

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

Meeting of September 11, 2025

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at the Wildwood Crest Volunteer Fire Department in Wildwood Crest, New Jersey.

Commission Members Present: Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Chairman
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. George Aleu
Mr. Arthur Hayducka
Mr. Frederick Collender
Mr. Charles Siedenburg
Mr. Steve O’Gorman
Mr. Gerard Naylis
Mr. Armando Roman
Mr. Nelson Wiest
Mr. Raymond Heck
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary

Commission Members Excused: Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. Kevin Bellew
Mr. Karl Spinner

DCA Staff Members Present: Richard J. Mikutsky, State Fire Marshal
Louis Kilmer, NJDFS
Bruce Tynan, NJDFS
Timothy Weiss, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Greg Kirkham, NJDFS
Steven Taylor, NJDFS
Don Nelsen, NJDFS
Dan Timmerman, NJDFS
Vincent Campagna, NJDFS
Tim Paar, NJDFS
Isaiah Goldsby, NJDFS
Chris Barrella, NJDFS
Joe Jackson, NJDFS
Rodman Meyer, NJDFS
Scott Royle, NJDFS
Steve Dyl, NJDFS
Ronald McGowan, NJDFS

Guests :

Ron Martinelli
Vincent Corsaro
Gabriella Bell
Mike Johnson
Matthew McGurty
Stu Blank
Scott Oatman
Edward R. Mullen
Conrad Johnson Jr.
Mark A. Cifaloglio
Anthony Faminno
Kyle Lindholm
Daniel Dunn
Jacob Spiegel
Timothy J. O'Donnell
Michael Scanio
Anthony Caine
Edward A. McDermott

William Quinn
Joseph Babore
Robert Hill
Thomas Simpson
J. Gregory O'Neill
Louis Cappadonna
David Marx
Michael Whalen
Joshua Carter
William Hollingsworth Jr.
Wayne Matthews
Kathy Elwell
Helen M. Graham
Matt Janora
Robert Read
Glenn Miller
Dominick McClain
Matthew Levine
Peter O'Conner

John D. O'Leary
John Hayowyk
William Bates
Ernie Troiano
Paul T. Dansbach
Vaughn Vanderclift
Joseph Berchtold
Edward A. Mullen
Jim Burleigh
Jennie Hollingsworth
Bernie Cunningham
Doug Greenberg
Michael Quigley
Daniel Spiegel
Michael Blizzard
Charles Lind Jr.
Nick Lombardi
Tracy Kilmer
Brian Martore

A. Call to Order

Chairman Kevin Krushinski called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM. He led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those lost on September 11, 2001, and Charlie Kirk who had been killed the day prior. Chairman Krushinski also asked that everyone remember those lost in the line of duty this past year and the men and women serving our nation overseas.

B. Approval of Minutes

The Fire Safety Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of July 17, 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.

D. Public Comment I

Chairman Krushinski opened up the meeting to any members of the public present wishing to comment. With no members of the public wishing to address the Commission at this time, the meeting was moved to Division of Fire Safety Activities.

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

Director Mikutsky reported that the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety remains extremely busy on all fronts. He reminded everyone that Fire Prevention Week 2025 will be taking place from October 5-11. The theme is “Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in your Home”. Even though Fire Prevention is recognized during this week, we should all be promoting fire prevention every day.

Director Mikutsky reported on the following statistics from the Fire Investigations / K9 Unit, which are accurate as of September 1st:

- *Fire Investigations – 200. (26 Incendiary; 54 Accidental; 6 Natural; 114 Pending / Undetermined; 13 w/ fatalities; 9 w/ arrests)
- *Duty Notifications - 375 (37 were cancelled)
- *Firefighter Injuries – 80 (27 burns; 12 fall / impact; 8 cardiac; 3 heat / smoke; 24 unknown medical; 6 miscellaneous other causes)
- *Line of duty deaths - 0
- *K9 deployments – 25 (20 w/ ignitable liquid evidence secured)
- *Trainings – 67
- *Meetings – 75
- *OPRA Requests – 49
- *K9 Demos / Teaching – 18
- *Special Events – 3
- *Depositions / Court – 3

After extensive upfitting delays, the Fire Investigations / K9 Unit has started taking delivery of three new K9 pick-up trucks, which are being placed into service upon completion. Some of the equipment from the old pick-up trucks has been shared with our partners at the New Jersey Forest Fire Service. The Unit is also conducting K9 safety sweeps of the Wildwood Convention Center prior to the annual New Jersey Firemen’s Conference general sessions tomorrow (9/12) and Saturday (9/13). Multiple K9 Teams will be checking all areas for ignitable liquids and explosives. The Unit will also be assisting the NJIAAI with instructing various classroom and practical modules during their upcoming south region 80-hour Basic Fire Investigator course, which is running until November at the Camden Co. Fire Academy.

Fire Investigator / K9 Handler Rod Meyer, from the South Region, has announced his retirement at the end of 2025. He has served in the Unit for over 20 years and was one of the originators of the NJDFS K9 program in 2004.

The Fire Investigations / K9 Unit is currently experiencing a delayed response for investigations or K9 responses due to a staffing issue. If services are requested in the north, they will respond but it might take a little longer to get there. Director Mikutsky said he appreciates the fire service’s patience while we work to minimize any significant impacts. Also, the Unit’s October fire prevention event schedule for K9 demos is filling up quickly, so please contact them as soon as possible for any requests.

Director Mikutsky reported that the NJDFS Office of Training & Certification and the Contractor's Certification & Emblem Unit transitioned to a new certification computer system on September 8, 2025. This transition has been discussed for many years and now it is finally here. Instructions on its use are on the NJDFS and Kean websites. The new system will allow for electronic submissions of applications and payments. Chiefs, training officers, and academy staff will be given access to this system to help in their roles. Also, ProBoard has approved the Division of Fire Safety for certifying and accrediting to the NFPA 470 Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Standard for Responders, 2022 Edition.

The NJDFS and Kean are running another ARFF credentialing program starting on October 6, 2025. This will be a 40-hour program that is ProBoard and IFSAC accredited. Training will take place at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, Newark International and Atlantic City International Airports. The ARFF SME Group will be meeting soon to update and revise the program to the NFPA 1010 Standard.

Director Mikutsky announced that New Jersey Weekend, originally scheduled for October 25-26, has been canceled for this year. The NJDFS had only received 27 applications, and they are required by the National Fire Academy to have at least 10-15 students per class. The NJDFS and Kean will be working on New Jersey Weekend for 2026 going forward.

Director Mikutsky reported that the Code Enforcement SME Group continues to meet and work on revising the Fire Inspector licensing program to the new NFPA 1030 Standard – 2024 Edition, the new 2024 IFC – NJ Edition, new ProBoard evaluation procedures, and a new textbook – IFSTA Fire Inspection and Code Enforcement, 9th Edition. Train-the-Trainer sessions will be scheduled once the program has been completed. Anyone interested in teaching this course must meet the instructor requirements listed in the training regulations under N.J.A.C. 5:71-4.9(e). Also, the Firefighter SME Group has been meeting and revising the Firefighter 1 and 2 credentialing programs to the new NFPA 1010 Standard, 2024 Edition, new ProBoard evaluation procedures, and a new textbook, Jones & Bartlett Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response, 5th Edition. Train-the-Trainer sessions will be scheduled for later this fall as well.

Proposed changes to N.J.A.C. 5:70 – Uniform Fire Code – have been sent to the Governor's Office for review. This includes the adoption of the 2024 International Fire Code, amendments to rectify regulatory conflicts – as well as changes to the Life Hazard Use categories, permits, and a new rule for mobile fuel dispensing operations. Proposed changes to N.J.A.C. 5:71 – Fire Code Enforcement – were published in the New Jersey Register on August 18, 2025.

Director Mikutsky reported that proposed changes to N.J.A.C. 5:73 – Standards for Fire Service Training & Certification – were also sent to the Governor's Office for review. This includes adding the Junior Firefighter Auxiliary regulations, creating a mandatory Firefighter 1 certification for all new recruits, the experience requirements for Fire

Inspectors and Fire Officials, enhancing the code update requirements to allow for more courses to meet that requirement, Incident Management Level 2 requirements for all chief officers, and an Incident Management Level 1 certification requirement for the Hazardous Materials: Incident Commander state certification.

The NJDFS and Kean will start scheduling the Hazardous Materials: Awareness and Operations Train-the-Trainers for this fall and next spring, if needed. This will be a full-day training for Awareness, Operations, Operation Mission Specific PPE, and Mission Specific Product Control. Instructors will be vetted to make sure they meet the instructor's requirements. Also, the Recruit Physical Agility Assessment group continues to meet and make progress. They are looking to schedule a public meeting in January 2026 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. This will be held on a Saturday.

