

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting
Marco Island, FL
July 21, 2006

As Acting Chairman, Les Hallman called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m. With permission from Director Napoli it was requested that the first official form of business be to officially select a Chairman. As agreed, following roll call Director Napoli would discuss appointments.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

NAME

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.
William Bryson, Miami Fire Department
Julie Downey, Davie Fire Rescue
Les Hallman, South Walton Fire Dist.
Dr. Ron Nutter
Jon Pasqualone, FI Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire District
Laurie Sweeney, Orange County Fire-Rescue Dept.
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech

REPRESENTING:

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

ABSENT:

John Drago, City of Longwood
Stockton Reeves VI, Insight Orlando
Charles "Scotty" Taylor, Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue

FI League of Cities
State Fire Marshal
FI Professional Firefighters

The Director discussed new and old appointments. Dave Harrawood who represents the Florida Association of Counties has indicated his intention to resign. An official letter of resignation has not yet been received. It is likely we will be getting a new representative from the Florida Association of Counties. Stockton Reeves, who is a citizen member, has missed a number of meetings and the CFO office is working to fill that civilian position.

On a motion duly made, Shayne Stewart was nominated and voted Chairman. Motion carried.

On a motion duly made, Les Hallman was nominated and voted Vice-Chairman. Motion carried.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting held on April 17, 2006 were approved. Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION:

The Director gave an update on Gabe Mazzeo who was our Division attorney and staffed this council as well as the Fire & Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel. Gabe has been promoted into a different role and he is no longer our Division attorney but in a supervisory management role. Lesley Mendelson is the new Division attorney and will be staffing this council as well as others.

A reminder to council that each of the members must operate under the public records law in the State of Florida which means, outside of noticed meetings it is not permitted to discuss any business that either has, will or may come before this council. This includes e-mails. Any discussions or information that members may want to share must be submitted to staff or to Director Napoli and it will be made available to the other members. Everyone should have a Government Sunshine book, if not, one will be issued.

Informational items:

The Firefighter Memorial Service this year is on Friday, October 13, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. The Joint Council thought moving to a Friday might help attendance. There will be further discussion at the Joint Council meeting in regards to the reception normally held.

On August 23, 2006 there will be a Pipeline Train the Trainer Session held at the Fire College at cost. Those who attend will be issued a training packet that they can use to teach in training facilities, local fire departments, emergency management, and to local law enforcement. This is a basic program that USDOT financed through the National Association of State Marshal's. There will be a CD issued which includes all information, power points, text books etc. Additional flyers will be sent to you via e-mail. Follow up will consist of one additional state-wide meeting and then break out into regional meetings.

The Director gave the following updates on Legislative Issues:

We are trying to assist USDOT/pipeline operators comply with some of the new laws and regulations that require them to meet and communicate about issues with responders. One of the key pieces is High Consequence Areas (HCA). The law states that a pipeline operator must work with the responder on HCA's.

We are currently working with the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC) on Live Fire Training rules and are hopeful that within the next few weeks we will have authority to move forward with the rule.

69A-58 – Educational Facilities Rule. Legislation mandates that local fire departments inspect school facilities in addition to the school board’s themselves conducting inspections. We received resistance from the school board but we are working through those issues. The Director urged council members and those in the audience to try to work with their school board.

Nursing Home Loan Guarantee Program. Legislation was to mandate every nursing home in the state of Florida to be fully fire sprinklered within the next five years. In order to help those nursing homes that may be financially struggling, there is a loan guarantee program. The state is guaranteeing a portion of the loan that the nursing homes might have to take out to be fully sprinklered. With the state guaranteeing all or a portion of the loan the nursing home that may not have been able to receive a loan will be able to get one. This rule has been promulgated.

69A-64 Firefighter Death Benefits. This rule is updated each year and the amount of payout to families is increased every July 1, according to the rise in the consumer price index.

We are in the process of adopting NFPA 502 for the tunnel which is being built over to the Port of Miami. NFPA 502 is being promulgated by us and is a few months away from being finalized. Meetings have been ongoing with other state agencies, DOT and locals. The locals are pushing hard for additional fire protection in the tunnel above and beyond what 502 requires and we are assisting where we can.

The Governor vetoed legislation that extended the sprinkler retrofit in high rise, condominiums and other residential structures. It would have extended the requirement from 2014 to 2025. It is critical to get these high rises sprinklered as quickly as possible.

Fire Team USA Project: FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security funded state meetings (which will lead to town meetings) for every state in the country on the benefits of fire sprinkler systems. They provide strategies how individual communities can adopt ordinances to require residential fire sprinkler systems. They will be coming to Florida in September. Director Napoli will be sending out a letter with the dates and locations. The invitation is to the fire service, fire code officials, building officials, city council, and county commission members to attend. The meeting will be held in the Orlando area. From that meeting, individuals from various jurisdictions take back materials to hold local meetings.

Discussion was held on Line of Duty Death Benefits; Director Napoli briefly reviewed the current benefits. It is now under discussion whether the State Fire Marshal’s office has the statutory authority to determine if it was in fact a line of duty death and if the individual(s) qualify for benefits. Chairman Stewart volunteered his assistance to anyone who might need it since he has personal knowledge with the benefit program.

Lesley Mendelson, Division Attorney arrived and was introduced by Director Napoli to the council.

