



Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council Meeting  
 January 9, 2024  
 Orlando, Florida

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>	<b>TERM ENDING</b>
Carlos Aviles St. Augustine Fire	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2026 (2nd term)
Brad Bischoff Bradenton Fire Department	FL Professional FF Assoc.	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Aaron Colburn Reedy Creek Emergency Svcs.	FL Professional FF Assoc.	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Thomas DiBernardo Florida Department of Health	Bureau of EMS	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Darrel Donatto Town of Palm Beach	Florida League of Cities	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Shawn Hanson Greater Naples Fire Rescue	Florida Fire Marshals Association	Oct. 31, 2026 (2nd term)
Jeremy Joseph Florida Forest Service	Florida Forest Service/DOA	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Patrick Kennedy West Palm Beach County F/R	Florida Association of Counties	June 30, 2026 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Dr. David Lee Sylvester Comprehensive	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Terry Parris Panama City Beach	State Fire Marshal	Jan. 1, 2027 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Kevin Reed Hillsborough C.C	State Fire Marshal	Oct. 31, 2026 (2nd term)
Michael Woodward City of Oviedo Fire Dept.	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2026 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)

**ABSENT:**

Jim Millican Lealman Fire District	Florida Association Sp. Districts	Oct. 31, 2026 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Randy Touchton	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (2nd term)

The Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting was called to order.

**On a motion duly made**, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council held on November 16, 2023, were approved.

**Motion carried.**

**REPORT FROM DIVISION:** *given by John Gatlin, Assistant Director*

- Staffing at FSFC/Bureau of Fire Standards & Training
  - FSFC Bureau Chief interviews are upcoming
  - Standards Supervisor – open
  - Academic Instructor – open
- Rule Modification
  - DOD/Out of State Firefighter – getting feedback, rule not yet open.
- Legislative
  - Nothing specific to Standards or Training
- Budget
  - Lots of improvements being done at FSFC
  - Continuing to put in LBR's (Legislative Budget Requests) for further improvements for Auditorium, Courtyard, etc.
  - LBR submitted for US&R training.
- Direct Service Organization (DSO) was put in place last year with the goal being to support training and awards
  - Received tax exemption
  - Waiting on FDID number
  - Looking for Board of Directors
- November FFIRS/FFESTC meetings will be moved back to October so as not to coincide with the Fallen Firefighter Memorial and related activities.

**REPORT FROM THE BUREAU:** *given by Eugenia L. Tucker, Acting Bureau Chief*

- **Certifications 2023**
  - Firefighter II – 46, 897
    - Issued in 2023 – 4, 428
  - Firefighter I – 3, 506
  - Total State certifications excluding Firefighter II
    - 6, 537
  - Students trained at the Florida State Fire College
    - 3, 644
- **Training 2023**
  - Course Offerings – 6, 548
  - Course Approvals - 668
  - Instructor Approvals – 10, 583
  - Provider Approvals – 433
- NFPA Update
  - 1010 (1001, 1002, 1003, 1005) 2024 Edition
  - 1020 (1021, 1041) 2025 Edition

- 1021 – adding EMS officer
- 470 (472, 473, 1072) 2022 Edition
- 1030 (1031, 1035, 1037) 2024 Edition
- Inspector taken out Inspector II, III, leaving first responder and fire safety inspector.
- 1140 (1051, 1141, 1143, 1144) 2022 Edition
- **Rule**
  - Live Fire Training Instructor Rule – still open
  - Fire Investigator – still open
  - FLUSAR – still open
  - Firesafety Inspector – still open
  - Mental Health Best Practices (in listening session)
  - Firefighter Decontamination Grant updating language
- **Safety**
  - Decon Grants
    - 44 grants issued
    - Request for 2,235, 574.48 – grant is only 500,000
    - Currently awarding PPE, Extractors, vehicle exhaust capture systems
- **Volunteer Firefighter Assistant Grant**
  - Requests for 2,295,387.95, issued 979,214.15 to 26 recipients
  - 26 recipients
    - Issued PPE, SCBA, Wildland PPE, Gas monitors, and a pumper (purchase of assistance)
  - 77 students in Grow As You Go
    - 4 completed course
    - 2 received Firefighter I
- **Campus Activity**
  - FCDICE replacement-ongoing
  - Pipeline T-t-T – February 7, 2024
  - Volunteer Week – April 4 – 7, 2024
  - Instructor Conference May 1-2, 2024
  - Mental Health Symposium – May 31, 2024
  - Fallen Firefighter Memorial – November 15, 2024
  - New vendor in cafeteria - Mojos

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### DOD/Out of State Firefighters

- TY 2021 – FY 2023/2024
  - 152 DOD and Out of State firefighters have been tested
  - 95 passed
  - 57 failed
  - 65 employed
- Saw major improvement since last class after a curriculum update and new instructors.

Discussion was held on moving forward with improvements to the DOD/Out of State Firefighter certification program.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Council Member Shawn Hanson**

Would like data from fire academies on students who drop and/or fail out of the minimum standards program. When and why they fail/drop, is there an exit interview with students, do they return to fire academy to repeat or go into another area of the fire service, are they leaving with a positive image of the fire service?

Council Member Tom DiBernardo stated that EMS (DOH) is heading in the same direction.

Director Rice stated that the Division is currently conducting interviews with FSFC students relating to attrition rates.

Council member Kevin Reed indicated that data in FCDICE could be used as far as registered students/completion/pass or fail. Many training centers track students after completion to see if they become employed with a fire department. A majority of students who drop/fail out of the program come back.

Council member Tom DiBernardo provided a handout to the Council referencing Florida Department of Health First Responder Suicide Summary 2017-2022. Statistics were provided by year, profession, age, gender, and race.

Director Rice – SFM has been working with OPPAGA (Office of program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability) (research arm of the Florida Legislature), on First Responder Peer Support. Will be putting out a survey to all fire departments (chiefs) to identify support they are currently providing to their employees.

Council member Carlos Aviles requested that SFM put out an additional survey on retention data. Would like to review current numbers and continue with the surveys so year-to-year data will be able to provide trends, etc.

**On a motion duly made**, Darell Donatto was elected Chairman of the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council.

**Motion carried.**

**On a motion duly made**, Aaron Colburn was elected Vice Chairman of the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council.

**AUDIENCE:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** TBD

**ADJOURN.**

*Audio file available upon request*