

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

**Meeting of May 22, 2025**

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at the Bergen County Fire Academy in Mahwah, New Jersey.

**Commission Members Present:**

Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Chairman  
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood  
Mr. George Aleu  
Mr. Arthur Hayducka  
Mr. Richard Blohm  
Mr. Charles Siedenburg  
Mr. Karl Spinner  
Mr. Steve O’Gorman  
Mr. Daniel DeTrollo  
Mr. Gerard Naylis  
Mr. Frederick Collender  
Mr. Armando Roman  
Mr. Kevin Bellew

**Commission Members Excused:**

Mr. John Wisniewski, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Charles Maria  
Mr. Nelson Wiest  
Mr. Raymond Heck  
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary  
Mr. Arthur Londensky

**DCA Staff Members Present:**

Richard J. Mikutsky, State Fire Marshal  
Louis Kilmer, NJDFS  
Bruce Tynan, NJDFS  
Tim Weiss, NJDFS  
Charles Lavin, NJDFS  
Greg Kirkham, NJDFS  
Steven Taylor, NJDFS  
Leonard Inzerillo, NJDFS  
Dan Timmerman, NJDFS

**Guests:**

Albert Evangelista  
Samuel Antasnak  
Jeff Kaplan

Joseph Signorello Jr.  
Timothy Ferguson  
Evan Kutzin  
Kyle Hummel

Kathe Conlon  
Christopher Ariemma  
Jason Bertero  
Gregory Lallo

Andrew Fosina  
Stuart Blank

Steven Naylis  
John T. Judge

Mike Christensen

### **A. Call to Order**

Chairman Kevin Krushinski called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. He led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those recently lost in the line of duty and the men and women serving our nation overseas. Chairman Krushinski asked that the attendees especially remember Robert J. Oross of the Spotswood Fire Department who had passed this week.

### **B. Approval of Minutes**

The Fire Safety Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of March 20, 2025. Chairman Krushinski noted that the minutes were in today's meeting packets for all to review.

### **C. Correspondence**

Chairman Krushinski noted that any and all correspondence for today's meeting was contained in the Commission packets.

Commissioner Richard Blohm called attention to the Training and Education Advisory Council's minutes that had been distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Commissioner Blohm took issue with a portion of the minutes that stated that there was growing support from the unions for the recruit physical agility project. Commissioner Blohm said that this inaccurate and asked that it be stricken from the minutes. Commissioner Steve O'Gorman concurred with Commissioner Blohm, and it was unanimously agreed by the Fire Safety Commission that the Training & Education Advisory Council remove that from the minutes.

### **D. Public Comment I**

Chairman Krushinski opened up the meeting to any members of the public present wishing to address the Commission at this time.

A special presentation was made by Kathe Conlon from St. Barnabas, along with Lenny Inzerillo from the NJ Division of Fire Safety. They demonstrated a new online form that would capture data regarding firefighter burns in cases where they are not admitted to the hospital. Commissioner Blohm explained that, in the past, these instances were not being documented. Kathe Conlon and Lenny Inzerillo showed the form to all present and walked everyone through filling it out and submitting it. The Commission members followed along and made suggestions for minor modifications. Lenny Inzerillo thanked Karen Luckie from the NJDFS for all her work on putting this form together. Kathe Conlon added that it is a work in progress, and they would welcome further feedback.

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

## **E. Division of Fire Safety Activities**

Director Mikutsky reported that the Division of Fire Safety remains busy on all fronts. On a down note, while the NJDFS appreciates the Commission's patience and support, it is with regret that Director Mikutsky announced the cancellation of New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy on May 30 – June 1. The NFA just received the green light to resume in person classes late on Monday of this week, but it had already been decided to send out the cancellation notices the Friday before. Also, two of the classes didn't have enough people signed up so they would be cancelled anyway. Director Mikutsky has had discussions with Superintendent Gabliks about the possibility of rescheduling it to the fall and this looks like a very strong possibility.

Last week Director Mikutsky was invited to attend a training session at Tesla in Lathrop, CA. Tesla's training equips first responders with critical knowledge about the unique hazards posed by electric vehicles (EVs) and large battery systems like Megapacks. This includes understanding high-voltage systems, battery fire behavior, explosion risks, and electric shock hazards, all of which differ significantly from conventional vehicles and energy storage systems. Specific guidance was provided on how to safely de-energize vehicles, disconnect batteries, and manage extraction or fire scenarios, reducing the risk of accidental injury or electrocution during emergency operations. Real-world case studies and emergency response guides were provided to help responders understand what to expect and how to act decisively, increasing their confidence and effectiveness in high-stress situations. Tesla provides resources such as Emergency Response Guides, Quick Response Sheets, and product-specific manuals, ensuring responders have up-to-date information at their fingertips.

Director Mikutsky reported that, on Tuesday April 22, 2025, at approximately 10:00am, the NJDFS responded to the Incident Command Post at Wells Mills Park in Ocean County to support the operations at the Jones Road Wildfire. More than 15,300 acres were ultimately burned. There were 3,000 residents evacuated (both mandatory and voluntary) and more than 1,320 structures threatened by the fire. More than half a dozen roads were closed at some point, including the Garden State Parkway and US Highway 9.

Over 130 forest fire service personnel responded and worked the fire, including 36 of their engines, 4 bulldozers, 3 tenders, 2 observation helicopters, 1 observation airplane, 8 command and support vehicles, 2 airplane tankers, and 3 water dropping Blackhawk helicopters all were deployed and operated at the fire. Two shelters were opened locally, and 190 persons and 30 pets were housed. More than 23,000 residents were without power for over 24 hours. The NJDFS coordinated 74 out of county apparatus resources manned by 229 firefighters who provided structural protection and water supply. There was a total of eighteen alarms of municipal fire service assets deployed, and another six alarms of forest fire service assets deployed for a total of twenty-four (24) alarms.

Director Mikutsky reported that the FIFA Club World Cup tournament is holding nine games at MetLife Stadium from June 15 through July 13. NJDFS personnel are assigned to the FIFA Emergency Preparedness, Fire/Rescue and Safety and Security working groups. Staff continue to preplan the confirmed venues for the Team Training facilities and Team base camps.

ROIC Intel personnel are meeting with the Continuity Operations group for the Statewide Intelligence and Information Sharing Needs Assessment. The discussion is to develop and foster working relationships with federal and state law enforcement intelligence agencies and state agencies, to share information.

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and NJDFS purchased 25 Active Shooter Incident management (ASIM) Counter strike boards. The boards are used for the interactive portion of the ASIM B training. The purchase will allow the DFS to provide a strike board to each county fire academy to promote the standardization of the active shooter response training.

The 2025 Homeland Security Conference will be held on Thursday, June 5, 2025, at the Kean University STEM Building. Presenters from the New Jersey State Police, FIFA and FDNY will provide information on the upcoming 2025 FIFA Club World Cup related to intelligence and crowd management. Also, there are currently 35 ongoing fire department complaint investigations-dual investigations.

Director Mikutsky reported that Office of Fire Department Preparedness staff continue to deal with fire department complaints and assist with standard operating procedures and certification issues. OFDP staff presented three seminars at April's New Jersey Emergency Preparedness conference in Atlantic City. Staff also responded to 8 incidents last month and 22 year-to-date, and continue to participate in NJ ROIC and FBI meetings.

Director Mikutsky reported that OFDP staff attended 14 fire chiefs' meetings last month and 69 year-to-date. Staff also attended the Atlantic City Airport exercise on May 1<sup>st</sup> and assisted with planning for the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Open House and Air Show this past weekend. Staff attended the NJDFS Fire Threat Task Force meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> and the training on E-Scooters, E-Bikes, and Lithium-Ion Batteries on April 28<sup>th</sup>. This was sponsored by the NJDFS and the NJ Fire and EMS Institute and was the result of the issues Perth Amboy experienced with the fake UL stickers and the scooter fires.

On May 6-7, the NJDFS hosted the NFA's Youth Firesetting Program Manager course at Monmouth County Fire Academy. A full class of 24 students completed the 2-day class.

In response to the wildfires in Ocean County earlier this spring, Kidde reached out and sent the NJDFS approximately 1,200 combination smoke/CO alarms for distribution throughout the state. CRR staff have begun using these to fill a package of requests received throughout 2025. To date for 2025, nothing has been received as part of ABC's Operation Save-a-Life program.

Yesterday at Kean University, the 18th Annual New Jersey FIRE Bowl State Championship was held. The two teams competing in the finals were Washington Community School (Bayonne) and Dwight D. Eisenhower School (Freehold). The winner of the three-round competition was Washington Community School and they were awarded the state championship belt.

The Office of Training & Certification has issued approximately 6,000 certifications in 2025. They are up to date regarding the processing of applications. Training class rosters are being received and processed every day.

