



# Alarm Alert

Tom Gallagher: State Fire Marshal

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

Summer 2005

### Fire Service Calendar

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**Florida Arson Seminar,**  
September 11-16, 2005, Orlando,  
FL. Contact: 407/893-3654

**NFA Weekend,** September 24 - 25,  
2005 *see page 11*

**Fire Safety Board,** September 27,  
2005, West Palm Beach, FL.  
Contact: 850/413-3622

**Fire Prevention Week,**  
October 9-15, 2005

**Firefighters Employment,  
Standards and Training Council,**  
October 14, 2005, FSFC, Ocala,  
FL. Contact: 352/369-2800

**Florida Joint Council of Fire and  
Emergency Services,** October 14,  
2005, FSFC, Ocala, FL.  
Contact: 386/676-2744

**Safety Conference,** October 25 -  
26, 2005, Daytona Beach, FL.  
Contact: Walt Malo, 352/369-2836

**Fire Prevention Conference,**  
October 31 - November 3, 2005,  
Amelia Island, FL. Visit [www.  
ffmia.org](http://www.ffmia.org)

**Great Florida Fire School,**  
November 2 - 6, 2005, Avon Park,  
FL. *see back cover*

**Instructor Improvement  
Workshop,** November 8 - 9, 2005,  
FSFC, Ocala, FL.

**FACAP,** November 16-18, 2005,  
FSFC, Ocala, FL.  
Visit: [www.facap.org](http://www.facap.org)



*Please join us for Florida's Fallen  
Firefighter Memorial Service  
October 15, 2005 at the Florida  
State Fire College *see page 4**

**Florida EFO students receive top ratings *see page 4***

## 2005 Legislative Session update

*Randall Napoli  
Division Director*

*Division of State Fire Marshal*

The 2005 Legislative Session produced many changes to the Florida Statutes which impact fire and emergency services in Florida. Here is a brief description of the highlights of statutory changes that necessitate revisions to the portions of the Florida Administrative Code regulated by the State Fire Marshal. Rule workshops regarding these changes have begun and will continue throughout the remainder of the year.

**House Bill 69**, also known as the Lt. John Mickel & Dallas Begg Act covers four distinct issues. The first is in response to training incidents resulting in the tragic deaths of three firefighters. This portion of the Bill authorizes the State Fire Marshal (SFM) to adopt NFPA standards related to live fire

training, and also to promulgate rules related to live fire training operations. Additionally, the Act directs the SFM to develop a live fire training instructor certification.

The Division of State Fire Marshal anticipates that rule workshops and hearings will be held on the subject of live fire training during late summer and early fall, the rules to be effective by 1/1/06. Please keep an eye on the State Fire Marshal website located at <http://www.fldfs.com/SFM/index.htm> for this and other items of interest, or the Secretary of State's Florida Administrative Weekly website located at <http://faw.dos.state.fl.us/index.html>, for details of these and other rule proceedings.

The second important issue covered in the Act relates to the use of a Pyrotechnics display within a structure. The Act increases the penalties for use without a permit

*(Continued on page 2)*



## From the Director

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

### **Legislative Updates**

*(Continued from page 1)*

as prescribed in the Florida Fire Prevention Code, including the requirement that the structure must be protected by a fire protection system as prescribed in Chapter 633.065, F.S.

The last two issues in this Act codifies the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System into law, and also provides that proceeds acquired by forfeiture may be used in programs related to the prevention of arson crimes.

**House Bill 1267** was a priority for State Fire Marshal Tom Gallagher and mandates that all nursing homes in Florida must be fully protected by a fire sprinkler system no later than December 31, 2010. The SFM is authorized to establish a loan guarantee program to assist those nursing homes that may need assistance to secure funding to comply with this mandate.

**Senate Bill 442** covers a variety of building code and fire prevention code issues. Those items of most importance to the fire service

include authorization to establish an informal process for interpretations of the Florida Fire Prevention Code, new requirements for jurisdiction that wish to require fire sprinkler systems in one and two family dwellings and several changes to inspection requirements for fire protection systems.

This informal interpretations provision is an attempt to provide a venue for owners and/or builders and fire code officials who may disagree on a provision of the Florida Fire Prevention Code to obtain an informal and non-binding interpretation of that provision from a panel of code enforcement professionals in an expedited time frame. This interpretation will be much more quickly obtained than the Declaratory Statement process which has statutorily mandated time frames for public notice.

