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WASHINGTON STATE  
**FIRE MARSHALS**

## Quarterly Newsletter

December 2022

Vol 6 Issue 3

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

It is with great pleasure that I write my first article as president of WSAFM. It is hard to believe that October came and now we are approaching the New Year but what is constant is motion.

We all enjoyed a great 2022 FPI and plans are already shaping the 2023 FPI. We enjoyed great weather and fellowship. I would like to thank all the attendees, speakers, and our partners for making this FPI one of the best ever.

As I begin my role as president, I would like to thank a few people for the assistance throughout the years. I would like to start with Jon Dunaway who has been in the past-president's position for many years and has focused on making financial strength a priority for us. Jon, also made commitments to other committees such as elections & awards, and the FPI. His willingness to keep the Association balanced helped us through the pandemic. Jon, will remain active with us as chair of the finance committee as well as the vendor night at the FPI.

I owe a great deal of gratitude to President Dave Kokot for his affinity to our Association. Dave's never wavered when he was asked to do more and always made sure that everyone was being mentored for success. Often associations fail because of the lack of participation from the board and members of the association but this was not the case for Dave. Dave was always recruiting and often placed this Association first in many ways and is one of the first ones to fight for what was right. His dedication to codes and legislation helped us formulate great game plans for success. Without his countless phone calls and emails many of the advancements made would have not become reality.

As we review the past year, I need to thank Traci Harvey. She has been a voice of input for state and national codes as she has been able to interject improvements to making our communities safer. She is also the master behind the screen for the newsletter as well. With her recent

promotion to 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president only more greatness will come.

As executive board positions are important, we would have not been able to do all of this without the help of entire board as we pursue excellence. This year we said goodbye to Steve Riggs who stepped down but it should be noted that Steve will stay active in our training to support continuous improvement for our vocation. Steve's was forthright in

getting issues resolved and bringing a perspective of common sense.

I would also like to thank Ben Shearer for his commitment to the board. Ben is a true leader and brought community risk reduction to the forefront to the Association. We have seen the FPI track grow through his partnerships. Ben has provided the clarity we needed to communicate our message clearer for including all in CRR.

Thank you, Dave, Jon, Steve, and Ben for showing why the Association is a leader in our discipline.

As we close this year, I would like to welcome these new board members Dan Young, Clark County Fire Marshal's Office, and Jeromy Hicks, Mercer Island. We are excited to have them on our board and look forward to their insights and continuous improvement to our Association.

We must note that our board members, like Karen Grove, who have made big impacts on our codes, legislations, and partnerships as witnessed at the FPI. Mike Messer, who serves as the chair for the NW Consortium for accreditation and assists with our professional development. Lance Dahl who provides expertise in organization for the FPI and legislation. Giving us a systems approach for success. Tony Doan who not only represents us on Code Council which is a full-time job but continues to support our professional development with second to none education. Robert Ferrell the membership chair who by working with Chief's office has grown our membership to new heights not to mention keeping us on the path to meeting the WSRB requirements for prevention. Mike Six who has been very active in state codes and professional development. Without each of these board members none of the association success would have been possible. Your board's commitment to excellence provides the roadmap to our success.

With every great association there are great partners. We must look at our partners as we continue to navigate success for our state.

I would like to congratulate Chad Cross for being promoted to State Fire Marshal. To Melissa, Esther, and Ellen thank you for your commitment to changing all risk in our state as well. Without your guidance we would not be able to flourish.

To Chief Steve Wright, Chief Jim Kambeitz, and the Washington State Fire Chiefs Association thank you for your guidance and support. Your candidness is refreshing and working with the Chief's is key to our success as we lead Washingtonians to livable and sustainable communities. To the staff at the Chief's Kathleen and Laurel thank you for making us look good and willing to try new things.

In addition, to the State FMO and Chief's, we need to thank our FPI partners WA-IAAI and WPFE. Without you our FPI would not be as successful as you bring well-rounded tracks and support to make the FPI one of the greatest events in the country.

I would also like to thank you the Sprinkler Fitters-699, for developing and presenting real hands-on training and being a group that is looking to make us better in understanding fire systems. In addition, thank you to Les Townzen, Tony Doan, and Christopher Moyer for getting us great training as well that meets the needs of our members. This ongoing professional development has high remarks and we continue to look forward to the ongoing training in 2023.

If you got to this point, you might ask what is next? That is a great question and the answer is simple, we will continue on the path of continuous improvement which will provide success for our members and residents!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [tmaloney@mfdmf.org](mailto:tmaloney@mfdmf.org) Have a Great Holiday Season! Tom



## Elections & Awards - Jon Dunaway

### New and Returning WSAFM Board Members Sworn In at 2022 Fire Prevention Institute

As we do each year, the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals held elections during the 2022 Fire Prevention Institute in Lake Chelan. This year saw a few new faces and several position changes on the WSAFM Board of Directors.

It is worth mentioning that all of the WSAFM Board members are volunteers, and the duties they perform take place during both their work hours as well as their personal time on occasion. It can be demanding, but it is also rewarding in what is accomplished each year on behalf of our membership and the citizens we serve. If you have ever thought about getting more involved, contact one of the Board members. Contact information is available on our website:

[www.wsafm.com](http://www.wsafm.com) and click on 'about us.'

The Executive Board of the Association consists of the President, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents, and the immediate Past President. These four positions run much of the day-to-day operations with assistance from the rest of the Board. Changes to the Executive Board were elected as follows:

Dave Kokot (Fire Protection Engineer - Spokane Fire Department), WSAFM President from 2017 through 2022, stepped down into the role of Past President. The President is the official visible and vocal advocate of the Association and speaks on behalf of the Association and the Board, as well as presiding at all business meetings. This position is also an ex-officio member of the Washington Fire Chiefs Board of Directors and attends those meeting to represent WSAFM. We thank Dave for the many years at the helm. He steered us through the COVID years, during which we were forced to change the way we do business – and we came out the other side in a much better position.

Tom Maloney (Fire Marshal - Marysville Fire District Regional Fire Authority), formerly 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, was elected to the President position. Tom has been Chair of the Fire Prevention Institute Committee and has done a lot of work to transform this event into a much more manageable occasion by changing processes. He has also chaired the Education / Professional Development Committee that brings so much quality training to the Association membership. We wish him the best in his new role.

Traci Harvey (Fire Protection Engineer – Spokane Valley Fire Department), formerly 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, stepped up to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President position. She is also the WSAFM representative working on national codes development and sits on ICC's Fire Code Action Committee (FCAC). In this position, she has been key in providing a voice for Washington State in the code development process and has helped get national codes adopted that originated in our state.

Jon Dunaway (Fire Marshal – Longview Fire Department), formerly the Past President, has stepped off the Board after serving several years in various positions. He will remain an active Association member, serving as a Special Advisor to the Board and continuing to assist with budget preparation and management.

The Board of Directors represents the membership of the Association, coordinates, and facilitates the accomplishment of the Association's work plan and other business, and attends Board and other meetings as needed. This group of dedicated fire prevention and CRR members chair committees, represent WSAFM with allied groups and organizations, and perform duties as needed to support the Association's mission and goals. Changes to the Board of Directors were elected as follows:

Lance Dahl (Fire Marshal – Spokane Fire Department), Director Position #2, was the incumbent in the position and was re-elected to serve another 2-year term.

Mike Six (Fire Marshal – Bremerton Fire Department), Director Position #8, was the incumbent in the position and was re-elected to serve another 2 years.

Congratulations to all the new and re-elected Board members!



Jeromy Hicks (Fire Marshal – Mercer Island Fire Department), Director Position #4, is a new member of the Board elected this year. He too will serve a 2-year term.

First, I would like to start off by thanking all my fellow Code Professionals. It has been an honor being part of such a progressive group of dedicated individuals for the past 10 plus years. This year I have further been honored to be elected to the Washington Association of Fire Marshals Board to help continue the phenomenal work that my past colleagues have started. For me, I started my career in 1999 as a resident firefighter in Mason County. Working my way through the ranks from Paramedic/Firefighter, to Lieutenant, and eventually Captain where I was able to experience the “line” side of fire operations. In 2009 I took a position in the fire prevention office in anticipation of my first son being born and wanted to spend some time at home. After three years I fell in love with the position. Fire code, inspections, investigations became my new passion, and wanting to make a difference in how fires are prevented rather than the reaction of them occurring. Working with Mason County, specifically North Mason Regional Fire Authority opened doors that I never thought would be possible. I was able to help develop the first multi-agency Fire Investigation Team, initiate a business fire inspection program, advocate for county-wide code amendments, and bridge a gap that had been vacant for years. In 2018 I, on my off days contracted with Mason County to fill the vacant Fire Marshal position where I became involved with program development, plan review, and code enforcement. After completing my limited commission CJTC law enforcement certification, and International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) certification, our investigation team was able to prosecute arson cases, something that provided challenges in past years. I continued to complete my ICC certification up to Certified Fire Marshal. In 2019 the opportunity of a lifetime arose to promote to a full-time Fire Marshal with the City of Mercer Island. Since coming to Mercer Island, I have worked with King County Zone 1 as their chair and Co-Chair of the King County Fire Marshals group. These groups have been successful in adopting uniformed code amendments, developing a county wide burn ban policy, becoming involved with the King County Fire Chiefs and King County PIO group to further collaborate and share resources. I am lucky to be supported by my wife Jenna and two children Cohen and Blake (plus our dog Odie). I look forward to the next couple of years representing you on the WSAFM Board. As a great mentor once said, your career is defined by the “dash”! I can only hope that as I move further through my career I can continue to learn and collaborate with individuals such as yourselves improving the safety of our residents and defining my “dash.” Please feel free to reach out anytime at [jeromy.hicks@mercerisland.gov](mailto:jeromy.hicks@mercerisland.gov). Stay safe!



Dan Young (Fire Marshal – Clark County), Director Position #6, is also a new member of the Board elected to a 2-year term.

