

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting
St. Petersburg, FL
July 22, 2005

PRESENT:

NAME

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.
William Bryson, Miami Fire Department
Julie Downey, Davie Fire Rescue
John Drago, City of Longwood
Les Hallman, South Walton Fire Dist.
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire Dist.
Charles "Scotty" Taylor Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech

REPRESENTING:

Fl Assoc. of Special Districts
Fl Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
State Fire Marshal
Fl League of Cities
Fl Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
Fl Professional Firefighters
Fl Professional Firefighters
State Fire Marshal

ABSENT:

Dave Harrawood, Emergency Services of Sarasota Co.
Jon Pasqualone, Fl Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.
Michael Randolph, Tallahassee FD
Stockton Reeves VI, Insight Orlando

Fl Association of Counties
Fl Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
State Fire Marshal
State Fire Marshal

Vice Chair Shayne Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting held on April 4, 2005 were approved. Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION:

Division Director Randall Napoli stated that HB 69 codified the Florida Fire Incident Reporting System in law. The program is still voluntary and approximately 65% of departments are currently reporting. Also implemented is a Florida Fire Incident Reporting System Advisory Council which consists of the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council, and members from the emergency medical and emergency management agencies. HB 69 also addressed live fire training and State Fire Marshal confiscation.

Director Napoli gave an update on HB 1267. He stated by the year 2008 every nursing home will be fully sprinklered and reviewed the loan guarantee program. One of the initiatives for the upcoming Legislative Session is to do the same for college dormitories and Greek housing on State Universities. Discussion was held regarding funding issues.

The Director gave an update on SB 442. He stated a part of this bill sets up an informal interpretation panel for disagreements with fire codes, which are currently handled by a lengthy declaratory statement process. This law allows the contracting of groups to provide an informal interpretation to be reviewed by the State Fire Marshal's office with

a lesser turn-around time. He noted that this process is non-binding and if there is a disagreement with the interpretation, the issue can proceed to the declaratory statement process. Discussion was held regarding local rules and appeals boards. SB 442 also addressed fire sprinkler contractors and inspection of systems. He stated that an NFPA inspection is required annually for these systems. System tagging will be color-coded and the inspection reports will go to the authority having jurisdiction.

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU:

Bureau Chief Dave Casey distributed and reviewed copies of the Florida State Fire College weekly handout. The handout is distributed during Monday morning orientation and provides information and updates to the students. Starting this month, this information will be sent out on the A-list.

Chief Casey reviewed the council brief distributed prior to the meeting. The brief was updated to include the following:

He stated that there is a new Policy and Procedural notice form that will be used to provide updates. All notices will be sent out on the A-list and posted on the website.

The Florida State Fire College is getting a new pumper; the 1967 Seagraves may be going to a museum in Tampa.

USAR training is 80% complete.

OLD BUSINESS

The Council Brief distributed by Chief Casey included old business. The brief was updated to include the following:

Discussion was held on the Fire Officer One test, textbooks and pass/fail rate. Courses for this examination can be taken over many years and the pass/fail rate reflects this. Update will be given at next meeting.

Susan Schell, Fire College Instructor Supervisor reviewed phase II of the FCDICE system. She gave an update on new/upgraded features of the system and stated that the smart cards are progressing. Discussion was held on testing sites, schedule, and posting of test results.

Discussion was held regarding online testing and testing sites. Promissor won the bid. No discussions so far, expected to start this month.

Discussion was held on upcoming "Tailboard Talks" CDs from the Florida State Fire College and Down and Dirty CDs from Illinois.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council Brief distributed by Chief Casey included new business. The brief was updated to include the following:

Copies of proposed rule 69A-37.40 for Live Fire Instructor were distributed. Chief Casey referenced a flow chart provided by Chief Sheppard and it is attached to these minutes. Discussion was held at length. Concerns were expressed about Instructor I and II credentials and experience, levels of certifications, and definition of terms. Suggestions include an 8-hour awareness class and direct references to NFPA 1403. The Council supports the rule and will submit additional requests regarding the proposed rule in writing to Chief Casey prior to the rule workshops.

Discussion was held on revisions to Firefighter I and II.

Chief Casey stated that the National Wildfire Coordinating Group is working across the nation to determine common skills that are appropriate for interface zone training for structural and wildland firefighters. Florida is one of the first three states up for review. The initial review requires an additional 24 hours to be added to FFI. This will be brought back to the Council for recommendations.

Discussion was held regarding new housing subdivisions and requirements of the fire code not being met.

AUDIENCE

None

NEXT MEETING

October 14, 2005, 11:00 a.m. at the Florida State Fire College.

ADJOURN

Below is the flow chart provided by Chief Sheppard and discussed at the July 22 meeting. Changes were made based on that meeting and we will discuss those as they now appear in the revisions to 69A-27 at our October 14 meeting.

