

FIREFIGHTER STANDARDS AND TRAINING  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
March 31, 2000

A regular meeting of the Firefighter Standards and Training Advisory Council was scheduled at the Orange County Fire Rescue Headquarters in Orlando, FL on March 31, 2000 at 10:00 a.m.

Director Carrie Whitcomb from the National Center for Forensic Science, distributed brochures and gave an overview of the Forensic Science Program at the University of Central Florida. She explained that the goal of the program is to support professionals in forensic science and fire investigations. In 1997, UCF received a grant from the National Institute of Justice to survey some of the needs of the forensic science community. During the survey, Forensic Science Graduates stated that they need more training and research in the fire and explosives area. In 1998, the Technical Working Group for Fire and Explosions was formed. The group included three sections; fire laboratory analysis group; the explosion laboratory analysis group; and the scene group. The Technical Working Group wrote standards and protocols for doing explosive residue analysis; fire debris analysis; job requirements; research; and training and education. State Fire Marshal personnel Ron McCardle, Wayne Petrovich, and Carl Chasteen, are all on the Technical Working Group on Fire and Explosions and are helping to develop a program for a Certified Forensic Fire Investigator.

**PRESENT:**

Michael Iacona, Chairman	Fire Chief Member	Orange County Fire Rescue
Shayne Stewart	Firefighter Member	Okaloosa Island Fire District
Cynthia Diven	Fire Training Member	Gainesville Fire Rescue
Larry D. Evans	Firefighter Member	Orange County Fire Rescue
Vicki Phillips-Sheppard	Fire Chief Member	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

**ABSENT:**

Michael Randolph	Fire Officer Member	Tallahassee Fire Department
Michael Gonzalez	Fire Training Member	Tampa Fire Rescue
Christian Swann	Civilian Member	Winter Park
Ben Wacksman	Civilian Member	Tampa

Quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacona at 10:15 am.

Minutes from the February 4, 2000 meeting were read and approved.

Mike Randolph joined the meeting at 10:20 am.

Report from the Division Director:

The Director asked Randy Napoli to give the following report on his behalf. There is a piece of legislation to extend the committee that worked on the school inspection issue, which may postpone the Building and Life Safety Code timeline. The House and the Senate have essentially locked down the budget and are ready to go to conference. There is a piece of legislation that looks promising to keep the State Fire Marshal's Office in the Department of Insurance.

**Report from the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training:**

Randy Napoli reported that the NFPA 1 course continues to be offered throughout the State. The Special Fire Safety Inspector CEU renewal requirement may include a couple of the new courses required for newly certified

people to bring them to the appropriate level of training. The Division of Hotels and Restaurants is opposed to the increase of hours for the Special Firesafety Inspector and may not want to continue to do fire safety inspections. Because of their continued resistance, a memorandum of understanding may be drafted that will still require them, while on their normal sanitation inspections required by law, to report any firesafety violations to the State Fire Marshal's office or the local jurisdiction having authority. Note: Special Firesafety Inspectors do not do firesafety inspections as outlined in 633.

Rule revisions from the January 22, 2000 workshop in Tallahassee have been made to the Firefighter I and Firefighter II programs. The rule hearing will be on April 18, 2000. Following that, the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training will start writing the rules for the new programs, i.e. Fire Officer II, that have already been approved by the Council. A draft of the new rules will be provided to the Council members before a hearing date is scheduled.

The Fire College recently graduated the first Firefighter I/Firefighter II class. One student actually entered in at the Firefighter II level and successfully completed with the rest of the class.

The Standards Council web page is up and running on the Fire College's website. It includes the State Statute that empowers the Council, Council briefs and minutes. Randy asked the Council to view the page often and to let him know if there are any changes or additions. Shayne Stewart suggested assigning official e-mail addresses to the Council members and including them on the web page.

#### **Old Business:**

Updates of the Council Briefs were discussed and it was decided by the Council to publish the most current Standards Council Brief in the Alarm Alert, but all briefs will be placed on the website.

Randy Napoli distributed and reviewed copies of the results of a phone survey for the officer candidate school. The survey was conducted of 22 departments (approximately 7% of the career departments in the State). He stated that the question "Would your department be interested in adopting a standardized required training program for new Fire Officers?" should read "If a standardized officer candidate school was developed, would you be interested in requiring that for your people?" The Council suggested placing the questions on the Web. Randy said that they may go back to the same people surveyed and ask the ones who are currently doing officer candidate school type programs to send copies of their programs for review. At the next meeting, Council members will review the literature and look over a more expanded survey document. After reviewing what the current practices are, they will try to finalize a document for distribution.

Randy distributed copies of the brochure for the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs. As a suggestion by the Council, Randy will present information at the next meeting on how other training institutions may be able to deliver some of the Bachelor Degree courses. Listed in the brochure are the certificate programs that can be used by fire departments for promotional exams and/or other professional development purposes. Chairman Iacona asked staff to develop a program that would establish a chief officer certificate program, identifying various disciplines that are comparable to the programs listed in the brochure.

Mike Randolph asked about FFP numbers for courses. Randy stated that the Bureau is currently working with the Department of Education on a common course numbering system. The courses in the investigator series will be revised and be assigned FFP numbers. Training materials are being developed so that the investigator series courses can be taught elsewhere, with the exception of a couple in the Investigator II series.

#### **New Business:**

Discussion was held on the recommended standards for the physical ability of the entrance firefighter. Shayne Stewart stated that the City of Dothan, AL has purchased specialized equipment to do physical ability

testing for firefighters and informed the Council that the Chief from Dothan will have the equipment at the Florida Fire Chief's Conference in July. Chairman Iacona suggested that, if it can be arranged, to have a presentation of the equipment at the next meeting. Cindy Diven will give an update at the next meeting of a review of the existing curriculum.

**Audience To Be Heard:**

Questions were directed to the Bureau of the Fire Standards and Training about new programs being developed.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

July 18, 2000

10:00 AM

In conjunction with the Florida Fire Chief's Association Conference

Bay Point Resort

St. Andrews Ball Room 5

4200 Marriott Dr.

Panama City Beach, FL

Correction on meeting date and time:

July 25, 2000

9:00 AM