

Certification Board Meeting

Wednesday October 21, 2020

6:30pm

Virtual Meeting

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Brian Scheffer

Andy Dexter

Edwin Baker

Jimmy George

Ubaldo Perez

Kendall Hunting

Brad Hargrove

Nate Mara

Clay Deatherage

Jeromy Dawson

Brent Allen

Josh Constancio

Cary Roccaforte

Gabriel Mahlum

Ray McDonald

Donnie Boggs

Cutis Brown

Kevin Creamer

Heather Lundy

III. Executive Director Report

A. Executive Director Tim Rutland reported on the progress of the Industrial Testing Process. Currently there are 4 testing sites in the Houston/Galveston area, 1 in Corpus Christie, and 1 in Port Arthur. There will be 2 levels of certification, Firefighter I & Firefighter II. A flyer has been created to be distributed around the state.

IV. Old Business

A. Testing

1. Chairman Scheffer gave a report on the progress of the TEEEX test validation. Hazmat Awareness and Operations along with Product Control and PPE have been completed. Firefighter I was completed last week, and Firefighter II started this week.
2. Rutland reported that he has been in contact with TEEEX about starting up testing the regions again. TEEEX will only distributed the test at Brayton Fire Field by TEEEX Staff.
3. Rutland also reported that the laptops are available to deliver tests, but we need to validate the test before they are distributed. We cannot use the current TEEEX test on the laptops for test security purposes.
 - i. The validation process could be done by Certification Board members from home. Once the validation process is completed, then we could deliver the test to the membership.
4. A motion was made by Andy Dexter and seconded by Clay Deatherage to begin the validation process of the test banks from Question Mark. The motion passed. Tim will plan to begin the validation process. The same folks that validated the TEEEX test have offered to validate the Question Mark tests.

B. NFPA/Skills Update

1. NWCG Wildland Firefighter Training Update – Gabe Mahlum and Ray McDonald with Texas A&M Forest Service reported that the NWCG Wildland Firefighter class S-130/S-190 has been re-written. Each of the classes will be taught separately, S-130, S-190, L-180, and IS-100 will all be stand-alone classes. Each class will have its own certificate, so when a member applies for the certification, they must provide the proper documentation for each class

- C. NFPA 1002 – Driver Operator – Wildland Fire Apparatus
 - 1. NFPA 1002 Chapter 8 is the standard for Wildland Fire Apparatus and the Texas A&M Forest Service along with NWCG have an Engine Operator class. The Certification Board will research this class to see if it meets the NFPA Standard and could be used for a new Certification from SFFMA. Along with Wildland Fire Apparatus, Mobile Water Supply Apparatus is also available from NFPA 1002. Chairman Scheffer appointed a sub-committee to research these certifications and present their findings at the next meeting. The committee members are Gabe Mahlum, Mark Wobus, and Edwin Baker.
 - 2. Executive Director Rutland asked about a test for the certification and it was decided to have a written test for the new certifications.
- D. Approved Training Providers
 - 1. A discussion was had about adding language to the program requiring For Profit Providers to deliver training according the applicable NFPA standard an require proper PPE be utilized.
 - 2. A motion was made by Edwin Baker and seconded by Andy Dexter to add the following language to the requirements to the program. The motion passed.
 - i. ***The commercial company must ensure all training is conducted according to applicable NFPA guidelines for personnel safety, to include the appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment for any given training activity.***
 - 3. Edwin Baker has been working on application process for Commercial Companies and Executive Rutland will research exactly what needs to be added to the application and program for Commercial Companies.
 - 4. The Approved Training Provider committee will research and present a process for Commercial Companies to use. Committee members to help with the research are Edwin Baker, Jimmy George, Andy Dexter, Josh Constancio, and Tim Rutland
- E. Zoom Workshops
 - 1. Chairman Scheffer gave a brief report on the past Zoom Workshops that have been held. Scheffer asked that all Board Members participate in the delivery of these workshop. Kevin’s would like to provide at least 1 workshop a month.
- V. New Business
 - A. Master Applications
 - 1. A motion was made by Andy Dexter and seconded by Brad Hargrove to accept the Master Applications for Jason Alan Gaines of Bellville FD and David Leroy Chilcutt of Central Community FD. The motion passed
 - 2. Chairman Scheffer asked the Master Committee to review the Master Application for Cody Rhett Van Deventer of Anahuac due to the NFPA 1081 classes that are listed.
 - B. Application Process
 - 1. Executive Director Rutland reported that the application process beginning to go a little better. One of the major issues with the process was the Certification Coordinator’s workshop attendance. With the implantation of the Zoom Workshops, this has been getting better and he recommends not changing anything currently.

- C. High School SFFMA Membership
 - 1. TEEEX representative Cary Roccaforte asked if a High School could be a member of the Association. Executive Director Rutland researched the question in the By-Laws and found that High Schools could not be a member of the Association. It would take a By-Laws amendment to change the By-Laws.
- VI. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting – December 9, 2020 – Zoom Meeting
 - B. McAllen Planning Meeting in January will only be required essential personnel for the planning of the convention. The Committee's will have Virtual meetings prior to the January Planning Meeting
- VII. Adjourn – A motion was made by Brent Allen and seconded by Jimmy George to adjourn. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Brian Scheffer
Certification Board Chairman