

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
WVSFMO, Charleston WV.

April 8th, 2022

The official business meeting was called to order at 9:04am by Chairman Grant Gunnoe.

ROLL CALL: by Kathryn L Burns

Commissioners Present

Steven Byers, Dave Camp, Carl Eastham, Doug Estep, Edward George, Grant Gunnoe, Phil Hart, Tom Keefer, Brian Jones, Doug Mongold, Jim Oldaker, Ted Shriver, Virgil White, and Marshal Tyree.

Commissioners Absent

None

RECOGNITION

Commissioner Eastham requested a moment of silence in memory of Lanny Adkins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner White made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the February 4th, 2022, Fire Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

SFMO & DIVISIONAL REPORTS:

Deputy Jason Baltic gave the Investigations Department Report and entertained questions.

Deputy Dave Blaylock gave the Fire Services Department Report and entertained questions

Marshal Tyree gave the Inspections/Plan Review Divisional Report and his February 2022 report to the Commission containing staffing, legislative, updates, status of Image Trend program and fire department funding loss updates. He also spoke of planned visits, meetings and received correspondence. He noted the fire in the Administration building at the WV School of Deaf and Blind in Romney WV and the request of assistance from the National Response Team of the ATF. He discussed a letter from State Superintendent Clay Birch thanking everyone for the work done by all parties involved and then entertained questions.

Commissioner Keefer inquired about the possibility of adding questions relating to 501C3 status on FD funding applications. Marshal Tyree noted this years applications have already been sent but staff can do so on next year's application.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire Department Services

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

April 7th, 2022

Call to Order

Commissioner Mongold called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 10:00AM on April 7th, 2022, at Glade Springs Resort, Daniels WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Dave Camp
Doug Mongold
Jim Oldaker
Phil Hart
Brian Jones

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. Consideration of Fire Officer Applications

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- a. Christopher Sargent (Flatwoods) FO 2
- b. Jonathan Thorne (Star City) FO 1-2
- c. Matt Bartlett (Bridgeport) FO 1-2
- d. John O'Haver (New Creek) FO 1-2
- e. Aaron Crites (Moorefield) FO 1
- f. John Pratt (Moorefield) FO 1

Commissioner Mongold recused himself from the vote on this item.

Commission Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Camp. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2. Consideration of Fire Chief Applications

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- a. Greg Cottrill (Reedy VFD)

- b. Jeremy Hamilton (Chesapeake VFD)
- c. James Woodson (Springfield Valley VFD)
- d. Doug Hartman (Franklin VFD)
- e. Michael Hoffman (Hurricane VFD)

Chairman Gunnoe inquired if there had been any problems getting the applications. Deputy Blaylock noted that the processing was moving well after some initial issues.

Commissioner Mongold has concerns that there may be departments with new Chiefs, that the Fire Marshal's Office may not be aware of until their funding application is received but doesn't know of a fix at this time. ASFM II Scott stated as soon as he hears anything on the matter he reaches out to the department.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Hart. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

3. Consideration of Fire Department with Perfect Evaluations Recertification

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott present the following Perfect Evaluations for Recertification.

- a. Cabin Creek VFD
- b. Marmet VFD
- c. City of Charleston FD
- d. Frame VFD
- e. Sissonville VFD
- f. Wilderness VFD
- g. Summersville VFD
- h. Ellenboro VFD
- i. Wadestown VFD
- j. Blacksville VFD
- k. Granville VFD
- l. Westover VFD

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of the listed departments, noting their perfect evaluations, seconded by Commissioner Hart. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

4. Consideration of Fire Department Recertification

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following departments for Recertification.

- a. Lost Creek VFD
- b. Mount Clare VFD
- c. Johnston VFD
- d. Anmoore VFD
- e. Matoka VFD
- f. Vienna VFD
- g. Deerwalk VFD

- h. Frametown VFD
- i. Chapel VFD
- k. Sutton VFD

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

5. Report on Fire Department Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance.

ASFM Scott briefed the Committee on the Departments receiving 180 days.

- a. Newton VFD
- b. Davis Creek VFD
- c. Pinch VFD
- d. Belle VFD
- e. Walton VFD
- f. Craigsville VFD
- g. Keslers Cross Lanes VFD
- h. Richwood VFD
- i. Pennsboro VFD
- k. Cairo VFD
- l. Smithville VFD
- j. Harrisville VFD
- k. Clinton District VFD
- l. Scott Run VFD
- m. Star City VFD
- n. River Road VFD

ASFM Scott explained the deficiencies in each department and a discussion ensued on the length of time between hose testing. ASFM Scott that felt any delays were Covid related, and the lack of available testing companies and it appears to be resolved now.

ASFM II Scott answered Committee questions regarding missing certifications and a concern was raised that a department would not be certified, when the only thing lacking was a physical copy of a lower certification in a member's file when they had certification that trumped the missing piece. Chairman Gunnoe tasked the Fire Marshal's Office with looking into creating a policy addressing that issue.

No Action Taken.

6. Report on Fire Department Response Data

ASFM II Bradley Scott and Deputy Bailey presented the Committee with data on FD response information pulled from the NFIRS system on all departments in the State. It was noted the report can be broken down to individual departments if needed. This report was done due to a discussion/concern at the December 2021 meeting about daytime response rates.

A discussion was held on the information provided, with concerns being raised on the possible gaps in service and on the accuracy of the information being entered into NFIRS, in particular the tracking of scratch rates (a department not responding as no members were available). It was noted that 911 might have the information

on scratch rates and Staff will reach out to confirm its' availability. Chairman Gunnoe inquired if the Commission could require that scratched calls be entered into NFIRS. Marshal Tyree responded that he did not think the Commission or the Fire Marshal's Office could, based on what is currently in code or statute. Commissioner Mongold asked for this item to remain on the agenda for June 2022's meeting and Mr. Lambert of WVU FSE will bring some informational studies regarding the accuracy of NFIRS. It was noted as well that the NFIRS system is rolling out new changes to add additional information on calls.

7. Consideration of Name Change Request Valley VFD

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission to approve the request to change Valley VFD to Valley Fire and Rescue, seconded by Commissioner Camp. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Other Business

Deputy Blaylock presented the Committee with a PDF on Fire Chief information to be provided on the WV SFMO website. The Committee appreciated the work and preferred the sample that contained the Chief certification dates.

ASFM II Scott made the Committee aware of the closure of Sharples and that the area is covered. Chairman Gunnoe requested that applicable Coverage Changes be brought before the Commission at the June meeting.

Deputy Chief Bailey noted the new representatives Ms. Radford and Ms. Robinette from WV PST, Beckley.

Chairman Gunnoe requested that a brief notebook for new Commission Members be created as well as online access to pertinent information. Marshal Tyree stated Staff will be updating the Fire Marshal's website and information for Commissioners will be added to the Commission page as a tab and links as well as the aforementioned notebook.

Commissioner Mongold discussed the bills that did not make it through that would have provided additional monies for the FD Equipment and Training Grant Fund. He inquired if it would be appropriate to send a letter from the Commission requesting the Governor consider earmarking some of the Covid monies available for that purpose. Marshal Tyree replied he thought it appropriate.

Adjournment

Commissioner Oldaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:58am without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

As part of a continuing discussion by Commissioner Mongold on the lack of funding being provided by the legislature for the VFD Equipment and Training Grant:

Commissioner Jones made a motion for staff to draft and send a letter on behalf of the Fire Commission, to the Governor Justice requesting a portion of the Federal Grant Funds for the VFD and Equipment Training Fund, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Disciplinary

Disciplinary Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

April 7th, 2022

Call to order

Commissioner Eastham called to order the regular meeting of the Disciplinary Committee Meeting at 11:05am on April 7th, 2022 at Glade Springs Resort, Daniels WV.

Roll call

The following commissioners were present:

- Carl Eastham
- Doug Mongold
- Steven Byers
- Edward George (via conference call)

The following commissioners were absent:

Ted Shriver - *It is noted that Commissioner Shriver attempted to attend via conference call but was unable to do so due to a technology issue at the location of the meeting.*

Unfinished business

1. Update on FDC FY 2021-013 Cottageville VFD

ASFM Bradley Scott noted the reception of required reports.

Commissioner Byers made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to close FDC 2021-013 (letter to be sent to the department and complainant) seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

New business

None

Adjournment

Commissioner George moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:09am without objection, meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Training

Training Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

April 7th, 2022

Call to order

Commissioner White called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 11:10am on April 7th, 2022, at Glade Springs Resort, Daniels WV.

The following commissioners were present:

Virgil White
Jim Oldaker
Doug Estep
Tom Keefer
Dave Camp

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

1. Update on FireFighter Training Certification Access/Repository Program

Mr. Lambert WV Fire Service Extension noted that access to the system will be granted to the State Fire Marshal, Deputy Chief, FDS Divisional Deputy, ASFM II (FDS), Administrative Secretary and the Chair of the Training Committee (the Administrative Secretary will send Mr. Lambert the necessary emails).

Deputy Chief Bailey spoke on behalf of WV PST. He believes that will be up and running by the next meeting and accesses will be granted to the same persons as noted above.

2. Update on training regarding Fire Commission/Fire Marshal's Office Duties and Responsibilities.

Mr. Lambert noted that information will be dispersed ASAP.

Ms. Radford of WV PST reported on the 22-slide power point that had been developed and shared with the appropriate training staff. She will share that with the Commission as well.

No Action Taken

New business

1. Consideration of Reciprocity Application Change

Deputy Blaylock and Chief Deputy Bailey briefed the Committee on the request by Ralph Kosar of WV PST and read the clarifying questions that were requested to be added.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to send to the Full Commission for discussion and approval of the submitted Reciprocity Application, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice, the motion passed.

