

FIREFIGHTER STANDARDS AND TRAINING
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
July 25, 2000

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
Michael Randolph	Fire Officer Member	Tallahassee Fire Department
Ben Wacksman	Civilian Member	Tampa

ABSENT:

Vicki Phillips-Sheppard	Fire Chief Member	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Michael Gonzalez	Fire Training Member	Tampa Fire Department
Christian Swann	Civilian Member	Winter Park

Quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Iacona at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes from the March 31, 2000 meeting were read and approved.

Report from the Division Director:

Director Clark asked Bureau Chief Randy Napoli to give the following report. The Division of Safety, that was sunsetted this past Legislative Session, was a division of the Department of Labor and Employment Security which had legislative authority to implement rules for the safety of State and municipal employees. The Department of Insurance adopted an emergency rule on June 30, 2000 to move the safety rules to the State Fire Marshal so they would continue in force. There are rule workshops to make the rules permanent scheduled August 28 in West Palm Beach, August 29 in Tampa in the morning and Ocala in the afternoon, and August 30 in Panama City.

The Commissioner wants to ensure that the Department of Insurance transition following the November elections is done in an orderly manner. As far as cabinet re-organization, we believe that the Legislature will decide in the next Session what they want the re-organization to look like.

Report from the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training:

Randy Napoli stated that the program revisions are moving forward. The Firefighter I and Firefighter II draft rule document was distributed. Chairman Iacona informed the audience that this rule splits basic firefighter training into Firefighter I (160 hours) and Firefighter II (200 hours) status with the ability to have a continuing training process where FFI will be designed for those firefighters that typically did not have full certifications (i.e. volunteers, members of fire brigades, individuals involved who were involved with Forestry wildland firefighting, and trainees as part of technical programs in the school systems). Chief Napoli stated that this training has been used recently at the Fire College as well as other training institutions and was successful. FFI and FFII have been accredited by the National Professional Qualifications Systems (NPQS). Although it is not needed because we are driven by State

Statute, our intent is to submit more of our programs (Fire Officer series, Fire Inspector series and Fire Investigator series) for national accreditation.

Napoli reminded the Council and audience that the Bachelors degree program is up and running. At the last meeting the council asked the Bureau to find out if this program could be offered through other State Universities. A discussion has been held with the University of Florida and they are not opposed to it, but are hesitant because the program was designed to be distance learning via the internet to reach anyone, anywhere. There are currently 20 students enrolled in the program and 10 courses have been designed.

The Legislature extended the implementation of the Fire Prevention Life Safety Code to July 1, 2001. There are approximately 2,000 inspectors in the State that have not completed the NFPA 1 training. Letters will be sent reminding those inspectors to take the NFPA 1 class. Those that have not attended this training when the new rule goes into effect will no longer be certified.

Bureau Chief Jim Goodloe informed the Council that the School Evaluation System Committee decided to apply the system to schools in Broward, Leon, Marion, Miami-Dade and Santa Rosa counties to make sure it is going to work as envisioned. Entities involved will be the State Fire Marshal's Office, Department of Education, the local school official, and the local fire official. The committee needs the fire official in each of the counties listed to provide a contact list for these schools. Once completed, training on the school evaluation system will be sent to all inspectors in the state.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) has stopped the issuance funds for terrorism training until States complete an assessment of their vulnerabilities and capabilities. The Governor's office and the State Emergency Management has determined that every fire agency, law agency and healthcare provider in the State is going to participate in this assessment. The State is going to prepare for weapons of mass destruction and develop a response capability using the 7 Emergency Management regions in the State. Information is available on this process on the Division of Emergency Management's website.

The Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2000. We are in the process of updating the information for each firefighter listed on the Memorial. This information will be included in a database that will soon be available on our website.

CEU renewal requirements were discussed for Fire Officer I & II. It was decided by the Council to revisit this issue at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Copies of the Officer Candidate Survey form were distributed. The concept is to get feedback from the fire service to find out what type of training is currently being used and what is needed. Information collected will be presented at the next meeting.

Cindy Diven gave a report on the health and fitness initiative for firefighters. She stated that there are States currently using validated fitness programs that are available in package form. These programs inform the departments how to go about implementing a sustained fitness program. Also developed and available is the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). Some States have a traveling CPAT testing site, which alleviates the burden to individual fire departments to develop a test for firefighter physical

competency. Shayne Stewart showed a video of the Dothan, Alabama demonstration of firefighter physical ability testing. Basically the test is eight components: Stair step; Hose drag; Equipment carry; Ladder raise; Forcible entry; Maze; Dummy drag; and Ceiling poke/pull. The participant has 10 minutes and 20 seconds to complete all evolutions. This is a pass/fail test and is validated and endorsed by various groups. Dothan Fire Department has agreed to be a regional testing site for Alabama and North Florida. A discussion was held on the physical components of the existing FFI and FFII course. Randy Napoli stated that only a medical form is required from a doctor stating that an individual is physically able to participate in the program and the rule requires only 8 hours total of physical training, however most training centers require more than 8 hours. Cindy made a motion that the Council write the Florida Professional Firefighters and the Florida Fire Chief's Association to see if they are interested in setting up a committee to address this issue. Seconded by Shayne Stewart. Discussion was held. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Information was distributed on the three certificate programs for career development goals for departmental promotional criteria or specialty training. The Council agreed to review the material and have a discussion at the next meeting.

The Bureau is continuing to work on E-mail addresses for the Council members. The Bureau will report at the next meeting.

AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD:

None

NEXT MEETING:

October 13, 2000, 10:00 a.m.
Florida State Fire College