

Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel
January 21, 2010
Daytona Beach, Florida

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

REPRESENTING:

NAME

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.	FL Association of Special Districts
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
Ron Parrish, St. Lucie County Fire District	FL Fire Chiefs' Association
Jon Pasqualone, FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.	FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
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:

Joe Palminteri, Citrus County Fire Rescue	State Fire Marshal
Laurie Sweeney, Orange County Fire-Rescue Dept.	FL Professional Firefighters

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel held on October 9, 2009 were approved.

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION: *Given by Chief Barry Baker*

The Division's Strategic Plan is currently being refined due to the changes with the economic times and the conditions that we are facing.

It appears that we are about 2.2 – 2.3 million dollars short again this year at the state level so there will be additional views at where they can achieve that savings.

We (Florida) currently have two Urban Search and Rescue teams (USAR) in Haiti and we are receiving citizens from Haiti that are being housed in Florida. At this point there are probably about 7,000, half in Central Florida, half in South Florida. That will probably increase.

Our EOC is not up and running fully. The USAR teams are working under the federal system. There have also been some DMAT teams sent as well, also working under the federal system. We continue to monitor those personnel because they are ours.

REPORT FROM FFIRS: *Given by Keith McCarthy*

(Hand out)

The FFIRS Section is currently compiling and collecting data for the 2009 Annual Report. The deadline for fire departments to submit data is April 30, 2010.

On December 23, 2009, Keith McCarthy, Steve McCoy, Angela Reid and Matt Hinson met to discuss ideas to provide reporting software that is compatible with both EMSTARS and NFIRS.

The goal of both FFIRS and DOH is to get fire and EMS departments to report and to provide incentives for reporting.

The Division is in preparation to possibly obtain a grant, license cost, and bids for the proposed reporting software. Also discussed was the implementation of EMS data into the FFIRS Annual Report.

All departments will be audited based on 2009 data beginning February 1, 2010. Fire departments will receive a letter, audit sheet, and multiple attachments that would explain where their data showed errors and the status of their department's data for the calendar year 2009.

The goal of this audit is to continue the process of improving the quality and quantity of incidents that are imported into the NFIRS system. This process assists in educating fire departments in properly coding incidents, NFIRS guidelines, and other problem areas.

There are two avenues currently being explored in order to incorporate one system for the State Fire Marshal that could be used for multiple functions such as;

- Tracking fire incidents and related data
- Tracking firefighter injuries/illnesses and related data
- Tracking fire professional certification

1. Partnering with Drexel University to serve as a pilot site for the development of a national firefighter injury and illness surveillance system or;

2. Applying for a fire prevention and safety grant from FEMA in order to develop software.

Last fall, the Florida State Fire College (State Fire Marshal) actually partnered with Drexel University to have the State serve as a pilot site. While FFIRS captured some information, the system did not give the option to do much with that data. The Fire College has proposed that a surveillance system be incorporated into the FCDICE system to facilitate participation from the local departments. If funded, Drexel will work with us to adapt what we already have in order to meet the needs for tracking casual and correlative factors.

Also, the State Fire Marshal's office can apply for a fire prevention and safety grant from FEMA next fall. JAD sessions have been proposed in order to develop the software into a single system that can be used for several functions. This project's eligibility will fall under FEMA's National/State/Regional Programs and Studies.

Upcoming Training

October 13, 2009	Panama City Airport
November 16, 2009	Lake City, Baker County and Columbia County
January 12, 2010	Miami Beach
January 13, 2010	Plantation
January 14, 2010	Palm Beach County
January 20, 2010	New Smyrna Beach

NFIC Training Workshop

Invitations were mailed for participating NFIC members to attend the NFIC Training Workshop. The training will be held at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, MD on April 6 – 7, 2010. Topics will include NFIRS Quality Assurance Methods, Future Changes to NFIRS, Reporting Strategies, and Coding Issues.

USFA/NFIRS Proposed Changes

Three major NFIRS innovations are in progress at the USFA;

1. A rewrite to the web-based tools programs. The first phase will provide easier navigation through tools along with additional features. Look for enhanced features in the future.
2. Upgrade to servers. The upgrade moves the application to higher performance servers and will provide better management, operation, and support.
3. New data entry browser tool. This will allow fire departments to enter incidents directly into their states partitions within the USFA's database. No client-server download or local software needed. This will provide departments another option for reporting incidents to the state and the USFA.

NFIRS Data Entry Browser Interface (DEBI)

The United States Fire Administration is making available the NFIRS Data Entry Browser Interface (DEBI) to state NFIRS offices and fire departments. DEBI is the latest enhancement to make incident reporting more accessible and to make data collection more real-time.

REPORT FROM EMS: *Given by Steve McCoy*

The Bureau currently has several rules in development.

An EMSTARS workshop was held about six months ago. It is in the rule for EMSTARS to remain voluntary. This rule is currently with JAPC (Joint Administrative Procedures Committee).

A “Problem Cause” panel and rule concerning disciplinary guidelines for EMT and Paramedics will be going to an informal hearing. There are currently a lot of inconsistencies within this rule so they are looking to promulgate some disciplinary guidelines somewhat similar to nursing so there will be standardization across the board.

Another issue being looked at is reinstatement after revocation. (EMT/Paramedic)

Paramedic rule requirements have been changed to include 2 hours of pediatric training. This requirement will hopefully go into effect within the next 60 days.

There are new instructor standards to teach EMT and Paramedics.

There is an EMS Education Agenda for the future which is a national movement that Florida looks to follow, standardize and adopt in different scope of practice models. Currently there are over 42 different types of EMT's across the country, so nationally we look to standardize and adopt 4 levels. Currently we (Florida) have EMT Basic and Paramedic only. On top of the 4 standardized levels, Critical Care Certification is being looked at for a 5th level. This would aid agencies in receiving reimbursements for Medicaid and Medicare. This is still out for discussion.

The EMS investigations department processed almost 132 cases last year (132 complaints). Over 130 inspections were done.

The Bureau is currently in their grant cycle. The county grants close on the 29th, Matching grants close on 2/12 and sub grant for EMSTARS (for those non-EMSTARS compliant). All applications can be found on the Bureau's web site. There is also a new Grants Newsletter which can be found on the web site.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

AUDIENCE: None

NEXT MEETING: To be announced at FFESTC meeting.

ADJOURN.