Mr. Lambert of WVU FSE stated the Junior FF Camp will be June 18th through the 23rd, 2022. Cost for those registering prior to June 1st will be \$375.00 and \$450.00 for late submissions. This was done to discourage so many late applications. He also discussed a concern he is working with WV PST on persons trying to attend FF burns training without the appropriate paperwork. He noted the passing of Lanny Adkins as well.

Adjournment

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Legislative

Legislative, and Codes Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

April 7th, 2022

Call to order

At Commissioner George's request Commissioner Gunnoe chaired the meeting and called to order the regular meeting of the Legislative, Codes and Regulatory Committee meeting at 11:28am on April 7th, 2022, at Glade Springs Resort, Daniels WV.

Roll call

The following commissioners were present:

Jim Oldaker
Tom Keefer
Brian Jones
Edward George (via conference call)

The following commissioners were absent:

Ted Shriver - *It is noted that Commissioner Shriver attempted to attend via conference call but was unable to do so due to a technology issue at the location of the meeting.*

Unfinished Business

1. Update on Pending Legislation

Marshal Tyree updated the Committee on HB 4634 which referred to licensing for Electrician and Fire Protection workers. This is not a Fire Commission issue because he wanted to make them aware.

HB 4608 does concern the Commission, which if it passes involves "Probationary FireFighter" being defined and allows the "Probationary FireFighter" at the discretion of the Fire Chief, 5 years to remain in that status. An emergency rule will need to be promulgated and in place by October 1st, 2022.

A discussion on the intent of the bill and the Committee's concerns was held. Chairman Gunnoe noted the Committee needs to make sure that the definition is clear that the "Probationary FireFighter" does not perform any more than to the level of training they are certified to at that point. Marshal Tyree stated that outside of the normal traditional process he would recommend they follow the Module Fire Fighter. Commissioner George described the process the bill went through and the redundancy of the bill. Chairman Gunnoe spoke of the process in PA that allows Fire Chiefs to set the rules for Fire Fighter training and that this seemed to be a similar approach. Chairman Gunnoe asked for a sub-committee (members of staff, legislative and training) be set up by June 2022 meeting to work on the Emergency Rule promulgation which would be effective October 1st.

Marshal Tyree discussed HB 4141 that is effective from passage and that the Commission needs to establish the filing date and effective date. Counsel and Marshal Tyree's recommendation is that all the rules have a filing date of May 5th, 2022, and an Effective Date of August 1st, 2022, for uniformity. The exception is a Fire Marshal's rule on Fire Works, that needs to be filed May 5th, 2022, as well but effective May 31st, 2022.

Commissioner George made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission that the Fire Marshal proceed with actions necessary on this legislation, seconded by Commission Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

New business

1. Discussion on 2020 HB 4558 (Article JJ13) VFD Tax Credit

Marshal Tyree wanted to bring it to the attention of the Commission HB 4558 from 2020, as they are listed as "may" promulgate a rule for this bill. This bill relates to a \$1000 credit (towards taxes due to the State of WV) for Volunteer Fire Fighters. However, the tax department is also listed as being able to promulgate a rule and plans to do so. He will remain in contact with the tax department and keep the Commission abreast. This credit applies to 2022 earnings. Chairman Gunnoe requested this item be kept on the agenda for June. Commissioner Mongold noted the importance of getting this information out to the VFDs.

No Action Taken

Adjournment

Commissioner Oldaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:50am without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner George made a motion to accept the presented Committee reports as written, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Chairman Gunnoe would like for the Sub Committee that is being formed regarding the Emergency Rule necessary for HB 4808 (Probationary Fire Fighter Definition) to also consider/discuss a means for potential Fire Fighter's that are having difficulty on the written exams to participate on some level with a VFD. Perhaps the pilot program could be modified giving the Fire Chief some allowance on the item. *The item will be included in the Sub-Committee discussions.*

VFD Fire Service Equipment and Training Grant Fund – Did Not Meet

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) Update on FDC FY 2021-013 – Cottageville

Marshal Tyree noted the reception of the required monthly reports and that this is the last report the Commission required.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to close case FDC-2021-013 (letter to be sent to department and complainant), seconded by Commissioner Jones With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed

2) Update on FireFighter Training Certification Access/Repository Program

Chairman Gunnoe noted that going forward Staff will develop a database to be used for future certification and the item will remain on the agenda as an update.

No Action Taken.

3) Update on training regarding Fire Commission/Fire Marshal's Office Duties and Responsibilities.

Chairman Gunnoe noted the presentation has been shared with them and there are a few items to be added concerning the authority of the Commission and Fire Marshal's Office. Staff at the Fire Marshal's office will make the requested changes, provide it for review to the Chair and Co-Chair and then share it as a draft item until approved at the June meeting.

No Action Taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of Fire Officer Applications.

