

UTAH STATE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
September 16, 2015

Attendees – A copy of those in attendance is included with the Minutes.

Welcome, Call to Order, and Introduction of Executive Committee and Guests – Gil Rodriguez, President, called to order the Annual Utah State Fire Chiefs Association Meeting beginning at 9:00 am on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, at the Sheraton City Centre, 150 West 500 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Review and Approval of January 7, 2015 Minutes – Motion was made to approve the January 7, 2015 Minutes as written with a change of date of Fall Meeting to be September 16, 2015 by Martha Ellis, seconded Matt Schwank; motion passed.

Reports of Committees and Board Members –

President's Report – Gil Rodriguez reported that the Association is doing well.

Secretary/Treasurer Report – Jess Campbell reported that there are challenges with the Association's website. The office at the Credit Union has said that they will help post items on the website and keep things current. The goal is to have a high functioning website. We have a list of close to 300 members and only 80 members are registered on the website. Everyone was reminded to visit the website to get an accurate number of members. A W-9 is available on the website for those who need it. The fund balance is currently \$35,452. Approximately 90% of the \$24,036 expenses since the last meeting are from the winter meeting held in St. George.

Utah EMS Report – The following information was given:

- Paul Patrick reported on the following:
 - o Regarding REPLICA - the interstate EMS compact - IAFC has spoken and has a desire to support. The IAFF however does not support it and has a plan to oppose the process.
 - o IAFF supports the peer review process currently. Paul gave a 6 point opposition hand out (listed below) with reference to the IAFF opposition. Colorado and Texas have approved, we need 8 more states to ratify the compact.

REPLICA - Negative Assessment and Corrective Response

1. Assertion:

"Intended to facilitate day-to-day movement." This legislation should be isolated to day to day response to emergencies, unscheduled responses to address critical life safety incidents, and scheduled federal law enforcement activities critical to life safety and homeland security without a formal declaration of a state of emergency as requested by, or in support of, federal, state, and local authority.

Rebuttal:

All of these scenarios are covered by REPLICA. However, the National Advisory Panel and the Drafting Team recognized that other scenarios exist such as non-emergency interfacility transport, planned special events, and other situations that are neither emergencies nor critical life safety incidents for

which it is no less important to assure that the EMS personnel are operating with a legally sound and formally executed means of recognition.

2. Assertion:

There is no definition of an appropriate authority. Additionally, it seems as if over time the commission may likely be able to pass rules and regulations that will impact states' rights.

Rebuttal:

Plain English terms or phrases are not defined in statute. In the opening paragraph of Section V note that "an appropriate authority" is followed by the phrase "as defined 130 in the rules of the Commission". Since the list of possible authorities is already to be long and varied, this level of detail (and the ongoing changes that are likely to need to be made) is more properly contained in rule. The rules of the Commission are the product of states choosing to share their authority and the concomitant details that properly should be outlined in rules. States preserve their sovereignty in a compact.

3. Assertion:

Replica states that it will "Enhance the states' ability to protect the public's health and safety, especially patient safety." However, it proposes no control over quality of providers, service or agency, and no measures that a providing agency is licensed or regulated in a remote state. The latter is especially important if the intent of this legislation is to perform day-to-day operations across state lines.

Rebuttal:

See the very last sentence of the legislation. Every state retains their authority to require organizations to obtain a license in order to function in the state. Also, REPLICA's construct does not presume that an individual is practicing in the state under the guise of their home state affiliation, but instead under the auspices of the remote site operation (e.g., wildland fire medical units, planned special event medical tents, etc.).

4. Assertion:

The commission is a "body politic." A body politic is a group of people that is politically organized under a single government authority. This sounds like congress. What is the single government authority for this agency to be organized under?

- Paul Patrick's additional comments:
 - o This is not new to Utah and the language will be written by legislative personnel and proper in its structure and form. The union in Utah has committed to remain silent and not oppose it in Utah. The IAFF that is opposing it is on the national level.
 - o Replica is for allowing EMS personnel to move from one state to another in the replica program to be able to move and enter that particular state, and come out with an active valid license. All states participating will be able to report on criminal activity to each state, so people cannot move from state to state to attempt to shop a license.
 - o It is all focused on the individual and not the agency. If Utah were to become a replica state, we would be able to be on the governing board.
 - o Paul's hope is that when this comes to the legislative process, the state chiefs will support the bill.

- This will also help with agencies sending units out of state on wildland fires as well as receiving personnel into our state.
- Dave Spatafore brought up some possible concerns that will be coming up in the next legislative process.
- License and certification are synonymous regarding Paramedics.
- Mobile integrated paramedicine is affecting the EMS community.
- Guy Dansie reported that they are still working on ebolus. They are preparing hospitals, looking for a model for future highly contagious diseases. They are currently working with Gold Cross so that they can use the special ambulance. They want to make sure that they get a quick heads up if there are any instances.
- There are two sets of rules regarding licensure with communities - designation for Dispatch and Quick Response Units and the designation for designated centers.
- Peer Review Board - The rules went out to public comment and ended last Monday. They will go into effect approximately next Monday.
- Grant funds are for per capita only - to have the funds be more even from year to year.

Legislative Report – Dave Spatafore reported on the following:

- There was a big win on Medicaid transports - Bill 172 passed - \$11,000,000. The model is being used to help with the Medicaid draw down.
- Going into 2016, REPLICA will have an affect dealing with professional licensing of EMT's and Paramedics. State licensure will be done away with. Reciprocity among states will be needed to be done. DOPL is the first place that they will start, and then they will go through other licenses.
- Retirement - prediction that some changes will be made in the 2016 legislative session. Retirement committee will be meeting next Thursday, September 24th, House 20, 1:00 pm. The request was made to fill out the questionnaire of what kind of changes to have made. It will be part of the discussion on the 24th.
- Recommendation of next 60 days to get with police chiefs, starting to develop data with recruitment and retention, get with Mayors and other members. The Utah Association of Leagues of Cities and Towns will be making the decision. Give as much feedback as possible to the working committee. As fire chiefs, we need to come up with the 3-4 highest recommendations. If public safety is together (fire & police), it will be a stronger stand of what is wanted.

Communications Report – Tom Kuhlmann reported on the following:

- There are changes in the communication structure - we have three representatives that sit on the board that are active participants. The results from the questionnaire will have an impact on what is decided.
- FirstNet is the nationwide communication source. It is critical to have accurate email addresses.
- Decisions will be made on this legislative session.

- Radio system changes were formed in the last legislature. A funding source needs to be found to finance the changes. It was stated that it needs to be a State program run by State tax dollars.
- Legislative was awarded \$17,000,000 - it is a critical part of the system.
- The process of 911 study and audit was discussed.
- Mike Thayer gave a PowerPoint presentation on Delta Works and the involvement of the original system set up. They want to continue on with that success.
- An overview of project - state of system today:
 - o 800 MHz been in place for 15 years.
 - o Motorola has discontinued & will no longer provide support in 2017 in maintaining the system.
 - o Over 205 towers, over 200 radio dispatch consoles, 6000-10,000 radios is the high end system.
 - o Expansion of system and procurement process.
 - o The supporting infrastructure is aging, towers need to be maintained.
- List of needs and requirements moving forward:
 - o First responder network and needs - how to get on and off network, still being able to communicate.
 - o Two terms - broadband is being used in a lot of different ways - confusion with the cellular providers - they view it as high capacity fiber.
 - o Two LMR (land mobile radio)
 - o Broadband - first net is 4G LTE technology - could be a replacement of LMR technology.
 - o Goal is to provide mission critical data communications.
- Challenges going forward:
 - o Public safety cellular - cannot talk off network with cell phones - no tower, no service, and no replacement in the immediate future because of lack of funds.
 - o Infrastructure at the sites is becoming obsolete.
 - o Want to offer choices going forward.
 - o Working to get all areas covered.
 - o Goal is to secure the funding for the system with no user fees.
 - o Need to get support from city officials to get with the legislation for funding - legislation needs to hear from the local officials.
 - o VHF system is getting old, 800 is getting old also. Need to convince legislatures to pay for it so that all agencies can be in the system (including small volunteer agencies).
- It was asked that they send the USCFA numbers when they get closer to what exact funds are going to be needed from legislature.

WFCA/ IAFC / Mutual Net Report - John Evans gave a report on the following:

- Mutual Aid Net is a resource deployment and tracking software and is the fire service - it is not going away and is not in conflict with web EOC.
- Utah uses Web EOC to track incidents and to assign/manage tasks.
- Developed by the IAFC (current funding assistance - IAFF).
- Three main areas for access: activation, administration, inquiry.
- There are screens showing how to request resources, the status of the request and its activation, the resource listing by types and a list of agencies.
- A full presentation will be given at the January meeting in conjunction with Winter Fire School.
- They need to have all agencies asset lists updated and NIMS typed.
- They will keep it with the fire service and are not in competition with IEOC.

- 70% of emergency management is run by the fire service in the US.
- Need to go back out and do the resource listing again.
- For mutual aid inside the state of Utah - easy way to get resources moving in about 2 hours.
- February 2016 will be a major release from the IEOC on how to utilize the system.
- Mutualaidnet.org is the sign in screen - call if you need to get your login information.
- Need to look at putting together more strike teams and resources.
- Once it is requested, resources should be on the road within 60 minutes.
- Get in touch with Coy Porter or John Evans for more info.

State Fire Marshal's Report - Coy Porter had the following handout available:

September 2015 State Chief's Meeting - State Fire Marshal's Office

1. Legislation coming in 2016:
 - a. Retirement issues, 2015 Fire Code Adoption, Fire Prevention Board modifications.
2. Forestry Fire and State lands will be introducing their final statute about Wildfire Policy. This will address what cities/towns and counties can do to participate in either cash or "in-kind" participation in reducing the risk of wildfire in order to have the State take on the funding for wildland suppression costs.
3. House Bill 288 Line-of-Duty Death Benefits for Peace Officers and Firefighters - by Representative Paul Ray was passed during the 2015 Legislature. The newly formed Trust Fund Board met on September 9th to try and establish the funding rate for participation. It will take another couple of meetings to have definitive numbers. Our poll of participating firefighters was 2,071.
4. Firefighter Restricted Account Grant (License Plate Grant) applications are posted at our web site. The application form has been emailed out by various groups including UFRA's Yahoo groups and county chief's members. Deadline for turning in your grant application in 12 October 2015. Limit of \$5,000 per department. Also, due to the needed purchase of new license plate stickers for the DMV, the total amount available for the grant this year will be about \$120,000 rather than the normal \$135,000.
5. The next meeting of the Utah Code Officials Legislative Affairs (COLA) group will be on September 23rd, 8:00 am at the State Capitol cafeteria in the Senate Building.
6. Legislative Retirement work group meeting at the State Capitol, September 24th at noon.

STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL

The main item is that the Council has completed its performance audit of the Utah Fire and Rescue Academy covering the areas of: Administration, Training, Logistics and Certification. The audit reports were presented to the Fire Prevention Board and were all positive in nature.

He also reported on the following:

- House Bill 288 - Line-of-Duty Death - includes fire.

- Spouses had no insurance and no way to procure insurance. A trust fund was put in place giving six months of ending pay and up front medical insurance premiums paid.
- June 20, 2017 to opt into the system. If you are not opted in, the community would have to pay the insurance premiums.
- There are a lot of questions:
 - o If everyone opted in, what would be the costs in the future?
 - o What would be the maximum number of people who could participate?
- Currently there are 2,071 career and full time participating in the fire side.
- License grant applications are available.
- Codes will be updated.
- Standards and Training just completed a performance audit at UFRA- they split up so that they are going through the performance so that they are meeting their actual agreements.
- Further modifications are proposed this year.

Utah Emergency Management Association (UEMA) - Will Lusk had a handout available - shown below:



Utah Emergency Management Association (UEMA) Emergency Management Activity Report Sept. 16, 2015

Prepared for the Utah State Fire Chief's Association Fall Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah
Submitted September 16, 2015 by Assistant Chief Will Lusk - Logan Fire Department

Chiefs:

Emergency Management Activity for 2015 and future activity:

National Level

- FEMA continues to encourage Emergency Management agencies around the country towards more fully becoming accredited through the national Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) standards. (Emergency Management agencies within the state of Utah have begun to align their programs to meet these guidelines. EMAP uses NFPA 1600 as general guidelines.
- FEMA has also continued to encourage "Whole community" involvement in jurisdictional emergency response plans. Many non-governmental organizations have now been invited around the planning table to give input into processes as well as join hands in response activities.

Utah Division of Emergency Management (UDEM)

- Sponsored the Annual Public Safety Summit in May 2015 in Layton Utah. Provided training and networking for state Public Safety Personnel.
- UDEM continues support and funnel through funding for the Homeland Security Planning Grants for the purpose of maintaining equipment and continued support of funding through that program for Hazardous Materials response, Technical Rescue response, Statewide Bomb teams, and general community disaster preparedness and response activities.
- UDEM continues to support and develop guidance of Type III incident management teams in each of the Homeland Security regions of the state.

- UDEM continues to send out on a weekly basis a statewide situation report to all state Emergency managers on disaster activity from around the state of Utah. This information is shared with city and county emergency management to help coordinate response activities.
- UDEM continues to coordinate both state and regional training classes and exercise events. The state wide Training & Exercise Planning Workshop will be held next month (OCT. 6, 2015 in Richfield Utah). No longer will fund free lodging for training classes.
- NEW Utah Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) Program. State certification for emergency managers (requirements are similar to International Association of Emergency Managers CEM program). Emergency managers who qualify for the Utah certification complete the same requirements as that required by the international association.
- Governor Herbert has signed a monthly Executive Order to expedite the declaration process for wildfires.

Utah Emergency Management Association (UEMA) Activities

- Sponsored the annual UEMA conference in January 6-8, 2015 at the Viridian conference facility in West Valley Utah. EMA has experienced increased membership and Conference Attendance. Training was provided to over 190 participants in topics such as: CEM/AEM certification assistance, lessons Learned from the OSO Washington Landslide, Social media in Emergency management, Leadership tools, whole community involvement in planning, Emerging trends and the future of Emergency management.
- UEMA encourages and assists in the accreditation process of local Emergency Managers for the International Emergency Management Association's Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) Certification, as well as FEMA's Professional Development Series. Awards for recent graduates of the two programs will be awarded next month at the State City / County Directors conference in Richfield Utah.
- Partnering with UDEM to reimburse individuals/or agencies who obtain the AEM/CEM certification. Reimbursement grant application was accepted and program was initiated at the UEMA Conference last January. Also partnering with UDEM to reimburse IAEM conference registration for UEMA members who wish to go to IAEM conferences, (This year's conference is in Las Vegas Nevada on November 15th-19th).
- UEMA continues monthly training webinars and newsletters, and upgrades the association's website to keep local emergency managers more aware of emerging trends, disaster response actions, and provides other archived emergency response planning helps and guidance.

Other news of Note

- Utah public works Association (UPWA), and Water / Wastewater association response network (WARN) have both established statewide mutual aid agreements in their industries and are working on identifying resource management software systems.
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation plans developed by state and AOGs are being brought before City and County Councils for adoption. Locals need to adopt these plans so that post Disaster Public Assistance funds can be given to the jurisdiction by FEMA.

UEMA Goals & Priorities for 2016

- Annual UEMA Conference in January 12-13 2016 not on the same dates as Winter State Chief's meeting.
- Continue to encourage state emergency management personnel to pursue the Utah Certified Emergency Manager certification and International CEM certifications.

- Continued coordination and support with UDEM on training and national accreditation of local Emergency managers and their associated programs. (EMAP and CEM certifications)
- Continued development and support of Type III incident management teams in various regions of the state.
- Continued certification, outreach help & training for local Emergency Managers through conferences, regional workshops, monthly webinars, newsletters and hands-on training activities.
- Encouraging attendance at the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) annual conference.

Will Lusk also reported on the following:

- They did adopt an Emergency Manager program that went into effect beginning of 2015.
- The Homeland Security Grant was funded about the same as last year.
- Meetings October 6-7 in Richfield - need to be in attendance in order to get reimbursements from public assistance funds.
- Predisaster mitigation plans are being submitted back to counties and cities to be adopted. Plans adopted in 2009 are now due. Regional plans need to be updated and passed through cities and counties.
- November 15-19 - International Associations Convention - reimbursement grants are available. Will pay for registration - no lodging & food.

Fire Marshal's Association of Utah Report -Brandon Thueson reported on the following:

- Legislation that goes through affects the safety of the firefighters. Membership is up 140 members in the association - quite active group. Thanks was given to Chief Scott Adams after 12 years as serving of the as the chairman of the Code Committee. Ryan Miller is the new chairman.
- 2015 IFC Update classes are being held today and tomorrow - 92 enrolled today, over 100 tomorrow. Next class will be held January 4-6 at the Abby Inn in St. George.
- Hoping that 2015 codes will be adopted - not a lot of changes, more clarification.
- Watching House Bill 285 - has potential to have a great impact on the fire service.
- Revamping website - forum to exchange code information among the group.

NFPA / ICC Report - Scott Adams presented the International Code Council Update. The information is listed below.

International Code Council Update – September 16, 2015

Follow @ICC_GR on Twitter for breaking GR news throughout the month!

2015 ICC Annual Conference Starts This Month!

The 2015 ICC Annual Conference and Group A Public Comment Hearings, September 27 - October 7 in Long Beach, California, is approaching quickly and it's time to register. Take advantage of the quick and easy registration process and receive your email confirmation the same day! Click here to get started: <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/124399>

Check Out the Government Relations Forum at the Annual Conference

This year's ICC Government Relations Forum features an all-star lineup of speakers and topics, with Columbia University professor Jesse Keenan discussing resilience in the built environment, a panel discussion on how to build effective coalitions, Mark Menzer of Danfoss giving an update on HVAC refrigerants, and the *tour de force* of the High School Technical Training Program himself, Jim Ellwood,

providing the latest info on reaching the next generation of code officials. The full agenda is attached as a PDF, but don't miss a minute of it starting at **8 AM on Tuesday, September 29** in Room 201!

Quick Facts about the New Membership/Certification Wallet Cards

- You will no longer need to carry multiple cards because the new ICC card will be all you need to demonstrate your Membership and certifications.
- Each card will have a QR (quick response) code and website address that can be scanned or entered to reach your personal page.
- Your page will show current certifications held, along with expiration date, and the status of your ICC Membership.
- To personalize your new ICC wallet card, submit a photo by emailing walletcardphoto@iccsafe.org or going to verify.iccsafe.org and enter your certification or Member number, or email address, and upload a photo directly from your personal page.
- Wallet cards with submitted photos will be sent out first, so send in your photo as soon as possible to be one of the first to receive your new card.
- Every current ICC certification holder and/or ICC Member will receive a new wallet card; you do not have to request one.
- Cards will be sent in batches from April through the fall of 2015.
- For more information, contact Certification and Testing at certexam@iccsafe.org or at 1-888-422-7233, ext. 5524.

New FLASH Paper Calls for Building Code Innovation Post-Katrina

FLASH today released its latest commentary paper, *Disaster Resilience Rising Means the Time is Right*, offering bold recommendations to strengthen the U.S. building code system by putting innovative disaster resilience policies into place ahead of the next disaster. The commentary cites the pattern of disaster-impacted communities pledging to "Build Back Better", but missing out on pre-disaster opportunities to embrace the most fundamental element of disaster resilience—updating, adopting, and enforcing strong building codes. Read the full commentary here:

<http://www.flash.org/disasterresiliencerising.pdf>

IBHS Analyzes Roofing Regulations Post-Katrina: 10 Years Later

During the decade since Hurricane Katrina, many things have changed along the Gulf Coast including enactment of stronger building codes, standards and requirements in a number of areas. The Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) has examined changes specific to roofing requirements during the last ten years in these communities. IBHS researchers evaluated and analyzed several key aspects of roofing regulations, such as building codes, contractor licensing, permits and inspections. Click here to read the full report: <https://www.disastersafety.org/wp-content/uploads/IBHS-Katrina-Roofing-Study-2015.pdf>

Spots Still Left for the 1st Annual Ron Burton Golf Outing!

In celebration of the life and work of William Ronald "Ron" Burton, a renowned code expert who worked on many code-related projects for ICC, BOMA and NAHB, this 1st Annual Ron Burton Golf Outing is a fundraising effort developed by the Past Presiding Officers to develop training and resources for the next generation of code officials. It offers a great opportunity to get together with fellow code professionals during a shotgun start golf tournament to be held on Sept. 27, 2015, at the Recreation Park 18 Golf Course.

The tournament will be a shotgun-start on one of Long Beach's best golf courses. The tourney will include a 50/50 drawing; prizes for the longest drive and closest to the pin; a hole-in-one contest (with a chance to win a Mazda 6); and gifts for all participants. Transportation, breakfast and lunch will be provided. Click here for registration: http://media.iccsafe.org/2015_MarComm/15-10614_Long_Beach_Site/docs/15-11069_Sign-Up_Form.PDF

Earn Your Certification on the 2015 I-Codes

Register now for the International Code Council's National Certification exams based on the 2015 I-Codes®. Computer-based and paper-and-pencil testing are available at more than 350 sites nationwide. Remember, ICC Certifications are an asset to your career – just look at what James Southerland, owner of A&D Inspections, had to say: “I received the ICC Commercial Energy Inspector Certification last fall and it has more than paid for itself already. My name is out there and I'm getting contacted with work.” Demonstrate your commitment to public safety in the built environment by pursuing certification in the 2015 I-Codes®. Register now at this site: <http://go.iccsafe.org/e/25182/tional-exam-info-registration-/2lxm3s/748549503>

Also, Exam administrations on the 2009 I-Codes will only be held once more this year, on December 12. Register now for this final upcoming exam administration – the deadline is October 31, but don't delay and save your seat!

For Additional Information Please Contact:

Assistant Fire Chief – Scott W. Adams – Park City Fire District
Email: sadams@pcfd.org
Telephone: (435) 901-2891

Dave Nichols - Senior Regional Manager - Government Relations
International Code Council - Arizona GR Field Office
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Cell: (480) 241-1235

The follow are additional updates:

- A new strategic plan has been initiated and is almost finished. It will provide tools to help first responders do their jobs more effectively. The vision has been changed to be the
- Everyone can participate on the new projects.
- There is anew Facebook forum for an NFPA exchange - nfpa.org/xchange
- There is a fire sprinkler trailer demo.
- There will be a Sprinkler Summit - exchange of ideas on how to promote fire sprinklers in the communities with a field outreach - 2 specialists, 2 electrical.
- Please fill out the survey that went out yesterday for the US Needs Assessment. It will help secure grant funds in the future.

The following items were discussed:

- Codes and Standards - House bill 285. Only able to change the codes every 9 years.
- NFPA 1917 - Ambulance Fire Standard - Safety standard. Have processed over 215 revisions.

- NFPA 1730 - Deployment Standard - Staffing and how to determine appropriate staffing. This is being done through community risk assessment and programs. It is growing with fire operations.
- NFPA 1300 - This will be one to watch.
- Balance security and life - safety needs with schools - NFPA.org/schoolsafety.
- Resiliency Policy Report on the NFPA website - a big subject on Capital Hill.
- There are enforcers on any technical committees, funding will be paid for 80% of expenses to participate. Go to Nfpa.org/technical committees and click on apply.
- Ability to search for any NFPA - an example - nfpa.org/1300
- Emergency Response Committee - asking for research to better understand (the Regional Fire Code Committees have been deleted)
- Wildland is doing well. Grant money was available for Wildland Preparedness Day (to set up an event). Information is available on the website for that. Firewise needs promoted.
- A lot of research is going on - a request was made to participate with that.
- Smart firefighting is being done on research. Go to nfpa.org/Smartfirefighting.
- Ways to address different types of vehicles - evsafetytraining.org - safety training for any vehicle training that it is wanted.

Utah Fire and Life Safety Educator Association / Burn Trailer - Dean Hunt reported that due to the rain, the burn trailer demonstration will be postponed until tomorrow. The sprinkler trailer is out - register on the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition. It is available for anyone to use in the state. You must tow with your own vehicle and a three quarter ton truck. Tearing down and resheetrocking the room takes about one hour. There is a possibility of doing two burns in one evening. In order use the trailer, the agency needs to sign up to be a Built for Life Fire Department by going to the following website: <http://www.homefiresprinkler.org/index.php/residential-fire-sprinkler-programs>. The Sprinkler Coalition meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Living Planet Aquarium.

Division of Forestry - Tracy Dunford reported the following:

- State - 769 wildland fires with 27,800 acres burned (well below average) - ½ was human caused.
- Nationally - Hard PL5 (highest on the scale). There has never been this much fire nationally. Ran out of crews, aircraft, overhead teams. It is winding down now. A lot of crews were able to go out of state and get a lot of training and good experience, being brought back here to Utah.
- Proactive approaches are being made to manage fires now - getting out in front of it (suppression was how it was handled in the past). There is a comprehensive change to the policy and how fires are being paid for.
- Each region has a work group and concentrates on prioritizing issues.
- Currently working on state-wide fire risk assessment to target what are the state priorities with a proactive approach. They are still working on the fire suppression side also.

Old Business

Officer Designation Project - Steve Lutz reported that the Supervisory Fire Officer designations have a formal education side and formal training. It is demonstrated through portfolio and performance. The following are offered: Managing Fire Officer, Administrative Fire Officer, and one other fire officer. The program follows the holistic approach to becoming an officer. The link is on the UFRA homepage on the bottom of the announcements.

State Medicare, Medicaid Program - Mike Mathieu reported on the following regarding changes to ground ambulance Medicaid reimbursement:

- The assessment is on ground ambulance providers.
- Transports are only ground ambulance transports.
- There is a uniform assessment fee on ambulance providers.
- Utah Medicaid is to collect the assessment.
- Utah Medicaid may impose a penalty if the assessment is not paid.
- What is a Provider Assessment?
 - o Provider Assessments make it possible for providers to supply needed State matching funds to enhance reimbursements.
 - o The Assessment must:
 - Be broad based (i.e., the tax must be imposed on all health care items, services, and providers in the class in the taxed jurisdiction, including all non-Federal, non-public providers);
 - Be uniformly imposed throughout the taxed jurisdiction (i.e., essentially, the tax must be the same amount for every provider in the class); AND
 - Not hold any taxpayer harmless (i.e., essentially, a taxpayer is held harmless if the State offsets, reduces, or waives the tax such as by providing the taxpayer payments tied to the tax).
 - See 42 CRF 433, Subpart B for more specifics.
- Provides administration of funds collected through assessment.
- Effective Date: July 1, 2015
- Medicaid Ambulance Provider Assessment
- Non-Federal Portion - Non-Federal share to seed amounts to support fee-for-service ambulance provider rates. (State match)
- Match Rate set annually according to Federal Year (October 1 - September 30)
- Total Transports: Total number of ambulance transports in applicable calendar year.
- Assessment: Paid quarterly as determined by Division Rule.
- Assessment due 15 business days after invoice issue date.
- Assessment funds deposited into service provider Expendable Revenue Fund.
- Calculation of Assessment
 - o Division shall calculate Uniform Assessment.
 - o Assessment - Non-Federal Portion / Total Transports (Entire State) x Number of Annual Transports by Provider.
 - o Division shall apply quarterly changes to "Assessment Rate" to all ambulance providers.
 - o Assessment may not generate more than \$20,000 to offset Medicaid administrative expense AND
 - o The Non-Federal portion
- Calculation of Total Transports:
 - o Fiscal 2016 = Calendar Year 2014 Transports
 - o Fiscal 2017 - Calendar Year 2015 Transports
 - o Division will use Calendar Year Transports ending 18 months before end of Fiscal Year.
- Medicaid Ambulance Provider Rates: Fee-For-Service Rates effective for services rendered on or after July 1, 2015 will be enhanced to the level CMS approves.
- Rates:
 - o Medicaid will reimburse Ambulance Provider an amount Up To EMS Ambulance Rates adopted annually by the Department.
 - o Providers should bill their "Usual and Customary Charges".

- DO NOT just increase charges to Medicaid.
 - Charges should be the same as to a private pay person.
- Penalties:
 - 5% of Quarterly Calculated Assessment.
 - Suspend all Medicaid payments to provider until quarterly assessment and fines are paid.
- Assessment Rate applied to:
 - Your Specific Total Annual Transports
 - Not Medicaid Only BUT ALL YOUR TRANSPORTS
 - Will be billed quarterly
 - Once the variables are known, then you should make your own, independent calculation to determine your breakeven point.
- First Quarter Assessment
 - Will be lower than the average quarter.
 - Claims Lag Average: 71 days
 - By 2nd and 3rd Quarter Average Assessments should have less variation.
- Fluctuations to Assessment:
 - Ratio of Medicaid Transports to Annual Total
 - Changes to Basic Ground Ambulance Rate
 - Changes to Federal Match Rate
 - Primary vs. Secondary Reimbursement
- Assessment is coming up in October. Can assessment payment be made on behalf of the entities that they bill for? Departments need to have a new line item to make the payment. Everyone should have a new line item to pay for the assessment that will be due in October.
- Revenue to Provider Fluctuations: Ratio of Medicaid Transports to your total.
- Four categories of Medicaid Reimbursement:
 - Claim Denied
 - Primary - \$696 (payment in full)
 - Secondary A0429BLS - \$68.39
 - Secondary A0427ALS - \$81.21
- What does Medicaid Need?
 - Key contacts from each provider: Provider name, provider's Medicaid ID, contact name, phone, address, email (repeat same for back-up contacts)
 - Medicaid Ambulance Assessment Key Contact:
 - Steven Jones
 - stjones@utah.gov
 - 801-538-6149
- Additional comments were made that the assessment is coming up in October. The question was raised as to whether or not assessment payments can be made on behalf of the entities that they bill for? Departments need to have a new line item to pay for the assessment that will be due in October.

Motion on Financial Contribution to Joint Council for Fire Caucus Luncheon – Chief Mike Mathieu stated that a motion was made by Chief Michael Jensen in the January 2015 meeting to donate a financial contribution to the Joint Council for the Fire Caucus Luncheon in the amount of \$1,000; motion seconded by Kevin Ward. Motion passed. That was supposed to be done in this meeting instead of that meeting. New motion was made to have the amount be \$2,000. Motion passed.

Action - Possible amending and / or ratification of annual dues for USFCA - The USFCA annual dues will not be amended. The reminder was given for everyone to pay them.

New Business

Coy Porter requested that everyone send him annually their updated list of wildland firefighters to have them covered for long term disability. If there is any staffing change, update him.

Wildland Cost Share - State of Utah, DNR - Jess Campbell reported on the following:

- A Bill was sponsored because crews were asked to leave before other resources had arrived. Land ownership should not be a tactical decision of how the scene is handled. The state will take over and assume all of the liability up front. Senate Bill 56 states that for every \$1 spent in fire prevention, \$10 is saved in fire suppression.
- The hope is to have perpetual funding. Everyone paying in the cost.
- New approach is prevention, looking at what you currently have and where you can go.
- State is saying to not stop suppression based off of who owns the property - please continue suppression.
- Needed: Trained and certified firefighters, equipment inspected and reviewed, and cooperative agenc
- Looking for perpetual funding from year to year - funds are to be used in prevention.
- Local match is matching - not dollars but actions.
- The State is not looking for any funding for the process. They will be looking for amount of risk. Match can show on what has been purchased, what training has been done, what is being done with the community - that is the match that the state wants to see.
 1. Goal is to become a fire adaptive community with refinement by following the next steps: 1. Risk, 2. Services/needs, 3. Mitigation and assessment.
- Each community will need to adjust as the fluidity of how they are growing.
- The Insurance Fund will go away.

Matt Schneider (DNR) - Acting FMO - Matt Schneider provided the following handout and said that it is slated to move forward with the session of the legislation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE POLICY ADDRESSING UTAH'S CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE REDUCTION STRATEGY (CatFire)



Q: Why is this change being proposed?

A: The Utah State Legislature and Governor Herbert have both concurred in directing the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands to develop a Comprehensive Statewide Wildland Fire Prevention, Preparedness and Suppression Policy. In addition, state statute contains potentially conflicting direction; currently, there is no way for the State of Utah to assist municipal governments financially. The policy change will enable the State to include all jurisdictions. With trends in wildfire costs, the current practices are not sustainable.

Q: Is participation mandatory or compulsory?

A: Participation is not required. Local governments are encouraged to learn the potential benefits and decide if participation is right for them. The system is opt-in.

Q: What is the "Participation Match" (PM)?

A: The PM is a calculated dollar amount that each city, town or county is responsible for meeting in order to fulfill their responsibility and receive State coverage for the payment of catastrophic wildfires that occur within their boundaries.

Q: Does the city/county pay the PM to the State?

