



Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical  
Advisory Panel  
October 6, 2011  
Ocala, Florida/Conference Call

**ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT:

NAME

Bill Gulbrandsen  
Bill Lombardo, South Trail Fire  
Steve McCoy, Bureau of EMS  
Rand Napoli  
Joe Palminteri, Citrus County Fire Rescue  
Ron Parrish, St. Lucie County Fire District  
Jon Pasqualone, FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.  
Lew Simon  
Rick Spence, Reedy Creek F.D.  
Laurie Sweeney, Orange County Fire-Rescue Dept.

REPRESENTING:

Florida Assoc. of Counties  
FL Assoc. Special Districts  
Bureau of EMS  
Florida League of Cities  
State Fire Marshal  
FL Fire Chiefs' Association  
FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.  
State Fire Marshal  
FL Professional Firefighters  
FL Professional Firefighters

ABSENT:

Greg Gay  
Bill Klein, Brevard Community College  
Daniel McAvoy, Osceola County F/R  
Gene Prince, City of Gainesville F/R

State Fire Marshal  
State Fire Marshal  
State Fire Marshal  
FL Fire Chiefs' Association

The Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel meeting was called to order.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel held on July 23, 2011 were approved.

Motion carried.

**REPORT FROM DIVISION:** *Given by Director Julius Halas*

Accreditation:

The Bureau of Fire Prevention has received full accreditation.

- ✓ Plans Review (in all state buildings)
- ✓ Fire Inspections (in all state buildings)
- ✓ Boiler inspection program
- ✓ Regulatory licensing program

Casia Sinco has been promoted to Bureau Chief of Fire Prevention, effective October 3, 2011.

There will be some further organization changes to come.

Florida Fires 2010 Annual Report is available here at the Fire College for anyone who did not already receive a copy.

Keith McCarthy, who as we know heads the FFIRS section, has also been the “Acting Safety Program Manager”, filling in since Casia Sinco’s promotion.

**REPORT FROM FFIRS:** *Given by Keith McCarthy – handout provided*

Keith McCarthy took the time to thank the Panel members and Director Halas for their continued support to the FFIRS section.

The 2010 Annual Report “Florida Fires” was mailed out on September 14, 2011.

2011 Scheduled Pending Training:

Brevard County  
Madison County

Updates:

The National Fire Data Center (NFDC) has begun the gathering of data for including a GIS component in NFIRS.

An invitation was sent out via the “A-List” inviting fire departments the opportunity to be included in a conference call concerning the GIS component to the NFIRS software. We

had very positive feedback from the fire departments. The call is to identify the requirements for the adding of GIS. The users should have an extensive knowledge of GIS and should have used GIS with NFIRS data or other job-related data.

The major change is USFA is considering decommissioning the data entry tool. This tool is what is primarily used in the state of Florida as the reporting software. This includes both online and offline use of the tools.

Most states have their own state databases apart from the one on the USFA federal server. Florida relies solely upon USFA's federal server.

Keith McCarthy will be participating on the conference call and will provide an update at the next meeting.

As provided in the handout, a comparison YTD report was given.

50% of data for 2011 has already been collected.

Approximately 31 departments have not yet reported for 2011.

There are currently approximately 577 existing fire departments. That number should soon be decreasing due to consolidation of departments.

Further discussion was held on the USFA changes and how it will affect Florida.

On a motion duly made, a letter will be sent to USFA from Keith McCarthy with a projected cost estimate for Florida to obtain a replacement program.

Motion carried.

**REPORT FROM EMS:** *Given by Steve McCoy*

Florida continues to be a model for the nation with data collection despite that the program remains voluntary. The Bureau currently holds 131 agencies. There are 4.1 million EMS incidents in the data base which is one of the largest in the country.

Preparations are being made for a national update. The EMS national office has said they will also be sun-setting the current system being used. Since both Fire and EMS report, we need interaction on a national level to try and coordinate these data sets together.

Training and Education:

There are approximately 35,000 EMT's and approximately 27,000 Paramedics in the State.

55% of inspections are still remaining (announced) 45% (unannounced). The Bureau has been seeing a small spike in incomplete employee records where EVOC certificates or ACLS cards are missing. Employees have the necessary training, this is just an administrative oversight that will be corrected.

The Bureau of EMS regulates the certification of all dispatchers (Public Safety Telecommunicators) in the state. There are now 4,000 dispatchers. By October 1, 2012 it will be mandatory for all dispatchers to hold certification.

The bill that passed last year required an exam for certification but it also provided several exemptions as well.

EMSC - EMS for Children Program has a lot of good things coming out. This is a federally funded program. Currently they have a "Pre-Hospital, Pediatric Pitfalls" training DVD which is free of charge. If interested contact the Bureau for a copy of the training. This training will count towards the 2 hours of pediatric emergency training continuing education required by rule.

#### Grants:

The Bureau is working on closing out the past current cycle. Approximately 3.4 million dollars was issued in the past cycle. There were 70 new projects funded.

Applications will start being accepted for further grants at the end of 2011 and beginning of 2012.

#### Investigations:

Last quarter there were the following complaints;

22 EMT  
19 Paramedic  
7 Agency  
1 Air provider

Results: 1 revocation, 1 voluntary relinquishment, 1 suspension, 3 obligations imposed (drug testing) 1 fine.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Jon Pasqualone - The Florida Fire Marshal & Inspector Association, in several publications of theirs, have supported legislation to revise 633.115, changing the Fire

and Emergency Reporting program from a voluntary reporting program to a mandatory reporting program.

Mr. Pasqualone encouraged any other entities with publications to do the same.

**AUDIENCE:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.  
Fire Rescue East, Daytona Beach, FL

**ADJOURN.**