



KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JACKIE BRAY
Commissioner

JAMES B. CABLE
State Fire Administrator

Advisory Council on Fire Prevention In-Person/WebEx Meeting

April 10, 2023

Meeting Minutes

- Members Present:
1. James B. Cable, State Fire Administrator (SFA) – Chairperson **(In-Person)**
 2. Joseph Fahd, Cohoes Fire Department- **(In-Person)**
 3. Maria Walker, Retired Deputy Chief-Albany Fire Department **(In-Person)**
 4. Patrick Klein, Assistant Chief, Gerritsen Beach VFD-Brooklyn, Kings County **(WebEx)**
 5. Steven Klein-Past President FASNY-Nassau County **(WebEx)**
 6. Dale Herman-Past Chief Watertown Fire Department-**(In-Person)**
 7. Kevin Lozano, Erie County-Retired Buffalo FD **(WebEx)**
 8. Anthony Jimenez, Director of Veteran’s Affairs, City of Glen Cove, Nassau County **(WebEx)**

Note: 8 of the 13 Council Members were present/virtual so there was a quorum for purposes of conducting the meeting

Members Not Present:

9. Jeffrey Harloff, Ontario County Fire Coordinator-**unable to get on WebEx**
10. Darrell L. Williams, Pres./CEO Silver Lining Outreach, Inc. - Kings County and Member, New York Army National Guard **(WebEx)-No Response**
11. George Kern, North Bellmore Fire Department, Nassau County-**unable to attend**
12. (Vacancy)
13. (Vacancy)

Others Present:

William Davis, Deputy State Fire Administrator (In-Person)
Stefano Napolitano, Deputy State Fire Administrator (In-Person)
Luci Labriola-Cuffe, Deputy State Fire Administrator (In-Person)
DHSES Executive Deputy Commissioner Terence O’Leary (WebEx)
Colin Brennan, DHSES External Affairs Deputy Commissioner (WebEx)
Guy Swartwout, Chief Fire Training and Education Branch (WebEx)
Dan Baker, Chief HazMat Branch (In-Person)
Kenneth Bruno, Deputy Counsel (WebEx)
Erwin LaTourette, Branch Chief, Operational Support Branch (WebEx)
Bill McGovern, Branch Chief, Fire & Arson Investigation Branch (In-Person)
Benjamin Keller, Branch Chief, Fire & Life Safety Branch (In-Person)
Timothy Graves, FPS Operational Support Branch (In-Person)

SFA Cable introduced himself as State Fire Administrator and called meeting to order at 1:02 pm

- Spring RFFT program underway-runs until June
- Working toward fall program

- Round Table Introductions
 - Recently Appointed DSFA Luci Labriola-Cuffe
 - From Westchester County-15 years outreach experience
 - Working on outreach programs and Safety Officers Program

- OFPC Updates
 - Branch Updates
 - Investigations Branch-Chief McGovern
 - Preparing for our fourth delivery of the updated 3-week “Fire Investigator” course
 - Adding a 4th offering of “Fire Investigator” course in July
 - 66 requests to date for investigation assistance for 2023
 - 227 requests for assistance 2022

 - Hazmat Branch-Chief Baker
 - Hazmat branch reorganization ongoing
 - Chief Hurley now at Academy
 - Backfilling Chief Hurley’s spot at Oriskany
 - Working on switching and replacing old foam in trailers
 - Lithium-Ion Battery training-2-hour program, working on authorizing instructors and make the course available statewide
 - Working on Hazmat curriculum update

 - Fire Training and Education Branch-Chief Swartwout
 - Modern Fire Behavior Program-regional class
 - Revision of Firefighter 2-more hands-on experience, great reduction in number of slides
 - 5 module format
 - Any component can be taken-similar to Fire Officer series delivery
 - Fire Officer 1 ready for deliver-instructor authorizations and pilots completed
 - 161 active courses

 - Operational Support Branch-DSFA Davis for Chief LaTourette
 - A lot of National Certification testing going on
 - High interest in FLSTP, Fire Officer 1, Fire Officer 2, Hazmat Training
 - Working hard on expanding training and making it convenient through ACADIS and the Learning Management System
 - Academy-Fire Service Conference going on now
 - Studio 600 (Academy) and Guilderland hosting virtual trainings
 - Capital Improvements continue at the Academy

- Dale Herman had question regarding gear inspections
 - ❖ DSFA Napolitano-Chief Harrington working on modifications to maximize efficiencies on roadshow for inventory, gear checks, fit tests, etc.
 - Fire & Life Safety Branch-Chief Keller
 - Branch covers approximately 15,000 building inspections annually
 - NFPA is consolidating fire prevention training standards
 - Fire Inspector 2 going away and updating current curriculum
 - State Codes Council-transitioning to 2024 codes
 - Fatal fire workgroup-since 2020 about 160 average fire fatalities per year
 - 54 fire fatalities in 2023
 - Initiatives in progress to reduce number of fire fatalities
 - Seat on the Rural EMS Advisory Task Force-report due at the end of the calendar year
 - Dale Herman shared his concern about finding a better way of preventing fires especially among the young and elderly
 - FF Decon Initiative – FPS Tim Graves
 - Work on the Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Benefit Law
 - Raising awareness on cancer and ways of reduction statewide
 - Sharing helpful decontamination techniques and distributing kits throughout the Counties
 - Provide 1 kit to every station in the state-have to attend regional class trainings
 - Lithium-Ion Battery – Update and Discussion-Chief Baker
 - Awareness level program
 - Working on identifying places for recycling fire damaged batteries
 - Corning Tower example-difficulty finding vendor to take damaged battery
 - Better way to share information/networking on handling lithium-Ion Battery fires and how to dispose of them
 - Raise awareness there is a problem
 - OFPC Safety Officer – Update and Discussion-SFA Cable
 - Assigning additional safety officer to classes
 - Safety Chief at the Academy
- Council Member Reports/Comments
 - Dale Herman and DSFA Labriola-Cuffe discussed the importance of educating firefighters about behavioral health
 - DSFA Labriola-Cuffe attending a meeting later in the week about coming up with a statewide plan of educating firefighters about behavioral health issues
 - Dale Herman inquired about status of state contract for acquiring new apparatus. DSFA Davis said specs are still being reviewed.
 - Dale Herman asked about stipends for volunteer firefighters to attend training. SFA Cable said discussions are underway and we'll have to see what happens with the state budget.

- Dale Herman mentioned the importance at RFFT of having students doing more hands on in the field. He has found having the students doing the hands on and then reviewing the slides to be beneficial.

- By statute created by Executive Law this council is to meet twice a year at a minimum if not more frequently and we can certainly call a meeting if there is a pressing issue. Please keep lines of communication open and feel free to reach out to SFA Cable through the office and we will be in touch about future meetings. Thank you on behalf of Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Commissioner Bray and State Fire Administrator for your time.

- Meeting adjourned 2:21 pm