



# UTAH STATE FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

May 3, 2023

Spring Business Meeting

## **In Attendance:**

Robert Barnett, Big Water Fire  
Jeff Bassett, Sandy  
Mark Becraft, North Davis  
Justin Benavides, Clinton  
Ted Black, State Fire Marshal  
Dominic Burchett, UFA  
Patrick Carlson, Utah County  
Britt Clark, Weber Fire  
Guy Dansie, BEMS  
Chris Dawson, South Jordan  
Peter Emery, Park City  
Matt Evans, Bluffdale  
Daniel Gallegos, HAFB  
Eddie Hales, Spanish Fork  
Rod Hammer, Cache County  
Brad Hannig, Logan  
Jeremy Headman, Provo  
Chris Jensen, Utah County  
Ryan Lessner, South Jordan  
Karl Lieb, SLC  
Dave Marsella, North Fork  
Mike Mathieu, Ogden  
Derek Maxfield, West Jordan  
Ryan McConaghie, Sandy  
Marc McElreath, UFRA  
Jim Miguel, Provo  
Chris Milne, SLC  
Joey Mittelman, Murray  
Benjamin Nielson, North Summit  
Kevin Nunn, North Tooele  
David Olsen, Clinton City  
Stephen Olson, Murray  
Mike Owens, Park City  
Mike Phillips, Cedar City  
Brett Pierson, Kanab  
Riley Pilgrim, UFA  
Dave powers, South Davis  
Jason Provost, Wasatch County  
Jon Ritchie, State Fire Marshal  
Gil Rodriquez, UFRA  
Clint Smith, Draper  
Wade Snyder, FFSL  
Greg Stewart, South Davis  
Dane Stone, South Davis  
Brandon Storey, South Ogden  
Paul Sullivan, Weber Fire  
Jared Taylor, Weber Fire  
Nate Thompson, Logan  
Rod Tomkinson, Logan  
Tyler Towser, North Summit  
Christopher Trevino, West Jordan  
Chris Unsworth, North Tooele  
Bart Vawdrey, Draper  
Kevin Ward, Layton  
Brad Wardle, UFRA  
Theron Williams, North Davis  
Bob Zanetti, Park City

**Thank You to Sponsor:** Siddons-Martin

## **Guests:**

Dave Spatafore  
Ashley Spatafore  
Melanie Squires, Responder Solutions  
Mary Nothum, Galleri Cancer Screening

## **Welcome – Clint Smith**

- The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.
- Introduction of Executive Committee & Guests
- Congratulations to both Chief Miquel and Guy Dansie on their upcoming retirement

## **Minutes Approval**

- January 18, 2023 Winter Business Meeting minutes

Joseph Mittelman motioned to approve the minutes from May 11, 2022

Craig Golden seconded the motion

All voted in favor, none opposed

## **Financial Report – Brad Hannig**

- Chief Hannig provided an update to finances for USFCA
  - The current balance is \$37,870
  - This balance has been reduced with the costs of the January leadership training and business meeting in St. George
  - Chief Hannig reminded members that the association relies on both sponsorship and membership dues

## **Board Elections**

- Jeremy Craft has moved to the Vice President role for Western Fire Chief's
- Due to this change, elections will take place this meeting
- Kevin Ward has become the Western Fire Chief representative
- Clint Smith has become President
- Riley Pilgrim, 1<sup>st</sup> VP
- Brad Hannig, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP
- This movement has resulted in an opening for the Secretary/Treasurer
- Daniel Gallegos, HAFB was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer
  - There were no further nominations
  - Ted Black moved to close nominations and move Daniel Gallegos over by acclimation of the body
  - Dave Olson seconded the motion
  - All voted in favor, none opposed
  - Daniel Gallegos accepted the position
- As a reminder, the Volunteer Fire Chief Liaisons is Brett Pierson
  - This position was implemented last year and helps increase the reach of the USFCA across the state

## **Western Fire Chief's Report – Kevin Ward**

- Kevin Ward provided an overview of the work WFC is doing
  - Looking for ways to enhance the job using the latest and greatest in model policies, technology, and innovation
  - Much work is taking place, currently mostly in WL fire policy, with a Legislative Committee
    - Driving legislation to help deal with fire problems throughout the country

- Working to develop model legislation
- PulsePoint is another aspect of focus that WFC hopes to enhance
- Encouraging diversity, quality, and inclusion in the Women in Fire Program
  - Chief Ward asked members to encourage their female FF's to get membership and access the great resources offered through this program
- Daily Dispatch
  - Encouraged members to sign up for this daily news source
- The WFC website offers various podcasts and leadership related information for members
- Reminder that August 15-18, 2023 is the IAFC Conference

### **Legislative Update**

- Dave Spatafore and Ashly Mirabella provided an update to legislation, information on what will happen before the next session, and what is needed to prepare
  - Ambulance Transports
    - The intent is to change the wording, but not provide medical services
    - This is in order for ambulance companies to receive medical payments for Medicaid through the Health Department
    - If interested in joining a workgroup, there is a need for a legislative workgroup
  - BEMS to DPS
    - The goal is to be a part of this from the beginning
    - Commissioner Anderson wants to get things up and running and will be attending next month's legislative meeting
    - EMS will go from Health Department to DPS, and they have until 7/1/24 for that change to occur
    - The intent is to ensure EMS is the top of the line, not just a bureau to be forgotten
  - Mental Health Services
    - Many of the smaller agencies are having difficulty with the provision of services to first responders, families, and retirees
    - This is only 1-time grant funding
    - The plan is to look at this holistically at possibly a state-run program that agencies pay into in order to receive services, state and locally funded
    - This may be a more effective way to provide and deliver services, helping to reach the goal of providing better services to all
    - There aren't enough professionals to support a program wherein each agency has their own
    - Will work to hopefully put something together for all agencies to participate in
  - HB145
    - Study on WL risk and mitigation
  - HB261 – WL Mitigation Account
    - Working to stay focused and coordinate with FFSL to keep moving forward on mitigation
    - This bill would put monies into a mitigation account
    - There are becoming more areas throughout Utah where insurance companies aren't wanting to insure homeowners and this is something to keep an eye on

- HB61 – School Safety
  - It has already been established how both public and private school safety plans are overseen
  - Making sure all the gaps are covered, will continue to watch this
- Annual Bomb Squad Funding
  - The equipment is outdated for 8 local bomb squads
  - As there is no state bomb squad, the reliance is on local squads
  - \$2.2M was received to update the equipment
  - The goal is to get more small funding until the equipment is replenished and then annual funding and training from the state
- SB21 2018
  - Addresses if PD or FF dies outside the line of duty after 20 years of employment, but not retired, the death benefit is only 37%
  - This was due to a technicality, the intent was to insure
  - The goal is to have this retroactive to January 1, 2023
  - The bill will pass, the only questions is retroactivity
- Legislative Committee
  - UFA hosts a meeting each month to discuss legislative direction for the fire service
  - If interested, please reach out

#### **Utah EMS Report – Guy Dansie**

- Move to Public Safety
  - Will be meeting with Commissioner Anderson to discuss staffing, positions, and internal challenges with the upcoming move to Public Safety
  - Also looking at data; it's use, sharing, and regulation
  - There is an opening on the EMS Committee for a representative
    - This is a governor appointed seat, but he considers recommendations from BEMS
    - This seat is for representation from a Class 3 or smaller
- Volunteer Insurance Fund
  - A good conversation took place in April about extending this out
  - Only 30 are enrolled, but funded for 180
  - Considering reducing the criteria to allow for more open-ended opportunities for volunteers in rural counties
- Rate Rules
  - This is in the queue for public comment
  - With the rate change, 9% base rate, 9% mileage, it sounds like significant revenue, but in actuality, only a 2% net revenue will be realized
- PEHP/BCBS
  - The discussion is to look at the average cost per patient rather than itemizing for each patient
  - The idea is to simplify billing, but not harm services and revenue
  - The discussion is ongoing

## UCA – Tina Mathieu, Acting Director

- Coverage is expanding, there are plans to build approximately 18 new sites in the coming 4-5 months
- P25 Update
  - Coverage testing will begin in the Southeast area and continue for 12 weeks
  - Testing will take place on over 100,000 cell sites
  - A fleet map is being prepared with a completion time of Feb/Mar 2024
    - Agencies can expect to be contacted in the coming weeks
    - Veenendaal is happy to come to your agency to help with maps to build the co-plugs and program radios
  - UCA can help with programming of the L3H radios if necessary
    - Will also program the Motorolas as UCA moves into your area for the transition
  - There is still some ARPA Funds available for L3H radios at 65% off until the end of June
- L3H has been installing interoperability gateways at PSAPS
  - This will bridge to the P25 system and temporary bridges
  - Most consoles have been installed at the PSAPS, only a small handful are pending
- SB212
  - Dave Spatafore stated that this bill is supposed to be non-controversial and easy
  - During the session, two new versions of the bill were released
    - The first version had UCA losing their independent status to fall under DPS
      - This would cause no opportunity to have that communication and independence
      - This would further distance UCA from local governments
    - The second version left UCA independent, but with governor appointed leadership
  - The bill is now back on track and there have been changes in administration at UCA
    - Local agencies should have input and not beholden to the state
  - UCA independence should be a priority and make sure to have a voice in the director process

## Communications Report – Mike Phillips

- Fleet Mapping
  - Chief Phillips discussed the advantages of community talk groups rather than each agency having their own and needing to switch channels all the time
  - This will help make great strides in interoperability
  - Region Channels can be used and programmed on the UCA system and available only in that region
  - The whole fleet map concept is talking within your area/region
  - This mapping is for regional groups who need to communicate initially, but will then expand beyond
  - There is the ability to program your own radios, there will be a certification class offered late summer

## **State Fire Marshal's Report – Ted Black**

- License Plate Grant Award
  - The notifications should be out by now
  - The grant close date will be changed to get away from the legislative session and moved to fall
  - Ted encourages all agencies to apply for the grant
- Fire Prevention Focus
  - Ted encourages all to make Fire Prevention a priority within your departments
  - The prevention program is directly responsible for less fire and loss
  - Make this division attractive to those within your departments, make it worth their time to work in Fire Prevention

## **UFRA Update – Brad Wardle**

- Operations Side – Marc McElreath
  - All the student registrations, consent forms, surveys, are all online now
  - The next step is a program called Resource1
- Hiring
  - Conducting hiring in targeted areas in the state where Fire 1 instructors are needed
  - Southern Utah is the initial focus, then moving to Northern and doing the same there
- Standard 103
  - Currently working on the curriculum
  - Expect the pilot program in July
  - The group who developed the standards is developing the curriculum
- Highrise Class
  - Pilot classes are being conducted to collect feedback for delivery at Winter Fire School
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> class was held last week, the next classes will be held in Lehi and Ogden
- Auto Extrication
  - UFRA has 3 sets of extrication equipment
  - One set will be rotated out of use each year, if anyone is interested in obtaining this equipment it will be available at a reduced cost
- Winter Fire School
  - January 18-20
- The new Fire School props are pending, and the old ones are being refurbished
- Anyone interested in IFSTA books, UFRA gets a discounted rate
- Training
  - Starting the National Fire Academy Classes
    - If interested in hosting, please reach out to Dennis Goudy
- Straight Tip will be going digital, there will no longer be a hard copy
  - Digital copies will be sent to each station and fire chief
  - This will save \$50,000 to apply to academy training programs
- Water mapping class offering hose line advancement
  - Train the Trainer, if interested, will take place April 17, 2023
  - General classes begin April 18, 2023
- Certification Division
  - Provided a brief overview of new and additional certification classes

- Moving from paper testing and grading to electronic
  - This will allow for no delay in notification if passing

### **WL Update – Riley Pilgrim**

- The Western Wildfire Committee and the IFC are working on legislation
  - Direct benefits may not be seen immediately, but there will be a trickle down
  - Collaboration continues on best practices
- Insurance Issues in the WL interface areas continue
  - Homeowners are facing the impacts and much work is being done on how to help
  - The message is we are doing as much as we can, but it is their responsibility
  - At the national level, the insurance issue is everywhere, and it is being looked at and tackled in creative ways
  - Western Wildfire Committee is putting a lot of effort and money into research with the hope to make some impact
- Credential Qualifications on Structural Side
  - A lot of work is being done on the national level
  - US Fire Administration and FEMA are working to create and provide information in Crosswalk, so we should be seeing some impacts from this soon
  - NWGC working on a bridge for the gap to work toward making the process easier, this is a big push as they are running low for qualified individuals once they get to Type 1 & 2
  - Working on a new process to develop complex teams and move away from Type 1 & 2
    - This in theory will open more doors for opportunities
    - Practice is different than concept, so will see how this works out
- EMAC Season
  - Trainings will take place both in-person and virtually
  - Some issues continue to tie up all reimbursements
- URS Legislative Issue
  - A brief survey will be sent to all Division A and B chiefs
  - They want to find out who is Division A/B and if any deaths have taken place
  - This will help legislators understand where these situations may have occurred and the challenges the families or departments have seen

### **Unfinished/New Business**

- FFSL Update and New Rate Discussion
  - Updated personnel changes in WUI
  - There is a vacant Deputy Director position
  - The Southwest FMO has been hired
- UCAC
  - Compiled a work group to address various issues
  - Looking at apparatus rates and have develop a process based on replacement intervals
  - Calculations have been used to develop hourly rates so replaceable after 15 assignments
  - Used some historic knowledge on costs for mileage rates



- Will be tracking mileage so will have an hourly and mileage rate documented
- Looking at true personnel costs
- Some adjustments have been made for more accuracy, using an 18-day average period that compensates for R&R and accounts for sick and backfill
- The same work was done for standard rates
- NFFF Golf Tournament
  - September 12, 2023
  - Glenmoor Golf Club
- Galleri Cancer Screening – Mary Nothum
- Responder Solutions – Melanie Squires
  - Melanie is a trauma therapist who can train peer support, teach skills and conduct assessments

## **Adjournment**

**Next Meeting:**  
USECA Fall Business Meeting  
Date & Location TBD