

**NOTICE AND AGENDA
OF THE WASATCH COUNTY COUNCIL ACTING AS
THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE WASATCH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION
SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT
in the Wasatch County Senior Center 465 E 1200 South Heber City, Utah 84032, Heber City,
Utah, commencing at 3:30 PM, Tuesday, August 12, 2025.**

A recording of the meeting may also be viewed afterwards by using the Wasatch County Website
(<https://docs.wasatch.utah.gov/OnBaseAgendaOnline/>) and selecting the desired meeting.

Public participation (*comments and questions*) in this meeting will be accepted via email or online meeting attendance. Emails will be accepted up to meeting time. Emails need to be sent to publiccomment@wasatch.utah.gov. Online meeting attendance is available using a suitable network device or via a phone using the information below:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Webinar ID: 836 6999 8961

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**WASATCH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION
SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
DATE: Tuesday, August 12, 2025
Order of Agenda Items Subject to Change without Notice**

Approval of Meeting Minutes

7-8-2025 Meeting Minutes

Approval of Warrants

Chief's Report

2025 Year to Date - July

Station Update - 56

WUI Map Discussion

Landscape Bonding/Notice of Violation Discussion

Quarterly Financial Report

Fire Advisory Commission - No meeting in July

Other

Closed Session

Purchase, Exchange or Lease of Property

Pending or Reasonably Imminent Litigation

The Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual

Wasatch County Fire Protection District will make efforts to provide reasonable accommodations to disabled members of the public in accessing District programs. Please contact us at the Wasatch County Fire District office at 435-940-9636 in advance if you have special needs.

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Meeting held at the Wasatch County Administration Building located at 25 N Main, Heber City

Those in Attendance:

Mark Nelson

Erik Rowland

Colleen Bonner

Fire Board Vice Chair Karl McMillan

Kendall Crittenden

Luke Searle

Fire Board Chair Spencer Park

Chief Eric Hales

Assistant Chief Jason Provost

Assistant Chief Clair Provost

Fire Warden/Battalion Chief Troy Morgan

Kierstan Smith, CPA

Lindsey Beckstrom, Human Resources

Councilmember Park called the Wasatch County Fire Protection Service District board meeting to order on Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Nelson to approve minutes from the 6/10/2025 fireboard meeting. It was seconded by Councilmember Rowland and it passed.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Warrants totaled \$1,277,632.00 for the month.

Chief Hales highlighted a capital purchase of a staff vehicle for about \$50,000, 15 sets of turnout gear totaling \$62,000 and staffing costs rounding out the warrants list.

A motion was made by Councilmember Nelson to approve the warrants as presented. It was seconded by Councilmember McMillan and it passed.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Hales began by introducing Lindsey Beckstrom to the board, temporarily filling in for the administrative assistant over finance who resigned.

- 2025 Year to Date - June
 - Incidents last month – Most notable, one airplane tipped over at the airport with no injuries and no leaking fuel, but our crew did standby. There was also a multi agency response with search and rescue near Clyde Creek.
 - Years of Service Recognition - the Bureau of EMS recognized years of service last month and came around to all the organizations to hand out pins. We were able to go around to each shift and pass out years of service pins in 5 year increments. Most notably, our illustrious Assistant Chief Clair Provost was recognized for 43 years in EMS, which is pretty impressive!
 - Monthly Evaluations - we take our task books each month and work on specific skills. We come together at the end of each month and evaluate the crew's proficiency on those skills.
 - Home Hazard Assessments where we're going to homes within the Wildland Urban Interface and using a checklist based off of Fire Wise communities and helping the homeowners do what they can to make their homes as fire wise in those environments as possible.

Councilmember Bonner asked if we have done the assessments in Hideout? Chief Hales explained we're going out to the HOA's and different communities from Hideout to Strawberry.

Councilmember Bonner expressed that homeowners are concerned about receiving some type of a letter to help them with their insurance. Chief Hales confirmed the letter has been in place, and Hideout will be hosting a wildfire symposium next Tuesday, July 15th at the Black Rock Hotel between 9:30am-3pm. Experts in this field and people from the insurance industry at the state level, forestry, fire, and state lands, among various groups will be in attendance.

Councilmember Park proposed for the next Fire Board agenda to add how the Wildland Urban Interface is defined. And what is the process the State uses to establish those boundaries with the firework restrictions that were put in place at the last minute. He expressed concern due to receiving a lot of calls from neighbors trying to understand the process and what was involved.

Chief Hales confirmed they would prepare that for the next fireboard meeting and then turned the time over to BC Troy Morgan to discuss the very dry and hot conditions we are in.

DIVISION UPDATES

- **Wildland - BC/Fire Warden Troy Morgan & Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Clint Neerings**
 - We had a fire yesterday out in the Strawberry area off Strawberry Marina Road, 4.3 3 acres that looks to be human caused. The investigator was out there this morning, the cause has not been determined yet.
 - The State of Utah went into Stage 1 fire restrictions on June 28th, which is a big deal for the fireboard because it includes all unincorporated lands within the state, which is all of the county and state property.
 - Stage 1 restrictions include the following:
 - No open fires of any kind except within an established campground or an established fire pit at your home
 - No smoking outside of the vehicle in dry vegetation, no cutting, welding, grinding in areas of dry vegetation
 - No operating a motorcycle, chainsaw or ATV's without a spark arrestor
 - No discharging or using any fireworks, tracer ammunition or exploding targets in the area
 - Those restrictions are state-wide through the Governor's office and the State Forester. They did a blanket approach and hit every county in the state. BC Morgan said that normally there are science-based perimeters that need to be met before triggering Stage 1 restrictions, such as fuel moisture, ERC's and number of human caused fires . However, to be pro-active instead of reactive, and with all the fires going down in southern Utah with loss of structures, it justified moving to Stage 1 restrictions.
 - In regards to fireworks and the boundary restrictions that were put into place, due to the dry conditions those needed to be tightened up too. The council expressed the need to discuss that next time and BC Morgan agreed.
 - The full crew has started and are out doing a lot of good things. So far they've chipped over 20 piles throughout the Wildland Urban Interface. The goal is to see that number quadruple over the next month. It is a new program and trying to get the word out to communities has been a slow process. The crew has

stayed busy with other prevention projects. They hung over 40 “NO fireworks” signs in our high hazard area right before the 4th of July. They’ve also been checking hydrants throughout the county to make sure they’re operating properly. As of today, they’ve checked over 600 hydrants in the county.

Councilmember Crittendon suggested we get in touch with a lumber yard called “Euclid” for the chipping and BC Morgan confirmed they had purchased a dump bed truck from the county and will be retrofitting it to have a cover so chips aren't blowing out. Once that is in place we'll be reaching out about the chips.

Councilmember Crittendon suggested “Euclid” could take the chips for their biochar. BC Morgan said they also have options at Wolf Creek Ranch for their trail system. The chips help to mitigate the weeds. So Wolf Creek was talking about taking some of the chips for that purpose.

- On the prevention side, Troy Morgan, the fire warden and Clint Neerings, the fire marshal along with Chief Hales, over the last month have attended a dozen HOA meetings with their boards, communities and Architectural Review Committees. The purpose is to get the word out about being Fire Wise. Creating more fire resilient and Fire Wise communities by pushing the home hazard assessments and the chipping program. In addition, we've met with every city and town council in the county since May and will continue to follow up with them as fire restrictions are updated.
 - BC Morgan invited the fireboard to the Wildfire symposium next Tuesday at the Black Rock Mountain Resort.
- **Special Events - Assistant Chief Clair Provost**
 - It was a busy 4th of July weekend with 52 EMS calls between July 3rd thru 5th. Those calls were just EMS, not fire. So they got no sleep, they were busy!
 - YTD, there have been 15 events that span 34 days! And some of those events are 3-4 days long. These events are a huge thing in our community. So we're grateful for our part-time people because they pick up the slack on a lot of those events. Their help is greatly appreciated!

Chief Provost expressed gratitude for the fireboards’ support with rural EMS and fire throughout the state. A lot of those communities don't have the support that we do in Wasatch County and everything the board does to help them out is huge and the relationship is greatly appreciated. Many council members thanked Chief Provost for the recognition.

- **Operations - Assistant Chief Jason Provost**

Chief Provost spoke about when you bring on the amount of people that we've brought on recently, it presents some different tasks and trials in trying to get those people going in the right direction.

- One of the things that we found to be successful in onboarding is to increase our skill set in other areas such as our calls with dispatch. Between July 3-5th, there were 52 calls. 31 of those calls came in on the 4th of July alone which was very taxing on our resources. Chief Hales is putting some plans together so that we can cover those calls more effectively than we have in the past.
- Captain Dearden, the Training Officer, has put a plan in place for us to be able to train individuals so they can consistently have the same training across the board. This prevents us from having some people trained to one level and others that are trying to get to that level.
- As Chief Hales mentioned, at the end of the month, crew members do an evaluation on the skills they have prepared for during the 3 weeks prior. We had multiple that didn't pass through the first time and were required to do the tasks again so they could be proficient in those.
- We have had 1,914 calls YTD. Our numbers continue to grow leaps and bounds over last year and with 66 full time suppression and EMS personnel, those borders seem to keep constantly being pushed as we go forward. Despite that, our crews were able to take those calls and to handle them in a professional manner.

Councilmember Nelson asked if the helicopter that crashed in Midway on the 4th of July, where people had to hike out of the State Park was in our county? Chief Provost confirmed.

Councilmember Crittendon offered thanks and compliments to the whole department on their preparedness and forward thinking when it comes to major events, compared to other departments around the country. He expressed that our county has a great fire department and it is appreciated. Several other council members agreed and Chief Provost said he would pass those comments on to the crews with thanks.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Crittendon. It was seconded by Councilmember Bonner and it passed.