

**FIREFIGHTER STANDARDS AND TRAINING  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
February 23, 1999**

A regular meeting of the Firefighter Standards and Training Advisory Council was scheduled at the State Fire Marshal Office, 625 John Knox Road, Atrium Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Tallahassee, Florida on February 23, 1999 at 1:30 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Iacona at 1:45 P.M.

**PRESENT:**

Larry D. Evans	Firefighter Member	Orange County Fire Rescue
Michael Gonzalez	Fire Training Member	Tampa Fire Department
Michael Iacona, Chairman	Fire Chief Member	Orange County Fire Rescue
Michael Randolph	Fire Officer Member	Tallahassee Fire Dept.
Shayne Stewart	Firefighter Member	Okaloosa Island Fire District
Cynthia Diven	Fire Training Officer	Gainesville Fire Rescue

**ABSENT:**

David Paulison	Fire Chief Member	Metro-Dade Fire Dept.
Christian Swann	Civilian Member	Winter Park
Benjamin Wacksman, V.C.	Civilian Member	Tampa

**A motion was entered by Michael Gonzalez for approval of the January 25, 1999 minutes. Michael Randolph seconded, motion carried.**

**REPORT FROM DIVISION DIRECTOR**

Chief Clark discussed the process, changes, and effects of the new Florida Fire Prevention Code. The Technical Advisory Committee will hold their third meeting in West Palm Beach on March 9th and 10th. Local amendments will be reviewed and the Fire Code Coordination tact will review any conflicts between NFPA 1, 101, building codes or fire codes. Recommendations for delivery and training methods will be addressed on the third tact.

**REPORT FROM BUREAU CHIEF**

Chief Napoli updated the Council on issue of education regarding Prevention and Life Safety Code and the new code. A new 16 hour program has been piloted used for CEU's and certification for inspectors. Legislative outcome will affect curriculum updates, effective date for future inspector programs. All certified Fire Inspectors (6,800) will receive a letter advising of new requirements.

Legislation directed the SFM to establish a committee to review the Fire and Life Safety code which established three technical advisory committees, one being training and education who BFST is interfacing with. Local jurisdiction fire service will have the authority and responsibility of inspecting education facilities as of 1/1/2001. Legislature directed SFM to address this issue. A committee was formed, their recommendations on how funding for violations may be addressed will be presented to the legislature. An evaluation system of educational facilities will be developed and referred to as School Safety

Evaluation System. That will become part of the training package for Fire Inspectors. Special Fire Safety Inspectors curriculum (Increased from 40 hr to 160 hr authorized by Legislature) can be completed once the advisory committees complete their reviews on roles/responsibilities.

Chief Napoli continued in explaining the expansion of Volunteer Firefighter to 160 hours with certificate, NOT a certification or mandatory training, used as a transition to complete Minimum Standards certification. NFPA standards are being tracked closely for Firefighter I (Florida's Volunteer 160) and Firefighter II (Florida's Minimum Standards Certification). Statute changes may not be needed however Rule changes may be necessary (listed on attached handout). Training directors are awaiting these rule changes which will effect funding and allow them to modulize their programs. Two volunteer training tracks are available, the certified for those who may want to continue to Firefighter II and non-certified. Refresher classes, entry level practical exams, age limitations, and time limitations after completion (if any) were also discussed.

Fire Training and vo-tech training was discussed referring to the possible shift in training to community colleges. Chief Napoli explained HB 713 and advised that each council member would be sent a copy for review.

## OLD BUSINESS

Allen Lovvorn reviewed the revised FOI curriculum (320 hour) which will include a 16-hour Terrorism.

### Fire Officer II Proposal – 280 hours

Legal/Ethical Issues for Fire Service will be a newly developed course. Fire Instructor II for design elements of the course will also have to be developed. Introduction to Public Education and Public Information Officer, choice of one, are formatted and outlined. All other courses on the list are in place. The Council previously requested Business Writing, Technical Writing, Computer Literacy as co-requisites courses for certification. This will be verifiable by course transcripts or coursework rather than by test. **Shayne Stewart made motion to recommended that before the completion of any three courses of the FOII program, the two co-requisites requested, Business Writing/Technical Writing, Computer Literacy, must be completed. Mike Gonzalez seconded, motion carried.** Fire Officer I, a tested certification, will also be a co-requisite for Fire Officer II, which will not be tested.

Chief Napoli commented on protecting our training centers since pre-requisites are not allowed. Monitoring the three co-requisites will be a problem. Mary Crews suggested making these three co-requisites, for funding purposes, a part of the program. Reference to Fire Officer I as an Occupational Completion Course and part of the FOII career path. There was discussion regarding making these a part of the FOI/FOII curriculum or allowing the student to choose where they take these courses. **Shayne Stewart withdrew previous motion, seconded by Mike Randolph, all members concurred and motion to withdraw carried. Mike lacona made new motion to include Business or Technical Writing and Computer Literacy (80 hours) which increases FOII to 8 courses. Seconded by Mike Randolph, motion carried.** These two courses will be the first two of the series.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mike lacona requested clarification from Ron Thomas as to where and when plaques could be presented by the Council. Discussion, initiated by Mike Gonzalez, of recognition for Fire Investigator of the Year. No entity in the state recognizes the fire investigator in the state. Chief Clark suggested contacting FACAP (who is integral to arson investigation) or IAAI for recognition and sponsorship; also brought up were EMS category, civilian communications category, and heroic action presented by that person's

fire chief whose education was used. Chief Napoli cautioned from straying too far from Florida Statutes authorization for the Council. Mike Iacona asked for future staff presentation on current requirements for curriculum for possible Instructor I and Instructor II courses. Chief Napoli stated revision of Instructor I was already underway as were considerations for Instructor II. Officer Candidate School was also discussed regarding a model curriculum or guideline and overview. Chief Napoli asked the Council to bring ideas and outlines with their suggestions and have a workshop for deciding curriculum at the next meeting.

Shayne Stewart shared artwork for the Council logo pins that were presented. Chairman thanked Mr. Stewart for his exceptional design developed in such a short time-frame.

Shayne Stewart addressed Chief Paulison's busy schedule Ben Wacksman's since newly elected as County Commissioner. Chief Napoli stated the Standard with regard to attendance was in the purview of the Commissioner, however the statutes state three continuous absences. Director Clark will be discussing with the Chief and the Commissioner. Chief Napoli had received correspondence from Commissioner Paulison suggesting Fridays would be better days for him to travel.

Cynthia Diven reminded Council of subject of physical ability standards and health efficiency initiative for new employees as well as incumbents. She stated the joint IFC and IAFF were meeting late February with final proposals for recommendations for hiring standards and physical ability standards for incumbents that would be acceptable by labor and management. She will prepare a report for the next subsequent meeting.

Ray Jackson, Program Manager for Fire Science, Gulf Coast Community College, discussed funding issues with the DOE for firefighter training and their issues of concern. Carl Weaver, Brevard Community College reviewed a handout on SB 1688 and SB1124. The issue of OCP training (25% student/75%DOE) vs. CWE cost was addressed. CWE cost more for training because of the amount of practicals involved which is instructor intensive. This means the student pays a higher portion of the training. Shayne mentioned that Council's support was behind the 25/75 funding and asked for suggestions. Mary Crews suggested tracking legislative bills. She stated FDLE was asking that the CWE programs be funded at the same rate as their certification program. However, they are just asking for assistance with their programs, not as a public safety issue. Impact on technical schools and community colleges will be the same. Courses effected are anything that is not considered job preparatory, that is not in career-path format, and is not occupational completion format, which is all CEU's, all courses that maintain current certification level.

Steve Plummer, member of the Florida Fire Training Director Association, discussed competency and performance based training, development, and formatting firefighter training from both a volunteer and minimum standards point of view. Expressed the need to use a consistent objective requiring competency both in skills and knowledge. Stated the Florida Fire Training Director Association and Standards Council can review key components of implementing coordination of training curriculum between DOE, instructors, and State Fire Marshal. Discussed inconsistencies and confusion regarding training centers and material being used.

Larry Schwartz reviewed Essentials of Firefighting, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed., curriculum outline. Florida Statutes requires minimum of 360 hours, OCP requires 290, VFF identified as a 160 hour program. Programs are restricted to occupational completion points. Addressed incongruity between out-of-state firefighters producing documentation in order to challenge to take certification testing but no allowance given volunteers to challenge with similar documentation for 160 hour firefighting training. Requested definition of 160 hour training to provide more consistent instruction and ease in tracking. Suggested a time period be set for completing Firefighter II certification from point of completion of 160 hour volunteer

training. Discussed training objectives, language for rules and statutory compliance, and establishing a 160 hour training certification. Shayne Stewart explained that a certificate of completion could be given for completion of that training not *certification*. Mike Iacona reiterated Council's decision not to *require* the volunteer firefighter to take 160 hour training. Mary Crews explained that the only way to fund the 160 hour volunteer firefighting was to keep it a part of the certification program via occupational completion points. She referred to the immediate concern of the candidates who have already taken the 160 hour training but unable take the 450 minimum standards due to funding. Chief Napoli explained Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST) totally revised training based on the new Essential's book, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed., and adopted the IFSTA Training Guide. A number of issues with certified training centers and certified instructors, partially in the statutes and partially in the rules. These issues are being addressed at present. The Rule refers to hours and BFST is committed to performance based training; refers to certified training centers. Chief Napoli stated that Rule changes would essentially solve all the problems. He expressed that the certification system in the State of Florida should not be diluted.

The Council agreed that the next meeting will be scheduled on April 30, 1999 at 10:00AM. Mike Gonzalez will make arrangements for a conference room at the Tampa Fire Training Center.

### **ADJOURN**

On a motion duly made by Shayne Stewart, seconded by Mike Randolph and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 3:47PM.

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Chairman, Firefighter Standards and  
Training Advisory Council

Dated