



**THE TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON FIRE FIGHTING PERSONNEL  
STANDARDS AND EDUCATION**

**WORK SESSION**

**December 12, 2018**

The work session of the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education was called to order by Chairman Darryl Kerley at 1:00 P.M. Central Time on Wednesday , 12, 2018, at the Madison County Fire Department, 2432 Technology Center Drive, Jackson, TN 37301.

**1. Call to Order**

**ROLL CALL** (Director Fox) – Members Present:

Commissioner Tommy Kelley  
Commissioner Stephanie Specht  
Commissioner Michael Henry  
Commissioner David Windrow  
Commissioner Darryl Kerley  
Commissioner Jay Moore

Members Not Present:

Commissioner Matt Sorge  
Commissioner Steven Majchrzak – TFACA Director  
Commissioner Brian Biggs  
Commissioner Toran Hedgepath  
Commissioner Julie McPeak – (ex-officio non-voting member)

A quorum has been established.

**Commerce and Insurance / Fire Prevention Staff Present:**

Randy Fox – Executive Director –Fire Commission  
Michael Miranda – Fire Coordinator  
Brian Nicholson – Fire Coordinator  
Fred McCay-Accreditation Manager  
Joseph Underwood – Chief Counsel – C&I  
Jeffrey Elliott – Fire Service Program Director – TFACA

**Guest Present**

Blake Boros	Bartlett FD
David Dorris	Jackson FD
Byron Smith	Germantown FD
Steven Hathcock	Oakland FD
Wesley Vaughn	Lexington FD
Kevin Bedford	Lawrenceburg FD

2. Need to elect secretary and someone to chair meeting – Chief Kerley selected to chair the meetings- Deferred election to secretary to Thursday’s Meeting

3. Wildland FF Course Changes Request

Jeff Elliott: TN Forestry Division and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), Michael Miranda, Fred McCay, and I would ask for the following changes to be considered with respect to your Certification Criteria for Wildland Firefighter I and II.

Wildland I S-130, S- 190 or **G- 130 (Instructor Lead 24 hours) Shown in red is the requested change**  
L-180 Available On line or **Instructor Lead** I-100 (NIMS 100)

Wildland II

Include an additional requirement of S-211 to better prepare the students for the written testing component covering portable pumps.

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Specht

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Moore

**Motion to: Approve the request**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 6 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

**MOTION CARRIED**

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4. Office Housekeeping Items email, SFTP Conflict forms NFPA 1072 CBT

Director Fox: Talked with board members about state emails accounts and SFTP files, both of which will be turned off and board members will use personal emails.

Director Fox: Talked to board members about conflict of interest forms being completed with their employers being listed on the forms.

Director Fox: Talked with board members about the status of computer based testing and that everything is in a holding pattern at this time.

Director Fox: Presented the new skill sheets for NFPA 1072 HMA, HMO and HMT with effective dates of June 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 in order to be Pro Board compliant. This will include requiring approved training to meet NFPA 1072 for HMA, HMO and HMT.

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Windrow

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Specht

**Motion to: Approve new skill sheets for NFPA 1072 HMA, HMO and HMT with effective dates of June 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 in order to be Pro Board compliant. This will include requiring approved training to meet NFPA 1072 for HMA, HMO and HMT.**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 6 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

**MOTION CARRIED**

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5. Work Session on Training Courses / In-Service Submissions Etc.

Steven Cross with MTAS facilitated a lengthy discussion with the board members present on item 5 with no decision made except to continue the discussion in the next workshop in February since Chairman Sorge who requested this session was absent.

Mr. Cross opened and gave a brief overview of the commission responsibilities would include administering incentive pay, complying with the minimum training statute, the review of all in service requests, programs, and approval of pay request and conducting audits.

There are 28 certifications for being a Fire fighter which require training.

The question was asked, how do you become a Firefighter in the state of TN? Where you live determines that.

There are some individuals who meet the training on their own standards because they have incentives.

Partnerships between TFACA and TEMA should try to work together for the safety of our Firefighters that would bring value to the market on how we train, how we test and just having components of consistency.

Having a curriculum that meets the standards for TN Firefighters would make it more competitive in our local communities which would keep our fire fighters local instead of going across the line seeking employment.

Going back to the customers and doing training on how to interact with Fire fighters will give better understanding of the rules and it creates a relationship among them.

Panel Discussions:

When developing a new test process for Rope, how do you incorporate for people who have been doing it for many years and not make them start all over again?

Someone stated to establish a certification program.

A person from Fairview Fire Department had a JPR workbook that was required of them every 2 years.

Question was asked, can a person test for Technician?

ONLY if they have tested for Operation.

Question asked, can someone come up with solution and pathway that TEMA HMT to teach a class to do practicals to get certification.

One option was stated to correlate a class to meet standard for students that if an Instructor wanted to do, they can do so.

Another option was instead of correlating a class, you might could provide certification that they had been to a class and showed up to practical event and passed the practical and written exam and give them certification that way.

