



Alarm Alert

Bill Nelson: State Fire Marshal, Treasurer, and Insurance Commissioner

Fall, 1999

Fire Service Calendar

Joint Council Meeting

October 8, 1999, Florida State Fire College, Ocala, FL

Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony

October 9, 1999, Florida State Fire College, Ocala, FL.
Contact: 352.732.1330

Firefighters Standards and Training Council Meeting

October 18, 1999, Florida State Fire College, Ocala, FL

51st Annual Florida Fire Marshals Association Fire Prevention Conference

October 25 - 28, 1999, Delray Beach, FL. *see page 6*

6th Annual Great Florida Fire School

November 6 - 9, 1999, Tallahassee, FL. Contact: GFFS 850.671.8320

23rd Annual FACAP Conference

November 17 - 19, 1999, Ocala, FL *see page 4*

55th Annual Florida Professional Firefighters Convention

November 21 - 22, 1999, Biscayne Bay Marriot Hotel.
Contact: Tom Gabriel 305.633.3442

The Florida Fire Prevention Code: Division continues workshops

*Bureau Chief
Jim Goodloe*

Bureau of Fire Prevention

Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) appointed by State Fire Marshal Bill Nelson and the Fire Code Advisory Council (FCAC) are applying the finishing touches to Florida's first state wide Fire Prevention Code. The effective date of the Code is January 1, 2001. There have been in excess of 325 amendment proposals submitted for consideration. Each proposal has been reviewed, critiqued, debated and acted upon. Those in which a consensus could be established will make up the amendment section of the final Code. The next phase of work on the final Code will include the receipt of public comment and an effort to adopt the latest edition of the base documents mandated by the Legislature.

Public comment workshops are set to begin later this year in Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando, Tallahassee and Sarasota. These workshops will provide for the public and members of the fire service to view the amendments in their final form. The base documents, NFPA 101 and NFPA 1 will also be available for review. The Fire Code and Fire/Building Code Coordination Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) will take action on all comments expressed during these work-

shops, which may result in additional modifications to the Code. A schedule identifying exact locations will be published in the Florida Administrative Weekly and forthcoming to all fire service agencies. Staff from the Division of State Fire Marshal and TAC members will be present at each workshop.



The Division of State Fire Marshal is monitoring the progress on the development and approval of the 2000 editions of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101, Life Safety Code. Every effort will be made to include these editions as the Code's base document. The 1997 editions will be four years old on the Code's effective date. The approval of the 2000 editions of the Life Safety Code and the Fire Prevention Code is to be decided in November at NFPA's Fall Meeting in New Orleans. The TACs are reviewing NFPA's published Report on Proposals, which lists all of the proposed changes to these documents. The

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News from the Division Director, Charles Clark, Office of the State Fire Marshal

The dream takes form...

After many years of concerted effort, the Florida fire service now has a bachelor's degree to call its own. This past July, the Florida Board of Regents approved the University of Florida (supported by the Florida State Fire College) to begin offering the Bachelor of Science degree in Fire and Emergency Services, beginning this fall. A late-breaking development shortly before the Regents met led to the addition of a Master's degree program in the same discipline set to begin in fall, 2000.

There are numerous reasons why this program is so special and why it was supported at the highest levels of the Department of Insurance, Treasurer and Fire Marshal and by the University of Florida. Foremost among these reasons are the program's design and delivery. These issues relate to the bachelor's degree launching this year but they will also apply to the graduate program.

In terms of design, the degree is interdisciplinary, drawing from the three core disciplines of fire service management, emergency medical services, and emergency management. The modern fire service has very broad responsibilities and the fire chief of the new millennium will need to be well versed in all three areas to be an effective leader. Additionally, the person who leads an EMS agency or

county emergency management function will benefit from deepening their understanding of these allied fields.

As an added feature, because of the three tracks, the University will also be offering three special certificates for persons who only want to advance their knowledge by taking a certain number of courses within a field. This option may be especially attractive for persons who already hold a bachelor's degree in another field but want to gain additional knowledge without pursuing a second degree.



Negotiations are ongoing with the National Fire Academy on the appropriate recognition of coursework there in the Executive Fire Officer certificate program and how it may be partially applied toward satisfying University requirements.

