



**GEORGIA FIREFIGHTER  
STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL**

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Lyn D. Pardue  
Executive Director

**RULES MEETING MINUTES**

03-18-2010  
GPSTC RM 219-B

Attendees:

Chief Eddie Buckholts  
Mr. Don Freyer  
Mr. Alton Hoke  
Chief Joey Hartley  
Capt. Skip Heflin  
Lt. Damon Wisdom  
Chief Jon Marsh  
Chief Web Marshall  
Chief Ike McConnell  
Chief David Trussell  
Chief Jody Yarbrough  
Chief J.D. Mosby  
Ms. Jen Dorough

Director Lyn Pardue calls meeting to order

He gives a briefing on current budget situation for GFSTC

Mr. Al Hoke is introduced as new representative for the Georgia Forestry Commission in replacement of Mr. Monroe Gaines.

Meeting turned over to Matthew Perry, Professional Standards Officer

Presentation given to discuss current challenges with certifications, good moral character and the need for Exclusion Criteria on certain crimes.

Presentation attached to meeting minutes

After the presentation was concluded, the meeting was turned over to Chief Web Marshall and Chief Jody Yarbrough.

Discuss centered on two topics. First, a guide is to be created by GFSTC to help fire chiefs make an informed decision on an applicant before signing the Good Moral Character affidavit in the certification package.

Secondly, a set of criteria, based on misdemeanors, was established:

- Arson
- Assaultive behavior
- Drug Offenses
- Pattern of theft
- Sex offenses
- Crimes against children or the elderly

In the matters of Arson, Sex Offenses and Crimes against the elderly and children, any misdemeanor conviction in a 10 year period will exclude a candidate from hire/appointment.

In the matters of Assaultive Behavior, Drug Offenses and Pattern of Theft, any two convictions in a 5 year period will exclude a candidate from hire/appointment.

The committee also created a procedure that if a fire chief wants to hire/appoint a candidate, he/she can appear before a panel to discuss the circumstances surrounding the matter. The panel can then decide whether or not to recommend certification. The panel will be created and approved by Council.

The procedure will be brought before the committee once created by GFSTC for approval.

The committee was asked to define what point an applicant becomes a “firefighter”. The committee agreed that when an applicant is reported to GFSTC then they are considered a firefighter

Discussion then centered around reporting a hire/appointment to GFSTC. Under the proposed rules an agency would have 90 days to report. But with scrutiny on firefighter deaths and death benefits, a motion was brought to the floor by Chief

Buckholts to amend the 90 days and make it 10 business days. This would also include the termination date of a firefighter. This was seconded by Mr. Don Freyer. With no discussion, the vote was unanimous.

A motion was brought to the floor concerning firefighter felony convictions or misdemeanor convictions within the exclusion criteria. Chief Trussel made a motion that within 10 business days of a conviction, the agency and or firefighter must notify GFSTC. It was seconded by Chief Marshall and approved unanimously.

Chief Buckholts then informed the committee that the April meeting was also the same day as the statewide GMAG meeting. He asked if the rules meeting could be on the same day, but pushed till after lunch. That was agreed upon.

No other matters were discussed and the meeting was adjourned.