



Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council Meeting
April 29, 2025
Conference Call

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

NAME	REPRESENTING	TERM ENDING
Byron Bennett North Bay Fire Control Dist.	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (1 st term)
Brad Bischoff Bradenton Fire Department	FL Professional FF Assoc.	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 st term)
Aaron Colburn Reedy Creek Emergency Svs.	FL Professional FF Assoc.	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 st term)
Thomas DiBernardo Florida Department of Health	Bureau of EMS	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 st term)
Shawn Hanson Greater Naples Fire Rescue	Florida Fire Marshals Association	Oct. 31, 2026 (2 nd term)
Dara Hennessey City of Cocoa Fire Rescue	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (1 st term)
Jeremy Joseph Florida Forest Service	Florida Forest Service/DOA	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 st term)
Patrick Kennedy West Palm Beach County F/R	Florida Association of Counties	June 30, 2026 (1 st term)
Dr. David Lee Sylvester Comprehensive	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (2 nd term)
Jim Millican Lealman Fire District	Florida Association Sp. Districts	Oct. 31, 2026 (2 nd term)
Terry Parris Panama City Beach	State Fire Marshal	Jan. 1, 2027 (1 st term)
Kevin Reed Hillsborough C.C	State Fire Marshal	Oct. 31, 2026 (2 nd term)
Michael Woodward City of Oviedo Fire Dept.	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2026 (1 st term)

ABSENT:

Carlos Aviles St. Augustine Fire	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2026 (2 nd term)
Darrel Donatto Town of Palm Beach	Florida League of Cities	Jan. 31, 2027 (1 st 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 January 7, 2025, were approved.

Motion carried.

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

- Legislative Session
 - Monitoring Bills
 - Funding for recruitment – not moving
 - Budget – reducing staff withing Division, SFM is providing justification to save vacancies.
- FSFC Renovations ongoing
- Instructor Conference is next week

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU: *given by Bill Sturgeon, Bureau Chief*

- STATS - provided via share screen – document to be sent to Council
 - 2025 ytd
 - 752 Firefighter II
 - 2,153 Other
 - From June 2024 through 4/2025
 - 2, 481 students
 - 161 classes
 - 128,160 contact hours
- Safety Section
 - Mike DiStefano has been hired as the new Safety Section Supervisor
 - YTD
 - 25 Compliance Inspections
 - 4 Investigations
 - 26 Inquiries
- Rule Making
 - LFTI – at senior management for final review
 - DOD/Out of State Firefighter – FFCA proposal under legal review
- FireTraQ – going well, should be ready for deployment by mid-September
- Upcoming Events
 - Instructor Conference
 - Lithium Symposium
 - Memorial
 - North Central Florida Fire Conference
- FSFC Projects
 - Ready to undergo 2nd phase of roofing project

- Paving completed
- LRC has new flooring
- Portables now have lattice borders
- New tables/chairs
- Mobile Smart Boards
- IT updates
- Canvas – online platform (just purchased)
- SimsUshare (purchased)– for Tactics classes
- Upcoming Improvements
 - Auditorium
 - Security

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on DOD and Out of State Firefighters

- 2021 – ytd
 - 223, Passed 141, Failed 82
 - 200 were out of state
 - 23 were DOD
 - 70 are currently employed
- Future Testing
 - May
 - August
 - November

NEW BUSINESS:

Aaron Colburn – Firefighter Occupational Safety & Health Bill, any concerns by the Division?

John Gatlin – waiting to see where it lands. A lot of extra expectations would be imposed on the Division including rule modification and rulemaking.

AUDIENCE: None

NEXT MEETING: July, Miami, Florida

ADJOURN.

Audio file available upon request