



Utah Fire Service Certification Council

Minutes of November 16, 2022

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council met November 16, 2022 at 10:00 AM
Utah Fire & Rescue Academy, 3131 Mike Jense Parkway, Provo, UT, 84601

1) **Council meeting called to order by Council Chair – Scott Spencer**

Scott Spencer called the meeting to order.

2) **Welcome council members and visitors – Scott Spencer**

Members Attending: Scott Spencer, Dave Youngberg, Chris Trevino, Jeremy Raymond, Merlin Spendlove, TJ Brewer, Krista Horting, Jason Earl, Ted Black, Rod Hammer, Rod “Hoss” Tomkinson.
Excused: Ron Harris, Wade Snyder

Guests: Patrick Carlson – Utah County Fire Chief, Garrett Nelson – Utah County Fire,
Royce Parson – Unified Fire Authority, Jolene Chamberlain, and Marc McElreath.
Guest joined online: John Hennessey, Dammeron Valley Fire Chief

3) **Declaration of quorum - Scott Spencer**

Scott Spencer declared a quorum.

4) **Approval of minutes from Certification Council held on September 21, 2022- Scott Spencer**

Merlin Spendlove motioned to approve the minutes of September 21, 2022. Hoss Tomkinson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

5) **Approval of agenda for the November 16, 2022, meeting - Scott Spencer**

Ted Black motioned to approve the agenda for November 16, 2022. Dave Youngberg seconded the motion. Motion passed.

6) **Report from Forestry Fire & State Lands – Wade Snyder**

Wade Snyder was not able to attend.

7) **Report on testing, certification, and failed skills - Jennifer Lindley**

Jennifer Lindley reported certification activity report numbers.

Certification activity: There was an increase in Technical Rescue exams. Certifications are down compared to last year, but up from the previous two years.

Failed skills report: Firefighter I, 2nd attempt failure. Fire Inspector I different questions missed (mainly from non-firefighters from the Fire Marshal’s Office). Fire Officer I - flow rate and memo format were missed.

8) **Report on Fire Prevention Board meeting - Scott Spencer**

Scott Spencer reported on the Fire Prevention Board meeting. Director Wardle also gave the UFRA annual report. Over the last year they had 539 classes, 6764 students, 3098 certifications.

The FPB talked about the legislative status of 2021 International Fire Code that goes before the legislature. It was put on the agenda for that afternoon as a discussion item. Ted Black will be in that meeting to see how that discussion goes. The Home Builders Association is pursuing a more descriptive

code. Modern income housing discussion may also impact codes and how they are adopted and what we are able to require.

The next Fire Prevention Board meeting will be held January 8, 2023, at the Fire Marshal's office. It was also approved to hold it virtually as well, which gives more people access to the meeting.

9) Discussion and motion to keep/change January 18, 2023, Certification Council date – Joan Aaron

- a. Option to keep the meeting on January 18th in St. George, location TBD (WFS that week)
- b. Or option to change the date to January 25th after Winter Fire School at UFRA

Hoss Tomkinson motioned to hold the next Certification Council Meeting on January 25th, 2023. Krista Horting seconded the motion. Motion passed.

10) Discussion and motion to approve 2023 Certification Council dates: Joan Aaron

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 - UFRA
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 - UFRA
Wednesday, May 17, 2023 – UFRA
Wednesday, July 19, 2023 – UFRA
Wednesday, September 20, 2023 - UFRA
Wednesday, November 15, 2023 - UFRA
Wednesday, January 24, 2024 (after WFS) – UFRA

Jeremy Raymond motioned to approve the above schedule for Certification Council Meetings for 2023. Chris Trevino seconded the motion. The motion passed.

11) Discussion and motion regarding recertification: Royce Parsons, UFA – Request for Recertification, extenuating circumstances – Training Chief Wade Watkins/Royce Parsons

Royce Parsons presented to the council his transition to different departments and the lapse in his recertification and the extenuating circumstances that took place during that time from West Jordan Fire department, South Jordan Fire department and now currently with UFA. The council asked questions and had a discussion.

TJ Brewer motioned to approve recertification for Royce Parsons pending a recertification request from Unified Fire Authority and a training record to be submitted. Hoss Tomkinson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12) Discussion and motion regarding Fire Officer I, prerequisite of Instructor I, propose to add M-410 – Patrick Carlson

Patrick Carlson presented his request to add “**or M-410 Facilitative Instructor**” to all prerequisites that require Fire Instructor I. Patrick Carlson stated that M-410 meets the NFPA requirements for Fire Instructor I and part of Instructor II. This option allows that wildland firefighters don't need to take two different classes to earn the same certification.

Joan Aaron spoke with Bob Rand from Pro Board on November 2, 2022. They clarified the Fire Officer I, NFPA 1021 section 4.1 says, "the candidate shall meet the requirements"...meaning they didn't say "certified" or a "prerequisite". In other words, if the M-410 meets or exceeds Instructor I requirements, it meets NFPA and Pro Board standards.

An item will be added to the agenda for January showing the courses that require Instructor I as a prerequisite, to add “or M-410 Facilitative Instructor”. This will include: Fire Instructor II, Fire Officer I & II, Fire & Life Safety Educator. Joan Aaron will research each of these NFPA standards to confirm they each say, “the candidate shall meet the requirements”. If it is required, it cannot be included.

Krista Horting motioned to approve Fire Instructor I OR M-410 as prerequisites for the Fire Officer I. Jason Earl seconded. Motion passed.

13) Discussion regarding Firefighter I skills:

- a. Skill 52B, reverse hose lay, request to update the bullets – John Hennessey

John Hennessey presented online, stating the reverse hose lay skills seems to confuse the students and is unclear if they are the first due engine or second due engine. There is not always a second engine. He asked the council if there was something more specific that we can add to this? Dave Youngberg shared that the NFPA didn't state it was an attack, simply a water supply evolution.

John wants to make sure the learning objective is more specific.

It was decided to update the skill condition to read, "Given the assignment of Water Supply you will...supply a reverse hose lay".

- b. Skill 22 - Ladder (2-firefighter team) question (NUCTA) – Joan Aaron

Colin Ward and the Northern Utah County Training Alliance (NUCTA) is requesting the council to update skill 22 to read:

“24 ft. or 28 ft. extension ladder (1-2 firefighter team) or 35 ft. extension ladder (2-4 Firefighter team) - determined by the AHJ.” 28 ft. ladder, 1-2 and 2-4 for 35 ft ladder.

This is the way NUCTA trains. They are concerned candidates will be failed if they are tested how they train.

The Certification Council discussed this issue, mentioning the skill was written this way for safety reasons. NFPA standard does not indicate how many firefighters are needed. “New recruits are the ones being tested and are not always experienced at throwing ladders.” Council members agreed keeping the skill as it is written keeps those recruits safe statewide. It was agreed “to keep the current wording to stay safe while training and testing. . . better to err on the side of safety”.

Jeremy Raymond recommended adding 28-ft. ladder to the 2 firefighter team option.

Jason Earl suggested to change the 35-ft. ladder portion from a 4 firefighter team to a 3-4 Firefighter team.

Chris Trevino motioned to keep the standard at a 2 firefighter team for 24-ft. ladder and add the option of a 28-ft ladder to the 2 firefighter team and change the 35-ft. ladder to a 3-4 firefighter team. Jeremy Raymond seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- c. Other FFI skills – Dave Youngberg

Dave Youngberg mentioned some confusion with Firefighter I, exam evolution #1, he witnessed an exam where the instructor had blacked out the candidates face mask prior to approaching the entrance. Dave and the Certification Council were concerned regarding safety and blacking them out “outside the structure”. The NFPA says, “obscured vision” but that relates to inside the

structure, not outside the structure. To clarify evolution #1, the Certification Council agreed to add the verbiage “upon entry” to the condition of the skill.

Scott Spencer stated this is just a clarification, so no vote was needed.

14) Discussion and motion regarding transition period for Technical Rescue levels moving to the new standard. – Joan Aaron

Joan Aaron presented a Technical Rescue – transition sheet explaining the old technical rescue level 1 is equal to the new awareness and operations (combined) and the old technical rescue level 2 is equal to technician.

Joan mentioned September 1, 2023, is the cutoff date that we can test on the old technical rescue levels. We will offer a transition period where departments may be able to test either one. Candidates who trained on the previous old levels can test up to that date.

15) Discussion and motion regarding Technical Rescue levels recertification and prerequisites (old to new). – Joan Aaron

Joan Aaron asked if we are going to require the new Technical Rescue **Technician** levels to require training records with a recertification request every 3 years (similar to HazMat Tech).

The council decided to table this discussion for the next meeting.

16) Discussion and motion regarding questions from previous meeting (i.e., requirements of safety officers, and training officers signing training record, etc.). – Joan Aaron

Questions arose last Certification Council meeting:

- a. Who can sign the training record? Section 12.44 of the Policies and Procedures were noted. The Chief or Training Officer can sign a training record but does not need to be certified at that level they are signing.
- b. Who can be a Safety Officer? AHJ approved, who is certified or qualified at the level being tested.
- c. Who assigns the Safety Officer? The Certification Council mentioned the AHJ assigns the safety officer. The lead tester could assign additional safety officers as needed. Section 12.45 and 12.68 of the Policies and Procedures were noted.
- d. There was a small contradiction on the instruction sheet for lead testers. The Certification Council recommended adding the word “Identify” and remove “Select” from the Lead instructions sheet.

17) Discussion and motion to update Certification forms (i.e., Exam Request) – Joan Aaron

- a. Exam Request form, tester ratio sheet
Council approved to add a line and an initial box on the exam request form that the AHJ recognizes it is required to provide a safety officer. Council approved other exam request form updates as presented.
- b. The tester ratio sheet was updated for ADO Pumper to be 1 tester for 6 students and 1 apparatus per tester.
- c. Joan Aaron presented the new Instructor I – additional skills testing instruction sheet that attaches with all Instructor I skills exam boxes. (Printed on UFRA letterhead to make it more visible for testers).

Rod Hammer motioned to update the exam request form and update the tester ratio sheet for the ADO Pumper. Jeremy Raymond seconded the motion. The motion passed.

18) New Business - Scott Spencer & Joan Aaron

- a. Southwest Technical College in Cedar City – we received an application for a site visit, to become an accredited Non-affiliated Firefighter Training Program. – Jolene Chamberlain

We are preparing to approve Southwest Technical College in Cedar City as an accredited Non-affiliated Firefighter Training Program. They will offer four levels: HazMat Awareness, HazMat Operations, Firefighter I, and Firefighter II. They have requested Dec 14 or 16 for site visit, but the organization has not submitted all the documentation required and may not meet this date.

Merlin Spendlove, Scott Spencer, Chris Trevino, and Dave Youngberg are willing to be on the site visit team once the date is secured. Jolene Chamberlain will also be on the site visit team.

- b. Department surveys will be coming regarding computer labs available for online testing. The certification team will be reaching out to all departments with a survey to see if they have computer labs in their department or in their area that can be used for online testing using Question Mark.
- c. Jason Earl will be retiring on January 6, 2023. He will also retire from participating on the Certification Council. Jason will be invited to join the meeting in January 2023.

19) Old Business - Scott Spencer

- a. Committee created for these upcoming levels: Confined Space, Structural Collapse, and Machinery - Winter 2022/2023.
- b. NFPA 1403 committee will continue to meet to develop a Utah Standard.
- c. Tester in Jeremy Raymond's area had an issue with the HM Ops Skill #1 related to LERP. Requests providing an incident command worksheet with the skill. This may be a HazMat Awareness skill in the Operations exam. Joan Aaron will review this issue with Dave Youngberg.

20) Next Certification Council Meeting at 10:00 am on January 25, 2023, at UFRA.

Scott Spencer closed the meeting and requested a motion to adjourn.

Hoss Tomkinson made the motion to adjourn. Rod Hammer seconded. Motion passed.