



Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council Meeting
November 16, 2023
Ocala, FL (Conference Call)

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

NAME	REPRESENTING	TERM ENDING
Carlos Aviles St. Augustine Fire	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2026 (2nd term)
Mike Bellamy Tallahassee Fire	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (2nd 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)
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 (2nd 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 (2nd term)
Randy Touchton	State Fire Marshal	June 30, 2026 (2nd term)
Michael Woodward City of Oviedo Fire Dept.	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	June 30, 2026 (1 st term)

ABSENT:

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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 July 17, 2023, were approved.

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION: *given by JoAnne Rice, Director*

- Chief Harper from the Bureau has retired, his position has been advertised and there are approximately 17 applicants in the process.
- September 2023, Lithium-Ion Symposium – very well attended. Resources are available on the SFM website including video and presentations.
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REPORT FROM THE BUREAU: *given by Eugenia L. Tucker, Acting Bureau Chief*

- Standards
 - Currently there are 46,798 certified FFII.
 - 1,909 FFII ytd 2023
 - 3,506 FFI ytd 2023
 - 3, 220 students trained at FSFC ytd 2023
 - 5,950 total certifications issued ytd 2023(minus Firefighter II)
- Training
 - Class Offerings ytd – 5, 947
 - Course Approvals ytd – 629
 - Instructor Approvals ytd – 9, 686
 - Provider Request ytd - 398
- Safety
 - 60 applications received for Decon Grant – funded 44
- Rule Development
 - Live Fire Instructor – further questions on language, is in Legal.
 - Instructor Qualifications – still being addressed.
 - Fire Investigator – Listening Session stage.
 - FLUSAR – Listening Session stage.
 - Fire safety Inspector – Listening Session stage.
 - DOD – Listening Session stage.
- Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Grant
 - Currently have 27 funded this year.
 - Grow As You Go (Firefighter I) program currently has 31 students enrolled.
- FSFC Campus Activity
 - Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial (tomorrow, November, 17)
 - North Central Florida Fire Conference December 12-14, 2023
 - Volunteer Week April 4 – 7, 2024
 - Instructor Conference – May 1 -2 2024 (All in person this year)
 - Mental Health Symposium – TBD

The Bureau of Fire Standards and Training has received IFSAC Re-Accreditation

OLD BUSINESS:

- Update from Department of Health on Suicide Data
 - No discussion held.
- Out of State/DOD Data/Listening Session
 - Councilman, Kevin Reed gave recap from the Training Directors Association perspective from the Listening Session
 - Florida growth outpacing employment need and the number of students graduating from the Minimum Standards program.
 - Categories that need to be addressed
 - All certifications need to be reviewed in addition to Firefighter.
 - The Training Directors Association recommends establishing a committee for research and review and bring results back to the Standards Council.
 - Director Rice has received several names interested in participating in the work group. First meeting to be held at Florida Fire Conference in January.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Darrel Donatto

- Updated on FFCA Legislation
 - Firefighter Safety/Roadside Emergencies HB-463
 - This bill would enable fire trucks to display blue warning lights on the rear of the truck when operating on an emergency scene.
 - Studies have shown that blue is the most effective color at night while red is most effective and visible during the day. Studies recommend a combination of red and blue for the best protection. 29 States already allow fire trucks to display blue warning lights.
 - House Bill is filed – believe Senate sponsor is committed.
 - This is not only for firefighter personnel safety but also the safety of the trucks which take time to have repaired which can prove to be a significant hardship on organizations.
- Apprenticeship Program for Fire Service
 - This would be a state funded program that would allow a fire department to hire a non-certified person, pay them a percentage of their firefighter salary to go to EMT school. Once completed EMT school, they would get a bump in pay. They would then go to fire school and once completed get an additional bump in pay. Complete on-the-job training and then when completed, roll onto the fire department payroll with the regular pay.

Chief Carlos Aviles

- Recruitment/Retention Reboot
 - The State will be launching the survey by the end of the year or early next year.

- Possible statement sent out by SFM (A-List) asking fire service personnel to participate in survey/registry.

Director Rice welcomed Chief Patrick Kennedy to FFIRS/FFESTC.

Tom DiBernardo – EMS

- As of July 1, 2024, the national paramedic exam will no longer have a practical component.
- New paramedic schools leaning heavily toward on-line. Clinicals would still be required.

Chairman Aviles asked for guidance from SFM Legal on council members participating in the Out-of-State/DOD workgroup and discussing that process outside of the quarterly FFESTC meetings– Sunshine Law

AUDIENCE: None.

NEXT MEETING: January 9, 2024, Orlando Florida

ADJOURN.

Audio file available upon request