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STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC)
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017-2018 FOURTH QUARTER MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: June 7, 2018
Time of Meeting: 9:30 a.m.
Place of Meeting: Department of Fire and Public Safety (MFD)
Fire Prevention Bureau Conference Room
313 Manea Place
Wailuku, Hawaii 96740

Present:

Manuel P. Neves  SFC Chair
               Fire Chief, Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)

Jeffrey Murray   SFC Member
               Fire Chief, MFD

Darren Rosario  SFC Member
               Fire Chief, Hawaii Fire Department (HCFD)

Lloyd Rogers  SFC Administrative Specialist

Adam Rosenberg  Deputy Attorney General
               State of Hawaii (State), Department of the Attorney
               General (DAG)
I. Introduction

A. Chair Neves called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

B. Chair Neves welcomed everyone, and an introduction of attendees followed. Vice Chair Westerman was not able to attend.

C. Approval of the SFC FY 2017-2018 Third Quarter Meeting Minutes

Motion: Member Rosario motioned to approve the SFC FY 2017-2018 Third Quarter Meeting Minutes. The motion passed.

Record of Votes: Chair Neves - Aye
Member Murray - Aye
Member Rosario - Aye

D. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Member Murray motioned to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Record of Votes: Chair Neves - Aye
Member Murray - Aye
Member Rosario - Aye

II. Presentation Regarding an Overview of NFPA 3000, Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program

Mr. Honold presented an overview of the above-mentioned standard. The Orange County Fire and Rescue in Florida responded to the Pulse nightclub shooting in 2016 in which 49 people were killed and an additional 58 physically injured. The Fire Chief requested the NFPA to develop a standard for active shooter incidents. The NFPA assembled a technical committee with representatives from the fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical services (EMS), and other stakeholders. Due to the immediate life safety at stake, a provisional standard was developed for publication. The purpose of this standard is to identify the program elements necessary to organize, manage, and sustain an ASHER program. It includes chapters on planning, resource management, incident management, facility
preparedness, competencies, and postincident recovery. Mr. Honold is available for presentations.

Chair Neves requested members to provide any updates of their county programs. Member Rosario stated that the police department is the lead to develop a program for Hawaii County. Maui law enforcement has held community meetings and included fire in its training. Federal grant funds are available. In 2013, the HFD started work on an active shooter program that was modeled after the existing hazardous materials awareness, operations, and technical trainer levels. Standard operating guidelines and online training are scheduled to begin on July 1, 2018, with a four- to six-month completion period. This is being accomplished with the HFD’s budget.

III. Old Business

A. Discussion and Possible Approval of the SFC’s Strategic Plan Revisions (SPR)

Members reviewed the proposed revisions. Members will review the SPR further, provide any comments prior to the next meeting, and possibly make a decision at the next SFC meeting.

B. Hawaii Licensing of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)

Members reviewed a written update provided by HFD Medical Director, Dr. Elizabeth Char. The Kapiolani Community College’s (KCC) training program for passing EMT Course Numbers (CN) 110 and 115 enables students to take the national registry exam. Additionally, if EMT CNs 120 and 125 are successfully completed, the EMT would be eligible for State licensing. EMT CN 120 takes 40 hours to complete, and EMT CN 125 takes 160 hours of clinical time. There is a need to have all emergency medical responders possess some type of State license in order for the State to have oversight in keeping the public safe. The KCC Chair is open to licensing all fire fighters who respond to medical calls, as is done on the Big Island, but this must be approved by the State EMS office. The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) has concerns about licensing so many additional personnel. It appears that training fire fighters to National Registry of EMT would be the best option and then allow for voluntary additional training for those who wish to obtain the State EMT license. It would be a significant cost to train everyone to State EMT and add 160 hours for Fire Fighter Recruits (FFR) to graduate. Honolulu currently has about 100 trained personnel with a goal of 200. Big Island fire fighters take 200-300 hours to obtain the EMT State license. Members discussed the process which involves the DCCA and the State EMS, a division of the State Department of Health and the KCC.
IV. Unfinished Business and General Orders

A. SFC County/State Issues

1. Report of Member Rosario

   a. Grants

      (1) A 2016 Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) provided a
          wildland pumper apparatus for the Kau district. A roof leak was
          discovered, and the vendor is redesigning and fabricating the air
          conditioning housing.

      (2) The HCFD was awarded a 2018 CDBG grant for a wildland brush
          truck for $270,000 for Paradise Park. Bid specifications are being
          prepared and they are awaiting funding confirmation from the U.S.
          Department of Urban Development.

   b. County Issues

      (1) The HCFD’s FY 2018-2019 budget had a five percent reduction and
          no approved supplemental budget requests. Additional cuts are
          pending due to the county shortfall of $5 million. Cutting county
          services and closing parks are being considered.

      (2) The Kilauea eruption produced seismic and ash plume damage across
          the Volcano and the Kau districts. The lower east rift zone had
          extensive damage to five communities and destroyed over 600 homes.
          A North Carolina Incident Management Team (IMT) is assisting the
          county emergency management agency. Local IMTs are not being
          used, and all agencies and departments are working closely together.

   c. Other Matters

      (1) Key Chief Officers are projected to retire between July and December
          2018. Succession planning is in place.

      (2) Currently, there are 34 vacancies, 24 in operations, 4 in
          communications, 3 in prevention, and 1 each in administration,
          EMS support, and the Mechanic Shop.
(3) A FFR class is scheduled to begin on August 1, 2018.

(4) Members were provided a Pharmacist’s Corresponding Responsibility and Guidance on Dispensing Controlled Substances and Opioids document that the SFC is being asked to endorse by the Hawaii State Board of Pharmacy. It provides information on the opioid overdose epidemic in the U.S., the responsibilities of physicians and pharmacists, the safe and appropriate use of opioids, and opioid overdose signs and treatment.

Motion: Member Murray motioned to support the guidance statement on opioids from the Hawaii State Board of Pharmacy as a SFC endorser. The motion passed.

Record of Votes: Chair Neves - Aye
Member Murray - Aye
Member Rosario - Aye

2. Report of Member Murray

a. Grants

There were no grant changes since the meeting on February 22, 2018.

b. County Issues

(1) The Maui County Council has a new chair. There are new initiatives that will attempt to reduce the mayor’s power and transfers them to the Maui County Manager.

(2) The county budget is still pending.

(3) Twenty-one FFRs are currently in training. One was dismissed due to lack of skills performance. Recruit student manuals explain the consequences for failed tests and skills performance.

(4) Member Murray will be retiring effective June 30, 2018, and Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Montalvo, will be the Acting Fire Chief. One Battalion Chief is projected to retire.
3. Report of Chair Neves

a. Grants

(1) For FY16, $10,739 of the $76,000 remains from a Homeland Security (HLS) grant for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosives (CBRNE) training; $18,622 of the $369,606 remains from a Port Security Grant Program for a rescue fireboat. Also, HLS grants of $24,000 for dive rescue equipment and training, $20,000 for rescue boat operations training, and $28,000 for trench rescue/confined space training have been expended.

(2) For FY17, $50,000 of the $170,000 remains from an HLS grant for CBRNE training and equipment and $14,859.76 of $200,000 for a rehab trailer. A Hazard Mitigation Grant Program award of $78,750 for the Waikiki Station hardening project is pending. An HLS grant of $150,000 for CBRNE training and equipment, Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grants of $72,000 for CBRNE training and $153,125 for rescue training, equipment, and exercise and a Department of Transportation (DOT) grant of $41,000 for battery extrication tools were expended.

(3) For FY18, a DOT grant of $45,000 for battery extrication tools; an HLS grant of $163,000 for rescue equipment and training; and UASI grants of $130,000 for CBRNE equipment; $120,000 for fuel management, and $170,000 for mass casualty incident training and equipment.

b. County Issues

(1) The HFD’s budget has been approved for $130 million, and the HFD added 15 new positions, including a third rescue company which will be located on the North Shore.

(2) The HFD is finalizing promotions for 39 Fire Captains, including 8 bureau Captains, and 67 Fire Fighter IlIs.

(3) Forty-five FFRs are in training with another class of 50 projected to begin in August. The current average service time of a retiree is 27.5 years.

(4) One of the HFD’s objectives is to be staffed 90% of the time, every apparatus each shift with four to five personnel. Past records show
that after a new recruit class is assigned, this objective is met; however, as time passes, this figure gradually reduces to between 85%-87%.

(5) The Hauula Fire Station is under construction. New stations are being planned for new subdivisions in Hoopili and Koa Ridge, three stations in Kakaako, and a first responder training center at a State tech park in Mililani. After the Pearl City Fire Station is relocated and rebuilt, the old station may be used as a fire prevention inspection field office.

Motion: Member Rosario motioned to recess the meeting at 12:05 p.m. The motion passed.

Record of Votes: Chair Neves - Aye
Member Murray - Aye
Member Rosario - Aye

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 pm.

B. Administrative Report

1. Status of the County Fire Codes

   Honolulu: Effective November 19, 2015

   Kauai: Effective May 9, 2016

   Maui: Effective July 1, 2015

   Hawaii: Under review by the Mayor’s office

2. State Building Code Council (SBCC)

   a. Additional amendments for the structural and nonstructural revisions for the 2012 International Building (IBC) and International Residential Codes (IRC) were approved by the SBCC. One amendment included requirements for the Department of Justice’s Americans with Disabilities Act. The other included the fire sprinkler requirement for one- and two-family dwellings in the IBC/IRC, with a reference to State law, which prohibits counties from requiring fire sprinklers, except for road access, fire fighting water supply, or nonresidential agricultural/aquacultural buildings. All State one- and two-family dwelling projects, i.e. Department of Hawaiian
Homelands and Hawaii Housing Authority, will be required to install residential fire sprinklers. The amendments will proceed to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board and the AG for review.

b. The 2017 National Electrical Code was approved by the SBCC without any amendments. It will proceed to the DAG for review and the SBRRB for a hearing.

c. The SBCC approved an amendment that would allow the use of the International Plumbing Code to be used as an alternative code to the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) with certain restrictions. This is the only State code that allows this provision. All national model building codes allow the use of alternative means and methods when approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

d. The investigative committees for the IBC, the IRC, and the UPC are reviewing the 2018 editions.

e. The SFC continues to support the SBCC by attending monthly meetings, providing draft agenda/minutes, advising on producing uniform statewide building code amendments for county adoption, and creating administrative rules for the state fire code.

3. Statewide Training and Education

a. FY18 Two-Day Off-Campus Classes: Four classes were delivered, two on the Big Island and two in Honolulu. One class was cancelled for Honolulu.

b. FY19 Two-Day Off-Campus Classes: Six classes were approved, four in Honolulu and two on the Big Island. Second semester class selections are available during September 2018.

4. Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program

a. The RIPC draft administrative rules are being reviewed by the DAG.

b. Massachusetts confirmed that the ITG Brand cigarette litigation is still pending for test failures. Hawaii will await an outcome before deciding on any action for test failures and the completion of the RIPC administrative rules.

c. The RIPC inspections on the neighbor islands require approval for travel. At this time, there are approximately 50 retail outlets in Hawaii County and five
retail outlets on Lanai that have not been inspected. This office will continue to inspect, reinspect, and purchase (for independent testing) cigarettes in Hawaii.

d. The current RIPC balance is $723,455.23 as of April 30, 2018.

5. SFC Fire Prevention Committee (FPC)

Significant changes from the NFPA 1 Fire Code 2015 Edition to the 2018 Edition along with the incorporation of the 2015 amendments into the 2018 Edition has been completed. Information was forwarded to the FPC for review/comment with a tentative first meeting date in July 2018; however, Honolulu requested and was granted a two-week extension.

6. Fire Protection Systems Administrative Rules

On March 29, 2018, the proposed systems licensing administrative rules were forwarded to the Governor for approval.

7. SFC Administrative Specialist

a. Retired Battalion Chief Ed Suzuki will be resigning on June 30, 2018. For four years he diligently worked on numerous projects, including researching, drafting, editing, and shepherding the process to adopt administrative rules for licensing individuals who service and maintain fire protection systems. He assisted with all legislative efforts, especially with the passage of the cancer bill for fire fighters. He drafted numerous correspondence and survey requests. He researched and compiled information for several reports on fire sprinklers, the state fire marshal’s office, including all the significant changes for the NFPA 1 Fire Code, 2015 Edition to the 2018 Edition and incorporated all the 2015 Edition amendments into the 2018 Edition. Several candidates were contacted to replace Chief Suzuki, and retired Battalion Chief Gary Lum was selected.

b. The upgrade of an Administrative Specialist II to III was initiated. The position will provide the oversight of other SFC employees in an effort to reduce the participation of HFD personnel. The Chair provides overall direction and needed approvals. The position of Administrator or Administrative Officer for the SFC was deferred until future funding increases can be achieved.
C. Discussion of 2018 Legislative Bills

Members reviewed the status of the 2018 bills and the progression through the different committees. The legislature passed one bill (House Bill 1778) that was submitted by the SFC and sent to the Governor, which will improve access for fire fighters to receive medical benefits for the treatment of certain cancers under the workers’ compensation (WC) law. It took four years to pass and was the result of meeting and working with our State attorneys and affected agencies between legislative sessions.

Previously, when a WC claim was filed, health care insurers were not covering medical costs, and employees were directed to go through the WC system. Personal physicians then told patients they would need to find a physician who would accept WC. This bill, if it becomes law, will place into statute that health insurers will be required to cover the medical costs and, if the injury, illness, including certain cancers for fire fighters are deemed compensable, the WC will reimburse the health insurer and the employee for his co-pay amounts. Some of the benefits of the bill include retirees and surviving family members are able to file a WC claim within two years of being diagnosed. Death benefits are also available to the surviving family.

Fire departments must educate its personnel on the WC process and claims filing. They must also continue efforts to improve the protection of their fire fighters with written procedures on personal protective care and maintenance, testing, deconning after fires, and preemployment and annual physicals and blood tests.

D. Conferences and Meetings

Members reviewed the upcoming conferences.

E. Other Matters

There were no other matters.

Motion: Member Murray motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. The motion passed.
Record of Votes: Chair Neves - Aye
Member Murray - Aye
Member Rosario – Aye

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair
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STATE FIRE COUNCIL (SFC)
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017-2018 FOURTH QUARTER MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: June 8, 2018
Time of Meeting: 9:30 a.m.
Place of Meeting: Department of Fire and Public Safety (MFD)
Fire Prevention Bureau Conference Room
313 Manea Place
Wailuku, Hawaii 96740

Present:

Manuel P. Neves SFC Chair
Fire Chief, Honolulu Fire Department

Jeffrey Murray SFC Member
Fire Chief, MFD

Darren Rosario SFC Member
Fire Chief, Hawaii Fire Department

Lloyd Rogers SFC Administrative Specialist

Adam Rosenberg Deputy Attorney General
State of Hawaii, Department of the Attorney General (DAG)
Lionel Montaivo  Deputy Fire Chief, MFD

Gary Honold  Regional Director
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Jarvis Chun  Supervising Building Plans Examiner
County of Maui, Department of Public Works (DPW)

Jerry Tanaka  Supervising Plumbing Inspector
County of Maui, DPW

Wendy Taomoto  Deputy Chief
Maui County, Department of Water Supply

Glen Ueno  Administrator
County of Maui, DPW

I. Introduction

A. Chair Neves called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

B. Chair Neves welcomed everyone, and an introduction of attendees followed. Vice Chair Westerman was not able to attend.

II. Unfinished Business

A. SFC Administrative Staff

SFC members discussed the positions of Administrator, Administrative Assistant, and Administrative Specialists I, II, and III. One of the Administrative Specialist II positions is being upgraded to an Administrative Specialist III and will be the supervisor of the three other SFC staff positions.

B. SFC Grant Working Group Update

SFC members reviewed the current listing of the working group.

C. SFC Statewide Programs
Update on Proposed Administrative Rules for Licensing Individuals to Conduct Inspection, Maintenance, and Testing of Fire Extinguishers, Fire Protection Systems, and Fire Alarm Systems

The rules were transmitted to the Governor for approval on March 28, 2018.

D. Meeting with Maui County Building and Water Officials

SFC members discussed the current information on residential sprinklers with Maui County building and water officials. Act 53, which was adopted in the 2017 Legislative Session, extended a prohibition for 10 years in which counties cannot require residential sprinklers in new or existing one- and two-family dwellings, except for fire fighting water supply or road access deficiencies. They discussed the use of a 5/8" water meter, which is the standard domestic water meter being used in Maui County, and manufacture specification sheets of water meters and sprinkler heads that allow the use of a 5/8" meter to supply a residential sprinkler system. Maui County water officials had no issues with the use of the 5/8" meter to supply a residential sprinkler system. This means that a home with a residential system will not be charged any additional costs in water fees.

Various aspects of the sprinkler system were discussed, such as a dual system and the one system that is combined with the domestic system, the back flow preventer, and the sprinkler approval process. The MFD reviews and approves plans for residential sprinklers, and all systems must be stamped by a licensed mechanical engineer to ensure design operability.

III. New Business

A. State Fire Code Issues

SFC members discussed the history, advantages, and disadvantages of the refueling, latch-open device. The National Fire Code allows the use of the latch-open device, which allows refueling without physically holding the dispenser handle open, but allows local jurisdictions the final approval. Hawaii is only one of two states that prohibits the latch-open device. Statistically, there is little evidence to indicate the latch-open device has led to fuel spills or fires.

Motion: Member Murray motioned to remove the amendment in the proposed State Fire Code, the NFPA 1 Fire Code 2015 Edition, to prohibit the installation and use of latch-open devices at refueling stations. The motion passed.
Record of Votes:  Chair Neves - Aye
                Member Murray - Aye
                Member Rosario - Aye

2. Other Code Issues

There were no other code issues.

B. Review of SFC Bylaws

SFC members reviewed and discussed the revised SFC Bylaws. SFC members will review this matter further and discuss this issue at their next SFC meeting.

C. Other New Business

SFC members discussed the proposed bills for the 2019 Legislative Session. Members reviewed the 2018 bills that were submitted but did not pass. They also discussed some of the bills that were related to statutory language in the current Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapters 132, 132C, and 107. All proposed bills will be forwarded to the DAG for review and will be presented and discussed at the next SFC meeting.

D. Next Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly meeting will be held on Kauai. Possible dates will be forwarded to the members for confirmation.

IV. Adjournment

Motion: Member Murray motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Record of Votes:  Chair Neves - Aye
                Member Murray - Aye
                Member Rosario - Aye

MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair