

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting
 Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
 July 25, 2008

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

NAME	REPRESENTING:	TERM ENDING:
James Angle Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.	FL Association of Special Districts	10-2010 (2 nd term)
William Bryson Miami Fire Department	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	10-2010 (2 nd term)
Julie Downey Davie Fire Rescue	State Fire Marshal	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
John Drago City of Longwood	FL League of Cities	10-2010 (2 nd term)
Greg Gay	State Fire Marshal	11-21-2010 (1 st term)
Jon Pasqualone Fl Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.	FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.	10-2010 (2 nd term)
Rick Talbert South Walton Fire District	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	01-13-2010 (2 nd term)
Charles "Scotty" R. Taylor Gainesville Fire Rescue	FL Professional Firefighters	10-2010 (2 nd term)
Ron Williams Lake County Vo-Tech	State Fire Marshal	10-11-2010 (2 nd term)

ABSENT:

Dr. Ron Nutter	State Fire Marshal	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
Laurie Sweeney Orange County F/R Dept.	FL Professional Firefighters	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting held on April 15, 2008 were approved.

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION: *given by Director Hallman*

Legal research has been done on what occurred in 2002 with this Council and how that impacts the current term limits council members are serving under. The confusion began in 2002 when the legislature established/re-constituted this council. Several things changed, the first being the title of the council. In 2002, prior to the legislative act, the

Council was known as the “Firefighters Standards and Training Council”. Under the new legislative act it became the “Firefighters Employment Standards and Training Council”. This act also added four new positions to the council representing; the League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida Fire Inspector/Fire Marshal’s Association, and the Florida Association of Special Districts.

The original Council had nine members. Prior to 2002, all nine members were appointed by the State Fire Marshal. There were specific parameters were laid out that two members had to be fire chiefs’, two firefighters but not officers, two fire officers who were not fire chiefs’, one member would be an instructor or director at a state certified training center and one general public member. In 2002 the appointment process changed. The Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association appointed the fire chiefs, the fire officers that were not fire chiefs continued to be appointed by the State Fire Marshal, and the Florida Professional Firefighters appointed the two firefighters. Therefore, the State Fire Marshal no longer had final appointing authority. The question then became, with the nine original members, where were they on their terms? Some members actually came in during the middle of this and actually took over another member’s term.

After the legal research, it is still felt that the original terms set are the same. The original appointment states, four year terms, and a member can not serve more than two consecutive terms. If you are finishing out someone else’s term, that counts as your first term. If re-appointed, that begins your second term.

There was a concern that everyone would be “termed out” in 2010. After legal research, it was determined that this is not the case. The Director stated that it will be determined when everyone’s term is up and asked for assistance from Council members to help determine those dates.

The Director stated that from this point on, it will be noted on the official minutes who each member is appointed by, which term they are in and when that term ends.

The Director’s office has official documentation for several Council members and is as follows:

July Downey – 2nd term – Ex: 6/20/10

Ron Nutter – 2nd term – Ex: 6/30/10

Ron Williams – 2nd term – Ex: 10/11/10

Greg Gay – 1st term – Ex: 11/21/10

Former member Shayne Stewart’s term would have ended on 6/30/10, so whoever replaces him will end their first term on that date.

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

Chief Casey introduced Bureau and Division staff that was in attendance.

Chief Casey reminded all in attendance to scan for CEU's.

The Training Directors Association meeting was held yesterday about books and curriculum. Later today under "Old Business" 69A-37 and 69A62 will be discussed and we should be able to publish it in the Florida Administrative Weekly.

OLD BUSINESS:

Textbook Recommendation:

Ron Williams reported that a formal vote was held at the Training Directors Association meeting. Jones & Bartlett, Brady IFSTA, Delmar and Penwell were the selections put to the vote. IFSTA won the vote, 16 to 10. 26 training centers voted. The recommendation to the Bureau, by the Training Director's Association, would be to select Brady, IFSTA as the textbook for Firefighter 1 and 2.

(Action Item #07/08.009 – attached)

On a motion duly made, Brady IFSTA was recommended to be the only textbook used for Firefighter 1 and 2.

Motion carried.

Chief Casey stated that the tests will be updated.

Rule Hearing Update: *given by Lesley Mendelson, Division Attorney*

Three workshops were held. The necessary changes have been made from public comments received. It is now being presented to this Council before being published in the Florida Administrative Weekly. Once it is published, comments will still be accepted but it will become rules unless objections are received. If that is the case, a notice of change will be filed. If not, it will go to the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC) and if they don't file any objections it will become law.

One of the changes, since there were so many questions on when the new curriculum would be applied, is that it will have an effective date of January 1, 2009.

If all goes well, we are hopeful for a publish date within two weeks. There will then be another hearing notice and it will be 28 days later that the rule may be filed. That is if there are no objections from JAPC. It will be effective on January 1, 2010.

Director Hallman stated that the changes that were made to the draft all come from the public hearings.

Charlie Brush, Standards Supervisor for the Bureau, explained that originally we had a total of 500 hours which included about 24 hours of review time broken it down into

three areas; NFPA requirements, Florida specific requirements, and federal requirements. We were tasked with reducing hours; we dropped the review hours out of the total. These hours were never included in the curriculum hours; it was in the total hours of the course. The next action done was drop the physical fitness hours. There was 50 hours involved, 25 hours for Firefighter 1 and 25 hours for Firefighter 2. That was reduced. Also, within the firefighter safety component, there was health and wellness which was reduced by 4 hours. For Firefighter 2, structural collapse awareness exists an on-line program that posts for fewer hours than we had counted within the system so we reduced the hours to match the on-line hours.

Firefighter 1 goes from 111 hours of knowledge to 107 hours. The skills go from 123 to 98.5, totaling 206 hours. Firefighter 2 goes from 92 hours of knowledge to 76 hours, and 149 hours of skill to 116 of skills, totaling 192 hours.

The total hours are now 398 for Firefighter 1/2.

Ron Williams addressed the topic of reinstating the physical fitness hours. The training directors had asked that a physical fitness requirement be added. Looking at the history of injuries and deaths in the state, several years ago, and several firefighters were killed in training fires. We reacted; we put 1402 and 1403 in place to protect our firefighters. Three firefighters have been killed in physical fitness training and we haven't done anything. We have an opportunity to do something with the physical fitness training. Ron Williams asked the Council to reconsider putting the physical fitness back into the curriculum or for physical fitness testing. This information was sent to the Council via e-mail and reads as follows:

- 1) All state certified training centers administer a physical agility test validated for entry into the FF Part I/II (Minimum Standards) program. Thereafter, at intervals (no less than 2) identified by the facility the recruit (student) will be evaluated for physical fitness progress. The outcome of the physical fitness training will be evaluated as part of the exit requirement for FF Part II.**
- 2) All fire departments, counties or municipalities engaged in FF Part I/II (Minimum Standards) training for the sole purpose of training personnel under their employ shall conform to that facility's physical agility testing and physical training requirements as set forth by the AHJ.**

This would give some backing to the training centers as well as the municipalities, counties and fire departments that we could require a physical agility test. At this point, we do not have that and we would like to see it made part of the recommendation. If the idea can not be backed we would like to at least see a testing authority.

Further discussion was held among the council members concerning a framework for the physical agility and if it will be used state wide. Discussed was the possibility that the

physical agility requirements should be relative to duties required and also the possibility of each training center having some latitude with the training.

On a motion duly made the recommendation is to add the 50 hours of physical fitness back to the curriculum.

Motion carried.

Chief Casey stated that one of the main concerns that were brought to the Bureau during the rule hearing was from the volunteer fire service and it was somewhat a geographic issue. It is sometimes difficult for volunteers to find training. Firefighter 1 (Part 1) still does not have to be taught at a certified training center, it is designed to be taught at a volunteer fire department. There are also alternative delivery techniques than can be approved if requested such as on-line training that can be provided in-lieu of some of the classroom. More importantly, mentoring would be possible for one on one small group training. All of this will allow the volunteer fire departments some flexibility that they have not had in the past.

On a motion duly made, the Council accepts the draft that will be amended with the additional 50 hours.

Motion carried.

Ron Williams stated that the physical agility entry test will not be a part of the curriculum. After further discussion it was decided that the exit requirement be removed from **(Action Item #07/08.010-attached)**

On a motion duly made, the Council accepts 69A-37 as written.
(Action Item #07/07.008-attached)

Further discussion was held on the physical agility being added. It was requested, an amendment is made to the motion and if the motion passes, the amendment is passed as well.

The Council agreed to remove the exit requirement of the physical agility for Firefighter 2 (Part 2)

Motion carried.

Motion as amended carried.

69A-37 Part 1 and 2

The proposed timeline for curriculum changes, which also includes Train-the-Trainer, will be starting in January. In short, any new training starting after January would be to

the new curriculum. A class with the new curriculum being used will be done at the Fire College before that, we will share with everyone any issues that come up.

In the fall, the Bureau plans to come back for another round of rule hearings. We were under direction from JAPC for Part 1, Part 2 (69A-62). There are some changes the Bureau would like to come back with under requirements for training centers because with the new curriculum adopted, the old requirements for training centers do not fully comply with. There are some things that need to be done. The Bureau will and has been working with the training centers on this as we go along.

One of the requests received from the training centers is that we re-visit the live fire training rules as it pertains to engineered systems. When the original live fire training rules came out, 1403 did not differentiate between an acquired structure and a permanent installed engineered system. Our legal council at the time was not comfortable with that because we would be stepping outside the NFPA standard. What we are proposing is to bring in the primary companies, basically everyone we know doing engineered systems, getting their input with some language, so we can differentiate between the two in our code requirements which would reduce the staffing requirements on engineered systems.

69A-62

The rule making process is the same as it is for 69A-37. The revisions were driven, with the exception of clean-ups, by JAPC. We have been directed to use terminology other than Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 until the statute changes, which we had hope to have happen during this session. Obviously that did not happen. This will make Firefighter 1, Part 1 and Firefighter 2, Part 2. Other changes, other than the clean-ups to web-sites and form numbers, is a shift towards using FCDICE and electronic paperwork. There were also time frames for volunteer departments to meet certain requirements and certifications that are all long gone by, so these changes were to remove requirements that are expired.

In the fall when we come back for the live fire, we plan to do some further changes to this rule. We have outdated haz mat references which will be cleaned up.

This will be the last time the Council sees it before it goes into the Florida Administrative Weekly and becomes adopted.

On a motion duly made, the Council approved changes to 69A-62.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Expansion of On-line Offerings:

Survey's have been being conducted and the Department of Financial Services IT are going to help with further surveys in response to the budget cuts that everyone has been incurring. We are looking into doing some "blended learning". This means, taking some of our programs and offering them partially on-line and partially in the classroom. This opportunity would also be extended to the community colleges and training centers that are providing the same material. As usual, we would be more than willing to partner with them on this.

On behalf of the Florida Fire Marshals' and Inspectors' Association, Jon Pasqualone stated that they are "on-board" with on-line training and are looking to explore further opportunities.

Chief Casey stated that what we have been speaking of is for formal certification. There is another component on continuing education. WWW.Floridalearning.com offers an on-line course right now on Structural Collapse Awareness which is a totally on-line class. It is the first class that the Bureau has offered on-line, and it offers EMT and Paramedic CEU's. We will have several additional courses coming out as well and are trying to capitalize on CEU's for inspector, instructor CEU's, EMT and Paramedic. The next offering coming up is a Mass Decon and it looks like we will be able to pick up the CEU's for EMS. We have been approached by FEMA to partner with them on one of our additional offerings.

Staff Changes at FSFC:

Bill Richards has left our employ and is now with Sumter County Fire.

Buck Tomlinson is retiring after 46 years in the fire service. There will be a retirement party next Thursday at 1:00 at the Fire College and everyone is welcome to attend.

On a motion duly made, the Council requested a letter acknowledging Buck and wishing him well from the Council be presented to him.

Motion carried.

Chief Angle voiced a FCDICE question, asking if the minimum required forestry classes as part of FCDICE record keeping. (\$130/190)

Chief Casey answered stating that as long as the training center enters the information, the records are in FCDICE. The master records are kept by the Division of Forestry.

The federal guidelines state that at some point, the data base will hold all NWCG and all of the state issued certifications. The Bureau of EMS has already been spoken with on this topic also.

Acting Chair Chief Bryson stated a new Vice Chair needs to be appointed.

On a motion duly made, Chief James Angle was nominated for Vice Chair.

Motion carried.

Jon Pasqualone made a motion, which was duly made, to the Council, requesting that the Council submit a letter to the constituency groups supporting the Everyone Goes Home Safe Seat Belt Initiative and publish their support in any venues they have available.

Motion carried.

Brett Pollock, Deputy Chief from West Manatee Fire & Rescue stated that he supports the Everyone Goes Home Safe Seat Belt Initiative and encourages all departments to take the pledge. Chief Pollock informed the Council that 38 departments have already taken the pledge and that Florida now leads the nation.

Chief Pollock thanked the Council for their support and requested that with the next curriculum change that Courage To Be Safe be added as a 4 hour program.

On a motion duly made, it was requested that the motion supporting Everyone Goes Home be amended.

Motion carried.

On a motion duly made, it was requested that the motion be amended to state, that both Everyone Goes Home Safe Seat Belt Initiative and Courage To Be Safe initiatives be supported by the Florida Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council.

Motion carried.

Jon Pasqualone stated that last year in Rochester, New York, the IRC entertained a motion to include residential fire sprinklers in the International Residential Code. That motion failed. A number of fire chiefs actually went to Rochester, New York and voted against that initiative. That vote is up again in Minneapolis, MN in September. There is quite an initiative out there with funding available. The Florida Fire Marshals' and Inspectors' Association (FFMIA) would like to see representation in Minneapolis supporting residential fire sprinklers. It is already in the 2006 version of the Life Safety Code. The Florida Legislature exempts single family and duplexes from that provision, however, FFMIA would like to see that added. No action was requested.

AUDIENCE:

Richard Knoff, Clay County Fire Rescue

Chief Knoff wanted to state for the record that he opposes adding the physical fitness hours to the curriculum. He feels the program the Fire College presently uses, which is an entry level physical agility, is sufficient.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 9, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.
Florida State Fire College
Ocala, Florida

ADJOURN.



ACTION ITEM #07/08.008

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

FROM: Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST)

DATE: July 25, 2008

ITEM: Firefighter Part 1 and 2 Curriculum.

DISCUSSION: Adoption of revised Florida standards and hours to meet new NFPA 1001 standard

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as proposed.

FFESTC ACTION: Approved with 50 hrs of pt.

DATE: 7/25/08.

COMMENTS:



ACTION ITEM #07/08.009

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

FROM: Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST)

DATE: July 25, 2008

ITEM: Text Book Selection

DISCUSSION: Four, soon five publishers have texts for Firefighter 1 and 2. BFST has been allowing the three that were available to be used, however, significant differences in terminology, theories and content have made it difficult to test and would require the training centers to teach material sometimes different to the text's content. The Florida Fire Training Directors Association (FFTDA) voted in October to go to one text, and on July 24 which text. BFST advised the FFTDA it did not make a difference to us which text they recommended.

RECOMMENDATION: BFST requests the Council's concurrence with the FFTDA recommendation.

FFESTC ACTION: The Council recommends Brady IFSTA to be the only textbook used for Firefighter 1 and 2.

DATE: July 25, 2008

COMMENTS:



ACTION ITEM #07/08.010

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

FROM: Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST)

DATE: July 25, 2008

ITEM: Minimum Physical Agility for State Certified Training Centers

DISCUSSION: FFTD recommends all state certified training centers administer a physical agility test validated for entry into the FF Part 1 and Part 2 program.

All fire departments, counties or municipalities engaged in FF Part 1 and Part 2 training for the sole purpose of training personnel under their employ shall conform to that facility's physical agility testing and physical training requirements as set forth by the AHJ.

RECOMMENDATION:

FFESTC ACTION: Approved as amended.

DATE: 7/25/08

COMMENTS: The following statement was removed, "The student will be evaluated for physical fitness progress and it will be a part of the exit requirement for FF Part 2."