As one of the newest board members I have been asked to write a brief introduction. I began my life in the code world in 2006 as a building inspector. I was fortunate enough to switch to the fire side as a fire inspector for Clark County. Since then, I spent time as a Deputy Fire Marshal at the State and County levels. I briefly went back to the building side as the Assistant Building Official for Clark County, and I am currently the Fire Marshal for Clark County. I am excited to join this wonderful organization and look forward to meeting all the members.



In my spare time I like to dabble in woodwork and this is my latest project.



### Washington State Association of Fire Marshals – 2022 Award Recipients

During the 2022 Washington State Fire Prevention Institute at Campbell’s Resort in Lake Chelan, the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals presented awards to association members who have demonstrated excellence and exemplify the vision and goals of the Association. While many of our fire prevention / CRR partners are worthy of recognition, only three can be chosen each year.

**Fire Marshal of the Year**

Michael Jackson, Fire Marshal with Clark-Cowlitz Fire & Rescue in Ridgefield, Washington, was presented with this award for 2022. Michael was nominated by his team for several reasons, including: Providing mentorship to individuals interested in fire prevention; spearheading seamless integration with other agencies and partners; expanding the Community Assistance Referral and Educational Services Program (CARES) to Southwest Washington; initiating behavioral co-response unit (combining a Community Resource Paramedic from CCFR with a behavioral health specialist); creating a falls reduction program. In the nomination, his team stated “We believe Chief Jackson to be one of the most pro-active and innovative fire prevention leaders in the state....” Congratulations Chief Jackson.



**WSAFM Member of the Year**

Dr. Karen Grove, Fire Prevention Director with the Seattle Fire Department, was awarded the 2022 WSAFM Member of

the Year. Karen was recognized for her contributions and leadership on the WSAFM Board of Directors, working with stakeholders, and helping to find solutions for legislative issues related to fire and life safety. In his presentation of the award, WSAFM President Kokot stated “Karen has made an impact since joining the Association and has a keen ability to present options by looking from a different viewpoint. That has not only helped with perspective on ideas, but also to have broadened the impact of what we do and to provide better results.”

Well deserved, Karen.



**WSAFM Life Member Award**

David Lynam, Kitsap County Fire Marshal, was presented the 2022 WSAFM Life Member Award. This award has been established to recognize those individuals who have dedicated all or part of their career to the enhancement and positive influence of fire prevention and community risk reduction. David has been associated with WSAFM from its humble beginnings, being one of the charter members and key to the creation of the Association. He has represented WSAFM and Washington State in many roles at the local, state, and national levels – including serving as President of the International Fire Marshals Association. Thank you for your dedication and contributions Dave. Congratulations.



In addition to the awards WSAFM presented, the Washington Public Fire Educators also presented their 2022 awards.



**WPFE Educator of the Year Award**

Jamie McIntyre, Community Risk Reduction Manager with the Spokane Fire Department, was presented with the 2022 WPFE Educator of the Year award. In presenting the award, Ben Shearer stated in part “Jamie willingly shares her time with other educators across the state by teaching classes, even if that means traveling to the other side of the state. Her professionalism and desire to share and help other educators has even gained the attention of the NFPA. This year she was chosen to serve on the NFPA Educational Committee.”

Congratulations Jamie and thanks for all that you do.

## WPFE Leadership Award

Melanie Taylor, Lead Public Education / Public Relations Specialist with the Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority, was presented with the 2022 Leadership Award. Ben Shearer talked about Melanie's history in life safety education, even before she entered the fire service. He also praised her work with WPFE: "Melanie pressed for consistent messaging across the state and helped bring new ideas in the form of preventing all injuries, especially childhood injuries in our state. She worked with the Washington Fire Chiefs and the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals to make sure educators had the opportunity of continued training. This leadership helped raise the expectations that Washington State has the best educators." Congratulations Melanie.



## Legislative Update – Karen Grove

### 2023 Legislative Priorities

- **Fire Code Safety, Housing Availability and Affordability**
  - Support inclusion of fire and life safety measures in new housing options that address the housing crisis and housing shortages.
  - All residents are entitled to the basic life safety standards where they live and sleep.
- **Fire Code Safety in Directly Legislated Proposals**
  - Provide opinions on directly legislated proposals that modify the fire code. Encourage routing through State Building Code Council instead of direct legislation for these highly technical items.
  - Defend existing codes that provide standards of life safety in buildings, including requirements for fire sprinklers, fire department access, and water supplies.
- **Safety, Training and Education Related to New Energy Technologies**
  - The problem: Billions of dollars of investments are changing the energy infrastructure, making it greener, more mobile, and presenting new hazards to fire fighters and the public.
  - Support funding for firefighter training and required safety equipment.
  - Support funding for small and rural agencies to track these systems, update codes and standards, and provide public education about the dangers.
  - Support for expedited code development for Washington, responsive to rapid changes in technology.
  - Fund required studies of environmental impact from lithium-ion explosions and fires (air quality) and drainage/water from fire suppression.
- **Smoke Control Installation, Testing, and Enforcement**
  - Support changes to RCW 19.27.700-740 to align with national codes and standards regarding the installation and ongoing operation of life safety systems known as "smoke control systems" in large buildings.
- **State Fire Marshal's Office Program Delivery**
  - Support changes to RCW 43.43.934 to enable rules to be developed for the delivery of basic firefighter training through the Regional Direct Delivery Program.
  - Support updates to the Basic Firefighter Reimbursement Program to provide better support for Firefighter Training.



# Topics of Interest

## CFAI Accreditation: An Ongoing Series – Mike Messer

### Part 1: Building a Strategic Plan

Back in July, we began the Accreditation Series of articles to help you and your agency decide if CFAI accreditation is the right fit. The first article was an overview of the accreditation process from start to finish. In this article, we are going to focus on creating the strategic plan. Regardless of whether you choose to pursue accreditation, it is recommended that all fire and emergency service agencies create a strategic plan to help guide their future decision-making based on current priorities.

Building a strategic plan is the fun “fluffy” side of the accreditation model. During this process the agency will have the opportunity to create and/or refine its mission, vision, and value statements along with creating a series of goals, objectives, and critical tasks. The process involves internal and external stakeholders, so use this opportunity to engage with your community.

The first step in this process is to decide whether to enlist the aid of an outside consultant to help facilitate the strategic planning process. The scope of work for consultants may include compilation, editing, and publishing of your plan once complete. Cost for consultants vary based on the scope of work and the firm you contract with. In my experience, costs average from \$10,000 to \$25,000 with scopes from facilitation to editing and publishing, respectively. CPSE offers the TAP (Technical Assistance Program) with services geared towards strategic planning and community risk assessment / standard of cover.

I have had the pleasure of working on four strategic plans for three agencies since becoming involved in accreditation. The first two strategic plans I worked on were completed entirely in-house. While this was a quick process, it was not inclusive of our community and the only staff engagement was through surveys. Properly run, an in-house process can be successful, but after using consultants as facilitators and document editors/publishers I would highly recommend their use. My agency found that the consultants had expert knowledge of how to drill down to precise information of the different plan components and were fantastic at soliciting feedback from our community.

Moving forward into the global meat of your plan, we need to discuss the mission, vision, and values that your agency will need to create.

The mission statement must be written in current tense and its purpose is to declare to your staff and community why you exist, what your purpose is, and who you serve. My recommendation is to create a mission statement that is short, to the point, and memorable. This should be taught to all new staff as they are hired in and remain at the forefront of all decision-making. My agencies mission statement is, “to protect lives, save property, safeguard the environment, and take care of people.” Another favorite of mine comes from Phoenix, AZ Fire Department, and states, “to prevent harm, survive, and be nice.” This is one element where simplicity is best!

The vision statement must be written in future tense and its purpose is to declare where your agency wants to be in the future. It answers the question of what does Anytown Fire District look like in a utopian state. Since this is a future look at your agency, feel free to make this statement longer, ambitious and include goals of what agency staff and the community want to see. An example of a vision statement may be, “we will be a proactive regional emergency services leader by partnering to provide safe communities for people to live, work and explore.” Have fun with combining elements of others’ ideas to create your perfect agency vision.

Creating a list of core values is that last bit of fun fluff for your new strategic plan. While attending the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy, my class was given a series of value cards. Each card had a value word on it like “integrity,” “respect,” and “dedication.” Each of us was tasked through forced choice decisions on whittling down 25 or so cards to 5 values that we most identified with. This same process would be good to follow for your agency. After selecting your five or so most identifying values remember to write a value statement for each one. The value

statement describes why the value is important to the agency and how the agency embraces it. It also clarifies any potential interpretation of the value. An example would be, "Teamwork: (1) We are an engaged group of people with complementary skills who are committed through collaboration. (2) We work with internal and external stakeholders driving toward a common purpose. (3) We hold each other mutually accountable." Once again, really drill down to find out what values have meaning to your staff and community.

Now we are into the real work of the strategic plan and that is creating goals, objectives, and critical task to be completed over the next five years. First off, all goals need to be created using SMART objectives. That is that they must be **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**ealistic, and **T**imely to be credible. Remember that there is a hierarchy to creating goals. Start by writing the goal, then create objectives that help to accomplish the different parts of the goal, then finish by creating critical tasks that enable each objective. Here are the details of each level.

To write goals for your agency you need to begin by identify the areas that you want to improve over the next five years. Goals are high level and can be generic. Examples may include emergency response, fire and life safety, business practices, people and culture, and physical resources just to name a few. Let's use emergency response as the program area for writing a goal. An example goal statement may be "provide the highest level of emergency response to the communities we serve." Notice how broad the goal is and that it does not contain the SMART elements needed to be credible. This is where the next level of statements becomes important which are objectives.

Objectives are mid-level statements that subdivide the goal's program areas and drive the overall goal's accomplishment. Keeping with the emergency response theme, it is understandable that to provide the highest level of emergency response, staff training is essential. Therefore, an objective may be, "provide realistic and relevant training to ensure our firefighters and paramedics are prepared to meet the needs of our communities." This objective clearly identifies a division of improvement to accomplish the goal but is not yet specific enough to meet all the elements of SMART.

Now let's make the objective actionable and complete SMART. To do this we may need to create several critical tasks. Critical tasks outline specific actions required to accomplish the divisional objectives and the overarching goal. Using the same example, a critical task may be, "develop a formal succession program which will enable individual growth and career development." As a note, some critical tasks may never be completed and are considered ongoing like the following, "use best practices and available science to develop our training program." When a critical task is on-going, it must be noted as such for peer review to meet the timeliness requirement.

When you combine all elements of your newly developed goals, objectives, and critical tasks you can see that the whole story depicts a plan that is Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely.

It is important to note that all goals are assumed to be completed within the five-year period that is encompassed by your strategic plan. To memorialize your goals, your agency may want to create a strategic plan implementation tracking sheet to schedule when critical tasks are to be completed or if they are on-going. In addition, to scheduling and tracking, the sheet can be made to show graphically your agency's work toward completion of its strategic plan. Graphics like pie charts and line graphics are quick reference points for your city council, board of commissioners, and the community to assess your progress.

The final piece to hit on with the strategic plan is community engagement. To be credible, strategic plans must be "community driven." As mentioned in the beginning of this article, you will need to solicit a community advisory group to provide input on your strategic plan. This group should be comprised of local elected officials, business owners, civic club leaders, and engaged private community members. While this is your group to lead, I would suggest that you use them as the check and balance to your plan and not to create the plan's content. This is simply because, who knows your agency better than you. Our community advisory group helped us to validate and verify our mission statement, vision statement, values, and goals. In the case that the community did not agree with a statement or goal, our staff committee was charged with editing the content to meet the community group's suggestions. This action helps to build much needed buy-in from both advisory groups and will in the future help to support initiatives driven by your strategic

plan.

To sum up all this hopefully helpful information, the strategic plan is the fun part of moving your agency toward the goal of CFAI accreditation. A strategic plan will help you formally adopt a mission statement, a vision statement, agency core values, and actionable goals, objectives, and critical tasks. To be valid, your plan must be adopted by your governance, reviewed at least annually, and reported on to your staff and community. Enjoy this part of the journey, because the next article will get into the weeds of community risk assessment.

About the author: Mike Messer is an assistant chief with Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue, Snohomish County, Washington with twenty-three years of public service as a firefighter, paramedic, and fire marshal. Mike leads the community relations, office of the fire marshal, and strategic analysis divisions in addition to serving as the district's accreditation manager. Mike holds an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Protection Technology, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Master of Public Administration, and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Mike has been designated by the Commission on Professional Credentialing as a Fire Officer, Fire Marshal, and Chief Fire Officer and is a Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers.



### **Battery Town Hall Spokane Fire – Lance Dahl**

With the holidays just around the corner, many of us will be gifting or receiving gifts that use lithium-ion batteries (LIB). But unfortunately, LIBs can be very dangerous, and we continue to learn more about their dangers to human consumers, responders, and our environment every day. The SFD, WA Department of Ecology, WA State Fire Marshal, EPA, UL, ATF, NIST, and many other partners spent a week at the SFD Training Campus experimenting with the LIB technology under fire conditions. The data retrieved from the experiments with live LIBs resulted in us learning just how dangerous this technology is when it fails.

Temperatures in lithium-ion battery cells rise very quickly when damaged. As a result, the temperature can significantly increase in milliseconds causing thermal runaway. Thermal runaway occurs when the temperature within the battery cell exceeds a certain point--that is, the heat generated is greater than the dispersed heat. This process will continue with the heat of the battery cell increasing until it sparks a chemical reaction. The elevated temperatures produce an exothermic decomposition of the battery cell and cause decomposition with a positive feedback loop (amplifying instability).

SFD is experiencing an increase in fires caused by LIB thermal runaway throughout our community. The uncontrollable phenomenon results in extreme temperatures, violent cell venting, caustic and carcinogenic smoke, and fire. What can you do?

LIB technology shows no sign of leaving. If even a single lithium battery cell is overcharged, the electrochemical result can create a thermal runaway. So, monitoring the charge status of a lithium battery is critical to prevent overcharging of the battery. Identify the risks associated with handling, storing, and charging batteries to reduce the likelihood of fires and explosions.

This is a link <https://vimeo.com/showcase/9542223> to the training provided by our partners in the Battery Town Hall in October. Please feel free to go and see what we saw as to the dangers these types of batteries can do when a thermal run-a-way happens.



## Membership – Robert Ferrell

The Washington State Association of Fire Marshals (WSAFM) is in existence to server its members and without our members it could not endure. WSAFM membership is on an annual basis, requiring renewal at the first of the new year. Now that 2023 is here, WSAFM would like to graciously ask for your continued support by renewing your membership.

Email reminders to renew your WSAFM memberships were sent out on December 1<sup>st</sup> to all current membership administrators. Included in the email was an invoice for your 2023 WSAFM membership and a link to renew the membership online. Please renew your membership as soon as possible to continue receiving your member benefits including the monthly webinar training series.

As noted in our last newsletter, membership dues for 2023 have remained the same but change is coming for 2024. WSAFM is dealing with the same inflation that is affecting all of us and is experiencing increases in goods and services to deliver member benefits. To continue to server our membership with these increasing costs and in accordance with association by laws, WSAFM will be instituting an 8% increase to membership dues in 2024.

For Agency Level membership, each agency can sign up as many individuals from their department as they like and all individuals 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 please visit the membership section at [www.WSAFM.com](http://www.WSAFM.com).

Agency membership includes voting rights and agencies may cast a single vote in an election or other matters brought before the association. The primary member from the agency shall be the voting member for the agency. The primary member must be identified by the agency a minimum of 14 days prior to any vote.

WSAFM also has a Partner Level membership for those individuals outside the fire service that wish to support the vision and mission of WSAFM and a Retired Level membership for former members that have retired.

If you or someone you know are not a member, please consider joining WSAFM today. Membership benefits include monthly training webinars, discounts on events include the Fire Prevention Institute (FPI) and the WSAFM newsletter. Go to [www.WSAFM.com](http://www.WSAFM.com) for more information on how to join and member benefits.

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

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.



## 2022 Fire Prevention Institute Wrap-up – Tom Maloney

We had a little normal and the FPI, was a great success in our new normal. This year's event was held October 17-21 at Campbell's with great weather.

We were excited to offer the topics you asked for through the previous FPI survey and hope that you found the presentations educational and interactive. We would like to thank you again for your survey's this year.

We did introduce a new 1-hour format for most of the sessions. The reason for this is to provide an overview of a topic to generate discussion and interaction after the session. Not all sessions will be 1-hour but it does allow for more repeat sessions so attendees can go to other tracks.

This year we did have an increase in attendance and each track we well attended. It was great to see these tracks attended and to hear the message. Every program offered something new for everyone to help us improve. The fire prevention track offered a wide variety of the information and we brought back the old too. The panel discussion was well attended while generating great participation. These panels were a last minute audible because of a scheduling conflict.

With our partners at the Washington State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO), the Washington Fire Chiefs, the Washington Public Fire Educators, and other fire service associations. The goal is always to deliver training to fire agencies that utilizes the principle and practices of CRR as we engage and educate local communities.

The fire investigation track continued to provide some exceptional education from exceptional presenters. This track is never falling short in providing great programs. We are greatly appreciative of our partnership with Washington IAAI as they continue to make things happen.

If you have a presentation that you would like to submit, please see the [WSAFM](http://WSAFM) website for the proposal form and return the form so it can be reviewed.

We have already addressed the challenges that occurred and we are in the process to better serve you as well. We will continue to embrace the dynamic environment we operate within.



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



**2023 Fire Prevention Keynote Speaker Announced**  
**Chief Dennis Compton**



## **2022 Fire Prevention Institute Scholarships – Jon Dunaway**

For this year’s Fire Prevention Institute, the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals and the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau each awarded one scholarship to enable two community risk reduction professionals to attend the conference Andrea Ely and Matt Russell.

**Andrea Ely**, Fire Safety Specialist with the Yakima County Fire Marshal’s Office, was the recipient of the WSAFM scholarship. In a letter to WSAFM, Andrea told us what this opportunity meant to her and those she serves: “As WSAFM allowed me to attend this event on a scholarship, it has literally given our jurisdiction the tools to grow and adapt our programs for future success” she said. With tracts in fire investigation, public education, and CRR, Andrea said “I have been able to take some of the best practices I the industry and bring new and innovative ways to accomplish our objectives.” Andrea also expressed her appreciation in that she was able to meet other professionals in our field of fire and life safety, expanding her ‘fire family’ and establishing connections for years to come.

I wanted to reach out to you regarding the scholarship awarded for the 2022 Fire Prevention Institute this last October. For several years I have been employed with Yakima County Fire Marshal’s Office, and I can say that I am extremely grateful for the honor to work in such an amazing field such as fire and life safety. As with many jurisdictions like Yakima County, budgets can struggle to keep up with the ever-changing demands of the communities that they serve and often time public education, safety trainings, and community outreach programs can suffer from the byproducts of those demands. I, unfortunately, know firsthand what that is like. As the Washington State Association of Fire Marshal’s allowed me to attend this event on a scholarship, it has literally given our jurisdiction the tools to grow and adapt our programs for future success. With tracts such as Fire Investigation, Public Education, and Community Risk Reduction available, I have been able to take some best practices in the industry and bring new and innovative ways to accomplish our objectives. After meeting so

many amazing Washington State Professionals, all who specialize in various codes and programs, it made me feel like I am part of a bigger picture and a much bigger fire family. Finding others that share the same passion and drive to serve in our communities, truly brought me more hope and motivation in my career. The absolute best part of these connections; I get to continue to call them my fire family for years to come.