From the Office of Fire Department Services, Director Mikutsky reported that the State Fire Coordinators meeting will take place here, today, after the Fire Safety Commission meeting. Also, the two-year County Fire Coordinator reappointments are set to expire on December 31st. Letters for nominations will be sent out next week to all counties.

Director Mikutsky reported that the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and NJDFS completed the ESF4 Annex for the State Emergency Operations plan. We are waiting for it to be adopted by NJOEM. The NJOEM and NJDFS have a continued partnership with SSAR (State Search and Rescue). They are working with Fire and SAR resources on a web-based platform. This will aid in the deployment of resources. The Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness and the NJDFS completed the State Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment / Stakeholder Preparedness Review for Fire suppression and management. These documents indicated gaps and vulnerabilities within fire service which will be looked at.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's foam collection project will be scheduled for late fall. The NJDFS is in the process of contacting 331 fire departments that responded to the foam survey. Two New Jersey Department of Corrections facilities have been identified as collection locations in the north and south. Also, there are currently 29 ongoing fire department complaint investigations, dual investigations, or referrals.

Director Mikutsky reported from August 8-20 there was a significant water leak in Paterson that the NJDFS assisted with the coordination for coverage with water supply. Seventy-five fire departments from 13 counties were coordinated over 26 operational periods. Also, from August 24-28 there was a water emergency in Paterson which affected Fair Lawn. Local tenders and fire departments provided coverage.

From September 2-5, there was a wildland fire in West Milford on Newark Watershed property. The New Jersey Forest Fire Service was on scene (Buckabear Wildfire). The fire consumed 160+ acres in a remote area. Fire Departments from West Milford, Bloomington, Ringwood, Morris County and Newark responded to assist. Senior Planner Steve Dyl worked daily with the Passaic Fire Coordinator to determine asset

requirements and response. Daily updates were provided to the UASI Region Fire Coordinators.

Office of Fire Department Preparedness staff - along with the NJ Forest Fire Service - have scheduled structural protection training for county fire coordinators to be held on November 15th at Middlesex County Fire Academy. Staff continue to meet regularly with County Fire Coordinators, attend Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) meetings to assist these groups with planning, and attend various fire chiefs' meetings throughout the state. NJDFS staff also continue to plan with and support the NJ All Hazards Incident Management Team, participate with various FIFA planning groups for the 2026 World Cup, and attend meetings with NJ ROIC, State EOC, FBI and NJ Fire Threat Task Force.

Director Mikutsky gave a huge thank you to Sprinkler Fitters Local 696 (Commissioner Kevin Bellew), the NJ Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (Dave Kurasz), and Kean University for sponsoring the printing of the 2026 New Jersey Fire Safety Calendars. The calendars will be distributed starting at the League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City in November. The artwork used in these calendars comes from the New Jersey State Fire Safety Poster Contest – the Top 12 from all different age groups were used for the calendar.

Director Mikutsky reported that the NJDFS's Community Risk Reduction Unit continues to distribute smoke alarms via the Operation Save-a-Life program. If your department needs alarms, please contact Charles Lavin. CRR staff are also in the process of putting together the 22nd Annual Anthony R. Braig Conference on Youth Firesetting. A flyer was included in the Commission packets with all details. The event will be held on December 4-5, 2025, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. Registration is scheduled to begin on October 1st through the Kean Fire Safety website.

From the Fire Incident Reporting Unit, Director Mikutsky reported that from January 1, 2025, to September 5, 2025, only 590 of 668 (88%) fire departments reported into NFIRS. This equaled 25,579 incidents. The NERIS On-Boarding Training and simultaneous NFIRS Decommissioning Training has begun with over 100 FD members completing the training in multiple sessions either remotely via the FireStat (HISN) Platform, or in person. Also, in May of 2025, New Jersey started the optional early NERIS on boarding for all fire departments. Effective January 1, 2026, NFIRS will sunset and NERIS will be the exclusive reporting system used nationwide.

