



Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council Meeting
July 22, 2024
Tampa, Florida

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

NAME	REPRESENTING	TERM ENDING
Carlos Aviles St. Augustine Fire	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2026 (2nd term)
Brad Bischoff Bradenton Fire Department	FL Professional FF Assoc.	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 st term)
Aaron Colburn Reedy Creek Emergency Svcs.	FL Professional FF Assoc.	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 st term)
Thomas DiBernardo Florida Department of Health	Bureau of EMS	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 st term)
Darrel Donatto Town of Palm Beach	Florida League of Cities	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 st 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 st term)
Patrick Kennedy West Palm Beach County F/R	Florida Association of Counties	June 30, 2026 (1 st term)
Kevin Reed Hillsborough C.C	State Fire Marshal	Oct. 31, 2026 (2nd term)
Michael Woodward City of Oviedo Fire Dept.	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2026 (1 st term)

ABSENT:

Dara Hennessey City of Cocoa Fire Rescue	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (1 st term)
Dr. David Lee Sylvester Comprehensive	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (2 nd term)
Jim Millican Lealman Fire District	Florida Association Sp. Districts	Oct. 31, 2026 (2 nd term)
Terry Parris Panama City Beach	State Fire Marshal	Jan. 1, 2027 (1 st term)

The Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting was called to order.

Chairman Donatto briefly reviewed the statutory purpose of the Council and reminded members of their special powers and of the ability to make recommendations for adoption by the Division, uniform minimum standards for the employment and training firefighters and training of volunteers and to make recommendations on minimum curriculum requirements for schools for the specific purpose of training firefighters, volunteers, and make recommendations regarding funding, general operations and administration of the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, including but not limited to all standards, training curriculum and the issuance of any certificate of competency required by 633 and to make or support studies on any aspect of firefighter employment, education, training or recruitment.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council held on April 23, 2024, were approved.

Motion carried.

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

- Encouraged Council members to take the statutory purpose of the Council to heart and to bring input to the meetings.
- Introduced new Bureau Chief, Bill Sturgeon, Bureau of Fire Standards & Training
- FCDICE – in negotiations with vendor. Hopeful for the launch in 1 year
- New Field Representative Supervisor (Standards), Tom Thomas
- New Instructor Supervisor (Training), Frank Ennist
- Approved Legislative Budget Requests (LBR's)
 - Two full-time employees for Safety Section (field representatives)
 - Auditorium Update 1.75 million
 - Courtyard Renovation 1.85 million (two phases)
 - Roofing 3.5 million (two phases)
- Legislative Budget Requests
 - Additional funding for courtyard and memorial
 - Dorm renovations
 - Finalization of cafeteria renovations
- Council Resignation of Randy Touchton, we thank him for his service and will be moving forward with a recommendation for his replacement.

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU: *given by Eugenia L. Tucker, Acting Bureau Chief*

- Stats YTD
 - Current employed firefighters, 39,461
 - Certified Firefighter II, 47, 834
 - Certified Firefighter I, 3,509
 - 2024
 - Issued 1,100 FFII

- No movement for FFI
 - Total certifications issued (not FF), 3,312
 - 1,578 on campus
- Training Section
 - Class Offering approvals 2, 257
 - Instructor Approvals, 6,594
- DOD/Out of State Firefighters
 - 2021 – current
 - 183 tested
 - 115 certified
 - 69 employed
 - Currently 84 individuals pending verification of training
 - Currently 62 pending applications
 - Next class and testing will be done in October
- Decon Grants closed out, 43 issued.
- 2024 Fallen Firefighter Memorial
 - Tomorrow, 13 names will go before the Joint Council for approval to the Memorial
- Firefighter Assistance Grant
 - Requests of close to 2.5 million
 - Awarded 944,000 to 26 recipients
 - 5 sets of PPE
 - 1 set of extrication equipment
 - 1 Wildland PPE
 - 2 gas monitors
- Grow As You Go
 - Currently 92 students
 - 7 have completed
 - 4 have received their FFI
- FSFC Campus Events
 - 7/25 EV Demonstration
 - 9/12-13 Lithium-Ion Symposium
 - 11/15 Fallen Firefighter Memorial
 - 12/12-14 North Central Florida Fire Conference
- Campus
 - Fire pump is now up and operational as well as hydrants
 - Phase II of paving has been approved
 - Fire Alarm System is now functional
 - New projector for Auditorium
 - Received 475,000 for building and maintenance repair
- Legislative Budget Requests
 - Tractor
 - Fuel pumps
 - Infrastructure Feasibility Study for 5-year master plan
 - New full-time position to be liaison to Marion Technical College
- Reminder to all Fire Instructor III's
 - Make sure to complete the Florida Training Manager Course prior to December 31, 2024

Council Member Carlos Aviles requested that the Bureau also provide the male/female ratio when presenting Bureau certification statistics.

Chairman Darrel Donatto requested the Bureau provide a standardized quarterly report to be handed out at the meetings which would include last years statistics as well as year to date.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion was held on the DOD/Out of State Firefighters

- Process has been streamlined
- Consistency with instructors/40-hour course
- Bureau's process is very similar to Law Enforcement
- Jeremy Joseph provided additional information on the Wildland requirement and how and where to get it

NEW BUSINESS:

Military Service/Supp Comp, any leave without pay taken due to drills or deployment, puts a stop to Supp Comp payments.

Departments may still cover those payments

Director Rice – Instructor Renewals

Looking at requirements for renewal ceu's – would like to see a refresher class added to the renewal requirement that would touch on ethics, firefighter safety, etc. Would like Council input.

AUDIENCE:

Julius Halas, a concern that the National State Fire Marshal's have is with the new NERIS system. FEMA is developing a new fire incident reporting system, and a number of the State Director's are concerned about the reporting will go right from the authority having jurisdiction to FEMA. They are concerned that the states leading in information reporting may be left out.

Certification Renewals. Instructors and fire inspectors who sometimes get caught behind in ceu's prior to renewal. Recommends Council to get Division input on the new FCDICE system to track ceu's and alert individuals a year prior that they are short on hours.

NEXT MEETING: October 8, 2025, Conference Call

ADJOURN.

Audio file available upon request