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- a. Christopher Sargent (Flatwoods) FO 2
- b. Jonathan Thorne (Star City) FO 1-2
- c. Matt Bartlett (Bridgeport) FO 1-2
- d. John O'Haver (New Creek) FO 1-2
- e. Aaron Crites (Moorefield) FO 1
- f. John Pratt (Moorefield) FO 1

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to approve applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Hart. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2) Consideration of Fire Chief Applications.

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- f. Greg Cottrill (Reedy VFD)
- g. Jeremy Hamilton (Chesapeake VFD)
- h. James Woodson (Springfield Valley VFD)
- i. Doug Hartman (Franklin VFD)
- j. Michael Hoffman (Hurricane VFD)

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to approve applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Hart. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

3) Consideration of Perfect Evaluation Recertification of Fire Departments.

- a. Cabin Creek VFD
- b. Marmet VFD
- c. City of Charleston FD
- d. Frame VFD
- e. Sissonville VFD
- f. Wilderness VFD
- g. Summersville VFD
- h. Ellenboro VFD
- i. Wadestown VFD
- j. Blacksville VFD
- k. Granville VFD
- l. Westover VFD

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recertify the departments noting their perfect evaluations, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

4) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments.

- a. Lost Creek VFD
- b. Mount Clare VFD
- c. Johnston VFD
- d. Anmoore VFD
- e. Matoka VFD
- f. Vienna VFD
- g. Deerwalk VFD
- h. Frametown VFD
- i. Chapel VFD
- k. Sutton VFD

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recertify the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

5) Report on Fire Departments Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance.

ASFM Scott presented his report on the departments automatically receiving 180 to achieve compliance.

- a. Newton VFD
- b. Davis Creek VFD
- c. Pinch VFD
- d. Belle VFD
- e. Walton VFD

- f. Craigsville VFD
- g. Keslers Cross Lanes VFD
- h. Richwood VFD
- i. Pennsboro VFD
- k. Cairo VFD
- l. Smithville VFD
- j. Harrisville VFD
- k. Clinton District VFD
- l. Scott Run VFD
- m. Star City VFD
- n. River Road VFD

No Action Taken

6) Consideration of Name Change Request Valley VFD

ASFM Scott presented the Commission with the request to change Valley VFD to Valley Fire and Rescue.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to approve the name change of Valley VFD to Valley Fire and Rescue Inc., seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

7) Consideration of Reciprocity Application Change

Chairman Gunnoe provided the information to the Commission from Ralph Kosar of WV PST requesting a change to the FF Reciprocity Application and Deputy Blaylock read the two sets of questions being added.

Commissioner White made a motion to approve the submitted application, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

8) Consideration of Filing/Effective Dates Rules Bundle HB 4141.

(87CSR1, 87CSR4, 87CSR10, 87CSR11, 87CSR12, 87CSR13, 87CSR14)

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion for Staff to take the necessary action for a filing date of May 5th, 2022 and an effective date of August 1st, 2022 for all items in the rules bundle, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

9) Discussion on 2020 HB 4558 (Article JJ13) VFD Tax Credit.

Marshal Tyree will reach out to the Tax Department to follow up on their promulgation of necessary rule.

No Action Taken.

10) Report form Berkeley County Fire Prevention Unit

Chief Martin Roberts of Berkeley County Fire Prevention Unit gave a power point presentation explaining why the Berkeley County Fire Unit was formed, its' operations, how it has been received and its' goals. The report he provided will be attached to the April Fire Commission minutes. He then entertained questions.

Commissioner Mongold expressed his concern that all NFIRS information entered needs to be correct and Chief Roberts reponed he will work with anyone at the Fire Marshal's Office to achieve that goal.

Ed Gochenour of the Berkeley County Council noted how this model has made a great headway for other counties to follow.

RECURITMENT AND RETENTION:

Chairman Gunnoe noted that hopefully the previously discussed tax credit legislation may help with recruitment and retention.

SPEAKERS:

None scheduled

CORRESPONDENCE:

Marshal Tyree described the letter received from Canaan Valley VFD that noting their appreciation of the grant that allowed them to purchase much needed gear cleaning equipment that will help safeguard members of several departments. This letter will be attached to April's Minutes.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

A discussion on possible locations was held noting the need to invite local departments and give everyone a chance to see how the Commission works. Cacapon and Morgantown were suggested, and Administrative Secretary Kathryn Burns will follow-up accordingly.

Commissioner Mongold made an informal inquiry of the training providers, asking if someone who has been taking traditional training can switch to the module style testing. A discussion ensued on the matter and Commissioner Mongold thanked them for their input. This was not an actionable item.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

June Committee Meetings will be held at 10:00am Thursday, 2nd, 2022 with location TBD. The June Fire Commission Meeting will be held at 9:00am Friday, June 3rd, 2022 with location TBD.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to adjourn at 10:35am without objection. Meeting adjourned.



Berkeley County Fire Department

802 Emmett Rousch Dr. Suite B
Martinsburg, WV 25401
Phone: 304-263-1345 Fax: 304-264-4467
Chief of Department: Martin Roberts

History and Future of Berkeley County Fire

Berkeley County Fire began in 2010 as a means to improve response times and to augment the volunteer fire departments. Berkeley County comprises 324 square miles of urban and rural communities and is the fastest growing county in West Virginia with a population of over 122,500 and an annual fire call volume of nearly 5000.

In response to growing demand, the Berkeley County Council established the career fire department with the hiring of four full-time firefighters. During the first year, the four-man crew and one engine were stationed at the Emergency Services building at 802 Emmett Rousch Dr., in the county seat at Martinsburg. This crew responded to all dispatched emergency calls in the county Monday through Friday, 6am to 6pm. In addition to motor vehicle accidents and fires, the crew also responded to Hazmat incidents and water rescue situations.

To better cover the county and reduce response times in 2011, two crewmembers were stationed at Bedington VFD and two at South Berkeley VFD. The paid firefighters continued to work the 6am to 6pm shift, Monday through Friday. In 2012, additional firefighters were hired and assigned to Baker Heights VFD. This provided coverage of Berkeley County from the south, north, and east. The career firefighters stationed in the volunteer fire stations operated the apparatus owned by the Fire Service Board and volunteer departments respectively. Shortly thereafter, Back Creek Volunteer Fire Department requested career coverage. At this time, a mutual agreement was arranged between Back Creek VFD, Berkeley

County Emergency Ambulance Authority, and the County Council. This agreement placed a paramedic/firefighter from the Ambulance Authority and an EMT/Firefighter from Berkeley County Fire at Back Creek VFD. In 2014, Hedgesville VFD requested career staffing and two Berkeley County firefighters were assigned to augment the volunteers. Berkeley County Firefighters were now stationed at the five volunteer departments throughout the county, working alongside each department's volunteers.

A SAFER Grant for recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters was obtained in 2015, but did not adequately solve the need for additional firefighters to handle the call volume. Career staffing expanded in 2019 when the Baker Heights VFD was awarded a SAFER Grant to hire firefighters and expand to 24-hour shifts. With financial backing from the Berkeley County Council and the grant funds, seven firefighters were hired. Berkeley County Fire would establish a 24/48 schedule with three rotating shifts to staff the Baker Heights station 24/7. With the expiration of the SAFER Grant, the Berkeley County Council's general fund has assumed the financial obligation.

The stationing of Berkeley County career firefighters throughout the volunteer departments, the agreement with the Ambulance Authority, and the expansion to a 24/7 schedule at Baker Heights were major steps forward in the history of Berkeley County Fire. Currently BCF consists of 22 fulltime firefighters, with one chief, two lieutenants, and a few part-time members operating out of five main volunteer stations. Four of the stations are staffed Monday through Friday, 6am to 6pm; and one is staffed 24/7.

Industrial development, new residential construction, and population growth with a 21% increase from 2010 have increased the demand for fire services, placing a strain on the existing system in Berkeley County. Interstate 81 runs 26 miles across Berkeley County, connecting Virginia to Maryland. Interstate 81 is a major route with nearly 40% commercial traffic, times of tremendous congestion, and frequent motor vehicle accidents involving freight vehicles many carrying hazardous materials. This ever-concerning traffic situation on Interstate 81 has compounded the strain on the fire departments within the county. Berkeley Fire responded

to 506 calls on the I-81 corridor in 2021. Several of the incidents on I-81 required the skills of our Regional Hazmat Response Team. As the need for fire services continues to grow, our volunteer departments have recognized the staffing shortages; three have formally, one informally, have requested 24 hour staffing by BCF. This is a national trend with no disrespect to the volunteer fire service. The Berkeley County Council is currently endeavoring to obtain a means to fund these requests.

Our county's combination system was established with the support of the County Council, County Administrator, Legal Staff, County Fire Service Board, State Fire Marshal, Fire Commission, State Treasurer's Office, VFIS Insurance, and County Liability Insurance. There was open discussion between county officials and each volunteer station with addressing each member's questions and concerns. This was not easy, but necessary to provide emergency response to the fastest growing county in West Virginia. This process was carried out with an understanding of each department's culture, mutual respect, and putting the needs of the residents of Berkeley County first.

Our goal is for Berkeley County Fire is to provide each fire station with four career firefighters twenty-four hours per day, three hundred and sixty-five days of the year. This would provide continual emergency response, and we believe increase the volunteer numbers due to immediate response times as evidenced when BCF began staffing Baker Heights 24/7. To better protect the citizens and property within Berkeley County and those who pass through the area is our goal. We believe this is possible with collaboration between career and volunteer staff working side by side. We will continue to work with the Fire Commission and Fire Marshal's Office to facilitate legislation that will recognize and certify county paid fire departments within the great state of West Virginia. The key to success is to put the public first.

Sources for Statistical Data:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/berkeleycountywestvirginia>

https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/fastest-growing-counties-in-west-virginia/collection_141fe1fd-7cb3-5915-8737-7a63d099700a.html#49

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/states/wv>

<https://www.i-81coalition.org/resources.html>

<http://www.i81highway.com/driving-distance/wv.html>



West Virginia State Fire Commission

FIRE FIGHTER RECIPROCITY APPLICATION



THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT AND SUBMITTED WITH THE VERIFICATION OF FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING. INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.

| APPLICANT INFORMATION | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| LAST NAME | | FIRST NAME | | MI | |
| HOME ADDRESS | | | PO BOX | | |
| CITY | | STATE | ZIP CODE | COUNTY OF RESIDENCE | |
| HOME PHONE NUMBER | WORK PHONE NUMBER | FAX NUMBER | | E-MAIL ADDRESS | |
| DATE OF BIRTH | | STATE OR MILITARY BRANCH WHERE CERTIFIED | | | |
| INDICATE LEVEL OF FIRE CERTIFICATION FOR WHICH YOU ARE SEEKING RECIPROCITY | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIRE FIGHTER ONE | | | <input type="checkbox"/> FIRE FIGHTER TWO | | |
| 1. Did you complete a fire fighter training program in another state or with The DOD | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 2. Were you issued IFSAC or Pro Board certification for this training? | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 3. Was this training in a structured course? | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 4. Did you pass a written examination to obtain certification at the completion of the course? | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 5. Did you pass a practical examination to obtain certification at the completion of the course? | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 7. Did you complete the National Incident Management System IS-100 and IS-700 courses approved by FEMA? (Attach certificate, if yes.) | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 8. Do you have a current certification in First Aid and CPR (Attach card, if yes.) | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 9. Has your certificate as a fire fighter ever been suspended or revoked? | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| WV FIRE DEPARTMENT YOU ARE AFFILIATED WITH: | | | | | |
| CHIEFS NAME PRINTED | | | CHIEF'S SIGNATURE | | |
| YOU MUST ALSO ATTACH COPIES OF TRAINING FOR FIRE FIGHTING, PROOF OF COMPLETION OF NIMS TRAINING AND VERIFICATION OF TRAINING FORM. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED. | | | | | |
| <u>FIRE RECIPROCITY APPLICANTS</u> | | | | | |
| I attest that all information provided in this application package is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. | | | | | |
| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT | | | | DATE | |

RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO:

Attn: Certification and Reciprocity
 WVPST - Wheeling
 c/o WVNCC Wheeling Campus
 1704 Market Street, Room 405
 Wheeling, WV 26003

OR

Attn: Certification and Reciprocity
 WVU State Fire Academy
 2600 Old Mill Road
 Weston WV 26542

VERIFICATION OF FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE STATE CERTIFYING AGENCY, OR THE AGENCY UNDER WHICH THE CERTIFICATION WAS ISSUED (*EXCEPTION IFSAC OR PRO BOARD CERTIFICATIONS*), AND THEN RETURNED TO THE CANDIDATE IN A SEALED ENVELOPE WITH THE SIGNATURE OF THE AGENCY OFFICIAL ACROSS THE SEAL. ONCE RETURNED, THE CANDIDATE MUST SUBMIT THE SEALED ENVELOPE TO WVPST OR WVU-FSE, ALONG WITH THE OTHER FORM AND REQUESTED DOCUMENTATION.

INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED

| TOPIC | NFPA 1001 STANDARD | | | | WAS STANDARD MET Y/N |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Orientation and History of the Fire Service | 5.1.1 | 5.1.2 | | | |
| Incident Command System | 6.1.1 | 6.1.2 | | | |
| Firefighter Safety & Health | 5.1.1 | 5.3.2 | 5.3.3 | 5.3.4 | |
| Fire Service Communication | 5.2.1 | 5.2.2 | 5.2.3 | 6.2.1 | |
| Building Construction | 5.3.4 | 5.3.10 | 5.3.12 | 6.3.2 | |
| Fire Behavior | 5.3.10 | 5.3.11 | 5.3.12 | | |
| Personal Protective Equipment and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus | 5.1.1 5.5.1 | 5.1.2 | 5.3.1 | 5.3.2 | |
| Portable Fire Extinguishers | 5.3.16 | 5.5.1 | | | |
| Ropes and Knots | 5.1.2 | 5.3.2 | 5.3.20 | 5.5.1 | |
| Search and Rescue, Firefighter Survival | 5.2.4 6.5.4 | 5.3.1 | 5.3.5 | 5.3.9 | |
| Scene Lighting, Portable Power | 5.3.17 | 6.5.4 | | | |
| Forcible Entry | 5.3.4 | 5.3.14 | 5.5.1 | | |
| Vehicle Extrication | 6.4.1 | 6.4.2 | | | |
| Ground Ladders | 5.3.6 | 5.3.9 | 5.3.11 | 5.3.12 | |
| Ventilation | 5.3.11 | 5.3.12 | 6.3.2 | | |
| Water Supply | 5.3.15 | | | | |
| Fire Hose and Fire Streams | 5.3.8 6.5.5 | 5.3.10 | 5.3.15 | 5.5.2 | |
| Fire Control & Controlling Building Utilities | 5.3.7 5.3.15 6.3.3 | 5.3.8 5.3.18 | 5.3.10 5.3.19 | 5.3.13 6.3.1 | |
| Salvage and Overhaul | 5.3.10 | 5.3.13 | 5.3.14 | 5.5.1 | |
| Fire Origin and Cause | 5.3.8 | 5.3.13 | 5.3.14 | 6.3.4 | |
| Fire Protection Systems | 6.5.3 | | | | |
| Fire Safety | 5.1.1 | 6.5.1 | 6.5.2 | 6.5.3 | |

