

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
MAY 3, 2022
1:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Bert Boldt, II-Vice-Chairman, Noah Lockley, Joseph Parrish, Jessica V. Ward

Others Present: Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron—County Coordinator

1. Call To Order

Chairman Jones called the workshop to order. Thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Hope to learn ways to better support all of our volunteer fire departments.

2. Public Comments

Ms. Debi Jordan thanked each of them for taking the time to come to our small community. Mr. Berry said that what he would like to learn from this workshop is what the relationship between the state fire marshal's office and the county volunteer fire department is. Is there any jurisdictional or methodology for setting up VFD other than training requirements and certifications? Does the marshal have Guidelines for setup, do they address corporate structure, and ownership of assets (i.e., property and buildings paid with public funds) or are the county contracting for these services with private companies with public funds with no accountability? Are their guidelines that address fiscal responsibility? Some of our issues center around a number of these points. Do you perform any fiscal monetary responsible type of audits? Some type of basis, timely. Are these county functions? I am trying to learn what the state's relationship is with the county and the volunteer fire departments.

3. State Fire Marshal's Office – Presentation

Mr. Julius Halas introduced each member of his team and briefly described their roles.

The following were in attendance from the State Fire Marshal's Office:

- Julius Halas, Director
- JoAnne E. Rice, Assistant Director
- Melissa Dembicer, Special Projects Coordinator
- Mark Harper, Bureau Chief of Fire Standards and Training
- John Gatlin, Bureau Chief Fire Prevention
- Susan Schell, Safety Section Manager

State Fire Marshal Authority:

- Shall adopt the most recent edition of the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA)

Fire Code (NFPA 1) and Life Safety Code (NFPA 101) by rule every three (3) years pursuant to s. 633.202, Florida Statutes.

- Shall provide cost-effective training programs for the certification of firefighters and other fire-related fields pursuant to s. 633.128, Florida Statutes.
- May issue, when requested by any substantially affected person or Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), a declaratory statement interpreting the Florida Fire Prevention Code pursuant to s. 633.104, Florida Statutes.

Small County Coalition of Florida

- The Small County Coalition and Division of State Fire Marshal formulated an informational program for local elected officials which included the ISO Rating Schedule.
- Highlights of this information are contained in this presentation.

ESF 4 Firefighting and ESF 9 Urban Search & Rescue

- Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM) is the primary agency.
- SFM Director serves as the primary Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO).
- Coordinates planning and resources in cooperation with the Florida Fire Chief's Association – State Emergency Response Plan (SERP) which integrates local fire departments from throughout the state.

Ms. JoAnne E. Rice, Assistant Director presented information on the Fire and Emergency Incident Reporting System (FFIRS).

- Fire incident reporting by each fire department to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). The reporting should include on-the-job firefighter injuries and deaths.
- Participation is voluntary but is required for specific grant eligibility.
- The incidents reported are the basis for the SFM “Florida Fires” annual report.

Mr. Mark Harper, Bureau Chief of Fire Standards and Training presented information on the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST).

- Training Section: Develops all curricula of courses leading to certification as a Florida firefighter, fire instructor, fire inspector, arson investigator, or company fire officer. The section reviews requests for continuing education to renew certifications.
- Standards Section: Conducts “certification” examinations for firefighters and processes the applications for certification as a fire instructor, fire inspector, arson investigator, and fire officer (>70,000 individuals).

Ms. Susan Schell, Safety Section Manager presented information on the safety portion of the presentation.

- Safety Section: Conducts activities associated with FAC 69A-62 (a.k.a. Florida Firefighter OSHA). Activities include collecting reports of firefighter injuries and conducting safety compliance inspections and safety investigations in more than 500 fire departments statewide. 352-427-4401 to report a fatality or significant injury.
- Executive Development Section: Leads BFST activities associated with Florida's higher education institutions. This section develops the curricula relative to Chief Officer certification and maintains the SFM website.

Fire Service Grant Funding for FY 2021/2022

Fire State Marshal Grant Overview	Total Amount Appropriated
University of Miami, Firefighter Cancer Research <i>Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center</i>	\$2,000,000
Volunteer FF Assistance <i>Volunteer Fire Safety Equipment</i>	\$1,000,000
Fire Construction and Equipment <i>Fire Station Construction, Renovation, and Apparatus</i>	\$11,254,639
Florida Cancer Decontamination Equipment (Recurring) <i>Advanced Cancer Decontamination Equipment 25% local match required</i>	\$500,000

Florida Firefighter Assistance Grant:

- Volunteer and combination departments
- Grant provides for Personal Protective Equipment, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, Fire Engines and Tankers trucks, Other, Training

Mr. John Gatlin, Bureau Chief Fire Prevention presented information regarding the Bureau of Fire Prevention (BFP) *Responsible for the development and adoption of the Florida Fire Prevention Code.*

- Plans Review Sections: The Plans Review section is tasked with the review of construction plans and documents for all state-owned and state-leased buildings for compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC).
- Inspections Section: The Inspections section is charged with enforcing the FFPC in all state-owned and state-leased buildings and facilities (over 14,000).
- Regulatory Licensing Section (RLS): RLS is responsible for enforcing all laws relating to the licensing and regulation of five industries; fire equipment, engineered fire protection systems, explosives, sparklers, and construction materials mining activities.
- Boiler Safety Section: The Boiler Safety section is responsible for issuing certificates of compliance for all boilers located in public assembly locations as well as inspecting all uninsured boilers in public assembly locations for compliance with A.S.M.E. codes.

Employ firefighters or use volunteer firefighters to provide:

- Fire extinguishment, or
- Fire prevention services for the protection of life and property.
- S. 633.102(13), Florida Statute
 - Municipality
 - County
 - Special District
 - Political Subdivision
 - State

- Organizations under contract or other agreement with such entity to provide such services.

Ms. JoAnne E. Rice, Assistant Director of Fire Service Provider spoke to the Board about the responsibilities of a Fire Service Provider.

Franklin County is a Fire Service Provider. Fire Service Provider responsibilities include:

- Properly Trained Personnel (633.408, F.S.)
 - Trained Commensurate to Duty
 - Volunteer Firefighters
 - Firefighters with Certificate of Compliance
- Proper Recordkeeping (633.502-536, F.S.)
 - Fire Department Rosters
 - Firefighter Training
 - Firefighter Injuries/deaths
 - Medical Evaluations
- Safe Working Environment (Rule 69A-62, F.A.C.)
 - Fire Stations Presence of Toxic Substances
 - Safety Committee and Safety Coordinator
- Safe Equipment
 - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
 - Annual Fit Testing
 - Personnel Protective Equipment

Those persons employed by Fire Service Providers are authorized to enforce the laws and rules of the State Fire Marshal:

- Chiefs of county, municipal and special-district fire service providers
- Other fire service provider personnel designated by their respective chiefs
- Personnel designated by local governments having no organized fire service providers

Mr. John Gatlin, Bureau Chief Fire Prevention presented the responsibilities of the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) including:

- Section 125.01, Florida Statutes states that the legislative and governing body of a county shall have the power to carry on county government and that this power includes the power to:
- *“Provide fire protection, including the enforcement of the Florida Fire Prevention Code as provided in 633.206 and 633.208, Florida Statutes, and adopt and enforce local technical amendments to the Florida Fire Prevention Code as provided in those sections and pursuant to 633.202, Florida Statutes.”*
- 633.208, Florida Statutes mandates that “each municipality, county, and special district with fire safety responsibilities shall enforce the Florida Fire Prevention Code” (FFPC)

AHJ Responsibilities within FFPC

- NFPA 1:1.6 states that the code “shall be administered and enforced by the AHJ designated by the governing authority.”
- NFPA 1:1.7.7.1 authorizes the AHJ to “inspect, at all reasonable times, any building or

premises for dangerous or hazardous conditions or materials.”

- NFPA 1:1.7.13.2 also authorizes the AHJ to inspect construction and installation work.

Mr. Kyle Biles, Senior Field Representative with Insurance Services Office presented the following information.

Fire Suppression Rating Schedule

- FSRS reviews the firefighting capabilities of individual communities, to provide the insurance industry with information on a community’s ability to suppress and limit fire losses.
- A numerical grading scale, ISO’s Public Protection Classification (PPC™)

The ISO revised schedule continues to evaluate three major categories of fire suppression:

- Fire department (50 points)
- Emergency communications (10 points)
- Water supply (40 points)
- Community Risk Reduction (5.5 points)

FSRS Classes 1 to 10

90.00 to 100 + Points = Class 1

80.00 to 89.99 Points = Class 2

70.00 to 79.99 Points = Class 3

60.00 to 69.99 Points = Class 4

50.00 to 59.99 Points = Class 5

40.00 to 49.99 Points = Class 6

30.00 to 39.99 Points = Class 7

20.00 to 29.99 Points = Class 8

10.00 to 19.99 Points = Class 9

00.00 to 9.99 Points = Class 10

Community Risk Reduction

The new Community Risk Reduction section recognizes community efforts to reduce losses through fire prevention, public safety education, and fire investigation. The Community Risk Reduction section has a weight of 5.5 points, resulting in a revised 105.5+ available points.

Community Risk reduction

Fire Prevention Code Adoption/Enforcement (2.2 Points)

- Code adoption
- Code regulations
- Staffing
- Training/certification
- Frequency
- Continuing education
- Plan review
- Quality-Assurance
- Pre-fire planning

Public Safety Education (2.2 points)

- Educator qualifications/training
- Continuing education
- Fire safety programs
- Juvenile fire setter intervention programs
- Program for occupancies having large loss potential

Community Risk Reduction Education

Public Fire & Life Safety Educator certification is available through the Division of State Fire Marshal

Fire Investigation (1.1 points)

- Fire investigation organization
- Fire investigation staffing
- Fire investigator certification
- Fire investigator continuing education
- Use of the National Fire Incident Reporting System

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4. Commissioners' Questions and Comments

Commissioner Boldt inquired about the correlation of lower ISO scores with volunteers or paid firefighters. Mr. Halas said that generally speaking as long as they are certified personnel and have points for the training, and certified in databases, and have adequate access to water supply and command system. The paid system will normally put more on duty. Mr. Kyle said in the schedule of their calculations it is very important that we use on-call or on-duty. If you are on-site at the fire station rather than on-call, you receive higher credit for those on-site. Commissioner Boldt

inquired as to if there were any programs available for high school students to volunteer in order to receive scholarships. Mr. Halas said they have programs that work with the Department of Education and Department of Health. Mr. Kyle noted the students cannot count towards the availability to respond but it is a great way to get them involved. Commissioner Parrish said that being dual certified (EMT and fire) increases your pay. Commissioner Boldt inquired about the blue reflectors in front of the fire hydrants. Chairman Jones inquired as to who is responsible for reporting incidents to the state. Mr. Haus said every fire department is allowed to apply for their fire department id number and that is what they use to report. It is not mandatory to report in Florida, however a lot of the grants available require this reporting. Chairman Jones said that if they haven't historically been reporting, how long do they have to report before they are eligible for grants. Ms. Susan said they have to be reporting from five years forward. Chairman Jones asked if there were any training facilities in our area. Mr. Haus said we have multiple opportunities. We offer a volunteer firefighter weekend in Niceville every year. He said that if the county gets a coalition together, they will help provide those opportunities and match you all together. Ms. Schell noted that they did ask for additional funding so that they could send people out to do training. Chairman Jones said he would like to find out if there are any grant opportunities to establish on-site training for fires and such. If there are grant opportunities, I think we would be interested in pursuing those. Commissioner Boldt inquired about the blue reflectors across from fire hydrants. Are there fire departments in Florida that are locating the fire hydrants and placing the reflectors? Mr. Halas said there are some in them doing that voluntarily.

5. Adjournment

Chairman Jones thanked all of the attendees for attending the workshop and for the information provided. There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts