

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting
Florida State Fire College
August 30, 2002

PRESENT: NAME

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.
Shorty Bryson, Miami Fire Department
John Drago, City of Longwood
Dave Harrawood, Emergency Services of Sarasota Co.
Steven Peavey, FI Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.
Michael Randolph, Tallahassee FD
Donna Reed, Orange County Fire Rescue
Stockton Reeves VI, Insight Orlando
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire Dist.
Charles "Scotty" Taylor Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech

APPOINTED BY:

FI Assoc. of Special Districts
FI Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
FI League of Cities
FI Association of Counties
FI Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
State Fire Marshal
State Fire Marshal
State Fire Marshal
FI Professional Firefighters
FI Professional Firefighters
State Fire Marshal

ABSENT:

Les Hallman, South Walton Fire Dist.
Stuart Kauffman
Donna Reed, Orange County Fire Rescue

FI Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
State Fire Marshal
State Fire Marshal

Meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m.

Director Randall Napoli, Division of State Fire Marshal, advised the Council that legislature passed in the last session dissolved the Firefighters Standards and Training Council and the Firefighters Safety and Health Task force, and re-constituted the new Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council. The Director asked for nominations for a new chair and vice chair.

On a motion duly made, Mike Randolph will serve as Chair of the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council. Motion approved.

On a motion duly made, Shayne Stewart will serve as Vice-Chair of the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council. Motion approved.

Chairman Randolph advised the Council that the meeting on July 23, 2002 in Naples was informal and not an official meeting.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Safety and Health Task Force on April 8, 2002 were approved. Motion approved.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Standards and Training Council on April 8, 2002 were approved. Motion approved.

REPORT FROM THE DIVISION:

Director Napoli reminded the Council that the legislature passed the Florida Firefighter Occupational Safety and Health Act (FFOSHA) during the last session. The act codifies Rule 4A-62, which went into effect last November. Draft copies of revised Rule 4A-62 were distributed for review. It was suggested for the Council to break into sub-committees to review the rule in detail since it is going to be the document by which FFOSHA is implemented. The new rule encompasses the old Division of Safety Rule, the old

Rule 4A-62 implementing 2 in-2 out, adoption of OSHA standards for hazardous materials, confined space and fire brigade, and NFPA Standard 1500. In addition, it includes requirements to investigate frequency of injuries, occupational diseases and to conduct inspections of firefighter work places. The Director reviewed the rulemaking process and encouraged the Council again to review the draft rule in its entirety and make recommendations at the next meeting. Copies were distributed of 633.801 – 821 F.S. which is the law implementing FFOSHA.

Copies of House Bill 443 were distributed. The Director reminded the Council that HB 443 moved the responsibility and authority for inspecting educational facilities in the State of Florida from the Commissioner of Education to the State Fire Marshal. At the next meeting, Chief Dave Casey, Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, will bring recommendations for proposed curriculum changes of the inspector program to meet the requirements of the new law.

Director Napoli discussed the Initial Investigations draft rule and reminded the Council that this rule codifies and standardizes the way local governments report fires of suspicious origin to the Division of State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations. The draft rule does not necessarily affect the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, however the Council is asked to review the rule and make any recommendations to the Director prior to the rule workshops.

Chairman Randolph welcomed the newest member of the Council, Shorty Bryson.

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU OF FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING:

Chief Casey updated the Council on the Hazardous Materials Technician Voluntary Certification. He stated that staff is gathering information and input is also being sought from the Florida Association of Hazardous Materials Responders for the proposed program. Information on the proposed program will be brought to the Council.

Allen Lovvorn, Assistant Superintendent updated the Council on the Fire Protection Systems Certification Examinations. The Division brought in a professional test writer to work with the question banks for the examination, and to coordinate test-writing workshops. Discussions were held with industry representatives and the main concern was all of the required references. It was found that while some of the references that were applicable as far as Florida Statutes were concerned were not necessarily applicable to the daily work that was occurring. A more manageable list of references was recently completed.

Chief Casey updated the Council on the Florida Association of Search and Rescue (FASAR) re-cert typing. FASAR has been meeting on a regular basis to get better organized and to make sure there is uniformity of re-cert typing. They are looking into using position task books and a sign-off program locally, then to FASAR to sign-off, then to the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training for approval. The Bureau is also involved in training issues. FFCA has draft re-cert typing documents. Director Napoli informed the Council that after September 11th it was determined that the State of Florida did not have enough USAR capabilities. Meetings were held to come up with a strategy for the State of Florida. It was determined that USAR teams were needed in central and northeast Florida and funding was appropriated for both areas. Additional areas in the State will be looked at for USAR funding. In addition, dollars for a large USAR Training facility is being worked on. Discussion was held on logistics and training requirements. A proposal for basic Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue Training for inclusion in minimum standards was distributed for the Council's review and discussion at the next meeting.

Chief Casey explained to the Council that questions have come up regarding 2in, 2out and FFOSHA, and stated that the Council needs to decide how to define and apply various terms. Copies were distributed of

Virginia's IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life Health), Incipient Stage Fire, and Qualified Firefighter definitions. The Council's recommendation is being sought for Florida's FFOSHA definitions. Discussion was held at length by the Council. A motion was made to table this decision until the next meeting and seconded. Discussion was held on what is expected. Motion approved. Staff is preparing the draft for the implementation document.

Discussion was held on the Voluntary Hazardous Materials technician program, Firefighter I and II, Investigator II and Post Blast Investigations Course.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sub-Committee Chair Shayne Stewart gave the following report from the Special Exemption Sub-Committee meeting. The Sub-Committee reviewed the departments that rescinded their request for exemption and the departments that said they would comply with 4A-62 FAC by September 30.

Shayne Stewart and Scotty Taylor, joined by Check Smeby and Larry McCall from the Division visited the North end on the first of the month, starting with Baker County. It was the motion of the Sub-Committee to deny their exemption and suggest that they implement certain SOP's and implement any change in their tactics that would allow them to be in compliance with the law. On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee recommends to the Council that Baker County exemption not be accepted and when the Fire Marshal's office writes the letter, the suggestions of written SOP's and the possible change in tactics and strategies be implemented. Discussion was held on reactions from departments. Motion passed.

Shayne Stewart and Scotty Taylor, joined by Check Smeby and Larry McCall from the Division visited the City of Macclenny. They obtained all of the information that was needed. The Chief of the Department stated that he was going to write a letter to rescind their request for exemption however it has not been received. It was the motion of the Sub-Committee to table their request until Shayne contacts the Chief to see if the letter has been written. There was no discussion and a motion was not necessary by the Council. City of Macclenny request for exemption is tabled.

Shayne Stewart and Scotty Taylor, joined by Check Smeby and Larry McCall from the Division visited Chief Knoff, Green Cove Springs Fire Department. It was the motion of the Sub-Committee to table Green Cove Springs.

Shayne Stewart and Scotty Taylor, joined by Check Smeby and Larry McCall from the Division visited Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department. It was the motion of the Sub-Committee to deny their request for exemption and recommend that they change their SOP's to comply with the law. On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee recommends to the Council that Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department request for exemption be denied. Discussion was held on jurisdictions. Motion passed.

Shayne Stewart met with the Fire Chief in Jasper. Suggestions were made to the City of Jasper to changed their tactics, work with the Division of Forestry and neighboring departments for mutual aid assistance, and put written SOG's in place; the Chief requested a copy of a letter from the Division stating that. It is the recommendation of the Sub-Committee to deny the exemption and send a letter with our recommendations. On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee recommends to the Council that the City of Jasper request for exemption be denied. Motion passed.

Shayne Stewart met with the Director of Fire Services for Suwannee County. The Director is leaving Suwannee County and he does not know who his replacement will be. He recommended

to Shayne for the Division to intervene. It is the recommendation of the Sub-Committee to table Suwannee County until it is determined who the contact is.

Shayne Stewart and Mike Randolph, joined by Division Attorney Gabe Mazzeo met with the Assistant Chief of Tallahassee, City of Quincy and the Chief of Jefferson County.

It is the recommendation of the Sub-Committee to deny the City of Quincy's request for exemption, put written SOG's in place and assist them with mutual aid agreements. On a motion duly made, the Sub-Committee recommends to the Council that the City of Quincy request for exemption be denied based on the fact that they do not have SOG's and SOP's in place at this time. Discussion was held at length and it was suggested that the Council give the City of Quincy, City of Tallahassee and Jefferson County an opportunity to put the SOP's and mutual aid agreements in place. Second to the motion was withdrawn; motion died. On a motion duly made, it is the recommendation of the Council to table the request for exemptions for Tallahassee, Quincy and Jefferson County. Motion passed.

In addition to the original contacts and site-visits, there are 18 additional contacts to make from requests received after the May 2002 Sub-Committee meeting.

Shayne Stewart reported on the fitness and wellness initiative. He stated that this issue is becoming more prevalent in the fire service and most reports say that 4 out of every 5 firefighter deaths are cardiac or some type of health related. He stated that this is an employment issue and recommended for Council members to reach out to organizations, find out what programs are being used and ask representatives of those organizations to make a presentation at the next meeting.

Ron Williams will get with former Council member, Mike Gonzalez, to discuss the Training Center of the Year award and will bring suggestions to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ron Williams distributed copies of the Florida Firefighter's Training Fund Proposal for review. The proposal was put together by the Training Director's Association to help fund training for firefighters in the State of Florida. It is recommended in the proposal that the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council have oversight responsibilities for the fund.

On a motion duly made, Shorty Bryson will assume the roll of Chief Casey on the Special Exemption Sub-Committee. Motion passed.

Jim Angle distributed copies of a proposal for Florida Fire Rescue Health and Safety Officer Certification for review and discussion at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Florida State Fire College
Ocala, FL

October 11, 2002, 10:00 a.m. Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting
October 11, 2002, 9:00 a.m. Special Exemption Sub-Committee Meeting

On a motion duly made, the FESTC adjourned. Motion passed.