

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

Meeting of May 15, 2019

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ

Commission Members Present: Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Chairman
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. Gerard Naylis
Mr. Charles Siedenburg
Mr. Steve O’Gorman
Mr. Raymond Heck
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. Kevin Bellew
Mr. Fred Collender
Mr. Armando Roman

Commission Members Excused: Asm. Anthony Bucco
Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Daniel DeTrollo
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary

DCA Staff Members Present: Lou Kilmer, NJDFS
Rick Farletta, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Vince Campagna, NJDFS
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

Guests: Ronald McGowan Jr, Wildwood Crest Fire
John Garton, NJDOL-PEOSH
Alden Blackwell, Tenafly FD
Ian Bell, MCFP Assn.
Paul McGrath, City Fire
Alan Querec, Somerset County
Rich Silvia, NJFPPA President
Rich Heimbach, Master Planning
Peggy Brookes, Princeton

A. Call to Order

Chairman Kevin Krushinski called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. He led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, and pointed out the fire exits.

B. Approval of Minutes

With no discussion requested or additional corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of March 20, 2019 were approved.

C. Correspondence

Chairman Krushinski noted that all correspondence for today's meeting is contained in the Fire Safety Commission packets. With no discussion requested on any of the items submitted, the meeting was moved to Public Comment I.

D. Public Comment I

Chairman Krushinski opened the meeting up to any members of the public wishing to comment before the Fire Safety Commission. NJ Fire Prevention and Protection Association President Rich Silvia spoke about the upcoming judging of the New Jersey Fire Safety Poster Contest. Winners will be selected in seven divisions and reported on at the next Fire Safety Commission meeting in July. Also, Mr. Silvia reported that a vote was coming up on Thursday, May 23rd on the Residential Sprinkler Bill (in the State Assembly).

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

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

In the absence of Director Richard Mikutsky, who was meeting with the Lt. Governor in Trenton at the time of the meeting, the Division of Fire Safety report was given by Chief Lou Kilmer. Chief Kilmer began his report by talking about the quarterly rebates that were sent out recently to local enforcing agencies. These totaled roughly \$4.6 million over 443 separate payments.

Chief Kilmer reported that New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy is coming up on June 1st and 2nd. There are still openings for those interested in attending. Also, the NJ Division of Fire Safety is working to update the firefighter skills addendum.

Chief Kilmer spoke about a bill passed a few years back that required the Division of Fire Safety to examine fire suppression in all New Jersey schools (public, private, charter, etc.). The Division has developed a survey form that they are preparing to send out to all schools in the near future. What we are looking to find out are the specifics on suppression systems in New Jersey's schools to get data on what is out there (square feet suppressed, etc.).

The Division of Fire Safety has been asked to sit on the newly-formed National Wood Council Fire Service Advisory Board out of Washington, DC. The NJDFS also continues to work with entities using "cold spark machines" and has done demonstrations of these

in conjunction with the Codes Advisory Council. The Division is looking to get some regulations on these and have been talking to various fire officials to give guidance on dealing with these machines. The NJDFS is seeing a lot of agreements between municipalities where LEAs are being combined to share services – and the Division is making sure to take a close look at these (to make sure the assuming LEA can handle it).

Chief Kilmer reported that the RIMS system is stable while the NJDFS continues to work on replacing it. The original date of October 2019 for the rollout of the new system will in all likelihood be pushed back. Chief Kilmer also reported that the NJDFS is continuing to inspect New Jersey's farms and the farming community has been mostly cooperative in allowing access to their facilities to make them safer.

The Division of Fire Safety will be meeting with Kean University shortly to plan out the fall semester of training. More updates will be given on that as it comes together. Also, Vincent Campagna of the NFIRS Unit sent out civilian burn forms to try and collect data on the types of burns that are being suffered. They will also be focusing on collecting data related to fireworks in particular – and if the passage of the novelty fireworks bill has had an effect.

Commissioner Richard Blohm asked about the fall training semester and how to inquire about what classes will/can be held at which fire academies. Chief Kilmer said he could correspond with both himself and Director Mikutsky and it will be considered when they hold planning meetings. Commissioner Raymond Heck asked if the NJ Division of Fire Safety was looking to integrate in incident command training into what is being done by law enforcement now. Rick Farletta from the NJDFS answer that yes, they are looking to do this and have been coordinating with OEM on this. He also referred Commissioner Heck to Training & Certifications Supervisor Kent Neiswender for further details on the matter.

Chief Kilmer added that the Peer Review Board would be bringing in three individuals for various issues – major ones such as falsifying records, not doing inspections, etc. He noted that Kevin Batzel (Brick Twp.) would be elevated from an alternate to a full member of the Peer Review Board. The alternate role will be filled shortly. Chairman Krushinski asked if there was anything related to ethics/code-of-conduct covered during initial fire official training. Chief Kilmer said that it is to a degree, but it is certainly worth taking another look at.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Arthur Londensky reported that the Codes Advisory Council met on April 17th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the Fire Safety Commission meeting packets. Various issues were discussed, including the NJDFS Bulletin that was released on the topic of 10-year sealed

battery smoke alarms and the Subchapter 3 proposal for technical amendments. Both were submitted to the Codes Advisory Council for review.

Commissioner Londensky reported that a lengthy discussion on Escape/Puzzle Rooms was held and ultimately the Codes Council passed a motion for the NJDFS to issue a bulletin to describe the details associated with applicable fire safety codes in these facilities.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis expressed his frustration with the Codes Advisory Council's progress on the Hot Work Permits, stemming from the Edgewater fire that took place years ago. Commissioner Naylis urged the Council to expediting this issue and Commissioner Londensky said the head of that Subcommittee was not available but would provide an update for the subsequent Commission meeting.

Commissioner Londensky made a motion that Keith Thedinga be appointed to the Codes Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Heck and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council is scheduled for June 19th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville at 9:30 AM.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council met on April 16th at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the Fire Safety Commission meeting packets. Commissioner Wood spoke about the dissemination of the Council's minutes and stated that he would like to distribute them widely throughout the fire service. It was determined by the Fire Safety Commission that the minutes could be sent throughout the State's fire service at the Council members see fit. Chief Kilmer also suggested designating a section on the NJDFS website for the posting of Council minutes.

Commissioner Richard Blohm raised the issue of mandatory minimum standards for physical health and fitness for firefighters – particularly as presented by Tony Correia at the Training and Education Advisory Council meeting and other past meetings. Commissioner Blohm vehemently disagreed with Mr. Correia's pushing for these requirements and explained his position that it would need to numerous problems in staffing and conducting the necessary operations of the fire service. A lengthy discussion was held by the Commission on this issue, and Commissioner Wood stated that while this was discussed at the Training and Education Advisory Council meeting – it was by no means endorsed by the Council. The meetings are a forum for various ideas and positions, and Mr. Correia's happened to be one of them. Commissioner Blohm expressed further concern that proposing these minimum standards would become a deterrent for anyone looking to become a firefighter – regardless of career or volunteer.

Commissioner Wood also spoke about the language that Firefighter I level firefighters need to be under direct supervision of a superior, and how that this would apply on the job. The Training and Education Advisory Council is looking into this and will report on findings going forward.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled to take place on June 18th at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville at 10 AM.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that, as reported earlier, there has been a change to the Civilian Burn reporting and he thanks the NFIRS Unit's Vincent Campagna for his work on that. Commissioner Naylis urged that everyone encourage their departments to provide good, accurate NFIRS data because knowledge is power and it will allow the fire service to better itself going forward.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

Commissioner Raymond Heck reported the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council has been looking into a number of issues, one of which is what he called Firefighting 3.0. This includes looking at where the fire service has been, where it is now, and where its going in the future.

Commissioner Heck also spoke about the issue of firefighting foam that is out there that is not usable as per the Department of Environmental Protection. This issue has a lot of elements, including how we locate it, how is it disposed of, who pays for it, etc., etc. The NJDFS's Rick Farletta reported that we are starting to get a handle on what is out there, and he has been in contact with the DEP and will keep the Commission informed as to what is going on. At this point, the foam in question is from before 2002. A discussion was then held amongst the Commission as to what steps could be taken concerning the use of firefighting foam going forward. This discussion touched on firefighter safety, potential for contamination, and what to use for firefighting going forward.

Commissioner Heck also reported that the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council is examining how to better reach out to, and educate, legislators on matters relative to the fire service. He spoke about the importance of making them understand what the fire service needs to make citizens safer going forward.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

In the absence of Commission Daniel DeTrollo, Charles Lavin gave a brief report on Public Education programs. Mr. Lavin spoke about the Operation 7 Save-a-Life program and said the shipment of 5,000 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms should arrive from Kidde in the very near future. From there, the Community Risk Reduction Unit will coordinate the distribution of the smoke alarms in the northern and central portions of the state.

Mr. Lavin also reported that the 14th Annual New Jersey FIRE Bowl program culminated on May 10th with the State Championship event at Kean University. This year's competition was won by Helen Fort Middle School (Pemberton Township). They defeated Dwight D. Eisenhower School (Freehold Township) in the live quiz competition. Chief Kilmer added that the FIRE Bowl is always a great program and Commission members should check it out in the future if they have the opportunity.

Commissioner Kevin Bellew asked about fire pits and spoke about various incidents that seemed to be popping up around the state. Commissioner Bellew asked if the NJDFS had been tracking injuries and incidents NFIRS-wise. Chairman Krushinski answered that they were, and he was also working on a bill with a few legislators that would require for health care professionals to report various fire-related injuries. Commissioner Gerard Naylis spoke about developing fire safety education material about this, as well as mandating the distribution of the material for the state's fire service. Chairman Krushinski said many municipalities have such ordinances in place already so it is certainly an option locally. Chief Kilmer added that the NJDFS staff, as well as DCA administration, has been on top of disseminating news releases and educational materials to address such issues. Commissioner Naylis also spoke about UL and their public education efforts and recommended the Commission members seeking out and using the information.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

Commissioner Richard Blohm reported that the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council met on March 20th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The Council spoke about the Department of Labor not recognizing certification for confined space with just Firefighter I. A separate confined-space certification needs to be obtained. The Department of Labor is also in the process of hiring two more compliance officers in addition to the five they currently have.

The Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council discussed a company in Pennsylvania that offers to refurbish SCBA bottles – extending their life from 15 years to 30 years. Commissioner Blohm also gave an update on the wildland firefighting that has gone on in New Jersey thus far this year – the bulk of which has taken place in Monmouth and Burlington Counties.

Commissioner Blohm raised a general question of what requirement/training is needed to administer Narcan. After some discussion it was determined to be a Department of Health issue, and Commissioner Raymond Heck offered to look into it from a law enforcement standpoint.

The next meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council will be held today following the Fire Safety Commission meeting, here at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

7. Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council

Chairman Kevin Krushinski reported that the Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council met on May 9th at the Monmouth County Fire Academy. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the Commission meeting packets. Chairman Krushinski reported that a Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist course was held in Cumberland County in April and it saw 26 students complete the training. The NJDFS is now looking to possibly follow this program up with a Youth Firesetter Program Manager course in the same location in the Fall of 2019.

Chairman Krushinski reported that the smoke alarms from the Operation Save-a-Life program had been received and are being housed by the NJDFS in New Lisbon. Charles Lavin will be leading the distribution process, started with two events on June 11th (Monmouth County Fire Academy) and June 14th (Kean University).

Meetings will be held over the summer to work on planning the 17th Annual New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference – which is already scheduled for December 5th and 6th at Middlesex County Fire Academy. Chairman Krushinski added that he will be speaking with Director Rich Mikutsky on some kind of bulletin or guidance document regarding the preferred use of the Fineman tool in youth firesetter screenings statewide.

The next meeting of the Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for September 11th at Wildwood Crest Fire Department.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis took this opportunity to urge everyone present to contact their representatives in the State Assembly and ask them to support the upcoming residential sprinkler bill.

Commissioner Kevin Bellew spoke about the upcoming adoption of the 2018 Code and submitted a couple of issues that the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board had with this and forwarded documentation of such to the attention of the Codes Advisory Council.

H. Old Business

Chairman Krushinski asked if anyone had any Old Business to bring before the Commission. Commissioner Gerard Naylis spoke about the issue of junior firefighters and the interpretations statewide of what they can and can not do in terms of firefighter training. Commissioner Naylis met with the Commissioner of Labor on this issue and it was recommended that there should be junior-specific training curriculum determined by the Division of Fire Safety. Commissioner Naylis made a motion recommending that the

NJDFS promulgate regulations for the training of junior firefighters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arthur Londensky and passed unanimously.

I. New Business

Commissioner Wood made a formal motion that the Advisory Councils of the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission have the ability to disseminate meeting minutes and reports to the wider fire service throughout the state. This being through e-mail, the NJDFS website, etc. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Raymond Heck and passed unanimously.

Chairman Kevin Krushinski thanked Sprinkler Fitters Local 696 for providing refreshments for today's meeting.

J. Public Comment II

Paul McGrath from City Fire thanked the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety for promoting their grant program, and for assisting in the public education efforts.

K. Adjournment

With no further discussion requested, Chairman Krushinski called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Naylis made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Wood and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:29 am.

*** The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 10am. It will be held at the Surf City Fire Department in Surf City, New Jersey***