

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

Meeting of April 4, 2018

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at the President Park Fire Company in Sayreville, NJ.

Commission Members Present: Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Daniel DeTrollo
Mr. Gerard Naylis
Mr. Roger Potts
Mr. Pasquale Intindola
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary
Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. Fred Collender

Commission Members Excused: Assemblyman Joseph Danielsen
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Stanley Sickels
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. Steve O’Gorman
Mr. Armando Roman
Mr. Kevin Bellew

DCA Staff Members Present: Lou Kilmer, NJDFS Acting Director
Rick Farletta, NJDFS
Britt Schulmeister, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Jerry Clark, NJDFS
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

Guests: Rich Silvia, NJFPPA President
Ronald McGowan Jr, Wildwood Crest Fire

A. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Kevin Krushinski called the meeting to order at 10:17 AM. Vice-Chairman Krushinski led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, and pointed out the fire exits.

Vice-Chairman Krushinski noted that the Fire Safety Commission did not have a quorum at the meeting and could, therefore, not take any official action. He also thanked the

President Park Fire Company for hosting today's meeting on short notice and providing the refreshments.

B. Approval of Minutes

With no discussion requested or additional corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of January 17, 2018 were approved.

C. Correspondence

Vice-Chairman Krushinski noted that all correspondence for today's meeting is contained in the Fire Safety Commission packets. With no discussion requested on any of the items, the meeting was moved to Public Comment I.

D. Public Comment I

Vice-Chairman Krushinski opened up the meeting to any members of the public wishing to address the Fire Safety Commission.

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 Louis Kilmer began his report by talking about the new Fire Code. The 2015 edition has been adopted and will start being enforced as of July 1st. The NJDFS is now working on setting up roughly 20-25 training offerings (1-day each) on the new code. Money had been set aside in the budget for this training, and they will be offered throughout May and June. Chief Kilmer said sometime after June they will start running the trainings online. The Division of Fire Safety has been working with the ICC to get the books printed – they are currently going back and forth with corrections and reviews. They should be available by July 2nd and will also be available on their website.

Chief Kilmer spoke about a few notable changes in the new code – particularly requirements for 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms and pictographs on propane tanks. Also, changes to Subchapter 2 and 4 went into effect upon adoption of the new code.

The NJ Division of Fire Safety has finished the new fireworks regulations according to the bill that was passed last July. This does not allow for all commercial fireworks to be sold, just certain types of novelty ones. These regulations are based on NFPA 1124. A Type 2 permit will be required for over the storage of over 125 lbs of explosive materials. These regulations are now in the DCA Commissioner's Office, and Chief Kilmer is hopeful they will be in place by the 4th of July.

Chief Kilmer spoke about the Solar Signage that is being worked on, and there is a problem with getting all information onto one sign. Depending on the solar array, it may

not all fit on the 9-inch by 9-inch sign that is required. They are working on changing the regulations to a 12-inch by 12-inch sign.

At a prior Fire Safety Commission, the NJDFS was asked to determine if the potential exists in New Jersey to have a high-rise fire similar to the one last year in London. Chief Kilmer described the material used in London as cladding, made mostly of aluminum that melts at a relatively low temperature. This is not necessarily prohibited in the Uniform Construction Code. The NJDFS will be surveying each LEA to see if this material is used and what the circumstances are in the building. The surveys will be going out within the week.

Chief Kilmer reported that the new rules governing record-storage and delivery of notices are now in place – they can now be done electronically. Chief Kilmer also spoke about all the new training standards that are now in place and stressed that they are all voluntary. These are not mandatory training standards.

The 2016 Fire in New Jersey has been completed a number of times and has gone back and forth to the Department for corrections and reviews. It should be completed in full shortly, and then posted on the NJDFS website. Going forward, the report will feature more of a broad view of what is going on with the state's fire service – not just statistical data.

