



UTAH STATE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



Kevin Ward, Fire Chief, Layton City F.D., President
Bradley C. Wardle, Fire Chief, West Jordan F.D., 1st VP
Mike Mathieu, Fire Chief, Ogden City F.D., 2nd VP
Steve Foote, Fire Chief, South Salt Lake F.D., Past President
Frank Heumann, Asst Chief, Park City Fire District, Secretary/Treasurer
PO Box 980010, Park City, UT 84098 (435) 940-2502
www.utahfirechiefs.org

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 10, 2009
Sevier Valley Center, Richfield, Utah

Chief Mike Mathieu welcomed the 12 members in attendance and called the meeting to order.

Utah Air National Guard representatives Kim Watts, Executive Director Utah Committee, Chris Willden, Deputy Director Employer Outreach Utah Committee, and Stan Paulson, Military Outreach Coordinator, made a presentation on the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESRG), which is an agency of the Department of Defense. The ESRG seeks to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees. It does so by “recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflicts through mediation.” They inform and educate service members and their civilian employers regarding their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. Willden encouraged the chiefs to sign a Statement of Support for the Guard & Reserve and to display the statement in their organizations. More information on ESRG can be found at www.esgr.mil.

Chief Kevin Ward presented an update on the Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS) based on his attendance of the IMAS Stakeholders meeting in St. Charles, MO. Divided into the FEMA regions, the stakeholders discussed problems and resolutions, financial assistance, and how to make overall improvements. There is now an effort to enhance Interstate Mutual Aid agreements utilizing short-term management teams for quick responses. There is a need to do additional marketing of the IMAS in Utah and how to use the system, perhaps through instructional DVDs and brochures. It was noted that County Coordinators need to function better with Emergency Managers. Go-to-Meeting licensing has been purchased by the IAFC for state chiefs associations to use free of charge. The stakeholders meeting also suggested fixing some issues with the EMAC system, particularly the reimbursement component and credentialing. Finally, FEMA has the IRIS program, a live database resource tracking system, until 2010 after which a new program will be purchased through an IAFC grant and made available for state associations. The IRIS database will be importable to the new program.

Business Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Mike Mathieu delivered the President’s Report. The State Chiefs approached Representative Brad Dee to amend the current EMS grant legislation. The BEMS will also address restoring

the grant program to its former levels and to allow the BEMS Grants Committee to determine distribution of grants, including current ineligible agencies, based on their knowledge and experience.

The Health & Human Services Committee will meet June 17 to discuss HB 273 on ambulance licensing. The state chiefs need to be sensitive on how to represent the relationship of inter-facility transport revenues offsetting 911 operations. The League of Cities & Towns is also talking about taking a proactive approach to legislation next year to resolve potential conflicts regarding this topic. Dixie Hospital is applying for a transport license for ground service between their two campuses in St. George, and another license for transporting to and from the airport. If awarded, this could affect a state-wide position on private ambulance licensing.

Paul Patrick is seeking feedback on establishing a two-rate ground ambulance billing system: one would combine the current basic and intermediate services and another would be for paramedic services.

Frank Heumann distributed financial reports and a legislative summary table from the Joint Council website. He also distributed a Utah League of Cities & Towns retirement meeting summary developed by Coy Porter. (See Appendix)

John Evans had prepared a Western Fire Chiefs Association summary report that was distributed to the group. (See Appendix)

Ron Morris reported on HB 50 regarding license plates. Effective July 1, 2009, the firefighter plate renewal fee will require a \$15 donation to the Firefighter Support Restricted Account. If people feel that the annual donation is too steep, they will be allowed to revert back to a regular plate for \$15. Funds generated by the fee increase will be directed to the State Fire Marshal's Office to be used for the fire museum, scholarships, and training. Approximately 10,000 firefighter specialty plates are in circulation in the state, the largest number of all the specialty plates available.

Morris also reported on SB 211 BUILDING CODE AMENDMENTS, which changed the rule-making authority of the Fire Prevention Board to one of an advisory capacity.

The Utah Fire Marshal's Association Code Committee has been meeting twice per month to go through the fire codes in preparation for adoption of a new code edition next legislative session. September is the committee's deadline to compile changes. The residential fire sprinkler requirement in the proposed code is a big issue to the homebuilders association. Although the fire service knows that sprinklers are good for the public, the idea is still not politically palatable and will not be until the public is informed and organized to pressure legislators to make changes to the law.

Ryan Eckhardt reported on Standards and Training. There are currently two non-affiliated training centers: West Valley Fire Academy and Jordan Applied Technology Center. A third center will soon be approved: Bridgerland ATC. These centers must meet the same standards that UFRA must follow. The accreditation process takes about one year to complete.

Dean Hunt reported on the Utah Fire & Life Safety Education Association, which is putting together a display box of a sprinkler system to get out to all association members to use in communities. This new association received \$5,110 from the Fire Marshal's Association of Utah, money left over from USAFE. The association should have an Articles of Incorporation in place by July 18. It is also pursuing a resale license (an exemption from sales tax collection that can be diverted to a specific cause) to generate funds to purchase fire

alarms for the deaf. Alarms will be purchased at wholesale and sold to local fire departments at cost or a slight profit. Hunt mentioned the changes to NFPA 72 regarding the audible modification of smoke alarms from three “Beeps” to a “Woop, Woop.” Hunt described a potential statewide distribution of a new preschool curriculum. Finally, Hunt handed out an NFPA DVD entitled, A Recipe for Keeping Your Community Cooking Safely.

Brent Halladay reported that the State Fire Marshal’s Office is encouraging more training hours for the journeyman plumber certification process. He reminded the group that plumbers, like certified sprinkler installers, are allowed to install sprinklers but the plumbers may not have much training in their curriculum.

Kevin Ward reported on behalf of Dave Austin regarding the Wildland Report. Citing from an email report, “in the last general session, H.J.R. 21 Master Study Resolution was approved by legislators. Part of the wildland issues that were addressed in our attempts for a new bill this past session has been included in the Master Study. Master Study Resolution includes:

- Line 116 Fire Funding – to study wildland fire funding methodologies;
- Line 117 – Funding Fires with Premiums – to study whether to use the insurance premium tax to fund fires; and
- Line 125 – SITLA Fire Funding – to study fire funding by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration

Interim Session began on May 20th. The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee has been assigned the Wildland Fire Funding for consideration. I have not seen any activity or agenda on this subject from this committee yet.”

Ward also reported that Kevin Nalder moved to Kirkland, Washington to fill the Fire Chief position there, which vacated his assignment to report on the Local Assistance State Teams (LAST) Program for Line of Duty Deaths. Ward has someone in his department that can follow updates on this subject for the State Chiefs Association.

Under new business, Ward presented the need to have a representative from the association to interface with the Utah Emergency Management Association (UEMA) for improved dialogue. Kevin Ward made the **motion** to appoint Will Lusk, from Logan City Fire Department, for this purpose. A second to the motion was made by Ryan Eckhardt. The motion carried unanimously and the position will be added to future committee report agendas.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be September 9th at 9:00 a.m. at the Salt Lake City Sheraton, in conjunction with the League of Cities & Towns annual convention.