

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting
Tallahassee, Florida
April 15, 2008

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.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, FI 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 January 24, 2008 were approved with a name spelling correction.

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION: *given by Director Hallman*

Director Hallman had no additional information to add to the report given at the preceding Fire & Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel meeting with the exception of the following:

The Florida Association of Counties has appointed a new member to represent them on this Council. He is a Citrus County Commissioner and he will hopefully be joining us at the July meeting.

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU: *given by Bureau Chief Dave Casey*

Chief Casey sent a notice out on April 10, 2008 referencing the rule making. The next workshop will be held in Crestview, Florida on May 1, 2008. The legal notice is not out yet, but it will be shortly. The full announcement will be sent to all Council members by e-mail as soon as it is available.

Any hearing comments can be e-mailed to: Lesley.Mendelson@myfloridacfo.com

We have received some feedback other than from the actual hearings, but nothing officially.

Thursday night will be a Volunteer Leadership meeting at the Fire College which is a part of Volunteer Week with the FFCA's volunteer committee. They will also be provided the e-mail address to forward any comments on the proposed rule changes.

After the rule making hearing being held on May 1st, all public comments will be gathered and weighed out.

Currently, only the states of Georgia and Illinois are ready to go with the new standards. We are very similar to Georgia with the FF1 standards. Illinois is still going through the process but as with Georgia, they are very similar to us. Both states have much shorter FF2 programs than what Florida has, with their overall hours being approximately 420.

There is a national move to try to get all states in-line with FF2. The Department of Homeland Security just put out a bulletin that, as part of the national credentialing system, they are going to try and have all states go to a uniform standard.

About five years ago, all the state training directors were pulled together and a document was formed and turned into the Department of Homeland Security. This would make a FF2 in each state equivalent, but would not make certificates transferable for employment.

The plan is to move ahead. The biggest change to be seen will be First Responder being a pre-requisite/requirement.

As asked for by Chairman Stewart, Chief Casey provided a breakdown of test results by training center. While there have been anomalies, the overall averages are close. The texts, of course, are not uniform and stress different areas with different terminology. Two noticeable trends are apparent. The difference in scores is not profound between them and the passing rate is very high.

Currently, there are three text books the training centers can use. All have had to come out with new additions due to the new NFPA Standard. IFSTA and Jones & Bartlett have their new books in print. Delmar's new edition has not been released. Penwell, the

publishers of Fire Engineering magazine, also have a book coming out. Per the Council's request, the following is the breakdown of what book each center uses.

IFSTA: 21

Jones & Bartlett: 10

Delmar: 1

At the Standards Workshop, the FFTDA (Florida Fire Training Directors Association) voted to go with one text. All four publishers presented their texts and associated materials. The plan is for the FFTDA to take a vote of its members at their next meeting, which will be at the FFCA (Florida Fire Chiefs' Association) summer conference. That recommendation will come to the FESTC at the same conference for consent.

After correspondence and meetings with Pensacola, no conflict was found with the requirements of the State Fire Marshal and the Bureau of LP Gas Inspection between the code requirements for training centers and Florida's building codes for gas props.

A question was brought up about the gas props at the Fire College. The Florida State Fire College is in full compliance.

The Instructor Workshop held at the Fire College was well attended. Live Fire Training Instructor II was one of the topics for discussion. This information is captured on Action Item #04/08.007 (attached).

Chief Casey recommends leaving it as is or cutting back by very little.

Our on-line Structural Collapse course which was already approved for 4 ceu's towards inspector/instructor renewal has now also been approved by the State Medical Director, Dr. Joe Nelson for 6 ceu's toward EMT/Paramedic renewal.

The Safety Conference in conjunction with the Florida Professional Firefighters, the Florida Fire Chiefs' and the State Fire Marshal will be held September 8 – 10, 2008 at the Florida Mall. We've been working with a number of speakers and do have several confirmed already: Bobby Halton, Editor of Fire Engineering will be the key-note speaker; Dr. Denise Smith, well known for her work as a physiologist with firefighters and also speaking, Dr. Mike McEvoy. A speaker from NFPA Protective Clothing Committee will be there speaking about bunker gear care and testing. We are still working on getting a speaker for SCBA. It should be a good strong conference.

Discussion was held on the Firefighter II Examination pass/fail rate information that Chief Casey provided.

It was decided that Action Item #04/08.007 (re: LFT2) would be withdrawn and not voted on. Chairman Stewart stated that there are problems (Panhandle) with there not being enough instructors (LFT1's) to complete LFT2 requirements (burns).

Chief Casey offered help from the Bureau if a specific request from the training center is received.

Chief Bryson suggested a T-T-T for S 120/1390.

Mike Coker stated that a T-T-T is not currently in place but that it could be worked out with the Florida State Fire College.

OLD BUSINESS:

Terms of office for Council members – Director Hallman stated that Division Attorney, Lesley Mendelson is still researching this topic, but she is of the understanding that it was never the intent of the Legislature to have the entire Council sunset at the same time. She is still researching but feels this will not be an issue. She will have an update for the Council at the July meeting.

New officers will be elected at the July meeting.

Information on the DOT class was requested for the next meeting.

Chief Bryson asked for an update on the removal of extra hours from FF2 training. Chief Casey explained that there is still another rule hearing before anything can be put together and decided.

Director Hallman stated that Lesley Mendelson has done further research on a past question referencing ADA physical requirements. She has stated that the only time the ADA prohibits a physical is at pre-employment, not pre-education. She recommended that training centers clearly state on forms, “physical is for training only”, not an employment physical.

NEW BUSINESS: None

AUDIENCE: None

NEXT MEETING: Friday, July 25, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. Sawgrass Marriott, Ponte Vedra Beach.

Chief Angle suggested the Council purchase a Memorial brick and he will be collecting donations.

Chairman Shayne Stewart respectfully resigned from the Council after 12 years of service.

ADJOURN.



ACTION ITEM #04/08.007 REVISED

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

FROM: Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST)

DATE: April 15, 2008

ITEM: Council has requested review by staff of current requirement that a Live Fire Training Instructor (LFTI) II candidate should not have to teach the entire 40 hour LFTI program to become certified.

DISCUSSION: Following discussion with staff, development committee and an open forum with roughly 150 instructors, the desire was not to do anything that could reduce the quality or verification of compliance to the curriculum and standard. If desired by the council, the classroom teaching component could be reduced, although with a reduction in Quality Assurance.

Selection 1: No change.

Selection 2: The LFTI II candidate would be required to complete the planning, coordinating, setup, logistics, and paperwork for the entire 40 hour class. The candidate would teach 8 hours to include the acquired structure chapter and be present for all of the practical evolutions.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommendation by BFST: vote for no change by FFESTC.

Submitted by Chief Dave Casey

FFESTC ACTION:

DATE:

COMMENTS: