

Meyers, Robert (COE)

JNQ 10-136

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2010 8:46 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Inquiry

I received a telephone call and e-mail from Assistant Chief Paul-Noel (MDFR) on July 26, 2010 and he asked whether he could attend a Fire Service Research Partner Retreat in Jackson, WY from July 27-30, hosted by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Chief Paul-Noel confirmed that UL is a County vendor and I advised him that it would be a violation of the County ethics code for UL to cover the cost of travel or pay any travel-related expenses unless he secured a waiver from the Board of County Commissioners. I further advised him that his department could pick up the cost of the travel – this was preferable to the MDFR reimbursing UL. He wanted to know whether attending this retreat on his own time made a difference (I told him it didn't). Finally, I informed him that a phone call from the Fire Chief before Paul-Noel leaves for Wyoming indicating the department would pay for Paul-Noel's travel or commit to reimbursing UL would be advisable. As of the close of business on July 27th, I have not received a phone call from the Fire Chief and I do not know whether Assistant Chief Paul-Noel made the trip to Wyoming.

Robert Meyers
July 27, 2010

7/28/2010

May 24, 2010

Greetings,

As we discussed recently, Underwriters Laboratories (UL), will be hosting a Fire Service Research Partner Retreat on July 27-30, 2010, in Jackson, WY, to focus on firefighter safety research. This letter will hopefully provide you with the information needed to secure the time away from your jurisdiction.

The goals of the event include:

- Learning about the fire research work that UL has conducted on its own and with fire service partners over the past several years, which include:
 - AFG funded Smoke and Gas Particulate Research Project (completed)
 - AFG funded Ventilation Tactics Research Project (underway)
 - AFG funded Lightweight Constructions Under Fire Conditions Research Project (completed)
 - NIST funded Lightweight Constructions Under Fire Conditions Research Project - Extension from NIST (underway)
 - UL funded Modern Fire Dynamics Research Projects (completed)
 - UL funded Legacy vs. Lightweight Construction Comparison Presentation (completed)
 - UL and CPSC funded Smoke Alarm Research work (Recent and Multiple Projects both completed and underway)
- Encouraging fire service attendees to discuss and exchange fire operations best practices with UL and with each other
- Discussing the current economic and social trends impacting the U.S. fire service
- Developing and sharing ideas for future firefighter safety research with UL's Fire Research team based on items above

We have chosen Jackson Lake Lodge in the Grand Tetons National Park near Jackson, Wyoming for the location of the event for several reasons, including (1) it is relatively centrally located in the United States, (2) it is far away from urban and suburban areas from where most participants originate and operate and (3) removing participants from their environments, out to a location like this, tends to free the mind for a wide range of inputs and outputs.

All related travel and expenses will be provided for by Underwriters Laboratories, and, to be clear, not by any grant. We hope that you will choose to participate. The format is round table, discussion-oriented, with facilitators managing the meetings in the morning and group activities in the afternoons. The dress code is casual and jeans are appropriate.

You will be receiving an email with directions on booking air travel, and a link to register for the retreat. If you have any logistical questions, please contact Kirsten Ramos via email at Kirsten.Ramos@ul.com or by phone at 847-664-3932. If you have further questions on the retreat content, feel free to call me at 312-961-3568.

We look forward to seeing you in July!

Best regards,



Chris Hasbrook
VP & GM Building Materials/Life Safety & Security
Underwriters Laboratories Inc (UL)