

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

Meeting of November 20, 2024

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at the Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Commission Members Present: Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Chairman
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Sen. Anthony M. Bucco
Mr. Kevin Bellew
Mr. John Wisniewski
Mr. Armando Roman
Mr. George Aleu
Mr. Arthur Hayducka
Mr. Gerard Naylis
Mr. Charles Siedenburg
Mr. Charles Maria
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary
Mr. Frederick Collender
Mr. Nelson Wiest
Mr. Karl Spinner

Commission Members Excused: Mr. Arthur Londensky, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Steve O’Gorman
Mr. Raymond Heck

DCA Staff Members Present: Richard J. Mikutsky, State Fire Marshal
Louis Kilmer, NJDFS
Bruce Tynan, NJDFS
Timothy Weiss, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Lenny Inzerillo, NJDFS
Greg Kirkham, NJDFS
Dan Timmerman, NJDFS
Don Nelsen, NJDFS

<u>Guests:</u>	Matthew Janora	Michael Giunta
Ronald McGowan Jr.	Vincent Corsaro	Robert G. Schmitt
Mark Rigberg	Thomas Flanagan	Joseph Tull
Edward McDermott	Robert Reed	Andrew Fosina
Steve Silcott	Frederick Roll	Christopher Hager

Scott McCormick
Paul Dansbach
Robert Lewis
Michael Balog
John Medina
Callan Cotta
James Miller
Alexander Coulter
Wayne Matthews
Scott Oatman
Joseph Przybylinski
Stanley O'Brien
Rick Schreck
Lisa Saschelli
Brendan Rhodes
Kate Triggiano
Marc Strauss
Angela Morello Lange

Elizabeth Sweeney
Nick Lombardi
William Gee
Michael Dillon
Heidi Michel
Shaun Dannenfelser
Stan Kolbe
Dominick McClain
James E. Tucker
Paul Short
Kevin Batzel
Dean Manonne
Chris Uluhoefer
Bryant Curry
Joe Tompey
Adam Ellender
Steven Porth

Brian Pericone
Charles Wells
Joseph Signorello Jr.
Timothy Ferguson
Michael Haas
Paul Cafone
Mark Pellecchia Jr.
Patrick Flynn
John Retalis
Robert Echavarria
Anthony Cirz
Rich Foster
Joseph Berchtold
Robert Seebaum
Steve Spurr
Ryan Dullea
Joseph Gary Howarth

A. Call to Order

Chairman Kevin Krushinski called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. He led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those recently lost in the line of duty and the men and women serving our nation overseas.

B. Approval of Minutes

The Fire Safety Commission approved the minutes of the regular meeting of September 12, 2024. Chairman Krushinski noted that the minutes were in today's meeting packets for all to review.

C. Correspondence

Chairman Krushinski noted that any and all correspondence for today's meeting was contained in the Commission packets.

D. Public Comment I

Chairman Krushinski opened up the meeting to any members of the public present wishing to address the Commission at this time. There being none, the meeting was moved to Division of Fire Safety Activities.

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

Director Mikutsky reported that the NJDFS continues to remain extremely busy on all fronts. They have been working very closely with the New Jersey Forest Fire Service on

the issuance of bans and warnings on the use of outdoor open burns and fireworks during the ongoing drought.

The NJDFS also continues to track and provide comment on numerous pieces of legislation. Most importantly is A3894/S2580, an Act concerning fire safety by making changes to certain licensure requirements, equipment requirements, penalties, and fees by amending certain Public Laws. Assembly Bill 4972 was introduced on October 21st by Assemblyman Calabrese, District 36 (Bergen and Passaic) which would permit, under the State Uniform Construction Code, single exit stairwells in new R2 residential buildings up to six stories. The Division of Fire Safety, through the Department of Community Affairs Commissioner's Office, has gone on record as opposing this legislation.

Director Mikutsky reported that NJDFS staff members were involved in numerous events throughout the fall. Staff attended the Governors Housing Conference in September, the New York Fire & Life Safety Association Conference in New York City, and on October 10th they celebrated 20 years of partnership with Kean University.

