

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

Meeting of May 17, 2006

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The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2006, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, New Jersey.

Commission Members Present: Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman
Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Daniel DeTrolio
Mr. Paul E. Hartstein
Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. Arthur Mercurio
Mr. Frederick Collender
Mr. Charles W. Schilling
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. Steve O’Gorman
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary
Mr. Richard C. Blohm
Mr. Gerard J. Naylis

DCA Staff Members Present: Lawrence Petrillo, State Fire Marshal
Paul Allen, Chief
Charles Lavin, Commission Secretary
Amy Frank, Codes and Standards
Carmine Giangeruso, Codes and Standards
Heather Puskar, DFS
Don Huber, DFS

Guests: Chuck Aughenbaugh – NJ Deputy Fire Chief’s Association
Bernie Cohan – NJ State Fire Chiefs
John F. Lightbody – Dover Twp. Fire
Rich Heimbach – Morris Co. Fire
Ray Lonabaugh - NFSA
Kenneth Byrnes – Jackson FD, Dist 3
Daniel P. Mulligan – Ocean County Fire Marshal
John Gervato – Teaneck Building Dept.

A. Call to Order

Chairman John Wisniewski brought the meeting to order at 10:03 AM and pointed out the fire exits.

B. Approval of Minutes

Commission Paul Hartstein noted a correction that needed to be made on Page 5 of the March 15th meeting minutes. He made clear that he was asking why the Division would consider changing training programs from Delmar to IFSTA – not inquiring about the possibility of switching. The correction was noted and made to those minutes.

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

C. Correspondence

Chairman Wisniewski noted that each Commission member had received correspondence in their packets, but no discussion or questions were raised regarding them.

D. Division of Fire Safety Activities

State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo started off his report by talking about the 1st Annual FIRE Bowl Competition that was held the day before in Bayonne. He found the program to be a success, and commended the Bayonne School District for their outstanding support in making this event possible. State Fire Marshal Petrillo was extremely happy with the level of participation in the program, and hopes to expand the competition to include all of New Jersey in the coming years.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo reported that, as of a couple weeks ago, the Division was starting their night club spot checks again. There are several establishments in the shore area that will soon be opened for the summer season and they will be inspected to ensure their safety. The Division has had a pilot program with six local enforcing agencies (Irvington, Paterson, New Brunswick, Merchantville, Collingswood, and Cherry Hill) to update and develop a more dynamic night club database. The goal of this program is to keep all registrations up-to-date and have all establishments making timely payments. The program is just getting started and its progress will be reported on in the future.

The Division of Fire Safety has been going through some personnel changes recently with some people being moved to different areas and some new people coming on board. Director Petrillo took the opportunity to recognize Don Huber, who will be serving as the Division's new Chief of Staff. Mr. Huber spoke briefly about his new position, saying that he is excited and looking forward to the challenge. Director Petrillo said he was looking forward to having Mr. Huber as an asset to the Division.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo spoke about the hiring/promotional freeze that has been in place since before Governor Corzine took office. Despite this, the Director said that the Division was in need of a Codes Specialist to help with the interpretation and writing of codes. Since there is no one in this position now, the Division was being assisted by Codes and Standards in bringing on board the new IFC code. There was some confusion with meetings and who would be taking what responsibilities. State Fire Marshal Petrillo said that those issues have been cleared up, and Code Enforcement will remain within the Division with Chief Paul Allen leading it.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo reported that, since the last meeting, reports have been issued for fires in Teaneck, Somerset, Franklin, and Englewood. These reports are all online, and right now the Division is working on the New Brunswick fatality report, which is currently in review and should be released before the next Commission meeting.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo addressed the rumors that have been flying around via email about what is going on with the Division. While there have been changes due to the budget, these emails are loaded with misinformation and half-truths. As is evident by today's meeting, the Division can no longer provide coffee or meals at meetings as dictated by Treasury.

Chief Paul Allen spoke about the night club checks that had been done in the past weekend. There were minor violations noted among the 50 night clubs that the Division spot-checks throughout the year. They are gearing up for the seasonal operations in Seaside Heights and inspecting their night clubs.

Commissioner Richard Blohm asked whether the Commission members would be issued hard copies of the reports that were recently released by the Division. Director Petrillo said that would not be a problem. Commissioner Blohm also inquired about the issue of deploying the emergency vehicles from the fire academies (Bergen in particular) and how those men deploying the vehicles would be insured in case of an accident. Director Petrillo said that the Division has been in contact with the Attorney General's Office on this issue, and he feels that they are not sure how to address it. The AG's Office said that these men would be covered under OEM and their coverage if it is a declared emergency, but Director Petrillo's concern is that these vehicles are put into action even for incidents that are not declared emergencies. Director Petrillo hopes that they can come to a conclusion on this issue when he meets with Homeland Security.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis talked about the inspection of night clubs and how the local enforcement agencies would be keeping as up-to-date as possible with their spot checks. Chief Allen said that the Division has staff in a monitoring unit, and also a local assistance unit to help keep these spot-checks happening frequently on the local level. State Fire Marshal Petrillo also said that the Division could put a letter out to remind the LEAs to be conducting these spot checks.

Commissioner Arthur Mercurio asked if there had been any word on funding from the State for New Jersey to host this year's Eastern State Fire Commission Conference. State

Fire Marshal Petrillo reported that they had to come up with a cost on this event, and they were awaiting word on whether or not it would be approved. Commissioner Mercurio urged that this get settled as soon as possible because the conference is coming up fast.

Commissioner Steve O’Gorman suggested having different organization sponsor the coffee/refreshments at the Commission meetings, as this had been done in the past. State Fire Marshal Petrillo said that would be fine, just the Division staff can not take any of the refreshments.

Commissioner Paul Hartstein asked about the surveys that were sent to the academies regarding the manuals that the Division had sent out. State Fire Marshal Petrillo said that this survey was being done to take an inventory and figure out whether or not they would have enough manuals to supply all the academies with. Commissioner Hartstein asked how the academies could apply to receive more manuals. Director Petrillo said simply to call and let the Division know how many are needed.

Commissioner Naylis requested an update on the high-rise survey. Chief Allen said there are approximately 1,300 high rises that are listed as life hazard uses in the State. Chief Allen said notices were sent out to the high rises a month ago and got about 35%. Chief Allen suggested sending out field representatives to each local enforcing agency to obtain the information on these buildings.

E. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Charles Schilling reported that there was some confusion over the past couple weeks with the date of the most recent meeting. Since the Codes Council did not have a quorum, no definite action was taken despite the discussion of several important topics during the informal meeting. These issues will be pushed back to be address during the next meeting in June.

Commissioner Schilling said there was a misunderstanding that Codes and Standards would be taking over the Codes Council. This was obviously not the case, as Codes and Standards was just looking to lend assistance to the Codes Council. The sub-committee that has been working on Sub-Chapter 3 will be meeting with the Commissioner Schilling, the Division of Fire Safety, and Codes and Standards. It is Commissioner Schilling’s hope that the recent confusion will be straightened out and the Codes Council will remain with the Division and receive assistance from Codes and Standards.

Commissioner Schilling also requested that the Commission approve and support a move to review the 2006 fire code, instead of 2003. Since the 2003 fire code is already three years old, Commissioner Schilling wanted to make sure there was no objection to start reviewing the 2006 fire code. Commissioner Arthur Londensky informed the Commission that NFPA would be publishing their 2006 fire code in July. Amy Frank,

from the Division of Codes and Standards, informed the Commission that they were looking to adopt the 2006 fire code by the end of the year.

Commissioner Schilling requested that two re-appointments to the Codes Council be approved. Commissioner Schilling made a motion to re-appoint Robert Hotmeyer and David Legow to the Codes Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Naylis and passed unanimously.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson, his report was given by Commissioner Lawrence Wood:

The Training and Education Advisory Council met on April 18th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am.

There is an online I-200 course acceptable to the NIMS Integration Center for meeting the NIMS training requirement. Classes to be used toward **Incident Management Certification** by the Division must be completed in interactive classroom delivery. Certificates presented to the Division for online training are entered into the computer records with a separate code so they will not be used for Incident Management Certification.

The Standard adopted for our certification refers to the National Training Curriculum as opposed to the National Fire Academy Courses. T&E doesn't find this to be a significant variation and recommends that we wait until the final courses are released before recommending any changes to the New Jersey standard.

Members of the Committee working on uniform training for **Rapid Intervention Teams** planned to meet with Jim McCormack of the Fire Department Training Network at FDIC. Although the program is good, the problems of "sole source" could create too many problems to initiate the program in New Jersey. The Committee will meet again to discuss the best way to proceed.

A proposal to revise the **Fire Instructor Certification** standard was distributed by e-mail, and copies were in the Commission member's folders at the last meeting. No one raised any questions since the March meeting. The Training and Education Advisory Council approved these revisions in December and recommend them to the Fire Safety Commission with a request that the Commission endorse them and recommend them to DCA Commissioner Levin for adoption.

The draft of proposed standards for **Firefighter II** certification had been distributed to the Council and the Eligible Organizations. The proposed standard was distributed by e-mail, and copies were in the folders at the last Commission meeting.

Commissioner Blohm asked if Module 13 of the Proposed Standard is consistent with the recent changes to NFPA 472. Our Committee reviewed NFPA 472 and found Module 13 to be consistent. The Council agreed. No other questions have been asked.

The Training and Education Advisory Council approved these revisions in February and recommend them to the Fire Safety Commission with a request that the Commission endorse them and recommend them to the DCA Commissioner for adoption.

The last of three pilot offerings of the **Fire Officer I** has been completed. The Committee will review the critiques to determine if changes are needed in the program or the regulations. Then Train-the-Trainer sessions will be scheduled and the course released to the Eligible Organizations. Many Eligible Organizations are already using the approved text in their local programs.

The approval Pennsylvania received from DHS/ODP for the Delmar Firefighter I text was not based on Pennsylvania being a ProBoard State. The Council and the staff believe New Jersey should pursue approval of the New Jersey program by ODP. One benefit is that the cost of the texts could be covered by federal funds.

NIMS provides for a national credentialing system. No time frame for implementation has yet been established. However, I believe that **ProBoard** or **IFSAC Certification** of our system would facilitate a credible credentialing system for New Jersey. As requested by motion at the February meeting, the Training Section will reopen consideration of national certification for New Jersey training programs.

Bill Kramer attended our meeting and reviewed the **cutbacks** to programs that are being considered by Commissioner Levin in response to Governor Corzine's directives to reduce spending. The members of T&E are disturbed by these prospects. Since much of this will likely be included in Director Petrillo's report to the Commission, I will not detail our concerns in this report. However, one important thing, if the Firefighter I texts will not be supplied to the Eligible Organizations by the State, that information must be given to the EOs as soon as possible since they haven't included this cost in their current budgets.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Council will be on June 20th at 10am at the Dempster Training Academy.

Commissioner Wood added that the State has done a real service to new firefighters by providing the training packages – not only as training tool, but as a life-long reference. Commissioner Wood urged that this providing of books is a vital program for the fire service and needs to continue in the future.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that the Statistics and Information Advisory Council distributed the six proposals that were sent out by the Master Planning and

Research Council. While they agreed with most of the proposals, there were two in particular they did not agree with. One was mandating that the fire official or local enforcing agency being charged with responsibility for filing the NFIRS reports. Since for over 100 jurisdictions the Division of Fire Safety *is* the LEA, this would not be practical. The other issues that the Statistics and Information Council felt need further discussion have to do with funding. The Council is not exactly opposed to the proposal; they just feel some kind of mechanism should be put in place. They are, however, supportive of the idea of tying in NFIRS with other programs (i.e. cameras, AEDs).

Commissioner Naylis also gave a quick snap-shot of what the reporting numbers are in 2006, as opposed to 2005. He was pleased to inform the Commission that they've hit 90% reporting, a number which was previously thought unreachable. Certainly congratulations are in order for Heather Puskar and her staff for a job well done.

Commissioner Naylis gave several encouraging statistics from January 1 through May 5 of this year. There have been 31 fatalities, down 43% from the same time last year. There have been 54 civilian burn injuries, a 21% drop from the same time last year. The number of incidents and fires has also been going down according to the reports that are currently in.

Commissioner Naylis also pointed that a rough draft of the 2004-2005 Fires in New Jersey report were included in the Commission members' packets. This is certainly the fastest that such a report has been put out by the Division.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

Chief John Lightbody stepped in to give the report of the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council in the absence of Commissioner Deborah Whitcraft. Chief Lightbody pointed out that the minutes from the March meeting were in the Commission packets. There have been a couple meetings since then, but unfortunately the Council's secretary has been out after having an operation. He is back to work though and those minutes will be put out shortly.

Chief Lightbody asked that State Fire Marshal Petrillo try to attend the next meeting of the Council because communication within the fire service has been very poor recently. Many people are wondering what direction the Division of Fire Safety is headed in, as well as what direction the fire service is headed in. State Fire Marshall Petrillo said he would try to make that meeting, which is June 9th at 10 am in Dover Township.

Chief Lightbody talked about impact fees, which are a good way to obtain money for the purchase of firefighting equipment and facilities. Chief Lightbody said some of the Council members were researching impact fees in other states, and see how New Jersey could possibly get legislation to get these impact fees. Chairman Wisniewski said that a few bills have been proposed recently, regarding impact fees, and none have gotten very far. With real estate costs the way they are these days, it would be a difficult bill to pass.

Chief Lightbody said it was just an idea of something that could be looked into. Chairman Wisniewski added that it was a good idea.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo reported that the Public Education Advisory Council met on May 10, 2006 at Middlesex County Fire Academy. The New Jersey FIRE Bowl was discussed at length, which State Fire Marshal Petrillo has already reported on.

Commissioner DeTrollo reported on the New Jersey Fire Prevention Poster Contest and announced the winners. They are: Jennifer Martinez (Newark), Andrew Morrow (Sewell), Monique Graber (Blackwood), Mina Yi (Bayonne), Samantha Dahl (Denville), Joel Rodriguez (Perth Amboy), and Elmer Davis (Mount Holly).

The Awards Luncheon for the Poster Contest will take place at 11am on Friday, June 2nd at Springfield Fire Headquarters in Springfield. Lunch will be provided by the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association, and the grand prizes will be provided by Sprinkler Fitters Local 696. The printing of the posters will be done by Atlantic City Electric this year.

Smoke detectors are being distributed by Charlie Luxton, and arrangements must be made to come and obtain smoke detectors on the given pick-up dates. The Public Education Council will be foregoing the July meeting and will meet again on September 13, 2006.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

Commissioner Richard Blohm reported Firefighter Safety and Health Council had been making progress, and also had a couple more questions for State Fire Marshal Petrillo.

Commissioner Blohm asked if there was any consideration that the I-300 could be made mandatory by the end of the year, and if it was tied into Emergency Preparedness money from the federal government. State Fire Marshal Petrillo said that he was not sure about that, but it could be a possibility and he would look into it.

Commissioner Blohm also asked about the emergency evacuation and mayday signal that the State was still waiting on. State Fire Marshal Petrillo said they were going over the signal and it still needs to be forwarded to the Commissioner for approval. He does not see any significant delay in getting it adopted.

The next meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council will be today [May 17th] at 1:30 pm.

F. Committee Reports

1. Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Committee

Commissioner Paul Hartstein reported that the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Committee met on May 11, 2006, at Dempster Training Center. Several people from different organizations were in attendance, and they discussed different topics and programs for the Annual Juvenile Firesetters Conference. They expect to get between 110-150 people at this conference, as it was a very successful event last year. There was also a discussion about holding another International Conference like the one that was done two years ago out of the Camden County Fire Marshal's Office, with the support of the Division.

The Committee has created a sub-committee to look into possible certifications for individuals conducting juvenile firesetter programs. The Committee is leaning away from individual certifications, but would like to establish protocol for programs to be recognized by the Division of Fire Safety.

The next meeting will take place on July 13th at the Camden County Fire Academy at 11am.

2. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that, due to scheduling problems, there have been no meetings and no further action of the Residential Sprinkler Committee since the last Commission meeting.

G. Old Business

Chairman Wisniewski asked if anyone had any old business to bring before the Commission. There being none, the meeting was moved onto New Business.

H. New Business

Commissioner Lawrence Wood made a motion to approve the proposed standards for Fire Instructor Certification. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Londensky and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the proposed standards for Firefighter II. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Hartstein and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wood made a motion that the Commission recognizes the great importance of providing the Firefighter I books and strongly advocate for the continued providing of these books. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Naylis and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Naylis made a motion that the Commission formally recommend that the Department of Community Affairs review and make amendments to the new legislation regarding fire extinguishers in the home. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hartstein spoke about the issue of fire-safe cigarettes. California, New York, and Vermont, have passed legislation requiring that cigarette paper contain “speed bumps” that stop a cigarette from continuously burning while left unattended. Commissioner Hartstein made a motion that the Commission go on record as supporting this legislation in New Jersey. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary and passed unanimously.

I. Public Comment

Chuck Aughenbaugh, NJ Deputy Fire Chief’s Association, spoke about how the Department of Personnel is trying to do away with uniform fire department titles of fire official and fire inspector. Mr. Aughenbaugh feels that these positions are important and need to stay related to the fire service.

Mr. Aughenbaugh also urged the Codes Council to look carefully at the new requirements of truss construction and make sure that they do not create a dangerous situation for firefighters working on these structures.

Mr. Aughenbaugh spoke about the fire responses to alarms in college dormitories. He read that some colleges do not alert the fire department immediately, they first send over a security guard to make sure there actually is a fire emergency. Mr. Aughenbaugh feels that this is something that needs to be looked at. Mr. Aughenbaugh also requested that Chairman Wisniewski speak to Governor Corzine regarding the state of the Division of Fire Safety and the fire service. With all the rumors flying around, it is important to clear the air and find out what exactly is going on and what direction we are headed.

Mr. Aughenbaugh also brought up the issue of the supplying of an air truck to the Newark Fire Department. Apparently it was unclear when the truck should be used and who should be manning the truck. Mr. Aughenbaugh suggested that the State fully equip and inform the department that it sends such equipment to. Mr. Aughenbaugh also said that his organization will be providing the coffee and refreshments for the November Commission meeting in Atlantic City.

Bernie Cohan, NJ State Fire Chiefs, commended State Fire Marshal Petrillo on the hiring of Don Huber as Chief of Staff. He feels Mr. Huber will be a great asset to the Division.

Ocean County Fire Marshal Daniel Mulligan spoke about the identification card system that his county, and other counties in South Jersey, have been using. Many counties use different coding systems, which creates confusion when trying to read someone’s card from outside the county. Mr. Mulligan suggested that some kind of uniform standard for these ID cards be decided on State-wide. State Fire Marshal Petrillo said that in the past

they were very close to having a uniform State-wide program, but it never became a reality. The Division is hoping that soon there will be a State identification card for emergency responders. State Fire Marshal Petrillo suggested that he and all the southern counties that are already using identification cards meet and discuss the coding that should be included on the cards to make them understandable from county to county.

Commissioner Naylis made a motion that the Commission endorse the concept of having common coding on the identification cards throughout the State. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood and passed unanimously. Commissioner Steve O’Gorman suggested that the Division send out a letter to the counties so that they do not go ahead with their own ID card system before the common coding is decided on.

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 11:31 AM.

Remaining Meetings for 2006

July 19th	10 AM	Dover Twp. Fire Academy Toms River, NJ
September 20th	10 AM	Middlesex Co. Fire Academy Sayreville, NJ
November 15th	10 AM	Atlantic City Convention Center Atlantic City, NJ