

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting  
Sanibel, FL  
July 20, 2007

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:**

**NAME**

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.  
William Bryson, Miami Fire Department  
Julie Downey, Davie Fire Rescue  
Greg Gay  
Dr. Ron Nutter  
Jon Pasqualone, FL Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.  
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire District  
Laurie Sweeney, Orange County Fire-Rescue Dept.  
Rick Talbert, South Walton Fire District  
Charles "Scotty" R. Taylor, Gainesville Fire Rescue  
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech

**REPRESENTING:**

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

**ABSENT:**

John Drago, City of Longwood  
Stockton Reeves VI, Insight Orlando

FL League of Cities  
State Fire Marshal

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting held on April 17, 2007 were approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Stewart suggested getting a status update on council members Stockton Reeves and John Drago. It was suggested that the Director's office contact them by letter to determine if they wish to continue serving on this council.

**REPORT FROM DIVISION:**

Director Hallman reminded that council that Chairman Stewart had sent a letter to CFO Sink asking for the status of our Safety Division and recommending that we fund positions within that Safety Division. As the Director mentioned at the previous meeting, the '07-'08 budget had already been completed and it was too late to have the positions added. However, working with the '08-'09 budget and legislative priorities, the Director is hopeful. It is one of his goals to increase health and safety of Florida's firefighters. CFO Sink totally supports getting these positions filled. She's hoping that even with the budget cuts, we will be approved for the four full time positions being requested for the Safety Division.

## **REPORT FROM THE BUREAU:**

Chief Casey apologized for missing the last meeting and appreciates Chairman Stewart standing in for him with the Bureau report.

The Dedication of the USAR site at the Florida State Fire College took place a few weeks ago. CFO Sink attended along with representatives from all of the nine task forces, elected officials from local city, county and state. It was a useful time for them to see what has been set up. It went very well.

In Marion County, each year “Marion Legislative Home Day” is held for the legislature. This year it is being done by the City of Ocala Fire Department and Marion County Fire Rescue along with E-One, Class 1, ProPoly, UPF and Classic Fire. The Fire College will be hosting the event this year and will of course provide demonstrations.

Advertisements are out for several Fire College Instructors and for two Field Examiners. Larry McCall, long time Field Examiner has turned in his resignation and will be leaving December 7, 2007.

### Course Updates:

FESHE – There is a national effort to mesh all of the certification programs along with the community college programs. All of the community colleges with fire service programs were met with. This includes program updates. Excellent cooperation from the schools.

Course Development and Course Delivery programs are close to being prepared, working on finishing touches. Pilots will be ready this fall. An 8 hour train-the-trainer will be offered at Fire Rescue East. This is not a requirement.

The State EMS Advisory Council met yesterday. Discussion was held on qualifications to teach EMT and Paramedic. Currently they “really don’t have any”; it’s been up to the local community college. They have a committee working on this and they have come up with an initial recommendation of the lowest level instructor, you would need 12 hours of specific instructor training. It did not go over well with the Advisory Council. The EMT representative, a couple of the other representatives, including the chair of the committee, felt they should adopt fire standards and use the same requirements as a certified fire instructor.

The revised hydraulics and apparatus courses have been done in conjunction with Brevard Community College. This will also be offered as an 8 hour train-the-trainer at Fire Rescue East along with the new materials. Both of the train-the-trainer courses will also be offered at the Instructor Conference.

Safety Courses – The first course will be the Fire Department Safety and Health Program. Author, James Angle. The second program is the Incident Safety Officer. Author, David Dodson. Mr. Dodson will come and help teach the program. The third program is the Legal Aspects Program; there is presently no text book available for the course.

The Light Technical Rescue Training Train-the-Trainer for in-service training has been completed. Received great feed back.

Coming up - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Safety Conference October 9 – 11, 2007  
October 12, 2007 Firefighter Memorial

The Alliance of State Urban Search and Rescue Systems (SUSAR) which includes most of the states and several other countries will be meeting in Ocala (hosted by the Bureau) in November at the new Holiday Inn.

Panhandle Volunteer Weekend – September 28 – 30, 2007.

Online Testing – The last regional test will be given on August 8, 2007. All certification testing will be done through Promissor except for FF1/2.

Discussion was held on on-line testing for FF1/2.

On a motion duly made, the council requests that the Bureau explore the possibility of FF1/2 written testing continue to be done at the training centers and to explore the possibility of Promissor being able to use the training center computer labs.

Motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Discussion was held on illegal fireworks. Director Hallman repeated his request for reports on injuries/incidents involving fireworks. Rick Talbert, president for the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association has appointed an individual to collect data and to forward that data to the Director's office.

