

Vermont Fire Service Training Council
Minutes of the June 13, 2016 Meeting

The meeting was held at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford and called to order by Chairperson Corbin at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Organization Representatives

Vermont Career Chiefs Association
Secretary of Education
Vermont Fire Chiefs Association
Commissioner of the Department of
Forest, Parks & Recreation
Professional Firefighters of Vermont
Commissioner of the Department of Health
Vermont State Firefighters Association
Commissioner of the Department of Labor
Vermont Domestic Insurance
Division of Fire Safety Director
General Public
Commissioner of Public Safety

Troy Ruggles, Vice-Chairperson
Alexander Northern (designee)
Wendall Mansfield

Lars Lund (designee)
Christopher Corbin, Chairperson
Christopher Bell (designee)
Al Barber
Dan Whipple (designee)
Jeff Pryce
Michael Desrochers
John Marcus
Absent

Visitors: James Litevich, Michael Skaza, Aaron Collette, Terry Farr, Bill Jones, Dan Zimmer

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Northern and seconded by Lund to accept the previous meeting minutes. PASSED.

Report from the Executive Director of the Division of Fire Safety (Michael Desrochers):

The Director thanked Jim Litevich for his time as the Chief of Training of the Fire Academy and he explained the hiring the process for his replacement. A panel will have representation from the different Fire Service entities and a couple of neutral parties to assist with the interview process. The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety will be involved in the second round of interviews. It will take time to fill the position.

There has been a press release on the PFOA and PFOS in the storage tank at the Academy. There is a plan in place with the Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS) and the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) to empty the tank and filter the water, clean the tank, refill the tank then the Academy will be on monitoring schedule. The detectable contaminant may be coming out of the sludge in the bottom of the tank. There is no contamination in any private wells surrounding the Academy that have been tested. ANR will be doing a site inspection to try to figure out where the product is coming from.

Erin Walker will start the position of Administrative Assistant on June 27th to replace Eileen McGee. An internal request for reclassification was done on the Assistant Site Coordinator

position at the Academy and we will start recruiting and fill that position very soon. The Director is looking to see if there is a possibility of making legislative changes to increase staffing levels at the Academy.

The State Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR) has 65 members that have gone through the hiring process. The goal is to hire 90 members.

A new rapid response vehicle was placed in Lyndonville and was funded by Homeland Security grant money. The vehicle will be used for Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team and USAR responses.

Report from the Chief of Training: James Litevich

The reaccreditation process is underway and the application will be submitted to Pro Board very soon. They will then be conducting a site visit.

The contract with the Champlain Valley Expo for use as a Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) venue is in the hands of the accounting office. The CPAT application deadline is August 1, followed by an orientation in August and testing in October. The Career Chiefs want to change the test validity to 24 months effective this test period, the Academy is fine with that effective date.

Chief Litevich discussed the handouts (see attached; training activity report, FY16 course numbers, student certification trends). 208 students started in FY16 and the completion rate was between 55-60% which is about the normal average.

There are quite a few National Fire Academy programs coming up. The New Fire Chief course was just held with 14 students. Three State weekend will be on August 20 & 21 in Emmitsburg, MD and applications are still being accepted.

The development of the Rapid Intervention Crew course is moving forward. The Academy was waiting for plans from Matt Lindhiem, Fire Safety Building Engineer. Chief Litevich believes that we have received those so now the Academy can start constructing the props.

The Train the Trainer for the Photovoltaic Safety for Firefighters course was held last month. Michael Skaza explained that the Academy trained 30 instructors to teach the course. The initiative for this course was a collaboration between the Fire Academy, Clean Energy States Alliance, and the Department of Public Service and is one that Dan Zimmer had initiated and laid the groundwork for. They funded the Train the Trainer and a set number of course deliveries that will take place before September 30, 2016. All Council members were provided with a brief description of the course handout. This is a classroom based course with no practical activities. It is a didactic session to instruct firefighters on what to do tactically and how to stay safe around photovoltaic systems that are primarily mounted on buildings but it does discuss some ground-mounted systems. The course explains system component identification, the general operation, and a little bit of science behind PV. It also goes into tactical operations with respect to ventilation, fire suppression, and general firefighter safety. It is approximately a four-hour course.

Chief Litevich explained that the Fire Officer course in Hartford finished with 17 students.

USAR equipment is housed at the Academy and ready to go. The Vigilant Guard Exercise will be held in July.

The Vermont Fire Academy website has been updated by Michael Skaza to be more user friendly.

The Vermont Fire Academy was awarded a \$500,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant to build a new burn building at the Pittsford site. The legislature has approved a \$300,000 capital appropriation to do the site work needed for the new burn building. This is the first grant given to a State facility for a burn building.

Chief Litevich thanked the Council for the last 15 years.

Troy Ruggles asked where the LP Gas program stands. Michael Skaza reported that the development work is not done and that it is on his desk since the program needs to be reorganized with respect to flow and tuning up the slide set. The hope is to get the product ready for delivery in the Fall. Terry Farr believes that there is a back log of requests for the course so there is a need for it. The people who have requests into the Academy for the course will get priority once the course is ready.

Curriculum:

All of the Rapid Intervention Crew equipment has been ordered as well as a trailer which was funded by surplus funds from the 2013 Assistance to Firefighters Grant and a Homeland Security Grant fund allocation. Prop construction will be the next step in the project. The curriculum modification and the update of the instructor guide is in the process and being led by Chris Corbin.

Modern Fire Behavior-Flashover Recognition has been revised and deliveries are being scheduled and held.

Both pilot deliveries of Fire Instructor I have been held with minimal revisions made. The Academy would like the Council to approve to the course today.

Motion to accept the Fire Instructor I course out of pilot and into full fledge curriculum made by Al Barber, seconded by Christopher Bell. PASSED.

Fire Officer I/II course Pilot #1 was delivered and Skaza and Corbin will be meeting to make minor adjustments to the program. Overall the first course went well.

Fire Inspector course Pilot #1 was held and 50% of the practicums have been submitted and will be graded. To date no one has certified however we should be certifying them soon. It was difficult to figure out how long it would take for students to complete the practicum phase of the course because it is dependent upon what is going on in the jurisdictions that the students are from because they have to go out do inspections with a preceptor. There will be a full update on

this course from the Academy at the next meeting. Collette explained that both Fire Marshals from Burlington said that the workload for the Vermont Fire Academy practicum phase is bigger than what the NFPA requires. Skaza explained the Academy practicum phase was modeled after the NFPA version. If there are additional job skill requirements that appear in the Academy's practicum phase that don't exist in the NFPA it is most likely because the Academy had to make sure that all the job skill requirements of the standard were covered. Ruggles inquired how many times the Fire Inspector course will be held a year. The goal by the Vermont Fire Academy was to hold one per year however this is a combined Fire Inspector I/II program. The Academy had also set a goal to run a Fire Inspector II course to train up those who are only Fire Inspector I. Michael Skaza questioned the Council asking if the Academy should focus on the redelivery of a combined course or focus on delivering a Fire Inspector II course to get the tenured inspectors up to Level II. The Academy's intent was to hold at least one Fire Inspection course a year whether it be Combined or Level II. The combined course was 56 hours of classroom. The Fire Inspector II course would probably be a third of that. The Fire Inspector course delivered by the Academy is focused more on what Inspectors will see in Vermont while meeting the National Standard.

Skaza discussed the changes that have been made to Firefighter I and II since Jones and Bartlett have released the Enhanced Third Edition (Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills, Evidence Based practices, Enhanced Third edition) Skaza distributes the curriculum review summary report for everyone to review. The changes are based on new studies about Modern Fire Behavior and the differences between modern and legacy construction. The slide set has been redesigned to be less distracting to the viewer. Several figures have been added to the text to emphasize the points that are being made with the fire behavior updates, they have also deleted some of the older figures that either were negated by the new research, were technically incorrect, or did not have a lot of value. Chapter 6 (Modern Fire Behavior) was extensively revised to include the findings of the research and in particular to the stages of fire development in modern buildings. They added information on flow path, how it influences fire growth and all of the key terms that were identified in the research and studies have been incorporated into the text. Extensive discussions about ventilation limited fires and what they mean to firefighters. Chapter 14 (Search and Rescue) has been revised to teach the students how to recognize whether or not they are faced with a survivable incident based on fire conditions and fire development so that they can make a better informed decision when faced with that go/no go decision with a rescue. Tactics for search and rescue have been revised based on the research. Teaching an oriented vent, enter, isolate, search method. Chapter 15 (Ventilation) has been revised, incorporating all the new research findings, including emphasis on size up, the determination of what type of fire you're faced with. Chapter 17 (Fire Attack and Foam) has been modified to include transitional attack, three types of fire attack will now be taught. Foam has also been updated. Chapter 22 (Fire Suppression) was significantly revised to include the NIST/UL findings. The curriculum in this Edition is in line with what was done with Modern Fire Behavior course. Six skill drills have minor modifications with the new Edition. Skaza asked that the Council approve the Fire Academy using the Enhanced Third Edition and reported that the changes will not increase the hours of the courses.

Changes will be made in the Firefighter II program. Terry Farr suggested that the Modern Fire Behavior cognitive be presented within the Firefighter II program since students may not have

the updated revisions. Discussion of whether from a curriculum stand point it is better to add Chapter 6 to Firefighter II rather than add the Modern Fire Behavior course. Lund asked if this will be a permanent change to Firefighter II or if it will be temporary, the conclusion is to keep it in the program. Skaza says that if we deliver Chapter 6 it may be a review for some students. However, if the lecture from the Modern Behavior course is used students will be exposed to some tactics. Discussion of whether the practical portion of Modern Fire Behavior will be included. The Academy has allowed the entire Modern Fire Behavior class to be presented as part of Firefighter II in the past, however it was an option for students and students were opting out so the Academy could not deliver the program cost effectively. It costs about \$2,500 to deliver the Modern Fire Behavior class so funding may be an issue.

Motion by Ruggles to include the Modern Fire Behavior in its entirety into Firefighter II and accept the Enhanced third edition, second by Northern.

Discussion of the motion: Skaza is concerned about the operational demands that adding the course will put on the Academy and the cost. He pointed out that he would hate to see the Council mandate something that we couldn't sustain either financially or logistically with the workload that the Academy is proposing for the upcoming year. Michael Desrochers asks that the Council wait until the next Council meeting to discuss the Flashover course being added to the Firefighter II program.

Amendment to Ruggles original motion by Ruggles to approve the Enhanced Third Edition and deliver the didactic portion of Modern Fire Behavior and table the full delivery of the Flashover practical until the next Council meeting, seconded by Northern. Motion PASSED.

New Federal and NFPA standards for traffic incident management with respect to responder safety. Traditionally, the Academy has used the VFIS Highway Safety program. Dan Zimmer has been evaluating the VFIS Traffic Incident Management program for comparison both to compliance with the US DOT standard which is referred to as SHARP 2 and with the NFPA standards. Dan Zimmer explained his findings. He attended the training session in 2010 that was provided by the National Traffic Incident Management Responder training that was sponsored by the US DOT Federal Administration. Zimmer discussed the Highway Safety Training Program Analysis handout. The VFIS program is compliant with the Federal DOT requirements. The VFIS program is more specific to Fire Service personnel and the interactive CD-ROM with scenarios will not push the program over four hours. There is now an NFPA standard (1091) regarding to Traffic Incident Management which Zimmer has compared both programs against the standard and both are compliant with standard. All recommendations are on page 5 of the handout. VFIS has better references with apparatus of Fire Safety. VFIS provides a final exam to measure a student's success and it gives the ability to recognize a students' successful completion of the course with a certificate. Corbin asked if any other program requires a High School degree, the answer was no. How can the Council adopt that rule if it was contrary to the main curriculum that this course is being placed in because if they did not have a high school diploma or have a GED they could not technically complete TIMS which means that they could not complete the requirements of Firefighter I. Skaza asks Zimmer if the program would be compliant with the 1091 standard even if the Council does not adopt the prerequisites (recommendations) for TIMS.

Motion by Northern and a second by Marcus to adopt the recommendations from Dan Zimmer (as indicated on page 6 of the handout) as follows:

1. Continue with updated 2015 VFIS TIM course
2. Conduct “in-house” update for VFA lead instructors
3. Recognize program completion with certificate of completion stating compliance with 1091
4. Remove item 4 – which is to implement NFPA 1091 Chapter 3 personnel pre-requisites
5. Rejuvenate relationships with VFIS outreach personnel,
6. Investigate the registry/feedback reporting to USDOT Federal Highway Administration
7. Consider developing and integrating “skills drills” to package with like skills with Firefighter I/II or Emergency Vehicle Driver Training) minus number 4, which is the 1091 chapter 3 prerequisites.

MOTION PASSED.

Statute and Review Committee:

Corbin distributed a draft copy of Council Rules and Policies. The Rules Committee is made up of Marcus, Corbin and Ruggles. The process first started with the committee sending an email to Council members with suggested changes. After dialogue between the Academy and other Council members there has been added language referencing the challenge process for Firefighter I and II. Corbin would like to convene the committee and review and work on the rules revision to bring back to the Council. If approved, it would then need to go through the Public review process. Bob Patterson has been offered to assist with the update so he would be invited to that committee meeting to assist the committee in the making its way through proper channels, it will be a lengthy process. The intention would be that the Rules committee convenes before the next Council meeting so that at the next Council meeting the committee would have a solid foundation to present to the Council.

Unfinished business:

It was discussed that many stakeholders would like an annual schedule for Fire Inspector, Fire Officer, Fire Instructor classes. Each member was asked if their constituents send in any specific requests regarding the direction, format, and schedule of training. There was no information sent forward for discussion.