The following NERIS On-Boarding Training / NFIRS Decommissioning Fire Incident Report Trainings have been scheduled:

- *Tuesday, September 30, 2025 (virtual on the FireStat platform. Start time is 6:00pm)
- *Wednesday, October 1, 2025 (virtual on the FireStat platform. Start time is 6:00pm)
- *Monday, October 20, 2025 (in-person session 7:00pm at Hamburg FD in Sussex County)

Director Mikutsky reported on the following NERIS statistics, which run from May 1, 2025 to today:

- *204 Fire Departments registered but unverified for use.
- *99 Fire Departments registered and verified for use.
- *37 Fire Departments are currently reporting incidents in real time.
- *2,781 Incidents were reported.
- *477 occupants were displaced.

Director Mikutsky report on the following statistics from the New Jersey Fire/EMS Lifeline:

- *Total Contacts: 84
- *Incoming Calls: 23
- *Outgoing Calls: 52
- *Contact from Chat: 6
- *Contact from Emails: 3
- *NJ Fire/EMS Lifeline Open Peer Support Counseling Cases: 26 Firefighters Served
- *NJ Fire/EMS Lifeline Peer Post-vention CISM: 1 Debriefing/ 15 Participants

Director Mikutsky reported on the following year-to-date fire statistics:

- *Civilian Burn Reports: 424
- *Total Fatal Fire Reports: 47
- Residential Fatal Fires: 37
- School Fire Reports: 42
- Lithium-Ion Battery Fires: 119
- Firefighter Burn Reports: 13

Director Mikutsky concluded his report with some personal remarks on the anniversary of September 11, 2001. He asked that everyone keep the memories of those who were lost alive, and urged everyone to never take a second of life for granted.

Deputy Director Louis Kilmer began his report on the new IBM/Dynamics computer system, which he described as having revolutionized the way they do business, get information, distribute information, and increase compliance. Deputy Director Kilmer also gave an update on the Peer Review Board, which has met and suggested sanctions on those that were brought before them for being behind with annual reports. The NJDFS is stressing the importance of getting these reports in on time and, if they are not, there will be consequences.

Deputy Director Kilmer spoke about the Contractors Service Portal, which is continuing to be updated. Contractors are required to submit all their test reports via the portal and they are then sent to the local enforcing agency. Submitting these reports are mandatory and the regulations support this. The NJDFS will be sending out a letter in the very near future alerting all contractors to this. The system is continuously being updated and streamlined. Deputy Director Kilmer added that many fire departments have still not applied for access to the portal portion of the new computer system. There is a lot of good, useful information in there that fire departments can benefit from, so he encouraged all departments to get access and contact Bruce Tynan at the NJDFS if assistance is needed.

Deputy Director Kilmer reported that the new fire code is still at the Attorney General's Office for review, but the administrative/fire official part of the code was posted in the New Jersey Register and the comment period is ongoing. He encouraged everyone to review the changes and provide comments.

Deputy Director Kilmer reported that the NJDFS is continuing to see numerous ordinances and shared service agreements for review. He reiterated that the NJDFS takes a very close look at these to make sure they make sense and that the code is being enforced properly, fees are being collected, etc. There is some language in the new code about shared service agreements as well.

Deputy Director Kilmer reported that the NJDFS is continuing to work with the food truck industry and has a working group that meets regularly. They are working on several issues, including streamlining the amount of paperwork needed and developing a statewide database for the food trucks. There should be a conceptual design of this available sometime in October. He also gave an update on the issue of fire department connections on state highways. They are making slow progress with this, and Vice-Chairman Wisniewski has been very helpful in getting this moving forward.

An open competitive listing for the position of fire inspector was posted, and the NJDFS is hopeful that there will be a significant number of viable candidates and they will be able to hire some to bolster staff. Deputy Director Kilmer also gave the following statistics from the Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement for the first half of 2025 (January 1 - June 30):

- *Initial Inspections - 10,306
- *Reinspection – 7,137
- *Violations – 28,796
- *Event Permits – 1,708
- *Change of Occupancy Smoke/CO Certificates – 1, 135
- *Complaints – 219

Deputy Director Kilmer spoke about the NJDFS's bill collection rate, which is significantly higher than in past years. This is huge for everyone, as the funds go into training programs and goes back to the locals. He also spoke about the working group with the Codes Advisory Council to take a close look at Sparktacular machines and how to deal with the regulations/permitting of those.

Deputy Director Kilmer sadly announced the passing of NJDFS Inspector Joe Hayes. He asked that everyone keep Joe and his family in their thoughts as this is a tremendous loss for the Division.

Chairman Kevin Krushinski about the updating of the Fire Safety Act and whether one- and two-family resales require a licensed official. Deputy Director Kilmer answered yes and offered to send something out from the NJDFS to reiterate this.

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 much of the Codes Advisory Council report had been covered by Deputy Director Kilmer under the NJDFS Activities report. Commissioner Aleu highlighted the working group that is looking at the Sparktacular machines and spoke about fire sprinklers in high rise buildings.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council is scheduled for October 15th at Middlesex County Fire Academy at 10AM.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Nelson Wiest reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council had met on August 26th in Burlington Twp. Commissioner Wiest highlighted topics that were discussed at that meeting which included reports from the SME groups and committees. The minutes of that meeting were distributed in the meeting packets for all to review.

Commissioner Wiest added that the largest topic of discussion at the meeting was the movement in one of the counties to reduce the amount of in-person hours and training for Firefighter 1. The Training & Education Advisory Council was vehemently opposed to this. Commissioner Gerard Naylis said that the Training & Education Advisory Council was specifically requested to look into this reduction of hours/training at the previous Fire Safety Commission meeting in July. He said the amount of training required is the biggest impediment to getting and retaining volunteer firefighters. Commissioner Wiest invited Commissioner Naylis to the next Training and Education Advisory Council meeting to discuss further, but the Council members feel it is not in the best interest of the fire service to move firefighter training backwards. Commissioner Aleu, Commissioner Heck, and Chairman Krushinski also spoke in opposition of reducing the amount of Firefighter 1 training. A lengthy discussion was held on this topic and will ultimately be continued at the Advisory Council level.

Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary asked about the requirements for fire inspectors and whether volunteers would have difficulty getting licensed because of the lack of “full-time” experience that is acceptable. Director Mikutsky and Deputy Director Kilmer said they will look into this.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled for October 21st at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center at 10AM.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that the NERIS integration is continuing and the Council is working with Vincent Campagna at the NJDFS to encourage participation and get everyone up to speed ahead of the deadline – which is January 1, 2026.

Commissioner Naylis also noted that USFA just had a program yesterday outlining the guidelines and requirements for various grants. This included incorporating participation in NERIS.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported that there was no meeting held since the previous Fire Safety Commission meeting. He reported progress.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo, no report was available at this time.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner Richard Blohm, no formal report was available at this time. However, Commissioner Blohm did supply the previous meeting's minutes for all members to review.

7. Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council

Commissioner Kathleen O'Leary reported that the Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council met yesterday, September 10th, at the Wildwood Crest Volunteer Fire Department. The minutes of the meeting were not yet available, but they will be sent out electronically to the Commission members once they are.

Commissioner O'Leary highlighted the upcoming 22nd Annual Anthony R. Braig Conference on Youth Firesetting, which will be held at Middlesex County Fire Academy on December 4-5. Registration will be up and running by the end of the month. Commissioner O'Leary encouraged all present to attend and spread the word about the conference.

Commissioner O'Leary also spoke about the Operation Save-a-Life program and NFA youth firesetting intervention courses, which is being targeted to be held sometime in Spring 2026.

The next meeting of the Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for November 13th at Monmouth County Fire Academy in Freehold.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked if there was any feedback on the letter previously distributed to the Commission members. The letter was regarding recommending the addition of residential sprinklers in the upcoming edition of the International Building Code. There was no further comment from the Commission members at this time, so Commissioner Naylis recommended that the letter be forwarded to the DCA Commissioner.

2. Ad-Hoc Committee on Legislation

In the absence of Commissioner Kevin Bellew, there was no formal report available at this time. Commissioner Raymond Heck added that there will most likely be a meeting planned for the end of September and a report should be available at the next Commission meeting.

3. NJ Statewide Utility Safety Team

Commissioner Steve O’Gorman reported that the Team is continuing to work with the NJDFS on communication between the utilities and the New Jersey Forest Fire Service. They are also continuing to make inroads on communication with the state’s fire service on the available training in regards to utilities.

4. Electric Vehicles Working Group

Commissioner Naylis spoke about a recent report about the use of blankets for electric vehicle fires. It outlined that this is an explosion hazard and could have a severe impact on firefighter safety. Commissioner Naylis asked that the Commissioners get the word out about this, and he will continue to work with Vice-Chairman Wisniewski on it. The report is from the UL Fire Research Institute.

5. Recruit Firefighter Physical Agility Program

Chairman Krushinski gave a brief report on the recent meeting of the Recruit Firefighter Physical Agility Program Committee. He spoke about the possible standards and costs associated with running the test. Greg Kirkham and Steve Taylor from the NJDFS added that they are trying to mirror what Civil Service does and they are looking to make it consistent across the board and consistent with what is already being done at many academies already. Steve Taylor reiterated that this would be for recruit firefighters only and is looking to ensure their safety and ability to handle the training necessary.

Chairman Krushinski added that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for October 17th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 11 AM. A report on that meeting will be available at the November meeting of the Fire Safety Commission. Also, there

will be an open meeting for the fire service to give input on this topic. That is scheduled for Saturday, January 10th at Middlesex County Fire Academy.

H. Old Business

Chairman Krushinski opened up the meeting to discuss any Old Business. There being none, the meeting was moved to New Business.

I. New Business

Commissioner Nelson Wiest made a motion that Scott Oatman be added to the Training & Education Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathleen O'Leary and passed unanimously.

Chairman Krushinski thanked the Wildwood Crest Fire Department for hosting today's meeting and the Cape May County Fire Prevention Association for sponsoring the coffee and refreshments. Chairman Krushinski also took a moment to congratulate East Franklin Fire Chief Dan Krushinski who was selected as Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year.

Commissioner George Aleu spoke about the need to spread the word on faulty or fraudulent smoke alarms that are being sold on Amazon. He explained how many people think they are doing the right thing but are winding up with bad products. Commissioner Aleu asked what could be done to combat this. Director Mikutsky answered that he would need to research the situation first before putting out any kind of statement or bulletin. Director Mikutsky will also reach out to the National Association of State Fire Marshal to see what information they have and/or what could be done going forward. A discussion followed about the sale/distribution of fake and untested products (including e-bikes, smoke alarms, lithium-ion batteries, chargers, etc.).

Commissioner Naylis made a motion that the letter be sent to the DCA Commissioner supporting the inclusion of residential sprinklers in the upcoming edition of the International Building Code. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frederick Collender and passed unanimously.

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. Vincent Corsaro from Jefferson Township commented on the previously discussed issue of counterfeit smoke alarms and gave examples of what he has seen as far as fake stamps, packaging, and various ways that sellers are taking advantage by putting out untested products.

Michael Whalen spoke about several issues, starting with thanking Commissioner O’Leary for her comments on the requirements of the fire officials. Mr. Whalen also commended everyone in attendance for such a large turnout at the meeting and urged continued participation. Mr. Whalen spoke about the adoption of the smoke control systems proposal where the NJDFS made substantial changes based on comments. He commended all parties involved and said this is how the process is designed to work. If everyone isn’t involved, and doesn’t make comments, then nothing is going to move forward. Mr. Whalen also spoke about the testing of smoke dampers and smoke control systems. Mr. Whalen also pointed out the lack of updates on the NJDFS website and recommended that they coordinate with Codes & Standards to keep everything streamlined and up to date with proposals, adoption notes, etc. Deputy Director Kilmer responded that he has been working with the webmaster as recently as a couple weeks ago on getting everything posted and up to date.

Paul Dansbach asked if the local enforcing agencies could be copied on the forthcoming letter regarding contractors certifications and their reporting into the portal. Deputy Director Kilmer answered that they would be copied on this correspondence.

Bill Kramer from the New Jersey Fire & EMS Institute asked if the NJDFS or the Fire Safety Commission had commented or taken a position on the legislation that allows for a single means of egress in buildings that are five stories or less. Commissioner Naylis answered that the Fire Safety Commission is strongly opposed to this legislation. Chief Kramer suggested that the Commission make it known to the sponsors of the bill and pointed out that this is a nationwide push from the builders – not just a New Jersey issue. Director Mikutsky answered that he had met with the sponsor of the bill - Assemblyman Calabrese, a developer – and spoke in strong opposition to the bill. Representatives from the NJFMBA Legislative Committee made their feelings on this known as well and the Governor’s Office was also made aware of the fire service community’s concerns. Commissioner Naylis encouraged all parties to keep the pressure on to defeat bad bills such as these.

K. Adjournment

With no further discussion requested, Chairman Kevin Krushinski called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lawrence Wood made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner George Aleu and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:41AM.

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