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WASHINGTON STATE
FIRE MARSHALS

Quarterly Newsletter

May 2023

Vol 7 Issue 1

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.

WSAFM Vision and Mission Statement

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 – Tom Maloney

Welcome to the spring and it is hard to believe that we are already in on May, which means time for summer fun. I would like to say that your Association is continuing to react fast to all the legislative changes and you will enjoy the Legislative Committee's Report.

Please note that we continue to monitor the potential move of the State FMO but know that we have not been formally asked to participate in the policy board membership or as a stakeholder. We know that this will change and we will keep you posted on what is needed to support you in your role as a fire prevention member.

We recently sent out a message from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner regarding companies that are showing up on fire scenes and are aggressively seeking the occupant's approval to help with after the fire mitigation. If you are having any challenges with these individuals or companies this is your opportunity to express them with the Commissioner.

Please be on the lookout for the FPI schedule as we are just about to roll it out for October and this year plans to be better than the last. We are excited to announce that our keynote speakers are Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, United States Fire Administrator and Chief Dennis Compton. Make sure you are there for the opening to see these incredible leaders of the fire service.

Lastly, I hope you have noticed our weekly updates as this is something new, we are trying to help get out more information and training in a timely manner. If you have anything to share or need a question answered please send it to us. Also, we are offering a free job posting board as well. Please use the association email: wasfm@wasfm.com so we can help.

Please check out the article on credentialing too and if you have any questions, please let us know as this is a great opportunity!

Enjoy the spring flowers and let's get ready for a great summer!
See you in October, Tom



Elections & Awards - Jon Dunaway

2023 WSAFM Board Elections

As we do every year, several Director positions for the Association are up for re-election at the Fire Prevention Institute (FPI) in October.

Being a Director for the Association puts you in a unique position to help steer our annual work plan, adjust priorities, and provide input on a host of other initiatives. It also allows you to see how community risk reduction happens across the state and how our efforts intermingle with other organizations. Directors regularly interact with other departments and associations, allowing you to make important connections and expand your network. And of course, it is very rewarding to be involved at this level and see how WSAFM's involvement on many fronts makes a difference for our members and those we serve.

Directors have several roles and responsibilities as they represent the membership of the Association. Some of those include: coordinate and facilitate the accomplishment of the Association's work plan and other business; attend Board and other meetings; liaison between the Association, its members and allied groups and organizations; and generally, perform duties as needed to support the Association's mission and goals. Directors may be assigned chair, support, or other capacities in committees or work groups established in standing or ad-hoc capacities to meet the needs of the Association and will be assigned functions by the President to ensure the vision and mission of the Association are met.

These positions are two-year terms.

Per our bylaws, WSAFM requires that at least 60 days prior to the Fire Prevention Institute, the Elections Committee shall solicit or make nominations to fill expiring or appointed officer and director positions from the current voting membership. Members wishing to be nominated for a position must provide proof of membership, a letter of support from their employer, and a statement of intent for consideration. These documents can be sent to the Elections Committee Chair via e-mail to: jon.dunaway@ci.longview.wa.us or via USPS to: Jon Dunaway, Elections Committee, 740 Commerce Avenue, Longview, WA 98632. Within 30 days of the FPI, the committee will verify all nominees' eligibility for office and publish the names and statements of intent to the membership.

Nominations and other required documentation must be received no later than 2359 hours on September 14th, 2023. Anyone interested in becoming a Director can reach out to any of the WSAFM Board to ask questions. Contact information can be found on our web page at WSAFM.com.



2023 WSAFM Award Nominations

The Washington State Fire Prevention Institute (FPI) is just around the corner and October will be here before we know it. As you may know, at each FPI we strive to recognize the outstanding work that is being done in our state related to fire prevention / community risk reduction and the people who make that happen.

There are two awards presented each year: Fire Marshal of the Year and WSAFM Member of the Year. These awards are intended to recognize the outstanding contributions of a WSAFM member and are presented to any member of the Association that exemplifies the vision and goals of our Association.

As a reminder, a person does not have to have the title 'Fire Marshal' to be considered for these awards. WSAFM considers any person doing this body of work eligible.

The form and instructions for nominating a member may be downloaded: [Award Nomination Form 2023](#) The form

must be turned in no later than 2359 hours on September 14th, 2023. Please direct any questions to me via e-mail at jon.dunaway@ci.longview.wa.us or call (360) 442-5538.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at another great FPI at Lake Chelan in October!



The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Lori Burke (Assistant Fire Marshal – Snohomish County Planning & Development Services), to Director Position #1. She will fulfill the remainder of Mike Messer’s term.

Lori hired on at the Snohomish County Fire Marshal’s Office in October 1998 as a Secretary to the Fire Marshal. Within six months she promoted up to a permit coordinator for all fire permits and assisted the data entry of the annual fire and life safety inspections conducted by the fire inspectors. Within a few months of this, she recognized that she was developing a passion for fire prevention and took the initiative to obtain her Fire Inspector certification under the Uniform Fire Code. Once the International Fire Code was adopted by the State of Washington, she obtained her Fire Inspector 2 certification.

Lori promoted out of the Fire Marshal’s office for a period of four years working as a Land Development Specialist/Planner primarily working on commercial and land use development, which allowed her to utilize her experience and fire code knowledge. During this time, she maintained her fire code certification and later obtained her Fire Plan Review certification when she learned the next promotional opportunity that would arise within the Fire Marshal’s Office would include plan review. Obtaining the fire plan review certification was instrumental in her permanent rehiring back into the Fire Marshal’s Office where she has been working ever since. Within one year of doing plan review and fire and life safety inspections in the jurisdiction of Snohomish County, Lori obtained her Fire Code Specialist certification.

Lori has worked as a lead in the inspection and plan review units of the Fire Marshal’s Office for many years. She continues to be passionate about fire prevention and works diligently to establish partnerships with all Snohomish County fire agencies. She has actively participated in Snohomish County Fire Prevention Association monthly meetings and has served on the board for several years in various capacities.

Lori was promoted to the Assistant Fire Marshal in October 2021, 23 years after her initial hire date at the Fire Marshal’s Office. She continues to enjoy being a mentor and partner for her co-workers and partners in the Snohomish County fire agencies. Lori has attended several Fire Prevention Institutes in the past and is looking forward to working with the WSAFM board members throughout the state she has become acquainted with through participation at FPI. She is grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and looks forward to being an active and valuable addition to the board.



Legislative Update – Karen Grove & Dave Kokot

Legislative Report – 2023 Session

The 2023 Washington State Legislative session ended April 23rd. It was a long session this year. The amount of bills for this session were significant, 1999. Our lobbyist, Bryan McConaughy, was valuable in getting us the bill information and updates for hearings and testimony. We were able to participate in hearings, provide written testimony, and meet with legislators and representatives throughout the session.

The focus of several bills was to provide for more housing with less restriction, increased housing, and reduction of requirements to reduce construction costs. We were able to provide comment on one bill before it was introduced that

would allow a single stair for residential buildings up to 6 floors. The original bill would have required Cities and Counties to provide for the single stair structures, and the introduced bill modified that to optional for the jurisdictions. That was SB 5491. It was amended to include the State Building Code Council in developing the code language. The bill passed and was sent to the Governor. As of 5/1/23, it has not been signed.

Another bill was HB 1167. This bill would allow middle housing (up to 6-plex) to be constructed under the International Residential Code. It was also amended several times, including provisions for pre-approved plans that would not need reviews. This bill did not move forward from the House.

SB 5058 exempts buildings with 12 or fewer units that are no more than 2 stories from the definition of a multiunit residential building. In general, it does not require plans to be submitted for permits and inspections can be done by other than local jurisdictions. Although we opposed this bill, it passed and was forwarded to the Governor. As of 5/1/23, it has not been signed.

SB 5520 was a bill to create a Fire Service Policy Board to provide oversight of the State Fire Marshals office. The structure of the Board did not include representation by WSAFM. The bill failed to get out of Committee, but a budget proviso was submitted to review the creation of the Board. There are indications that WSAFM will be involved.

A high priority of last year was to correct the language from HB 2701 regarding smoke damper and smoke control systems. The effort last year put us between a couple of unions, so we made a proposal for a budget proviso to have the State Building Code Council conduct a review of the RCW and provide feedback for revisions for the next legislative session. The proviso is in the approved budget.

As happened last year, we anticipated that there will be some bills addressing homeless facilities. These bills did not include reductions to life safety systems (such as HB 1042).

The fees and fines for fire sprinkler contractors has been increased with SB 5425.

Next year will be a short session, with many of the bills that did not move forward this year. Our Legislative Committee will be ready to provide testimony to support our objectives and to be sure we do not lose where we have previously gained.



Topics of Interest

[CFAI Accreditation: An Ongoing Series](#)

[What is Credentialing – Grant Tinker](#)

What is credentialing?

Professional credentialing is a process that verifies the qualifications and competencies of professionals in the firefighting and EMS field, ensuring they meet established standards of knowledge, skills, and experience. The Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) is a recognized organization that provides credentialing services to individuals in a wide range of positions.

The CPC's goal is to promote and enhance the quality of professional services by establishing standards for knowledge, skills, and experience. The CPC designation process includes an application portfolio and oral interview that assess an individual's mastery of their respective field and position.

The CPC currently has designations in the following categories:

- Fire Officer (FO) – acting officers are eligible (12 months of acting time minimum)
- Public Information Officer (PIO)
- Chief EMS Officer (CEMSO)
- Chief Training Officer (CTO)
- Fire Marshal (FM)
- Chief Fire Officer (CFO)

Who does the credentialing?

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) and the Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) serve different functions in the fire and emergency services community. Both the CFAI and CPC branches fall under the CPSE (Center for Public Safety Excellence). The CPSE is a non-profit organization that provides leadership and support to the fire and emergency services community, with a mission to improve public safety by promoting excellence in fire and emergency services.

The CFAI is an organization that accredits fire departments, providing a comprehensive assessment of the department's operations and services to ensure they meet established standards of performance and quality. Accreditation by the CFAI is a recognition of the department's commitment to excellence and ability to provide the highest service to its community.

On the other hand, the CPC provides professional credentialing/designation services to individuals in the fire and emergency services (think of it as an individual accreditation). The CPC offers certification programs for acting officers, fire officers, fire chiefs, and other related positions, ensuring that individuals meet established standards of knowledge, skills, and experience. By holding a CPC credential, individuals demonstrate mastery of their respective fields and commitment to professional development.

What is the process for becoming a designated officer?

The CPC certification process is rigorous, ensuring that individuals with a CPC credential have the necessary knowledge, skills, and experience to perform their job duties competently and ethically. This helps to ensure that fire and emergency services are performed with the highest level of professionalism and competence, providing the public with the highest level of protection and safety.

The application is thorough and detailed, capturing your past experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, professional memberships, and community involvement. Additionally, there may be up to 20 Technical Competency sections to complete, depending on which designation you are applying for.

Gathering past classes and dates can be challenging if you have not kept good records throughout your career of courses and certifications. Inputting the information required in the electronic application accounts for the bulk of the work of the process. Once all portions of the application portfolio are complete, you submit the application to the CPC Manager. From there, the CPC Manager assigns up to two peer reviewers to read and review your application portfolio. An interview is scheduled, and you will conduct the interview with your peer reviewer(s) over the phone. The interview can take anywhere from 30 to 90 minutes. Once the interview is complete, the peer reviewers will submit the application to the Commission for approval or denial.

The application portfolio is time-consuming, but it is critical to ensure that the application is as comprehensive and polished as possible.

Why is credentialing important? What does it do for me?

The importance of professional credentialing through the CPC lies in its ability to raise the standards of professionalism and promote public protection. The CPC certification process ensures that professionals meet established standards for knowledge, skills, and experience, assuring employers that individuals with the CPC credential are competent and qualified to perform their jobs.

Additionally, having a CPC credential can provide many benefits to individuals. For example, it can provide career advancement opportunities and demonstrate a commitment to professional development. A CPC credential can also give individuals a competitive edge when seeking promotion and employment, as many employers prefer to hire certified professionals.

Moreover, the CPC promotes ethical behavior and best practices in the various professional fields it serves. The CPC sets strict ethical standards for its credentialed professionals, which helps maintain public trust and confidence in their services.

