



Alarm Alert

Tom Gallagher: State Fire Marshal

Visit the Division of State Fire Marshal at <http://www.fldfs.com/sfm>

Summer 2006

Fire Service Calendar

Great Florida Fire School,
November 8-12, 2006,
Avon Park, FL.
www.greatfloridafireschool.org
See back cover

FSFC Volunteer Weekend,
December 8—10, 2006,
Valpariaso, FL

Upcoming Events at the Florida State Fire College

**Joint Council and Fire and
Emergency Services,**
October 12

**Fallen Firefighter Memorial
Service,** October 13, 2006
See page 9

**Firefighters Employment,
Standards and Training
Council,** October 13, 2006

**Fire and Emergency Incident
Information System Technical
Advisory Panel,**
October 13, 2006

**Firefighter Survival, Self
Rescue and RIT**
November 13 ~ 17, 2006
See back cover

FACAP,
November 15-17, 2006
Visit <http://www.facap.org>

Florida to adopt US National Grid

Randall Napoli
Director

Division of State Fire Marshal

Lessons learned from recent hurricane seasons have taught us that standardized grid maps for search and rescue and other activities are a necessity. In an effort to standardize maps in Florida for both emergency and other operations, the State Fire Marshal, as the coordinating agency for search and rescue under the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, and the Division

of Emergency Management are embarking on a program to adopt the US National Grid as the standard in Florida. This project will ensure a uniform grid mapping system across cities and counties in Florida, and will match the system used by the National Guard, the US Coast Guard and the US military when they are deployed into our state.

Florida's unique geography of miles of coastlines, multiple river corridors, and large watersheds

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Meeting focuses on fire services' response to pipeline emergencies

Harriett Abrams
Assistant Director

Division of State Fire Marshal

In 2002, the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) joined with the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Office of Pipeline Safety to ensure that individuals charged with responding to pipeline incidents – local firefighters – are properly

trained and informed. On June 20, 2006 NASFM, USDOT, and the Office of the Florida State Fire Marshal (SFM) hosted the "Florida Pipeline Safety Stakeholders" Meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida. As one participant stated, "in Florida, this was the first time members of the fire service, pipeline industry, and energy industry came together for a common cause."

Rand Napoli, Director of the

(Continued on page 3)



From the Director

Randall W. Napoli, Division of State Fire Marshal

Camping with 300 close friends

*Sherm Sasser
Senior Management
Analyst Supervisor*

Division of State Fire Marshal

Each year, DEM (Division of Emergency Management), SERT (State Emergency Response Team), and the component ESFs (Emergency Support Functions) have conducted an Annual Statewide Hurricane Exercise to train and help prepare Florida for its hurricane season.

This year the annual exercise – Hurricane Zoey – was scheduled for May 22-26, and, sure enough, it occurred right on time. If only we could get the real hurricanes to cooperate to such a degree.

HOWEVER, there was a wee bit of a curve ball thrown at the participants, as this year it became the “2006 Statewide Terrorism/COOP/Hurricane Exercise.” Hmmm!

Just a few little wrinkles thrown into the mix – like a terrorist attack on Tallahassee and then a COOP (Continuity of Operations) move from Tallahassee’s State Emergency Operations Center to the Alternate Emergency Operations Center because of the damage from the terrorist attack. Does not sound too tough – until you know that the Alternate Center is located on Camp Blanding. Yes, that Camp Blanding! The one with all the green uniforms. The one in the middle of the woods. The one that is 160 miles from

Tallahassee.

The exercise actually began earlier than the official start with several simulated terrorist bombings. Then, due to the damage to buildings and to the electrical systems, the decision was made on Sunday May 21st to relocate the entire EOC (Emergency Operations Center) to Clay County and on Camp Blanding. The ESFs and the EOC staff moved to Blanding on Monday morning, began briefings on Monday afternoon, and were fully operational by Tuesday. Of course, this was just in the nick of time – nick of time for Hurricane Zoey to bring its 150 mile per hour winds and its 20 foot storm surge smack dab into Tampa Bay. Oh, the participants were having fun now.

Of course, ESF 4 (Firefighting) and 9 (Search and Rescue) were a part of this tough exercise. The Division of State Fire Marshal (SFM) is the lead agency for these two ESFs and with the participation of partners, including the Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association, managed to continue the operations from Blanding. Tasks were finished a bit slower, and there certainly were some opportunities. However, the renowned Florida disaster response organization and associated folks made it work again. If it had been a real event, instead of a drill, things might have been harder to accomplish, but it was demonstrated that this team would “make it

happen.”

And, a number of kudos should be passed around to the organizers and to the participants. Some of those kudos should go:

1. to the Florida SERT team for attempting something that no-one else had tried – to move the entire EOC and the several hundred folks needed to operate it; and making it work;
2. to the Florida National Guard for the cooperation and magnificent effort in allowing this to take place at and involving Camp Blanding;
3. to the Information Technology folks, especially from DEM, who moved machines, tugged cable, installed phones, set up their own version of a one-stop office-needs company; and making it work;
4. to the SFM staff who manned the ESF; and making it work;
5. to the Fire Chief of Bartow and the Division Chief of Tallahassee Fire Department who COOP’d along with the EOC and provided ESF 4&9 with the logistic support;
6. to the Florida National Guard for the facts that the mess halls have certainly improved and the cottage accommodation was light years removed from the military barracks this writer once knew.

It was different but then it was the same. As the Director of the DEM, Craig Fugate, said, “It’s like our usual annual exercise, except we’re camping.”

Wonder what they have in store for us next year?

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US National Grid adoption

make the use of the common section – township – range grid (PLSS) all but impossible except for a handful of inland counties. As those grids approach wetlands, river corridors and the coast line, sections become irregular in shape and can be significantly larger than the typical square mile, which is too large to accommodate the needs of ground crews.

Adoption of a national grid system has been identified as ‘critical’ in a number of after action reports, investigations and studies dating as far back as Hurricane Andrew. FEMA, DHS, the National GeoSpatial Intelligence Agency, and the Federal Geographic Data Committee all promote the adoption of the USNG.

This project will pull together

representatives from the various disciplines and agencies to form an implementation group, and training curriculum and materials are being identified. Project information will be distributed in the near future as we move forward with this important project.

For additional information visit the USNG website at: www.fgdc.gov/usng

USNG Background. The Federal Geographic Data Committee’s U.S. National Grid (USNG) standard provides a nationally consistent *language of location* that has been optimized for local applications.

- All street maps use a standard set of street names and addresses to locate places. The USNG does not replace this practice; it supplements it.
- USNG is a Presentation Standard. It does not replace data storage

formats for either Geographic Information Systems (GIS) or the State Plane Coordinate System (SPCS) for engineering and survey applications.

- USNG is an alpha-numeric point reference system that has been overlaid on the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) numerical grid. Every modest size home in a discrete area can be described using 8-digits (e.g., 1234 5678). By adding a two-letter prefix (e.g., XX 1234 5678), the location is identified regionally (state-wide). This alpha-numeric designator can be used today with many consumer GPS receivers costing less than \$100.
- The Army National Guard has been trained to use the USNG format. Additionally, USNG and the Military Grid Reference (MGRS) values are identical.

(Continued from front page)

Pipeline emergencies

Division of State Fire Marshal, hosted the meeting which focused on the shared responsibility among emergency responders, elected and appointed officials, and pipeline operators to ensure higher levels of pipeline safety and awareness in the State of Florida. The day included presentations on the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) regulations, as well as pipeline safety programs aimed at bringing emergency responders and pipeline operators together to encourage cooperation and promote safe communities. Discussions addressed a number of pipeline safety related topics including USDOT regulations in regard to High Consequence Area identification, community awareness programs, damage prevention, and emergency responder training.

A highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Robert Polk, former South Carolina State Fire Marshal. Mr. Polk presented a NASFM model for creating a sustainable partnership between emergency responders and

the pipeline industry to identify high consequence areas. The model was based on the State of Kentucky. In Kentucky, the project goal was to build public confidence in the integrity of pipeline safety initiatives. This is important because the public is becoming aware that high consequence areas can be located close to homes, public buildings, and in open areas. Along with this, it was important to educate the fire service by organizing visits to drilling sites, compressor stations and other pipeline facilities. Also, the State of Kentucky realized that the industry needs included being educated about the incident command system and how mutual aid agreements work. Several successes of this effort included the establishment of response protocols between industry and individual counties/fire departments, joint training between affected industries and the fire service, and joint post-incident analyses.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Director Napoli challenged the

participants to reflect on the information received during the meeting and to think of resourceful approaches to proceed with educating Florida’s stakeholders in pipeline safety.

One of those approaches is already in place. To educate and prepare the fire service to take a leadership role in educating other local, county and state officials about pipeline safety, NASFM in cooperation with the Florida State Fire Marshal presented a pipeline emergencies Train-The-Trainer Session at the Florida State Fire College on August 23, 2006.

What will be the effect of pipeline emergency response training? It will contribute to the elimination of fire-related deaths, injuries, and damage to property and the environment. The education of pipeline emergency response will definitely have a positive effect on the State of Florida. Thus, the fire service and cooperating industries are encouraged to actively participate in future meetings and training programs relating to pipeline safety.



Crime Scenes

News from the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations

Major John Burch sworn in

*Bruce Ashley
Bureau Chief*

*Bureau of Fire
and Arson Investigations*

On May 17, 2006, the Division of State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations (BFAI) officially recognized John Burch as Major of Operations at a swearing-in ceremony held in Tallahassee.

John's promotion comes after the recent retirement of Major Steve Spradley.

Major Burch has been with the BFAI for 19 years. He has held a number of positions with the Bureau including detective, lieutenant and captain. He had held the position of Professional Standards and North Region Captain for the past six years prior to his promotion to Major. Major Burch worked as a sheriff's deputy with Sarasota County prior to coming to the Bureau.

Division of State Fire Marshal Director Rand Napoli administered the Oath of Office to

Major Burch. Major Burch was joined at the ceremony by his wife Donna and his two children Britany and Kyle. During the ceremony which was attended by a number of Department employees and dignitaries as well as other state law enforcement partners. John is the right person at the right time. He brings impeccable integrity and character to this critical position.

Major Burch will represent the State Fire Marshal and the Bureau at headquarters in Tallahassee and can be reached at 200 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee Florida 32399, and by at telephone (850) 413-3650.

DSFM restores incident mobile command vehicle

Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations members recently completed a frame up renovation of the Division incident mobile command vehicle. The command vehicle provides a base of operations for supporting Division personnel during Forensic Investigative Response Team's (FIST) deployments, disaster response missions and other incident deployments/missions requiring multi-person, multi-day activity. The vehicle may also be used by other Divisions of the Department of Financial Services as needed.

Recently, members of the Forensic Investigative Support Team spent the day at the Florida State Fire College becoming acquainted with the mobile command vehicle's capabilities and preparing the vehicle for disaster response. The command vehicle will be utilized when the FIST responds to fire scenes that exceed the capabilities and local resources of fire investigators. The command vehicle offers up to date radio technology for interoperability and includes satellite telephone capability. Presently, the command vehicle is equipped with updated computer stations and ability to connect to network servers allowing access to case management systems, law enforcement data bases, documents, other report systems and uploading digital photography. An on-board generator allows the bus to sustain power during the length of a disaster deployment or fire/explosion scene investigation.



Mary Fields retires after 35 years of service

John Burch
Major

Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations

It is with a great deal of sadness, and much excitement, that I write this article reflecting on the employment and retirement of one of the most dedicated state employees ever to work for the Division of State Fire Marshal. As most of you already know, Mary Fields retired from the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations effective April 28, 2006. Mary was made an offer she could not refuse and, after 35 years of service to the citizens of the state, she left the Bureau to pursue a career in the private sector. I'm sure none of you expected her to retire!

Mary had been employed with the Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations, since June 1, 1971. She was a dedicated employee to both the Division and the Bureau. In her many years of service she played a major part in Bureau changes affecting policies, creating work products and forms, and also establishing training concepts and technology needs.

Mary began her career in the Ft. Walton Beach Office and, in 1994, Mary was promoted to a Crime Intelligence Analyst and transferred to Bureau headquarters in Tallahassee. Mary developed the Crime Analyst Unit for the bureau and later, with two additional analysts assigned to her section, she was assigned duties as the bureau CIA Coordinator. In 1998, Mary was promoted to the bureau CIA Supervisor position, a position that required establishing and writing policies, guidelines, and procedures for the CIA unit and also the training of all field analysts.

In addition to establishing the CIA Unit, Mary also played a huge part in the development of other areas of growth within the Bureau.

In 1995, Mary was assigned the task of handling the Bureau's computerized reporting system (ACISS) due to the loss of the Distributed Computer Analyst. This computer position was never filled and all of the related responsibilities were tasked to Mary. In 2005/2006, Mary coordinated the upgrade of our reporting system to a web-based application. This upgrade required creating new reporting criteria and features, testing ten years of data conversions, and training personnel.

In 1999, Mary recognized the burden that records requests and other related issues presented to the clerical and secretarial staffs in the field. Mary requested the Bureau seek a "Records Technician" position. The request was granted and the position was put under her supervision. In approximately 2003, the coordination of information relating to public record requests for investigative files became so cumbersome that Mary implemented a file inventory tracking sheet and established procedures to do file and computer reporting comparison during the report approval process. This procedure ensured all records were turned in after the closure of a case.

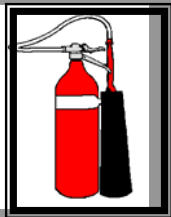
In 1998, Mary was given the responsibility of our Bureau IRMAG. Mary coordinated the technology needs of our Bureau with the Department's Network and Technology Sections and provided our Bureau employees with much more assistance than

was expected. Mary would be the first to tell you that most of the assistance she provided in this area was self initiated. Mary felt that she needed to assure that our personnel received as much service as possible, and this service included making sure all laptops were loaded up with the proper applications for our Detectives, testing software and hardware, researching and applying applications for law enforcement needs, etc. Because Mary handled the IRMAG duties, she was also given the responsibility of Share Point Administrator for the Bureau intranet site.

In addition to all of the above Bureau related functions, since approximately 1997 Mary has been assigned to the state emergency operations center where she worked in all of the functions to include administration/finance, operations officer and incident manager.

This reflection on Mary's contributions to this Division and Bureau could go on forever. Mary's main work related tasks have been documented above but we could never list the endless times that Mary assisted with an overdue project or assisted with the production of a flyer or brochure. In addition to all of the time and effort she committed to this Division and Bureau, she provided just as much time and effort to projects that reflected the professionalism of this Division to our customers. Mary was an endless supporter of both the Florida Advisory Commission on Arson Prevention (FACAP) – receiving their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005, as well as the Florida Arson Seminar.

Mary's energy, personality, professionalism, and commitment will be missed.



Inspection Report

News from the Bureau of Fire Prevention

EFO graduate symposium: Florida represented

*Jim Goodloe
Bureau Chief*

Bureau of Fire Prevention

Emmitsburg, MD—Florida was well represented at the 18th Executive Fire Officer Program Graduate Symposium on April 21-23 held at the Department of Homeland Security/U. S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy.

This annual event brought together some 175 senior fire officials from across the United States and Canada for three days to discuss various facets of fire service leadership. The symposium opened with a keynote presentation delivered by Dr. Joseph Mancusi. The Chief Intelligence Officer of DHS, Charles Allen, provided attendees with perspectives on how fire and emergency services can partner with and support DHS in the intelligence arena. A day long examination of the "Hurricanes of 2005" was conducted with New Orleans Fire Department personnel and other federal and local officials discussing what worked and what needs to be improved upon. The symposium also featured peer presentations of Outstanding Applied Research projects by the authors.

At the Symposium Banquet on Saturday April 22, the four 2005 Outstanding Applied Research Awards were presented, and alumni who completed the EFOP in prior years were also recognized. The U.S. Fire Administration's NFA



Left to Right – Front Row: Frank W. Snyder – Delton Fire Rescue; Kenneth A. Burke – Orange County Fire Rescue; Elaine A. Fisher – Orange County Fire Rescue; Leanna Raw – Seminole County EMS; Second Row: George Shiley – Plant City Fire Rescue; Lawrence W. Nisbet – Estero Fire Rescue; Christopher Krajic – Estero Fire Rescue; W. Brett Pollock – West Manatee Fire Rescue District and Jim Goodloe – Division of State Fire Marshal

serves as the national focal point for advancing the professional development of fire service and rescue personnel through education and training programs.

Jim Goodloe, Bureau Chief of Fire Prevention, Division of State Fire Marshal, a 1996 graduate of NFA's Executive Fire Officer Program was on hand to congratulate this year's graduates from Florida. This prestigious academic program requires senior fire officials to meet stringent professional criteria for selection.

The four-segment, advanced level program provides participants with a broad perspective on major aspects of fire administration. Participants also must complete Applied Research Projects that have significance to their local, supporting jurisdiction.

For more information about the Executive Fire Officer program visit

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/training/nfa/efop/curriculum.shtm>

NFPA 2: The proposed standard for H2!

Jim Goodloe
Bureau Chief

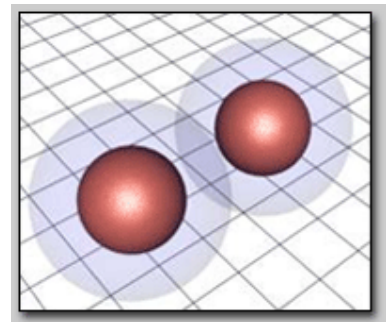
Bureau of Fire Prevention

The National Fire Protection Association Standards Council has initiated the development of a new Technical Committee for the creation of a new standard to regulate the use, siting and handling of hydrogen as an alternative fuel. The new standard to be known as "The Hydrogen Technologies Code" is about one year away from its initial draft. The technical committee will create the new standard primarily by extracting existing language from standards that presently address the subject of H2. The Bureau of Fire Prevention has

been an active member of NFPA's Hydrogen Correlating Committee for some time. Many members of the Committee consider this approach to be problematic and have shared this position with the staff coordinator, Carl Rivkin. The Council will be asked to review the scope of work outlined by the technical committee for clarification on the standard's development process.

The work of the technical committee is expected to result in a draft standard by May 2007 with a closing of November 2007. The first edition of the standard is tentatively scheduled to be issued with an effective date around July 2009. In addition to regulators, stakeholders include the automotive

industry; energy companies and several entities engaged in the development of hydrogen and hydrogen production facilities. The Bureau in conjunction with Florida's Department of Environmental Protection will monitor the progress of this standard and the development of hydrogen technologies and its impact on Florida's stream of energy resources.



Plans review for compliance

William Fowler
Plans Review Manager

Bureau of Fire Prevention

The Plans Review Section is responsible for performing a comprehensive review of all plans for new construction, alterations, renovations or change of occupancy of all state-owned and state-leased buildings for compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code. Florida Statutes section 633.085 (3) – Fire Prevention and Control provides that the plan review of state-leased spaces shall be completed within 10 working days after the receipt of the plans by the Division of State Fire Marshal. The plans for state-owned buildings have to be completed within 30 calendar days of receipt of the plans.

Florida Administrative Code

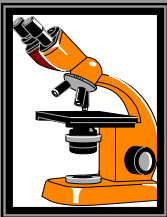
(F.A.C.) section 69A-3.009 (12), defines a state-owned building as any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy of which the state, any state agency or department, or the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund is the record owner of the legal title to such structure. This rule excludes pole barns, picnic shelters, lift stations, animal pens or feeders, pump houses, one and two family private residences, forestry and radio towers, buildings no longer in use or empty buildings, or greenhouses from the above definition. State-leased means that the state, any state agency or department, or the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund is the lessee which is leasing the building or space from a lessor.

The fee for plan review has been established by F.A.C. section 69A-52.004. The fee for new construction, alterations or renovations is computed by multiplying the estimated

construction cost by 0.0025. If no construction cost is involved in a change in occupancy, the plan review fee is calculated at the rate of \$.02 per square foot of newly occupied space. The minimum fee for each plan review is \$100.00 per building. These fees include up to 3 inspections or site visits: 1) one visit to observe the inspection on the underground fire protection main, if applicable 2) one inspection to occur prior to close-in of the building 3) one inspection to occur prior to occupancy of the building.

In 2005, the Plans Review Section reviewed and approved 980 plans including shop drawings and addendums. The Section received a wide variety of projects, such as office renovations, secure housing units, large business and assembly occupancies.

The entire staff of the Plans Review Section seeks to deliver quality customer service. Please feel free to contact us at phone 850.413.3733 or fax 850-922-2553 with any questions you might have.



Lab Notebook

News from the Bureau of Forensic Fire and Explosives Analysis

What does your report “really” say?

*Carl Chasteen
Bureau Chief*

*Bureau of Forensic Fire
and Explosives Analysis*

While the Bureau of Forensic Fire and Explosives Analysis has branched into several areas of forensic analysis, the one with which we are most identified is the analysis of fire debris in order to determine if an ignitable liquid is present. In order to perform these analyses, we employ nationally recognized standards to develop our standard operating procedures. For us these standards come from the forensic guides and standard tests written by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). We are fortunate to have a member of the Bureau who is a member of ASTM and can speak for us when these standards are being written or revised.

ASTM has various guides. These include methods for extracting ignitable liquids from fire debris or for archiving post analysis samples. Most of our customers are only peripherally aware of the requirements of these guides. More important to our customers is the standard that tells us how to analyze and interpret the data from our gas chromatographs with mass spectral detectors. It is designated as ASTM E 1618 and defines the mass spectral profiles and chemical compounds that must be present before we can

make a positive identification. Before continuing, you must be aware that ignitable liquids are composed of multiple chemical compounds of numerous sizes from various organic chemical classes. For example, gasoline contains as many as 400 separate chemical compounds.

Other than gasoline, other ignitable liquids must be identified as belonging to a specific class of refinery/commercial product. ASTM E 1618 lists the following classes:

1. Petroleum Distillates – These may be further subdivided as light, medium, or heavy depending on the range of chemicals called normal alkanes (which are most abundant) within the mixture. They may also be specifically treated to remove most of the minor aromatic compounds to render “odorless” products. This classification includes such commercial products as VM & P naphtha, cigarette lighter fluids, some charcoal starter fluids, some mineral spirits, kerosene, and diesel fuel.

2. Gasoline – This includes all gasoline regardless of octane rating as well as gasohol. The most abundant organic chemical compounds in gasoline are the aromatic class.

3. Isoparaffinic Solvents - These may be further subdivided as light, medium, or heavy depending on the range of chemicals called branched alkanes (which are most abundant). This classification includes such commercial products as aviation/racing gas, some charcoal starter fluids, some paint thinners, and other specialty solvents.

4. Aromatic Products – These are not the same as gasoline. While gasoline does contain many of these products, the composition and ratios of the chemical compounds found in an Aromatic Product is different than what is found in gasoline. This classification includes such commercial products as some automotive parts cleaners, some fuel additives, solvents for some aerosol insecticides, and some industrial cleaning solvents.

5. Naphthenic/paraffinic Solvents. The most abundant chemicals in this product are various cyclohexanes and branched alkanes. The classification includes solvents, some charcoal starters, some lamp oils, some industrial solvents, and some insecticide solvents.

6. N-Alkane Products – These products contain only normal alkanes which have been separated and deliberately mixed to make products such as solvents, candle oils, and copier toners. They are also found in carbonless paper.

7. Oxygenated Solvents – These are either pure or mixed alcohols and ketones sold as solvents, lacquer thinners, fuel additives, surface preparation solvents and metal cleaners/gloss removers.

8. Miscellaneous – These are the unusual specialty solvents. Some are derived from natural products while some are blended from synthetically isolated and blended chemicals. They may include turpentine, some enamel reducers, and various specialty products.

Many of our customers have received a report with one or more of the above contained in our findings. We encourage all our customers to

contact us if they need a clearer explanation of our findings. One caution that we offer is that not all ignitable liquids found on submitted debris is an "accelerant". The ignitable liquid may be present as an interference in the material sent. This is the reason that multiple samples and comparison samples are encouraged. If the same isoparaffinic solvent is found on a piece of carpet, a piece of cloth, a piece of wood, and a piece of glass, it is unlikely that it was an interference in all of the items.

One of the most misunderstood findings we report is our "negative" finding. We use the finding of "No Ignitable Liquid Determined". This is our current negative finding. It is used for any sample where we are not absolutely convinced of the identity of an ignitable liquid. If we are not convinced of an identification, we cannot testify, or even speculate on the stand that an ignitable liquid was present. We are required to testify "within a reasonable degree of scientific certainty" to an identification. This requires adherence to ASTM standards. Any doubts means the sample must be reported as negative. We cannot testify to hypothetical speculation. It

would be like a drug analyst testifying that, "if it wasn't cocaine, it should have been".

In the past, we had two "negative" findings. One "negative" was for the flat lines and pure garbage samples. The other "negative" was for the "borderline" samples that had some components of ignitable liquids, but not enough to satisfy ASTM standards. This led to some misunderstandings with investigators and prosecutors. They often believed that we could testify that the sample contained a hypothetical, mystery, ignitable liquid that just couldn't be fully identified. We could not testify to that. If we did, it would be "junk science". Discussions with other forensic scientists with similar issues brought us to the conclusion that both negatives should be merged into a single negative statement.

"No ignitable liquid was determined" means that the recovered pattern may be a flat line, pure garbage, or "on the border", but the bottom line, is that the analyst can not and will not be able to testify that any ignitable liquid could be determined within a reasonable degree of scientific

certainty. It is negative. In the rare case of a clear ignitable liquid pattern not matching our in-lab standards, there are databases of ignitable liquids (www.twgfex.com) which can provide access to ignitable liquids from across the country. If it can't be identified it is most likely not an ignitable liquid.

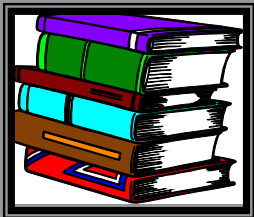
Last, but certainly not least, in ASTM E1618 the inclusion of a disclaimer on each report is encouraged. The one we utilize states, "Negative test results do not preclude the possibility that an ignitable liquid was present in the fire scene." We can only report on the sample we test. There may be other samples within a fire scene which would have had a positive identification but for some reason were not selected. The level of ignitable liquid may have either been below our detection limits or sufficiently consumed to render a negative finding.

We hope this will aid our customers in deciphering our reports. If not, we encourage you to contact us and speak to either the Bureau Chief or an Analyst to find out what your report really says.



Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service October 13, 2006 at the Florida State Fire College

On Friday, October 13, 2006, Florida will gather at the Florida State Fire College to honor the firefighters that gave their lives in the line of duty. Four members of Florida's fire service will be added to the memorial this year: Dennis Bottge, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue; Henry Hobbs, Division of Forestry; Karl "Klif" Kramer, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department; and Frank Kucera, Seminole County Fire Rescue. Please join us as we remember our firefighters and their families.



Dateline: Ocala

News from the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training

Final exam for Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces

OCALA—Most tests involve paper, a pencil and maybe a calculator, but this one involves concrete, steel and human resolve.

On Thursday, July 20, 2006 members of the Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Forces from Tampa Bay, Central Florida, Jacksonville, Tallahassee and Volusia County completed intensive structural collapse training at the Florida State Fire College in Ocala. The “victims” and the scenario were props, but the work was all real, said Tom Gallagher, Florida’s State Fire Marshal.

“Florida has one of the most well-prepared response systems in the country,” said Gallagher, who oversees the Division of State Fire Marshal which is providing the training. “We have ensured that all of our emergency responders get hands-on training so that they are as prepared as possible for any disaster here at home.”

The final exam on Thursday had students cutting through poured concrete, concrete block and steel to rescue “victims” trapped in apartments and cars in a collapsed parking garage. The test wraps up an 80-hour course that follows 264 hours of mechanical, trench, confined space and rope rescue training. Funding for the training and the facility comes from more than \$32 million in U.S. homeland security funds that have been pumped into Florida and administered by the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

The US&R training center at the Florida State Fire College provides specialized and live-fire training and is the only “post-blast” collapse

simulator providing fire and smoke conditions in the United States.

Since September 11, 2001, the number of US&R task forces in Florida has grown from two to nine. Those task forces are located in the Tampa Bay and Southwest Florida areas, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Central Florida (Orlando, Orange County, Seminole County) North Central Florida (Marion County, Alachua County, Gainesville, Ocala) and Volusia.

Two FEMA US&R task forces are located in the Miami area, and the nine task forces comprise the Florida Urban Search and Rescue System.

More than \$1 million in homeland security funds have been spent to train and equip each of seven state task forces, including providing each with a tractor-trailer response truck stocked with tools and equipment to respond to a wide range of emergencies. In addition,

local governments have been supported with some of the personnel costs incurred during training.

The two FEMA Task forces in Florida responded following the terrorist attacks in New York City and at the Pentagon, and all nine provided critical assistance during the past two hurricane seasons both in Florida and Mississippi.

Homeland security funds have also helped establish and equip 50 technical rescue teams and supplement the 28 existing regional hazardous materials teams, as well as provide almost 300,000 hours of training to nearly 1,700 first responders serving on these teams.

“Because of the work of these men and women and their commitment to protect Florida’s citizens,” Gallagher said, “our state is better prepared and equipped to respond to any threat, protecting our families and making our communities safer.”



LIVE FIRE TRAINING LAW IN EFFECT AS OF JANUARY 1, 2006

The Live Fire Training laws went into effect January 1, 2006. A handout explaining the law and rules can be downloaded at www.fldfs.com/sfm. The full text can be found at the same site; page down to the Firefighters Occupational Safety and Health Act and go to 633.821 (6). The rules to implement the law are currently being finalized. In the interim, fire departments and training centers conducting live fire training in acquired structures and permanent training props must follow 633.821 (6) requiring compliance to NFPA 1402 "Guide to Building Fire Service Training Centers" and 1403 "Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions" with the exceptions listed in the law. Be aware that 62-256.700(4) "Open Burning for the Training of Firefighters" is currently in effect and is included in the above "December" download. The textbook for Live Fire Trainer Instructor is currently being developed. Additional information will be available soon.

CERTIFICATION AND STANDARDS

Fingerprint card processing has changed. You are now required to pay fingerprint processing fees online at www.fldfsprints.com or by calling 888-717-5699. The process to obtain a fingerprint card and having your fingerprints taken remains the same. Mail your completed fingerprint card to the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training after payment has been made. Upon confirmation of payment and receipt of your fingerprint card, BFST will forward it to FDLE for processing. For more information you can contact the Standards Division.

Important changes about Instructor or Inspector renewals. Certification renewal can now be completed online at www.floridastatefirecollege.org. Please verify your personal profile information and CEU status. REMEMBER if the class and CEUs were not entered by the provider, they won't appear in this folder, and you will have to include copies of the certificates/transcripts. Certificates should show the hours, approval number, and instructor name and number on them. You can send the certificates or transcripts as attachments with the online renewal form.

Any courses being offered for CEUs in the state should be using the electronic system. You should check with the provider of the training to assure the information is being submitted so that you receive appropriate credit.

Approved online courses for Fire Officer, Instructor or Inspector Certification Certain courses taken online may now be used towards Fire Officer 1, Fire Instructor, or Fire Inspector Certification. For a complete list of courses and providers go to the Standards webpage at <http://www.fldfs.com/sfm/bfst/Standard/firestan.htm> and use the "Online Course Acceptance" link.

TRAIN-THE TRAINER CLASS COMING TO FSFC

H-465 (I300) and H-467 (I400) Train-the-Trainer to be held August 21 to 25, 2006 for H-465, *ICS-300, Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders*; and H-467, *ICS-400, Advanced ICS for Command & General Staff, Complex Incidents, and MACS for Operational First Responders*. These two courses are the NFA versions of the NIMS-required ICS-300 and ICS-400 courses. H-465 (ICS-300) is a three-day class; H-467 (ICS-400) is a two-day class. In order to attend, individuals must be a Florida certified instructor (preference given to Certified Instructor II or III), have I-300 and 400 ICS training and experience, and have been in charge of an incident lasting more than one operational period.

FCDICE Class: Training is now being offered for the online registration system. This 4-hour CEU bearing class will show students and providers how to apply and register for classes, apply for examinations and renew certifications using the online system. Upcoming classes at FSFC: October 5, 2006 Course ID#19202, September 7, 2006 Course ID #19192, November 16, 2006, Course ID#19216. Register online.

The FCDICE training "roadshow" is heading your way. If you are interested in hosting a class in your area, please contact Susan Schell or Charlie Brush at 352-369-2800

COURSES UNDER DEVELOPMENT

(Additional information will be available soon)

- Rapid Intervention Training is currently being developed by the Florida State Fire College, Marion County Technical and Adult Education Center and Marion County Fire Rescue.
- The 104-Hour HazMat Tech bridge course is currently being developed with SERC Training Committee's approval. Pre-requisite: Old Hazardous Materials I and II courses.
- The Hydraulics and Apparatus courses are currently being reviewed by committee. The current program allows the use of the IFSTA text and formulas.



The 2006 Great Florida Fire School

November 8—12, 1006

South Florida Community College

Avon Park, FL

Florida's premiere fire school

Classes meet the needs of the largest city fire departments, as well as small rural ones. The registration fee is \$80.00 and it covers as many of the scheduled classes you can attend in a five-day period, plus admission to the banquet.

For more information, class schedule and registration forms, visit the Great Florida Fire School website at www.greatfloridafireschool.org

FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL, SELF-RESCUE, AND RIT

November 13 ~ 17, 2006

*provided by MCTAE at the
Florida State Fire College, Ocala, FL*

40 hours of intense instruction in firefighter survival, self-rescue, and rapid intervention. Experienced and especially motivated instructors will lead students to consider options, techniques and skill sets to which they likely have never been exposed. Walkthroughs of various real life incidents and accounts put the student in a new frame of mind required to save themselves or one of their own. This is a strenuous course. Students will be required to lift and carry other participants as well as assume positions that would be considered "uncomfortable" under normal conditions. For registration contact Karen Collins at 352-671-7200. For dorm reservations call 352-369-2800.

Division of State Fire Marshal
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