



**Fire Marshal's Advisory Board Meeting  
Conference Call  
Meeting Minutes**

**State Fire Marshal's Office  
221 S. Central Aveune  
Pierre, SD**

**December 20, 2019  
9:30 AM**

**Introductions:** Board members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

**Call to Order & Roll Call:** Chairman Paul Merriman called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

**Board Members Present:** Mike Roemmich, Mike Harstad, Calen Meningas, Brian Bowker, Rick Gustad.

**Department of Public Safety Staff Present:** Doug Hinkle, Paul Merriman and Glenda Marks.

**Approval of October 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Rick Gustad, second by Mike Roemmich, to approve minutes from the October 1, 2019, Fire Marshal's Advisory Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Welcome:** Captain Calen Meningas, Rapid City Fire Department was welcomed as a new member of the Fire Marshal's Advisory Board.

**Fire Marshal's Office Updates:** Paul Merriman updated the group on the status of the open deputy fire marshal position. The position has been re-announced and will continue to search for a qualified applicant to take over firefighter training and fire investigations in region 3.

Mr. Merriman briefed the group on the late fireworks season which runs from December 28 - January 1. Sales and discharge of fireworks are allowed during this time period. A total of twenty-one retail licenses were issued by the State Fire Marshal's Office for the holiday time period.

Mr. Merriman provided an update from the recent SD Fire Chiefs Conference held in Deadwood. The Fire Marshal's Office will work with the chiefs group to support their mission and help to increase attendance at the annual conference.

Doug Hinkle discussed upcoming events and dates for the groups awareness. The SD Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations annual meeting is being held on January 10, 2020 in Pierre. The Annual SD Fire Instructors Conference will follow on January 11,12 in Pierre at the Ramkota Hotel. Legislative

session begins on January 14 and we are not aware of any legislation at this time that will have direct impact on the fire service.

Paul Merriman informed the group that there has been a total of thirteen fire related deaths in South Dakota year to date. This number is slightly below a ten year average.

**Member Updates:** Rick Gustad informed the group that there are 60 pre-registered for the Instructors conference which is about normal for this time. Mr. Gustad also informed the group that attendance at this years Fire Chief's conference was a record.

Calen Meningas asked about the Joint Council and Doug Hinkle explained the make up of the group and which organizations are represented.

Brian Bowker discussed that while the number of structure fire claims are about normal the number of farm claims are down sharply. Most likely due to the wetter than normal conditions experienced statewide.

**Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting of the Fire Marshal's Advisory Board will be scheduled for February. The date, time, and location of the meeting will be announced.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Brian Bowker. Second was made by Mike Roemmich, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.