Staff from the State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) attended the Vision 20/20 Model Performance in Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Symposium 6 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee in February. The Symposium featured CRR programs from around the nation, including two from Washington State. Firefighter/Paramedic Joshua Smith from Richland Fire & Emergency Services spoke about the Heart Safe Richland program which is intended to reduce the number of cardiac arrest related deaths within the city of Richland and greater Tri-Cities area. Deputy Fire Marshal Randy Miller with Camas-Washougal Fire Department spoke about a Replicable Model for Increasing Voluntary Home Fire Sprinkler Installation.

One of the key takeaways from the Model Performance Presentations was the importance of interagency and community partnerships. These partnerships help to develop solutions by bringing together people with experience and knowledge across many backgrounds. Data analysis is another key factor. It is critical to have quality data to study in order to create an accurate picture of risk within a community. At the end of 2019, 67% of Washington fire service agencies were reporting to NFIRS; a 6% increase over 2018.
Over the past three months, the SFMO team has been working on many activities that directly impact the fire service and the customers we serve. Some highlights include:

A Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Workgroup has been established to help determine what role the SFMO should play in supporting the fire service in their local efforts. While attending the Vision 20/20 Symposium, several Washington State fire service representatives, along with my staff were able to exchange ideas and build partnerships. As we have more information to share, we will keep you informed.

The Celebrate Safely and Celebrate Legally fireworks-related campaigns have been updated. Included in this newsletter are instructions on how to order materials for use at the local level. The Fire in Washington annual report will be published April 1. This document is a high level overview of the incident activity report to our office in accordance with the National Fire Incident Reporting System. Participation in this program has many benefits at the local, state, and national levels. Understanding what types of incidents are happening within your jurisdiction can aid in risk assessments, resource allocations, grant funding opportunities, code and ordinance administration, and overall safety within your community. As CRR takes root in our state, access to reliable and timely information will assist us in our efforts.

The Fire Training Academy’s (FTA) water treatment upgrades are almost complete. It is anticipated that construction on the two new burn buildings will start before year’s end. Currently in full operation, the FTA can be contacted to schedule training. We hope the articles throughout this newsletter keep you apprised of the programs and services being offered.

A Message from the State Fire Marshal

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WASHINGTON RESIDENTIAL FATAL FIRE STATISTICS
JAN - MAR 2020

CONFIRMED FIRE FATALITIES

WASHINGTON RESIDENTIAL FATAL FIRE STATISTICS
THE MAJORITY OF FIRE DEATHS HAPPEN DURING THE DAY

PROPERTY USE

- 8 SINGLE FAMILY
- 5 MOBILE HOME/RV
- 2 MANUFACTURED HOME

SMOKE ALARMS

- 5 PRESENT (3 DID NOT OPERATE, 2 UNKNOWN)
- 5 NOT PRESENT
- 9 UNKNOWN

FIRE DEATHS BY AGE & GENDER

- 47% MALE
- 53% FEMALE

- 5% age 6-14
- 42% age 65+
- 53% age 25-64
State Fire Marshal’s Office Personnel Updates

On October 1, 2019, Mr. Lloyd Galey joined the Fire Training Division (FTD) as a Deputy State Fire Marshal as part of the Instructional staff and Weekend Recruit Academy Program Coordinator. Previously, Lloyd was the Fire Chief at South Pierce Fire and Rescue. Lloyd comes to the FTD with 40+ years of fire service experience.

On October 1, 2019, Mr. Brian Smith joined the FTD as a Deputy State Fire Marshal as part of the Instructional staff. Brian previously worked for Fallon Naval Air Station in Reno, NV. Brian comes to the FTD with 35+ years of fire service experience.

On December 16, 2019, Ms. Mollie Sundvik joined the FTD as a Deputy State Fire Marshal as part of the Instructional staff. Mollie currently works as a part-time Licensed Practical Nurse and previously worked for MultiCare. Mollie comes to the FTD with 10+ years of fire service experience.

On January 21, 2020, Mr. Chris Schirado joined the FTD as a Maintenance Mechanic 2 with the Maintenance staff. Chris previously worked for R&R Equipment Rentals and brings with him 20+ years of equipment service, maintenance, and upkeep experience.

