

FIREFIGHTER STANDARDS AND TRAINING
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 9, 2001

PRESENT:

Michael Randolph, Chairman	Fire Officer Member	Tallahassee Fire Department
Shayne Stewart	Firefighter Member	Okaloosa Island Fire District
Dave Casey	Fire Chief Member	Clay County Fire Rescue
Vicki Sheppard	Fire Chief Member	Palm Beach Co. Fire Rescue
Larry D. Evans	Firefighter Member	Orange County Fire Rescue

ABSENT:

Michael Gonzalez	Fire Training Member	Tampa Fire Department Cynthia
Diven	Fire Training Member	Gainesville Fire Rescue
Christian Swann	Civilian Member	Winter Park
Ben Wacksman	Civilian Member	Tampa

Quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Randolph at 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Randolph and Director Clark welcomed Chief Dave Casey as the newest member of the Council.

The minutes from the February 1, 2001 meeting were read and approved.

REPORT FROM THE DIVISION DIRECTOR:

Director Clark updated the Council on the Legislative Session. He reminded the Council that the Cabinet will be re-organized and that there will be a Chief Financial Officer that will take the place of two existing Cabinet Offices, Comptroller and Treasurer. There are two proposed bills that will allow the Division of State Fire Marshal to remain under the Department of Insurance. He also stated that there is a proposed bill that will transfer the Department of Education's Firesafety Rules to the State Fire Marshal. If this bill passes, the State Fire Marshal will have the same authority that the Commissioner of Education has.

He stated that there are not many changes being made to the Building Code at this time. The Florida Building Commission asked for the implementation date to be extended until October 1, 2001.

An agreement has not been reached on the Firefighter Safety Rules. The next rule hearing will be scheduled after the session.

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU OF FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING:

Bureau Chief Randy Napoli reported that the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training recently held the Volunteer Week 2001 Workshop. Volunteer Week is a five-day training session held at the Fire College Campus at no cost to the students. There are many classes offered during this week and the students can take as many as they can that will fit in their schedule. Also coming up is the 2001 TransCaer Workshop. TransCaer is an organization of hazardous chemical, and hazardous material shippers and

manufacturers who banded together to help train responders to better handle emergencies when it occurs during shipping or manufacturing of hazardous materials. In conjunction with the TransCaer Workshop, on April 11, 2001 the Transportation Emergency Training Facility (TETF) will open at the Fire College Campus. This TETF has live action props and will provide training on various hazardous materials transportation emergencies including LP gas, natural gas, propane gas, loading docks, transport trucks, confined space activities, rail cars and rail derailment. Props and items were donated from manufacturers and private companies as well as some government agencies. Pictures will be provided at the next meeting.

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) is appointed by the Governor and their job is to set standards for Haz Mat emergencies. SERC asked the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training to develop a Voluntary Haz Mat Tech Certification Program. SERC is looking into responding to Haz Mat incidents regionally. In order to do that, there needs to be a more standardized training method. We are working with the training task force that has developed a few Haz Mat standards. The standard training criteria will be brought to the Council for review. The Training Task Force is scheduled to meet in May.

The Rule Workshop for curriculum changes will be held on May 17, 2001 at the Fire College.

There are approximately 700 inspectors that have not completed the NFPA 1 class. NFPA 1 is now incorporated into the Codes and Standards Course. We are working with the Bureau of Fire Prevention and the Florida Fire Marshals Association to develop a training module for the school evaluation system. As a reminder, the school evaluation system is to train an inspector to go into existing school buildings that do not meet the code as it is written and be able to make those schools safe without the schools having to completely meet the code. We are looking at several ways to deliver the training.

Firefighter I examinations are being held throughout the State and there are 6 regional testing sites for night testing.

Discussion was held on the revised Fire Officer One curriculum. Chief Napoli stated that some issues will be addressed at the Conference on Instructional Excellence in June.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Vicki Sheppard introduced Ira Jolly from the Division of Forestry to discuss the latest on the wildland firefighting training issue. Mr. Jolly reported that the Train-The-Trainer is set-up for S130 Basic Firefighting, and S190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior to be held August 27 – 31, 2001 at the Withlacoochee Training Center. He distributed copies of NFPA Standard 1051 and informed that Council that they were going to stay with the National Wildland Coordinating Group (NWCG) levels. He reported that the certification process should be finalized at the next committee meeting. Vicki Sheppard stated that she has a few concerns about making sure the structural people stay involved in the development process. Vicki will get with Rich Gorden, Division of Forestry to get an outline of the curriculum components for the Council to review at the next meeting. Staff will distribute copies to members prior to July meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Report from Mike Gonzalez on the criteria for the Fire Training Center of the Year Award is tabled until next meeting.

Shayne Stewart discussed two fitness programs: Fitness and Wellness Initiative and the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). He stated that physical fitness programs are hiring agency decisions and the Council does not have the authority to implement one. He explained that CPAT has been validated by the Department of Justice and is used to determine a candidate's abilities to perform various firefighting evolutions prior to entering into a fire academy or in the fire service. He reminded the Council that if the elements in CPAT are implemented into the minimum standards program, it would invalidate the test. Chief Napoli recommended that the council specify physical fitness elements and hours that should be considered for minimum standards training. It was decided by the Council that larger departments, medical personnel and a physiologist should be contacted to find a good minimum for physical training and to determine the types of exercises that will meet the needs of the students to be able to perform firefighting duties. Chief Napoli stated that since these programs were developed by both the International Association of Firefighters and the International Association of Fire Chiefs that there is an agreement between labor and management on the need for a physical fitness/wellness program. Discussion will be held at the next meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Randolph commended Shayne Stewart on the Council Briefs that are published in the Alarm Alert. He also explained that his task as a member of the Florida Chapter of Fire Service Instructors (FSFSI) is to update FSFSI on the Council's activities. He recommended submitting the Council Briefs to FSFSI to be published in the Florida Fire Service Today.

The Council recommended increasing the number of meetings held throughout the year and to send notices out to training centers prior to the meetings. Chief Napoli suggested for the Council to continue meeting in conjunction with big events to reach a larger group.

A discussion was held regarding purchasing plaques. Chief Napoli recommended that the Council ask various organizations for funding.

AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD: None

NEXT MEETING:

July 24, 2001
9:00 a.m.
Stuart, FL
Hutchinson Island