Minutes from 2012 was found which listed what classes had been approved.

A person can't be given Reciprocity unless they hold a Pro Board and IFSAC certification.

Can a person start certification @ FOIII instead of FFI?

There are procedures and policy in the Pro Board that needs to be addressed which keeps from discriminating against Firefighters that were in place before certification process started.

It was once said that once Tennessee became IFSAC, the CFO would be equal to FOIV but you still have to go through classes.

One concern was there needs to be a way for Firefighters who have been in the profession for years to become IFSAC or Pro-Board certified. Training can be done that meets standards instead of doing waiver after waiver, just provide correlation course through commission for the practical that way no one would have to sit all day to do course approvals and approving waiver requests. Would this comply with the written exam?

How far back will we take a class that got certification but not approved by commission?

Current IFSAC is standard plus 3 years which would give a person 8 years.

The policy on page 8-2, 202 was put in place in 2002 and amended in 2006.

A person is able to go back and obtain an IFSAC seal that was not on a previous level that was accredited later as long as it was completed under same standard. IFSAC will allow this however, Pro Board does not.

If you take the basic 64 and let 2 years laps, before taking the live burn you will be required to take 16 hours of remedial training per TFACA.

IF a department does a class with certified Instructors in it, they will do a JPR verification form.

Mike Miranda is responsible for doing all Rope test practicals currently.

Can students still test under the 2010 standard although in 2017 a new one was adopted?

There is a possibility to approve correlation class taught in 2015 to the 2013 standard.

What would a Fire Chief be facing when a serious injury or life duty death occur?

They would be asked was the person trained to a standard.

Was standard validated by 3<sup>rd</sup> party testing?

What kind of in service training bridged the gap between times of training to the time incident happened?

Although being tested by National Standard, it's a random sample of entire standard.

The practical and written are random samples.

Mutual Aid Group requires recognition of certification and credentials are needed if and individual wants to be deployed.

Address the course work to show groups that has not been approved through the commission like Rescue 3 on their skill sheets where students have gone through the classes and put in time.

Because it was said that these big companies will not come here to get them approved

It was also stated that you can't submit Rescue 3 international curriculum.

Commissioner Majchrzak brought up concern of the quality of the Instructors and their credentials.

Fred McCay mentioned the issues of publisher verses standard for NFPA 1002 which had changed in 2017 prior to the normal 5 year period. It changed in 3 years because they wanted to add communications in the prerequisite. If one change created something new it changed the standard and it went across the board, it would simplify things.

TEMA and certifications along with other Fire Agencies need to correlate and come together on the same accord so money won't be wasted on classes because they don't meet the standards.

And private agencies would need to get on board too.

CTAS want us to test police officers and non-affiliated persons through our certification. The current commission policy will not allow us to do so or certify them. They have a training Academy that does that for them and they have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party that is accredited.

We could share our curriculum with them but most likely they won't agree because it would cost them between \$18,000-\$20,000 for rope equipment alone.

In closing an announcement was made that Julie McPeak was reappointed as Commissioner for Commerce and Insurance under the new Governor.

Other business discussed was the retiring of Kay Hale.

Steve Cross asked if there were anything else that needed to be discussed, it was not. He thanked everyone for coming to meeting and that it was adjourned.

KERLEY: Motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourn at 4:10 PM Central

### **REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

**December 13, 2018**

The meeting of the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education was called to order by Chairman Darryl Kerley at 9:05 A.M. Central Time on Thursday, 13, 2018, at the Madison County Fire Department, 2432 Technology Center Drive, Jackson, TN 37301.

- I. **PRAYER** - (Mr. Kelley)
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - (Mr. Kelley)
- III. **ROLL CALL** (Director Fox) – Members Present:

Commissioner Tommy Kelley

Commissioner Stephanie Specht  
 Commissioner Michael Henry  
 Commissioner David Windrow  
 Commissioner Darryl Kerley  
 Commissioner Jay Moore

Members Not Present:

Commissioner Matt Sorge  
 Commissioner Steven Majchrzak – TFACA Director  
 Commissioner Brian Biggs  
 Commissioner Toran Hedgepath  
 Commissioner Julie McPeak – (ex-officio non-voting member)

A quorum has been established.

**Commerce and Insurance / Fire Prevention Staff Present:**

Randy Fox – Executive Director –Fire Commission  
 Michael Miranda – Fire Coordinator  
 Brian Nicholson – Fire Coordinator  
 Fred McCay-Accreditation Manager  
 Joseph Underwood – Chief Counsel – C&I  
 Jeffrey Elliott – Fire Service Program Director – TFACA

**Guests:**

1. Brian Bowers	Jackson Fire Dept
2. Timothy Carroll	Jackson Fire Dept
3. Jeff Elliott	TFACA
4. Wesley R Vaughn	Lexington Fire Dept
5. Michael Miranda	TFACA
6. Bryon Smith	Germantown FD
7. Steven Hathcock	Oakland FD
8. Blake H Boros	Bartlett Fire Dept
9. Kevin Bedford	Lawrenceburg Fire Dept
10. David Wall	Union City Fire Dept
11. Paul Holdeman	Union City Fire Dept
12. Fred McCay	TFACA
13. Steven Cross	UT-MTAS
14. Pam Charles	Fed. Aun Admin
15. Brian Shoemaker	Gilt Edge VFD
16. Adam Hursh	Piperton FVD
17. Brandon Bagwell	Fed Ex FD
18. John Doyle	Fed Ex Fire
19. Bobby Cannon	Collierville Fire
20. Angelo Lamar	Memphis Fire
21. Thomas Beasley	Memphis Fire
22. Mark A Boyd	TFACA
23. Dennis C Bryant	Memphis Fire Dept
24. Brian Nicholson	TN Fire Commission
25. Ben Benfield	Jackson Fire Dept

26. Brett Sipes	Dyersburg Fire Dept
27. Rusty Blalock	Dyersburg Fire Dept
28. Randall Beaver	Dyersburg Fire Dept

**IV. MINUTES**

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Windrow

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Moore

**Motion to: Approve the Commission Minutes from August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as submitted.**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 6 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain - 0

MOTION CARRIED

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

DIRECTOR FOX: Due to Mr. Nafieh being elected as our secretary and not being reappointed at our last Commission meeting, we need to elect a new secretary for the Commission. So I would open the floor up for nominations for secretary at this time.

MS. SPECHT: I nominate our David Windrow.

MR. KERLEY: Second.

MR. FOX: Any other nominations?

MR. FOX: Hearing none do I have a motion to close nominations?

MR. FOX: Motion to close the nominations and elect Windrow as secretary.

MR. KERLEY: Second.

RESOLUTION: Vote: 5 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain – 1 Motion passes.

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: I would just, because some of the people visiting today, Commissioner McPeak was reappointed as the by the new she will be reappointed by the new governor to stay on as a commerce and insurance so Gary may have more like that. This should mean that there will be some stableness in the Fire Prevention Bureau. She has been a friend of the Fire Service and to this Commission and to the fire school. Those of you who don't know, her father was a firefighter; so it's probably a good thing for all of us.

DIRECTOR FOX: And I guess just to add to that at this point, I do want to introduce you to your newest member of the Commission that was just appointed to take Chief Nafieh's place, is Michael Henry. Michael, if you'd like to introduce yourself and say a few words.

Mr. Henry. I work for the Franklin Fire Department, in middle Tennessee. I have been there since 2012. I started my career in '93 with Cheatham and Montgomery County EMS, been a paramedic since 1995, was a police officer for six years, been a firefighter since '06; so I'm thankful for this appointment and I appreciate you all being here today. Thank you.

**VI. GUESTS Jeff Elliott- Fire Service Program Director – TFACA:**

Good morning. For the record, I'm Jeff Elliott, Fire Program Director. Director Fox, I will say when you called roll, Director Majchrzak, his wife had surgery yesterday, and he's still helping her mend so that's why he's absent today, but I'll give you a quick update on the academy.

Very pleased to say that we've been allowed to do some reorganization. We've shown that we've had, for three to four years now; we've taken the fire program from 500 classes to at least a thousand classes. That's averaging 200 on campus and 800 in the field. So that supported the mission of us being able to do so some reorganization.

Wayne Morris, who had been a supervisor assigned to the fire program, he applied for open supervisor position within the Codes program. His background in both Gulfport and Franklin suited him well to help take the Codes program to the next level with his expertise there.

And that opened up a supervisor opening within the fire program so Jason Sparks is now listed as a Fire Program supervisor. He will primarily be assigned to fill deliveries.

With that, it opened yesterday; we are posting an opening for an East Tennessee Regional Coordinator. That actually posted yesterday, and then a second promotion we had within the academy staff, Joey Edwards was promoted to pay grade called Training Officer II. He will primarily be the person now responsible ensuring that all curriculums are updated to the newest standard, but with that also he will be assigned as the supervisor over instructors assigned to the campus. So that's that really is what brought on, we currently have two instructor positions posted.

Those of you that are my age or longer know that our thinking of the original fire school included Helen Brown; so we are going through another generation of retirement. We announced in the work session yesterday Kay Hale is officially retiring next week actually; so we also were able to post her position internally. That posted for the first time yesterday. So training officers and chiefs that have always worked with Kay, you've got about one more week to call her at the academy and then she's looking forward to retirement life.

As the academy looked forward to 2019, we are considering probably one of our biggest blessings but also a challenge is with recruit training. When I look specifically at middle Tennessee Rutherford County received a SAFER grant for 15, Hendersonville received a SAFER grant for 19, Murfreesboro received a SAFER grant for 27, and no doubt that's going to trickle down to all the other fire departments. I know for a fact Franklin's currently running a recruit class the first of the year. I know Nashville is running a recruit class the first of the year. I know Gallatin is running a recruit class the first of the year, and then all of these SAFER grants, that those departments typically send their recruits to us.

So one of the things we are trying to do to meet our mission and meet the demand is this fall or this winter, starting in February and then approximately five weeks later, we are actually going to have two recruit classes staggered.

And we've also increased our class from a size of 24 to 34, and both of those classes are already full. So we are for sure looking at 70 recruits going through training over a five-week overlap, and if the demand is there, we will do the same thing, then, in the fall of 2019 is offer another overlap system to try to accommodate this.

And then we are looking at years ahead what that's going to equate to is probably triple the Driver/Operator training and triple the Smoke Diver training in the next two weeks or the next two years; so just we are apprised of what's going on and we are planning ahead to try to keep up with the demand.

Other things that you'll see coming out of the fire academy for 2019, working with the work session yesterday, we approved some different means to be able to obtain wildland certification or training leading up to certification; so you are going to see the fire department partnering with the Tennessee Forestry Service to try to get more

aggressive to bridge some of those gaps of taking structural firefighters into the wildland interface.

We have one class under our belt with Fort Campbell Fire Department partnering with them offering airport firefighter. We've had a debriefing closeout after that session. I will say as with most new curriculums and test banks of questions, there's a little bit of uncertainty how it's going to fare. We had about a 55 to 60 percent pass rate with the initial ones that tested and then immediately went from Friday classroom to sitting in and taking the test, but I believe I'm accurate to say all those that failed now have already retested and passed.

And that was part of the debriefing that Fort Campbell had not only with us but with the firefighting commission where we step aside and they work with Director Fox.

Taking a look at those test bank areas that were troublesome and trying to adjust that; So I think we are going to move closer to what we would anticipate is an acceptable pass/fail rate for that; so we are excited about those priorities.

Training that is already starting to get lined up, we have already had our first planning training session for Smoky Mountain weekend, which this year based on conference center availability it will be a little bit later in the year. It's the first full weekend in June is when Smoky Mountain weekend is coming up.

Williamson County is planning their second large-scale training event, and that will be the weekend of April 6 and 7. And then we will be posting with the annual chief's conference that I'm sure will be advertised even at a larger scale this year because it's in conjunction with the Southeastern Fire Chiefs Conference.

There's going to be a minimum of three NFA classes that are a hundred percent grant funded that are going to be as a preconference. And then we took a conference call last week. We are working with the Firefighter Cancer Network, and we are pretty sure maybe the Monday right before the conference starts that we are going to be able to get an 8-hour firefighter cancer awareness seminar.

And those will be pulling in some national there will be a Boston speaker, there will be the president of the cancer network; so they are pulling in some of their larger people for that. So that would be something also that's posted free of charge. Any questions?

MR. FARLEY: Fantastic job.

DIRECTOR FOX: Chief.

MR. FARLEY: A comment, Gary Farley, Assistant Commissioner, fire prevention. I want to commend the academy that when they brought me this recommendation on the reorganization and staff and see the things that we can actually do a better job of and provide the service that we need to the fire service, and I was proud to be able to sign off on that, and I want to tell you all that.

Right now, Director Majchrzak and I are working together with FEMA. They had come and offered a grant to the State Fire Marshal's office and the academy for hazardous material training. That I've already signed off and it's going through the process so we should be able to apply for that Friday. So that should be forthcoming as far as training.

And I want to also commend Director Fox. Director Fox, Director Majchrzak, and myself met with TEMA, and a lot of this hazardous material situation that's been going on for a lot of years is being resolved.

We are going to be doing more training with the State Fire Marshal's office and the academy. Certifications are going to be coming through the Firefighting Commission and working with TEMA; so that's a big step coming. HAZMAT techs, operations, awareness, all that stuff; so there's some good things coming down the pike for the fire service.

DIRECTOR FOX: All right, thank you.

DIRECTOR ELLIOTT: Thanks, Chief.

DIRECTOR FOX: I guess along that same line, Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind at this time, Steve, you were talking about a grant yesterday. If you want to kind of share that idea with the audience.

MR. CROSS: I'm Steve Cross. I worked with the Commission for four years and recently, about last year or so swapped over University of Tennessee MTAS.

So we have a grant specialist back in Knoxville, and he floated the idea of us applying for a fire grant through the Assistance to Firefighters grant, and we are going to actually apply for a grant to do a research project to see if there's a correlation between firefighters who are trained to a level of what they -- the services they provide and firefighter injuries and death and see if there's a correlation between, you know, people that aren't necessarily trained or aren't necessarily certified to a certain level and do they have a higher frequency of injury or death and that type of thing.

And I've sent requests out to the fire marshal's office some of the people around the state to help get on board with this and support it. I'm going to put a template letter out to the Google group.

If your department would feel like you could get behind a project like that and just say I support you in these efforts to do a research project like this, it's probably not going to require any of your manpower or money or anything, but just to show that you are behind it and you think this might be a worthy cause, it would be great. So thank y'all for your consideration, and if you see that come out on the Google group next day or so, I appreciate your helping me out with that. Thanks.

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## **VII. COMMUNICATIONS**

DIRECTOR FOX: That being wrapped up, our next item will be communications. You got Item VII.a., which is an email that I received from the Tennessee Emergency Vehicle Technicians Association. Are there any questions or comments concerning that? It was basically we were copied on it, but it did mention us in that, and I did want to share it with you. I would assume that they would be looking at some type of avenue for testing through the Commission. I don't know exactly what levels that would involve, but I know it would be a process that we would have to go through to add them to our rules if that's something that we wanted to offer in the future for this group of people that are seeking credentials to be emergency vehicle technicians. I'm not familiar with that. There may be some of y'all that are.

COMMISSIONER KERLEY: We send our city mechanics to the third-party testing group for both class and testing so that they get their EVT. Anyone have any comments on how that might differ from being state certified?

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: I think maybe one of the long-term goals is just to have some of their courses approved for, like, substitution for their mechanic because like in our case, our mechanic is a firefighter and so, you know, their testing process is in place through EVT and ASE if they want to do it. So I think the way I read this, this is just, we are thinking about this. We don't know what it looks like yet, we'll be back.

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## **VIII. DIRECTORS REPORT:**

### **VIII.a**

COMMISSIONER KERLEY: Director's report.

DIRECTOR FOX: First I'm going to yield to our legal counsel, Joe Underwood, if he's got any comments on anything legal that we need to deal with at this point.

MR. UNDERWOOD: Not at this -- well, like I say, the rules you adopted were successfully implemented and effective October 25. We have, next week, Director Fox, Assistant Commissioner Farley and myself will be appearing before the Government Office Operations committee of the General Assembly, the joint committee, along with the Commissioner McPeak regarding all the sun-setting or basic extension of the Firefighting Commission, the department as a whole, under the government operations.

So that will be a fun and exciting day on Tuesday. Expect everything to go well. I think they do want to continue with the Commission as well as they want to continue with the department. So that will be our report.

DIRECTOR FOX: Chairman Sorge will be in attendance as well.

MR. UNDERWOOD: Yes he will. In case to answer questions any of the legislators would have regarding the functions or operations of the Commission.

DIRECTOR FOX: And basically and that's a result of the comptroller's audit that just finished up.

MR. UNDERWOOD: They worked together. They audit every so often. We have to appear before them to extend it because the commission record so many years.

DIRECTOR FOX: Five years.

MR. UNDERWOOD: Five years of continued

DIRECTOR FOX: Right. Any other ?

MR. UNDERWOOD: So that's it legally. We are just waiting, you know, new governor and new administration will be coming in. Legislative session will start in January and be exciting and go forward from there.

DIRECTOR FOX: Also at this time I would ask Commissioner Windrow if he wants to bring anything forth from the legislative committee as far as the fire coalition to share with us.

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: There are 33 new members, a new governor, new senators. Now some of the senators were in the House of Representatives so they are not new up there, but they are new in their positions and if they had status as a representative now they are junior senators. They have lost some of their status so to speak; so we don't know what it's going to completely look like. Kidde wants to introduce smoke detectors, and those meetings are going on in Nashville this week. And we have said we are neutral. I mean, they are a profit company. It's an odd request. We will just see where that goes.

We are not going to fight it as a fire service, but we are not going to waste energy. I mean, obviously our energy this year is a cancer bill has been drafted, and actually the coalition, which is fire chiefs, firefighters, fire inspectors, electrical inspectors, fire alarm inspectors, we've all drafted a bill. The professional firefighters, which Eddie Mitchell is the president of, they've drafted a bill, but we actually had a historic meeting on Monday in Nashville with both the professional firefighters lobbyist, the coalition's lobbyist and so it's really positive. This may be the year finally. Last year could have been the year.

We also anticipate another salary supplement bill coming out. Whether it will increase you have to understand if we go up as the fire service, there are, what, 7,000 firefighters.

DIRECTOR FOX: Just under.

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: Just under 7,000 firefighters across the state getting salary supplement at \$600; so I'm not a math genius but that's a lot of money.

DIRECTOR FOX: 3.8 million.

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: 3.8 million. Police has about 15,000. Well, there will never be a fire bill that gets their money increase without the PD, So when you add them, that's \$20 million; so that's a big note to swallow at once. So we are not as aggressive on it this year because we want cancer presumption, and we are wanting an attorney general's opinion to fortify the heart and lung act. So those are two biggies this year, and I think the union and the fire chiefs and the firefighters, we are all going to work together on it, I really, I believe it will happen, on the cancer bill because currently the only, I mean, the only department in the state that has cancer presumption is Metro Nashville the way the law is written. You have to be a city that has a metropolitan government with a population greater than 400,000. There's only one of those because Moore County is not 400,000 strong. That's the only metropolitan -- other metropolitan government. So that's kind of where we are. We don't know what the home builders, if you are in the fire service, especially if you are on the fire codes prevention side, home builders will come with some strange codes, but I think we even have a better relationship there this year. Commissioner Farley has been meeting with them so we've got some real collaboration going on around the state. So that's kind of where we expect we should come out of the gate. We are supposed to announce our responsible source for the cancer bill here in the next couple of weeks and we'll come out swinging; so we just look for y'all, if your rep asks you, go yes. And some of you are on my email list; I'll get you emails, thanks. Thank you,

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DIRECTOR FOX: Thank you. Next item I'll have them share with you will be your agenda Item **VIII.b.** is our extension from Pro-Board for NFPA 1072. For those of you in the audience, we are going from NFPA 472 transitioning to NFPA 1072, and we'll be doing that by June. That will be the extension that Pro-Board gave us. Yesterday, the Commission looked at and approved our new skill sheets for HMA, HMO, and HMT. They will be posted on our website in the next few days as soon as I get my IT guy back in the office.

He's out until like next week sometime so we'll get those new sheets up. We won't be using those new sheets until probably June 1. And with that being said, HMA will require a practical where currently it does not; so that's a change that will be coming down the road, and Joe will be working to get those into the rules. And also HMA and HMO will require course work where in the past it has not. So if you are going to be doing HMA and HMO training, I would say that you would need to get those courses submitted and approved, and they need to be correlated to NFPA 1072 and not 472. That's one of the big changes that has come down through the industry as far as fire service as a whole.

And we are also going, moving forward with changing standards on Driver/Operator as well NFPA 1002. And we are in the process of adding chapter nine to that, which will be the ARFF Driver/Operator just to kind of bring you up to speed on that. That's already in the works as well.

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Hearing no questions, I will yield the floor for Item under **VIII.c.** will be our reciprocity status report from Brian Nicholson, our coordinator.

COORDINATOR NICHOLSON: Good morning, for the record I'm Brian Nicholson, Regional Coordinator for the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting and reciprocity manager for the state. It is a great honor to be able to welcome people to the Tennessee fire service. One thing I want to underscore is that these are all Tennessee firefighters. They either live or work for a recognized Tennessee Fire Service agency. So we are working hard to improve the professionalism and the efficiency of the Tennessee Fire Service, and I think that's reflected in the numbers presented of the people that are seeking to work in Tennessee and have the valuable certifications that the Commission offers now. Year to date, we now have 697 certifications that have been issued by reciprocity. That's 151 percent of the 2017 totals. Some of the reasons for the increase, Memphis been a really good customer. They have had a couple of lateral classes. We've also had some out-of-state agencies that represent associations like the International Association of Firefighters and their HAZMAT ops program. Those recipients have received reciprocity. The Fire Department Incident Safety Officers Association has taught some classes, and those candidates have applied for reciprocity and been granted that. Most of the reciprocity certifications that we are issuing are the basic level HAZMAT awareness ops, Firefighter I and Firefighter II.

We do have an increase in the upper level, the officer level courses. Some of the increase in the technical rescue level courses mostly come from DOD certifications. So that's our veterans or military contractors seeking positions with the Tennessee Fire Service. So that's always a good thing, and some of the contractor agencies that we have, like Fort Campbell are certifying their folks through reciprocity with the Tennessee Commission. So those partnerships that we are building are coming through with this, and we are able to help those folks to obtain their certifications and be active in the Tennessee Fire Service. So again, it's an honor to be able to work with those folks. We have streamlined the process as far as how far we have to go back on our investigations to make sure that they haven't had a gap in service. Being able to use the legal information that we have in Acadis to determine they're active in the Tennessee Fire Service and their affiliation with departments is also helpful. And I appreciate Director Fox's support in those areas.

DIRECTOR FOX: You all have any questions for Brian, the report? Hearing none, thank you sir.

COORDINATOR NICHOLSON: Thank you.

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DIRECTOR FOX: Next item I have is Item **VIII.d**, Training Program Courses by Submittal. I provided that report to you is pretty much self-explanatory. Are there any questions I can field at this time? Hearing none, I'll move on to our next item on the agenda is our In-Service Training Programs, Peer Review. Michael Mirada, our coordinator from east Tennessee, will give you an update on that.

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COORDINATOR MIRADA: Michael Mirada, Coordinator, Fire Commission. For the in-service programs Item **VIII.e**, we had increase from last year's departments that participated. Last year at peer review time, we had 105 departments or 104 departments submit programs, and we think we capped off with 107. And then due to a few departments participating in other departments' programs, I think we wound up 109 total for last year. This year, we have a total of 111 departments participating. There was 106 programs submitted, which equaled 1,086 courses. Peer review was held in middle Tennessee on November 27, and 38 departments' programs were reviewed. West Tennessee was held here where we are at right now on November 28. Twenty-four programs were reviewed. And east Tennessee was done on November 30, 44 programs were reviewed, and through the peer review process, 37 programs or courses were identified as needing correction. At the time of the report that I initially had wrote, all but two of those departments had corrected their issues with their programs. At this time, all the issues have been corrected.

