



Citizen Safety Without Partisanship



The **Utah Fire Caucus**

A non-partisan information resource for Utah legislators on fire and life safety issues—So Utah’s first responders never stand alone.

Where the safety of Utah’s citizens is concerned, Utah’s firefighters and the members of the Utah Fire Caucus agree—**THERE IS NO ROOM FOR PARTISANSHIP!**

Today’s Safety Challenges

Utah’s citizens face unprecedented safety challenges today. Manmade materials used in building construction and furnishings burn fast and hot and create unpredictable and highly lethal gases. Health emergencies such as heart attack affect people daily. As Utah’s population continues to increase, so does the potential from threats such as hazardous materials, accidents and violence.

Most people go about their business in their daily lives and seldom, if ever, have contact with this, except maybe driving by or seeing something in the news. But our firefighters deal with these emergencies all the time as they respond to the front lines.

The Proactive Spirit

A big part of a firefighter’s job involves helping citizens in times of crisis, such as the tragic loss of a loved one in a vehicle accident, or the loss of home and belongings to a fire.

Working with these people helps motivate firefighters to act proactively to find new ways to prevent and deal with emergencies.

Utah’s firefighters also draw on their interactions with their counterparts from around the state and the nation in classes, conventions, conferences and in work situations such as FEMA deployments. Motivation, a wealth of experience, plus access to important, up-to-date information have spurred

many activities that benefit safety and quality of life in our state. Improvements from this proactive approach include better planning, more effective laws and regulations, safer working conditions, and training and education programs for the public and firefighters.

This proactive spirit was a major inspiration for the Utah Fire Caucus.

An Invitation to All Utah Legislators

The non-partisan Utah Fire Caucus was formed in 2004. It is modeled after the very successful Congressional Fire Service Caucus (CFSC), established in 1987 in Washington, D.C., by Congressman Curt Weldon. It is the largest caucus in the U.S. Congress with 340 members. The CFSC does not require members to take sides on issues, but only to “pledge support in a way that best benefits fire departments in their respective Congressional districts.”

The CFSC is supported by the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI), a non-partisan, non-profit organization of fire service and trade groups and organizations. Its mission is to provide “services and programs to engage members of Congress in fire and life safety issues.”



In Utah, the Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations is structured similarly.

Diverse Utah fire service interests come together in this 20-year-old organization, which serves as an information conduit for the Utah Fire Caucus.

The Utah Fire Caucus invites all Utah legislators to participate with our state’s firefighters in this proactive organization. The big winners will be the citizens in our communities who we are all dedicated to protect and serve.

We invite
EVERY LEGISLATOR
to participate in the Utah Fire Caucus

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Utah legislators on fire and life safety issues
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Utah Fire Caucus Overview

- An informal, non-partisan forum for Utah legislators
- Positions on legislation not required
- Legislators are asked to pledge support in a way that best benefits fire departments in their districts
- A resource to help build consensus on fire/emergency services issues
- Support provided by the Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations, a non-partisan coalition of Utah fire service interests.

Benefits of Membership

- Promotes an understanding of current issues that affect the safety of your constituents
- Keeps an open line of communication with your firefighters
- Provides a balanced perspective on fire and emergency medical issues from diverse elements of our state's fire service community
- Support from Utah's fire service in accomplishing your important mission in the legislature
- Sends a strong message to citizens of your concern for safety.

Comments from Experience

“The Utah Fire Caucus is a nonpartisan, proactive organization that provides a balanced perspective for Utah legislators on safety issues having a major impact on communities throughout the state.”

*Senator Patrice Arent,
Utah Fire Caucus founder and former co-chair*

“Utah would certainly benefit from the Congressional Caucus model, which has proven successful because it does not require members to take positions on specific legislation.”

*Congressman Jim Matheson
Congressional Fire Service Caucus member*

“I am very supportive of this organization whose mission is to ‘inform Utah legislators, citizens and firefighters about emergency medical, fire and life safety issues.’”

*Senator Orrin G. Hatch
Congressional Fire Service Caucus member*