I am sincerely grateful for the generosity of the WSAFM Board and its members and look forward to attending more events like this in the future; Thank you so very much to all who made it happen.



**Matt Russell**, Assistant Fire Marshal with SE Thurston Fire Authority, received the scholarship from WSRB. As a newer Fire Marshal and being tasked with creating an entire fire prevention division in his department from scratch, Matt said he found the education, training, and networking provided by the scholarship by WSRB to be invaluable. “I cannot express my gratitude enough for this unexpected opportunity and I feel incredibly honored to be chosen” he said. While he tried his best to describe the benefit of attending the sessions at the FPI, Matt said “I cannot list all I learned from attending the FPI, but it was all due to the generosity of the WSRB by providing me a scholarship to attend.”

As a newly appointed Fire Marshal, and being tasked with creating an entire fire prevention division within our department from scratch, I have found the education, training, and networking provided by WSAFM and the annual FPI to be invaluable. This was my second year attending the FPI and I was able to absorb and retain even more than the previous year. I didn’t think, however, I would even be able to attend this year’s conference due to unforeseen Department budgetary issues. During a random conversation with Chief Tom Maloney about an unrelated subject, he inquired if I was going to the conference and I advised him I didn’t think it would be in the budget this year. Within 2 days I received an email from WSAFM stating I had been awarded a scholarship, that I didn’t even know existed, to attend the FPI this year!

I cannot express my gratitude enough for this unexpected opportunity and I feel incredibly honored to be chosen! These are but a few of the items I learned...

- I learned a great deal about the state of the WUI code and how I can help create a safer community.
- I learned a path forward on attempting to implement a residential fire sprinkler ordinance for our city and all the resources that have already been created specifically for this endeavor. It has given me the contacts and the confidence to pursue this grand safety measure. (“What is worth trying even if you know you will most likely fail”)
- I picked up valuable insights on how to present new fire prevention and safety ordinances to the city councils and our command staff and commissioners.
- I was introduced to other Fire Marshals’ who helped direct me in the “next steps” on how to pursue my Certified Fire Marshal designation.
- I learned new ideas and tips for fire inspections, investigations, and the plan review process.
- I have grand visions now of what a Community Risk Reduction program in our jurisdiction could look like and I know where to send our newest Certified Public Fire/Life Safety Educator if he has questions or needs resources.
- We are starting a new rating cycle this next year with WSRB and I received a multitude of information from the FPI on how to help us reduce our rating and provide a better, more efficient service for our citizens.

I cannot list all I learned from attending the FPI but it was all due to the generosity of the WSAFM by providing me a scholarship to attend. Participating in the FPI is something I look forward to, and I will encourage other people to attend for as long as it is offered.



## Code Corner

### State Building Code Council – Tony Doan

On November 18<sup>th</sup> the State Building Code Council finished adoption of the group 2 code cycle. This included moving the 2021 IBC Structural, 2021 IEBC, 2021 IRC, 2021 UPC and the 2021 WUIC into final rule making at the State level. The International Wildland Urban Interface Code was adopted as presented in the CR102 with some modifications after public comment.

Stay tuned for more information on how this impacts you at the local level. The implementation date for the 2021 codes remains at July 1, 2023. Feel free to visit the following link to view the recording of previous SBCC meetings: <https://sbcc.wa.gov/meeting-schedules-agendas/council-standing-committees>



### ICC Codes – Traci Harvey

The final 2024 I-Codes will be published after they have been certified by the Validation Committee and confirmed by the ICC Board.

The Code Development underwent some revisions that will take effect for the 2024-2026 Cycle. The new schedule can be viewed here: [2024-2026 Updated Code Development Process](#)

The 2027 Code process will start in January 2023 when the various CAC's and Workgroups start to meet for the Group A codes (i.e. the fire code). If you want to become part of the process, send an email to:

HarveyT@SpokaneValleyFire.com and I can put you in touch with ICC staff to be added to their meeting & topics mailing list. Stay tuned.



**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.

- January
  - 11<sup>th</sup> BMC Governing Committee Meeting
  - 26<sup>th</sup> EVIP 3.0 Training – Puget Sound RFA
- February
  - 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> 2023 Upper Great Plains Region III Educational Institute
  - 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 2023 EduCode
- March
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 EduCode

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



### WPFE Update – Ben Shearer

As the final days of 2022 draw to a close, we would like to acknowledge the great work being done by our Washington Public Fire Educators (WPFE). Thank you for your extraordinary commitment to lead the way in prevention and education activities to reduce risk and enhance community safety.

This year WPFE members celebrated two outstanding individuals, both leaders and pioneers in Community Risk

Reduction (CRR). The *Educator of the Year* award was presented to Jamie McIntyre, Community Risk Reduction Manager for Spokane Fire Department. Jamie serves as a leader in her community and across the state. Her willingness and desire to help other educators has gained the attention of NFPA leaders and she was recently chosen to serve on the NFPA Education Committee. Our other well-deserved awardee is Melanie Taylor, Public Educator for Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority. Washington State has a rich history in life safety education and some of the biggest names in CRR. To refer to someone as a leader in CRR is an honor, and a leader is exactly what Melanie is. She has served as a mentor for many of us across the state and it has been said more than once that she was CRR before CRR was cool. For that reason, Melanie is the recipient of the aptly titled *CRR Visionary Award*.

To learn more about Community Risk Reduction check out NFPA's [CRR](#) page and don't forget about CRR Week January 16-22, 2023. During CRR Week fire agencies are encouraged to participate in a National Day of Service on Martin Luther King Day, which is January 16, 2023. To learn more visit [CRR Week](#).

Save the Date! WPFE will be hosting its annual Public Fire and Life Safety Educator 1 (NFPA 1035) course March 20-23, 2023 in Pasco. Registration is now open, visit [Washington Fire Chiefs](#).

Youth Fire Setting Intervention 2 day class – March 8-9 2023 Pasco, WA Registration information can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2JPT6JZ>

The Washington Public Fire Educators meet quarterly by Zoom. We aim to provide educational content, statewide updates, educational and networking opportunities during each meeting. To learn more contact [sguzman@southsnofire.org](mailto:sguzman@southsnofire.org).

Thank you for supporting CRR in Washington State. Our board for 2023

Chair: Ben Shearer

At large position 3: T. Curran

Vice-Chair: Jamie McIntyre

At large position 4: H. Wong

Secretary: Shawneri Guzman

Past Chair: Melanie Taylor

At large position 1: Lanette Dyer

WSFM Rep: Greg Baruso

At large position 2: E. Littlewood

NFPA Rep: Gary Honold



## Upcoming Trainings: Washington State Association of Fire Marshals

### Monthly Webinar Series

The 2023 Monthly Webinar Series is set! 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 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the webinar series. Topics include 'Means of Egress Basics', 'Emergency Responder Radio Coverage', and 'Private Fire Service Mains' to name a few. Thank you all for your continued interest.



### Fire Inspector 1 Boot Camp February 13-16, 2023

This four-day class will cover in-depth details of all aspects of a fire code inspection. Students will learn to identify common code violations found in the International Fire Code and International Building Code.

Day two and three will focus on more advanced fire code inspection topics. It is designed to assist in the identification of fire protection systems, as well as what maintenance is required on such systems.

Students will be able to identify when systems are required or when they have been altered and require repair. Day four will be all about navigating the codes and getting familiar with the layout of the IFC and IBC. Participants will be going through question-and-answer segments to help with test preparation for the Fire Inspector 1 certification through the International Code Council.

Register at [Fire Inspector 1 Boot Camp](#)



## Fire Inspector II Boot Camp

March 6-9, 2023

This four-day class will cover in-depth details of fire code inspections. Students will learn to identify strenuous code violations found in the International Fire Code and International Building Code. This class will include discussion and analysis of more technical level topics that the class participants can engage in. The first two days will be covering topics out of Part IV and V of the IFC (Special Occupancies and Operations, Hazardous Material); and multi-layered code analysis that requires navigation throughout the publication. Day three and four will be all about navigating the codes and getting familiar with the layout of the IFC and IBC.

Participants will be going through question-and-answer segments to help with test preparation for the Fire Inspector II certification through the International Code Council.

### Required Textbooks:

Please bring a copy of the 2018 International Fire Code and International Building Code. This is required as this class is geared towards preparing students for the Fire Inspector II Certification through the International Code Council.

**ICC Credit:** Class offers 26 hours of qualifying time. Equal to 2.6 ICC CEU's

Register at [Fire Inspector II Boot Camp](#)

**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

- January
  - 17<sup>th</sup> Member Webinar: Minimizing Economic Impact through the use of Cooperative Agreements
  - 26<sup>th</sup> EVIP 3.0 Training – Puget Sound RFA
- February
  - 2023 Fire Commissioners & Chiefs Legislative Day 17<sup>th</sup>
- March
  - Fire & Life Safety Educator 1 with IFSAC Testing 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> EVIP 3.0 Virtual Training 17<sup>th</sup>

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



## State Fire Marshal's Office

### Updates and Establishes Rules for Fire Sprinkler System Contractors and Fire Protection Sprinkler Fitting

On January 1, 2023, updates to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 212-80 relating to Fire Sprinkler System Contractors and the newly established WAC 212-90 relating to Fire Protection System Fitting go into effect. Up until this point, one WAC covered two different Revised Codes of Washington (RCW), which caused confusion for staff, industry, and the fire service. The two separate WACs will address RCW 18.160 and RCW 18.270 respectively.

Other changes include increased fees for initial applications, certification renewals, testing, and penalties. Some definitions were also clarified to include direct supervision and maintenance.

If you have any questions about WAC 212-80 or WAC 212-90, please contact the Education, Enforcement, and Analytics Section at (360) 596-3946 or [firesprinkler@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:firesprinkler@wsp.wa.gov).



## 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.

