

MINUTES

Nevada State Board of Fire Services

January 14, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Location:

Nevada State Fire Marshal Division
107 Jacobsen Way, Carson City, Nevada
And Via TEAMS

Board Members Present:

Jayson Andrus (via TEAMS)
James Johnston (via TEAMS)
Jacob Lightfoot (via TEAMS)
Charles McCall
Stephen Neel (via TEAMS)
Brandon Potts (via TEAMS)
Chief Joe Rodriguez
Dave Ruben

Board Members Not Present:

Kacey KC
Thomas McCleister

Others Present:

Jesselyn De Luna, Deputy Attorney General (via TEAMS)
Connie Etchison, Executive Assistant, State Fire Marshal Division
Dennis Pinkerton, State Fire Marshal Division
Richard McKnight, State Fire Marshal Division
Alex Knaak, State Fire Marshal Division
Jenny Williamson, State Fire Marshal Division
Jennafer Jenkins, State Fire Marshal Division
Mike Heidemann, Nevada State Firefighters Association (via TEAMS)
Liz Mink, Central Lyon Fire
Kelli Baratti, Nevada Fire Chiefs Association

1. **CALL TO ORDER** (Non-Action Item.)
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chief Joe Rodriguez.
2. **VERIFICATION OF NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW**
(Non-Action Item)
Connie Etchison confirmed compliance with the Open Meeting Law

3. **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS; verification of quorum** (Non-Action Item)
Connie Etchison called roll. Eight (8) board members were present. A quorum was established. Introductions were made.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (Non-Action Item)
There were no public comments.
5. **ELECTION OF A STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES CHAIRPERSON.**
(Discussion/For Possible Action)
Chief Joe Rodriguez suggested Dave Ruben be considered for the new Chairperson. Charles McCall made a motion to approve Dave Ruben as the new Chairperson and Stephen Neel seconded the motion. Motion carried.
6. **APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2025, MEETING MINUTES** (Discussion/For Possible Action)
Charles McCall made a motion to approve the minutes. Stephen Neel seconded the motion. Motion carried.
7. **STATE FIRE MARSHAL ADVISORY REPORT** (Non-action item)
Chief Joe Rodriguez stated that he has traveled around the state on a state tour. Has been in Mesquite and Las Vegas area as well as the Elko area and has been talking to the sheriff's, the police chiefs and the fire chiefs. Will be traveling back down to the Las Vegas area the first week of February to talk with more chiefs and our sworn chiefs on the DPS side. We have sent our enhancements to the director's office and some of the things we are looking at bringing to the division are a Public Information Officer, another Investigator for Las Vegas and a Plans Examiner for Las Vegas. One of the big barriers we have working within the state is our classification of employees, including our training officers and fire inspectors. We are trying to re-classify these positions to be somewhat comparable (wage) with municipal agencies. I have implemented in-house for our inspectors and training officers to take home vehicles. Now our inspectors can leave their home and go straight to inspections. We are almost at a ceiling with increasing number of staff, and we have filled all the positions. We are looking to identify additional funding streams, such as occupational permits. The money we generate for Fiscal Year 25-26 is allocated for the 26-27 budget. He further stated that he encourages the board to go to Las Vegas and review our facility there and have input on a new location for the Las Vegas office. We are hoping to get more involved in a Youth Fire Cadet support program and have a visit scheduled with the Washoe County School District to review their ACT Fire Science Program. There is still a bit of time to discuss BDR's. Jennafer Jenkins stated that the current established budget for the Board of Fire Services is \$18,300.00 and approximately \$350.00 has been expended so there is money available for travel to/from meetings.
8. **STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION TRAINING ADVISORY REPORT** (Non-action item)

Dennis Pinkerton stated that he will be retiring as of January 30, 2026, and he was proud to state that Richard McKnight will be his replacement, and Rich would be giving today's advisory report. Rich stated that Dennis was the one who had the vision and forethought to create the NV Impact web-based data management system and that the Training Bureau now has the NV Impact app for both Apple and Android. It allows the basic user to look at their profile and transcript along with registering for classes. There was a 100% pass rate for the Fire Investigation class that was held November 2025. Live-fire training is scheduled for Pahrump Fire (February 10-12, 2026), Moapa Valley Fire (March 7, 2026), Elko Fire (March 20, 2026) and Ely/NSFA/FireShowsWest Expo April 17-18, 2026). During the Fiscal 2025 year tests were as follows: 1677 Written Tests administered with 1345 individuals passing, 195 Skills Tests administered with 100% pass rate, 354 HMA Written tests with 295 individuals passing, 291 HMO Written tests with 210 individuals passing, 42 HMA Skills tests with 100% pass rate and 39 HMO Skills test with 37 individuals passing. The Training Bureau is looking to host a FO-11 and FSI-1 and a possible Fire Inspector class in April/May 2026 in Carson City. The Training Bureau is looking to move forward on the Scantron/Eva Exam Program. Jayson Andrus thanked Dennis for everything. Stephen Neel inquired about how to download NV Impact and Rich stated that he would send him the link. Charles McCall inquired if there would still be a physical person watching people take the tests and Rich replied yes.

9. STATE FIRE MARSHAL DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION REGARDING LITHIUM BATTERIES (Non-Action Item)

Jenny Williamson gave a presentation on what a Lithium – Ion Battery is, how it works, failure modes, and who's at risk. There was discussion regarding viewpoints for standardized markings on electric vehicles, etc.

10. E-FIREX PRESENTATION – JESSE CORLETTO (Non-Action Item)

This presentation was cancelled and will be re-scheduled for another date.

11. NEVADA STATE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION ADVISORY REPORT (Non-Action Item)

Mike Heidemann stated that they are planning a conference symposium and the first one is going to be April 17-18, 2026, in Ely. They have been working with the OSHA re-write. Al Drake passed away and they are looking for letters of interest to replace Al in that spot. They are looking at doing a symposium in the fall and bring it to the other side of the state, maybe Beaty, Tonopah or Yerington.

12. NEVADA FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION ADVISORY REPORT (Non-action Item)

Kelli Baratti stated that Rich Harvey retired, and Billie Samuels has agreed to join the board. The Grant closes March 2nd and they were given \$399,000.00 last year and \$847,000.00 for this year. Each grant awarded is no more than \$75,000.00 for private property. Everybody seems really pleased with how things are going. They are working on the "Fire Chief 101 handbook. This is on the website so that people can look at it. This is the NFCA 60th Anniversary this year, so that will be the theme. SB376 was effective October 1, 2025, and SB170 will be effective July 1, 2026.

13. **BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES MEMBER DISCUSSION** (Non-Action Item)

Chief Joe Rodriguez gave his thanks to Jenny for her presentation and thanked Dennis for his service. Kelli Baratti mentioned that there is going to be a panel discussion at the Fire Adopted Nevada (FAN) Summit on February 23-24 and she will forward Chief Rodriguez the information. Dave Ruben suggested that there should be representatives from SFM in a wildfire working group panel. And about the energy storage systems, we would suggest reaching out to the PUC and having a meeting with them.

14. **FUTURE MEETINGS** (Discussion/For Possible Action)

The Board of Fire Services members discussed future dates for BOFS Meetings, and it was decided April 29, 2026 @ 1pm in Las Vegas, July 22, 2026 @ 1pm in Carson City and September 17, 2026 @ 1pm at FireShowsWest in Reno. The members anticipate having a special meeting in November/December 2026 to go over BDR's and Legislature issues. This meeting will not include advisory reports.

15. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (Non-Action Item)

There was no public comment

16. **ADJOURNMENT** (Discussion/For Possible Action.)

Stephen Neel made a motion to adjourn. Brandon Potts seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.