

# Fire Marshal's Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2010

## In Attendance:

Craig Trapp Helena Fire  
Keith Simendinger Helena Fire  
Pat Clinch State Fire Marshal's Office  
Jack Coburn Bozeman Fire  
Maury Martin Lockwood Fire/Rescue  
Jamie Fender Lockwood Fire/Rescue  
Paul Findley Missoula Rural Fire District  
Doug Lobaugh Livingston Fire/Rescue  
Bill Tatum Billings Fire Dept.  
Steve Paske Missoula Fire Dept.  
Skip Hougland Montana State University  
Dale Berg Miles City Fire

Intro: Introductions made by participants in this month's meeting.

## Opening Discussion:

Discussion ensued about culture change and fire prevention world evolving.

Doug Lobaugh will check of fire prevention courses within the Fire Science degree program.

Certification in Montana as a Fire Inspector 1 using NFPA as a guideline or ICC to certify for the state (build into officer curriculum for promotion?)

## **Discussed the job skills and basics of fire inspection principles**

Action: Look at NFPA standard to see if a State Agency would train and test the skills of participants in Fire Inspector 1 Doug and Craig will work to find some answers and bring back to the group.

## Old Business:

### Budget and Finance:

The chiefs association have an account with Glacier Bank, Gary is looking into setting up an account with a statewide bank. Gary Honold could not attend meeting today.

Talking about ICC conference in Bozeman, and things learned.

IAAI annual fire investigation training in Billings September 15<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> at the Windgate Inn. Bringing in 3 instructors from ATF and Forensic Pathology. Regarding evidence collection and preservation.

IAAI was in Helena last year at Jorgenson's mutually agreed that this seminar was very helpful and interesting.

Last meeting the group talked about some sort of certification process for Montana. IAAI- FIT program Fire Investigator Technician. Classes and time transferable towards certification including NFA courses. Only 1 or 2 people in the state hold this certification. The Certified Fire Investigator is double the effort and training, the FIT is within reach and a realistic goal.

Anyone looking at IAAI membership, see Bill Tatum for information pertaining to membership to IAAI.

### ***Action Items:***

Gary working on setting up account.

Information on FIT program

Jack Coburn and Mike Spini are going to work on elevator certification courses.

New Business:

2009 IBC Residential Sprinkler requirements. All group R occupancies shall be sprinklered. Codes revert back to the IBC (16 or more residents)

Suggestion to have an ammendment for the codes. The state is looking at adopting the codes in June. (IFC and IBC)

Dave Cook was invited to this meeting to give an update on the IRC codes. He could not attend meeting. The department has been completing the other code adoption issues. When these are completed the committee will address teh IRC issues.

Fireworks regarding permitting public displays: Billings on city property charges \$800.00 per event including permit and Engine Company on site for event. On private property they still charge for permit. Legal council stated that since it is on private property we the fire dept. cannot mandate anything. However, property owner must abide by fire codes. Baseball games addressed, Engine Company on site for Billings Mustangs games firework displays.

Bozeman requires permit and has a brush unit on site with 2 firefighters. Requires proof of insurance and proper separation distances.

State Fire Marshal's office writes many permits for public displays throughout the year.

What is the liability for fire departments if a permitted display causes a fire later on.

### ***Action Item:***

Craig would like to see if the state could provide some data as to the amount of fires and estimated dollar loss in the state of Montana due to

fireworks for fireworks PSAs in the future.

Code adoption issue, sprinkler system in larger facilities with no smoke detection or fire alarm system. The fire prevention bureau can request horn/strobes throughout the building. (Craig)

Code states that once you have water flow in a sprinkler system, the occupancy must have a system in place to notify occupants of sprinkler activation. If more than 20 heads.

Different code interpretations from different cities on the topic.

Combustible dust issues, question is; Brewery is relocating and has a grinding operation for hops creating dust.

Problems with inspection processes by companies for annual testing/inspections of sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, and standpipe systems. (in Bozeman and Livingston primarily) Fire Suppression Systems of Bozeman Lynn Perkins

### ***Action Items:***

Advised to approach State Auditor's office and insurance companies to get to the bottom of wrongful practices by this contracting company. This group should take the reins on this issue. (Craig)

Contact the licensing agency (building codes) and perform some investigation into this issue and return findings to the group about this contractor.

Meetings for future: Develop more participation from the fire prevention community.

### ***Action Items:***

Have Gary send invitation to all fire prevention personnel for the Fire Marshal's meetings through Butch Weedon and the MSFSTS newsletter. Doug Lobaugh will also call Tim McKaisic to advertise also. Pass along information by word of mouth to fellow fire prevention officers in jurisdictions. Looking at advertising more overall for these meetings to encourage more participation.

Meeting times: at same time as career chiefs vs. separate times or locations. The bylaws state this group shall meet in conjunction with the career chiefs.

Group thinking for PSAs contact people for helpful PSAs, this group develop better communication via email for all departments to get messages on various topics out to the public.

Idea bank provides PSAs for anyone to use, online tool for new material for PSAs.

President Trapp later gave a briefing to the Chiefs. Chief Christopherson requested a copy of the minutes when completed.