The changes to the inspection requirements for fire protection systems include increased training requirements for those individuals employed by contractors who inspect these systems, and the very important requirement that a copy

of the inspection report must be forwarded to the fire official who is the authority having jurisdiction. This important requirement will allow the local AHJ to know immediately when a fire protection system (fire sprinkler system and hydrant systems) have been identified as having code deficiencies. The local AHJ can then work with the building owners to have these deficiencies corrected in a timely manner.

The provision related to fire sprinkler requirements in one and two family dwellings provides that an economic impact study must be conducted by the local government prior to enacting such a requirement in order to identify the economic impact of such a requirement of future owners of the property.

Details of the highlights of the legislation described in this article, as well as other fire and emergency service related legislation from the 2005 session is located on the State Fire Marshal's website at: <http://www.fldfs.com/SFM/sfmbills-05.htm>

## DFSM promotes fire safety for elders

*Harriett Abrams  
Assistant Director*

*Division of State Fire Marshal*

Unfortunately, more elders die in Florida Fires than any other age group. Last year, the Division of

State Fire Marshal teamed up with Florida Injury Prevention Program for Seniors (FLIPS), within the Department of Elder Affairs, to promote fire safety for elders. *Fire Safety Tips for Florida's Elders*, a power point presentation on compact disc and a training program

was produced for distribution to Florida fire departments and public safety educators. The educational program includes fire-safety topics that touch on most aspects of an elder's life from cooking to purchasing a smoke detector and home fire extinguisher. Fire service personnel, who are always willing to give their communities a

*(Continued on next page)*

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

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## *Fire Safety for Elders*

*(Continued from previous page)*

helping hand, are encouraged to show the video at senior facilities.

“My job as the Fire Prevention Officer is to prepare and give fire safety classes to groups in Madison. I have been looking for help on developing a class for our Senior Citizens and materials I can give them to aid in fire prevention. I have already been in touch with our Senior Citizens Center to schedule classes.” These are the enthusiastic remarks of Archie Strickland, Fire Inspector for the City of Madison, after attending a train-the-trainer session for the educational program, “*Fire Safety Tips for Florida’s Elders*.” Chuck Akers, Executive Director of The Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association (FFMIA) and Janet Lehman, FLIPS Coordinator are conducting these train-the-trainer sessions around the State for this much-needed training program.

“Fire prevention is one of the keys to independent living for Florida’s seniors,” said Florida’s Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher, who also serves as State Fire Marshal. “The more information they have, the more our citizens can do to minimize their risk of being injured by fire.”

The following statistics indicate the need for fire safety education among older adults:

- Thirty-seven percent of residential fires begin in the kitchen because of a pot left cooking on the stove.
- Electrical fires are most likely to occur in the bedroom where outlets and extension cords may be overloaded by space heaters, electric blankets and heating pads.
- Elders age 75 and older are more likely to die from carbon monoxide poisoning than any other age group.

John Daly, Fire Chief, Panama City Fire Rescue, who knows these statistics to be true, is also thankful for the program. Chief Daly said, “I used the fire safety program when I spoke at a senior’s group luncheon...I see this as a great opportunity to provide valuable safety information to our seniors.” The International Association of Hispanic Firefighters (IAHF) is also on board with assisting Florida’s elders. Maria Figueroa of IAHF personally translated the presentation into Spanish, which is also available to the fire departments, so that the Hispanic senior community could receive these life saving fire safety tips.

If you interested in attending a train-the-trainer session or you want more information on “*Fire Safety Tips for Florida’s Elders*,” please contact Janet Lehman at 850/414-2082 or [Lehmanji@elderaffairs.org](mailto:Lehmanji@elderaffairs.org).

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## SFM adjusts Firefighter Death Benefits

*Harriett Abrams*  
*Assistant Director*

*Division of State Fire Marshal*

Annually, the Division of State Fire Marshal adopts price level changes relating to firefighter death benefits. The annual dollar amounts are found in Rule 69-A-64.005, Florida Administrative Code. They are mandated by Section 112.191, Florida Statutes. Using the most recent month for which data are available at the time of the adjustment, the price level change is to reflect the consumer price index for all urban consumers published by the United States Department of Labor. For the year

2005-2006, the effective date of the adjustment to reflect the consumer price index is July 1, 2005.

