



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release
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**Office of the State Auditor Releases Audits of
the Unified Fire Authority and the Unified Fire Service Area**
Multi-year history of improper personal enrichment and lax oversight

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today released audits of the Unified Fire Authority (UFA) and the Unified Fire Service Area (UFSA). The UFSA audit includes 12 findings indicating either policy or legal failures within the organization. The UFA audit identifies 52 findings, grouped in the following 3 categories:

1. Former Chief and Deputy Chief Put Personal Interests Over Organization Interests
2. Board Failed to Provide Proper Oversight
3. UFA Experienced Operational Weaknesses

UFSA is a “local district”, which includes Eagle Mountain, Herriman, Midvale, Riverton, Taylorsville and the unincorporated area of Salt Lake County. UFSA’s primary function is levying taxes to (1) fund fire and emergency services for its service area and (2) finance the construction of fire stations within its service area. UFSA pays UFA to provide fire and emergency services directly to their member entities.

UFA is an “interlocal entity” that provides fire and emergency services to each of its member entities, which include UFSA plus four additional cities, Alta, Cottonwood Heights, Draper, and Holladay.

The reports may be found on the Office’s website, auditor.utah.gov. The UFA report is available specifically at <http://financialreports.utah.gov/saoreports/2017/SSVF-17-SPaUFAUnifiedFireAuthority.pdf> and the UFSA report is available specifically at <http://financialreports.utah.gov/saoreports/2017/SSVF-17-SPbUFSAUnifiedFireServiceArea.pdf>.

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities

strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every four years. The role of the State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

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