

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

**Meeting of January 16, 2013**

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, January 16, 2013, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ.

**Commission Members Present:** Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman  
Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Charles W. Schilling  
Mr. Roger Potts  
Mr. Kevin Bellew  
Mr. Stanley Sickels  
Mr. Kevin Krushinski  
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood  
Ms. Kathleen O'Leary  
Mr. Armando Roman  
Mr. Steve O'Gorman  
Mr. Fredrick Collender  
Mr. Richard Blohm  
Mr. Daniel DeTrolio

**Commission Members Excused:** Senator Anthony Bucco  
Mr. Arthur Londensky  
Mr. John Lightbody  
Mr. Paul Hartstein

**DCA Staff Members Present:** William Kramer, Acting Director  
Lou Kilmer, NJDFS  
Jerry Clark, NJDFS  
Paul Elenio, NJDFS  
Jason Spiecker, NJDFS  
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

**Guests:** Marc Kiempisty, Joshua Marcus Group  
Nicholas Kikis, NJ Apartment Assn. Ronald McGowan Jr., Wildwood Crest FD  
Ken Marr Jr., Keyport Boro Joshua Lazarus  
Cathy Chin, Alman Group Alden B. Blackwell, Tenafly FD  
Lew Candura, Sprinkler Local 696 Scott LaMorticella, Sprinkler Local 696  
Joseph Moschello, Summit Fire Rich Silvia, Saddle River Fire  
Chris Pujat, Twp. Of Ocean Dist. 1 Chris Weniger, Somerset Co. Fire Marshal  
Rich Heimback, Master Planning Donald Scher, SC Fire Academy  
Doris Flatley, SC Fire Academy Redolphus Davis, Plainfield FD

**A. Call to Order**

Chairman John Wisniewski called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and began the meeting with the “Pledge of Allegiance” and pointed out the fire exits.

Chairman Wisniewski regretfully announced the passing of Commission Arthur Mercurio. A moment of silence was observed by the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission in his honor.

**B. Approval of Minutes**

With no discussion requested or necessary corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of September 13, 2012 were approved.

**C. Correspondence**

Chairman Wisniewski noted that all correspondence for today’s meeting is contained in the Fire Safety Commission packets. A discussion on the enclosed 2013 Meeting Schedule was held, and it was determined – by request of Commissioner Armando Roman – that the May meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Jersey City. The remainder of the 2013 meetings were scheduled as follows:

Wednesday	<b>March 20<sup>th</sup></b>	10 AM	<u>Middlesex Co. Fire Academy</u> 1001 Academy Drive Sayreville, NJ
Wednesday	<b>May 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	10 AM	<u>Hyatt Regency Jersey City</u> 2 Exchange Place Jersey City, NJ
Wednesday	<b>July 17<sup>th</sup></b>	10 AM	<u>Toms River Fire Academy</u> 1780 Church Road Toms River, NJ
Thursday	<b>September 12<sup>th</sup></b>	10 AM	<u>Wildwood Convention Ctr.</u> 4501 Boardwalk Wildwood, NJ
Wednesday	<b>November 20<sup>th</sup></b>	10 AM	<u>Atlantic City Convention Ctr.</u> 1 Convention Boulevard Atlantic City, NJ

With no other discussion requested on any of the correspondence at this time, the meeting was moved to Public Comment I.

## **D. Public Comment I**

Chairman Wisniewski opened up the meeting to any members of the public wishing to address the Fire Safety Commission.

Mr. Lewis Candura of Sprinkler Fitters Local 696 spoke about two pieces of legislation that are now out. Mr. Candura hoped that the NJ Fire Safety Commission to be in strong support of A1570/S2273 (concerning fire sprinklers in one- and two-family homes) and A1843/S1255 (concerning fire sprinklers in group homes). He urged them to voice their support of these bills and contact their State Senators and Assemblymen on the importance of the matter. Mr. Candura also congratulated Commissioner Richard Blohm on his re-appointment to the NJ Fire Safety Commission.

With no more members of the public wishing to comment at this time, the meeting was moved to Division of Fire Safety Activities.

## **E. Division of Fire Safety Activities**

Acting Director Kramer began his report on Division activities by offering his own personal condolences to the family of Commissioner Arthur Mercurio and said the Division of Fire Safety would be providing information on the services when they become available. Chief Kramer also asked that the Commissioners keep Commissioner Paul Hartstein in their prayers, as he is battling some serious health issues.

Chief Kramer announced the retirements of Charlie Luxton, Paul Allen, and Josh Lazarus from the NJ Division of Fire Safety. Chief Kramer spoke of all three as long-serving and valuable assets to the Division whose experience and expertise will be missed. There are now a number of vacancies at this particular point, and the DCA will be making a formal request with the Governor's Office for their replacements. Chief Kramer is confident the Division will be brought up to the appropriate staffing levels. Chief Kramer also thanked the Commissioners for suspending their meetings as the State dealt with the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

The Division of Fire Safety has submitted a fairly large Rule Proposal, which was approved by DCA, to the Governor's Office. Chief Kramer has worked with Commissioner Stanley Sickels, and others, in meeting with DCA Commissioner Constable on these issues. The Governor's Office has some questions on the Proposal and Chief Kramer will be meeting with the Deputy Commissioner about them in the near-future. It is Chief Kramer's feeling that there are simply questions on the Proposal, not any major issues.

The Division of Fire Safety will once again participate in WABC's Operation-7 Save-a-Life, which will hold its annual kickoff breakfast at the Pierre Hotel in New York City on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The amount of smoke detectors that New Jersey will be receiving is currently unknown. Last year's tally was 7,500 traditional detectors and 2,500 10-year detectors; so this year's count is believed to be somewhere in that neighborhood.

In regards to the new RIMS computer system, Chief Kramer reported that it is still on track for launch this coming spring. The target date is April 1<sup>st</sup> and online training (done via webinar) for over 1,500 people is being scheduled. Notices will be sent out and registrations will be limited to two people per Local Enforcing Agency. Training will most likely take place throughout March.

There will be a County Presidents meeting held on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. There will also be a meeting of the State Fire Coordinators on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, and that will be a review of actions taken during Hurricane Sandy.

Chief Kramer gave an update on the ProBoard accreditation process. ProBoard came in November and did an analysis of the Division of Fire Safety's system. There were a couple of adjustments they asked to be done, which are in the process of being adjusted currently. Once this is done, we will have the accreditation after a further review. IFSAC is due to come in the beginning of March and go through the same process for obtaining their certifications.

Chief Kramer gave a comprehensive report on the Division of Fire Safety's preparations and response to Hurricane Sandy. Prior to the storm, the NJDFS worked with other State-level agencies to gather information and plan for the storm's impact. That information was disseminated to the County Coordinators. On the night Hurricane Sandy hit, the Division of Fire Safety began deploying resources at 10 pm and continued for over three weeks straight. Over 250 pieces of apparatus, and over 850 firefighters, were deployed in the response – predominantly to Ocean County. These task forces and strike teams were deployed on a 24-hour-minimum operational period, and there was no problem with filling the assignments. The Division of Fire Safety also deployed tender strike teams to New Brunswick during the storm because of a water problem (loss of pumping station).

Shortly after Hurricane Sandy, the Division of Fire Safety was able to tour much of the devastation. A chief concern that arose was the ability of local fire departments, specifically volunteer companies, to provide long term service to their areas. The damage extended to fire stations, apparatus, etc., which would leave areas without fire protection. A Type-1 Incident Management Team of 16 people was brought in by the federal government. They visited 83 fire stations and held a meeting at the Toms River Fire Academy for Fire Chiefs of the affected departments. The two leaders of the Management Team were survivors of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast and were fresh off of working on restoring utilities in West Virginia (from snowstorms). They stressed that this recovery process will take time and planning for the long-term is essential. They also stressed the need for a regional approach to fire protection and EMS, particularly since most volunteers who man these stations have been displaced. The Division of Fire Safety is continuing to work with the fire departments along the coast on a daily basis, as the Sandy-relate issues continue. Conference calls with the Fire Chiefs are also being planned – starting later this month.

Chief Kramer commended the FEMA Incident Management Team, who worked through weekends and holidays and were housed at the Burlington County Fire Academy because no housing was available. They have prepared a report, which includes some significant findings that the Division of Fire Safety is currently using and working on their recommendations. The report has not been released yet, but will be made available for the Fire Safety Commission as soon as possible.

Chief Kramer reported on an issue where the pre-planned evacuation shelters became filled rather quickly, so the authorities had to find anywhere they could to put people. Then, because of the issues with utilities, alarm systems, emergency lighting, exit lighting, etc. – all the stuff that is on battery back-up – ran out of batteries. The Division of Fire Safety had to work with local code enforcement officials to keep these buildings safe because you couldn't just put these people out on the streets. Other means (fire watches, prohibiting candles, etc.) were used and despite a few hiccups the collaborative effort worked out rather well.

The Division of Fire Safety received 5,000 carbon monoxide detectors – completely unsolicited – from Kidde in the wake of the storm. They were distributed, and are still being distributed, to areas where people have had to use generators for electricity.

The Division of Fire Safety remains concerned about fire occurring in buildings that have been damaged by Hurricane Sandy. This includes intentionally set fires. Therefore, the Division has developed a short form for the local fire service to fill out and send in when a fire occurs in one of these buildings. At this point there are dozens and dozens of them. The Division of Fire Safety is tracking the nature of these fires. Many of them are electrical, but some appear to be arson. The Division will continue to track these incidents for the foreseeable future.

The Division of Fire Safety, by coincidence, came across some facilities that were salvaging Sandy-damaged vehicles for the insurance industry. There were all kinds of issues with having a facility like this, chock-full of random vehicles, and the Division worked with local authorities on getting these places squared away and safely useable.

Chief Kramer reported on the train derailment incident that took place in Paulsboro shortly after Hurricane Sandy. The train derailed off of a bridge and it caused four Vinyl Chloride tank cars and one Ethanol tank car to wind up in the water. One of the Vinyl Chloride tanks breached, causing a vapor cloud (roughly 30 feet high) to envelope about 27 blocks of Paulsboro. Division staff was there for 17 days, working with the CSX Hazmat Chief and the local fire department. The Neptune system was also deployed for about 15 days – and the “Ironman” was set up and put into action about 250 feet away from the breached cars in case the other tanks breached or ignited. The Division also moved two 4,000-gallon foam tenders from Gloucester County on location and put others on alert in case more was needed. Chief Kramer credited his predecessor, Lawrence Petrillo, with having the vision to fight for New Jersey having the Neptune system. It was certainly vital to the emergency responses over the past few months.

Chairman Wisniewski asked if it was known why the train cars in Paulsboro had derailed. Chief Kramer answered that the reason had not been determined yet, but the National Transportation Safety Board is involved in the investigation. Chief Kramer said it could have possibly been due to a problem with the bridge.

Chief Lou Kilmer reported that the information for the Annual Report is due from the Local Enforcing Agencies by the end of January. The Division of Fire Safety is working closely with the towns affected by Hurricane Sandy whose people, obviously, will not be able to get their annual reports in by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Chief Kilmer reported that the Division of Fire Safety completed all inspections for the year 2012. This includes both State facilities and local towns (90+) that the Division is responsible for. Staff performed approximately 12,500 initial inspections throughout the year. With re-inspections, the DFS did well in excess of 25,000 inspections and wrote almost 50,000 violations. Chief Kilmer stressed that this level of success could not have been reached without the support of DCA, and particularly Commissioner Richard Constable.

The RIMS system is continuing to move forward, and all inspectors have been equipped with laptop computers. Division staff has been training diligently several times a month on the system, and with personnel that has varying degrees of computer literacy. In regards to RIMS, Commissioner Lawrence Wood asked if the program that the DFS staff is using with the laptops will be available to inspectors on the municipal level. Chief Kilmer answered that all municipal inspectors will be required to use the RIMS system for all registrations and reporting part of what they do. For them to use the same system as the DFS inspectors, modifications would need to be made on a case-by-case basis. This is being looked at for later down the road. Chief Kramer added that the Division has already applied to the Treasury Department to implement the next phase of the RIMS system. Chief Kramer added that there is a lot of misinformation and negativity in the general public (namely online) and it is unwarranted and baseless. People are bashing the system before they even know what it is. Of course, as a new computer system, it will have bugs – but that is something the DFS is prepared to deal with. If inspectors have questions, they can find out by contacting the Division of Fire Safety.

Commissioner Stanley Sickels raised a question regarding the Neptune system. He asked if there would eventually be a foam tender housed in every County available for response. Chief Kramer answered that the existing foam tenders, as well as the new ones being ordered, will be kept in the UASI areas – specifically near the ports of New York and Philadelphia. Chief Kramer said it would certainly be optimal to have one in each County, but the Division of Fire Safety cannot re-deploy the UASI ones. Commissioner Sickels added that Monmouth and Ocean County does not have the petrochemical processing traffic that the UASI areas do, but it does have storage and distribution centers. Foam tenders like the ones in the other areas would certainly be advantageous there. Chief Kramer was in complete agreement, but the monies that are available through Port Security are limited to be used in certain areas – and it does neglect

northwest and southeast areas of the State. Chief Kramer added that the tenders are available for mutual aid, as they are a regional asset.

