

Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel
Ocala, FL
October 12, 2007

Chairman Shayne Stewart called the meeting or order at 1:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

NAME

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.
Mike Coker, Division of Forestry
Julie Downey, Davie Fire Rescue
John Drago, City of Longwood
Dr. Ron Nutter
Jon Pasqualone, FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire District
Laurie Sweeney, Orange County Fire-Rescue Dept.
Rick Talbert, South Walton Fire District
Charles "Scotty" Taylor Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech

REPRESENTING:

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

ABSENT:

William Bryson, Miami Fire Department
Greg Gay
Scott McDermid, Bureau of EMS
Stockton Reeves, VI

FL Fire Chiefs' Association
State Fire Marshal
Bureau of EMS
Insight, Orlando State Fire Marshal

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel held on July 20, 2007 were approved.

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION:

Legislative Update:

The legislature is back in session and Director Hallman advised the panel of the Division's current budget status. Official word has not yet been received but it is possible that the Arson unit may have lost an administrative support position. The concern and focus now is on the 2008/2009 budget. Again, the Division is concerned about budget cuts.

The Division is committed to firefighter health and safety. CFO Sink has made this issue a priority in her legislative efforts. Along with that, the long over due four (4) full time positions for the Firefighter Safety Division have been asked for. Even with all of the budget cuts, these positions will still be pushed for.

Fireworks Task Force:

Fireworks Task Force web site: <http://consensus.FSUEDU/fireworks-task-force/index.html>

The Division of Forestry has brought in a conflict resolution company that has done some work for the Department of Agriculture in the past and they were very impressed with them. There was concern about the make-up of the task force. Presently the fire service only has one seat at the table which is held by Director Hallman. The Department of Agriculture was given a position and Commissioner Bronson thankfully put Forestry's Director, Mike Lawman in that seat.

The way the conflict resolution process works is that nothing can be pushed forward to the legislature that doesn't get 75% approval from the task force. The Director's biggest concern is the tight time line. The task force has to sun-set by January 15, 2008. At that time, the package has to be completed and forwarded to the legislature. In the series of meetings being held, (all the meetings are posted on the web site) the last three meetings will be public hearings. The task force web site has the ability for viewers to enter public comments. The Director urged the panel to point people in the direction of the web site and have them enter public comments. If possible he would like for members or members of their departments, to attend the meetings.

The first task force meeting was pro-fire service. Most Floridian's are happy with the laws if the laws were being enforced. The fire service constituent recommendation to the task force is that they do not want consumers to have anything more than what is already approved by the Division of State Fire Marshal. The task force will do everything they can to strengthen the law to avoid loop holes.

REPORT FROM FFIRS:

Keith McCarthy provided the following handouts to the panel:

2006 Annual Report
2006/2007 Reporting and Non-Reporting Departments
Non-Reporting Fire Departments Contact Information
Letter to Panel, Re: Sunset of the NFIRS Version 4.1 Data Collection

Keith McCarthy asked the panel to go over the annual report if they haven't already and to please provide any comments or suggestions for improvements or corrections.

One area that had already been identified as misleading is the civilian death by county portion (pg. 72), due to incident transport/transfer issues. This will be corrected.

In comparing 2006/2007 reporting (handout), the 2007 figures are at this time year to date figures only. The deadline for submitting 2007 data is April 30, 2008

Sun-setting of 4.1 Program:

4.1 is the old version of the reporting software. There are currently 29 departments still using the 4.1 program. There are several departments in the process of switching over to the new software. As of December 31, 2008, 4.1 data will no longer be recognized.

Keith McCarthy advised the panel that he is willing to visit the departments and help get them switched over so they can start utilizing the 5.0 software. Since meeting with the volunteer officers, Chief William Trinder from Jasper Fire Rescue has taken over as the volunteer fire officer and has started working on the non-reporting list. He will be concentrating on those departments who have had staffing and computer issues.

Software and training manuals are available for departments and can be mailed upon request.

Further discussion was held on non-reporting departments.

In reference to the previous meeting where Dr. Eaglin from the University of Central Florida gave a presentation to the panel, Keith McCarthy and panel member Scott McDermid were to follow up with Dr. Eaglin but have not had the opportunity to do so as of yet. It is their hope to meet with him before the next panel meeting.

Discussion was held on the possible cost of a program being developed by the University, other available programs that are already in existence through third party vendors and the cost of updating these systems.

OLD BUSINESS: Update from Scott McDermid will take place upon his return.

NEW BUSINESS: None

AUDIENCE: None

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.
Jacksonville - Prime Osborn Conference Center, Fire Rescue East.

ADJOURN.