The Academy proposed the locations for FY17 Firefighter I, II and I/II courses to the Council. After the locations have been decided for Firefighter I, II, I/II the Academy will look to schedule Fire Officer, Fire Instructor, Fire Inspector courses. Corbin explained that Fire Instructor and Fire Officer are benchmarks for career advancement, employment and promotions. There may have been more interest in the Fire Officer and Fire Instructor course if they had notice earlier in the fiscal year. Corbin believes it is imperative that Fire Instructor and Fire Officer get on a routine schedule. The PFFV's membership really needs a routine schedule and the Career Chief's feel the same way.

Corbin asks if any of the representatives at the meeting have a message from their constituents as to what they need or are missing in regards to training. Career Chief's have none. Barber says that the VSFA wants to wait to see what the Fire Academy does and then go from there.

Desrochers discusses that at the VSFA Executive Board meeting that he attended there was discussion of whether the Occupational Safety Regulations were going to move to adopt NFPA standards and what that would do to the volunteer fire service.

Dan Whipple says that Federal OSHA is looking to revamp some of the standards surrounding emergency service/fire service personnel. They were looking to introduce NFPA 1500 as a standard. Vermont is one of many states that have rural volunteer services so people are very worried about how that might play out. Federal OSHA is aware of the concerns and they have a committee that is working on the concerns. The Federal message is that they are moving forward with it before the administration changes. The way that we exercise jurisdiction in Vermont at the present time is that most volunteer services would be included in our jurisdiction because of our paid on call type of structure. He suggested that people pay attention to the matter and encouraged people to go onto the OSHA website under rules and regulations and review rules that are under public comment and comment. If the rules are passed then it will impact in a jurisdictional way. Meaning that who comes under the jurisdiction of the regulatory authority would have to abide by the rule. The rule, among other things, adopts the Occupational Health standards of the NFPA. There are certain types of things like prequalification physicals required by the standard for firefighters and emergency service personnel. It would impact the cost of volunteer services. For full time services who are already abiding by it, it shouldn't be a huge impact.

Ruggles asked Whipple if this rule is going to be similar to the rule change a few years ago regarding the respiratory protection policy where a lot of volunteer fire companies were supposed to abide by the facial hair policy and respiratory protection policy, how it this going to be viewed any different? Since not everyone is doing that yet they fall within the parameters of employee/employer relationship that VOSHA already goes by. Whipple's response is that it will be same, if you chose not to abide by those rules then you do so at your own peril. VOSHA will only inspect if there is compelling reason too. The regulation is there and it will be up to the individual fire departments to follow the rule.

Bell brings up 1584 (Firefighter Rehab) as the health department went through a policy change a couple of years ago regarding 1582 and 1583 and they found that not all the career departments were following 1582 and 1583. Whipple is not sure if they will partially adopt the standard or the whole standard.

The student completion rate is concerning to the Council but if no one is hearing from their constituents then the Council cannot change anything. Skaza stated that every student who took a Firefighter I, II and combined course was asked on an end of course evaluation if they would have appreciated if this course was delivered in a module format and overwhelming the answers were no. Many of the students responded to questions regarding the schedule asking that classes be held more frequently so that it was of a shorter duration with respect to the number of months committed. These questions were asked in response to discussion at the last Council meeting. Complaints regarding course length or lack of modulization do not appear to be coming from the students who are taking Fire Academy classes. The NFPA 1001 standard is/was open to public comment and the Academy is following it. There are proposals suggesting that the standard changes from certifying to Firefighter I and II to certifying to basic, exterior, and interior

firefighter. If this standard change occurs, that may address the issue of breaking certification courses into modules.

PADO and AADO are behind in the standard and they need to be revised so both programs have been shelved until the Academy can address those courses.

New Business:

FY17 course locations – 6 Firefighter I locations: Barton, Brandon/Middlebury, Chester, South Hero, Swanton, Windham County; 3 Firefighter II locations: Bristol, Newark, Rutland Town; Firefighter I/II: Lyndonville, Tunbridge and Williston. Discussion that South Hero and Swanton are close but no easy way to get to either. Leads are assigned to all courses. Addison and Rutland county decided to combine to hold one Firefighter I course to take care of both their Firefighter I candidates. There were few requests made that were denied. The Council supports all requests that Academy is approving.

The schedule that the Academy proposes is very aggressive so sticking to the course minimums and deadlines is very important. Skaza asks that members of the Council make their constituents aware of that.

VT Coalition of Fire and Rescue Association: None

VT Career Chiefs Report (Ruggles): Seminar was held in May and reasonably attended.

VSFA Report (Barber): Thanked Desrochers for attending the Cadet Academy. The VSFA is looking forward to the upcoming changes at Fire Academy and want to support legislative changes to help the Academy in any way.

VT Fire Chiefs Association Report (Wendall Mansfield): No Report

Professional Firefighters of Vermont Association (Corbin): Convention was held last week. New Executive Board has been elected and Brad Reed (St. Johnsbury) was elected as the new PFFV President; Chris Dube (Hartford), Secretary/Treasurer; Joe Kelly (Barre); Northern District President; and Ron Hubbard (Brattleboro) is the Southern District President.

Agency of Natural Resources Report (Lund):

Line of Duty Death recently on May 5, 2016 where a Georgia firefighter suffered a heart attack while working on a brush fire on April 27th. ANR worked with Bob Kilpeck and the department.

ANR is getting ready for the vigilant guard exercise.

The statutes concerning the town fire warden and fire reimbursement policy were up for modification and they should be getting signed. This calls for the Vermont League of cities of Towns, ANR Commissioner and all other interested parties will come up a policy regarding Wildland Fire reimbursements by January 2017. All fires that occur on ANR land will be reimbursed at 100%.

General Public (Marcus): No Report

Insurance Company (Pryce): No Report

Department of Education (Northern):

Ten new students are entering the VTC Fire Science Program in the upcoming fall.

Department of Health (Bell):

The department just hired Dan Macy, a Paramedic/Firefighter from Portland, Maine. He also was a Deputy Chief in Yarmouth, Maine and a Director of Education of Atlantic Partners of EMS in Maine. He will be the new EMS Chief. The Vermont EMS conference is scheduled for October 27 – 30 at Mt. Snow.

Any other Business:

Al Barber announced that he is resigning as the VSFA representative on the Council.

The next meeting will be at the Division of Fire Safety Central office in Berlin, on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 10:00 am.

A motion was made by Lund and seconded by Bell to adjourn the meeting. PASSED.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Pomainville

Jessica Pomainville
Administrative Services Coordinator



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Vermont Fire Academy**

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Department of Public Safety

**Training Activity Report
June 13, 2016**

Accreditation

Application package has been sent – awaiting response

CPAT – 2016:

Application deadline: 8/1
Orientation: 8/9, 10, 11 – Champlain Valley Exposition
Testing: October 11, 12, 13
Price: \$75

FY 2016 Programming to date: (-27% from FY 15)

8 – Firefighter I programs 1 - Firefighter II programs 1- Firefighter I/II program

Summary

Students started: 208
Students finished:

NFA Programs: all programs scheduled at VFA – Pittsford, 0800-1700.