In addition to the courses in the three technical cores, there is a body of knowledge in public administration common to all areas of emergency services. A special feature of the UF program is

that each of these courses in topics such as finance, public relations, and organizational behavior has been customized for emergency services members. Instead of students taking a generic course in labor relations, for example, the course in this program is built to emphasize the unique issues relative to labor and management in emergency services organizations.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the program is the way that it uses the power of the Internet to make it available statewide and, ultimately, worldwide. Faculty members at UF in Gainesville and FSFC in Ocala have developed the courses for full electronic delivery with online lectures, hyperlinks for further research, and email for submitting homework and receiving feedback from the professors. Students will be able to work on their own schedule, around shifts or personal obligations. Final exams can be given at numerous proctored locations around the state. The hundreds of free computer systems distributed by the State Fire Marshal's office last year form the backbone of the *Fire and Emergency Services Instructional Network* but any computer that can access the World Wide Web can now be your gateway to higher education.

For more information on enrollment in the program, visit the Florida State Fire College homepage at <http://www.fsfc.ufl.edu> or call Dr. Ron Nutter at the University of Florida at (352) 392-4836, ext. 313.

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YOU GOT A PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST... NOW WHAT?

Division Attorney
Gabriel Mazzeo

Office of the Director

In connection with your job, if someone makes a request to see or copy a: document, piece of paper, letter, map, video or audio tape, photograph, film, sound recording, or any other material, regardless of the form, chances are good to excellent that you must let the person see and copy it. Everyone in the world is entitled to see and copy a public record, unless it falls within an exception.

There are a few exceptions to the Public Records Act, but *very* few that apply to this division. It is important to be aware of the exceptions, but it is more important to be aware that a failure to comply with the Public Records Act could result in some very bad things happening.

SOME DO'S AND DON'TS

☺ **DO PROVIDE EVERYTHING** requested — unless it comes under an exception.

☺ **DO READ** and comply with DOI Administrative Policy & Procedure 1-4 (Universal Drive) & **do** call Jamie Payne, the Public Records Officer.

☹ **DON'T REQUIRE** the requestor to make the request in writing, nor to fill out any particular form, nor to give a specific reason. If a form must be filled out (AP&P 1-4), you must fill it out.

☹ **DON'T REFUSE** to allow inspection or copying of public records because the request is “overbroad” or “lacks specificity.”

☹ **DON'T DESIGNATE** a specific time to review or copy the public records.

☹ **DON'T REFUSE** to provide records because another agency has them in addition to this division.

SOME EXCEPTIONS

The following are a few of the more common exceptions to the Public Records Act that may apply to this division. For a more complete list, see s. 119.07(3), Florida Statutes. Records that fall within an exception need not be provided to the requestor, **BUT they must be listed as being withheld and a valid reason given for not providing them.**

☞ Files involved in active investigations.

☞ Exam questions and answer sheets of exams for the purpose of licensure, certification, or employment.

☞ Anything revealing information about: **(a)** the home address, phone number, social security number, or photograph of active or former firefighters, law enforcement officers, or their spouses and children; **(b)** undercover personnel; **(c)** the personal assets of the victim of a crime; **(d)** surveillance techniques, procedures, or personnel; **(e)** the identity of a confidential informant; **(f)** active criminal intelligence or investigative information.

☞ A lawyer's work product or a lawyer-client communication, but only if made during, or in anticipation of imminent, litigation.

! *But—keep in mind that exceptions almost always have exceptions.*

IMPORTANT: If you get a request you think falls under an exception, contact me as soon as possible. Words, especially legal ones, do not always mean what they appear to say. We want to be certain we are not withholding something the requestor is entitled to see nor do we want to provide something that is confidential.

WHAT TO DO WITH THE REQUEST

When you receive a request, make it a top priority and notify me immediately—no later than by the end of the next day. Then gather the information as soon as possible.

No specific time is required for providing record(s). However, if a case goes to trial on, say, a request for attorney's fees, the court will determine whether the time taken was reasonable. If it was not, attorney's fees will be awarded.

When you have the information requested, notify the requestor that it is ready. Either give them a range of times to come in and inspect it, or, if they want copies sent, tell them how much the copies will cost (at 50¢ per page & \$10.00 for a B.F.A.I. closed report). Tell them also that, when we receive the money, the material will be copied and sent to them. Please be sure and let me know when the request has been fully complied with.

ALWAYS communicate with the requestor **IN WRITING**, *especially* if it is to advise him or her that the information cannot be provided because it is confidential. Conduct any business you want by phone, but always follow it up in writing. A fax is sufficient *if* you have the confirmation that the fax was delivered. A letter, however, is still best.

BE VERY CAREFUL....

I cannot stress enough that lawyers are intensely mindful that *our failure to comply is their opportunity to make money*. Cases awarding attorney's fees are heavily pro-attorney and anti-agency. If you don't act promptly when a request is made, especially by a lawyer, or if you don't provide everything you should have, the division could find itself contributing a *whole lot* of money to that attorney's vacation or retirement fund.

FINALLY: DON'T HESITATE TO CALL

If you have any question at all concerning public records, please **do** call me at 850/413-3604. Remember that we're on the same team—and when you call it gives me a chance to do my job.



Crime Scenes

News from the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations

NFIRS 5.0 arrives January 2000

*Statistician III
Joe Furiato*

*Bureau of Fire and Arson
Investigations*

You all asked for it, now it's here, and will be on line January 1, 2000.

Countless fire chiefs and other officials have contacted our office wondering when this information Goliath would finally arrive, and we're here to tell you that the final, perfected version of NFIRS 5.0 was worth the wait! Proactive is the key word in fire safety for the millennium.

This important management tool will increase the efficiency, accuracy, quality and quantity of fire and response data and intensify our focus on planning ahead to make the right decisions to protect our citizens. Ultimately, it will prove to be an invaluable asset that we rely on for fire data on the local, state and national level.

This program is so efficient and inclusive that it is really the only information system a fire department needs. It can report and track all data including and beyond EMS calls, juvenile fire-setter activity, and other specific arson information. Additionally, it gives increased access to historical information and statistics that are not currently available in any format or time frame.

NFIRS 5.0 was developed with firefighters in mind; it was designed "to fit everyone's needs without overwhelming firefighters." In short, complexity replaced simplicity in its main premise: "more questions, fewer choices." The questions are more specific, realistic and user friendly.

Gone are the days of

"interpreting" codes and sorting through dozens of choices. This new program gets straight to the heart of each situation and even has an "abbreviated reporting" option for the more simplistic ignition factors in order to increase efficiency and avoid a plethora of paperwork. It has added new codes to increase accuracy by eliminating the need to assume or estimate ignition causes as well as codes to identify variables affecting response times, action, etc...

As if this was not improvement enough, NFIRS 5.0 goes even further and allows multiple actions to be reported under the same incident. All of these nuances contribute to giving citizens and officials a more realistic idea of what is happening and the efforts fire departments exert; thus, it is an avenue to help give firefighters the recognition so often ignored.

NFIRS 5.0 also integrates a "National code plus one" system allowing each locality to customize its data collection while still maintaining a consistent format for state and national reporting purposes. Consequently, each locality can add the information resources its needs dictate, including special study fields for short-term projects.

Perhaps the best feature of NFIRS 5.0, though, is that it can be used on any platform including Macintosh. So, smaller departments will not have to rely on a mainframe to store and report their information, and larger departments can enjoy the benefits of a network-ready system.

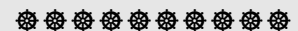
For information on how to enjoy the benefits of this progressive information system, contact Joe Furiato, NFIRS Program Manager for the Division of State Fire Marshal at (850) 413-3728, e-mail to furiatoj@doi.state.fl.us (e-mail), or fax to (850) 921-7525.

FACAP ANNUAL SEMINAR

November 17 – 19, 1999
Florida State Fire College

The **Florida Advisory Committee on Arson Prevention (FACAP)** will sponsor its 23rd Annual Seminar at the Florida State Fire College, November 17- 19, 1999. This three-day program utilizes specialists and experts to bring you the best in fire/arson and legal education. The seminar will focus on a wide range of topics that have become major investigative issues encountered during fire and arson investigations – issues that will follow us into the new millennium. A workshop dedicated to live burn scenes and investigative technique classes will also be featured.

For additional information, contact Jack Ward, Seminar Chairman, 904/247-8005, or Mary Fields at 850/413-3654.



FACAP will once again offer full scholarships to cover room and board at the Fire College dormitory, along with a waiver of registration fee for qualified representatives of fire service and law enforcement agencies. Those wishing to be considered for a scholarship should contact Ken Keebler for applications:

Ken Keebler
S.E. Manager of Investigations
USAA - Special Investigations Unit
P.O. Box 20486
Tampa, Florida 33622-0486
or call: 877/742-1627



Inspection Report

News from the Bureau of Fire Prevention

SFM activates for disaster response

*Regional Supervisors
Shirley Guthrie and Jim Lepick*

Bureau of Fire Prevention

Local officials in Florida City, Homestead, and Dade County were confronted with the largest and most costly disaster in American history when Hurricane Andrew struck South Florida, in August of 1992. Totally overwhelmed by the size and scale of the disaster, local officials requested help. Every request for assistance involved detailed and specific questions about the size and scale of the impacted area and its population counts.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention was activated to assist local officials with damage assessments in Dade County. This involved accurate counts of damaged buildings, population impacted and geographic area of the disaster. Officials used the data collected by the Bureau to request specific detailed requests for assistance. Also, this activity freed local officials in Florida City, Homestead, and Dade County to provide emergency operations, in the area of their expertise.

In the aftermath of the disaster, the State of Florida created a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to address the problems confronted during the Hurricane Andrew disaster. One of the major problems was accountability for specific areas of responsibility.

The SEOC, under the leadership of the Division of Emergency Management, is activated when a disaster threatens or occurs anywhere in our state. For

the past few years, a large portion of Florida's citizens has been touched by a disaster, either directly or through friends or family.

At first, the State Emergency Operations Center's focus was providing assistance to people and areas impacted by hurricanes. Now the focus has expanded to include other types of disasters, such as floods, tornadoes, wildfires, and explosions.

The smaller, but very important teams that make up the SEOC are called Emergency Support Functions, or ESFs. There are 17 ESFs that operate within the SEOC, and they cover every aspect of assistance required during a disaster. As employees of the Division of State Fire Marshal, we work on one of the teams that staff Emergency Support Functions 4&9. This ESF is concerned with firefighting (4), and search and rescue (9). In addition to staffing from the Division of State Fire Marshal, the ESF 4&9 staff includes representatives from the Florida Fire Chiefs Association (FFCA) and the Division of Forestry

(DOF). This organization, combined with the Division of Emergency Management (DEM), comprises the State Emergency Response Team (SERT).

Another component of ESF 4&9 is the Rapid Impact Assessment Team (RIAT). The members of this team include personnel from the Division of State Fire Marshal, the Florida National Guard, and representatives of various other agencies whose input is critical and valuable. Their function is just what the name implies. They fly into a disaster impacted area, assess the damage and needs of the area, and relay the information to the State Emergency Operations Center. This information is then disseminated to the Emergency Support Functions. This provides them with valuable on-site information, so they can start supplying assistance to our citizens as soon as possible.

The Division of State Fire Marshal also has field operations teams that may respond to a disaster. If requested, the ESF 4&9 could send one or more of these teams to an impacted area, to

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Continued from page 1

inclusion of these editions will be considered for TAC and FCAC approval during its November meetings in Naples. This effort will be consistent with Florida's Legislative mandate to use the latest applicable standards in the development of this Code.

At the conclusion of the 2000 Legislative Session, public hearings will be scheduled to adopt the Florida Fire Prevention Code. The Code will be produced in a loose-leaf format to include the base documents, all approved amendments and the applicable portions of the Florida Administrative Codes. The Division of State Fire Marshal will continuously monitor the Code's application and the quality of its content. Periodic changes to the Code will be provided on a triennial basis, however, less frequent intervals will apply in situations where serious injury may result from delayed action. If you would like more specific information on the status of this Code development process, please call the Division's Bureau of Fire Prevention at 850-413-3621.

NFPA 1 Class Dates

Delray Beach

October 25 - 27, 1999
(In conjunction with FI Fire Marshal's Conference)

Florida State Fire College:

November 9 - 11, 1999
January 12 - 14, 2000
February 15 - 17, 2000
March 18 - 20, 2000
March 31 - April 2, 2000
May 20 - 22, 2000
June 13 - 15, 2000

Hillsborough Community College:

January 25 - 27, 2000
(Ybor Room, Ybor City Campus; Tampa)

For registration information contact the Florida State Fire College (352) 732-1330

Unlicensed contractor pays price

In December, Fire Protection Specialist Charles Blanchard received a complaint from the Miami Dade Fire Department. The complaint alleged that an unlicensed contractor was servicing the Fire alarm system at the Bayview Towers Condo in North Miami.

Investigation by FPS Blanchard revealed that the alarm systems in question had been serviced by a company operating under the name of Guardall Security Technologies, license number EC000001140 in the name of Mr. Michael Mountain. As FPS Blanchard's investigation continued it was discovered that the license in question was issued to another fire alarm contractor and that contractor had never heard of Michael Mountain or Guardall Security Technologies.

FPS Blanchard turned the mat-

ter over to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation with a recommendation that they investigate Mr. Mountain for violation of Florida Statutes 489.531 (falsifying certification), 489.533 (committing fraud) and violation of Chapter 633 (failure to comply with F.A.C. 4A-48).

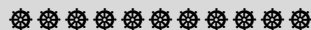
The matter was referred to the States Attorney on December 21, 1998. On May 5 of this year the case went to trial where Mr. Mountain pleaded no contest and was ordered to make restitution and pay court costs.

This is just one case where teamwork between the Bureau of Fire Prevention and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation was key to safeguard public safety for Floridians.

The Florida Fire Marshals Association

presents:

The 51st Annual Fire Prevention Conference



Countdown to The Florida Fire Code

October 25 - 28, 1999

Delray Beach Marriott, Delray Beach, FL

24 contact hours for Municipal Fire Safety re-certification

Featured topics

Florida Fire Code/NFPA 1

Performance Based Design

State Fire Marshal Update

Fire Standards and Training

Evolution of the Life Safety Code, etc..

Contact: Gerri Penney, PBCFR 561.233.0100 ext. 331

Golf Tournament - October 24th



Lab Notebook

News from the State Fire and Arson Laboratory

Submitting evidence: Control vs. comparison

*Crime Lab Analyst
Perry M. Koussiafes*

*Bureau of Fire and Arson
Investigations*

Often the terms “comparison” and “control” are used interchangeably when describing samples, which is incorrect when submitting samples to the lab.

According to NFPA 921, a technically correct definition of a comparison sample is that “comparison samples allow the laboratory to evaluate the possible contributions of volatile pyrolysis products to the analysis and also to estimate the flammability properties of the normal fuel present”¹. Thus any samples to which other samples are to be compared are comparison samples. While the NFPA does not provide a definition for a control, it might follow that comparison samples are raised to the level of control when their history is known. For example, a piece of carpet bought new from the manufacturer would be considered a control. The history of the carpet is known. Gasoline purchased from a gas station would be considered a control. It came straight from the pump and its history is known.

At the Fire and Arson Lab we use a more practical application of these terms.

A control is used when one wants to know what background is associated with the matrix of the sample. Often synthetic fibers, which are commonly used to make carpets and other materials, are made from petroleum derivatives. These will often generate a pattern which should not be confused with common ignitable liquids, which are also petroleum derivatives. The control is for the benefit of the lab and generally of no real use to the investigator. While

the lab maintains a library of common burn products, if the investigator feels that the scene may have something unusual, a control should be sent. This will not be a true control as the entire history of the sample is not known. However, the investigator believes the control to be similar to the burned sample of interest, and further the investigator believes the control does not contain any ignitable liquid.

A comparison is used when one would like to know if two ignitable liquids are of the same type or possibly share a common origin. For example, a sample is taken from a burn trail in a structure and another sample is taken from a can of liquid found nearby. The investigator would like the samples compared to determine if the ignitable liquids, if present, may be similar. Alternatively, the investigator may wish to prove that the ignitable liquids are not similar, thus showing that ignitable liquids normally found at the scene were not responsible for accelerating the fire.

On the Evidence Submission Form presently in use by the State Fire

Marshal, there is a section to list the evidence submitted for a case as well as the test needed (see figure 1). Most samples are being submitted so that they may be tested for the presence of ignitable liquids, so the test requested should be “analysis”, designated with an “A”. Occasionally an investigator may wish to know if two (or more) samples may contain a similar ignitable liquid. In this case a “comparison”, designated with a “C”, should be requested. It should be clearly stated which samples are to be compared. Some samples are submitted as control samples. Again, it should be clearly stated which samples the control sample pertains to. There is no special test designation for control samples, so simply using the word “control” as part of the sample description is sufficient.

In summary, if the information is for the benefit of the lab, consider it a control. If the information is for the benefit of the investigator, consider it a comparison.

¹ NFPA 921 9-2.2

List of evidence submitted:	TEST
1. Carpet from bedroom.....	A
2. Carpet from living room.....	A
3. Carpet - control for Q1 & Q2.....	A
4. Liquid from oil lamp in living room - compare to Q1.....	C
5. Liquid from can on back porch - compare to Q1 & Q2.....	C

Figure 1. Evidence list section of Evidence Submission Form



Dateline: Ocala

News from the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training

New state fire code mandates training

*Randall Napoli
Bureau Chief*

*Bureau of Fire Standards
and Training*

As directed by the Legislature, the Florida Fire Prevention Code will become law on January 1, 2001. All currently certified Firesafety Inspectors and Special Firesafety Inspectors must complete training on the new code prior to that date in order to maintain their certified status. In addition, the contents of this training course will be incorporated into the revised Firesafety Inspector and Special Firesafety Inspector certification courses.

This program, Course #FSFC 0119, NFPA 1, must be completed prior to January 1, 2001 regardless of the renewal date of the individual Inspector, but can be a part of the 40 hours of continuing education now required by statute during the three-year period of issuance for each Inspector. It should be noted that it is probable that the Florida Legislature will be reviewing requirements for school inspections in the 2000 legislative session, which will likely necessitate additional required curriculum for all inspectors. Certified Inspectors should forward proof of completion of this course, in the form of an official certificate or transcript to the Standards Section of this Bureau at the address below.

The Florida State Fire College will be offering FSFC 0119 continuously in various locations around the state, along with a train-the-trainer module. We are making every effort to ensure that this training is available as widely as possible through other educational institutions, and also through fire service organizations who wish to deliver the course within their own training programs. Regular updates of course offerings by the FSFC and other educational institutions will be forwarded to fire service and other affected organizations. Additionally, the FSFC website, <http://www.fsfc.ufl.edu> will be updated regularly with available course offerings around the state.

See page 6 for NFPA 1 class dates.

Florida's fire-fighter standards awarded national accreditation

(September 7, 1999) The National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (NBFSPQ) has accredited Florida's Firefighter Minimum Standards certification program at its annual meeting on August 27th in Kansas City, MO. The NBFSPQ accredits fire service training agencies that use the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) professional qualifications standards.

The accreditation process began when the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training of the Division of State Fire Marshal submitted an application seeking accreditation. The application package was then reviewed by the members of

the Committee on Accreditation for compliance with the professional standards of firefighter training and certification. The next step was a site visit by a team of COA members who perform an extensive on-site review of the organization's testing and certification processes.

Professionalism has long been a goal sought by the fire service. It has only been relatively recently that a system has evolved to produce national professional qualifications standards that an agency can use to establish performance measures for training and certification programs. Agencies that achieve NBFSPQ accreditation are recognized as having met the rigors of review by an independent accrediting organization. This independent review is the best way to assure candidates and governance bodies that the training agency's program meets the national professional standards. Certification from a nationally accredited agency is a statement of success, an indisputable mark of quality performance belonging to individual fire service professionals.

Each successful candidate for certification from an accredited agency knows that he or she has been measured against peers and meets rigorous national standards. National certification affords the individual a uniformity and portability of qualifications. In addition, having members certified to national consensus standards enhances the credibility of an organization. Although we have long known that our certification system was second to none, Florida's fire service can be proud that our firefighter certification standards have now been recognized as being among the best in the country.

NFA 1999 Florida Weekend draws 170 participants



National Fire Academy 1999 Florida Weekend Fellowship Dinner

*Administrative Assistant
Jacquie Niles*

*Bureau of Fire Standards
and Training*

The State Weekend Program is offered at National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD for fire and rescue personnel chosen from specific states to attend 2-day courses. This program strengthens a State's fire service community through skills, personal networking, and a quality educational experience.

Each year the Florida State Fire College selects courses and recruits and enrolls students according to established student selection criteria. This annual program provides a unique opportunity for NFA and State fire training agencies to collaborate in the delivery of a quality training program.

The National Fire Academy Florida Weekend 1999 was a great success this year. Florida firefighters had

the opportunity to participate with the State of Mississippi this year providing camaraderie, a chance to share stories and compare experiences. Florida and Mississippi joined together for this year's state(s) weekend and granted limited seating in several of each state's courses to provide a wider variety from which participants could choose.

The courses offered this year were: Leaderships I, II, and III, Managing Company Tactical Operations, Methods of Enhancing Safety Education, Arson Detection for the First Responder, and Emergency Response to Terrorism. Also offered this year was a successful new Mid-Level Management course entitled Shaping the Future instructed by Ron Thomas from Florida State Fire College. NFA is in the process of updating its curricula and formats in order to offer new, timely courses to keep up with changing trends.

We hope the fire professionals who participated this year count this as

an enjoyable and productive experience, that many new friendships were forged, and that each bring back ideas and principles which will be implemented and shared with others. The Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, along with assistance of the Florida Professional Firefighters (FPF), are proud to report that there were 170 participants this year with over one third of that number attending for their first time. This was a considerable increase over last year's numbers of 132 participants due to the 1998 Florida wildland fires.

Many thanks to Leroy Nottigham (representing FPF), Ron Thomas, Sabrina Fletcher and Mary Poteat from the Florida State Fire College, Mississippi's state coordinator, Steve Bartwell, and Myrna Mood and all of the NFA staff for their support in making this year's NFA weekend such a success. See you at the NFA Florida "Millennium" Weekend 2000 scheduled for June 17th & 18th next year!



Fire Line

News from Florida and across the country

Congress increases VFD grants

(Washington, DC, July 7, 1999) On June 20, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies approved an increase in funding for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program from its current level of \$2 million to \$4 million for Fiscal Year 2000. Following the Subcommittee's approval, Chairman Ralph Regula declared it "a victory for our nation's rural fire services, the brave men and women responsible for protecting rural communities against fires and other dangers."

The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (VFAP) is a matching grant program that provides technical, financial and related assistance to rural fire departments for organizing, training and equipping firefighters. The program is aimed at assisting rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less in establishing new fire departments and upgrading fire suppression capabilities of existing departments. Earlier in the year, Congressman Greg Walden (OP-05) addressed a letter to chairman Regula that was signed by other members, urging him to support an increase in funding for the program. When informed of the funding increase, Rep. Walden expressed his appreciation to Chairman Regula for guiding the funding increase through his subcommittee.

The Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI) is one of many fire associations that raised the need for additional funding for the program on Capitol Hill. In recent months, CFSI co-hosted a briefing for Congressional staff on VFAP and worked with Rep. Walden in obtaining signatures for his

letter. "Although it's too early to celebrate, we feel that we are moving in the right direction" said Bill Webb, CFSI Executive Director. "Chairman Regula heard from fire service organizations and he responded accordingly. He deserves a lot of credit for his leadership."

Before the \$4 million is released for VFAP, it must first clear additional hurdles. The first is full approval from the House of Representatives. Then members of the House and Senate must agree upon a final amount. So it is imperative for fire service leaders to avoid becoming complacent. Not until the appropriations measure containing the \$4 million is approved by both the chambers and signed by the President can the fire service declare victory.

AED access bill introduced to Congress

(Washington, DC, July 6, 1999) On June 29, Senator Slade Gorton (WA) and Representative Cliff Stearns (FL-6) announced legislation they will introduce to increase the survival rate of cardiac arrest victims. The Cardiac Arrest Survival Act of 1999 is aimed at providing greater access to Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in federal buildings and removing civil liability from use of the devices.

Under the legislation, the Secretary of Health and Human Services would give recommendations on the placement of AEDs in federal buildings. Although the extent of AED installations would depend on the Secretary's recommendations, Representative Stearns declared his desire "to see AEDs become as common place as fire

extinguishers." The Secretary would also assist federal agencies in implementing an AED program and developing relationships with AED manufacturers, medical directors and local EMS agencies.

The second key principle of the legislation is the immunity it would provide for the operator of the AED. Any person who provides emergency medical care through the use of an AED would be immune from civil liability. Additionally, the legislation would provide the same level of civil liability protection for those who acquire, maintain and test the devices, those who train on the use of the device and the physician who provides medical oversight.

Cardiac arrests claim the lives of 250,000 individuals, annually. The survival rate for victims in the out-of-hospital setting is approximately five percent. By making AEDs more accessible to the general public, AED proponents estimate that as many as 50,000 lives can be saved. For this reason, Rep. Stearns and Sen. Gorton are advocating AED accessibility in federal buildings.

Last year, the two Fire Caucus members introduced a similar measure in their respective chambers. Despite no action by Congress, their legislation generated interest at the state level prompting 39 states to act on measures that would advance public access to defibrillation technology. On August 17, the Congressional Fire Services Institute will conduct a CPR Training Program for Congressional staff that will highlight the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act, while training participants how to perform life saving procedures. The annual program attracts approximately 200 participants from Capitol Hill.

For more information about the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act or the CFSI CPR Training Program, contact CFSI at 202.371.1277 or cfsi@cfsi.org.

NFA's Jeff Dyar receives James O. Page Award

Las Vegas, NV – Jeff Dyar, EMS Program Chairman at the National Fire Academy (NFA), is this year's recipient of the James O. Page Award. Dyar was recognized during Fire-Res-

cue Med, IAFC's second annual EMS Section conference, April 26-29.

Jeff Dyar has been involved in EMS for the past 29 years. He has filled portions in volunteer, career, public, third service, academic and military capacities. He holds a degree in Fire Science, is pursuing another in Emergency Management and is a nationally registered paramedic.

Dyar has served as Program Chairman for EMS at NFA for the past seven years and is responsible for management training for the nation's 1.5 mil-

lion fire and 800,000 EMS personnel. He also has held the position of counter-terrorism team leader at NFA.

In addition to his many years of dedication to the EMS field, Dyar was recognized for his development of a core set of EMS curriculum now offered at the NFA.

On hand to make the presentation was James O. Page, for whom the award is named, along with a representative from Physio Control Corporation, the award's sponsor.

Continued from page 5

provide assistance and support as needed. Emergency Support Function 4&9 can be activated at any time. When we have advance notice of a pending disaster, the ESF is activated prior to the actual impact. That time is used to make plans for the possible needs of an impacted area. Weather and environmental conditions are watched and studied, the infrastructure and population density of possibly impacted areas are considered, and information is gathered concerning the availability of state resources for assistance. This pre-planning enables us to respond quickly and more effectively, when assistance is requested. Our efforts are frequently coordinated with assistance being provided by the other Emergency Support Functions.

