
Florida Fire Chiefs' Safety and Health Committee



Minutes of FFCA Safety & Health Committee

State F.A.C.E. Meeting February 8, 2017

**South Florida Meeting
Miami Dade Training Facility, Miami, FL**

Attendance

Departments Represented

Miami Dade, City of Miami, Coral Springs, Delray Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, Martin County Fire Rescue, Firefighter Cancer Support Network

Attendees:

Adrian Plasencia
Neal Niemczyk
Humberto Quintela
Kevin Green
Chris Bator

Niorge Aregon
Samuel Eaton
Diana Matty
Brian Pollack
Kit Worley

Manuel Arango
Vicki Sheppard
Brent Bloomfield
Scott Raynor
Keith Tyson

F.A.C.E. Team Update: *Dr. Alberto Caban-Martinez, University of Miami, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center; Keith Tyson, Florida State Director, Firefighter Cancer Support Network*

The Florida Fire Chief's Association has established a Safety and Health Section and appointed Coral Springs – Parkland Fire Department Chief Frank Babinec as Chair. The section is broken down into four areas:

- Safety and Health Conference
- Safety and Health Collaborative
- State F.A.C.E.
- Behavioral Health

Firefighter Cancer Prevention Presentations:

Investigator Prevention & Protection: *CP Brian Pollack, Delray Beach*

Brian shared the department's standard equipment which include jumpsuits, papers/filters, equipment cases, wipes, air-monitoring procedures, dirty/clean side of vehicle. There was discussion on the need to include investigators in the prevention and protection process.

On Scene Decon: *Battalion Chief Brent Bloomfield, West Palm Beach*

Brent shared his department's Standard Operating Guidelines which include using Dawn liquid soap to rinse gear, Dawn liquid soap and reusable terrycloth towels for hygiene. Procedures include showering within one hour and changing clothes. Most stations have extractors, each firefighter has two hoods, and a second set of PPE, and stations have extra hoods available. Assistant Chief Diana Matty wrote a grant for gear for \$600,000, and they discussed their gear tracking program. There was discussion on the need for standardized tracking methods.

Direct Exhaust Capturing: *Assistant Chief Kevin Green, Delray Beach*

Kevin indicated that all stations have Magnagrip systems at a cost of approximately \$50,000 per station. They have implemented procedures to minimize diesel emissions to stations, personnel and equipment, including door sweeps and advanced weather-stripping. They discussed the advantages and disadvantages of various systems, and changing medical equipment to the side opposite the exhaust. While they were initially looking at grants, their Chief at the time paid for the system outright, considering it the highest priority.

Importance of Early Detection: *Assistant Chief Adrian Plasencia, City of Miami*

Chief Plasencia talked about the LifeScan initiative used for their 750 members as well as their families, and retirees, for medical, physical, ultrasound imaging at an average cost of \$370 per person, per three-hour procedure, every three years. Individuals over 40 have a scan every year, between 30 and 40 years old, every two years, and those under age 30, every three years. LifeScan can report on individual findings and group trends as well. Their main office is in Tampa, and the need for a centralized location to increase the opportunity to other departments was discussed.

F.A.C.E. Mission Statement and Development

A draft was distributed, and input was requested from the group, resulting in a second draft to read as follows:

State F.A.C.E. Team Mission: Our mission will be driven by one purpose and commitment: to improve the health, lives, and longevity of fire service personnel.

Purpose: Our purpose is to utilize the team's collaborative process to identify and recommend effective prevention practices that will reduce occupational exposures of fire service personnel to cancer. We understand there are a variety of obstacles that must be considered and we will strive to create the best options that may be implemented by any department to mitigate these exposures.

State F.A.C.E. Vision: (two versions suggested)

Version 1: *Our vision is to strive for a fire service free of occupationally related cancer exposure and incidents where all members desire and obtain the knowledge to sustain this mission.*

Version 2: *Our vision is a fire service free of occupationally related cancer exposure and incidents where all members desire and obtain the knowledge and are empowered with the ability to sustain this mission.*

F.A.C.E. Website/Facebook Update/Input

Website: www.floridafightersafety.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/FloridaFirefighterSafety

Everyone was encouraged to check both sites, and join to provide input and suggestions for improvement.

Delegation Ideas: Requested subgroups that research and develop various ideas and topics such as:

- Investigations
- On-Scene Decon
- Exhaust Capturing
- PPE Options
- Grants

The group was requested to look over the list, add to it, and suggest a Lead for each area.

Coin Sales: to benefit various charities such as the Firefighter Cancer Support Network and the Florida Firefighter Health & Safety Collaborative.

Next meeting: May 2017 (exact date TBA) at Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, 405 Pike Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33415