

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council Minutes of March 20, 2019

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council met on March 20, 2019 at UFRA in Provo, UT.

Welcome Council Members and Visitors – Paul Bedont

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

In attendance: Paul Bedont, Hoss Tomkinson, Merlin Spendlove, Chris Trevino, Jeremy Raymond, Wade Snyder, Ray Stokes, Craig Stanley

Excused: Scott Spencer, David Youngberg, Jason Earl, Don Adams

Visitors: Brad Wardle, Jolene Chamberlain, Ted Black

Declaration of quorum – Paul Bedont

Paul Bedont declared a quorum.

Approval of minutes from the meeting of January 16, 2018 – Paul Bedont

Jeremy Raymond motioned to approve. Hoss Tomkinson seconded. The motion was approved. Amendment to minutes including Merlin Spendlove in attendance.

Approval of the agenda for the March 20, 2019 meeting – Paul Bedont

Paul Bedont motioned to approve the agenda. Ray Stokes seconded. The motion was approved.

Reappointment of Council Member Tomkinson – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported that Hoss Tomkinson completed the term he accepted for Rod Hammer. Hoss has accepted another three-year assignment as council member.

Executive Session – Scott Spencer

No executive session was held.

Report of Testing/Failed Skills Report – Jennifer Lindley

Jennifer Lindley reviewed the data on the Testing and Failed Skills Reports with the council. Ray Stokes pointed out that one Inspector I certification was issued to a Non-Affiliated fire agency. The certificate was issued to a member of the Utah Department of Corrections but the affiliation status has been resolved in the database.

Report on Standards and Training Council – Ray Stokes

Ray Stokes reported that the council discussed changes to HazMat. He also asked one of the council members to attend the May 1st meeting in his place. Brad Wardle volunteered to attend.

Wildland Issues and Updates – Wade Snyder

Wade Snyder reported the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands has scheduled engine workshops for each of the areas of the state.

- Southwest – April 26,27
- South East – May 3,4
- Central – May 10,11
- Bear River – May 31, June 1

The Wasatch Front will not be holding a workshop, and the North East area date is unknown.

Wade shared a contact list for the Utah Wildland Training Committee, in which he serves as division training officer. The committee reviews and certifies task books and keeps tracks of any wildland/NWCG issues. The Area FMO is still the POC for initial wildland concerns.

The next task book review committee is scheduled for April 26th. Task books must be submitted to the Area FMO before they are sent to the UWTC. The committee is hoping to meet monthly to review task books, and hopes to eventually review task books electronically.

Wade announced the Priority Training Program which will be held by NWCG and the Great Basin Area. It is a great program to utilize; contact your area FMO for more info.

Wade also reported the RT-130 should only be taught by a single resource boss. Modules for refresher are available through NWCG.

Wade reported that predictive services is expecting an early fire season for the southwest area.

Report on Submitted Petitions – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported that there were two submitted petitions for early test re-entries; both were approved.

Lori also received a petition by a candidate who asked for an extension on the one-year time allotment for testing. Based on the fact that prior extensions were given to the candidate by Lori, but were not utilized, a motion to deny the petition was made by Ray Stokes. Don Adams seconded. The motion was approved.

Report on HazMat Task Force Meeting – Lori Howes, Dave Youngberg, Ray Stokes

Lori Howes reported that on February 7, 2019, members of the HazMat Advisory Council, Certification Council, and UFRA staff met to review and compare the NFPA 472 and 1072 standards. There was unanimous agreement to make the update to NFPA 1072.

Report on 2019 ProBoard Site Visit – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported that the ProBoard site visit has been scheduled for June 3-4. Normally a two-member team is sent for site visits, but this time there will be four. They will be using our site visit as an opportunity to show two trainees a good program. Lori anticipates a positive review.

Presentation on Certification Office Changes – Lori Howes

Lori Howes presented a power-point to the council that explained how the roles within certification will be changing to provide a more streamlined and individualized service to Utah fire departments. Each specialist will be a “one-stop shop” for departments, including test coordinating, exam grading, red cards and certifications. The northern region is assigned to Jennifer Lindley, the central region to Marta Morrow-Oman, and the southern region and Salt Lake County to Hilary Kline. These changes will be implemented no later than July 1, 2019. Lori announced that Chuck Tandy has resigned and a new Program Manager will be hired within the next few months.

Discussion and motion HazMat Awareness Standard – Lori Howes, Dave Youngberg

Lori Howes reviewed the updated HazMat Awareness standard. The review committee met on March 13th and included: Dave Youngberg, Paul Bedont, Hoss Tomkinson, Adam Davies, Tony Stowe, Karl Steadman, Matt Evans, Randy Willden, and Jordan Smith. The test bank was thoroughly reviewed and changes include a skill for HazMat Awareness; all references to NFPA 472 were removed. Ray Stokes motioned to approve the standard as presented. Merlin Spendlove seconded. The motion was approved.

Discussion and motion on HazMat Operations Standard – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported the same committee met to update the HazMat Operations standard. The test bank and skills were thoroughly reviewed. Changes included adding skills using encapsulated vs. non-encapsulated hazmat suits. Merlin Spendlove motioned to approve the standard as presented. Chris Trevino seconded. The motion was approved.

Discussion on 2019 Tester/Instructor Seminar – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported that there are currently 157 registrations for this year's annual seminar. The agenda will include Policy & Procedure updates, changes to the HazMat standards, scenario-based tester training, red card changes, and certification updates by Lori Howes. Dave Owens will be presenting updates for training. Lori will report back on how the training went at the next council meeting.

Discussion and motion on updated Policies & Procedures – Lori Howes

There were no updates to report.

New Business – Paul Bedont

Lori Howes is planning on a Policy & Procedure retreat in Moab to coincide with the Certification Council meeting this September. She asked the council for feedback on two proposed schedules. The council decided to meet on the 18th and hold the policy review that afternoon, finishing by the 19th.

Lori Howes reported that a Utah firefighter took an online course through Alabama College. Alabama asked permission to send a proctor to Utah to administer the exam to this individual. Lori granted permission, but asked the council for feedback regarding this scenario should it become more frequently requested in the future. Lori will be adding this discussion as an agenda item for a future council meeting.

Lori Howes reported there is a Department Recognition scheduled for Uintah City Fire on April 16th and asked the council for a volunteer to present the award. Ray Stokes volunteered, and Don Adams volunteered as a backup for Ray.

Old Business – Paul Bedont

There was no business to report.

Next Council Meeting, Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Provo, UT

Don Adams motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chris Trevino seconded. The motion was approved and meeting adjourned.