A Message from the State Fire Marshal

Happy New Year from the State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) to all our fire service partners! As I look back on the past year, I am grateful to our dedicated staff for their commitment to excellence and support of the fire service. Our quarterly newsletter highlights the work that the SFMO and our partners are doing to support the Washington State Fire Service.

You may recall that in the September newsletter, we mentioned that we were preparing for our upcoming site visit from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). On October 25, 2019, the SFMO received full reaccreditation from IFSAC on 15 existing levels and six new levels. Several fire service leaders had requested that the SFMO seek reaccreditation in Fire Officer 3 and 4, and I am pleased to report those levels will now be offered. The SFMO is proud to continue to offer IFSAC firefighter certifications.

As we look ahead to a new year, the SFMO is committed to working strategically to support local Community Risk Reduction (CRR) efforts throughout the state. Data plays a crucial role in those efforts. Each year, on April 1, the SFMO publishes the Fire in Washington Report. This report pulls together all of the data submitted to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) in order to show fire trends throughout the state.

The availability of timely and accurate incident information for the state can provide a foundation for risk assessments at the local, county, and regional levels, which is why the SFMO recognizes the Fire in Washington Report as a valuable CRR resource that we can provide to our fire service partners. I strongly encourage you to submit your agency’s NFIRS data by the January 31st deadline to ensure that your information is included. Your accurate and detailed data is critical to fire prevention efforts throughout the state!

Thank you for your support of the SFMO as we look ahead to a new year of serving Washingtonians through fire prevention and preparedness.
IFSAC Reaccreditation

On October 25, 2019, the SFMO was fully reaccredited by IFSAC in 15 existing levels of certification. Additionally, they received initial accreditation for six new levels of certification.

During the first week of October, an IFSAC reaccreditation site team spent four days reviewing the SFMO’s certification policies and procedures, testing documents, and records.

A site visit is a peer-review process. IFSAC site teams are made up of personnel from other IFSAC entities whose job duties include working in the firefighter certification program in their own agency. The site team included members from Canada, North Carolina, Indiana, and California.

The primary purpose of a site visit is to ensure that an entity is adhering to IFSAC policies and accreditation criteria, but it is also an opportunity to have a program looked at in great depth, with the intent of identifying gaps and finding ways to make the program stronger.

The site team reviewed over 5,600 written test questions, more than 300 pages of skill sheets, and conducted interviews with certification program staff, firefighter testing candidates, evaluators, and members of the certification program’s technical advisory group. The site team also observed a Driver/Operator practical hosted by the Port of Seattle Fire Department at Sea-Tac Airport (pictured to the left).

The site team leader, Mr. Tobin Praznik (Alberta Office of the Fire Commissioner), stated that the SFMO certification program, “is a strong, unique structure which some of the other IFSAC entities can learn from,” and, “includes dedicated personnel, solid policies and procedures, and extremely supportive stakeholders who all strive to be better every day.”

Chief Recognizes PDR Staff

The reaccreditation process happens every five years and preparing beforehand requires a great deal of work by SFMO staff. They conduct work sessions with subject matter experts from the fire service, and review all relevant policies, procedures and documents while maintaining a busy certification program that tests nearly 7,000 individual candidates annually.

Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste recognized the work of Deputy State Fire Marshals Amy Thornton, Scott Lancaster, Raul Murcia, Jim Anderson, Customer Service Specialist Tasha Biscay, Administrative Assistant 2 Tara To’omalatai, and Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Bill Slosson at the agency’s Strategic Advancement Forum on October 30, 2019.

“The SFMO certification program includes dedicated personnel, solid policies and procedures, and extremely supportive stakeholders”

Fire Officer Initial Accreditation

In May 2019, the Washington Fire Chiefs requested that the SFMO seek accreditation in Fire Officer 3 and Fire Officer 4 (chapters 6 and 7 of NFPA 1021, Fire Officer). This would allow chief officers in Washington State to become certified in those levels without having to go out of state.

Over the course of the summer, SFMO staff and stakeholders assembled the necessary documents to gain accreditation in those levels to present to the IFSAC site team in October. During that process, SFMO staff sought feedback and guidance on best practices from other entities throughout IFSAC who are already accredited in those certification levels.

The SFMO was conditionally accredited on Fire Officer 3 and 4 in October at the IFSAC fall meeting, and unconditionally accredited on those levels in November.

Over the next few months, SFMO staff will work with key stakeholders to define the preferred assessment method for these new certifications, so that fire service needs can be met and the full value of these certifications can be realized.

If you have any questions regarding the development of Fire Officer 3 and 4 certifications, contact CDSFM Bill Slosson at (360) 596-3928 or william.slosson@wsp.wa.gov.
DSFM Jim Anderson Retires

Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM) Jim Anderson's last day with the SFMO was October 30, 2019. Jim spent the last five and a half years of his 49-year career in the fire service working in the IFSAC program at the SFMO.

DSFM Anderson started his fire service career in 1970 with the United States Navy, assigned to Miramar Naval Air Station Fire Department in San Diego, California. After brief stints at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Fort Lewis Fire Departments, he spent the last 20 years of his federal firefighting career at McChord Air Force Base, retiring in 2000.

While serving at McChord, DSFM Anderson started working part-time at Bates Technical College (Bates) as an instructor in the fire service program, where he first became involved with the state's IFSAC Certification program. Upon his retirement from the Air Force, Jim became a full-time faculty member at Bates, where he became more involved in firefighter training and certification at the state level. In late 2013, Jim retired from Bates and he rejoined the SFMO just in time to assist with the 2014 IFSAC reaccreditation site visit. DSFM Anderson's last project with the SFMO was to add four new levels of accreditation in the Driver/Operator standard, including Driver/Operator Aerial, Tiller, Mobile Water Supply, and Airport Rescue Firefighter (ARFF).

DSFM Anderson plans to continue to travel extensively to watch his grandchildren participate in sports at the high school and college levels. Jim states, “I have enjoyed all my years in the fire service, and now with my free time, I have a 1962 Buick Wildcat project to work on.”

Welcome Christina Sanders

Ms. Christina Sanders, Director of the Division of Governmental Studies & Services for the Office of Emergency Management at Washington State University (WSU), is now sharing office space with the Prevention Division. Christina is helping the SFMO explore possibilities of using a learning management system to enhance services within fire service training and certifications.

“We are grateful for the impact DSFM Anderson and DSFM Hughes have made, not only in the SFMO, but in the lives of the fire service. They have dedicated their lives to serving others and for that, they are exceptional individuals.”
- State Fire Marshal LeBlanc

DSFM Shane Hughes Retires

Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM) Shane Hughes will retire from the SFMO on January 3, 2020 after 23 years of service.

DSFM Hughes retired from the United States Navy (USN) after 20 years of service and began working at the Washington State Fire Training Academy (FTA) in 1996 as a contract instructor. He helped develop the maritime fire training programs for the USN and maritime industry, and was hired as a full-time employee by July 1998.

During his time at the FTA, DSFM Hughes trained firefighter recruits to fight structural fires in their communities, maintained and developed training props, and managed training contracts with maritime groups including Washington State Ferries, the United States Navy and the United States Coast Guard. DSFM Hughes’ hard work and dedication at the FTA has been extremely impactful to the fire service and maritime industry.

DSFM Hughes recently built a new house in Arizona and plans to move there to enjoy retirement with his wife, new home, and the mountains. He is excited to vacation at Disneyland, fish the local waters in Arizona, and attend rodeos regularly.

Shane receives pins for 20 years of service with Washington State and Washington State Patrol.

Shane geared up for training marine students on ship board firefighting at the FTA.
Cooking fires are the leading incident type reported by fire agencies in Washington. Although the data is not yet complete, there have been over 1,600 cooking fires reported in Washington so far in 2019, resulting in 12 civilian injuries, 1 fire service injury, and nearly $7 million in total loss.

Using NFIRS, Incident Type 113 - Food on the stove, contained to a non-combustible container, allows for abbreviated reporting for fires that meet the criteria. If the fire goes beyond the non-combustible container, there are more modules and fields that will need to be completed.

It is important to select the most accurate incident type (111 – Building Fire, 121 – Fire in a Mobile Home used as a Fixed Structure, 122 – Fire in a motor home, camper, or recreational vehicle used as a structure for residential use, and 123 – Fire in a portable building used as a fixed structure), so that your NFIRS compliant software will identify which fields of information need completed.

We need your help to ensure accuracy and completeness when documenting the incident. Some key fields that need attention are:

- **Dollar Loss and Values** – Estimated values must be provided. Documenting a zero dollar loss for a building fire that extends beyond a non-combustible container should be avoided because this does not accurately reflect the impact fire is having on our communities.

- **Property Use** – Find the property use type that best fits the description of the occupancy where the fire occurred. This information is used frequently by the fire service and other interested parties to increase safety and fire prevention strategies.

NFIRS data provides an excellent resource for information when a fire agency is conducting a risk assessment. As Washington State increases its Community Risk Reduction efforts, collectively, we will be reliant on accurate and timely incident information. Ensuring all fire service personnel are familiar with the purpose of data collection and information can enhance the availability and reliability of local, state, and federal incident data.

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact the NFIRS coordinator by email at NFIRS@wsp.wa.gov or by phone at (360) 596-3924.

NFIRS Coding Guide: 
**Cooking-Related Fires a Major Impact**

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Fire Training Academy Updates

Construction at the FTA is progressing. Both large retention ponds have been successfully drained and over 30 years of accumulated sludge has been disposed of. The oil water separator has been drained, cleaned and updated with new weir boards and rotor-skim paddles.

The upper Airport Rescue Firefighter campus is now tied in with the lower campus treatment system, allowing all training water to be treated by the new system. Vaults are being remodeled to accommodate the pumps and piping that are needed to upgrade the system. A new dissolved air flotation system will be placed between the ponds, and then aeration equipment will be installed in Pond #2. After this is completed, electrical connections will be made and the system will be on track for completion. Training is scheduled to begin January 2020.

If you are interested in scheduling training and/or registering recruits in an FTA Recruit Academy, please email firetrainingacademy@wsp.wa.gov.

MTCA Success Statewide

Protecting Firefighter Instructors and Others from Harmful Carcinogens

** This article was originally published in the Department of Ecology's Model Toxics Control Accounts 2017-2019 Biennial Report of Expenditures

Live fire training at the Washington State Fire Training Academy (FTA) results in contamination of firefighter Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Firefighter PPE, or turnout gear, protects firefighters from heat generated by fires. Accumulation of soot and chemicals on firefighter turnout gear can lead to persistent exposure to carcinogens.

Before and After: Dirty turnout gear immediately after live fire training is sent out to be cleaned. The MCTA-funded service removes harmful soot and chemicals that reduces firefighters' exposure to carcinogens.

Contaminated gear and skin exposure to contaminates from fires is recognized as a contributing factor for the increase in firefighter occupational illness and increased cancer-related deaths.

This cleaning and maintenance program is not only critical for the protection of FTA customers and employees, it advances the education of exposure control and contributes to a cultural change in the Washington State Fire Service, so future firefighters understand the risk associated with gear contamination.

Save the Date! NFIRS Data Due January 31

The annual Fire in Washington report will be published in April 2020. Incident data from 2019 must be submitted to NFIRS@wsp.wa.gov by Friday, January 31, 2020, for inclusion 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.

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.
Facility Inspection Contacts

The Inspection and Plan Review Sections have 10 Deputy State Fire Marshals (DSFMs) assigned across the state to a geographical area. Each DSFM is responsible for completing fire and life safety inspections of state licensed facilities, including nursing homes, hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, assisted living facilities, group homes, residential treatment facilities, enhanced services facilities, childcare facilities and schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deputy Contact</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Area(s) Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Jamie Youngblood</td>
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<td>Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Ken Dellsite</td>
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<td>Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Pacific, Thurston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Nick Wolden</td>
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<td>Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania, Wahkiakum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Lysandra Davis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Dylan Montgomery</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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</tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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Supporting Firefighters and Their Families

The Combined Fund Drive is Washington State’s giving program for public employees. Every year, between October 1 and December 6, state agencies participate in an annual campaign to raise money for charities of their choice. Washington State Patrol (WSP) takes part in this campaign by encouraging payroll contribution and through agency fundraising events.

This year, the Washington State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) organized and hosted a pasta feed and silent auction at the WSP headquarters building. Generous employees and their families donated over two dozen auction items, most of which were handmade. The lunch and silent auction together earned $1,237 for the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, an organization that helps the families of firefighters killed or injured in the line of duty.

The SFMO is grateful to have the opportunity to raise funds on behalf of a charity that serves firefighters and their families in Washington State.

School of Police Staff and Command

At the end of November, Assistant State Fire Marshals’ Chad Cross and Melissa Gannie graduated from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command (SPSC), hosted by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. The School of Police Staff and Command is an arduous 10-week course based on sound policies, proven strategies, and community-focused goals to develop leaders.
**Washington Public Fire Educators Update**

Washington Public Fire Educators (WPFE) members are educators from departments across the state that believe in the power of educational messaging and activities to change communities for the better. The SFMO and WPFE are partnering to promote Community Risk Reduction (CRR) around the state. CRR makes your community safer and helps lower your Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB) rating.

The WPFE board is undergoing some changes in 2020; new officers for this year are:
- Chair - Ben Shearer (Pasco Fire)
- Vice-Chair - Erica Littlewood (South Whatcom Fire Authority)
- Past Chair - Melanie Taylor (Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority)
- PIO - Jamie McIntyre (Spokane Fire)
- Secretary - Shawneri Guzman (South Snohomish Fire)

Board Member - Kelly Hawks (Valley Regional Fire Authority)

The SFMO and WPFE understand not all departments have full-time educators or resources for a CRR program. The SFMO is hosting a free, six-day NFA course – Leadership Strategies for Community Risk Reduction, in Ellensburg, April 20–25, 2020. If you would like to register, please email fpbpio@wsp.wa.gov. Chief Arnold Baker from Chelan County Fire District 5 is working to create a one-day CRR training geared toward those departments that are unable to attend longer training sessions. This shorter training will offer smaller departments the opportunity to hold a local training event. If you are interested in bringing this class to your area, contact: Arnold Baker (arnoldb@mansonfire.org) or Ben Shearer (shearerb@pasco-wa.gov).

If your department is not receiving emails from WPFE, please contact Shawneri Guzman (sguzman@southsnofire.org) to be placed on their email list. Visit their Facebook page: WAPublicFireEducators.

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**A Note From Ben Shearer**

**Washington State NFPA Public Education Network Liaison**

I wanted to say hello and introduce myself. For those that don’t know me, besides my work with the Washington Public Fire Educators group, I am also our National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Public Education Network liaison. NFPA State Network liaisons are volunteers that work with the Regional Network Representative from NFPA, to help promote and distribute information from NFPA. Megan Fitzgerald-McGowan, (MFitzgerald-McGowan@nfpa.org) is our regional educational representative covering most the western half of the United States. From time to time, Megan and NFPA send out information from NFPA about news and events and it is my privilege to relay that information back out to our state.

If you have questions about NFPA or looking for information, I may be able to help you. I have experience in promoting and working several NFPA programs in my area including Learn Not To Burn (LNTB). If you are looking for educational programs to present to lower grade students, I would encourage you to check out the LNTB curriculum at NFPA.org/lntb. This is a free program that meets Washington State Core Curriculum requirements.

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**From Our Family to Yours**

Each year the SFMO participates in the Salvation Army’s Adopt-A-Family holiday program. The Salvation Army pairs up a family in need with a sponsor to “adopt” that family and provide Christmas dinner, presents, and stocking stuffers.

Eligible families include low-income working families, grandparents who are primary caregivers of their grandchildren, victims of domestic violence, fire victims, or family members who are suffering a serious illness.

The SFMO has supported this program for over 20 years, providing assistance to families who may not otherwise have the resources to celebrate the holidays.
Upcoming Events and Trainings

January 6-9: Fire Instructor 1
North Bend, WA

January 20-26: CRR Week 2020
Nationwide!
Learn more at: crrweek.org

January 27-February 1: Fire Officer 1
North Bend, WA

February 24-29: Fire Officer 2
North Bend, WA

March 16-21: Command and Control of Fire Dept.
Operations at Target Hazards
Everett, WA

March 21-22: Introduction to Unified Command for
All-Hazard Incidents
Wenatchee, WA
This is a FREE two-day National Fire Academy Course.

March 23-27: Fire Instructor 2
North Bend, WA

March 28-April 1: Washington Fire Symposium
Annual Conference
Wenatchee, WA

April 20-25: NFA- Leadership Strategies for
Community Risk Reduction
Ellensburg, WA
This is a FREE six-day National Fire Academy Course.

SAVE THE DATE!
April 30-May 3: The 20th Annual Washington State
Hazmat Conference
Central Washington University

October 19-23: Fire Prevention Institute
Chelan, WA

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