



# Utah Fire Service Certification Council

## Minutes of July 20, 2022

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council met on July 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM

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

Scott Spencer called the meeting to order.

UFRA Director, Brad Wardle spoke about training, certification, and gave positive recognition and appreciation to the certification council members.

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

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

Excused: Dave Youngberg, Chris Trevino, Rod Hammer – Hoss Tomkinson as proxy.

Guests: Jolene Chamberlain, Brad Wardle

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

Scott Spencer declared a quorum.

4) **Approval of minutes from Certification Council held on May 18, 2022- Scott Spencer**

TJ Brewer motioned to approve the minutes of May 18, 2021. Hoss Tomkinson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

5) **Approval of agenda for the July 20, 2022, meeting - Scott Spencer**

Merlin Spendlove motioned to approve the agenda for July 20, 2022. Jeremy Raymond seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

Wade Snyder reported the division has added new people: Kelly Wickens & Jennifer McBride

He mentioned the current positions of Brett Waters, Dave Vickers, and Ryan Riddle.

He mentioned two large fires teams were working on, the monsoon season, and other arson issues.

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

Jennifer Lindley reported certification activity report numbers. Certification report shows 690 certifications the last quarter, which compared to the last 3 years has increased. The non-affiliated certifications are from DATC & academies. Reciprocity is included in these numbers.

Failed skills report normal for FFI & FFII. Officer I - 1<sup>st</sup> attempts failed skill #17 and #16. Updates have been made to clarify a few questions. Fire flow is also frequently missed.

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

Scott Spencer reported on Fire Prevention Board meeting mentioning hyper wellness and oxygen devises, House Bill 50, Adoption of 2021 code, and changes to incarceration facilities.

9) **Request to review/approve portfolios – (Fire Inspector, Officer III) – Scott Spencer/Krista Horting**

Scott Spencer – reviewed Brandon Parr portfolio, from Ogden City Fire. Spencer mentioned the portfolio was very thorough, and all documentation was completed for all the sections. No problems. Scott Spencer recommended Brandon Parr for certification for Fire Inspector.

Ron Harris motioned for this approval. Jeremy Raymond seconded. The motion passed. Jennifer Lindley will follow up with Brandon Parr.

Krista Horting – Russell Presley has not reached back with Krista Horting as of this date. She will follow up.

10) **Discussion and motion to approve Officer I skills update, to clarify test questions – Joan Aaron**

Joan Aaron presented new numbering/labeling for the Officer I skills. Officer I skill examination verbiage is confusing to candidates as far as the way it is labeled. Listing the scenario as A, B, C and correlating to the specific skill number helps the candidate know what skill it refers to.

Joan requested a motion to adopt the changes.

Krista Horting motioned to accept all the changes. Jason Earl seconded the motion. The motion passed.

11) **Discussion and motion to approve/not approve FEMA Technical Rescue training for the UFRA Technical Rescue training records, if they meet UFRA/UFSCC standards and it is AHJ approved – Joan Aaron**

Joan Aaron has received several questions about whether FEMA training can count toward Technical Rescue training. The council agrees that if the AHJ approves FEMA as part of their training and it meets UFSCC training record requirements, then we accept FEMA training. The person signing the training should be certified in the same level being signed off.

12) **Executive Session, follow up on investigation discussion – Joan Aaron**

Jeremy Raymond motioned to move into an executive session. Wade Snyder seconded the motion. Motion passed. An Executive Session was held.

13) **Discussion and motion to remove/keep department testers for written exams (change policy and/or removal) – Joan Aaron**

Joan Aaron - For testing security purposes, do we continue using department testers? Historically, we have not had many issues with department testing. UFRA department testers administer in-house testing at no charge for their own department. Initially department testers were put in to save the department time and save UFRA money.

It was proposed that department testers should be a chief/training officer or a certification tester. Or approved by the Certification Council or Program Manager. Department testers will continue with no pay from UFRA. Department testers should attend the yearly tester seminar at least once every two years to stay current.

Each department tester list needs to be vetted to remove those that don't qualify.

Jeremy Raymond motioned to update the department tester policy in Policies & Procedures Manual as presented above. Ron Harris seconded the motion. Motion passed

It is not a requirement to administer the written exam before the skills exam. The department can do the skills first followed by the written exam. Testers may communicate with each other and the department in advance to accommodate the candidates.

**14) Follow up on discussion and motion to implement a “Train-the-Tester” for technical rescue skills exams (Awareness, Operations and Technician level skills) – Joan Aaron**

It has been asked if UFRA could have a train-the-tester workshop for all new/old technical rescue certification testers for the new evolutions. Also, to include Fire Investigator and Live Fire. With the new policy changes mentioned, Joan Aaron recommends adding the following new 14.15 and 14.16 to the Policies and Procedures Manual. *See attached document.*

Ron Harris motioned to implement the "Train-the-Tester" workshop policy as presented. Jeremy Raymond seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**15) Discussion on hiring new certification testers. Update minimum requirements to be a certification tester.**

Joan Aaron presented ideas for new certification tester levels for their experience and certification level.

- a. Years of experience, certifications, leadership, etc.
- b. Review current policy for testers and how we can improve proficiency.
- c. Technical Rescue Testers – “Train-the-Tester”
- d. Discussion on Live Fire Testers/ Live Fire Instructors, “Train-the-Tester”
  - Jason Earl recommended an online task book for tracking progress of exams dates and levels tested.
  - Jeremy Raymond asked about how to let certification council members know of upcoming exams that they can visit. Can a calendar be created of upcoming testing locations?

Krista Horting motioned to accept Proposed updates to the certification tester policy verbiage as presented and updated in the meeting. 14.3 thru 14.8, & 15.1 in Policies & Procedures Manual. Update to include tester levels with minimum requirements of experience.

Ron Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**16) Report on certification levels currently being updated – Joan Aaron**

Wildland Firefighter I & II Joan - Discussion and motioned to approve the updated Wildland Firefighter I & II standard, due September 2022.

- The committee reviewed the standard as updated by the Wildland committee. A few edits were made. Discussion and motion to approve the standard and September 1<sup>st</sup> date to implement.
- Ron Harris motioned to approve Wildland FFI I & II as presented with edits. Seconded by Merlin Spendlove. The motion passed.

Trench Rescue: *Currently being modified – hold implementation until next council meeting.*

Surface Water, Swiftwater, and Ice Rescue: Discussion and motion to approve new water rescue standards to the new NFPA 1006, 2021 edition. Updated to the new Water Rescue textbook - Jones and Bartlett – 3rd edition. Each, waiting for example photos, but all information is waiting for approval. Target date September 1, 2022 to implement.

- Ron Harris motioned to approve the new Surface Water Rescue standard. Krista Horting seconded. Motion passed.
- Merlin Spendlove motioned to approve the new Swiftwater Rescue standard. Jason Earl seconded. Motion passed.
- Krista Horting motioned to approve the new Ice Rescue standard. TJ Brewer seconded. Motion passed.

Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue: Discussion and motion to approve a new level of vehicle extrication, Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue, to the new NFPA 1006, 2021 edition. Updated to the new Vehicle Rescue and Extrication textbook - Jones and Bartlett - 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Waiting on example photos for the standard. Target date September 1, 2022, to implement.

- Talked about adding a Rescue Randy dummy to the trailer. Departments could create their own.
- Ron Harris motioned to approve the new standard. Jeremy Raymond seconded. Motion passed.

Heavy Vehicle Rescue: Discussion and motion to approve the new Heavy Vehicle Rescue standard to the new NFPA 1006, 2021 edition. Updated to the new Vehicle Rescue and Extrication textbook - Jones and Bartlett - 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Waiting on example photos for the standard. Target date September 1, 2022, to implement.

- Jeremy Raymond motioned to approve the new standard. Ron Harris seconded. Motion passed.

Fire Investigator: Discussion and motion to approve Fire Investigator to the new NFPA 1033, 2022 edition. Updated to the new IFSTA Fire Investigator textbook, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

- Ted Black motioned to approve the new standard. Wade Snyder seconded. Motion passed.

Ropes Rescue is in the process of being updated to the new NFPA standard. Fall 2022  
A committee will be working on this in August. Ropes Rescue is in the process of being updated to the new NFPA standard. Fall 2022. A committee will be working on this in August.

Upcoming levels: Confined Space, Structural Collapse, and Machinery – Fall/Winter 2022. We'll get started after all other Technical Rescue levels are completed.

#### **17) New Business - Scott Spencer**

Scott Spencer

- a. Flood Water rescue and Watercraft rescue – Certification office was asked if those levels could be added for certification.

Joan Aaron presented to see if we need to add these to our certification levels.  
Merlin Spendlove stated this type of rescue would be helpful in Southern Utah.  
Ron Harris suggested we table this for future a meeting in 2023.

- Jolene Chamberlain mentioned a desire to implement a certification for Incident Command. Other entities are accredited and have curriculum already. More research is being done and will be presented at a future date. This would be a certification specific to hazardous materials response.

#### **18) Old Business - Scott Spencer**

- A new “Appendix D” titled “Investigation guide” has been added to the Policies and Procedures Manual, which was approved at the May Certification Council meeting.

#### **19) Next Certification Council Meeting at 10:00 am on September 21, 2022, at UFRA.**

Jeremy Raymond motioned to adjourn. Ron Harris seconded. Meeting adjourned.