“Everyone Goes Home Safe” – For the first time, the Train-the-Trainer will have a labor representative and a manager representative to deliver the program. Because of the overwhelming response they are going to open it up for 50 trainees instead of the 20 that it was originally budgeted for.

Notice of Violation Letters – went out to the City of Freeport and the High Springs Fire Department referencing improper live fire training exercises.

Investigations were done, violations were found. The High Springs Fire Chief (interim) has resigned. Director Hallman stated that through this process the Division has learned that we do not hold enough authority under Florida Statute 633 and the rules to pursue

some of these cases as they would like to. His hope for the next legislative session is to be able to gain a little more “teeth”. Our only recourse now is through civil court. The Division is exploring new ways for the statute and rule to be written to gain more authority in pursuing incidents.

Further discussion was held on authority to pursue violators.

Another item on the list for legislative issues is enforcement authority for the minimum age for volunteer firefighters.

Discussion was held on Live Fire Training Instructor 1 and 2 training responsibilities. The main concern being if the instructor in charge would have to be responsible to teach the entire program or if multiple instructors can be used. Chief Casey explained that it is a concern of the Bureau’s. He personally feels that “take one teach one” process that is now in FAC 69A-37 is extremely dangerous for certain programs. Would prefer to follow Forestry’s lead with NWCG Task Books, which would mean that until the instructor can prove they are able to teach the class, they don’t teach the class. Field exercises are the main concern. The Bureau wants this to work logistically for everybody without losing the level of verification of skills.

Chief Casey stated that he will bring this concern to the Florida Fire Training Directors Association meeting on Sunday.

On a motion duly made, the council requested for Legal to create verbiage/language for the State Fire Marshal’s office to be able to impose penalties, other than civil authority, on individuals or entities for non-compliant/dangerous training evolutions (live burns) for the safety of our firefighters.

Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Chief Casey informed the council that NFPA 1001 will be making significant changes. The big concern being class time versus practical time. The Bureau has been working extensively with the training directors and should be able to provide information before the next meeting.

Chief Otto Drozd from the Hialeah Fire Department again brought to the council’s attention, the situation he has not having his own burn building.

Chief Drozd stated that the rules have not changed, just the interpretation. When they applied to become a certified training center, they were issued a letter from the Division that states they could use the burn building of another facility (attached). That was the provision for them becoming a certified training center and they have worked under those provisions for many years. Recently, the interpretation of the rules changed, not the

rules. The situation for Hialeah is a little different because the distance to the other facility (Miami-Dade) is so short; it is ½ - 1 mile away.

Further discussion was held on interpretation of the rule pertaining to certified training centers and the situation Chief Drozd is facing in Hialeah.

On a motion duly made, the council requests that the Bureau to explore and come back with any language that they could live with that would allow more flexibility in the use of approved facilities that don't belong to the jurisdiction. Chief Drozd withdrew his request pending resolution at the next meeting.

Motion carried.

Rick Talbert stated that he is aware that Chief Drozd has been trying to resolve this issue for quite some time now and he has attend the last several council meetings, he would like to see this resolved by the next meeting.

Chief Casey stated that he would like further discussion to take place referencing Hialeah so it can be resolved and be a settled item for the October meeting. Chief Casey feels this issue can be resolved with the existing infrastructure in the immediate area. The broader question would be that no future facilities be approved unless they have met all requirements per the code.

#### Physical Fitness for FF1/FF2

As Ron Williams presented to the council at the last meeting, the training directors and the Bureau have formed a physical fitness committee. One of the things that were identified with the three training fatalities that occurred in the last couple of years was the lack of a proper physical given by the doctor. Several different issues were looked at and the recommendation of the committee is for the training center to identify a doctor or group of doctors that will be the only ones to perform the physicals (for applicants of FF1/2) in the area. This is already working at the Indian River Community College and Central Florida Fire Academy. This will be strictly for any certified fire training center.

The committee surveyed all the training centers and found a wide variety of entrance tests for physical agility testing. The committee recommends that an aerobic capacity test be used for entry as a minimum requirement. Once this test is passed they would then proceed to a combat challenge type test. These two tests would make up the entry test for FF1/2.

The committee is also suggesting that the present minimum of 8 hours of physical training in the FF2 curriculum be increased to 50 hours with a certified fitness trainer. It is recommended for FF1, at orientation there be an 8 hour physical fitness training.

These recommendations would apply to all certified training centers.

**AUDIENCE:**

Mike Coker from the Division of Forestry supplied handouts to the council referencing Fire Service and NWCG Instructor Qualifications and Florida Division of Forestry Instructor Agreement. The CD is now out and available. Mr. Coker requested a few moments at the next meeting to provide a presentation.

**NEXT MEETING:** October 12, 2007, Florida State Fire College, Ocala, FL

**ADJOURN.**