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WASHINGTON STATE
FIRE MARSHALS

Inspection Report

April 2022

Vol 6 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 – Dave Kokot, P.E.

It seems that things are becoming more normal, at least closer to the normal of 2 years ago. There does appear to be a new normal that includes virtual meetings that does not look like it will be leaving us soon. As we get to embrace the new normal, there seems to be a pent-up energy to get out to see and do more.

I was fortunate to do just that and participated in the Congressional Fire Services Institute on April 6-7th in Washington, DC. Actually, it was more than just participating as I assisted in the scheduling and logistics for our group. It was a smaller group of representatives from Washington State than in previous years, two Chiefs, a WSAFM President, and a Financial Officer. It was as diverse as it could be and busy as we were able to meet with 7 of our 12 legislators (or their staff). There was far more security than before and we did not have as much access in the buildings as we went from meeting to meeting. For many legislative staff, they had just returned to their offices after the past couple of years. What was prevalent was their interest in the needs of the Fire Service. There were 3 primary subjects – grants, wildland, and fire sprinklers. It was great to be able to speak to two of them at each meeting and the concerns of community risk reduction and fire prevention. Overall, the CFSI attendance was down, but there was the same enthusiasm and energy to be able to share our experience with those who create and vote on legislation that can directly affect all of us.

We were able to present the Legislator or their staff member with one of our challenge coins, which added a bit of rivalry to the visits. WFC did not think about that and made a few in-cheek remarks after the first meeting. As we met more, they made sure the coins came out first to help break the ice and open the conversation.

The trip was a reminder that we can make a difference not only locally or at the State level, but at the National level.

It was not all safe, however. One of our meetings was in the Capitol Building. It happened to be that we were on the hill when a rogue fox (found to be rabid) bit several people around the Capitol Building. We did not even hear about it until late in the day but saw several flyers around the buildings the next few days. It definitely added to the flavor of being in the nation's capital. (Did you ever notice that the building has an "o" in capitol, but the city is the nation's capital? I had to look it up)

This was the third time I was able to represent WSAFM at the CFSI. I hope that other members have an interest to do so next year.

I have a feeling that WFC will be bringing some handouts next year.

Stay safe and healthy.



Elections & Awards - Jon Dunaway

2022 Elections The 2022 elections at the Fire Prevention Institute will see changes in the make-up of the WSAFM Board of Directors. Be sure that your Agency voting member is present at the Fire Prevention Institute in October to cast their vote. If the designated voter will be unable to attend it is a simple matter to have your Agency Administrator make adjustments prior to the election.

We are always looking for new board members so if you or anyone you know might be interested, please reach out to Jon Dunaway Jon.Dunaway@ci.longview.wa.gov

WSAFM 2022 Nominees

The annual awards will be presented at the 2022 Fire Prevention Institute in October. Each year, WSAFM presents three awards:

WSAFM 2021 Member of the Year

WSAFM 2021 Life Member

WSAFM 2021 Fire Marshal of the Year

We're looking for nominees. Do you know someone who has served their community and the fire service with extra dedication? Do you know someone who has been a long-term member and supporter? please let us know – we might have an award for them.



The Sounding Board – what is the membership thinking about

Your board here is to serve you. The Association is for you - the members. Given the limits on travel in recent years it has been harder to keep in touch. To overcome this deficient we're going to try something new. This is the first newsletter with a section dedicated to the members and their thoughts. Members can be fire, building or our partners in life safety.

Since Community Risk Reduction is a joint effort to ensure the safety and prosperity of our communities it seems fitting that the first Sound Off relate to the coordination between city and fire officials.

Jenny Nickerson, Building Official for Spokane Valley

Coordination amongst Community Development and Fire Department staff is a crucial part of ensuring safe commercial, industrial, and even residential development. We have all (likely) experienced frustrated business owners or developers who feel caught between a rock and a hard place while trying to plan for a development, such as when a landscaping or aesthetic design standard conflicts with a necessary egress path or fire access. A typical business owner or developer does not have background or expertise as to the reason for the fire and life safety provisions of the adopted building and fire codes, nor does the majority of City Planners or Public Works Engineers. Similarly, most building and fire code

officials have only a basic knowledge of land use regulations and how those regulations are created. When a business owner or developer is forced to navigate a sea of conflicting regulations in order to obtain a permit, it increases the opportunity for inefficient, costly, and un-maintainable (not to mention unsafe) buildings and sites to impact the community.

Spokane Valley Fire Department and the City of Spokane Valley Community and Public Works have a long-standing tradition of supporting and facilitating coordinated permit review processes. Staff members discuss each land-use action and commercial/multi-family project during pre-application reviews all the way through project completion. It is also common for continued coordination to occur long after the original development is completed; fire inspection staff refer business owners to building department staff when modification of a building's egress system may be more beneficial to the long-term use of the building than maintaining the original design. Similarly, planning staff understand the importance of considering fire access and even wildland-urban interface areas well ahead of the subdivision process and connect developers with the local fire district. Because planning/zoning staff are often the first contact for developers and the fire code directs the long-term maintenance of facilities; the Building Official has the important responsibility to ensure that there is continuity throughout the development process. Although it can be challenging, the efforts towards coordination benefit the safety of the entire community. High five!

Comments and Sound off's welcome. Feel free to email me at harveyt@spokanevalleyfire.com. While there are only 3 newsletters year if you submit a Sound off we will post it on Facebook between newsletters.



Membership – Robert Ferrell

On behalf of the WSAFM Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank member agencies and partners for your 2022 membership dues payment. Your financial support allows the association to continue to provide leadership and professional development opportunities for our members and partners through communication, education, legislation, and code development. Upon receipt of dues, agency members receive access to the monthly webinar series, event discounts, including the Fire Prevention Institute and other member benefits.

WSAFM membership was restructured in 2021 from membership at the individual level, as either a governmental or educational member, to an Agency Level membership with each agency able to sign up as many individuals from their department as they like. All individuals under a WSAFM agency membership will enjoy the benefits of membership. When an agency signs up for membership, a bundle administrator is selected and that person can add and delete individuals to the agency membership bundle at any time. For more information on the bundle administrator role and membership please visit www.WSAFM.com.

Once again, thank you for your continued support! 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.

If there are any membership questions, please contact Membership Committee Chair Robert Ferrell at robert.ferrell@wsrb.com or 509-228-8062.

Thank you for supporting WSAFM.



Fire Prevention Institute – Tom Maloney

2022 Fire Prevention Institute

October 17 - Monday through October 21 – Friday

The various tracks are wrapping up and registration is scheduled to early May – keep an eye on your in-box for more.

You'll notice some changes this year:

- Sessions will now be an hour which will permit popular sessions to be held more than once.
- The banquet has been repurposed. After the past couple of years without our normal “social” interaction we will now host a Social Gathering. All are welcome – feel free to wear jeans and invite the family. We look forward to seeing you there.
- The awards will not be part of the opening ceremonies.

We're all very excited and eagerly anticipate the 2022 FPI. See you there.



Code Corner

Fire TAG – Tony Doan

The Group 1 CR102 was filed at the end of December. Public hearings were held Feb. 11th and March 11th (both were virtual).

Process Timeline: All meetings are still being held using Zoom. Links can be found: [Home | SBCC \(wa.gov\)](#)

Group 2 code proposals will be brought before council to assign to the appropriate TAG. May meetings are as follow:

May 6 th	TAG Energy Code
May 12 th	TAG Mechanical and Ventilation Code
May 13 th	TAG
May 19 th	TAB Mechanical and Ventilation Code
May 19 th	BFP Committee
May 20 th	Council meeting

Group 2 proposals include the International Residential Code, Plumbing Code, Residential Energy Code, International Mechanical Code, and the Wildland Urban Interface Code (WUIC).

August	CR102 is expected to be filed
September	Public hearings
December	Final council action

State Building Code Council staff accepted applications for a new technical advisory group specifically for the WUIC. While the members of this group have not been announced there are 3 code proposals that have been submitted by a joint Building/Fire group.

ICC Codes – Traci Harvey

[ICC Codes – Group B Calendar of Events](#) The excitement of the International Code Council 2022 Committee Action Hearings has come and gone with the in-person action competing on April 6th. While the Group B codes may not catch the attention of the fire service in the same manner as the Group A codes there are important proposals that are relevant offering the chance to provide input on:

- Admin: Chapter 1 of all the I-Codes except the IECC, IgCC and IRC. Also includes the update of currently referenced standards in all of the 2021 Codes.
- IEBC: IEBC Non-structural provisions.
- IRC-B: IRC Building provisions. Chapters 1 – 10.

The results have been posted. <https://www.iccsafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2022-Committee-Action-for-Mag-Group-B.pdf> With the posting the next phase has begun – Public Comment. Anyone can submit so if you have been following the hearings this is your chance. Public comments must be submitted by June 20th.

Membership in the various work groups is open to all. We want your thoughts and perspective.

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.

Building Safety Month proclamations are available for use through ICC It's that time of year again and May is just around the corner which means → **Building Safety Month**. This is an opportunity to raise the profile of our profession and to communities about their value to America's economic growth and safety.

This year's theme is "Safety for All: Building Codes in Action." Additional information on the weekly themes is available through the links below:

- **Week One** (May 1-8): [Energy and Innovation](#)
- **Week Two** (May 9-15): [Building Safety Careers](#)
- **Week Three** (May 16-22): [Disaster Preparedness](#)
- **Week Four** (May 23-31): [Water Safety](#)

The [2022 Proclamation Guide is available here](#) which can be downloaded. Do not overlook this opportunity to have the 2022 BSM proclamations signed by mayors, county commission chairs, state legislators, Governors and associations and businesses who support a safe and resilient built environment.

Tiny Homes: How Thinking Small Might Help Solve Housing Affordability

May 3, 2022 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

The Building Safety Month virtual event will take place on Tuesday, May 3, from 3:00-4:00 PM EST.

Housing is a fundamental need. Yet, for many, affordable, efficient, and safe housing can be out of reach. While resolving the housing crisis requires a multi-pronged approach, off-site construction—including tiny homes—have emerged as part of the solution. However, confusion abounds on what a tiny home is and how important factors like safety and sustainability differ (or don't) from other single-family structures. This webinar will explore how new housing types like tiny homes are helping meet the need for affordable housing and what prospective homeowners and policymakers should look for to ensure they are safe and sustainable.

Register [here](#).

Training: Complaint Management from Start to Finish

May 6, 2022

This course will focus on how to effectively prepare yourself for taking on your code compliance case load. We will discuss what case management should look like from start to finish to allow for an "airtight" case with proper noticing and evidence documentation. We will also discuss case priority types for effective management of case workload.



WPFE Update – Ben Schearer

Spring is usually a time for new beginnings. You would not know it right now with all the cold, snow, and frozen stuff falling from the sky across Washington. Maybe, by the time this is published, spring will be on track, and we will all be back to enjoying the change to warmer weather. Hopefully, by the time we are thinking about snow and cold weather again, we will be gathered at the FPI in Lake Chelan, enjoying the fire pit and talking about ski trips.

The Public Educators have had a busy winter creating change at this year's FPI. The educators have been talking about the change across the state, with more departments embracing the Community Risk Reduction model. With the encouragement of the FPI committee, we are making some changes to the Education track. The track this fall will have some of the same subjects that people have asked for, social media, school programs, and injury prevention. But you will also see more programs on the broader topic of CRR, including the Statewide Risk Assessment. Programs that will train your staff to be aware of social determinates while educating the community on how to be prepared to work with Emergency Response crews. You will hear about Economic incentives and prevention programs that go beyond the codes and work with people to create win-win situations for your jurisdiction. We are also setting aside time to discuss your programs. Share what is working and get ideas from other departments on how they overcame obstacles you may be facing. Be watching for invitations to pitch your program during these special roundtable sessions.

Your Washington Public Fire Educators have led the way the last couple of years in providing a safe and healthy community by finding partners and programs to use all 5 E's of CRR. Some of these partners you may not have thought about as having shared goals. Can't recall the 5 E's? Then you need to come hear about these model programs. These effective CRR programs make your community safer, they also make your department safer.

Are you a department with a model CRR program and want to share it with the rest of the state? Feel free to drop me a note, and we can discuss having you present at 2023 FPI!

Ben Shearer- Chair of the Washington Public Fire Educators
shearerb@pasco-wa.gov



State Fire Marshals Office

The 2022 Fire in Washington is now published. The latest report is available and can be downloaded at this link: https://www.wsp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Fire_in_Washington_Report.pdf

Vacant Positions of Interest

The State Fire Marshal's Office is recruiting for the Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal position that oversees the Plan Review section. <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/3501949/chief-deputy-state-fire-marshal>

The State Fire Marshal's Office is recruiting for the Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal position that supports the National Fire Incident Reporting System

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/3479515/assistant-deputy-state-fire-marshal-education-enforcement-and-analytics>



Upcoming Trainings:

2022 LEPC-Tribal Conference and Hazardous Materials Workshop. This year's conference and workshop, provided through a collaborative effort of private, local, state, and federal organizations will be a combined event to engage both the Hazardous Materials responders and Local Emergency Planning Committee/Tribal groups in this *virtual* event to provide "Whole Community" involvement. Sessions will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 12th – May 12th. To register for the event, [please click here.](#)

National Fire Incident Reporting System 5.0 2-day class. The State Fire Marshal's Office is hosting an Introduction to NFIRS 5.0 course in June. This two-day course teaches students how to use standardized forms to achieve uniformity in their incident and activity reporting. This training program is designed specifically to support local fire service organizations, and it will assist them in providing data both to their management and to decision-makers, as well as to their state uniform fire reporting system.

At a local level, National Fire Incident Reporting System data can be used to:

- Describe a community's fire problem.
- Support budget requests and improve decision-making for allocation of resources.
- Assist in planning for future fire protection.
- Help identify opportunities for scheduling nonemergency activities.
- Evaluate code enforcement programs.
- Identify target audiences for public fire education programs.
- Support requests from grant making organizations and alternative funding sources to fund department programs and priorities.

Date: June 29-30, 2022

Time: 0800-1700 daily

Location: Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority: Station 73, 26512 Military Rd, Kent WA 98032

Fee: No Cost

Registration: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/27ZX8JN>

Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist. The State Fire Marshal's Office is hosting a Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist course this summer. This 2-day course is based on the requirements of NFPA Standard 1035 pertaining to the Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist. The course focuses on how identification, intake, screening, disposition, and follow-up are used to mitigate youth firesetting behavior. This course is for the practitioner who provides services at the program delivery level. Students representing fire service agencies are encouraged to partner with other stakeholders for this training, including fire investigators, law enforcement, mental health, social services, etc. Organizations are not required to have a Youth Firesetter Program to participate.

Date: July 13-14, 2022

Time: 0800-1700 daily

Location: Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority: Station 73, 26512 Military Rd, Kent WA 98032

Fee: No Cost

Registration: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8N95J3Y>



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.

