

UTAH STATE FIRE PREVENTION BOARD  
JULY 9, 2019 MEETING MINUTES  
APPROVED

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Vincent A. Newberg, Board Chair  
Craig Humphreys, Vice Chair  
Brian Cottam  
Jared Larson  
Eric Miller  
David Olsen  
Mike Phillips

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Frank Park  
Jason Poulsen

STAFF PRESENT

Coy Porter, State Fire Marshal  
Ted Black, Chief Deputy Fire Marshal  
Lynda Viti, Assistant Attorney General  
Jana DeMille, Board Secretary

OTHERS

Members of the public and the fire service were in attendance at this meeting. The attendance log is kept with the full record of the meeting.

1. Board meeting called to order by Board Chair Vincent Newberg. The meeting started at 8:35 A.M., at the South Salt Lake City Hall, Council Chambers.
2. Approval of meeting minutes from January 8, 2019 and May 14, 2019. Board Member Eric Miller made motion to approve both meeting's minutes. Board Members Cottam and Humphreys seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. Report to the Board by Utah Fire Service Certification Council, Chief Scott Spencer, Chair.
  - Pro Board did a site visit to look at our accreditation through our testing and written skills to see if we are meeting requirements for NFPA standards. This was a 2-day visit and it went very well.
  - The Council approved the HazMat standards, Awareness, Operations, and Technician. We anticipate testing at those levels in mid-August.
  - Recently held the annual Tester/Instructor Seminar. We go throughout the State and have all the instructors and testers get together for updates and training. It was a successful turnout with 206 attendees.
4. Report to the Board by Hazardous Materials Advisory Council. Chief Deputy Black advised the Board there is a new Chairperson for this Council. Unfortunately he was not notified to attend the Fire Prevention Board meeting. He will be up-to-day for the next meeting.
5. Report from Fire Service Standards & Training Council by Robert DeKorver, Chair. The Council has not met since the last Fire Prevention Board Meeting. The next Council meeting is September 4, 2019 at the State Fire Marshal's Office.
6. Report from Fire Marshal Porter.
  - UFRA Budget – The contract is waiting to be signed by UVU and then DPS Commissioner Anderson. It is for the same budget amount as last year. Funding did go in to the restricted account that allowed us to complete last year's contract without a negative balance. Efforts are under way to seek a permanent remedy for ongoing funding in the future.

- Hazardous Materials Response Training – In an effort to help alleviate some of the financial burden UFRA has, the HazMat Section of the State Fire Marshal’s Office will, on a temporary basis, provide some additional training for HazMat Awareness and some of the operations courses. This has been coordinated with UFRA staff.
  - Staffing Changes at the State Fire Marshal’s Office - Richard Gee, Plans Examiner, retired at the end of June. He served with the office for about 20 years after retiring from SLC Fire. Shane Cook has been hired to fill that position as a Fire Protection Engineer. He will be responsible for preliminary plan reviews, with focus on fire department access, water supply, etc. He has an extensive history in construction and has worked with the SL County plan review department over the last few years. Another change was adding a supervisory position for the Plans Review Section. Deanne Mousley is now the Plans Review Section Manager.
7. Report to the Board by Fire Marshal Coy Porter on vacant and expired Fire Prevention Board Positions.
- The Greater Salt Lake Valley Chiefs Association and also the Salt Lake Valley Alliance Chiefs have presented nominees for a Fire Executive representing counties of the first class. The nominees have been contacted and requested to complete the online application. We have also contacted 3 individuals representing counties of the third-sixth class and have requested they complete the application process. We are also working toward the replacement of Mr. Newberg and Mr. Miller who have both served 8 years. Chair Newberg and Mr. Miller have been asked to serve until new appointments are made by the Governor’s office. They have agreed to do so. There are also five Board positions that have completed or will soon complete their first 4-year term. Those five members are willing to serve a second term and their names will also be put forward to the Governor’s office.
8. Report to the Board by Utah State Fire Marshal, Coy Porter, concerning the fireworks and the wildland fire season.
- Utah participates in the National Fire Incident Reporting System and with that we provide the statistics to the U.S. Fire Administration. The local agencies submit their reports to us monthly, so as of right now we do not have hard numbers for July as that information is still being gathered. However, we briefly checked with some larger fire departments and found that there was a lower number of responses for the 4<sup>th</sup> compared to other years. The cooler weather this year was helpful. About 75% of fireworks sales happen around the 4<sup>th</sup>, with 25% occurring around the 24<sup>th</sup>. It is expected that weather conditions will be worse for the 24<sup>th</sup>. We have also put out a Public Service Announcement dealing with fireworks. We compliment the citizens of Utah for being, for the most part, very responsible in their fireworks use, and we continue to encourage them to follow manufacturer’s instructions, etc.
  - Brian Cottam, Board Member and State Forester was invited to comment on this subject. He observed it has been slower this year, certainly compared to last year. The number of wildland responses, current as of yesterday morning (July 8), is 279. Of those, 230 were human caused (about 80%). This is what is expected this early in the season. By the end of the season, it will likely be a 50/50 split between human and natural causes. He noted that the vast majority of fires on state and private lands are human caused. This isn’t a surprise as these areas are where humans are. Prevention is becoming an increasingly important part of what our agency does. Also, one-third of the total fires happened in the first 7 days of July. This indicates that conditions have changed dramatically in the past 10 days or so, and things will get worse over the next few weeks. About 4700 total acres have burned to this point and about 2600 of those are from human-caused fires. The largest fire burning in the State right now is the Skull Flat Fire in Beaver Canyon. It was lightning-caused and is on Forest Service land. Total suppression costs across the State to this point are estimated at \$750,000, including all agencies. Last year’s Dollar Ridge fire was probably \$20-30 million in suppression costs. So far this year, we have had 1 reported structure lost, no homes lost, and, most importantly, only a couple of minor injuries have been reported. The response from all wildland firefighters across the State has been outstanding.
9. Presentation to the Board by Board Chair Vince Newberg, proposing the Board send a letter to the State Legislature asking they take the necessary steps to ensure the ongoing and secure funding of the Utah Fire and Rescue Academy.

