

MINUTES

Nevada State Board of Fire Services

October 3, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Location:

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

Board Members Present:

Jayson Andrus
James Johnston (via TEAMS)
Kacey KC (via TEAMS)
Stephen Neel (via TEAMS)
Brandon Potts (via TEAMS)
Chief Joe Rodriguez
Dave Ruben

Board Members Not Present:

Jacob Lightfoot
Charles McCall
Thomas McCleister

Others Present:

Jesselyn De Luna, Deputy Attorney General (via TEAMS)
Connie Etchison, Executive Assistant, State Fire Marshal Division
Sean Stratton, State Fire Marshal Division
Mike Heidemann, Nevada State Firefighters Association
Maria Gallo (via TEAMS)
Kelli Baratti, Nevada Fire Chiefs Association (via TEAMS)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** (Non-Action Item.)
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chief Joe Rodriguez. Chief Rodriguez commented that our Chair, Dale Way, just resigned a couple days ago and there is a member, Dave Ruben, who is willing to run this meeting today.
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. Seven (7) board members were present. A quorum was established. Introductions were made.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (Non-Action Item)
There were no public comments.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE September 18, 2025 MEETING MINUTES** (Discussion/For Possible Action)
Jayson Andrus made a motion to approve the minutes. James Johnston seconded the motion. Motion carried.
6. **BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES MEMBERS** (Non-Action Item).
Jayson Andrus commented that the last meeting was time well spent, and the board is trying to be more active in an effort to support the State Fire Marshal's mission. There was discussion among the members about a state certification for a Fire Marshal. Kacey KC discussed the WUI code adoption and how to work together.
7. **STATE FIRE MARSHAL ADVISORY REPORT** (Non-action item)
Chief Joe Rodriguez stated that this was his second week officially as our State Fire Marshal and has hit the ground running. He has been in the Southern Nevada office and gave the DPS Director and Deputy Director a tour. Trying to see if the building will meet the needs of the fire service and our offices down there. There is a lot of movement within our Division right now, so there are growing pains to try and fit X number of positions that we got approved through legislature into X number of offices. There have been promotions to two Deputy Chiefs, Albert Ruiz and Lt. Alex Knaak. It is time to start the budget build and think about BDR's.
8. **STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION TRAINING ADVISORY REPORT** (Non-action item)
Sean Stratton stood in for Dennis Pinkerton and stated that there has been a bit of a slowdown due to the computer shutdown or the computer compromise along with our telephones down. Now that offices have been moved the phones have not transferred as of yet so the best way to reach the Training Bureau is through e-mail or cell phones. SFM Public Safety Day is coming up and it was reported that we will be burning with Mason Valley along with some other surrounding agencies and we will be using the large trailer along with the large propane prop. The training Bureau is working on an app for both Apple and Android so people will be able to look at that in the field or if they are away from a desktop. Right now, with the Federal Government shut down, the NFA classes are being put on hold due to funding.
9. **NEVADA STATE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION ADVISORY REPORT** (Non-Action Item)
Mike Heidemann stated that the climate in Nevada and in the volunteer world is changing and our numbers are down considerably. It is thought that it has to do with expansion in a lot of areas and how they operate. The conference had to be cancelled this year due to low attendance numbers and they are looking at some different approaches. They are going to try doing some regional type symposiums and the first one is going to be April 24-25, 2025 in Ely. The OSHA rewrite is on the Federal table right now and some of the things they proposed will not only put volunteers but smaller pay departments completely out of business. There is a lot of

support from the State Fire Marshal's office Training Division for trainings. Stephen Neel asked if Mike was aware that the date in April is also the same week as FDIC. Mike responded that he was aware and the clientele that they draw is different.

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

Kelli Baratti stated that they had the fall round-table meeting at FireShowsWest and the attendance was doubled from last year. There is anticipation of a special session in November. They were given a grant with BLM of \$399,000 and funded 6 projects around the state. Everybody seems really pleased with how things are going. They are working on a "Fire Chief 101" and three of the board members, Chief Matt Peterson, Chief James Johnston and Chief Jayson Andrus have worked together with Sean Burke and a couple other fire chiefs to put together an outline of a handbook. As far as what statutory authorities, what regulations do the fire chiefs at all levels need to be aware of the budget process, to administrative process, to train, to mutual aid agreements. This will go on the website as a draft document so that people can take a look at it. Chief Rodriguez inquired about the homeowners issues and Kelli replied that the emerging issue for next session is number one on their plate. They are meeting with people between now and next fall. Will do some education and some outreach.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Action Item)

Jayson Andrus stated that he wanted to invite the BOFS and the State Fire Marshal to attend the Winter Fire School January 23-24, 2026 in Saint George, Utah. Stephen Neel wanted to publicly thank Kelli Baratti and Mike Heidemann for their strong work. Kacey KC added that Nevada has been chosen to contribute the Capital Christmas tree. The tree goes to the nation's capital in DC and it is the first time ever in the history of national Christmas trees. It will be plucked from Mount Rose. The first stop will be coming through the Nevada Day parade. It will make 5 more stops in the state and then it will head across the US. A mine in Lovelock has donated silver pieces to the Carson Museum to mint coins. Only about 1000 will be minted for the Capital Christmas Tree. A documentary will be made through the Forest Service. Dave Ruben commented that our next meeting will be in January 2026 and we will need to select a future Chair. He would be willing to do that for 2026. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT (Discussion/For Possible Action.)

Dave Ruben made a motion to adjourn. Jayson Andrus seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.