

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Group: Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Date: 08 February 2011, Tuesday

Time: 1000 hours

Location: Monmouth County Fire Academy Conference room

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

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Pujat at 1025 hours.

Co-Chairman Pujat opened the meeting with a welcome to all members present. The Co-Chairman reported that he had received a call from the Chairman, Jerry Naylis, apologizing for his absence as he had several other appointments. Co-Chairman Pujat then asked for a report from the State Division of Fire Safety NFIRS Unit.

Supervisor Puskar commented on the move of the NFIRS unit to the seventh floor of the DCA building. The NFIRS main number will remain the same (609-984-3476). The State Web site is being updated and will be completed soon. NFIRS forms and information will be added as soon as possible. Supervisor Puskar also mentioned that eight fire departments have been awarded grants even though they have not reported to the State. This is due to the Federal Governments "performance period" which provides for a grace period of one year for completion of reports. Supervisor Puskar commented further on the reporting status of all fire departments throughout the state:

2010 – 90% of all departments are reporting (658 out of 731)

2011 – 01% as of this date (02/08/2011)

Finalizing her report, Supervisor Puskar explained that the 2010 Fire in New Jersey report is being formulated and the cutoff date for information will be April 2011.

Chief John Hoffman mentioned that he believed the introduction of the "Fire Rate", or a ratio of number of actual fires per county per 1000 population, to the Fire in New Jersey Annual Report, would be very beneficial. Supervisor Puskar will look into the addition of the Fire Rate in the next Annual Report.

Co-Chairman Pujat mentioned that he has seen an increase in false alarms due to the activation of CO2 detectors, which are included with the actual fire false alarms.

Steve Hearn mentioned that he has found that several fire departments are using the Federal Tool to submit their NFIRS reports. The reason being it is a free web based program provided by the Federal Government which provides the basic information needed to report fires.

Fred Connin explained the new Fire Fatality Interview form which is being used by the NFIRS unit to track additional statistical data relative to fire related fatalities throughout the State. The form is being used to supplement the normal NFIRS data which is reported to the State.

Bringing the meeting to a conclusion, Co-Chairman Pujat mentioned that he believed a NFIRS Retreat Seminar would be an excellent idea for the future, possibly 2012. The Co-Chairman again thanked all members for attending and requested a date and time for the next Statistics and Information Council meeting. Tuesday, 12 April 2011 at 1000 hours was finalized. With the authorization of Monmouth County Fire Marshal Chris Pujat, the location would remain at the Monmouth County Fire Academy. Fred Connin will send an e-mail to all members providing that information along with a reminder two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Co-Chairman Pujat adjourned the meeting at 1120 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick L. Connin

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NFIRS Field Representative

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