

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting  
Orlando, FL  
June 3, 2004

PRESENT:

**NAME**

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.  
John Drago, City of Longwood  
Dave Harrawood, Emergency Services of Sarasota Co.  
Michael Randolph, Tallahassee FD  
Stockton Reeves VI, Insight Orlando  
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire Dist.  
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech

APPOINTED BY:

Fl Assoc. of Special Districts  
Fl League of Cities  
Fl Association of Counties  
State Fire Marshal  
State Fire Marshal  
Fl Professional Firefighters  
State Fire Marshal

ABSENT:

Shorty Bryson, Miami Fire Department	Fl Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
Julie Downey, Sunrise Fire Rescue	State Fire Marshal
Les Hallman, South Walton Fire Dist.	Fl Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
Jon Pasqualone, Fl Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.	Fl Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
Charles "Scotty" Taylor Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue	Fl Professional Firefighters

Chairman Randolph called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting on April 13, 2004 were approved. Motion carried.

**REPORT FROM DIVISION:**

Division Director Randall Napoli updated the council on the tri-annual renewal of the Florida Fire Prevention Code. He stated that there was a change made by the Florida Building Code Commission to use the International Building Code, which delayed the efforts to address conflicts between the building code and the fire prevention code. Workshops to adopt the code are now scheduled, however implementation may be pushed back past January 2005.

Director Napoli gave an update on the Governor's Hydrogen Fuel Vehicle initiative and explained that the Governor wants Florida to be on the leading edge of hydrogen technology. The division has set-up meetings with the Department of Environmental Protection to discuss fueling stations, vehicles, and safety for the public and firefighters who may respond to incidents. The legislative bill that would have given the division the authority to write uniform rules for these facilities did not pass this year, however one of the fueling stations will be built in a State Park and rules can be written for that facility. Discussion was held on training and response issues. The Director stated that

the intent is to develop two training packages: one for the code enforcement official and one for firefighters.

Legislation regarding elevator keys was discussed. Director Napoli stated that the law requires elevators in each region to be keyed alike and the State Fire Marshal has the authority for enforcing the rule. The Division is working with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) on developing rules. Discussion was held on security concerns, mutual aid agreements and outlying rural areas in a region. The Director stated that the law does not prohibit the same elevator key being used for several regions.

The State Fire Marshal has taken a stronger position to help local fire departments and law enforcement agencies involved in juvenile fire setter and prevention programs form coalitions in various areas of the State. The first workshop was very successful. Director Napoli will continue to update the council on the progress.

The Director reviewed domestic security issues and stated that all disciplines are working together to develop a Statewide strategy.

Issues on new school construction were addressed. The Director stated that based on a court decision, the State Fire Marshal and local fire officials now have the authority to review and have final approval of plans for new school construction. The Division is working with the Department of Education (DOE) on rules that need to be implemented. Division Attorney Gabe Mazzeo stated that the proposed rules were presented to DOE last week. Director Napoli referenced Chapter 1013 and discussion was held on authority having jurisdiction, charter schools and the inspection of existing schools. It is required that the school districts submit inspection reports to the division on every school in their district including the inspection report from themselves and from the local fire official.

School security and terrorist attacks on schools were discussed. The Director stated that there is a concern that terrorists will utilize the fire alarm system to lure students outside. The division is working with the school districts to standardize verbiage to establish a pre-fire alarm timeframe and plan.

The elevator key issue was revisited concerning federal buildings. Director Napoli stated the division does not have authority over federal property.

#### **REPORT FROM THE BUREAU:**

Copies of the council brief were distributed and reviewed. Bureau Chief Dave Casey updated the brief to include the following information:

Update on the Academic Instructor position advertisement and reviewed information on the fire college instructor positions.

Chief Casey stated that the test for the revised Company Officer course has been cross-walked between the old Fire College specific text and Smoke's book.

Discussion was held on the new National Incident Management System course and NWCG training.

Chief Casey stated that there is a possibility of including the incident command courses in the tactics program when it is revised.

FAC 69A-62 is being reviewed by the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC). The Director stated that JAPC was set-up by legislature to review every rule. Chief Casey stated that the FPF and FFCA are being asked to host cooperative regional meetings to go through the process with us.

Copies of the proposed Medical Evaluation Form were distributed, reviewed and discussed.

Chief Casey stated that the bureau is going to travel around Florida to offer a CEU bearing 8-hour seminar covering FFOSHA, the new CEU tracker/online registration system, and a review of course updates including train-the-trainers.

Chief Casey stated there are concerns for safety and statutory issues on the horizon for high schools offering the firefighter course. There is no intent to push the programs away, rather to make sure the programs are done in a safe manner and are compliant so they are worthwhile and valuable to the students.

Chief Casey reviewed the progress on the proposed safety officer certification.

Discussion was held on certified training centers and the required criteria to become one.

Council Chair Mike Randolph re-addressed the firefighter program offered by high schools. Discussion was held on DOE recognizing Firefighter I as an acceptable high school class, safety concerns, and instructors.

Discussion was held on exemptions allowed for an administrative officer of an agency to obtain Florida firefighter certification and the duties they are allowed to perform. Also discussed was the retention of certification.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Chief Casey noted that the request to initiate rulemaking for the proposed Fire Code Administrator program was received from the Florida Fire Marshal's and Inspector's Association and the bureau will begin working on it. Discussion was held on the intent of the certification.

Council Member Ron Williams distributed copies of the draft requirements for the Florida Fire Service Training & Education Provider of the Year Award. Discussion was held regarding the criteria and disciplines. It was agreed to strike "in all disciplines" from the requirements.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion was held at length on Department of Defense firefighters acquiring Florida certification.

**NEXT MEETING**

October 9, 2004; 10:00 a.m.  
Florida State Fire College

**ADJOURN**