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU:

Chief Casey distributed a brief to the council (attached) updates are as follows:

Live Fire Training – Three pilot classes have been held at FSFC. Included was an internal class was for the individuals who helped write the program and an external class for subject matter experts who had not yet seen the program. Out of the pilot classes we now have approximately 75 certified instructors at level two. An A-List announcement will be sent out with upcoming training opportunities.

The training CD's and DVD's are prepared. DVD is for the instructor course; CD is for the Adjunct and contains teaching guides, power points, hand outs etc. We are currently working with training centers on test dates so their people can be qualified as soon as possible.

The North American Fire Training Directors which consists of all the state training directors and the Canadian provincial training directors are looking at putting together new statutes and training programs for live fire training and they want to “do like Florida did”. It has been requested that Chief Casey go up and speak to their Chiefs' Association about it.

FCDICE. Outside providers must be in the system to enter classes. There is a simple process to be added to the system which must be arranged prior to submitting to teach a course.

Online Testing. Will utilize all new tests, program will give immediate test results with a temporary letter stating that you passed/failed. Information will go into FCDICE that night. The Bureau will still maintain the issuance of certificates.

Fingerprint Update. We are trying to tie-in with smart card credentialing. The company that is handling our on-line testing is one of the bidders for fingerprinting processing.

DOD Equivalency. Director Napoli gave a brief history on the Equivalency Examination and the current qualifications. Uniformity for firefighter training across the state needs to be ensured. DoD Firefighter II have the only blanket approval that we have (by sequence number) but not all DoD firefighters are military, some are civilian and this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Concerns were expressed that it may be viewed insensitive or as a patriotic issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dade County High School Program Update. They are offering to hold the FF1 at a certified training center even though it is not required. It does qualify for the Gold Seal Scholarship. They must have graduated high school to get into the FFII portion. We do not have their final proposal at this point.

Discussion was held on fingerprinting for underage EMS students and the Jessica Lunsford Act.

A brief discussion was held on new (orange) FOG (Field Operation Guide) Miami-Dade offered to put it in PDA format and it would be placed on Emergency Management's web site and include a link on the Bureau web site. Chief Casey distributed CD's to anyone who needed one. Director Napoli stated that part of the problem with the FOG's is that the identifiers are not being used as intended, which will be discussed at the next SERP meeting (7/22/06).

Firefighter I and II: - Discussion was held on the Forestry S130 and S190 courses. There have been no formal requests for this to be added to the program.

Discussion was held on training center compliance. 69A-37 Florida Administrative Code has detailed information on what is needed to be compliant.

NEW BUSINESS:

A new course being offered is the Firefighter Survival Rapid Intervention Program. It is a 40-hour course and will utilize the Delmar text book, *Rapid Intervention Company*. A Train-the-Trainer will be held for Fire College personnel in December and will extend to certified training centers interested in providing similar training or the same class.

Charlie Brush, Standards Supervisor, stated that a review of FF 1 has been done and has been matched up with the objectives from NFPA 1997 and 2002. It was made available at the workshop that was conducted and copies are available for anyone interested. They are currently working on necessary training hours and also working with training centers to determine what the "model" class will be. The intention is to add more practical training hours.

Charlie Brush stated that a revision of the Bureau of Fire Prevention tests has been completed in preparation for on-line testing. The tests are all upgraded under current Administrative Code based standards and are in the process of doing that similarly with Minimum Standards test bank. Revisions are also being made on Officer questions and are working towards objectives. We are working closely with the training centers on revising the practical portion of the testing. The goal of the revision on the practical examination is that any fire department could use any one of our practical tests as part of their in-service training and get value for them. Chief Casey stated that how we've

gotten to where we are now has basically been part of the appeal process and the legal direction that we have been given. We are trying to transition back to a performance objective style that is very clear and definable. Tests that are given at different training centers have to be of exact equal difficulty. Field Examiners will all be on the “same page”.

Smart Cards: We have been working on smart card credentialing for three years and we currently have the smart card are going out to bid right now so that the pictures and cards can be produced more locally for everyone. We currently have a few test groups using smart cards and they are working. This allows for local scanning on hand held computers. The cards have four layers of identification, federal requirement is only two.

Chief Casey stated that we were advised recently that FDLE & the Driver’s License Bureau will be issuing domestic security I.D. cards. They will also have a bar code in them but do not know if they will have a data base with training records or how they will be updated. We are going ahead with the Smart Cards which are approved by the Department of Homeland Security and fully meet all of the requirements.

Director Napoli stated that each person in the field will receive through your regional domestic security task forces, a list where your agencies will roster everyone to get these cards (FDLE/Driver’s License issue). The movement behind this is to get something out quickly. Photo’s are already on file with the Driver’s License Bureau.

AUDIENCE:

NONE

Chairman Stewart introduced Mary Ann Benson who will be taking over the duties that Angie Cain has held. Angie is moving to another section in the Bureau, she is the Manager of Student Services/Registrar at the Fire College. Stewart thanked Angie for her many years of great service to the council. She will be missed.

Chairman Stewart reminded the council of the three firefighters in the Panhandle that passed away and requested a moment of silence to recognize any fire service, law enforcement or military that have given us their service.

NEXT MEETING:

October 13, 2006, 2:00 p.m. in Ocala

ADJOURN