



UTAH STATE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



Steve Foote, Fire Chief, South Salt Lake F.D., President
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June 19, 2007

Mr. Rusty Thomas
Fire Chief
Charleston Fire Department
46 ½ Wentworth Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Dear Chief Thomas,

On behalf of the Executive Board and the full membership of the Utah State Fire Chief's Association, I wish to express to you our most sincere condolences for the loss your department has just suffered. There are no words that can adequately convey to you how shocked and saddened the entire fire community is at this most difficult time. It goes without saying that our every thought and prayer is directed to you and your men and women as they must now lay your firefighters to rest.

There has been a tremendous outpouring of offers of assistance from the Utah Firefighting Community. I thought it important that you know that we, as Chief Officers, extend to you our sturdy support and gentle comfort. We will do all that we can to help your community heal from this most tragic loss of life.

In the coming days more will become known as to how you will honor those that paid the ultimate price so that others might live. I am certain that there will be representatives from Utah in attendance at the memorial to pay our respects. I am certain that the tribute that will be offered will be commensurate with the bravery and supreme sacrifice that was made by those incredible men and women of the Charleston Fire Department.

The work that is done each and every day by firefighters throughout the country is done so with an uncompromising commitment to the preservation of life and property. Unfortunately, this tragic event is a painful reminder of how truly dangerous this line of work can be. Our hearts are with all of those affected by this terrible loss. But we will, in the memory of those that have gone before us, continue on with the important work we have chosen to do.

Respectfully yours,

Steven F. Foote
President
Utah State Fire Chief's Association

Cc: Membership