



# Alarm Alert

Tom Gallagher: State Fire Marshal

Visit the Division of State Fire Marshal at <http://www.fldfs.com/sfm>

Winter 2003

## Fire Service Calendar

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### Fire Service Awards

April 7, 2003 The Capitol, 22nd Floor. April 8, 2003 FL Cabinet recognition of award recipients, Tallahassee, FL

### Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting

April 8, 2003, Larson Building, Room 116 Tallahassee, FL  
Contact: 352.369.2800

### Joint Council Meeting

April 8, 2003, Larson Building, Room 116 Tallahassee, FL Contact: 850.224.7333

### EMS Advisory Council Meeting

April 9—11, 2003 Tallahassee, FL Contact: Bureau of EMS, Department of Health

### 2002 Life Safety Achievement Award campaign See page 13

Programs scheduled at the Florida State Fire College, Ocala, FL  
Contact 352.369.2800  
Visit [www.fsfc.ufl.edu](http://www.fsfc.ufl.edu)

**TRANSCAER**  
April 16-18, 2003  
**Volunteer Week**  
April 2-6, 2003

## We're now the Department of Financial Services

Following the reorganization of the Florida Cabinet and the merger of the Department of Insurance and the Department of Banking and Finance, the Division of State Fire Marshal is now a part of the Department of Financial Services. The merger did not change the organizational structure

of the Division of State Fire Marshal so you will continue to see the same service and responsiveness as in the past. Tom Gallagher continues to serve as the State Fire Marshal and is also now the Chief Financial Officer of the State.

## Public-private partnerships yield positive results See page 8

## FFOSHA proposed rules to be revised

Gabe Mazzeo  
Division Attorney

*Division of State Fire Marshal*

After five workshops on the Florida Firefighters Occupational Safety and Health Act proposed rules contained in Rule Chapter 4A-62, Florida Administrative Code, the Division of State Fire Marshal will consider the many comments and suggestions received at the workshops and revise the proposed rules. See page 10 for training issues related to volunteer firefighters and page 12 for FFOSHA input and update.

Some of the suggestions include clarifying the credit that will be given to firefighters who already have a certain number of courses or hours of training; adding, deleting, or revising definitions, such as providing definitions for "volunteer firefighters" and "fire departments;" providing a time frame for compliance by volunteer departments; making provisions for military or other federally trained and certified firefighters; among others.

The workshops were generally very well attended, (Continued on page 6)



## From the Director

*Randall W. Napoli, Division of State Fire Marshal*

# State continues to refine domestic security plans

*Randall Napoli  
Director*

### *Division of State Marshal*

Florida's fire and emergency service agencies continue to plan, train and participate in exercises to improve capabilities for response to potential domestic security related incidents.

Delivery of chemical detection and analytical equipment, decontamination equipment, personal protection equipment, and communications equipment to local government agencies is well underway. Training on the use of that equipment has begun, and incident management, operations level and technical level training is progressing. Additionally, printing, training and delivery of the Florida Field Operations Guide (FOG) has begun. Please participate in the training sessions in your area. This guide was developed to help ensure that all responders in the state operate in a coordinated manner.

To develop a Florida strategy for the next several years, over 150 individuals, including subject matter experts from every discipline, and representatives from each of the

7 Regional Domestic Security Task Forces met in Orlando this past October. From that three-day session, a strategy was developed to complete the build out of needed response and prevention capabilities over the next three years, and to formulate a plan to sustain these capabilities over a ten-year period.

The funds necessary to implement this strategy were included in the state 03-04 fiscal year budget recommendations recently presented to the Governor by several state agencies, and the Governor's recommendations are now before the Florida legislature. It should be noted that we anticipate assistance from the federal government for the majority of these funding requests.

As we noted in the last edition of Alarm Alert, the Domestic Security Oversight Board and the State Working Group for Domestic Preparedness continue to meet in support of these activities. The Regional Domestic Security Task Forces (RDSTF) around the state also continue their planning, training and prevention activities, and we

again urge all local agencies to participate in these task forces. The RDSTF is your forum to learn about the state's preparations, and to provide input. These local agency driven groups are the heart of Florida's domestic security structure.

Details on the strategy developed in October, and the domestic security budget recommendations can be found on the FDLE website at <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/osi/DomesticSecurity/>

### **New E-MAIL "A-LIST" for Bureau of Fire Standards and Training Announcements**

If you want to be sent announcements, important notices and pertinent news by e-mail from the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, go to:

**[www.fsfc.ufl.edu](http://www.fsfc.ufl.edu)**

"What's New" page and sign up for the "A-list" so you get all the information that is currently faxed to the fire departments.

If your VFD doesn't get faxes from the Fire College, go to our website and send an e-mail to:

**[gen-fsfc@www.fsfc.ufl.edu](mailto:gen-fsfc@www.fsfc.ufl.edu)**  
and ask to be added, or to send us a fax at 352 732-1374 asking to be added.

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email [caina@dfs.state.fl.us](mailto:caina@dfs.state.fl.us)



## Crime Scenes

*News from the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations*

# Mike Oler named 2002 Fire Investigator of the Year

*Tammy White*  
*Lieutenant*

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### *Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations*

Mike has been with the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations (BFAI) since November, 1998 and currently serves in the capacity of Bomb Squad Commander of the Southwest Region EOD Task Force. Mike founded and commands this task force that serves the EOD needs for nine counties. In addition, he carries a full fire and arson investigation caseload wherein he is responsible for many arrests each year.

Prior to his service with BFAI, Mike served the Indianapolis Police Department for 26 years. He retired as a Sergeant from that department after having served in their Arson/Bomb Unit for fifteen years, where he served as Deputy Commander for his last seven years of service. During his tenure with that Unit, he was appointed to the Presidential National Committee that formulated the current National Juvenile Fire Setters Program.

Upon becoming a member of BFAI, Mike assisted in formulating a Juvenile Fire Setters Program in the Southwest region. This program has also been of assistance to the State Attorney's Office, allowing them to guide first time juvenile offenders through counseling rather than incarceration.



**Investigator Mike Oler (left) with Captain Shirley Garrison**

Another program that Mike saw a need for in our community was an Arson Task Force. Through his dedication and diligence, Mike was able to not only initiate the task force, but to get the State Attorney's Office on board with us as well. The Task Force now has members of the local police and fire agencies as well as an assistant state attorney that is dedicated to helping us eradicate arson through successful detection and prosecution of arsonists.

Mike has also made it his responsibility to train local fire and law enforcement personnel in the detection of arson and explosives. He has taught literally hundreds of local personnel in these subject areas, including at the local Police Academy. He even teaches at the local Citizen's Police Academy.

Since 9-11-01, Mike's job has become even more important and difficult. In addition to the

increased caseload involving the EOD team, Mike has spent increasingly more hours teaching local first responders about Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and responding to terrorist threats. He constantly receives praise from the commanders of the agencies that he instructs as well as from the students themselves. His knowledge in this area is remarkable and his interest in teaching is always evident.

As the Commander of the Southwest Region EOD Task Force, Mike is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Post 9-11, he lost several members of the EOD Task Force due to their increased agency needs. Yet, given this, he never complains about the lack of free time or the number of hours required to do the job. Mike is always ready to respond and gives 100% to every task.

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# Crime mapping program targets serial arsonists

**TALLAHASSEE** - Beginning in February, the Division of State Fire Marshal will be able to track crime data from every fire and law enforcement department in the state and use the information to track down serial arsonists more quickly.

“Between 2000 and 2001, dollar losses associated with fires in Florida increased by nearly 50 percent,” said Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher, who also serves as State Fire Marshal. “This new technology will help our fire and arson investigators analyze fire

scenes and more quickly track down arsonists before they strike again.”

Integrated Crime Analysis Tools, developed by 4th Watch Systems Inc., will be used by crime analysts within the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations. This investigative tool uses information on fire locations and types to connect series of similar crimes to determine the most probable area of offender movement. This aids in developing targeted geographical possibilities where law enforcement surveillance can be employed to

arrest arsonists in the act.

[www.fldfs.com](http://www.fldfs.com) <<http://www.fldfs.com>> for more information about the Department of Financial Services and the Division of State Fire Marshal. Anyone with information about a suspicious fire can call the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations’ hotline at 1-800-638-3473, 24 hours a day. Information can also be mailed to the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations, 3659 Maguire Blvd., Suite 151, Orlando, Florida, 32803. Information can be given anonymously.



*Pictured L to R; LT. Les Nelson; LT. Gloria Perotti; NFA Superintendent Dennis Onieal; LT. Ed McKiernan; Bureau Chief Eric Miller*

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## BFAI attends MAPC

Members of the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations attended the National Fire Academy Management for Arson Prevention and Control (MAPC) Class in December. The course focuses on innovative concepts and practical skills for managing a synergistic response to arson prevention and control. They were able to participate in developing executive summaries and comprehensive arson prevention and control plans for a simulated community. The course included activities in role-play, demonstration, discussion, writing and case studies.

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## Ace joins State Fire Marshal team

The Division of State Fire Marshal has added its fifth accelerant K-9 team. Ace, a 2-year-old yellow Labrador retriever, and Investigator Karl Morgan were recently placed into service following extensive training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

The new accelerant team is assigned to the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations’ North Region, which serves Jackson, Calhoun, Franklin, Liberty, Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor, Madison, Suwannee, Hamilton, and Lafayette Counties.

At the academy, Ace learned how to sniff out petrochemical-based accelerants commonly used to start arson fires. Using dogs to detect accelerants at fire scenes saves time and money for fire investigators. When the dog alerts to the presence of an accelerant, the investigator can collect a sample to test and the evidence can be used in court.



**Investigator Karl Morgan and Ace**



# Inspection Report

*News from the Bureau of Fire Prevention*

## Jim Goodloe named Fire Sprinkler Advocate of the Year

*Scott Langston  
Management Review Specialist*

*Bureau of Fire Prevention*

The Florida Chapter of the American Fire Sprinkler Association, (AFSA) and the Division of State Fire Marshal are very proud to announce that the recipient of the "Fire Sprinkler Advocate of the Year" award is Jim Goodloe, Bureau Chief of Fire Prevention for the Division of State Fire Marshal. Chief Goodloe was honored at the Association's meeting in Palm Harbor, Florida on

January 17, 2003.

The Florida Chapter of the AFSA decided that they would begin to recognize individuals whose efforts have significantly made improvements or advancements to the fire protection industry. They understand that their success in Florida is an effort of many individuals who work hard to protect the proven track record and integrity of automatic fire sprinklers.

In a letter to Chief Goodloe, Mr. Ronald E. Cox, AFSA Florida Chapter Chairman, stated, "It is not always easy to

single out one individual that stands out above all others, but this year one name was nominated and voted well above all others."

The AFSA is a non-profit, international association representing open shop fire sprinkler contractors, dedicated to the educational advancement of its members and promotion of the use of automatic fire sprinkler systems. AFSA was organized in 1981 to provide the open shop fire sprinkler contractor with training, consulting, communication, representation and many more services, all of which have expanded over its existence.

## Plans review: New school construction documents

*Jim Goodloe  
Bureau Chief*

*Bureau of Prevention*

The subject of plans reviews and inspections of new school building construction has posed quite a bit of concern since the responsibility for inspections of existing public schools was moved under the jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal. The law is very clear in its approach to encourage a working relationship between Florida's school districts and Florida's fire service community.

The controlling language for plans review services is covered by Section 1013.38, Florida Statutes. This review must

include conformity with the Florida Fire Prevention Code, and, "where applicable as authorized in other sections of law...other life safety codes;" however, no such compliance with any local modifications is required. Authorized Review Agents as addressed in Part XII of Chapter 468 applies to building code administrators and inspectors, which include persons certified under Chapter 633.081, when such persons are not conducting firesafety inspections.

Each school board is ultimately responsible for ensuring that construction plans conform to the requirements of the Florida Fire Prevention Code. Section 1013.38, Florida Statutes, is administered by the State Department of Education, and if a

formal interpretation is sought or required, a request for interpretation or a petition for a declaratory statement should be made to that Department. However, in the opinion of the Division of State Fire Marshal, the Board's review of phase III construction documents with respect to Florida Fire Prevention Code compliance may be conducted by:

a. the use of board employees, registered pursuant to Chapter 471 [Engineering], Chapter 481 [Architecture, Interior Design, and Landscape Architecture], or Part XII of Chapter 468 [Building Code Administrators and Inspectors] (either directly by board employees, pursuant to Section

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

1013.38(2)(b), Florida Statutes, or through insurance risk management oversight cooperatively with boards and consortia, pursuant to Section 1013.38(2)(a), Florida Statutes);

b. the Department of Education; or

c. engineers and architects registered pursuant to Chapter 471 or Chapter 481, contracted with the board or consortia.

School boards should be aware, however, that inspections of existing buildings *must* be performed by firesafety inspectors certified under Section 633.081 (2), Florida Statutes. That means that only one year after a new

building has been occupied, and every year thereafter, firesafety inspections *must* be performed by a certified firesafety inspector. Although codes and standards are intended to be as clear as possible, differences in interpretations do result. If an existing building, that is one that has been occupied for one year or more, fails the inspection by the certified firesafety inspector, correction of the deficiencies may be extremely expensive.

Therefore, the State Fire Marshal cannot stress strongly enough that it would clearly be to each board's best interest to have plans reviews and inspections of new construction conducted by

certified firesafety inspectors, regardless of whether anyone else authorized under Section 1013.38, Florida Statutes, and enumerated above conducts an inspection. That way, each board can avoid potential problems that may result from inspections of existing buildings by certified firesafety inspectors the year following new construction. Ideally the plans reviews and inspections of new construction should be conducted by the same firesafety inspector who will perform the inspections after the building has become an "existing" building under Section 1013.12, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 4A-58, Florida Administrative Code.

(Continued from page 1)

## **FFOSHA proposed rules**

with many helpful and constructive suggestions and criticisms. The Division is pleased with the attendance and concern of the firefighting community.

The next step is for the Division to publish a revised version of the proposed rules with at least one public hearing, and probably more. Again, firefighters will be asked to attend and/or comment on the revised version. After that, any other changes from the hearings will be made and a notice of change will be published in the Florida Administrative Weekly, if needed. Firefighters will have 21 days from the notice of change to comment on those changes, although no hearing is required, before the Division may file them for adoption.

The proposed rules are being adopted at the direction of the Legislature found in Sections 633.801—633.821, Florida Statutes. Both the laws and the rules may be accessed at:

<http://www.fldfs.com/SFM/>

## **Water mains subject to freeze**

Water mains supplying fire protection systems are required by the Florida Fire Prevention Code to be protected from freezing temperatures. Weak points are usually above ground backflow preventers as shown in picture.



***SFM Fire Protection Specialist, Z.K. Roberts inspects freeze damaged water main supplying fire sprinkler system***

Fire Protection water mains are more inclined to be damaged by freezes than domestic water supplies. Domestic water mains flow during any water usage, toilet flushes, sinks, showers and dishwashers and moving water is less likely to freeze and damage pipes. Fire service water mains do not flow unless there is a fire or flow testing is being conducted. These water filled pipes with no moving water are much more likely to burst during freezing weather.

It is often difficult to convince managers to properly protect these pipes from freezing, after all we are in "Florida" the Sunshine State.



## Lab Notebook

*News from the Fire and Arson Laboratory*

# Rules developed for evidence submission

*Carl Chasteen  
Laboratory Manager*

*Fire and Arson Laboratory*

Over the past several months the Fire and Arson Laboratory has been working with Gabe Mazzeo, Division Attorney, and the Department's Legal Section to adapt the lab's "**GUIDE TO THE COLLECTION,**

**PACKAGING, SUBMISSION AND ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE FROM FIRES**" as a rule for the submission of evidence. This codifies the laboratory's informal procedures into rules for submission of evidence. The rules are designed to enhance the value of evidence submitted to the laboratory. They will improve the quality of the evidence for testing purposes and provide for a better

chain-of-custody when the evidence goes to court. The new rule will be Chapter 4A-53.001 of the Florida Administrative Code titled Arson Laboratory Requirements and Procedures For Submission of Evidence. Please contact Carl Chasteen at the lab (chasteenc@dfs.state.fl.us) for a copy of either the "Rule" or "Guidelines" or both.

# Brock Dietz receives Davis Productivity Award

*Carl Chasteen  
Laboratory Manager*

*Fire and Arson Laboratory*

Brock Dietz, Forensic Technologist, was honored on December 3, 2002, at the State Davis Productivity Awards luncheon when he was given a \$1000 Productivity Award. The Davis Award judges rewarded Brock's hard work and dedication when they learned about the workload increase he has been able to accommodate. Brock began processing digital images for the Division in 1998. That first year he processed 2079 images. By fiscal year 2001 – 2002, the number of images he processed had increased to over 32,000. In four years, his workload went up over 1000%. That is not a typo, his workload went up over **one thousand percent!** Not only did his workload increase but, he willingly took on additional duties. He is now processing and analyzing digital video images as well.

Brock's conscientious and dedicated attitude has been evident since he joined the laboratory in 1993 as an OPS employee. Over the years he has moved from there to Crime Laboratory Technician to Forensic Technologist. He is one of those people who are always looking for challenges and is trying to make his

"best" efforts even better.

Attending the luncheon with Brock were his mother, Jan Adams, Division Director Rand Napoli, Assistant Director Harriett Abrams, and Laboratory Manager Carl Chasteen. Please take time to congratulate Brock the next time you see or call him.



*Pictured L to R: Laboratory Manager Carl Chasteen; Forensic Technologist Brock Dietz; Asst. Division Director Harriett Abrams; Division Director Rand Napoli*

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## Lab welcomes new faces

*Carl Chasteen  
Laboratory Manager*

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### *Fire and Arson Laboratory*

Recent changes in the laboratory means that there are three new faces, names, and voices you will encounter at the lab. The first is not actually new, as he has been hanging around the laboratory since fall of 2001. Mr. Ryan Bennett came to the laboratory as an intern from the University of Central Florida's Forensic Science program. He then moved to the position of Crime Laboratory Technician, first as an OPS employee then as a permanent employee. Now he has been moved to the Crime Laboratory Analyst position recently held by Michelle Render. Ryan holds one Bachelor's degree in Chemical Sciences from the Florida State University and is

completing a second Bachelor's degree in Forensic Science from the University of Central Florida. He will be undergoing some additional training, but will soon be assigned casework.

Last June, long time laboratory maintenance mechanic Ty Gould decided to go back to work in the private construction industry. His departure left a major void at the lab. Fortunately, Mr. Lynn Lee accepted the Maintenance Mechanic position after only a short time. Mr. Lee brings a wealth of experience from many areas. Over the years he has been an electrician, property manager, maintenance supervisor, and sergeant in the Army. This varied experience has prepared Mr. Lee for just about any task the lab can throw to him. Everyone in the lab is impressed with his abilities and dedication to quality work. His most recent project to repair and rewire all the lab's exterior lights has doubled the light around the facility at night. This helps to protect the building and the people who often work after dark.

Mr. Glenn Gibson has joined us in a vital position that has been vacant since fall of 2001 as our OPS Staff Assistant. Besides assisting with administrative items, Mr. Gibson answers the phones at the lab. If you hear a deep resonant voice, say, "Hi Glenn". Mr. Gibson is completing his degree in Computer Information Systems from the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. He may not be with the laboratory a long time as he plans to attend law school next fall.

We consider ourselves fortunate to have these three individuals join the laboratory team. Their contributions help the laboratory to provide quality service to our customers. Please take a moment to welcome them the next time you call or visit the lab. In the near future will be introducing another new face at the lab as we are currently working to fill our now vacant Crime Laboratory Technician position.

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## Public-private partnerships yield positive results

*Harriett Abrams  
Assistant Division Director*

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### *Division of State Fire Marshal*

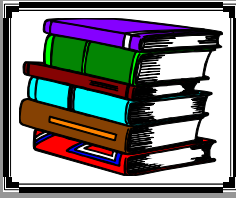
Public-private partnerships are becoming more and more beneficial today. These partnerships allow government resources to be augmented with private donations resulting in accomplishing worthwhile goals. The Florida Division of State Fire Marshal is certainly appreciative of its partnerships during this past year's "Fire Prevention Week," held October 6-12. A very successful smoke alarm give-away, a joint effort between the Division of State Fire Marshal and the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH), was made possible by

grants from The Home Depot, First Floridian Auto and Home Insurance Company, and USAA.

Throughout the week, partner representatives assisted Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Tom Gallagher in the presentation of thousands of smoke detectors valued at over \$15,000, in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties as well as the City of Eatonville. "The give-away was part of a statewide effort to increase the number of working smoke alarms in Florida homes," said Tom Gallagher. The representatives were also present when the Fire Prevention Week resolution was read before Governor Bush and the Cabinet of the State of Florida. This type of partnership gives the business community an opportunity to take a

very personal and active role in fire prevention. Working smoke detectors give early warning of fires, allow time to escape, and cut the risk of death by fire as much as 50 percent. "We hope that the communities will not only benefit from the donations, but also continue to identify ways to bring smoke detectors to low-income homeowners," said FLASH Director Leslie Chapman-Henderson. FLASH has also agreed to provide additional smoke detectors in subsequent years.

Public-private partnerships yield positive results! There is much to be done in the effort to reduce fires and the loss of life and property due to fire, but with additional resources provided by partnerships, the fire prevention effort is greatly intensified.



## Dateline: Ocala

*News from the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training*

# Uniform USAR training needs prompts new site

*Dave Casey  
Bureau Chief*

*Bureau of Fire Standards  
and Training*

With the planned formation approved by the Florida Domestic Security Task Force Oversight Board (for details visit [www.fdle.state.fl.us/osi/DomesticSecurity/reports](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/osi/DomesticSecurity/reports)) of additional Type II USAR Teams, Type III Technical Rescue teams and Type IV Basic Crew teams (for typing information go to [www.ffca.org](http://www.ffca.org)), a critical need for coordinated and uniform training has been identified in conjunction with Florida Association of Search and Rescue (FASAR) who met with DSFM and DEM in December. From that and an earlier meeting, it was determined that FASAR would prepare the task books, curriculum for standards for awareness, operations and technicians for

collapse rescue, confined space rescue, heavy extrication rescue, rope rescue/elevated rescue. The Bureau of Fire Standards and Training would serve as the credentialing agency, the records custodian, and as in FS 633 required training, would serve as

the lead agency to provide the training and would accredit training through regional centers and fire departments. By funding contracted from DEM, instructional props and training materials will be prepared for the USAR training site at the FSFC.



*Pictured is the USAR training site in Miami-Dade. It will be used as a model for the new USAR training site in Ocala.*

## Bureau Chief Casey appointed to State EMS Advisory Council.

The appointment to this statutory body will improve coordination between the Bureau of EMS and Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, and provide a liaison between the State Working Group training committee that Casey co-chairs, and the EMS Advisory Council.

## BFST people news

**Mary Poteat** has retired following the retirement of her husband Joe from the Division of Forestry. They moved to the hills of North Carolina and are probably shoveling snow to get to their car. Mary was the Staff Assistant and has been a mainstay in the Standards section for the past 20 years.

**Dennis Andrews**, Training and Research Manager has accepted a position with Lake County as District Chief. And while we will miss him on a day-to-day basis, he will remain on staff in a part-time basis. Dennis was instrumental in the original Firefighter I program development and in addition to numerous projects, he coordinated NFA offerings, registrar functions and much more.

Dave Casey  
Bureau Chief

*Bureau of Fire Standards  
and Training*

## TRAINING ISSUES FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

PER FS 633.820 AND .821 AND PROPOSED 4A-62

The Florida Firefighter Occupational Health and Safety Act (FFOSHA) was passed in the past legislative session. That act specifically included volunteer firefighters.

There has been controversy from volunteer firefighters on the proposed language with much of that controversy coming from two newspaper articles, one from the Panhandle and one on the Gulf Coast, that dramatically misstated the issues and did not speak to anyone from the Division.

While FFOHA encompasses much more than volunteer firefighter training, they are specifically included in FFOSHA, where in previous safety laws it was questionable. The language adopted that was formerly in Florida Administrative Code 38I-20 that adopted federal OSHA language requiring that **firefighters be trained commensurate with those duties and functions that they are expected to perform, before they are expected perform those emergency activities.** That language was adopted roughly a decade ago.

There is a national consensus document by the National Fire Protection Association that has been around for many years that identifies Firefighter One as the minimum level of competence required of a person who wishes to serve as a paid or volunteer firefighter. Further, Firefighter One “is a person who is minimally trained to function safely and effectively as a member of a firefighting team...” 4A-62 requires volunteers to meet that national standard.

**There have been concerns expressed by volunteers that their previous training doesn't count. This is not true, and for the most part has not been the case since Firefighter One was started a few years ago.** Volunteer firefighters with equivalent training have the ability to test for Firefighter One after the proper documentation and application is provided to the Bureau.

There has also been number of baseless and misinformed rumors about course costs, that this somehow was a ploy to do away with volunteers, and possibly this was even a way to make money for the state. **Remember, Firefighter One has since its inception several years ago been designed for local delivery at the local fire station, and whatever schedule is arranged with the instructor.**

Below is how the process works, with a new addition to make the process for volunteers that have been active for some time even easier when the local department's training records may not meet standard.

### **For New Volunteers:**

Use current Firefighter One program as defined by FAC 4A-37.055 and paperwork with new detailed objectives/Job Performance Requirements (JPR). The draft copy of the detailed objectives can be downloaded from our website now.

### **For Current Volunteers:**

All fire departments with volunteer personnel would be required to provide the Bureau a roster on a Bureau provided form made available on our webpage or that can be mailed to them. This roster will serve several purposes, including the State Emergency Response Plan. The need for such rosters has become critical during much of the Domestic Security issues regarding training and funding. From the data collected by the Regional Domestic Security Task Forces, there appears to be only 6,000 volunteer

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firefighters in Florida. We believe the number is closer to 12,000. This becomes a funding issue as we try to secure funds for training and equipment of volunteers we currently can't prove are there.

**Option 1:** Firefighters needing the training program attend the classes per FAC 4A-37.055. The use of certified Basic Instructors is required; however the program can be done "in-house" and does not have to be through a certified training center. Form BFST # DI4-1380 "Firefighter I Training Record – Application for Competency Examination" is required per firefighter to verify meeting the JPA/ Performance Objectives. This is the current process.

**Option 2: Personnel can utilize previously documented training to meet the training requirements in order to test.** A certified instructor must approve each topic area listed on Form BFST # DI4-1380 as being at least equivalent. This also is no change, allowing volunteers to use their previous state or local training towards certification.

**Option 3: When existing documentation is insufficient to verify equivalency in meeting the required performance objectives/JPR for a specific topic, a certified instructor may sign-off completion of those items** using the Bureau approved forms after verifying the individual firefighter's knowledge and/or ability to perform the practical skill(s). Said forms must be maintained by the individual fire department, and BFST form# DI4-1380 completed verifying all of the objectives have been met in order to test. This new option (as of October) would only be valid for two years after the adoption of 4A-62 to allow existing volunteers to get their Florida Firefighter One using past training and experience. Like Option 2 – this does allow for the regular certification test and inclusion towards Firefighter Two.

**The Florida Fire Chief's Association working with the Division of State Fire Marshal has proposed an exemption for volunteers having the old State Basic Volunteer certification. As of February 13 there is an agreement that those volunteers having that other certification would not be required to take Firefighter 1 to be compliant, however the local fire department would have to verify that they meet the trained "commensurate to duty" requirement otherwise.**

Another concern in the panhandle has been military firefighters. Military firefighters in their capacity as Department of Defense (DoD) firefighters still can be used without change. Meetings are being held right now between the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training and the DoD to allow them to get Florida Firefighter 1 certification via reciprocity with their DoD certification.

The Firefighter One examination **currently has a passing rate slightly under 80%**, which is actually over the norm for such certification processes. The testing can be offered evenings or Saturdays, regionally and locally when there is enough demand.

A new possibility is that Firefighter One and EMS First Responder may have their classroom portions available in the near future online and or by computer. Watch for announcements on this that would cut classroom time, but still have local practical training for the very necessary "hands-on" skills. While a definitive time frame has not been set, it is expected that departments that can verify their firefighters do meet the trained commensurate to duty clause will be given ample time to comply with the certification requirement. Questions of what "commensurate to duty" means have been asked, with the informal definition being that firefighters would not be expected to perform duties that they have not been properly trained to complete. An example would include a Firefighter without practical SCBA and interior operations training would not be allowed to do interior firefighting, but they can operate outside of the hot zone surrounding the building fire where SCBA is still needed to perform exterior operations that they are trained to perform.

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# FFOSHA input and update: List to be included on website

Dave Casey  
Bureau Chief

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## *Bureau of Fire Standards and Training*

A very quick overview of FFOSHA's language:

- Requires record collection and analysis by fire departments
- Requires fire departments to have safety committees that meet guidelines
- Requires reporting of firefighter injuries, fatalities, significant events capable of serious and/or multiple injuries or fatalities (near accidents)
- Requires fire departments to have Comprehensive Safety and Health Program plans
- For the most part, is the old FAC 38I-20 with revision mainly for fire service (like work hours).
- Does allow for firefighters to file complaint
- Does require firefighters to follow safety procedures (in 633)
- Requires Firefighter One for volunteers
- Requires DSFM to track injuries, deaths, determine trends, write reports, revise training, propose legislation when necessary
- Requires DSFM to investigate serious firefighter accidents and fatalities for purposes of reducing similar incidents

Following the five workshops in Sunrise, Ft. Myers,

Ocala, Tallahassee, and Defuniak Springs, there has been over 250 comments regarding roughly 80 specific topics. Much of the input has been very constructive, with a "compilation list" that will be placed on our website (fsfc.ufl.edu). Much of the input was questions, with actual input being split between Firefighter One and concerns for cost for training and compliance process.

A number of departments brought up concerns for increased paperwork, development of plans, and similar "time" elements that could cost agencies money to comply with. As much of the 4A-62 safety language came from the old 38I-20, much of the safety plans and programs should already be in place and require only some modification to be compliant.

A item that brought considerable concern from the Florida Fire Chief's Association and the League of Cities was 4A-62.032 (3) "The division shall not provide notice of an inspection or investigation.". This is one of those inexplicable computer things that the remainder of the paragraph went to the cyber Bahamas for a vacation. What is missing referred to prior notice not being required when the Division is advised of that a condition or practice that creates an "imminent danger" to the safety and health of workers and when advance notice may obfuscate the facts in question.

Other input included concern for military firefighters and out of state mutual aid, using 'hot zone' terminology for fire scene use regarding certified personnel, IDLH determination on scene for structure fires, and more.

As Gabe Mazzeo points out on page 1, all of the input is being reviewed and in some cases researched, and the revised draft will again be advertised.

A real "Silver lining" to this has been the opening of good lines of communications to many constituent fire departments that the Division had not previously. Also, a better dialog with other groups will bring better-coordinated efforts.

There has been interest shown by both state level legislators and one US Senator regarding 4A-62. That has provided a good opportunity to discuss some of the funding problems faced by some volunteers as well as the Firefighter health and safety issues.

Once the final language is prepared, the Bureau of Fire Standards & Training intends to provide on-line sample plans, forms, SOPs, and an online calculator for injury rates and reporting. Like the 2 In/ 2 Out rule, a comprehensive Question and Answer and interpretation site would be added to the webpage. Before being in effect, regional compliance training sessions, inclusive evening or weekend for volunteers will be scheduled throughout the state.

# Earn a college degree without taking classes!!(?)

Dave Casey  
Bureau Chief

## *Bureau of Fire Standards and Training*

When you see ads on the internet or towards the back of magazines with enticements like that, hopefully lots of red flags go up. From an actual website there was the offer of a Combined Bachelor/Master/Doctorate degree for \$5,200 (a limited time offer). Individually you could get a Bachelor's Degree for \$2,410, a Master's Degree for \$2,960 or a Doctorate Degree for \$3,510, and you did not have to attend classes

(actually, you couldn't attend classes at the "college", they did not have any classrooms). Another site offered better GPAs for higher fees. Another quote from a website: "Educational credentials have a significant bearing on the economic, professional, and social status of the individual. Thus, social equity requires that equivalent learning, regardless of where and how it is achieved, be incorporated in the system of rewards for learning and competency."

BEFORE putting your money into one of these programs, get the information and take it to your local State Community College or University and see if they will accept credit from that

college. DON'T buy a degree that you can't use towards a higher degree, and that you can't use towards Florida Supplemental Compensation or for Instructor II or III certification. Many claim accreditation, only for you to find out the "accrediting agency" is also bogus. There are real schools out there offering online classes (University of Florida for one), but you actually have to take classes! Make sure you check out the school first. Additionally, you may unintentionally break the law. Don't run afoul of Florida Statute 817.567. Visit [www.fsfc.ufl.edu](http://www.fsfc.ufl.edu) for more information on F.S. 817.567

## **FIRE Act Grant application period opens March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The application period for 2003 FIRE Act Grants is presently scheduled to begin on March 3 and continue through April 4 although these dates may be subject to change due to the unique funding timeline for this federal government fiscal year. Additional information on the FIRE Act grant application process is available on the USFA Web site at [www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/grants.cfm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/grants.cfm) <<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/grants.cfm>>. FIRE Act Grant workshops are currently being held across the country (locations available on USFA Web site at [www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/03wrkshps.cfm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/03wrkshps.cfm) <<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/03wrkshps.cfm>>) or by following the links at the USFA Web site from "Grants" to "2003" to "workshops."

## **10th Annual LSA award campaign underway**

The Life Safety Achievement (LSA) Award recognizes fire departments that had zero deaths in structure fires in the previous calendar year. Over 1100 awards were issued for 2001. Since 1994, the Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI), formerly Operation Life Safety (OLS), has recognized fire departments for having had outstanding fire safety statistics and for their proactive measures in improving their community's fire life safety records in the future.

The cutoff date for awards

for the year 2002 is July 31, 2003 so that the awards can be prepared in time to reach the recipients before Fire Prevention Week. The application will appear in every issue of the Operation Life Safety Newsletter, the official publication of the RFSI, through June/July 2003. To qualify for the award, the fire chief must submit an application stating that the department's jurisdiction had zero structural fire deaths in the past calendar year, and must describe the department's fire prevention bureau or activities

The Official Year 2002 Life Safety Achievement award application can be downloaded from: <http://www.firesafehome.org/general/LSAApp.asp> or if you have any questions about the LSA award or eligibility, please contact the RFSI Project Manager, Dana Bies at (763) 416-0527 or via e-mail [rfsimgr@attbi.com](mailto:rfsimgr@attbi.com).





## Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council

Established by Chapter 633 of the Florida Statutes to recommend uniform standards in the employment and training of firefighters, and to recommend minimum curriculum requirements for institutions operated by or for any employing agency for the specific purpose of training firefighters.

# An update from the 2-In 2-Out Sub-Committee

*(Editorial note: Article written by Council member Shayne Stewart)*

Hello brother and sister firefighters of our great State. Here is an update from the chair of the sub-committee on the 2-In 2-Out portion of Rule 4A-62.003.

I have to be honest and tell you that things are not going as fast as I had hoped they would. We have had many conversations with departments all over the state, and there have been quite a few that have requested that their exemption be withdrawn because they have been able to meet the requirements set forth in the Rule.

There are some that we have spoken with and wished to wait and see where the Division of State Fire Marshal was going with the definition of what a “qualified firefighter” is going to be. These departments were unsure of what role that was going to play when assembling personnel on scene.

There are some that we have not been able to contact, either because they only have an answering machine, or we play phone tag and are unable to “hook-up.” We will continue to try and make contact with all those departments that sent in a request for exemption.

To that note, we will be putting a new strategy into play during the next few months. Those departments we have contacted before, and those who we continue to try and make contact will be hearing from individual members of

the sub-committee. Hopefully by our April meeting, we will have made contact with each department again or for the first time, provided any assistance in getting this portion of the Rule implemented, and decisions made to accept or deny any request.

When the sub-committee contacts you, we will ask if you have been able to implement the 2-In 2-Out since the first contact. If you have, you will be asked to write a letter to Division Director Napoli and request that your exemption be withdrawn. If you have met the requirements before you receive a phone call, please submit in writing a letter to the same office requesting your department be withdrawn from exemption consideration.

If you have questions on how you can implement 2-In 2-Out, feel free to ask the member who calls you. Or you can contact the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training and request information such as an implementation document, sample SOP or SOG, sample letter of withdrawal, or suggestions on how you might change your tactics on the fire ground to come into compliance.

We want to make it clear that this is a safety issue. We are here to help you. Not to knock you down and put anyone out of business. We want to work together and make the fireground a safer place to work. Help us help you. Feel free to contact me, Chief Casey or Director Napoli if you have any questions. We will make

every effort to answer your questions.

Once again, if you have been able to comply with 2-In 2-Out and have not contacted the Director’s Office or Fire College, please do so in writing as soon as possible.

Thank you brothers and sisters. Be safe. Your family needs you!

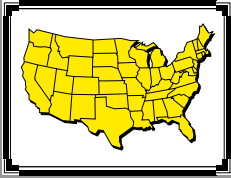
## New member joins Council

*Dave Casey  
Bureau Chief*

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*Bureau of Fire Standards*

Lt. Julie Downey has recently been appointed to the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council. Lt. Downey has been a career firefighter with the City of Sunrise Fire Rescue for 21 years, and previously was a volunteer with the Peters Road Volunteer Fire Department. She has A.S. degrees in Fire Science, EMS and Nursing Technology. She was the VFW Firefighter of the Year in 1994 for her work on regional MCI procedures, which were just included in the State FOG. The State of Georgia also adopted the plan that she has helped many counties in Florida adopt and train with.



## Fire Line

*News from Florida and across the country*

# Firefighters' death benefits rules adopted

*Gabe Mazzeo*  
*Division Attorney*

*Division of State Fire Marshal*

The Division of State Fire Marshal has adopted rules relating to Firefighters' Death Benefits, as mandated by Section 112.191, Florida Statutes, in Rule Chapter 4A-64, Florida Administrative Code. Last year, the legislature decreed that each year the Division of State Fire Marshal must adjust the amount payable to firefighters to reflect price level changes based on the price level index for all urban consumers published by the United States Department of Labor (the CPI).

**UNDER SECTION 112.191, FLORIDA STATUTES, ALL FIRE DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS, MUST PAY A DEATH BENEFIT AS FOLLOWS:**

(a) \$ 50,000, as adjusted, if a firefighter is

accidentally killed or receives accidental bodily injury which subsequently results in the loss of the firefighter's life while engaged in the performance of his or her firefighter duties.

(b) \$ 50,000, as adjusted, if a firefighter is accidentally killed as a result of the firefighter's response to what is reasonably believed to be an emergency involving the protection of life or property.

(c) \$ 150,000, as adjusted, if a firefighter is unlawfully and intentionally killed, dies as a result of a fire which has been determined to have been caused by an act of arson, or subsequently dies as a result of injuries sustained from such a fire.

In no case is suicide or self-inflicted wounds resulting in death covered.

The payments must be made to the beneficiary designated by the firefighter. Since this is the first year of the price index adjustments, the amounts payable begin in exactly the amount set by

the law, as indicated above. In future years, adjustments will be made to the amount payable based on the CPI.

Each career or volunteer fire department which does not have sufficient funds to guarantee the payments required by the law must secure insurance for that purpose.

The official rules of the Division of State Fire Marshal may be accessed on the Secretary of State's webpage <http://fac.dos.state.fl.us/> currently under "Department of Insurance," Rule Chapter 4.

Section 112.191, Florida Statutes, contains other important requirements relating to health insurance and education for families of firefighters killed in the line of duty of which ALL fire departments should make themselves aware. It may be accessed on the Florida Legislature's webpage at <http://www.myflorida.com/portal/Government> under "Legislature."

## "Cement shoos for a fire hydrant that squealed"



### Fire hydrants of Florida

Traveling across Florida many things are noticed that are odd or misplaced. Z.K. Roberts, Bureau of Fire Prevention was conducting fire inspections when he spotted this knee-deep fire hydrant. Although there was a working fire hydrant located next to this one, it still captured Z.K.'s attention.



**FLORIDA WEEKEND**  
at the  
**NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY**  
**Emmitsburg, MD**  
**August 16—17, 2003**



Courses offered this year:

Command and Control of Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Operations for the  
Structural Chief Officer  
Executive Skill Series: Managing and Leading Change  
Incident Command System for Structural Collapse Incidents  
Managing in a Changing Environment  
Methods of Enhancing Safety Education  
Shaping the Future

Information will be posted on [www.fsfc.ufl.edu](http://www.fsfc.ufl.edu) in May 2003

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Tallahassee, FL 32399-0340

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