

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

Meeting of May 19, 2010

The NJ Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, at the Monmouth Junction Fire Department in Monmouth Junction, NJ.

Commission Members Present: Assemblyman John Wisniewski
Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Vice-Chairman
Mr. John Lightbody
Mr. Charles W. Schilling
Mr. Paul Hartstein
Mr. Armando Roman
Ms. Kathleen O'Leary
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. Roger Potts
Mr. Daniel DeTrolio
Mr. Lewis Candura
Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Steve O'Gorman
Mr. Ronald Phillips
Mr. Fredrick Collender

Commission Members Excused: Mr. Arthur Mercurio
Mr. C. Kenneth Anderson

DCA Staff Members Present: Lawrence Petrillo, State Fire Marshal
Lou Kilmer, NJDFS
Rick Farletta, NJDFS
Glenn Smyth, NJDFS
Charles Luxton, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Heather Puskar, NJDFS
Jerry Clark, NJDFS
Jim McFadden, NJDFS
Josh Lazarus, NJDFS
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

Guests: Ronald McGowan, Wildwood Crest Fire
David Kurasz, NJFSAB
Chuck Aughenbaugh, NJ Deputy Fire Chiefs
Chris Weniger, Somerset Co. FM
Nicholas Kikis, NJ Apartment Assn.
Ray Lonabaugh, NFSA
Irwin Kreisburg, NJDOL PEOSH
Joel Lipman, Franklin Twp.
Donald Scher, Somerset Co. FM
Doris Flatley, Somerset Co. FA
Alan Laird, South Brunswick Twp.
Karl Eisenmann, South Brunswick
Michael Maitland, Sen. Norcross' Office
Dawn McPhee, Asm. Wisniewski's Office
Patrick Bost, PEOSH/DOH
David Matos Jr., NJ Fire/EMS Inst.
Paul Kearns, NJFMBA
Daniel P. Mulligan, Ocean Co. FM
Alex Broder, MJFD

A. Call to Order

Chairman John Wisniewski called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM and began the meeting with the “Pledge of Allegiance”, pointing out the fire exits, and observing a moment of silence for all the firefighters that have lost their lives in the past year.

Chairman Wisniewski expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Roger Potts for hosting today’s Commission meeting and providing refreshments. Chairman Wisniewski also made note that Senator Norcross was unable to make it to today’s meeting and representing him would be his Chief of Staff, Michael Maitland.

B. Approval of Minutes

With no discussion requested or necessary corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of March 17, 2010, 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 correspondence at this time, the meeting was moved to Public Comment I.

D. Public Comment I

Chairman Wisniewski opened the floor to any member of the public wishing to speak.

David Matos Jr. from the NJ Fire and EMS Institute spoke briefly to remind everyone that their annual dinner is coming up on June 14th. It will be held at the Trenton Marriot and the keynote speaker is Bill Webb from the Congressional Fire Services Institute in Washington, DC. The award winners this year are Jack Connors as “Legislator of the Year” and Jacob Genovay as the “C. Kenneth Anderson Lifetime Achievement Award” recipient. If anyone would like more information they can speak directly to Mr. Matos or visit the NJ Fire and EMS Institute website at www.njfemsi.org

With no additional 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

State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo reported that the Division of Fire Safety is in the process of moving offices. All of the NJDFS personnel that were based in the Bordentown office will be moving. Those Units will be, as of June 3rd, working out of the main DCA Building at 101 South Broad Street in Trenton. Some will be heading to the 7th Floor, the rest to the 6th Floor. Director Petrillo asked for a couple days worth of patience while the staff gets acclimated to the new offices and gets their computer and

telephone systems up and running. Director Petrillo added that this move to a State building will save the Division and Department roughly \$1 million in rent.

Director Petrillo reported that the Attorney General has signed off (although not officially) on the Highway Traffic Safety Guidelines. The final version of the document has been forwarded to all involved parties for approval. Once these parties have signed off on the existing final version, the Attorney General can officially approve the document – most likely with a public signing. The adoption of this important document has been a long time coming, and Director Petrillo is extremely pleased to finally have it done. The official signing should take place within the next month or so. Commissioner Blohm asked if it was possible for the Commission members to get a copy of the finalized Highway Traffic Safety Guidelines via email. Director Petrillo answered that he did not have an electronic version of the document but would work on getting the Fire Safety Commission hard copies as soon as they are available.

