



Inspection Report

WSAFM BOARD

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President
Jon Dunaway
Clark Co. FMO
Jon.dunaway@clark.wa.gov

President-Elect
David Kokot, P.E.
Spokane Fire Dept
dkokot@spokanefire.org

Board Position #1
Jon Napier
Puget Sound RFA
inapier@kentfirefa.org

Board Position #2
Traci Harvey, P.E.
Spokane Valley FD
harveyt@spokanevalleyfire.com

Board Position #3
Anjela St John
Renton Fire Dept
astjohn@rentonwa.gov

Board Position #4
Jackie Blackwood
Kitsap CO FMO
jblackwo@co.kitsap.wa.us

Board Position #5
Robert Ferrell
WSRB
robertferrell@wsrb.com

Board Position #6
Tom Maloney
Marysville Fire Dist
tmaloney@marysvillewa.gov

Board Position #7
Kirsti Weaver
Puget Sound RFA
kweaver@kentfirefa.org

Board Position #8
Robert Bradley
Olympia Fire Dept
rbradley@ci.olympia.wa.us

Ex-Officio Director
Chuck Duffy
Washington State FM
Chuck.duffy@wsp.wa.gov

Ex-Officio Director
Wayne Senter
WFC
wayne@washingtonfirechiefs.org

Immediate Past Pres
Jim Kambeitz
Longview Fire Dept
Jim.kambeitz@mylongview.com

WSAFM Announces its Quarterly Newsletter...

Thanks to suggestions by the members of the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals, we are proud to be issuing the first quarterly email newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the members of the activities that the Board and other members are involved in as well as to provide education and resources to our members.

Why do we need a newsletter?

- Keep up to date with new information
- Receive notification of upcoming code hearings or changes
- Provide a regular notice to members of upcoming activities

What is WSAFM? The Washington State Association of Fire Marshals is an organization comprised of seven divisions working on: National Codes, State Codes, Legislative Issues, Professional Development, Communications, Fire Prevention Institute, and Fire Investigation. Membership in the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals is open to individuals in four categories: Governmental, Associate, Educational and Retired. There are many benefits to membership for individuals in all categories.

What is the Vision and Mission Statement for WSAFM?

Vision

To be a recognized leader and partner in fire prevention and community risk reduction.

Mission Statement

To provide leadership and professional development opportunities for our members and associates through communication, education, legislation and code development.

WSAFM President's Report

You asked and here it is – welcome to the first edition of our periodic newsletter intended to keep our WSAFM membership informed and up to date with the latest activities of our Association.

Financial Report: I'm pleased to report that our financial status is healthy. As of March 15, 2017, the balance in our checking account was \$63,230.76.

Since the Fire Prevention Institute at Lake Chelan last October, WSAFM has been active on many fronts.

In January, the Board of Directors held our annual Work Plan Meeting to review and update our

Association's vision, mission statement, guiding principles, and priority goals for 2017.

The most significant change made was to add an 11th goal titled 'Commitment to Community Risk Reduction (CRR)' by providing resources, education, and information through conferences, workshops, seminars, and code development; and encouraging legislation that promotes and supports CRR. The full version of the work plan is posted in our document library on our website at www.wsafm.com.

Our State Codes Committee has been busy and we are lucky to have Spokane Valley Fire Department's Fire Protection Engineer and WSAFM Board Member Traci Harvey sitting on the State Building Code Council as the Fire Service Representative. Please see Traci's report in 'Code Corner' below.

The Professional Development Committee worked with the WSAFM Board of Directors to finalize our procedures for sponsoring training courses. The intent of this is to provide Association members the ability to host their own training and receive ICC continuing education credits using WSAFM's ICC Preferred Provider status. This is significant in that it allows local jurisdictions to conduct classes specific to their needs and helps to lower the cost of training by providing it close to home. There have been two tiers of sponsorship identified, depending on the level of WSAFM involvement needed by the local jurisdiction. The instructions and forms are located on our website at www.wsafm.com. You can also contact the Chair of the Professional Development Committee Deputy Chief / Fire Marshal Tom Maloney at (360) 363-8500.

The 2017 Legislative Session in Olympia has been keeping us busy as well. Working with the Washington Fire Chiefs, WSAFM has been busy attending bi-weekly meetings tracking bills and testifying in support or opposition as needed. I'd like to publicly recognize Olympia Fire Marshal Robert Bradley for his time and dedication. As WSAFM's Legislative Committee Chair, Robert has done a great job testifying several times this session in front of legislative committees on behalf of the Association.

The 2017 Fire Prevention Institute dates are October 23 through October 27. Chair Greg Rogers and the rest of the FPI Committee members are diligently working on securing agreements with session speakers and instructors.

These are but a few of the things we have going on and it takes a small army of dedicated people to make it all happen. Thanks go out to everyone who puts in the extra time and effort to shine the bright light on fire prevention and community risk reduction efforts across the state. We couldn't do all we do without you.

Jon Dunaway, WSAFM President

Board and Member Activities

The Board of Directors is preparing for a full agenda of items throughout the year.

- **The Board met in January** at their annual retreat to review the status for goals and to evaluate them for the upcoming year.
- **Legislative Activities** have been active since the start of the legislative year. The Association has provided testimony on several bills that will affect our ability to enforce fire protection.
- **The State Building Code Council Fire Code TAG** has met and made recommendations based on the language generated from the 2016 budget proviso that removed voice fire alarm from E occupancies.

2017 Fire Prevention Institute – SAVE THE DATE!

The 2017 Fire Prevention Institute (FPI) will be held from October 23rd, through the morning of October 27th in Chelan, Washington at Campbells Resort. This is a longer format for the Institute with the intent of providing more technical programs for the attendees. The morning of the 27th is scheduled to be a breakfast with a round-table discussion of current issues and items that affect our members. Look for the registration notices and be sure to register early as this event has become a highlight for the Association and rooms will fill quickly.

Code Corner – Traci Harvey, P.E., Spokane Valley Fire Department – SBCC Fire Service Representative

Code year 2016 was filled with change. The 2015 I-Code additions became effective on July 1, 2016. A Proviso passed as part of the Supplemental Capital Budget (ESHB 2380, sec. 6012) eliminated the emergency voice alarm requirement for schools; work began on alternative language. The State Building Code Council updated its Policies and Procedures. The impact of these changes extends into 2017.

- 1) Several classes were held regarding the significant changes. A major Washington amendment to the model codes was sent to the national level and will be part of the 2018 IFC; the Processing and Extraction of Chapter 38 Processing and Extraction Facilities.
- 2) Effective Feb. 20th, a new code cycle process for amending the model code.
- 3) The process for amending the model code has been revised to extend the time for review. The codes have been divided into 2 groups with a 12-16 month review time for each. The updated codes would become effective 2-yrs after the publication date.
 - (a) Group 1: International Building Code; International Fire Code; Washington State Energy Code – Commercial; International Existing Building Code
 - (b) Group 2: International Residential Code; International Mechanical Code; Uniform Plumbing Code; Washington State Energy Code – Residential
- 4) Other Revisions include:
 - (a) The steps in the code adoption process have been clarified.
 - (b) The deadlines for proposed amendments have been removed.
 - (c) Timelines for submission, review and adoption will be established by the council within 60 days after the new model codes are publically available.
 - (d) A small business economic impact statements must be filed with the proposal. Process information for incomplete proposals has been added.
- 5) Local amendments may be submitted by an authorized local official. The requirement for local adoption has been removed but if after receiving council approval the local adoption process results in any modifications to the original submittal it shall be resubmitted back to the council.
- 6) Anyone with public testimony on record (either oral or written) may request consideration of council action on an amendment.
- 7) The fire code TAG convened for 2017 to address the results of the Budget Proviso passed in 2016 as part of the Supplemental Capital Budget (ESHB 2380, sec. 6012). The Proviso directed the council to pass an emergency rule eliminating the requirement for emergency voice alarm systems from schools. The Puget Sound School Coalition (PSSC) brought this to the attention of the legislature with the rationale, as included in the proviso, was to avoid unnecessary duplication of infrastructure. Work began in coordination with PSSC and WSAFM to address items related to the proviso. While a draft was ready for the November meeting, the council vote was to extend the emergency rule and convene the fire code TAG to draft alternative language.
- 8) Feb. 3, 2017 was the first TAG meeting. The TAG was informed of the history of the proviso and provided with and explanation regarding the 2 code option approach developed in conjunction with PSSC. The first design option is the model code language for an emergency voice alarm system. The second design option is an alternative design with minimum requirements clearly outlined. The intent being to allow for the use of alternative technologies in achieving the same goal. The meeting ended with a consensus regarding the design options.
- 9) Feb. 24, 2017 meeting will focus on rewrites of some additional exceptions to the emergency voice alarm requirement, in response to concerns raised by PSSC. Several versions of proposed language have been submitted and posted the SBCC website in advance of the meeting.
- 10) The effective date for the NICET requirements has been a hot topic of discussion with concerns that in some areas insufficient numbers if designers and installers would achieve certification prior to the July 1, 2017 effective date. A proposal regarding changing the date to July 1, 2018.
- 11) The discussion of mobile food trucks has been brought to the legislature and meetings with L&I have occurred. Several jurisdictions in the state have already adopted regulations. The 2018 IFC will have a section of code requirements for

mobile food trucks. Further discussions should take into account the coming model code language and potentially incorporate it into state code language.

12) The following actions were taken by the State Building Code Council at the March 10th meeting:

- a) Voted to enact the revised NICET effective date of July 1, 2018 as an emergency rule.
- b) Voted to post TAG language for replacement of Budge Proviso emergency rule. Final action on replacement of emergency rule with the TAG language and entering into permanent rule making will be on the agenda for the SBDD May 12th meeting.



Be sure to download and print the ICC published errata on a regular basis

The Inspector's Manual

We are going to be using this section of the newsletter to pass on information and lessons learned from Fire inspections done throughout the State. This can include photos, discussions of non-standard situations, and helpful hints and guidelines. Members are welcome to share their own experiences and lessons learned.

Fire Marshal's Log

This is the section in which there can be information about administering employees, handling grants, etc. that are normally handled at the level of the Fire Marshal. This can be items such as dealing with a difficult business owner, addressing Councils or Committees, personnel issues, and many other situations.

Plan Review Comments

Plan review is one of the more technical challenging and time consuming duties for Fire Prevention offices. It requires a strong knowledge and understanding of the wording and intent of the codes that are being enforced. Using a prescriptive code, there is little leeway that can be made, but there are areas of the code when interpretation and alternatives may prove to be beneficial without compromising safety. We will be providing information for each newsletter that will address typical, and not-so-typical, examples of plan review challenges. For now, there are just a couple of things that you need to keep in mind with plan review:

1. Consistency is critical, but it is not easy. The codes are typically for black and white situations, so plan reviewers constantly have to evaluate how the code applies to a specific situation. The criteria for the requirement do not change, it is usually a characteristic of the project that needs evaluation. Look at it closely and apply what you have done previously. If the decision differs from prior projects, provide a clear and concise explanation for the difference with justification from the codes where possible.
2. The code is the code, even if you disagree with it. It needs to be enforced the same in every jurisdiction, or we lose credibility as the enforcement arm of the fire code. If there is a code that needs to be changed, then it needs to go through the proper process and not avoided or enforced.
3. Seek the support of other plan reviewers in your area. You want to avoid the "well, the jurisdiction next door allows it, why don't you?" situation. Not everyone agrees on all of the codes, but be aware of any differences.

Resources

There are a number of resources available at little to no cost to AHJs as well as to the general public. ICC has the current (and some historical) codes available online. There are limitations to what you can do with the codes, but they serve as a good location for reference. These are located at:

<https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/collections/I-Codes>

In addition, the State Building Code Council provides printable insert pages for the ICC Codes of the Washington State Amendments. These can be located at:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/sbcc/Page.aspx?nid=14>

Do you have a question on the code, or just want to be sure you have a consistent interpretation? We will be providing contacts of several members who participate in the National and State development of the Codes who can provide the information you need to make an informed code decision.

Member Opportunities

WSAFM is always looking for more volunteers to assist in the operations of the Association. When we have openings on Committees, Board Positions, or other opportunities, we will include that information in the newsletter. As our President noted in his welcome, it does take a small army to make sure the Association works well. Strength is in numbers, so we are looking to increase the number of volunteers as well as provide for training to become part of the Board of Directors.

Upcoming Training

This section will provide information on any upcoming training that we are made aware of that will benefit WSAFM members.