



UTAH STATE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



Bradley C. Wardle, Fire Chief, West Jordan F.D., President
Mike Mathieu, Fire Chief, Ogden City F.D., 1st VP
Jim Rampton, Fire Chief, South Davis Metro Fire Agency, 2nd VP
Kevin Ward, Fire Chief, Layton City F.D., Past President
Frank Heumann, Asst Chief, Park City Fire District, Secretary/Treasurer
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Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2009, Dixie Convention Center, St. George, Utah

A presentation on Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS) was made by Mike Warren. The goal was to have the Utah State Chiefs Association to adopt the current draft of the Utah Fire Service Intrastate Mutual Aid Plan and exercise the plan in May, in conjunction with the Governor's Public Safety Summit. Hard copies of the plan were made available as well as electronic copies on thumb drives. A summary was given regarding a meeting in Sandy with emergency managers that had voiced concerns about the plan. It was emphasized that this plan is strictly to move fire service resources throughout the state, not to manage incidents or other resources. A **motion** was made by Ryan Eckhardt, and seconded by Rand Andrus, to adopt the current draft of the plan. It was suggested during the discussion to exercise the plan annually before the busy wildland response season. The motion passed with one dissenting vote registered.

Crosby Grindle from the Western Fire Chiefs Association presented updates on services provided by the Western: i.e., Daily Dispatch, GPO, Fire Service Bookstore, Fire Service Library, Speaker's Bureau, Interim Chief Program, and Take 5 for Safety. He also presented updates on legislative efforts regarding Fire-Safe Cigarettes and Novelty Lighters.

Mike Melton, Southeast Region Fire Management Officer of State Forestry, Fire & State Lands, presented information on the five 2009 Utah Wildland Engine Training classes available throughout the state. They can be found at www.utahfireinfo.gov.

Business Meeting

The last business meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

A **motion** was made by Gil Rodriguez, and seconded by Gerald Schiefer, to donate \$500 to the Utah Fire Caucus to support the annual legislative luncheon. The motion passed.

Frank Heumann presented the association's financial statements. He also gave an update on the upcoming Fire Caucus luncheon and on the current legislative bills that the Joint Council was following.

Mike Mathieu presented a brief EMS report and turned the time over to Paul Patrick who gave a detailed update on the status of EMS grants and their potential cuts by the legislature. He also gave an update on rate adjustments and changes to allow providers to bill for supplies used on scene and for the administration thereof. The BEMS will be holding a meeting on January 20 to discuss a rate change retroactive to January 1, 2009. The "non-transport fee" will be eliminated and the mileage rate will change slightly.

Ron Morris stated that the new firefighter license plate fees will be \$15. The revenue will help the Fire Museum and other fire programs in the state. He stated that \$200,000 had been cut out of the state haz-mat program. The budget for the office and restricted account monies will be a hot topic this legislative session. Finally, Ron stated that fire departments should anticipate an increase in intentionally set fires due to economic conditions.

Dave Berg gave a list of new board members on the Fire Marshal's Association of Utah. They will be holding their meeting this afternoon.

Scott Adams reported that he had already emailed his ICC/NFPA information out. The residential sprinkler topic will be a hotly debated issue. The League of Cities and Towns is looking at using the change as a bargaining tool for impact fees.

Dean Hunt reported that the Life Safety Education Section will be focused on helping fire departments with educating the public and elected officials on residential sprinklers.

Ryan Eckardt had nothing to report on Standards and Training.

Kevin Ward gave a Wildland Fire report on behalf of Dave Austin. A Statewide Task Force has worked with Senator Stowell to draft legislation to fund the wildfire suppression fund to accurately reflect the annual cost. Each year the Utah Forestry Fire & State Lands must go back to the legislature for additional funding. By using insurance premium increases in restricted accounts it is anticipated that enough funding would be achieved to cover suppression costs as well as mitigation and severity programs. The use of the funds would not affect firefighter pensions, UFRA, or the State Fire Marshal's Office funding. Additionally, cities would be allowed to participate. The cities' contribution to the program would be in the form of "in kind," based on the current budgets for wildland equipment, training, and response.

Kevin Nalder is at the National Fire Academy and will e-mail any updates on the Local Assistance State Team (LAST) regarding LODD help.

Scott W. Adams reported that the 2009 edition of the International Residential Code (IRC) requires fire sprinklers in all one and two family dwellings and town houses. He informed the Chiefs that this will be an uphill battle, because organizations such as the National Home Builders Association are starting campaigns against the adoption of this code and spreading false information about these sprinkler systems (when one sprinkler activates, they all activated, inflated costs, etc.) He encouraged the Chiefs to take more of an approach to inform the public about the advantages of residential fire sprinklers. Also, at this time, there is talk that legislation may be re-introduced to allow impact fees to purchase fire apparatus, like engines, if the State Chiefs did not oppose any legislation that would delete the requirement for residential fire sprinklers.

Ted Black explained that there is a proposal to modify the fire code to standardize one key, state wide to open the lock box for the keys used to recall elevators. At this time it is unclear who would have to pay for this retrofit, if approved.

Kevin Ward reported that the Utah Emergency Medical Services Association was being resurrected and being renamed "Utah Emergency Medical Services Directors Association." The purpose of the association will be to provide a united front on EMS issues (such as Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements) for all providers (fire departments, third party services, privates). State Chiefs members that are also members of this new organization will provide updates as issues arise. There will be a meeting on January 21 at BEMS to elect new board members and review bylaws.

Good of the Order

Mike Mathieu presented Past President Kevin Ward with a nifty jacket and a cheesy red sweater that will probably be passed onto the next departing President.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10th at 1:00 p.m. in Richfield, in conjunction with the 2009 Utah State Firemen's Association Convention.