



ALEX SINK
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
STATE FIRE MARSHAL
STATE OF FLORIDA

May 2, 2007

Certified Mail: 7002 2030 0003 1124 5369

Kenneth W. Perkins
Fire Chief
Escambia County Fire-Rescue
6575 North "W" Street
Pensacola, Florida 32505

Dear Chief Perkins,

Under Section 633.808 of the Florida Statutes, the Division of State Fire Marshal is charged with taking the necessary steps to improve the safety, protection, and security of firefighter employees engaged in interior firefighting, and the prevention of occupational diseases. The Bureau of Fire Standards and Training of the Division of State Fire Marshal has the responsibility to investigate incidents, to investigate allegations and/or audit fire departments to determine if there are violations of Florida law or administrative rules within its authority.

Based on recent information alleging violations of Florida law and administrative rules provided to us from several sources, the Bureau of Standards will conduct an investigation of the allegations. Our purpose is to determine compliance to the applicable statutes and administrative code.

We have begun an inquiry into the allegations, including but not necessarily limited to: allegations of a Live Fire Training event conducted on April 15, 2007 which is reported to have been conducted outside the parameters of NFPA 1403; non-certified firefighters engaged in interior structure fire fighting; under-age personnel operating emergency apparatus and engaged in interior fire fighting; and failure to provide the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training with current rosters.

The Florida Division of State Fire Marshal adopted NFPA 1403 as a minimum requirement for any Live Fire Training that is conducted in Florida involving all firefighters, career or volunteer. Fines for violating this statute can reach fifty thousand dollars per occurrence.

I have contacted the "Instructor in Charge" for the Live Fire Training event and requested that he provide this office with all documentation regarding this training and he has agreed to do so. Additionally, I will need from you the following documentation:

- Rosters, including contact information for every volunteer fire department operating within Escambia County. This roster form can be found at the following internet site: <http://www.fldfs.com/sfm/bfst/SafetyHealth/SafetyForms.htm>. Also, please find a copy of the form attached to this letter.
- Incident reports, including a listing of personnel responding to the call (NFIRS reports if used)
- Training records and rosters for the past 12 months from each volunteer department including instructor certifications.

WALT MALO • SAFETY PROGRAM MANAGER
STATE FIRE MARSHAL • BUREAU OF FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING
11655 NW GAINESVILLE ROAD • OCALA, FLORIDA 34482-1486 • TEL. 352-369-2836 • FAX 352-732-1433 • SC 667-2836
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Please forward these documents, to my attention, at the address below no later than May 12, 2007. After I have reviewed the documentation, I will contact you to arrange a visit to your facility and meet with you and representatives of the volunteer departments.

Sincerely,

Enclosure: FAC69A-62
633.808 - .821 Florida Statutes,
Roster of Volunteer Firefighters