

Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel  
Daytona Beach, Florida  
January 29, 2009

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:**

**REPRESENTING:**

**NAME**

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.	FL Association of Special Districts
William Bryson, Miami Fire Department	FL Fire Chiefs' Association
Mike Coker, Division of Forestry	Division of Forestry
Julie Downey, Davie Fire Rescue	State Fire Marshal
Greg Gay	State Fire Marshal
Steve McCoy, Bureau of EMS	Bureau of EMS
Joe Palminteri	State Fire Marshal
Jon Pasqualone, FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.	FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
Laurie Sweeney, Orange County Fire-Rescue Dept.	FL Professional Firefighters
Rick Talbert, South Walton Fire District	FL Fire Chiefs' Association
Charles "Scotty" Taylor Jr., Gainesville Fire Rescue	FL Professional Firefighters
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech	State Fire Marshal

**ABSENT:**

John Drago, City of Longwood	FL League of Cities
Dr. Ron Nutter	State Fire Marshal

The Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel held on October 9, 2008 were approved.

Motion carried.

**REPORT FROM DIVISION:** *Given by Director Hallman*

Director Hallman introduced new Panel member, Joe Palminteri. Mr. Palminteri is a volunteer captain with Citrus County Fire Rescue and a full time Sergeant with the Citrus County Sheriffs office.

John Drago has resigned from the Panel/Council and the League of Cities will need to replace him.

The Florida Association of Counties has still not named their replacement which has been vacant for quite some time.

There is new leadership within the Division; the new Assistant Director is Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Merritt. Mr. Merritt has been with the Division for over seventeen years and has a very strong law enforcement and arson background. He is the first inside appointment within the Division in quite some time.

The new chief of the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training is Barry Baker. Chief Baker has over forty years in the fire service and has been fire chief of Ormond Beach for the last eleven years. He has spent the month of January transitioning from Ormond Beach to the Fire College and starting next week will be full time.

### **Budget**

The Legislature held a special session in January on how to deal with the 2.3 billion dollar deficit.

The Division did better than anticipated. Only one position was lost which brings the total to two positions lost for the Division.

Most state agencies are aware that they will all have significantly reduced budgets going into 2009/2010. The process for the 2009/2010 is done during the upcoming Legislative process beginning in March. We don't expect a lot.

The Legislative package included some interesting language. One such item restricted all agencies to "mission critical" travel only. We are being very closely scrutinized.

### **Senate/House Bills**

Thirty-nine bills have been introduced that impact the fire service in some way. Sherm Sasser reviews all bills on a daily basis and identified which he thinks will impact the fire service.

#### **Priority 1 Bills (bills that have the potential of impacting the fire service)**

House Bill 05 – Revisions to retirement plans.  
Senate Bill 538

House Bill 41 – Fire safety requirements in condominiums.  
Senate Bill 244

House Bill 171 – Creates a Fallen Firefighter Memorial Flag.  
Senate Bill 198

House Bill 259 – Firefighter Death Benefits. Expand training to include LODD.

Senate Bill 792

House Bill 365 – Budget issues. Discretionary sales tax for emergency fire rescue services.

Senate Bill 1000

Senate Bill 384 – Increases Firefighter Bill of Rights.

House Bill 385 – Taxes.

Senate Bill 738

House Bill 417 – Prohibits the sale and distribution of novelty lighters.

Senate Bill 806

House Bill 419 – Condominiums. Extends period for retrofitting of sprinklers.

Senate Bill 714/880

House Bill 479 – Retirement/Suspension of DROP benefits. (FRS system)

House Bill 605 – FRS. Prohibits re-employment after retirement for same agency.

Senate Bill 664 – Condominiums. Extending provisions for railing.

Chairman Bryson asked for an explanation of the Bureau Chief change at the Fire College.

Director Hallman stated that a decision had been made that there needed to be a change of leadership.

**REPORT FROM FFIRS:** *Given by Keith McCarthy*

The deadline for fire departments to submit their data to be included in the Annual Report 2008 is April 30, 2009.

Letters have gone out to fire departments for;

- Non-reporting
- Partial reporting
- Audits
- Sunset of NFIRS 4.1 software

The FFIRS section is now fully staffed. The newest member is Angela Reid, Records Specialist.

In 2007 there was a total of 20 departments still using the 4.1 version software. Currently there are only 7 departments still using that software.

According to USFA guidelines, 4.1 data that has a 2008 date will be accepted, however, data that is dated January 1, 2009 thereafter will not be accepted as previously stated.

Keith McCarthy provided two handouts with the latest statistics on fire department reporting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Crosswalk FIRE/EMS

- Looking into vendors again.
- Grant funds are available to become EMSTAR compliant.
- Looking at linkages with other agencies.

Other things going on within DEMS

Chapter 401 – Paramedic internship on an ambulance.

There is a group that would like to see the internship ride-ons to include different types of vehicles; engines, ambulance, EMS vehicles.

Chapter 401.465 Certification of 911 dispatchers.

At the present time, this is a voluntary certification. A rule workshop will be held for equivalency issues. Five years experience will fit into the “grandfather” clause.

The curriculum is based on a 280 hour program. Most agencies already exceed that.

Some constituent groups have announced they would like to see this become a mandatory certification.

The EMSTAR project is moving along great. Eighty-one agencies are submitting data. There are currently 535,000 records in the data base with a 92% data validation quality.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**AUDIENCE:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m.  
325 John Knox Rd.  
Tallahassee, FL  
Atrium Bldg. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room

**ADJOURN.**