

Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel
Jacksonville, FL
January 24, 2008

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
John Drago, City of Longwood
Steve McCoy, Bureau of EMS
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
FL Fire Chiefs' Association
Division of Forestry
State Fire Marshal
FL League of Cities
Bureau of EMS
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:

Greg Gay
Stockton Reeves, VI

State Fire Marshal
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 October 12, 2007 were approved.

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION: *Given by Director Hallman*

The Legislature will be returning to Tallahassee on March 3, 2008. This will begin the 2008 session. Bills are being monitored closely. Every bill that comes out is looked at. So far there is nothing that impacts the Division directly. The Division is working on a bill that will hopefully be coming out next week. This bill will provide some "clean-up" in Chapter 633. The draft language has been added and it is in legislative affairs. There is not a lot of language in there that would impact this particular panel but there is language that will impact the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council. An overview will be given at that meeting.

The Consumer Fireworks Task Force was sun-setted on January 15, 2008 and their report has been issued. The task force web site is posting the final report. Director Hallman urged panel members to take a look at the report. Out of the eight member panel, Director Hallman was the only negative vote when it came time to approve the report. There are some issues from a public safety standpoint that the committee is recommending to the legislation and that brings with it great concern. What the legislation does with that report is anybody's guess. They can simply ignore the report or draft legislation. This will be monitored extremely closely. If legislation is drafted that follows with the reports recommendation, it will have a serious impact on the fire service. It will allow things to be legal in the State of Florida that were not legal before.

The State is still struggling with the budget. We were notified as of last week that they are about to cut 600 million more out of the budget before the end of this budget year. We expect some more budget cutting exercises. Very concerned about this. This also rolls right into the 2008-2009 budget. Based on the current economic forecast, they are saying there will be no sign of recovery in the state until most likely spring 2009. We are hoping for the best.

The fire service award reception will be taking place on Monday, April 14, 2008 in Tallahassee. We will be meeting with the Joint Council to discuss the plans. We are hoping the reception will be held in the Capitol. Tuesday, Tuesday, April 15, 2008 the awards will be issued.

REPORT FROM FFIRS: *Given by Sherm Sasser (for Keith McCarthy)*

As of yesterday, for the year 2007, we have 621 reportable departments. Out of those 621 departments, 433 have submitted substantial or all data. That comes to 69.7% reporting.

The Non Reporting Contact Information (hand out) has a list of those departments that have not yet reported. This is for information purposes only. Some of these departments report annually and will still report. This list is not to be used to contact non-reporting departments.

As of December 31, 2007 we had 1, 155, 000 "plus" incidents reported into the data base. Last reporting year for 2006 there were just over 1, 900, 000 incident reports. So far into this year, we can presume that we are on track as we were last year. The deadline for the 2007 data to make the annual report is April 30, 2008. This is the deadline to make the report. You can still report after this date but the data will not appear in the annual report.

Keith McCarthy will be attending the "Advanced Fire Incident Reporting" class this coming March in Emmitsburg, MD. This class has been offered for some time but in this case it is even more important because of what has been previously announced. The National will stop accepting 4.0 or the versions of 4.0 as of December 31, 2008. Anyone who is on 4.0, 4.1, 4.12, data will not be accepted and they will be unable to report. What

that means to us is that we could lose people who are currently reporting. The handouts titled Edit Mode 4.1 paper and Edit Mode 4.1 Electronic, those should be the twenty-nine departments that have been historically reporting under the 4.1. Under 4.1, the electronic means they are inputting it somehow electronically. The 4.1 paper means they are still submitting a paper report. This will also stop as of December 31, 2008. All of these departments have been notified by Keith McCarthy and he is attempting to work with each of them to get them converted. A number of departments have been converted to the 5.0 process. A problem Keith is now facing is that he is short on staff.

The statistical reports are being mailed. They will begin mailing next week. This is the statistical report that goes to the chief or to the FFIRS liaison. This report would only be received if you have reported for 2007. The non-reporting letters will begin the first week of February. This is when we will start looking to the Council for assistance. We anticipate that by the next meeting, we should have a complete list of who has been mailed to and who has not reported at that point and it will be passed onto the council for assistance.

This new change to the 5.0 process is going to change the way things have been done for some time. It is going to require some type of internet access.

The Annual Report for last year is available at the State Fire Marshal Booth out front for anyone who may like one.

Chief Bryson asked about departments that still appear on the Non-Reporting list that are no longer valid departments.

It was explained by Sherm Sasser that unfortunately the data base this list is generated from is also used for other statistical information and the non-existing departments can not be removed at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Stewart questioned the status of the discussion with the University of Central Florida that Keith McCarthy and Scott McDermid were to have before Scott left.

Sherm Sasser stated that the issue still needs to be pursued and when Keith returns and can discuss this with new member Steve McCoy it will be addressed. DOH is proceeding with their EMSTARS. The goal of trying to make the different pieces of information interchangeable is absolutely worthy and should be pursued.

New panel member Steve McCoy stated he realizes the need for integration between EMS and Fire and the matching of information. EMS would like to develop a "cross-walk" so as not to duplicate information. He also stated he would like to meet with Keith McCarthy to discuss this to identify the specific elements.

Chairman Stewart recommended that Steve and Keith discuss and possibly give a report to the Panel at the April or July meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Stewart urged Panel members to give courtesy calls the departments in their area and remind them of the upgrade to 5.0 and ask if they need any type of assistance.

AUDIENCE:

None

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 15, 2008, Tallahassee, FL 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURN.