

FIREFIGHTERS SAFETY AND HEALTH TASK FORCE MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2001

PRESENT:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Appointed by</u>
Dave Harrawood, Emergency Services of Sarasota Co.	FI Association of Counties
Steven Peavey, FI Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.	FI Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
David Casey, Clay County Fire Rescue	FI Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
Les Hallman, South Walton Fire Dist.	FI Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire Dist.	FI Professional Firefighters
Charles "Scotty" Taylor Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue	FI Professional Firefighters
John Drago, City of Longwood	FI League of Cities
James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.	FI Assoc. of Special Districts
Stuart Kauffman	State Fire Marshal
Stockton Reeves VI, Insight Orlando	State Fire Marshal
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech	State Fire Marshal
Michael Randolph, Tallahassee FD	State Fire Marshal
Donna Reed, Orange County Fire Rescue	State Fire Marshal

All members were present and the organizational meeting began at 10:00 a.m. Folders were distributed containing information for task force members including revised Rule 4A-37.

Director Clark, Division of State Fire Marshal, reviewed the demise of the Division of Safety and explained how the State Fire Marshal's office wrote an emergency rule to continue the safety provisions for firefighter employment safety and in effect, drafted a permanent rule. The permanent rule process was challenged by the League of Cities and the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association, stating that the 2 in – 2 out requirement was an un-funded mandate. There were numerous meetings between all associated parties and language was essentially agreed to. The revised rule went into effect November 2001. Along with the rule, there was a settlement agreement whereby all associated parties would support the rule and there would be a task force of 13 members appointed and convened. In addition, proposed HB 135 will amend and expand the existing Firefighters Standards and Training Council to 13 members, which are the identical 13 members as this task force. Until HB 135 goes into effect, there is a lawfully existing task force and an existing Firefighters Standards and Training Council. Currently, members that are on the existing Firefighters Standards and Training Council are 9 of the members of this task force.

Discussion was held on appointment terms. Division Attorney, Gabe Mazzeo stated upon passage of HB135 all 13 members shall be appointed for four-year terms.

Director Clark stated the purpose of the task force is to advise the fire departments on implementation and enforcement of the advised rule. The Director reiterated the provisions of rule 4A-37 and stated that there are numerous creative ways that departments can meet the requirements. The task force will also advise the Division of State Fire Marshal and the fire departments of concerns for the employment and safety of firefighters.

Director Clark explained that during the course of the task force there will be items that he or Chief Napoli, Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, may interject for consideration.

Members of the task force introduced themselves and stated their affiliations.

The following offices were elected for the Florida Firefighters Safety and Health Task Force:
Shayne Stewart nominated Mike Randolph as Chair; seconded by Stockton Reeves. Unanimously approved.

Dave Casey nominated Shayne Stewart as vice-chair; seconded by James Angle. Unanimously approved.

There was discussion on future task member assignments. It was decided that the Firefighters Standards and Training Council will disseminate information to the Task Force on current project updates and timelines.

The Director reiterated the fact that firefighting is extremely hazardous and the task force will be able to help make it safe for emergency service personnel. Each member expressed their interest in firefighter safety and health. Chief Napoli stated that the Rule and HB 135 is a major step for the fire service in Florida and encouraged task force members to read the entire rule in depth.

Gabe Mazzeo explained Government in the Sunshine laws and reminded the task force that each of their meetings should be noticed. Staff members will notice, record, and transcribe minutes for the meetings. He reminded the task force to be aware of public records laws.

The settlement agreement will be sent to all task force members.

Director Clark stated that 7 new positions are in the proposed legislation for the division to conduct the duties and responsibilities of the new rule.

Next meeting: February 1, 2001. 3:00 p.m.
Prime Osborn Convention Center, Jacksonville

Adjourn