

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

Meeting of September 15, 2016

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Thursday, September 15, 2016 at the Wildwood Crest Fire Department in Wildwood Crest, NJ.

Commission Members Present: Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman
Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Stanley Sickels
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. Roger Potts
Mr. Gerard Naylis
Mr. Fred Collender
Mr. Pasquale Intindola
Mr. Armando Roman
Ms. Kathleen O'Leary

Commission Members Excused: Assemblyman Anthony Bucco
Senator Anthony Bucco
Senator Linda Greenstein
Mr. Kevin Bellew
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Arthur Londensky

DCA Staff Members Present: William Kramer, NJDFS Acting Director
Lou Kilmer, NJDFS
Rick Farletta, NJDFS
Craig Augustoni, NJDFS
Michael Scardino, NJDFS
Kent Neiswender, NJDFS
Jerry Clark, NJDFS
Frank Clark, NJDFS
Tim Weiss, NJDFS
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

Guests: Ronald McGowan Jr., Wildwood Crest Fire Co.
Paul Sandroek, Camden Co FM Vinny Corsaro, Jefferson Fire Bureau
Jim Zaconie, NJ Building Officials Matt Levine, Middlesex County DOC
Lewis Ostrander, North Wildwood Cindy Ell, Int'l. FF Cancer Foundation
Jerome Inderweis, LTBFS Sarah Thoma, Int'l. FF Cancer Foundation
Josh Lazarus, NJDFS (ret.) Lynn Shapiro, Int'l. FF Cancer Foundation
Artie Hayducka, Middlesex County Nick Lombardi, Middlesex County OEM

Ronald Hardwood, Wildwood City Dan DiSimone, Rio Grande
Bryant Curry, Bradley Beach John Buchek, Piscataway Fire Dist. 1
Robert A. Brenner, West Caldwell Anthony Cirr, Township of Berkeley
Thomas Simpson, Harrington Park Edward McDermott, Piscataway Twp.
Mark Gose, Cape May Co FPPA Marc Kiempisty, Joshua Marcus Group

A. Call to Order

Chairman John Wisniewski called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Chairman Wisniewski 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 July 20, 2016 were approved.

C. Correspondence

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

D. Public Comment I

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

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

Chief William Kramer began his report by speaking about items from last meeting. There were concerns raised in regards to the recruit firefighter training program and Chief Kramer addressed each of those concerns independently. Many of these concerns were specifically raised by Commissioner Richard Blohm at the NJ Fire Safety Commission meeting that took place in Toms River in July.

The Division of Fire Safety met with the Eligible Organizations and asked specifically if there were any concerns that they had with recruit firefighter training. Collectively, representatives from Atlantic, Bayonne, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Elizabeth, Gloucester, Hunderton, Middlesex, Middletown, Mount Laurel, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Trenton, Union, and Vineland City – said that there were no issues. There was also a concern expressed in regards to challenges (to exams, to questions on exams, etc.) and there is a very robust system in place to handle that – which was a requirement for accreditation for IFSAC and ProBoard. That is all already in place. Additionally, Commissioner Blohm stated as fact that Bergen County Fire Academy processes more students alone than the rest of the state combined. Bergen

County actually comprises 14% of the classes in the state, and 16% of the students, on an annual basis.

A concern was also raised at the last meeting regarding multiple books for firefighter recruit training, and Chief Kramer offered a simple explanation to that issue. There was an old book prior to the NFPA revision in 2013 of the 1001 standard. Those books were done with some time ago but Bergen County (as well as some others) asked if they could hold onto those books to use for junior programs, etc. The NJDFS agreed to allow them to do that. Also, there was a 3rd edition that came out. Subsequently, an enhanced 3rd edition came out based on the UL-NIST testing. Everyone was aware that the enhanced edition was coming – it was discussed at EO meetings, discussed at the T&E Advisory Council meetings, train-the-trainers delivered to all the EO's throughout the state on the five chapters that were affected by the enhancements, etc.

Another concern raised was in regards to terminology in the textbooks. This was specific to “primary search” and “secondary search” being changed to “standard search”. Jones & Bartlett uses four different variations of searches based on the UL-NIST, a standard search (when you look at the book) includes primary and secondary searches. There are also oriented, oriented vent enter and isolate, and team searches. All in all, the primary and secondary searches did not go away – they are part of the standard search. Also, “adjustable fog nozzle” being changed to “spray nozzle” is an NFPA change. It exists not only in the Jones & Bartlett program, but also exists in the Essentials of Firefighting and Fire Department Operations 6th Edition of IFSTA. This is a nationwide change – as is the auto ignition change to leap-frogging. It will be in all textbooks going forward.