Final note

In conclusion, professional credentialing through the CPC is an important process that verifies the qualifications and competencies of professionals, ensuring they meet established standards of knowledge, skills, and experience. The CPC helps to raise the standards of professionalism, promote public protection, and demonstrate a commitment to professional development. By holding a CPC credential, individuals can enjoy many benefits, including opportunities for career advancement and promotion of ethical behavior in their respective fields.

For more information:

<http://www.cpse.org/credentialing>



About Grant:

Grant Tinker is a captain with the Colorado Springs Fire Department in Colorado, an accredited agency through the Commission on Fire accreditation International (CFAI). Captain Tinker has been with the department for more than fifteen years, working his way through the ranks to Captain in 2020.

Captain Tinker has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Northern Colorado and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Managing Officer Program. Tinker has been honored with several awards and recognition including being named Firefighter of the Year in 2019.

He earned his Fire Officer (FO) Designation in February 2015.



Membership

Thank you for supporting WSAFM. Your membership allows the Association the ability to actively pursue our mission of providing leadership and professional development opportunities for our members and partners through communication, education, legislation, and code development.



2023 Fire Prevention Institute – Tom Maloney

Changing Today for Tomorrow: Making Livable Communities

The Tracks are taking shape and will provide a lot of valuable information so be sure to register. Campbell's Resort can fill up fast so be sure to make your reservations soon. Looking forward to seeing everyone in the premiere weeklong learning and networking experience for Fire Marshals and Prevention staff.



2023 Fire Prevention Institute Announcement
October 16 - Monday through October 20 – Friday



2023 Fire Prevention Keynote Speaker Announced
Chief Dennis Compton



Code Corner

State Building Code Council – Tony Doan

The State Building Code Council reviewed several noteworthy items during the April 21st meeting. There was a motion to delay the adoption of the Energy Codes that was eventually modified to delay the adoption of all 2021 codes because of concerns about the contents of the final rulemaking and the associated companion codes in the Residential and Commercial Building Code. Lack of training and proper enforcement were of primary concern. This motion did not carry. For the time being, July 1, 2023 will be the effective date of the 2021 Codes adopted by the State of Washington.

There are still several bills that are alive in the legislative session right now concerning affordable housing and sheltering. These include: ESHB 1042, E2SHB 1110, EHB 1337, SSB 6491, and SB 5553.

The adoption of the R-4 Occupancy was passed by Council. This is consistent with national model code and overrides the previous "licensed care occupancy" that was adopted by the state when the Uniform Codes were transitioned to International Codes.

Another item members should be aware of is the fire sprinkler requirements in hydraulically powered elevator pits. The SBCC passed an emergency rule that waives the requirements for fire sprinklers in the elevator pit. Since then, the Washington State Labor & Industries Elevator Department has filed rulemaking that would specifically adopt the unabridged version of NFPA 13. Public Hearing dates have yet to be set but should be sometime in June.

Lastly, WSAFM recently held a monthly webinar on emergency responder radio coverage that was instructed by John Foley, Managing Director of the Safer Building Coalition. On June 27th they will be hosting a seminar in Spokane, WA that is free to AHJ's. For more information go to: <https://sbc.memberclicks.net/>



ICC Codes – Traci Harvey

The 2027 I-Code cycle is off to a great start. There are 7 Work Groups, each with Task Groups working on the various Chapters. Revising existing codes and providing language for new technology. A hot topic in Washington and elsewhere: Li-Ion Batteries.

Work Group 4: Energies Issues – Otherwise known as Energy Storage Systems; Or All things Li-Ion

This work group is dealing with the newest technology that has made its way into our homes and business. It seems so innocuous and is everywhere, even this laptop as I work on this article, yet the protection guidelines are not fully developed. Task Groups:

- Li-Ion Battery Storage
- Li-Ion Battery Recycling
- Micro-mobility Devices (IFC Chapter 309 & 322 (new 2024))

Work Group 5: Special Use & Occupancy

This group is taking a quick peek at all the Special Occupancy Chapters that have not had any edits in several cycles. One relevant topic is Oxidizers. This Task Group is addressing oxidizers which also includes Semi-conductor facilities.

Work Group 6: Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials have only become more complicated over the years. Some revisions being discussed are:

- Moving all fueling related processes, whether stationary or mobile, to Chapter 23. One stop research.
- Re-evaluating maximum quantities; specifically for refrigerant gases and Li-Ion batteries.
- Incorporating GHIS definitions & categories; MSDS sheets are gone and SDS are here to stay.

Work Group 7: Wildland Urban Interface – A general re-evaluation of the chapter and requirements based on all the large scale fires in recent years.

There are more Work Groups and Task Groups these are just the high-lights. It is not too late to join a Task Group, if interested just send me an email on which group that you would like to join: HarveyT@SpokaneValleyFire.com.

Code proposals are due by January 2024, check the new schedule for specifics: [2024-2026 Updated Code Development Process](#)

This is a great way to make a difference. Or change something that you believe should be “fixed.”



ICC Calendar of Events Washington State Association of Fire Marshals is an ICC Chapter and as such we're here to give you the latest on what ICC is offering.

- May
 - Building Safety Month is here. A draft proclamation may be found: [Building Safety Month Proclamation](#)
 - Week One (May 1-7): “Building Safety Starts at Home:
 - Week Two (May 8-14): “Building Safety Professionals and You”
 - Week Three (May 15-21): “Prepare Your Community”
 - Week Four (May 22-28): “Advocate for Your Community”
 - Week Five (May 29-31): “Solving Challenges Together”
 - 16th 2021 IFC Essentials
 - 25th Inspector Skills
- June
 - 8th Tall Mass Timber Building and the 2021 IBC

- 20th Basic Code Enforcement

For details and registration: [Training - ICC](#)



Upcoming Trainings: Washington State Association of Fire Marshals

Monthly Webinar Series

The 2023 Monthly Webinar Series is an ongoing success! These 90-minute courses can be viewed live or at a later date. All the course topics were selected from the instructor evaluations from last year. The goal was to deliver training that our members want. We are excited to start our 3rd year of the webinar series. Topics to come include 'High Hazard Occupancies', '2023 Code Adoption Process', and '2023 Code enforcement Challenges' to name a few. Thank you all for your continued interest.



Fire Sprinkler Review Class

May 23-24, 2023

This two-day seminar provides attendees with vital information on how to conduct the plan review process for water-based fire protection systems.

Utilizing the requirements of NFPA 13 the participants will be guided through an actual review of sprinkler system plans and calculations. They will discuss the importance of employing a systematic review process and identify the documents required for a complete plan review.

Finally, participants will review and discuss a submittal of the hydraulic calculations presented with the plans. Discussion points include the process of hydraulic calculations, and identification of the key pieces of information, and the common errors that are made.

Register at [Fire Sprinkler Review Class](#)



2021 IFC Code Update

June 6, 2023

On-line

The 2021 International Fire Code goes into effect July 1, 2023 in the State of Washington. This one-day online course will cover code changes from the 2018 to the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code. In addition, a review of the latest Washington State amendments to the Fire Code will be covered.

Register at [2021 IFC Code Update](#)

Washington Code Academy Instructor: Washington Code Academy, LLC is an ICC Preferred Provider. The instructor for this course is Tony Doan. Tony has 6 years of fire sprinkler design experience and 6 years of fire code inspection experience and currently works for the City of Yakima. He holds a NICET Level II in fire sprinkler design. He is

also certified through the International Code Council as a Fire Code Inspector I & II, Commercial Building Inspector and Certified Building Official.



Washington Fire Chief's – Calendar of Events

- May
 - 22nd -25th WFC Conference
- June
 - 3rd EVIP 3.0 Virtual Training – Train the Trainer

For details and registration: [Event Calendar](#)



State Fire Marshal's Office

Documenting Incidents in NFIRS Related to Lithium-Ion Batteries:

The State Fire Marshal's Office has developed coding guidance for incidents involving lithium-ion batteries. Fire agencies will need to add an additional digit on to some of the standard codes found in the National Fire Incident Reporting System. This information will help Washington State track incidents related to this technology and allow for prevention and mitigation strategies to be developed. If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact the NFIRS administrator by email at NFIRS@wsp.wa.gov or by phone at 360-596-3924.



Resources

There are many resources available at little to no cost to AHJs as well as to the 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 suitable 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.

