The Utah Fire Service Certification Council
Minutes of September 23, 2015

The Utah Fire Service Certification Council met on September 23, 2015 at UFRA.

Welcome Council Members and Visitors – Scott Spencer
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. – Scott Spencer

In attendance: Don Adams, Brett Ostler, Paul Bedont, Jason Earl, David Youngberg, Scott Spencer, Chris Trevino, Shane Freeman, Ray Stokes, Merlin Spendlove

Excused: Craig Stanley, Rod Hammer
  • Paul Bedont is Proxy for Rod Hammer

Visitors: Ted Black, Lenore Corey, Robert DeKorver, Aaron Davis, Hugh Conner

Declaration of Quorum – Scott Spencer
Scott Spencer declared the presence of a quorum.

Approval of Minutes from the meeting of May 20, 2015 – Scott Spencer
No corrections were necessary.
Brett Ostler motioned to approve the minutes, Don Adams seconded. The motion was approved.
Approval of Agenda for the September 23, 2015 Meeting – Scott Spencer
Scott Spencer asked that item 11; the Executive Session, be placed after item 6 and that item 15; Discussion on Officer I Standard, be placed after the Executive Session.
Scott called for a motion to approve the revised agenda. Ray Stokes motioned to approve the agenda and Merlin Spendlove seconded. The motion was approved.

Re-appointment of Council Members-Scott Spencer
Paul Bedont, Scott Spencer and Rod Hammer accepted re-appointments for three more years in July 2015. Merlin Spendlove accepted a re-appointment for three more years in September 2015.

Introduction of new UFRA Assistant Director – Hugh Conner
No Director has been chosen at this time.

Executive Session – Scott Spencer
Scott called for a motion to convene to the Executive session; Paul Bedont motioned. Don Adams seconded. The motion was approved.
All members not required to participate were asked to leave.
Scott called for a motion to end the Executive session. Ray Stokes motioned. Don Adams seconded. The motion was approved.
As a result of the Executive Session proceedings Ray Stokes motioned; in the actions of Aaron Dwane Davis that all of his current certifications be revoked and that until his case is fully adjudicated, that he not be able to reapply for entrance into the certification process or programs for a minimum of two years; effective September 23, 2015. Paul Bedont seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Discussion and motion of proposed Officer I Standard – Jason Earl
Jason presented the updates and corrections to the Officer I Standard. Don Adams motioned to accept the updated standard with implementation effective immediately. Chris Trevino seconded. The motion was accepted.

Jennifer reviewed each of the reports with council members. She noted that based on test scores, the new HazMat Ops test appeared to be more challenging than the previous version.

Report on Standards and Training Council – Ray Stokes

Ray reported that the Standards and Training Council had recently audited UFRA and as a result, the Council remains very supportive of the Certification Council and UFRA.

Wildland Issues and Updates – Shane Freeman

Shane reported that the fire season is still very active and FFSL continues to have resources out in California, Washington, Oregon and Central Idaho. There are still fires present throughout Utah as well. Predictive services said that because of recent moisture the fields will probably not get to the critical levels that they were in July and August.

He reported that a huge safety issue that continues to be a problem is the siting of personal UAVs or Drones that show up at fire sites. The presence of the Drones results in grounding any and all aerial support which negatively affects the ground crews efforts. FFSL has been working on getting the word out to the media to help discourage people from sending drones out to the fires. Jason Curry, PIO for FFSL, is writing a document on how to spot and deal with the Drones.

A change that the State Training Committee is discussing and pushing forward is the complete adherence to the requirements in the 310-1 document (Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide) which is the guideline for training and certification for Wildland positions. The changes will be presented to upper fire management for review. Once it is approved the updates will go out to all the fire departments. Shane is planning on writing an article for The Straight Tip addressing the issue.

FFSL is continuing to meet with the League of Cities and Towns as well as county governments to push forward the Wildland Policy.
FFSL has been approached by several fire departments that are affiliated with the Department of Defense inquiring about training and issuing Red Cards through FFSL. FFSL does not have an agreement with DOD to offer training or issue Red Cards to these departments. Currently the departments that have inquired are receiving Red Cards through UFRA. Each department has a state issued identification number therefore qualify to recertify through UFRA.

Proposal on Fire and Life Safety Educator – Robert DeKorver

Robert presented a proposal to Council members requesting that the Council consider re-instating the Fire and Life Safety Certification.

Lenore Corey, Sandy Dept. PIO, shared her experience with presenting Fire Education in the local school districts. She noted that the school districts are asking that firefighters that present material are instructor certified.

Lori Howes said she would be happy to bring the FLSE certification back however, UFRA would not be providing the curriculum. The testing process would still be maintained through UFRA. It was suggested that the State of Colorado would have the materials necessary for training.

Robert suggested that initially the certification would be State certified with the possibility of National or IFSAC certification in the future.

Lori proposed that if the certification is to be approved that it would need to be moving forward quickly with completion in November so it would be ready for the upcoming IFSAC reaccreditation site visit scheduled next year. Presenting the certification to IFSAC during the site visit would eliminate the $500 fee to add it.

Ted Black suggested that the proposal be recommended to the Fire Prevention Board for review. Overall the Council members were in favor of re-instating the Fire and Life Safety Certification. Paul Bedont motioned to favorably recommend that the Certification Council pursue the certification process for Fire and Life Safety Levels I & II. Ray Stokes seconded. The motion was approved.
**Discussion and Motion whether to allow In-House testing for Officer I/Inspector I – Ray Stokes**

Ray proposed to allow in-house testing for the Officer I and Inspector I skills portion of the test in addition to the written test, based upon the type of test it is. 
Lori raised the issue of maintaining third party validation, and possibly jeopardizing accreditation without that third party validation. 
The Council discussed the safety risks of having in-house testing which included cheating and the possible loss of IFSAC accreditation versus the cost and convenience of having an in-house tester rather than a UFRA tester. 
There was no motion.

**Discussion and Motion on proposed verbiage change on Wildland FFI skill #15 – Paul Bedont**

Paul raised the question of changing the word “Spread” in the Wildland FFI skill #15 to read “Application”. Lori researched the verbiage in the S130 Instructors Guide and found that the NWCG uses the word “Spread”. 
No changes were made.

**Discussion and motion on proposed Fire Inspector I/II/III Standard – Scott Spencer**

Scott presented to the Council the updates and changes made to the Fire Inspector I/II/III Standard. 
Ray motioned to accept the updates and changes to the Fire Inspector I/II/III Standard with a grace period until 1/31/2016. Brett Ostler seconded. The motion was accepted.

**Discussion and motion on proposed Officer II Standard – Jason Earl**

This proposal was tabled until next Council mtg.

**Discussion and motion on Officer II submissions by Mike Slater and Eddie Graham – Ray Stokes**

Ray Stokes recommend that the Council accept the submissions.
Merlin Spendlove motioned to accept Eddie Graham’s submission for Officer II. Ray Stokes seconded. The motion was accepted.
Paul Bedont motioned to accept Mike Slater’s submission for Officer II. Don Adams seconded. The motion was accepted.

**Discussion and motion on Inspector II submission by Dave Wilson – Scott Spencer**
Scott recommended that the Council accept the submission.
Ray Stokes motioned to accept Dave Wilson’s submission for Inspector II. Chris Trevino seconded. The motion was accepted.

**Discussion and motion on updated Policies and Procedures – Lori Howes**
There were no updates to be made.

**Discussion and motion on submitted petitions – Lori Howes**
There were no petitions submitted.

**Discussion on 2016 meeting schedule – Lori Howes**
Lori proposed that the January 2016 meeting would be at 450 N 3400 W Hurricane, UT and that the rest of the meetings would be the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at UFRA.
Lori suggested that each board member check their schedule for any conflicts and reminded them that according to policy a member can only miss two excused meetings per year.
Approval of the meeting schedule will be at the November meeting.

**New Business – Lori Howes**
As an FYI: The IFSTA 2nd edition for ADO-Pumper is no longer in print. Lori and Gary Kilgore are working on updating to the new IFSTA book.
IFSTA is coming out with a combined ADO-Pumper/Aerial Book. UFRA will be using this new edition. IFSTA is creating a new test bank in the next two weeks. Lori will be updating the test bank for the Written exam but no changes will be made to the Skills.

- Lori is still waiting on a new test bank for AARF from PTS. We have until November 2016 to update but with the IFSAC site visit, Lori is pushing to get it done sooner. If we can’t get a new test bank Lori will purchase the old one and make updates.
- Still waiting on PTS for new test banks for Technical Rescue – Surface, Ice and Swift Water. There are no changes from the 2008 to the 2012 NFPA standard so Lori will purchase the old test banks and update them to meet the 2012 standard. Lori requested that those Council members who are scheduled to be on the committee for these test banks please plan on having meetings in the next month.
- UFRA’s site visit from IFSAC is scheduled for February 2016 and not in July as Lori was anticipating. IFSAC is requiring paperwork in November. In the event that she cannot find out why the site visit is in February, she requested help from Council members to help with getting test banks, correlation sheets and other items ready, as necessary, for the visit.
- Lori posed a question to the Council: Can someone certify who has been convicted of a felony that is no longer on their record? Is it the departments responsibility to do a background check and then a request can be made? Paul Bedont responded that as long as it has been expunged it would not show up on their record and they could request certification.
- Regarding the gentlemen from West Valley, one of them passed all of his exams, the other gentleman was scheduled for testing and never showed up.

**Old Business – Scott Spencer**

There was no old business.

**Next Council meeting, Wednesday, November 18th, 2015, 10:00 a.m., at UFRA, Provo, UT**

Brett Ostler motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dave Youngberg seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.