

PUBLIC MEETING
FLORIDA FIREFIGHTERS EMPLOYMENT, STANDARDS, AND TRAINING COUNCIL
DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL
APRIL 8, 2003
LARSON BUILDING
TALLAHASSEE, FL

PRESENT:

NAME

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.
Shorty Bryson, Miami Fire Department
Julie Downey, Sunrise Fire Rescue
John Drago, City of Longwood
Les Hallman, South Walton Fire Dist.
Dave Harrawood, Emergency Services of Sarasota Co.
Jon Pasqualone, FI Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.
Michael Randolph, Tallahassee FD
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire District
Charles "Scotty" Taylor Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech

APPOINTED BY:

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

ABSENT:

Stuart Kauffman
Stockton Reeves VI, Insight Orlando

State Fire Marshal
State Fire Marshal

Chairman Michael Randolph called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to Tallahassee.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Standards and Training Council meeting on January 31, 2003 were approved. Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION:

Bureau Chief Dave Casey, Bureau of Fire Standards and Training gave an update on domestic preparedness and security issues.

- The State Working Group is re-structuring to provide better accountability of projects and coordination between all agencies involved should improve.
- Field Operation Guidebooks (FOG's) were developed by the coordinated efforts of Division of Forestry, Division of State Fire Marshal, FDLE and DEM. Through a grant from FEMA, the FOG's will be distributed to fire service organizations throughout Florida. A training program on how to use the books has been developed by the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training and will be available on CD or video.
- The Bureau of Fire Standards and Training is offering the FEMA Response to Terrorism series through a federal grant. Agencies wishing to participate need to request the training.

Chief Casey reminded the council about the FSFC A-List.

The draft for the Florida Firefighters Occupational Safety and Health Act is approximately 95% complete. Copies of the final draft will be distributed to the council upon completion. Copies of the Firefighter I Compliance hand-out were distributed. Chief Casey reviewed with the Council.

A letter was distributed refuting comments made by Fred Becker, Jefferson County at the January 31, 2003 FFESTC meeting.

Discussion was held on Firefighter I. Chief Casey informed the council that military firefighters who are Department of Defense Firefighter II, fully comply with Florida's Firefighter I.

Assistant Director Harriett Abrams reviewed Administrative Code updates.

REPORT FROM BUREAU OF FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING:

Report on the Voluntary Hazardous Materials Certification tabled until next meeting.

Chief Casey gave an update on the progress of the USAR facility at the Fire College. Phase I will be collapse simulation, strictly for class rescue. The intent is to provide training for Type II and Type III technical rescue teams at the Fire College. Type IV training may be held throughout the state at various training sites. As part of the grant, an 8-hour awareness level course including elements of class rescue and safety recognition is currently being prepared. Train-the-Trainer classes will be offered to Certified Instructor's as well as the program distributed to fire service agencies on CD/DVD and video.

Discussion was held regarding the locations of state funded Type II and III teams in Florida. Chief Casey stated that the first teams will be in the Jacksonville/Duval County and Orlando/Orange County areas. Efforts are being made to make sure these areas are doing the necessary training. Type III teams are technical rescue teams. The State Working Group is trying to make sure that almost everywhere in the state will be within a one-hour response time of Type III teams.

Discussion was held on the upcoming Training Director's workshop. Items to be addressed are FFOSHA, 4A-61, testing procedures for training centers and reviewing hazardous materials training for minimum standards.

Chief Casey reminded the council that he sent a memo to the training centers regarding on-line training. He directed everyone to the Fire College's website to read what constitutes a legal degree in the State of Florida in accordance with Ch. 817 F.S. and to the Department of Education's website to review a list of who is accredited by what.

Chief Casey stated Volunteer Week was recently held at the Fire College. There were over 160 attendees. Course Delivery, which is used to teach the Firefighter I course, was full.

The Fire College will host a job fair on April 14. Fire service organizations throughout Florida will be able to set-up displays for recruiting. In addition, attendees will be able to sign-up to be placed on a database for recruiting purposes.

OLD BUSINESS

Special Exemption Sub-Committee Chairman Shayne Stewart updated the council on the Sub-Committee's progress. The sub-committee reviewed the list of departments and plan to continue to contact the departments. A revised/updated list will be reviewed at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Casey stated that the program manager for firefighter safety should be hired within the next couple of weeks. He will work with the Special Exemption Sub-Committee. Also, the advertisement for the new Student Services Manager position will be advertised. This individual will oversee registration, dorms, learning resource center and certification of classes.

AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

Chief John Reble, City of Milton Fire Department referenced the Firefighter I training requirement in FFOSHA and asked about the time frame to receive Firefighter I training. Chairman Randolph stated there will be two workshops held as well as the Fire Service Instructor's conference and there are plans to get out to rural areas to help with minimum standards and fire officer training. Chief Casey stated there will be a document available in a question and answer format explaining those types of things that are not specifically addressed in the law or rule.

Kenneth Harwood, Leon County Volunteer Fireman's Association stated there is confusion about the exemption requirements regarding the Firefighter I test and changes to "grandfathering" existing 40-Hour basic volunteer training. Chief Casey clarified that if an individual is exempted they are not required to take the test. If an individual has the old 40-Hour basic volunteer they are exempted however they will not receive a Firefighter I certificate. If they want to take the Firefighter II training they will have to go back and get Firefighter I.

Chief Ron McQueen, Fanning Springs Fire Department stated it took him six months to complete the Firefighter I course. He expressed that there needs to be a little more understanding about the 40-hour exemption and that we don't need to exclude people that are serving their community. Chief Casey clarified the exemption. He stated that a volunteer who has the basic volunteer certificate is considered exempt from having to have the Firefighter I certification, however they are still required to be trained commensurate to duty. Discussion was held on Firefighter I training.

NEXT MEETING:

July 22, 2003 10:00 a.m.
FFCA 46th Annual Meeting & Executive Development Conference
Adams Mark, Daytona Beach, FL

ADJOURN