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WASHINGTON STATE
FIRE MARSHALS

Inspection Report

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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 is time for the 5th season of the year. I am not talking about the construction season (that could very well be the 6th season), but the fire season. Each year, significant resources are used through our State (extending into the region) fighting large fires. We end the year hoping that it will not be worse the next year. Unfortunately, over the past few years, the fires each year are earlier, larger, and more numerous. We spend more time looking at the air quality index and looking outside to see that yellow hue and hoping to see more than a short distance. The red sun is high in the sky, and the smell of burning vegetation permeates the air. This year has been exceptionally challenging with the high temperatures and lack of adequate precipitation in most areas of Washington.

It is hard to understand the destructive power of wildfires unless you have had the opportunity to witness them. During my youth, we had a front row seat to an annual event in the San Fernando Valley part of California – the burning of Topanga Canyon. I did not know it at the time, but it was a classical wildland-urban interface. When the wildland burned, so then did the urban. Across the valley we could see home after home burn. The smoke filled the already smog filled air and we had smog alerts on a regular basis (just think of what the air quality index would have been then). Over time, the houses were rebuilt (the 6th season there), and the developments expanded further into the wildland. A little like lather, rinse, and repeat. It was quite a cycle to witness.

Each year we learn more and more about how to protect our homes and businesses, and each year we hear about more loss of structures. It is a cycle that needs to be stopped.

I was fortunate to participate in the first Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Code Technical Activities Group (TAG) at the State level when ICC published it. As expected, it would not be an independent code but fall under the Fire Code. There were many concerns that it would increase construction costs so that homes would no longer be affordable (hmmm, where have I heard that before?). After many years, the WUI did obtain recognition as its own code in the State. Well, sort of. It currently still resides in the Fire Code but soon will be under its own WAC. As part of that effort, the Department of Natural Resources has now published a GIS layer indicating wildland-urban interface areas across the State. Check it out here:

<https://data-wadnr.opendata.arcgis.com/documents/wadnr::wildfire-urban-interface-wui-wui-wa-gdb-zipped-file-geodatabase/about>

It is another tool we can use to reduce the loss in property and lives in the State. Wildland fires have a significant impact on us, not just the land that has burned.

More jurisdictions are now looking towards the WUI Code as a resource including adopting some of the sections that the State did not.

I look forward to a time when the 6th season no longer has the impact that it does today...

Stay safe and healthy.

Call for Nominations for WSAFM Board Positions & Award Nominations - Jon Dunaway

2021 Elections – It's time to begin the nomination process for several WSAFM Board positions. Being on the Board of Directors is a rewarding and educational experience that allows you to support initiatives that resonate with you, expand your network of professional connections, and involves you in state and national issues and processes that help shape fire and life safety within our communities.

WSAFM bylaws outline that the term of office for Director positions is 2 years, while the 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents and President positions are elected annually. Elections are held each year and nominees are required to be published to the WSAFM membership at least 30 days prior to the annual business meeting held at the Fire Prevention Institute.

For 2021, the following positions are up for election:

President – David Kokot (Spokane Fire Department). David is the incumbent in this position and is seeking reelection.

1st Vice President – Tom Maloney (Marysville Fire District RFA). Tom is the incumbent in this position and is seeking reelection.

2nd Vice President – The incumbent in this position is NOT seeking reelection. **Traci Harvey** (Spokane Valley Fire Department) is currently a Board member and is seeking election to this position.

Director Position #1 – Mike Messer (Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue). Mike is the incumbent in this position and is seeking reelection.

Director Position #3 – Karen Grove (Seattle Fire Department). Karen is the incumbent in this position and is seeking reelection.

Director Position #5 – Robert Ferrell (WSRB). Robert is the incumbent in this position and is seeking reelection.

Director Position #7 – The incumbent in this position is NOT seeking reelection.

Any WSAFM member wishing to be nominated for one of these positions must provide to the Elections / Awards Committee proof of membership, a letter of support from their employer, and a statement of intent for consideration. This information can be sent to me at jon.dunaway@ci.longview.wa.us. The deadline to have this into the committee is 11:59 p.m. on Monday, September 15th, 2021. If you would like to know more about the duties of the Board, you can call me at (360) 442-5538 and I'd be glad to discuss this with you.

2021 Awards – I am pleased to announce that nominations are open for awards to recognize WSAFM members who are doing outstanding work in fire prevention, community risk reduction, and within the WSAFM organization. These awards, presented each year during our annual Fire Prevention Institute, are Fire Marshal of the Year and WSAFM Member of the Year.

The nomination process begins by filling out the form located on the WSAFM website. Follow the directions on the form and attach supporting documentation as requested, then submit it to the Election / Awards Committee. The form is located on the front page of the WSAFM website: [Link To Form](#)

Submit the completed form and additional information to Jon Dunaway no later than 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2021, at jon.dunaway@ci.longview.wa.us.

Thanks everyone. Be safe out there!

Introducing New Board Member Mike Messer

Happy Fall Y'all!!! I am excited and humbled to be appointed to the board of directors for the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals and see it as a privilege to serve our fire and life safety community and its partners.

I currently serve as the Deputy Chief for the Division of Fire & Life Safety, Office of the Fire Marshal for Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue. Our office provides fire marshal services to the cities of Lake Stevens, Mill Creek, Monroe, and Sultan. In addition, I am the accreditation manager for our District and the coordinator for the Northwest Accreditation and Credentialing Consortium which is part of the Center for Public Safety Excellence: Commission on Fire Accreditation International consortium network.

If you hear an accent, it's because I am not from these parts! I was born and raised in Raleigh, NC and lived in the Raleigh metro area until being offered a deputy chief's position with Lake Stevens Fire in 2016.

I have been an active member of the fire service for over 21 years beginning my career as a volunteer firefighter for Falls Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. in Wake Forest, NC. While part of the North Carolina fire service I had the pleasure of working for the Town of Morrisville Fire/Rescue Department as a Ladder Captain, City of Raleigh Fire Department as a Deputy Fire Marshal, and Johnston County Emergency Services as a Paramedic.

As a proponent of professional development, I earned an Associates of Applied Science in Fire Protection Technology, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master of Public Administration in addition to completing the Executive Fire Officer program offered by the National Fire Academy. As of 2018, I have been designated a Chief Fire Officer and Fire Marshal by the CPSE: Commission on Professional Credentialing and awarded Member grade with the Institution of Fire Engineers.

I currently live in Lake Stevens with my wife Gloria, daughter Holly (11), son Henry (9), and our malamute Brody (2). I have a daughter, Shannon (24), living in Raleigh and working for Cisco Systems in IT support along with my extended family. We are active Kiwanians, Scouters, and foodies!

Thank you for this opportunity to serve and I hope to help bring positive and innovate change to our cause and our state!

On Demand Mobile Fueling – New Standard Statewide Permit Conditions & Resources – Karen Grove

The 2018 Fire Code establishes permitting for “on demand mobile fueling”, a newer service where cars are refueled at their parking location. Section 5707 of the 2018 Fire Code sets out a permitting structure that includes: an “operator” permit for the company offering the service, a “vehicle” permit for each truck dispensing gas, and a “site” permit for locations where mobile fueling is allowed to occur.

If your agency intends to permit mobile fueling, you may be interested in WSAFM’s [standard permit conditions](#). We created these in conjunction with industry stakeholders, partner agencies, and the Fire Code TAG. AHJs may download and use these templates in their permitting program. The conditions align with the 2018 Washington State code including SBCC amendments that took effect July 10, 2021.

In addition, effective July 10, 2021, the 2018 Washington State Fire Code now allows fire departments to accept “operator” and “truck” permits issued by other Washington State fire departments who meet the code standards, instead of issuing their own permit. Review the [July 2010 mobile fueling amendments](#). To date, WSAFM has learned that the Seattle Fire Department is issuing operator and vehicle permits and performing truck inspections that other AHJs may opt to recognize. As required under the new 2018 code, Seattle is maintaining a list of current mobile fueling permit holders for your reference. Local jurisdictions continue to have sole authority for mobile fueling site permits.

2018 Fire Code & Resources for Food Truck Inspections – Karen Grove

Section 319 of the 2018 Washington State Fire Code establishes new provisions for mobile food preparation vehicles or “food trucks”. Section 105.6 provides for permits for these vehicles.

To respond to these new code sections, several jurisdictions have created a standard food truck inspection checklist and agreed to recognize inspections conducted by other [participating jurisdictions](#). Some participating jurisdictions are also offering a discount on the food truck permit if another agency performs the required inspection. Local jurisdictions retain the sole right to permit and revoke food truck permits within their boundaries, and to conduct additional inspections within their boundaries. The program’s intent is to streamline the inspection requirements as a customer service to food trucks that operate in multiple locations, and to provide a best practice checklist and opportunity for efficiencies to local Fire Marshals and fire agencies.

To join the group of participating jurisdictions and accept valid inspections conducted by another participating jurisdiction, please contact past WSAFM Board Member Anjela Barton at abarton@rentonrfa.org, or current

WSAFM Board Member Karen Grove at karen.grove@seattle.gov. Any fire agency in Washington is welcome to join. Whether or not you accept reciprocal inspections, you are welcome to download and use the checklist, which has also been translated into top tier languages. Materials are on the WSAFM website here: <https://wsafm.com/news/10764646>

Fire TAG – Tony Doan

Currently the State Building Code Council Fire Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is in the middle of the code proposal review process for the 2021 code cycle. There are 50 different proposals on the table. 30 of these proposals have been approved, some with modifications, to be sent to the Building, Fire, and Plumbing Committee for consideration. There remains 17 proposals to review. The Fire TAG for this cycle is made up of extremely knowledgeable, professional and efficient members. This has made the process go very smooth. The Fire TAG is currently meeting every other Wednesday and is on schedule to be done reviewing the code proposals in time for the September Building, Fire and Plumbing Committee meeting. If you would like more information regarding this process, please visit:

<https://sbcc.wa.gov/>

2021 Fire Prevention Institute – Tom Maloney

October 18-22, 2021 - Power of Prevention

We are excited to offer the topics you have asked for from and look forward to these energetic presentations.

Topics this year will include report writing, social media and marketing, lessons learned from a MCI, fire inspections, energy storage, fire sprinkler installation, kitchen hood inspections, and relationships to name a few. A full schedule can be accessed at: <https://wsafm.com/Fire-Prevention-Institute>

You may notice the Public Education track has been renamed this year to the CRR track. This change comes as a result of working 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 to deliver training to fire agencies that utilizes the principle and practices of CRR as we engage and educate local communities. This year's program will feature Jim Crawford, Josh Fulbright, SFMO staff, Department of Natural Resources, and many others who are supporting the work of the statewide CRR Coalition.

The fire investigation track is complete and promises to be another exceptional experience. The investigators continue to bring in expertise from across the country to provide relevant topics for fire investigations such as fire dynamics, fatality investigations, and complex scene investigations to name a couple.

Our keynote speaker Chad Williams. As a former U.S. Navy SEAL Chad draws from his experience in the SEAL Teams to communicate an instructive perspective on teamwork, resilience, leadership and self-motivation.

With the goal of becoming a Navy SEAL Williams entered the world of the military's most difficult training known as BUD/S (Basic Underwater Demolition SEAL training). Out of a class of 173 men that all vowed they would die before ever quitting Chad would be 1 of only 13 that would make it through to graduation day.

Having served his country proudly through multiple deployments on SEAL Teams One and Seven. Today, Chad is a bestselling author and frequent guest on major news networks such as Fox News Channel, Anderson

Cooper 360, CNN Newsroom and more.

Chad draws from his military experience to educate others of the Navy SEAL's mindset, providing insight to goal setting, effective leadership, teamwork, overcoming adversity and the ultimate motivation.

As we look forward to the 2022 FPI, get ready to provide us with topics and prepare your presentation as the request for proposal will be out in August.

Code Corner – Traci Harvey

Code Corner

A summary of State and National code related happenings and schedules:

Washington State Codes – Mike Six

ICC Codes - Traci Harvey, P.E., Spokane Valley Fire Department – Retired SBCC Fire Service Representative. Current ICC Fire Code Action Committee (FCAC) member.

ICC Codes – Group A Calendar of Events

The excitement of the International Code Council 2021 Committee Action Hearings has come and gone. The results are available on the ICC website: <https://cdn-web.iccsafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2021-Committee-Action-for-Mag-Group-A-updated.pdf>

The Public Comment process closed July 2nd. A full list of the public comments will be available mid-August on the ICC website.

Good news to Code Geeks everywhere. The Public Comment hearings will be In-Person. You heard correctly – we get to meet and greet with all our code friends in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. The Hearings will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center September 21st – 28th.

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.

Δ 2021 Annual Conference continues traditions and expands inclusions to major Code Council events

The 2021 ICC Annual Conference and Public Comment Hearing, the Code Council's signature annual event, has been reimagined for live and virtual offerings. Running September 19-28 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, it is still packed full of networking and learning opportunities. And with a lower delegate registration cost and new sessions, it promises to be the building safety event of the year. The safety and health of staff, members, and stakeholders is paramount. Conference managers will follow all federal, state, and local health requirements in place in September. Here's an overview of what's new this year:

- The **Bob Fowler Motorcycle Ride** will be a virtual ride/walk/run this year.
- The **Safety 2.0 Networking Happy Hour** on Monday evening will give attendees an opportunity to network and socialize with existing friends and new contacts.
- The **Empowering Leaders Luncheon & Panel Discussion** on Monday afternoon will feature an expert leadership **speaker** and a discussion with building safety professionals.

- The formal evening event on Tuesday – **Connections Gala: A Community Reunited** – will be held at the Omni Grand Ballroom, a historic, majestic space.
- Onsite **training** will be available on Sunday afternoon. Annual conference attendees will also get access to **ICC Learn Live**, a full week of virtual training November 18-21.
- The **Public Comment Hearings** begin on Tuesday morning, September 21, and continue through September 28.
- Global Connections Day will be a virtual event, Tuesday, October 12, 2021.
- Resumption of the expo is postponed until 2022 due to feedback from past exhibitors.

Join the 2021 ICC Annual Conference & Public Comment Hearings in Pittsburg. The signature event is packed full of networking and learning opportunities. [Registration is open!](#)

Δ Webinar Navigating the American Rescue Plan Grant Funds

To learn more about the American Rescue Plan and the grant funds a link to a webinar below is provided below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Filj0D8eA2s>

Inclusivity & Community Risk Reduction – Ben Schearer

Inclusivity is a big buzzword right now. Not just in government business models but in the fire service as well. And it should be. Inclusivity is what the fire service has been about since the evolution of the modern fire service. The leading overarching goal of fire departments has been to take care of people – all people. Inclusivity is about people, all people, and making sure that we treat all people equally.

Community Risk Reduction is about taking care of all people and meeting their needs where they are. The belief that CRR is just education programs renamed is still out there. The truth is that Education, as excellent as I believe it is, cannot prevent every incident from happening. That is why we need all the layers of the 5 E's to protect our community. None of this should be new news to anyone in the fire service. We can teach people to be safe, but that is not always enough. Even with all the work done in the "Fire Prevention Division," we all know that incidents happen, which is why we have Emergency Response.

So, what does all of this have to do with inclusivity? At the root of community risk reduction is finding out about your community. When we are rolling out programs for our community, are we engaging our community not just for the buy-in of a program or that local community ordinance but also for our community to make sure they can understand the message or that new code? If you are having an issue in your community not follow an ordinance, are you sure that they are receiving the message? Some of the codes are designed to meet this need.

A good example is Brail signage. But we should reach beyond the codes. Understanding our community is not just knowing what language they use. What if they cannot read at all? What if the building you are in is primarily used by older adults who have mobility issues? This may or may not be a building code issue. Some buildings can meet codes for their intended use, but it does not mean that the building will not have other patrons. This is where the other E's come in. What if you partnered with your education division and partners to use Economic incentives along with Education to get that buy-in from the building owner. But first, you must make sure that you have 2-way inclusive-based communication with them. Inclusivity and CRR are about understanding your community and, on a personal level, understanding the person you are working with to build a partnership that will save lives.

Upcoming Trainings:

Fire Inspector Boot Camp

EVENT FEE*: Members - \$400 | Non-Members - \$500.00

DETAILS: Online - November 1 to 4, 2021 0830-1630

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.

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 Yakima Fire Department. 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.

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.