
Florida Fire Chiefs' Safety and Health Committee



Minutes of FFCA Safety & Health Section Meeting, July 12, 2019

Boca Raton, FFCA Executive Development Conference
44 in person attendees
8 call in attendees

Meeting called to order at 1530 hours by Fire Chief and Section Chair Frank Babinec

This is the first meeting since the committee was re-classified as a section. Chief Babinec thanked the group for their commitment and dedication.

Update on the 2019 Safety and Health Conference, *Section Chair Frank Babinec*

- At B Resort, December 2-4. Last year was very well attended, great feedback on content and speakers. We will continue to diversify the presenters and the topics. This year will include updates on the Cancer Bill, cancer prevention, Firefighter Fitness, Scene Safety, Rulemaking workshop, Mental Wellness, and more.

Collaborative Update, *Frank Babinec, Dustin Hawkins*

- The Collaborative continues to provide training throughout the state and the country.
- The FACE Team continues to expand. Fire Inspectors have been added, as well as Forestry. Striving to make sure no one is left out.
- Clinician Awareness Training continues, and Train-the-Trainers are taking place so that other qualified instructors can help expand the pool of trained clinicians.
- The relationship continues with UCF Restores, and the launch of Redline Rescue is getting closer, aiming for end of August.
- University of Miami continues to work on their initiatives related to cancer prevention and research.

- The collaborative is now represented throughout the entire state, making resources more accessible to everyone in the state, which is the combined goal
- The Collaborative was able to teach at the State level a four-hour block on Mental Wellness and other educational content
- Members participated in the Dolphin Challenge which helped raise funds for firefighters and their families and cancer treatment and research
- Peer Support conference calls now take place monthly
- The collaborative was recently recognized with the Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Safety Leadership Award
- The collaborative is always seeking your best practices, all departments can upload to the website to share with other departments

Mental Wellness Subcommittee of the Joint Council, *Frank Babinec*

- Looking to come up with a statewide database with all BHAP components (chaplains, clinicians, peer counselors, CISM members) per region, so if we know a storm is coming, for example, we can pre-stage those resources. Those resources will also be available for the day-to-day calls.
- Looking to have this on a website that will mirror the Redline Rescue information
- The goal in the future is to have these resources be a reimbursable expense as other resources are.

State Fire Marshal's Office Update, *Director Julius Halas, Frank Babinec*

- Discussed rulemaking authority. The statute is part of Florida Statute 112, part of the Human Resources/Administrative Services arena.
- The Bill states that the Division of State Fire Marshal shall adopt rules to establish employer cancer prevention best practices as it relates to four areas
 - PPE
 - Decon
 - Fire suppression apparatus
 - Fire Stations

- Much has been done already (green decon buckets, etc.), and existing resources are being refreshed.
- NFPA is launching a new standards task force on Personal Exposure Reduction, but this will all take a few years.
- University of Miami has been given additional funds for research
- More will be discussed at a later session during the EDC. We have a lot of support and information, but Rulemaking efforts will take time. Seeking a rule that will make sense for everyone. Looking to begin working on it immediately, let Director Halas know if you would like to host a rulemaking workshop. Hoping to have final workshop at Fire Rescue East.
- Employers concerned about the costs, but there are already several policies available, such as from Florida League of Cities, at reasonable costs. If you learn of similar options or solutions, please share it.
- Clarification on Clean Cab policies and examples of ways to comply, and other best practices. Should be firefighter friendly.
- Director Halas will keep Joint Council apprised on the number of Workers Comp claims for PTSD
- Kim Neisler from UCF Restores mentioned the development of a mobile mental health support apparatus to be deployed to large scale events
- Discussion on helmet cleaning. Discussion how decon is affecting fire academies.
- The Collaborative is looking for best practices on a worldwide level. Updates will be sent to the section members.
- University of Miami is now meeting with retirees, instructors, and fire investigators in an effort to increase their scope. Volunteers as well. Coming out with an on-scene exposure app.

Open Discussion

- Karl Morgan, Bureau of Arson/Fire Investigators working to make sure investigators are included as many are not firefighters. Mentioned white paper that had been released. <https://www.firearson.com/uploads/Fire%20Investigator%20Health%20and%20Safety%20Best%20Practices.pdf>
- Dustin Hawkins stated that St Lucie County is working on an SOG for their Arson Dogs, as they come back to the station and need on-scene decon as well. This will be shared once available.

- Chief Babinec introduced incoming FFCA President, Chief Donatto who commented on the expansion of the group and the importance of Safety and Health.

Attending via conference call:

John Whalen
Paul Dezzi
Steve Dibona

Dustin Hawkins
Bill Costello
Kim Neisler

Carl Bennett
Robbie Whitfield

Attending in person:

Frank Babinec
Julius Halas
Neal de Jesus
Darrel Donatto
Dave Downey
Julie Downey
Ron Parrish
Ty Silcox
Melissa Dembicer
Kevin Easton
Ralph Franklin
Larry Grubbs
Mark Harper
Rick Hartzog
Todd LeDuc
TJ Lyon

Stan Mettinger
Nicholas Morgado
Cindy Morgan
Karl Morgan
Joe Silvestris
Melvin Stone
Jeff Strickland
Ron Williams
Edmund Cain
Carlos Aviles
Rob McGilloway
Bill Klein
Glen VanBrunt
Bob Norton
Amanda Munsey
Marcos Osorio

Nick Coutsouvanis
Diosbani Rodriguez
George Mira, Jr.
Michael Beck
Tim Abramczyk
Bruce Gillingham
David Squires
Mike Murphy
Rachel McKeehan
Trevor Nelson
Joseph Sekula
Walt Lewis
Jeffrey Money
Bill Snyder

Meeting adjourned at 1625 hours

Meeting adjourned at hours

Attendees: