

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

Meeting of November 19, 2014

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at the Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, NJ.

Commission Members Present: Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman
Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Vice-Chairman
Senator Anthony R. Bucco
Assemblyman Anthony M. Bucco
Mr. Stanley Sickels
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. Roger Potts
Mr. Michael Postorino
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary
Mr. Kevin Bellew
Mr. Gerard Naylis
Mr. Armando Roman
Mr. Pasquale Intindola
Mr. Daniel DeTrolino
Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. John Lightbody

Commission Members Excused: Mr. Fredrick Collender

DCA Staff Members Present: William Kramer, Acting Director
Lou Kilmer, NJDFS
Rick Farletta, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

Guests: George H. Heflich, NJSFA President
Nick Lombardi, Piscataway Fire Frank Gunson, NJSFA Vice-President
Gary Greves, Watchung Fire Ronald McGowan Jr., Wildwood Crest Fire Co.
Richard Silvia, NJSFPPA Vinny Corsaro, Jefferson Twp.
Lewis Ostrander, North Wildwood Dominick McClain, North Wildwood
Daniel Dunn, Wildwood Crest Thomas E. Simpson, Harrington Park
Robert Gorr, Piscataway Fire Prev. Paul Snyder, Piscataway OEM
Bryant Curry, Bradley Beach James Yates, West Windsor Fire & EMS
William Drake, Princeton Fire Prev. Steven Walko, Haddonfield Boro
Qareeb A. Bashir, Trenton FD Norman Schmelz, Bergenfield Mayor

William Reeves, Carlstadt FD	Robert Moore, Carlstadt FD
Jim Burleigh, Bellmawr FD	Stephen M. DePierri, Barrington Boro
Daniel Speigel, Wildwood City FD	Ronald Snyder, Burlington Co. FM Assn.
Patrick Kenny, Woodbridge FD	Kenneth J. Cheeseman, Laurel Springs FD
Keith L. Repace, Woodbridge FD	Paul C. Sandroek Jr., Camden Co. Fire Marshal
Heidi Michel, Stafford Twp.	Tim O'Donovan, Asm Wisniewski's Office
Christopher Freeman, Stafford Twp.	Michael Muglia, Asm Wisniewski's Office
Paul McGrath, City Fire Equip. Co.	Conrad Johnson Jr., Cape May Co. Fire Marshal
Richard A. Vigliotti, East Brunswick	Henry A. Stryker III, Monmouth Co. Fire Marshal
Cory S. Spillar, Avenel Fire Prev.	Dean Manente, Avenel Fire Commissioners
Tom Pizzano, Sr., Codes Council	Rich Heimbach, Master Planning Council

A. Call to Order

Chairman John Wisniewski called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM and began the meeting with the “Pledge of Allegiance” and pointed out the fire exits. Chairman Wisniewski called for a moment of silence to honor Lieutenant Christopher Hunter of the Cinnaminson Fire Department who had died in the line of duty just days prior to the meeting.

Chairman Wisniewski welcomed Assemblyman Anthony M. Bucco to the Fire Safety Commission. He also thanked the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association for providing the accommodations and refreshments for today’s meeting.

B. Approval of Minutes

With no discussion requested or necessary corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of September 11, 2014 were approved.

C. Correspondence

Chairman Wisniewski noted that all correspondence for today’s meeting is contained in the Fire Safety Commission packets. With no discussion requested on any of the items, 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.

Thomas E. Simpson of Harrington Park spoke about the issue of Bakken crude and its transportation via railroad throughout the state of New Jersey. He said that his town is not being given the most up-to-date information in regards to the specifics of the material being transported and the available training. Chief Kramer answered that this should be getting done via the County Fire Coordinators, who should be reaching out to all Fire Chiefs. Mr. Simpson said they are very concerned in their town with the massive

amounts being transported because they are not prepared. Chief Kramer said the Division of Fire Safety can work with them, as well as make sure that all appropriate information is being shared by the County OEM.

On this topic, Chief Kramer reported that the Department of Transportation is also working on the updating of how Bakken crude is labeled – for now it is classified as being the same as regular crude. Thomas Simpson asked for a copy of the training that is available and Chief Kramer agreed to provide that and would speak to him following the meeting.

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

Acting Director William Kramer began his report by talking about the line-of-duty-death that Chairman Wisniewski referenced at the start of the meeting. It took place in Cinnaminson, where Acting Director Kramer serves as Fire Chief. He thanked all of the Commissioners for reaching out to him and for their condolences. Chief Kramer asked that they bear with him on today's report, as he is not as prepared as normal given the week's tragic events.

Chief Kramer reported that the ATF has released (at least some of) the report of the Deitz & Watson fire in Delanco. At this point the Division is trying to track down the full report and make sure it is an accurate representation of what ATF put out before they share it with anyone else. They are in the process of double-checking that information now.

Chief Kramer also reported that there have been a number of changes in the administration that the Division of Fire Safety deals with. Namely, the regulations contact person at the Governor's Office is new and the Division has been in discussions with them about moving the large number of regulations that have been sitting dormant for a long time. They are being resubmitted in bits and pieces, but it appears that we now have someone we can work with so that is a good sign. Commissioner Stanley Sickels said the fact that these proposals sit dormant is a major frustration to the Codes Council members, many of whom have put in years' worth of work on them.

Also, Chief Kramer talked about a company that is coming into New Jersey to update fueling stations for vehicles that use LN and CNG. The Division of Fire Safety is working with several other state agencies on reviewing their plans.

Bureau Chief Lou Kilmer reported on the ongoing process in modifying and updating the RIMS systems. The Division recently wrapped up two weeks' worth of development sessions with an eye towards brainstorming on all the needs and requirements of the system. Many changes were made regarding the Annual Reports, but they will not go into effect fully until the 2015 Annual Report (starting January 2016). Otherwise, Chief Kilmer described the RIMS system as steadily getting better day by day with each updated.

Chief Kilmer reported on three recent retirements from the Division of Fire Safety: Carol Quinn, Penny Hartsoe, and Cindy Johnson. Carol Quinn was the program manager for the RIMS system, had developed the system since its infancy, and did a tremendous amount of work on getting RIMS off the ground and making it what it is. Penny Hartsoe served the Inspections Unit since its inception as most fire officials throughout the state know from speaking with her on the phone throughout the years. Cindy Johnson was one of the main office's secretaries – all three retirees will be done as of December 1st. Chief Kilmer and Chief Kramer have been discussing these new vacancies, among others, and are working on the optimal way to fill those.

Chief Kilmer was pleased to report that all 2014 inspections are on track to be completed by the year's end. The Unit has been working very hard to get this done, and has reached this goal in each of the past three years. Also, the Annual Report instructions will be released in the very near future and will be very similar to last year's. It will, once again, be done on the RIMS system. There will also be a supplemental report to update some of the Division's data (names, phone numbers, emails, etc.). The Division of Fire Safety will also be beginning a monitoring process for LEAs, and that will be done on an every-five-year basis. This will not be punitive experiences, but a chance to touch base and get all LEA

The Peer Review Committee will be meeting shortly. They will be dealing with a couple of cases where Fire Officials let their certifications lapse, but were enforcing the code anyway. The board will take up these issues, among others, in the near future. Chief Kilmer reported that a meeting was recently held with the NJFPPA County Presidents. The meeting, held on October 30th, was very productive and allows the Division of Fire Safety to touch base with what the fire officials are feeling, experiencing, in need of, etc.

Chief Kilmer also spoke about an issue that came up where fraudulent smoke alarms were being sold at a dollar store. The alarms have no markings on them, no listing agency labeling, etc. A recall notice will be forwarded to the fire service community. Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked if there was anything in the code right now that would allow the Division to prevent these items being distributed to the public. Chief Kramer said that unfortunately there is not, as the Division has no jurisdiction to prevent their sale. It then becomes a public education issue through local enforcing agencies and media outlets. The Division has reported the issue to US Consumer Product Safety.

Chief Kilmer also talked about a recent fire at the Columbus Market, an extremely old structure, where about 20% of the building was lost. Without all the hard work of the code enforcement community, as well as a well-trained volunteer fire department, the entire place would have burned to the ground. Chief Kilmer said that, thanks to the all-around efforts of the state's fire service, many business owners will be back and operating swiftly... so the process does work.

Chief Kramer called upon the Division of Fire Safety's Major Rick Farletta to follow up on his report regarding the Bakken crude. He reported that the NJDFS is working with Homeland Security who has just received funding for two tabletop exercises on this topic

for next year. Also, the Division of Fire Safety has a PowerPoint presentation on the Bakken crude issue – and that will be available shortly on the NJLearn system. Chief Kramer added that if someone is not getting the appropriate information on this issue, please let Maj. Farletta know about it.

Chief Kramer reported on the Division of Fire Safety becoming further involved with Homeland Security and the FBI as related to intelligence issues. This includes the fire service being informed of existing intelligence, as well as sharing information the fire service has obtained. The Division of Fire Safety is working on getting secret clearance for several staff members, as well as detailing a staff member to the FBI Newark office full-time. That person will be trained as an analyst and will be able to look at intelligence findings with a fire-eye. Washington, DC is monitoring this process as a model for the fire service's relationship with homeland security going forward.

Commissioner Stanley Sickels spoke about the numerous code proposals that have been languishing, some going as far back as 2006. He asked that the legislative members of the Commission give the adoption of these proposals their bi-partisan support. Commissioner Sickels also asked the legislative members to support the removal of “acting” from Chief Kramer's title as Director of Division of Fire Safety. Chief Kramer said he appreciates the support, but there has been no change on that front.

Commissioner Sickels spoke about the Codes Council's approval of adding surgical centers for animals as Life Hazard Uses and asking if that had been prepared. Chief Kilmer said it would require a code change and that has not been done yet. Commissioner Sickels also inquired about the status of the windowless basements proposal. Chief Kilmer said they will be meeting shortly with the Apartments Association on this matter. This meeting will be reported on at the next Codes Council meeting.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Pat Intindola reported that the Codes Advisory Council meeting was cancelled due to a lack of agenda. Commissioner Intindola commented that in the Uniform Construction Code, there is a list of devices that are not permitted to be sold. He suggested looking into this for the fire code, to prevent the sale of the false smoke alarms that was talked about earlier during NJDFS Activities.

Commissioners Intindola, Sickels, and Naylis have been working on the bi-laws of the Fire Safety Commission. Much of what needed to be changed was a matter of adding advisory councils that have since been added, as well as switching words (i.e. Bureau to Division, etc.) Commissioner Intindola suggested that the rest of the Commission members review the proposed changes, and submit any suggestions they may have.

Commissioner Intindola added that the Codes Advisory Council has been working in conjunction with Commissioner Blohm and the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council on the all-hazards sign.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council is scheduled for December 10th.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported the Training and Education Advisory Council met in October. However, the minutes were not submitted in time for inclusion in the Commission packets, so they will be forwarded electronically to the Commission members.

The Training and Education Advisory Council has been working with several colleges and universities in the area on a potential fire science conference for 2015. Commissioner Wood will continue to report on the progress of this going forward. The Council will be asking for the Division's assistance in reaching out to invite all of these educational institutions.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis spoke about the importance of all fire departments submitting their NFIRS data by the year's end. This being November, Commissioner Naylis urged everyone to stay on top of their departments to make sure this happens in a timely manner. The members of the Statistics and Information Advisory Council will be assisting Division of Fire Safety staff in doing some outreach to fire departments across the state.

Commissioner Naylis also reported that he had transmitted the NTSB report on the Paulsboro train derailment to the Vice-Chairman. He asked if this had been posted on the NJDFS website yet. Chief Kramer said he was not sure, but would double-check.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

Commissioner John Lightbody reported that the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council meeting was held on October 14th at the Toms River Fire Academy. Commissioner Lightbody thanked Commissioner Kevin Bellew for his conducting the meeting in his absence.

Commissioner Lightbody said there was a discussion on the prevalent issue of the Recruitment and Retention of volunteer firefighters. Council members brought up this issue and spoke about the need for the fire service's ranks to be bolstered across the board. They suggested that some sort of new study or survey be done to at least begin to solve the problem. At the end of the day, the same job needs to be done.

Commissioner Lightbody spoke about several scenarios as to how the fire service has tried to solve the recruitment and retention problem in the past. The Council spoke at length about LOSAP, how it works, and its varying levels of success across New Jersey. At the end of the day, each community is faced with its own unique set of circumstances and there doesn't seem to be one catch-all solution.

The Advisory Council also spoke about the dwindling attendance at regular meetings. As evidenced today, Master Planning meetings are seeing smaller and smaller numbers. Commissioner Lightbody feels it is tied to what Commissioner Sickels spoke about earlier in the meeting – that Council members become frustrated when things are not adopted.

The Residential Sprinkler Coalition is continuing to make inroads with several organizations, now even with insurance companies (including StateFarm). They are willing to testify on residential sprinklers and will be a good ally to have. It is also important to get Fire Chiefs and firefighters to the Senate and Assembly hearings in uniform. This shows a unified front from the fire service across the board. Also, the National Sprinkler Association reported on the three states (MD/DE/PA) and Maryland is becoming concerned about the removal of the residential sprinkler requirement from the IRC.

The next meeting of the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council is scheduled for December 8th at the Toms River Fire Academy.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo reported that the Public Education Advisory Council met on November 12th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. The minutes of that meeting are in the Commission packets.

Commissioner DeTrollo reported that the wheels are already very much in motion for the 2015 New Jersey FIRE Bowl, set to take place this upcoming spring. Division staff (as well as many local contacts) is actively recruiting schools and districts to compete in next year's event. This year will mark the 10-year anniversary of the program. A couple of key FIRE Bowl dates for 2015 have already been set: The "Academy Day" field trip will be held at Middlesex County Fire Academy on April 1th. The State Championship Event will be held at Kean University's STEM Building on May 15th. More details to come as the program takes shape.

In 2015, the Public Education Advisory Council will be focusing on recruiting new members with new perspectives on fire safety education programs.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council is scheduled for January 14th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

Commissioner Richard Blohm took this opportunity to express his personal condolences to Chief Kramer on the loss of Lieutenant Christopher Hunter of the Cinnaminson Fire Department. He spoke about the reality of the situation and how it goes well beyond the initial shock of the loss. He offered condolences on behalf of himself and the PFANJ.

Commissioner Blohm reported that the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council met on September 30th. Commissioner Blohm called attention to the “OSHA Fact Sheet” that was distributed to all Commissioners prior to the meeting. One of the important changes in there includes that all work-related inpatient hospitalizations have to be reported within 24 hours. That takes effect on January 1, 2015.

Commissioner Blohm also spoke about how PEOSH found no violations in the death of a part-time member of the Forest Fire Service. It had happened in March 2013 at the Round Valley State Park. Commissioner Blohm also reported that he has been corresponding with Tom Pizzano of the Codes Advisory Council in regards to the development of the all-hazards sign.

Commissioner Blohm spoke about a discussion with a manufacturer of self-contained breathing apparatus. With the evolution of the equipment, a question arose about new pieces being compatible with older airpaks when it fits appropriately – does this void NIOSH certification? The Department of Health has provided a matrix of what is compatible and what is not, and this will be shared with the Fire Safety Commission.

Commissioner Blohm made a motion that Ken Schulz be added to the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stanley Sickels and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council will be held today at 1:30 pm in Exhibit Hall A of the Atlantic City Convention Center.

7. Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council

Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary reported that the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council met on November 13th at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center. The minutes of that meeting are in the Commission packets.

Commissioner O’Leary reported that Andy Stratton and New Jersey State FMBA President Ed Donnelly had recently been to Philadelphia to introduce the “Fire Is” program. The City of Philadelphia, based on this meeting, had adopted the program and will be delivering the fire safety education through the Fire Is modules in their schools. New York is doing the program through the Fire Marshal’s Office, but is not yet in the schools.

In regards to the Parents Legal Responsibility Pamphlet, Commissioner O’Leary spoke about the need for a representative from the Attorney General’s Office to be appointed to the Council. This has been a topic discussed at several Fire Safety Commission meetings, and they are hopeful that the legislative members will be able to use political channels to make some sort of headway with the AG’s Office.

Commissioner O’Leary spoke about the upcoming 12th Annual New Jersey Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Conference. All of the information on registration and courses are included in the Commission packets, and Commissioner O’Leary asked that all Commissioners spread the word about it.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for January 15th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis said they are anxiously awaiting the upcoming Senate Committee hearing on residential sprinklers. Senator Anthony Bucco said he will talk to Senate President Sweeney about getting this Bill moving.

H. Old Business

Chairman Wisniewski opened up the meeting for Old Business. There being none, the meeting was moved to New Business.

I. New Business

Commissioner Stanley Sickels spoke about the Division of Fire Safety sending out a bulletin each year, reminding fire departments about the fire officer requirements. One thing that Commissioner Sickels feels is missing are the requirement in regards to hazardous materials. Any fire officials in command of a hazmat situation must be trained in the On-Scene Incident Commander requirements. They need to be trained in the command aspects of dealing with hazardous materials. Commissioner Sickels has spoken with Commissioner Lawrence Wood and NJDFS Acting-Director Kramer on this issue as well. Chief Kramer said they can certainly add this to the bulletin moving forward. Commissioner Blohm asked how many OSIC courses are offered in a given year. Chief Kramer said he was not sure and could get that information.

Chairman Wisniewski called the Fire Safety Commission’s attention to the 2015 Proposed Meeting Schedule contained in the meeting packets. Commissioner Arthur Londensky made a motion to approve the 2015 schedule as it is. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Kevin Krushinski and passed unanimously.

Chief Kramer reported that the Division of Fire Safety has been a part of the state's preparation for treating and containing the Ebola virus. They have been involved with several state agencies on how to properly respond to medical incidents with someone who may have been exposed. There has been guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Health and that is the official guidance from the State of New Jersey. There are also a few state facilities that have been earmarked for use should they be needed to house those that have been exposed to, or contracted, the Ebola virus. They would serve as voluntarily quarantine centers, and the NJDFS has worked to make sure those facilities are up to speed from a fire code standpoint. The local emergency response communities have been made aware of these facilities as well.

J. Public Comment II

Thomas E. Simpson of Harrington Park spoke once again about the issue of Bakken crude and its transportation via railroad throughout the state of New Jersey. Sometime during the meeting, he made contact with an OEM coordinator from Bergen County, who said the Bakken crude issue is no longer their problem – it is now up to the Democrats. Chairman Wisniewski answered that this is not a Bergen County issue, nor is it a partisan issue. This is a statewide, and even national, issue. Chairman Wisniewski said that anyone who says otherwise is spreading misinformation and needs to stop. Chief Kramer said the Division of Fire Safety will work, through Major Rick Farletta, to straighten out the communication issues that seem to be occurring in Bergen County regarding Bakken crude. Chairman Wisniewski asked that the Division of Fire Safety put together some sort of concise fact sheet that includes all the pertinent information on Bakken crude. Chief Kramer said that could be done and would also forward their concerns to New Jersey State Police with regards to the County OEM system. The Division of Fire Safety will also continue to push the information out through the County Fire Coordinators.

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 11:37 am.

*** The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 10am. It will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ ***