

## **The Utah Fire Service Certification Council Minutes of September 18, 2019**

**The Utah Fire Service Certification Council met on September 18, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in Moab, UT.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

In attendance: Scott Spencer, Paul Bedont, Merlin Spendlove, Dave Youngberg, Jeremy Raymond, Craig Stanley, Jason Earl, Don Adams, Wade Snyder, Krista Horting, Chris Trevino

Excused: Hoss Tomkinson (Chris Trevino as proxy)

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

Scott Spencer declared a quorum.

### **Approval of minutes from the meeting of July 17, 2019 – Scott Spencer**

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

### **Approval of agenda for the September 18, 2019 meeting – Scott Spencer**

Merlin Spendlove motioned to approve. Jason Earl seconded. The motion was approved. Scott Spencer called for a motion to move agenda item #6 after item #10. Merlin Spendlove motioned to approve. Don Adams seconded. The motion was approved.

### **Council term Appointment – Lori Howes**

Lori Howes reported that Krista Horting has been asked to join the council with the approval of the Fire Prevention Board. Krista has a diverse background, including Technical Rescue, which will be a great resource to the council.

### **Report of Testing/Failed Skills Report – Jennifer Lindley**

Jennifer Lindley reviewed the data on the Testing and Failed Skills Reports with the council. Numbers for testing are slightly lower than last year, and above average for certifications.

### **Report on Standards and Training Council – Chris Trevino**

Jolene Chamberlain attended the meeting since no council member had been appointed at the time of the meeting. Lori Howes gave Jolene's report. They awarded the UFRA RCA with their reaccreditation plaque, and BATC is scheduled to receive later this year. The UFRA budget was discussed. Lori reported that Brad Wardle is putting together a Fire Operations 101 to present to the legislature, hoping to result in budget improvements.

### **Wildland Issues and Updates – Wade Snyder**

Wade Snyder reported the following statistics:

- 1201 responses to date: 902 of which were wildfires
- 92% of fires have been caught at 10 acres or less; 65% (584) were human caused
- 83,400 total acres burned; 19,836 acres human caused
- The Neck Fire in Iron County is the largest so far at 19,151 acres and has been transferred back to the local jurisdiction.
- Meadow Creek fire in central Utah has also been transferred back to a local unit.
- 28\$ million suppression costs statewide to date
- 10 non-home structures lost; 6 home structures lost; 8 lost-time injuries
- Francis fire in Wasatch is active and believed to be lightning caused.
- These statistics do not include incidents handled solely by local jurisdictions.

### **Report on Submitted Petitions – Lori Howes**

There were no submitted petitions. Lori Howes brought two items of discussion under this agenda item:

Alan Powell finished HazMat Operations testing in 2014 but never acquired HazMat Awareness certification. He called Lori to see if she would allow an exception so those results could be valid, preventing him from having to retest. Currently, grades are good for only three years. The council agreed that since the current standard edition is the same as the standard from which he tested, they will allow his test results to remain valid; however, Alan will still be required to test skills.

Scott Spencer called for a motion. Jason Earl motioned to approve. Paul Bedont seconded. The motion was approved.

Lori Howes reported that a candidate took and failed two attempts for Fire Inspector I written testing. The individual scheduled a third attempt then learned that the IFC is allowed. He took and failed his third attempt. He asked Lori if he could have a fourth attempt since he was unaware of the IFC allowance. Lori told the candidate he could petition the council for a fourth attempt but it would need to be submitted before September 13<sup>th</sup>. The candidate never sent anything, but Lori asked the council for a discussion. The council determined that for the Fire Inspector I level, there is more material in the book than what is taught in class. Students need to adequately study from the manual outside of class time. No action was necessary.

### **Executive Session – Scott Spencer**

Scott Spencer called for a motion to open the session. Paul Bedont motioned. Chris Trevino seconded. The motion was approved.

Scott Spencer called for a motion to close the session. Dave Youngberg motioned. Don Adams seconded. The motion was approved.

### **Update on scenarios for testing – Lori Howes**

Lori Howes reported that she has not yet begun working on scenarios for skills testing.

### **Update and discussion on equipment lists for standards – Lori Howes**

Lori Howes reported that David Youngberg began creating a list of equipment that certification would provide departments upon scheduling skills exams. As David began collecting information, he felt that it would be better not to provide an equipment list, as departments should already have this on hand so they can provide adequate training. Lori sought feedback from Brad Wardle, Director of UFRA. Brad agreed not to provide an equipment list.

### **Update on HazMat 1072 Testing – Lori Howes**

Lori Howes informed the council that the curriculum for the new 1072 is not ready and the estimated start date will be the middle of October. The only difference in testing will be the added HazMat Awareness skill.

### **Report and Discussion on Fire Officer I/II and III/IV Committees – Lori Howes**

Lori Howes reported that both Officer committees will be reviewing material from 7-8 other state programs. The committees will be reviewing and deciding which direction to go by October 7<sup>th</sup>, where a combined meeting will take place between both committees. After that, the committees will be meeting separately to begin working on each level.

### **Discussion on Firefighter I & II update – Lori Howes**

Lori Howes reported that Firefighter I and Firefighter II will need to be updated to the new standard by June of 2020. The individual skills will be kept, and evolution-based skills will be added. Eventually, the evolution-based skills will be solely used for future testing. Lori put a small committee together and her estimated implementation date is May 2020.

### **Discussion on 2019 Certification Council Schedule – Scott Spencer**

Lori Howes presented a proposed council meeting schedule for the year 2020 and asked the council to review the dates and give her feedback regarding any schedule conflicts.

### **Discussion and motion on updated Policies & Procedures – Lori Howes**

The council will be reviewing the Policies & Procedures as soon as the council meeting is adjourned. The updates will be presented for approval at the November council meeting.

### **New Business – Lori Howes**

Lori Howes reported the following:

- There will no longer be mileage reimbursements for adjuncts, however; there will be a reimbursement for travel time. A new timecard will be created for tracking travel time. This new change does not apply to council member travel.
- Winter Fire School is scheduled for January 24-25, 2020 in St. George.
- Certification will be working on a newsletter for 2020.
- A certification tester hire will take place later this year.
- Lori will be implementing a post-exam information sheet for test candidates. The information sheet will have information regarding the appeals process, grades, result letters, etc. She believes this will provide better service to customers and alleviate calls to the staff.
- Lori will be attending an IFSAC meeting in October. There will be a scheduled discussion on simulation of skills and so she will be following up with the council regarding that discussion at a later date.

### **Old Business – Lori Howes**

Paul Bedont discussed the possible need for a Health Screening Questionnaire (HSQ) with the council to alleviate any unnecessary risk to firefighter health. Lori Howes mentioned that at one time there was one in the standard but it is not there. Wade Snyder spoke in regards to the importance of the HSQ and educating departments regarding the need to use them prior to arduous testing. Paul Bedont mentioned that Idaho has a great HSQ model which is compliant with HIPPA. Wade will be doing more research and bring it back to the council at a later time.

### **Next Council Meeting, Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Provo, UT**

Chris Trevino motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dave Youngberg seconded. The motion was approved and meeting adjourned.