

Pat Campbell
Council Department Report
9/3/26

TC Report September 3, 2026

Emergency Management

The tabletop disaster response exercise scheduled for September 3rd was postponed while Town staff focus on cleanup following the August 31st flooding event. Our timing was off by just three days—but the real event offered a practical reminder of why this training matters. We'll reschedule the exercise soon.

Utah League of Cities and Towns - Legislative Policy Committee meeting: Aug-24

The central message was that the coming legislative session is likely to be unusually volatile—particularly on property taxes, housing and land use, water, public safety technology, and local authority—and that municipal officials should begin direct conversations with legislators now. ULCT staff urged cities and towns to reinforce a consistent policy message: partnership rather than state preemption, with respect for local decision-making, collaboration, and measurable outcomes.

ULCT expects several difficult property-tax proposals considered in the prior session to return in 2027, including proposals that would cap increases, require voter approval, or resemble Colorado-style taxpayer bill-of-rights restrictions.

Housing was the most extensive policy discussion. Staff described continued pressure from state leaders to produce smaller, owner-occupied, more affordable housing, with increasing risk that the Legislature may preempt local land-use decisions.

HOAs: The state HOA ombudsman is gathering stakeholder input amid concern about the growing number of associations. Separate legislation may propose that local governments assume responsibility for certain HOA infrastructure.

Fireworks and wildfire: For July 4, 213 of Utah's 257 cities and towns—roughly 83%—used the Governor's statewide ban in full. In ULCT's surveys, 69% of responding jurisdictions said they saw fewer fire starts around July 4 than they had historically.

License Plate Readers

ULCT expects legislation on automated license-plate readers, commonly called Flock cameras, or on broader government collection and use of similar data.

Southwest Mosquito Abatement and Control District

SMACD expenditures through June totaled approximately 43.7% of its annual budget, below the expected midyear level of 50%. The Board reviewed and updated its annual Pesticide Discharge Management Plan, including staffing changes, the *Aedes aegypti* program, and current larval-control products.

Mosquito activity increased rapidly following recent rainfall, and West Nile virus has been detected in several areas of the District, with the highest concentration in portions of St. George. In response, crews have increased trapping, testing, treatment, and fogging. Residents are encouraged to eliminate standing water, protect themselves from mosquito bites, and ensure horses are vaccinated against West Nile virus.

The District continues door-to-door inspections and public education in neighborhoods affected by *Aedes aegypti*. It is also developing a GIS storm-drain mapping system to improve treatment tracking, as storm drains have been a significant mosquito source this year.

The Board also completed its annual Open and Public Meetings Act training and approved the transfer of two surplus backpack sprayers to the Paiute Shiwits Band for its mosquito-control program. The Utah Mosquito Abatement Association Conference is scheduled for October 26–28, and the District's next meeting will be November 12, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.