The NJ Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2011, at the Toms River Fire Academy in Toms River, NJ.

**Commission Members Present:**
- Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman
- Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Vice-Chairman
- Mr. Charles W. Schilling
- Ms. Kathleen O’Leary
- Mr. Armando Roman
- Mr. Roger Potts
- Mr. Ronald Phillips
- Mr. Lewis Candura
- Mr. Arthur Londensky
- Mr. John Lightbody
- Mr. Arthur Mercurio
- Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
- Mr. Steve O’Gorman
- Mr. Daniel DeTrolio
- Mr. Gerard Naylis
- Mr. Richard Blohm
- Mr. Frederick Collender
- Mr. Kenneth Swider

**Commission Members Excused:**
- Senator Donald Norcross
- Mr. Paul Hartstein
- Mr. Ronald Phillips

**DCA Staff Members Present:**
- William Kramer, Acting Director
- Jim McFadden, NJDFS
- Charles Lavin, NJDFS
- Rick Farletta, NJDFS
- Jason Spiecker, NJDFS
- Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

**Guests:**
- Daniel Mulligan, Ocean Co. FM
- Rich Heimbach, Master Planning A.C.
- Carole Lightbody, Atlantic Consulting
- Ronald McGowan Jr., Wildwood Crest Fire Co.
- Bob Yaiser, Toms River F.P.B.
- Irwin Kreigsburg, PEOSH
A. Call to Order

Chairman John Wisniewski called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and began the meeting with the “Pledge of Allegiance” and pointed out the fire exits.

Chairman Wisniewski called for a moment of silence for Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson who recently passed away. Commissioner Anderson was one of the longest-tenured and most enthusiastic members in the history of the Fire Safety Commission. His presence on the Commission and presence in New Jersey’s fire service will be greatly missed.

Chairman Wisniewski thanked Commissioner John Lightbody for providing breakfast at today’s meeting, as well as the Toms River Fire Commissioners for providing lunch.

B. Approval of Minutes

With no discussion requested or necessary corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of May 19, 2011 were approved.

C. Correspondence

Chairman Wisniewski noted that all correspondence for today’s meeting is contained in the Fire Safety Commission packets. With no discussion requested on any of the correspondence at this time, the meeting was moved to Public Comment I.

D. Public Comment I

Chairman Wisniewski opened the floor to any member of the public wishing to speak. With no members of the public wishing to comment at this time, the meeting was moved to Division of Fire Safety Activities.

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

Acting Director William Kramer reported on the ongoing issue regarding SCBA Bottles that have not been permitted for use. The Division of Fire Safety met with the Attorney General’s Office, Department of Health, and Department of Labor. The Division of Fire Safety got documentation from Fed OSHA stating that they will not be allowing the SCBA Bottles in questions to be utilized. Because of this, we are back at square one and a memo will be sent out to all New Jersey fire departments inquiring about SCI cylinders, gathering the information, and moving forward from there.
Chief Kramer gave an update on the large-diameter hose failure that took place in Sussex County. The device is still at a metallurgist in Delaware that is performing tests. More information for this testing is needed from the manufacturer, Snap-Tite, but they are not being cooperative. The Division is getting help from the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office to issue another subpoena. Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked if there were any preliminary findings on this. Chief Kramer said there were preliminary findings from prior tests at Rutgers University, but nothing complete or official from the metallurgist in Delaware as of yet.

The Amendment to the Fire Equipment Contractor’s Certification requirements appeared as an adoption in the July 18th edition of the New Jersey Register. Also, an Amendment adopting the Federal Mattress Flammability Standard appeared in the June 6th edition of the New Jersey Register. Public comment is being accepted until August 5th.

Chief Kramer reported at the last meeting that the Division of Fire Safety had lost its position on the State’s Exercise Support Team but that they were successful in getting that person’s position transferred to the Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness – thus ensuring the fire service’s input. Unfortunately, that person will be leaving state employment and therefore fire service input may be lost. The Division of Fire Safety will be asking the Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness if they can fill this position with a fire service person. Commissioner Richard Blohm inquired as to whether there was a requirement for there to be a fire service member on the Team. Chief Kramer answered that there is no requirement, and this is something that was fought hard for by past State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo.

Chief Kramer reported on the ongoing water utility issue. The way the notification procedure stands right now is the water utility contacts the County Office of Emergency Management Coordinator when there is a disruption of service in that particular county. There was an exercise held on June 27th that simulated a failure of two 79-inch water mains in Totowa along the Passaic River. This would cause a no-water condition in the major cities of Passaic, Essex, Union, Hudson, and part of Bergen Counties. Discussion was centered on response, emergency planning, and recovery of both the water companies and emergency services. The notification was practiced the way it is intended to work from the water utility to the County OEM. Incidentally, there was a large water main break last week in Englewood Cliffs. County Fire Coordinator Larry Rauch was notified by both the County OEM Coordinator and the water utility, so the procedure did work effectively there.

On June 8th, the Division of Fire Safety lost one of its original K-9 Arson Investigators as “Taz” lost his battle with cancer. A new K-9 named Ashes is currently training with Arson Investigator Rod Meyer and has been coming all nicely. Taz will be missed by the entire NJDFS.

Over 150 fire service personnel from New Jersey took part in the 2011 New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy last month. Chief Kramer said it was a great
weekend with nine different courses. Superintendent O’Neil stopped in on all of the courses and the fire service personnel in attendance benefitted greatly.

The Division of Fire Safety has been involved in the investigation of a rash of fires that have struck the City of Camden throughout the summer. The Division also provided support and coordination of fire service resources, and activated/responded with the Southern Neptune System. Chief Kramer called upon Stephen Letts from the Arson Investigations Unit to provide a comprehensive report in regards to these fires. Mr. Letts provided specifics on four extremely large fires that have taken place in Camden throughout June and July. While they have caused varying degrees of damage and the causes for many of them are still under investigation, a common denominator is that they are taking place in large, abandoned buildings. The Division of Fire Safety is now working in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection to identify these types of buildings throughout the State. This is a major issue when firefighters are entering buildings where the contents and situation are unknown. This is a massive undertaking, so the project will be starting with the City of Camden and branching out from there.

Chief Kramer reported on a recent press release from the Department of Community Affairs concerning “Fuel Gels”. These flammable, alcohol-based compositions are generally used in the summer season and sold at hardware/chain stores. The gels have a sticky, gel-like consistency much like hand sanitizer. They can cause serious burns and the Division of Fire Safety urges extreme caution if you do come in contact with these types of products.

Commissioner Lawrence Wood asked what had become of the Statewide Rehabilitation Guidelines. Chief Kramer answered that the document was completed and is posted on the NJDFS website. Commissioner Wood asked if a copy could be distributed to the Fire Safety Commission, and Chief Kramer agreed that could be done via the Commission Secretary.

Commissioner Wood asked if the Fire Safety Commission report had been submitted to DCA Commissioner Grifa. Chief Kramer said the document is ready and waiting for Chairman Wisniewski’s signature and submission. Chairman Wisniewski said this would be completed immediately.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Charles Schilling reported that the Codes Advisory Council met on June 15th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the Commission packets.

The bulk of Commissioner Schilling’s report was spent on the proposed adoption of Amendments to the Uniform Fire Code. The Codes Council submitted the 19-page
document to the Fire Safety Commission electronically on July 13th and asked them to review all the proposed changes. Commissioner Schilling noted that a tremendous amount of work had been done to create this document over the past year and asked for the Fire Safety Commission’s approval. Several questions were asked in regards to the document:

Vice-Chairman Pat Intindola asked about the requirement for a portable fire extinguisher when a home is sold. He asked what the cost would be to have a fire extinguisher serviced. Commissioner Intindola thought people would never wind up doing that. Michael Whalen from the Division of Codes and Standards answered that this item has always been included in the proposal and it is in there because you can not force people to buy a new fire extinguisher (although it is definitely cheaper), so that it why that item is in there.

Commissioner Wood added that it was his thought that there would not be regulations on fire extinguishers in the home because the Fire Safety Commission did not agree with the law requiring them in the first place. Chief Kramer answered that there is a statute that requires extinguishers, and these regulations are a necessity because there had been none prior. This regulation needs to be approved because, as it stands now, people can put just about anything in their home and call it a fire extinguisher. Commissioner Londensky added that this language finally gives an inspector something to reference, and makes their job much less difficult. On this same topic, Commissioner Naylis urged Chairman Wisniewski to work to repeal this law one way or another.

Commissioner Naylis asked a question in regards to NFPA 96 and why it was cited for mobile enclosed units. Michael Whalen answered that it is in there for mobile enclosed units because the mechanical code does not address mobile enclosed units; only NFPA 96 does. This is the only time NFPA 96 will be used. Commissioner Naylis also asked about the requirement for fire suppression systems in furniture storage and manufacturing facilities; and would they only be applicable to certain square footages. Michael Whalen answered that this was added because of the Charleston, SC, incident and the proposed square footages come from the 2012 International Code.

Commissioner Naylis also inquired about his proposal in regards to windowless basement. There was a debate as to what constitutes an opening “above grade”. Several Commissioners weighed in on this topic with varying opinions. Commissioner Schilling answered that the opening must be above grade and that is what the code modifications reflect.

Commissioner Arthur Londensky made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission adopts the Proposed Amendments to the Uniform Fire Code as submitted by the Codes Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence Wood and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schilling also brought up the issue of the Mobile Enclosed Arcades. A lengthy discussion took place on the safety of these trailers and how they would be
inspected. Many of the Commissioners expressed concern that the trailers, with a year between inspections, would be manipulated in the meantime and made unsafe. Commissioner Schilling said this was a possibility, but as of now there is nothing regulating these structures, so this would certainly be more than nothing. Commissioner Londensky agreed that something needs to be in place regulating these types of structures.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis made a motion that the Proposed Amendment to the Uniform Fire Code regarding Mobile Enclosed Arcades be adopted with the condition that they be inspected every 6 months rather than once a year. Chairman Wisniewski asked if the Division of Fire Safety has the ability to perform this many inspections. Chief Kramer answered that it’s impossible to tell right now because they don’t currently know how many are out there. There will be a big learning curve on the Division’s end on this issue, but ultimately they would find a way to get it done. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Blohm and passed unanimously.

2. **Training and Education Advisory Council**

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council met on June 21st at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville, NJ. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the Commission packets.

Commissioner Wood reported that the Division of Fire Safety is still working to get IFSAC and ProBoard accreditations into New Jersey. The Division has also applied for, and become, a voting member of IFSAC and is still working on becoming a certifying member. This means that the Division can vote on the overall concepts of the organization; and being a certified member would mean that your training program has been certified and actual certifications are approved by the ProBoard and IFSAC agencies. Commissioner Wood said he hopes becoming a certifying member isn’t too far away and feels it will happen in the near future.

The Training and Education Advisory Council is also working on looking at FESHE and ACE accreditations. They are becoming more involved with higher education organizations that are providing fire service education throughout the state, and trying to get them in synch with the fire academies. Commissioner Blohm asked if there was a fee for fire academies to obtain ACE accreditation. Commissioner Wood answered that there is, and one of the hopes are that the State can get the accreditation from ACE. Therefore, once an academy is certified by the State, they receive ACE accreditation. Commissioner Blohm cited Bergen County as having had ACE accreditation, but they were forced to drop it due to the cost.

The Training and Education Advisory Council also spoke about Firefighter-I and Vo-Tech programs. Academies need to have a letter from the Department of Education stating that the academy and Vo-Tech can run the Firefighter-I course in its entirety for students under the age of 18.
After a thorough review of several Fire Officer Training Programs, the committee decided that the Jones & Bartlett Fire Officer text and programs will be what is best for New Jersey’s fire service. The committee reviewed both Jones & Bartlett and Delmar’s 3rd Edition Company Officer. IFSTA was not reviewed after determining they were working on the 2003 Edition of NFPA 1021; not the current edition. Switch to new product cannot begin until the regulations have been changed. Chairman Wisniewski asked if these were books being purchased by the State. Commissioner Wood answered that Fire Officer I & II books are not provided by the State, they are purchased from the manufacturer. Commissioner Naylis asked if this was required to go to public bidding. Commissioner Wood answered that it does not, but there still needs to be a regulation change.

The Training and Education Advisory Council is still working on the RIC Operations course. In the meantime, Chief Kramer has stopped all work by Kean University on the RIC Operations course until the T&E Council provides direction on it. Chief Kramer stated that there are no current certifications for RIC, and it is usually something that is already addressed at county academies. What the Training and Education Advisory Council is working towards now is standardizing the RIC course.

Commissioner Wood made a motion that Scott P. Smith be added to the Training and Education Advisory Council. His resume was submitted to the Commission for review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Potts and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled for August 16th at 10 AM at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported progress for the Statistics and Information Advisory Council. Data continues to be submitted to the Division of Fire Safety’s NFIRS Unit as the year moves along.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

Before the Master Planning and Research report, Chairman Wisniewski noted that after 37+ years on the job in Toms River Township, Chief John Lightbody retired as of June 30th. The Fire Safety Commission offered their sincere congratulations. Chief Lightbody stressed that he would not be retiring from the Fire Safety Commission or his duties as Chairman of the Master Planning Council and Fire Sprinkler Coalition.

Commissioner Lightbody noted a correction from the Master Planning Advisory Council’s 2009-2010 Annual Report that was distributed at the last Fire Safety Commission meeting. There was a specific statistic on fire fatalities on page 7 that was incorrect. The correction has since been made and the report finalized.
Commissioner John Lightbody reported that the Fire Sprinkler Coalition met on June 7th and July 11th at the Toms River Fire Academy. Minutes of the June meeting are in the Commission packets. Commissioner Lightbody reported on this meeting:

Dave Kuraz gave a report about the research he has been doing for the Coalition on what would be the precise cost per square foot for the Coalition to use in all public information and lobbying campaigns. The figures he obtained were from the AFSA and Master Plumbers. The figure was $2.01 (without pump or tank) per square foot. The figure represented a 3700 sq. foot home. The figure may skew higher if a basement is involved. A suggestion was made that the average square footage used should be 2500 sq. feet, which is more the average of the typical 1 & 2 family home in New Jersey.

Dave Matos said that the figures used by the Coalition should not be “all over the map” and that the Coalition should settle on a number. Matos said that a consistent and real number was critical to developing a unified public information and lobbying campaign.

Stanley Sickles offered that widespread adoption of sprinkler ordinances would be taken into account by Property and Casualty providers resulting in savings for individual municipalities owing to lower ISO ratings for all. Mr. Sickles suggested that that could be a major point in any public information and lobbying campaign.

Chief Lightbody stressed that the Coalition had to pursue a professional marketing campaign for the sprinkler issue, including the major components of any campaign, which typically begins with a public opinion research poll, (a quick and inexpensive solution was to offer the project to one of the county college statistics classes as a semester project).

A process of coalition building with all stakeholders would be initiated, as would a concentrated direct mail campaign using email to save money, supplemented by cable television advertising via Comcast and Cablevision, where specifically targeted :30 spots would air with frequency on specifically targeted cable television channels, including News 12 New Jersey.

A Coalition website ala “Faces of Fire” could be established as a sort of clearinghouse to issue “white paper” statements on the issue, and to offer statistical data on the success that sprinklers have in fire suppression, ideally based on whatever anecdotal information there was arising out of NFIRS data for the state. The importance of social media such as a Facebook page and a Twitter account to supplement public information efforts and to direct traffic to the website was also mentioned by Chief Lightbody.

Frequent press releases to all state-wide media including the Google local “Patch” websites, as well as scheduled editorial board meetings with Coalition leadership articulating the issue to assignment editors of the leading state newspapers, such as the Star Ledger, the Asbury Park, Atlantic City Press and Trentonian. Long form interviews could be promoted with issue-oriented columnists at those papers. Public Policy websites
such as NJ Spotlight, PolitickerNJ.com and New Jersey Newsroom could host long form position papers on the issue.

Several committees under the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council are still hard at work on researching Shared Services, Shared Resources, Volunteer Recruitment and Retention, Manning of Fire Apparatus, and Manpower Status Report. The next meeting of the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council is scheduled for August 8\textsuperscript{th} at the Toms River Fire Academy at 10 am.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Daniel DeTrolio reported that the Public Education Advisory Council met on July 14\textsuperscript{th} at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. The minutes of that meeting are in the Commission packets. Commissioner DeTrolio thanked Chief Kramer for reporting on the 2011 FIRE Bowl in his absence at the prior meeting, as it was a great program, a great day, and he hopes it will continue to flourish.

The main topic of discussion at the July 14\textsuperscript{th} meeting was the theme for the 2011-2012 Fire Safety Poster Contest. Commissioner DeTrolio explained recent debate that had been going on regarding this theme. Classically, the theme has always coincided with NFPA’s theme – which is “Protect Your Family From Fire” this year. However, the NJ Fire Prevention & Protection Association has been insistent on changing the theme to “Fire Sprinklers Save Lives”. The NJFPPA and NJDFS have been partners in this program for many, many years. Chief Kramer stressed that the NJDFS would like this long-time partnership to continue.

The Public Education Advisory Council felt it would cause mass confusion in diverting the theme from the NFPA’s (which local organizations order materials from for promotion each year). In addition, any Poster Contest that the Division of Fire Safety will be involved with this year must include the theme “Protect Your Family From Fire”. Whether the NJFPPA decides to continue the partnership using this theme – or go off in a different direction and separate contest – is yet to be determined. Once this is hashed out, materials will be sent out and posted on the NJDFS website. The Public Education Advisory Council voted unanimously to support the theme “Protect Your Family From Fire” as set out by the NFPA’s national campaign for Fire Prevention Week.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission support sticking with the NFPA theme of “Protect Your Family From Fire” for the 2011-2012 Fire Safety Poster Contest. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Potts and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary asked Mr. Luxton if there was a pick-up location for smoke detectors set up in the southern part of the State. Mr. Luxton answered that, since the detectors are obtained through the WABC Operation Save-a-Life program in New York, they are designated first for the counties north of Burlington. However, Mr.
Luxton feels that once they are distributed in the north they can be opened up to the rest of the State.

Lastly, the Public Education Advisory Council is going to change their meetings to the Wednesday before upcoming Commission meetings. This will be done so as not to conflict with meetings of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council is scheduled for September 7th at 10 AM at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville.

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

Commissioner Richard Blohm reported the last meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council was on May 19th at the NJ Department of Community Affairs.

Commissioner Blohm noted that the Rehabilitation Guidelines are now posted on the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety website. All Commissioners are encouraged to review the document. It will also be sent out in a .pdf format to all Commissioners via the Secretary.

Commissioner Blohm made a motion that Thomas K. Gironda be added to the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council and submitted his resume to the Fire Safety Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Naylis and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council will be today, July 20th at the Toms River Fire Academy at 1:30 pm.

7. **Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council**

In the absence of Commissioner Paul Hartstein, Charlie Luxton reported the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council met on July 13th at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center. The minutes of that meeting are in the Commission packets.

A Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I program was held in Hudson County on May 23rd and 24th at the North Bergen Community Center. There were 66 students total, including five from the FDNY Fire Marshal’s Office. North Hudson Regional Fire & Rescue partnered with the Hudson County Fire Protection & Prevention Association to provide lunch each day. Kean University provided breakfast as well. Helge Nordveit and Joe Ehrhard did a fine job of instructing.

The Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council presented a program on June 15th called “Clinical Treatment Strategies and Solutions for Children Who Set and Misuse Fire”. It was held at Middlesex County Fire Academy and was geared more towards mental health professionals than the fire service. The presenters were Dr. Alan Feldberg of Cornell Abraxas Treatment Center, Ms. Karen Gruss, former Director of the
Hunterdon County Youth Shelter, Ms. Dee Pannullo from the Jersey City Public School System, and Detective Marlon Webb of Family Transition Support Services.

The dates for the 9th Annual Juvenile Firesetter Conference have been set for December 1st and 2nd. The Council has been informed that the waiver required from the New Jersey Treasury Department to approve the grant has been approved. It does not seem there will be a reduction in the funds marked for the Conference. A Conference Committee was formed to oversee and develop this year’s Conference, which is set to take place at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council is scheduled for September 8th at 10 AM at the Middlesex County Fire Academy

G. Committee Reports

   1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis stated that he had no additional information to add to Commissioner Lightbody’s report of the Fire Sprinkler Coalition.

H. Old Business

Commissioner Lewis Candura asked Chief Kramer if there was anything to report on regarding Contractor Certifications violations. Commissioner Candura had requested some data on this at the previous meeting. Chief Kramer answered that Chris Michallis at the Division of Fire Safety has been looking into this data. The problem seems to be that many of the complaints against contractors, roughly half, are completely unfounded claims and totally untrue. In many cases it is one contractor calling to complain about another. The Division is working on a way to screen these claims because it is wasting the time of an already understaffed unit. Chief Kramer will not commit field staff to chase down these untrue issues.

Commissioner Wood asked if approval waiver had been obtained for the Division of Fire Safety’s contract with Kean University. Chief Kramer answered that, yes, the Division and Kean University are good to go going forward.

I. New Business

Commissioner Roger Potts recommended that Lawrence Wood be appointed as the Chairman of the Training and Education Advisory Council. Chairman Wisniewski agreed that this would be appropriate and said he would speak to Commissioner Wood following the meeting regarding the appointment.

Chief Kramer spoke about New Jersey’s participation in the Mid-Atlantic Conference of State Fire Commissions. For the past few years, Commissioners Anderson and Mercurio would attend and, for the most part, fund the trip themselves. Chief Kramer asked the
Commission to consider supporting New Jersey’s attendance in this Conference, and also asked if any Commissioners would be interested in attending this September in North Carolina. Commissioner Mercurio stated that there is a lot to be learned at these Conferences, as there is a plethora of information and expertise in other states. Commissioner Gerard Naylis expressed interest and said he would check his schedule.

A discussion was held in regards to the date and time of the September Commission meeting. It was ultimately decided that the best date and time to convene at the Wildwood Convention Center would be on Thursday, September 15, 2011, at 10 AM. Ronald McGowan Jr. from the Wildwood Crest Fire Co. said that he and Chief Conrad Johnson would work together on the arrangements for the meeting and keep the Fire Safety Commission informed of the details. Chairman Wisniewski thanked him for his assistance.

J. Public Comment II

With no members of the public wishing to comment at this time, the meeting was moved to Adjournment.

K. 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 12:03 pm.

* The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 10am. It will be held at the Wildwood Convention Center in Wildwood, NJ