

FIREFIGHTER STANDARDS AND TRAINING
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 24, 2001

PRESENT:

Michael Randolph, Chairman	Fire Officer Member	Tallahassee Fire Department
Dave Casey	Fire Chief Member	Clay County Fire Rescue
Larry D. Evans	Firefighter Member	Orange County Fire Rescue
Stuart Kaufman	Citizen Member	Plantation
Vicki Sheppard	Fire Chief Member	Palm Beach Co. Fire Rescue
Ben Wacksman	Citizen Member	Tampa

ABSENT:

Cynthia Diven	Fire Officer Member	Gainesville Fire Rescue
Michael Gonzalez	Fire Training Member	Tampa Fire Department
Shayne Stewart	Firefighter Member	Okaloosa Island Fire District

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

Chairman Randolph welcomed Mr. Stuart Kaufman as the newest member of the council.

The minutes from the April 9, 2001 meeting were read and approved.

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU OF FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING

Chief Napoli updated the council on the rule changes for the curriculum revisions and distributed copies of the final draft. He stated that we are in the final stages of the rule changing process and that the final rule hearing is scheduled for July 26, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at the Fire College.

Three letters regarding the Voluntary Hazardous Materials certification were distributed. Chief Napoli gave an update on the progress of the training task force and reminded the council that it is currently up to local jurisdictions to set standards for hazardous materials training. The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) would like to see a uniform voluntary standard for certification in the state so there are more standardized responses to hazardous materials incidents and to be able to respond to those incidents regionally. The training task force is going through the process of evaluating every hazmat team in the state to determine their abilities to respond to incidents and what types of training and equipment are available. He referenced OSHA standard 1910.120 and competencies in NFPA standard 472 and informed the council that the intent is to develop a certification that will be tested on a standards and competencies level rather than on specific programs or text books. Proposed curriculum should be available within the next six months for the council to review. He stated that the bureau is also starting to look at a voluntary certification for safety officer.

Communication was received from Mike Gonzalez prior to the council meeting regarding the Inspector Certification exam testing requirement. Chief Napoli explained that when an individual completes the inspection program they have only two opportunities to successfully pass the Inspector Certification examination. Students taking the FFI & FFII Certification examination also have only two opportunities to successfully pass the exam, however the FFI & FFII testing requirements are mandated by Florida Statute, the inspector testing requirement is by rule. He stated that the rule can be changed but the bureau feels confident that the current testing requirement is a good policy. This issue may be re-visited at a future meeting.

Chief Napoli thanked the Council for their guidance on the curriculum revisions and is pleased about the programs being accredited from NPQS. There is still no reciprocity with other states, however, if they provide documentation of equivalent training, they can sit for the minimum standards examination. Chairman Randolph informed the Council that Chief Ray Brooks from Alabama asked to review the revised Course Delivery, Course Design and the Fire Officer series. He stated that we are doing positive things and they are being noticed.

The Fire Officer I pilot should be delivered within 45 days.

REPORT FROM THE DIVISION DIRECTOR:

Director Clark reviewed the demise of the Division of Safety and the emergency implementation of the firefighter safety rules. During the rulemaking process, the League of Cities challenged that 2 in – 2 out was an “unfounded mandate.” Since the last legislative session, language was agreed on and the League of Cities agreed to withdraw their challenge in cooperation with the State Fire Marshal if the revisions are made.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Physical fitness issue to be discussed at the next meeting.

Fire Training Center of the Year to be discussed at the next meeting.

Rich Gorden joined us from the Division of Forestry to discuss the wildland firefighting training program. He explained that they looked at the basic level courses for federal wildland firefighters including S130 & S190. The wildland firefighting sub-committee compared the S130 training to the FFI training and found that only 14 hours of additional training is needed. Instructor details are to be worked out. A comparison sheet was distributed. Dave Casey moved to add 14-hours of wildland firefighting training to the FFI course, seconded by Larry Evans. Chief Napoli informed the Council that this requires a rule change. Motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Randolph asked the bureau to contact Cindy Diven to see if she is going to continue participating on the council.

AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD:

Joe Donovan from Orange County asked about the status of the confined space standard. Chief Napoli informed him that it is on hold until the 2 in – 2 out challenge by League Of Cities is settled.

Tony Apfelbeck, speaking for the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association, said that they support the bureau's position on the current fire inspector testing requirements.

James Angle made a request that we that we institute a safety officer training program and certification process from ISO through the Department of Health and Safety.

NEXT MEETING:

Friday, October 12, 2001
12:00 p.m. at the Florida State Fire College