



Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical
Advisory Panel
January 19, 2012
Daytona Beach, Florida – Fire Rescue East

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

NAME

Greg Gay
Bill Gulbrandsen
Bill Klein, Brevard Community College
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.
Gene Prince, City of Gainesville F/R
Lew Simon
Rick Spence, Reedy Creek F.D.
Laurie Sweeney, Orange County Fire-Rescue Dept.

REPRESENTING:

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

ABSENT:

Daniel McAvoy, Osceola County F/R

State Fire Marshal

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 October 6, 2011 were approved.

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION: *Given by Director Julius Halas*

The Bureau of Fire Prevention has received accreditation. This is the first “stand-alone” fire prevention unit in the nation to receive accreditation.

Regulatory Review:

With CFO Atwater and the new administration, the Division has undergone a “Regulatory Review” focusing on customer service, quality control, and information technology. They are looking for ways for the Division to provide better customer service and to be able to provide it more cost effectively.

A report from this exercise is now in draft form and it should be available by the next meeting.

The Bureau of Fire Standards & Training (Florida State Fire College) did an excellent job in providing information on what efforts have been made in the way of safety, training and in standards.

One of the areas that has caught some attention is the topic of felony convictions in the fire service and prevention of re-entry into the fire service.

Legislative Rule Analysis:

The Legislature has agreed to look at all rules of every state agency. The Department has approximately 1,000 rules with the Division of State Fire Marshal having approximately 330 rules.

The goal is to ensure that each Division/Bureau has statutory authority to enforce these rules, what is the economic impact, and a statement of economic regulatory cost.

In doing this, all rules will be reviewed.

Also being looked at are all boards, task forces and councils by areas of goals, objectives and importance.

REPORT FROM FFIRS: *Given by Keith McCarthy*

(Hand out provided)

Matt Hinson has been filling in for Keith McCarthy in the FFIRS section in Keith's absence due to his promotion.

End of the year statistics are being compiled.

Approximately 94 fire related deaths were reported to FFIRS via DOH in 2011.

2012 Training:

Brevard County – 12/2011 – Completed.
Gadsden County/Wetumpka VFD – Pending
NFIC Training at the NETC – 4/29/12 – 5/2/2012

NFIRS Updates:

NFDC (National Fire Data Center) has started the data-gathering phase for including a GIS component into NFIRS. NFDC spoke to state-level NFIRS users and fire department level NFIRS users.

The new version of the DET is 5.9.1. Users can get the 5.9.1 version by selecting the “NFIRS Update Version” option. For users still using 5.7 this update will not work but NFIRS will continue to support 5.7 and newer clients.

The 5.9.1 version contains the rules and edits defined in the January 2012 specification cycle and will take effect in January for incidents with an alarm date of 01/01/2012 or beyond. Additional changes are as follows:

- Online NFIRS file validation utility for vendors to validate their transaction files. The client vendor validation tool is no longer needed and will not be maintained.
- Users will now have the ability to print a copy of an incident in the paper forms format from the DEBI.
- The DEBI application will now enforce validation masks for certain key data fields to prevent invalid entry.
- Users of the Bulk Export tool can now view all export requests made within the last 60 days.
- The error report by Bulk Import will now match the file format produced by the DET.

Review of YTD reported responses.

There are currently 576 existing fire departments and 15 federal organizations. A total of 532 (92%) fire departments are currently participating in the FFRIS program.

Non-reporting departments are mainly volunteer departments. As USFA makes changes, an increase is expected.

REPORT FROM EMS: *Given by Steve McCoy*

The Bureau of EMS, like the Division of State Fire Marshal, has been going through a regulatory review.

Legislation:

SB 450/HB 214: Would eliminate 2 hours of HIV/AIDS requirement for recertification for EMT and Paramedics. It would also update curriculum standards by increasing the schools 1998 national standard curriculum, it would increase that curriculum to the current standard of the national educational standards and give the ability for the school to create its own curriculum (around the standard).

This Bill would also move the Strategic Plan from a 2 year plan to a 5 year plan.

SB 1400: This essentially is a reciprocity bill for EMT certification, if one passes the national registry Emergency Medical Technician examination. The Paramedic exam stays a state exam in this bill. Please note, this bill does not have a sponsor/House version.

SB 514/HB 1227: This bill is related to the 911 Emergency Telecommunicators. This bill would essentially provide an exemption for part time law enforcement officers to not have to go through the training.

SB 1394/HB 739: AED in Public Assembly. This bill would require AED's be required in areas of public assembly and provides authority for dispatch centers to notify a responding unit the location of that AED. There are currently laws in place that prevent dispatchers from sharing that information due to privacy laws.

SB 1824/HB 1263: Reorganization of the Department of Health. This would eliminate the Division of Emergency Operations and create a Division of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support which includes Lab, Pharmacy and Bureau of Preparedness and Response which is where we have seen the home of the Bureau of EMS which may not be there anymore.

This will make the newly established Division for Health Care Regulation responsible for the authority over EMT and Paramedics.

Currently EMT and Paramedics are governed by Ch. 401, if this bill passes there will be some shifting of power.

This will also affect the definition of "Health Care Provider" in Ch. 456. Currently EMT and Paramedics are not included in that definition and not defined as "health care providers". This could create some significant change.

This bill would also change terminology in Ch. 633 which would change the Bureau of EMS to the Bureau of Emergency Response.

EMS Advisory Council: has vacancies opening up in January. Nominations will be accepted through May 1, 2012.

Emergency Medical Review Committee: has openings as well.

The Bureau web-site has further information on Council and Committee openings

State Awards: are now accepting nominations.

Training: Last year -

2,197 Paramedics tested with a 90% pass rate.

4,016 EMT tested with a 78% pass rate.

130 services were inspected. 55% announced, 45% unannounced.

Licensure – currently 269 services licensed (EMS providers) 52% fire based.

4,200 emergency vehicles permitted in the state.

4,5000 Licensed Public Safety Telecommunicators – 86 approved training programs.

Investigations:

55 EMT/Paramedic complaints.

3 Services complaints.

Resulted in 5 voluntary relinquishment of licensure, 20 fines were issued, 7 cases closed.

EMS grants are now open (will close April 20 at 4:00 p.m.) Last year over 70 projects were funded.

EMSTARS: The reporting system currently has 4.9 million EMS records in the data set. The National office, which is equivalent to NFIRS, are changing the national standard, which in turn will require the change of the state system.

A new system is being researched and good information is coming in. In the future, this will change the EMS provider software.

The current version will still be supported. There is no sunset date available as of yet.

Rand Napoli stated that since both Fire and EMS are looking for new systems, this would be the perfect opportunity to combine systems.

On a motion duly made, a letter will be sent (through the chain of command) that the State look at a single source for Fire and EMS reporting.

Motion carried

Steve McCoy stated that this needs to be done as soon as possible due to the tight timeline with the grant funding. Steve will inform the Bureau of this intent for business case analysis.

Director Halas gave his full support.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

AUDIENCE:

Dan Sullivan, Fire Chief – Requested that the information for the openings on the advisory boards be distributed as widely as possible.

Chief Sullivan asked that the Panel keep in mind that they do not to put any further burden on the fire departments with the data changes. Although he is in support of EMS, he requested that the Bureau stay away from customized data that created all the problems for the fire departments in the past.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 19, 2012 – 1:30 p.m. via conference call/Atrium Bldg., Tallahassee, FL

ADJOURN.