

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting  
Jacksonville, FL  
January 24, 2008

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:05 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  
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  
FL League of Cities  
FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.  
State Fire Marshal  
FL Professional Firefighters  
FL Fire Chiefs' Association  
FL Professional Firefighters  
State Fire Marshal

**ABSENT:**

Greg Gay  
Dr. Ron Nutter  
Stockton Reeves VI, Insight Orlando

State Fire Marshal  
State Fire Marshal  
State Fire Marshal

Chairman Stewart reminded everyone in attendance to scan in for ceu's and to sign in.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting held on October 12, 2007 were approved.

Motion carried.

**REPORT FROM DIVISION:** *Given by Director, Les Hallman*

The legislature will begin again on Monday, March 3, 2008. Over 1,400 hundred bills are being monitored. Director Hallman stated these bills will continue to be monitored for anything that might impact the fire service. Weekly strategy meetings will be held in Tallahassee once the legislature begins.

The Fireworks Task Force work was completed on January 15, 2008 and submitted into legislature. It may or may not turn into legislation. It will be monitored very closely because if the report is accepted as written, it will have some very strong impacts on public safety in the State of Florida concerning fireworks. The report is available to view on the Fireworks Task Force web site.

Important to this council is the State Fire Marshal Bill F.S. 633 re-write. This provided an opportunity to do some "clean-up" in F.S. 633, but more importantly the Joint Administrative Procedure Committee (JAPC) had questions about Firefighter 1 being in the rule. The requirements for Firefighter 1 were originally put in with the FFOSHA rules, looking at the "two in and two out" and minimum training required for a person to

enter a burning building. Since F.S. 633 already addresses a certified firefighter, JAPC felt that we should move anything that had to do with firefighter certification into F.S. 633 itself. We acted on that immediately.

Reference of a certified Firefighter 1 is moving out of the rule and into F.S. 633. Now, when reading F.S. 633, it will address both a Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2. While looking at this, the opportunity was seen to address a couple of issues that this council has brought up in the past that relate to safety. The first issue concerns the safety of individuals on the fire ground with minimal or no training. In the re-write of F.S. 633, an opportunity was seen to create something that will be called a Fire Ground Resource Technician. The State Fire Marshal's office is very aware that some volunteer departments may not have people who are willing to be interior firefighters and have no desire to be a Firefighter 1, but it is recognized that certainly there are people who can help operations out greatly, yet should those people not be trained to a minimal level of safety, understanding incident command, etc. The Fire Ground Resource Technician will allow that to happen. This will be brought to the Council where things such as curriculum and minimum amount of hours can be worked out and the Council can give its recommendation.

Another new item to be seen is an Apprentice Firefighter. The state presently supports the many high schools that are holding apprentice firefighter programs, but as of this time there are no requirements, nothing that addresses at what age a person should be exposed to a burning building, etc. Work will be done with the Department of Education and the Council to come up with the minimum requirements for the firefighter apprentice program to make sure it is done in a safe manner.

Also being proposed into F.S. 633 are increases to supplemental pay for persons holding degrees. Right now there are no incentives for a masters degree, so an effort will be made to add it. However, this may be struck due to budget concerns.

It is possible that by the end of this week or early next week that this bill will be filed both in the Senate and the House. As soon as the bill is filed, Director Hallman stated he will get a copy of the bill to the Council members.

***Chief Bryson expressed his concerns that the Council was not informed of the new items before they were proposed.***

Director Hallman explained that the Council will be making recommendations as to what the curriculum and minimum hours required will be. He further explained that there was no intent to hide anything from the Council; nothing can get past the legislature without going through the public process. This had to happen very quickly and this is the way it was done.

The Annual Florida Fire Service Awards will be in front of the Cabinet on Tuesday, April 15, 2008. There will be a reception on Monday, April 14, 2008.

The current vacancy on the Council actually belongs to the Florida Association of Counties. They have been contacted and they will be bringing a recommendation forth, but it has yet to be seen.

To answer Chief Angle's question (which was previously e-mailed) about the terms for Council members, after doing some research, the Director would still like to get with Lesley Mendelson (legal) on this because, it currently states that all members will serve a four year term and no member can serve more than two consecutive terms. This bill took effect in 2002. Any vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment

for the remaining time of the term. Based on the current language it sounds like, this entire Council will be sun-setted in 2010 at the end of the second term and an entirely new council will need to be named. Director Hallman stated that he will investigate this further because he does not feel this was the intent, it would certainly cause a problem to have to replace the entire council at one time. The Director would like to see this fixed with an amendment this year. If not this year, then certainly before 2010.

Chairman Stewart noted that within that same statute, it is required to elect officers every year and suggested nominations be given at the July meeting.

**REPORT FROM THE BUREAU:** *Given by Bureau Chief, Dave Casey*

Chief Casey stated the Memorial at the Fire College is in need of upgrades and repairs. Along with the Joint Council of Fire and Emergency Services (the group that oversees the Memorial at the Fire College) we will be selling different types of bricks and pavers and plaques to raise funds for necessary repairs. There are forms out at the Fire College booth. The week after next it should be up on the Florida Fire Chiefs' web site also so you could order on-line with a credit card through them.

The **On-Line Portal** [www.florida-elearning.com](http://www.florida-elearning.com) was put up in December. Right now there is only one program on there, however since it has been up we have had over 500 people take the Structural Collapse Awareness course and complete it. We are getting excellent feedback. It is also available on CD with power points, instructor materials and student guides for fire departments who want it offered in a traditional classroom format. The Bureau is recommending that it be taken on-line since it will automatically upload into the FCDICE, so credit can be given. If a department uses it traditionally they will have to upload the record of the class manually so that the records can be captured. This is a part of the Homeland Security initiatives. The Structural Collapse Awareness course can be used for ceu's for fire inspectors and if approved by your local medical director, it can be used toward EMT or Paramedic renewal.

The programs will be limited to funding we can acquire. There are two new programs being looked at and are trying to secure the funding through Homeland Security monies. It looks like funding will be provided for at least one if not both. Work has been done with the Florida Fire Chiefs' on this with the State Emergency Response Plan (SERP) along with the Florida FOG.

Chief Casey took a moment to point out Bureau staff in attendance.

The Fire College still has instructor openings. There have been three unsuccessful advertisements and we are about to try again. The biggest issue seems to be the pay and FRS issues (retirees who are not permitted to work for the state right away).

The 69A-37 Hearing will be held this Saturday. As discussed at the last meeting, the revisions must be made due to the NFPA 1001 changes. This is the normal program schedule. All of the textbooks have to change and they are all in the process of coming out with new versions right now. The changes that are in the proposal are due to the NFPA 1001 changes and JAPC. It does not do away with Firefighter 1; it changes the terminology to Part 1 (to comply with JAPC direction) until the legislature meets and then it will go back to Firefighter 1. It does add hours with the addition of S130/S190. We are required to add the DOT Traffic Safety which is a 2-1/2 hour module. If the state wants to be able to continue to collect federal DOT money, we have to incorporate it. All public agencies are being required to do this.

*Chief Bryson questioned the change in hours from 360 to 500 hours. The Council had discussed the Forestry S130/S190 portion which is up to 40 hours and then the additional 8 hours. He inquired as to what the extra almost 100 hours would be used for.*

**Charlie Brush, Standards Supervisor** was asked to give a break down of hours. Mr. Brush explained that with the change, the total hours are now 500 hours, less 24 hours. The 24 hours is 16 hours of skills review and 8 hours of knowledge review. Built into the program is 12 hours for review, but since you can not have a topic area called Review, it is built in so there is time for review. It is not required. Currently, the majority of training centers are conducting well over 450 hours. The original standards were done in 1997 and that is the current NFPA version that we are taking on. For example, in 1997, thermal imaging cameras did not exist or were extremely rare.

*Chief Bryson did not recall the Florida Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council talking about or approving increasing the training to 500 hours. Chief Bryson expressed his concern about changes being made without the Council ever talking about them and questioned why the Council is needed if that is going to be the case. Chief Bryson requested the list/breakdown of training hours from Mr. Brush.*

Mr. Brush gave further explanation on why some of the new training hours are required, due to new technology and how the process started with taking every component of NFPA 2002, creating objectives to meet those components. With 2008 coming out, another update was done to bring it to the 2008 standards.

