



2017

**Florida Fire Chiefs' Association
Legislative Policy Statement**



OVERVIEW

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association (FFCA) is the voice of the fire service in Florida. The FFCA serves as an advocate for the 1300+ Fire Chiefs, Fire Marshal, and fire service professionals who make up its membership. The FFCA is governed and lead by a Board of Directors who are elected by the membership.

The Board is guided by a Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan focuses on 5 key strategic priorities:

Advocacy
Education
Leadership
Membership/Resource Base
Technology

The FFCA maintains a Government Relations standing committee that serves the Association year-round as the Associations proactive voice for legislative and regulatory issues. This Government Relations Committee is supported by the FFCA Sections, other Committees, regional leaders, and experts in the field. The Government Relations Committee takes the lead in communicating legislative and regulatory matters to FFCA members and enlisting their support and involvement, as necessary.

The Government Relations Committee is guided by Board direction and the Association's Legislative Policy Statement. This Legislative Policy Statement reflects the Association's strategic priorities, the Board's directions, and the memberships concerns.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY STRATEGIC GOALS

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association strives to be cognizant of any legislative issue or regulatory issue affecting the Florida Fire Service. We will keep our members and partners informed of our advocacy efforts on behalf of both the fire service and fire-based emergency medical service. We will involve interested members and other professionals in our advocacy efforts at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. We will maintain an online presence where our members and the public can see detailed information on proposed legislation, administrative code or policy affecting the fire service. We will make our position known on these issues and will engage our members to voice their positions as well. We will use technology to leverage the voice of our members and to reach the key people involved in the legislative and regulatory process.

The Florida Fire Chiefs Association will strengthen its strategic partnerships with organizations such as the Florida Professional Firefighters, Florida Police Chiefs Association, Florida Sheriffs Association, Florida League of Cities, Florida Association of Counties, and Florida Association of Special Districts'. Through these partnerships, we will communicate our concerns and needs and work collaboratively on issues that cross association boundaries in the best interest of our members.

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association opposes unfunded mandates from any level of government. An unfunded mandate is when one government forces another level of government to take some action that spends or reduces revenue, without providing any resources to offset the impact. Unfunded mandates are the antithesis of government transparency. Mandates conceal the connection between the taxes city residents pay and the services they receive. Unfunded mandates cause local city leaders to be held accountable for decisions made by others who live far away and who are not accountable for the fiscal impact on local taxpayers. The Florida Constitution prohibits unfunded mandates from state government except under certain conditions. This provision was added to the constitution in 1990 after Floridians became fed up with being forced to pay for state programs with local tax dollars. Yet, in spite of the clear preference of Florida's residents, unfunded mandates have continued to be passed onto cities by the Legislature.

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association opposes unnecessary State and Federal regulations and licensing requirements. Florida's constitution empowers citizens with the right of local self-government, or Home Rule. Cities and Counties are the embodiment of this right. They are formed by citizens and are governed by citizens. They administer the local affairs of the community for the special benefit of their residents. These Home Rule rights allow Cities and Counties to tailor their services to the often-unique needs of their communities and to adapt quickly to changes in the environment or technology. Thus, the FFCA opposes unnecessary State and Federal mandates, regulations, and licensing requirements without clear objective data supporting said mandates.

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports the continuance and expansion of fire service-based emergency medical services (EMS) systems in the State of Florida. Adequate healthcare is one of the primary concerns of people today. The fire service is the agency that first delivers on-scene health care services under most true-emergency conditions. In the State of Florida, over 90% of the people who call 911 for an emergency medical condition will be cared for by their local fire-rescue provider. Florida is a fire-based EMS state. The FFCA is committed to supporting legislation or rule that will allow fire departments the ability to provide EMS first response and patient transportation for medical emergencies.

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports adequate funding of fire and emergency services. The FFCA supports initiatives which improve the health and safety of all Floridians. The citizens and visitors of the State expect and deserve to be safe and secure from the ravages of fire and to be promptly and professionally cared for during times of medical or other need. The Florida Fire Service is the first to respond for their medical emergencies, the first in to care for their communities during natural disaster, the first to respond to hazardous materials or chemical emergencies, and the first to rush into a fire when people are in harm's way. The FFCA supports adequate funding from diverse sources to ensure that the fire service can and will be there for the needs of our communities. This includes efforts to provide increased financial and other resources to agencies providing fire-rescue and related services. We support the continuance and expansion of grant funding for communities who have special or unmet needs. We would oppose any efforts to limit or reduce the ability for fire agencies to adequately fund their services.

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports legislation that would expand reimbursement for the provision of EMS Delivery. Most EMS providers seek to offset their operating costs by billing patients for

transport to the hospital. Reimbursement rates for ambulance transport have consistently failed to match the cost of service delivery. Currently, there is no reimbursement provided for EMS responses where the patient is not transported to a hospital. Consequently, the current fee-for-transport model of EMS funding does not adequately account for the non-transport costs of EMS delivery, including the cost of medical care rendered to patients by EMS providers, the cost of caring for patients who ultimately decline ambulance transport to the hospital, and the “cost of readiness” associated with maintaining the capability to quickly respond to medical emergencies on a 24/7 basis. The Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association supports legislation or regulations that would provide for reimbursement / payment for emergency medical care not associated with transport. Moreover, the Association supports legislation or regulations that would provide for reimbursement / payments that are more representative of the costs associated with providing services. We would oppose any efforts to limit or reduce reimbursement or our efforts to collect for the services our members provide.

The Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association supports the active participation of the fire service in Florida’s “Domestic Security Strategy” and the adequate funding of our services and training of our personnel for natural and man-made disasters, terror related events, and hazardous materials incidents. There is an increasingly expanding reliance on fire-rescue agencies to respond to the communities needs during hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, urban-wildland fires, hazardous material releases, communicable disease outbreaks, animal disease outbreaks, search and technical rescue operations, terrorist attacks, and most recently, active shooter events. For the fire-rescue service, these added challenges — call them all-hazard risks — require an increased level of mission preparedness and readiness. The increasing frequency and complexity of these all-hazard incidents places unprecedented demands on fire-rescue services. All-hazard responses represent some of the most difficult and complex challenges in public safety. The FFCA supports efforts to properly train, properly equip, properly protect, properly fund the fire service to deal with these all hazard emergencies. Moreover, the FFCA supports the inclusion of the fire service in the planning and preparation for these types of events.

The Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association supports the promotion of Fire Safety within our communities and the State. Fire Prevention is the best defense against fire. We support the expansion of public education programs that help raise the level of awareness of the danger of fire and that help people take proactive steps to prevent fires. Public education programs can be costly and take considerable man hours. We support the availability of grant funds and support for local Fire Safety programs.

The Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association supports the statewide enforcement of the Florida Fire Prevention Code and the Florida Building Code. These codes help ensure the safety of both the citizens of Florida and the firefighters who protect them. We are opposed to any changes that would diminish the level of safety for either the citizens or our firefighters or that would inhibit the enforcement of the Florida Fire Prevention Code by the fire service.

The Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association is opposed to the consumer purchase and use of fireworks in the State of Florida. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks which include devastating burns, traumatic amputations and other injuries, fires, and even death. We support legislation or rule making that would improve life safety and property protection from the dangers of fireworks and oppose the

legalization and sale of fireworks to consumers in the State.

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association strongly supports the training and safety of firefighters within our State. Firefighters frequently put themselves at risk, not only from fire, hazardous chemicals, traumatic injuries, and occupational diseases, but also from exposure to many other job-related hazards that may lead to long term health problems. It is important that these firefighters are properly trained to recognize and manage those risks. Moreover, it is essential that these firefighters have the training needed to mitigate the emergencies they are called to deal with. The FFCA supports continued and additional funding sources for firefighter training and safety. We also support the proper funding of the Florida State Fire College as training center.

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports legislation that would expand and/or enhance the fire protection services for residents and industry located in Wildland Urban Interface areas. Understanding that Florida still has a considerable amount of undeveloped land with varied and often highly combustible ground cover/vegetative types, and that urbanization is increasingly, and often rapidly, expanding into these formerly "Wildland" areas, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association strives to improve fire protection services for residents and industry located in these Wildland Urban Interface areas.

2017
FLORIDA FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

Revised and Adopted
February 15, 2017

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY, TRAINING, AND EDUCATION

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association strongly supports the training and safety of firefighters within our State.

BACKGROUND

Firefighters frequently put themselves at risk, not only from fire, hazardous chemicals, traumatic injuries, and occupational diseases, but also from exposure to many other job-related hazards that may lead to long term health problems. It is important that these firefighters are properly trained to recognize and manage those risks. Moreover, it is essential that these firefighters have the training needed to mitigate the emergencies they are called to deal with. The FFCA supports continued and additional funding sources for firefighter training and safety. We also support the proper funding of the Florida State Fire College as training center. We oppose unnecessary State and Federal mandates, regulations, and licensing requirements without clear objective data supporting said mandates.

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association strives to ensure that members of the fire service community are safely and adequately trained in the areas of fire suppression, prevention, public education, emergency medical services, handling of hazardous materials releases and response to/mitigation of domestic security issues and natural disasters and special operations in order to best serve the residents and visitors of Florida.

Therefore, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association will:

- **Support** legislation and/or rules which enhances fire-rescue and emergency services agencies in the recruitment and retention of Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Paramedics.
- **Support** legislation and/or rules to allow individuals certified as Firefighter II or Firefighter I to maintain certification after separation and/or retirement from employment.
- **Support** the implementation of a combined EMT/ FIREFIGHTER Curriculum and the access to grant funds for students.
- **Support** an increase in dedicated funding provided for the Florida State Fire College, while protecting existing funding sources, including the established Trust Funds.
- **Support** legislation and rules to achieve a tobacco-free fire service.
- **Support** legislation and rule that seeks to prevent or reduce the impact of cancer in firefighters.
- **Support** legislation, rule, and funding to make our fire service members safer and better prepared to deal with the emerging threat of active shooters & mass violence.
- **Support** the ability of our members to obtain classes, training, and continuing education credits through an online medium where that training methodology can be effective.

- **Support** legislation or rule allowing continuing education / re-certification reciprocity between the DSFM and the Florida Building Code Administrator's and Inspector's Board.
- **Support** legislation providing for public records exemption for any fire safety inspector certified under 633.081 F.S.

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- **Oppose** establishment of mandatory Pro-Board certification programs for Fire Safety Inspector, Fire Officer, Fire Investigator, Fire Instructor, and Fire Safety Officer.
 - **Oppose** initiatives restricting the applicant pool for Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Paramedics. Such restrictions include mandatory degree requirements or other restrictions and impediments to licensure, certification, and re-certification of Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, and paramedics.
 - **Oppose** legislation establishing a mandatory Fire Code Administrator certification program administered by the DSFM.
 - **Oppose** legislation or rule that would impose additional mandatory training without appropriate funding.
 - **Oppose** legislation or rules establishing mandatory certification requirements for specialty training areas such as Fire Investigator, Public Educator, Hazardous Materials Technician, FLUSAR, or the like.
 - **Oppose** legislation or rules increasing the hours or cost of mandatory certification programs without a clear and compelling need to do so.

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- **Monitor** legislation or rules for changes to Fire Safety Inspector, Fire Officer, Fire Investigator, Fire Instructor, and Fire Safety Officer initial certification, re-certification, and testing requirements.
 - **Monitor**, and provide input to, the development of safety rules by the FLORIDA DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL (DSFM).

FUNDING & SERVICES

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports adequate funding of fire and emergency services.

BACKGROUND

The FFCA supports initiatives which improve the health and safety of all Floridians. The citizens and visitors of the State expect and deserve to be safe and secure from the ravages of fire and to be promptly and professionally cared for during times of medical or other need. The Florida Fire Service is the first to respond for their medical emergencies, the first in to care for their communities during natural disaster, the first to respond to hazardous materials or chemical emergencies, and the first to rush into a fire when people are in harm's way. The FFCA supports adequate funding from diverse sources to ensure that the fire service can and will be there for the needs of our communities. This includes efforts to provide increased financial and other resources to agencies providing fire-rescue and related services. We support the continuance and expansion of grant funding for communities who have special or unmet needs. We would oppose any efforts to limit or reduce the ability for fire agencies to adequately fund their services.

Therefore, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association will:

- **Support** legislation that would require State-owned properties, including educational and other institutional occupancies, to pay for fire protection in lieu of taxes.
 - **Support** the stature and significance of the DSFM in the Florida Cabinet.
 - **Support** legislation and rules that would improve the quality and quantity of fire incident data reported to the DSFM.
 - **Support** legislation and rules supporting voluntary fire and EMS incident collection and reporting.
 - **Support** continuance of legislation supporting the Safe Haven for Newborns initiative.
 - **Support** legislation that will allow alternative funding sources, such as CRA funding to be used for providing existing and new fire-rescue operations and EMS services.
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- **Oppose** legislation or rule that would impose additional mandatory training without appropriate funding.
 - **Oppose** legislation and rules requiring mandatory fire and EMS incident collection and reporting without appropriate funding, both initial and ongoing.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports the continuance and expansion of fire service-based emergency medical services (EMS) systems in the State of Florida. The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports adequate funding of fire and emergency services. The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports legislation that would expand reimbursement for the provision of EMS Delivery.

BACKGROUND

The FFCA supports initiatives which improve the health and safety of all Floridians. Adequate healthcare is one of the primary concerns of people today. The fire service is the agency that first delivers on-scene health care services under most true-emergency conditions. In the State of Florida, over 90% of the people who call 911 for an emergency medical condition will be cared for by their local fire-rescue provider. Florida is a fire-based EMS state. The FFCA is committed to supporting legislation or rule that will allow fire departments the ability to provide EMS first response and patient transportation for medical emergencies. The FFCA supports adequate funding from diverse sources to ensure that the fire service can and will be there for the needs of our communities. This includes efforts to provide increased financial and other resources to agencies providing fire-rescue and related services. We support the continuance and expansion of grant funding for communities who have special or unmet needs. We would oppose any efforts to limit or reduce the ability for fire agencies to adequately fund their services. Most EMS providers seek to offset their operating costs by billing patients for transport to the hospital. Reimbursement rates for ambulance transport have consistently failed to match the cost of service delivery. Currently, there is no reimbursement provided for EMS responses where the patient is not transported to a hospital. Consequently, the current fee-for-transport model of EMS funding does not adequately account for the non-transport costs of EMS delivery, including the cost of medical care rendered to patients by EMS providers, the cost of caring for patients who ultimately decline ambulance transport to the hospital, and the "cost of readiness" associated with maintaining the capability to quickly respond to medical emergencies on a 24/7 basis. The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports legislation or regulations that would provide for reimbursement / payment for emergency medical care not associated with transport. Moreover, the Association supports legislation or regulations that would provide for reimbursement / payments that are more representative of the costs associated with providing services. We would oppose any efforts to limit or reduce reimbursement or our efforts to collect for the services our members provide.

Therefore, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association will:

- **Support** legislation and rules that would expand the role of fire rescue agencies in the delivery of non-emergency health initiatives.
- **Support** legislation and rules that allows local design and control of EMS Systems and/or the flexible deployment of fire service ALS non-transport units.
- **Support** legislation and rules that would provide for an appeal process for fire service agencies that are denied a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN).
- **Support** funding for emergency trauma care.

- **Support** legislation and rules that allow first responders to administer naloxone to suspected opiate overdose patients and provide those first responders with Good Samaritan status.
 - **Support** legislation and rules that allow government owned emergency medical transport and care providers to be reimbursed by the federal government for their care of indigent or Medicaid patients using the certified public expenditure process.
 - **Support** legislation and rules for maintaining the newly established combined EMT/Firefighter certification curriculum and encourage the availability of grant funding for students.
 - **Support** legislation and rules that enhance the establishment and sustainment of fire based EMS services, to include ALS transport and non-transport systems.
 - **Support** legislation that provides all EMTs and Paramedics with FS119 public records exemption.
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- **Oppose** legislation and rules that would weaken or jeopardize the authority and control of local EMS Medical Directors.
 - **Oppose** legislation and rules that would allow out of state Paramedics, EMTs, and/or services to operate in Florida without first having obtained the same licensure, permits, and COPCNs that Florida providers must obtain unless they are providing emergency services through the agreement of the service area’s provider or they are operating in a disaster situation.
 - **Oppose** legislation enacting the REPLICCA Compact that would allow out of state Paramedics, EMTs, and/or services to operate in Florida without first having obtained the same licensure, permits, and COPCNs that Florida providers.
 - **Oppose** legislation and rules that would diminish the effect or intent of the existing EMS grant program.
 - **Oppose** any legislation and rules that will require “mandatory background checks” for “EMS Recertification.”
 - **Oppose** rule or legislation that increases the amount of hours required for EMT or Paramedic recertification without specific and fact based evidence that additional hours are needed to maintain proficiency.
 - **Oppose** any legislation and rules mandating a two or four-year degree for paramedic certification.
 - **Oppose** legislation or rule requiring the mandatory collection and/or submission of electronic patient data that is not aggregate in nature and/or allows itself to be subject to quality assurance investigation by the State or any other investigating body.
 - **Oppose** legislation or rules that adversely affect fire service EMS providers through the requirement mandatory complete run report submission to the emergency department.
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- **Monitor** and provide input on any proposed structural changes in the State EMS Office.

- **Monitor** any changes to Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) legislation or rule.
- **Monitor** legislation amending Emergency Medical Services for children (EMSC).
- **Monitor** and provide input on legislation that affects the delivery of emergency medical care to victims of Stroke, Heart Attacks, Trauma, and Cardiac Arrest.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports legislation that would expand and/or enhance the fire protection services for residents and industry located in Wildland Urban Interface areas.

BACKGROUND

Understanding that Florida still has a considerable amount of undeveloped land with varied and often highly combustible ground cover/vegetative types, and that urbanization is increasingly, and often rapidly, expanding into these formerly "Wildland" areas, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association strives to improve fire protection services for residents and industry located in these Wildland Urban Interface areas.

Therefore, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association will:

- **Support** legislation for rural Fire Protection Funding Program.
 - **Support** the adoption by Statute or local ordinance of Firewise Communities principles and practices that provide for the use of best management building, zoning, and landscape design practices to protect structures from Wildland fire without the use of fire suppression response units and personnel.
 - **Support** the DOF's legislative funding priorities including replacement of DOF equipment meeting the State's standard for replacement.
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- **Oppose** legislation or rules that would weaken or limit the ability to utilize prescribed burning for agricultural and/or fuel reduction purposes by certified, authorized and/or permitted private or public sector burners.
 - **Oppose** elimination of, or reduction to, state Wildland fire protection services provided by the DOF.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports the active participation of the fire service in Florida's "Domestic Security Strategy" and the adequate funding of our services and training of our personnel for natural and man-made disasters, terror related events, and hazardous materials incidents

BACKGROUND

There is an increasingly expanding reliance on fire-rescue agencies to respond to the communities needs during hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, urban-wildland fires, hazardous material releases, communicable disease outbreaks, animal disease outbreaks, search and technical rescue operations, terrorist attacks, and most recently, active shooter events. For the fire-rescue service, these added challenges — call them all-hazard risks — require an increased level of mission preparedness and readiness. The increasing frequency and complexity of these all-hazard incidents places unprecedented demands on fire-rescue services. All-hazard responses represent some of the most difficult and complex challenges in public safety. The FFCA supports efforts to properly train, properly equip, properly protect, properly fund the fire service to deal with these all hazard emergencies. Moreover, the FFCA supports the inclusion of the fire service in the planning and preparation for these types of events.

Therefore, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association will:

- **Actively participate** in any formal committees established to discuss policy and funding relative to Domestic Security and the Fire Service's role in Disaster Response.
- **Support** legislative initiatives which ensure the Fire Service has input on all issues affecting the Fire Service, which includes, but is not limited to;
 - Maintain a Co-Chair position as the Fire Service discipline representative on each of the Regional Domestic Security Task Forces and State Working Group committees utilizing executive ranking officers.
 - Maintain two membership positions on the Domestic Security Oversight Council in partnership with the State Fire Marshal's Office.
 - Ensure knowledgeable representation on all established committees relative to Domestic Security, Health and Emergency Management, which involve the Fire Service.
- **Support** and encourage the continued funding of Fire Service specialty teams and resources inclusive of all Type 1, 2 and 3 Urban Search and Rescue Teams, Type I Fire CBRNE Hazardous Materials Teams and the Regional Mutual Aid Radio Caches, established to meet the needs of communities identified through risk/threat/vulnerability analysis.
- **Support** long-term funding for maintenance and repair of the Domestic Security special teams and equipment.
- **Ensure** the Fire service domestic security response capabilities and the FFCA State Emergency Response Plan aligns and supports one another.
- **Support** legislation providing for the designation, financial support and continued maintenance/training of regional hazardous materials teams within municipal, county, or fire control district fire departments within the State.

- **Support** legislation to create a statewide hazardous materials emergency response and management cost-recovery program.
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- **Monitor** all legislative activity related to Chapter 943 F.S. while encouraging legislative changes that supports more balanced representation within the Domestic Security Oversight Council as well as the Regional Domestic Security Task Forces, and the State Working Group Executive Board.
 - **Monitor** all legislative activity related to Chapter 252 F.S.
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- **Oppose** repeal of, and monitor changes to, Florida Statute 403.7215 - Tax on gross receipts of common hazardous waste facilities.

FIRE SERVICE PENSION PROGRAM

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association will strive to ensure members of the fire service community receive adequate compensation benefits from the State of Florida.

BACKGROUND

Firefighters frequently put themselves at risk, not only from fire, hazardous chemicals, traumatic injuries, and occupational diseases, but also from exposure to many other job-related hazards that may lead to long term health problems. A well trained and highly experienced workforce is essential to ensuring the safety of our communities.

Therefore, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association will:

- **Support** legislation to allow top management positions flexibility to opt out of the Florida Retirement System.
 - **Support** legislative and administrative efforts to ensure that fire service personnel certified as firefighters do not lose their special risk classification when promoted to a management position.
 - **Support** a change in the definition of “disability” to ensure that it is equitable in its application throughout the Florida Statutes as it relates to fire service personnel.
 - **Support** legislation to include civilian pilots when performing fire suppression and EMS missions.
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- **Monitor** workers' compensation issues as they relate to first responders.
 - **Monitor** legislative and administrative actions related to Chapter 175 plans and pensions as they relate to consolidations and mergers of fire and rescue departments.
 - **Monitor** legislation relating to the Florida Retirement System and Chapter 175 plans.
 - **Monitor** all pension and disability retirement legislation and rule changes.

LIFE SAFETY AND PREVENTION

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports the promotion of Fire Safety within our communities and the State.

BACKGROUND

Fire Prevention is the best defense against fire. We support the expansion of public education programs that help raise the level of awareness of the danger of fire and that help people take proactive steps to prevent fires. Public education programs can be costly and take considerable man hours. We support the availability of grant funds and support for local Fire Safety programs. The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports the statewide enforcement of the Florida Fire Prevention Code and the Florida Building Code. These codes help ensure the safety of both the citizens of Florida and the firefighters who protect them. We are opposed to any changes that would diminish the level of safety for either the citizens or our firefighters or that would inhibit the enforcement of the Florida Fire Prevention Code by the fire service.

Therefore, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association will:

- **Support** legislation that would require the standardization of elevator and alarm panel keys in Florida.
- **Support** legislation requiring the installation of fire sprinkler systems in all new construction and 50% or greater renovations to existing properties, including manufactured homes.
- **Support** legislation that would require fire sprinklers in all health care facilities and Churches as defined by state sales tax exemption statute.
- **Support** legislation that would eliminate the utilization of “stand-by water fee” charges for sprinkler systems.
- **Support** legislation for appropriate funding for fire research facilities.
- **Support** legislation to adopt flammability standards for upholstered furniture.
- **Support** legislation or rule that would apply the FFPC to agricultural processing facilities currently exempt from fire safety requirements.
- **Support** legislation or DSFM rule requiring local fire official oversight and approval in any new building construction, throughout all phases of the project from site plan review through building plan review, inspection during construction and final certificate of occupancy.
- **Support** legislation that would establish minimum requirements and standards for residential smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- **Support** legislation aimed at curbing the abuse or misuse of the 911 emergency systems.

- **Support** legislation that would mandate local school boards correct Fire Safety deficiencies as determined by the AHJ required inspections.
 - **Support** legislation that would require appointment of two to three members of the fire service as representatives on the Florida Building Commission.
 - **Support** legislation that would mandate home sprinkler systems for all new single family homes,
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- **Oppose** legislation or rule that would weaken the High-rise fire sprinkler retrofit requirements within NFPA 1 and NFPA 101.
 - **Oppose** legislation or rule making that would reduce the existing life safety requirements in any historical structure.
 - **Oppose** legislation or rule making that would weaken fire safety as a result of a localized issue.
 - **Oppose** legislation or rule that would permit any person to enforce provisions of the Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC), including plans review and inspections, without first obtaining a Fire Safety Inspector I certification.
 - **Oppose** any legislation or rule that would weaken provisions of the FFPC.
 - **Oppose** legislation that would expand authority of the Florida Building Commission into fire code adoption and enforcement.
 - **Oppose** legislation that would privatize code enforcement functions without maintaining local approval and oversight.
 - **Oppose** legislation transferring either the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigation or the DSFM's lab from the DSFM to another agency.
 - **Oppose** legislation or rule limiting support of the DSFM to local governments for fire investigation.
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- **Monitor** legislation and Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Rules regulating training burns and open burning. In addition, monitor and provide input to the Florida Division of Forestry (DOF) with respect to open burning rules.
 - **Monitor** legislation concerning ADA requirements and building or fire code interpretations related to Fire Stations.
 - **Monitor** legislation that would modify regulations for fire sprinkler/engineering in commercial fire sprinkler system design and installation.

FIREWORKS

The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association is opposed to the consumer purchase and use of fireworks in the State of Florida.

BACKGROUND

Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks which include devastating burns, traumatic amputations and other injuries, fires, and even death. We support legislation or rule making that would improve life safety and property protection from the dangers of fireworks and oppose the legalization and sale of fireworks to consumers in the State. The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association supports legislation that will promote safety, education and regulations of fireworks, including the use of pyrotechnics for motion picture and television special effects, in our State.

Therefore, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association will:

- **Support** legislation or rule changes that will improve the enforcement of existing laws and reduce injuries from illegal fireworks.
 - **Support** legislation that would give the right of confiscation to the local authority having jurisdiction.
 - **Support** legislation requiring a stamp or seal on legal fireworks indicating that it has been approved by the Division of the State Fire Marshal.
 - **Support** the promulgation of local ordinances or rules eliminating the sale and use of fireworks by the public.
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- **Oppose** any legislation reducing or eliminating home rule powers of local jurisdictions to create and adopt ordinances addressing fireworks.

2017 FFCA KEY LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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