Rule 69-A-64.005, lists the figures for 2005-2006 as shown below:

(a) For those benefits paid or to be paid under paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of Section 112.191, F.S. (firefighter accidentally killed in the line of duty): \$53,999.14.

(b) For those benefits paid or to be paid under paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of Section 112.191, F.S. (firefighter accidentally killed as specified in paragraph (a), as a result of the firefighter’s response to what is reasonably believed to be an emergency involving the protection of life or property, which sum is in addition to the sum in

paragraph (a): \$53,999.14.

(c) For those benefits paid or to be paid under paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of Section 112.191, F.S. (firefighter unlawfully or intentionally killed as a result of a fire determined to be arson): \$161,997.42.

The figures were coordinated with the Department of Legal Affairs, which has represented that these are the same figures it is using for law enforcement officers under Section 112.19, Florida Statutes. Rule 69-A-64.005 can be viewed in its entirety at <http://fac.dos.state.fl.us/>. The Florida Statutes can be viewed in their entirety at [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov). For further information on the firefighter death benefit adjustment, please contact Harriett Abrams at 850/413-3608.

# Florida EFO students receive Outstanding Research awards

Two students from the State of Florida participating in the National Fire Academy (NFA) Executive Fire Officer program have received perfect scores on their most recent applied research papers, and the two papers were also judged as “Outstanding” by the faculty of the National Fire Academy. Only four research papers out of over 600 submitted in 2004 were judged to be “Outstanding”.

Lt. Jo-Ann Lorber of the Ft. Lauderdale Fire Rescue Department and Lt. Elaine Fisher of the Orange County Fire Rescue Department received “Outstanding Research Awards” for their excellent work.



**L to R: Lt. Elaine Fisher, Division Director Randall Napoli and FFCA President William Nesmith**



**L to R: Lt. Jo-Ann Lorber, Division Director Randall Napoli and FFCA President William Nesmith**

Lt. Fisher’s paper is entitled “*Research Based Guidelines for Responding in Hurricane Conditions: When Do We Stop Responding?*”. Lt. Lorber’s paper is entitled “*Drowning... The Silent Killer of Children: Should the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department Take a Proactive Approach in the Development of a Preventive Program?*”

Lieutenants Lorber and Fisher were honored by the Florida Executive Fire Officer Association on July 26, 2005 in St. Pete Beach while attending the Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association annual conference.

For copies of the papers or additional information set your browser to:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/about/media/2005releases/041105.shtm>

## Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service October 15, 2005



Each October, Florida remembers its fallen firefighters in a ceremony held during Fire Prevention Week. Rich in tradition, this ceremony celebrates the service of these brave men and women, and what they meant to their communities.

Each year fire service members and civilians from across Florida attend the event held on the campus of the Florida State Fire College in Ocala, which is hosted by the Florida Joint Council of Fire and Emergency Services and the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training. Honor Guard members from across Florida join together in a united show of respect for their fallen comrades and their families.

Please join us as we honor and remember those who gave so much. R.S.V.P. to 352/269-2818 or email [angie.cain@fldfs.com](mailto:angie.cain@fldfs.com).



## Crime Scenes

*News from the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations*

### DSFM hosts Clan Lab classes

*Bruce Ashley  
Bureau Chief*

*Bureau of Fire  
and Arson Investigations*

The Division of State Fire Marshal successfully hosted two Clandestine Laboratory III classes at the Florida State Fire College. The classes were well attended by approximately 140 first responders. The attendees included law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, and prosecutorial professionals from throughout Florida. This effort, bringing all first responders together for this type of training, was noted by many in attendance as the right approach and a first (all in the room at the

same time) for many, in dealing with the growing meth abuse and lab issue in Florida. Those in attendance learned about the dangers associated with the manufacturing of methamphetamine, trends associated with abusers, manufacturers, and traffickers. Attendees also learned about the number of hazardous chemicals and processes that represent grave dangers to the persons involved, first responders, and the communities where labs exist. Areas were identified that attendees were taking back to their communities to initiate dialog for improved strategies of response to meth labs. The attendees were provided with information on resources available to deal with clean up and strategies to respond to meth labs as safely as possible.

The Bureau has scheduled four more Clandestine Laboratory III classes and is scheduling additional

classes in other areas of the state. Upcoming classes:

- Destin, October 4-6 at the Destin Community Center
- Jacksonville, December 10-12 at the FDLE Jacksonville Regional Training Center
- Sarasota, January 3-5 at the Sarasota County Fire Department
- South Manatee County Fire Department, April 18-20, at the South Manatee Fire Department

Additional classes are being finalized in Dade, Palm Beach, Polk as well as other areas of the state. The goal again is to train as many first responders as possible, throughout the year, concerning the dangers meth labs represent and how to confront this growing issue as safely as possible so first responders may continue to help their communities deal with meth use.

### Team South Central assists Habitat for Humanity

*Brandon Ball, Lieutenant  
Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations*

On May 13, 2005, several members of the South Central Region took time out of their busy schedule to help two families make a significant step forward towards home ownership in Highlands County. Team SC joined forces with several members of the Avon Park Fire Department to install metal roofs on two Habitat for Humanity homes under construction. Approximately a dozen volunteers from the BFAI and APFD took time off to accomplish this task. I can report that the roofs on two new homes were installed with pride and joy along with some sweat and blood!! Nothing other than a few nicks and cuts to report though in exchange for the memory of helping two families reach for their dream of owning a home, something many of us take for granted. Thanks to those involved for taking time out of their schedule to participate in this worthwhile project and helping a community recover from a devastating hurricane season of 2004.





# Inspection Report

*News from the Bureau of Fire Prevention*

## Fire Prevention Code: Local amendments adopted

*Gabriel Mazzeo*  
Attorney

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### *Division of State Fire Marshal*

With the adoption of the Florida Fire Prevention Code contained in Chapter 69A-60, Florida Administrative Code, local governments were restricted in their ability to adopt local amendments and variations. Prior to the Code's adoption, local governments were able to adopt any one of four fire codes permitted by Section 633.025, F.S. (2000). The legislative intent in 1998 was to adopt a statewide unified Building Code and Fire Prevention Code, and to minimize the number of local variations to them.

The legislature did provide three methods for local governments to amend the Florida Fire Prevention Code. In all cases, the local amendment must be more stringent than, that is, it must provide a higher degree of life safety than, the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

### **Method I: §633.0215(3): Submission to State Fire Marshal, Rejection by State Fire Marshal, Adoption by Local Government**

Every three years the State Fire Marshal must adopt the most current edition of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Publication 1 and 101 as the Florida Fire Prevention Code. In doing so, the State Fire Marshal is directed to consider local and regional amendments to the Florida Fire Prevention Code proposed to it which can be adopted as local and

regional amendments if that is in the best interest of the state as a whole. One of the methods for a local government to adopt an amendment is for the local government to, (a) submit the proposed amendment to the State Fire Marshal, and (b) have the State Fire Marshal accept or reject it.

If the State Fire Marshal accepts it, it becomes part of the Florida Fire Prevention Code but only applicable to the local city, county, special fire district, or region which proposed it.

If the State Fire Marshal rejects the local amendment, the local government may proceed to adopt it as its own local variation of the Florida Fire Prevention Code. Since the law does not prescribe any particular procedure for the local government to adopt the local ordinance, the local government may adopt it as it would any other local ordinance. Note that this method may only be used during each triennial review and each amendment using this method expires upon the adoption of a new edition of the Florida Fire Prevention Code. The current Florida Fire Prevention Code became effective on January 1, 2005, after the review process in 2004, and the next triennial review is scheduled to occur in 2007, with a new effective date of January 1, 2008.

### **Method II: §633.0215(10); Amendment Must Meet 1 of 3 Statutory Requirements**

Another way for a local government to adopt an amendment to the Florida Fire Prevention Code

is for it to proceed under §633.0215 (10), F.S., if it qualifies. If a local government adopts a local amendment under this subsection, its local amendment is not reviewable by the State Fire Marshal, nor does it expire every three years. It continues in force until the local government repeals it.

However, to adopt a local amendment under this subsection, the local ordinance must meet at least one of the following criteria:

(a) The local authority has adopted, by ordinance, a fire service facilities and operation plan that outlines goals and objectives for related equipment, personnel, and capital improvement needs of the local authority related to the specific amendment for the next 5 years;

(b) The local authority has adopted, by ordinance, a provision requiring proportionate reduction in, or rebate or waivers of, impact or other fees or assessments levied on buildings that are built or modified in compliance with the more stringent firesafety standards required by the local amendment; or

(c) The local authority has adopted, by ordinance, a growth management plan that requires buildings and structures to be equipped with more stringent firesafety requirements required by the local amendment when these firesafety requirements are used as the basis for planning infrastructure development, uses, or housing densities.

If the local ordinance meets at least one of those criteria and provides a higher degree of life safety than the Florida Fire

Prevention Code, the local government may adopt as a local ordinance and transmit it to the State Fire Marshal. The State Fire Marshal simply “publishes it to” the Florida Fire Prevention Code, but such publication does not indicate approval by the State Fire Marshal. As with the previous method, the local government’s normal ordinance adoption procedures may be used.

**Method III: §633.025(4); Specific Statutory Procedures & Appeals**

Finally, a local government may adopt a local amendment in accordance with §633.025(4), F.S. If the local government chooses this method, the following procedures apply:

(a) The local governing body shall determine, following a public hearing which has been advertised in a newspaper of general circulation at least 10 days before the hearing, if there is a need to strengthen the requirements of the minimum firesafety code adopted by such governing body. The determination must be based upon a review of local conditions by the local governing body, which review demonstrates that local conditions justify more stringent requirements than those specified in the minimum firesafety code for the protection of life and property or justify requirements that meet special situations arising from historic, geographic, or unusual conditions.

(b) Such additional requirements shall not be discriminatory as to materials, products, or construction techniques of demonstrated capabilities.

(c) Paragraphs (a) and (b) apply solely to the local enforcing agency’s adoption of requirements more stringent than those specified in the Florida Fire Prevention Code and the Life Safety Code that have the effect of amending building construction standards. Upon request, the enforcing agency shall

provide a person making application for a building permit, or any state agency or board with construction-related regulation responsibilities, a listing of all such requirements and codes.

(d) A local government which adopts amendments to the minimum firesafety code must provide a procedure by which the validity of such amendments may be challenged by any substantially affected party to test the amendment’s compliance with the provisions of this section.

1. Unless the local government agrees to stay enforcement of the amendment, or other good cause is shown, the challenging party shall be entitled to a hearing on the challenge within 45 days.

2. For purposes of such challenge, the burden of proof shall be on the challenging party, but the amendment shall not be presumed to be valid or invalid.

This subsection gives local government the authority to establish firesafety codes that exceed the minimum firesafety codes and standards adopted by the State Fire Marshal. The Legislature intends that local government give proper public notice and hold public hearings before adopting more stringent firesafety codes and standards. A substantially affected person may appeal, to the department [of Financial Services], the local government’s resolution of the challenge, and the department shall determine if the amendment complies with this section. Actions of the department are subject to judicial review pursuant to s. 120.68. The department shall consider reports of the Florida Building Commission, pursuant to part VII of chapter 553, when evaluating building code enforcement.

If those procedures are followed, the local government can successfully vary the terms of the Florida Fire Prevention Code

provided, again, that the local ordinance provides a higher degree of life safety than the Florida Fire Prevention Code. An ordinance adopted under this method sunsets every three years, when the new editions of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 are adopted.

The Florida Fire Prevention Code is applicable throughout the state and is effective by its own terms in every municipality, county, and special fire district. If a local government does not wish to vary the terms of the Florida Fire Prevention Code, it need do nothing. Section 633.025(1), F.S., provides, “The Florida Fire Prevention Code and the Life Safety Code adopted by the State Fire Marshal, which shall operate in conjunction with the Florida Building Code, shall be deemed adopted by each municipality, county, and special district with firesafety responsibilities.”

The above procedures do not apply to state owned buildings or to any buildings or structures enumerated in Section 633.025(1) (b), F.S. A local government may not vary the rules that govern buildings and structures listed in paragraphs (a) and (b) of Section 633.022(1), F.S.

Because the legislature saw fit to adopt a unified building and fire prevention code, it provided a means for local governments to amend it, but made the process relatively more difficult than it had been prior to the adoption of the Florida Fire Prevention Code. The State Fire Marshal discourages adoption of local amendments, as does the Florida Fire Prevention Code, unless they are truly needed because of a unique feature or aspect of a local area.