With no other questions on Division of Fire Safety Activities, the meeting was moved to Advisory Council Reports.

## **F. Advisory Council Reports:**

### **1. Codes Advisory Council**

Commissioner Charles Schilling reported that the Codes Advisory Council had to cancel its meeting in December, but they are glad to see that the majority of the Rule Proposal items that were sent to DCA Commissioner Constable seem to be moving forward.

A Subcommittee is currently reviewing the 2012 IFC Code. This is a significantly large task, and the work is ongoing. The Codes Council is also looking into generators and generator requirements, as well as signage having to do with solar panels.

Commissioner Schilling also made a motion that Josh Lazarus be appointed to the Codes Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeTrollo and passed unanimously.

### **2. Training and Education Advisory Council**

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council meeting minutes from October are in the Commission packets. The December meeting was cancelled due to the recovery from Hurricane Sandy.

Commissioner Wood referenced the RIC Guidelines that were distributed and discussed at the last Fire Safety Commission meeting in September. Some changes were requested at that meeting, and they have since been made and the guidelines re-distributed via email. Commissioner Wood said he would be asking for approval on these under New Business so that the Division of Fire Safety could get moving on them.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled for February 19, 2013 at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville, NJ.

### **3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council**

In the absence of Commissioner Gerard Naylis, no report was given.

### **4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council**

In the absence of Commissioner John Lightbody, the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council report was given by Mr. Richard Silvia. He gave the following report:

The Master Planning and Research Advisory Council met on January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Toms River Fire Academy. In the area of Shared Service, Dan Mulligan reported that he had met with Acting NJDFS Director Bill Kramer in Trenton regarding the online survey for all fire departments. However, the survey has yet to be posted on the website. Chairman Lightbody said that Chief Kramer, and the Division of Fire Safety as a whole, has been extremely tied up with the response to Hurricane Sandy during the past couple of months. Also, Sandy has certainly had an effect on the data that this survey would have collected, as many towns (at the Shore and otherwise) have lost apparatus, fire stations, and manpower due to displacement. Dan Mulligan said that a Committee on Shared Services needs to be bolstered because of lack of interest from the other two members. He asked Chairman Lightbody if he could pursue new members – to which the Chairman said yes.

Richie Silvia said that New Jersey's "home rule" mentality is working against the better sense of sharing services and resources. He gave an example in Bergen County where the County Freeholders voted down a plan to have towns share services. Governor Christie has made it clear that when services can be shared and are not, state funding will be withheld.

A discussion took place on Recruitment and Retention. Chairman Lightbody said this is an uphill battle that we need to keep working on. Vice-Chairman Bellew spoke about the ongoing purchasing of equipment and apparatus, but all of that is useless if you don't have the people to respond to calls and operate them. Rich Silvia gave an example in his town where they have had to hire three permanent firefighters

Bob Yaiser spoke about Shared Resources, and how the entire country so readily shared its resources in the response to Hurricane Sandy. There were workers and volunteers and equipment pouring in from other states, all providing tremendous help in New Jersey's greatest time of need. Mr. Yaiser spoke about the need for the fire service in New Jersey to adopt this mentality on a smaller scale when there is not a major emergency going on. Simply sharing resources and working collaboratively can go a long way towards maximizing what we have, particularly which the economic conditions being what they are.

On the topic of Lightweight Construction, Chairman Lightbody said there are a lot of articles coming out and a lot of new information being distributed. The articles, from several different publications, make sound arguments for the need for residential sprinkler systems because of how common lightweight construction has become – and the dangers it presents.

The next meeting of the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council is scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

Commissioner Blohm and Mr. Silvia spoke specifically about the situation in Cresskill, where Commissioner Blohm said it was not the County Freeholders but the municipalities that were unwilling to share services. Chairman Wisniewski added that regardless of who is to blame in specific instances, the significant problem with

consolidating any shared service is that – generally speaking – the public wants services shared *for everyone but themselves*. Chairman Wisniewski said this is the case throughout the State, the feeling that in the areas being consolidated they will get left out. As an elected official, Chairman Wisniewski is facing this issue on all levels when it comes to shared services. They wind up fighting for something that the public, ultimately, does not want.

## 5. Public Education Advisory Council

Chairman Daniel DeTrolio reported that the Public Education Advisory Council met on January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy and gave the following report on that meeting:

Chairman DeTrolio announced that Paul Elenio would be taking over the role of Charlie Luxton (who has retired) on the Public Education Advisory Council.

In regards to the NJ FIRE Bowl program, Charles Lavin reported that, of the six districts that competed in the 2012 FIRE Bowl, four have committed to returning in 2013. They are: Bayonne, Camden, Freehold, and Jersey City. Carteret has withdrawn from the competition for unknown reasons. Belleville is currently in the midst of a work-action with the teachers union, and their participation remains in limbo. Ralph Castellano said he would work with the teachers and administrators at Belleville Middle School to try and keep the program there afloat.

The program officially kicks off on February 15, 2013.

Mr. Lavin thanked the FIRE Bowl sponsors, who will all be returning from last year. They are: Hartz Mountain Industries, NJ State FMBA, Joshua Marcus Group, IMTT-Bayonne, and Kean University. Without their generosity, the program would have died off years ago – so they are largely responsible for the FIRE Bowl heading into its 8<sup>th</sup> installment this spring. Hartz Mountain and the NJ FMBA are co-sponsoring the luncheon on April 17<sup>th</sup>; Joshua Marcus Group is providing the medals and trophies; and IMTT Bayonne will be sponsoring the t-shirts for all participants.

The FIRE Bowl trip to Middlesex County Fire Academy is set for **April 17th**. The final event will be at Kean University on **May 17th**. Start times for both are 10:00 AM. All Council members are of course welcome to attend.

Through the efforts of Training and Certification Supervisor Kent Neiswender, the Division of Fire Safety was able to secure free Firefighter I textbooks for EVERY student in this year's FIRE Bowl program.

The 2012-2013 NJ Fire Safety Poster Contest is moving along as expected with very few inquiries, issues, or confusion. All poster entries are due to the County Coordinators by March 15<sup>th</sup>, but some entries from around the State are already beginning to trickle in.

Paul Elenio brought about the idea of replacing posters with calendars as far as distributing the recreations of student artwork on a Statewide scale. The thinking is that the calendars are more portable, more useful, will be looked at more frequently, and can fit more student artwork and space for sponsorship. The consensus from the Public Education Advisory Council was overwhelmingly in favor of switching to calendars. Charles Lavin agreed and said he would speak to Chief Bill Kramer and NJFPPA President Stanley Sickels about moving forward with the idea. Once they sign off, Mr. Lavin will work with staff at Delmarva (Atlantic City Electric) to develop the calendars. Mr. Elenio provided an example from Massachusetts/Rhode Island – which could potentially serve as a model for New Jersey’s.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville.

#### **6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council**

Commissioner Richard Blohm reported that the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council had nothing to report at this time. A meeting is scheduled for later today, here at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

#### **7. Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council**

In the absence of Commissioner Paul Hartstein, Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary gave the report for Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Juvenile Firesetter Conference was held on November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2012. Charlie Luxton went out with a bang by putting together the best Juvenile Firesetter Conference yet. It was well-received and well-attended by 123 participants. Dates have already been set for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Juvenile Firesetter Conference and Mr. Elenio is working with Kean University staff on it. It will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2013. The Division of Fire Safety will once again be partnering with the International Association of Arson Investigators and Kean University. The programs and speakers that will be featured will take shape as the year goes on.

The Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council is continuing to work on keeping the “Fire Is” program going. They are looking into possible funding through sponsorships to keep the website active. Also, the Council has still not been able to correspond with the Attorney General’s Office. Chairman Wisniewski said he asks them to appoint a representative to the Council after each Commission meeting but does not seem to make any progress with them. He asked Chief Kramer to also bring this up with Commissioner Constable to see if they can get any movement that way. Chief Kramer agreed to do so, and added that the Juvenile Firesetter Council should contact him right away if there’s a specific pressing matter that needs the Attorney General’s attention.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Academy.

## **G. Committee Reports**

### **1. Residential Sprinkler Committee**

In the absence of Commissioner Gerard Naylis, Chairman Wisniewski gave an update on the Residential Sprinkler Bill. Assembly Bill 1570 has recently been released by Committee and will be up for a floor vote at the end of January. Chairman Wisniewski is working hard to get Senator Norcross to move the Residential Sprinkler Bill out of Committee in the Senate. He urged all Fire Safety Commission members to reach out to Senator Norcross on this as well.

Chairman Wisniewski said this bill is different from the one that the Governor had previously vetoed. While there has been no indication that the Governor would absolutely sign it, it has not been expressed that it would be unconditionally vetoed either. For this reason, Chairman Wisniewski believes we are on the right track.

## **H. Old Business**

Commissioner DeTrollo commented briefly on the Hurricane Sandy response. He commended firefighters Statewide on the coordination and completeness of their performance across all of New Jersey. Chief Kramer added that while all counties had problems of some form or another, some were able to send additional resources and personnel to separate areas with the most need. This took place on a nation level as well because so many areas (nearby) along the coast were dealing with the disaster as well. In addition, the Department of Community Affairs has several division that are heavily involved in the recovery process and Commissioner Constable realizes this and has stepped up to the plate.

Commissioner Blohm asked if there is any way to advertise to local government officials how effective the incident management training worked in the response to Hurricane Sandy. He feels that many city and municipal officials are not even aware of the system's structure and its ability to coordinate the response to a large emergency. Chief Kramer agreed that it was a struggle to manage the many separate requests that were coming in from individual towns, causing them to be prioritized in this case because there were just too many. Had the system been understood better locally, the requests for resources could have been more readily filled.

Commissioner Stanley Sickels asked about the statute that says that paid firefighters are not to man volunteer fire companies. He wondered if there could be some kind of executive order or relaxation of the statue as it relates to a large-scale emergency like Hurricane Sandy. Chief Kramer asked Commissioner Sickels to get him the number of the statute and he would look into it. Commissioner Sickels also mentioned that fire departments will now be looking to gear up for the next time a disaster happens – they are looking at getting generators and other necessary equipment. Also, Commissioner Sickels and Chairman Wisniewski cited specific instances where small pockets of space were without power for extended periods of time. Chairman Wisniewski said that the

utilities in many areas have to look into improving their infrastructure, and Hurricane Sandy made this very clear.

Chief Kramer spoke about the Firefighter Assistance Program that the Division of Fire Safety is running via their website for firefighters who have suffered personal damages during Hurricane Sandy. It serves as a forum for firefighters to volunteer their expertise (plumbing, electrical, etc.) to help other firefighters.

Commissioner Sickels asked Chief Kramer if there was any movement in regards to his appointment as State Fire Marshal. Chief Kramer answered that there was not. Commissioner Sickels also asked about a particular 'landscaping materials' proposal that DCA Commissioner Constable had requested more information on. Commissioner Sickels asked if that information had ever been provided to him. Chief Kramer answered that the information had been provided to Commissioner Constable and it was his understanding that the proposal would be moving forward.

Commissioner Sickels asked about the ongoing SCBA bottle issue. Chief Kramer said there was nothing further from the Attorney General's Office and it was his thinking that the municipalities with the SCBA bottles in question might have to band together to find a solution. Commissioner Sickels also asked if there was any movement in the area of NJDFS personnel attending necessary out-of-state functions. Chief Kramer said that they have tested the waters on this a few times recently – namely with himself and the Juvenile Firesetter Unit – and been successful. Chief Kramer is hopefully this will continue and translate to DFS participation in future events.

Chairman Wisniewski gave an update on the repeal of the Fire Extinguisher bill. The bill had been vetoed under the condition that it is reviewed by the Department of Community Affairs. Chairman Wisniewski says that this originally came from DCA via the Fire Safety Commission, therefore the conditional veto does not really make sense. Chief Kramer said he has not heard of or received a request for information regarding this issue but, obviously the opinion of the Department of Community Affairs has not changed on the matter.

## **I. New Business**

On behalf of the Training and Education Advisory Council, Commissioner Wood made a motion that the RIC Guidelines that have been distributed to all Commission members be approved in its current state. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo and passed unanimously.

## **J. Public Comment II**

Richard Silvia asked if there was any update in regards to the Peer Review Committee. Chief Kramer answered that the Division of Fire Safety is in the process of finalizing selections for Peer Review right now.

## **K. Adjournment**

Chairman Wisniewski asked if anyone had any additional business they would like to bring before the Commission. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

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**\* The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 10am. It will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ \***