already had them but his facility had it on their radar to produce, so he asked the vendor for copies. He shared the copies with the Board for review as far as the new presentation format and noted there were several available sizes.

Mr. Steed also noted that at the GPA conference there was discussion of NFPA 56: *Standard for Fire and Explosion Prevention During Clearing and Purging of Flammable Gas Piping Systems*. The way NFPA is written it's going to affect a lot of operators as far as purging as they're requiring nitrogen purges where it might not be easy to get to. NFPA always has exemptions and there are about twelve in the 56 standard. One exempts the regulated pipelines but does not exempt the unregulated pipelines. The gathering systems get DOT regulated

and are exempt under 56, but the unregulated distribution lines are not exempt. This means there are all these unregulated lines that will now fall under 56 and this should be an eye-opener to a lot of operators. The GPA does have a group working with NFPA on this item.

D. Next Meeting

1. Thursday, January 23, 2014, 9:00AM – 12:00PM: College Station
2. April – New Building in Austin (tentative)
3. Friday, June 6th, 2014: Lubbock (tentative)

X. **Adjourn**

Motion made by Brett Steed and seconded by David Wade to adjourn. Motion passed.