

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting
Prime Osborn Convention Center, Jacksonville
January 31, 2003

PRESENT:

NAME

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.
Shorty Bryson, Miami Fire Department
Julie Downey, Sunrise Fire Rescue
John Drago, City of Longwood
Les Hallman, South Walton Fire Dist.
Dave Harrawood, Emergency Services of Sarasota Co.
Steven Peavey, FI Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.
Michael Randolph, Tallahassee FD
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire Dist.
Charles "Scotty" Taylor Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech

APPOINTED BY:

FI Assoc. of Special Districts
FI Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
State Fire Marshal
FI League of Cities
FI Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
FI Association of Counties
FI Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
State Fire Marshal
FI Professional Firefighters
FI Professional Firefighters
State Fire Marshal

ABSENT:

Stuart Kauffman
Stockton Reeves VI, Insight Orlando

State Fire Marshal
State Fire Marshal

Vice-Chairman Shayne Stewart called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and welcomed new member Julie Downey from Sunrise Fire Rescue.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Standards and Training Council meeting on October 11, 2002 were approved. Motion carried.

Chairman Randolph joined the meeting and resumed as Chair.

REPORT FROM DIVISION:

Director Napoli reviewed legislation that promulgated the Florida Firefighters Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Director Napoli gave an update on domestic security planning. He stated that there was a three-day planning session in Orlando to develop strategies for Florida's needs to respond to domestic security incidents, which resulted in nine funding issues totaling \$8,110,000.00.

Director Napoli gave an update on rules being promulgated for the Division. He stated that the investigations rule, a rule to codify submission of evidence to the Laboratory and update of the Florida Fire Prevention Code is in progress.

REPORT FROM BUREAU OF FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING:

Dave Casey, Bureau Chief gave a review on the workshops held throughout Florida on proposed rule 4A-62 and distributed copies of the synopsis of input.

Chief Casey distributed copies of the Training Requirements for Volunteer Firefighters per FS 633.820 - 633.821 and Proposed Rule 4A-62 FAC for review. Discussion was held on the options for training and certification for current volunteers. Council member Shorty Bryson made a motion for the council to accept the options listed on the Training Requirements for Volunteer Firefighters per FS 633.820 - 633.821 and Proposed Rule 4A-62 FAC as written. Discussion was held on instructor availability and qualifications for entry into the Firefighter II program. Motion was seconded and carried. Discussion was tabled on proposed standardization of entry requirements into Firefighter II.

Copies of the draft Florida Firefighter One agreement between the Division and FFCA were distributed for the Council's review. Discussion was held and a motion was made by Council member Les Hallman to accept the draft agreement as proposed. Further discussion was held. No second.

Chief Casey discussed parts of FS 633.801 - 633.821. There are some concerns with the language in the law and also the calculations for injury rate are different than OSHA. He explained that in most cases there will be notice given to departments prior to being inspected. He also stated that firefighters must also meet and follow the rules and that not all responsibility is put on the municipality for firefighter safety.

Chief Casey stated that the Florida Association of Hazardous Materials Responders (FAHMR) plans to meet and discuss the Voluntary Certification for Hazardous Materials. He will bring information to the next Council meeting.

An update was given on USAR. Chief Casey stated that the State Working Group is working with FASAR on the credentialing process and are asking departments in a USAR role to participate. The site scheduled to be built at the Florida State Fire College will be very similar to the facility in Dade County. Chief Casey will continue updating the Council on the progress.

Chief Casey updated the Council on a meeting between the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, the Training Directors and Community Colleges. Discussed was a video program of different standards objectives and providing departments and training centers DVD's of testing type objectives. Also, Gulf Coast Community College has been tasked as the State Working Group's training committee to work on uniform curriculum to be delivered through both the regional training centers and community colleges.

Discussion was held on the Post-Blast class. Chief Casey explained that since September 11, 2001 instructors from the FBI have been assigned elsewhere. He stated that a class will be scheduled soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Special Exemption Sub-Committee Chairman Shayne Stewart updated the council on the Sub-Committee's progress. He stated that he is having difficulty contacting some of the departments, but several have rescinded their request for exemptions. The Sub-Committee will re-structure and complete the remaining site visits. A notice will be sent to departments that filed for an exemption (via blastfax/FSFC A-list) asking them to notify the Division if they now comply. The Bureau will assist in contacting the remaining departments.

Review of the proposed collapse structure search and rescue training is tabled until next meeting.

Discussion was held on the Training Center of the Year Award. A suggestion was made to use the GPA as a tie-breaker and to consider selection through nominations. Copies of the firefighter minimum standards training pass-rate table were distributed. It was decided by the Council that Chipola Jr. College is the recipient of this year's Training Center of the Year Award with a 100% passing rate.

Discussion was held on the voluntary Florida Fire Rescue Health and Safety Officer Certification proposal. On a motion duly made, the Council moved to accept the proposal. Discussion was held. Motion carried.

Also discussed was a proposal for a voluntary certification for Fire Marshal/Code Official. The Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association will bring a proposal to the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

None

AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

Bill Schaubel, Lloyd Volunteer Fire Rescue expressed concerns regarding Option 3 of the training requirements for volunteer firefighters per FS 633.820 and .821, and proposed Rule 4A-62.

Fred Becker, Citrus County Fire Department expressed concerns about the pass-rate of veteran volunteer firefighters who are required to take the FFI exam.

Steve Peavey informed the Council that he regretfully resigns from the Council due to his increased work-load and introduced his replacement appointed by the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association, John Pasqualone. Chairman thanked Steve for his participation and welcomed John.

NEXT MEETING:

April 8, 2003
11:00 a.m.
Larson Building, Room 116
Tallahassee, FL

ADJOURN