- During the last Board Meeting, the plight of UFRA and the instability associated with the contract was brought forward and the Board was compelled to take action. As such, there was very good participation and support from Board members working on this issue. We determined to draft a letter to the State Legislature that we felt represented the interests of the State of Utah and the fire service that protects our citizens. A letter has been drafted and a copy given to each Board Member. (A copy of this letter is filed with the meeting minutes.)

A motion was made by Board Member Olsen to release this letter to the Utah State Legislature. The motion was seconded by Board Member Phillips. The motion passed with all board members present voting aye and no dissenting votes. Chair Newberg expressed his hope that this letter will compel the Legislature to take action and provide more stability in funding UFRA. He also expressed appreciation to UFRA for the extraordinary job they do in training Utah's fire service.

10. Old Business: None

11. New Business:

Director Brad Wardle

- Thanked the Board and State Fire Marshal Porter for their attention and work on the UFRA budget issue.
- Mr. Wardle provided a handout outlining a new initiative at UFRA (a copy is filed with the meeting minutes). This is a leadership initiative for the fire officers in the State of Utah. It has 4 components to it.
  - Rewriting Officer I curriculum.
  - Beginning the process of criteria for Officer 1 – 4 certifications. It will be offered based on NFPA 1021.
  - Volunteer Fire Chief training - developing a curriculum and a standard to certify to that level.
  - Developing a Fire Officer Leadership Academy that will be for all fire officers in the State of Utah. To accomplish this, we have assembled a task force of volunteer fire chiefs, professional fire chiefs, certification council members.

State Fire Marshal Coy Porter

- Recognized Mr. David Walsh from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget in the audience. He has been a long-term friend of the fire service. He and his staff are very aware of the UFRA budget situation and have worked diligently to ensure the GOMB is up to speed on these efforts.
- Mr. Walsh introduced himself to the Board and expressed his hope to resolve the UFRA budget situation.
- Chair Newberg and Board Member Miller were recognized for 8 years of dedicated service on the Fire Prevention Board. SFM Porter expressed appreciation to both and presented each with a plaque as a token of appreciation.
  - Chair Newberg expressed his pleasure at serving on the Board and expressed thanks to members for their active participation. He will miss this association.
  - Board Member Mill expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve on Board, make new friends, and see old friends. He too will miss this association.
- A copy of the 2018 International Fire Code was given to each Board Member. This code was adopted by Utah effective July 1, 2019. Attention was brought to the addition of yellow pages within the code book. The yellow pages have Utah's adopted amendments to the code. The amendments can be found on the State Fire Marshal's website and can be downloaded and printed. (<https://firemarshal.utah.gov/laws-rules/>)

12. Motion made by Vice Chair Humphreys to adjourn. Seconded by Board Member Miller. Meeting adjourned. Next Board Meeting will be September 10, 2019, at 8:30 am, South Salt Lake City Hall Council Chambers, 220 East Morris Avenue (2430 South), South Salt Lake City, Utah 84115.