Director Petrillo spoke about the 5th Annual New Jersey FIRE Bowl that will be taking place tomorrow, May 20th, at Kean University at 10 AM. It will be held at Kean's "Little Theater" and the event itself will be hosted by Harry Martin from Fox 5 and My9 News. All Commission members should have received invitations and are encouraged to attend.

Director Petrillo reported on the ongoing investigation of the large-diameter hose appliance failure up in Sussex County. The NJDFS is still working with the Attorney General's Office and has issued two subpoenas to the manufacturer – both of which have been ignored. The fact that the company is based in Pennsylvania does not give the NJDFS the authority to take any further action. The Attorney General's Office is going to reach out to the Pennsylvania AG's Office to try and proceed that way.

The Homeland Security Conference is scheduled to take place on June 18th at Kean University. There will be several different speakers and topics involved in the event. The Commissioner of FDNY, Sal Cassano, is scheduled to speak as well as Commissioner Ayers from the Philadelphia Fire Department. All Commissioner members are encouraged to attend the program that day if they are available to do so.

Chief Lou Kilmer reported that the Code Enforcement Unit is moving forward with their new computer systems. This coming week will begin joint application development sessions to work on putting together the specifics of the computer system and databases. These sessions, which will continue through September, are greatly encouraging since this is the furthest the NJDFS has gotten in this process before. Chief Kilmer also mentioned a Bulletin that the Division will be sending out shortly on the subject of difference between Subchapter 3 and Subchapter 4 items.

Chief Kilmer spoke about the recouping of the life hazard use fees that are owed to the Division of Fire Safety. A company called "Penn Credit" has been contracted to assist in collecting these outstanding fees. The company has been working with the State and the Department of Revenue for a number of years. The process began back in December and so far the collections have far exceeded the Division's expectations. Director Petrillo

added that over \$250,000 have been collected so far and he expects to have a 9% success rate going forward.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo made note of a recent trend that has been taking place regarding teen suicide. All first responders should be aware that mixing two chemicals, bleach and ammonia, is being used by kids to commit suicide. This is happening nationwide and has happened in New Jersey already. A message has been sent out via the NJDFS's portal to local fire officials and departments to be aware of this and wear the proper breathing apparatus.

Heather Puskar of the Division of Fire Safety's NFIRS Unit reported the latest reporting numbers that are coming in. There are currently 42 fire departments with AFG Grants being held up by the Federal Government because they have not participated (or only partially participated) in the NFIRS reporting program. The number of fire fatalities so far this year is 31. Eighteen of those took place in single-family dwellings (58%) and eight were in multiple-family dwellings (24%). At the same time last year there were a total of 40 fatalities. The number of fire departments reporting for 2010 so far is 63%; for the year 2009 the number is 93%. Both of those percentages will continue to climb as more and more data comes in. The 2009 "Fire in New Jersey" report will hopefully be completed at the end of this summer and available on the NJDFS website.

Commissioner Richard Blohm asked about whether the AFG grants being held up have been awarded, or just under consideration. Heather Puskar answered that they had been awarded and are now being held. There was a discussion on the specifics of the AFG applications and Commissioner Blohm offered to reach out to a contact of his at FEMA for clarification on this issue.

New Jersey is highly-ranked nationally in the category of percentage of fire departments reporting. This is despite the fact that reporting in New Jersey is voluntarily – we rank higher than most states where NFIRS reporting is mandatory. State Fire Marshal Petrillo commended the Division's NFIRS Unit for this distinction.

Commissioner Arthur Londensky spoke about the urgent need for the International Fire Code and residential sprinkler regulations to be adopted – particularly when you look at the numbers that Heather Puskar of the Division's NFIRS Unit just reported. He finds it unconscionable that these codes and regulations have not been passed. Commissioner Londensky urged the Commission to keep pushing for these and to be pro-active. He also mentioned the legislation regarding mulch that has lain dormant. His fear is that there won't be true change until there is another large-scale tragedy. These regulations are life safety issues and should not be held up in the name of bureaucracy. Director Petrillo said it was his personal feeling that these codes would be adopted and that the new DCA Commissioner is on board, it's just a matter of time. Commissioner Candura added that the new DCA Commissioner said that "short of an act of God" the codes will be adopted.

Commissioner Lawrence Wood asked if the Resolution that was voted on at the previous meeting and subsequently drafted had received any answer. Chairman Wisniewski answered that the Resolution was drafted and sent, but no response has been given from the Governor's Office. Commissioner Hartstein added that the Resolution was presented at the Blue Ribbon meetings at Montclair State and it was very well received. There was overwhelming representation from the fire service at these meetings, to the point where the DCA Commissioner was extremely impressed and heard the message loud and clear.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo added that if any Commission member has not been photographed for a Fire Safety Commission ID card, to see Jerry Clark following the meeting. All Commissioners will receive new ID cards at the July meeting if they haven't already.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Charles Schilling reported that the Codes Advisory Council had met on April 21st at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. Commissioner Schilling spoke about the GAMIN'RIDE Mobile Video Game Theaters. It has been concluded that these units are not covered by existing regulations. The Department will be bringing draft rules back to the Fire Codes Council for their consideration. The items to be addressed are generators, electrical safety, carbon monoxide/smoke detection, means of egress, and interior finishes. The Codes Council is hoping to come up with some regulations and requirements in the near future.

A Committee has been assembled to review Subchapter 4, which hasn't been reviewed in about 25 years. This is the retro-fit package that is being enforced, and there is a lot of work to be done in this section of the code. The Committee has already met twice and has seen progress in some areas. Meetings of the Subchapter 4 Committee are scheduled throughout the rest of the year – on May 12th, July 14th, September 8th, and November 10th.

Commissioner Schilling spoke about the issue concerning portable electrical drop lights. This was in response to a concern raised at the last meeting regarding the use of unlisted drop lights in repair garages. Michael Whalen reported and distributed the applicable language from the NEC making this a Class 1, Division 1 area. He indicated that unlisted drop lights should be cited in a Notice of Violation. Josh Lazarus said that he will be posting this information on the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) on the Division of Fire Safety webpage by the end of the week. Commissioner Schilling felt this is a difficult regulation to enforce.

A draft bulletin will be released shortly in regards to the enforcement of NJAC 5:70-3 State Fire Prevention Code. Chief Lou Kilmer said that the bulletin is needed for consistency of interpretation. The information contained in the bulletin will also be added to the FAQ's on the NJDFS website.

Commissioner Schilling referenced a memorandum contained in the Commission packet that proposed an amendment to the Uniform Fire Code. The amendment was in regards to inspections of educational occupancies, as well as fire drill requirements for students. The draft rule would require that annual inspection of educational occupancies be conducted prior to June 1st of each calendar year. Several suggestions were brought up in a discussion on this issue.

Chairman Wisniewski brought up the possibility of adding some kind of educational requirement in addition to the simple fire drill exercise. He cited Dr. Frank Field's efforts in fire safety education and thought these amendments might be a good opportunity to add something regarding education. Commissioner Lightbody also spoke about the need for education to be a regular part of the school year and cited examples in Toms River Township. Chairman Wisniewski asked that the Codes Council look into a possible additional amendment that would augment the requirement for fire safety education in schools.

There was also a discussion on the issue of when the inspections of the schools should be done. Vice-Chairman Intindola suggested the possibility of inspecting the schools both in June (so that repairs/upgrade work can be done in the summer) and in late-August (to make sure everything is in order going into the school year). It was agreed that the idea of doing multiple inspections yearly would be examined further

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission adopts the amendments proposed by Commissioner Schilling and the Codes Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Potts and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schilling also reported that there was an issue regarding windowless basements. The definition of a windowless basement has been the subject of some discussion and needs clarification. Michael Whalen reported that a crawl space does not meet the definition of basement. The NJDFS is finding that there has been some confusion in these situations in urban locations where there is a door into a space that has meters or equipment. This will be examined further by the Codes Council and has been added to the agenda of the Subchapter 4 Committee.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Lawrence Wood, in place of Commissioner Anderson, gave the following report of the Training and Education Advisory Council:

The Training and Education Advisory Council met on April 27th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am.

Kent Neiswender reported on several projects including:

- There have been no problems with Firefighter I and II testing. The books are available. The conversion to Jones and Bartlett is completed.

- The Delmar test bank is being used for the Firefighter II Challenge test
- Over 70% of the seats in the CEU classes are filled.
- Approval has been received to print the Adoption of the Fire Instructor revisions in the *Register*.
- The Office of Training and Certification will move to Trenton in June 3rd.
- The temporary staff is gone. Essentially, they entered application data which averages 1000/month
- 180 spaces for New Jersey Weekend have been filled.

The Council is concerned about the Fire Inspector Exam. There was a further discussion at this meeting. Chief Kramer participated.

Concerns include: We teach the New Jersey edition of the Code. The national ICC test is used. It costs \$180 each time. The ICC Construction Code books are required to take the test.

The rationale for the current process: The national BOCA exam was used for 10 years. Students really learn how to use the book. Therefore, from a practical standpoint, it shouldn't make a difference what test is used. The IFC is tied in to the Building Code, so both books are needed.

Additionally, if a New Jersey test was developed, it would take a lot of time of staff and others to develop and validate questions. The local test would probably be challenged more than the national test.

The awareness course for Autism and Developmental Disabilities has been developed. The law requires several things of the Division of Fire Safety and the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs. Since this is a training requirement, it was discussed by the Council. A memo dated May 9th and sent by e-mail to the Commission distribution list. Action is required by the Commission.

The next T&E Council meeting will be June 15th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am.

Commissioner Blohm, under the topic of Training and Education, asked whether it was allowed for county training academies to use federal grant monies that need to be burned off before September 30th to provide training free of charge. Director Petrillo answered that he would have to look into the specifics of the State contract, and would speak with Commissioner Blohm further about the possibility.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

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

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

Commissioner John Lightbody reported that the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council met on March 1st and May 4th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The Council has spent a lot of time on the International Fire Code and the residential fire sprinkler regulations. The Master Planning and Research Council, along with the Residential Sprinkler Coalition, drafted a letter that was sent to the Lieutenant Governor in reference to the adoption of the one- and two-family sprinkler regulations.

Commissioner Lightbody also spoke about the issue of group homes, citing specific examples in Toms River Township. Many of these are having fire sprinkler systems installed, but still several are unsprinklered and set up in a dangerous or illegal manner. Commissioner Lightbody talked about a side-by-side sprinkler demonstration that was conducted to examine the effects of fire sprinklers – had they been present and effective during specific fire instances.

Commissioner Lightbody also mentioned that any and all attendees are invited to the Toms River Fire Academy for the summer Fire Safety Commission meeting on July 21st.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo reported that the Public Education Advisory Council met on May 13th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. A week prior, the judging for the NJ Fire Safety Poster Contest had taken place in Springfield. The winners for the 2009-2010 school year are:

Division 1	Esha Patel Martin Luther King Jr. School Jersey City, NJ	Division 5	Analís Rivera Union County Vo-Tech Scotch Plains, NJ
Division 2	Katie Boyle Horace Mann School Bayonne, NJ	Division 6	Alina Carlson The Calais School Whippany, NJ
Division 3	Emma Lamperti Martin Luther King Jr. School Jersey City, NJ	Division 7	Johnson Solano East Side High School Newark, NJ
Division 4	Dan Purcell Bergen County Academics Hackensack, NJ		

The overall winner was Katie Boyle, whose poster will be printed by Atlantic City Electric and distributed throughout the State. She will also receive a special award presented by Joshua Marcus Group. All division winners will receive Dell laptop computers, compliments of the New Jersey Association of Fire Equipment Distributors and the American Fire Sprinkler Association, New Jersey Chapter. The Poster Contest

Awards Luncheon will be held on June 22nd at the Springfield Fire Department's Headquarters, compliments of the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association.

Commissioner DeTrollo echoed the sentiments of State Fire Marshal Petrillo and urged all Commissioner members to attend the New Jersey FIRE Bowl State Championship tomorrow, May 20th at Kean University.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council will be a joint meeting with the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council. It will take place on July 8th at the Camden County Fire Academy at 11 AM.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

Commissioner Richard Blohm reported the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council met on March 17th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. He spoke about the fact that the Department of Labor and Department of Health had been audited by Fed OSHA. Both departments failed miserably, paper-work wise.

A Sub-Committee of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council has been working on the Rehab Policy. There has been an ongoing issue of incident commanders being put in a bad spot when an EMT (often as young as 18-years-old) is not allowing the firefighter to return to duty. There is a need to create some guideline of criteria that will be taught in EMT training throughout the State and provide some clarity as to who can and can not return to a fire scene. The Sub-Committee will be working towards finalizing their report at the next meeting in hopes that it will be ready to present to the Division of Fire Safety shortly.

The next meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council will be today, May 19th at the Monmouth Junction Fire Department at 1:30 PM.

7. Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council

Commissioner Paul Hartstein reported that the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council met on May 12th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. Commissioner Hartstein reported that CD's have been distributed to the members of the Curriculum Sub-Committee for review. There have not been any further comments on the content and there has been a lot of discussion as to how to distribute the material. It was suggested that the information be posted on the NJDFS website for all the public to view. Once the information is posted, Commissioner Hartstein will give a follow up report on where it can be found.

Commissioner Hartstein spoke about an article The Star-Ledger has been working on regarding Juvenile Firesetter. The newspaper has been meeting with several programs throughout the State, stretching as far south as Camden. No individual juveniles will be reference by name in any published story.

The NASFM Youth Fire Prevention Program “Train-the-Trainer” was held at Bergen County Fire Academy on April 7th. There were approximately 35 people in attendance from FEMA Region II. It was another quality program run by Fire Proof Children from Rochester, NY.

The Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council has been working on reviving the idea for a ‘Parents Legal Responsibility Pamphlet’ that delineates laws regarding arson. Also, the Council has begun discussing a December 1987 Report to the Governor on Juvenile Firesetting. Since the report is over 20 years old, the Council thought it might be a good idea to re-examine the information and apply it to juvenile firesetting today.

The next meeting will be a joint meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council and the Public Education Advisory Council. It will be held on July 8th at the Camden County Fire Academy and it will include a barbecue lunch.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

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

H. Old Business

Commissioner Lawrence Wood made note that the Fire Safety Commission has received, in their packets, a document containing all OSHA/PEOSH standards that are relevant to firefighters. Commissioner Wood requested that this document be posted on the Division of Fire Safety website so that fire departments could be able to use it as a reference point. State Fire Marshal Petrillo agreed that it could be posted on the website. Commissioner Richard Blohm added that there is additional information on these specific laws on the Department of Labor website as well. Commissioner Wood stressed the importance of these standards, as they are particularly vital to the health of firefighters in firefighting and non-firefighting operations.

Commissioner Ronald Phillips requested an update on an issue that arose this past spring regarding utilities cutting off service and not communicating this information to local fire departments. Commissioner Phillips has brought this issue to the Board of Public Utilities, and future meetings and hearings have been scheduled to discuss this very issue. The particular concern is with water companies that have the ability to shut off water service to a specific building or area (due to unpaid bills, etc.), and the fire service not having access to a water supply if an emergency situation were to arise in that area. Commissioner Phillips feels there should be some kind of mechanism in place that requires water companies to communicate any changed status in water supply to the fire department. Commissioner Wood added that this is an ongoing battle that has been going on with not only with water companies, but electric and telephone companies as well. Assemblyman Wisniewski requested the specifics of this issue – in reference to the water

company and what about of water pressure must be available to all times – and he will look into the possibility of legislation on the matter. Also, Director Petrillo indicated that there is a mandate that requires the utility company to provide notification of an outage to emergency responders, and he will be working with the Board of Public Utilities to find out why this isn't happening.

Commissioner Arthur Londensky asked about the issue from some time ago about the water company in Jersey City shutting of water to a condominium complex's fire sprinkler system. Commissioner Armando Roman answered that, to his knowledge, this issue has not been resolved.

I. New Business

State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo spoke about the loss of two long-time members of the Division of Fire Safety staff. Both Gary Licknack of the Contractor Certifications Unit, and Grace Forrester of the Training and Certifications Unit, will be retiring in the coming months. Director Petrillo is hoping to get an exemption so that the Division may replace these vital employees, but that process is expected to be slow at best.

Commissioner Lawrence Wood referenced a memo in the Commission packet that was sent from Commissioner Ken Anderson. The memo was in regards to programs for autism and intellectual and other developmental disabilities awareness. Commissioner Wood made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission endorses the recommendations from the Training and Education Advisory Council contained within the memo. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Potts and passed unanimously.

On the topic of Autism Awareness, Commissioner Armando Roman spoke about a program that was just given in Jersey City by a group called POAC. Commissioner Roman spoke highly of POAC's presentation, and provided a copy for all members of the Fire Safety Commission. State Fire Marshal Petrillo asked to be sent the POAC presentation in electronic form as well so that it may be posted on the NJDFS website. Commissioner Wood added that, although the POAC presentation is tremendously useful and informative, it can not serve as a substitute for the newly-adopted training requirement.

Commissioner Lewis Candura asked if there has been a recent boost in applications to the Contractors Certifications Unit in anticipation of the residential sprinkler regulations being adopted. Director Petrillo answered that he is not aware of any influx, but can look into it.

J. Public Comment II

David Kurasz from the NJFSAB asked if there was a centralized location where the public can find documents pertaining to the NJ Fire Safety Commission; including letters, resolutions, minutes, etc. Assemblyman Wisniewski answered that the meeting minutes

and meeting schedule are accessible on the Division of Fire Safety website. Also, any Resolutions that the Commission drafts will be posted on the website going forward.

Chuck Aughenbaugh from the NJ Deputy Fire Chiefs Association announced that as of July 1st all firefighters need to have Firefighter I training to be included in the pension system. Mr. Aughenbaugh also asked that the NJDFS forms passed out by Commissioner Wood in the Commission packet not only be posted on the Division website, but also mailed to each and every fire department in the State. Mr. Aughenbaugh also made mention of the Governor's Transition Report that spoke about the need for the Division of Fire Safety to keep the revenues it generates. He suggested having a neutral party at budget hearings to point out this fact and advocate for the Division keeping its money. Assemblyman Wisniewski answered that, regardless of what the transition report says, every single Division and Department in the State is going to be cut – and Governor Christie has the ultimate say in what passes and what doesn't. Mr. Aughenbaugh urged all organizations to write to the Governor and stress the importance of the Division of Fire Safety and its need for funding. He also stressed the importance of advocating for residential sprinklers using relevant data and statistics.

Chris Weniger of the Somerset County Fire Marshal's Office spoke to reiterate the importance of the residential sprinkler and Subchapter 3 proposal. He spoke about a recent fatal fire that took place in Somerset County because of mulch at a hotel, so getting these proposals adopted holds particular importance to the fire service in this area. Also, with the way building construction is today, these regulations will become more and more vital going forward.

Alex Broder of the Monmouth Junction Fire Department asked about Pro-Board accreditation. Director Petrillo said that the Division of Fire Safety has provided fire departments with the information and the costs, and he feels it will move ahead – it is just a matter of time.

Paul Kearns from the New Jersey State FMBA spoke about the Fire Officer Certification that's currently being administered by the Division of Fire Safety, and the testing/education process. Mr. Kearns, and many locals within the NJFMBA, feels that there is a lack of acknowledgement of the career firefighters who have taken State tests. He provided examples of career firefighters who have taken specific tests, and achieved certain ranks, and they are being forced to take additional exams without receiving recognition for the initial tests. Director Petrillo answered that all the concerned parties have met on this issue and the specifics were eventually approved by the Fire Safety Commission. Commissioner O'Gorman added that he was in on these meetings, raised concerns about these issues that Mr. Kearns mentions, and was still not satisfied with the results. Director Petrillo suggested meeting again in the future with the Chairman of the Training and Education Advisory Council on these particular concerns. Commissioner Wood added that meetings have already been held on this issue, and it does not have to do with anybody that is an officer now. Commissioner Blohm said that, ultimately, this was adopted as a voluntary standard.

Irwin Kreisburg from PEOSHA informed the Fire Safety Commission about an issue regarding SCBA bottles. He stressed the importance of having NIOSH approved bottles, and they also need to match up with the rest of the firefighters respiratory system. Recently, different companies that produce the bottles have had a falling out and the bottles don't necessarily match up with the rest of the unit. Some fire departments in New Jersey have purchased reserve bottles of companies that do not match up to save money. Mr. Kreisburg cautioned departments against this since they are not approved. Director Petrillo added that this information would be on the Division of Fire Safety website containing further specifics.

Commissioner Roger Potts announced that, following the meeting, there would be a tour available of the Monmouth Junction Fire Department's training facility for anyone who would like to see it.

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 12:10 PM.

*** The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on July 21, 2010 at 10am. It will be held at the Toms River Fire Academy in Toms River, NJ. ***