



**Fire Marshal's Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**State Fire Marshal's Office**  
**221 S Central Ave**  
**Pierre SD 57501**

**July 9, 2024**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**Call to Order & Roll Call:**

The meeting was called to order and a quorum was present.

**Board Members on Conference Line:**

Michael Roemmich, Brian Bowker, Rick Gustad, Calen Maningas.

**Department of Public Safety Staff Present:**

Doug Hinkle, Glenda Marks and Paul Merriman.

**Approval of January 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes:**

A motion to approve meeting minutes was made by Rick Gustad. The motion was seconded by Brian Bowker. There were no edits or comments and minutes were approved.

**Fire Marshal's Office Updates:**

State Fire School was held at Lake Area Technical College June 13-15, 2024. This years attendance was 531. First Gentleman Bryon Noem spoke at opening ceremonies. Rick Gustad added that Watertown Fire Rescue and employees at Lake Area were instrumental in making the school a success.

Fireworks sales are underway across SD. Fireworks sales are allowed through July 5. Fireworks may be discharged through July 7. Deputy marshal staff conducted compliance checks during this time period to ensure that only legal fireworks were being offered for sale. No significant fires or injuries were reported to the office over the holiday time period.

ATF Special Agent Bailee Yates has been assigned to the Sioux Falls Field Office. Bailee is a Certified Fire Investigator and will be a welcome addition to our fire task force.

DPS-SFMO will be taking on the ATF-ADC program. The current DCI run arson dog program will remain in place through December 2025. No lapse in coverage is expected during the program shift.

SFMO continues to process PPE grant program requests for reimbursement. Thus far, \$2,498,316 in funding has been paid out to 124 fire departments.

**Member Updates:**

Brian Bowker indicated that the insurance industry appreciates the focus on fire investigations as insurance fraud claims continue to increase sharply.

Mike Roemmich reports that Aberdeen Fire Rescue is looking at partnering with LATC on an outreach paramedic program.

Rick Gustad reported that fire school numbers were up again this year. He also discussed the Fall Fire Conference and general meeting which is coming up in September. He indicated that registration should be available on-line the first part of August.

Calen Meningas reported on the status of the new burn tower at the Rapid City Fire Training Facility. He also indicated that there are some preliminary talks taking place with Black Hills State University in regard to partnering on the newly proposed fire science program.

**Next Meeting Date:**

The date, time, and location of the next board meeting TBD.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned.