

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

**Meeting of September 15, 2011**

The NJ Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Thursday, September 15, 2011, at the Wildwoods Convention Center in Wildwood, NJ.

**Commission Members Present:** Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman  
Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Vice-Chairman  
Assemblyman David Rible  
Mr. Charles W. Schilling  
Ms. Kathleen O'Leary  
Mr. Roger Potts  
Mr. Lewis Candura  
Mr. Arthur Londensky  
Mr. Arthur Mercurio  
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood  
Mr. Paul Hartstein  
Mr. Daniel DeTrolio  
Mr. Gerard Naylis  
Mr. Ronald Phillips  
Mr. Frederick Collender

**Commission Members Excused:** Mr. John Lightbody  
Mr. Armando Roman

**DCA Staff Members Present:** William Kramer, Acting Director  
Lou Kilmer, NJDFS Jim McFadden, NJDFS  
Paul Allen, NJDFS Heather Allen, NJDFS  
Charles Luxton, NJDFS Charles Lavin, NJDFS  
Rodman Meyer, NJDFS Rick Farletta, NJDFS  
Stephen Letts, NJDFS Jason Spiecker, NJDFS  
Josh Lazarus, NJDFS Craig Augustoni, NJDFS  
Michael Gallagher, NJDFS Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

**Guests:** George Stout, Ringwood Fire Co. #1  
Kevin Bellew, Local 696 Lewis Ostrander, North Wildwood Fire Official  
David Kurasz, NJFSAB Jim Foley, Camden County College  
Joe Pawlak, Past Pres. State Exempts Ronald Ostrander, HTF & TC  
Nick Lombardi, NJSAFD Artie Hayducha, NJSAFD  
William Clawson, Glen Gardner FD Paul C. Sandroock, Camden Co. Fire Marshal  
Sam Micklus, Washington Twp. John Hoffman, Washington Twp. FD  
Dominick McClain, NW Fire Prev. Tom Pizzano, Millburn FD

**Guests:** (cont.)

Ryan Pierson, Pitman FD	Jeffrey Betz, NJ State Fire Chiefs
Stanley J. Sickels, NJFPPA	Don Florek, Pisc BOFC Dist 2
Jamie Norek, South Amboy FD	David Matos Jr., NJ Fire & EMS Institute
William E. Johnson, Middlesex Co FM	Joseph Houck, Summit FD
David E. Schoch, Bridgeton FD	Alden B. Blackwell, Tenaflly FD
David Perry, Lower Twp. Fire	Patrick Bigoss, Camden County College
Neal Carrol, Bergen Co. Fire Chiefs	David Tynan, Hackettstown Fire
Dan Loftus, NJFH	Jim Granel, Wildwood FD
James Yates, West Windsor Fire/EMS	Thomas Bell, ACFD
Vincent Granede, ACFD	Doug Rue, Somerset County Fire Coordinator
Steven Dyl, Kearny FD	Mike Roberts, NJ Career Chiefs/Millburn FD
Connie Johnson, Wildwood FD	Michael Weill, Wildwood FD
Bernie Cohan, EDIAFC	Thomas E. Simpson, Bergen Co. FPP
Patrick Bost, DHSS – PEOSH	Jean-Arthur Wypler, NJ State Fire Chiefs
Richard Dean, Avalon Fire Prev.	Kieran Flynn, NJSFPPA
A.J. Massopust, Perth Amboy FD	Chris V. Ketchum, Burlington City FD
Antonio Meo, Asm. Schroder’s Off.	Howard N. Wilkins, Burlington City FD

**A. Call to Order**

Chairman John Wisniewski called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and began the meeting with the “Pledge of Allegiance” and pointed out the fire exits.

Chairman Wisniewski recognized Commissioner Paul Hartstein with a Resolution commemorating his retirement from the position of Camden County Fire Marshal. Assemblyman Wisniewski listed Chief Hartstein’s many distinguished honors and accomplishments throughout his 40+ years in the fire service. Commissioner Hartstein gratefully accepted the Resolution and thanked the entire Fire Safety Commission for all their continued hard work and friendship. Commissioner Hartstein expressed that there is still much to be done to advance the cause of fire safety in New Jersey and he will continue to be an advocate of the fire service.

Chairman Wisniewski thanked Chief Conrad Johnson and the Wildwood Fire Prevention Bureau for providing the facility and breakfast at today’s meeting.

**B. Approval of Minutes**

With no discussion requested or necessary corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of July 20, 2011 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 began the first Public Comment portion of the meeting by speaking about an urgent issue facing the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission and the fire service in New Jersey as a whole. That issue is the proposed dismantling and reorganization of the NJ Division of Fire Safety. Chairman Wisniewski had sent out a letter to all New Jersey fire departments on this matter and invited all Fire Chiefs to attend today's meeting to address this matter.

Chairman Wisniewski read a brief statement explaining the situation that the Division of Fire Safety is facing. He expressed that he had been made aware that the administration is discussing the possibility of dismantling the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and sending its various pieces to other State agencies such as State Police, Homeland Security, etc. It is his feeling that the planning and discussion of this reorganization should not be happening behind closed doors, and that it would be foolish not to allow key fire service organizations and individuals – who best understand these issues and will be affected by the changes - to participate in the discussions. Chairman Wisniewski also gave a brief history of the Division of Fire Safety, how it was created by law with the specific intent to serve as a central focus of the fire service community.

Chairman Wisniewski said that, while a formal plan has not yet been made public, through very reliable sources he has learned that the plan consists of: 1) Moving the Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement to the Division of Codes and Standards. 2) Moving the Arson K-9 Fire Investigations Unit to State Police. 3) Moving the Office of Fire Department Preparedness to the Office of Homeland Security. Chairman Wisniewski formally stated that he opposes these changes because fire safety in the State of New Jersey needs, and deserves, to have a central focus. By splitting the Division of Fire Safety's Units up and moved into other agencies, their issues become shuffled into a laundry list of other issues that agency is already facing.

Also, the funding for fire safety-related issues will suffer as a consequence of these changes. Chairman Wisniewski pointed out that the Governor's own Transition Team described the Division of Fire Safety as "well-funded, self-sustaining, with a history of surpluses". Compared to other areas of State government, the Division of Fire Safety is essentially a shining star and Chairman Wisniewski can't imagine the logic behind breaking up something that works so well. Chairman Wisniewski said he can not help but come to the conclusion that this reorganization proposal has nothing to do with fire safety or protecting the lives of citizens and firefighters, but has to do with another agenda that he is not aware of. While some will say that this proposal is nothing concrete and not worth discussing at today's meeting, the Chairman feels – based on his many years of experience and the reliability of his sources – that many times where there is smoke, there's fire. Therefore, he opened up the floor to the Fire Safety Commission and the members of the public in attendance to express their opinions on this topic.

Commissioner Lewis Candura echoed the sentiments of Chairman Wisniewski and made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission support the Division of Fire Safety and leave it in tact as is outlined in Chairman Wisniewski's letter. Commissioner Arthur Londensky seconded the motion and a discussion on the motion began. Commissioner Lawrence Wood spoke out about his feeling that the Division of Fire Safety will always be treated as a stepchild while a part of the Department of Community Affairs. He suggested the possibility of the Division of Fire Safety becoming its own Department and adding Codes and Standards and PEOSHA elements to it. Commissioner Wood also voiced his concern that no organization or individual from the fire service was even including on these discussions. He also said that the fire service needs to get behind the Division of Fire Safety.

Assemblyman David Rible expressed his agreement with the idea behind Chairman Wisniewski's letter, but voiced concern about the Commission taking action on something that is nothing more than rumor right now. Assemblyman Rible suggested the Commission wait until there is something formal or in writing on a possible reorganization of the Division of Fire Safety. He said he spoke to DCA Commissioner Grifa and she assured him that all interested parties will be at the table if and when anything is done.

Commissioner Daniel DeTrolio asked who exactly was in on these discussions about breaking up the Division of Fire Safety. Assemblyman Wisniewski said that, based on the conversations he has had, he believes the discussions have been at a high level in the Department of Community Affairs. The Chairman is not sure what the motives are, but he does have enough information to know that something was on the table regarding this move.

Commissioner Hartstein, on the topic of Commissioner Candura's motion, urged that the Fire Safety Commission solidify its position in support of the Division of Fire Safety. He also urged the legislative members of the Commission to take up the fight as well and support the Division when it comes to dealing with the administration. Assemblyman Rible added that he fully believes the Division of Fire Safety should remain whole as it is and has expressed this to DCA Commissioner Grifa, but he said the Commission is discussing something that is nothing more than speculation. Commissioner Roger Potts spoke to this point and said that if anybody knows "where there's smoke there's fire" it's the fire service. He recommended putting this potential fire out before it starts and going forward with a Resolution.

Commissioner Hartstein suggested looking up the testimony and position paper that initially resulted in the forming of the Division of Fire Safety. Before the Division came along there was a rash of fire deaths in the State of New Jersey. Since that time, and the forming of the Division, fire deaths have gone down significantly and continue to get lower and lower. Commissioner Gerard Naylis spoke on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary report of the Fire Safety Commission and urged the administration to take a historical perspective on the fire problem in New Jersey. Before there was a Division of Fire Safety more than 200 people were dying in New Jersey *every year*. Commissioner Naylis feels that one

needs to really examine the great successes the Division of Fire Safety has had in the areas of firefighter training and safety, fire response coordination, code enforcement, and the list goes on and on. All you have to do is look at the fire problems in other states to realize how successful the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety has really been.

Commissioner Naylis suggested forwarding this information, via the Commission Report, to all legislators, administration, etc. Also, the Division of Fire Safety has achieved all of this while being repeatedly cut in staffing and having its funds moved to other areas of government. Commissioner Naylis urged the rest of the Commission to support Commissioner Candura's motion.

Commission Arthur Londensky spoke out in support of Commissioner Candura's motion, but feared the motion and subsequent Resolution would be ignored. He cited past examples of Residential Sprinklers and High-Rise Sprinklers as cases where the Fire Safety Commission's opinion is ignored. He urged the Commission members - and the fire service in general - to refuse to be ignored. If that means a large-scale protest at the Statehouse in Trenton to get it done, that may be what is necessary.

Commissioner Ronald Phillips inquired as to whether the Governor has the power to abolish the Division of Fire Safety without any legislative action. Chairman Wisniewski said no. The Governor has the ability to reorganize executive branch departments. A reorganization memo would have to be sent to both houses of the legislature while they are both in session. The Assembly and Senate would then vote on the reorganization. Chairman Wisniewski added that, if there were anything to happen, the days to keep an eye on are those where both the Senate and Assembly are in session.

Commissioner Wood commented on the large amount of money that the Division of Fire Safety has been sending to Codes and Standards to sustain that Division. He said that number is in the millions of dollars, and this is money that can be used to expand the roles and capabilities of the Division of Fire Safety. The Division provides necessary and vital services to the citizens of New Jersey and they should be funded and staffed to capacity to perform these valuable services. Commissioner Wood expressed his frustration that this is not being done because Division of Fire Safety monies are being sent elsewhere. Commissioner Wood also suggested forming a Committee to advocate for the Division of Fire Safety publicly and examine what can be done to not only keep it in tact, but strengthen it.

Assemblyman Rible suggested letting the public comment on this issue before moving forward with any type of Resolution. Chairman Wisniewski agreed with this and called on anyone in attendance to comment on the issue at this time.

Lewis Ostrander, Vice President of the Cape May County Fire Prevention Association, spoke about the impending reorganization of the Division of Fire Safety, suggesting that "there is smoke, and there is fire" and the fire service and Fire Safety Commission need to step up and defend the Division of Fire Safety. Mr. Ostrander also cited Senate Bill 2795 as an embarrassment to the legislature and the fire service. The bill calls for eliminating fire inspections in multiple dwellings because of the costs. This is the type of

bill that slips through the cracks, undermines the State's fire service, and is extremely dangerous. It essentially puts New Jersey's most vulnerable buildings at risk. Mr. Ostrander asked whether the Fire Safety Commission was aware of this bill and all but two were not. Mr. Ostrander urged the Commission to create an outcry and advocate against this bill before it is too late.