Director Mikutsky reported that the NJDFS has started issuing the Rapid Intervention Crew state certifications for the following titles: RIC Member, RIC Leader, RIC Instructor. There is a challenge provision built in. Please contact Steve Taylor about the challenge process. RIC Leader must be NFPA 1021 (Fire Officer 1) compliant, as per the NFPA 1407 Standard. Several train-the-trainers were run with great success.

The Firefighter and Code Enforcement SME Groups continue their work to update and revise their respective programs to the new NFPA Standards, UFC/IFC Codes, and ProBoard Skill Testing requirements. The SME Groups for Fire Officer and Fire Instructor will also be meeting to revise those programs.

The Division will be running another 40-HR ARFF (Airport Rescue Fire Fighter) course this fall – October 6-10, 2025, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, the Newark International Airport, and the Atlantic City Airport. They will open this training course up to approximately 25 students. The students will need Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, Hazardous Materials: Awareness, Hazardous Materials: Operations, Hazardous Materials: Operations Mission Specific PPE, and Hazardous Materials: Operations Mission Specific Product Control state-issued certifications to obtain the ARFF state certification.

The Division of Fire Safety has investigated several training incidents involving ladders drills that resulted in significant injuries to two firefighters this year. The NJDFS Fire Investigation Unit, the Office of Training & Certification, and PEOSH were involved in these investigations.

Director Mikutsky reported that all proposed regulation changes are still making their way through the administrative processes. The NJDFS and Kean will be scheduling the Hazardous Materials: Awareness and Operations train-the-trainer classes for this fall. This will be a full-day class aimed at credentialing the new Instructor to teach the Division's Hazardous Materials: Awareness and Operations certification programs.

The Recruit Firefighter Physical Agility committee have met several times recently. A draft document has started to take shape and has been shared amongst the committee members. Currently, the Recruit Firefighter Physical Readiness/Agility Assessment program mirrors the Civil Service Commission's Physical Performance Test.

Remaining Eligible Organizations meeting for this year are as follows (all at 10am):

- June 6 – Gloucester County Fire Academy
- August 22 – Ocean County Emergency Services Training Center
- November 21 – Somerset County Emergency Services Training Center

The K9/Fire Investigations Unit staff attended the IAAI International Training Conference in Atlantic City last month. There, Investigator Steven Letts received the “Fire Investigator of the Year” award from the NJ Chapter of IAAI during their annual general membership meeting. He was nominated by an outside agency due to his great expertise in fire investigations and ignitable liquid K9s, and the continuing support he provides to other agencies and investigators from across the state.

Additionally, Investigators Letts and Meyer both were honored to receive their “Life Membership” awards from NJIAAI, which marked over 15 years of membership and distinguished service to the organization.

Director Mikutsky reported that K9/Fire Investigations Unit staff played an integral part in the NJ Forest Fire Service’s investigation team during the major “Jones Road Wildfire” on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Ocean County, which resulted in at least 2 arrests. The unit also assisted the NJ Forest Fire Service with other recent major wildfire invests, including the March 12th “Scotland Run Wildfire” in Gloucester County; the April 18th “Danny’s Wildfire” in Cumberland County; and the May 2nd “Rt. 46 Wildfire” in Warren County. As such, DFS continues to be a key part of NJFFS wildfire operations and investigations.

Investigators are working with NJDOL/PEOSH staff to investigate two recent severe firefighter injury incidents. One from a commercial building fire on May 16th in South Brunswick where 3 interior crew members were injured by a collapse of high-piled storage, and the other from a fire department drill on May 6th in Hanover Twp., where a firefighter remains hospitalized in critical condition after falling from a roof during ground ladder training. It was noted that this ladder incident is the 2nd recent severe firefighter injury during ladder training (other one was in Manchester on March 18th).

East Orange FD initially reported a firefighter line-of-duty-death that occurred weeks prior on April 18<sup>th</sup>. However, upon follow-up, it was later reported that this incident unfortunately did not qualify as a LODD due to exceeding the “within 24-hours of official duty” provisions. New Jersey remains at zero LODD’s for 2025.

The K9/Fire Investigations Unit continues to provide K9 program lectures and demos for the NJIAAI and DCJ basic fire investigator courses. They also recently provided a very well-received program for the DCA’s annual “Take Your Child to Work Day” event.

Director Mikutsky provided the following year-to-date stats from the K9/Fire Investigations Unit:

- 127 Fire investigations (18 Incendiary; 6 case arrests)
- 238 Notifications
- 54 Firefighter Injuries

- 52 Meetings
- 31 OPRA requests
- 12 K9 fire scene deployments
- 12 K9 lecture / demos

Director Mikutsky gave the following report from the Fire Incident Reporting Unit: In January 2025 only 269 of 704 (38%) of fire departments reported NFIRS for a total of 22,167 incidents. As of May 6, 2025, 544 of 704 (74%) of fire departments reported NFIRS. A 39% increase from January's reporting. As of May 16, 2025, there are currently 74,826 incidents reported in NFIRS. Only 4 fire departments are currently reporting in NERIS for a total of 50 incidents.

A steady increase of school fires has been detected, including one such serious incident that occurred in March 2025. On May 5, 2025, the Fire Incident Reporting Unit was made aware by out of state counterparts of a Tic Tok Challenge involving chrome-book computers and inserting a graphite pencil or paper clip into the USB drive port causing an arc and/or a fire. On May 6, 2025, three School Fire Reports accompanied by three Lithium-Ion Battery Fire reports were received. US ATF staff were consulted, and a guidance bulletin is pending.

On May 1, 2025, New Jersey began optional early NERIS on boarding for all fire departments. USFA has begun emailing local fire departments. Currently there are 4 fire departments actively reporting through NERIS. 151 Fire Departments are considered to be "in-progress" for onboarding. Effective January 1, 2026, NFIRS will be sunset and NERIS will be used exclusively nationwide.

NERIS Onboard training is being offered twice a month virtually via the HISSN Platform "Firestat". In person, locally delivered classes are also available upon request. We can accommodate both day and night training.

The NJDFS, in coordination with the St Barnabas Burn Center, developed a new updated firefighter burn report. The new report will assist in the development of statistical reports regarding burn injuries. The New Firefighter Burn Report has been added to the DFS Forms Section under the NERIS Tab. Since the release of the form, six firefighters have been reported to have minor burns at three separate incidents. None required hospital admission.

Director Mikutsky provided the following year-to-date stats from the Fire Incident Reporting Unit:

- Civilian Burn Reports: 246 (+11 from last week)
- Total Fatal Fire Reports: 35 (+1 from last week)
- Residential Fatal Fires: 27 (+1 from last week)
- School Fire Reports: 27 (No Change from last week)
- Lithium-Ion Battery: 59 (+7 from last week)
- Firefighter Burn Reports: 6

Director Mikutsky also followed up on a couple of items from the previous Fire Safety Commission meeting. He noted that Commissioner Naylis's question regarding NERIS reports has been addressed directly by Vincent Campagna. Also, Director Mikutsky named Senior Planner Don Nelsen as the NJDFS liaison to the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council.

Chairman Kevin Krushinski asked if there were any details to be offered in regards to the fire department complaints that the NJDFS is working on. Director Mikutsky answered that they run the gamut of issues, but are generally handled internally at the department level.

Deputy Director Louis Kilmer began his report by talking about the 2024 Fire Code still being in review at the Attorney General's Office. Once this adoption process is completed, it will be the first time in several years that New Jersey is current with all codes and parallel to what UCC is using. Deputy Director Kilmer also reported that the Attorney General's Office completed their review of 5.71. A few procedural things were changed but nothing major, and it should be sent to the Governor's Office by the end of the week. 5.73 remains under review. Deputy Director Kilmer also reported that the review of the contractor's certification portion of the code has also been completed.

The NJDFS's Code Enforcement Unit has been extremely busy of late as the summer quickly approaches. They have been working on regulations for food trucks and working with the food truck folks on this to make them user-friendly while ensuring everyone's safety. They will be meeting next month to talk about streamlining processes, forms, etc.

Deputy Director Kilmer announced that, since the last Commission meeting, the NJDFS has completed the School Fire Suppression Survey. After years of work on this, 100% of the surveys have been received and are now being vetted. Dan Timmerman from the NJDFS is writing this report. Deputy Director Kilmer also spoke about the recent changes to the Fire Safety Act. He specifically noted that fire officials and fire inspectors are now licensed effective the day the legislation was passed. Licenses are now required to do any and all inspections. Cards will be sent out at some point in the near future. Fire extinguisher requirements have been removed, also effective the day the legislation was passed. One new requirement that has gone into effect on changes of occupancy is regarding secondary power sources that are serving a given building (solar, wind, generators, batteries, etc.).

Deputy Director Kilmer spoke about the continuing changeover that is taking place amongst fire officials and those enforcing the code locally. He stressed the importance of letting the NJDFS know about this to ensure that the work is being done properly. This includes taking over jurisdiction in neighboring municipalities, etc. Deputy Director Kilmer also spoke about the new stuff that is in the 2024 Code, mostly having to do with new technologies. The adoption process of the 2024 Code will be the same as was done with the 2018 Code and those of the past. There will be code updates classes scheduled in the future to get everyone up to speed when the time comes. Deputy Director Kilmer also reported that the contractor's portal is up and running well. This will become mandatory



once 5.74 is adopted. All reports and documentation will need to be uploaded to the system.

Deputy Director Kilmer noted that there were only two municipalities that missed the deadline for the Annual Reports, and those fire officials will be meeting with the Peer Review Board in the near future. Deputy Director Kilmer also noted that the new computer system continues to work fabulously, and revenue is up thanks to the increase of compliance and retrieval of uncollected bills. Also, the Codes Advisory Council continues to be extremely busy looking into mobile fueling issues and other issues. Deputy Director Kilmer also talked about brand new individuals coming into the fire service being required to have Firefighter 1. That is an essential building block to being a member of the fire service. The requirement will not affect anyone currently working in the fire service.

Deputy Director Kilmer said that, despite overwhelming support from Director Mikutsky and the DCA Administration, the NJDFS continues to struggle with staffing. There are currently still six openings and no civil service list. The licensing being required now is an additional piece of the puzzle that could help with this. The NJDFS is trying to streamline the process of getting individuals experience and licensed, and hopefully that will help them bolster their ranks. Deputy Director Kilmer also spoke about the problem of fires happening in mulch adjacent to buildings, which seems to be subsiding since the new regulations were passed.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked about the ongoing process of getting standpipes on limited-access highways in order and the NJDFS's work with the Department of Transportation on this. He expressed concern with the amount of time it was taking and asked what the endgame of this process will be. Director Mikutsky expressed frustration with determining who is responsible for a given standpipe and the lack of cooperation they are getting on this. Director Mikutsky has canvassed the National Association of State Fire Marshals to see how this is handled in other states. A discussion followed regarding the different types of highways this concerns, the level of firefighter safety that needs to be in place, and the growing need for these standpipes to be in working order with the increasing number of electric vehicles on the road.

Commissioner Richard Blohm asked about the code update courses and whether local requests would be accepted and, if so, where they would be sent. Deputy Director Kilmer answered that a request could be sent directly to him, and he would make sure all the details are taken care of from there. Deputy Director Kilmer added that the list of classes offered would be split between electives and core requirements – much like at a college. Commissioner George Aleu recommended offering code update courses via Zoom and Greg Kirkham from the NJDFS said this would be done via Kean University.

With no further business to discuss regarding Division of Fire Safety Activities, the meeting was moved to Advisory Council Reports.

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

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

Commissioner George Aleu reported that no meeting had been held last month and that Deputy Director Kilmer had covered most of the Codes Advisory Council topics under his NJDFS Activities report. The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> at Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville at 10:00 AM.

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

In the absence of Commissioner Nelson Wiest, Commissioner Charles Siedenburgh reported that a meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council was held at Burlington County Emergency Services Training Academy. The minutes of that meeting were distributed to all Commission members for review.

Commissioner Siedenburgh noted that there were a few new nominees for appointment to the Training and Education Advisory Council, but he did not have their resumes available at this time. They will be distributed for review at the next meeting in July.

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

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that, currently, only 74% of fire departments in New Jersey are reporting. He stressed the importance of having complete data, as major decisions are made based on these numbers. Commissioner Naylis added that, with the onset of NERIS, any and all fire departments needing training should contact Vince Campagna at the NJDFS to get up to speed.

Commissioner Naylis also encouraged all fire departments to keep their contact information up to date with the Division of Fire Safety so that they can stay informed on what information is coming from the State. Departments should reach out to Lenny Inzerillo to get their information updated.

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

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported that a virtual meeting of the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council was held in early May, however he was not able to attend and did not have a report. Commissioner Wood reported progress. A further report would be available from Commissioner Raymond Heck at the July meeting.

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

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo reported that all matters relating to public education were covered by Director Mikutsky under his NJDFS Activities report. He is continuing to rework the Public Education Advisory Council's roster in the wake of Paul McGrath

stepping down as Chairman. Commissioner DeTrollo will report further on this at July's meeting.

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

Commissioner Richard Blohm reported that the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council met at Middlesex County Fire Academy on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The minutes of that meeting were distributed to all Commission members for their review.

From the Department of Labor, they reported that Newark has requested another extension to comply with the training necessary due to the firefighter fatalities on the shipboard fire they were involved in. The National Transportation Safety Board report on this tragedy is now available on their website. Commissioner Blohm also reported that NIOSH has laid off 90% of their employees – including those that deal with firefighter fatality reports, certifications for equipment, fire apparatus, etc. The Commissioner of Health also left their position on short notice and there is now an Acting Commissioner.

Commissioner Blohm noted that the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council also discussed the firefighter burn report forms that were presented earlier in the meeting by Lenny Inzerillo and Kathe Conlon. The Council also continues to get reports on the subcommittee on physical agility and has discussed the progress being made and what the general parameters are.

The next meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council will be held on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at Middlesex County Fire Academy.

#### **7. Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council**

Chairman Kevin Krushinski reported that a Youth Firesetting Program Manager class was held on May 6-7 at Monmouth County Fire Academy – all 24 students completed this successfully. Also, Chairman Krushinski mentioned that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Anthony R. Braig Conference on Youth Firesetting had been set for December 4-5, 2025 at Middlesex County Fire Academy.

The next meeting of the Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup> at Monmouth County Fire Academy at 10:00 AM.

### **G. Committee Reports**

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

Commissioner Gerard Naylis spoke about the upcoming adoption of the International Residential Code and the provision within them that requires residential sprinkler systems. Commissioner Naylis made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission formally support keeping this provision in the 2024 version of the International Residential Code. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeTrollo and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Naylis will put together a letter and this and send it to the Commission Secretary.

## **2. Ad-Hoc Committee on Legislation**

Commissioner Kevin Bellew stated that there was no formal report to be given at this time and reported progress.

## **3. NJ Statewide Utility Safety Team**

Commissioner Steve O’Gorman reported that the NJ Statewide Utility Safety Team met at Gloucester County Fire Academy on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be held at Ocean County Fire Academy. Commissioner O’Gorman added that the team is working on getting more communication between the utilities statewide and the New Jersey Forest Fire Service.

## **4. Electric Vehicles Working Group**

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that he received a report from New Jersey City University on their findings in regard to electric vehicles. It is an 18-page report and he is preparing it for distribution to the members of the Fire Safety Commission for their review.

## **5. Recruit Firefighter Physical Agility Program**

Commissioner Blohm reported that the committee is making progress and will be working on a more formal report to present their findings and determinations to the Fire Safety Commission. Chairman Krushinski thanked the members of the committee for their work on this topic.

## **H. Old Business**

Chairman Kevin Krushinski opened up the meeting for any Old Business to be discussed at this time.

Commissioner Armando Roman presented an image of a lapel pin that he and Commissioner O’Gorman had developed after a discussion on this at the previous meeting. Commissioner Roman requested the approval of the lapel pin, which would be roughly the size of a quarter. Commissioner Naylis made a motion that the lapel pin be officially adopted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Aleu and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Aleu asked if there had been any progress regarding the lack of carbon monoxide alarms in homes. Director Mikutsky said he had not gotten the chance to look into this yet and asked that Commissioner Aleu put his inquiry in writing and he would follow up.

## **I. New Business**

Chairman Krushinski thanked Commissioner Blohm and his staff at Bergen County Fire Academy for hosting today's meeting and for generously providing coffee and refreshments for all attendees.

Chairman Krushinski opened up the meeting for any New Business to be discussed at this time. Commissioner Naylis spoke about legislation that was presented that would mandate a class on electric vehicles be developed by the NJDFS along with the Department of Health. Director Mikutsky answered that he is unsure of that bill's status but said that the NJDFS is way ahead of it in regard to developing training on this.

There being no further New Business to conduct at this time, the meeting was moved to Public Comment II.

## **J. Public Comment II**

Chairman Krushinski opened up the meeting once again for any member of the public wishing to comment at this time.

Albert Evangelista spoke about the topic of having a certification for volunteer fire chiefs. Director Mikutsky answered that the qualifications are the same whether it's career or volunteer. Mr. Evangelista said that, although that is true, career chiefs go through numerous checkpoints and meet certain criteria throughout their career as they come up through the ranks. It is his position that volunteer chiefs should be certified so it is ensured that they have the same level of experience and training to ensure everyone's safety. He said chiefs should all have a minimum baseline of skills – not only in firefighting, but in leadership, management, etc.

## **K. Adjournment**

With no further discussion requested, Chairman Kevin Krushinski called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Armando Roman and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:56AM.

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