

**FIREFIGHTER STANDARDS AND TRAINING
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
July 19, 1999**

A regular meeting of the Firefighter Standards and Training Advisory Council was scheduled at the Trade Winds Resort in St. Pete Beach, FL on July 19, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 1:51 p.m.

PRESENT:

Michael Iacona, Chairman	Fire Chief Member	Orange County Fire Rescue
Michael Gonzalez	Fire Training Member	Tampa Fire Department
Michael Randolph	Fire Officer Member	Tallahassee Fire Dept.
Shayne Stewart	Firefighter Member	Okaloosa Island Fire District
Benjamin Wacksman	Civilian Member	Tampa

ABSENT:

Cynthia Diven	Fire Training Officer	Gainesville Fire Rescue
Larry D. Evans	Firefighter Member	Orange County Fire Rescue
David Paulison	Fire Chief Member	Metro-Dade Fire Dept.
Christian Swann	Civilian Member	Winter Park

A motion was entered by Shayne Stewart for approval of the April 30, 1999 minutes. Ben Wacksman seconded the motion.

REPORT FROM DIVISION DIRECTOR

Director Clark highlighted the following related to House Bill 4181:

- Provision directly impacting training, authorizing a Florida Safety Evaluation System (FSSES) for existing educational buildings. The bill failed, therefore there is no authorization at this point. Randy or Allen will further explain later in this meeting.
- Development of the Florida Fire Prevention Code process since Legislature mandated use of NFPA 1 and 101 as the base prevention code. There have been approximately 50 amendments accepted through this step of the process. Explained the process and tacks.
- Amendments directly impacting this committee will be touched on by the Bureau Chief. Highlighted the following in draft stage:
- Controversy over who is defined as authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) over the code. Proposed language was ambiguous. Mr. Clark said clarification was necessary to ensure that local Fire Chiefs have the ultimate responsibility. NFPA 1, Section 1.4.1 - Defining language was added.
- High-rise sprinkler issue was voted out last week. on proposed addition: "...or be equipped with an engineered life safety system approved by the AHJ within 7 years of adoption of this code". NFPA 1 and 101 did not agree, consequently language was added to NFPA 1 making it acceptable in this draft stage.

Mike Iacona was concerned with focusing on the recertification process for Fire Inspectors into NFPA 1. Once the standards are set, proper training can be coordinated. Mr. Clark stated that NFPA is assisting the Fire College with train-the-trainer classes beginning in two weeks.

REPORT FROM BUREAU CHIEF

Allen Lovvorn presented the Bureau's report in Randy Napoli's absence. The initial school issue reviewed by Mr. Clark was a critical issue. Allen indicated that there may be a possibility of determining a performance based code so the schools are not overburdened with unnecessary expense, pending future development of the standardized code. The first NFPA 1 train-the-trainer class is in two weeks, four scheduled at the Fire College and three out-of-town. Training will continue to be offered every month at FSFC beginning next year. The first of this month, 7,000 letters were mailed out to Fire Inspectors and Special Inspectors explaining that the new 24 hour CEU program is mandatory for recertification. The time frame is actually a year and a half from now before becoming law. The Bureau is making this information available for constructive training and secondly, in some kind of hand-off package. By spring of 2,000, the pilot course for Codes and Standards will be part of the standard coursework eliminating this problem. The Council asked for a contact person at the Fire College to coordinate this training. Allen responded that Ron Thomas would be that contact. Chief Clark added that there was an amendment accepted at the last tac meeting in St. Augustine allowing anyone who had taken the equivalent of that training would be allowed to take the test given on the 24 hour class to qualify, rather than have to repeat another 24 hour class.

Allen stated that the Board of Regents approved both the Bachelor's and Masters degree programs in Fire and Emergency Services, proposed by the University of Florida, as of July 16, 1999. The University of Florida should be offering the graduate degree by fall of 2000 and the Bachelor's degree by fall of 1999. Per the State University System rules, AS degrees, at this time, are not transferable towards the Bachelor's degree program.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Ron Thomas provided handouts and reviewed career tracks on FOI and FOIL relative to the proposal of the new Fire Service Instructor Certification (attached). Multi-level systems are being designed in each of the various career tracks so a person only needs to renew at their highest level. This will not only minimize the burden, streamline all of the certification processes, and allow that person to continuing education closer to career track he is working in.

The proposed Fire Service Instructor Certification program will allow the instructor, who also holds some other current state fire service certificate, to be eligible to teach any course within that other certificate program. concurrently held by the instructor. Required training, credentials, experience, examinations, CEUs, and renewals for each level were summarized. This will be the first fire service certificate granted by the Bureau that will require higher education at any level. Substitution for partial experience coupled with higher education will not be considered to qualify for the experience factor. Degrees required for Fire Instructor II and III must have a minimum of 18 hours in some kind of fire

science or paramedic course content.

The Chairman asked what degree was necessary to teach the upper levels (Junior/Senior) of the Bachelor's degree program. Ron Thomas responded that it would be regulated by the university according to their accreditation review and would need a Master's degree. For the AA degree and above, not including the AS degree, the state common numbering system will be prefixed by FES, rather than the FFP which would be the AS oriented courses.

Allen Lovvorn explained the purpose of keeping the Fire Instructor III level was to allow a higher level of certification for the more credentialed person. The Chairman asked about requiring a Bachelor's degree for Fire Instructor II rather than the Associates. Shayne Stewart said this was a valid "bridge" for those with degrees to progress to the next stage without having to start education all over again. Allen explained that this would have a disastrous impact on the instructor pool throughout the state.

Ron Thomas stated we are trying to align this certificate with the accrediting bodies so colleges aren't in any conflict as to who they can hire. Mike Iacona was concerned that if we lingered with the AS degree, it would take 3-3 1/2

years to complete their Bachelor's degree because they had taken that technical track. Ron Thomas explained the accreditation standards and single-subject course exemption. This exemption would allow an instructor who's an expert in a particular field to teach in a certified training series.

Fire Instructor I would cover every instructor at this juncture having some other accompanying certificate.

The Chairman asked the board for recommendations. Mike Randolph requested time to review the proposal for the instructor certification systems and make a recommendation at the next meeting for a decision.

Discussion followed regarding technical training vs. community college education.

Mike Iacona reviewed Orange County's plan (attached) on an 80 hour training block for new officer candidates to be presented. He asked for Council to review and offer suggestions to use this curriculum for development as a statewide recommended guideline. It was suggested this be used as prerequisite testing prior to promotion. The Chairman mentioned some modifications had already been made. The proposed curriculum is meant as a guideline, update the curriculum each year. Shayne Stewart made a motion to develop a survey to see if Officers Candidate School (OCS) is a viable project, seconded by Ben Wacksman seconded. Motion carried. Staff is to provide a suggested survey instrument and a recommended distribution process to the next meeting.

Allen Lovvorn gave a presentation on basis on which to award training centers based on their performance annually based on delivery of the minimum standards program. Passed out a pass/fail comparison, standards courses tested, and statistics examples of training centers delivering this curriculum. Chairman asked Mike Gonzalez to prepare a recommendation as to what components would be used the basis for an award.

Council webpage and Alarm Alert was reviewed by the Chairman. Shayne Stewart accepted responsibility to gather information about Council meetings, minutes, and upcoming Council events for the FSFC website. Shayne Stewart recommended including past meetings' minutes for public access as well. Synopsis, written by Shayne, will be approved by Mike Iacona prior to posting on the FSFC website. A copy will be sent to the Council secretary to compare to the minutes for accuracy, then e-

mailed to FSFC. Gabe Mazzeo gave approval when asked if this was within the Sunshine laws. Another option was to include this information in the Alarm Alert (published 4 times @ year) and the Fire Service Today, and Fire Chief magazines. Staff to provide deadline dates for publications in the three listed magazines. Shayne Steward proposed a "dry run". Mike lacona motioned to place the minutes of the Standards Council meetings on the Fire College (FSFC) website. Seconded by Mike Randolph. Allen Lovvorn stated that barring any problems, it will be posted. Motion carried.

The Council secretary requested that any handouts used in presentations to the Council be provided to her in disk form, preferably Word format.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

Unknown speaker requested the council keeping in mind the impact of increasing training standards and the effect of increased training hours for volunteers in the fire service. Shayne Stewart explained how important education and training equated to safety and life. The Chairman explained Council deliberation and balanced outcomes.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Firefighter Standards and Training Advisory Council will be held at Delray Beach in conjunction with the Florida Fire Marshal's Association annual meeting, October 1999. As soon as date and location is finalized, members will be notified. *(Since there was no conference room available in Delray Beach for the FFMA annual meeting, location was changed to the Florida State Fire College scheduled for Oct. 18, 1999)*

The Chairman reviewed topics for the next meeting:

- Council will re-visit the instructor curriculum
- Staff to provide a report on a surveying instrument for the officer candidate school
- Mike Gonzalez will give presentation on recommendation for awards for training institutes
- Shayne Steward will present a trial article recapping this meeting

ADJOURN

On a motion duly made by Shayne Stewart, seconded by Michael Randolph and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Chairman, Firefighter Standards and
Training Advisory Council