



Legislative
Services Agency

MINUTES

Emergency Services Interim Study Committee

November 13, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Tom Hancock, Co-chairperson
Senator Pat Ward, Co-chairperson
Senator Jeff Danielson
Senator Dave Mulder

Representative Linda Upmeyer,
Co-chairperson
Representative Geri Huser
Representative Roger Thomas
Representative Dave Tjepkes
Representative Philip L. Wise

MEETING IN BRIEF

Organizational staffing provided
by: Emily Gardyas, Legal
Counsel, (515) 281-4800

Minutes prepared by: Tim
McDermott, Senior Legal
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- I. Procedural Business.
- II. State Fire Marshal.
- III. Fire Service Training Bureau.
- IV. Department of Public Health.
- V. United Way.
- VI. Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.
- VII. Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Division, Department of Public Defense.
- VIII. Iowa League of Cities.
- IX. Iowa State Association of Counties.
- X. Iowa State Association of County Supervisors.
- XI. Committee Discussion.
- XII. Materials Distributed and on File With the
Legislative Services Agency — Legal Services
Division.



Emergency Services Interim Study Committee

I. Procedural Business.

Call to Order. Co-chairperson Upmeyer called the meeting of the Emergency Services Interim Study Committee to order at 9:05 a.m., Monday, November 13, 2006, in Room 102 of the State Capitol Building.

Adjournment. The meeting day recessed for lunch at 12:01 p.m., reconvened at 1:10 p.m., and adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

II. State Fire Marshal.

Mr. Jim Kenkel, State Fire Marshal, provided an overview of the composition of the State Fire Marshal's Office which consists of the Inspections Bureau, the Investigations Bureau, the Plan Review and Building Code Bureau, and the Fire Service Training Bureau.

Inspections Bureau. Mr. Kenkel stated that there are currently 16 inspectors in the Inspections Bureau located throughout the state. He stated that the Inspections Bureau is responsible for inspections of child care and preschool facilities, schools, colleges and universities, assisted living facilities, adult daycares, residential care facilities, group homes, jails and prisons, and any public-type facilities for which there is a complaint. Mr. Kenkel stated that the bureau is also responsible for health care facilities that receive funding from Medicare or Medicaid. Mr. Kenkel stated that the State Fire Marshal's Office inspects state and federally licensed buildings in all counties in the state, and in fiscal year 2005-2006, a total of 3,475 inspections were conducted throughout the state of Iowa. Mr. Kenkel stated that the bureau is currently working to reduce the significant backlog of overdue inspections for schools, colleges, and universities.

Mr. Kenkel stated that the federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services contracts all health and fire safety inspections with the Department of Inspections and Appeals. The State Fire Marshal's Office conducts the life safety inspections for all health care facilities throughout the state. Mr. Kenkel summarized the procedure for scheduling and conducting of inspections of health care and state health facilities.

Mr. Kenkel discussed the bureau's duties regarding the registration and inspection of certain flammable and combustible storage facilities.

Investigation Bureau. Mr. Kenkel stated that there are currently 10 investigators located in nine regions of the state whose duties include investigations of all types of fires and explosions, and investigations of explosive-type incidents anywhere in the state that is not covered by career fire departments. The bureau also inspects all explosive magazines that store commercial explosives in Iowa and the bureau is responsible for the regulation of explosives in Iowa.

Mr. Kenkel stated that, in calendar year 2005, there were a total of 631 investigations conducted of which 131 were arson cases, 307 were cases listed as accidental or undetermined, 162 were explosive-type cases, and 31 were miscellaneous cases.

Mr. Kenkel stated that the bureau also investigates fire death. There were a total of 48 fire fatalities in calendar year 2005. He stated that an aggressive fire prevention program coupled with state-of-the-art building and fire codes is needed to help lower the number of fire fatalities that



occur in Iowa each year. Due to staffing issues, the bureau does not assist with any fire prevention activities conducted by career and volunteer fire departments.

Mr. Kenkel stated that all of the investigators in the bureau are required to be bomb technicians. He stated that during the past four years the bureau has been able to acquire over \$1 million in Federal Homeland Security moneys to purchase much needed explosive-related equipment.

Mr. Kenkel stated that additional bomb squads in Iowa consist of a joint operation between the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office and the Council Bluffs Police Department; the Des Moines Police Department; the Waterloo Police Department; the Cedar Rapids Police Department; a joint operation between the Linn County Sheriff's Office and the Marion Police Department; a joint operation between the Johnson County Sheriff's Office, the Iowa City Police Department, the Coralville Police Department, and the University of Iowa Public Safety; and a joint operation between the Scott County Sheriff's Office and the Davenport Police Department.

Mr. Kenkel shared a concern that with the bureau's current budget and no overtime available, the bureau is in some cases not able to respond in a timely manner when a fire department requests an investigation. He stated that an inability to staff the bureau on weekends also creates timeliness issues for investigations.

Plan Review and Building Code Bureau. Mr. Kenkel stated that the Plan Review and Building Code Bureau currently has four construction engineers and one supervisor located in Des Moines with the title of Building Code Commissioner. The bureau is responsible for plan reviews for accessibility, business facilities, college facilities, child care facilities, educational facilities, fire alarm plans, health care facilities, jails, prisons, correctional buildings, regular elevators, motels and hotels, nursing home facilities, buildings owned by the state, residences and apartments, sprinkler plans, assisted living facilities, and miscellaneous plans.

Mr. Kenkel stated that, in the fiscal year 2005-2006, a total of 755 plans were reviewed, which was an increase of 70 from the previous year. Mr. Kenkel stated that the average review period has increased recently due to a number of factors relating to more plans being submitted, an increased awareness of the state building code, adoption of an updated state building code, and improved regulation of the manufactured housing and modular structure industries. Mr. Kenkel noted the increased workload impact caused by legislation passed during the 2006 Legislative Session expanding the scope of and inspections conducted pursuant to the state building code. He stated that, initially, the increased inspections will be conducted by third-party contractors with state inspectors taking over as time progresses. Mr. Kenkel stated that the State Building Code Commissioner has identified improving the scope of review performed on construction blueprints as a priority and that an increase in the number of inspectors will be required to achieve the goal.

Suggestions. Mr. Kenkel suggested that staffing of fire service in the state will continue to be a problem, that there needs to be more future planning for fire service in the state, that fire prevention activities are important and need to be increased, that fire extinguishment measures should be pursued, that countywide fire departments would be appropriate in some areas of the state, that there should be standardization of fire department operations, and that the issues in different geographic areas are not the same.



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In response to questions, Mr. Kenkel stated that he tries to work around the overtime issue in the Investigation Bureau as much as he can, that some career fire services have offered investigative assistance when possible, that he did not see a problem with colocating the Fire Service Training Bureau (FSTB) and the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), and that FSTB has worked efficiently under the State Fire Marshal's Office.

III. Fire Service Training Bureau.

Mr. Randy Novak, Bureau Chief, FSTB, Department of Public Safety, described the mission and functions of the bureau.

Mr. Novak identified the seven core functions to include promoting safety in all aspects of fire and emergency services training; offering training ranging from basic skills to more advanced, specialized topics; offering professional certifications through a program accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress; serving as the point of contact for federal fire programs; in a leadership role, developing and utilizing new techniques and technologies; distributing training materials through the Iowa Fire Service Bookstore; and providing research, technical assistance, and support.

Mr. Novak stated that the bureau supports much of its training with the use of mobile training units. He also stated that participation in the bureau's activities has significantly increased since the bureau has moved from Iowa State University to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

In terms of future needs, Mr. Novak expressed the need for two new full-time positions within the bureau, additional funding for regional emergency response training centers, funding for a centralized fire service training facility, and additional mobile training units and funding for such units.

In response to questions, Mr. Novak stated that training conducted by the bureau is statewide, that the bureau does not have numbers regarding current certifications in the state, that the comprehensive state plan will need some revising, and that there is a lack of statewide information regarding firefighter injuries.

IV. Department of Public Health.

Ms. Mary Jones, Director, Division of Acute Disease Prevention and Emergency Response, Department of Public Health, and Mr. Kirk Schmitt, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Department of Public Health, discussed the role and responsibility of the bureau.

Mr. Schmitt discussed the activities of the bureau during the previous year relating to emergency medical services (EMS) provider education, training, and certification; EMS program authorization and renewal; statewide trauma system; EMS for children; injury prevention; Iowa early defibrillation programs; and EMS information management.

Mr. Schmitt stated that for every \$1 expended for bureau operations, \$2 is returned to local communities in the form of grants.

Mr. Schmitt identified three critical challenges for EMS in the state as access to EMS for all Iowans; efficient utilization of resources; and a sufficient, safe, and appropriately trained EMS workforce. Mr. Schmitt suggested that all counties should be mandated to provide EMS services;



that a patient transport fee should be established to support and enhance EMS systems in rural Iowa, to support a full-time state EMS medical director, and to fully fund a trauma system; and that EMS data submission should be required to be submitted electronically.

In response to questions, Mr. Schmitt stated that the bureau has received some Federal Homeland Security moneys, that electronic run reports do not always get filed and many times it is urban areas that fail to report, that incentives are needed to increase EMS volunteers, and that an executive summary of the Institute of Medicine's report entitled "EMS at the Crossroads" would be submitted to the Committee.

V. United Way.

Ms. Jennifer Kammeyer, Executive Director, United Way of North Central Iowa, presented information on the 2-1-1 calling system. She stated that the 2-1-1 system is the national hotline number for free access to health and human services information. Types of assistance available through the 2-1-1 system include emergency preparedness and recovery; basic human needs resources; physical and mental health resources; employment supports; support for older Americans and persons with disabilities; and support for children, youth, and families. Ms. Kammeyer stated that the 2-1-1 system can relieve some of the burden from the 9-1-1 system and can also be used to mobilize community volunteers. She stated that Iowa has eight 2-1-1 call centers.

VI. Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

Ms. Penny Westfall, Director, ILEA, provided information regarding ILEA facilities, training programs and costs, and the resulting benefit of quality training in Iowa.

Ms. Westfall stated a goal of having a centralized, all-encompassing training facility in the state. Ms. Westfall stated that in other states, law enforcement has colocated with other emergency responders with mixed results. Ms. Westfall discussed the facilities in Oklahoma and Nebraska. She stated that ILEA is requesting a study to determine the feasibility of a joint training facility in Iowa.

VII. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, Department of Public Defense.

Mr. David Miller, Administrator, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, Department of Public Defense, provided an overview of the structure and activities performed by the division. Mr. Miller described the four phases of homeland security and emergency management as mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Mr. Miller stated that mitigation involves minimizing the impact of the next disaster, and preparedness involves planning an Iowa Comprehensive Plan, providing and brokering emergency management training and exercise activity, and the development of specialized teams. He stated that the division's role in response activities is to support local responders. Mr. Miller stated that, in the short term, recovery programs are designed to bring a community back, and, in the long term, returning a community to the way it was prior to the disaster.



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Mr. Miller stated that over recent years, the duties of the division have increased while federal funding has decreased due to the use of a risk based funding formula.

In response to questions, Mr. Miller discussed communications interoperability and stated that command-to-command communications are important; however, a common platform including all service providers is probably needed.

VIII. Iowa League of Cities.

Ms. Susan Judkins and Ms. Lorelei Heisinger, Iowa League of Cities, provided an overview of Iowa's municipal fire and police retirement system. Ms. Heisinger stated that the Iowa League of Cities has adopted a legislative priority for the 2007 Legislative Session that supports initiatives to control all public pension costs and, in addition, increase state funding of the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa. Ms. Heisinger requested that the state renew its commitment to assist in the funding of the system, that the state increase the State General Fund appropriation to the system, and that the state help guard against pension system changes that increase employer cost, and consider making changes that promote procedural and financial fairness.

IX. Iowa State Association of Counties.

Mr. John Easter, Iowa State Association of Counties, stated that emergency management coordinators are overwhelmed by the increasing requirements of the position and the lack of funding. He suggested that several coordinators may leave their positions in the calendar year 2007.

X. Iowa State Association of County Supervisors.

Mr. Mike Wentzien, Iowa Association of County Supervisors, stated that emergency services are important to county supervisors, specifically the retention and recruitment of fire and emergency medical service volunteers.

XI. Committee Discussion.

The Committee passed a motion directing ILEA, FSTB of the Department of Public Safety, the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division of the Department of Public Defense, and the Bureau of EMS of the Department of Public Health to consider the pros and cons, including financial implications and operational considerations, of colocating ILEA with FSTB, and also the pros and cons of colocating a regional training center for central Iowa with ILEA and FSTB.

The Committee instructed the Legislative Services Agency to request approval for a third meeting day from the Legislative Council.

XII. Materials Distributed and on File With the Legislative Services Agency — Legal Services Division.

The materials listed were distributed at or in connection with the meeting and are on file with the Legislative Services Agency. The materials may be accessed from the "Additional Information" link on the Committee's Internet page:

Emergency Services Interim Study Committee



<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/Committees/Committee.aspx?id=152>

1. PowerPoint handout submitted by Mr. David Miller, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, Department of Public Defense.
2. PowerPoint handout and other handouts submitted by Ms. Susan Judkins and Ms. Lorelei Heisinger, Iowa League of Cities.
3. "Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council" submitted by Mr. Jeff Messerole, Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.
4. PowerPoint handout and other handouts submitted by Ms. Jennifer Kammeyer, United Way.
5. PowerPoint handout and other handouts submitted by Mr. Jim Kenkel, State Fire Marshal.
6. PowerPoint handout and other handouts submitted by Mr. Kirk Schmitt and Ms. Mary Jones, Department of Public Health.
7. Handout submitted by Representative Thomas providing comment on emergency communication training from various counties.
8. "Analysis of Best Practices and Research: Emergency Response Infrastructure in Iowa" submitted by Mr. F.R. Nordengren, Mercy School of Emergency Medical Services.
9. Handout submitted by Ms. Penny Westfall, Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.
10. PowerPoint handout and other handouts submitted by Mr. Randy Novak, Fire Service Training Bureau.
11. Letter to the Committee submitted by Mr. Ross Loder, Department of Public Safety.

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