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Minutes of January 14, 2009

Next Meeting: February 11, 2009

Program: Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program

Location: **Salvation Army 8354 W. Foster Av. Norridge, IL 60706 (NE corner of Cumberland and Foster)**

Time: 0900

President Kushner opened the meeting at 0915 hrs.

- ⚡⚡ A motion was made, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed.
- ⚡⚡ Due to my unavoidable absence from the December meeting there were no minutes published; we are working on correcting that issue.
- ⚡⚡ **Over 65 members were in attendance**; and considering the weather conditions that is pretty impressive.
- ⚡⚡ Nominations for the Harry P. Schaefer Award need to be turned in to a board member prior to the April Executive Board meeting, Tuesday April 7, so that we have time to select a worthy recipient. All board members e-mail addresses are on the web site.
- ⚡⚡ We will present the Schaefer Award at the May seminar.
- ⚡⚡ **IMPORTANT! Please note that due to a conflict using the meeting facility, the May seminar will be Tuesday May 12 and not Wednesday May 13.**
- ⚡⚡ The training records and certificates were available at the meeting and will be available at the February meeting. After that you will need to request your records.
- ⚡⚡ Nominations for the Illinois Arson Awards are available on our website. These are monetary awards given to citizens who give information leading to the arrest and conviction of arsonists.
- ⚡⚡ The Salvation Army occasionally holds food and clothing drives throughout the year. When the next one comes around we would appreciate it if all of our members could bring items to donate. We will keep you apprised of the next date.

Our first speakers were from Intertek. They were Brian Gray, Director, NA Sales and Tom Connaughton, Director, Life Safety Services.

Brian gave a general overview of who Intertek is and what they do. Intertek is a global testing, inspection, certification, and quality assurance company. There are billions of products globally that feature their certification marks. They are the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest certification organization in North America. Intertek is an Edison company that began testing light bulbs in 1896.

Tom explained the Intertek does not write standards; they test and certify to standards from ANSI, UL, and CSA. Intertek tests to the same standards as UL but tries to get the product out quicker. UL tests to a certain standard; however, some of Intertek's Electrical Testing Lab (ETL) customers ask that the products be tested beyond the UL standard. OSHA audits ETL facilities once a year to verify that ETL is doing what they say they are doing.

Intertek also does many other tests on a variety of other products including construction materials. They also test PPE such as bunker gear and body armor.

Our second speaker was Don Kownacki of the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District and the DuPage County Task Force.

Don gave an informative presentation on the criteria for Fire Investigator Recertification.

I am including the criteria as sent to me by the OSFM on January 15, 2009:

### **Office of the State Fire Marshal Fire/Arson Re-Certification Information Point System Criteria**

The following Training/Employment Criteria is allowed to accumulate points applicable to re-certification of Fire/Arson Investigators. A combination of the following two sections, adding up to 100 points per a four (4) year period will qualify an individual, who is certified through this office, to apply for re-certification at either of these levels.

The documentation of all points is to be retained in the individual's training records according to the Illinois Administrative Code, Section 140.12, d), 4). This documentation must be attested to by the employing Fire Chief. The form for maintaining the accumulated points is attached.

- 1) **Training:** 1 point/hour for a minimum of 60 points/maximum of 90 points total over a 4 year re-certification period. Training programs may include training programs, seminars/conferences, college level courses, internet training, in-house training, and power point/video training conducted by a recognized agency or group and covering the objectives based on the approved OSFM objectives. Training session would be awarded 1 point per hour of training. Instructors would be awarded 2 points per hour of training.
- 2) **Experience:**
  - a) 1 point per occasion for a maximum of 30 points total over a 4 year re-certification period for actual job related investigations. **And/Or**
  - b) 5 points/8 hour Ride-along-Program participation with a certified investigator who has at least five (5) years experience as a certified investigator. **And/Or**
  - c) 5 points/occasion for testimony. Testimony will include depositions, pre-trial hearings/preparations, and other court related testimony regarding point of origin or cause of fire or explosions. **And/Or**
  - d) 5 points/year for a maximum of 20 points total per a re-certification period for direct supervision of two(2) or more fire/arson investigators **OR** 2 points/year for a maximum of 8 points total per re-certification period for supervision of less than two (2) fire/arson investigators. **And/OR**
  - e) 1 point/hour for Fire Service Institute internship **And/Or**

f) 1 point/hour for live fire hands-on-practical experience dealing with scene investigation.

Our thanks to all of our speakers: Brian, Tom (who's flight back to New Jersey was cancelled because of the weather), and Don for taking the time and effort to give presentations to our organization.

My personal thanks to Mitzi Woodson of the OSFM for responding so quickly to my request for information on recertification.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John T. Gilleran  
Secretary F.I.S.F.