

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting  
Jacksonville, FL  
January 25, 2007

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**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  
Greg Gay  
Dr. Ron Nutter  
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire District  
Charles "Scotty" R. Taylor, 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  
State Fire Marshal  
State Fire Marshal  
State Fire Marshal  
Fl Professional Firefighters  
State Fire Marshal

**ABSENT:**

Jon Pasqualone, Fl Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.  
Stockton Reeves VI, Insight Orlando  
Laurie Sweeney, Orange County Fire-Rescue Dept.

Fl Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.  
State Fire Marshal  
Fl Professional Firefighters

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting held on October 13, 2006 were approved with a name correction.

Motion carried.

Chairman Stewart stated that the council will wait for the new member appointment before selecting a new Vice Chair. He thanked Director Hallman for his years of service on the council and congratulated him on his new position.

Council agreed.

## **REPORT FROM DIVISION:**

Director Hallman gave a brief report on the on-going transition in Tallahassee. The new CFO, Alex Sink has a key interest in the Fire Marshal's office and is a very big supporter of the Fire Marshal's office. Prior to her election she did a lot of research and she truly understands the needs of Florida's fire service. The new Chief of Staff is Jim Cassidy, he has worked with Ms. Sink for twenty years in the banking business, another very strong, business minded individual. The Division reports directly to a Deputy CFO, Eric Miller. Eric Miller was previously Bureau Chief of Arson; he left Arson and became the Division Director of Fraud. He is the first Deputy CFO that has a full understanding of the Fire Marshal's office, how we operate and what our needs are. The transition is a lot of work, things are calming down but there is still a lot of work to be done.

Division wide, everything is status quo. The focus going into March and April is the legislature. Priority 1 is to monitor bills that directly effect the Division. Currently monitoring twelve of those bills. Thirty six bills introduced deal more directly with local jurisdiction for fire service and law enforcement. These are also being monitored.

The twelve bills being monitored right now are as follows:

**House Bill #45** – Worker's Compensation and First Responders. This bill has been introduced in previous years and it is trying to get some protection to First Responders who receive the small pox vaccination.

**House Bill #219** – Firefighter Training. The bill is asking for the appropriation of \$15 million for training. Concern is that the \$15 million will come out of the Insurance Trust Fund which is how the Division of State Fire Marshal is funded. This is a big concern and it will be monitored closely.

**House Bill #262/264** – (history) back in 2002 there was a constitutional change in the state of Florida which established the Chief Financial Officer. In doing that, it did away with the Insurance Commissioner. Both of these bills are trying to bring the Insurance Commissioner. There would still be a CFO; the bill is asking to re-establish the office of the Commissioner of Insurance. This is being monitored very closely because the Division of State Fire Marshal will be directly affected if that occurs.

**House Bill #319** – Building Code Inspectors. The intent behind the bill is that a local jurisdiction can't require certifications above and beyond what the state requires for building inspectors.

**House Bill #321** – Law Enforcement, Forensics training.

**House Bill #396** – Community Associations. Fire service items involved that are being watched closely.

**House Bill #404** – Construction Industry Regulation. Includes requirements for persons taking examinations for building code inspectors.

**House Bill #483** – Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors. This bill will require that every single family home in the state of Florida, including existing homes would be required to install smoke detectors as well as carbon monoxide detectors.

**House Bill #521** – FRS – Compensation for Firefighters and Paramedics. Looking at prior years and clearing up language on compensation.

**House Bill #589** – Florida Building Code.

**House Bill #746** – Companion Bill to **House Bill #845** – Worker’s Compensation Issues.

Director Hallman informed the council that the difficult part of this process is keeping an eye on the amendments. What can happen is a bill can have absolutely nothing to do with the fire service and an amendment will be attached to it, those are hard to catch. Director Hallman asked council members to keep an eye out, if they see something of importance to please let him know.

National Grid System – FASAR is moving forward with the Train the Trainer Program.

Domestic Security Funding Committee has approved items and will be moving forward to the legislature for funding. It is mainly sustainment and training of USAR and Haz Mat teams.

**REPORT FROM THE BUREAU:**

Chief Casey introduced the Division staff in attendance.

Chairman Stewart welcomed Greg Gay to the council as the newest citizen members. Greg Gay is a lobbyist, investment banker, former Deputy State Fire Marshal under Tom Gallagher for two years. Prior to that Mr. Gay was a legislator for eight years.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Prior to the meeting, Chief Casey distributed a briefing to the council and audience.

**NWCG S130, Basic Wildland Fire Suppression and S190, Wildland Fire Behavior.**

There are some instructor credentialing issues that still need to be worked out. 40 hours of training still needs to be added.

Standards Supervisor Charlie Brush discussed how S-130/190 is being incorporated into FF1/FF2 and also what changes are being made to the FF1/FF2 training hours.

Further discussion was held on S-130/190.

Council members requested to see documentation on changes.

Chief Casey stated that CD's were mailed out several months ago containing the forestry curriculum. The revisions to the remainder of the program, the 1001 Standards are available in draft form.

On a motion duly made, it was recommended that S-130/190 be included in FF1 curriculum.

Motion carried.

FCDICE – new function – if a class is full, you can be notified by e-mail the next time the class is being offered.

With assistance from Community Colleges uploading class information, test requests can be processed and approved faster and test dates given. Once on-line testing is started, tests results can be immediate. Also, records are updated each night so results can be seen by the department the next day.

Discussion was held on fingerprint processing and what information is considered public record.

Discussion was held on training center compliance.

Live Fire Rules are in effect. Information in detail will be available on the Division website.

Chief Casey gave clarification on several live fire training rules.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Credentialing Smart Cards – Department of Homeland Security requires us to have a state-wide credentialing system in place. The system is up and operational. The cards have not been issued yet.

Homeland Security Funding – a couple of years back a structural collapse program was set up to be done on-line through Louisiana State University. Issued to each fire department through the regional domestic security task forces, was the curriculum which included a CD, a master copy for handouts, instructor guides etc. It was not met with great success. Very few people have seen it. The strategy group decided that we need to do this again. It will be updated and have the new markings included. Also there will be a company level “How the State Emergency Plan” works. It will be available on line and notification will go out through the Fire Chiefs’ “E-Group” and through the Bureau’s “A-List”. Copies will be issued to fire departments. Program should be out this summer.

Discussion was held on non-accredited schools/home schooling.

A motion was duly made; a request will be made to CFO Sink to please include at least two positions to act as Safety Field Representatives for the Safety Office within the Bureau of Fire Standards & Training.

Motion carried.

Chairman Stewart will submit letter from council.

Discussion was held on live burns and under age volunteers.

There are issues in Escambia County in reference to 160 compliance/FF1 requirement that need to be addressed.

Ron Williams stated that there were six applications received for the Training Center of the Year Award, Brevard Community College has been chosen.

A motion was made to accept Brevard Community College as the training center of the year.

Motion carried.

**AUDIENCE:**

Chief Otto Drozdill from the City of Hialeah, representing the Fire Officer's Association from Miami Dade.

With the practical application in 69A-37 being changed, it has put their training center into default by not having the correct props. They have run it through their training committee and they have a proposal to correct the problems.

In the past, written agreements with other certified training centers, that came through the training committees and through the association, the proposal would allow them to have typing of training facilities. Type I, as an example would have all the required props in 69-A on site as required in the code. Type II training facilities would have an memorandum of agreement with Type I facilities and be able to use their facilities and maintain certification in the training that they are already doing.

This is an issue that is affecting five training centers now in the south Florida area.

They are asking for the council's consideration.

Further discussion was held in reference to training centers being permitted to use another certified training facility's props and the issue of proper documentation of training hours.

Director Hallman stated that this is an important topic and definitely a topic for discussion. There are other constituent groups involved, the Training Directors Association and a lot of other people would be impacted by this. This is a good launching point for discussion; ultimately, if anything changes it will require the rule making process. The council can make a recommendation and get it entered into the rule making process. Ultimately, that is where the decision will be made. The way things stand right now, it is not following the Administrative Code.

On a motion duly made, this discussion was tabled until the next meeting after more information can be gathered.

Motion carried.

Chairman Stewart stated this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** April 17, 2007, 1:30 p.m.  
325 John Knox Road  
Atrium Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room 312  
Tallahassee, FL

**ADJOURN**

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**AMENDMENT:**

As an addendum to these minutes, the Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel (FFIRS) advised the following excerpt from the FFIRS meeting from January 25, 2007 be added to the official record of these minutes.

*Director Hallman digressed to the prior meeting of the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council (FFESTC) in reference to the training center requirement issues. Several members on the FFESTC council may have a conflict of interest in that subject matter and as council members might be restricted in their discussion. Lesley Mendelson (legal) suggested that a rule making workshop be held where the council members will sit as members of the audience and they can speak openly before this issue becomes an agenda item. Lesley's suggestion is to allow free and open input at the workshop, the council can then discuss it in further detail.*

*Discussion was held regarding conflict of interest.*

