

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council Minutes of July 17, 2019

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council met on July 17, 2019 at UFRA in Provo, UT.

Welcome Council Members and Visitors – Scott Spencer

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

In attendance: Scott Spencer, Paul Bedont, Hoss Tomkinson, Merlin Spendlove, Dave Youngberg, Jeremy Raymond, Craig Stanley, Jason Earl, Don Adams, Wade Snyder

Excused: Chris Trevino (Jason Earl as proxy), Ray Stokes (Paul Bedont as proxy)

Declaration of quorum – Scott Spencer

Scott Spencer declared a quorum.

Approval of minutes from the meeting of May 15, 2019 – Scott Spencer

Don Adams motioned to approve. Paul Bedont seconded. The motion was approved.

Approval of agenda for the July 17, 2019 meeting – Scott Spencer

Jason Earl motioned to approve. Merlin Spendlove seconded. The motion was approved.

Council term expiring – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported that Ray Stokes' term is expiring, and after serving 7 terms on the council (a total of 21 years) Brad Wardle has decided to give him some rest. Lori thanked Ray for his dedicated service and contribution to the certification council and to UFRA, and will be awarding him with a plaque at the November council meeting.

Executive Session – Scott Spencer

Hoss Tomkinson motioned to move into an executive session. Paul Bedont seconded. The motion was approved. The executive session was held.

Paul Bedont motioned to end the executive session. Don Adams seconded. The motion was approved.

Report of Testing/Failed Skills Report – Jennifer Lindley

Jennifer Lindley reviewed the data on the Testing and Failed Skills Reports with the council.

Lori Howes shared a certification report including numbers from the national guard, non-affiliated and career/volunteer departments beginning in March through May 2019.

Report on Standards and Training Council – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported there was no meeting. She will be presenting a name to fill the empty seat on the council at the next Fire Prevention Board meeting.

Wildland Issues and Updates – Wade Snyder

Wade Snyder reported the following statistics:

- The first fire of the year was on January 24, 2019 in southern Utah.
- As of July 14, there were 455 smoke reports; 361 of which were wildland.
- 82% of the reports were human-caused fires.
- The most significant fires were shooting related.
- The reports total 5,800 acres; 3,500 acres were human caused.
- The largest fire was Skull Flat in Beaver County, suppression costs estimated at \$1.8 million. Two structures were lost.
- Two significant injuries were reported from the Bald Mountain fire. One firefighter was partially run over by a truck, and the second was a burn-over. Both were not life -threatening injuries. A Lesson Learned Report (LLR) created by BLM provided core findings including complacency, lack of drill exercises, and unpredictable fire behavior.
- A few firefighters from the Alta hotshot crew reported burn injuries.
- A few firefighters from central Utah reported smoke inhalation.

Report on Submitted Petitions – Lori Howes

There were no submitted petitions.

Report on 2019 ProBoard Site Visit – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported the following regarding the 2019 ProBoard site visit:

- Thank you to Jason Earl, Scott Spencer and Dan Cather for participating in interviews.
- The review was completed exceptionally quick due to a great program. Lori credited the review committees and certification council members for their hard work.
- The review committee recognized the noteworthy programs offered by UFRA, specifically the QA/QC program, the Behavioral Health program, the Firefighter Fundamentals course, the EADS trailer, as well as certifications' exam building process, the Inspector I/II portfolio review, and the exam instructions for testers.
- All levels were reviewed, including the new HazMat 1072 and Technical Rescue levels.

Lori Howes reported that the ProBoard review committee's closing remarks included recommendations to improve our program, which were:

- Provide scenarios for scenario-based skills, ensuring equal evaluation for participants.
- Provide a standardized equipment list for departments requesting skills testing.
- Update grading software from LXR. Since LXR is now obsolete they offered a couple recommendations for current programs.

Lori Howes also reported that approval for re-accreditation was granted. Our entire program (with the exception of Officer II and Inspector II) is now dually accredited by both ProBoard and IFSAC.

Report on Certification Office Changes – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported that she has received positive feedback regarding the changes in the certification office including faster, more personalized service to departments. There is still room for improvement but overall it has been a great transition.

Discussion on HazMat 1072 testing – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported that the anticipated timeframe for all departments to begin testing to 1072 is September. The only difference in testing to 1072 will be the inclusion of a HazMat Awareness skill. There will be information posted online and sent out to chiefs so that departments are aware of the changes.

Report and Discussion on Fire Officer Task Force – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported that Brad Wardle, director of UFRA, has created a task force for a Fire Officer program. Part of the program will include offering accredited certification levels for Officer II, III, and IV. The curriculum for Officer I will also be updated. There will eventually be curriculum for the three additional Officer levels.

Brad Wardle is also working on the creation of a Fire Officer Leadership Academy, as well as a Volunteer Chief Officer program. The latter program would also include a completion certificate issued by Utah.

Lori Howes noted that the new Officer I and II levels will include curriculum and test banks from IFSTA rather than Jones & Bartlett. There is information Lori has collected from other states for Officer III and IV. She will be looking for committee members to review and put together these levels within the year.

Discussion on Certification Council Retreat and assignments – Lori Howes

Lori Howes assigned sections of the Policy and Procedures manual for review to each council member for the September council retreat. Lori also reviewed the retreat agenda with the council.

Discussion and motion on updated Policies & Procedures – Scott Spencer

There were no updates to report.

New Business – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported the following under New Business:

- Upcoming certification level updates will be Fire I/II, and Instructor I/II.
- Rescue Technician levels will be updated within the next 1-2 years, but due to time and costs associated with the new Officer levels, the exact timeframe is undetermined.
- We will be hiring new testers later this year, hopefully by October.
- Lori has submitted names to Brad Wardle for the new council member. She is looking specifically for someone to represent the Technical Rescue levels and asked the council for recommendations as well.
- Lori asked the council for thoughts on allowing out of state candidates to test in Utah. Colorado Fire Prevention & Control has been training in Technical Rescue levels and would like to send candidates here to test. The Council determined it would be ok as long as all costs are covered in the implemented fees.
- Wade Snyder noted that there will be database changes and he would like to extend the invitation to collaborate in the effort to collect data to prepare for the update.
- Jeremy Raymond asked if there are any grant programs to help departments with the cost of equipment and training. Lori Howes said UFRA is not set up to offer grants. Wade Snyder mentioned that the Fire Marshal's Office puts any extra funds from their budget into a Fire Department Assistance Grant, FDAG, that can be utilized as available.

Old Business – Lori Howes

There was no business to report.

Next Council Meeting, Wednesday, September 18, 2019, 1:00 p.m., Moab, UT

Don Adams motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dave Youngberg seconded. The motion was approved and meeting adjourned.