



Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council Meeting
 November 16, 2023
 Ocala, FL (Conference Call)

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

| NAME | REPRESENTING | TERM ENDING |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 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 st term) |
| Aaron Colburn Reedy Creek Emergency Svs. | 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) |
| 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) |
| Kevin Reed Hillsborough C.C | State Fire Marshal | Oct. 31, 2026 (2nd term) |
| Randy Touchton | State Fire Marshal | June 30, 2026 (2nd term) |
| Michael Woodward City of Oviedo Fire Dept. | FL Fire Chiefs' Association | June 30, 2026 (1 st term) |

ABSENT:

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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 July 17, 2023, were approved.

Motion carried.

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

- Chief Harper from the Bureau has retired, his position has been advertised and there are approximately 17 applicants in the process.
- September 2023, Lithium-Ion Symposium – very well attended. Resources are available on the SFM website including video and presentations.
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REPORT FROM THE BUREAU: *given by Eugenia L. Tucker, Acting Bureau Chief*

- Standards
 - Currently there are 46,798 certified FFII.
 - 1,909 FFII ytd 2023
 - 3,506 FFI ytd 2023
 - 3, 220 students trained at FSFC ytd 2023
 - 5,950 total certifications issued ytd 2023(minus Firefighter II)
- Training
 - Class Offerings ytd – 5, 947
 - Course Approvals ytd – 629
 - Instructor Approvals ytd – 9, 686
 - Provider Request ytd - 398
- Safety
 - 60 applications received for Decon Grant – funded 44
- Rule Development
 - Live Fire Instructor – further questions on language, is in Legal.
 - Instructor Qualifications – still being addressed.
 - Fire Investigator – Listening Session stage.
 - FLUSAR – Listening Session stage.
 - Fire safety Inspector – Listening Session stage.
 - DOD – Listening Session stage.
- Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Grant
 - Currently have 27 funded this year.
 - Grow As You Go (Firefighter I) program currently has 31 students enrolled.
- FSFC Campus Activity
 - Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial (tomorrow, November, 17)
 - North Central Florida Fire Conference December 12-14, 2023
 - Volunteer Week April 4 – 7, 2024
 - Instructor Conference – May 1 -2 2024 (All in person this year)
 - Mental Health Symposium – TBD

The Bureau of Fire Standards and Training has received IFSAC Re-Accreditation

OLD BUSINESS:

- Update from Department of Health on Suicide Data
 - No discussion held.
- Out of State/DOD Data/Listening Session
 - Councilman, Kevin Reed gave recap from the Training Directors Association perspective from the Listening Session
 - Florida growth outpacing employment need and the number of students graduating from the Minimum Standards program.
 - Categories that need to be addressed
 - All certifications need to be reviewed in addition to Firefighter.
 - The Training Directors Association recommends establishing a committee for research and review and bring results back to the Standards Council.
 - Director Rice has received several names interested in participating in the work group. First meeting to be held at Florida Fire Conference in January.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Darrel Donatto

- Updated on FFCA Legislation
 - Firefighter Safety/Roadside Emergencies HB-463
 - This bill would enable fire trucks to display blue warning lights on the rear of the truck when operating on an emergency scene.
 - Studies have shown that blue is the most effective color at night while red is most effective and visible during the day. Studies recommend a combination of red and blue for the best protection. 29 States already allow fire trucks to display blue warning lights.
 - House Bill is filed – believe Senate sponsor is committed.
 - This is not only for firefighter personnel safety but also the safety of the trucks which take time to have repaired which can prove to be a significant hardship on organizations.
- Apprenticeship Program for Fire Service
 - This would be a state funded program that would allow a fire department to hire a non-certified person, pay them a percentage of their firefighter salary to go to EMT school. Once completed EMT school, they would get a bump in pay. They would then go to fire school and once completed get an additional bump in pay. Complete on-the-job training and then when completed, roll onto the fire department payroll with the regular pay.

Chief Carlos Aviles

- Recruitment/Retention Reboot
 - The State will be launching the survey by the end of the year or early next year.

- Possible statement sent out by SFM (A-List) asking fire service personnel to participate in survey/registry.

Director Rice welcomed Chief Patrick Kennedy to FFIRS/FFESTC.

Tom DiBernardo – EMS

- As of July 1, 2024, the national paramedic exam will no longer have a practical component.
- New paramedic schools leaning heavily toward on-line. Clinicals would still be required.

Chairman Aviles asked for guidance from SFM Legal on council members participating in the Out-of-State/DOD workgroup and discussing that process outside of the quarterly FFESTC meetings– Sunshine Law

AUDIENCE: None.

NEXT MEETING: January 9, 2024, Orlando Florida

ADJOURN.

Audio file available upon request