6/10,11/16 – Initial Fire Investigation for First Responders
8/20,21/16 – 3 State Weekend @ NFA

Program updates:

Rapid Intervention Crew
Solar Voltaic (PV) Safety for Firefighters

Fire Officer I/II

In process, in Hartford – 18 students

USAR / Technical Rescue:

Working on scheduling
Transition to monthly training exercises underway by USAR Team Leader Cannon

VFA:

1 position hired – Erin Walker – Admin Assistant B – now at 6 FT staff – down 3 from December 2013
DEC Accomplished:
PFOA potable water testing on site and at 3 sites offsite – nothing found
Recycled water tank system testing – awaiting results
Website updated

Respectfully Submitted,
James Litevich, Chief Fire Service Training Office

Note: This will be my last meeting, thank you all for your guidance and assistance over the years. Together, we have accomplished many good things for the Vermont Fire Service!

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Regional Offices – Barre/Rutland/Springfield/Williston

Vermont Fire Academy - Pittsford



Location	Starting Number at 2 week deadline	Student number as of 10/2	Student number as of 12/29	Student numbers Prior to Exam	Eligible for Exam	Students Certified
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Firefighter I

Castleton	26	21	20	17	17	17
Hartland	27	20	16	16	15	15
Manchester	34	29	23	15	15	14
Middlebury	27	23	16	13	13	13
Underhill Jercho	19	14	11	11	11	11

**1 has practical to retake

**2 had to make up practicals

Total	133	107	86	72	71	70
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Firefighter II

Enosburg	32	19		20	19	18
Groton	23	20		19	19	18
Total	55	39		39	38	36

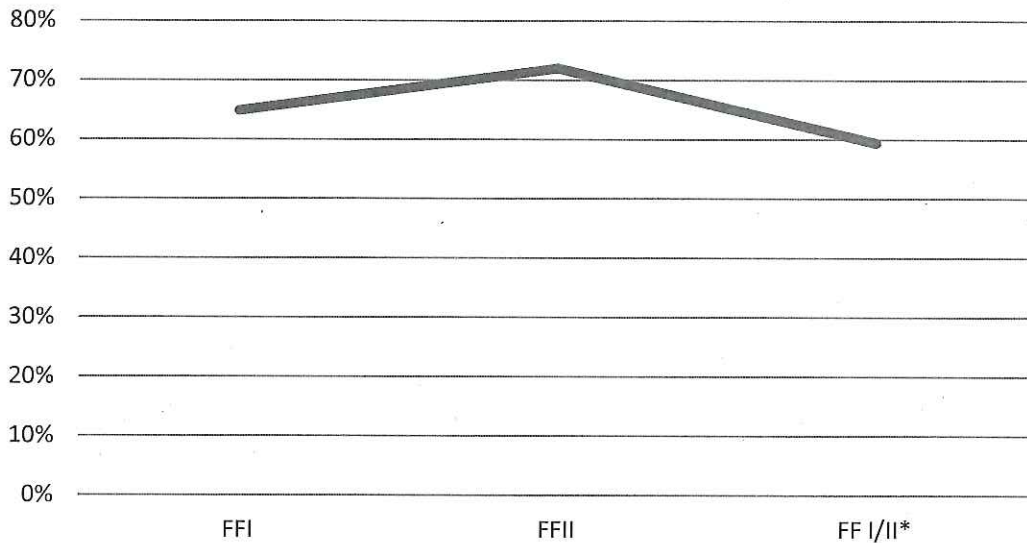
Firefighter I/II

Berlin	37	31	26	21	16	16
Total	37	31	26	21	16	16

**4 have make ups to finish

Vermont Fire Academy - Student Certification Trends fy 10 - 16							
Year	Course	# at Start	Completed	Cert %	Number of courses held		
FY 2010	FFI	177	163	92	10		14 - Goal
	FFII	76	59	78	3		
		253	222	85%	13		-1
FY 2011	FFI	200	137	69	10		
	FFII	120	91	76	4		
	FF I/II	22	12	55	1		
	Online FFI	31	13	42	1		
		373	253	60.5%	16		3
FY 2012	FFI	212	190	90	10		
	FFII	79	71	90	4		
	FF I/II	23	17	74	1		
	Online FFI	37	12	32	1		
	Online FFII	28	25	89	1		
		379	315	75%	17		4
FY 2013	FFI	203	83	41	6		
	FFII	72	54	75	4		
	FF I/II	60	33	55	2		
	Online FFI	37	23	62	1		
	Online FFII	20	8	40	1		
		392	201	54%	14		0
FY 2014	FFI	242	133	55	9		
	FFII	63	41	65	3		
	FF I/II	29	20	69	1		
	Online FFI	37	17	46	1		
	Online FFII	18	9	50	1		
		389	220	57%	15		1
FY 2015	FFI	261	140	54	9		
	FFII	43	23	54	3		
	FFI/II	0	0	0	0		
	Online FFI	0	0	0	0		
	Online FFII	0	0	0	0		
		304	163	54%	12		-2
FY 2016	FFI	133	70	53	5		
	FFII	55	36	66	2		
	FFI/II	37	16	44	1		
	Online FFI	0	0	0	0		
	Online FFII	0	0	0	0		
		225	122	54%	8		-6

Certification % - FY 10 - 16



7 yr Certification Ave. for all FF classes

65%

7 year certification average for each program:

FFI	65%	
FFII	72%	
FF I/II*	59%	*(6 yr ave)
overall ave:	65%	

7 yr average # of courses held:

12.8

-1.2

FFI	8.5
FFII	3.3
FFI/II	1

Ave. # Certifications/yr:

216

FFI	131
FFII	71
FFI/II	14

FY 17 - 12 courses

-2

Curriculum Review Summary Report
Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills, Evidence-Based Practices, Enhanced 3rd Edition

General Revisions

1. Revisions have been made throughout the text incorporate the key terms, fire behavior considerations, and tactics that have been developed based on NIST/UL research.
2. The slide set has been redesigned to be less distracting to the viewer.
3. Figures have been added, improved, or deleted throughout the text.

Chapter 6 – Fire Behavior

This chapter has been updated to include the findings of the NIST/UL research with respect to the stages of fire development in modern buildings.

Added:

1. Define fire flow path and describe how it influences the growth of a building fire. (p 147)
2. Define the following terms: thermal layering, rollover, backdraft, flashover, rapid fire growth, and ventilation-limited fires. (p 152-153)
3. Describe conditions that lead to rapid fire growth. (p 153)
4. Describe the conditions that lead to a ventilation-limited fire. (p 153-154)

Revised:

1. Describe the characteristics of a solid-fuel fires. To read: Describe the importance of the following characteristics in solid-fuel fires: composition of fuel, amount of fuel, and configuration of fuel. (p 149 – 150)
2. Describe the four phases of a solid-fuel fire: Incipient phase, growth phase, fully developed phase, and decay phase. To read: Describe the four stages of fire development: incipient stage, growth stage, fully developed stage, and decay stage. (p 151 – 154)
3. Describe the conditions that lead to a flameover. To read: Describe the conditions that lead to a rollover. (p 152)

Chapter 14 – Search and Rescue

Added emphasis on how to recognize survivability of potential victims based on fire conditions and fire behavior lessons contained within Chapter 6. Revised search tactics based on NIST/UL research findings.

New:

1. Describe three types of searches that are used in residential fires. (p 410–413)
2. Describe one type of search that is used in large commercial fires. (p 413–414)
3. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of conducting a standard search. (p 410)
4. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of conducting an oriented search. (p 412)
5. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of the oriented vent enter isolate search sequence (OVEIS). (p 413)
6. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of the team search. (p 414)

Chapter 15 – Ventilation

Revisions to ventilation tactics based on NIST/UL research with emphasis placed on size-up, recognition of ventilation limited fires, and coordinated fire attack based on size-up findings.

1. The first 11 bullet points of the chapter are deleted and replaced with the following knowledge objectives
 - Describe the importance of including ventilation in a size-up. (p 443)
 - Describe signs of a ventilation-limited fire. (p 443)
 - Describe the impact of door control on ventilation. (p 444)
 - Describe the impact of ventilation location. (p 444)
 - Describe the impact of ventilation hole size. (p 445)
 - Describe the impact of exterior suppression on fire behavior. (p 445)
 - List ventilation priorities. (p 445)
 - Describe the importance of the timing and coordination of ventilation and suppression. (p 445–446)
 - Describe the effect of wind on the fire flow path. (p 446)
 - Explain why keeping the lid on a fire helps to control the fire growth. (p 446)
 - Describe how modern construction contributes to flashover. (p 446)
 - Describe steps that can be taken to minimize backdrafts and flashovers. (p 447)
 - Explain how fire research aids in effective ventilation practices. (p 448)
 - Describe the role of mechanical ventilation in fire suppression. (p 449)
2. Fuel-limited, Flow path and neutral plane are explained in detail.
3. New subhead added The Impact of Door Control
4. New subhead added The Impact of the Ventilation Location
5. New subhead added The Impact of the Ventilation Hole Size
6. New subhead added The Impact of Exterior Suppression on Fire Behavior

Chapter 17 – Fire Attack and Foam

Chapter modified to include transitional attack and clarification added throughout on selection of proper hose size and streams referencing back to NIST/UL findings.

1. New opening paragraphs describing the three different types of evolutions 1. transitional fire attack, 2. offensive interior fire attack, and 3. defensive fire attack.
2. Added emphasis on fire fighter controlling the door and thus controlling air flow which limits limit the ability of the fire to grow rapidly as fire fighters get into position to apply the hose stream.
3. Added emphasis that smoke and flames from the fire tend to travel up the stairway of a residential structure. This means fire fighters will be operating in the exhaust portion of the flow path of a basement fire.
4. Updated information about CAFS and foam eductors.

Chapter 22 – Fire Suppression

Significant revision of chapter content to add clarification to previously published information and bring into line with NIST/UL findings. Adjusted tactics according to research findings.

1. New section added: A third type of fire attack is the transitional attack.
2. NEW FIGURE 22-1 An offensive exterior attack some distance from the fire reduces temperatures throughout the house and partially suppresses the fire. The temperatures listed are from before and after the exterior application of water.
3. NEW FIGURE 21-2 Fire fighters using a transitional attack to reduce the burning and cool the interior before entering the burning building. A. Second-story window. B. Exterior attack.
4. NEW Table 22-1 Exterior Fire Attack
5. Clean up content within direct, indirect, and combination attack to provide clarity with respect to proper methods.
6. Revision to basement and attic fires placing emphasis on tactical considerations with respect to flow path and likelihood of a ventilation limited fire.

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National Traffic Incident Management Responder Training
US DOT - Federal Highway Administration - SHRP2 SOLUTIONS 2010

Learning Objectives:

Lesson 1: Introduction

1. Describe the purpose of SHRP 2 National TIM Responder Training.
2. Recognize the dangers encountered by emergency responders working in or near traffic.
3. Define traffic incident management (TIM).

Lesson 2: TIM Fundamentals & Terminology

1. Define safe, quick clearance.
2. List the principle laws that relate to responder safety & safe, quick clearance.
3. Describe how the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) relates to TIM.
4. Recall common response terminology, lane designations, and incident scene terminology.

Lesson 3: Notification & Scene Size-up

1. Recognize the important role public safety communications centers play in incident response.
2. Describe the notification & verification process.
3. Recall the typical responsibilities of a Transportation Management Center.
4. List the key information that should be included in a scene size-up report.

Lesson 4: Safety Vehicle Positioning

1. Differentiate between MOVE IT and WORK IT incidents.
2. State the MUTCD definition of safe-positioned and describe blocking.
3. Define Lane +1 blocking & describe the need for it!
4. Describe safe practices for working around or avoid the zero buffers.

Lesson 5: Scene Safety

1. Describe how emergency vehicle markings can improve scene safety.
2. Describe recommendations for emergency vehicle lighting as set forth in the MUTCD.
3. Describe high-visibility safety apparel requirements for incident responders.

Lesson 6: Command Responsibilities

1. Describe both the need & the requirements for establishing & participating in the ICS.
2. Describe when it is appropriate to implement Unified Command!
3. Identify the need for & use of Staging Areas.

Lesson 7: Traffic Management

1. Describe the four main components of a Traffic Incident Management Area (TIMA).
2. Identify conditions at an incident scene that would require the Advance Warning Area be extended.

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3. Describe the need for & how to set-up a taper.
4. Identify & describe the two types of buffers that may be established at an incident scene.

Lesson 8: Special Circumstances

1. ID the safety concerns related to responding to an incident involving a vehicle fire
2. Describe how to identify what hazardous material is being transported.
3. Recount good practices for responding to an incident involving a vehicle fluid spill.
4. Describe the primary goal of a crash investigation & the importance of preserving short-lived evidence.
5. Describe the importance of performing response tasks concurrently as it relates to safe, quick clearance.

Lesson 9: Clearance & Termination

1. Describe quick clearance strategies for both minor incidents and incident that involve tractor trailers &/or spilled cargo.
2. List the type of information the needs to be provided to towing & recovery to facilitate their response.
3. Describe the major activities that take place during termination & identify safety related to considerations for scene breakdown!

Activity A: Tabletop Exercises

Seven (7) exercises on pre-printed plotter size of paper with each scenario starting with a different arrival order of 1st due responders i.e. Law, DOT, Fire & EMS etc.

Activity B: Outdoor Situational Awareness Activities including exiting an emergency vehicle, establishing a taper, deploying advance warning signs & demonstrating general safety considerations!

Program delivery timeline: Lecture - 4 to 6 hours (dependent on selected content), tabletop exercise - 2 hours & skill drills - 2 hours! Practice is Vermont (VSP) has been an 8 hour weekend session!

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) for Emergency Service Personnel
VFIS Division of Glatfelter Group - SHRP2 SOLUTIONS 2010

Learning Objectives:

Program:

1. Document the hazards presented to emergency responders work on or near a highway.

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2. Summarize the actions necessary to improve responder's safety at highway incidents.
3. Correlate the strategies of the National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management with actions that will improve responder safety on the highway.
4. Recommend appropriate PPE for emergency responders operating at roadway incidents.
5. Develop an action plan for highway incidents that include a safety plan, proper apparatus placement and the appropriate deployment of temporary traffic control measures.
6. Facilitate the implementation of best practices for roadway incidents with the participants AHJ.

Chapter 1: Extent of the Problem

1. Describe the roles & responsibilities of the emergency services worker at highway incident scenes.
2. Recognize the factors that contribute to the incidence of responder injury and death while working near moving traffic.
3. Discuss the impact of injuries and deaths to emergency service workers!
4. Explain the rationale for changing the attitude concerning highway incident response.

Chapter 2: Planning, Multi-Agency Communications & Coordination

1. Describe the NUG.
2. Discuss how planning reduces the amount of on-scene time at the highway incident.
3. Understand the need for common terminology for multi-incident response.
4. Identify methods to improve multi-agency communications and coordination.
5. Recognize TIM threat areas in the response district.

Chapter 3: SOP's & SOG'

1. Differentiate between SOG's & SOP's!
2. Understand the benefits of having SOG's & SOP's.
3. List TIM subject areas for consideration in SOPs/SOGs.

Chapter 4: Legal & Regulatory Implications

1. Identify specific laws that impact emergency workers.
2. Recognize the elements of the MUTCD.
3. ID sections of MUTCD that effect emergency responders.
4. Understand the law as it pertains to the use of high visibility vests.

Chapter 5: On Scene Operation - The 1st 60 Minutes!!

1. Describe the effect of SOG's/SOP's on emergency response.
2. Describe the action that must be fulfilled at a highway scene to ensure safe operation at the incident.
3. List the personal safety measures to be used by emergency responders while working at or near moving traffic.

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4. Understand the roles & responsibilities of the emergency service worker related to personal safety at highway incidents.
5. List the risks associated with closing down traffic and incident termination.

Chapter 6: Apparatus Design & Equipment Considerations

1. Describe apparatus features that should be considered for increasing the degree of safety at highway incident scenes.
2. List & describe safety-related equipment to be included on apparatus for personal use at highway incident when working near moving traffic.

Chapter 7: Scenarios & Best Practices

1. Demonstrate the ability to establish a safe, temporary traffic control zone given various highway types & scene conditions.
2. Identify safety concerns for various roadway types & scene conditions.
3. Critique the temporary control zone created in given scenarios for best practices related to operability and safety.
4. Develop a positive attitude to accept use & enforce highway workplace safety!

Program delivery timeline: Lecture & interactive CD-ROM pre-set scenarios is compact into a 4 hour evening session!

NFPA 1091, 2015 Edition: Traffic Control Incident Management
Job Performance Requirements & Recommended Pre-Requisites

Chapter 4:

- 4.2.1 Conduct an initial size-up & establish command so that on approach and arrival potential hazards and needed resources are identified & communicated to responders.
- 4.2.2 Position the vehicle to provide a TIMA so that the vehicle is safe-positioned
- 4.2.3 Establish TIMA so that TIMA is established and TTC devices are deployed to protect responders and move traffic through and around incident.
- 4.2.4 Establish advance warning etc.
- 4.2.5 Operate and a member of a team with a TIMA, using ICS etc.
- 4.2.6 Manage non-involved persons found within or near TIMA etc.
- 4.2.7 Monitor & adjust the TTC measures... so that TTC problems or changing conditions are identified, reported and measures are adjusted.
- 4.2.8 Adapt the TIMA in response to hazards etc.
- 4.2.9 Perform TIMA demobilization functions etc.

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Chapter 3: General Requirements - Explanatory Material

A.1.3.8 Ongoing & CE TCIMP educational and age requirement (Recommendations)

1. Educational: **Minimum of high school graduate!**
2. Age: Minimum of 18 years.
3. Medical: Compliant with NFPA 1582.
4. Physical Fitness: Ability to perform challenging activities in a high stress environment.
5. Emergency Medical Care training: AHJ minimum requirement to Firefighter 1????
6. Pre-requisite training - due to potential encountering of hazardous materials - should be a minimum of Hazmat Awareness qualified!

Remarks:

USDOT NTIM-RT:

- General focus is on an all responder audience. Contains substantial reference to major, multi-lane, high traffic highways & the urgency to clear an incident scene.
- Skill drills could be added to a Firefighter 1 or EVDT program for added value!
- Adoption by VFSTC would require additional expenses including VFA instructor TtT by SHRP2 contractors and procurement of instructional materials!

VFIS TIM ESP:

- Current course provider! Would be easy transition to implement update via in-house TtT to small group of VFA lead instructors.
- Current VFA - VFIS partnership!
- Better focus on personnel assign as Traffic Control Incident Management Personnel (TCIMP)!
- VFIS chapter 6 contains better reference / content on apparatus, highway safety outgear & signage as defined in NFPA standards 1091 & 1901.
- VFIS provides access to download reference materials at no cost to VFA or student!
- VFIS content include pre-test and final exam (3 variations).
- VFIS program would allow SOV VFA to recognize NFPA compliance on a student's certificate of completion!

NFPA 1091:

- Both programs are compliant with the NFPA standard 1091 except for the pre-requisite skills, abilities & education! ** See statement Chapter 3 above!!

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Recommendations:

1. Continue with updated 2015 VFIS Insurance program "Traffic Incident Management (TIM) for Emergency Service Personnel!
2. Conduct "in-house" update TtT for VFA lead instructors!
3. Recognize program completion with certificate of completion stating compliance with NFPA 1091.
4. Implement NFPA 1091 Chapter 3 personnel pre-requisites!
5. Rejuvenate relationship with VFIS outreach personnel and Vermont POC @ UAI Insurance.
6. Investigate registry / feedback reporting to USDOT Federal Highway Administration, SHRP2Solutions office!
7. Consider developing & integrating "skill drills" to package with like skills with Firefighter I/II or Emergency Vehicle Driver Training programs of instruction!

Respectfully,



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Council Rules and Policies

Vermont Fire Service Training Council

Rules and Policies

Effective January 1, 2007

DRAFT REVISION 22 Feb 2016 by C. Corbin

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Adoption

1.1.1 These rules are adopted pursuant to 20 V.S.A. Chapter 179.

1.2 Purpose

1.2.1 The Vermont Fire Service Training Council provides standards for training and certification of firefighters.

1.3 Appointments to Council

1.3.1 The Governor appoints members of the Council in accordance with 20 V.S.A. § 3152.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 The definitions set out at 20 V.S.A. § 3151 shall be applicable for these rules:

2.1.1 "Council" means the Vermont Fire Service Training Council.

2.1.2 "Fire Service" means activities related to fire prevention, investigation, suppression or fire related rescue.

2.1.3 "Firefighter" means a member of a state, municipal or county fire department or a privately owned fire department, which is responsible for fire suppression, prevention, investigation or fire related rescue.

2.1.4 "Full-Time Firefighter" means a firefighter who receives compensation for performing fire service duties of a predictable and continuing nature more than 32 hours per week and more than 25 weeks per year.

