



Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical
Advisory Panel
Daytona Beach, FL – Fire Rescue East
January 20, 2011

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

NAME

Greg Gay
Bill Gulbrandsen, Sumter County F/R
Bill Lombardo, South Trail Fire
Steve McCoy, Bureau of EMS
Joe Palminteri, Citrus County Fire Rescue
Ron Parrish, St. Lucie County Fire District
Jon Pasqualone, FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
Laurie Sweeney, Orange County Fire-Rescue Dept.

REPRESENTING:

State Fire Marshal
FL Assoc. Counties
FL Assoc. Special Districts
Bureau of EMS
State Fire Marshal
FL Fire Chiefs' Association
FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.

ABSENT:

Gene Prince, City of Gainesville Fire Rescue

FL Fire Chiefs' Association

The Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel meeting was called to order.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel held on October 2007, 2010 were approved with a spelling correction.

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION: *Given by Director Julius Halas*

The Division of State Fire Marshal is presently engaged in the transition. Director Halas has already had several meetings with new CFO, Jeff Atwater and stated that so far it has been a very smooth transition. Alex Sink and Jeff Atwater have worked together through the banking industry and have a good working relationship. We have seen that continue on for a very smooth and congenial transition.

CFO Atwater has related that he feels the State Fire Marshal's Division is on course and doing a good job. He stated during the election that he was confident in his skills in the financial realm but with no fire service background he will be looking to the State Fire Marshal Division for support. He has made good on that gesture. Immediately following the inauguration, he and his family rode in an antique fire truck to show his involvement is not only the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) but also the State Fire Marshal. He has taken a big interest in the fire service and has requested that anytime there is a line of duty death he would like to be notified, no matter what the time. He is interested in meeting fire service staff throughout the state and has already done a ride-a-long with the Orlando Fire Department (station 50 off of Orange Blossom Trail).

CFO will be meeting with all Bureau Chief's from the Division this afternoon.

REPORT FROM FFIRS: *Given by Keith McCarthy*

(Hand outs provided)

2010 FFIRS training has been completed in Washington County, Brevard County, Hernando County and the City of Port Richey.

2011 FFIRS training will be done in Okaloosa County, Santa Rosa County, Lake County and Broward County.

The deadline for submitting 2010 data to FFIRS is April 20, 2011.

2010 audit reports and end of the year statistics are currently being sent out.

NFIC Data Entry Browser Interface (DEBI) and Standard Output Reports Tool (SORT)

Both DEBI and SORT are accessible from the NFIRS website at www.nfirs.fema.gov/webtools. Access to tools is still granted through user accounts. Accounts are still created and managed by the state NFIRS program manager. For questions on NFIRS DEBI and NFIRS SORT, contact the NFIRS Support Center at (888) 382-3827 or FEMA-nfirshelp@dhs.gov.

NFIRS Training at the National Fire Academy – NFIRS Program Manager Course (R491)

The next course is scheduled for May 29 – June 3, 2011.

NFIRS User Accounts

Account expiration period was reduced to 45 days to adhere to FEMA requirements. Notification is sent out to the user to remind them to take action before the account expires. This was implemented based in NFIRS user's feedback.

NFIRS Enhancement Project

The comprehensive requirements analysis of the NFIRS system gaps resulted in identifying the following needs for improvement.

- ✓ Modernize System
- ✓ Data warehousing and mining
- ✓ Data management and quality
- ✓ Streamlined output reporting and analysis
- ✓ Timely incident reporting
- ✓ Usability
- ✓ Information sharing
- ✓ Agility to respond to change
- ✓ Self service
- ✓ Vendor support
- ✓

These needs will be addressed with the system enhancements.

A total of 57 fire departments have not reported as of yet (paid/volunteer).

73% of calls reported are EMS calls.

The NFIRS section is putting together a data analysis class which will teach the local fire departments to use the system and to be able to retrieve their own data. (if using federal software).

If anyone is interested in receiving this training they should contact Keith McCarthy.
Keith.McCarthy@myfloridacfo.com

REPORT FROM EMS: *Given by Steve McCoy*

The Bureau of EMS is also in a state of transition. The Surgeon General's letter of resignation was accepted and her last day was on January 3, 2011. At this time, the Governor has not appointed a replacement.

Legislature

There are already 406 bills filed (which is traditional). These bills will of course be monitored. 12 out of the 406 bills that the Bureau has specifically looked at, it was determined that 4 of them potentially would impact the EMS agency and 5 of them would potentially impact the Department and Bureau of EMS.

House Bill 79 and Incentive Bill 244 are aggressive driving and texting bills which we have seen before. The impact here seems to be positive because it would put money into the EMS trust fund for trauma services.

House Bill 157 basically opens up the public universities to local employees (law enforcement, EMT/paramedics, and firefighters).

The main bill the Bureau is looking at is House Bill 115 which is the creation of the Department of Health and Human Services. This bill was filed by Representative Atkinson in Region 3 and it basically would combine The Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and Disabilities and Elderly to become The Department of Health and Human Services. There is a lot of speculation around the state and a lot of rumor control. This bill will probably change one hundred times before the end of session. Governor Scott's transition team did submit a recommendation which the Bureau is very comfortable with.

Rule Development

Rule development has been essentially halted due to some things that have been put into place by the new Governor to decrease the impact on small business.

The Bureau is looking into re-doing the Instructor rule. There were some items in the rule that did not quite translate over as wanted so they will be re-done.

One of the medical director's rules for their continuing education (authority issues) is also being looked at.

Grants

Grant application deadline is Feb. 16th at 5:00 p.m.

Education

Still running around an 86% - 87% first time pass rate on paramedic exams. EMT exams run around 73% - 75% first time pass rate. Both exams are contracted with the national registry.

911 Public Safety Telecommunicator Program (bill passed last year) has made it mandatory for all dispatchers to hold certification by October 1, 2012. Approximately 2,400 have

already been certified. The Bureau looks to certify a lot more before 2012. Also what is being looked at is training centers to train the dispatchers.

EMSTARS

There are currently over 3 million records in the database. Florida is the second largest in the country. After the Bureau submits this quarter, it is likely that Florida will be the largest state in the country submitting data in the national data set. This is a significant impact because it is a distinct representation of what happens in Florida.

There are approximately 124 agencies in the data set which is approximately 46% of the providers all together. The organizational type of that data set, the majority is fire agencies. In Florida we are about 51% - 52% fire based and the majority of our incident level data set is from fire based agencies.

The Bureau is creating the Department of Health's first true data warehousing. Through grant money the hardware/software was purchased and has just received the data. This means that every time there is a record generated by the hospital, we will have it in our data set. The vision for this is for every record that is sent, the outcome data will be sent back. This will help greatly with documenting "what happened to patients". There are still some logistical issues on how to get the data back out to each individual agency but it is something that has been asked for and the Bureau is looking forward to being able to provide that information.

Mr. McCoy suggested that they look into doing training in conjunction with Keith McCarthy's FFIRS office to be able to answer all questions and concerns in one training session.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion was held on criteria for rule development – If there is a rule that is going to have an impact of one million dollars over five years, the rule needs to be analyzed to have the most minimal negative impact on small business. If the economic impact statement shows that it will small/local businesses a million dollars over five years, the rule will then have to be ratified by the legislature.

The Division is still learning and analyzing the procedure with Legal.

AUDIENCE: None

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 18, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. via conference call/State Fire Marshal's Office, Atrium Conference room, Tallahassee, Florida

ADJOURN.