

WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
Best Western Hotel, Casper, Wyoming
December 4, 2025

Called to order by President Fox at 8:05AM.

Motions - All motions made and seconded were unanimously passed unless otherwise noted.

Meeting Minutes - The Meeting Minutes of the previous meeting held June 11, 2025, at the Torrington Fire Department were presented as emailed to the membership. Motion by Jason Caughey, seconded by Chris Kocher.

Treasurer's Report - Gene Diedtrich submitted a written report on the Statement of Cash Position for the period June 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025. There was a beginning balance of \$61,393 deposits of \$58,087, disbursements of \$62,523 leaving an ending balance of \$56,957 with a cash restriction of \$18,047 for Consortium Section and the L.A.S.T. checking account, leaving an unrestricted balance of \$38,910. Motion to approve made by John Rutherford and seconded by Sam Wilde.

2021 SAFER Grant Report - Gene Diedtrich submitted a report on the current status of both SAFER Grants and encouraged Chiefs to submit for qualified training reimbursements and new hire physicals. The 2021 Grant has a balance of \$539K and will expire in November 2026. Reminder that all grant expenditures must be preapproved through the grant administrator Gene Diedtrich.

Highlights of SAFER GRANT coverage.

Training Reimbursement

Includes the Training Cost, Daily meals and lodging incurred within the Wyoming Current Per-Diem rates.

College Books/Tuition

Acceptance will be for a 1- 4-year period, depending on the life of the grant, allows 8 semesters of tuition at a qualified college or online teaching college. Allows up to \$1,650 tuition and \$350 for relevant books per semester, passing grade of a C or better per semester to qualify for payment.

One Time Physical

For new members of a department, a department member must be in good standing. Needs to be a NFPA 1582 compliant physical, reimburses up to \$880 per physical.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC - Chief Gary Harnish read remarks from Chief Andy Kovacs, President of the Missouri Valley Division of the IAFC, who was unable to attend due to weather. The remarks highlighted the benefits of membership with IAFC. The Missouri Valley Division Conference will be held June 3-5, 2026 in Lincoln Nebraska. There is a \$1500 stipend available for anyone wanting to attend the conference. Chief Harnish also spoke about the Lynn Washburn Scholarship of \$1500 that goes to advancing women leaders in the Fire Service.

IAFC VCOS - Chief Caughey reported on the activities of the VCOS Section of the IAFC. The section supports volunteer and combination departments. He reported that 750 attended the Symposium in the Sun this year and reminded departments that the AFG and Safer Grants were open and that communities under 20,000 were being

funded at a high rate. He indicated that many departments in Wyoming are not applying for the grants. Chief Caughey talked about a new Chief to Chief Mentorship program being rolled out, announced a scholarship to attend FRI in Kansas City in the summer, and spoke about a new program that will help train in fire ground operations with limited staff. VCOS received a Safer Grant for Volunteer Fire Recruitment and Retention and that materials will be available to help departments with materials and information to help in the effort.

Special District Association - Craig Haslam reported that the Special District Association is actively working to monitor legislation that is affecting special districts, public records requests and funding issues. He encouraged everyone to help monitor legislation that affects special districts and help lobby on the local level to make sure that none of the legislation will have a negative impact on fire districts.

Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety - Chief Dan Johnson reported that the Council meets twice a year and has 5 members. They have not had any appeals as of late and at the last meeting they had a presentation regarding fire sprinkler technology and codes. Elections of officers were held and the next meeting will be in the Spring.

L.A.S.T Team Update - Chief Dan Johnson reported that the LAST Team has completed 9 missions this year. They have a checking account balance of \$15,297.30 and a CD Balance of \$22,193.22. The engine project in Casper is ongoing and he expressed thanks to the Game and Fish Tag donations that largely fund the LAST Team. Chief Johnson announced he will be transitioning his role to Chief Allen Robinson in Rawlins over the next year.

Wyoming Firefighter Memorial - The memorial was held this past August with Representative Steve Harshman being the keynote. The cost of the memorial and hall of fame ceremony was \$4928.96. He thanked Ian Kraft and everyone at the Fire Academy for helping make these events a success.

National Fire Protection Association - Nick Hudson reported that the NFPA Regional Representative was unable to make it but submitted a report from Bob Sullivan. His report was as follows

- A big THANK YOU! to WFCFA President J.R. Fox of Campbell County Fire Department for recently attending NFPA's 2025 Fire Chiefs Forum, held at NFPA Headquarters in Quincy, Massachusetts in November. For this Forum, NFPA invites the Presidents of the State Fire Chiefs' Associations in all 50 U.S. states, and in all the Provinces in Canada. We spent two days discussing a range of current topics important to the Fire Service, and NFPA thanks all of the Chiefs for their valuable input and expertise. The information sharing helps with collaboration between NFPA and the Fire Service, helping to address topics such as firefighter PPE, fire apparatus, fire training and certifications, firefighter health and wellness, the latest research on fires involving lithium-ion batteries, fire code development, and legislative issues such as the single-stair debate in new apartment buildings.
- We are asking for help from the Fire Service in Wyoming to support the Pro Codes Act currently making its way through the U.S. Congress. Fire codes and standards are constantly under attack by outside influences and special-interest groups, and there are many ongoing attempts to diminish the importance of fire codes and standards. There are some who would like to see fire and building codes eliminated altogether. The Pro Codes Act is intended to help preserve the current codes- and standards-development process. The best way to voice your support for the Pro Codes Act is to contact your Wyoming U.S. Senators and U.S. House Representative in Congress, and ask them to please support H.R. 4072, the Pro Codes Act. NFPA has a page on our website with much more information, including an easy process already set up to contact your elected representatives and ask for their support: www.dontchancesafety.org. On that page, scroll down and look for the section that says "Tell Your Elected Officials - Safety Standards Matter". In that section, click on

the "Act Now" button, and follow the steps to contact your representatives. The whole process only takes a couple minutes. WY Representative Hageman is on the U.S. House Judiciary Committee that is reviewing this bill. We also have template letters available that you can put on your department's letterhead, to send to your representatives. The Congressional Representatives have expressed to NFPA that they would like to hear directly from more fire departments and fire code officials across the U.S. that this bill is important to you, so that they can in turn, voice their support in Congress for passage of the bill. NFPA can help you with this process and with more information, feel free to contact Bob or Nick for assistance. Please contact your U.S. representatives, and thank you for your help!

- A big THANK YOU! to NFPA's Wyoming Public Education Network Representative Nick Hudson for sharing this year's Fire Prevention Week resources with the Fire Service in Wyoming, helping to promote this year's theme of "Charge Into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home". And a big thank you to all the fire departments across Wyoming who helped with Fire Prevention Week in October. All of the safety information and resources that NFPA has for lithium-ion batteries are available on our website all year round, and we encourage you to continue sharing this important information in your communities throughout the year.
- The Winter 2025 Edition of NFPA Journal is now available, and can be viewed free online at: www.nfpa.org/journal. There are many very informative articles in this edition (published quarterly), including an article about discussions held at the recent Urban Fire Forum to talk about ways that the Fire Service may be able to address the current skyrocketing costs and lengthy manufacturing delays for new fire apparatus. The 2026 NFPA Conference & Expo will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada June 22-24, 2026. Registration is open on the NFPA website, and reduced early-bird registration pricing is currently available.

WFCA Residential Sprinkler Committee - No Report given.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals - Nick Hudson reported the annual conference will be in Casper, April 7-9, 2026, in Casper. The association is small but mighty with about 40 code enforcement officials across the state participating. The purpose is community risk reduction and will focus codes, community education and CRR. New code updates will be given and new codes introduced regarding wildland urban interface.

307 CRR - Nick Hudson reported on behalf of Director Mathews for 307 CRR. He discussed the thermal fuse project that has been ongoing and that over 200 thermal fuses were installed. Ongoing focus on Carbon Monoxide Initiatives continues.

WYO-LINK UPDATE - Chief Kocher, the new Chiefs Representative on the PSCC reported out on Wyo-Link. The latest meeting included topics regarding first net coverage lapses across the state, a request from Park County for more towers to increase coverage, and 911 funding and interoperability with neighboring states. The next meeting will be in February.

Wyoming Volunteer Fire, EMT and Search and Rescue Pension - Lanny Applegate reported on the most recent status of the pension plan. The fund has approximately 138 million with approximately 2400 current members and . He reported on who the Board Members were and said that 141 million was the target for the plan to reach 107% of funding which would make it eligible for a COLA, pending Legislative approval.

Wyoming Fire Academy - Ian Kraft reported on the Fire Academy statistics. The rural trainers have put on 116 classes in 2025, serving 1078 students for a total of 1589 hours. For the Fire Academy they have presented 57

classes serving 834 students for a total of 645 hours. Ian reported that there have been 48 fire investigations in 2025. 2026 classes are beginning to populate on the Academy website. He gave a reminder for the Fire Vent Prop and reported that the gas training field is being converted to handle both natural gas and propane. The 7220 Conference in 2026 will be held in Gillette October 29-30th.

Wyoming State Firefighter Association - President Ervin Stofflet presented a written report. The 93rd Annual Convention will be held in Wheatland June 18-20, 2026. The Association is once again having a benefit raffle with several prizes to support the legislative efforts. Tickets are \$5 each and contact him as wsfa.stofflet@gmail.com for tickets and more information.

Wyoming Firefighter's Certification Committee - No Report Given.

National Volunteer Fire Council - Chief Eric Quinney reported out on the NVFC. He announced that Wyoming has enough members to qualify for the State Dues to be waived. He reported out on the Drinking Water Program, the State Farm and Nutella Grants and encouraged departments to apply for these programs. Work continues on the proposed OSHA Standard and departments were encouraged to sign up their members to receive the benefits of the NVFC.

Wyoming Firefighter Cancer Support Network - No Report Given.

OLD BUSINESS - The By Law Revision has been tabled until the January Meeting

NEW BUSINESS - Chief Fox asked for a motion for \$4500 to be contributed to the legislative efforts for the 2026 Session. Motion by Chris Kocher for the WFCA to contribute \$4500 to the 2026 Legislative Session. Motion seconded by Craig Haslam.

With no other business being brought before the body. A motion was made by Mike Moyer to adjourn the meeting. Second, by Jerry Parker. All present voted in favor. The Chief's portion of the Meeting was adjourned by Chief Fox at 8:57 AM.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- January 9, 2026, starting at 12:30 PM at the Fire Academy in Riverton, Legislative Meeting will be held prior with time TBD.
- April 11, 2026, annual meeting of the WFCA, with elections starting at 9:00 AM at the Riverton Volunteer Fire Department Station #1 meeting room. A delicious lunch will be served after the meeting by the good cooks of the RVFD.

- June 17, 2026, starting at 3:00 PM at the Wheatland Fire Department held in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the State Firefighters Association.