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE STATE CERTIFYING AGENCY, OR THE AGENCY UNDER WHICH THE CERTIFICATION WAS ISSUED (*EXCEPTION IFSAC OR PRO BOARD CERTIFICATIONS*), AND THEN RETURNED TO THE CANDIDATE IN A SEALED ENVELOPE WITH THE SIGNATURE OF THE AGENCY OFFICIAL ACROSS THE SEAL. ONCE RETURNED, THE CANDIDATE MUST SUBMIT THE SEALED ENVELOPE TO WVPST OR WVU-FSE, ALONG WITH THE OTHER FORM AND REQUESTED DOCUMENTATION.

INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED

| TOPIC | NFPA 472 STANDARD | | | | WAS STANDARD MET Y/N |
|--|---|--|--|--|----------------------|
| Hazardous Materials: Overview | 4.1.1.1 4.2.1 5.1.1.1 6.2.2 | 4.1.4.2 4.4 5.1.1.2 6.2.3 | 4.1.1.3 4.4.1 5.1.1.3 6.2.4 | 4.1.2 5.1.1 6.2.1 6.6.1.2.1 | |
| Hazardous Materials: Properties and | 4.1.2.1 | 4.1.2.2 | 4.2.1 | | |
| Hazardous Materials: Recognizing and Identifying the Hazards | 4.1.2.1 4.2.3 5.2.1 5.2.1.1.3 5.2.1.2 5.2.1.3.2 5.2.1.6 | 4.1.2.3 5.1.2 5.2.1.1 5.2.1.1.4 5.2.1.2.2 5.2.1.3.3 | 4.2.1 5.1.2.2 5.2.1.1.1 5.2.1.1.5 5.2.1.3 5.2.1.4 | 4.2.2 5.2 5.2.1.1.2 5.2.1.1.6 5.2.1.3.1 5.2.1.5 | |
| Hazardous Materials: Implementing a Response | 4.1.2.1 4.4.1 5.3.2 | 4.1.2.2 4.4.2 5.4.3 | 4.2.1 5.2.1.4 5.5.2 | 4.2.3 5.3.1 | |
| Hazardous Materials: Personal Protective Equipment, Scene Safety and Scene Control | 5.3.3 6.2.1.1.2 6.2.4.1 | 5.4.1 6.2.1.1.3 6.6.5 | 5.4.4 6.2.1.1.4 6.6.3.3 | 6.2.1.1.1 6.2.3.1 | |
| Hazardous Materials: Response Priorities and Actions | 5.4 5.6 6.6.3.1 6.6.3.3 | 5.4.2 6.6.1.2.2 6.6.4 | 5.5 6.6.2 6.6.4.1 | 5.5.1 6.6.3 6.6.5 | |
| Hazardous Materials: Decontamination Techniques | 5.3.4 | 6.6.4.2 | | | |

Yes No Did the candidate pass one or more written examinations that test knowledge to provide firefighter services?*
 Yes No Did the candidate pass a state/territory examination to obtain certification at the completion of the course?*
 Test Date _____

Yes No Did the candidate pass one or more practical examinations that test skills and ability to provide firefighter services?*
 Yes No Did the candidate pass a state/territory practical examination to obtain certification at the completion of the course?*
 Test Date _____

Was the training recognized by International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) or Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualification System?*
 Yes (If yes, please attach a copy of certificates.)
 No

Has the candidate incurred any disciplinary proceedings in your state or territory, or are there disciplinary proceedings pending? *
 YES (If yes, please attach certified copies of any actions.)
 NO

To your knowledge, has the candidate ever been convicted of a misdemeanor, other than a minor traffic offense, or a felony? *
 YES (If yes, please explain.) _____

 NO

Do you know of any reason why certification in West Virginia should be denied?
 YES (If yes, please explain.) _____

 NO

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--------------|--|
| PRINT VERIFIER'S NAME | | TITLE | |
| VERIFIER'S SIGNATURE | | AGENCY | |
| ADDRESS | DATE | PHONE NUMBER | |
| CITY | STATE | ZIP CODE | |

INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE STATE CERTIFYING AGENCY, OR THE AGENCY UNDER WHICH THE CERTIFICATION WAS ISSUED (*EXCEPTION IFSAC OR PRO BOARD CERTIFICATIONS*), AND THEN RETURNED TO THE CANDIDATE IN A SEALED ENVELOPE WITH THE SIGNATURE OF THE AGENCY OFFICIAL ACROSS THE SEAL. ONCE RETURNED, THE CANDIDATE MUST SUBMIT THE SEALED ENVELOPE TO WVPST OR WVU-FSE, ALONG WITH THE OTHER FORM AND REQUESTED DOCUMENTATION.

INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED



Canaan Valley Volunteer Fire Department

PO Box 545
Davis, WV 26260
"Small Department, Big Commitment"



12 March 2022

Kenneth Tyree
State Fire Marshal
1207 Quarrier Street
Charleston, WV 25301

RECEIVED
MAR 16 2022
STATE FIRE MARSHAL
ADMINISTRATION

Dear Marshal Tyree,

On behalf of the volunteer fire departments in Davis, Harman, Whitmer and Canaan Valley, West Virginia, I wish to express our appreciation for the grant awards in support of our multi-departmental extractor project. The equipment has been delivered and is fully operational.

As you are keenly aware, the toxic environments encountered in the normal course of our duties leave our turnout gear contaminated and in need of cleaning at the earliest opportunity. With no certified cleaning service anywhere near our rural counties, this project became the sensible resolution to the problem. It would not have happened without assistance from your office.

While this does not eliminate the hazards encountered on many of our emergency scenes, it significantly reduces the likelihood of long-term health effects by a considerable margin. Health and safety are goals that we constantly pursue.

Best regards,

Robert J. Metzger
Chief
Canaan Valley Volunteer Fire Department

Attachment
Article: *The Parsons Advocate*

New Equipment Means Cleaner, Safer Gear for Four Area VFDs

Four local volunteer fire departments now have access to a special washer and dryer designed to clean harmful chemicals and other residue from their fire-fighting equipment. Companies in Harman, Whitmer, Canaan Valley and Davis welcomed the arrival of the new equipment last week, marking the end of a two-year effort.

Firefighters face any number of dangers when fighting fires and responding to other emergencies, including exposure to toxic and cancer-causing carcinogens. These chemicals can contaminate personal protective equipment (PPE), including the distinctive, heavy "bunker gear," leaving a lethal legacy long after the call.

To help reduce long-term health risks, PPE must be cleaned regularly without compromising the safety properties of its high-tech construction. This typically requires more water and a gentler cycle than most washing machines, along with a way to capture and hold any chemicals released during the cleaning process. Special units, known as "washer-extractors," paired with heated drying cabinets, are designed to deep clean gear quickly, safely and efficiently.

In 2020, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) updated its standards for cleaning PPE, requiring all fire departments to deep clean equipment twice a year, rather than once, and whenever it is exposed to smoke and other contaminants. Additionally, the NFPA requires that PPE cleaning be done either in-house or by a verified ser-

vice provider.

Both options create challenges for volunteer departments balancing the need to comply with the regulations against having enough PPE on hand and ready to go. No local department had the budget to buy a washer-extractor and dryer. And no verified service provider exists within the state of West Virginia or within a 3-hour drive of Tucker County.

To find a solution, a small team from the Canaan Valley Volunteer Fire Department (CVVFD) approached other VFDs in the area to gauge interest in a project to buy the necessary equipment and share it. A partnership was formed between CVVFD, Davis VFD, and the neighboring Randolph County fire companies in Whitmer and Harman, and a decision was made to pursue grant funding for the new equipment.



Photos courtesy of CVVFD

CVVFD Chief Robert Metzger and Company 30 firefighter Diane Beall checked the specifications of the new units as they were installed last week.



CVVFD Chief Robert Metzger inspected the new drying cabinet designed to get clean gear back in service as quickly as possible. The new, high-tech washer and drying system will make gear safer for first responders by removing harmful substances.

The CVVFD team took the lead in coordinating with partners and preparing and submitting grant proposals designed to tap local, community and state funding opportunities. A grant from the Oakland Foundation in mid-2020 primed the pump for other grants, including from Tucker Community Foundation and the WV State Fire Marshal's Office.

With the money pieced together, the equipment was ordered in July 2021. The four participating fire departments signed an MOU outlining the shared responsibilities for using and maintaining the equipment, which was delivered and installed at the CVVFD on Feb. 25, almost two years to the day since work on the project began.

CVVFD Chief Robert Metzger was

delighted to have the new machines up and running. "This would not have been possible without the support of a lot of different groups and organizations," Metzger said. "I know I speak for the Chiefs in Davis, Harman and Whitmer in thanking the Oakland Foundation, the Tucker Community Foundation and the State Fire Marshal's Office for helping to make this happen. And I would like to give a special shout-out to Aimee Verdisco, our very own Company 30 grant-writing guru, who worked on this from conception to delivery and did an outstanding job in coordinating all the moving parts. This may not seem like the most exciting equipment in the fire house, but it is absolutely essential for the safety and well-being of our teams."