



Utah Fire Service Certification Council

Minutes of September 21, 2022

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council met September 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM
Utah Fire & Rescue Academy, Mike Jense Parkway, Provo, UT, 84601

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

Scott Spencer called the meeting to order.

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

Members Attending: Scott Spencer, Dave Youngberg, Chris Trevino, Jeremy Raymond, Ron Harris, Merlin Spendlove, TJ Brewer.

Krista Horting joined online.

Excused: Jason Earl, Wade Snyder, Ted Black, Rod Hammer – TJ Brewer as proxy, Rod “Hoss” Tomkinson – Chris Trevino 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 July 20, 2022- Scott Spencer**

Ron Harris motioned to approve the minutes of July 20, 2022. Chris Trevino seconded the motion. Motion passed.

5) **Approval of agenda for the September 21, 2022, meeting - Scott Spencer**

Merlin Spendlove motioned to approve the agenda for September 21, 2022. Dave Youngberg seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

Scott Spencer read Wade Snyder’s report.

Indicated not much change. Reported large fire risk was low, with the chance in certain areas with fuels and fall winds. They’ll continually monitor and apply prevention measures. Spanish Fork – Type 1 helicopter is available thru September with the option to extend.

Report on testing, certification, and failed skills - Jennifer Lindley

Jennifer Lindley reported certification activity report numbers.

Failed skills report:

Inspector I: Occupancy load missed frequently with one division. Scott Spencer was aware of the situation. They tested four different dates - candidates are not firefighters, but campus Fire Marshals. 35 people tested during this time.

Officer I: Typical questions were missed; Incident Priorities and Fire Flow

Certification Report:

Total for that period is 1,004 which is a significant increase. Several Firefighter I & II, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, for this period. Some Wildland and Technical Rescue levels.

Wildland was only those who tested & certified through the UFRA office. UFRA does not track Wildland training through the state.

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

Scott Spencer reported on Fire Prevention Board meeting

FPB talked about hyper wellness and oxygen therapy devices seen in the State of Utah. It was reported these devices don't meet current code requirements and we shouldn't be allowing any of them in our communities. White paper with research has been sent out to departments. You may see it in doctor's offices, healthcare, and wellness centers. It is a challenge nationwide.

House Bill 15 - Childcare amendments. There was an error or misinterpretation in the bill. Daycare maximum is 16 for children in the home, not 16-24.

Mentioned the antifreeze system challenges - leave those systems in place unless they are due for a renewal or have been discharged.

IFC Table 901.6.1 with the NFPA 25 water based fire protection systems. That will be in the amendments going before the Business and Labor Interim Committee.

Discussion on communities wanting to allow narrower roads, which is a challenge. Now in the court of our engineers of the cities and counties. Next meeting will be November 8th at 8:30 am (available for virtual attendance).

8) **Request to review/approve portfolio – (Officer III) - Krista Horting**

Krista Horting reported Russell Pressley met all the requirements he submitted for Officer III.

TJ Brewer motioned for Russell Pressley to receive Officer III; Krista Horting seconded the motion. The motion passed.

9) **Discussion regarding NFPA 1403 as the standard for Live Fire training evolutions in Utah – Brad Wardle (Ted Black – was absent)**

Director Brad Wardle mentioned there was a discussion among State Chiefs, about NFPA 1403 remaining state law. Director Wardle mentioned that Fire Marshal Ted Black warned about the liability if it remains state law, if not followed completely, you could be criminally liable. And as a state, we can't follow all of the structures in NFPA 1403, such as gear replacement with smaller departments.

Director Wardle mentioned, Fire Marshal Ted Black is making changes at the next legislation. UFRA would like to develop its own standard for the state of Utah. NFPA 1403 is an important standard, and we need to follow it, but we need to customize it to our state needs. UFRA would create a committee to work on a standard from NFPA 1403 for the state and then Marc McElreaths training team will create a curriculum for it. Brad Wardle will be part of the conversation.

The Certification Council is the AHJ - the Authority Having Jurisdiction to develop this standard. Joan Aaron and the committee will start working on it in October.

10) **Discussion on details of a new "Task Book" for new certification testers.**

We discussed the new tester levels (assistant, lead, senior lead). A task book sample has been created for new testers to track their experience. Explains what is required for a lead tester and tracks years of testing. This is tool for each tester to track their own progress, maybe a place for a comment from the lead tester.

11) Report on certification levels currently being updated – Joan Aaron

- a. Trench Rescue: Discussion and motion to approve updated Trench Rescue standard to the new NFPA 1006, 2021 edition. A few edits and modifications were made since the last update to be more consistent with other technical rescue standards.

Jeremy Raymond motioned to approve updated Trench Rescue standard to the new NFPA 1006, 2021 edition. Dave Youngberg seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- b. Ropes Rescue: Discussion and motion to approve new Rope Rescue standard to the new NFPA 1006, 2021 edition. Updated to the new Rope Rescue textbook - Jones and Bartlett, 5th edition. Ron Harris was on the committee and mentioned hundreds of hours were put into this updated standard. (Pictures still need to be added).

Jeremy Raymond motioned to approve new Rope Rescue standard to the new NFPA 1006, 2021 edition. Chris Trevino seconded the motion. The motion has passed.

- c. Implementation on the new standards will be determined – Pro Board approvals take 30-45 days.
- d. Request to approve certification timeline extension for all water rescue for 1 year. Due to Surface water being suspended for one year. Ron Harris motioned for the certification timeline extension on water rescue levels. Krista Horting seconded the motion. Motion passed
- e. Upcoming Levels: Confined Space, Structural Collapse, and Machinery.
Let Joan Aaron know if you would like to participate on one of the committees.

Questions asked regarding the new Technical Rescue:

- a. Jeremy Raymond asked, will the Old Chapter 5 certifications remain as part of the original certifications?
The old chapter 5 correlates with the old Technical Rescue edition. It will not be required with the new levels of Awareness, Operations and Technician. Awareness & Operations must be certified before they can certify in Technician.
- b. Do we need a time period for those finishing current levels to transfer to new levels or still receive previous levels?
 - i. If so, how long will they be allowed to test the old exams? 6 months to 1 year?
- c. Do we allow a level I & II to grandfather into the new technician level? Dave Youngberg explained candidates wouldn't lose the old certification but would be able to earn a new certification as Awareness, Operations, Technician.
- a. Jeremy Raymond suggested if the chief feels they have the skill to meet the new level, they could sign them off to test the new levels. If they want the new level, they need to re-test.
- b. Who can sign the training record? A chief or training officer can sign off on the training record. The person signing does not need to be certified at the level they are signing. They are going on record that the training has taken place.
- d. Scott Spencer suggested tabling the decision until next council meeting.

Discussion regarding Technical Rescue Team Evolutions:

- c. Clarifying that if one person on the team fails, the whole team does not fail.

- d. Should the team choose their own roles, or should the tester choose the roles for the members of the team? It was decided that the team should be allowed to choose the roles. Testers are to allow 2-3 minutes for the team to choose roles. Tester does not to assign roles.
- e. Joan Aaron will update all technical rescue standards, so it is uniform across all levels.

12) Discussion and motion to approve new “Technical Rescue Lead Tester Instructions” skills/process sheet. – Joan Aaron

Joan Aaron presented the new technical rescue lead tester instruction sheet for the technical rescue levels.

Dave Youngberg motioned to approve new “Technical Rescue Lead Tester Instructions” skills/process sheet. Merlin Spendlove seconded. The motion passed.

The discussion included the following:

- a. The safety officer must be provided by the AHJ. (This is a separate safety officer from the team/candidate safety officer) The safety officer must be qualified at that skill level. Dave Youngberg addressed the higher risk for each of these technical rescue exams. AHJ must provide a safety officer to be active and keep those candidates safe during the testing process.
- b. TJ Brewer asked, how will the tester stop a test if it’s not safe? Dave Youngberg suggested it is a responsibility of the team member as well as the safety officer to make sure the candidate is safe prior to completing the skill. Team needs to build in the checks and balances. Safety officer is the backup to that.
- c. TJ Brewer stated even in rural departments, if they don't have the ability to provide the gear and safety officer, they shouldn't be testing the level.
 - This is a reminder to the tester to cover all needed items for each exam.
- d. Encourage the lead tester to call the department the day the tester box arrives and then follow through again 48 hours before. Certification specialists should also have a discussion with the requesting department about covering all the needs for the exam.
- e. Joan Aaron reviewed the number of testers needed for each exam level.

13) Report and discussion on Train-the-Tester workshop.

- a. Train-the-Tester workshop took place on September 7th. This was our first attempt. We hope to improve and repeat this again in the Spring with the other new Technical Rescue levels soon to be updated.
- b. Regional tests were suggested at the workshop.
- c. New testers are needed to test at these levels. We need qualified and/or certified testers.
- d. It was suggested to hold regional tester trainings, for the technical rescue levels.
- e. We are looking into getting tester equipment that could be sent to keep testers safe on site. Hopefully a sponsor for UFRA to provide some tester equipment.

14) New Business - Scott Spencer & Joan Aaron

- a. Question Mark – Changes are coming to our process of testing (online, etc.). Gradually we will implement these changes in the coming months. We will be working several days to get all our banks into the new system.
Gradually we'll implement new online tests for departments that may have the resources to do online testing. Test scores would be available immediately. We are now researching for online testing locations.

b. Appeals:

- Austin Swayt, St. George Fire – Inspector I, letter requesting to retake prior to 1 year after 3rd attempt failure.
Merlin Spendlove motioned for Austin Swayt to be allowed to retake the class and test prior to 1 year. Chris Trevino seconded. Motion passed.
- Isaac Nielson, Provo Fire – Officer I, passed 12/09/2015. Certification was never requested. Chris Trevino motioned to issue Officer I certification for Isaac Nelson. TJ Brewer seconded. Motion passed.
- Spencer Long, Provo Fire – Technical Rescue levels passed in 2016. Chap 5 pre-requisite not taken until 2020. Asking permission to request for certification. Exam scores are only good for 3 years. The prerequisite was not completed within the 3 year period. Deny request for certification based on the policy of 3 years.
- Captain Spencer Mosdell, Kanab Fire Department – FFI and II certification. TJ Brewer motioned to issue FFI and II certification for Captain Spencer Mosdell based on the date the certification was received. Chris Trevino seconded. Motion passed.

15) Old Business - Scott Spencer

- a. Appreciate all the Technical Rescue Committee Members who have helped in the updates of the new Technical Rescue levels – so far, a total of 21 levels, 7 with each: Awareness, Operations, Technician. They have each put in several hours of their time.
Joan Aaron thanked everyone who has helped on the technical rescue committees.
- b. Website, prerequisites updated
 - i. Website – in the process of being updated with all the new levels and standards (waiting for Pro Board approvals).
 - ii. Old technical rescue standards are still listed online – thru transition.
- c. The Wildland I and II standard – "Basic Emergency Medical" page was updated, from IRPG, 2022 edition.
- d. Fire Investigator: Standard was approved in July by cert council. Implementation will be put on hold until curriculum development is completed around summer 2023.
- e. Schedule for upcoming tests – Calendar for cert council members.
Council members are invited to stop in for any of the upcoming exams for the next months.

16) Next Certification Council Meeting at 10:00 am on November 16, 2022, at UFRA.

Scott Spencer closed the meeting and requested a motion to adjourn.

Ron Harris made the motion to adjourn. Dave Youngberg seconded. Motion passed.