

Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel  
Tallahassee, Florida  
April 14, 2009

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:**

**REPRESENTING:**

**NAME**

William Bryson, Miami Fire Department

Mike Coker, Division of Forestry

Julie Downey, Davie Fire Rescue

Greg Gay

Steve McCoy, Bureau of EMS

Joe Palminteri

Jon Pasqualone, FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.

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

FL Fire Chiefs' Association

Division of Forestry

State Fire Marshal

State Fire Marshal

Bureau of EMS

State Fire Marshal

FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.

FL Professional Firefighters

FL Fire Chiefs' Association

FL Professional Firefighters

State Fire Marshal

**ABSENT:**

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.

Dr. Ron Nutter

FL Association of Special Districts

State Fire Marshal

The Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel held on January 29, 2009 were approved with a correction on curriculum hours for Chapter 401.465.

Motion carried.

**REPORT FROM DIVISION:** *Given by Chief Barry Baker*

We have a new Director, Julius Halas. Julius used to be with the City of Sarasota and is now with the town of Longboat Key. He will begin with us full time on May 4, 2009. Many of you know Julius, he is a good person, excellent fire service background and will be a real asset to our Division.

Budget Issues: There is bad news and good news, the bad news being that it is not over yet. The good news is that if you look at our Division, we are not being hit as hard as we thought we were going to be. If you look at what the House and Senate are currently discussing, it is coming together a little better than we anticipated.

We are looking forward to Director Halas joining us and moving us in a positive direction.

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

Keith provided a handout to the Panel with current reporting statistics.

All of the goals that were set back on January 29<sup>th</sup>, we are right on target with. The structure of the 2008 Annual Report is underway. The deadline for fire departments to report is April 30, 2009.

As of April 3, 2009 all department audits were completed and mailed out.

The FFIRS section has processed over 500,000 incidents received within the last two months. Thanks to the fact that the FFIRS section is now fully staffed were we able to accomplish this.

Only data prior to December 31, 2008 will be accepted from the remaining four fire departments still using the 4.1 software.

USFA Guidelines- Apparatus Module:

Some departments have experienced an enormous amount of errors while trying to submit their data due to multiple apparatus responding to an incident where one of the units might have been cancelled prior to another arriving unit. In that case, that particular unit has to have an "actions taken". Previously this was not the case but now, if cancelled in route, an "actions taken" must be provided.

The problem is being worked on and will be corrected.

Ron Williams stated that Panel members will contact departments that have not yet reported.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Steve McCoy reported that the Bureau of EMS is keeping an eye on several bills.

Senate Bill #948 – EMS Training/Field Internship. This bill is cruising along through the House and Senate. There is an amendment tied along with the bill to alter 401 and get rid of the driving clause which states that departments must designate drivers upon their hire. The bill actually had a strike-all, initially it just changed the word ambulance to vehicle in

401 where services to provide clinical internship. Now the strike-all states that it gives the department authority to address this in rule and actually set a number of the percentage of clinical hours for internship that may be done on vehicles other than ambulances.

House Bill #1043  
Senate Bill #2282

This bill limited first responder services, police, fire EMS, from charging a fee to the uninsured. The Bureau of EMS was initially looking at it very closely but then the next strike-all that was presented basically exempted EMS services from that bill so it was reduced down to no impact. It obviously can still impact other services.

House Bill #769  
Senate Bill #2040

Dispatcher Certification – this bill is still running in both House and Senate. Dispatch certification that is now voluntary would become a mandatory certification. This bill is growing and has a lot of support. There is a grandfather clause which states that individuals who have more than 60 months of experience since January 1, 2002 can be grandfathered in. However, that will sunset in 2012 when this bill becomes mandatory. Basically the bill states that everybody will be certified by 2012.

House Bill #1033  
Senate Bill #1938

Emergency Cardiac Services

This bill has changed many times and continues to change. It doesn't appear that it will make it through but it is still being watched.

Grant Funds for Crossover – The Bureau of EMS, through the Department of Transportation did a sub grant where the Bureau awarded almost \$200,000 for data collection equipment. 74% of this money went to fire based services.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Greg Gay suggested that future meetings should be advertised to read that the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting commences 10 minutes upon adjournment of the Fire & Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel.

Chairman Bryson agreed.

Chief Baker suggested that given the budget constraints it be considered that two out of the four quarterly meetings be held by conference call.

He proposed that the two face to face meetings be at the Annual Conference and Fire Rescue East which has the larger number of people who would want to participate in the meetings.

It was noted that since these are public meetings and they are advertised as such, a conference call number would have to be provided publicly as well as a place for people to meet up and be connected to the call.

Chairman Bryson stated that he does not like the idea at all. He prefers face to face meetings. He suggested that possibly the state not be billed for reimbursement for those who are traveling to the conferences for other meetings as well. He feels further discussion should be held.

Chief Baker mentioned that video teleconferencing may be a possibility in the near future.

A cost analysis of travel costs was requested.

**AUDIENCE:** None

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, July 17, 2009**  
**Harbor Beach Marriott Resort & Spa**  
**3030 Holiday Drive**  
**Ft. Lauderdale, FL**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**ADJOURN.**