

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Meeting of January 17, 2007

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The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, January 17, 2007, at the NJ State Police Regional Operation Intelligence Center in West Trenton, NJ.

Commission Members Present: Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman
Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Daniel DeTrolio
Mr. Charles W. Schilling
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. Frederick Collender
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary
Mr. C. Kenneth Anderson
Mr. Gerard Naylis
Mr. Steve O’Gorman

Commission Members Excused: Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Arthur Mercurio
Mr. Paul Hartstein

DCA Staff Members Present: Lawrence Petrillo, State Fire Marshal
Don Huber, NJDFS
William Kramer, NJDFS
Charles Luxton, NJDFS
Karen Luckie, NJDFS
Craig Augustoni, NJDFS
Gerry Grayce, Codes and Standards

Guests: Elizabeth Sweeney – Ft. Monmouth Fire and
Emergency Services
Bob Yaiser – Toms River Fire
Ryan Seaman – Toms River Fire
Nicholas Kikis – NJ Apartment Assn.
Daniel P. Mulligan – Ocean Co. Fire Marshal
Alex Bradley – Pennwell
Rich Heimbach – Master Planning Council

A. Call to Order

Chairman John Wisniewski brought the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and pointed out the fire exits. Sgt. Mike Zimmerman welcomed the Commission members to the Regional Operations and Intelligence Center, and gave a brief overview of the facility. He also explained that the facility is not exclusively for the State Police, but for everyone within State government in regards to emergency response. A tour of the ROC followed the meeting.

Chairman Wisniewski also welcomed Director of Homeland Security Richard Cañas to the Commission meeting. Director Cañas thanked the Commission for having him and spoke about the working relationship between Homeland Security and the Division of Fire Safety. He talked about how even though terrorism has seemingly been on a “hiatus”, this gives us the opportunity to prepare better and better – because terrorists are still out there and are still a serious threat.

B. Approval of Minutes

With no corrections necessary, the minutes of the regular meeting of November 15, 2006, were approved.

C. Correspondence

Chairman Wisniewski noted that each member of the Commission had received correspondence in their packets. With no discussion requested on any of the correspondence, the meeting moved to public comment.

D. Public Comment

Chairman Wisniewski opened up the meeting to public comment. With no members of the public requesting to speak, the meeting was moved to Division of Fire Safety Activities.

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo started off his report by thanking Director Cañas for attending today’s meeting.

Director Petrillo spoke about a meeting that was held regarding high rise residential sprinklers. The meeting included Division staff, members of the Codes Council, and representatives of apartment owners. Director Petrillo found this meeting to be extremely productive, with each party involved voicing their concerns about fire safety issues, cost, time-frame, etc. He looks forward to working collaboratively in the future to getting high-rise residential sprinklers implemented over time. The involved parties will be meeting again in late February.

Director Petrillo reported that there was a fire fatality in a high-rise in North Jersey this past December. Division staff did have an opportunity to meet with the building management, as there were fire safety issues that need to be fixed at this facility. Director Petrillo is confident that this building is on the road to fixing these issues.

Director Petrillo spoke about the fire service's issues with various water companies throughout the State. The issues stem from local chief officers reaching out to water companies for information regarding water main schematics and site plans. The water companies are hesitant to readily give out this information because of homeland security concerns. The Division did meet with the water companies, and both parties are working on ways to share this information securely. On this topic of information sharing, Director Cañas spoke about the ROIC building where this meeting is taking place – how it doubles as both an intelligence center and emergency operations center. This is unique in the way all in information is so readily available when responding to a terrorist alert or emergency.

Director Petrillo reported that a member of the Division of Fire Safety will (very soon) be working full-time out of the ROIC. He stated that it important for the fire service, as well as homeland security and law enforcement, to work closely together to give the State a full range of knowledge and emergency response capabilities.

Commissioner Charles Schilling inquired about the high-rise survey that has been near completion for some time. He spoke about the individual cities that still have not fully completed their survey, and suggested that these cities be contacted personally by the Division. Director Petrillo stated that the Chief Paul Allen from the Division has been in contact with these cities, particularly Newark of late. Chairman Wisniewski suggested sending a letter to all these cities, and Director Petrillo said it would be done.

Director Petrillo reported that, through Director Cañas at Homeland Security, \$165,000 in UASI funds has been granted to the Division of Fire Safety for a logistics vehicle that is capable of being taken on emergency scenes. There will also be a maritime firefighting training project, in both North and South Jersey, in which a few thousand firefighters will be involved.

Director Petrillo reported that the Division is close to signing a mutual aid agreement with FDNY. When this is finalized, the Commission members will be notified. There will also be some sort of press event to recognize this partnership. Also, there will be a Fire Coordinators meeting this Saturday here at the ROIC, and all Commission members are invited to attend.

Director Petrillo reported that the book order from Delmar was received by the Division of Fire Safety. Chief Don Huber spear-headed this project of securing the Delmar books, and it was a success. Director Petrillo personally thanked Chief Huber for his work on this issue. The Division now has enough books to take them well into 2008. The Division is now working on the planning for ordering books beyond 2008. Chairman

Wisniewski urged that the Division use this lead time to be prepared to get these textbooks and not going 'sole source' on the next order.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis spoke about how other states have added hazardous materials to their Firefighter I curriculum, and in turn, have been able to obtain Office of Domestic Preparedness funding to pay for the textbooks. Commissioner Naylis asked if this was a possible avenue for New Jersey's Division of Fire Safety to pursue. Chief William Kramer answered that obtaining this funding is something they have been working on. However, one of the issues has been convincing the individual who decides how to allocate ODP that this is a legitimate use for the money.

Director Petrillo reported that, through Director Cañas and the Office of Homeland Security, the Division was able to procure a foam cache and firefighting system for South Jersey – in addition to the one in the north. It will be housed in Gloucester County.

Chief Don Huber started his report by thanking Director Cañas for attending the meeting and his support of the Division of Fire Safety. He assured Director Cañas that the Division would be a strong ally for himself and the Office of Homeland Security. Chief Huber said that it was not him alone who succeeded in purchasing the Delmar books, but a team effort including Chief William Kramer, Karen Luckie, and other Division staff. The 5,400 books are in the Division's possession at the Bordentown office. It is now time to look into ordering books for 2008 and beyond, and the Division will be looking to using the same vendor for 3-5 consecutive years.

Chief Huber also spoke about the "Fire Gang" program that the Division has been working on with NJ State Police. Division staff has been meeting with law enforcement officials in New Jersey's cease-fire cities, and they are hoping to start with actual training in early February. The "Fire Gang" program is now speaking with the Director Cañas and the Office of Homeland Security on adding a terrorism awareness component to the program. Chief Huber also thanked Chief John Lightbody for inviting himself and other Division staff to their Master Planning and Research Advisory Council meeting.

Commissioner Steve O'Gorman inquired as to how someone would be able to purchase one of the Delmar textbooks. Chief Huber informed him that you would have to contact Delmar directly in order to purchase one. The Division is not in a position to sell the books.

Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson asked about how the trainers would be provided for the "Fire Gang" program. Would the trainers be provided by State Police, or will there be a train-the-trainer program? Director Petrillo answered that it will be both. At first, in the New Jersey cease-fire cities, State Police trainers will be provided. After that, a train-the-trainer course for the "Fire Gang" program will be included in the regular curriculum.

Chief Kramer spoke about NIMS training, and there will be a couple new curriculums that the Division will be using. There will be a new I-400 curriculum, which is basically a culmination of all the different programs that are out there recognized by the USFA.

These have been received, as of yesterday, by the Division. They are also awaiting the I-300 program, which has already been ordered.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Charles Schilling started his report by speaking about the Casino Fire Safety Draft. The Codes Advisory Council reviewed this and a copy of the draft is contained in all Commission packets. There was only one suggested change in the draft, concerning the height of the standpipe blue light requirement. The new suggested language would state that the light be “visible above the highest obstruction on the floor”. Commissioner Schilling made a motion to adopt a proposal to recommend this change to the Commissioner. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Naylis and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schilling reported that the Codes Council reviewed NFPA 13 & 13R Systems as suggested at the last Commission meeting. This was concerning requirements for providing suppression in any concealed spaces. Commissioner Schilling said that this would be a construction change, rather than a fire change. The Codes Council debated this at length, and Commissioner Schilling feels that this is a major issue. Gerry Grayce, from DCA’s Codes and Standard, made mention that the 2006 NJ IBC will require balcony sprinkler protection.

Commissioner Schilling reported on a burn test which was forwarded to the Division of Fire Safety. This test was conducted by Fire Inspector Brian Bass of Earle Naval Base. The test was conducted outdoors on some rubber mulch which was being used as a playground safety material. A CD with still prints was presented at the Codes Council meeting, and a report of the results on a DVD was played for the members present. It was concluded that this material was flammable not non-flammable as the manufacturer’s MSDS information states. The members present reviewed the report, and after watching the DVD recording of the burn test, they recommended no action on this issue.

Commissioner Schilling spoke about the fire extinguisher requirement, as the Codes Council had discussed at length whether it was enforceable. Commissioner Schilling asked Director Petrillo whether there was any movement on the issue of whether this should be enforced. The Director said that Chief Paul Allen had been working on this issue, and has spoken and meet with the Attorney General to get this interpretation. Commissioner Schilling requested that the Division put out a notice giving fire officials some kind of guidance on this issue.

Director Petrillo said that the Commission had requested drafting a resolution to Commissioner Susan Bass-Levin stating their opinion on the fire extinguisher bill. The resolution was not done. As a result, the regulation proposal has expired and needs to be re-introduced. Chairman Wisniewski said it was unacceptable to not get this resolution done. Director Petrillo suggested re-introducing regulations that would more so echo the

opinion of the Fire Safety Commission. Chairman Wisniewski preferred that the Division issue a resolution based on the recommendations that the Codes Council and the Commission has provided.

Commissioner Lawrence Wood spoke about the issue of radio communication in high rise buildings. Even though there are no standards, we need to have someone investigate how to get standards so that firefighters will be able to communicate better in high-rise emergencies. Commissioner Wood urged that this needs to be looked into before there is a situation where multiple firefighters die in a high-rise incident because of poor communications. He suggested contacting a communications company to look into this. Commissioner Naylis said that the technology is out there, it is just a matter of pushing to get this technology in the hands of the fire service. Chairman Wisniewski suggested that the Division look into this communications issue and possibly get Commissioner Wood in touch with someone from a communications company with these capabilities. Director Petrillo said that he would contact the State's communications people, as well as the Fire Department in New York City.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson gave the following report of the Training and Education Advisory Council:

The Training and Education Advisory Council met on December 19th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am.

There was a brief review of the CEU offerings for the spring semester. Suggestions for future classes included: Strike Team Leader, Clues for Grant Applications, Large Scale Events, and How to Reach Difficult Students.

Commissioner Levin signed a waiver for 5,400 Firefighter I Training Kits. Since the meeting, they have been received and are in Bordentown. Delmar has prepared a new Instructor's Guide that better defines which sections of the text are appropriate for Firefighter I and those for Firefighter II. The Council recommends that the Division provide these kits to the Eligible Organizations.

The Firefighter II standard still has not been proposed in the *Register*.

The critique of the pilot offerings of the Fire Officer I course recommended adding two modules to the curriculum. We are waiting for the committee to provide details of the modules before acting on the recommendations. There are also issues still to be resolved on how the testing will be administered in relation to budget restrictions. One possibility is to establish an examination fee.

A meeting of the Committee working on uniform training for Rapid Intervention Teams is being scheduled to discuss the best way to proceed. A program based on existing texts

and programs now used in some Academies in New Jersey or expanding the Module in Firefighter II are two major alternatives. There may be others.

The revised Fire Instructor Certification standard has not yet been printed in the *Register*. In the proposal, a Drill Ground Instructor Certification will take the place of the current two special certifications. It has been found that the program used in Pennsylvania cannot be used as our training program. It may be necessary to have a contractor develop the training program. Some members of the Council feel the training program could be developed by a T&E Committee. The Council members expressed frustration on the time it has taken to get these proposed changes implemented.

Possibly two Train-the-Trainer classes for I-400 will be conducted this semester. Enrollment is by invitation and in consultation with the Eligible Organizations. The National Fire Academy recently released up-dated Incident Management curricula. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group participated in the development of these revisions and they should meet the standards in the New Jersey Administrative Code. There are some technical problems to be resolved regarding the curriculum at the Emergency Management Institute for acceptability as the training for our Incident Management certifications.

As part of our strategic planning, there is a sub-committee on task analysis. The group has developed a series of questions that need answers. Generally, they ask, "What are today's expectations of firefighters and fire officers for the tasks and competencies of their positions? Are firefighters confident with what they have?" The committee is developing a questionnaire to solicit responses so the needs can be defined and a plan prepared.

The Council is also interested to have some direction from the strategic plan of the Division and/or the Commission to guide its work.

We wish to get updates regarding certification requirements and benefits from both the Pro Board and IFSAC. This might add credibility to our certifications and might facilitate credentialing when that NIMS requirement is issued.

Members asked about the Mayday Regulations that were proposed in the October 3, 2005 *Register* and comments closed on December 2nd, more than a year ago. We believe uniform standards are vital. Once there is an adoption, there may be a need to develop some uniform training programs.

The Council has listed several things that it sees as priorities in 2007:

- RIT Training/Certification
- NIMS Position Specific courses
- NIMS Grant Application Procedures
- The Deployment Act
- Adoption of certification of Firefighter II, Officers, and Instructor revisions

- Tactical Operations for Small Events; What do we do, who do we serve?
- Gang awareness (as presented to the Commission by Col. Fuentes)
- Building Construction for Firefighters
- Safety on the Highways
- NFA Health and Safety Officer in the State Training Schedule

The meeting schedule for 2007 was set. The Council will continue to meet on the third Tuesdays of even numbered months at the Dempster Training Academy. The next meeting of the Council will be on February 20th at 10:00 am at the Dempster Training Academy.

Commissioner Anderson also made a motion that Phil Wilk be added to the Training and Education Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Naylis and passed unanimously.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that, with 2006 now over, the Division is compiling the statistics that have been reported throughout the year. Commissioner Naylis is confident that the number of fire departments reporting will be in excess of 90%, which would place New Jersey among the nation's leaders in that category.

Commissioner Naylis said he has been contacted about this fire data. He feels that people are starting to recognize the benefits and uses of this data for planning purposes, as well as perpetuating change in their communities. Commissioner Naylis also feels we're getting to the point where this information needs to be distributed throughout the state, possibly using an electronic subscription-type system.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

Chief John Lightbody reported that the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council met on January 11, 2007, and several members of the DCA staff, as well as the Codes Council, were present. A major topic at the meeting was sprinklers in new one- and two-family dwellings. The Master Planning and Research Advisory Council put together a Power-Point presentation on this matter, with many statistics from the Statistics and Information Advisory Council.

Chief Lightbody quoted William Connelly from his meeting as saying, "The time has come to sprinkler all new one- and two-family dwellings." Mr. Connelly presented a two-tiered step to accomplishing this task. The first step would be a code change, which can possibly be changed based on a vote in Rochester, NY in May 2007. The second tier would be to bring this code change to New Jersey and include it in the New Jersey edition of the International Building Code. The Master Planning and Research Advisory Council voted to work with the Division of Fire Safety and Codes and Standards to move this process forward.

Chief Lightbody made a motion that Chief James Foley be added to the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council – and presented Chief Foley’s resume to the Commission. Commissioner Naylis seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo reported that the Public Education Advisory Council met on January 10, 2007, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. This coming Tuesday, WABC-7 in New York will be holding its annual kick-off breakfast for the Operation-7 Save-A-Life program. The program will be hosted by Bill Ritter, and the Division will be obtaining a donation of roughly 15,000 smoke detectors to be distributed throughout the state.

Commissioner DeTrollo reported that the New Jersey FIRE Bowl competition will be continuing in the 2006-2007 school year. The competition will include school districts from Bayonne and Toms River. The program will culminate in mid-May 2007. For more information on this program, contact Charles Lavin at the Division of Fire Safety.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council will be March 14, 2007, at 10 AM at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner Richard Blohm, no report was given.

G. Committee Reports

1. Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Committee

Charles Luxton reported that Commissioner Paul Hartstein is currently under the weather, so he would be giving the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Committee report in his place. Mr. Luxton reported that the Committee met on January 11th, and the highlight of the meeting was the attendance of Deputy Attorney General Tom Fisk. He was very helpful as he was able to answer questions from the twenty members of the Committee for about an hour.

Mr. Luxton reported that the 4th Annual Juvenile Firesetter Conference, which took place on November 30 and December 1, 2006, was a success. There were 120 attendees, including those from other states such as New Mexico, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware. The partnership with the International Association of Arson Investigators in running the conference went extremely well. The planning for the 5th Annual Juvenile Firesetter Conference has begun. It will take place at Middlesex County Fire Academy on November 29-30, 2007.

Chief William Kramer spoke about the proposed language that would expand the duties of the Fire Official. He said they would take the language proposed by the Juvenile Firesetter Committee and use it to develop a proposed regulation. The proposed language is:

“The Fire Official shall: 26. Contact a local or countywide recognized Juvenile Firesetter Intervention program if upon determination by the authority having jurisdiction, a juvenile has been involved in a fire setting incident or has exhibited inappropriate behavior involving the misuse of fire or fire safety equipment.”

Because the Committee has requested to make an addition to the Uniform Fire Code, they now need to come up with a definition of just what a recognized program is.

2. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis implored the Commission to support the proposals that will be on the table in Rochester, NY this coming May. Also, Commissioner Naylis spoke about how the high-rise building owners took the Division’s fire statistics and pointed out that most fire emergencies have been in one- and two-family homes – not high rises. Commissioner Naylis said that they are working on getting sprinklers into one- and two-family homes, as well as high-rise buildings. The high rise building owners are not being singled out.

H. Old Business

Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson spoke about the issue of funding New Jersey’s Urban Search And Rescue (USAR) Team that was talked about at November’s meeting in Atlantic City. The funding for this team was threatened to be cut. Commissioner Anderson asked if there had been any changes on this issue. Director Lawrence Petrillo said that, as far as he knew, the talk of these cuts to the USAR team were just rumors and he would look into the matter further. Director Petrillo also stated that he would inquire about the USAR Team’s funding being re-established.

I. New Business

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo brought up the issue of Assemblyman Fred Scalera putting together a “Fire Caucus” to advise and represent the fire service in the State of New Jersey. Chairman Wisniewski sent out a letter in November to address this issue. His feeling was that the Fire Caucus would only serve to divide the focus of the fire service’s concerns. The Fire Safety Commission is already in place to serve as the voice of New Jersey’s fire service, and a Fire Caucus would be another body attempting to accomplish the same thing.

Commissioner Wood and Commissioner Anderson each spoke about the possibility of having a Fire Caucus. Commissioner Wood feels that the fire service in New Jersey will always have a very difficult time expressing itself in one voice and one focus – but the

Fire Caucus could serve as a conduit to the legislators in State government. Commissioner Anderson felt that the Fire Safety Commission and Fire Caucus would serve different purposes in representing New Jersey's fire service. The Fire Safety Commission serves to advise the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, and the Division of Fire Service, on the problems and issues of the fire service. The Fire Caucus, Commissioner Anderson feels, would not serve as another advisory board but as a "sounding board" for all the legislators to concentrate on the problems and issues the fire service is facing.

Chief William Kramer spoke about the possible nomination of Jim Burns for Chairmanship of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Jim is currently the Fire Administrator for the State of New York. Since the inception of the CPSC there has never been a fire service person in charge. Director Petrillo has already sent a letter in support of Jim Burns to Senator Frank Lautenberg, and Chief Kramer asked that the Commission give him their support in the same way. Commissioner Naylis agreed and made a motion that the Commission strongly supports Jim Burns for this nomination. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

J. Adjournment

Chairman Wisniewski asked if anyone had any additional business they would like to bring before the Commission. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM.

****** The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on March 21, 2007 at 10am. It will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ. ******