

Vermont Emergency Services Training Center Governance Committee
Safety Subcommittee
December Meeting & Safety Report
Virtual Teams Meeting
December 28, 2023

Attendees:

- Michael Skaza, Vermont Fire Academy – Chair
- Heather Simons, Vermont Police Academy
- Lindsey Thivierge, Vermont Police Academy
- Rebecca White, Office of Risk Management
- Dan Whipple, Vermont Occupation Safety and Health Administration
- Chris Pixley, Vermont Fire Academy

Visitors:

- Chris Brickell, Vermont Police Academy

Minutes:

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Michael Skaza. The Chair introduced all that were present for the meeting.
2. Review of Annual Safety Report:

Lindsay Thivierge reported on the content of the report that was related to the Vermont Police Academy. Overall, the injury and illness reports were down from last year despite increasing student enrollment. Lindsay reported on the 35 incidents resulting in injury and went into full detail on the 9 reportable injuries.

Dan Whipple asked if there was some type of pre-training information that could be sent to students that outlines how to physically prepare for training at the Academies. The thought is that some of these over-use injuries could be mitigated if the students began working on fitness prior to the start of training. Lindsay Thivierge indicated that is part of the holistic wellness approach that they are headed toward.

Michael Skaza reported on the content of the report that was related to the Vermont Fire Academy. The injury count was down for the Fire Academy as well, with just two injuries reported in 2023. Both were orthopedic injuries resulting from physical activity.

Chris Brickell asked that one of the injury reports within the Police Academy count be edited to include more detail on the circumstances surrounding the

timeline of the incident. Lindsay Thivierge will edit that section to add the details as discussed for the final document.

Since the subcommittee was meeting prior to the end of the calendar year, it was agreed that any injuries reported between now and then will be added and would not need to be re-visited by the subcommittee unless significant.

The report was accepted by the subcommittee and agreed that it would be ready to be forwarded to the Governance Committee after the discussed changes.

3. Subcommittee safety recommendations.

After reviewing the report and hearing the details of each reported injury, the subcommittee did not have any safety recommendations to make other than to continue the good work that is being done in this area.

4. Adjournment – 9:35 a.m.