*Chief Bryson stated that everything Mr. Brush said is “well and good” and he feels that everyone in the room would agree that a lot of that is necessary and probably even more could be added to it. Chief Bryson expressed that his problem lies with the fact that the Council does not go over these things before it is recommended to go into law. The Council’s purpose is to make recommendations and he cannot understand it when something like this happens and he feels the council members are wasting their time if that is the way it is going to be done.*

Chief Casey stated that included in 69A-37 are the requirements for training centers. These are for new centers. The current requirements under 69A-37 are old and they do not reflect the current course content or objectives. As seen during the inspections of the training facilities, if you had the bare minimum you really do not have the facilities to meet the current course objectives or for the standards that are being replaced. Existing centers will stay in compliance. All new centers will have to meet the new standards.

**Textbooks:** Currently the training centers have been permitted to use any of the three textbooks that are approved for Firefighter 1 and 2. Those textbooks are IFSTA, Jones & Bartlett, and Delmar. During the October meeting with the training directors, a concern was brought up that there are very significant differences between the three textbooks. The objectives are not equally met between these textbooks. The training directors have suggested going back to using only one textbook. Two of the three current publishers, Delmar and Jones & Bartlett can publish state specific books. As of yesterday, the training directors will be putting together a committee to “cross-walk” the books. All of the publishers will be attending the Standards Workshop being held in April to present their books with the new 1001. After the workshop, it will be possible to talk back and forth with the publishers and express concerns. The training directors will then give a recommendation of which text they want, they will bring it back to this Council for the July meeting for adoption. Depending on how the rule hearings go, we would like to try to have the new standards in place for implementation in October. All classes started before October will be under the current standard, classes started after October will be

under the new standard and new text. If we continue with the 3 or 4 (Penwell) available texts, we will need to also use addendums to bring it up to our standards. If a Florida specific book is created, we could put in the Florida FOG and any other additional information needed. This may make the book cost rise. This will be discussed at the April meeting. A three-ring binder may be used, easier for materials to be added and this will keep the printing costs down. Nothing has changed as of this point.

### **Training Center Inspections:**

Half of the training centers have been inspected. It is going very well. The compliance now on the third round is showing much improvement. The safety of the centers is much better, the compliance to the standard is much better and the quality of training and the capability of the students coming out have improved. Many of the centers have been able to get most of the improvements that they have been seeking for years.

*Chairman Stewart questioned the requirements for training centers not being under Florida's building code, such as gas props.*

Chief Casey explained that the facilities had to meet the 1402 standards and we are not contradicting the code anywhere. Chief Casey stated that he will get with the Division of LP and verify with them if there is any conflict. The Bureau does meet with them on a regular basis and have not had any concerns with them.

*Chairman Stewart also expressed his concern about an issue he noticed last October when he was at the Fire College. He noticed one of the props at the Fire College were not to code. The car still had tires, interior, bumpers and they were burning it. It was his understanding under Live Fire Training, that if using as a prop that all of that had to be removed. It was mentioned to one of the instructors at the time.*

Chief Casey disagreed but stated he would verify the information and get back to the Council before the next meeting. To his knowledge the Fire College is 1402 and 1403 compliant.

*Chairman Stewart stated that the point to his statement is that we need to make sure that what we are doing at the Fire College, or what we are proposing to these other training centers, need to be in compliance all the way across.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

Annual Instructor Workshop (free). Very important to try to get the fire department training officers or staff members from training bureaus to attend. Besides the fact they can pick up 20 ceu's if they attend, the emphasis this year with the Instructors Society and the Bureau is take home training. The people attending, who are instructors can bring back a lot of material for providing ceu's within their agency for inspector and instructor and continuing education training.

This workshop follows the Annual Standards Workshop.

In September, along with the FPF and FFCA the Bureau will be hosting again the Firefighter Health and Safety Conference which will be at the Orlando Mall Hotel, September 8 – 10, 2008.

Chief Casey, along with Susan Schell, Instructor Supervisor have been visiting the classrooms at the Fire College. Due to budget concerns, have been asking the students what they think about the possibility of going to "blended learning". This would still be

following all the collegic requirements for regular college credit; this would be for fire officer and fire inspector series. The students would take half of the class on-line and the other half would be at the Fire College. One of the biggest concerns the students had is the loss of interaction between students. This would still keep half of it (2-1/2 days). For individuals coming on their own time, it reduces their need for time swaps through the fire department. It would be possible, such as if they are going for Fire Officer, that we could run the second half of two classes the same week so they could come for a week and finish two classes. Chief Casey stated he would like the Council's input.

***Chairman Stewart responded by saying that he was for it as long as the curriculum would still be offered in a traditional manner.***

***Council member Rick Talbert stated that he thinks it is creative approach and a great way to look at being more efficient.***

***Council member James Angle stated that he thinks this would benefit people who are not able to attend traditional classes for whatever reason and create a convenience for them.***

Chief Casey informed the Council that this may not be ready by July; it is going to take ongoing research and time. The student input is not overwhelmingly in favor and also mentioned to keep in mind that the people questioned are people who were physically in the classroom.

All of the inspection series is available on-line at other institutions and all of Fire Officer One. A listing can be found on our web site.

#### Interpretation on Live Fire Training Instructor II

As it stands right now, an individual teaches the entire program, under another's supervision, all of the prep, all of the set up, all of the coordination to verify that you actually know how to run the entire program. There is language referencing this in the rule. If there is a desire by the Council for us to revisit, we will.

***Chairman Stewart stated that this was requested at the last meeting. The debate was basically that if an instructor has taken the LFT1, the candidate for LFT2 signs off on all of the positions that they should, the biggest issue was the classroom material. If you go in as an LFT2 candidate and teach a portion of the classroom, that should suffice since you have to already be an Instructor 1 which is six years of fire service involvement and to have passed the Instructor 1 exam. It is his understanding that the instructor would not have to teach all of the classroom time.***

Chief Casey again stated that, as it stands right now, the instructor must teach the entire program. If it is the desire of the Council to revisit that we can.

***Ron Williams stated his agreement; he feels that it is difficult to get one instructor to be able to complete the whole program.***

***The Council requests that this be brought back as an Action Item at the next meeting.***

#### Pierson/Vue (Promissor) – Firefighter 2 testing

Chief Casey stated that we have to move away from pencil and paper testing. There are all sorts of reasons for this, including budgetary and timeliness issues. The specific

question that was brought up being: can it be done at the local training center in their computer lab through Pierson/Vue? To do that would be outside of the state contract with Pierson/Vue. Pierson/Vue may entertain discussion on it if the training center has all of the facility requirements that you would have to have at their site. It would be at a considerably higher cost per person. We are willing to work with the training centers and Pierson/Vue to accomplish that, but be aware of the cost.

*Council Member James Angle asked if Chief Casey could provide a geographical map showing the location of all testing centers and Promissor/Pierson/Vue testing sites.*

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Action Items:**

#### **Action Item #10/07.001-Adoption of designated physician or group physicians perform the required Bureau of Fire Standards & Training (BFST) FF1/FF2 application physical.**

On behalf of the FFTDA/BFST Physical Fitness Committee, Ron Williams would like to see the training centers have a designated physician or physicians to administer the application physical.

Further discussion was held on changing the language to state the “training centers shall designate a medical practice to perform the required application physical.”

Chief Casey recommended that the training center provide the knowledge of what needs to be covered to the medical practices of the area and say, if you are interested in performing medicals and providing this service, you will need to attend training,

Lesley Mendelson stated that we have no authority over any medical practice. The only authority held is over the applicants. She suggested stating to the applicant that the physical that they are required to take may be given by any physician who holds this special expertise. This could still be an issue and a legal challenge.

Council member Rick Talbert suggested we state, “as prescribed by NFPA 1582”. Lesley Mendelson stated that NFPA 1582 could be adopted into the rule.

Council member Shorty Bryson suggested a better process might be that any physician that does one of the exams will be furnished a copy of 1582 requirements and have to sign that they have read and understand the requirements that are listed. Or, the training center can provide the physical and applicants could go to their doctor.

Ron Williams is asking the Council for verbal support to bring back to the Training Directors Association.

*Chairman Stewart stated that the Council supports the training centers in their recommendation to appoint a physician or group of physicians or group as long as it meets the new rule to provide the physicals.*

This is not a recommended rule change.

By unanimous vote by the Council, Action Item 10/07.001 is adopted as amended. (see attached)

**Action Item #10/07.002-Adoption of present medical form be expanded to include a list of specific medical conditions that could affect the applicant's ability to perform as a firefighter.**

Council member Rick Talbert recommends that the form should reference the specific medical conditions that could effect the applicants ability to perform as a firefighter as prescribed by NFPA 1582.

Further discussion was held on pre-employment/pre-training physicals.

Council member Shorty Bryson suggested that the medical form specifically state that it is for training purposes only. It needs to be separate and clearly defined that the physical is for firefighter training only, not employment.

Lesley Mendelson suggested that this needs to be looked into and checked with NFPA 1001 and the ADA.

On a motion duly made, Action Item #10/07.002 will be tabled until further information can be gathered by legal council.

Motion carried.

**Action Item #10/07.003 – Adoption of Physical Agility Testing FF1/FF2**

Council member Shorty Bryson stated that he supports the idea of taking on physical standards. He suggests taking on something that has gone through some processes like the C-PAT and make that the minimum. He recommends that physical ability tests are based upon aerobic conditioning, strength, flexibility, balance and must be validated.

Council member John Drago stated that the training centers do not offer employment; they train. A physical agility test is given before employment predicated on the employers standards. Different parts of the state fight fire in different ways depending on their location and surroundings so; the physical agility test should be different. Under Civil Rights Law, 1964, Chapter 8, specifically says it has to be job performance. You have to prove that the testing you give is the performance they are going to function in, in your fire department. Henceforth, the difference. For the training centers, this may be acceptable and not violate federal law because they do not offer employment. For training centers offering employment, under federal law, has to be job related.

Chief Casey informed the council, back in Florida's history, in the 70's and early 80's, there was a state minimum standard physical ability test to get hired. The legal decisions at that time with the due concerns to ADA was that the state got out of the business of employment medicals and employment physical abilities. Now, our authority is for entry into training programs. This discussion is limited to training, not employment.

Council member James Angle suggested adding, "...an aerobic capacity test shall be used as an entry test a minimum requirement **when an employee/employer relationship does not exist.**"

This is not being recommended to go into the Rule.

On a motion duly made, Action Item #10/07.003 is approved with additional language.

Motion carried.

**Action Item - #10/07.004 – Increase of physical training in curriculum for FF1/FF2.**

This would apply to training centers only, not for agencies that are employers. This is a curriculum item.

Chief Casey stated that the vast majority of training centers are already doing this now. At the Fire College, one hour of physical fitness is done every day.

Further discussion was held on physical fitness training at the training centers. Some of the training centers train their employees and other departments' employees. There, the issue would need to be differentiated.

A motion was duly made to approve Action Item - #10/07.004.

Motion denied. Needs to be re-written.

**Action Item – 10/07.005 – FF1 Orientation to include 8 hours of physical fitness training.**

On a motion duly made, it was recommended to table Action Item – 10/07.005.

Motion carried.

Chairman Stewart advised that with some re-writes, some of these issues can be re-addressed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Web portal for online classes: [www.florida-elearning.com](http://www.florida-elearning.com)

The web portal for online classes is up and running. We are receiving good feed back. The biggest issue/concern that we have had is that some of the departments are experiencing security hang-ups with it. It is not a big issue; they would just need to get with their local IT and have them add it as an approved site. Some of the older computers are having trouble. On our website we have all of the latest software necessary to run everything properly. Anyone who does not have what they need, can go right to the web site and link up to it.

Training Center of the Year Award

Ron Williams provided a Training Center of the Year Profile handout.

Ron Williams stated that the Coral Springs Fire Academy has been selected for the Training Center of the Year Award.

On a motion duly made, the Council approved the recommendation for the Coral Springs Fire Academy to receive the Training Center of the Year Award.

Motion carried.

**AUDIENCE:**

**Russell Beaty, Pensacola Fire Department.** Has a concern with their recent exam pass/fail rate. Their pass rate has suddenly greatly declined. He questioned changes

made to the test. Their prior three classes have all been taught the same way with the same materials and the prior three classes all did well on the exam.

Chief Casey stated that if the students are studying the objectives for the course, they do very well. If you rely on study guides that do not follow state objectives, they will not do well regardless of what textbook you use. There have been no changes to the test.

Charlie Brush informed the Council and audience that all three textbooks have been “cross-walked” and they found all the same answers in all three textbooks.