2.1.5 "Chief Fire Service Training Officer" is appointed by the commissioner of public safety and has the duties and powers specified in 20 V.S.A. § 3154.

3. COUNCIL PROCEDURES

3.1 Meetings

3.1.1 The Council shall meet at least twice a year as required by 20 V.S.A. § 3152. The date, time and place of such meetings shall be set by notice as provided in this section.

3.1.2 Special meetings may be called at any time by the chair or upon written request of seven (7) Council members. The time, date and place shall be set by notice as provided in this section.

3.1.3 The chief fire service training officer shall give notice of any regular or special meeting in writing to each Council member in compliance with the specific requirements of Vermont's Open Meeting law. The notice shall include the time, date and place of the meeting and an agenda. Copies of any available documents that pertain to items on the agenda shall be included.

3.1.4 The chief fire service training officer, with advice of the Chair, shall prepare the agenda of any meeting. The agenda shall include any business required by statute to be conducted by the Council, any business to be conducted at a special meeting, any action to be taken on old business, and any matter appropriate for Council action as new business. Any member present may raise additional agenda items at the meeting.

3.1.5 Council members may appoint a person to act as his or her alternate in their absence. The alternate serves at the pleasure of the member and shall be appointed by letter to the Chair of the Council. The appointment shall be valid for up to one year and conveys full membership status in the absence of the member. The chair for good cause may grant exceptions to this procedure.

3.1.6 A majority of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum. The Council shall act only by vote of a majority of its members present and voting at a meeting at which there is a quorum.

3.1.7 The meetings of the Council shall be presided over by the chair or, in his or her absence, by the vice-chair. In the event neither the chair nor vice-chair is present at the meeting, the Council may elect from its members there present a chair pro tempore who shall preside at the meeting.

3.1.8 Regular and special meetings shall be conducted under the committee provisions of Robert's Rules of Order, unless otherwise noted.

3.1.9 All meetings shall be open to the general public unless an executive session is invoked under 1 V.S.A., Chapter 5. Minutes of each meeting shall be kept and made part of the public record, except portions of such minutes that are exempted by Vermont law. The chief fire service training officer shall be responsible for the keeping of all Council minutes, and for their timely preparation and dissemination to all Council members following each meeting.

3.1.10 Any Council meeting may be recessed or adjourned on the majority vote of the members or alternates present, subject at all times to the requirements of Vermont law.

3.1.11 Voting at any meeting may be by written ballot, by show of hands, or by voice as determined by the presiding officer.

3.2 Officers

3.2.1 The general conduct of the duties and responsibilities of the Council shall be vested in its chair who shall preside over all meetings. The chair shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Council in all matters that have been previously approved by vote of its members.

3.2.2 In the event the chair is unable for any reason to discharge his or her duties, the vice chair shall serve as the chair.

3.2.3 The chair and vice-chair shall be elected for a term of one (1) year upon the vote of the members at the last regular meeting of the calendar year. Nominations for chair or vice-chair may be made from the floor or by letter of any Council member filed with the chief fire service training officer on or before the date of such election. A nomination in either manner shall be required to have a second, and the person receiving the most votes of the members present and voting shall be declared the chair or vice-chair respectively.

3.2.4 A vacancy is created in the positions of chair or vice-chair whenever either officer ceases to be a member of the Council, ceases to hold the position in government that initially qualified him or her for Council membership or upon unavailability, for any reason, for a period of six (6) months.

3.2.5 In the event the position of chair becomes vacant, the balance of his or her term shall be discharged by the vice-chair. A new vice-chair shall be elected in the manner provided in this section for the balance of the term. Should both the positions of the chair and vice-chair become vacant, a new election for each office shall be held to complete the term of the officer.

3.3 Committees

3.3.1 The Chair, with the approval of the Council, may appoint such standing and special committees as necessary to assist it in conducting its business. Any committee appointed shall have a written charge that describes the scope and responsibilities of the committee and the method of appointing members of the committee.

4. TRAINING

4.1 Levels of Fire Service Training

4.1.1 The Council may approve courses of instruction to complete the following levels of fire service training.

4.1.1.1 Firefighter I and II, Fire Officer, Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor, Hazardous Materials, Pumping Apparatus Driver/Operator, Aerial Apparatus Driver/Operator, and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS).

4.1.1.2 Other courses as deemed appropriate by the Council.

4.1.2 Before the Council approves a course of instruction it shall review and approve the curriculum and any prerequisites required. In reviewing courses of instruction the Council should compare the proposed curriculum with applicable Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration (VOSHA) regulations, NFPA Standards and other nationally recognized courses.

4.2 Instructors

4.2.1 The chief fire service training officer may approve instructors for delivery of Council approved courses that are currently certified at a minimum as a Fire Instructor I or equivalent. Specialty instructors may be appointed to assist in the delivery of courses based on subject matter expertise.

5. CERTIFICATIONS

5.1 Standards for certification of firefighters.

5.1.1 Procedures for testing for certification may be approved by the Council consistent with applicable nationally recognized accreditation bodies.

5.2. Firefighter I, II and Fire Officer

5.2.1 The Council shall approve prerequisites for certification exams.

5.2.2 Passage of a written and, if appropriate, practical, examination based on the curriculum specified in section 4 of these rules with a minimum grade of 70%.

5.3 For certifications other than those courses approved under sections 5.1 and 5.2.

5.3.1 Successful completion of a course of instruction as specified in section 4 of these rules and passage of a written and, if appropriate, practical exam with a minimum grade of 70% or passage of a written and, if appropriate, practical, examination based on the curriculum specified in section 4 of these rules with a minimum grade of 70% as determined by the Council.

5.4 Minimum basic certification for full-time firefighters

5.4.1 The minimum basic certification for a full-time firefighter in accordance with 20 V.S.A. § 3153(a)(2)(A) shall be Firefighter I. This certification shall be obtained within 12 months of a firefighter meeting the definition of full-time firefighter in section 2.1.4 of these rules.

5.4.2 Upon written request from a chief of a fire department, the chief fire service training officer may waive the time required to receive certification in accordance with section 5.5.1 of these rules but not to exceed 24 months.

5.5 Standards for maintaining certifications issued by the Vermont Fire Academy as Firefighter I, II, and Fire Officer

5.5.1 All certified firefighters shall successfully complete a minimum ~~of 24~~ number of hours of training ~~in a range of subjects approved by the Council per year to maintain certification at their highest level of certification per certification term to maintain certification. The minimum number of hours per certification term shall be based on the level of certification and shall be prescribed by the Council.~~ Failure to complete this requirement shall result in loss of certification.

5.5.2 The Vermont Fire Academy may issue certifications for a term not to exceed three (3) years.

5.5.3 All training used to maintain certification shall be based on the job performance requirements, requisite knowledge, requisite skills, or objectives outlined in the applicable National Fire Protection Association Standard for Professional Qualifications for the level(s) of the certification. The Council may require mandatory training topics for any certification level.

5.5.4 Firefighters who hold certifications of Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Fire Officer I or Fire Officer II shall be required to successfully complete training within all of the certification levels that they hold, but the total number of training hours required for the maintenance of certification shall be determined by their highest level of certification.

5.6 Standards for Recertification issued by the Vermont Fire Academy of Firefighter I, II and Fire Officer

5.6.1 Firefighters who have previously been certified by the Council as Firefighter I, II and Fire Officer and have not maintained their certification ~~for a three-year period~~ shall successfully pass the certification exam specified in section 5.2 of these rules to receive recertification. The three-year period shall be extended for firefighters who are members of the national guard, state guard, or reserve component and were activated or deployed in accordance with 20 V.S.A. § 368

5.7 Equivalency

The chief fire service training officer may issue letters of equivalency for the purpose of prerequisites after reviewing the level of training achieved in other jurisdictions based on a comparison with the curriculums specified in section 4 of these rules.

5.8 Requirements to obtain Pro Board Firefighter I & II Certification through the Vermont Fire Academy (VFA) Challenge Exam Process

The Challenge Exam

Individuals who have not completed an approved VFA sanctioned Firefighter I or II course, but who feel they have obtained the necessary training by some other means, or whose previous certifications are more than 2 editions in arrears of the current NFPA 1001 standard, may challenge the Firefighter I & II Exams.

The Challenge Exam Process shall be administered twice a year: once in the months of April/May; and once in the months of September/October.

The challenge exam process is available to candidates as a one-time opportunity per certification level. To be eligible Candidates seeking certification through to take the Firefighter I & II Challenge Exam process, must submit the following as proof of eligibility, along with their challenge exam application: the candidate must be at least 18 years of age at the test date and submit proof of the following training with their challenge exam application:

Firefighter I Challenge Exam Prerequisites:

- The candidate must be at least 18 years of age at the test date
- Current Adult and Child CPR with AED Certification
- Current First Aid with Environmental Emergencies Certifications
- Hazardous Materials Awareness Operations that qualifies as current with NFPA 472
- Highway Safety
- Wildland Firefighter (9 hours)
- ICS100: Introduction to Incident Command System

Firefighter II Challenge Exam Prerequisites:

- The candidate must be at least 18 years of age at the test date
- Proof of valid Vermont Firefighter I Certification or certification that is recognized as equivalent to Vermont standards.
- Current Adult and Child CPR with AED Certification
- Hazardous Materials Operations Certification that qualifies as current with NFPA 472
- ICS200: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents

5.8.1 THE CHALLENGE EXAM PROCESS

FF I Challenge Exam Part 1: Written Exam

The written exam consists of 100 multiple choice questions based on the knowledge requirements outlined in the current edition of NFPA 1001, Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications. Candidates must achieve a minimum passing score of 70. Candidates are permitted two attempts at passing the written exam. A second attempt may take place after 14 days but before 60 days of the first attempt and will be conducted at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford.

FF II Challenge Exam Part 2: Practical Skills Exam

The practical skills exam consists of 10 practical skill stations based on the requisite skills outlined in the current edition of NFPA 1001, Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications. Candidates must demonstrate satisfactory skill performance in each of these skill stations. Two attempts per skill station are permitted at the initial skills exam. Candidates are permitted one retest opportunity consisting of two additional attempts for stations that are failed plus an additional randomly selected skill station. The retest opportunity must take place after 14 days but before 60 days of the first attempt and will be conducted at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford. If the candidate fails to pass either the previously failed skill station or the additional random skill station, then the challenge process ends.

Firefighter I Certification is granted once a candidate passes both the written and practical skills exams.

~~Individuals who have not completed an approved Vermont Fire Academy sanctioned Firefighter II Course, but who feel they have obtained the necessary training by some other means; or whose previous certifications are more than 2 editions in arrears of the current NFPA 1001 standard, may challenge the Firefighter II Exam. The challenge exam process is available to candidates as a one-time opportunity per certification level. To be eligible to take the Firefighter II Challenge Exam, the candidate must be at least 18 years of age at the test date and submit proof of the following training with their challenge exam application:~~

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FF II Challenge Exam Part 1: Written Exam

The written exam consists of 100 multiple choice questions based on the knowledge requirements outlined in the current edition of NFPA 1001, Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications. Candidates must achieve a minimum passing score of 70. Candidates are permitted two attempts at passing the written exam. A second attempt may take place after 14 days but before 60 days of the first attempt and will be conducted at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford.

FF II Challenge Exam Part 2: Practical Skills Exam

The practical skills exam consists of 10 practical skill stations based on the requisite skills outlined in the current edition of NFPA 1001, Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications. Candidates must demonstrate satisfactory skill performance in each of these skill stations. Two attempts per skill station are permitted at the initial skills exam. Candidates are permitted one retest opportunity consisting of two additional attempts for stations that are failed plus an additional randomly selected skill station. The retest opportunity must take place after 14 days but before 60 days of the first attempt and will be conducted at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford. If the candidate fails to pass either the previously failed skill station or the additional random skill station, then the challenge process ends.

Firefighter II Certification is granted once a candidate passes both the written and practical skills exams.

6. REVOCATION OF FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION

6.1 In addition to decertification as a result of not completing continuing annual training as required by these rules the Council may revoke a firefighter certification for any of the following grounds:

6.1.1 The holder of the certification obtained such certification through fraud or misrepresentation of material fact.

6.2 No revocation of a certification shall occur without an investigation and notice and opportunity for hearing.

7. HEARINGS AND APPEALS

7.1 Any decision relating to certification, decertification or revocation of certification may be appealed in accordance with this section.

7.2 Procedures

7.2.1 The appeal shall be filed with the chief fire service training officer within thirty (30) calendar days of the final decision that is being appealed.

7.2.2 The chief fire service training officer shall notify the Council of the appeal at the next Council meeting after receiving the appeal.

7.2.3 The appeal shall be in writing and contain, as a minimum, the following elements”:

7.2.3.1 The name of the firefighter submitting the appeal.

7.2.3.2 The decision being appealed.

7.2.3.3 A statement of facts supporting the appeal referenced to these rules.

7.2.3.4 The requested remedy.

7.2.4 The Council shall conduct a hearing in accordance with this section within forty-five days of receiving the notice of appeal.

7.2.5 Any hearing before the Council in accordance with these rules shall be conducted in accordance with the contested case procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act. At the sole discretion of the Council the appeal may be heard by the full Council or a Committee of the Council.

7.2.6 The decision of the Council shall be considered a final decision.

8. SEVERABILITY

8.1 The provisions of these rules are severable. If any provision of a rule is invalid, or if any application thereof to any person or circumstances is invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions for applications which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

9. EFFECTIVE DATE

These rules shall become effective January 1, 2007. All prior certificates and approvals issued on behalf of the Council shall continue in full force and effect except as otherwise provided in these rules.

VFA Course Locations – FY 17

Firefighter I - 6

Barton

Brandon? (between Addison and Rutland Cty)

Chester

South Hero

Swanton

Windham County

Firefighter II - 3

Bristol

Orleans

Rutland County

Firefighter I/II - 3

Lyndonville

Tunbridge

Williston