A: No. The State does not require any payment of the PM. Participating governments conduct *prevention, preparedness and mitigation* actions and track the eligible expenses and provide documentation to satisfy their PM amount.

Q: How is the Participation Match calculated?

A: Two factors are used to calculate the PM: 1) Historic Wildfire Cost Average over 10 years with the highest and lowest cost years discarded. 2) Actual wildfire risk based on a wide-ranging and inclusive analysis using the State's Risk Assessment Model.

Q: How can I reduce my Participation Match?

A: The types of activities you choose to carry out in satisfying your PM can actually cause your match amount to decline over time. As *prevention, preparedness and mitigation* work is done, your score in the Risk Assessment Model will go down and as your costs go down, your Historic Wildfire Cost Average will also decline.

Q: What are my city/town/county's responsibilities when it comes to wildfire suppression?

A: All participating local governments are required to conduct initial attack, suppressing wildfires as aggressively as possible. As wildland fire training and apparatus are enhanced, your percent of wildfires caught in initial attack will also go up. This will result in a decline in Historic Wildfire Cost Average. Once a wildfire has outpaced local capacity, the fire costs can be delegated to the State.

Q: Who pays for initial attack? Can it be counted toward a city/town/county's PM?

A: The city, town or county pays for its own initial attack along with its other emergency response costs. Initial attack costs cannot be counted toward PM. As part of participation, cities, towns and counties DO NOT PAY FOR ANY AIRCRAFT even if the aircraft is used in initial attack.

Q: When is a wildfire considered to be beyond "Initial Attack"?

A: There are 4 ways for a wildfire to transition into a delegation of financial responsibility to the State:

1. If the local government(s) decide to transition out of initial attack
2. If wildfire suppression resources are ordered through one of the Interagency Fire Centers
3. If a wildfire enters federally/state-managed land.
4. At the discretion of the State Forester

Q: How does this impact my city/town/county's ability to participate in decision making during a wildfire?

A: Unified command will be established and local governments will be a valued partner in deciding objectives and strategies for wildfire suppression even after a delegation of financial authority has been executed.

Q: Once participation begins, can a city/town/county discontinue participation?

A: A participating government agency can discontinue participation at the conclusion of the current agreement year.

Q: How is this policy change going to affect my city/town/county's wildfire costs?

A: If the right type of work is done to satisfy the local government's PM, wildfire risk WILL go down. With public cooperation, fewer human-caused wildfires will occur and initial attack will be more effective. These two results drive down risk which (all other factors remaining equal) will in turn cause the Risk Assessment calculation to decrease.

Additional questions can be directed to: 801-538-5555

Proposal for amending Articles III and X of Utah State Fire Chiefs Association By-laws. The following recommendations were made but will not be voted on until the meeting in January:

Proposal for amending Articles III and X of Utah State Fire Chiefs Association By-laws:

- a. Discussion:** To create 3 year term for Sec. / Treasurer from 2 year term.
 - 1.** To allow for 1 year transition from old to new.
- b. Discussion:** To move 2nd Vice-President Election from even numbered to PRN; 2 yr. term. Movement of the remaining officers would conform to Section III in Article III; Vacancies and Resignations. (This would allow for filling of the vacancies sooner.)
- c. Discussion:** To allow for the outgoing President to become the USFCA Western Chiefs representative, a 2 year term and will be appointed by the Executive Committee should the outgoing President not wish to represent the association.
- d. Discussion:** To amend Article X Section I; eliminating verbiage: "No amendment shall be adopted at the time of presentation, but shall be held over until the next regular meeting at which time it shall be voted upon."

Nominations and Election of 2nd Vice President (2 year term) - Nominations were held for the position of 2nd Vice President. Mark McElreatch (West Jordan's Chief) was voted in.

Nominations and Election of Secretary/Treasurer (2 year term) - Nominations were held for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Jess Campbell was voted to maintain the position.

Great appreciation is given to Gil Rodriguez for all of the work that he did serving as President. Ron Morris will become the new Utah State Fire Chiefs Association President for a 2 year term; Chief Mark Beecraft will become the new 1st Vice President for a 2 year term.

Swearing in of New Officers - The following were sworn in as new Officers:

- President - Ron Morris
- 1st Vice President - Mark Beecraft
- 2nd Vice President - Mark McElreatch
- Secretary - Jess Campbell

Western Chiefs Appointment - Appreciation was given to Chief John Evans for the job well done with the Western Chiefs. The new Western Chiefs appointment will be Ron Morris.

Good of the Order

- Winter State Chiefs Meeting - January 6, 2016 at 0900 at the Garden Hilton, 1731 South Convention Center Drive, St. George, Utah
- Leadership Training - January 7, 2016 - 0900 - 1500 (lunch provided) in St. George
- Winter Fire School - January 8-9, 2016 in St. George
- Next Fall Meeting - scheduled for September 14, 2016 (location TBD)

Adjournment