

SPECIAL EXEMPTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2002

PRESENT: NAME

Steven Peavey, FI Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.
Michael Randolph, Tallahassee FD
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire Dist.
Charles "Scotty" Taylor Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue
Dave Harrowood, Emergency Services of Sarasota Co.

Appointed by

FI Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
State Fire Marshal
FI Professional Firefighters
FI Professional Firefighters
FI Association of Counties

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Sub-Committee Chair Shayne Stewart reviewed the table of departments requesting exemptions.

- Alachua County said they would comply; Sub-Committee may contact them.
- Bonita Springs returned their questionnaire stating "I withdraw my request for exemption from the 2 in 2 out requirement 4A62.003, signed by Dan Gromley, Fire Chief on 7/22/02"
- Brooksville will comply
- Cape Canaveral will comply
- City of Callaway rescinded their request
- City of Ocoee rescinded their request
- City of Starke rescinded their request; they were concerned about the level of training

Shayne mentioned that Ocoee's SOG is being used as a sample and given to fire departments by the Sub-Committee.

Discussion was held on levels of training. Division Director Randall Napoli stated that he spoke to the City of Starke prior to the legislature passing FFOSHA. The issue now is that there is mandatory training at various levels in each of the OSHA standards, which also applies to volunteer departments. The Director stated that they were trying to determine if the level of training required for volunteers is equal to Firefighter I; if so then Firefighter I training will be mandatory for all volunteers, if not then we are going to determine a minimum level of training and volunteers will be required to be trained to that level.

- Daytona Beach withdrew their request
- Englewood will comply
- Ft. Myers Shores rescinded their request
- Hardee County Fire Rescue's County Commissioner refuses to forward his survey; the Sub-Committee will follow-up
- Iona McGregor stated that they will comply and will forward a letter to the Director's office; the Sub-Committee will follow-up
- Isle of Capri Fire Control District rescinded their request
- Lake City will comply
- Lake Park Fire Rescue rescinded their request
- Lynn Haven Fire and Emergency Services will comply
- Mexico Beach will comply as stated during the May calling session
- Ochopee rescinded their request after the meeting in Naples; the Sub-Committee will follow-up
- San Carlos Park rescinded their request after the meeting in Naples; the Sub-Committee will follow-up
- Green Cove Springs stated they request to withdraw their request for exemption but their letter was not clear. The Sub-Committee will follow-up in 30 days for clarification and view written policies prior to removing them from the list

There were 18 departments that sent in a request for exemption and returned their survey after the Sub-Committee meeting in May. The following 18 departments will be contacted by the Sub-Committee:

City of Deland
City of High Springs
City of Okeechobee
St. Pete Beach (has rescinded their request)
Five Points Volunteer
Ft. Myers Beach Fire District
Hillsborough County Fire Rescue
Holley-Navarre Fire Protection District
Lakeland Fire Department
Mulberry Fire Department
Nassau County Fire Department
Ponce De Leon Volunteer Fire Department
South Trail Fire Protection & Rescue District
Springfield Fire Department
Town of Longboat Key Fire Rescue
Town of Ponce Inlet Fire Department
Village of North Palm Beach P.S.D., Fire Division
Volusia County Fire Services

The following are site-visits made by Sub-Committee members:

On August 7, 2002 Shayne Stewart and Scotty Taylor, joined by Check Smeby and Larry McCall from the Division, met with the Chief of Baker County's Volunteer Fire Service, two assistant chief's and the emergency management director. All requested information from Baker Co. was received. The Sub-Committee recommended to them that they change their tactics to fight fire from outside if proper manning is not available and to train all their volunteers to the 160-hour Firefighter I level. They informed the Sub-Committee that they already perform 2 in, 2 out and they also use a RIT team, but they lack SOP's or SOG's. A copy of the City of Ocoee's SOP was given to them. On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee will recommend to the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council that Baker County not receive an exemption and for the Division to write a letter requiring/asking them to put the recommendations in place and that once they do so, they will comply with the rule. Motion passed.

On August 7, 2002 Shayne Stewart and Scotty Taylor, joined by Check Smeby and Larry McCall from the Division, met with the Chief and City Manager of the City of Macclenny. All information that was needed was obtained and the use of automatic aid with the county was discussed. Macclenny said they did train with 2 in, 2 out. We concluded that they were in compliance and recommended that they change their tactics to fight fire from outside until resources arrive. The question of liability arose and was quickly answered with some discussion. The meeting concluded and it was agreed that they were in compliance and they would notify the State Fire Marshal's office. On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee will recommend to the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council to table the City of Macclenny until letter is received. Motion passed.

The Director reminded the Sub-Committee that part of the law is if the departments that request exemptions are not acted on by October 1, their exemption is continued until it is acted on.

On August 7, 2002 Shayne Stewart and Scotty Taylor, joined by Check Smeby and Larry McCall from the Division, met with Fire Chief Richard Knoff, Green Cove Springs Fire Department. They addressed the things discussed in previous meetings. Chief Knoff felt that Green Cove Springs Fire Department would be

in compliance. A letter was received from Chief Knoff that requested the earlier exemption be removed. It has been suggested that the Sub-Committee follow-up after September 13, 2002. On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee will recommend to the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council to hold Green Cove Springs and follow-up with a phone call after September 13, 2002. Motioned passed.

On August 7, 2002 Shayne Stewart and Scotty Taylor, joined by Check Smeby and Larry McCall from the Division, met with the Operations Chief and Deputy Chief of the City of Jacksonville. Problems in rural areas of Duval County were discussed and the requirement of those areas, and also the change in tactics to fight fire from outside until proper manning is on scene. They questioned the possibility of additional fire loss dollars and the resulting litigation. We obtained their SOP's and SOG's and advised that we would take the information back to the full Sub-Committee then to the Council. Shayne referenced their interior attack policy. A motion was made for the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department not to receive an exemption and for the State Fire Marshal to make sure they comply with 2 in, 2 out. Discussion was held at length about the need for them to re-write their SOG's to implement 2 in, 2 out. The motion was amended for the Sub-Committee to recommend to the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council that the City of Jacksonville not to receive an exemption. Motion passed.

On August 8, 2002 Shayne Stewart met with the Chief of the City of Jasper. Once again there was discussion on the same problems of the departments previously visited plus a few additional ones with their volunteer fire service, dispatch, training and improper response. The Chief of Jasper felt that with written SOP's in place and the change in tactics that he could comply with the law. He requested that we write a letter stating the recommendations and he would take it to the city Council. Discussion was held on educational information available to the departments and possible letters to be sent to individual departments. On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee will recommend to the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council that the City of Jasper not receive the exemption, they have written SOG's in place, and to change their tactics. Motion Passed.

On August 8, 2002 Shayne Stewart met with the Suwannee County Director of Fire Services. He advised Shayne that he was resigning and the county currently does not have a replacement. They discussed some of the problems of the county volunteers not having the proper training and that the county commission does not allow him to enforce the training that needs to be done. He feels that outside intervention may assist with this problem. Shayne obtained their guidelines on 2 in, 2 out and again suggested that their tactics be changed. There is also concern since the Sub-Committee will not know who to deal with henceforth. On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee will recommend to the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council that they table Suwannee County until there is a contact person and that the State Fire Marshal's Office contact Suwannee County to find out who the new contact person is. Motion passed.

On August 9, 2002 Shayne Stewart and Mike Randolph, joined by Division Attorney Gabe Mazzeo, met with City of Tallahassee, the City of Quincy and the Chief of Jefferson County. Liability, training, and distance of mutual aid companies were discussed. They were presented with the same ideas as the previous departments. Each department was then addressed separately.

Quincy responds to approximately 145 calls per year. They actually respond to the County's calls; they have a contract with the County. There are a total of 24 certified firefighters and no volunteers; five on the fire ground at night, five on the fire ground during the day. They have a mutual aid agreement with neighboring volunteer fire departments. They have not had any firefighter injury or deaths. They travel as much as 18 miles to the end of their zone and they rely on volunteers in the outlying areas as a supplement. However with the contract, they are getting paid by the county to respond to calls; if they are responding to a call then the volunteers do not. Discussion was held on the City of Tallahassee possibly being able to offer some type of assistance, as well as a mutual aid agreement with other fire departments. On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee will recommend to the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training

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Council that Quincy not receive an exemption and suggest that they sign a mutual aid agreement with the City of Tallahassee. Motion passed.

The same problems exist with Jefferson as with all the other departments as far as training, mutual aid, etc. On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee will recommend to the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council that Jefferson County not receive an exemption and suggest mutual aid agreements with all parties possible. Motion passed. The Sub-Committee Chair will follow-up.

The City of Tallahassee feels there is a great liability and is concerned with the rural areas. They requested the recommended changes to be sent in writing and for someone to sit in on a city commission meeting. Discussion was held on SOP's and SOG's. The Chief of Tallahassee was out of town and not able to attend the meeting. On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee will recommend to the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council to table Tallahassee until the Chief returns. Motion passed.

A number of additional site-visits need to be made. Members of the Sub-Committee agreed to continue with the site-visits and will map out a site-visit schedule. They will also work on an educational piece and implementation document.

The next meeting will be scheduled during the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council.

On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.