

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting
Tallahassee, FL
April 13, 2004

PRESENT:

NAME

Shorty Bryson, Miami Fire Department
Julie Downey, Sunrise Fire Rescue
Les Hallman, South Walton Fire Dist.
Jon Pasqualone, 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 Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
State Fire Marshal
FI Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
FI Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
State Fire Marshal
FI Professional Firefighters
FI Professional Firefighters
State Fire Marshal

ABSENT:

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.
John Drago, City of Longwood
Dave Harrawood, Emergency Services of Sarasota Co.
Stockton Reeves VI, Insight Orlando

FI Assoc. of Special Districts
FI League of Cities
FI Association of Counties
State Fire Marshal

Chairman Randolph called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes from the meeting on January 22, 2004 were reviewed and discussion was held on the term "volunteer" used to describe various certifications. It was decided to discontinue the use of the word "volunteer" for those certificates. On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting on January 22, 2004 were approved. Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION:

Division Director Randall Napoli updated the council on the firefighters awards receptions held on April 12, 2004 on the 22nd Floor of the Capitol and on April 13, 2004 in State Fire Marshal Tom Gallagher's office. The recipients were presented with resolutions by the Florida Cabinet.

Director Napoli updated the council on the proposed wall of honor in the Capitol for firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty, in addition to the memorial in Ocala. The Florida Cabinet will provide a resolution to the Department of Management Services to begin the work.

Director Napoli gave a legislative update.

HB 101/SB 1190 has been amended to include many fire service items and it increases the felony of those entities who use pyrotechnic devices inside a building without a permit or sprinklers. It also codifies the voluntary Florida Fire Incident Reporting system. It also allows the State Fire Marshal to adopt by rule parts of NFPA 1403 relating to Live Fire Training. It includes the ability to confiscate and use proceeds for arson prevention and possibly a reward program for people who report arsonists.

HB 129/SB 494 Emergency Elevator Access bill. This bill was passed and signed by the Governor. Elevators within each region will be keyed alike. The work will be done through the Department of Business and Professional regulations.

SB 636 Private Fire Hydrant Testing and Servicing bill. This bill has been sent to the House. Director Napoli reviewed the Florida Fire Prevention Code and stated that fire hydrants must be tested annually.

HB 1269 Nursing Home Firesafety Bill. Only 35 nursing homes in Florida are not equipped with fire sprinklers. The Department of Financial Services has set up a loan grant guarantee program for these facilities to help funding.

HB 1323/SB 764 regarding donating firefighter equipment. Departments can donate equipment without liability as long as the equipment has been certified to function properly. The bill was amended stating the equipment had to be certified by someone from outside of the donating fire department.

SB 2706 Fireworks Bill. This bill would allow the sale of many types of fireworks and would have removed some of the regulatory authority. It was withdrawn.

REPORT FROM BUREAU OF FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING:

Copies of the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training update were distributed. Chief Casey reviewed BFST personnel issues, the upcoming Standards/Training Center Workshop, curriculum revisions, and the new National Incident Management System.

Chief Casey gave a report on firefighter fatalities/injuries. He stated that the Seminole County firefighter fatality report is complete. After review, one of the suggestions was to expand the medical evaluation to include the NFPA specific language of "Essential Firefighting Functions". He addressed the Hialeah Training Center fatality and expressed concerns regarding training centers allowing other entities to utilize their facility and who is responsible. He also addressed the recent training injury at the Central Florida Fire Academy involving an Osceola County firefighter and stated that Osceola has published a very detailed report. He reiterated that it was fire department personnel operating the training props on the fire academy site and noted violations to NFPA 1403. Director Napoli stated that due to the previous incident, sanctions were placed on Osceola and it will be determined if there were any violations to those sanctions.

Chief Casey reviewed HB 1190 regarding Live Fire Instructor and proposed curriculum.

Allen Lovvorn, Assistant Superintendent, gave an update on the CEU tracker and FCDICE system and stated the second phase has gone out to bid. Chief Casey stated that during orientation held every Monday at the fire college the majority of students indicate that they register for classes online and are pleased with the system. Discussion was held regarding CEU bearing seminars. Director Napoli commented that the FCDICE system is built on the backbone of the system that licenses and tracks CEU's for every insurance agent in the State.

Chief Casey reminded the council that FAC 69A-62 is working its way through the rulemaking process. He also stated that the Safety Page should be on the fire college website within the next few weeks. Included on the Safety Page will be sample SOP's and the model Comprehensive Health and Safety Plan. He referenced the new exemption for volunteers who have equivalent training to be exempted from the FFI certification requirement, reminding that they will be

considered “exempted” not “certified”. Discussion was held on the exemption procedures, IFSAC accreditation and credentials of DOD firefighters. Council Chair Michael Randolph and Council Member Shayne Stewart expressed concerns and reservation about the exemption.

Chief Casey reported that after the January meeting he spoke to the Department of Education regarding First Responder as a co-requisite to Firefighter I. Discussion was held on staff and the Fire Training Center Director’s recommendations. On a motion duly made the council recommends removing first responder from the requirement of Firefighter I. Discussion was held regarding first responder program offerings in rural areas. Motion passed. On a motion duly made the council recommends that the vo-techs remove the first responder immediately and if the community colleges can’t do that, they discontinue the curriculum and remove it as soon as they can within one year, pending revision to FAC 69A-62. Motion passed.

Discussion was held on adding forestry classes to Firefighter I and NWCG credentialing. Curriculum changes require a rule change. Chief Casey will seek clarification from DOF and FFCA. Council Member Shorty Bryson will review and bring additional comments to the next meeting.

Chief Casey reviewed the Haz Mat Tech Test testing requirements. He had a discussion with SERC and Florida Association of Hazardous Materials Responders. As discussed at the January council meeting, Chief Casey made the request to extend the deadline for individuals with previous training to January. On a motion duly made the council recommends to extend the deadline for individuals previously trained not to have to meet the new training requirement until January 2005. Motion passed.

Chief Casey gave an update on the US&R program and master trainer credentials.

The Haz-Mat WMD program was reviewed.

On a motion duly made the council approves the new Company Officer course with a deadline of January 2005 to change. Motion passed. Chief Casey stated that all new programs are going to be offered as Train-The-Trainers.

The council re-addressed the update on US&R. On a motion duly made the council approves the master trainer credentialing process for US&R programs and approval of FEMA circulation as Florida US&R program. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion was held on the proposed Fire Code Administrator program. Council Member Jon Pasqualone stated that the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association submitted a petition to initiate rulemaking for the proposed Fire Code Administrator Program. Director Napoli stated that recommendations will be available at the next meeting.

Discussion was held at length on the Training Center of the Year Award selection process. Council members will work on selection criteria. Recommendations will be brought to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion was held regarding educational incentive money. Director Napoli stated that it is a statutorily driven program and reviewed the supplemental compensation requirements.

AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

None

NEXT MEETING:

June 3, 2004, 1:30 p.m.
Altamonte Springs

Discussion was held regarding the specific number of training hours required for other professions.

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