On the topic of the Division of Fire Safety's reorganization, Mr. Ostrander stated it was his belief that it is not a new issue. He feels this has been in the works for the past 10 years. Mr. Ostrander also publicly asked where DCA Deputy Commissioner Chuck Richman's comments were on this matter. He feels that Mr. Richman has never been a fan of the fire service and has the ear of Commissioner Grifa on this particular issue. Mr. Ostrander urged the Commission to fight for the Division of Fire Safety and the State's fire service. They are the people who are there for the citizens in the harshest times, most recently during Hurricane Irene. It starts with keeping the Division of Fire Safety in tact and appointing a State Fire Marshal. Mr. Ostrander feels this would never happen to the State Police because they would not allow it. The fire service needs to come together and stop getting pushed around.

Bernie Cohan from the International Association of Fire Chiefs asked that Stanley Sickels be appointed to the vacant slot on the Fire Safety Commission. Mr. Cohan asked Chairman Wisniewski to urge the Senate President and Assembly Speaker to make this appointment.

NJFPPA President Stanley Sickels spoke about the potential dismantling of the Division of Fire Safety. He also sent a letter to the Governor, essentially echoing the sentiments of Assemblyman Wisniewski's letter that supported keeping the Division in tact. Mr. Sickels added that the Division of Fire Safety was established out of need that was illustrated during public hearings. Those hearings stemmed from a series of fires in Monmouth County in 1980-1981. The resulting reports recommended establishing a "central fire focus" and permanent Fire Safety Commission and Advisory Councils. Mr. Sickels feels dividing up the Division of Fire Safety's duties serves no good purpose and is contradictory to the findings of those Congressional hearings and the data that is available today. Mr. Sickels said the Division is being constantly robbed of its funding, and suggested that the Resolution the Fire Safety Commission drafts also recommend that the Division of Fire Safety be kept together AND moved out of DCA. The Division of Fire Safety can not properly serve the public with the minimal amount of support it is getting where it currently stands. Mr. Sickels also stressed the importance of appointing a State Fire Marshal.

Mike Roberts, President of the NJ Career Fire Chiefs, also spoke in support of keeping the Division of Fire Safety in tact as it is. Mr. Roberts said that, on behalf of every one of his 185 members, they are fully in support of the Division of Fire Safety and its mission. The NJ Career Fire Chiefs have also sent a letter to DCA Commissioner Grifa and Governor Christie on this matter and offer to assist the Fire Safety Commission in any way it can.

Jim Foley, former Fire Official from Atlantic City, spoke about the great successes of the Division of Fire Safety. However, Mr. Foley feels these successes are attributed to the people who work for the Division – because they have achieved despite working under a Department that does not support them and works against them rather than for them. Mr. Foley feels the Division of Fire Safety should be moved to Law & Public Safety and, perhaps, Codes and Standards should be moved there as well because 90% of the Building Code is fire-related. Mr. Foley stated that breaking the Division up will manifest in fires, deaths, firefighter injuries, etc. He said what's going on in the State right now is borderline criminal because cities like Camden are burning. Dismantling the Division will essentially cut the head off of New Jersey's fire service. Mr. Foley also said that LEAs are being robbed because monies that are supposed to be given back to them are transferred to fund other State agencies.

Jeffrey Betz, Vice President of the NJ State Fire Chiefs Association, spoke in support of the Resolution to keep the Division of Fire Safety in tact. He also called for the Fire Safety Commission to demand that a State Fire Marshal be properly appointed. Tom Simpson, President of the Bergen County Fire Prevention Association, stated that his organization stands with the Fire Safety Commission in full support of keeping the Division of Fire Safety together. Mr. Simpson and his colleagues have written numerous letters to the Governor's Office and the DCA and he urged everyone in the fire service to do the same. Mr. Simpson implored the fire service to stop being bullied. Dan Loftus from the Washington Township Fire Department added that the fire service needs to come together and demand the same level of respect that the law enforcement community gets. He cited a specific example of a highway emergency incident where State Police and the firefighters on the scene were not treated equally.

Tom Pizzano from the Millburn Fire Department expressed his support for the Division of Fire Safety and Fire Safety Commission. He voiced his agreement with Commissioner Wood's idea of having a singular Department dedicated to fire safety – one that could prepare its own budget and act autonomously in the best interest of New Jersey's fire service. Thomas Bell from the Atlantic City Fire Department said that the main issue is that the Governor has not appointed a State Fire Marshal in several years. Mr. Bell added that the fire service has become a victim of its own success... because as the number of deaths goes down due to the Division of Fire Safety's and local departments' good work, it gives the illusion that there is less of a problem. He urged everyone to write letter to their local legislators as well as top State officials on this matter.

Former State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo, speaking as a private citizen, agreed with the idea that the Division of Fire Safety should not only be kept in tact, but supported fully in the areas of staffing, funding, etc. Mr. Petrillo said that while no written plan to dismantle the Division of Fire Safety has been shown, he knows that it has been discussed. Mr. Petrillo said that "actions speak louder than words" when it comes to the way the Department of Community Affairs regards the Division of Fire Safety. He cited several examples of the Division not being able to hire staff despite having the money, constant roadblocks put up by the administration against Division programs, eroding support, not replacing personnel or vehicles, and not officially appointing a State Fire

Marshal for several years. All of this is despite the fact that the Division of Fire Safety has large surpluses of funds year after year. Mr. Petrillo urged everyone in the room to write letters in support of the Division of Fire Safety to correct these issues. Mr. Petrillo also urged the Fire Safety Commission to pass their Resolution, and to add that the Division of Fire Safety should be moved out of DCA – something he has been in favor of for several years. It is Mr. Petrillo's personal feeling that the Division of Fire Safety can not fulfill its mission while a part of the Department of Community Affairs. He also commended Chief Kramer and his staff on continuing to do an exceptional job despite all the obstacles.

Stanley Sickels spoke about how the revenue that is made by the Division of Fire Safety is supposed to be designated for the Local Enforcing Agencies. So, it is Mr. Sickels belief that not only is money being wrongfully taken from the Division of Fire Safety, but from the LEAs as well. The Division of Fire Safety does not prepare its own budget, and this is the root of the problem that needs correcting.

Commissioner Londensky commented that the administration is also introducing regulations that will reduce the amount of construction code inspections and leave it to certifications that designed the building. This would practically do away with building inspections and create a self-inspection situation. He feels that the administration is at least consistent, although consistently bad. Commissioner Wood mentioned that there had been rumors about the elimination of the Department of Community Affairs. He wondered how the Division could be in good standing if the Department it is in isn't in good standing. For this reason, he feels the Division should be moved out of DCA.

Chairman Wisniewski spoke about the role of the Fire Safety Commission to advise the DCA in all things relative to the State's fire service. All aspects of New Jersey's fire service community are represented on the Commission. For this reason, Chairman Wisniewski feels it would be a disservice if the administration were to make sweeping changes to the Division of Fire Safety without the consultation of the Fire Safety Commission.

In regards to the previous motion to draft a Resolution to keep the Division of Fire Safety in tact as it is, Commissioner Candura amended his motion to direct the Resolution specifically to DCA Commissioner Grifa. He also asked that it include a request for Commissioner Grifa to attend the November Commission meeting, and that any plan to alter or dismantle the Division of Fire Safety be sent to the Fire Safety Commission before any action is taken. Commissioner Candura added that the Governor, Assembly Speaker, and Senate President be sent the Resolution so they know exactly where the fire service stands on this. Commissioner Naylis added that a Committee be formed to work with DCA on this issue. Chairman Wisniewski added language in regards to New Jersey needing a singular fire focus, the need for an appointment of a State Fire Marshal, and any changes to the Division of Fire Safety shall only be done with the approval of the State's fire service as represented by the Fire Safety Commission.

Commissioner Candura accepted all of the above amendments to his motion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arthur Londensky and passed unanimously.

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

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

Acting Director William Kramer reported the amendments to the federal mattress flammability proposal have been submitted. There was one comment received in support of the proposal; no comments opposing it.

Chief Kramer spoke about the recent certification of the new addition to the K-9 Arson Investigation Unit. "Ashes" and his handler Rodman Meyer are officially on the job and the Division of Fire Safety is back up to three active K-9 Units.