On February 3, 2020, Ms. Katie Rasmussen accepted a promotion to Administrative Services Manager C. Katie previously served as the FTD Events Coordinator 2. The Administrative Services Manager C is a new position at the FTD. The position oversees contracts, procurement, budget, and other administrative staff.

On January 16, 2020, Ms. Rieley Thompson was promoted to Administrative Assistant 3. Previously, Rieley served as an Office Assistant 3 in the Licensing Section. Rieley now supports the Prevention Division, and serves as the liaison to other divisions within the Washington State Patrol.
The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has recently modernized the online National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) platform and the tools within it – what USFA calls ‘eNFIRS’ – to give users more control over their NFIRS user accounts, ease of use through a more modern look and feel, and increased functionality.

**User Account Changes**
NFIRS account holders now have more autonomy over their user accounts:

- **Self-registration** – New users who do not currently have an NFIRS account can now self-register. The State Administrator still approves the account and sets user permissions; this saves the user from having to wait for the State Administrator to set up their account for them.
- **Single Sign On** – New eNFIRS is a single-sign on for all NFIRS tools, including the Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW).
- Accounts will change to “inactive” status after 90 days of no activity, instead of 45 days.
- Passwords can now be changed by the user. Passwords must still be changed every 89 days. For this new function, it is important that all NFIRS account holders have a working email address attached to their user accounts. When updating the password, the system will send the user an email with a link to finish the password change.

**A New Look**
USFA’s free online incident reporting software, the Data Entry Browser Interface (DEBI), also has a whole new modern look and feel increasing ease of use. For example, when completing an incident report, if a user misses a required field, any “critical errors” will display at the top of the screen in hyperlink form. These hyperlinks redirect the user to the specific field in the report that needs completed or changed to ensure the incident will pass national validation standards.

**Mobile Compatibility**
One of the most exciting (and long-awaited) changes with this modernization update is that DEBI is now mobile-compatible. Users can complete incident reports via the web browser on a cell phone or tablet with cellular or Wi-Fi connection.

Those who utilize USFA’s free downloadable Data Entry Tool (DET) for their NFIRS reporting are not affected by this update.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Alicia Causey, NFIRS Coordinator, at NFIRS@wsp.wa.gov or (360) 596-3924.

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**Fire in Washington Report Available April 1st**

The annual Fire in Washington report will be published on April 1, 2020. Incident data from 2019 submitted to the NFIRS program by January 31, 2020, is included in the report.

To verify your agency’s reporting status, a monthly incident count report can be found at [www.wsp.wa.gov/prevention-data-collection](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/prevention-data-collection).

The NFIRS coordinator is available to assist agencies with implementing the NFIRS program, exporting data, and more. Please call (360) 596-3924 or email NFIRS@wsp.wa.gov for assistance.
The SFMO conducts the Celebrate Safely and Celebrate Legally fireworks safety campaign annually. This campaign promotes the safe distribution, use, and handling of fireworks. SFMO staff worked with a vendor to update the activity guide and create an editable infographic. All campaign materials are available on a secure FTP site for fire service, law enforcement, and hospitals to download at no cost.

Printed materials may be requested by completing the order form available here. The order form must be submitted no later than April 30 to ensure receipt by early June. Agencies will also receive a postcard in the coming weeks with a QR code to access a secure FTP site and download materials.

Materials available for order:
- Activity Guide
- Legal/Illegal Fireworks Flyer
- Fireworks Infographic

Materials available for download:
- Activity Guide
- Legal/Illegal Fireworks Flyer
- Fireworks Infographic
- Media Release Templates
- Fireworks Fire Report Form
- Fireworks Injury Report Form
- Setbacks and Required Signage for Consumer Retail Fireworks Sales (CFRS) Facilities
- Retail Sales Stand Inspection Checklist
- Public Display Inspection Checklist

Which CRR Course to Take First?

NEW Online Community Risk Reduction Courses Through the National Fire Academy

CRRNet* asked Mike Weller, Training Specialist – Program Manager Community Risk Reduction (CRR) at the National Fire Academy (NFA) to provide guidance. Mike advised starting with two new online self-study courses: Introduction to Strategic CRR and Introduction to Community Risk Assessments. Next, take a new online instructor-led course entitled Fire and Life Safety Education Fundamentals. These are all NEW courses that will be out in the next few months. Your first NFA on-campus course should then be Service Area Risk Reduction. After that, Demonstrating Your CRR Program’s Worth.

*CRRNet is an online forum for exchanging ideas, tips, suggestions, and for asking questions between those involved in the frontline delivery of CRR. https://strategicfire.org/crrnet

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Training Specialist – Program Manager Community Risk Reduction
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(301) 447-1476
Fireworks: Handle With Care

Each year in Washington, fireworks cause injuries and fires. Don’t let your family become part of these statistics. Be prepared. Be safe. Be responsible.

Number of fireworks-related injuries in 2019: 269*

Time most injuries occur: 9:00 p.m. to midnight

Fires caused by fireworks in 2019: 80
Total $ loss = $564,900

Who gets injured?
Children < 14 = 28% of injuries
Males = 71% of injuries

30% caused by other
1% injuries caused by illegal fireworks
13% injuries caused by explosives
56% injuries caused by legal fireworks

Children < 14 = 28% of injuries
Males = 71% of injuries

Top causes of injuries
1. Too close to or hit by fireworks or debris
2. Holding/leaning over fireworks
3. Lighting/relighting fireworks
4. Fireworks exploded/ faulty fireworks

Fireworks injuries by body part
Hand/arm 39%
Face/head 35%
Foot/leg 15%
Multiple injuries 5%
Torso 5%
Unknown 1%

* As reported by fire districts to the State Fire Marshal's office

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Fire Training Division Update

With the Fire Training Division’s (FTD) recent personnel additions and changes, we are looking forward to a busy schedule in 2020. The FTD has three full to nearly full Weekday Recruit Academies, as well as a busy 2020 scheduled, with training/facility requests in place from March through October. The FTD is currently accepting requests for the rest of 2020 and into 2021. Spaces are still available in the Weekend Recruit Academies and Open Enrollment classes, however, some of these classes are filling up fast. The FTD is back to full-time operations and looking forward to expanding the current training footprint with new construction and new personnel. The Training Water Treatment upgrade is nearing completion and construction of our two new burn buildings is scheduled to start before the end of the year.

Certification Update

Following the October 2019 International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) reaccreditation site visit, Certification Program staff have been working on implementing several updates. In particular, six new levels of accreditation were added as a result of the site visit: Driver/Operator – Aerial, Driver/Operator – Tiller, Driver/Operator Mobile Water Supply, and Driver/Operator - Aircraft Rescue, Fire Officer III, and Fire Officer IV. The first certificates for Driver/Operator – Aircraft Rescue were issued to Port of Seattle Fire Department firefighters in February.

A small work group composed of Certification Technical Advisory Group (TAG) members and college representatives continues to develop an assessment model for Fire Officer 3 and Fire Officer 4 certification. The assessment process will likely include adjudicated projects as part of formal classroom training and a written certification exam.

A group of stakeholders is also working with the SFMO to explore accreditation in certification in the Live Fire Instructor and Live-Fire Instructor In-Charge. These two new professional qualifications are included in the 2019 edition of the NFPA's Standard for Fire & Emergency Services Instructor (NFPA 1041). Currently, Minnesota is the only state offering certification in these two levels, so Washington's fire service has an opportunity to help lead the way in how live-fire instructors are trained and certified.

For more information about IFSAC accreditation and firefighter certification in Washington State, email ifsacquestions@wsp.wa.gov or call (360) 596-3945.

Top 5 Fire & Life Safety Violations for 2014-2019

The SFMO tracks violations for Residential Care Facilities, Enhanced Services Facilities, Childcare Centers, and Group Homes. The top 5 violation categories below account for over 63% of the total violations observed.

**FIRE-RESISTANCE-RATED CONSTRUCTION**
- Violations: 6,961
- Percentage of Total Violations: 19%

**ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, WIRING AND HAZARDS**
- Violations: 5,172
- Percentage of Total Violations: 14%

**FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS INSPECTIONS, TESTING AND MAINTENANCE**
- Violations: 4,732
- Percentage of Total Violations: 13%

**EMERGENCY AND STANDBY POWER SYSTEMS**
- Violations: 4,070
- Percentage of Total Violations: 11%

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS**
- Violations: 2,220
- Percentage of Total Violations: 6%

Washington Interagency Wildland Fire Training Academies Cancelled

All three academies have been cancelled for 2020 due to the ongoing Coronavirus outbreak. For more information, visit the Department of Natural Resources website.
Residential Fire Sprinkler Trailer

In 2019, there were 54 fire fatalities reported to the State Fire Marshal’s Office. Learning the advantages of a lifesaving residential fire sprinkler system benefits everyone from prospective home buyers to community officials and home builders.

The trailer is divided into two compartments. One has a stand-alone sprinkler system and educational information. The system displayed has a 300 gallon water tank for storage with a 115 volt single stage centrifugal pump. The second room allows for a live-fire demonstration with an actual sprinkler activation. The fire sprinklers used are residential sprinkler heads that have a temperature rating of 155 degrees.

To host the SFMO’s residential fire sprinkler trailer at your event will require the following:

Level parking area to accommodate a 9’ x 24’ trailer and the pulling vehicle, a site of 60 feet is usually sufficient. A water connection for a garden type hose with at least 35 psi to operate properly. Although the trailer comes equipped with its own power supply, it is preferred to have onsite power. Each demonstration takes approximately seven minutes.

Last year, SFMO staff attended 14 public safety events with the trailer, including a job fair, National Night Out, and a safety fair. The residential fire sprinkler trailer is available by appointment only. Please visit our website at www.wsp.wa.gov/fire-sprinklers
2020 State Mobilization Webinar Series

The SFMO is offering a series of free webinars to fire agencies and personnel that respond to mobilization incidents. The webinars will delve into various aspects of the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan (Plan) and offer guidance on a range of topics including what to expect when responding and how to complete the assorted forms.

Click Here to Register

Mobilization Awareness — Wednesday, April 8th at 10am

Mobilization Awareness training is required for all personnel who may be called to respond to a state mobilization incident. This training will provide basic information to emergency responders on the:

- Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan
- Operating environment in which the responder will be working
- Necessary systems and procedures in place at a major emergency event for the responder to adequately function and perform
- Appropriate actions and behavior expected of the emergency responder
- Compensable hours for personnel and equipment

Mobe Paperwork 101 — Wednesday, April 22nd at 10am

All reimbursement paperwork is audited by Mobilization staff prior to payment to ensure all hours listed are reimbursable under the Plan. This training will provide information to emergency responders on:

- Required documentation on OF-286s, OF-288s, CTRs & shift tickets
- Common documentation errors
- Extraordinary circumstances, i.e., extended TVL, reassignments, etc.

Reimbursable vs. Non-reimbursable Costs — Wednesday, May 6th at 10am

In accordance with the Plan, the Washington State Patrol will reimburse fire agencies for eligible costs incurred while mobilized for a major emergency incident. Discussion will focus on Section 16—Personnel Compensation & Section 17—Apparatus Compensation.

Career Reimbursements — Wednesday, May 27th at 10am

Correctly completed career reimbursement requests with necessary supporting documentation are crucial to timely and accurate reimbursements. Career submittals are a time consuming and complex part of the reimbursement process. During this training we will:

- Review compensable hours for Mobilized and Backfill personnel
- Review the current Personnel Reimbursement Request form
- Discuss examples of correctly completed forms
NFIRS Coding Guide:
Documenting Smoke Alarm Installations

Whether your agency is installing a single alarm in a residence or doing an installation campaign for a targeted area within your jurisdiction, you should document it in NFIRS!

These events must include a Basic module, and completing an Apparatus/Personnel module is also highly encouraged.

Incident Type: 553 – Public Service

Action Taken: 60 – Systems and services, other

Note: Depending on the reporting software you use, you may also create a plus-one code on your Action Taken for alarm installations so that this specific data is easier to track at the local level. Example: 601, instead of just 60. For more information about plus-one codes, please see USFA’s guidance here.

For a Single Alarm Installation
- Complete the Basic module as you would for any other call
- Narrative/Remarks section of the Basic Module: Add a note that the call was for an alarm installation

For an Installation Campaign
- The entire event is one incident report
- Use the address of one property, in Basic Module. Each subsequent installation address should be documented within the “Person/Entity Involved” section of the Basic Module. (If mapping this information, it will be important to understand how this information is stored in your RMS)
- Alarm Date/Time should be when you left the station to service the area
- Arrival Date/Time should be when you arrived at the service area
- Last Unit Cleared should be when you left the service area
- Narrative/Remarks section: document the type of alarm installed and how many total were installed during the whole event

For more information on the NFIRS Program, contact Ms. Alicia Causey at 360.596.3924 or nfirs@wsp.wa.gov.

