



KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JACKIE BRAY
Commissioner

JAMES B. CABLE
State Fire Administrator

Advisory Council on Fire Prevention In-Person/WebEx Meeting

May 28, 2024

Meeting Minutes

- Members Present: 1. James B. Cable, State Fire Administrator (SFA) – Chairperson (In-Person)
2. Joseph Fahd, Cohoes Fire Department (WebEx)
3. Patrick Klein, Assistant Chief, Gerritsen Beach VFD-Brooklyn, Kings County (WebEx)
4. Steven Klein-Past President FASNY-Nassau County (WebEx)
5. Kevin Lozano, Erie County-Retired Buffalo FD (WebEx)
6. Maria Walker, Retired Deputy Chief-Albany Fire Department (WebEx)
7. Dale Herman-Past Chief Watertown Fire Department (WebEx)
8. George Kern, North Bellmore Fire Department, 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, past Ontario County Fire Coordinator
10. Darrell L. Williams, Pres./CEO Silver Lining Outreach, Inc. - Kings County and Member, New York Army National Guard
11. Anthony Jimenez, Director of Veteran’s Affairs, City of Glen Cove, Nassau County
12. (Vacancy)
13. (Vacancy)

Others Present:

- William Davis, Deputy State Fire Administrator (In-Person)
Luci Labriola-Cuffe, Deputy State Fire Administrator (In-Person)
Erwin LaTourette, Branch Chief, Operational Support Branch (In-Person)
Robert Jewell, Chief, Technical Rescue Branch (In-Person)
Amy Phoenix, Administrative Specialist 2 (In-Person)
Amy Hamilton, Administrative Specialist 1 (In-Person)

SFA Cable introduced himself as State Fire Administrator and called meeting to order at 1:03 pm

- 8 out of 13 attendees so a quorum was met.
• Amy did roll call of attendees.

- SFA Cable gave opening remarks by welcoming and thanking everyone for attending.
 - Reviewed the agenda item topics shared with the members.

- OFPC Updates
 - Branch Updates
 - Chief LaTourette-Operational Support Branch
 - Exciting news about staffing patterns and new staff to the Office-We have filled civil service titles that had never previously existed including Administrative Analyst and Training Specialist 1
 - Next week a Training Specialist 2 will join that team.
 - New Audio-Visual Production Specialist at the Fire Academy for the Studio-yet to be determined.
 - NERIS Update
 - ✓ 1st Quarter calendar year-comment period closed in February on the schemas to be used for this new system.
 - ✓ 1,600 comments were received.
 - ✓ In March-USFA-briefed the International Association of Firefighters at their legislative conference.
 - ✓ In March USFA also met additional stakeholders at a 2-day workshop in Dallas, TX on the NERIS prototype.
 - ✓ Forthcoming-over the next month 50 Fire Departments will be onboarded for a beta test period of the prototype. After that they will develop version 1 based on how the beta test does go.
 - ✓ Version 1 development will start mid-summer and conclude by 4th quarter of this calendar year.
 - ✓ Version 1 and Phase 1 on-boarding will then begin for this new system.
 - ✓ Will be a busy year for the NERIS project.
 - ✓ A lot of NERIS webinars-many available to the public
 - ✓ A lot of behind-the-scenes things will continue such as the specifications and the requirements for some of the systems that have the potential to interact with NERIS up to and including the RMS and CAD industry.
 - ✓ More to follow as we are informed of any progress, implications, or information we can send out.
 - ✓ One of the departments that was solicited as one of the 50 fire departments that will beta test, the prototype is FDNY.
 - ✓ Chief Dale Herman mentioned we're going from one version to another version so what happens with old stuff? Does it stay in house with each fire department? I know the state collects data. What happens to all that stuff when there is no more support for it?
 - Chief LaTourette replied with two comments on that.
 - ✓ This is going to be a complete wholesale update to the fire report system. This is not a revision to the existing system. This is not NFIRS being revised. It is a completely new system with new features.
 - ✓ Information that has been collected for decades is going to be maintained at the both the state and federal level. It will continue to be available to us for research and statistical information as we move into this new system.

- Chief Robert Jewell-Technical Rescue Branch
 - New Branch Chief as of 2/29/2024 following retired Chief Kurtelawicz
 - Annual first flood incident response strike team mobilization exercise at Oriskany
 - ✓ 100 participants
 - ✓ 6 different state agencies over a 3-day period
 - Rolled out new Tower Rescue Technician Program in a Rope Rescue Program series. Extension of Rope Rescue Program with addition specialty of Tower Rescue.
 - SWFT Water Training Facility in Oriskany continues to attract attention.
 - ✓ Still leading the way with visitors from all over world
 - Deputy Chief Jake Oreshan-Eastern Deputy retiring as of 6/29/24. There will be a new Eastern Deputy in the future and will work with the Counties affected.
 - Tech Rescue DC's have been reaching out to their county contacts to determine the outstanding courses and working to reduce wait time for courses.
 - We are seeing some traction on the on-going Tech Rescue accreditation program that DC George Bassler is spearheading.
 - ✓ In process of evaluating the Albany County Rope team, Rochester USAR team, and NYPD Swift water team
 - Push that accreditation out there.
 - Annual Tech Rescue Conference this Thursday at SPTC
 - ✓ 2 days hands on training
 - ✓ 2 days with guest speakers from around the world
 - ✓ 190 attendees

- Hazmat Branch-DSFA Davis gave update since Daniel Baker Branch Chief not present.
 - Continuing to do outreach training.
 - Module 4 and 5 going in Schenectady very soon.
 - Module 1 being taught now at the Fire Academy
 - Tested extra large diameter hose at the Academy a week ago and some deployment items including a boom reel and dewatering device to clear the 8-inch hose of water once it's been deployed.
 - Vermont visit the group called nomad.
 - ✓ Provides charged lithium-Ion batteries on wheels to different sites.
 - ✓ Looks into how they are being transported since that is a lot of energy being transported.
 - ✓ We asked some questions like what happens to it if it is overturned or down an embankment?
 - ✓ Good conversation between our folks and theirs
 - ✓ That group has made some changes to their placards on their trucks and contact information, QR codes to find out more information should one of those trucks go off the road.

- Academy Update-DSFA Davis updated-Chief Hernandez
 - 3 big projects
 - ✓ Elevator-expected to be completed in July and award date of September.
 - ✓ HVAC-should be awarded this week.

- Will include other data sets like records management system, computer dispatch systems, GIS data, other things available in the cloud to be connected to an incident.
 - Has to happen at the federal level, not the state.
 - Conversations held with NASFM, USFA and UL Fire Safety Research Institute (contractor to develop NERIS) about what this will look like and how the states will access this data.
 - Fire Departments will maintain access to their own data.
 - How the state will have access to this, analytics, and tools still to be determined.
 - FDNY participating so interest with NY and some other states to have the opportunity to participate in an ad hoc committee to inform the USFA on what that might look like. More to follow on this.
 - Can check USFA and UL Fire Safety Research websites for updates.
- Council Member Report/Comments
 - SFA Cable mentioned OFPC has new staff coming on board, including a new A/V specialist for the studio at the Academy to do productions of videos, on-line training videos.
 - Chief Dale Herman asked if the proposed construction of the elevator going to affect the video room at the Academy? Will the room be relocated?
 - DSFA Davis said the equipment is going to be relocated but where is yet to be determined.
 - Chief Dale Herman said prior to Memorial Day Weekend he believes the Department of State had something about barbecue grills, FASNY had something on Spectrum news, he knows it's been a struggle for the office to get public information out there because everything has to go through DHSES PIO, Is there any breakthrough on this? OFPC is supposed to be the subject matter expert on everything fire related, are we making any headway on getting Public Service Announcements and word out there?
 - SFA Cable replied yes, we are and quite a bit.
 - The Public Information Office and our Intergov folks both have new positions staffed so you will see an uptick if information being released.
 - Building fire and safety put out on various platforms.
 - Opening of SWFT
 - Continue to track fire fatalities.
 - In state budget this year we're getting positions for below:
 - ✓ Community risk reduction and fire investigation grant program
 - ✓ Office-18 new positions to be split with our investigation branch as we are recognizing the increase in work.
 - ✓ FLSB-additional staff
 - ✓ Data analyst-produce reports and shape out training programs.
- Next Meeting late October/early November
 - Please feel free to reach out at any time.
 - Meeting adjourned 1:39 p.m.