Also, we were led to believe that New Jersey is one of a small handful of states that use the Jones & Bartlett firefighter recruit training program. Chief Kramer said he compiled an extensive list of both states and large city departments that use Jones & Bartlett. While the list is too long to read off during the meeting, one organization that jumped out at him was the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute – one of the premier firefighting institutions in the country – has changed over to the Jones & Bartlett program.

Chief Kramer said that Commissioner Blohm, as well as Commissioner Stanley Sickels, can further discuss these concerns through the Training and Education Advisory Council – but he felt it necessary to provide the Division of Fire Safety's reply to all of the concerns raised at previous Fire Safety Commission meetings.

The NJ Division of Fire Safety recently sent out a second memo to fire officials about how to register and vote for the ICC code change cycle that is coming up. However, the NJDFS cannot guide fire officials on how to vote – so it is up to other organizations to do so. The NJDFS also sent out reminders of the procedures for injuries and line of duty deaths, as was requested at the last meeting. The NJDFS also sent out a reminder to fire officials to inspect municipally owned buildings, fire stations, etc.

The NJ Division of Fire Safety reviewed the fire service's training with respect to standpipes and how they are covered. We found out that it is covered in four different chapters of the firefighter recruit training, and NJDFS staff feels this is sufficient. However, NJDFS staff did feel that standpipes should be included when covering pre-planning – and that would be covered at a higher level of fire officer training.

The NJDFS looked into the possibility of extended the appointment of a fire official from one year to four years, but this would take a regulatory change. Chief Kramer suggested this come from the Fire Safety Commission, possibly through the Codes Advisory Council and Training & Education Advisory Council. It would carry a lot more weight if such a recommendation were to go through that process. Commissioner Stanley Sickels added that there is nothing stopping a municipality from making that type of change locally. Chief Kramer agreed, and added the ultimate goal would be to require it across the board to ensure fire official can do their jobs properly.

On July 27th, the second meeting of the New Jersey First Responder Health & Safety Coalition was held. The body is examining ways to examine best practices in the fire service to combat a multitude of threats to the health and wellness of firefighters. The group is doing some great work and is scheduled to meet again on September 28th at Kean University. All Commission members are always welcome to attend.

The Solar Signage Proposal has been prepared and submitted, and is now going through the process to be published in the New Jersey Register. Morris County has decided that it can no longer house and support the Neptune System and all its components. The NJDFS went through the process of trying to find a department to host the equipment. Ultimately, an agreement was struck with IMTT-Bayonne to house and support the equipment and moving it whenever needed.

The NJDFS is in the process of filling vacancies throughout, and they have reestablished their apprentice program. The program is designed to bring more non-traditional personnel into the Division of Fire Safety, specifically women and minorities. It is a four-year program and was actually used many years ago, and it was bring brought back. Two apprentices began last month.

The 2017 edition of the New Jersey Fire Safety Calendars have been printed and are in the process of being distributed statewide. Also, the NJDFS sent out a safety alert last week regarding carphentanol (an elephant tranquilizer) that is being use to cut heroine. The alert said that, a very small about of this substance can kill you, and to be vigilant in using protective equipment.

Commissioner Lawrence Wood asked Chief Kramer to explain the method that a given fire academy would use if an issue was found with any of the material (question, exam, etc.) taught to firefighters and firefighter recruits. Chief Kramer said that all questions are examined and reviewed by experts. This was part of the accreditation process – and was actually done well before that. If there is a challenge, that same group of experts will get together once again and make a determination on the challenge.

Commissioner Stanley Sickels thanked Chief Kramer and his staff for putting out the Bulletin on the ICC hearings and encouraged everyone to spread the word on registering, validating their membership, and voting. Chairman Wisniewski suggested that the Commission members work with him personally on advocating for the voting on the upcoming ICC issues.

Bureau Chief Lou Kilmer reported that the Peer Review Committee had met recently and had two fire officials before them. Both of them lost their fire inspector and fire official certifications (and a \$250 civil penalty) for failing to enforce the code. Chief Kilmer added that the Peer Review Committee takes their duties very seriously and is doing a great job. Chief Kilmer also followed up on issues of PEOSH violations in Clifton and Irvington. Staff was sent to both municipalities and found that Clifton had taken care of all its issue and Irvington has been granted an extension.

Chief Kilmer reported that the NJDFS continues to use per diem inspectors and is looking for more going forward. Also, the Inspections Unit has been carrying out its program to inspect non-LHUs as well as smoke alarms.

The Division of Fire Safety continues to develop and test elements of RIMS, including the new format for the submissions of Annual Reports. There will be staff at the Wildwood Convention over this weekend to work with anyone with questions, issues, or concerns in regards to RIMS.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Pat Intindola gave the Codes Advisory Council report and began by pointing out that the minutes of the meeting of August 17th are contained in the Commission packets.

Commissioner Intindola said the Council discussed the Log of Outstanding Proposals, and has asked that the NJDFS review the list to ensure that what is moving forward is what the Council originally approved. Also, as Chief Kramer mentioned, the Solar Signage Proposal is on its way to being published in the New Jersey Register. The Subchapter 3 Subcommittee has completed its review of outstanding 2015 IFC chapters and it is hoped the New Jersey Register document will be completed by the October meeting.

Commissioner Intindola made a motion that David Kurasz be added to the Codes Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sickels and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Intindola spoke about the Bylaws that were put together for the Codes Advisory Council. These bylaws will be finalized and submitted to the Division of Fire Safety, where they can subsequently be reviewed by an attorney.

Commissioner Stanley Sickels spoke in detail about the Solar Signage Proposal, and pointed out that the new signage presents a conflict with the already-existing truss sign. Comments can be submitted on this issue once the proposal appears in the New Jersey Register. Commissioner Sickels also spoke about hot-work permits and the training requirements that would be needed to get such a certification. The Codes Council is continuing to work on this in the wake of the Avalon Bay fire.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council is scheduled for October 19, 2016.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council had not met since the last Commission meeting. The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled for October 18, 2016, at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville.

Commissioner Wood took a few minutes to talk about how the Training and Education Advisory Council deals with the Firefighter I and II training. They have a committee that reviews and researches all the material and that is then dealt with and discussed at the Advisory Council level. Commissioner Wood did send out information to the committee members as to the issues being raised at the Fire Safety Commission meetings, so they can be prepared to discuss these matters at the upcoming meeting.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis spoke about a recent piece sent out on the internet regarding the use of fire data in the management of fire departments. Commissioner Naylis said this was good information to assist fire departments in explaining how to use the NFIRS data they have developed. Commissioner Naylis encouraged all fire departments to regularly submit their NFIRS data – do not wait until the end of the year and submit it all in one fell swoop. This will not only keep the data up to date, but keep fire service personnel accustomed to using the system.

Based on the most recent NFIRS reports, Commissioner Nayils said there is a need to instruct fire departments on how to fill out a narrative. Being able to reference the details of particular incidents would be advantageous when it comes to potential reviews, lawsuits, etc. down the road. It may be a good idea to develop some sort of template for fire departments to put together complete and cohesive narratives. Chairman Wisniewski provided some “food for thought” from a law perspective, and that is “less is more” sometimes when it comes to these reports. Because firefighters could find themselves being drawn into situations where too much details is provided, needs to be clarified, “why did you write this a certain way?”, etc. Chairman Wisniewski asked that

Commissioner Naylis work on some sort of proposal for a template or training that the Commission could potentially review.

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 7th, at the Toms River Fire Academy.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo, no report was given.

Commissioner Stanley Sickels informed the Fire Safety Commission of the passing of Michael Maxwell, who was a longtime advocate of fire safety education in the State of New Jersey and longtime sponsor of the New Jersey Fire Safety Poster Contest. The Fire Safety Commission observed a moment of silence for Mr. Maxwell.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

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

7. Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council

Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary reported the Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council met on September 8th at the Sayreville Municipal Building. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the Commission meeting packets.

Commissioner O’Leary reported that there will be two Fire Is courses offered in the fall semester, and the details of each can be found in the recently-released Fall Semester Brochure on Kean University’s website: www.keanfiresafety.com. Also, the NJ Division of Fire Safety took receipt of 5,000 10-year sealed-battery smoke alarms in mid-August. They were obtained through the ABC-7 Operation Save-a-Life program. Nearly 3,900 were distributed within the first week during two separate distribution events – one in the north (at Kean University) and one in the central (Middlesex County Fire Academy).

Commissioner O’Leary reported that she had shared a rough draft of a Parents Legal Responsibility Pamphlet that was edited based on feedback from the Attorney General’s Office. The consensus from the Council is that the pamphlet is now merely informational, and provides little-to-no guidance for parents. However, it was thought that perhaps this pamphlet could be used on the NJDFS website and for public consumption, and an additional pamphlet could be put together for the fire service professionals who are doing interventions. Commissioner O’Leary said she would

provide the Division of Fire Safety with the electronic version of the pamphlet and seek their guidance moving forward.

Commissioner O'Leary announced a Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention 1 course had been planned for October 24-25, 2016 at Middlesex County Fire Academy. Also, the 14th Annual NJ Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference is set for December 1st and 2nd at Middlesex County Fire Academy and registration is now open for that as well.

Commissioner O'Leary called the Council's attention to a recent sale at "Harry's Army/Navy Store" that advertised the sale of barbecue lighters in the shapes of fishing rods and guns. While there was a law passed back in 2009 prohibiting the sale of novelty lighters (thanks to the diligence of people like Tom Pizzano, Assemblyman Wisniewski, etc.), there is a provision that excludes devices that are used to primarily for lighting grills. At the meeting, Joe Ehrhardt provided the Council with the ad from Harry's, as well as a copy of the law, and spoke about the dangers of having such devices available for purchase and in the homes of families. Chairman Wisniewski spoke about the law and the fact that it gives local law enforcement and the fire official the ability to confiscate the novelty lighters and fine those who sell them. Commissioner O'Leary suggested working with the Assemblyman's office to put out more information on this.

Vice-Chairman Kevin Krushinski spoke about an article in this month's New Jersey Fire Magazine that outlines an incident in Sayreville where the Middlesex County FireWatch program paid dividends and saved lives. It is an example of how the program can work and recommended the Commission members give it a look.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for November 3, 2016 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 10 AM.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis encouraged everyone to get out the vote for all fire officials to participate in the ICC voting process. The deadline for being validated in the system is September 19th (very soon) and the voting takes place in October. Chairman Wisniewski requested more information on the voting so that he can disseminate it as well.

H. Old Business

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

I. New Business

The Fire Service Emergency Deployment regulations are due to sunset in October. The NJDFS is planning to re-propose these regulations without change. Under New Business,

Commissioner Gerard Naylis made a motion to support this proposal. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Kevin Krushinski and passed unanimously.

Chief William Kramer reported that the Fall Training Brochure is now available as of September 7th and can be accessed at the NJDFS website and www.keanfiresafety.com. Chief Kramer also spoke about the process of replacing the longtime Supervisor of the NFIRS Unit, and the challenge of getting a data report together faster than has been done in the past.

Chairman Wisniewski asked all of the Advisory Council and Committee chairs to coordinate with his office to set up a time to discuss planning for 2017.

J. Public Comment II

Jim Zaconi, past President of the NJ Building Officials, suggested having a letter sent out encouraging every construction official in the state to register and vote on the upcoming ICC vote. Chief Kramer said the NJDFS has sent a bulletin out on the fire side of things, and he will check with Codes and Standards to confirm that something has been sent to construction officials as well. Mr. Zaconi urged the construction officials to get this done as quickly as possible to complete the process in time. Commissioner Stanley Sickels made a motion to request that the DCA Commissioner make sure all construction officials and fire officials are registered. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gerard Naylis and passed unanimously.

Tom Simpson, Vice President of the Bergen County Fire Prevention and Protection Association, asked about the sunseting of homeland security related bulletins that are sent out by NJDFS. For example, when can firefighters stop looking for particular things, etc. Chief Kramer answered that they are geared towards making firefighters aware of certain things in their surroundings and to use common sense when heeding the warnings. Mr. Simpson also asked if the NJDFS could assist in registration for ICC voting at the Wildwood Convention this coming Friday and Saturday. Chief Kramer answered that they could keep laptops available at their table throughout to help those who need assistance.

Lew Ostrander from North Wildwood also spoke about registering for the ICC vote, and asked why they should continue to vote for something that the Governor of New Jersey is going to continue to veto. Chairman Wisniewski, but there will be a new Governor in office soon and it would not be prudent or advisable to throw in the towel at this point. Chief Kramer and Commissioner Sickels echoed this sentiment and stressed the importance of this vote. David Kurasz from the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board also talked about the importance of keeping fire sprinklers in the model code for law purposes. Mr. Zaconi added that we have to continue the fight whether the Governor vetoes it or not, otherwise we are not doing our jobs.

Mr. Ostrander also spoke about the RIMS system and asked about the issue of a “red x” that will wipe everything out if you click it. Chief Kilmer said that tomorrow (at the

Wildwood Convention) the Division's RIMS staff will be present in person to address any and all concerns possible.

Vincent Corsaro, from Jefferson Fire Prevention, said that they are getting questioned on the definition of the word "firematic". This has come up due to the classification by doctors of "being available for firematic activities", etc. Commissioner Gerard Naylis said he would be glad to meet after the meeting to provide the appropriate information and point Mr. Corsaro in the right direction.

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 11:35 am.

*** The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on
Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 10am. It will be held in
Exhibit Hall A at the
Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, NJ ***