

Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel
Sanibel, FL
July 20, 2007

Vice-Chairman Shayne Stewart called the meeting or order at 8:47 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

NAME

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.
William Bryson, Miami Fire Department
Mike Coker, Division of Forestry
Julie Downey, Davie Fire Rescue
Greg Gay
Dr. Ron Nutter
Jon Pasqualone, FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire District
Laurie Sweeney, Orange County Fire-Rescue Dept.
Charles "Scotty" Taylor Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech

REPRESENTING:

FL Assoc. of Special Districts
FL Fire Chiefs' Assoc.
Division of Forestry
State Fire Marshal
State Fire Marshal
State Fire Marshal
FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
State Fire Marshal
FL Professional Firefighters
FL Professional Firefighters
State Fire Marshal

ABSENT:

John Drago, City of Longwood
Scott McDermid, Bureau of EMS
Stockton Reeves, VI
Rick Talbert, South Walton Fire District

FL League of Cities
Bureau of EMS
Insight, Orlando State Fire Marshal
FL Fire Chiefs' Assoc.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel held on January 25, 2007 were approved.

Motion carried.

On a motion duly made, Shayne Stewart was nominated for Chairman of the Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel.

Motion carried.

On a motion duly made, William "Shorty" Bryson was nominated for Vice-Chairman of the Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel.

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION:

Results from Legislature:

CFO Sink met with the Board of Directors from the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association. She is very aware of what the tax reform is going to do the fire service of Florida. She supports some type of reform to property tax laws but not at the expense of reduction to public safety. As a cabinet member, she is not involved in the legislative process and does not vote. She plans to do whatever she can to support the fire service and make sure that the legislature understands that this could, and already has had a direct impact on service levels in the state.

The legislation did approve the addendum to the bill that put together the Consumer Fireworks Task Force. Director Hallman holds a seat on this task force and will be the spokesperson for the fire service to make sure the task force understands that there are a lot of concerns about fireworks, and the impact it could have on the state and public safety in general. There is a lot to be accomplished before the task force sunsets in January. Director Hallman requested any data/event dealing with what we would consider illegal fireworks be provided from this past 4th of July that he can bring to the task force. The Arson Bureau has done a good job of compiling stats. The Director is looking for some true, personal accounts. He would like to give the task force a true "snap shot" of what has happened this past year with fireworks in the state of Florida.

Dan Spillman is the new Bureau Chief for the Fire & Arson Investigation Unit. Dan spent over 22 years with the Tallahassee Fire Department and retired as their Deputy Chief. Chief Spillman has a very strong background in arson investigations and scene cause and origin investigations. Glad to have him on board.

The Prevention Bureau is preparing for the tri-annual review of the state fire prevention code. Public hearings will be held soon. Under the state fire prevention code, they have to go public every three years which gives the opportunity to consider making any changes to the fire prevention code and to bring in new information.

Budget reductions – '07/'08 budget did fairly well. Approximately 20 FTE positions were submitted and we received one. Since the budget has been approved, the governor has now informed the Division that the budget needs to be reduced again by 4%. In preparations for '08/'09 budget, the governor wants that cut 10%. Looking at where reductions can be made.

Preparing legislative priorities for 2008. Looking at updating Florida Statute 633. Would like for CFO Sink to assist us in gaining more authority, especially with the FFOSHA law. Legal is now reviewing 633 and the rules.

Wildfire response – great support. Unified command worked like it was supposed to. SERP plan works.

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) get a lot of federal funding and do a lot of scientific studies on fire. This group has been screaming to the federal government for years about their concerns on upholstered furniture and the impact it has on firefighting. The NASFM has again gone to the Consumer Product Safety Council, telling them something has to be done about upholstered furniture. There are attempts being made at the federal level. One of the other things being looked at are novelty lighters which are extremely dangerous.

The 2008 Emergency Guide Book is coming out and for the first time will also be on CD with no copyrights.

OLD BUSINESS:

Due to the absence of Scott McDermid, his update of progress was tabled until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Ron Eaglin from the University of Central Florida and Carrie Whitcomb, the Director of the National Center for Forensic Science gave a presentation on some of the products they have developed and how it can impact what the Fire & Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel is trying to do with data collection for the fire service.

Discussion was held on web based system and also an incentive program for volunteer departments.

It was suggested that Keith McCarthy and Scott McDermid meet with Dr. Eaglin to discuss in further detail, their view on our data collection and then report findings to the Panel at the next meeting.

REPORT FROM FFIRS:

Handouts: FFIRS 2006 Non-Participating Florida Fire Departments
NFIRS: State Reporting Status – 2007
NFIRS: State Reporting Status – 2006

After working with some of the volunteer departments, Keith McCarthy stated that the volunteer departments are having trouble getting people to “work for free” and have someone who will be dedicated to being responsible for the reporting of the department.

Another possible problem for volunteer departments is the difficulty of reporting on-line if they do not have a DSL connection.

The Access data base is basically unusable to the state. It is difficult to transfer the information. 70% of that information was EMS. It is important to combine the Fire/EMS data; it will eliminate a lot of work.

Director Hallman stated that now that we have 95%+ reporting, we need to take it to the next level.

Further discussion was held on incentives for reporting. Director Hallman suggested looking at the re-writes of 633/Rules in 2008 and the possibility to include language referring to reporting.

AUDIENCE: None

NEXT MEETING: October 12, 2007, Florida State Fire College, Ocala, FL

ADJOURN.