



PREMIER • PROFESSIONAL • PROACTIVE

WATER SUPPLY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

OHIO FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

*Dedicated to finding innovative solutions and best practices
to support the water supply needs of the Ohio Fire Service*

OFCA Water Supply TAC

Committee Report: July 2018- July 2019

General:

The Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee (WSTAC) remains a vibrant and active organization with 32 current members. Facilitated by co-chairs Jim Delman and Ed Collet, the WSTAC continues to support water supply training and research efforts around the state in support of Ohio's fire service.

Administrative:

To improve the effectiveness of the committee, it was decided to form workgroups to focus on specific elements of the committee's mission. These groups include:

Training - Handles contacts and setting up training throughout the state

Curriculum development - Generates and codifies curriculum for the committee to use and distribute.

Emergency Response Plan Integration - Work with the state ERP to develop a plan to integrate WSTAC into the plan and identify water supply assets in each county.

Communication - The group gets the word out about WSTAC by writing about drill and other committee activities. The group will develop and maintain the committee's social media presence.

Research and Development - Testing and measuring water supply appliances, developing measurement devices and procedures, and the SMEs to tanker design aspects.

These groups will meet between the main committee meeting and report findings during the main meeting.

Training:

The signature effort of the WSTAC continues to be our support of water supply training classes and drills around the state. Since last July, WSTAC members actively supported seven multi-department drills in Belmont, Jefferson, Medina, and Stark counties. As we have done for many years, the committee offered a day-long water shuttle class as part of the Northwest Ohio Volunteer Fire Association (NOVFA) annual fire school in Bowling Green in March.

Ed Collet, Jeremy Keller, and Parker Brown met with Ohio Fire Academy Superintendent Jack Smith and Deputy Superintendent Scott. About developing WSTAC's water supply curriculum for the OFA. They were very receptive to working with us to develop our curriculum for use at the Academy. We will continue discussions and development work with the goal of having the curriculum in place for the summer of 2020.



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Research:

A new equipment trial of a portable stream dam was conducted in Belmont County. The dam was very effective in providing a controllable level in the stream deep enough for drafting.

Lee Adams conducted trials on different low level strainers and water transfer devices at Lockington FD.

Ed Collet continues work on the tanker dump rate sensor and algorithms.

Outreach to the Fire Service:

WSTAC members continue to spread the word about best practices in water supply operations, serving as local advocates for the committee and the OFCA. The committee also maintains a blog/website (wstac.org) to post best practices developed by WSTAC and provide a centralized training calendar. WSTAC co-chair Jeremy Keller continues to engage with the NFPA as a member of the Technical Committee on Wildland and Rural Fire Protection, assisting with the development of the 2022 version of NFPA 1142 Standard on Water Supplies for Rural and Suburban Fire Fighting. Two committee members (Lee Adams and Jeremy Keller) began the Executive Fire Officer (EFO) program at the National Fire Academy in June.

Ed Collet has developed a relationship with VaElAgua, a water supply organization Chile with a similar mission to WSTAC. This relationship allows the committee to learn and share knowledge with departments in South America. Ed Collet will be participating in the Africa Fire Mission to Kenya. The training focus of this trip will be pump operation and water supply. WSTAC has offered to assist the Africa Fire Mission in developing curriculum for the training.