



January 11, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002.

Governor Inslee,

The Washington State Building Code Council has taken action to delay the 2018 State building codes adoption implementation date to July 1, 2021. Representing the Fire Marshals across the State that enforce the State Amended Fire Code, we humbly request that the implementation date remains February 1, 2021.

This, the third, extension of the implementation date will hinder our membership's ability to regulate the code. Every jurisdiction in the State utilizes electronic permitting systems and documents for construction and operational permitting in accordance with WAC 51-54A. WSAFM member jurisdictions have updated and printed their documents awaiting the implementation. The problem that any further extension will have will be to the management of our electronic permitting systems. Since we are less than 30 days from the implementation date, most WSAFM member jurisdictions have already completed their system updates. A movement of the implementation date will require the jurisdictions to make numerous corrections or duplicate their work. This extension will impact both fire and information technology staff to step backwards again. Our membership is prepared.

WSAFM has trained the fire service across the State on the 2018 International Fire Code. WSAFM delivered seven on-line 2018 International Fire Code Update classes to our membership. These classes included the changes to the fire code and WAC 51-54A. We have one more scheduled at the end of the month to catch any members who still need the class. Our membership is trained.

WSAFM has also provided technical support for our members working collaboratively with our Washington Association of Building Officials counterparts in their local adoption of the Washington State Building Codes. To our knowledge, all jurisdictions have completed or are in the process of a February 1, 2021 implementation. Our membership is ready to enforce the new code.

WSAFM member jurisdictions are prepared, trained, and authorized to begin enforcement and regulation of the 2018 Washington State Building Codes at the local level. This third extension to delay the implementation date will cause undue hardship to our member jurisdictions

Respectfully,

Dave Kokot, P.E.
President
Washington State Association of Fire Marshals

CC: WSAFM Board of Directors

To be a recognized leader and partner in community risk reduction with an emphasis in fire prevention