

# **The Utah Fire Service Certification Council**

## **Minutes of March 15, 2017**

**The Utah Fire Service Certification Council met on March 15, 2017 at Utah Fire and Rescue Academy, Provo, Utah.**

### **Welcome Council Members and Visitors – Scott Spencer**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

In attendance: Chris Trevino, Shane Freeman, Ray Stokes, Hoss Tomkinson, Merlin Spendlove, Don Adams, David Youngberg, Craig Stanley, Scott Spencer, Paul Bedont and Brett Ostler.

Excused: Jason Earl; proxy Paul Bedont.

Visitors: Chuck Querry.

### **Declaration of quorum – Scott Spencer**

Scott Spencer declared a quorum.

### **Approval of minutes from the meeting of November 16, 2016 – Scott Spencer**

Don Adams motioned to approve the minutes, Ray Stokes seconded. The motion was approved.

### **Approval of the agenda for the March 15, 2017 meeting – Scott Spencer**

Brett Ostler motioned to approve the agenda. Chris Trevino seconded. The motion was approved.

### **Testing/Certification & Failed Skills Report – Jennifer Lindley**

Jennifer reported to the Council that structural certifications were up in January. Non-affiliated structural certifications were down in November. In January the non-affiliated structural certifications were up due to the influx of requests from the National Guard. Officer I failed skills have increased.

### **Report on Standards and Training Council – Ray Stokes**

Ray had nothing to report, except that the next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2017.

## **Wildland Issues and Updates – Shane Freeman**

Shane reported:

- Brett Ostler is the new acting state FMO.
- Cornell Christensen from Central Utah BLM is the new deputy director for the Wildland division.
- Spring training is underway with refreshers and pack tests
- 2 individuals with Lone Peak Conservation Center have been sent out of state for prescribed fire training
- Large fire activity in the central plain states; 6 fatalities with some of them being ranchers
- State training committee will be held in April.
  - Adding new positions of a driver, which is NWCG recognized, and water tender support driver.
  - Support water tenders need to have a redcard in order to be reimbursed. The redcard will have to be issued through Shane if they only have the light physical test.
- Grant Committee Meeting will be held the end of March 2017

## **Discussion and motion on NWCG requirements and changes to refresher form – Lori Howes**

Lori said that it had been brought to her attention that a requirement of NWCG is that personnel must go on a fire every five years in order to maintain certification. A new refresher form will be sent out with a box to be checked if personnel have performed on a Wildland fire. Ray Stokes motioned to approve the new form and Don Adams Seconded. The motion was approved.

## **Discussion on who we certify-Lori Howes**

Lori posed the questions to the council: Who is allowed to certify? What levels do we certify at? A sub-committee of council members will be formed to determine who is allowed to certify and recertify and will report back to the Council at the next meeting.

## **Update of May Council Meeting-Lori Howes**

The May meeting in Moab has been moved to the Utah Fire and Rescue Academy for May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

## **Report on Certification Tester Seminar**

Lori reported:

- Seminar has gone well with 121 attending.
- Make-up date is April 3, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Utah Fire and Rescue Academy

### **Discussion and Motion on updated Policies and Procedures – Lori Howes**

Lori prefaced the discussion by relating an incident where readers have been requested for a test to read in Spanish. As a result, Lori proposed to add the following to Policy 12.26: *Examinations will only be read in English.* Hoss Tomkinson motioned to approve, seconded by Brett Ostler. The motion was approved.

### **Discussion and Motion on Submitted Petitions – Lori Howes**

Benaiah Brooks from Monticello Fire Department submitted a petition for a 4<sup>th</sup> attempt skills exam at the last council meeting and tested March 14 2017. No new petitions have been submitted.

### **New Business –Scott Spencer**

- Ray asked about the verbiage on the Inspector I written instructions sheet. It was clarified that UFRA will only supply the calculator. IFC and guidebook are not provided by UFRA. Verbiage will be changed.
- Lori stated that there will be an update to the HazMat Tech IFSTA test bank.
- Lori reported that the online forms are in the process of being changed to be fillable forms online and eventually submitted online.
- Lori reported that there is a website called quizlit.com which allows candidates to “brain dump” after exams making questions and answers available to other candidates to cheat off of. Currently UFRA does not have any certification tests online, but it will be monitored. The Council discussed adding verbiage to the test form a signature stating the test questions will not be posted and if they do, they will be subject to disciplinary action. Lori will keep an eye on this to monitor for our tests.

### **Old Business –Scott Spencer**

None

### **Next Council Meeting, Wednesday, May 24 2017, 10:00 a.m. at UFRA, Provo, UT**

Brett Ostler motioned to adjourn the meeting. Merlin Spendlove seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.