

FIREFIGHTER STANDARDS AND TRAINING
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 1999

A regular meeting of the Firefighter Standards and Training Advisory Council was scheduled at the Atrium Building, Division of State Fire Marshal's Office in Tallahassee, FL on December 6, 1999 at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Michael Iacona, Chairman	Fire Chief Member	Orange County Fire Rescue
Michael Gonzalez	Fire Training Member	Tampa Fire Rescue
Michael Randolph	Fire Officer Member	Tallahassee Fire Department
Shayne Stewart	Firefighter Member	Okaloosa Island Fire District
Cynthia Diven	Fire Training Member	Gainesville Fire Rescue

ABSENT:

Larry D. Evans	Firefighter Member	Orange County Fire Rescue
Christian Swann	Civilian Member	Winter Park
Ben Wacksman	Civilian Member	Tampa
Vicki Phillips-Sheppard	Fire Chief Member	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

Quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacona at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Iacona reported that he spoke to Larry Evans and Christian Swann regarding attendance. Larry Evans indicated that he desires to continue to participate. Christian Swann plans to resign and has spoke to Mr. Nelson about not being able to continue to participate. He is submitting a letter of resignation.

Minutes from July 19, 1999 were approved and seconded. Unanimous vote.

Report from Division Director:

Director Clark gave an update on the Code process. The Division is in the process of putting the proposed rule (4A-60) together and the rulemaking process will be done after the Legislative session. The training issue for school inspections will be on hold until the Legislature makes a decision on the Educational Facilities Code. The Division is also in the process of making sure there are no conflicts that need to be addressed with the adoption of the 2000 edition of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101.

Report from Bureau of Fire Standards and Training:

Randy Napoli reported that the primary issue is the Fire Prevention Code and educating inspectors. The NFPA 1 course is required by January 1, 2001 to retain certification as a Firesafety Inspector and Special Firesafety Inspector. The NFPA 1 courses held throughout the State so far are being well attended. *(For reference of previous report on Firesafety Inspector and Special Firesafety renewal and training requirements, see notes from the October 18, 1999 meeting where a quorum was not present.)* The Bureau will send out another letter notifying inspectors that have not met the requirement that they need to do so by January 1, 2001. Also, we are awaiting the decision on the Educational Facilities Code for

training requirements/needs. Inspectors that do not complete the NFPA 1 training requirement will receive a letter stating that they are no longer certified.

Old Business:

Allen Lovvorn distributed copies of the Special Firesafety Inspector Program Development, which lists the existing and proposed classes. He informed the committee that currently Bureau Chief Jim Goodloe and Fire College staff members Beth Hardee and Chuck Smeby are attending meetings with the Division of Hotels and Restaurants, Adult Healthcare Administration and the Department of Education to discuss the proposed Special Firesafety Inspector training requirements/classes. *(For reference of previous report on Special Firesafety Inspector proposed classes, see notes from the October 18, 1999 meeting where a quorum was not present.)* The Council decided to table this discussion until the next meeting and for staff to provide a report.

Copies of the DRAFT proposed rule changes for Firefighter I and II were distributed. *(For reference of previous report on FFI and FFII, see notes from the October 18, 1999 meeting where a quorum was not present.)* Discussion was held on the training centers, proposed rule changes, age requirements, and requirements to transition from FFI into FFII. The proposed rule changes were submitted to Director Clark and Division Attorney Gabe Mazzeo for review. Upon completion of re-numbering one or two of the sections, it will be routed through the Department for approval up through the Commissioner. Upon approval, it will then go to the Legal Division to schedule workshops. Chairman Iacona requested the Council members be notified when the workshops/hearings are going to be held. (Dates for the workshops/hearings may be scheduled around the Awards Ceremony held in February.) Chairman Iacona suggested that copies of the final draft of the proposed rule changes be sent to all Council members for review prior to the next meeting.

NOTE: The proposed rule changes on Supplemental Compensation were forwarded separately.

Allen Lovvorn asked the council for recommendation on the proposed Fire Service Instructor Certification System. *(For reference of previous report on the proposed Fire Service Instructor Certification System, see notes from the October 18, 1999 meeting where a quorum was not present.)* Discussion was held regarding the different levels of Instructors and Instructor renewal. Shayne Stewart made a motion, seconded by Cindy Diven, to approve the proposed Fire Service Instructor Certification System. Unanimous vote. The matrix that was distributed will be published in Alarm Alert.

Gene Lazarus distributed copies and reviewed the 24-hour In-Service Inspection Curriculum. He reported that this course is rarely requested. Discussion was held regarding agencies doing in-service inspections more now than before and it was suggested to remind local jurisdictions of the requirement of the Statute. Randy Napoli notified the Council that this course is going to be revised after the Legislative Session. He also suggested that Gabe Mazzeo review the Statute. Chairman Iacona suggested that information on this course and Statute be published in Alarm Alert and be revisited at a later date.

Randy Napoli reported that a couple of pilot programs, which moved some of the adult programs from the Training Centers/Vo-Techs to the Community Colleges, were completed throughout the State. It is believed that the Legislature may revisit this item It was decided by the Council to make this a formalized agenda item for on-going discussion.

Allen Lovvorn reminded the Council that Staff is awaiting direction from them on the Officer Candidate Survey. Chairman Iacona stated that the Council would like to determine what required training is currently being conducted in fire departments for newly appointed officers and to see if there is commonality or a standardized process that agencies are doing independent of one another. Also, to determine the curriculum or the components of an Officer Candidate program that would be sanctioned by the State or could be part of a formalized training program. Allen stated that the Fire Departments would be viable candidates for the survey. Staff will give a report at the next meeting.

Report from the Council Members:

Shayne Stewart distributed copies of the "Brief" to be published in the Alarm Alert and on the Fire College website. Since the Alarm Alert is published quarterly, the FFSTAC Briefs will be a combination of all meetings held during that quarter. Also contained in the Briefs are references to the FFSTAC section on the Fire College website.

New Business:

Gabe Mazzeo distributed and reviewed copies of the Sunshine Law, Public Records, and Code of Ethics document prepared by the Attorney General's Office. Also, each Council member received the 1999 edition of the Government in the Sunshine Manual.

Allen Lovvorn distributed copies of the requested data on minimum standards performance for the Training Center Award. Due to changes on the Minimum Standards test, data was only collected for April 1, 1999 through December 1, 1999. Mike Gonzalez reviewed the data and asked the Council for input. It was decided by the Council to include the practical and written examinations given by each training center excluding re-takes. Discussion was held regarding the criteria of the award. A motion was made to give the award to the training center that has the highest percentage of passing students and if there is a tie, the number of students will be the tiebreaker. Motion passed. Mike Gonzalez will work on verbiage for the plaque and forward to Randy Napoli for review.

Chairman Iacona asked the Council about the information they would like included in their notebooks. It was decided that the Council members will have a tab and the prior meeting's minutes along with any revised Rules or Statutes. New notebooks will be distributed in the future.

Audience To Be Heard:

None

Next Meetings:

Friday, February 4, 2000, 10:00 a.m.
Prime Osborne Convention Center
Board Room B
1000 Water Street, Jacksonville, FL
(Will be held in conjunction with Fire Rescue East)

Tuesday, February 22, 2000
Tallahassee, FL
(Will be held in conjunction with Florida Cabinet Firefighter Awards Ceremony)