As an example during the Firestorm of 1998, Bureau personnel staffed ESF 4 & 9 at the Flagler County Emergency Operations Center. This activity freed local officials to more effective use of their time and resources, while not losing oversight of operation within their jurisdiction. Bureau staff provided distribution of lightweight Nomex protective pants and shirts to replace the heavy bunker gear structural firefighters were wearing in the extreme conditions. This activity alone was responsible for making firefighting efforts more efficient and allowing the firefighters to work more comfortably and longer in the field. Bureau staff were assigned to Community Disaster Assistance Centers and logistical and supply operations.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention is also part of a State Fire Marshal Search

and Rescue Team. These professionals recently completed a National Certification program to conduct effective SAR operations. This will provide a resource of highly trained specialists for operations where victims are spread across large areas, deployable from the ESF 4 & 9 desk.

There are three teams that staff the ESF 4&9. Once activated, ESF 4&9 team members usually work a 12-hour rotating shift, and staffing continues until assistance is no longer needed. This may be for a few days, a few weeks, or even a few months. Sometimes we have to deal with more than one disaster at a time, in several different areas of the state.

Who are these people who make up these teams? Are they hired only to perform this function? No. Personnel from the Division of State Fire Marshal are selected from management, support staff, and other positions in-between. They are full-time Division employees, with full-time duties associated with their positions. These duties are in addition to their regular work hours. The same is true for the staffing representatives from the Florida Fire Chiefs Association and the Division of Forestry.

Sometimes a working team will consist of two to three members, and sometimes it may be as many as seven. They operate in a room that is approximately 10 feet by 14 feet, that is filled with a large table, a small table, chairs, computers, printers, a FAX machine, work station counter tops, files, file cabinets, telephones, and a bookcase. Needless to say, it can be very crowded. This is a situation where "teamwork" is really

needed!

Due to the seriousness of a disaster, the close working conditions, the intensity of the situation, the constant ringing of telephones, the ambient noise, the amount of work that must be accomplished, and the long work hours, it would be easy for manners and consideration for others to fall by the wayside, and for nerves to get frayed. Quite honestly, this sometimes happens. However, such occurrences are rare. Everyone on the team is constantly mindful of why we are there, and what it takes to achieve success, and that is achieved through teamwork. Although a disaster situation is in no way humorous, stress relief is sometimes accomplished through finding humor in things that happen within the room.

Team members are selected for their ability to effectively function under pressure, maintain a focus on customer service, and maintain a personal sense of balance. Brief periods of working calm are cherished, and are used to refresh and rejuvenate our sense of balance, refocus on the task at hand, provide a kind word of support to a team member, and, if necessary, take time to comfort a team member whose nerves are on edge.

Each team member's function is important, on an individual basis. However, effective assistance to the citizens of Florida can only be accomplished through a spirit of cooperation, the coordinated activities of all team members, and their cooperation with the activities of the other Emergency Support Functions. This is true teamwork.

Fire College Schedule

INSPECTION

Building Construction (Course #311/2320) October 2-3/9-10
Blueprint / Plans Review (Course #316/2326)
October 16-17/23-24
Codes and Standards (Course #312/1300)
October 30-31/Nov. 6-7

ARSON

Fire Chemistry (Course #400) November 1-5
Origin and Cause (Course #401/2210) November 29/Dec. 3
Latent Investigation (Course #402/2243) December 6-10
Legal Issues (Course #403) December 13-17
Fire Photography (Course #404) December 6-10

OFFICER

Company Officer (Course #209/2130) October 18-22
Tactics I (Course #206/2410) Sept. 27-Oct. 1
Tactics II (Course #304/2420) October 4-8
Fire Service Instructor I (Course #208/2150) Sept. 27-Oct. 1,
November 29-Dec. 3
Introduction to Command (Course #507) November 1-5

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Chlorine Emergencies (Course #515) November 8-10
Haz - Mat I (Course #207/2500) October 11-15, November 29-
Dec. 3
Haz - Mat II (Course #319/2501) October 18-22, December 6-10

Haz - Mat Awareness (8 hr.) (Course #107) October 25-29
NFA Terrorism Basic Concepts (Course #801) November 22-23
Level A Suits Qualification (Course #124) November 24

APPARATUS

Fire Service Hydraulics (Course #203/2640) November 29-Dec.3
Apparatus Operations (Course #202/1601) December 6-10
Aerial Operations (Course #703) December 13-17
FEVT F4 (Course #603) November 1-5
FEVT F5 (Course #604) December 13-17
FEVT F6 (Course #605) November 29-Dec. 3

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public Information Officer (Course #505) December 13-17

EXTINGUISHER

Fire Extinguisher Certification (Course #708) October 11-15,
November 29-Dec.3, December 13-17

RESCUE

Farmedic (Course #110) November 13-14
Rope Rescue III (Course #213) October 4-8

GENERAL COURSES

S205 Forestry Urban Interface (Course #925) October 5-7,
October 25-27, November 22-24

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