Fire Season Outlook

The Predictive Services unit of the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center (NWCC) in Portland, Oregon, publishes a monthly and seasonal outlook at the first of every month. Though the most current outlook calls for above average temperatures and below normal precipitation through August, it is still a little too early to predict the potential for significant fires through the summer. To view all of the Predictive Services products available through NWCC, go to their web page at https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/
The information below is shared from the NFIRS Support Center:

The start to 2020 has seen a marked increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the United States, meaning the fire service and first responder agencies are facing an increased number of calls for service. The United States Fire Administration (USFA) is recommending that users at the fire department and state levels determine what information is needed/desired for future analysis.

The following information is intended for state and local guidance for the fire service recording incidents in NFIRS that involve the COVID-19 virus or calls that are suspected to be related to the virus.

Generally, the coding of COVID-19 incidents, suspected or confirmed, will not be any different than other types of incident coding. Fire departments and states should consider how modules and fields provide data that could be useful in their decision making and future analysis. This includes Apparatus/Resource, Personnel, EMS, and Fire Service Casualty Modules.

**BASIC MODULE**

- Incident Type (C): Document the type of situation found.
- Resources (G1): Include accurate counts and listings of apparatus and personnel used in response to these types of incidents.
- Fire Service Casualties (H1): Record Fire Service health exposures and potential health exposures in the injuries field. Note: One Fire Service Casualty Module will need to be created for each injury/exposure listed.
- Remarks: Clearly document the incident and identify COVID-19 in the text.

**EMS MODULE**

Use this module to document patient-specific information.

**FIRE SERVICE CASUALTY (FSC) MODULE**

This module can be used to capture incident scene exposures as a “first report” of contact with known or suspected COVID-19 cases. There are a few things to keep in mind:

- It is up to the fire department as to whether they wish to use the FSC module to record this information
- The number of FSC modules must equal the number of fire service injuries listed on the Basic Module (for example, if there are 20 personnel on the scene who were exposed to COVID-19, then 20 individual FSC modules should be completed - one for every person on the scene)
- Severity (G3) = 1 (report only, including exposures)
- All required fields will need to be completed on the FSC module, including: gender, casualty number, age, date/time of injury, severity, etc.

**REMARKS**

- Clearly document the incident and identify COVID-19 in the text.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

In addition to the above incident coding recommendations, the states could consider implementation of a Special Study:

- Users of a vendor product should contact their vendor for more information on using the Basic Module's optional Special Studies.
- State level users can use the USFA Client Software's System Admin Tool to create a special study. Follow the specific steps below once you have decided the study specifics. Or, follow the specific steps in the System Admin Tool User guide: [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/nfirs/NFIRS_System_Admin_Tool_Guide.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/nfirs/NFIRS_System_Admin_Tool_Guide.pdf)

Specific Special Study creation instructions will be distributed to the State NFIRS Program Managers shortly.
Upcoming Events and Trainings

April 7: Fire Sprinkler System Requirements for Storage
Webinar

April 8: NFPA 13D Plumber Installed Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems
Webinar

April 20-25: NFA - Leadership Strategies for Community Risk Reduction
CANCELLED

April 20-21: NFA - Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations
CANCELLED

April 21: Fire Sprinkler Systems – Plan Review & Acceptance Testing for AHJs
Webinar

April 22: Fire Alarm Interconnectivity to the Fire Sprinkler System
Webinar

April 25-26: NFA - Leadership in Supervision: Framework to Success
Granite Falls, WA

May 4-7: Fire Instructor 1
North Bend, WA

May 12-13: NFPA 20 – Fire Pumps
Spokane Valley, WA

May 29-30: NFA - Fire Service Safety Culture: Who Protects Firefighters From Firefighters?
Wenatchee, WA

April 30-May 3: The 20th Annual Washington State Hazmat Conference
CANCELLED

SAVE THE DATE!
October 19-23: Fire Prevention Institute
Chelan, WA

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