

Florida Fire Code Advisory Council
October 23, 2024
10:00AM to 11:00AM
Virtual Go To Meeting

THE CHAIR MAY MAKE SPECIFIC CHANGES IN THE AGENDA AFTER IT HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION, ONLY FOR "GOOD CAUSE" SHOWN.

1. Call to Order at 10:00 AM by Elijah Flowers, Fire Prevention, Code Analyst
2. Roll Call of Members – Elijah Flowers/DFS Staff

Members Present:

- Matt Welhaf - Representing the Florida Professional Firefighters
- Michael Byrd - Representing the Florida Association of the American Inst. of Architects
- Jeff Lucas - Representing the Florida Fire Marshal's and Inspector's Association
- Renee McCord - Representing the State Fire Marshal
- Chris Carlson - Representing the Chancellor of the State University
- Steve Kowkabany - Representing the Florida Engineering Society
- Randall Napoli - Representing the General Public
- Don Whitehead - Representing the Department of Education

➤ Members Absent:

- Ian Kemp - Representing the Florida Fire Chief's Association
- Jeffrey Schnellman - Representing the Florida Home Builders Association

3. Opening Remarks: Elijah Flowers/DFS Staff

This is a Meeting of the Florida Fire Code Advisory Council being held virtually via GoToMeetings and has been published in the Florida Administrative Register on 09/23/2024.

This Meeting is being held in accordance with Florida Statutes, Chapter 633.204. The purpose of the Council is to advise and recommend to the State Fire Marshal Changes to the Uniform Fire Safety Standards adopted under Chapter 633.206, and the Florida Fire Prevention Code adopted under Chapter 633.206, Florida Statutes.

4. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting
Motion made by Matt Welhaf, Chair, 2nd by Don Whitehead – Motion Passed
8-0

Agenda Items:

 **-FFCAC recommendations regarding Florida specific rollover amendments to the Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC)**

Matt Welhaf Motion to accept NFPA 1 amendments, 2nd Chris Carlson.

Jef Lucas Motion to accept NFPA 101 amendments, 2nd Chris Carlson with comment from Don Whitehead regarding 101, Chapter 35 sprinkler retrofit language and the need to revise section as it is date specific.

 **-FFCAC recommendations regarding 2024 NFPA base Code changes to the FFPC**

Chris Carlson motion to accept 2024 Base NFPA 1 Code, 2nd Michael Byrd.

Jeff Lucas motion to accept 2024 Base NFPA 101 Code, 2nd Michael Byrd.

 **-FFCAC Review of Phase I Proposals to the FFPC**

Anthony Apfelbeck

I don't see them published on the State Fire Marshal's Office website, so the first opportunity anybody is getting from the public to review these is seeing them right here. I have some concerns about the process about that going forward for full disclosure and I would encourage that any of these be published on the State Fire Marshal's Office website Front and give the opportunity for the public to review these prior to them being considered by the council Specifically to the issues of this proposal this proposal is only to annex text so it doesn't change anything into core code documents so unless there was another proposal further forward in this batch that actually changes the actual core code text.

Elijah Flowers

Before any official action is taken and to accept any of these proposals, there will be both a staff analysis and council recommendations provided on the website.

And that'll be prior to the January workshop to be clear.

I don't want to unnecessarily put, you know, double work on the council.

hearing all the concerns, we'll table it until the workshop and just so the council knows, we will have a council meeting scheduled for that workshop.

 **-FFCAC recommendations regarding 69A-73 Energy Storage Systems Draft Language**

Anthony Apfelbeck

One question I do have through the chair to staff, if you don't mind, is in the past, the uniform fire code standards have been excluded from the review of the fire code advisory council.

Elijah Flowers

In my review of 69A60, the Florida Fire Prevention Code, that document incorporates the uniform fire safety standards and they're referenced.

Tommy Demopoulos

We know that it's already a lengthy process, so if we go to these public meetings for the rulemaking and now we need to come to these public meetings for the Advisory Council because things could change.

Elijah Flowers

It's my understanding the way the statute reads is the council is to advise and provide recommendations and this is the avenue to do so. Additionally, back to the question or concern about needing every time any uniform fire safety standard is opened if that will require a council meeting. That's not my understanding of the provisions in statute 633.

Michael A. Byrd

I was just reading, well, I read through this before, but just looking at it now, it said something about fire protection in car garages or parking structures. Doesn't this system to put out this fire, this type of fire is not good to put water, to induce water into these fire suppression systems with these EVs?

Stephen Kowkabsny, PE

Nature but water is very effective so it's not gonna put the fire out it does cool the exposures it does control the heat so it is effective and it's part of you'll see it in 855 and all the strategies to to protect EVs and you know batteries and all their forms so it is a it is a good thing to have and especially the concern with parked cars is obviously the amount of plastics The adjacent cars, the exposures, the structure itself is to get some cooling from a sprinkler system. So it is effective in all the testing and in the, you know, the, the fire history we have over the past few years.

Anthony Apfelbeck

Yes, both the model fire codes, NFPA and ICC and building codes have moved towards for requiring the fire sprinkler protection in parking structures because of the hazard. The NFPA 13 technical committee, which oversees the design density recommendations with respect to protection of hazards, has also increased their design density recommendations in the annex from ordinary hazard group one to group two to address the hazard of EV vehicles in parking structures. as Steve indicated, these definitely on top of the issue is that you know it your exposure protection becomes a extremely important issue at this point in time you're not gonna put the fire out maybe but you're gonna go ahead and you're going to definitely stop it from progressing to five or six other vehicles by the time the FD gets there thank you sir.

Jeff Lucas FLFR

Mr. chair I just know I've been through some of the workshops too and we did ask the state to add some provisions for existing parking structures, whether we don't allow EVs charging systems inside existing parking garages or they come up with a retrofit language for sprinklers and existing parking structures. So I would like to see something for existing in there somewhere down the road.

Mobile Food Dispensing Vehicles-DFS Staff Update-Elijah Flowers**Tommy Demopoulos**

So for the food dispensing, we look forward to future rulemaking for that. Did want to stress that the language that is in NFPA 1 chapter 50 is pretty good. The problem at a statewide level is and continues to be the manufacturing of these. But the state, whether that's DBPR or the Division of State Fire Marshals Office, does not do a fire safety plan review, inspection, and licensing besides the health and safety. Again, they took away a lot of stuff from locals, such as the ability to charge for inspections. But by the time those food trucks are built and come to the city of Tamarack, many are not built to the standard that NFPA 1 says it should be, and there is no statewide agency checking fire safety standards. So that is, again, whether it's the division has to add staff, DBPR has to add staff, that is what we are looking for, is that some statewide agency does this from the ground up, And then whether it's periodic, the local AHJs can do the ongoing inspections or the state wants to do them. But as a broader statewide level, it's the manufacturing of these that the DBPR or the division needs to take a little more proactive role in, thank you.

Anthony Apfelbeck

I want to concur with Tommy's comments there and the issue is the manufacturing of these, especially with the LP gas systems. I would love a statewide certification from the State Fire Marshal's Office to go ahead and say this food truck does meet the code, meets NFPA 1, meets NFPA 58, and our fire inspectors can concentrate on the issue of maintenance of what's required within those documents. we utilize our authority to go ahead within all of Seminole County to require a third-party inspection by an LP gas contractor before they're allowed to go ahead and operate.

Michael A. Byrd

Yeah, this is an interesting issue because these vehicles are not designed by any engineer or an architect. They're not signed off or certified by these individuals. So the only authority that regulates this the fire marshal and then do you get into transportation issues transportation design and manufacturing issues it's pretty complicated so this is an issue that probably ought to be looked at pretty heavily by the fire marshal.

Don Whitehead

So, Department of Education does have some concern about these food trucks coming onto our school sites with, with, they don't meet fire code NPFI or and so we would like to have some input on that also.

Elijah Flowers

Yes, we welcome and are seeking that input throughout the entire rulemaking process which will be advertised in the FAR.

5. Comments by Council

6. Comments by Public: General Discussion

Adjournment: 11:00am

Name: _____ Date: _____
Chair

Name: _____ Date: _____

*DSFM – Division of State Fire Marshal

