

Vermont Emergency Services Training Center Governance Committee
Safety Subcommittee
December Meeting & Safety Report
Virtual Teams Meeting
December 27, 2024

Attendees:

- Michael Skaza, Vermont Fire Academy – Chair
- Lindsey Thivierge, Vermont Police Academy
- Rebecca White, Office of Risk Management
- Karl Hayden, Vermont Occupation Safety and Health Administration
- Chris Pixley, Vermont Fire Academy
- Trevor Whipple, Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Visitors:

- Anna Hill, Vermont Occupation Safety and Health Administration

Minutes:

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Michael Skaza and brief introductions of attendees were made. Anna Hill is the new VOSHA Program Manager.
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 up from last year, however, there is a corresponding increase in enrollment and student contact. Lindsay reported on the 53 incidents resulting in injury or illness and went into full detail on the 12 reportable injuries.

The Police Academy now has a contractor (O2X) that is assisting with personal physical training, injury prevention, and injury treatment. This has allowed many recruits to remain in the program following an injury that would have not otherwise finished the training. The contractor is helping develop personal training plans for recruits, which is helping to offset the lack of physical preparedness that is being experienced since the physical entrance standards have been reduced.

Michael Skaza reported on the content of the report that was related to the Vermont Fire Academy. The Fire Academy had one illness and one injury that was reportable in 2024. Neither of these incidents were found to be preventable. The injury occurred late in the year and was not included in the draft report. The

subcommittee was acceptable to the addition of the information as reported and discussed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report and forward it to the Governance Committee. Motion passed.

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

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.