

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Group: Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Date: 05 April 2011, Tuesday

Time: 1000 hours

Location: Monmouth County Fire Academy Conference room

Members Present: In attendance at the meeting were Chairman Jerry Naylis, Co-Chairman FM Chris Pujat, NFIRS Supervisor Heather Puskar, NFIRS Field Representatives Fred Connin and Steve Hearn, and Chief Len Dolan.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Naylis at 1005 hours.

Chairman Naylis opened the meeting with a welcome to all members present. The Chairman reported that he had, at the last Fire Safety Commission meeting, stressed the need for additional personnel to fill vacancies in the DFS NFIRS Unit. Chairman Naylis also mentioned that in reviewing several of the Annual Fire Reports, compiled by the supervisor of the NFIRS Unit of DFS, he noticed that the number of cooking fires over the past years has remained consistent. He introduced this at the Fire Safety Commission meeting and proposed this as a possible area for public education.

Supervisor Puskar discussed the issues of incorrect reporting. One area in particular, fatal fires, was of prime interest. NFIRS representative Fred Connin has been interviewing many of the fire departments throughout the State and finding that some reported fire fatalities have been homicides or medical in nature but NOT deaths caused by the fire. Therefore these fatalities, constituting approximately 25% of the reports, should not be part of the data base for NFIRS fatal fires. Chief Dolan mentioned that the additional statistics Fred is gathering through his interview process would be a great addition to the 2010 Annual Fire Report. A second area discussed was that of Aid-Given and Aid Received.

Supervisor Puskar then mentioned that several departments remain delinquent in their reporting. The federal government is awarding grants to many departments who have not submitted NFIRS data to the State. A federal grant "Performance Period" offers the departments a grace period of one year from the date of their grant award in which to file their NFIRS reports. Chairman Naylis asked if the delinquent counties are being notified of their missing data. Supervisor Puskar stated that most of the counties are being notified and NFIRS field Representative Steve Hearn has been successful with many departments.

Supervisor Puskar commented that data is still being received for the years 2004 through 2009. The NFIRS Data for 2010 is at 92 % with 677 departments out of 731 reporting. Data for the year 2011 is at 54% with 376 departments out of 730 reporting. The 2010 Annual Fire Report is in production and will include 2010 data received up to 18 April 2011.

Bringing the meeting to a conclusion, Chairman Naylis again thanked all members for attending. Fred Connin will send an e-mail to all members providing the date and time of the next meeting.

Chairman Naylis adjourned the meeting at 1120 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick L. Connin

Frederick L. Connin
NFIRS Field Representative