

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council Minutes of May 15, 2019

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council met on May 15, 2019 at UFRA in Provo, UT.

Welcome Council Members and Visitors – Scott Spencer

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

In attendance: Scott Spencer, Paul Bedont, Hoss Tomkinson, Merlin Spendlove, Chris Trevino, Jeremy Raymond, Ray Stokes, Craig Stanley, Jason Earl, Don Adams

Excused: Wade Snyder

Unexcused: David Youngberg

Declaration of quorum – Scott Spencer

Scott Spencer declared a quorum.

Approval of minutes from the meeting of March 20, 2019 – Scott Spencer

Don Adams motioned to approve. Chris Trevino seconded. The motion was approved.

Executive Session – Scott Spencer

Paul Bedont motioned to move into an executive session. Ray Stokes seconded. The motion was approved. Jason Earl motioned to end the executive session. Merlin Spendlove seconded. The motion was approved.

Ray Stokes motioned that the testing of the candidate discussed will not be recognized until the terms which were set by the council (and sent to the individual in a letter by Lori Howes) have been met by the candidate. Paul Bedont seconded the motion. 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. Jennifer pointed out that one Inspector I certification was issued to a Non-Affiliated fire agency, which was a member of the Utah Department of Corrections. That organization was mistakenly listed as Non-Affiliated in the database and is now resolved.

Certifications issued and the number of candidates testing has been steady. An additional report presented by Lori Howes reviewed statistics of volunteer versus career department certifications.

Report on Standards and Training Council – Ray Stokes

Ray Stokes reported that Jolene Chamberlain represented the Certification Council at the last meeting. Jolene reported on the changes with the certification office staff. ATC's are currently under review for recertification, including Emergency Services at UFRA which is complete.

Wildland Issues and Updates – Wade Snyder

There were no updates to report.

Report on Submitted Petitions – Lori Howes

There were no submitted petitions.

Report on 2019 ProBoard Site Visit – Lori Howes

Lori Howes presented the ProBoard 2019 site visit agenda to the council. The ProBoard Committee on Accreditation (COA) sent Lori a list of questions which she is currently in the process of answering. Each level of certification has a binder that is being reviewed and updated to prepare for the visit.

Lori also asked for two volunteers from the council to meet with the COA. Scott Spencer and Jason Earl both volunteered to help. Lori also reported that the COA will be meeting with some representatives from the FFA, FCA, as well as skills evaluators. Lori does not foresee any issues and expects this to be a great visit.

Report on 2019 Tester/Instructor Seminar – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported the following regarding the 2019 tester/instructor seminar:

- There were 132 testers in attendance; slightly lower than past years. Lori mentioned that the 25 new testers completing new hire training was a factor.
- Three testers will be dropped for non-attendance.
- There are currently 206 testers total; 183 skills and 23 written.
- Lori is planning on another hire later this year.
- There was a lot of positive feedback given from attendees at every location.

Lori also asked for feedback from the seminar; the council responded with positive reviews on the training, the hands-on/scenario-based training was extremely effective. Lori asked the council to think of ideas and things that should be addressed for the 2020 Tester/Instructor seminar.

Lori reported that currently, written only testers are required to attend each year, although much of the information does not pertain to their role. She asked the council for feedback on requiring them to sign an agreement in place of the seminar, or something to ensure continual contact.

Lori is considering changing the name of in-house tester to department written tester.

Report on Certification Office Changes – Lori Howes

Lori Howes presented a new certification region map to the council, due to the changes in training. The cert staff has begun delineating duties and will be slowly transitioning over the next month. Everyone will need to contact their own area representative for all certification needs. Lori spoke highly to the level of commitment the certification staff has shown to ensure the success of the changes and is confident that this will be a great step moving forward.

Discussion and motion on updated HazMat Awareness & HazMat Operations Standard – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported that there were no updates to the standard.

Discussion and motion on HazMat Technician Standard – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reviewed the changes made to the new HazMat Technician standard, and reviewed the updates with the council. With these changes the standard now meets NFPA 1072. Ray Stokes motioned to approve the standard. Hoss Tomkinson seconded. The motion was approved.

Discussion and motion on updated Policies & Procedures – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported that there will be a retreat held in Moab September 18th – 20th where the council will review and update the Policies & Procedures in conjunction with the September Council Meeting.

New Business – Lori Howes

Lori Howes reported the following under New Business:

- Paul Bedont presented a Department Recognition to Uintah City Fire on April 16th; thank you Paul Bedont.
- Brad Wardle has created a task force for Fire Officer II, III, and IV. The task force consists of representatives from both volunteer and career departments, as the program will be available to both. Their first meeting will be sometime in June.
- Lori will be working on updating the Technical Rescue levels this year.
- Lori asked the councils feedback on issuing only pass/fail information to test candidates instead of percentages. It will be brought back for discussion at a later time.

Old Business – Lori Howes

There was no business to report.

Next Council Meeting, Wednesday, July 17, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Provo, UT

Ray Stokes motioned to adjourn the meeting. Don Adams seconded. The motion was approved and meeting adjourned.