

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

Meeting of July 19, 2023

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at the Surf City Volunteer Fire Department in Surf City, NJ.

Commission Members Present: Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Chairman
Sen. Anthony Bucco
Asm. Kevin Rooney
Mr. Steve O’Gorman
Mr. Fred Collender
Mr. Charles Siedenburg
Mr. Charles Maria
Mr. Raymond Heck
Mr. Kevin Bellew
Mr. Lawrence Wood
Mr. Arthur Hayducka
Mr. Karl Spinner
Mr. Paul McGrath
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary

Commission Members Excused: Mr. Arthur Londensky, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Nelson Wiest
Mr. Armando Roman
Mr. George Aleu
Mr. Gerard Naylis

DCA Staff Members Present: Richard Mikutsky, NJ State Fire Marshal
Louis Kilmer, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Don Nelsen, NJDFS
Gregory Kirkham, NJDFS
Steve Dyl, NJDFS
Dan Timmerman, NJDFS
Leonard Inzerillo, NJDFS

Guests:

Joseph Hankins	Robert Ordway	Ronald McGowan Jr.
Timothy Carson	William Quinn	Dennis Allen
Joseph M. Lenarski	William Gee	Charles Lind Jr.
Brian Kubiel	Matthew Lenora	Bernie Cunningham

A. Call to Order

Chairman Kevin Krushinski called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM. He led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those from Newark Fire Department – Augusto “Augie” Acabou and Wayne “Bear” Brooks Jr. - recently lost in the line of duty and the men and women serving our nation overseas.

B. Approval of Minutes

With no discussion requested or additional corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of May 17, 2023, were approved as submitted. Assemblyman Kevin Rooney made the motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frederick Collender and passed unanimously.

C. Correspondence

Chairman Krushinski noted that any and all correspondence for today’s meeting was contained in the Commission packets. Secretary Charles Lavin noted that the Codes Advisory Council were not submitted in time to be included in today’s meeting packets and had been distributed electronically.

D. Public Comment I

Chairman Krushinski opened up the meeting to any members of the public present wishing to address the Commission. Lee Eggert from Tuckerton Fire Department spoke about his ongoing issue with Don Nelsen of the NJDFS and the problems that have caused the Tuckerton Fire Department to be taken out of service. Assemblyman Kevin Rooney questioned Mr. Eggert as to whether the municipality (Tuckerton) knew he was speaking at today’s meeting, and whether they had advised him or discussed with him his attendance at the meeting. Mr. Eggert answered that they had not. Assemblyman Rooney explained that he was asking to clarify whether or not he was acting as the municipality’s fire department chief without their permission or authorization. After a lengthy discussion between Assemblyman Rooney, Commissioner Raymond Heck, and Mr. Eggert regarding Mr. Eggert’s standing with the Borough of Tuckerton, Mr. Eggert agreed to speak only on behalf of himself at today’s meeting.

Lee Eggert, speaking as a private citizen now, went on to speak about the lack of fire coverage in the Borough of Tuckerton. He spoke about this being the result of an erroneous report, which he had forwarded to the Chairman of the Fire Safety Commission. Mr. Eggert went on to accuse Don Nelsen from the NJDFS of perjuring himself in the report, at which time he was cautioned by Commissioner Raymond Heck when making such accusations in a public forum regarding this case. Assemblyman Rooney added that he is putting his municipality at risk by speaking on this matter in this manner at today’s meeting. Mr. Eggert went on to give further details on the report in question, at which time he was advised by Chairman Kevin Krushinski that this matter has been discussed beyond the allowable time limit. Chairman Krushinski further

explained that the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission is an advisory body and by now is fully aware of Mr. Eggert's position on this matter.

With no more members of the public wishing to address the Commission at this time, the meeting was moved to Division of Fire Safety Activities.

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

Director Mikutsky began his report by stating that the NJDFS continues to provide valuable and life-saving services to the citizens of New Jersey. Additionally, they continue to receive support from the DCA Administration for this important work.

For the past two weeks, the NJDFS has been intimately involved with the tragic incident that took place in the Port of Newark on July 5th. From the coordination of outside resources during the fire, to coordinating two days of coverage for the City of Newark (which put its entire department out of service for the funerals), to conducting an origin and cause investigation and then the arduous ongoing task of investigating the firefighter fatalities. Director Mikutsky acknowledged the compassion, dedication, and professionalism of the NJDFS personnel in the Bureau of Fire Department Services during this difficult period.

Director Mikutsky reported that the Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Task Force Committee met twice since the last Fire Safety Commission meeting in May. The first meeting was an organizing meeting, and the most recent meeting began discussions on requirements for training and Firefighter I certifications amongst other incentives to attract volunteers.

Director Mikutsky reported that the NJDFS's K-9/Investigations Unit has done approximately 190 investigations so far in 2023. It has been a very busy season for wildland fires, and the NJDFS assisted the NJ Forest Fire Service with their investigations. Many of these fires were intentionally set and we are continuously working with law enforcement agencies in certain targeted areas of the Pinelands.

The K-9/Investigations Unit also continues to be involved with the Newark Ship Fire / 2 LODDs investigation. The scene examination was initially delayed due to ongoing fire suppression, safety concerns, and Coast Guard control, but it was eventually completed on July 12-13. BATFE National Response Team led this effort and NJDFS Investigators operated under their taskforce. The fire originated in a "pusher vehicle" used to load the ship. There was a significant delay in fire department reporting due to crew attempts to control the fire. The NJDFS will now be working with PEOSHA to further investigate the 2 LODDs that occurred here. They will be examining the contributing factors, deficiencies/recommendations, and potential violations.

The NJDFS's newest K-9 Investigator - Murray - continues with basic training. He will hopefully be fully certified by the late summer/early fall. Murray is teamed with Investigator Walt Zieser in the North region.

Director Mikutsky sadly reported that Investigator Stephen Letts's partner – K-9 Titan - was euthanized on June 16th due to rapidly deteriorating health after a large tumor was discovered only a week prior. The NJDFS is looking for a replacement K-9, but currently our only certified K-9 Teams are in the South region. The NJDFS is working with other agency K-9s to help minimize the impact of this.

From the Office of Training & Certification, Director Mikutsky reported that the 2024 Kean contract was submitted in March and are awaiting word of its approval. They have also determined that the next New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy will be June 1-2, 2024. Registrations will be through the Kean website. There will be 7 classes to choose from:

- a) Incident Command System and Resource Management for the Fire Service
- b) Preparation for Initial Company Operations
- c) Emergency Response to Terrorism: Strategic Considerations
- d) Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist
- e) Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction
- f) Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking
- g) New Fire Chief: Contemporary Issues

Director Mikutsky reported that the National Fire Academy has changed the way they operate as of March. They will no longer accept paper applications for its classes. The eligible organization will have to email a request with the class title, facility location, date, and how many students. They will then set up the class on their website. Students can then apply for class credit 24 hours before the class starts and up to 14 days after the class ends. At the conclusion of the class, a roster must be sent with student names, FEMA ID numbers, grade, course location, and date. They will match up who is signed on-line and issue certificates from there. For the student to register, they will go to: <https://training.fema.gov/generaladmissionsapplication/staticfoms/startapplication.aspx>.

On June 14th the National Fire Academy sent a letter regarding the Notification of Course Removal from the State Dashboard. Several courses the NFA is giving have been given an End Date. This means the NFA will no longer support these courses through on-campus deliveries, no longer provide an NFA/ACE certificate after September 30, 2023, or provide curriculum updates or NFA-supported staff delivering at your location. These courses will still be available to use as a state delivered program, are eligible to be funded through NFA State Training Grants and will remain active on your NFA dashboard until September 30, 2023. These courses are as follows:

- 00154 – Safety Program Operations
- 00633 – Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist
- 00634 – Youth Firesetting Program Manager
- 00193 – Campus Fire and Life Safety I: Risk Assessment
- 00194 – Campus Fire and Life Safety II: Public Education
- 00195 – Campus Fire and Life Safety III: Codes and Systems
- 00637 – Wildland Urban Interface: Fire-Adapted Communities – Introduction and Leadership, Course I

- 00638 – Wildland Urban Interface: Fire-Adapted Communities – Strategies for Developing a Fire-Adapted Community, Course II
- 00639 – Wildland Urban Interface: Fire-Adapted Communities – Developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Course III

Director Mikutsky reported that the Hazardous Materials: Incident Commander credentialing program should be ready for a fall delivery. Train-the-Trainers are being scheduled. Requirements for the Instructors will be Firefighter 2, Instructor 2, DGI, IML2, and HM: IC state certifications. The RIC credentialing program should also be ready for a fall delivery. Requirements for the Instructors will be Firefighter 2, Instructor 2, DGI, and a letter of support from their respective Tier 1 academy or career department. There will be an 8-hour Train-the-Trainer (4 hours classroom, 4 hours demonstrations). As per ProBoard and IFSAC, the RIC certifications will not be accredited, they will be locally certified.

Director Mikutsky reported that the Office of Training & Certification has caught up with the huge influx of Hazardous Materials: Incident Commander applications that were sent in. From March 15, 2023, to July 12, 2023, a total of 10,074 certifications were issued by this office; 6,507 were Hazardous Materials certifications, which 2,423 were for Hazardous Materials: Incident Commander. Director Mikutsky commended Greg Kirkham and his team for all their hard work on this.

The NJDFS's Training & Certifications Unit & Kean University are reaching out to Somerset OEM to arrange an ICS "bridge" class for current DFS ICS Instructors to follow OEM Instructor requirements. They are also progressing with the work on the different regulations regarding Fire Inspector/Fire Official (N.J.A.C. 5:71) and Training/Junior Firefighters (N.J.A.C. 5:73). The Live Burn Instructor, Live Burn Instructor In-Charge, and Instructor 3 certifications will be placed into the regulations probably next year.

Firefighter 2 Written Equivalency Exams Course Delivery Forms are being received by the Office of Training & Certifications and scheduling has started. Individuals wishing to sit for the Firefighter 2 Written Equivalency Exam must have the NJ Firefighter 1 state certification on file with the NJDFS. Individuals must have five years of experience before January 1, 2008, OR have previously taken a Firefighter 2 before January 1, 2008. All individuals wishing to sit for the exam must be vetted by the Office of Training & Certification before being allowed to sit for the exam. Progress is also being made on the Apparatus Driver/Operator series that is being developed. The SME Group is currently working on the Driver/Operator – Apparatus Equipped with Fire Pump credentialing program. The classroom training, practical, and written exams will be provided by Tier 1 County Fire Academies. The hands-on training will be provided at the local level in the firehouse. Classroom Emergency Operator Course (CEVO) does not count towards this certification or training.

Director Mikutsky reported that IFSAC is requiring Training/Kean to separate the Hazardous Materials: Operations Written Exams into three separate exams since the

NJDFS is certifying the three different titles: Hazardous Materials: Operations (30 questions), Hazardous Materials: Operations Mission Specific PPE (10 questions), and Hazardous Materials: Operations Mission Specific Product Control (10 questions). Each exam must be passed to successfully complete the entire Firefighter 1/Hazardous Materials credentialing program. This takes effect immediately. Director Mikutsky also noted that the new Training & Certification credentialing system (computer system) should be ready for a Fall 2023 debut.

Director Mikutsky reported that NJDFS NFIRS Unit staff have trained approximately 300 fire service members in Fire Incident Report Writing Classes so far in 2023. The delivery method included all in person classes including four for Kean University and 31 local delivery classes. These training classes encompassed 21 different fire departments including both volunteer and career departments. NFIRS Unit staff responded to 30 of the 36 fatal fires in New Jersey and conducted 25 Fatal Fire NFIRS Report Reviews of the current 36. They have also conducted 49 emergency responses to fire departments for NFIRS Coding assistance in various types of fires including multiple alarm fires, Fatal Fires, Civilian Burn Fires, Electric Vehicle Fires, Warehouse Fires and Residential Dwelling Fires.

So far in 2023, NFIRS Unit staff has calculated Property Loss Estimation of Fires in New Jersey at approximately \$225,265,892.00 during emergency responses. They have also audited and processed 31,786 incidents for 227 fire departments. Only 445 of the 704 or 63% of fire departments have reported any NFIRS Reports in 2023. NFIRS Staff has also assisted multiple branches within the NJ State Police, NJ State Medical Examiner’s Office, US Federal Bureau of Investigations, US Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, US Homeland Security, FEMA, US Secret Service, NJ Office of Homeland Security and Protection, NJ Forest Fire Service, United States Fire Administration and 32 other states’ NFIRS State Level Program Managers. Director Mikutsky also noted that, to date in 2023, there have been 38 Fatal Fire Reports, 54 School Fire Reports, and 276 Civilian Burn Reports.

Director Mikutsky gave the following statistics from the Office of Fire Department Preparedness at the halfway point of 2023:

Notifications-multiple alarms	301
Emergency responses	38
Exercises	27
Special Events	23
Fire department assistance	138
Training	92
Fire department complaints	45
Meetings	
County fire coordinators	121
Fire departments	207
County fire chiefs	66
Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness	51

FBI / Joint Terrorism Task Force	81
ROIC / State Emergency Operations Center	118
Area Maritime Securities Committee	9
Urban Area Securities Initiative	21
NJ Fire Threat Task Force	35
NJ Office of Emergency Management	15
Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force	6
NJ State Emergency Response Commission	2
NJ Health and Safety Committee	4
NJ Statewide Utility Safety Committee	6
NJ All Hazards Incident Management	12
Meetings total-	760

From the NJDFS’s Office of Fire Department Preparedness, Director Mikutsky reported the State Emergency Operations Center-ESF4 (fire) Emergency Operations Plan now includes NJ Forest Fire Service. The Emergency Operations Plan has been reviewed for approval by NJOEM. Also, now all NJDFS mobile and portable radios are equipped with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection frequencies. It allows for direct communications with NJ Forest Fire Service, NJ Department of Environmental Protection bureaus and dispatch center.

The Office of Fire Department Preparedness is continuing discussions with Union County Communications for NJDFS radio migration from Mercer County. The Communications Center is nearing its completion of renovations and upgrades to a state-of-the-art center. OFDP staff are also continually assisting NJ State Police and Homeland Security with ASIM (Active Shooter Incident Management).

Director Mikutsky reported that the Community Risk Reduction Unit has assisted 66 fire departments statewide so far this year. In total, 2,685 smoke alarms and 1,221 CO alarms have gone out. Distribution is ongoing, so those numbers will continue to rise as the year goes on. Smoke/CO Alarm Distribution is still ongoing, so those numbers will continue to rise.

New Jersey will be hosting a NFA Pilot Course set for August 16-17 at Monmouth County Fire Academy. It is entitled “Youth Firesetting Interviewing & Educational Interventions” and will be delivered to 20 students over the course of two days. Also, planning for 20th Annual NJ Youth Firesetting Intervention Conference is in progress. National Fire Academy Superintendent Eriks Gabliks is booked as Keynote Speaker for that event.

Director Mikutsky noted that the Fire Focus Summer 2023 edition was being worked on and will be posted/distributed on or around August 1st. Also, NFPA has announced the 2023 Fire Prevention Week Theme: “Cooking Safety Starts With YOU. Pay Attention to Fire Prevention” and will run from October 8th through October 14th.

In following up on inquiries regarding Lithium-Ion Battery Fires, Director Mikutsky offered the following statistics to the Commission members:

- *13 e-bike lithium-ion battery fires
- *1 vehicle lithium-ion battery fire which was a gas-powered vehicle illegally converted by the owner to an electric vehicle.
- *4 Electric Vehicle Fires
- *1 Electric Vehicle Fire that re-ignited one week later (Jamesburg, Middlesex County)
- *3 laptop/computer lithium-ion battery fires
- *6 Fires related to E-Cigarettes
- *2 Fires related to Cell Phones (both were from individuals tampering with the device or experimental disassembling)
- *1 Fatal Fire related to Lithium Ion Battery (7-10-23) Jersey City, Residential.
- *1 E-Bike Fire that Closed the Pulaski Skyway inbound to Jersey City 7-14-23.
- *It does not appear many are using the NFIRS Plus one codes of 3A for cause of fire being Lithium-Ion battery or 30A for first item ignited lithium-ion battery.

Commissioner Heck inquired about the Training Unit's report as it relates to the IFSAC standards that went into effect in July. However, he is being told that the three new tests will not be available until September. Greg Kirkham answered that the NJDFS does have the tests and they are separated into three exams for three separate certifications. Commissioner Heck thanked Mr. Kirkham for his clarification on this matter.

Commissioner Heck and Assemblyman Rooney inquired about the continued emergence of electrical vehicles, particularly given the Governor's new plan to expand these greatly going forward. They wanted to know what is being done, and what can be done, to prepare the emergency services for potential electrical vehicle fires. Director Mikutsky answered that this is still extremely new to the fire service, but absolutely needs to be address from an equipment perspective, a time/manpower perspective, and a training perspective. The health impact and environmental impact need to be closely examined as well. These are all things the NJDFS is aware of and will be planning for in the future. A lengthy discussion followed regarding how to prepare the fire service for the expanding popularity of electric vehicles from both a codes (for charging stations/parking garages) and firefighting standpoint.

Chief Louis Kilmer began his report by talking about the new 2018 Fire Code appeared in the New Jersey Register back in June. A number of comments have been received and staff is working on the responses (comments were both for and against the new code). Once this is completed, the NJDFS will issue a notice of adoption and the waiting period will begin. The NJDFS is looking forward to completing this process, as it has taken a lot of work by their dedicated staff. Work has already begun on the 2021 Fire Code as well. Chief Kilmer and the Commission members discussed some specifics of the code pertaining to vinyl siding, mulch, etc. Assemblyman Rooney asked specifically about these issues related commercial buildings and asked that Chief Kilmer and his staff work to provide guidance.

Chief Kilmer spoke about the new computer system being used by the Bureau of Code Enforcement, which continues to be tested, developed, and improved for use by local fire officials, NJDFS staff, and the fire service at large. Many trainings on this have been completed and continue to be scheduled. A lot of time has also been spent on improving the accuracy of the information in the system.

NJDFS staff continues to work on the School Suppression Survey that was mandated by the Christie Administration several years back. This is a very labor-intensive process for NJDFS as they are getting varying degrees of cooperation from the schools, so the survey is ongoing. Chief Kilmer also spoke about the issue of mobile fueling, which is much more popular in the summer months due to fueling demands connected to boating in the shore towns.

Chief Kilmer followed up on a topic from the last meeting related to jurisdiction when it comes to railroads – especially in novelty situations (Christmas, etc.). The appeal on the determination (that federal government is only concerned with activity on the actual tracks) was not pursued further and no hearing took place. Chief Kilmer also noted the high turnover rate of fire officials, which has put a strain on the NJDFS as far as training – in addition to an already difficult situation when they are having trouble recruiting new people. This is obviously not a problem exclusive to the fire service or the NJDFS, but it is a serious problem nonetheless.

Commissioner Heck suggested putting together an informational/training session at the League of Municipalities, because local government officials would benefit from having knowledge of the new Fire Code. Especially when it pertains to ordinances, etc. Chief Kilmer agreed and will coordinate with Commissioner Heck on the details of this.

With no additional questions raised regarding Division of Fire Safety Activities at this time, the meeting was moved to Advisory Council reports.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

With neither the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Codes Advisory Council present for today's meeting, no formal report was given. However, all matters pertaining to the Codes Advisory Council had been covered under Chief Kilmer's report during the "DFS Activities" portion of the meeting. The minutes of the most recent meeting have been distributed electronically by the Secretary for all Commission members to review.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner Nelson Wiest, Commissioner Charles Siedenburg reported that the Training & Education Advisory Council met on June 20th at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center. The minutes of that meeting were contained in today's meeting packets. Commissioner Siedenburg reported that

many of the topics covered during that meeting were discussed previously under “DFS Activities” and pointed out that NJDFS Training & Certifications Supervisor Greg Kirkham was on hand today to address any training-related questions.

The next meeting of the Training & Education Advisory Council is scheduled for August 15th at Kean University.

3. **Statistics and Information Advisory Council**

In the absence of Commissioner Gerard Naylis, no formal report was given.

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

Commissioner Raymond Heck reported that the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council is looking into several issues, but one of the biggest they are looking at right now is stemming from the tragic fire in Newark. They will be focusing on the wide range of firefighter issues at our ports, which is a major concern in New Jersey. The Council will be looking at the circumstances and potential gaps in training that could exist, so when another fire similar to the one in Newark occurs we can avoid the tragic loss of life. Director Mikutsky followed up with some details on the marine training and equipment that had been obtained through UASI. Some departments took advantage of what was provided and some did not, but this program has been in place since roughly 2015 and the NJDFS does have a continued interest and partnerships in this. Assemblyman Rooney spoke about the possibility of mandating marine firefighting training for anyone who would be responding in one of these areas.

Commissioner Heck also spoke on behalf of Dennis Allen as a potential member of the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council. Commissioner Heck made a motion to appoint Mr. Allen to the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Karl Spinner and passed unanimously.

5. **Public Education Advisory Council**

Commissioner Paul McGrath reported that the Public Education Advisory Council did not have a formal meeting since the previous Fire Safety Commission meeting. There is a meeting scheduled for October 5th at Union County Fire Academy in Linden. Commissioner McGrath noted that the Public Education Advisory Council is still actively seeking new members and asked the Commission members present to spread the word.

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

In the absence of Commissioner Richard Blohm, Commissioner Karl Spinner reported that the Firefighter Safety & Health Advisory Council has been focused primarily on working with the Department of Health regarding the issue with facial hair on firefighters when using SCBA masks. The Department of Health’s position on this is zero tolerance,

meaning absolutely no facial hair on firefighters. Fire departments should be fully aware of this and operate as directed.

7. Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council

Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary reported that there was no meeting of the Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council since the last meeting of the Fire Safety Commission. Commissioner O’Leary deferred to Charles Lavin of the NJDFS to report on current events regarding youth firesetting intervention. Mr. Lavin stated that the two main topics at this time – the NFA Pilot Course (August 16-17) and 20th Annual YFS Conference (November 30th/December 1st) – had been covered by Director Mikutsky under “DFS Activities”.

The next meeting of the Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for September 13th in Wildwood Crest.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that there was nothing new to report on residential sprinklers from the legislature.

2. Ad-Hoc Committee on Legislation

Commissioner Kevin Bellew reported that the Ad-Hoc Committee on Legislation would be meeting today, shortly after the conclusion of the Fire Safety Commission meeting. He would be reporting on their progress at the following meeting in Wildwood. Commissioner Bellew thanked NJDFS staff for providing them with the all the information on current fire service-related bills.

3. NJ Statewide Utility Safety Team

Commissioner Steve O’Gorman reported that the NJ Statewide Utility Safety Team would be holding a meeting next week to discuss future plans and would have a report on this at the next Fire Safety Commission meeting in September.

4. Cannabis Committee

Assemblyman Kevin Rooney reported that there was no meeting held and they are still awaiting reviews of the recommendations from other committees and councils. Assemblyman Rooney urged taking action on these recommendations rather than sit around and wait. Chairman Krushinski asked Director Mikutsky if there could be a standardized guidance document in regards to legalized marijuana. Director Mikutsky recommended setting up a meeting with the Office of Training and Certification so that we could get moving on this.

H. Old Business

Chairman Kevin Krushinski asked if anyone had any Old Business to bring before the Commission. With no Old Business to be discussed at this time, the meeting was moved to New Business.

I. New Business

Chairman Kevin Krushinski thanked the New Jersey Deputy and Battalion Chief’s Association and Charles Lind for sponsoring the coffee and refreshments for today’s meeting.

Commissioner Steve O’Gorman thanked the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety for their tremendous work and response to the tragic fire in Newark earlier this month. The NJDFS was instrumental in coordinating coverage throughout and their personnel was involved throughout the entire process.

There being no further New Business to conduct at this time, the meeting was moved to Public Comment II.

J. Public Comment II

Chairman Krushinski opened up the meeting for members of the public to comment for the second time.

Joe Hankins spoke about the importance of addressing the problem of charging stations for electric vehicles and even mentioned a specific case at the State House where these (as well as extension cords) are being used. Don Nelson (Summit) also spoke about this same issue and urged the Fire Safety Commission and NJDFS to get ahead of the electric vehicle/charging station issue. Senator Bucco suggested the possibility of sending out some kind of advisory to local boards to make them aware of the growing situation surrounding electric vehicles. Bill Gee added that there should also be guidance provided regarding the proper disposal of the batteries – not just the vehicles and charging stations themselves.

Chairman Krushinski asked if anyone else from the public wished to comment at this time. There being none, the meeting was moved to Adjournment.

K. Adjournment

With no further discussion requested, Chairman Kevin Krushinski called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Steve O’Gorman made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Raymond Heck and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:39 AM.

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