



Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council Meeting
 July 14, 2025
 Miami, Florida

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

NAME	REPRESENTING	TERM ENDING
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)
Darrel Donatto Town of Palm Beach	Florida League of Cities	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)
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)
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)
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)

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 April 29, 2025, were approved.

Motion carried.

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

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU: *given by John Gatlin, Assistant Director*

- Chief Bill Sturgeon has resigned. Bruce Gillingham, the former Bureau Chief of Fire Prevention, is the new Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Fire Standards & Training.
- Vacancies at FSFC
 - Working on filling positions
 - Working on increasing salaries
 - Currently there are 3 open Program Specialist positions
 - Are now finalizing hiring 6 new part-time (OPS) instructors
- Legislative
 - Bill 929
 - Will require the Division to modify and create new rules
 - Items included will be
 - Line of Duty Illnesses and tracking
 - Mental Health/Suicides and tracking
 - Training injury/death events and tracking. This will lead to more compliance inspections.
- Legislative Budget Requests
 - Continued requests for infrastructure needs
 - Roofing
 - Courtyard
 - New LBR's
 - Feasibility study on how to best use the campus for training needs
- CANVAS
 - Has been purchased
 - Online options coming soon
- FireTRAQ
 - Coming soon!
 - FCDICE will be kept in archive, it won't be gone.
 - On budget
 - Looking at a September roll out
 - Continued upgrades
- Florida Fire Foundation (Division)
 - Submitted for \$600,000 grant through the federal government for study on suicide

- Lithium Ion Symposium
 - Moved to early next year due to roof replacement in Auditorium
- Rules
 - New CFO not yet officially announced. The Division is on hold with any rule making until it is official.
 - LFTI – Possible Rule Hearing during Health & Safety Conference
 - 69A-37 – Extremely large Rule. Goal is to split it up so it is easier use
 - The Division is now focused on the “5-year Rule” looking at all rules
- NFPA Changes
 - Working on curriculum updates
- DOD/Out of State
 - Looking at Pilot Program to offer class in Panhandle (Eglin AFB)
- STATS
 - Firefighter II
 - YTD 2025 up 936 certified for a total of 48,907 certified Firefighters
 - YTD 2025 up 684 employed firefighters for a total of 40,600 employed firefighters
 - YTD 2025 - 752 certificates issued other than Firefighter II
 - Course/Class offerings all up for 2025
 - Out of State/DOD over the last four years
 - 223 applied
 - 141 passed
 - 82 failed
 - 70 employed
 - 200 were out of state, 23 were DOD

Questions:

Aaron Colburn: Does SFM have a language draft for 929 yet?

AD Gatlin: No. Encouraged all Council members to enroll in FAW for rule hearing/development alerts.

Shawn Hanson: Will FireTRAQ have the capability of tracking Life Safety Educator hours?

AD Gatlin: Will find out if that was included in the scope of work

Darrel Donatto: Asked if the firefighter raise extended to the Fire College

AD Gatlin: Only to some, we are continuing to work on the compression issue

Darrel Donatto: Administrative Rules, suggested the Council be involved with updating 69A-37

AD Gatlin: SFM would welcome the input.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom DiBernardo, FL Dept of Health

Florida EMSTARS, which is the State data EMS set – Go take a look, full of good information and you can break it down by your area (EMT's and Paramedics).

AUDIENCE:

Jonathan Lamb, State Training Task Force

FDM had the same staffing issues, the State Training Task Force and others put together letters of support for funding to fix that. What we are seeing now is that the State Fire Marshal's Office and the Bureau has been understaffed for so long, it would be a good idea for the Council to send letters of support through your legislators, it will make an impact.

The State Training Task Force is very grateful to the State Fire Marshal's office staff as they were able to get a substantial reoccurring funding source for the Haz Mat and USAR teams this year. We haven't seen that in several years and included in those funds are some training dollars. The departments have, in the last few years been forced to funds these costs so the funding is a tremendous help.

NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN.

Audio file available upon request