
Florida Fire Chiefs' Safety and Health Committee



Minutes of FFCA Safety & Health Committee Meeting

January 26, 2017

**Central Florida Regional Quarterly Meeting
Orange County Fire Rescue, Winter Park, FL**

Attendance

Over 80 people attended the meeting, including the Bureau Chief of the Florida State Fire College, Chief Chapman and Paul Sumner from the Safety Division of the State Fire Marshal's Office, the City of Ocala's Captain Bowlin, four of their five Council members, as well as their Safety/Risk Manager Coordinator and the Assistant City Manager. The City of Palm Bay was able to bring their Risk Manager, and the City of St. Cloud brought their Safety/Risk Manager, and there were also Chief Officers and Firefighters from all over the State. We had representatives from as far North as

Morning Session: South as Coral Springs.

Cancer in the Fire Service: *Dr. Alberto Caban-Martinez, University of Miami, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center; Keith Tyson, Florida State Director, Firefighter Cancer Support Network*

Dr. Caban-Martinez spoke about the Firefighter Cancer Initiative, along with the current research being conducted for our Firefighters. Keith Tyson from the Firefighter Cancer Support Network co-instructed with Dr. Caban-Martinez and spoke about what we can do to reduce our exposure to the known carcinogens that are causing firefighter cancers.

Lunch/Networking Break, hosted by Orange County Fire Rescue Recruit Class 77

Afternoon Session:

Firefighter Mental Wellness: *Diana Sandell, Firefighter widow; Jeremy Hurd, Chaplain; Dustin Hawkins, Chaplain; Maddie Marks, UCF Department of Psychology Sciences; Firefighter Paramedic James Geering, "Behind the Shield" podcast and Dark Side Project*

Diana Sandell began the afternoon session by sharing the story of the loss of her husband, Firefighter Rich Sandell, to suicide, in March 2016. She explained the signs and symptoms that only later did she realize were present. Captain Jeremy Hurd then spoke about Chaplaincy, Peer Support, and the upcoming technology that will be available to firefighters and their families. Dustin Hawkins then shared more information on the "Red-Line Rescue" website, currently under construction, that will be a resource and tool to aid our firefighters with mental wellness, substance abuse, addiction, and more. Maddie Marks, a doctoral student from the University of Central Florida then discussed the services offered to First Responders by the university's Department of Psychology Sciences. Speaking last was Firefighter Paramedic James Geering who shared his passion for First Responder Wellness and filling the health information void through his podcast "Behind the Shield", and the Dark Side Project. Chief Babinec closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and taking the time to participate. Facebook page.