The registration for the Fall 2011 semester is underway. Class are starting in the very near future and the training brochure is available for viewing on the front page of the NJDFS website. Chief Kramer feels this is the most robust collection of course offerings the Division of Fire Safety has had in a number of years.

Chief Kramer reported on the Division of Fire Safety's recent involvement in the planning and response to Hurricane Irene and Tropic Storm Lee. During Hurricane Irene, NJDFS had staff 24/7 at the State Emergency Operations Center's planning center and fire desk. Also, a DFS staff member served as the State Resource Officer during the storms. On August 25<sup>th</sup>, the DFS deployed a tender strike team from Gloucester County to the City of Perth Amboy. There was a problem with the hydrant system in Perth Amboy and the strike team provided them support as they were deployed for 24 hours.

Between August 29<sup>th</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup>, the NJDFS provided up to 16 water tenders to Essex County. The water purveyor in Essex County lost a pumping station due to flooding, and the result was the loss of fire hydrant coverage for about 250,000 people in the Essex County area. This was a 24/7 operation that utilized 73 fire departments from 17 counties, staffed by over 560 firefighters. There were roughly 6,700 man hours worked here, the majority of which were provided by volunteers. The Forest Fire Service and Picatinny Arsenal were utilized as well. A number of issues arose and need to be addressed, so an after-action report has been submitted to the Commissioner of DCA and sent on to the Governor's Office and Homeland Security. Chief Kramer added that there were significant issues with water purveyors providing information on water outages to the fire departments. This will need to be addressed with BPU once again, and Chief Kramer believes this problem may take legislation to fix. Assemblyman Wisniewski said he would ask the Office of Legislative Services to research the issue, and then move on from there.

Chief Kramer reported there would be a meeting of the County Fire Coordinators tomorrow morning at the Wildwoods Convention Center. He noted that, in using 17 of

21 counties during Hurricane Irene, it was the largest deployment since the Deployment Act had put the system in place. Chief Kramer felt the response was flawless and thanked the NJDFS staff, County Fire Coordinators, and most of all the firefighters who were involved. The whole Hurricane Irene incident illustrated how well New Jersey's system really works and Chief Kramer said he was extremely proud to be involved in such a widespread, coordinated effort.

Chief Lou Kilmer reported that Code Enforcement is moving ahead with the new computer system. They are looking at November 2012 right now as the target date for getting it up and running; tests will begin in the summer. Also, in response to changes in the Bed-and-Breakfast regulations, the Division of Fire Safety did the vast majority of inspections throughout the summer. Cooperation from the Bed-and-Breakfast community has been excellent.

Chief Kilmer reported that the summer has been extremely busy with the issuing of permits for various types of events: fireworks, festivals, carnivals, etc., etc. The Division of Fire Safety staff has been very dedicated all summer and there have been no fire-related injuries at any event this year.

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

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

Commissioner Charles Schilling reported that the summer meeting of the Codes Council had been cancelled. In the wake of getting several approvals at the previous meeting, Commissioner Schilling said there would be no further report at this time.

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

Chairman Wisniewski began the Training and Education Advisory Council report by officially appointing Commissioner Lawrence Wood to the position of Chairman of that Council.

Commissioner Lawrence Wood referred to the Annual Report of the Training and Education Advisory Council that was contained in all Commission packets. A copy has also been sent to the Commissioner of DCA and the Division of Fire Safety. The report was prepared by Commissioner Wood and the late Ken Anderson, and any comments or input would be welcome. Commissioner Wood thanked the Training and Education Council members for all their diligent work on this report and throughout the year. There was also a RIC Committee report contained in the Commission packets which Commissioner Wood asked that the Commission members review as well.

The Training and Education Advisory Council is working on the ProBoard accreditation process. The test banks will have to be reformatted. HazMat will be separated from the Firefighter I exam, and ProBoard requires one question for each job performance requirement. The Council is starting to look at Level 3 and 4 Fire Officer as well,

possibly with course at the college level. A meeting is being put together to get all the colleges that offer fire service-related courses together. The idea here would be to get them all on the same page.

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

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that there had not been a meeting of the Statistics and Information Advisory Council since the last Commission meeting. However, he did urge all fire department to continue to be vigilant in reporting good, accurate data.

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

In the absence of Commissioner John Lightbody, no report was given.

The next meeting of the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Toms River Fire Academy.

### **5. Public Education Advisory Council**

Commissioner Daniel DeTrolio reported that the Public Education Advisory Council met on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. However, there was not a sufficient amount of Council members at the meeting, so it was not an official meeting and no minutes were necessary.

Commissioner DeTrolio did point out that the New Jersey Fire Safety Poster Contest is officially underway. A formal announcement was distributed in the Commission packets, as well as to all school principals, art teachers, and fire officials throughout the State. All the information on the Poster Contest is now on the NJDFS website and available for printing and download.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council is scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

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

In the absence of Commissioner Richard Blohm, no report was given.

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

Commissioner Paul Hartstein reported the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council met on September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The Curriculum Sub-Committee reported that the educational materials they had been working with the New Jersey Chapter of IAAI on has been completed. The information has been posted on the IAAI website and made accessible.

Commissioner Hartstein pointed out that there is a flyer in the Commission packets for the New Jersey Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Conference. It is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. There was also talk about potentially dropping the July meeting annually, unless there is a specific pressing issue on the table. The possibility of doing a conference call in lieu of the July meeting is being considered as well.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

## **G. Committee Reports**

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

Commissioner Gerard Naylis stated that he had no additional information to report on the Residential Sprinkler Committee.

## **H. Old Business**

With no Old Business to discuss at this time, the meeting was moved to New Business.

## **I. New Business**

Chairman Wisniewski relayed a personal story about a fire incident that happened in his own neighborhood. While on vacation, he was informed that a house on his street had burned down and later learned that it was his neighbor across the street. The person had a fire start in their garage. The neighborhood was generally very surprised at how fast the building ignited and essentially burned to the ground. Chairman Wisniewski considered this a real-life, close-to-home example of not only the dangers of fire, but the benefits that could have been had by installing fire sprinklers. The house that burned was not sprinklered and now all is basically lost. Chairman Wisniewski spoke about how it is sometimes difficult to fully realize the dangers of fire (particularly in new, lightweight construction) until they are on display on your own block. This is the sort of thing the Commission needs to make people realize and work towards preventing in the future.

## **J. Public Comment II**

Tom Pizzano from the Millburn Fire Department spoke about the issue of utilities informing fire departments about outages. He suggested that if the Division of Fire Safety is looking at a problem in regards to water, they might want to look at electric and gas as well. Getting the utilities integrated into the incident command system could be advantageous during emergencies. Chairman Wisniewski agreed this should be looked into as far as legislation as well.

Lewis Ostrander, Vice President of the Cape May County Fire Prevention Association, spoke again in regards to Senate Bill 2795 and asked the Fire Safety Commission to

come out against this legislation. He said the League of Municipalities is already against it. Assemblyman Wisniewski said that he would inform his colleagues of the dangers of this legislation. Commissioner Potts added that he would be meeting with Senator Van Drew the following day and would bring it up with him. Stanley Sickels added that he had brought up Senate Bill 2795 several meetings ago and there are several specific issues with it. Basically, it will cut out the local enforcing agency from the process when they are the ones dealing with these buildings on an everyday basis. Chairman Wisniewski stressed to the Commission members, and members of the public present, that this is the time to lobby and inform their legislators about the fire service's stance on this bill.

David Kurasz from the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board asked the Fire Safety Commission to support his letter to the NFPA requesting that they consider including fire sprinklers in their Poster Contest theme for the 2012-2013 school year. Commissioner Naylis made a motion to support this request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis Candura and passed unanimously. Mr. Kurasz also spoke about a campaign that the Fire Sprinkler Coalition is putting together to educate the public about the benefits of fire sprinklers.

Plainsboro Fire Commissioner Joe Pawlak spoke out in support of keeping together the Division of Fire Safety. Mr. Pawlak said he has worked with the Division and their people on several occasions and they are a great asset to the fire service. He added that the Governor is not attending the Wildwood Convention this year and no representative is being sent - despite the fact that he has told the Convention in the past that he would come whenever he was invited.

#### **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 11:52 am.

---

**\* The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 10am. It will be held in Exhibit Hall A of the Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, NJ \***