Director Mikutsky noted that the FY 2024 AFG application period opened Nov. 12, 2024, at 9 a.m. ET and closes on Dec. 20, 2024, at 5 p.m. ET. He also announced that the Fall 2024 edition of the Fire Focus Online Newsletter was posted online and distributed earlier this week.

Director Mikutsky reported that yesterday, November 19th, NJDFS personnel presented a session on various topics related to the Division at the League of Municipalities Conference. Topics included an overview of the Division, the recently adopted 2018 Code, Dynamics system updates, and the minimum required and recommended certifications and qualifications for the fire service.

Director Mikutsky reported that the NJDFS's Office of Training & Certification has processed over 18,000 certifications in 2024. The Division/Kean will be scheduling full Hazardous Materials: Awareness & Operations train-the-trainers for all new Instructors wishing to teach this subject and meet the instructor requirements. The requirements are: Firefighter 2, Hazardous Materials: Awareness, Hazardous Materials: Operations, Hazardous Materials: Operations Mission Specific PPE, Hazardous Materials: Operations Mission Specific Product Control, Fire Instructor Level 2, and Drill Ground Instructor.

The NJDFS is looking to start scheduling the Rapid Intervention Crew train-the-trainers in Gloucester, Burlington, and Morris Counties. This will be an approximately 40-hour course that will serve as both Awareness and Operations training programs. Certification titles will include RIC Member, RIC Officer, and RIC Instructor. RIC Officer will require the individual to be NFPA 1021 compliant. The NJDFS will accept three Instructors from each Eligible Organization that wishes to run this course. They must have Firefighter 2, Fire Instructor 2, Drill Ground Instructor, and a letter of support from their Tier-1 or career department. The train-the-trainer will be a full day class – four hours in the classroom and four hours on the drill ground. The NJDFS is finalizing the last-minute details on this now.

2025 New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy had been scheduled for Friday, May 30th, Saturday, May 31st, and Sunday, June 1st, 2025. The Real ID Act will be in effect to enter. The seven classes offered will be: Residential Sprinkler Plan Review, New Fire Chief: Administrative Issues, Command & Control for Company-Level Operations, Introduction to Unified Command for All-Hazard Incidents, Building Resilience in Leadership: Strategies for Growth and Confidence, Safety for Hazardous Materials Incidents, and Fire Investigation: Fire as a Weapon.

Director Mikutsky reported that NJDFS staff have been working on revisions to the N.J.A.C. 5:71 regulations for Fire Inspector and Fire Official that will include testing and course requirements for Fire Official, experience requirements for the Fire Inspector and Fire Official certifications, mandating Code Update/Retrofit, and Core classes for all Fire Inspectors and Fire Officials. Division staff has also been working on updating and revising the N.J.A.C. 5:73 regulations for Training & Certification, which will include the Incident Management level 2 requirements for all chief officers, the Incident Management Level 1 requirements for all Hazardous Materials: Incident Commander certifications, and establishment of the Junior Firefighter Auxiliary rules.

The Basic Fire Police Officer train-the-trainers have been completed in Burlington and Cape May Counties. Train-the-trainers in North Jersey are being discussed. Fire departments are also inquiring about ARFF training. The NJDFS ARFF credentialing program will be run exclusively through the Middlesex County Fire Academy, and the Newark and Atlantic City International Airports. The sponsoring agency will have to provide the funding for approved Instructors and all equipment/fuel that needs to be purchased for this course. All ARFF Instructors MUST HAVE gone through the NJDFS ARFF train-the-trainer program and be credentialed.

The Code Enforcement Subject Matter Expert group has met to review/revise the Fire Inspector credentialing program to the 2018 IFC-NJ Edition code. There is some additional content that needs to be added to the program. The course and written exam will still be utilizing the IFSTA Fire Inspection & Code Enforcement, 8th Edition textbook, the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code, the 2018 IFC, NJ Edition, and the 2021 IBC, NJ Edition Table of Contents, Chapter 9 (Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems), Chapter 10 (Means of Egress), and the Index.

The NJDFS, New Jersey Fire Safety Commission, Training & Education Advisory Council and Firefighter Health & Safety Advisory Council have met to discuss the Firefighter Physical Agility Program. This was an online Teams meeting due to not having adequate space to meet face-to-face. This group will look to meet again in person, probably after the holidays, to continue to move this dialog along. We are looking at a Civil Service-type firefighter agility/skills program.

The 21st Annual Anthony R. Braig Conference on Youth Firesetting is coming up in a few weeks. Registration will remain open through November 22nd (this Friday). Please visit the Kean website or email Charles Lavin for information on how to register. The Conference is scheduled for December 5th & 6th at Middlesex County Fire Academy. Also, the NFA held a successful offering of the Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist

course on October 22nd & 23rd at Union County Fire Academy. The instructor was Kate Harrington from Worcester, MA, and 16 students completed the course.

The 2025 New Jersey Fire Safety Calendars have been printed and distribution begins today, here at the League of Municipalities Conference. A huge thank you to the NJ Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (Dave Kurasz), Sprinkler Fitters Local 696 (Kevin Bellew), and our partners at Kean University. Their generous sponsorships are what got the calendars printed this year. Also, the Operation Save-a-Life program is ongoing. However, the supply of alarms is dwindling as it always does towards the year's end. We are hopeful to receive more in 2025. The program will kick off once again shortly after the New Year.

From the Office of Fire Department Preparedness, Director Mikutsky reported on the NJDEP's Foam Takeback Program. Contractors conducted site visits at Mt. Laurel, Cherry Hill, North Hudson, and Perth Amboy Fire Departments. The NJDEP is still working on funding for the project. Also, the Standardized Active Violent Event Response (SAVER) work group is working with the Attorney General and Governor's Office to standardize the active shooter response. The C3 Pathways ASIM Course program provided 141 classes during 2024. There are approximately 115 eligible instructors statewide.

Regarding the 2026 FIFA World Cup games, Bureau of Fire Department Services personnel are embedded in the Emergency Preparedness, Critical Infrastructure, and Fire/Rescue working groups. These working groups are responsible for fire protection and response plans to all venues identified by FIFA. Venues are being confirmed across the entire state for the purpose of team practices, housing, and watch parties. Additionally, in preparation for the 2026 World Cup games, all NJDFS field personnel received human trafficking training on October 30th. This was provided by the Newark HSI (Homeland Security Investigations) Office.

Director Mikutsky reported that Bureau of Fire Department Services personnel are also regularly attending events at MetLife Stadium, Red Bull Arena, and SHI Stadium at Rutgers. The NJDFS is increasing its visibility at these facilities in preparation for the FIFA World Club games 2025 and FIFA World Cup games in 2026.

There are currently 28 ongoing fire department complaint investigations, dual investigations, or referrals with NJDOL/PEOSH/NJ DOH. NJDFS staff has responded to numerous major fire events around the state including, but not limited to, a 4-alarm fire in Union County, a 4-alarm fire in Hudson County, and major brush fires in Essex, Morris and Passaic Counties for resource coordination.

Director Mikutsky shared the following year-to-date statistics, courtesy of the NJDFS Fire Investigation / K9 Unit:

- *270 Fire Investigations, with 78 being deemed Incendiary
- *57 K9 deployments for ignitable liquid investigations
- *65 Firefighter injuries reported, with 3 line of duty deaths

*465 additional dispatch notifications

The Fire Investigation / K9 Unit has assisted the NJ Forest Fire Service with over 25 wild land fire investigations over the past 2 months, including many of the “Major” (100+ acre) wildfires that have occurred statewide. Many of these fires have been deemed Arson, and arrests have been recently made for 2 major wildfires in Ocean and Burlington Counties that threatened structures and prompted evacuations. Specifically, a man was charged with arson after he fired an illegal shotgun round that sparked a wildfire in Jackson Township, scorching 350 acres of land and prompting evacuations in the surrounding community.

The Craigmuir Lookout Wildfire in Rockaway Twp. began on Halloween and burned for over a week. It consumed approximately 200 acres. Forty-two engines from five counties provided structural protection during the fire. Evidence of illegal fireworks was identified during the investigation.

The Jennings Creek Wildfire along the state border of Passaic County NJ / Orange County NY, which burned approximately 4,484 acres, of which 2,283 acres were in New Jersey, was deemed Arson. This fire was discovered on November 8th, just over the border in New York State. It spread south into New Jersey, and a New York Parks employee was killed on November 9th during firefighting operations when a tree fell on him. A suspect has been identified and multiple charges are pending, but additional details are being withheld at this point.

On October 24th, one of the NJDFS Investigators and his K9 partner were involved in a vehicle crash while returning from a wildfire investigation in Burlington Co. Thankfully, they were uninjured, but their K9 truck was significantly damaged.

Director Mikutsky shared the following year-to-date statistics, courtesy of the NJDFS Fire Incident Reporting Unit. Numbers are as of November 15, 2024:

Civilian Burn Reports: 450

Total Fatal Fire Reports: 53

Residential Fatal Fires: 38

School Fire Reports: 58

Electric Vehicle Fires: 3

Lithium-Ion Battery Fires: 97 (includes 41 electric vehicle/bikes/scooters, 6 drones, 17 portable electronic devices, 17 power tools, 2 batteries, 14 other)

Two Fire Departments (Pitman and Elizabeth Ave Fire Co) from New Jersey are participating in USFA’s NERIS onboarding Beta launch which began November 4, 2024. January 1, 2026, is the targeted date for national transition from NFIRS to NERIS. New Jersey Fire Departments will be allowed to transition early during 2025, prior to the January 1, 2026, effective date. NERIS Training will be made available, but dates are still to be determined. Fire Departments who onboard early with NERIS will not have to complete both NERIS and NFIRS Reporting, only one.

Chairman Kevin Krushinski brought a recent advertisement by Puffs (tissues) that depicts the intentional burning of tissues/tissue boxes and asked Director Mikutsky if the NJDFS would be able to advocate against this kind of advertising and/or contact the manufacturer. Director Mikutsky answered that, yes, via his affiliation with the National Association of State Fire Marshals, they can work to get the ads removed. He will bring this to NASFM's attention, as they have global influence in matters such as these. Chairman Krushinski also asked if there will be software available relative to the new NERIS reporting system. Director Mikutsky answered that he and Vince Campagna will be working on this in early 2025 and will provide more details when the time comes.

Bureau Chief Louis Kilmer reported that Code Enforcement is working on a number of projects and continues to be extremely busy. Most notable since the last Fire Safety Commission meeting has been the new fire code (2018 International Fire Code, New Jersey Edition) going into effect on October 15th. All Commission members have been provided with new code books as of this meeting. There is one provision that will not go into effect until April, which is the portion requiring mulch be moved away from buildings. The NJDFS has been working with the landscaping industry to get the word out on this. Work has already begun on looking at the 2021 International Fire Code.

Chief Kilmer reported that NJDFS has spent a lot of time working with the new Dynamics computer system. He reported that the system has been phenomenal thus far and has significantly increased compliance across the board. Shortly after the new year, the NJDFS will be working with smaller municipalities to make it available to local officials. The NJDFS has recently added the Contractors Portal to the system, as well as added a portal for fire departments. This will greatly enhance the fire departments knowledge of buildings in their jurisdiction and, in turn, increase firefighter safety.

Chief Kilmer reported that quarterly rebates have been going out on schedule. In many cases the rebates have been significantly higher than in recent years. Also, annual reporting season is fast-approaching and will be submitted the same as last year. Chief Kilmer also spoke about staff and the tremendous support that has come from Director Mikutsky and DCA Administration on getting the ranks bolstered personnel-wise. However, there has still been difficulty finding viable candidates for the open positions. For this reason, the Bureau of Code Enforcement remains short-staffed and may not get to all its inspections for 2024.

Chief Kilmer reported that the NJDFS is still working on the School Sprinkler Survey, which will become a top priority going into 2025. He also spoke about the recently passed law requiring certification for those who work on smoke dampers and smoke control systems. They are looking at the portion of the code that deals with this.

Chief Kilmer publicly thanked Senator Bucco for his work on, and co-sponsoring of, the bill updating the Fire Safety Act. This is the fire update of the Act since 1983 and, obviously, times have changed. This will require licensed inspectors inspecting every building. At this point it has passed both Senate and Assembly Committees. Chief Kilmer also thanked everyone who has come out in support of this bill.

Chief Kilmer reported that the NJDFS is still seeing significant changeover in local fire officials. This is due to a number of factors, but this trend has continued over the past several years. Also, at this point everyone should have received information on their expected revenue. NJDFS staff is also continuing to work with the New Jersey Department of Transportation on the condition of standpipes on the state's highways. Commissioner John Wisniewski asked who at the New Jersey Turnpike Authority they have been working with on this. Chief Kilmer answered that they have been working with their engineering people, as well as the highway maintenance department. Commissioner Wisniewski offered his help on this issue and asked that Chief Kilmer circle back to him on it in the future.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioners George Aleu noted that all matters relating to the Codes Advisory Council had been covered by Bureau Chief Lou Kilmer under his Division of Fire Safety Activities report. Commissioner Aleu added that the minutes of the most recent meeting have been distributed electronically to all Commission members for their review.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Nelson Wiest reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council met on October 25th. The minutes of that meeting are contained in today's meeting packet for all to review. Director Mikutsky had already covered the joint meeting held with the Firefighter Safety & Health Advisory Council regarding the firefighter physical agility program, so Commissioner Wiest had nothing further to report at this time.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked about the firefighter physical agility program and expressed concern that yet another commission was being formed to examine this issue specifically. Commissioner Naylis feels that the bodies to look into this issue are already in place and forming another would be redundant. Both Director Mikutsky and Commissioner Wiest agreed and expressed that the group looking into this matter are utilizing the advisory councils that are already in place.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled for December 17th at Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported on the upcoming NERIS reporting system that is coming soon to replace NFIRS in 2025. Commissioner Naylis asked about the monitoring of fire departments usage and expressed that he would like to see this continued to see who is reporting and who is now. Commissioner Naylis added that, while fire fatalities seem to be down in 2024, they are unfortunately still primarily

occurring in residential buildings. Director Mikutsky added that New Jersey is seeing historically low fire fatalities and compares extremely well to the rest of the nation especially when considering the population density, older housing stock, etc.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner Raymond Heck, no formal report from the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council was available at this time. Commissioner Wood added that there was no meeting held, so there is no report to be given.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner Paul McGrath, no formal report from the Public Education Advisory Council was available at this time.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner Richard Blohm, Commissioner Karl Spinner referred the Commission members to the minutes of the most recent Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council meeting held on September 24th. The next meeting is scheduled for November 26th at Middlesex County Fire Academy.

7. Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council

Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary reported that the Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council met on November 14th at Monmouth County Fire Academy. The minutes of the meeting are in the Commission packets for review. The primary topic at the meeting was the upcoming 21st Annual Anthony R. Braig Conference on Youth Firesetting. Commissioner O’Leary urged anyone interested to register before Friday’s deadline and thanked Charles Lavin for all his work on the Conference.

Commissioner O’Leary also spoke about the Operation Save-a-Life program and the possibility of planning additional Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist and Program Manager classes through the National Fire Academy. As soon as details are available on these classes they will be shared widely throughout the fire service.

The next meeting of the Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for January 9th at Monmouth County Fire Academy in Freehold at 10 am.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that the Townhouse Sprinkler Bill has been delayed for 13 months, as many influences behind the scenes are causing this delay.

Commissioner Naylis will be looking for partners and ways to promote fire sprinklers even more once the 13-month period lapses.

2. Ad-Hoc Committee on Legislation

Commissioner Kevin Bellew stated that there is no formal report available at this time and reported progress. Commissioner Naylis spoke about a bill introduced to the legislature that would provide cancer screenings to volunteer firefighters. He urged the Commission members to support and advocate for the passage of this bill.

3. NJ Statewide Utility Safety Team

In the absence of Commissioner Steve O’Gorman, no formal report on the NJ Statewide Utility Safety Team was available at this time.

4. Electric Vehicles Working Group

Commissioner John Wisniewski reported that there is no report available at this time. Commissioner Naylis added that there is a bill pending in Congress currently (HR1797) that would direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to develop standards for lithium-ion batteries and various other associated power cells. Commissioner Naylis urged the Commission members to support and advocate for the passage of this bill.

H. Old Business

Chairman Krushinski asked if anyone had any Old Business to bring before the Commission. There being none, the meeting was moved to New Business.

I. New Business

Commissioner John Wisniewski made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission formally support the passage of Congress Bill HR1797 that would direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to develop standards and regulations for the types of batteries used in electric vehicles. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gerard Naylis and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Naylis made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission continue to support and advocate for new legislation for residential sprinklers in high rises and residential occupancies. Commissioner Wisniewski seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Commissioner Naylis also made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission go on record in support of the legislation that provides for cancer screenings for the volunteer fire service. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Wisniewski and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Nelson Wiest made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission formally oppose Assembly Bill A4972, which would prevent - under the State’s Uniform

Construction Code – single-exit stairwells in the new R-2 residential buildings under six stories. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Armando Roman and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Armando Roman made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission support the development of a symbolic “New Jersey Fire Safety Commission” lapel pin. Commissioner Roman pledged to work on this with Commissioner Steve O’Gorman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Wisniewski and passed unanimously.

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission held its bi-annual reorganization. Commissioner Gerard Naylis nominated Chairman Kevin Krushinski for a new two-year term as Chairman of the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary and passed unanimously. Commissioner Gerard Naylis nominated Commissioner John Wisniewski for a two-year term as Vice-Chairman of the Commission. This motion was seconded by Senator Bucco and passed unanimously. Chairman Krushinski and Vice-Chairman Wisniewski thanked the Commission members for their confidence and honor of serving in their respective positions.

The Commissioners held a discussion on the meeting schedule for 2025, particularly the meeting locations that could be utilized throughout the state. Ultimately it was determined that the schedule would be as follows:

- *January 15th – NJ State Firemen’s Association (Wall Twp.)
- *March 19th – Union County Fire Academy (Linden)
- *May 21st – Bergen County Fire Academy (Mahwah)
- *July 16th – Surf City Vol. Fire Department (Surf City, LBI)
- *September 11th – Wildwood Crest Vol. Fire Department (Wildwood Crest)
- *November 19th – Atlantic City Convention Center (Atlantic City)

Commissioner George Aleu asked about lithium-ion battery/vehicle issue and whether it was being looked at with the Department of Education, as students are putting scooters (with these batteries) in their lockers at school. Chief Kilmer answered that the Department of Education may already have a policy on this, but he would look into getting clarification and go forward from there.

There being no further New Business to conduct at this time, the meeting was moved to Public Comment II.

J. Public Comment II

Chairman Krushinski opened up the meeting once again for any member of the public wishing to comment at this time. Rutherford Fire Marshal Paul Dansbach spoke about the pending legislation that updates the Fire Safety Act and it being crucial to the state’s fire service – particularly related to the licensing of fire inspectors. He asked that everyone present do whatever they can to support this. Mr. Dansbach also asked that the Fire Safety Commission advocate for the entry-level salary for inspectors be increased so that the NJDFS can increase staffing and set the standard at the municipal level statewide.

Mr. Dansbach also spoke about lithium-ion batteries and the fact that a battery replacement center is being built in his municipality – the first in the state. They are looking closely at this and will be sharing their experiences and findings.

Atlantic City Fire Chief Scott Evans thanked the Fire Safety Commission for all their hard work throughout the year and welcomed them to Atlantic City. Chief Evans asked for an update on legislation (S3894) regarding the inspections of non-life hazard uses. Senator Bucco said he was not sure of the current status of that bill, but would get back to Chief Evans as soon as possible.

David Kurasz from the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board reminded everyone that the annual holiday burn demonstration was scheduled for November 25th at Monmouth County Fire Academy at 11am. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend. Commissioner George Aleu asked if there would be video of the event available for those who could not attend in person. Director Mikutsky answered that DCA Communications would be on hand to video/photograph the event and share the footage.

K. Adjournment

With no further discussion requested, Chairman Kevin Krushinski called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner John Wisniewski made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

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