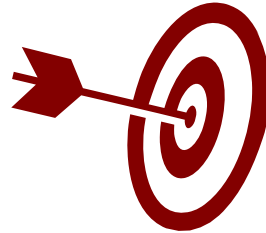


3 Tips For Communicating

1. Get To The Point

The quicker the better. A hand written note works better than a lengthy letter. Use this formula:



- Say who you are. (If you live in the legislator's district, say so.)
- State your support for the fire service issue and ask for a response.
- For extra impact, tell how this legislation affects you personally.

2. If Questioned, Don't Panic



You do not have to know everything about all the bills to be effective. But be sure to listen, and refer questions you can't answer to the Joint Council web site (www.firecouncil.com) or one of the board members. If a Legislator disagrees with you, don't argue. Be prepared, however, to politely restate your position.

3. Remember To Say "Thank You"

Legislators are people, too. Nothing is more gratifying than a "thank you" or "well done." Legislators rarely get congratulations, so let them know when they have done a good job (Even if it's just for listening to your concerns). A "thank you" is a powerful way to earn your Legislator's attention.



3 Types Of Messages

1. The Visit

Face-to-face meetings are the most compelling way to make your point. They leave a lasting impression and are surprisingly easy to schedule. Call your legislator to schedule an appointment.



2. The Phone Call



A phone call is nearly as effective and often more convenient than a face-to-face meeting. Ask to speak to legislators directly. If they are not in, state why you called and request a call back. You will get a call.

3. The Letter

Letters from constituents get attention. They are a top priority. When writing, always include a return address and your phone number, and ask for a response. Then watch your mail.



CONTACT CHECKLIST

- Choose the method
(A visit, phone call, or letter)
- Schedule and plan the contact.
- Make the contact.
- Report back to the Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations by emailing one of the board members (see the web site for email addresses).

Don't Forget

- Stay brief and to the point.
- Don't panic if asked a question or if the Legislator disagrees with you. Listen and be courteous.
- ALWAYS thank your Legislator(s) for their time and attention.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE GUIDE

To Find Legislators on the Internet

www.le.utah.gov

Click on "Legislators"

To Obtain Addresses and Phone Numbers by Phone

House Information 801-538-1029
Senate Information 801-538-1035

Other Important Phone Numbers

Governor..... 801-538-1000
State Fire Marshal Brent Halladay..... 801-284-6350

Joint Council Contacts

Chairman Gil Rodriguezgrodriguez@murray.utah.gov
Vice Chairman Marty Peterson.....slcff@comcast.net