

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

**Meeting of September 13, 2012**

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Thursday, September 13, 2012, at the Wildwood Crest Fire Department in Wildwood Crest, NJ.

**Commission Members Present:** Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman  
Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Charles W. Schilling  
Mr. Roger Potts  
Mr. John Lightbody  
Mr. Paul Hartstein  
Mr. Kevin Bellew  
Mr. Arthur Mercurio  
Mr. Stanley Sickels  
Mr. Kevin Krushinski  
Mr. Arthur Londensky  
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood  
Mr. Gerard Naylis  
Ms. Kathleen O'Leary

**Commission Members Excused:** Senator Anthony Bucco  
Mr. Daniel DeTrollo  
Mr. Armando Roman  
Mr. Steve O'Gorman

**DCA Staff Members Present:** William Kramer, Acting Director  
Lou Kilmer, NJDFS  
Josh Lazarus, NJDFS  
Jerry Clark, NJDFS  
Frank Clark, NJDFS  
Craig Augustoni, NJDFS  
Rick Farletta, NJDFS  
Charles Luxton, NJDFS  
Michael Gallagher, NJDFS  
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

**Guests:** Irwin Kreisberg, NJDOL / PEOSH  
James Zaconie, NJ Bldg. Officials Carole Lightbody, Atlantic Consulting  
Alden B. Blackwell, Tenafly FD Thomas Lipsky, NJLWD / PEOSH  
Nick Lombardi, Piscataway Dist. 1 Paul M. Kormann, CC Firemen Assn.  
Artie Hayducka, Piscataway Dist. 1 John Mocharski, South Plainfield FD

Paul Sandrock Jr., Camden Co. FM     John Buchek, Piscataway Dist. 1  
Jim Burleigh, Bellmawr FD             Michael Corbo, Atlantic Co. Fire Academy Director  
Ryan Pierson, Pitman FD                Vincent Corsaro, Jefferson Twp. Fire Prevention  
Daniel Dunn, Wildwood FD               Dominick McClain, North Wildwood FD  
Lewis Ostrander, North Wildwood     Dale Gentek, Wildwood FD  
John Reardon, Middle Twp. Dist. 1     Kathy Elwell, Middle Twp. Dist. 1  
Jen Hartstein                                Michael Weill, Wildwood Crest  
David Perry, Lower Twp.                 Donna Blackley, Lower Twp. Bureau of Fire  
Mike Coyne, NJDOL / PEOSH            Mark Gose, Wildwood FD  
Ronald Harwood, Wildwood FD         Matt Barron, Asm. Wisniewski's Office  
Connie Johnson, Cape May Co. FM     James Yates, West Windsor Fire / EMS  
Ray Lonabaugh, NFSA

**A. Call to Order**

Chairman John Wisniewski called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and began the meeting with the "Pledge of Allegiance" and pointed out the fire exits. Chairman Wisniewski thanked the Wildwood Crest Fire Department for providing the accommodations for today's meeting.

**B. Approval of Minutes**

With no discussion requested or necessary corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of July 18, 2012 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 up the meeting to any members of the public wishing to address the Fire Safety Commission. With no 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**

Acting Director Kramer began his report on Division activities by noting the Registration and Inspection Management System (RIMS) was continuing on schedule and that transition was going smoothly. Acting Director Kramer said that there were reports of a variety of negative comments that have appeared in fire service social media. He said that the appearance of those comments was premature and unfair since the system has yet to see its full scale deployment. Also, the new system will not be perfect right away and

several phases of updates will be implemented down the road. Chief Kramer asked that the state's fire service support RIMS.

Chief Kramer reported that the Division of Fire Safety received a grant from the Department of Homeland Security & Preparedness to outfit all the County Coordinators with iPads. This will enable them to always have access to fire service resource databases. The iPads have been received and the DFS is currently working with IT to get them programmed and distributed. Chief Kramer added that the Division of Fire Safety has consistently been able to replace staff in the Inspections Bureau as personnel leaves through attrition. About 20 temporary/full-time staff are currently on board and will be until December. They are picking up the slack as much of the Bureau is tied up with training and working on the new RIMS system.

The Division of Fire Safety has received a grant from FM Global. Jerry Clark, who spearheaded the effort, was able to secure the grant for \$5,000 to support the New Jersey FIRE Bowl program. The FIRE Bowl's Final Event takes place at Kean University in May.

Chief Kramer spoke about the issue of the Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness not having a direct mechanism to share intelligence with New Jersey's fire service. This stemmed from questions that arose at the Homeland Security Conference at Kean University this summer. Since then, the Division of Fire Safety's Fire Department Preparedness Unit has been working with OHS&P to develop these channels of communication between the two agencies. Chief Kramer also mentioned a recent inquiry from the Port of Philadelphia asking for New Jersey fire service representation. He feels this is a sign that the fire service in New Jersey is making headway in establishing itself with the law enforcement community. It seems like they are finally starting to realize the value that the fire service brings to the table.

Chief Kramer reported that the Division of Fire Safety has received a number of new vehicles for its fleet. Many of the existing vehicles were extremely old and run-down, so the new vehicles are a very needed and welcome arrival that will allow the DFS to take care of business effectively throughout the State.

The Division of Fire Safety will be going through an evaluation by ProBoard over the next couple months or so. The DFS applied to ProBoard for accreditation and they will be doing on-scene evaluations and looking at several aspects of our training practices and fire academy system. Also, the Division of Fire Safety has about 3,000 smoke detectors left for distribution from the WABC Operation Save-a-Life program. If anyone is interested in the smoke detectors, they can see Charlie Luxton and make arrangements. The only requirement is that, if you ask for and receive them – use them!

Chief Kramer spoke about an incident that the DFS's Arson Investigations Unit was involved with over the past couple years. The case went to court recently and the arsonist was convicted of first-degree murder and aggravated arson. This is a victory for the Arson Investigations Unit, particularly Rod Meyer, who conducted the investigation in

Cumberland County. This is the second murder conviction the Unit has gotten in the last few years.

Chief Lou Kilmer gave an update on the RIMS system and reported that the Division of Fire Safety is continuing to make progress on the development. The DFS has gotten computers for all their inspectors. Chief Kilmer added that the DCA Commissioner and administration has been 100% supportive throughout the entire process, and he described working with them on this as a “breath of fresh air”.

Chief Kramer mentioned last year’s September Commission meeting at the Wildwood Convention Center and how the main topic was the anticipated dismantling of the Division of Fire Safety. Plans had been made and considered that would send different parts of the Division to other departments, etc. Chief Kramer said that now - a year later - that is no longer an issue. Chief Kramer thanked all those that were out front in their support of the Division staying in tact – including those who spoke at and voted at last year’s Convention in Wildwood.

Commissioner Richard Blohm asked if the State (NJDFS) was eligible for any AFG grants from the Federal Government. Chief Kramer answered that no, they are not. Commissioner Blohm then asked if the training academies were eligible for AFG grants. Chief Kramer answered that they are thinking about opening them up to the academies, but at the current time they are not eligible.

Commissioner Blohm asked, in regards to the ProBoard accreditation process, whether everyone with a Firefighter I certification would have to take the challenge test because ProBoard does not ‘grandfather’ people in. Chief Kramer said that these individuals are not ProBoard certified now, and if they wanted to be they would have to take the test. But everyone going forward who gets the certification will be ProBoard certified as well. Commissioner Wood added that there have been discussions with ProBoard and IFSAC about the possibility of some retroactive certifications. Nothing is set in stone, however, these are only discussions at this point in time. Chief Kramer added that some of the fire academies in South Jersey are already ProBoard-accredited, but this process will encompass the academies in the rest of the State. Commissioner Blohm suggested that maybe there could be some communication distributed to the fire service clarifying the situation.

Commissioner Stanley Sickels suggested the possibility of extending the WABC Operation 7 Save-a-Life to the Philadelphia viewing area. Chief Kramer said that they already participate in the program at WPVI -6, and that’s where the program actually got its start. Chief Kramer did add that the amount of detectors and scope of the program is much greater in the New York viewing area and that is where New Jersey can get the greatest access and supply for distribution.

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

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

Commissioner Charles Schilling reported that the Codes Advisory Council is continuing to review the 2012 Fire Code and that will be the main topic of discussion at the next meeting. Commissioner Schilling is encouraged to see that several of the Codes Council's proposals had made it to the desk of DCA Commissioner Constable and were approved. What happens to them from there has yet to be seen, but Commissioner Schilling feels that this is certainly progress compared to the lack of movement in the past few years.

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

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council met on August 21, 2012, and the minutes of that meeting are contained in the Commission packets. Commissioner Wood said the main topic of conversation was, and has been, the RIC Training Guidelines. He said that the Training and Education Advisory Council was hoping to see these Guidelines adopted by the Fire Safety Commission at today's meeting, and Chairman of the RIC Committee (Michael Corbo) is present to answer any questions on it that may arise. Commissioner Wood stressed the importance of the RIC Training Guidelines for New Jersey's firefighters moving forward.

Commissioner Wood also spoke about the possibility of replacing books with web-based materials. This is something that Commissioner Wood is having the Training and Education Council examine going forward. He spoke about the ease of transferring, using, and working with the data in electronic form as opposed to actual printed books. Commissioner Wood also proposed just using less and less paper books and slowly phasing in the electronic versions. Commissioner Richard Blohm voiced his support of this idea, but also questioned the portability of the material in electronic form. He said that if they don't have a laptop or tablet or mobile device, they would not be able to study while on the move. Commissioner Wood said that, while many people do have their own devices, it is a new concept and it will be looked into with an eye on the future.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup> at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville at 10 AM.

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

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that the Statistics and Information Advisory Council has continued to look into the spike in fire fatalities that occurred during the winter of 2011-2012. Commissioner Naylis happily reported that the statistics seem to show that this particular snapshot in time was more of an anomaly and less of a trend. The amount of fire fatalities in 2012 has returned to its ongoing downward track.

On the information sharing side of things, Commissioner Naylis spoke about the problem that the fire service is seeing nationwide is being unable to access historical and

geographic information relative to incidents that could be potentially violent. Often times the fire department is responding to an incident where law enforcement knows the location has experienced ongoing problems. Commissioner Naylis said there are tens of thousands of these situations nationwide every year, most of which go unreported. Commissioner Naylis said there needs to be some sort of information sharing protocol, and the Statistics and Information Advisory Council will be looking into this going forward.

Chief Kramer added that the “Fire in New Jersey 2011” report has been submitted for review and should be posted on the NJDFS website very shortly. As has been done in the past, there will be a press release from the Division to announce its release. Chief Kramer said the report is extremely well done and the best one that’s been done to date.

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

Commissioner John Lightbody reported that the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council had met on August 27<sup>th</sup> at the Toms River Fire Academy. He gave the following report:

At the meeting of the NJ Residential Sprinkler Coalition, David Kurasz gave an update on legislation for one- and two-family sprinklers. He stated that the Governor promised to meet with the Sprinkler Advisory Board upon his return from the convention, but no date has been set. Also, Raymond Lonabaugh from the National Fire Sprinkler Association gave updates on the progress of fire sprinkler legislation in the neighboring states.

Commissioner Lightbody advised that he has briefly spoken with George Gilmore, Chairman of the Ocean County Republican Organization and Assemblyman McGuckin in reference to fire sprinklers. Mr. Gilmore stated that he is equipping his new home with a fire sprinkler system for the purposes of life safety and saving money via various construction tradeoffs.

David Kurasz and Charles Lasky stated the importance and need for all registered voters to attend the ICC hearings in Atlantic City to keep sprinklers in the Codes. Mr. Kurasz is working on setting up various classes for CEUs for all the Uniform Construction and Fire Officials who attend. Commissioner Lightbody also went over Florida State Statute on sprinkler requirements – on how each community may adopt an ordinance providing that economic consequences of the sprinkler mandate on homeowners be studied before they are enacted. The report must consider the tradeoffs and specific cost savings and benefits of fire sprinklers for future owners of the property.

At the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council meeting, Commissioner Lightbody referenced Commissioner Naylis’s suggestion at the prior Commission meeting to do an in-depth report on volunteer firefighters in the state so that we may examine the factors that keep a firefighter with the department, how long they tend to stay, the age when they begin/end careers, etc., etc. Chairman Lightbody presented a

report he got from Chief Kramer listing the number of firefighters by county, but he felt a new study should be done with more detailed information.