Chief Kilmer reported that the NJDFS is working through the process of establishing a Compliance Unit. This has been a process, but they are nearly at the point where they can begin hiring people. There will be roughly five or six people that make up this unit. Chief Kilmer also said the Division of Fire Safety is looking to work more closely with contractors to establish better working relationships.

On April 12th, the NJDFS will be hosting a Firefighter Health and Fitness Symposium. It will be an all-day event with many expert speakers in several health-related areas. There are still a few seats available and registration can be done through Kean University. Chief Kilmer stressed that they aren't trying to mandate anything for firefighters fitness-wise – they are just looking to provide tools and best practices should anyone want to take advantage of them.

The Fire Department Preparedness Unit, under the leadership of Rick Farletta, has been reorganized and had two new employees added. There is now a Principal Planner (as Rick's assistant) and the rest of the Unit has been brought up to full staffing.

Chief Kilmer spoke about issues with farm workers housing. Seasonal workers are being brought into the state to work at commercial farms and housed in unsafe conditions. Chief Kilmer has met with the Departments of Agriculture and Labor and they have forged a partnership to inspect these types of worker camps on farms. There are roughly 550 of these camps statewide, so it is a significant undertaking to look into them all.

Chief Kilmer reported that he had spoken to some of the Division's legislative liaisons in regards to the junior firefighter issue. They are looking into what can be done, legislatively, to establish rules across the board as to what junior firefighters can and can not do in training. Chief Kilmer also noted he had met with the new DCA Commissioner – Lt. Governor Shiela Oliver – and he could not say enough how positive it was. Chief Kilmer looks forward to a great working relationship with the new administration.

The NJDFS swore in all the County Coordinators at the end of January. This is done every two years, and all nominees from the counties were accepted. There were a couple new coordinators and the rest were reappointed. The new radios were distributed to all counties as well.

The Spring Semester Brochure was released and classes are already 50% full. The NJDFS Training staff and staff at Kean University were instrumental in the roll-out of the new semester and registration is moving along. Also, Chief Kilmer reported that the hold-mail and collections project that is ongoing has resulted in well over \$1 million in outstanding fees being collected.

Tim Weiss will be participating in the AFG Grant Review in Baltimore, Maryland. Also, Charles Lavin will be representing New Jersey at both the Vision 20/20 Community Risk Reduction Symposium (Reston, VA) and NFPA Conference (Las Vegas, NV).

On a sad note, Chief Kilmer announced the passing of Michael Johnston. Michael was an inspector with the NJDFS for a number of years. He passed unexpectedly and left behind a young family. Chief Kilmer asked that everyone keep Michael and his family in their thoughts and prayers.

Chief Kilmer polled the Fire Safety Commission on what they would – ideally – like to see happen with the fire extinguisher bill that required them in homes. He asked if they would like to see it left alone, left up to the local municipality, or repealed entirely. After some discussion, the Commission was unanimously in favor of repealing the law entirely if at all possible. (As there was not a quorum, there was no formal vote.)

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo asked if there had been any inquiries, or any fire code related discussion, in regards to marijuana being legalized in New Jersey. Chief Kilmer said there has not really been anything at this time, but it seems to be approaching sooner than later. Commissioner DeTrollo added that he has already had inquiries about warehouses for the growing and distribution of marijuana.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked about the requiring all inspections be done by certified fire inspectors. Chief Kilmer answered that some progress had been made as far as non-LHU inspections. The Division of Fire Safety is actively looking to make this change.

Commissioner Pat Intindola asked if the NJ State Fire Safety Commissioners would be receiving hard copies of the new code. Chief Kilmer said that he will have Marylain

Kemp reach out to everyone and see who wants/needs a new code book and fill those requests by the May meeting.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Pat Intindola reported that the Codes Advisory Council met on February 21st at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the meeting packets. The Codes Council reviewed its proposal log at the meeting, many of those items – as well as the consumer fireworks proposal - were covered by Chief Kilmer under NJ Division of Fire Safety Activities.

