

Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel  
Ocala, Florida  
October 9, 2008

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:**

**NAME**

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.  
William Bryson, Miami Fire Department  
Mike Coker, Division of Forestry  
Steve McCoy, Bureau of EMS  
Dr. Ron Nutter  
Jon Pasqualone, FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.  
Laurie Sweeney, Orange County Fire-Rescue Dept.  
Charles "Scotty" Taylor Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue  
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech

**REPRESENTING:**

FL Association of Special Districts  
FL Fire Chiefs' Association  
Division of Forestry  
Bureau of EMS  
State Fire Marshal  
FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.  
FL Professional Firefighters  
FL Professional Firefighters  
State Fire Marshal

**ABSENT:**

Julie Downey, Davie Fire Rescue  
John Drago, City of Longwood  
Greg Gay  
Rick Talbert, South Walton Fire District

State Fire Marshal  
FL League of Cities  
State Fire Marshal  
FL Fire Chiefs' Association

The Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel held on July 25, 2008 were approved.

Motion carried.

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

The Division is getting ready for the spring session of the legislature. The 633 package will again be introduced. Due to internal policies inside the House, this bill did not make it through the Senate during the last session. The Division is now finding sponsors on the House and Senate side to get this through. Once staff finishes with a final product it will be sent to Council members for review. If there are any changes they will be very minor.

Another piece of legislation that may be coming and we are supportive of is the designation of a firefighter memorial flag. The Joint Council will be looking at this possibility and are helping to draft language and design a flag. Chief Angle and some of

his people are also working on this project and they have already submitted a draft of a proposed flag. Chief Angle provided a picture of the proposed flag to the Council.

The memorial flag would fly at the Florida State Fire College Firefighter Memorial year round and be used for special occasions.

We still have the unresolved issue of the consumer fireworks bill. The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association is preparing language in the event it is needed in response.

Steve Peevey is working diligently on putting together a bill to ban novelty lighters in the State of Florida. This will also be the theme of this years "Arson Week". A bill is also being proposed nationally.

Budget – 4% has already been cut and they are looking at cutting another 10%. CFO, Alex Sink is doing her best to protect the State Fire Marshal's Office from further cuts. Compared to other state agencies, we are faring very well. Operating costs will be tough this year.

Director Hallman invited everyone to attend the Firefighter Memorial ceremony being held tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

**REPORT FROM FFIRS:** *Given by Keith McCarthy*

The 2007 Annual Report has been published (and distributed to Panel) all fire departments, administrative and federal entities.

The Annual Report packets included the appropriate letters and/or certificates.

Also distributed to the panel:

- FFIRS Audit Sheet (Jan – June 2008)
- Reporting/Non Reporting Departments/Non Existent Department Data
- 2008 Reporting Fire Departments

Keith introduced Matt Hinson to the Panel. Matt is the new Staff Statistician in the FFIRS section.

Auditing Project:

All fire departments were audited for the period of January – June 2008.

The purpose of the fire department auditing project is to identify any problems with a department before it is time for them to report. The goal of the audit is to improve the quantity and quality of incidents put into the system and to inform of any possible errors.

As of September 2008, a total of 210 departments have not yet reported. Also, 14 new departments are reporting. Many fire departments wait until the end of the year to report. This causes a problem in accurately representing the activities of Florida's incidents until the end of the year instead of on a month-to-month basis.

If there are incidents under the old 4.1 program dated January 1, 2008, those incidents will still be submitted. 4.1 data will not be accepted as of January 1, 2009.

Further discussion was held on getting everyone switched over to the new program and mandating reporting.

Steve McCoy explained that some departments have yet to submit due to the fact that they are in the process of switching over to the new software.

Chief Angle suggested that once we are up to 95% reporting we should switch the focus of the panel back to the EMS side and those reporting issues.

Steve McCoy reported that they are working with several vendors about the integration of the reporting system.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**AUDIENCE:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** **January 29, 2009 9:00 a.m.**  
**Daytona Beach (Fire Rescue East)**  
**Ocean Center at Ocean Walk Village**

**ADJOURN.**