All the programs are approved. I think we have five programs right now that are approved pending a waiver request that will be taken care of a little bit later today.

Is there any questions regarding the peer review and the educational incentive program for 2019?

DIRECTOR FOX: I just want to commend Michael for his work on that, meeting the deadlines that he put before his self, and not only has he got all that done, I think they have all been attached in Acadis as well.

COORDINATOR MIRADA: Every department has been emailed their approved program, a copy of it attached in Acadis. It's ready to roll for 2019.

DIRECTOR FOX: And let's say the real intent behind that was to meet that January 1 deadline, and he's met that with no problem.

COMMISSIONER KERLEY: I'd like to say our training officer came back and commented the fact that how much the peer reviews is helping because we are now expanding the fire service statewide where at one time we were all in our little stovepipes. Now everybody is seeing what everybody else is doing, and it gave him a lot of ideas for our next in-service training and put a new perspective for him to be there and see that process.

DIRECTOR FOX: Any other questions or comments concerning education? Hearing none, I'll just bring the audience up to speed on some action that was taken yesterday before we get into our last audits.

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DIRECTOR FOX: On Wildland Firefighter I and II, TFACA and the Fire Commission along with Forestry folks and some folks from Gatlinburg got together and worked on doing some research on our requirements as course prerequisites for Wildland Firefighter I and II, and their recommendation was to let a person do either/or. And ours is set up now where you had to do online training for S130, S190, and L180. The recommendation from the committee after we did a correlation in a crosswalk and some research with some out west stuff that was done is to allow the T130 which is instructor led, and also the L180 that's instructor led to count for those online courses if an organization chose to go that route. And also, for Wildland II, to use the S212 that would also be a requirement in that as well and the Commission approved those changes yesterday in our work session. So that will be getting updated on our website as well for those seeking Wildland Firefighter I and II. And I believe yesterday it was said that with the addition of the three-mile hike, you could actually earn a red card in addition to

certification if a person chose to do so.

JEFF ELLIOTT: Within five days, yes.

DIRECTOR FOX: In five days. And that's something that TFACA's going to host as well on campus, correct?

JEFF ELLIOTT: Correct.

DIRECTOR FOX: And other departments can host that in their departments working with Forestry as well to do that. Now, Fred, you had a comment?

MR. MCCAY: The new forest program additional course for Wildland II is S211

DIRECTOR FOX: Yes, 211, you are right. So we just wanted to clarify that, to make everybody aware of those changes in wildland.

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Next is item **VIII.f.** we have on the agenda is our audits from East Tennessee that was conducted by myself and Commission members. The first one will be with David Windrow. On 10-24 we audited Bradley County and we audited East Ridge. Are there any questions or comments about those?

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: I don't know how to do this, I don't know if we need to separate those two departments? I know there's some history with Bradley County and the Fire Commission, I think. Joe is down there, I think he can say - little history with Bradley. I was disappointed. For me, a department that's had the history that they have with us, I would have thought there would have been every T crossed, every I dotted, I'm just sharing this with the Commission. We got there and on their sign-in sheets, they didn't have test scores. I'm like, okay, let's see the tests. Well, in one case, they couldn't produce it. He didn't even take the test. So I would have thought they would have, of all the departments, would have had their records squared away, it should have been that one. It just frustrated me that -- so we don't know if he even took the test. They claim he did but they couldn't find it. So we found a substitution but I mean, there was some inconsistency in that department that to me, and again, I wasn't on the Commission when that process started a couple years ago.

JOSEPH UNDERWOOD: They weren't in the program either during that time, if I'm not mistaken.

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: They were not?

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: Okay. Just each individual was certifying on their own accord? Okay. I just found it frustrating that they are not taking it serious enough. It's one thing not to have the score recorded. I was training officer for 15 years so I there might have been a case where I didn't have the score on the sign-in sheet, but at least they signed in. But then when you go to find it, the test didn't exist, he never took it. And so we could have dug deeper, but anyways, I'm just sharing that, just frustrated me that and I don't know what the recourse is. I mean, I don't know that -- again, I'm still somewhat the new guy. I'm not the newest guy anymore.

MR. UNDERWOOD: During your audit, you have some options which you --

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: I could, I mean, in my gut, it says re-audit them.

MR. UNDERWOOD: I mean, there's the audit was in compliance, there was no action. If there was a minor infraction, an informal review, you know, talking about that, and there's probation.

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: Yeah, I don't want to go there.

MR. UNDERWOOD: That means they will be audited again next year.

DIRECTOR FOX: And basically, during our audit and with the additional substitutions, we did no action required for a minor infraction is how we rated it that day.

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: Okay, then that's fine, I just

DIRECTOR FOX: And we counseled the department.

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: I just wanted to share.

MR. UNDERWOOD: But you can always add them to the list to re-audit issues.

DIRECTOR FOX: Yes.

MR. UNDERWOOD: And that could be a motion for maybe not for three years but maybe one year, see if they get the score up.

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: In my mind, they need re-audit. I have been at this long enough, when I sniffed, because this person was the last signature on the page as well. I'm just saying, I was a training officer for 15 years so I just think they need a re-audit personally. Especially in light of what happened. Again, they weren't in the program then.

JOSEPH UNDERWOOD: No, they weren't. They were training on their own, but they were not, if I remember correctly, they were not in the program, participating so.

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: So that would be my recommendation on Bradley County is a one-year re-audit.

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Windrow

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Kerley

**Motion to: Approve the audits from Bradley County and re-audit next year.**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 5 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -1 (Windrow)

MOTION CARRIED

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**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Kelley

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Henry

**Motion to: Approve the audit from East Ridge.**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 5 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -1 (Windrow)

MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Specht

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Henry

**Motion to: Approve the audits from Soddy-Daisy, Signal Mountain and Red Bank**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 6 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

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**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Specht

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Henry

**Motion to: Approve the audits from Cocke County and Elizabethton**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 6 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

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**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Moore

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Kelley

**Motion to: Approve the audits from Sweetwater and Sevierville**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 5 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -1 (Specht)

MOTION CARRIED

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**Old Business:IX.a** – Mr. FOX: That takes us into the old business, old business which deals with the Vector

COMMISSIONER KERLEY: NFPA 3000, Active Shooter

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Windrow

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Henry

**Motion to: Approve**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 6 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

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**Item IX.b.** COMMISSIONER KERLEY: NFPA 1500, Target Solutions

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Windrow

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Henry

**Motion to: Table due to lack of correlation.**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 6 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

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**New Business: Item X.a-e We have a request for a waiver for Clinton, Jacksboro, Rockwood, Oakland and Rutherford County for waivers; they all missed the November 1 deadline for training program submission.**

COORDINATOR MIRADA: To my knowledge, I had spoken with each one of these individuals, and I did not verify it; however, they stated that they did not receive a

waiver for a 2017 issue program or the deadline for submission to submit their programs and I believe it's in our rules that a department cannot receive a waiver deadline in two consecutive years. And these departments did not receive a waiver for 2018's program, which would make them eligible. Every one of these waiver requests has an approvable program. Everyone here with a program has been approved pending this waiver.

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Specht

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Moore

**Motion to: Approve Oakland waiver X.e.**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 6 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Specht

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Henry

**Motion to: Approve Clinton, Jacksboro, Rockwood, and Rutherford County waivers X.a-d.**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 6 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

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**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Specht

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Moore

**Motion to: Approve Oak Ridge Recruit Training Program 400 Hours X.f.**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 5 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -1 (Kerley)

MOTION CARRIED

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**Length of Course:** 2 hours

**Instructor:** Pamela Charles, Aviation Safety Inspector, Federal Aviation Administration, Nashville  
FSDO

**Course Offerings:** by request.

**Class Location:** To be determined upon request

**Email:** [pamela.k.charles@faa.gov](mailto:pamela.k.charles@faa.gov)

**Phone:** (615) 324-1314 (office); (615) 268-0646 (cell)

**Course Description**

The focus of this course will be to provide basic familiarization training for safety of first responders at an aircraft accident. As small aircraft and helicopters have become more complex, technology has provided systems that have enhanced operational safety but in the event of an accident, many of these systems have presented additional hazards to first responders at an aircraft accident scene. The course will emphasis NFPA Code 402, Section 4.3, Airport Fire Fighter Basic Knowledge and Section 7.5 Hazards to AARF personnel but will also touch on other sections of Code 402 as indicated in the course objectives.

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Windrow

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Moore

**Motion to: Approve FAA Aviation Aircraft Accident Program 2 Hours X.g.**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 6 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

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Waiver for David Wall with Rives Volunteer Fire Department to waive the instructor three year waiting period.

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Kerley

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Moore

**Motion to: Approve X.h.**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 0 – Yea 0 – Nay 6 – Abstain -0

MOTION FAILED

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Abeyance for FFII for Mr. Timothy Carroll with Jackson Fire Department.

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Specht

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Henry

**Motion to: Approve X.i.**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 6 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

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Sullivan East High School Fire Science Degree Program by Brandon Renfro 423-773-9792

**MOTION BY:** Commissioner Specht

**SECOND BY:** Commissioner Kelley

**Motion to: Approve X.j.**

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 6 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

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### **XI. Public Comments**

MR. BENFIELD: a public educator with the Jackson FD entered into a discussion with the commission about a fire department explorer program.

MR. DORRIS: Jackson Fire Department training director entered into a discussion with the commission about consistency in waivers.

### **XII. Dates of Future Meetings**

Work session on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. and then general business meeting at 9 a.m. on February 26<sup>th</sup> at Brentwood Library, 8109 Concord Rd. Brentwood, TN 37027

Business meeting at 9 a.m. on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Park Vista 705 Cherokee Orchard Road Gatlinburg, TN 37738

**XIII. KERLEY:** Motion to adjourn.  
Meeting adjourn at 10:47 AM Central