

BC FIRE TRAINING OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
ZONE 1A
Meeting Minutes

Date: Sunday, October 26, 2008

Call to order: 10:00hrs

Location: Courtenay Volunteer Fire Department

Chair: Deputy Chief Marc Norris; City of Parksville Fire Department

Recording Secretary: Lt. Tom Slater, Courtenay VFD

Present: Courtenay, Parksville, Errington, Sproat Lake, Comox, Lantzville, Gold River, Campbell River, Justice Institute, ERT.

Regrets: Powell River, Cherry Creek

Introductions:

- The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Introductions went around the table.

Adoption of Minutes:

- Minutes of annual meeting held May 26, 2008 in Maple Ridge were adopted.

Business arising from previous Minutes:

- None

BCFTO Association:

- Unfortunately, no items received from the executive.
- Discussion over recent Electrical Safety Train-the-Trainer course. Course packages were not made available at the session.
- Discussion on proposed Gas Safety Train-the-Trainer.
- Chairman to again communicate to Association executive re: more dialogue and feedback to the zone.
- Next years BCFTOA Conference again to be held in Maple Ridge May 23-28, 2009.
 - Discussion over Executive following Operational Guidelines of Conference format.
 - Some concerns over the number of departments at Annual Meeting compared to departments attending conference.
 - As of yet no conference subjects are on website. They will start to appear after Christmas. Everyone liked the online registration.
 - Discussion over popular subjects; suggestions included Public Speaking & Recruiting and Retention.

BC FIRE TRAINING OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
ZONE 1A
Meeting Minutes

Zone Training

- Discussion on exchange of information between zone departments when scheduling courses.
- Newsletters, emails, etc to be sent out advising of courses being held. Marc to facilitate as much as possible.
- Neighboring departments, i.e. Parksville/Qualicum, Comox Valley, Alberni Valley, Campbell River area, should be advising each other of courses available at their departments. Other departments could be filling vacant spots.

Training Providers

- **Comox F. D.** reported on their training scheduled throughout 2009. Courses include Pumps and Pumping, Emergency Scene Management, Hazmat and Live Fire etc.
- **ERT** from Nanaimo commented on upcoming courses, Company Officer, Strategy and Tactics, etc. Although not certified, courses do meet or exceed NFPA standards.
- **Justice Institute** - Charlene Jordan-Jones of the JIBC FSD attended and delivered an update for regarding JIBC programming.
 - Discussed their recent staff changes, among them a new Fire and Safety Division director.
 - The Fire Officer Program and Fire Service Leadership Diploma are being reviewed to ensure it meets the needs of the BC Fire Service and also reflects the 2009 version of NFPA 1021.
 - The J.I. is also researching and exploring various education and delivery methods and the use of technology in order to ensure their programs are open and accessible to BC's fire service.
 - All Regional Training Weekends for 2009 have been booked.
 - With the introduction of Essentials 5th Edition a new exam bank is being developed and should be ready for the New Year.
 - Some discussion on the length of courses and if possible to break up into parts.
 - Campbell River proposed the idea of a distance-training model for their members that are employed out of town. Could possibly do on-line training/tests while out of town and still keep up their skills maintenance when they return. Question if whether the J.I. could provide the on-line format.
- **VIERA**
 - Is hosting a Driver Training course Nov. 3-7. Contact Nanaimo F.D for more details.
 - VIERA courses and scheduling are available on-line through Nanaimo Fire Rescue and/or Vancouver Island University (VIU)
- **Frontline Driver Training**
 - Looking for any interest to participate in a Driving Instructors course.
 - Airbrakes course scheduled for Cumberland F.D. January 16-18, 2009.

BC FIRE TRAINING OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
ZONE 1A
Meeting Minutes

- Looking at developing a new course similar to the “Driving in the Rural FD” course, to be geared more towards urban type departments.

New Business:

- Discussion on recruiting and retention of firefighters by Errington FD and what they have done to minimize the problem. Recruitment ideas ranged from handouts, air time on TV or radio, and local mail outs. Retention issues were to keep training current and challenging, instill a sense of pride when giving back to your community, and could be used as a stepping-stone to other career development.
- Chairman stressed the importance of keeping zone contacts information updated. Some 49 departments in our zone and the need for them all to be on contact list for representation at future meetings.
- Zone Meeting Schedule:
 - It was agreed that we would continue to meet 4-times a year. Zone meetings will be held in Marc will publish a schedule for 2009.
- Discussion on the possibility of teleconferencing for future meetings. Certain departments in the zone have a large distance to travel in order to get to a meeting.
- Discussion on possible guest speakers for future meetings.

Round Table Updates:

- **Courtenay Volunteer Fire Department**
 - New Rescue/Pumper to be delivered end of November
 - Business case to council for full time Training Officer
 - Hope to develop training site on proposed second fire hall property
 - In anticipation of firefighter shortage, started a second new recruit class.
- **Sproat Lake Fire Department**
 - Presently becoming familiar with new engine.
 - Becoming accustomed to their lake cabins turning into multi-million dollar homes
- **ERT**
 - Expressed concerns over leadership training, levels of competency, safety and the Fire Commissioners report on Yellowknife incident, all issues leading to a lack of funds for a lot of departments.
- **Comox Fire Department**
 - Hired 2 new full-time positions
 - New recruit class
 - Could be some turnover due to former Captain, now Chief, recruiting firefighters for Grand Prairie, Alberta.

**BC FIRE TRAINING OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
ZONE 1A
Meeting Minutes**

- **Lantzville**
 - New MSA air packs

- **Errington**
 - 9 new recruits

- **Gold River**
 - 1 new recruit

- **Campbell River**
 - Deputy Chief posting
 - Acquired a trailer for special operation equipment
 - Possible new recruit class in January, depending on mill layoffs.

- **Parksville**
 - Fire Hall addition & renovation going to referendum on Nov. 15 in conjunction with municipal elections.

Next Meeting:

- Sunday, January 18, 2009, 10:00hrs. Comox Fire Department

Adjourned: 12:30hrs