

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting
Florida State Fire College
October 11, 2002

PRESENT:

NAME

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.
Shorty Bryson, Miami Fire Department
John Drago, City of Longwood
Les Hallman, South Walton Fire Dist.
Dave Harrawood, Emergency Services of Sarasota Co.
Stuart Kauffman
Steven Peavey, FI Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.
Michael Randolph, Tallahassee FD
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire Dist.
Charles "Scotty" Taylor Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech

APPOINTED BY:

FI Assoc. of Special Districts
FI Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
FI League of Cities
FI Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
FI Association of Counties
State Fire Marshal
FI Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
State Fire Marshal
FI Professional Firefighters
FI Professional Firefighters
State Fire Marshal

ABSENT:

Donna Reed, Orange County Fire Rescue
Stockton Reeves VI, Insight Orlando

State Fire Marshal
State Fire Marshal

Chairman Randolph called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Standards and Training Council meeting on August 30, 2002 were approved. Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION:

Director Napoli stated that November of last year, Florida adopted the initial Rule 4A-62, which was essentially only 2 in, 2out with adoption of some of the OSHA standards. Currently being proposed is the expansion of Rule 4A-62 to implement the rest of the Firefighter Occupational Safety and Health Act (FFOSHA), which includes investigating injuries or deaths of firefighters and making recommendations to legislature of additional rules and/or statutes to be implemented to make firefighting safer in Florida.

The Director updated the Council on Florida domestic security issues. A Domestic Security Oversight Board was put together of a group of individuals from various disciplines including representation from the fire service; Director Napoli is also on the Oversight Board. The Oversight Board's guidance is to look over the seven regional domestic security task forces. The task forces are made up of individuals from the fire service, law enforcement, hospitals, etc. The task force's job is to be sure that Florida is in position within each of the regions of the State to be able to prepare, train, and respond to any incidents that may involve acts of terrorism or weapons of mass destruction. He stated that meetings were going to be held to develop domestic security strategies for 2003 and future years.

Director Napoli informed the Council that future discussion will be held regarding changes in the Firefighter certification program to include additional training for response to weapons of mass destruction.

REPORT FROM BUREAU OF FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING:

Bureau Chief Dave Casey updated the Council on the voluntary Certification for Hazardous Materials Technician. Discussions have been held with the Florida Association of Haz-Mat Responders as a constituency group and they have the initial information and work proposal. So far, the response has been favorable. At their next meeting they will formally discuss it. Once we hear back from them, the Council will be advised of their input.

Chief Casey stated that the State wishes to add several USAR teams throughout Florida. He informed the Council that FASAR has been meeting regularly to determine typing documents for different levels of teams. One of the problems is the availability of a training center to do all types of SAR training. It is proposed to build a USAR training site at the Florida State Fire College, which will include collapse rescue and confined space components that will meet FEMA guidelines. Funding issues were discussed.

Copies of the draft implementation document were distributed. Chief Casey pointed out that the Bureau's intent is to get the implementation document approved by the Council. The Council reviewed and discussed each question of the document and made wording changes along the way.

Council member John Drago stated that questions 8 and 11 conflicted with each other and he expressed concerns on interior communications and interior – exterior communications. Discussion was held at length on 2 in, 2out, the additional roles of the two individuals located outside the IDLH atmosphere and the word “immediately” was questioned. There was some disagreement among the Council on these issues. Division Attorney, Gabe Mazzeo, gave a background on the Legislature and reminded the Council that the word “immediately” is the key and that if one of the people outside is not immediately available, they are in violation of the law. Director Napoli stated that the State does not want to tell local fire departments how to operate. A motion was made to accept question 8. Seconded. Two opposed. Motion carried.

It was decided to reference the law specific to each question.

Discussion was held at length on question 14. The additional roles of the two individuals located outside the IDLH atmosphere was addressed again concerning pump operations. Council member John Drago emphasized that training may need to be re-addressed in order to implement the new law. There was some disagreement among the Council. On a motion duly made the Council accepts question 14 with added explanation. Motion carried.

In reference to question 16, Council Member Shorty Bryson noted that the Council might want to develop a template for reporting to the fire chief and to include items for collecting information that the Council may want to see in the future.

Discussion was held on fines for fire departments that do not comply.

Chief Casey will make recommended changes to the draft implementation document and copies will be sent to Council members.

OLD BUSINESS

Sub-Committee Chair Shayne Stewart gave an update on the Special Exemption Sub-Committee. Shayne stated that several departments have withdrawn their request for exemption. For the remaining departments that have requested an exemption, the finalized implementation document will be sent along with copies of sample SOP's and SOG's to those departments to use to write their policies prior to the Sub-Committee

contacting them. The Sub-Committee feels that a number of things will be taken care of once the department's questions are answered.

On a motion duly made, the Council decided to remove the tabled agreement for Jefferson County and Quincy from the August 30, 2002 meeting and deny their request for exemption. Motion carried.

Ponce Inlet Fire Department's request for exemption was discussed at length with the Chief of the Department, Chris Phelps. Implementation of SOP's or SOG's, mutual or automatic aid, and financial impact was included in the discussion. On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee denies the exemption for Ponce Inlet. Motion carried.

The next Sub-Committee meeting will be held November 22, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at the Fire College.

Chairman Randolph addressed the definition for qualified firefighter and reminded the Council that they have had the definition to review since the last meeting. Chief Casey stated that 29 CFR 1910.156 states that firefighters must be trained to commence with those duties and functions that they are expected to perform and the Division's recommendation to the Council is that the 160-Hour Firefighter I be the minimum requirement. Director Napoli stated that FFOSHA applies to volunteer firefighters and volunteer fire departments. Director Napoli also stated that the minimum training requirements to comply with FFOSHA add up to what is currently Firefighter I. (Council Member Stuart Kauffman had to leave) Implementation of Firefighter I training was discussed. Chief Casey stated that at this point the Division is not proposing an implementation, just looking for what the term qualified firefighter is as it relates to Rule 4A-62 and F.S. 633. Council members asked questions about the definition affecting non-certified volunteer firefighters participating in interior firefighting and if the definition is adopted would it enhance or decrease the volunteer firefighting community. Director Napoli reminded the Council that if a volunteer is not at a Firefighter I level, they currently cannot participate in activities that are hazardous, whether it is interior fires or hazardous materials incidents. Chief Casey stated that his experience in his previous agency was a tremendous drop in the amount of volunteers on the books when they adopted the standards, however, the actual response on-scene seemed to be greater. Director Napoli also stated that the Legislature implemented the standard in the State and we as the implementing agency have to determine the level of training volunteer firefighters must have. Council members emphasized that we can't continue sending people into a dangerous situations without proper training and an effort needs to be made to train additional instructors for Firefighter I so the program is readily available. Director Napoli stated that prior to FFOSHA, volunteers had training requirements they just were not State requirements and volunteers should already comply with NFPA 1910.120 if they respond to hazardous materials incidents or use SCBA. In addition, the Division of Safety had also adopted NFPA 1910.156 and 1910.134 which required all of the things previously discussed. Chief Casey stated that the Domestic Security Task Force has made an effort to identify a number of personnel needing training and the number of volunteers out there is coming in around 7,000. Director Napoli noted that a number of departments have a list of volunteers that are on the department roster, but are not active. On a motion duly made, the Council moved to accept the definition as written. Discussion was held on training and timelines for implementation. Motion carried.

Chairman Randolph addressed the definition for incipient stage fire. Discussion was held on the interpretation of the OSHA definition. On a motion duly made, the Council moved to define incipient stage as defined by Federal OSHA and to relate it in the implementation document. Motion carried.

Chairman Randolph re-addressed the implementation document. On a motion duly made, the Council moved to accept the document as it is written with the recommended changes. Motion carried. After changes are made to the implementation document it will be sent to the Council members.

Ron Williams discussed the Training Center of the Year award and the selection process. Former Council Member Michael Gonzalez is sending additional information. The 2002 Training Center of the Year will need to be selected by the next Council meeting. Discussion for the selection process included using safety records in addition to passing grades and the possible development of standards of excellence by the Council.

Chief Casey asked for the Council's recommendation on the technical rescue training and facility for inclusion in the minimum standards program. He reminded the Council that the document was distributed at the last meeting. The Council is okay with the proposal as written.

Chairman Randolph addressed the proposed revision of 4A-62. Director Napoli reminded the Council that they received copies of the revised rule at the last meeting. Chairman Randolph stated that the Council has reviewed the document and asked for comments. Hearing none, he indicated that it is okay to move forward with the proposed revisions going to workshops.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Les Hallman stated there is concern of a potential firefighter shortage over the next five years. He feels the Council should address this issue. Director Napoli stated that this issue is being addressed at a State level and there is a meeting scheduled with the Division, the Florida Fire Chief's Association and the Florida Professional Firefighters. This item will be addressed at the next meeting.

Council Member Jimmy Angle reviewed the proposal of the Florida Fire Rescue Health and Safety Officer and reminded the Council that it was distributed at the last meeting for review. Discussion was held on current certificate programs and for this proposal to be a voluntary certification. Also, textbooks and program hours were discussed. This item will be addressed at the next meeting.

AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

Chris Phelps thanked the Council for their input.

NEXT MEETING:

January 31, 2003
1:00 p.m.
Fire Rescue East
Prim Osborne Center
Jacksonville, FL

ADJOURN