Note: the current Florida Fire Prevention Code can be found by paging down at <http://www.fldfs.com/SFM/index.htm>.



# Lab Notebook

*News from the Bureau of Forensic Fire and Explosives Analysis*

## Explosives analysis requirements

*Carl Chasteen*  
*Bureau Chief*

*Bureau of Forensic Fire  
and Explosives Analysis*

The Bureau of Forensic Fire and Explosives Analysis (BFFEA) offers forensic analysis in several areas. First, we offer fire debris analysis when ignitable liquids may be suspected on evidence collected at fire scenes. This expertise with the identification of ignitable liquids is sometimes translated into other cases where the identity of petroleum products or solvents is a factor in other criminal investigations. Second, the Bureau offers forensic video analysis and digital imaging of media associated with criminal investigations. The Bureau can scan and analyze multiplexed video tapes from convenience stores, security cameras, and other cameras to stabilize and separate images that may contain information useful to an investigation. Third, the Bureau can chemically develop latent fingerprints on a variety of surfaces and if found can photograph and archive them. The Bureau would submit any developed prints to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for further examination or comparison. Fourth, the Bureau can identify residues and components from explosions and incendiary devices. This capability has been extended to allow analysis of components from suspected clandestine laboratories (except for drugs - ALL drug analysis requests

MUST be submitted directly to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement).

The requirements for submission of explosive or clandestine lab evidence is different than submissions for the other types of testing done by the Bureau. This article is meant to provide an overview and contacts for potential users of the service. While some analytical methods are in place, newer analytical methods and instruments are being added. Events where there has been a loss of life, large property loss, or are suspected to be related to terrorism will in most cases be investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE). In these cases, they will prefer to use their own federal laboratories for forensic analysis. Incidents where FBI and BATFE are not involved are the scenarios where you would submit samples to BFFEA for analysis.

The types of incidents that BFFEA may be able to assist you with include:

- Pipe bombs (pre and post explosion)
  - Please, do not submit unexploded devices
  - Please render safe before submission
- Materials from “workshops” where bomb making components are found.
- Fireworks and Flares
- Chemical Reaction Bombs (Pop-Bottle, Acid, Draino, etc...)

- Materials from Clandestine labs
  - NO Drugs, please. Those should be sent to FDLE
- Unidentified chemicals related to a crime
  - Not for product or Haz-Mat ID

Explosives may be composed of either organic or inorganic chemicals, or mixtures of both. No single instrument or analytical method that can give a full identity to the types of components found in explosives residues. Due to the complexity of the different types of chemicals that may be used, multiple methods and instruments must be used. This will increase the amount of time necessary for analysis. Those of you who are used to a seven to ten day turnaround for fire debris cases will need to exercise more patience when submitting explosives analysis cases.

Cases will usually begin with a macroscopic and microscopic examination. This allows the analyst to determine if there are any un-reacted residues present. Then, the sample will be tested with a battery of wet chemical tests. Depending on what is seen, the sample may be subjected to other analytical methods. These include:

- Ion Mobility Spectrometry - A screening technique just like what the airports use when they check your luggage.
- Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry - For analysis of many organic molecules and Sulfur.
- Ion Chromatography - For analysis of inorganic molecules.

- Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy -  
For most organic molecules and some inorganic molecules.
- Raman Spectroscopy -  
For many inorganic and organic molecules.
- X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy -  
For identification of specific elements.

The Bureau is also adding a mobile response vehicle so that on-site assistance and preliminary testing can be done on select scenes. The vehicle is in the process of being equipped and the Standard Operating Procedure as to when and who will be sent to scenes is being formulated. The vehicle will be equipped with:

- Portable Ion Mobility Spectrometer
- Portable X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometer
- Portable Forensic Video Processing System
- Fingerprint Processing Equipment
- Explosive Scene Swabbing and Presumptive Test Kits
- Cameras
- Evidence collection and packaging supplies

When collecting samples for submission to the Bureau, remember that un-exploded or un-reacted chemicals are the best samples. They have a better chance for complete characterization. Items that are from post-reaction residues or swabs, may not provide the information needed for complete characterization or may not be sufficient for all the various tests that must be conducted. When collecting swabs or when using materials to absorb liquids, a comparison sample of the swab or absorbent is needed to show that they were not contaminated before the scene evidence collection.

When packaging evidence for submission, several considerations must be made. Many explosives and their residues are volatile and will dissipate if left in the open. Many of the chemicals present in explosive residues or chemical reaction bombs are corrosive and could degrade a sample container. Some will off-gas and produce pressure inside the sample container.

The quantity of known explosive materials is often regulated and some cannot be shipped under any circumstance. The following provide some simple "rules of thumb":

- For loose solid chemical powders and crystals, the quantity to be submitted should be more than a teaspoon but less than a tablespoon (A sample about the volume of your thumb).
- For liquids, less than half an ounce is sufficient.
- For device components, the entire item (after being "rendered safe") should be submitted.
- For swabs, the entire swab should be sent, making sure to send different swabs from different items as separate samples.
- Comparison samples should always be taken and sent as separate items.
- Liquids, swabs, or loose powders should be placed into screw-cap (teflon lined) glass vials that are in turn placed into unused metal cans (padded interior with paper, etc...) and sealed.
- Device components should be placed into heat sealable polyester, polyamide (nylon 11), or nylon 6 bags.
  - o Make a heat seal completely across the seam
  - o Taping a bag over is not sufficient to protect the

sample.

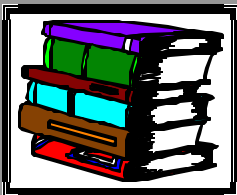
- o If possible, place the bagged component into a larger unused metal can.
- o The specialized plastic bags described above can be used for all samples, but should be secondarily contained inside an unused metal can to minimize the chance for accidental puncture.
- Seal the can (or the bag if it is the outer container) with tamperproof evidence tape.
- Mark the tape with your initials and the date sealed.
- Mark the container with:
  - o The name of the investigator collecting the sample.
  - o The agency case number
  - o The date of collection
  - o A short description of the item (what you suspect it to be and where you collected it).

The BFFEA submission form may be downloaded from the State Fire Marshal website (<http://www.fldfs.com/SFM>) under the "Forensic Laboratory" tab and "Evidence Submission Forms". Complete the submission form using the proper test code:

- CRB = Chemical Reaction Bomb Determination
- E/I = Explosives/Incendiaries Determination
- Other identification requests. Explain under "Remarks"

Make sure the evidence container labels and numbers correspond with the information on the submission sheet.

For additional questions on the Bureau's analytical abilities or what to do regarding selection, packaging, or shipping of evidence, please contact Chief Carl Chasteen, Analyst Perry "Mike" Koussiafes (analyses), or Technician Elizabeth Kamerick (shipping) at 850-539-2700 or through the SFM website [contact list](#).



## Dateline: Ocala

*News from the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training*

### BFST Updates

*Dave Casey  
Bureau Chief*

*Bureau of Fire Standards  
and Training*

#### **Online is where its at!!!**

Phase II of the Fire College Credentialing System (also known as FCDICE and Oracle) is near completion. Not only can you register, order books, and reserve dormitories, you can now apply for tests, renew certifications, and get test results online at [www.floridastatefirecollege.org](http://www.floridastatefirecollege.org). There were many delays caused by the implementation of this phase, however the majority of glitches have been worked out.

*First time users:* If you have never signed into the system, your initial sign-on will be: ff\*\*\*\*\* (with the asterisk representing your social security number) and the word "password" as your initial password. Once in the system we encourage you to update your student profile. If you are not in the system then we encourage you to click on "create a new profile" on the homepage and become a new user. Remember, if you have problems you may call the fire college staff for assistance at 352-369-2800.

All fire service members are encouraged to take full advantage of this system. If you have applied to take a test, or are waiting for the results, check your message tabs for your application approval status or

your test score.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Credit Card payments will only be accepted online or in person at the Florida State Fire College.