Chairman Stewart asked Chief Casey, if they did not change their method of instruction, had successful classes before using the same book, what changed between then and now that they are having a problem with it?

Chief Casey stated that the only trend the Bureau has observed, that we can identify why there have been changes in pass/fail rates, is that some facilities have relied on commercial question banks for their quizzes or very text specific study guides, again, this would refer back to the text, not to the state objectives.

Further discussion was held on study guides and performance objectives.

Mr. Beaty’s second concern was with the gas props at his training facility. They put in two gas props with plans to control it back at the tank with the control heads there. They were instructed to raise the pipes up out of the ground with control heads at each prop, unsupported, waist high. The contractor would not do it. The contractor stated it was against code.

### **Training Officer, Captain Terry Jackson, Pensacola Fire Department**

As was mentioned, it was the original plan to have the master control center at the tank and secondary controls at each prop. We now have unprotected pipe at 3 feet above the ground. They were instructed by the state examiner to do it this way.

Chief Casey replied in saying that it concerned him and he would get back to them directly. He will verify with the Division of LP to be sure and get back to them as soon as possible.

Chairman Stewart stated that within the statute, it says that the Council has the ability to discuss past recommendations concerning fire education and safety. With the upcoming amendment and its possibility of reducing the manpower in many of areas and departments which in turn can affect the safety of the firefighters. Chairman Stewart requests of the Council that they oppose Amendment 1 on the grounds that it is very possible that with a reduction of revenue to cities, counties and special districts and the possible reduction of firefighter manning that it puts an undue safety issue to bear on fire departments and firefighters and that Amendment 1 is opposed.

On a motion duly made, the Council will oppose Amendment 1 as written.

Upon unanimous vote, the motion carried.

On a motion duly made, the Council recommends the removal of additional 58 hours to the FF1/FF2 curriculum making the total hours 442. Charlie Brush added that before the hours went to the proposed 500, there was an existing 3 hours that kept us compliant. The Council agreed to a total of 445 hours.

Motion carried.

Chairman Stewart repeated that, it would be brought to Council, the pass/fail rate since March of 2007 to present on all training centers and if it is possible to find out which training center uses which publication.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, April 15, 2008 2:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN.**



## **ACTION ITEM #10/07.001**

**TO:** Florida Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council (FFESTC)

**FROM:** Florida Fire Training Director's Association/Bureau of Fire Standards & Training (FFTDA/BFST) Physical Fitness Committee

**DATE:** October 12, 2007

**ITEM:** Council supports adoption of designated physician or group physicians perform the required Bureau of Fire Standards & Training (BFST) FF1/FF2 application physical.

**DISCUSSION:** Recommend training centers shall designate a medical practice to perform the required BFST FF1/FF2 application physical. The training center shall provide to the designated physicians training/information about the physical training required in FF1/FF2. The physical exam shall be required for entering into any FF1 or FF2 training program at a training center.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Vote for approval by FFESTC

Submitted on behalf of the FFTDA/BFST Physical Fitness Committee by: Ron Williams

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**FFESTC ACTION:** Council adopted as amended

**DATE:** 1/24/08.

**COMMENTS:**



## ACTION ITEM #10/07.002

**TO:** Florida Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council (FFESTC)

**FROM:** Florida Fire Training Director's Association/Bureau of Fire Standards & Training (FFTDA/BFST) Physical Fitness Committee

**DATE:** October 12, 2007

**ITEM:** Adoption of present medical form be expanded to include a list of specific medical conditions that could affect the applicants ability to perform as a firefighter.

**DISCUSSION:** The present medical form shall be expanded to include a list of specific medical conditions that could affect the applicants ability to perform as a firefighter. The physician shall question the applicant about listed conditions. The physician and applicant must sign the form. (See attached form)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Vote for approval by FFESTC

Submitted on behalf of the FFTDA/BFST Physical Fitness Committee by: Ron Williams

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**FFESTC ACTION:** Tabled until further information can be gathered by legal council.

**DATE:** 1/24/08

**COMMENTS:**

**FIREFIGHTER I/FIREFIGHTER II**

Medical Evaluation Form  
(To be completed by physician)

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student Name (Please Print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Social Security Number*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

As a Minimum Standards Firefighter recruit you will be engaging in training exercises and you must be aware that the following conditions could be aggravated, possibly to a severe degree. **Physicians check** any of the conditions that are answered positive and give an explanation.

\_\_\_\_\_ Recent eye surgery

\_\_\_\_\_ Heart problems

\_\_\_\_\_ Panic disorder or stress

\_\_\_\_\_ Respiratory disorder

\_\_\_\_\_ Emphysema (loss of elasticity/thinning of lung tissues)

\_\_\_\_\_ Bronchial asthma

\_\_\_\_\_ X-ray evidence of pneumoconiosis (black lung)

\_\_\_\_\_ Evidence of reduced pulmonary (lung) function

\_\_\_\_\_ Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

\_\_\_\_\_ Coronary (heart) artery disease

\_\_\_\_\_ Cerebral (brain) blood vessel disease

\_\_\_\_\_ Severe or progressive hypertension (high blood pressure)

\_\_\_\_\_ Epilepsy, grand mal, or petite mal (seizures)

\_\_\_\_\_ Pernicious anemia (severe reduction in red blood cells)

\_\_\_\_\_ Diabetes (any form)

\_\_\_\_\_ Abnormal skeletal conditions (back-joints)

\_\_\_\_\_ History of skin allergies

\_\_\_\_\_ Any condition for which you presently take medication and could that condition be made worse by strenuous exercise (please explain)

\_\_\_\_\_ Any psychological problem that would affect you as a fire fighter.

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have reviewed the above information and am not currently suffering from these or any condition that would prevent me from participating in this training. Failure to answer these question truthfully will be grounds for dismissal from the training academy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student's Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physician Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## **ACTION ITEM #10/07.003**

**TO:** Florida Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council (FFESTC)

**FROM:** Florida Fire Training Director's Association/Bureau of Fire Standards & Training (FFTDA/BFST) Physical Fitness Committee

**DATE:** October 12, 2007

**ITEM:** Adoption of Physical Agility Testing FF1/FF2

**DISCUSSION:** The Committee surveyed state training centers and found a wide range of PAT requirements including: no test, C-PAT, combat challenge to running 1-1/2 miles with pushups and sit-ups. The committee recommends that an aerobic capacity test (walk 2 miles wearing an SCBA within 30 minutes) shall be used as an entry test a minimum requirement **when an employee/employer relationship does not exist.** The applicants that pass the aerobic capacity test would proceed to a combat challenge type test with a time limit of 7 minutes. (See attached test) These two tests would make up the entry test for FF1/FF2. Training Centers using the C-PAT could use it in place of the above PAT.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Vote for approval by FFESTC

Submitted on behalf of the FFTDA/BFST Physical Fitness Committee by: Ron Williams

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**FFESTC ACTION:** Approved with additional language.

**DATE:** 1/24/08

**COMMENTS:**

**BROWARD FIRE ACADEMY  
COUNTY WIDE FIREFIGHTER PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST**

The Broward Fire Academy Physical Test is based upon a comprehensive job task analysis; this determined tasks that are deemed critical, ones performed frequently by firefighters.

Part I, the On-Target Combat Task Test, was developed by Paul O. Davis, PhD and Charles Dotson, PhD of ARA/Human Factors, Inc. This validated job-simulation test is used to objectively measure firefighter performance. The tasks are performed sequentially, and accurately reflect the metabolic demand imposed on a firefighter during actual emergency situations.

ARA/Human Factors, Inc. have monitored heart rate responses and pulmonary requirements for these and other firefighter activities. Not all fires are the same, and it is not possible to anticipate every emergency scenario. However, a firefighter who can complete the tasks listed below within the recommended time frame possess the level of fitness necessary to meet most emergency demands.

Part I, the On-Target Combat Task Test is done wearing a 22 pound weighted vest. The events are done sequentially and must be completed within 7 minutes. The clock does not stop until all five events are completed. However, a candidate should pace his/her self and no running is allowed at any time during the entire test.

Part II consists of four separate exercises that will test a candidate's ability to perform as a firefighter.

This ability test is designed so a candidate must walk at all times. Automatic failure will occur if:

1. The 7 minute time limit is exceeded. At this point, the clock will stop and the test is completed for that individual.
2. Equipment is abused by unnecessarily dropping a nozzle, hose or sledgehammer on the ground. All equipment shall be properly set on the ground.
3. Failure to comply with specific instructions given by the staff of the Broward Fire Academy.

## PART I

### **Task 1 - High-rise Stair-Climb Evolution**

Start behind the red line. The high-rise hose pack shall be placed on the left shoulder. The free right hand is to be used on the handrail for balance only.

**NOTE:** The handrail cannot be used to pull yourself up or pivot around landings.

Contact must be made with every step. Do not skip a step ascending or descending. The hose pack must be deposited on the fifth floor landing at the spot marked with an X. 5

### **Task 2- Hoist Evolution**

Walk to the fifth floor window; step up and out onto the balcony. Stand behind the red line; use a hand-over-hand method to pull the rolled hose to the top of the railing. Walk forward and lift the hose roll over the railing and place it on the floor.

**NOTE:** Do not place your feet on the concrete edge that is painted red.

Return to the fifth floor landing and place the high-rise hose pack on the right shoulder. Descend the stairs using the handrail for balance only.

**NOTE:** Contact must be made with every step. Do not skip a step or run at anytime.

Once at the base of the stairs, place the high-rise hose pack on the ground and proceed to the Forcible Entry Evolution.

### **TASK 3 - Forcible Entry Evolution**

Position both feet on the diamond plate so your toes are even with the weighted slide. Bend forward so you can see the end of the slide at all times. With ten-pound dead-blow hammer, using short hard strokes, drive the slide five (5) feet until it clears the numbered markings.

**NOTE:** The body must be kept in the bent forward position and the eyes on the target at all times. The hammerhead cannot be raised higher than the 10 o'clock position, and the hands must not move on the hammer handle.

Carefully set the hammer down and proceed to the Hose Advance Evolution.

### **Task 4 - Hose Advance Evolution**

Pick up the nozzle and place it over either shoulder and drag a charged 1.75 inch hose line straight forward 75 feet. The evolution is finished when the nozzle completely crosses the line between the cones. If you should slip, get up and continue on.

**NOTE:** Hands should be placed on the hose or coupling, not the nozzle and the nozzle should reach the waist.

Place the nozzle on the ground and walk around the cones to the Victim Rescue Evolution. Automatic failure will occur if the nozzle is dropped.

### **Task 5 - Victim Rescue Evolution**

Pick up the rope of the 175 pound victim and drag it, walking backwards only, 100 feet to the marked finish line. This evolution and Part I of the test are completed when the victim completely clears the finish line.



## **ACTION ITEM #10/07.004**

**TO:** Florida Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council (FFESTC)

**FROM:** Florida Fire Training Director's Association/Bureau of Fire Standards & Training (FFTDA/BFST) Physical Fitness Committee

**DATE:** October 12, 2007

**ITEM:** Increase of physical training in curriculum for FF1/FF2

**DISCUSSION:** Physical training curriculum presently is 8 hours for FF/FF2. The committee surveyed the training centers asking how much physical training was actually done during FF1/FF2. The range was between 24 and 60 hours. The committee recommends that the required physical training hours be increased to 50 hours. A certified physical fitness trainer "should" supervise the training. We recommend that the BFST design a Physical Fitness Trainer course for fire instructors.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Vote for approval by FFESTC

Submitted on behalf of the FFTDA/BFST Physical Fitness Committee by: Ron Williams

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**FFESTC ACTION:** Denied. Needs to be rewritten.

**DATE:** 1/24/08.

**COMMENTS:**



## **ACTION ITEM #10/07.005**

**TO:** Florida Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council (FFESTC)

**FROM:** Florida Fire Training Director's Association/Bureau of Fire Standards & Training (FFTDA/BFST) Physical Fitness Committee

**DATE:** October 12, 2007

**ITEM:** FF1 Orientation to include 8 hours of physical fitness training.

**DISCUSSION:** The committee recommends that, as a part of FF1, orientation there shall be 8 hours of physical fitness training, which shall include a baseline physical fitness assessment, nutrition, and life style lectures.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Vote for approval by FFESTC

Submitted on behalf of the FFTDA/BFST Physical Fitness Committee by: Ron Williams

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**FFESTC ACTION:** Needs to be rewritten.

**DATE:** 1/24/08.

**COMMENTS:**