

Iowa Fire Service & Emergency Response Council

Meeting Minutes March 24, 2026 Fire Service Training Bureau

Council Members Present:

Bridget Edson – *IA Emergency Medical Services Association (via Zoom)*
Jeff Kling – *Public Member (via Zoom)*
Lonni Koch – *IA Firefighters Association (via Zoom)*
Jamie Lee – *IA Fire Chiefs Association (via Zoom)*
Cody Nicely-Green – *IA Professional Firefighters (via Zoom)*

State Fire Marshal and FSTB Staff:

Dan Wood – *State Fire Marshal (via Zoom)*
Jess Dunn – *FSTB Bureau Chief (via Zoom)*
Hailie Mathews – *FSTB Management Analyst (via Zoom)*

Absent (Excused):

Ellen Hagen – *IA Firefighters Association – Resigned 1/2/2026*
Adam Lathrop – *Ex-Officio/Iowa Division of Labor*

Guests:

Kim Fensterman – *Iowa Community College Coordinator (via Zoom)*
Nathan Moore – *Legislative Services Agency – Fiscal Services Division (via Zoom)*
Brent Conklin – *Des Moines Area Community College (joined via Zoom at item IX)*

Call to Order:

Chair, Jeff Kling, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on March 24, 2026. Roll call taken (see above).

Approval of Agenda:

Motion

Bridget Edson made a motion to approve the March 24, 2026, agenda. Seconded by Jamie Lee. Approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Jess Dunn emailed the draft December 2, 2025, minutes to the council members for review. No corrections were received. No further discussion.

Motion

Lonni Koch made a motion to approve December 2, 2025, minutes. Seconded by Cody Nicely-Green. Approved 5-0.

State Fire Marshal Update (SFM Dan Wood):

Senate File 659 Update – The Senate file 659 study committee report is due June 30, 2026. 11 objectives to review. Surveys were sent to departments in these four counties (Polk, Glenn, Scott, and Johnson) regarding coverage area, staffing, and funding. As of this meeting, 28 completed surveys have been received from various departments. Have learned through these surveys that funding is all over the place, even for full-time departments. Discussions about putting educational materials together on different options available for funding, especially for volunteer departments. Looked at PSAP radio sites in December, nothing concrete. Reviewing Iowa Code 357J to determine the possibility of strengthening the code.

Arson/Explosives Bureau Update – 61 cases so far this year. Ahead of normal for this time of year. Two retirements are coming up. Des Moines agent is retiring in early fall, and the Special Agent In-Charge is retiring in June.

NERIS Update – Previously known as NFIRS. SFM/FSTB continues to purchase ImageTrend for all departments to use for free. Also available for departments that use other vendors to upload their incident reports so that they can be shipped to NERIS for real time data reporting. Around 500 departments are currently signed up. Over 50,000 incidents have been reported this year. Tomme Tysdal is the ImageTrend contractor. He provides zoom training via the ImageTrend website. Available for everyone and training goes over what they need to report, how to report, etc. Will also provide in-person training upon request. A couple years ago only 40-45% of Iowa departments were reporting. Now, just under 90% of Iowa departments are reporting.

The Fireworks Grant opens for submissions on May 1st and closes on June 30th every year. Applications are prioritized based on education, extractors, and then equipment.

Fire Service Training Bureau Update (Bureau Chief Jess Dunn):

Acadis Update – Acadis went live on March 1, 2026. Class registrations, field prop training, and certification testing are now all done through Acadis. The new software system consolidates 3 different software systems the bureau had previously been using. Final data migration took place in early March, moving over 50,000 records into the new software system. Bureau Chief Dunn gave the council members a quick demo of Acadis.

He showed the council members how and where to login, where to find available training, where personnel can view their certifications and training history in their portal accounts, enrollment requests, various webforms, etc. There are over 12,000 firefighters in the State of Iowa, we are hoping half of them will request accounts. As of today, 1,600 firefighters have requested Acadis portal accounts. The new software system has been a major uplift for the fire service of Iowa.

Curriculum Update – Inspector curriculum was updated from NFPA 1031 to NFPA 1030 this past year. More curriculum updates to come in 2027.

Field Programs – Props have continued to be moved all over the state. In 2025, 275 props were deployed across the state, 718 training programs were conducted, and 12,700 fire fighters were reached through various programs. The driving simulators, interior fire attack simulators, and the car fire prop continues to be the most popular props requested.

Certification/Accreditation – The bureau will no longer allow students to bill their department for certification testing. We have continually experienced issues with nonpayment and/or late payment. Moving forward, payment will be required at enrollment from the student testing. Payments can be made online. If students would like to be reimbursed, they can submit their receipt to their department for reimbursement. Exceptions may be made for “bill my department” for the Fire Investigator course and the Annual State Fire School. Beginning January 1, 2026, all certification testing will be done electronically. Students receive instant results utilizing online testing. Students wishing to take the test on paper will be able to do so at the bureau.

Still working on the Live Fire Instructor and Live Fire Instructor In-Charge certifications. Planning a pilot class in the next 3 or so months. This class will be an invite only class for students that are qualified. These classes will only be taught at the bureau because it requires a live fire portion. Also, looking to add a Fire Officer III certification in the next few years.

In 2025, there were 3,631 exams administered. Good passing rates on everything except for HazMat Operations and Driver/Operator Pumper. DOP had a 39% passing rate in 2025. Effective January 1, 2026, students must take and provide proof of completion of an approved D/O Pumper and Aerial course prior to registering to take the Driver/Operator - Pumper or Aerial examinations.

Special Programs – The FSTB hosted a successful State Fire School back on January 31st and February 1st. Don Minks did a fantastic job putting it together. We had several national speakers and good attendance numbers. Plan to bring in big national speakers again for next year and will continue to host fire school at Prairie Meadows again next year. Currently preparing for the two-week Arson Investigator course in May.

Question on Live Fire Instructor/Live Fire Instructor In-Charge – The first class will be an invite only pilot class consisting of TS1s and students meeting requirements. Must hold Instructor I to take Live Fire Instructor. Must hold Instructor II to take Live Fire Instructor

In-Charge. Notification will be sent out when the class is available to all. Based off NFPA 1403.

Question on FSTB/PRI Fire Academy class – PRI taught a HazMat/FFI class last fall at the bureau. Began in August, ended in November. Believe the class dates were Tuesday evenings, Thursday evenings, and occasional Saturdays. Good feedback. Great passing rates, including HazMat. Plan to do another FFI academy Fall 2026 but do not want to conflict with fire academies being hosted by DMACC that can be done in much shorter time frame than what we are able to provide.

Osha Update:

(None)

Old Business:

(None)

New Business:

(None)

Community College Update:

Kim Fensterman - Fire coordinator list has been updated. Lori Reeves is retiring next month. Her replacement has already been lined up. Waiting to hear back from Eastern Iowa. Will disseminate list once complete. Received Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator curriculum from Jones & Bartlett and have shared it with the other Fire Coordinators.

DMACC Update – Making updates to their program and their curriculum. New trades building recently built that will be utilized for indoor training along with their tower. DMACC will now be offering two full-time fire academies a year, one in the spring, one in the fall. Each session will be a semester long, 4 to 5 days week and roughly 8 hours per day. Each academy will be capped at 24 students. Classes will now be offered as asynchronous online classes. Also adding a physical fitness class and EMT class. Career firefighters can receive credit for certifications they already have, allowing them to continue their education through DMACC. Still in the approval process. Plan to start first academy in January 2027 once curriculum is finalized.

Question on curriculum – Current curriculum still in use. Working with the advisory committee for curriculum updates. Once curriculum is approved by the Board of Education, meetings will be set up with IFP. Fire Fighter Certificate will consist of 3-credit Hazardous Materials class, 8-credit Fire Fighter I class, 3-credit Fire Fighter II class, and a 3-credit Hydraulics class (17 credits total). If curriculum is approved, students will start the asynchronous program in September 2026.

Question on instructor qualifications – Lead instructor will have Instructor I certifications, skills instructors will have Fire Fighter I and II certifications. They will be DMACC

employees and can come from all over the state. Adjunct instructors can come from all over the state or outside of the state.

DMACC's program is not subsidized by the state. They charge their own tuition. Fire academies hosted by the Fire Service Training Bureau are subsidized by Volunteer Fire Fighter Training Fund.

Public Comments:

None received.

Action Items:

No action items. The next meeting will be tentatively set for Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 10:00 am.

Meeting was moved to August 25, 2026, at 10:00 am after further email discussion.

Adjournment:

Motion

Jamie Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 am. Passed 5-0.