

Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel  
Jacksonville, Florida  
January 25, 2007

Vice-Chairman Shayne Stewart called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:**

**NAME**

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.  
William Bryson, Miami Fire Department  
Mike Coker, Division of Forestry  
Julie Downey, Davie Fire Rescue  
John Drago, City of Longwood  
Greg Gay  
Scott McDermid, Bureau of EMS  
Dr. Ron Nutter  
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire District  
Charles "Scotty" Taylor Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue  
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech

**REPRESENTING:**

Fl Assoc. of Special Districts  
Fl Fire Chiefs' Assoc.  
Division of Forestry  
State Fire Marshal  
FL League of Cities  
State Fire Marshal  
Bureau of EMS  
State Fire Marshal  
State Fire Marshal  
FL Professional Firefighters  
State Fire Marshal

**ABSENT:**

Jon Pasqualone, FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.  
Stockton Reeves, VI  
Laurie Sweeney, Orange County Fire-Rescue Dept.

FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.  
Insight, Orlando State Fire Marshal  
Fl Professional Firefighters

As Vice-Chairman, Shayne Stewart ran the meeting in place of former Chairman, Les Hallman and will act as temporary Chairman until another election for Chairman can be held. The panel will wait until a new member is assigned before a vote is held for a new Chairman.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel held on October 13, 2006 were approved.

Motion carried.

**REPORT FROM DIVISION:**

Director Hallman stated he would skip his briefing for this meeting due to the fact that the only two new members in attendance are aware of all changes because of their participation in the FFESTC meeting.

Director Hallman digressed to the prior meeting of the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council (FFESTC) in reference to the training center requirement issues. Several members on the FFESTC council may have a conflict of interest in that subject matter and as council members might be restricted in their discussion. Lesley Mendelson (legal) suggested that a rule making workshop be held where the council members will sit as members of the audience and they can speak openly before this issue becomes an agenda item. Lesley's suggestion is to allow free and open input at the workshop, the council can then discuss it in further detail.

Discussion was held regarding conflict of interest.

*A portion of the above "Report from the Division" has been added as an amendment to the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council minutes for January 25, 2007.*

#### **REPORT FROM FFIRS:**

Keith McCarthy supplied a hand out of non-reporting departments. He stated his appreciation to the council for their support.

The FFIRS department is currently working on the 2006 data and are in the process of mailing out the yearly statistical letters. Three hundred ninety-two (392) fire departments have reported. There are currently 1.25 million incidents reported in the system for 2006. Two hundred seventy-nine (279) departments did not report at all. The deadline for reporting is April 30, 2007 for 2006 data. Included in the handout are exceptions for sixteen (16) departments. There was a conflict concerning the cut off dates, the sixteen (16) included in the second handout are the departments who have started reporting since the initial report.

Keith McCarthy again requested of panel members, if any information is known or received about individual departments or departments that are no longer in existence, to please let him know.

Keith McCarthy offered reporting assistance to any department who is in need. Software is available for any department that needs it.

Keith McCarthy asked for the panels input regarding the Annual Report.

Shayne Stewart stated that currently there is no way to differentiate between structures in the reports. He believes it would help the statistics by being able to tell if the structure is a single family dwelling or a high rise etc.

John Drago inquired as to what the consequences of not reporting by the deadline would be.

Sherm Sasser explained that reporting is strictly voluntary at this point. The only consequence for them right now by not reporting on time is that they are not included in the Annual Report. If the report is received after the deadline, the information is still entered into the system.

Ron Nutter inquired as to how the fire chiefs use the statistics.

Shayne Stewart explained that if used correctly, departments can take the information to their Fire Board or County Commission as confirmation as to where their problem areas are and what would be needed to help them improve. These statistics can also be used by the State Fire Marshal's office to be taken to the legislature as justification for changes or improvements.

Further discussion was held on the reporting system.

Scott McDermid inquired as to whether there was a group of people who look at this data from a state perspective, a review of the trends from the state-wide global view and also if fire rescue crashes are recorded.

Keith McCarthy explained that there is a government service group which look at the data. There are also several outside entities that request the data.

Sherm Sasser explained that this is part of the reason that this council was founded, so that information would be reported and be able to be analyzed and particular trends could be identified from a state wide perspective.

Scott McDermid stated the importance of this data being analyzed and compared by response times, types of fire, would result in a global perspective that is not afforded to one chief looking at his own data for his own district. Without this, there would be no comparison capabilities. He also stated that he recently received information from Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles that between 2001 and 2006 there were 1, 263 traffic accidents involving fire rescue vehicles state-wide, that is almost one a day. To be able to recognize that as an overall trend and what the causes are, who has the lowest form of incidents, who has the highest form of incidents and what is the difference between them would be a tremendous amount of information that would be able to be provided to the administrator of these departments.

Scott McDermid made a recommendation that future panel meetings be held separate from the Firefighter Employment, Standards and Training Council to allow for more time.

A brief discussion was held on analyzing data.

On a motion duly made, the panel will give their support along with the letter Division sends out from the FFIRS section annually, to departments who are not reporting.

Motion carried.

Shayne Stewart requested panel members to keep working on county lists, identifying departments that are not reporting and why.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**AUDIENCE:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** April 17, 2007, 10:30 a.m.  
325 John Knox Road  
Atrium Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room 312  
Tallahassee, FL

**ADJOURN**