



Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council Meeting  
 July 17, 2023  
 Naples, FL

**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, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Thomas DiBernardo Florida Department of Health	Bureau of EMS	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Darrel Donatto Town of Palm Beach	Florida League of Cities	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Shawn Hanson Greater Naples Fire Rescue	Florida Fire Marshals Association	Oct. 31, 2026 (2nd term)
Jeremy Joseph Florida Forest Service	Florida Forest Service/DOA	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Terry Parris Panama City Beach	State Fire Marshal	Jan. 1, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Kevin Reed Hillsborough C.C	State Fire Marshal	Oct. 31, 2026 (2nd term)
Randy Touchton	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (2nd term)

**ABSENT:**

Aaron Colburn Reedy Creek Emergency Svs.	FL Professional FF Assoc.	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Dr. David Lee Sylvester Comprehensive	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Jim Millican Lealman Fire District	Florida Association Sp. Districts	Oct. 31, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Michael Woodward City of Oviedo Fire Dept.	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2026 (1 <sup>st</sup> 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 20, 2023, were approved.

**Motion carried.**

**REPORT FROM DIVISION:** *given by JoAnne Rice, Director*

### **Safety Compliance Inspections**

- Done regularly by the Bureau of Fire Standards & Training/Safety Section
- Trying to do inspections more pro-actively rather than re-actively so the Division is not just doing these when there is a firefighter injury, line of duty death or for the grants
- These visits would be for guidance and assistance
- We will be asking for two additional full time employees for the Safety section to assist with this in the next Legislative Budget Request (LBR).
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### **Fire College Campus**

- Requesting for:
  - roof replacements
  - auditorium renovations

### **Division Staffing**

- Positions coming soon
  - Filling Bureau Chief of Fire Prevention
  - Community Risk Reduction (new)
  - Legislative Liaison/Grant oversight
  - Grant position
  - Part-time grant position
  - John Kohnke (ESF4/9/Domestic Security) has extended his drop so he will be staying on with the Division. Asking to add an additional three positions for this section to build it up to a more robust section and they would include planning, logistics and data analyst.
  - Open positions within the Bureau of Fire Prevention as well as the Bureau of Fire Standards & Training
  - A 5% pay increase was issued to all State employees
  - Working on recruitment, retention and compression issues

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

### **Standards Section**

- Certifications
  - 2023 YTD 46, 279 – FF/II issued 1, 238, expired 792
  - 2022 46, 221 – FF/II issued 2, 246, expired 1, 406
  - Firefighter I – 2023 YTD 3, 505, 2022 – 3, 501
  - Students Trained at FSFC 2023 YTD 2, 040, 2022 – 3, 547
  - Total Certifications issued 2023 YTD 3, 697, 2022 – 5, 631

## **Training Section**

- FCDICE Requests
  - Class Offerings 2023 YTD 5, 734, 2022 – 6, 138
  - Course Approvals 2023 YTD 345, 2022 – 595
  - Instructor Approvals 2023 YTD 6, 281, 2022 – 9, 298

## **Safety Section**

- Decontamination Grants
  - Contracts issued for 2022-2023, 31. This year we have already received 4 requests.
  - The importance of this – we have 16 names pending approval for the memorial, 14 of them are cancer deaths.

## **Rule Development**

- Instructor Qualifications – primarily addressing National Accreditation (participating in Title IV programs) and regional accreditation updated accrediting agencies by DOE.
- Safety and Health Section – listening session for proposed rule development for mental health awareness best practices. July 14 at 3:30 pm in room Acacia IV-VI.
- FLUSAR – rule will be discussed July 16 at 3:00 pm in room Royal Palm VI
- Fire Investigator – rule will be discussed July 17 at 8:30 am in room Royal Palm VII.
- Live Fire Instructor – final rule hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, July 20, will be rescheduled with the date to be determined.

## **Florida Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Grant FY 22-23**

- Grant just opened for 2023-2024

## **USAR training schedule** – offered to 8 teams first

- All Hazards IMT class completed
  - Strike Team Leader
  - Division & Group Supervisor
  - Ops Section Chief
  - Incident Command
  - Incident Management Team
  - Most often, only half of the individuals who registered showed up for class

## **Campus Activity**

- Received funding to replace the flooring in the main entrance of the Fire College to prevent slip hazards and carpet in the dorms. Purchasing a new sign out by the road along with electrical and plumbing renovations, and cafeteria renovations.
- IFSAC follow up site visit will take place in August
- Electric Vehicle Symposium, September 7-8, 2023
- Fallen Firefighter Memorial, November 17, 2023
- North Central Florida Fire Conference, December 12-14, 2023

A thank you from Council Member Bellamy to FSFC for hosting the Camp Amigo Burn Camp.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Chairman Aviles informed the Council that he will send the Council (through Mary Ann), the finished/published white paper on the Recruitment and Retention issue.

This document will be turned over to the State for future tracking.

Director Rice reiterated that the FFIRS/FFESTC councils will be kept separate with adjustments made to agendas to avoid repetitiveness.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Out of State FF/DOD Equivalency**

**Chief Mark Harper** explained that the Out of State FF/DOD Equivalency process has been being reviewing and monitoring for quite some time now.

(Handout provided of a revised draft of the new application packet)

Within all 50 States, there are multiple ways that States provide and certify firefighters.

Florida will accept IFSAC and/or ProBoard Firefighter II certification as “equivalent training”. Individuals will still be required to test for certification. This includes the written and practical examinations. A medical and fingerprinting are also required.

There is a 40-hour course that is given prior to testing. Pass rate is much higher for those who take the class. The State is contemplating taking the class back from MTC, who currently teach this class. The State can offer the class at a more affordable price and it can run regardless of registration numbers.

We do not in any way want to jeopardize our IFSAC or ProBoard accreditations in this process and how they measure proficiency. The testing process for certification must be maintained. We do not want to minimize our process.

Further discussion was held on the Equivalency process.

Council asked for tracking data on Equivalency applicants and 40-hour Equivalency course.

### **Council Input**

**Tom DiBernardo** gave an update on the DOH/Fire suicide statistics – EMT, Fire, Paramedic (accounting for dual certified individuals). The data they have collected is being evaluated for validity and then he will present to Council at the November meeting.

**AUDIENCE:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, November 16, 2023, ten minutes after adjournment of the FFIRS meeting which begins at 1:00 p.m., via conference call or Florida State Fire College.

**ADJOURN.**

*Audio file available upon request*