



Firefighters Standards, Training and Employment Council
Update by Dave Casey
Bureau Chief, Fire Standards & Training
as of April 7, 2004



Because of the large volume of activity and the positive response from the Council I am again forwarding my report early to you for your review. There are several “action” items that are highlighted.

1. BFST Personnel
 - a. Rusty Burnett has replaced Larry McCall as the Supervisor in Standards. Larry will continue with us as a Field Examiner
 - b. Al Williams has replace Rusty as the Training Supervisor. Al is retired from St. Petersburg and ran a community college fire science program in North Carolina for a few years until re realized that it snows there every year.
 - c. Chuck Smeby is “kind of” leaving us. He has been one of our two academic instructors doing the UF Bachelor’s program, and will be full-time at UF working on the same program. We are very excited that he will provide a full-time advocate for the fire service that had a full career as a fire officer – even if it was up North.
 - d. Barbara Klingensmith will assume his hearing officer duties, we need (right now) an experienced fire official with a Master’s degree and educational background. Hopefully with experience in computer based distance learning.
 - e. Mike Essex, recently retired as Special Operations Chief for the City of Miami FD has joined us as an instructor.
 - f. We are looking for 2 more instructors, one will be the Firefighter I/II program chair, the other as a general instructor for college level programs.
2. Standards/Training Center workshop:

The annual workshop will take a different format based on Larry McCall’s recommendations. Starting on May 4 at 1 p.m. will be the Training Center Director’s meeting, followed by the Fire College report (time permitting). That evening there will be a reception for the training center and fire college staff. On Wednesday, Rusty will walk the training centers through a demonstration of the practical test. Some minor revisions are being made and will be fully reviewed and demonstrated.
3. We are seeking community college and training center instructors that are currently teaching Tactics I and II to serve on the curriculum development committee for revising the program and replacing the textbook.
4. New National Incident Management System (NIMS) vs. the previous National Interagency Incident Management System NIIMS is out per Executive Order 5 of President Bush. FSFC has asked for Train-the-trainer classes here in Florida, we have been told they are not ready yet, but that we may be able to get pilot offerings of the course. We don’t know how this will affect NWCG training yet; I don’t think ODP and Homeland Security know yet.
5. Training Fatalities/Injuries:
 - a. Seminole: student died of a heart attack during training. Proper signatures were not on medical evaluation form, anomalies on EKG were apparent, questionable if the person meets the NFPA 1582 standard. The essential functions of a firefighter

- position are listed in [Section 3: "Essential Fire Fighting Functions."](#) Listed with each essential function are medical conditions that might interfere with an individual's ability to perform that particular function. The physician performing the evaluation must then determine if the medical problem is present and, if it is, whether the condition would interfere with the individual's ability to perform the essential function. A nagging question has come up on numerous occasions is the familiarity with the document of the physician approving an individual.
- b. Hialeah Training Center – Miami Dade Fire Rescue: awaiting SAO. A couple concerns that can be expressed before release of the report:
 - i) Exposure of a training center allowing a fire department to control a course at their facility
 - ii) Compliance to NFPA 1402/1403
 - c. Central Florida Fire Academy/ Osceola County Fire Rescue – student burned during live fire training involving a gas fired automobile prop. Osceola voluntarily notified DSFM, which is required. Osceola completed a very thorough appearing report to us, and DSFM staff has interviewed several of the participants. Again, a concern for allowing a fire department to use Training Center props.

On going:

1. HB 1190 has passed, with rule making to follow. Buck Tomlinson, our program development chair for the Live Fire Instructor course will give a presentation on the status of the program at the Training Directors meeting upcoming.
 - a. The intent is still to provide a “Master” trainer certification like is being done for the USAR program. Initially we will provide a train-the-trainer class at FSFC and in South Florida and in Western Florida. Each Training Center and larger fire department has the ability to have a designated Train-the-trainer. They could then provide the class for their instructors.
 - b. Remember the rule making has not started. Questions that will come up include:
 - i) Do all of the instructors at a live fire session have to be LFI certified?
 - ii) Does this effect public education and training of other agencies?
2. The CEU Tracker and FCDICE (Fire College Dept {of} Insurance Continuing Education) (note: we did not name this): some problems have been encountered with the system; most are being handled or have been corrected. The reception has been good for classes; I want to revisit the method for CEU bearing seminars to make it user-friendlier. Phase II bid starts April 12.
3. FAC 69A-62 is done and working it’s way through Bureaucracy. We should have it posted next month. A new exemption added for current volunteers has been added. It allows the Fire Chief to verify an individual volunteer’s training as equivalent, complete a specified form to that effect, and the volunteer is exempted from the Firefighter 1 certification requirement, although the still must meet trained commensurate to duty and are not “certified”, they are exempted.
4. Firefighter I and EMS First Responder – First Responder is not an Occupational Completion Point, but per Mary Crew, as long as it is included within a Job Prep program, the Job Prep funding will apply. If you pull it out and make it stand alone (prerequisite?), it will have to be funded as Continuing Workforce Education (which is at a lesser amount than Job Preparatory) or it can be funded as fee support

(the student pays the whole cost). **ACTION ITEM: Do we take EMS First Responder out of Firefighter I?**

5. The question of adding the Forestry classes to Firefighter I, S-130, S-190, and Florida Fire Behavior. **ACTION ITEM: Do we add the Forestry classes to Firefighter I?**
6. Haz Mat Tech Test: Went very well at Fire Rescue East, one at FSFC, have two more validation versions coming up, one in Broward. That should complete validation and put it on our regional testing schedule. Last Standards Council it was requested that we extend the deadline for training not compliant to new curriculum to January. **ACTION ITEM: Do we extend the deadline for training not compliant to new curriculum to January?**
7. Haz Mat Tech curriculum. Need to a transition to 160 IAFF HMT. Would like to make deadline of January 2005 to test under old curriculums. Have completed Train the trainer here – Do we need more?
8. US&R Program:
 - a. The Master Trainer program for Structural Collapse will be at Texas A&M University. The FEMA sanctioned train-the trainer program is 80 hours, and our “Master” candidates must be Structural Collapse Technician qualified first. Florida will have one of the highest amounts of instructors qualified by FEMA.
 - b. The remainder of the training process still be as reviewed in our last meeting, initial technician delivery will be limited to task force members and delivered locally to the task forces by a consortium of provides including some training centers.
 - c. Uniform curriculum – we will adopt a uniform curriculum for all VMR, rope, trench, confined space. The Master Trainer process offers for backwards credentialing. The curriculum must meet FEMA guidelines as part of the ODP contract with us. We will provide the curriculum to the certified training centers along with instructor training opportunities. **ACTION ITEM: Approval of “Master Trainer” credentialing process for US&R programs and approval of FEMA curriculum as Florida US&R program.**
 - d. Only four training centers replied they were offering the programs and wanted to participate, Broward, Lake, Florida Community College at Jacksonville, and Gulf Coast. They are being involved in the process and can have “Master Trainers” in topics they have qualified personnel for. Collapse seems to be the only real problem area. We will provide the credentialing of their instructors in the other topics, again for personnel already qualified as Technicians.
 - e. Phase I of the USAR training site at FSFC is almost complete- DEM contract funded phase I, a “rat run” collapse scenario similar to Dade’s, and this is located behind the live fire training field
9. HAZ-MAT WMD: UCF will take a tractor-trailer simulator unit to each of the 27 FD’s that have received the DOJ and now ODP funds. 3 days at each FD for intensive detection training using their equipment (1 class delivers on all 3 shifts).
10. Company Officer: The initial train-the-trainer was at Fire Rescue East in January, two at FSFC since then. Conversion to the Smoke text needs to be by January by all schools. Until then the FO1 test is cross-walked for Smoke or FSFC outline. . **ACTION ITEM: Approval to make new course official, deadline to change January 2005.**
11. There are a number of other items pending I will report on them at the meeting.