

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

Meeting of March 18, 2009

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ.

Commission Members Present: Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman
Assemblyman David Rible
Mr. Charles W. Schilling
Mr. C. Kenneth Anderson
Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. Daniel DeTrollo
Mr. Paul Hartstein
Mr. Arthur Mercurio
Mr. Armando Roman
Ms. Kathleen O'Leary
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. Steve O'Gorman
Mr. Fredrick Collender
Mr. Roger Potts
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Gerard Naylis

Commission Members Excused: Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Vice-Chairman
Mr. John Lightbody
Ms. Kathleen O'Leary
Mr. Lewis Candura

DCA Staff Members Present: Lawrence Petrillo, State Fire Marshal
William Kramer, NJDFS
Lou Kilmer, NJDFS
James McFadden, NJDFS
Charles Luxton, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Jerry Clark, NJDFS
Rick Farletta, NJDFS
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

Guests: Joseph Moschello, Summit Fire
Charles Aughenbaugh, NJDFCA
Tom Pizzano, Sr., Codes Council

Brian Turcotte, Hopelawn Engine #1
Ray Lonabaugh, NFSA
Irwin Kreisberg, NJDOL PEOSH
Thomas P. Gerity, Old Bridge Dist. 1,2,4
Joseph Houck, Summit FD
Bernard Cohan, NJSFCA
Gary Lewis, City of Summit
Nicholas Kikis, NJ Apartment Assn.
Marc Kiempisty, Pub. Ed. Council
Pasquale Sarnella, HFD

A. Call to Order

Chairman John Wisniewski brought the meeting to order at 10:07 AM and pointed out the fire exits.

On behalf of the entire New Jersey Fire Safety Commission, Assemblyman Wisniewski presented Gary Lewis with a resolution commemorating Mr. Lewis's 25 years of service to the Commission. Mr. Lewis had been a member of the Codes Advisory Council since its inception, and is now stepping down from it to concentrate on his work in other areas. Assemblyman Wisniewski thanked Mr. Lewis for his service and dedication to New Jersey's citizens and fire service. Mr. Lewis said that he feels very confident in leaving because his replacement, Joe Moschello, is extremely capable and a younger version of himself.

Commissioner Charles Schilling read a heart-felt letter from Gary Lewis announcing his resignation from the Codes Advisory Council. The letter outlined the achievements, battles, good times, and tough times throughout the last 25 years. Mr. Lewis's letter thanked Commissioner Schilling for the opportunity to serve and all the ways they have made New Jersey a safer place to live and work.

B. Approval of Minutes

With no discussion requested or necessary corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of January 21, 2009, were approved.

C. Correspondence

Chairman Wisniewski noted that all correspondence and council meeting minutes are contained within the Commission packets. Chairman Wisniewski made note of a few of the pieces of correspondence. Three of them were Assembly Bills: One requiring designated fire command structure in municipal emergency operation plans involving mutual aid responses to fire. Another requiring criminal history background checks for paid firefighters employed by fire districts. A third bill prohibits the sale and distribution of novelty lighters. The discussion on novelty lighters is on-going, particularly in the areas of fine amounts for offenders and the exact definition of what a novelty lighter is.

Commissioner Paul Hartstein and Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo are working closely with their respective Advisory Councils on the development of this bill.

Chairman Wisniewski also noted an e-mail from Commissioner Lewis Candura dated March 16, 2009, which would be put into the record under New Business.

D. Public Comment

Mr. Bernard Cohan spoke about the need to fill the vacant seat on the Fire Safety Commission. Assemblyman Wisniewski said that he is well-aware of the issue, and has continued to work on filling this seat. Mr. Cohan once again recommended that Red Bank Fire Marshal Stanley Sickels be the person appointed to fill the vacant spot.

Mr. Gary Lewis spoke about the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act (HR-1194), which is a bill in the House of Representatives that gives building owners a financial incentive to having their building equipped with fire sprinklers. Mr. Lewis believes the Commission coming out publicly in support of this bill would be extremely helpful. Chairman Wisniewski suggested that the Residential Sprinkler Committee come up with a resolution for the Commission to adopt at the next meeting.

Mr. Joseph Houck from the Summit Fire Department wished to publicly congratulate Gary Lewis on all his great work in Summit in the last 25 years. Also, Michael Whalen from Codes and Standards spoke about Gary Lewis's accomplishments on a national level, particularly in regards to anti-terrorism operations in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

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

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo, on behalf of the Division, echoed the prior sentiments in thanking Gary Lewis for his tremendous service to the Commission and the safety of New Jersey's citizens. He wished Mr. Lewis well in all his future endeavors.

The Division of Fire Safety has recently lost Regulatory Services veteran Sylvester Swanson to retirement. His replacement is Janet Dunigan, and she is working extremely hard to become an expert on the code and she has made tremendous progress thus far. Director Petrillo asks for everyone's patients in this area as the Division tries to replace all the experience and expertise of Mr. Swanson.

Director Petrillo reported that the updating of the Division's computer system is on the fast-track. Since the last Commission meeting, the Division has had a three-week session working with the vendor going over all the needs for the new system. By the end of the month we will have a formal report from the vendor, and it is hoped the first phase of the update will be completed by the end of 2009.

There were three recent Peer Review hearings for fire officials not submitting annual reports. One of these fire officials was penalized and sanctioned with a 30-day suspension and fine. The reports were done online this year and there was a 95%+ response. There are a few more Peer Review sessions scheduled for April, in one of which it may be recommended that a fire official be stripped of his certification.

The transition from the old code to the new code has gone fairly smoothly thus far. There have been close to one-thousand fire officials that have gone through the code update course. The Division is finding areas that need to be addressed little by little and having weekly meetings to work on them.

Director Petrillo informed the Commission that Governor Corzine has tasked each department to come up with a plan to reduce personnel by 20%. This has been extremely difficult for Director Petrillo to do, since it represents 18 individual positions within the Division of Fire Safety possibly being laid off. The fact that the Division is already operating under-staffed made this all the more difficult. Also, Director Petrillo gave an update on the high-rise survey. Data has been collected on over 400 buildings and the final report is currently being put together. Director Petrillo gave a brief synopsis of the report's contents.

Chief William Kramer reported that the Division is in the process of submitting paperwork to renew the contract with Kean University to run the CEU training programs. Hopefully the current economic climate will not have any negative effect on this. We are currently about half-way through the Spring 2009 semester, which turned out to be about 50% full (normal for this point in the year). Director Petrillo pointed out that this semester's course catalogue was not printed, but is only available online. This change saved a lot of money.

The Firefighter I textbook program has been moving along and the Division is in the final stages of awarding the bid through Treasury for the program. Chief Kramer could not disclose who the highest bidder is at this point. Also, Chief Kramer gave a brief update on port security. The investment justifications for the Port of New York are out now, and the ones for the Port of Philadelphia will be announced within the next week or so. These would be for Financial Year 2009.

Chief Lou Kilmer spoke about the new area of the Division of Fire Safety's website that deals with Frequently Asked Questions. This has been added to streamline the reporting process for fire officials, as well as those with codes questions for the Division. This has helped to keep the Division from being inundated with questions. The FAQs are constantly being added to and updated.

Commissioner Richard Blohm inquired about the contract for the Firefighter I books. Chief Kramer said there are enough books currently in stock to cover through June of this year. The process of awarding the contract will be completed soon, but whether the trigger is actually pulled on this to require the funding is yet to be determined. The

Division is of course hoping for the purchases to be approved, but the academies have been made aware of the situation in case it is not.

Commissioner Blohm asked if the Division of Fire Safety had been involved in the investigation of the recent fatal incident in Elizabeth. State Fire Marshal Petrillo answered that yes, the Division's Arson Unit has been involved since the very first day and has continued to be involved in the investigation of this incident.

Commissioner Blohm spoke about the recent St. Patrick's Day Parade in Hoboken and the utter mayhem that takes place in the city on that day every year. He talked about drunk and disorderly conduct by the parade-goers, and focused on the house parties that are held in Hoboken's apartment buildings. Commissioner Blohm asked what could be done – code enforcement-wise – to limit the size (and, in turn, the chaos) of these house parties. Both Chief Kilmer and Commissioner Schilling said that they did not believe there was anything that could be done to regulate a private home, but it is something that the Codes Council will look into. Assemblyman David Rible suggested that the Hoboken people get in touch with someone from towns at the Jersey Shore that deal with these types of issues throughout every summer.

Commissioner Arthur Londensky brought up the issue of a residential complex (400 residences) in Jersey City where the fire sprinklers have been turned off for 6 months. This has been done because of a pressure problem, and the Municipal Utilities Authority will not turn them back on. The homeowners are now going to court to get the water turned back on. Commissioner Londensky urged that while we're trying to get sprinklers in high-rise buildings, but we've got a situation here where there are sprinklers but they've been turned off. Commissioner Armando Roman said this dispute is ongoing between the tenants, homeowners, the building company (Hovnanian), and the MUA. Chief Lou Kilmer said the Division became aware of the situation last week. While this issue is apparently morally wrong, the residences are considered one-family dwellings so the fire code has no jurisdiction. Commissioner Roman said all parties involved have been getting together in an attempt to resolve the situation, but unfortunately it has not been resolved yet and the sprinklers have remained turned off.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis spoke about the 190 or so high-rise buildings that are not currently meeting the retro-fit requirements. Since the requirements were put in place 22 years ago, Commission Naylis asked what is being done to rectify this situation. State Fire Marshal Petrillo said the Division is going back to the local fire officials and investigating why the retro-fits have not been done. The Division is following up on all of these buildings on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Naylis stressed the urgency of this situation and asked that it be looked into thoroughly.

Commissioner Naylis raised the issue of towns that have outstanding fees that have been owed for several years. He asked if anything had been done to accelerate the collection of these fees. Commissioner Naylis said this money is more important than ever now because of the threat of lay-offs and the need for Firefighter I textbooks. Director Petrillo answered that the Division is continuing to identify all of the outstanding fees and

penalties. The Division anticipates that this program will continue and will serve to bring in more funding down the road. However, even when these monies are received, it doesn't necessarily mean it will go towards the operation of the Division or to avoid lay-offs, purchasing of books, etc. Assemblyman Wisniewski again suggested securitizing the debt and recouping as much of the money as possible that way.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Charles Schilling reported that the Codes Advisory Council did not meet since the last Commission meeting in January. However, Commissioner Schilling said the next Codes Advisory Council meeting will be "action-packed" and they will be looking into the issues raised by the Hoboken St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Director Petrillo said that the Division has been authorized to provide new code books to the Codes Advisory Council, as well as the Fire Safety Commission. Commissioner Schilling thanked him for this and said it was only appropriate since it is a volunteer job.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson gave the following report of the Training and Education Advisory Council:

The Training and Education Advisory Council met on February 17th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am.

The Council has several committees working. Members receive no compensation or expenses for their participation, members frequently have conflicts that prevent them from attending meetings. With meetings on a bimonthly basis, it takes a long time for a project to get studied, a training program outlined, standards developed, proposals reviewed by the full Council, and then get an approval to send to the Fire Safety Commission. Several members spoke to me about their perception that nothing is getting done.

This was a matter of discussion at our December meeting. I drafted an outline for the Operation of the Council and distributed it prior to the February meeting. It was adopted by the Council. The general principles are: Assignments to Committees will be specific and have a time schedule. Committees may include non-T&E members where appropriate to the subject matter. Committees will report at each meeting. When there is something major, materials will be e-mailed to the Council members prior to the meeting. Once an approval has been given by the Council, changes will only be made if absolutely necessary. A tracking system will be established to see that schedules are observed or changes are approved if justified.

Although the staff has decreased, the Office of Training and Certification processes between 600 and 1000 certifications each month.

Three bids were received in response to the RFP for a Firefighter-I and II text. The NJ Addendum, which was copyrighted by Delmar, is being re-written by Kean University. Much of the material is non-copyrighted regulations, but the format has to be changed.

The Homeland Security Seminar is tentatively scheduled for June 19th. New Jersey weekend at the National Fire Academy will be June 27th and 28th.

The Eligible Organizations meet with the Division staff quarterly. The Tier I EOs are generally the academies offering the certification programs. A meeting of those academies will be held this Friday. They have concerns and offerings that the Tier II EOs do not have. I hope to use them as a committee of T&E for feedback and as a resource to the Council meeting its objectives.

A number of challenge tests for Firefighter II certification have been offered with good results.

We still look for the amendments to the Fire Officer Certification standards that were approved at the August meeting the Fire Safety Commission to be proposed by Commissioner Doria in the *New Jersey Register*. A question was raised if the Proposal should now refer to the 2008 edition of the NFPA standard.

Richard Anderson, a member of the Council suggested that the "Safety Through Leadership" program of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation be included in the Officers program. No decision was made. The program will be distributed to the T&E members. It may also be part of the NFA program that is being offered on-line. We may have the course offered locally or as part of the CEU program and then make an evaluation.

The Drill Ground Instructor program which will replace the General Safety, Live Burn, and SCBA/Smokehouse Instructor programs was endorsed and recommended for adoption to the Office of Training & Certification as provided in the proposed Instructor Standard revisions. We hope that the Commissioner will now send the Proposal to the *Register* for publication. The Division will be offering this course during the Spring Semester.

The Committee to study Driver/Operator Safety Training reported that there are essentially four parts to be included: NFPA 1451, CDL requirements, Driving the apparatus, and how a certification system would be implemented.

The RIT Committee is circulating information by e-mail for review by the committee members. Chairman Ittinger arranged for videos to be taken during some training exercises so there would be pictures of firefighters in full PPE to include in the PowerPoint presentations for the various modules.

Recently, several people have asked me what is happening with the RIT project. A general review is probably advisable.

The initiative started with a study by a joint Committee from T&E and Health and Safety to determine if standardized training for RIT was advisable. The conclusion was, Yes. The development of the program was assigned to T&E and we established a Committee that includes some S&H members and some firefighters who are active in RIT training.

An outline for RIT Awareness was prepared and sent to the Office of Training and Certification for inclusion in the Firefighter I curriculum. I assume there have been delays because of the change in texts and that the presentation materials haven't been developed. An Operations module was developed. It will be the module for the Firefighter II program and can be presented as a stand alone course.

Standards for Team training, Instructors, and Team Leader are being finalized. Information to include in the Officer Certification programs on how to utilize a RIT is still needed. The Committee is considering if training for a RIT Officer (the supervisor of more than one RIT) is needed.

All of these materials have to have student handouts, instructor lesson plans, and teaching aids (PowerPoints, videos, references, etc.) assembled to complete the work. For this concluding work, there is a lot of information now being used at the EOs that simply needs to be edited.

The Committee on On-line training had no report. We agree that there have been improvements to on-line training and it is suitable for a lot of fire service training. One of the challenges to the committee is that it is a rapidly developing technology and difficult to keep abreast of.

The next T&E meeting will be April 14th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am. This is a week earlier than normal since many of the members will be at the FDIC in Indianapolis the week of the 20th.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that the Statistics and Information Advisory Council is continuing to see data come in from around the State. However, Commissioner Naylis expressed concern that the great reporting numbers the Division's NFIRS Unit has seen over the past few years will be greatly diminished soon due to the reduced staffing at the Division of Fire Safety. Commissioner Naylis called this a 'sorry state of affairs' because they had made such great strides in this area in recent years.

Commissioner Naylis reminded those that are applying for Fire Act grants that it requires participation in the reporting system. State Fire Marshal Petrillo added that a number of fire departments had grants held up due to their not participating in the reporting system.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner John Lightbody, no report was given.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Daniel DeTrolio reported that the Public Education Advisory Council met on March 12, 2009, and the minutes of that meeting are in the Commission packets. Commissioner DeTrolio talked about the progression of the FIRE Bowl program, which includes a record number of students this year. The final event will take place on May 19, 2009, at Kean University. The poster contest is moving along as planned with the theme of "Prevent Home Fires".

Commissioner DeTrolio also reported that the smoke detectors from the ABC-7 Operation Save-A-Life program have not been received yet. Charlie Luxton reported that they are expected to be in shortly and distribution will go from there.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council will be held in conjunction with the Juvenile Firesetters Prevention Council on May 13th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

Commissioner Richard Blohm submitted the following report:

The Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council met at the Middlesex Fire Academy on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at 1 pm.

The NJ Department of Health advised us that hopefully by the summer they will have revised the Respiratory Protection Program which will include, among other items, Air Purified Respirators (APR's). The changes when completed will be able to be accessed at the NJ Department of Health website.

There is an issue with a component of the fire retardant that is inherent in certain types of station wear. The Boca Raton, FL fire department has had more than several members appear to have been sickened and NIOSH is looking into whether or not the element, known as Antimony, is the cause of their problems. NIOSH is conducting an investigation, and once it's been concluded the information will be sent out in the form of an alert if it is deemed appropriate by the Department of Health. They have taken both hair and urine samples of those that believe they may have sustained adverse symptoms due to their station wear.

As we know, there was a firefighter fatality in Elizabeth recently and the NJ Department of Labor is looking into a safety back-up device that may have not been working at the time. Commissioner Blohm strongly recommended any departments that have these

safety features ensure they are in working order. Basically, this device, if on a fire apparatus, when hit would automatically locks the brakes of the vehicle. The only way for the vehicle to move again is to shift the rig into neutral before putting into drive or reverse.

The next meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council will be at 1:30 pm following today's Fire Safety Commission meeting at Middlesex Fire Academy.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo also mentioned the issue of Solar Panels in homes. The Division is working with Codes and Standards, as well as manufacturers, to put out a document on proper safety during incidents that involve solar panels. Commissioner Blohm mentioned that San Jose (CA) Fire Department has an extensive PowerPoint document on this issue that could be helpful. Charles Aughenbaugh also raised the issue of firefighter safety in regards to cell towers. State Fire Marshal Petrillo asked Mr. Aughenbaugh to forward this information along to the Division.

7. Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council

Commissioner Paul Hartstein reported that the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council had met on March 11, 2009, at the Burlington County Training Center. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the Commission packets. The minutes also contain the meeting schedule for 2009, as well as a memo from Director Petrillo on the duties of fire officials and fire inspectors.

The tentative dates for this year's Juvenile Firesetter Intervention & Awareness Conference are December 3rd and 4th. This is pending the approval of the Department of Community Affairs. A new topic to be discussed for this year's conference will be autism awareness.

There are two offerings scheduled for the Basic FireWatch program scheduled for Spring 2009 and both appear in the Spring 2009 Kean Course Catalog. The courses will be located at the Mercer County Fire Academy (4/6/09) and the Atlantic County Fire Academy (5/4/09).

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council will be May 13th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis first spoke about the International Codes Council and their adoption of residential sprinklers. Commissioner Naylis hopes that the State of New Jersey will, in turn, follow suit and adopt fire sprinklers as well. He feels it is important to keep the residential sprinkler adoption in the code, despite the potential efforts by homebuilders associations to have it removed.

Commissioner Naylis also commented on the fire sprinkler situation that is currently taking place in Jersey City (as was discussed earlier). It was his feeling that there should be requirements in the fire code to maintain fire sprinkler systems. Chief William Kramer said this would need to be done with a legislative change, because there are no current regulations to require this. Assemblyman Wisniewski asked that Commissioner Naylis provide him with some possible language on this.

2. Furniture Flammability Committee

Commissioner Naylis reported that he, Commissioner Londensky, and Commissioner Candura will be meeting shortly to determine exactly what their recommendations on the Furniture Flammability issue will be. One of the main concerns is moving forward with any kind of retro-fit package because of the current state of the economy. Also, the Committee is looking into expanding this research to include other types of buildings and manufacturing, not just limited to furniture.

H. Old Business

Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson spoke about the issue of the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the NJ Fire Safety Commission. There was a lengthy discussion on whether or not to continue with the execution of the celebration and how the money would be raised to run the event properly. It was decided that the Commission would be going forward with the planning of the event, and Commissioner Anderson urged the rest of the Commission to get motivated in helping get the event off the ground and seeking out sponsors. It was eventually decided to plan on having the event during a day when the Legislature is in session – which Assemblyman Wisniewski informed the Commission would next be in May and June. Assemblyman Wisniewski suggested the legislative members of the Fire Safety Commission could help with the sponsorship of the event. Assemblyman Wisniewski also suggested having the event in the State House to make the whole planning/reserving of the room process easier.

Commissioner Arthur Londensky inquired about the Highway Traffic Safety document that was being worked on with NJ State Police. Chairman Wisniewski answered that there is a guidelines draft that has been circulated to the Fire Safety Commission. Chief Kramer understands that the draft has been approved by Col. Fuentes and is now on the Attorney General's desk.

Commissioner Anderson reported that the Mid-Atlantic Conference for 2009 has been cancelled this year due to budget constraints. It was originally planned to be hosted by Tennessee, but the money to finance the Conference was not available.

Commissioner Roger Potts inquired about one of the Assembly Bills that Chairman Wisniewski distributed regarding the background checks on firefighters. Commissioner Potts expressed concern that the background checks also apply to those applying for volunteer firefighting positions.

I. New Business

Commissioner Lewis Candura, who is not in attendance, requested that the following e-mail (date March, 16, 2009) be submitted into the record:

Memo re: Division of Developmentally Disabled Sprinkler Proposal
Date: March 10, 2009

I am advocating installation and proper care of fire sprinkler systems as a highly effective means of helping save lives and property. The State of New Jersey is in a unique position to address a critical life safety issue for a vulnerable population, while also providing near full employment to one major segment of the building trades community. Currently there are approximately 1200 group homes without adequate protection from fire sprinkler systems, while Fire Sprinkler Fitters Installers throughout N. J. are currently dealing with over 25% unemployment. These projects would also provide jobs for Electricians, Carpenters, Laborers, Painters, etc. The total employment package would help create a major effort toward a stimulus necessary for workers & their families to maintain their homes. A relatively modest investment of \$5-\$6 million could virtually solve this problem. It is important to note: Department of Community Affairs, DYFS, and Division of Mental Health and Hospitals all had regulations promulgated to require retrofitting of these homes with fire sprinklers. The regulations were enacted in part to address the issue of "self evacuation" from these homes within 3 minutes. It was determined that based on occupancies of 4-12 persons per home, all with varying degrees of physical, mental or emotional issues, the potential of self evacuation was diminished significantly. Since 2006, NJFSAB has been working cooperatively with the Division of Developmentally Disabled to educate and inform the agency regarding the specific benefits of fire sprinkler systems, and background on their use, efficacy and installation process. NJFSAB has been contacted during 2007 and 2008 by numerous group home operators seeking additional specific questions regarding this process. There are multiple projects that are beyond "shovel ready", in the spring of 2008; Ms. Kathy Szul reported to the NJFSAB that limited funds were available for fire sprinkler installations. DDD provided the attached bidding guidelines to the group homes. Numerous group home operators then contacted fire sprinkler contractors for pricing. Prices were provided yet no work was ever awarded. Both the aforementioned Ms. Szul and Mr. Tom O'Neill, have prioritized lists of all group homes in questions. One specific example is the ARC of Somerset which in October, 2008 solicited a bid for \$30,000 to install sprinklers in a home with 6 residents. The project would provide approximately 2 weeks work for a 3 person crew, and a lifetime of fire protection for the residents. Finally, we must think of the first responders. To arrive at the scene of a structure fire with severely physically & mentally handicapped residents inside the structure. Without the added protection of a sprinkler system to help control or extinguish the fire could have devastating results. Automatic Fire Sprinklers Save lives & Property.

Irwin Kreisberg from the New Jersey Department of Labor spoke about the incident that took place in Elizabeth where a firefighter lost his life. He spoke about a piece of equipment at the back of the fire apparatus that malfunctioned and potentially could have caused the fatal incident. The device is basically a sensor that will stop the apparatus once it senses it backing into something. The issue is still being investigated, but it is possible if this device had been working properly a firefighter's life could have been saved. Assemblyman Wisniewski asked if this device was required for all apparatus, and Mr. Kreisberg answered that it is not.

Chairman Wisniewski mentioned that he is working with Dr. Frank Field, the Department of Education, and the NJEA to get the "Fire Is..." video included in the curriculum in schools. He spoke about mandating laws for fire safety curriculum in schools to be updated, and it is hoped this can be done for the 2009-2010 school year in the fall.

J. Adjournment

Chairman Wisniewski asked if anyone had any additional business they would like to bring before the Commission. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:12 PM.

*** The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on May 20, 2009 at 10am. It will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ. ***