On the topic of Lightweight Construction, Chairman Lightbody and Rich Silvia have been in contact with the mayor of Larchmont, NY, where they experienced a tragic fire and loss of a Police Captain. The Mayor has agreed to attend October's meeting to speak further on the dangers that lightweight construction present and looks forward to working with the Council.

Rich Silvia reported on a meeting that was held with DCA Commissioner Constable, NJFPPA President Stanley Sickels, Chief Kramer, and himself. Mr. Silvia described this as an extremely productive meeting and found Commissioner Constable to be very fair, open-minded, and accommodating. Mr. Silvia also announced that the NJ Fire Prevention and Protection Association has a new homepage. It has been changed from the old [www.njfppa.org](http://www.njfppa.org) to the new [www.njsfppa.org](http://www.njsfppa.org).

Chairman Lightbody once again stressed that the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council is in dire need of new members. He asked that members present be on the lookout for good people that could potentially serve on this body.

The next meeting of the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

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

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

Chief Kramer announced that the Poster Contest winner's poster has been printed and supplies have been distributed throughout the state on a county-by-county basis. If anyone needs posters, they can contact Charles Lavin at the DFS. Also, a meet-and-greet event is being planned for the winner (Alissa May Garilao) and DCA Commissioner Richard Constable. That will take place in Bayonne at the winner's school.

Vincent Corsaro from the Public Education Advisory Council also mentioned that the Division is in the planning phases for the 2013 New Jersey FIRE Bowl. If anyone is interested in getting their local school district involved, they can contact Charles Lavin at the Division of Fire Safety and he can work with the school administration on getting them started.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville.

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

Commissioner Richard Blohm reported that the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council met on September 7<sup>th</sup>. One topic that raised a major concern for the Council was a newspaper article about a townhouse fire in Lawrenceville. There was apparently a discrepancy in the reports of the amount of time the fire had been burning. Commissioner Blohm pointed out that this is a major firefighter safety concern because the amount of time a fire has been burning lends itself to considering the possibility of collapse.

Rick Farletta from the Division of Fire Safety elaborated on this issue. He had been following this particular fire via radio dispatch and he noticed the significant difference in the times being reported. He found this alarming because the time difference of 8-9 minutes is a very significant during a working fire. Mr. Farletta thought that this could be an opportunity to change the code of reporting the time the fire department has been on-scene, and make it that the report would include the total duration of the incident. Commissioner Blohm agreed and asked how to move forward with this.

Chief Kramer said the Division of Fire Safety could draft something up and forward it to the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council for review. Commissioner Lightbody added that this would be a very important change for firefighter safety, especially when considering the amount of lightweight construction that is being done today.

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

Commissioner Kathleen O'Leary reported that the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council met on September 6<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. There was a discussion about Dr. Frank Field's "Fire Is.." program and whether that would continue or not. There was an issue with the webmaster who had been running the website, and the Council is looking into some private sponsorship to keep the program up and running.

Commissioner O'Leary asked whether Chairman Wisniewski had any luck in contacting the Attorney General's Office about attending a Juvenile Firesetter meeting. Chairman Wisniewski said he has contacted the AG's Office following the past several Commission meetings and they say it is a good idea and will get back to him. When asked what other avenues the Council might pursue, Chairman Wisniewski suggested the possibility of getting DCA Commissioner Constable involved and see if he would be willing to contact the Attorney General's Office as well. Commissioner O'Leary stressed the importance of having input from the law enforcement end on the Council.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Conference is scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. Commissioner O'Leary said there is an excellent lineup of presenters and subject matter this year and encourages all to attend. Brochures for the Conference are in the meeting packets and available online through Kean University's website. Also, DFS staff has recently been able to



travel to Juvenile Firesetter conferences in other states. This is vital for the purposes of networking and idea sharing, and it strengthens the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention efforts in New Jersey.

Commissioner O’Leary reported that the Novelty Lighters legislation is in place, but the enforcement does not seem to be there. These items are still being sold in stores. The Department of Consumer Affairs is ultimately has jurisdiction over the sale of these types of lighters, which also means the fire official has no jurisdiction. Chairman Wisniewski said this is something we can look into changing going forward.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center.

## **G. Committee Reports**

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

Commissioner Naylis spoke about the upcoming Governor’s Housing Conference that is set to take place in Atlantic City in October. Commissioner Naylis asked whether there is any discussion relative to fire safety – residential fire sprinklers, in particular – that may be part of the Conference. Commissioner Naylis said that if it was economic development that was holding residential sprinkler legislation back, then would it not be time to revisit the idea in the wake of a revival? Commissioner Naylis asked if Chief Kramer had any idea if fire safety was on the agenda. Chief Kramer commented that the Governor has agreed to meet on the issue after the Convention.

Chairman Wisniewski added that there had been discussions about a ‘stripped down’ Residential Fire Sprinkler bill. Chairman Wisniewski has been working with Commissioner Bellew on this. Commissioner Bellew has been in contact with the Governor and several legislators and is hopeful that a bill like this can move in the coming year. Commissioner Bellew added that this is a life-safety issue and absolutely has to get done.

## **H. Old Business**

Commissioner Stanley Sickels asked for an update on the several regulatory changes that had been approved by DCA Commissioner Constable, which were spoken about at the last meeting. Chief Kramer answered that the process of approving the changes consists of DCA sending them to the Governor’s Office for review. Then, once it is approved by the Governor’s Office and sent back to the DCA, they are forwarded to the Office of Administrative Law for publication in the *New Jersey Register*. Since this is a large packet of regulatory changes, the process will take some time to review. Commissioner Sickels also asked about the status of the regulatory changes in regards to combustible landscaping materials – one that was not approved by Commissioner Constable. Chief Kramer answered that this item, as well as many others, are in the process of being reviewed and they are working to get Commissioner Constable more data on them.

Chairman Wisniewski gave an update on the ongoing issue of fire department liability in regards to utility emergencies. This stemmed from an incident where a jury found a volunteer fire company liable for 60% of the damages where a man was electrocuted by a wire down. Chairman Wisniewski reported that the jury found the fire company had intentionally engaged in conduct that caused the injury. There is no possibility for appeal; the case is done. The New Jersey Tort Claims Act severely limits the ability of a plaintiff to sue a public entity, *except* when there is intentional conduct. The issue in this case was that there was determined to be intentional conduct. The problem with changing the law based on this particular case is that it would protect potentially harmful and intentional behavior in future cases. Chairman Wisniewski added that these cases are very rare and was surprised to see how the responsibility was divided up between the fire company and the utility company. Commissioner Wood added that there were law enforcement personnel present at this specific incident and that we need to be looking further into how these types of emergencies are handled throughout the state. He also feels these types of incidents may become more common due to the lack of manpower. Commissioner Sickels provided further details of the incident and noted that the fire company did not barricade the dangerous area and did not inform the residents that the wire was still live before leaving the scene. Commissioner Naylis said that the best thing the Fire Safety Commission could do, in this case, is not change the law but to identify the “best practices” used in similar incidents and distribute them throughout the State. He feels this would be the best way to prevent something like this happening again down the road.

## **I. New Business**

Commissioner Naylis took this opportunity to make a couple of comments on the RIC Guidelines that were presented by Commissioner Wood and the Training and Education Advisory Council. First, he requested that there be mention of both an 8’ and a 10’ Attic Ladder, as most fire departments have either or. Also, Commissioner Naylis suggested adding something about opening up additional means of egress from upper levels via ground ladders. He said that since most departments are strapped for personnel, this responsibility could fall to the RIC. Another comment Commissioner Naylis offered was that there was nothing defining the role of the dispatcher in a MAYDAY situation. Commissioner Kevin Krushinski added that there should be some mention of backup equipment (i.e. thermal imaging camera, batteries, etc.). Also, Commissioner Krushinski suggested some sort of identification or helmet decal for RIC Team personnel.

Commissioner Naylis and Commissioner Wood spoke about these guidelines being a baseline of information on RIC. Fire departments and municipalities are certainly free to expand upon this and many already have. Commissioner Sickels spoke about the differences between RIC and RIT. He feared that this may cause confusion and suggested it be referred to as RIC/RIT. Commissioner Wood said that this document, as a guideline, would allow us to clarify them as RIC despite the fact that it may be called different things in different places.

Michael Corbo, the Chairman of the Training and Education Advisory Council's RIC Committee, agreed that the Guidelines should require for a minimum of 8' Attic Ladder and include Commissioner Naylis's suggestion for having ground ladders for egress from upper levels. As far as backup equipment, Mr. Corbo thought it was a good idea to add in the additional batteries. However, as far as an additional thermal imaging camera, he feels fire departments are lucky if they have more than one. Requiring two might put a burden on them having enough cameras if they go out on a mutual aid call. Mr. Corbo also agreed that there should be an outline for the role of the dispatcher in a MAYDAY situation. Mr. Corbo said he would make the agreed-upon changes and send the RIC Guidelines back to the Training and Education Advisory Council. He added that this will be an evolving document and changes will be made in the future as more is learned about how to make it work better.

Commissioner Naylis made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission approves the RIC Guidelines with the discussed amendments. Commissioner Lightbody seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Wood thanked the Commission members for moving this important proposal forward.

Commissioner Kevin Bellew asked Chief Kramer about an ongoing investigation in regards to a case in Lodi where a contractor who was supposed to install a suppression system following a fire at an American Legion had walked off the job. Chief Kramer answered that, apparently, there was some falsification concerning the contractor's certification. The contractor that had done the work was operating under another company's certification. Chief Kramer said the DFS is still looking deeper into this and ways to address something like this happening in the future. He also suggested getting input from the Fire Equipment Certification Advisory Council on this matter.

There was a brief conversation about the 2013 meeting schedule of the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission. The consensus was to keep the new schedule similar to that of 2012. The January, March, and May meetings will be held at Middlesex County Fire Academy. The July meeting will be held at the Toms River Fire Academy. The September meeting (on a Thursday) will coincide with the Wildwood Convention; and the November meeting will coincide with the League of Municipalities in Atlantic City.

## **J. Public Comment II**

Ray Lonabaugh from the National Fire Sprinkler Association elaborated further on the incident concerning American Legion Post 136 in Lodi:

An article appeared in the Star Ledger on August 20, 2012 describing the problems the Joseph M. Lane American Legion Post 136 in Lodi, NJ is experiencing with an uncompleted automatic fire sprinkler system that is also preventing the Post from receiving a certificate of occupancy.

The American Legion Post's original building was totally destroyed by fire on December 14, 2005. Since the fire, the group has been working to rebuild their Post. Unfortunately,

they were underinsured - with insurance only covering about 50% of the rebuilding costs. Their new building is complete except for the automatic fire sprinkler system. A final inspection of the sprinkler system found the installation was not complete. According to the newspaper article, the final payment for the installation has been made but the job is not finished. This is preventing the issuance of an occupancy certificate and leaving the building unprotected.

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, members of the NJ Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board, Sprinkler Fitters Local 696, Charlie Hamilton (President of Northeast Fire Protection Inc.), and Executive Director David Kurasz met with the leadership of the American Legion Post in Lodi to see what could be done to resolve the fire sprinkler issue.

Mr. Kurasz reported the Post is “flat broke” with no other options with regards to the protections. There are design problems with the system and many components are missing. Mr. Hamilton requested a copy of the original system plans and will be reviewing them to see how the system could be completed. Mr. Kurasz is working on bringing all parties together in partnership to get this system fixed and obtain an occupancy certificate. As Mr. Kurasz put it, “We are their last hope.”

Irwin Kreisberg from PEOSHA thanked Chairman Wisniewski for helping out on the Presumptive Act that allows for firefighters with cancer to get care by presuming that the cancer was caused by the hazards of the job. Mr. Kreisberg added that 15 new cancers were going to be added to this Act based on what is being found from the firefighters who worked at Ground Zero. He also stressed the importance of promoting the Captain Buscio stress test program with the influx of younger fighters, because it is a great program and important for promoting firefighter health.

#### **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 11:44 am.

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**\* The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 10am. It will be held in Exhibit Hall A at the Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, NJ \***