#### **Important information regarding certification renewals**

You can pay online with your credit card! For all CEUs for classes given by the Florida State Fire College, Fire Rescue East 05, Florida Fire Marshal's 04 Annual Conference and other CEU bearing statewide events, check your records at the above address at "My Renewal Status" and verify the CEUs listed are correct. REMEMBER if the class and CEUs were not entered by the provider, they won't appear in this folder and you will have to include copies of the certificates or transcripts. Also certificates should show the hours and the approval number on them. You can send the certificates or transcripts as attachments with the online renewal form. Acceptable training towards Instructor renewal has been extended for almost all train-the-trainer courses for ODP approved programs, Prepare Florida, EMS programs (ACLS, BTLs, etc.), new FSFC train-the-trainers, FEMA ERT series, etc. Watch the "a-list" for more opportunities and announcements regarding CEUs.

#### **Live Fire Instructor Trainer Certification**

The Senate and House Bills adopting NFPA 1402 made it through the legislature. There is still legal work that must be completed on these bills that includes 1402 and most of NFPA 1403 requiring special training credentialing to conduct live fire

training exercises. Watch for the public hearings and workshops on this, which is in FAC 69A-37.

#### **NIMS Training**

All personnel should be receiving NIMS Training. IS100, IS200 and IS700 are available online through the FEMA website. At <http://training.fema.gov/> and look on the left for the Online Training (NETC Virtual Campus) link. The online I100 and I200 area acceptable towards Fire Officer 1 certification. Other training will be coming over the next several months. **All fire, EMS and Law Enforcement personnel are required to take IS700 in order for their agency to continue receiving federal funding.**

#### **Upcoming events:**

A two-day Safety Conference with the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association and the Florida Professional Firefighters will be held in Daytona October 25 – 26. The conference will include information about the Florida Firefighters Occupational Safety and Health Act (FFOSHA) compliance and best practices. The FFOSHA implementation meetings have been curtailed due to the current investigations of four Line of Duty Deaths. They will be rescheduled by region and will include updates from the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training.

There will be an Instructor Improvement workshop with the Florida Society of Fire Service Instructors held at the Florida State Fire College November 8 – 10, 2005. This workshop will be geared

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towards certified instructors and will include Train-The-Trainer courses, curriculum updates and instructor development and improvement programs.

### **US&R**

A key component of the Florida Strategy developed by fire officials from all over the state was the development of an Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) system. Funding was approved last year to purchase equipment and train six (6) US&R task forces and more than 50 Type IV Light Technical Rescue teams. Fifty percent of US&R training is now complete and some of the task forces/type IV teams responded during last year's hurricanes and have already been tasked in 2005 for Hurricane Dennis.

## **Florida State Weekend**

September 24 - 25, 2005

at the National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD

### ***Courses available this year:***

- Executive Skills Series: Influencing
- Health and Safety Officer (Updated)
- ICS (NIMS for the Fire Service)
- Introduction to National Fire Incident Reporting System
- Leadership III: Strategies for Supervisory
- Methods of Enhancing Safety Education
- Training Operations in Small Departments
- Command & Control Wildland/Urban Interface Operations- Structural Chief Officer

***Contact Angela Cain at 352/269-2818 or Mary Ann Benson at 352/369-2815 for registration information.***

### **Davis Productivity Awards**

BFST and our local government partners were recognized with two Davis Productivity Awards this year. A TaxWatch project, the award is given to agencies and employees that innovatively provide services and save funds.

The first was for the Fire College Continuing Education (FCDICE) system that allows firefighters to check their records including renewal status, apply for courses, and much more. The system is the backbone of the new state credentialing system funded by federal domestic security funding.

The second award was for the launch of the state Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) system in time to be integral in the response to the hurricanes of 2004.



Davis Productivity Award Recipients for Urban Search and Rescue system L to R: Jeff Strickland, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, Ron Rogers, Hillsborough County Fire Rescue and BFST members Allen Lovvorn, Dave Casey, and Tom Quinn, BFST



- Get class announcements, notices of meetings and hearings, special notices, and other important information sent directly to your e-mail. To be added to the list, send an e-mail to [fsfc-alist@fldfs.com](mailto:fsfc-alist@fldfs.com) requesting to be added to the list. Include your e-mail address, your name, fire department, mailing address, and phone number.
- You can now register for classes, reserve a dorm and buy books online at [www.floridastatefirecollege.org](http://www.floridastatefirecollege.org)
- CEU Tracker and computerized training records online now. If you have a FSFC certificate, you have a profile. Update it at [www.floridastatefirecollege.org](http://www.floridastatefirecollege.org).



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