

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

**Meeting of March 20, 2019**

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ

**Commission Members Present:** Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Chairman  
Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Vice-Chairman  
Sen. Sam Thompson  
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood  
Mr. Gerard Naylis  
Mr. Charles Siedenburg  
Mr. Steve O’Gorman  
Mr. Daniel DeTrolio  
Mr. Raymond Heck  
Mr. Richard Blohm  
Mr. Arthur Londensky

**Commission Members Excused:** Mr. Kevin Bellew  
Mr. Fred Collender  
Asm. Anthony Bucco  
Mr. Armando Roman

**DCA Staff Members Present:** Lou Kilmer, NJDFS  
Rick Farletta, NJDFS  
Frank Clark, NJDFS  
Charles Lavin, NJDFS  
Jerry Clark, NJDFS  
Leonard Inzerillo, NJDFS  
Vince Campagna, NJDFS  
Jason Spiecker, NJDFS  
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

**Guests:** Ronald McGowan Jr, Wildwood Crest Fire  
John Garton, NJDOL-PEOSH  
David Kurasz, NJFSAB  
Alan Querec, Somerset County  
William Scott, Rutgers ES  
Paul Roman, NJ Fire & EMS Institute  
Peggy Brookes, Princeton  
Alden Blackwell, Tenafly FD  
Paul McGrath, City Fire  
Rich Silvia, NJFPPA President  
Joseph Hankins, NJSFA  
Bob Gregory, Princeton  
William Kramer, Cinnaminson Fire

## **A. Call to Order**

Chairman Kevin Krushinski called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM. He led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, and pointed out the fire exits.

## **B. Approval of Minutes**

With no discussion requested or additional corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of January 16, 2019 were approved.

## **C. Correspondence**

Chairman Krushinski noted that all correspondence for today's meeting is contained in the Fire Safety Commission packets. It was noted that the Codes Advisory Council minutes had not been submitted to the Secretary prior to the meeting, and would be distributed electronically at a later date. With no discussion requested on any of the items submitted, the meeting was moved to Public Comment I.

## **D. Public Comment I**

Chairman Krushinski opened the meeting up to any members of the public wishing to comment before the Fire Safety Commission. Glenn Corbett from the Codes Advisory Council spoke to the Commission regarding creating a fire investigation team that would examine major fires in the State of New Jersey. This would not be a cause-and-origin investigation, but more from a fire and building code/emergency response perspective. There have been a number of significant, multi-million dollar loss fires in recent years and there have been no studies done on them. This body, the Fire Safety Commission, recommended forming such a team over a year ago, and to date it has not been done. Mr. Corbett asked that the Fire Safety Commission urge the Commissioner of DCA to make this a priority and put this investigation team together. This would be a predominantly volunteer group, it would just need the administrative support of DCA.

Mr. Corbett also spoke about the importance of firefighter communications and interconnected radio signals for emergency services. Mr. Corbett stressed that the regulations on these communication systems are extremely important, particularly when dealing with high-rise buildings. The provisions for amplified signals at this point only pertain to new buildings, but not existing buildings. This has taken on an even greater importance with the need for law enforcement and emergency response in an active shooter situation at schools and other public buildings. Mr. Corbett added that the Codes Council needs to be aware and educated on the potential dangers/hazards/issues that the coming legalization of marijuana could have statewide.

In regards to the legalized marijuana, Commissioner Stanley Sickels made a motion that a letter be sent to the Governor and DCA Commission urging them to include fire service professional on the body that will be regulating the industry. Commissioner Gerard Naylis added that perhaps this could be included in the legislation. Senator Samuel

Thompson comments that this legislation is on the fast track and there is no way the current bill will be amended. It is simply too late with a vote being pushed for for next Monday. Commissioner Sickels stressed that Colorado's standards and regulations should be used as a model and made a motion that a letter conveying this be sent to the Commissioner of DCA, with it being copied to the Governor's Office. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Arthur Londensky and passed unanimously.

David Kurasz from the NJ Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board expressed his encouragement in the approval of the 2018 Code, and reported that the Residential Sprinkler Bill (A3974) will be heard on the full Assembly floor on this coming Monday. Mr. Kurasz urged everyone present to reach out to their elected officials to keep this on the agenda.

**\*SPECIAL PRESENTATION\***

On behalf of the NJ Fire Safety Commission, Chairman Kevin Krushinski recognized City Fire's continued contributions to the fire service in the State of New Jersey. A plaque was presented to Paul McGrath for dedicated service to public safety and firefighter safety statewide.

**E. Division of Fire Safety Activities**

In the absence of Director Richard Mikutsky, who was meeting with the Lt. Governor in Trenton at the time of the meeting, the Division of Fire Safety report was given by Chief Lou Kilmer. Chief Kilmer began his report by talking about the newly-formed Compliance Unit, which is now up and running led by George Beckett. Their tasks include collecting outstanding fees, placing judgments against businesses and/or owners, and moving appeals along at a faster rate. The Unit is off to a great start and has collected over half a million dollars in outstanding debts.

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, the new 10-year sealed battery smoke alarm requirements went into effect and a news release was put out by DCA about it. That news release is included in today's Commission packets and it was picked up by several media outlets statewide. Chief Kilmer also spoke about the RIMS system, which is due to be replaced as soon as October (but more likely sometime in 2020). Chief Kilmer said that it is of the utmost importance that the system allows for information sharing with emergency responders in all municipalities.

Chief Kilmer spoke about "cold spark machines" that are now showing up at concert/entertainment venues throughout the state. A demonstration was held at the previous Codes Advisory Council meeting, and updated regulations are being worked on to address potential hazards or issues the machines may present.

Chief Kilmer regrettably reported on the passing of K-9 Arson Investigator Merwin, who passed away during training last month. The NJDFS is in the process of procuring and training new K9s. Chief Kilmer also spoke about the Peer Review Board that will be meeting in the near future. The reviews are for major offenses like not doing inspections, falsifying records, etc.

The next code update (which will include roughly 50 minor corrections) will be submitted and printed in the very near future. A blast was sent out to all fire officials explaining that they need to add code updates (from the ICC) to their books on their own – that they will not be automatically mailed. Chief Kilmer also announced the retirement of Jean Janukowicz who is in the process of being replaced.

The Firefighter Health & Fitness Summit is scheduled to take place at the end of April; and there is also a bill out that would provide a mental health hotline for first responders. This is a vital service for firefighters, as suicide is a serious problem. There has also been a rash of civilian fire fatalities thus far in 2019, and this has particularly hit the older population. The NJDFS, through public education outreach and working with their network of fire prevention professionals on a local level, is working towards addressing this.

Chief Kilmer spoke about the Junior Firefighter legislation that was proposed in both the Senate and Assembly. While the NJDFS can not endorse legislation, they did have a chance to take a look at it. The Division of Fire Safety has also been looking into fire safety issues associated with school lockdowns, as well as continuing their involvement in farm inspections.

Vice-Chairman Pat Intindola requested that the press release on the 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms be sent as a Bulletin as well. He wondered how many code officials would have come across this in the news, so asked that it be sent directly. Chief Kilmer said this was something that could be done. Commissioner Arthur Londensky requested an update on Hot Work Permits and Vice-Chairman Intindola said this would be covered during the Codes Advisory Council report.

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo spoke about a recent press event in Edgewater relative to the fire that took place there. Commissioner DeTrollo said local officials were present. Glenn Corbett reported that Senator Weinberg had hosted a two-hour session with several local officials and interested parties, and an open discussion was held. There will be a follow-up meeting, including the DCA and Division of Fire Safety, where they will further examine the issue going forward.

Commissioner Stanley Sickels asked about the inspections of non-Life Hazard Use buildings and asked what types of changes would have to be made procedurally to do this – statutory or regulatory. Chief Kilmer said this would definitely need a regulatory change, and the jury is still out on statutory changes.

Commissioner Richard Blohm asked about the new certifications that the Division of Fire Safety is looking at. Chief Kilmer answered that he would check with Kent Neiswender and report back as soon as possible. Chairman Krushinski asked what type of permit the new “cold spark machines” would require. Chief Kilmer answered that it would most likely be a Type 2.

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

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

Vice-Chairman Pat Intindola reported that the Codes Advisory Council met on February 20<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. The meeting minutes did not make it in time to be included in the Commission packets, so they will be forwarded electronically. The Council reviewed their log of proposed items, as well as put “Escape Rooms” on the agenda for the next meeting. A committee was also set up to address Emergency Responder Radio Coverage and they will be reporting at the next meeting.

Commissioner Stanley Sickels spoke about Hot Work Permits and the OSHA training programs associated with them. These programs already exist and can be done online, so the Council will be looking into whether this can be incorporated into the permitting process. Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked for particulars on what the OSHA training covers (pertaining to hot work), and Commissioner Sickels answered that this is what they are looking closely into to make sure all bases are covered. Commissioner Naylis stressed that the requirements for obtaining hot work permits should be very stringent.

At the previous Codes Advisory Council meeting, Commissioner Stanley Sickels resigned his position as Vice-Chairman. Chairman Kevin Krushinski subsequently appointed Commissioner Arthur Londensky Vice-Chairman of the Codes Advisory Council.

Commissioner Naylis asked if the Codes Advisory Council had discussed the issue of water companies impeding households from getting residential sprinkler systems. Vice-Chairman Intindola said they had not, but would add it to the agenda for April’s meeting. The Commission engaged in a discussion as to how to remedy this, including getting involved with the Board of Public Utilities. Michael Whalen from Codes & Standards said they are currently trying to iron out this issue between the Department of Environmental Protection, the Board of Public Utilities, as well as the Attorney General’s Office. These agencies are continuing to meet.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville.

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

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council met via phone-in meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the Commission meeting packets. Commissioner Wood noted that the minutes are a comprehensive account of the meeting and asked that the Commission members review them and ask him any questions they may have.

Commissioner Wood spoke about the Firefighter I and II training questions he has been getting of late, with people saying there are too many hours, etc., etc. He stressed that

firefighting today is getting more and more difficult, and often times more is being done with less (personnel, resources, etc.). The regulations on the training problem are available that outline what all needs to be done and he referred everyone to that when questions arise. Chairman Krushinski asked how many hours have been added to Firefighter I for the TIMS program and Commissioner Wood answered that it would be roughly 2.5-3 hours.

Commissioner Richard Blohm asked how the telephone conference call meetings were working out and how someone could “attend” them. Commissioner Wood answered that the meetings work out remarkably well, making it easier for people to be involved (no limitations on travel, etc.). He noted that all one would have to do to attend the meeting is contact him and they would be given the telephone number and code to access the meeting. Those meetings, however, were set aside for the winter months and the next meeting will be in person.

Commissioner Raymond Heck asked about the Fire Officer 3 and 4 programs and how many instructors can actually teach the course. Commissioner Wood said he is unable to answer that, but Fire Officer 3 has only been run very few times and therefore so has Fire Officer 4 been run even less. Commissioner Heck expressed concern that instructors would be unable to get certified to teach this course given the certifications needed now to qualify. Commissioner Wood said they could get the qualifications but they would need to get recertified through ProBoard and IFSAC. Commissioners Wood and Heck went back and forth on specific scenarios of how an instructor would get this certification and Chief Kilmer directed them to contact Kent Neiswender at NJDFS to get a clarification.

Commissioner Wood made a motion to reappoint the following members of the Training and Certification Advisory Council be reappointed: Anthony Aвило, William Bates, Brian Bennett, Patrick W. Bigoss, Patrick Boyle, Michael Corbo, Anthony Correia, Michael Daley, Alfred Gerber III, Robert V. Hill Sr, William Itinger, Chester Krawcykowski, Jr, John Kubilewicz, Anthony S. Mangeri, William Nolze, Lawrence R. Rauch, Paul D. Roman, Paul C. Sandrock, Wesley Suckey, Steven C. Taylor, Joseph Vallo, Ray VanMarter, Philip Wilk, Keith Greene, Ronald D. Martinelli, Alan A. Querec. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Heck and passed unanimously.

Chairman Krushinski appointed Commissioner Charles Siedenbug as Vice-Chairman of the Training and Education Advisory Council.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled to take place on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville.

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

Commissioner Gerard Naylis echoed Chief Kilmer’s concern about the recent data that indicates the majority of the many fire fatalities so far in 2019 have been senior citizens. Commissioner Naylis spoke about working with NJDFS’s Vincent Campagna on

examining the incidents more closely to determine how to address this trend from a public education and public messaging standpoint. Commissioner Naylis also spoke about the possibility of using/developing a training program that shows fire departments and fire prevention bureaus how to use local data to address the public's needs, get additional funding, etc. Commissioner Arthur Londensky also asked NJDFS's Charles Lavin to contact NFPA to explore if this type of data analysis training is offered in any way.

Commissioner Naylis also spoke about training fire departments on writing better narratives in their NFIRS reporting. The clarity and comprehensiveness of the reports will not only help give a good picture of what actually happened, but also protect the fire department down the road as well.

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

Commissioner Raymond Heck reported the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council is looking closely at the situation where firefighting foam is being recalled by the Department of Environmental Protection. The Division of Fire Safety is currently surveying departments statewide and Commissioner Heck spoke about the large amount of the unusable foam that is out there. There was a lengthy discussion regarding how to locate the material, how to dispose of it, and what to use going forward.

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

Commission Daniel DeTrolgio reported that no meeting had been held since the previous Fire Safety Commission, but called upon Charles Lavin to report about ongoing Public Education programs at the NJDFS.

Mr. Lavin reported that Jerry Clark is currently working with NJFPPA President Rich Silvia on the New Jersey Fire Safety Poster Contest. They are currently in the collection/judging phase to determine the seven eventual grand prize winners. The winners, along with a few honorable mention posters, will then be integrated into the design of the 2020 New Jersey Fire Safety Calendar.

A summary report of the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Regional Fire Safety Summit was submitted for the Fire Safety Commission's review. Mr. Lavin has also spoken with NFPA on holding a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Fire Safety Summit in New Jersey – and it is tentatively scheduled for December 4, 2019. This program would be partially dedicated to “Remembering When” training for public educators that focuses on senior citizens. This is particularly relevant given the recent trend in civilian fire fatalities in New Jersey in 2019.

Charles Lavin also spoke about the beginnings of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety's presence on social media. The administration at DCA has asked that the NJDFS activate and use its Twitter handle “@NJFireSafety” which will begin use as soon as next week.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council will be scheduled in conjunction with the final event for the FIRE Bowl program – May 10<sup>th</sup> at Kean University.

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

Commissioner Richard Blohm reported that the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council met on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The Department of Labor reported that their inspectors are only at 50% staffing, and that is with an increased workload recently. Commissioner Blohm reported the Department of Health indicated that a company is putting out uncertified cylinders, so anyone purchasing them should ask to make sure they are approved by NIOSH.

The Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council is also working on a review of the “pink book” and reported progress from the subcommittee that is looking at it. The Department of Health has given the Council permission to revise this document.

The next meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council will be held today following the Fire Safety Commission meeting, here at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

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

Chairman Kevin Krushinski reported that the Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council met on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Princeton Municipal Building. The Council enjoyed a thorough and comprehensive presentation on the Mercer County Youth Firesetter Program. Presenters Peggy Brookes and Robert Taylor gave the full scope of their procedures and partnerships that has made the Mercer County program work and provided a template for other counties to follow and/or modify as they see fit.

Chairman Krushinski reported that two Fire Is classes were offered during the spring semester. One on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gloucester County Fire Academy, the other on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Passaic County Fire Academy. Also, there were two Youth Firesetter Awareness courses slated for April 29<sup>th</sup> (Atlantic County) and May 15<sup>th</sup> (Kean University). Registration for all spring semester courses is now open at [www.keanfiresafety.com](http://www.keanfiresafety.com). Also, a Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist class is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in Cumberland County.

Chairman Krushinski gave an update on Assembly Bill 4540 which calls for reporting of burn injuries from hospitals to the fire service. Commissioner Krushinski had worked alongside several lawmakers throughout the summer to get the bill introduced, and he will keep the Council updated as it moves through the legislative process. There was also a discussion on creating a certification for youth firesetter intervention specialist, because at this time it is not a requirement for someone to have the YFIS training or credentials to do a screening.



The next meeting of the Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> at Monmouth County Fire Academy.

## **G. Committee Reports**

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

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reiterated that a bill in the Assembly is coming up for a vote, so anyone who is able should contact their respective Assembly representatives and attend the upcoming hearing.

## **H. Old Business**

Chairman Krushinski asked if anyone had any Old Business to bring before the Commission. There being none to address at this time, the meeting was moved to New Business.

## **I. New Business**

Commissioner Richard Blohm referenced the comment period regarding Energy Storage Systems that he had distributed a few weeks prior to the meeting. Commissioner Naylis said he reviewed the documents and concluded that such facilities would have to be compliant with the Uniform Construction Code; and Commissioner Wood commented that without knowing particulars on the facilities it is difficult to know what fire safety measures are necessary to be taken.

Chairman Kevin Krushinski took a moment to thank Sprinkler Fitters Union 696 for generously providing coffee and refreshments for today's meeting.

## **J. Public Comment II**

Michael Whalen from Codes & Standards spoke about the section of the 2018 code that included the requirement of attics being suppressed when it comes to multiple dwellings. Mr. Whalen asked that the Commission members and public comment positively on this step.

## **K. Adjournment**

With no further discussion requested, Chairman Krushinski called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Londensky made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner DeTrollo and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:53 am.

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**\* The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 10am. It will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, New Jersey\***