



Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council Meeting  
July 18, 2022  
Naples, Florida

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>	<b>TERM ENDING</b>
Carlos Aviles St. Augustine Fire	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2026 (2nd term)
Mike Bellamy Tallahassee Fire	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (2nd term)
Brad Bischoff Bradenton Fire Department	FL Professional FF Assoc.	Jan. 31, 2023 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Aaron Colburn Reedy Creek Emergency Svs.	FL Professional FF Assoc.	Jan. 31, 2023 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Thomas DiBernardo Florida Department of Health	Bureau of EMS	Jan. 31, 2023 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Darrel Donatto Town of Palm Beach	Florida League of Cities	Jan. 31, 2023 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Ralph Franklin Okeechobee County Fire	FL Association of Counties	June 30, 2026 (2nd term)
Shawn Hanson Greater Naples Fire Rescue	Florida Fire Marshals Association	Oct. 31, 2026 (2nd term)
Terry Parris Panama City Beach	State Fire Marshal	Jan. 1, 2023 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Kevin Reed Hillsborough C.C	State Fire Marshal	Oct. 31, 2026 (2nd term)
Michael Woodward City of Oviedo Fire Dept.	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2026 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)

**ABSENT:**

Kasie Crowe Division of Forestry	Florida Fire Service	Jan. 31, 2023 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Dr. David Lee Sylvester Comprehensive	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (2nd term)
Jim Millican Lealman Fire District	Florida Association Sp. Districts	Oct. 31, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Randy Touchton	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (2nd term)

The Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting was called to order.

**On a motion duly made**, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council held on April 21, 2022, were approved.

**Motion carried.**

**REPORT FROM DIVISION:** *given by Julius Halas, Director*

The State Fire Marshal's office continues to have a close working relationship with the CFO and Governor.

- COVID-19 relief funding
- Support for US&R funding
  - Updating equipment
  - Training

*JoAnne Rice, Assistant Director*

- Capital Improvement Plan FSFC
  - 20-million-dollar request
    - Plumbing, electric, flooring
    - Memorial/courtyard/trees
    - Auditorium – technology
    - Cafeteria
    - Dormitories
  - FCDICE
    - \$250,000 Feasibility Study (2022)
    - 2023 – place holder in for replacement

**REPORT FROM THE BUREAU:** *given by Mark Harper Bureau Chief*

- Certifications
  - FFII – 45, 527 (over 2,000 more at this time last year)
  - FFI – 3, 501 (after record clean-up)
- Pro Board site visit is scheduled for September
- US&R Training
  - Lots of training going on. All Tech classes have been run. Specialty classes coming to a close
  - 166 students participated in training
  - 231 students participated in specialty training
  - Total of 14,810 contact hours
  - Additional funding on the way
- Continuing Education
  - 1,200 requests received per month (course and instructor approvals)
  - Held a working group on how to improve processes
    - Results
      - Additional fields needed
      - Character limits – would like to increase
      - Training needed

- Finalizing SOP draft
- FFCA/ESLI Crosswalk of Fire Officer certifications
  - Looking to see if there is an educational gap
  - Possible equivalency
  - Looking at mentoring program
- Grants
  - Volunteer FF Grant
    - 20 contracts executed in the amount of \$972,419 (1 million recurring grant)
    - Revised language will expand equipment available within grant
- Tracking of Close Call Incidents
  - Survey to fire chiefs
    - Over 50 responses
    - 22 are tracking close calls
    - 21 not tracking (not aware of a system in place to track)
- 2022 Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial
  - 16 names going on Memorial for 2022 (Nov. 18, 2022)
- Recruitment/Retention Challenges
  - How to Recruit and Retain Firefighters
    - Certifications are increasing
    - Retention seems to be the bigger issue
    - First meeting of the “caucus” went very well
    - Next meeting is in Hillsborough County on October 27, 2022
    - Trying to concentrate on personnel with 5 years on the job or less
- Mental Health Intervention Training
  - Developing two tracks
    - Officer level
    - Chief Officer level
- Rule Development
  - Live Fire Instructor
    - Held 3 workshops and will be going to hearing
  - Requirements for comprehensive firefighter health
    - Not any big changes –how firefighter injuries are documented
- Equivalency
  - Small changes coming to process
  - Applicants would still have to take the written and practical exam for certification

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

Director Halas spoke of the last 13 years of his time with the Division and the accomplishments made.

Reminded the Council of the huge opportunity council members have to make a difference in the fire service.

Encouraged Council to submit a letter to CFO Patronis supporting a new FCDICE system including specifics on what the new system capabilities should be. Urged to submit prior to August 15, 2022.

**On a motion duly made**, a letter from the Council will be submitted to CFO Patronis in support of a new FCDICE database.

**Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**Mike Bellamy:** On behalf of the Tallahassee FD and Chief Gaines, thanked Julius Halas for his service and leadership.

**Carlos Aviles:** Thanked Director Halas for his service, encouragement, and for leaving the fire service better than when he found it.

**Darrell Donatto:** Thanked Director Halas for 40 years of friendship and mentorship.

**AUDIENCE:**

**Chief Mike Tucker:** Agrees with progress regarding Equivalency and appreciates the caution being used. Reiterated how important it is for a new FCDICE system. Thanked Director Halas personally and professionally for being the man that he is.

**NEXT MEETING:** **Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022, ten minutes after adjournment of FFIRS meeting.**

**ADJOURN.**

*Audio file available upon request*