

FIREFIGHTER STANDARDS AND TRAINING
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2001

PRESENT:

Michael Iacona, Chairman	Fire Chief Member	Orange County Fire Rescue
Shayne Stewart	Firefighter Member	Okaloosa Island Fire District
Michael Randolph	Fire Officer Member	Tallahassee Fire Department
Vicki Phillips-Sheppard	Fire Chief Member	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Michael Gonzalez	Fire Training Member	Tampa Fire Department
Larry D. Evans	Firefighter Member	Orange County Fire Rescue
Ben Wacksman	Civilian Member	Tampa

ABSENT:

Cynthia Diven	Fire Training Member	Gainesville Fire Rescue
Christian Swann	Civilian Member	Winter Park

Quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacona at 2:00 p.m.

The minutes from the October 13, 2000 meeting were read and approved. Unanimous vote.

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU OF FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING:

Bureau Chief Randy Napoli reported that the program revisions that the Council previously approved are going to be implemented within the next few months.

Chief Napoli informed the Council that there are sub-committees working on the wildland firefighting training issue for structural firefighters. A few of the organizations represented on the sub-committees are the Florida Division of Forestry, Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, The Nature Conservancy, and the US Forestry Service. They are tasked with looking at training issues and what the standard should be for a structural firefighter to be able to perform wildland firefighting duties. One of the proposals is a 20 to 24 hour program that can be taught in 4-hour modules. A discussion was held regarding the minimum standards program and the hours currently allocated to wildland firefighting training. Chief Napoli reminded the Council of the two firefighters that were killed in Idaho and the subsequent lawsuit against the fire agency and a federal agency due to inadequate wildland firefighting training. Vicki Sheppard stated that she attended the I-100, S-130 and S-190 Basic Fire Management pilot course. The pilot course was geared towards fire behavior specific to western fuels and she suggested that the program that is offered/developed for Florida should be geared towards fire behavior specific to Florida fuels. Chairman Iacona designated Vicki Sheppard as liaison to work with the sub-committees and to report at future Council meetings. Chief Napoli stated that looking from a mutual aid standpoint, the Florida Unified Command (Division of Forestry, Florida Fire Chiefs' Association, Department of Emergency Management, State Fire Marshal and United States Forest Service) has determined that once the curriculum is decided on and fully presented in the field, mutual aid crews from fire departments will not be used unless they have completed this program.

The Bachelor's degree program is going extremely well and the Master's degree program will be offered this year. Both programs are totally internet based. There is an initiative that will allow persons who hold an A.S. degree in either: Fire Science; Emergency Medical Services; or Emergency Management to enter into the B.S. program at the junior level. Students will be required to take the academic courses, or show proof of the equivalents. This agreement is only with the University of Florida as of now, but other universities have the option to do it.

In addition to the Firefighter I and II courses receiving National Accreditation, in January the Fire Inspector, Fire Officer and Fire Instructor programs have also received National Accreditation. According to National Professional Board of Qualifications the Florida Fire Instructor I qualifies as Fire Instructor I and II on the National Level and the Florida Fire Inspector qualifies as Fire Inspector II and Plans Examiner on the National Level.

The Florida Fire Prevention Code becomes effective July 1, 2001. Of the 5,000 Inspectors in the State, there are only a few hundred that have not completed the NFPA 1 course. The School Evaluation System is almost finalized. Within the next few weeks, an educational component will be developed for distribution to Florida's fire inspectors. It is anticipated that the course may be used as a CEU requirement for Inspector Certification renewals.

REPORT FROM THE DIVISION DIRECTOR:

Director Clark announced that Tom Gallagher is our new State Fire Marshal and stated that the direction of the State Fire Marshals office should move in the same direction with no disruption.

OLD BUSINESS:

Email addresses were provided by the Council members to be included as links on the Firefighters Standards and Training Council page on the Fire College's website.

A report was given by the Officer Candidate School sub-committee. Mike Randolph reported that several possibilities, including programs currently being offered, were considered. Vicki Sheppard reported that she contacted several fire departments and found that most of them currently offer in-house officer programs. She stated that the programs vary in length, are informal and are not structured. Most departments also feel that it is beneficial for the local jurisdiction to provide the subject content to make it more applicable to their local department. She stated that most of the subject content that was chosen on the surveys are currently offered in the Fire Officer I and II programs, however, it was suggested that there be more of a development process for candidates after being promoted. Mike Randolph contacted several departments outside of the State of Florida and found that most of the programs they offer are basically the same thing that is currently offered in the Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II Programs. Mike Gonzalez stated that a few of the departments were concerned about sending their personnel away from their community to attend an officer program. Mike Randolph reported that the sub-committee found that there is no need for an officer candidate school to be offered on a State level.

The fitness initiative for firefighters will be discussed at the next meeting.

Chief Napoli gave an update on the proposed Firefighter Safety Rule. There was a rule challenge made following the final rule hearing on December 19, 2000 and that challenge will be addressed on February 21, 2001. Chairman Iacona made a motion for the Council to support the position of the State Fire Marshals Office on the proposed Firefighter Safety Rule. Seconded by Shayne Stewart. Discussion was held regarding 2-in/ 2-out. Motion carries. Unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Allen Lovvorn, Assistant Superintendent, Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, distributed copies of the fire training center results for the 2000 Training Center of the Year Award. Miami Fire Department Training Center had the highest passing percentage. Mike Randolph made a motion to nominate the Miami Fire Department Training Center as the 2000 training center of the year. Mike Gonzalez seconded the motion. Discussion was held regarding the various training centers and completion percentages. It was decided by the Council that Mike Gonzalez will re-address the criteria for the award and give a report at the next meeting. Motion carries.

Mike Iacona submitted his resignation as Chair and member of the Council as a result of his position change. Mike Gonzalez made a motion to nominate Mike Randolph as the new Chairman. Seconded by Ben Wacksman. Unanimous vote. Mike Iacona stated that he has been affiliated with the Standards Council for the past four years and feels that they have accomplished good things for the fire service. As a group, they collectively developed an identity that he was pleased and privileged to be a part of. He knows that the work is far from being completed and that there will be continue to be issues each day that will challenge abilities to ensure our firefighters safety and proper training.

Mike Gonzalez made a motion to provide a remembrance plaque or certificate to Council members at the end of their tenure. Seconded. Motion Carries.

AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD:

Larry Griffiths, Citrus County Volunteer Fire Service requested a document listing the requirements for Firefighter I to enter into Firefighter II and what the training centers are responsible for. Chief Napoli stated that there are requirements for training centers to make sure that firefighters who enter into the Firefighter II course have completed Firefighter I and are required to determine what the entry testing requirements are to ensure adequate training.

NEXT MEETING:

April 9, 2001
1:00 p.m.