

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council

Minutes of January 09, 2013

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council met on January 09, 2013, at the Hilton Garden Inn, St. George, UT.

1. Welcome Council Members and Visitors – Scott Spencer.

In attendance: Ray Stokes, Scott Spencer, Corky Brewer, Jason Earl, Shane Freeman, Karl Steadman, Kevin Bowman, Paul Bedont, Don Adams, Brett Ostler, Merlin Spendlove.

Excused: Rod Hammer.

Visitors: Steve Lutz

2. Declaration of Quorum – Scott Spencer.

Scott Spencer declared a quorum was present.

3. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of September 19, 2012 – Scott Spencer.

The meeting minutes from September 19 were presented to the Council for approval. Don Adams motioned to approve and Merlin Spendlove seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

4. Approval of Agenda for January 09, 2013 Meeting – Scott Spencer.

Scott Spencer called for a motion to approve the agenda. Ray Stokes motioned to accept the agenda and it was seconded by Jason Earl. The motion was approved.

5. Reappointment of Council Members – Lori Howes.

Lori reported that Shane Freeman's term was expiring. He was asked to continue for an additional 3 years. Shane accepted.

6. Testing /Certification & Failed Skills report – Hilary Kline.

Hilary reviewed copies of the reports with the Council.

7. Report on Standards & Training Council – Ray Stokes.

Ray Stokes reported that a meeting was not held and will not have one until there are items to be discussed.

8. Wildfire Updates – Shane Freeman.

Shane reported:

- Training season throughout the state. Slow with only one brush fire reported within the last couple of days.
- Training Committee meeting will be held at Dixie Applied Technology College. Spring Engine Workshops, Bylaws and Taskbook Guidelines will be addressed. The documents will be posted on the UFFSL website and will answer questions regarding Taskbooks.

9. Update on Task Book Review – Shane Freeman.

Shane Freeman reported that more information from the Taskbook Review Committee will be provided at the next Council meeting.

10. New IFSTA Manual and Online Training – Karl Steadman.

The manual has not been released yet. The biggest change is that you can take the course on line. The book is required. Each chapter has a test that must be passed before you can continue on. It is possible to request chapters for custom instruction. It allows for online study, online presentation and online testing. It has a large test bank. The test bank would be hosted on IFSTA's website at no cost and would only be available to UFRA; which is completely opposite of PTS where the test bank is available to anyone for purchase. Various areas statewide could take the class online with one point of contact. Dates would be set aside for skills delivery. It does take away the human element of lecturing. It would be cost effective as far as acquiring instructors. It will allow more opportunities to service smaller groups in a department.

Online test security and a shortage of computers for testing a department are only a few of the issues to be considered while UFRA investigates this avenue further.

HazMat Ops projected online date should be in June.

11. Live Fire Training Issues – Paul Bedont.

Paul Bedont voiced the concern that Live Fire Training is a struggle for some departments and inquired if UFRA was still offering this option. Set dates that the departments can look forward to would be helpful. Lori suggested the option of scheduling the same dates as the RCA students; Spring and Fall.

Lori suggested a notification in the Straight Tip. She indicated something will be worked out.

12. Discussion and Approval of Updated Officer I Skill – Scott Spencer, Lori Howes.

Lori Howes informed the Council that the Officer I skills allows for two possible correct answers depending on the textbooks used. The Council agreed that both answers should be allowed.

13. Update on Screening Candidates Prior to Certification – Steve Lutz.

Steve Lutz briefly reported that the topic of back ground checks was given little support by the Joint Council. It would be costly per each individual. Steve suggested that possibly asking the individual would suffice. Further information will be presented at the next meeting.

14. Discussion and Motion for Trench Rescue Standard – Kevin Bowman, Lori Howes.

Lori Howes provided the Council with copies of the standard and reviewed only those pages that had changes or additions. The test bank was referenced to the 2007 FEMA book however; the current 2010 edition has the same information. Dates for manuals were not referenced so that either manual or any manual in-between those dates can be used.

The skills were reviewed and questions rose regarding the Trench Rescue Standard. It will be taken back to the Committee for clarification and brought back to the next Council meeting.

15. Discussion and Motion for Structural Collapse Standard – Kevin Bowman, Scott Spencer.

Lori Howes provided copies of the standard and reviewed it with the Council.

The skills were reviewed and questions rose regarding the Structural Collapse Standard. It will be taken back to the Committee for clarification and brought back to the next Council meeting.

16. Discussion and Motion for Submitted Petitions – Lori Howes.

Lori Howes provided the Council members with copies of petitions submitted by two individuals who requested a fourth attempt.

Corky Brewer made the motion that Brandon Coleman be allowed the 4th attempt based on the fact that he had some disabilities when he was testing. The motion was seconded by Karl Steadman.

Merlin Spendlove abstains.

Motion did not pass.

Corky Brewer made the motion that Cassie Coleman be allowed the 4th attempt based on the fact that she had some disabilities when she was testing. The motion was seconded by Karl Steadman.

Merlin Spendlove abstains.

Motion did not pass.

Ray Stokes motioned that based on this petition, Brandon Coleman be allowed back into the process and test no sooner than 90 days. The motion was seconded by Don Adams. Merlin Spendlove abstains. The motion passed.

Ray Stokes motioned that based on this petition; Cassie Coleman be allowed back into the process and test no sooner than 90 days. The motion was seconded by Don Adams. Merlin Spendlove abstains. The motion passed.

17. New Business – Scott Spencer.

- Lori Howes presents a request from a department who wants to know if there are any special accommodations for a person with a disability to receive certifications. Lori will contact the Chief and get more information.

- Tester Seminar is coming up. Hilary will teach a class. Lori requested volunteers from the Council. Class locations will follow the same format as last year. Smaller classes would be ideal.
- The new NFPA 1001 is out. The SCBA time limit has been removed.
- Corky Brewer requests help on tips that might be helpful to new firefighters.
- Text books provided to departments are lost at end of classes. Measures are being considered to get books returned.
- Wildland will be next on a rewrite within the next few months.

18. Old Business – Scott Spencer.

19. Next Council Meeting. Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 10:00 a.m. @ UFRA.

Merlin Spendlove motioned to adjourn the meeting. Corky Brewer seconded the motion and it passed.