The Carbon Monoxide Proposal and Guidance Document was issued in the form of a bulletin from the Division of Fire Safety. Also, the Codes Council agreed on a three-color fire protection tag system. The three are: red – system out of service, imminent hard; yellow – system in violation; green – system in compliance.

Commissioner Intindola also spoke about Large Timber Construction, about which the Codes Council recommended sending a letter to the DCA Commissioner about concerns with them. The Codes Council also has been working on Fire Alarm Activations / School Lockdowns. Chief Kilmer added that, since the tragedy in Parkland, FL, the NJDFS has been working with other state agencies to come up with a standardized way to safeguard schools while remaining fire safe.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for April 18th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner Lawrence Wood, no formal report was given.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled for April 18, 2018 at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that the Statistics and Information Advisory Council is continuing to press departments to submit their data in a timely basis. They are also pushing hard for better quality of the reports and the data.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner Raymond Heck, no formal report was given.

5. **Public Education Advisory Council**

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo reported that the Public Education Advisory Council had not met since the last Fire Safety Commission meeting and asked Charles Lavin to give a brief summary of the current public education programs going on at the Division of Fire Safety.

Charles Lavin reported that the 13th Annual NJ FIRE Bowl program was underway, featuring schools from nine districts statewide. The program continues to enjoy support from its steadfast sponsors: Eastern Fire & Safety, Hartz Mountain, Joshua Marcus Group, and the NJ State FMBA. The final event is scheduled for May 24th at Kean University.

Mr. Lavin reported that the NJDFS is anticipating roughly 5,000 10-year sealed-battery smoke alarms from the 2018 Operation Save-a-Life program. They will most likely arrive in New Jersey (from Kidde) in May. From there, the Community Risk Reduction Unit will oversee distribution.

Based on the success of last year's Inaugural New Jersey Fire Safety Summit, Mr. Lavin has been asked to speak at June's NFPA Conference. He will be helping representatives from other states get these public education events up and running, as well as laying the foundation for New Jersey to host a regional Mid-Atlantic Safety Summit later this year.

Jerry Clark will be overseeing the NJ Fire Safety Poster Contest, which will come to a close in the following weeks. Any County Coordinators (or local officials) that have submissions can contact Mr. Clark at the NJDFS.

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

In the absence of Commissioner Richard Blohm, no official report was given.

7. **Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council**

Commissioner Kathleen O'Leary reported that the Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council met on March 1st at the Monmouth County Fire Academy in Freehold.

Commissioner O'Leary reported that a Youth Firesetter Program Manager class was held in March at Monmouth County Fire Academy. Also, the 16th Annual Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference is already set for November 29-30, 2018 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. A meeting of the planning committee is tentatively set for May 22nd to discuss the specifics of planning the conference.

Commissioner O'Leary reported that the Council is still pushing to get better participation from all counties in order to get more comprehensive reporting. The Council also discussed meeting with school administrators (superintendents) at county meetings throughout the state.

The next meeting of the Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for May 10th at the Burlington County Fire Academy.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis said he is hopeful that, with a new administration now in place they will have better results in advocating for a residential sprinkler bill.

H. Old Business

Acting-Chairman Kevin Krushinski stated that, due to a lack of quorum, the reorganization vote would have to be held off until the May meeting.

Commissioner Intindola asked about the bill that would add four additional spots on the Fire Safety Commission for civilians. According to the legislative report submitted in the meeting packets, it is still pending.

I. New Business

There being no new business to discuss at this time, the meeting was moved to Public Comment II.

J. Public Comment II

Acting-Chairman Krushinski asked if any members of the public wished to comment at this time. There being none, the meeting was moved to Adjournment.

K. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Krushinski asked if anyone had any additional business they would like to bring before the Commission. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:09 am.

*** The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 10am. It will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ ***