



Washington State Patrol STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Serving Washington Since 1901

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SFMO's Activities During World War II

December 7, 2021, marked the 80th anniversary of America's entry to World War II. As we progress through the 80th anniversary of the war, we have the opportunity to explore the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office's (SFMO) contribution to the war effort. The contribution the SFMO (known at the time as the Insurance Commissioner's Fire Marshal's Department) made to the war effort started as education efforts in civil defense.

From the beginning of the war, the regular duties of the SFMO did not ebb. They continued their work in arson investigation, fire prevention and fire inspection. However, they added new responsibilities. The education effort began in late 1941 when personnel from the SMFO attended a "Chemical Warfare School" offered in Olympia. The intention was for the fire marshals to be instructors in "Civilian Defense." This was not to be a lasting feature of the SFMO's war effort.

Because of Washington State's economic contribution to the national economy, essential war industries became a priority for the SFMO. In 1942, the SFMO deputized volunteers with fire inspectors Special Agents' Association of Washington. These volunteers were deputized as special deputy fire marshals and were responsible for the inspection of essential war facilities. The program was a success. So much so that it was recommended for nationwide adoption by Major General U. S. Grant, 3rd, U.S.A., Chief of the Facility Security Division of the Office of Civilian Defense. The national program became known as States War Inspection Service. The States War Inspection Service was modeled on the program developed in Washington State and remained nationally adopted until the end of war.

In addition to the inspection of essential war facilities, the SFMO also focused on grain and farm fire prevention efforts. In 1943, the fire prevention program added a new feature, Fire prevention education for farmers. The effort was to minimize loss from grain and farm fires. The effort was done through educational outreach to rural areas and resulted in the reduction of fire losses by 92percent over 1942. It was an effective program and supported the war effort in a real way.

While the SFMO initially provided instruction on civil defense, the role shifted in 1942 and 1943, to focus on the inspection of essential war industries and fire prevention education for farmers.

(continued on page 8)

2022 Prevention Division by the Numbers

	Total
IFSAC Certificates Issued:	324
Haz Mat Students Trained:	154
Mobilization Trainings Delivered:	2
Responses to Mobilization:	1
Initial Inspections Conducted:	212
Reinspections Conducted:	161
Fire and Life Safety Training Sessions for Facilities:	3
Fire and Life Safety Plan Reviews for Schools:	5
Plan Reviews for Contracted Projects:	7
Sprinkler Licenses Issued:	466
Certificates of Competency Issued:	1,082
Sprinkler Fitter Certificates Issued:	1,896
Fireworks Licenses Issued:	534
Sprinkler Demonstrations Conducted:	0
Sprinkler Trainings Delivered:	0

2022 Fire Training Division by the Numbers

	Students
Weekday Recruit Academy:	20
Weekend Recruit Academy:	0
Fire Service Open Enrollment Courses:	49
Marine Courses:	0
Fire Service Department Training:	156
Regional Direct Delivery Training:	304
Regional Direct Delivery Recruit Academy:	34
National Fire Academy Training:	170
Law Enforcement/Military/Other Training:	138



A Message From the Interim State Fire Marshal

Our team has been busy in the first quarter of 2022. Fire and life safety code inspections are returning to normal levels, and we are working with facilities to ensure compliance with requirements. The Fire Training Academy is undergoing much needed renovations, and we anticipate providing a more complete update in upcoming publications.

The 2021 Fire in Washington annual report is published highlighting the incident activity of our fire service. In 2021, 322 of the 457 (70 percent) fire agencies submitted data to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Over 884,000 incidents were reported, of which more than 30,000 fires resulted in 78 deaths and more than \$412 million in dollar loss. Rescue and Emergency Medical Service incidents accounted for approximately 73 percent of all the calls.

The SFMO is promoting the use of the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) model to strategically address risk facing our communities. Through grant funding made available through the United States Fire Administration, CRR classes from the National Fire Academy have been brought into our state to help build local knowledge. Vision 20/20 has delivered training on how to utilize NFIRS data and other available information to build a community risk assessment. In the upcoming year, the SFMO will bring in courses on Wildland Urban Interface to help our state reduce wildland fire risks.

You will find several training opportunities already planned which are outlined on subsequent pages of this newsletter. The 2022 Washington State Hazardous Materials Workshop is coming up in May, and is free to attend. The Fire Training Academy has an array of courses available at <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire-training-academy/>. For certification testing, please visit <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire-service-certification/>.

NFPA Document Consolidation Impacts Fire Prevention Professional Qualification Standards

In January of 2020, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) embarked on a project to consolidate a majority of the Professional Qualification Standards, often referred to as the “pro quals” into single documents, grouped by content area. This was done in order to improve communication between technical committees, avoid conflicts in correlation between standards, and improve the overall Emergency Response and Responder Safety (ERRS) Standards development process.

Included in Group 2 of the ERSS, consolidation process are the standards for Fire Inspector (NFPA 1031), Public Educator, Youth Firesetter, & Public Information Officer (NFPA 1035), and Fire Marshal (NFPA 1037). These standards will be consolidated as chapters in NFPA 1030, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Prevention Program Positions. These documents are all in “draft” and are undergoing the standards revision process. The Fire Investigator standard (NFPA 1033) will remain a stand-alone professional qualification document that was included in Group 1 and came into effect in January of 2022. Group 2 is anticipated to go into effect in 2024.

One significant change proposed in the draft of NFPA 1030 is to the Fire Inspector chapters. The current edition of NFPA 1031 has three levels: Fire Inspector I, Fire Inspector II, and Fire Inspector III. The draft edition of NFPA 1030 eliminates Fire Inspector III, and changes the balance of the standard to two levels, First Responder Inspector, and Fire Inspector. The First Responder Inspector level will encompass duties typical of the more traditional company inspection, while the Fire Inspector level will be more focused on the compliance and enforcement aspect of fire prevention programs.

The SFMO is currently accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress in Fire Inspector I (NFPA 1031, chapter 4). When the SFMO transitions to NFPA 1030, we anticipate testing and certifying qualified individuals in the proposed chapter 7, Fire Inspector.

Another proposed change in the NFPA 1031 standard is to the Plan Examiner levels. In NFPA 1030, Plan Examiner I and Plan Examiner II are consolidated into a single level, Fire Plans Examiner. This single level combines the job performance requirements and eliminates their redundancies.

There is currently a single proposed change to NFPA 1035 in the Fire and Life Safety Educator (FLSE) chapters. NFPA 1035 includes three levels of Public Educator - FLSE I, FLSE II, and FLSE III. NFPA 1030 proposes to eliminate FLSE III, and creates Fire and Life Safety Education Program Manager.

The next edition of the SFMO newsletter will include information on proposed NFPA 1010, consolidating the Firefighter, Driver/Operator, Airport Firefighter, and Land-based Marine Firefighter standards into a single document.

For more information on the ERRS consolidation project, go to [NFPA ERRS Consolidation Project](#) or contact Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Bill Slosson at (360) 596-3928, or william.slosson@wsp.wa.gov.



Fire Fatality Reporting

The SFMO is responsible for collecting data for both the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), as well as any fire-related deaths that occur in Washington State as required in RCW 43.44.060(1); Fire-related deaths need to be reported within two business days. A paper-based form is available for use. NFIRS-participating fire agencies should enter all fire causalities into their NFIRS database, and submit that information to the SFMO. The paper-based forms are cross-checked against NFIRS to ensure more complete reporting in the state and national databases.

Of the 78 total fire deaths reported to the SFMO in 2021:

- 43 were reported to NFIRS, where the death was appropriately documented in the Basic Module in the Civilian Casualty field and (a) Civilian Fire Casualty Module(s) was properly included.
- 18 were reported to NFIRS, however, the death was documented in the Remarks/Narrative section rather than being properly coded in the Civilian Casualty field of the Basic Module and a Civilian Fire Casualty Module was not completed.
- 17 deaths could not be found in NFIRS. Fifteen of these deaths were submitted via paper by NFIRS-participating fire agencies. The remaining 2 of the 17 were submitted by a local investigating authority who is not a fire agency.

Fire agencies participating in NFIRS can forgo the paper-based form, but are still required to make notification to the SFMO within the two business days. Notification should be made to: NFIRS@wsp.wa.gov and include the following basic information: FDID, date of fire, and the NFIRS Incident number for later reconciliation.

Please follow the coding guidance to properly complete the NFIRS incident report. Monthly reporting to NFIRS is strongly encouraged as we use this information to generate infographics and reports throughout the year.



NFIRS User Group Webinars

In November 2021, the SFMO began hosting monthly webinars that focus on NFIRS training and data quality issues. The aim of these webinars is to assist the fire service in understanding the NFIRS standard, how to code incidents in the system, and how to use the information to make data-driven decisions at the local level. These sessions delve into training, education, and use of data toward Community Risk Reduction efforts.

Upcoming session topics include: reporting mutual aid, the importance of reporting estimated dollar loss and resources to assist with these estimates, and how to properly report injuries and fire fatalities in NFIRS.

New content is under development, and feedback and suggestions from the fire service are always welcome. Please reach out to the NFIRS Coordinator at NFIRS@wsp.wa.gov if you have suggestions or questions about this webinar series.

WASHINGTON FIRE FATALITY STATISTICS

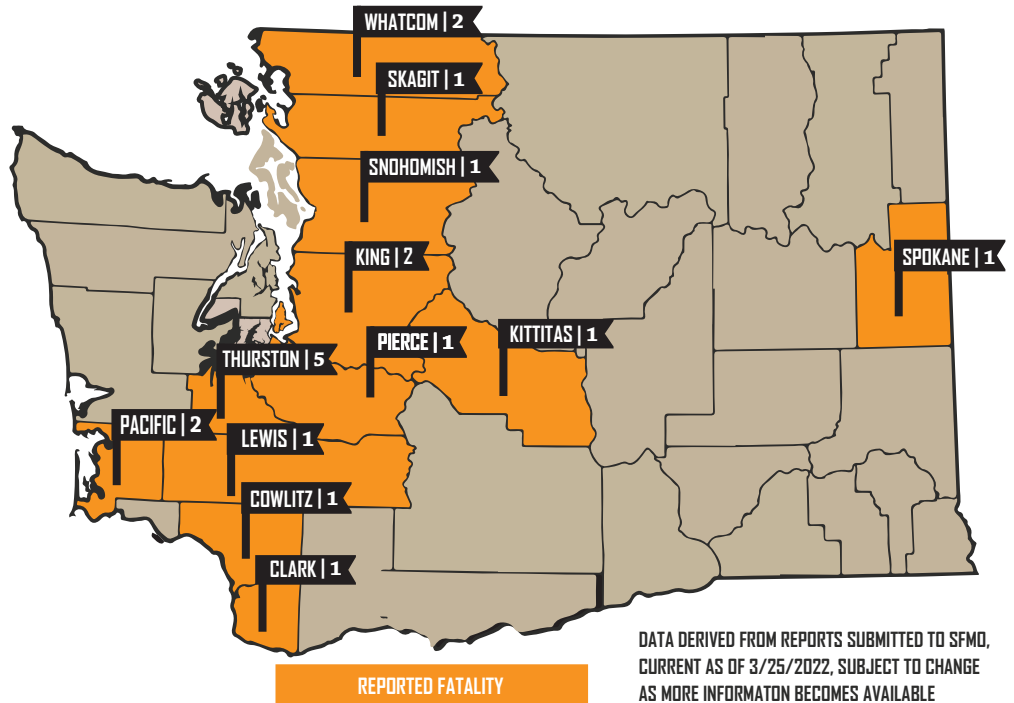
JANUARY - MARCH 2022

19
REPORTED
FATALITIES

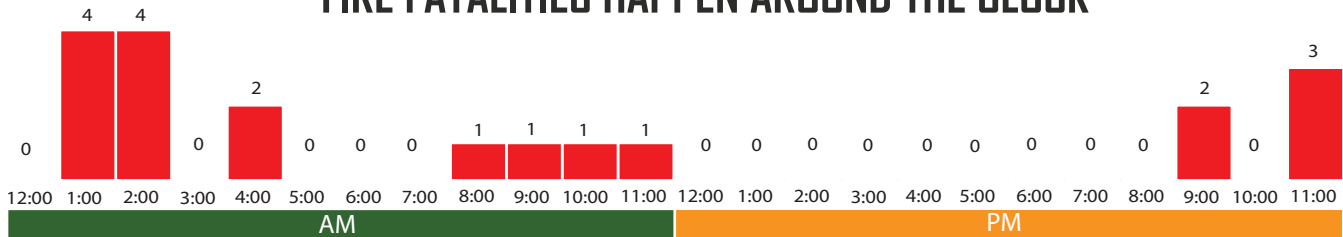


0%

NO CHANGE IN
NUMBER OF FATALITIES
COMPARED TO SAME PERIOD IN 2021



FIRE FATALITIES HAPPEN AROUND THE CLOCK



PROPERTY USE

8 SINGLE FAMILY	3 MANUFACTURED HOMES
2 MULTI-FAMILY	1 OUTDOOR
3 MOTOR HOME/RV	2 VEHICLE

SMOKE ALARMS

4 PRESENT
(2 OPERATED, 1 DID NOT OPERATE, 1 UNKNOWN)

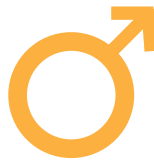
2 NOT PRESENT

10 UNKNOWN

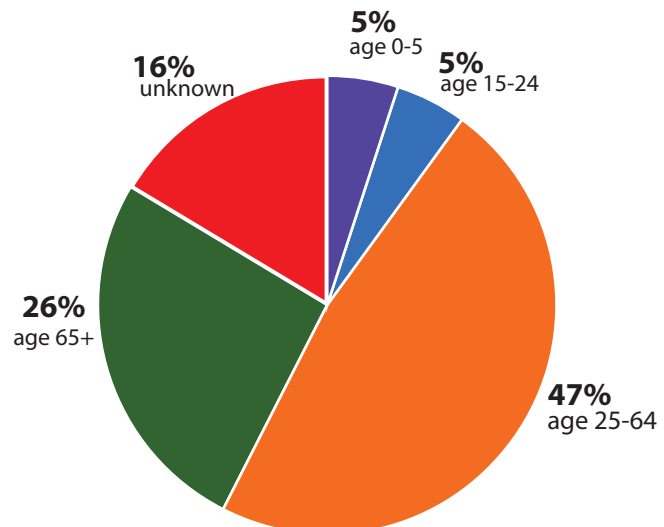
*Three fire fatalities occurred in locations where smoke alarms are not normally installed.

FIRE DEATHS BY AGE & GENDER

58%
MALE



37%
FEMALE



*Percentages rounded to nearest whole number; 5% not shown for gender percentages accounts for 1 fatality where the decedent's gender was unable to be identified.

*Percentages rounded to nearest whole number; 16% for unknown age percentage accounts for 3 fatalities where the decedent age was unable to be determined.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

Tracy Lyon Promoted to CDSFM - FTA

On January 1, 2022, Tracy B. Lyon accepted a promotion to Chief of Instruction at the Fire Training Division (FTD). After 41 combined years of fire service, first with the Key Peninsula Fire Department, then Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One, Chief Lyon decided he was ready for retirement. Lyon also worked for the last 23 years as a contracted instructor for the FTD and has been a lead instructor for most of that time.

Lyon had plans to compete nationally with his two dogs in Dock Diving during his retirement. Then Lyon received a job offer for a Deputy State Fire Marshal position at the Fire Training Academy, which he accepted in April 2021. Lyon was a graduate of the FTD Recruit Academy Class 1992-01.

CDSFM Lyon is excited to bring his vast years of knowledge and experience to use, in the place where his career began.



Welcome Jenny Griczin



On January 26, 2022, Jenny Griczin joined the Fire Training Division (FTD) as a Secretary Senior. Jenny comes to us from the Communications Division and is excited to join our team. Jenny has seven years of customer service experience and moved here from Georgia just five months ago. She is a great addition to our staff and we are thrilled to have her join us.

Welcome Brian Briscoe

On February 16, 2022, Brian Briscoe joined the Fire Prevention Division as a Deputy State Fire Marshal. He will support the All-Risk Mobilization and the IFSAC programs. Brian comes to the SFMO from Simpson Door Company, where he worked as a production supervisor, among many other functions, for the past 22 years. Brian has an extensive fire service background and is currently a volunteer Lieutenant FF/EMT at Grays Harbor Fire District 2 where he is involved in recruit training.

Brian is a lifelong resident of Montesano where he and his wife, Lynn, and labrador, Charlie Red, have a small farm.



Hospital Inspections

There have been several articles in our past few newsletters regarding the impacts of COVID-19 to our inspection workload. The SFMO is contracted through the Department of Health, as well as the Department of Social and Health Services to conduct Fire and Life Safety inspections in healthcare facilities such as hospitals, nursing homes, ambulatory surgical centers, and hospice facilities. Inspections have nearly returned to normal levels prior to the pandemic, with the exception of hospital inspections. The requests for inspection for hospitals have primarily been for smaller facilities. Fire agencies should be aware that some hospitals may not have been inspected by the SFMO for several years.

If you have any questions on our inspection program or who your local Deputy State Fire Marshal is, please call (360) 596-3947.

Top Violation Trends in 2021

In 2021, the State Fire Marshal's Office documented over 3,400 fire and life safety code violations within licensed care facilities throughout Washington State. Of those violations, the most commonly cited deficiency was inadequate or improper maintenance of fire-resistance-rated door and window openings (opening protectives). Per the International Fire Code (IFC) section 705.2, rated fire door and window openings are required to be inspected and maintained per the International Fire Code and the NFPA 80-Opening Protectives standard.

One of the more significantly reoccurring violations were fire doors being blocked or wedged open, preventing the door from automatically closing and latching. In the event of a fire, a door that is blocked open will fail to slow the spread of smoke or fire. This could result in bigger fires, more smoke spread, and an increased difficulty in escaping the area of the fire, leading to a higher likelihood of injuries or deaths. Building staff should conduct routine, periodic self-inspections of fire doors to ensure they close and latch properly, that are not blocked open, and that they have not been altered or modified in a way that would reduce the required fire resistance rating.

The second most common violation documented by the SFMO in 2021 was for electrical equipment, wiring and hazards. Common citations associated with this deficiency include power strips plugged into another power strip, improper or unauthorized use of extension cords, and non-approved appliances plugged into power strips. These conditions can contribute to overloading of outlets, shock hazards or excessive heat release, and increased fire risk, all of which can lead to injury or death.

The SFMO strives to reduce violations in licensed care facilities through education, inspections and enforcement. If you have any questions regarding inspections or would like further detail on our findings, please contact CDSFM Barbara McMullen at barbara.mcmullen@wsp.wa.gov and CDSFM Dylan Montgomery at dylan.montgomery@wsp.wa.gov.



Vision 20/20 Provides Workshop and Data Collection and Analysis Course

Retired Fire Chief and current Project Manager Stephen Hrustich from Vision 20/20 came to Washington State to share information about Community Risk Reduction (CRR). Classes were held at Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority Station 46 in SeaTac. On March 8, 2022, a one-day workshop provided attendees with an overview of CRR. Attendees included fire chiefs, fire commissioners, CRR specialists, data analysts, and firefighters.

On March 9 and 10, 2022, a Data Collection and Analysis course was held with approximately 30 students. In that class, students used their agency's National Fire Incident Reporting System data along with other data sources to build a Community Risk Assessment (CRA). Students used Vision 20/20's CRA template to develop an organizational history and demographics, community profile, demographic profile, incident response data, weather-related risks, unique and special hazards, critical infrastructure, and other summary information.

Students learned how to use Excel to analyze data and create charts and graphs. United States Census data and other readily available webpages were used to gather useful information. Many of the students walked out of class with a solid draft of their CRA.

Vision 20/20 has many valuable resources that fire agencies can use free of charge. There is a new Discovery Data Hub that can be accessed at: <https://strategicfire.org/discovery>



SFMO's Activities During World War II

(continued from page 1)

As a result of the SFMO contribution to the war effort, fire losses in Washington State of these essential industries was significantly reduced. Also through the efforts of the SFMO, the federal government implemented the States War Inspection Service, an invaluable program that helped mitigate fire losses and contributed to the overall success of the United State in World War II.

References for this article include the Washington State Commissioner's forty-eighth annual report (1941-1942), fiftieth annual report (1943-1944), and fifty-first annual report (1944-1945).

2022 Washington State Hazmat Workshop

In cooperation with the Emergency Management Division, the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is sponsoring the 2022 Statewide Hazardous Materials Workshop. The workshop will take place virtually on Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 3, 5, 10, and 12, 2022. This will be the 22nd year of the workshop.

This year's workshop will offer Hazardous Materials-related training in:

- Response to Electric Vehicles – Gary Sharp/Hazard 3
- Emerging Trends in Hazmat and WMD – Dr. Christina Baxter/Hazard 3
- Hazmat and Natural Gas – Retired Captain Jeff Zientek, Phoenix FD
- Hazmat IQ (4-hour) – Federal Resources
- Bio-Tech IQ (4-hour) – Federal Resources
- Developing a Hazmat Response Team – SFMO
- Traffic Incident Management – Department of Transportation
- New Rail Trends – BNSF/Justin Piper
- Hazmat Case Studies/Captains Chris Pfaff and Jason Rickey

The workshop planning committee is also working to identify and secure other unique training opportunities for this conference.

A registration link will be provided once it is available. Please contact Deputy State Fire Marshal Scott Lancaster with any questions at scott.lancaster@wsp.wa.gov.

2021 Fire in Washington Report

The 2021 Fire in Washington report will be released April 1, 2022. This annual report provides a comprehensive summary on fire incident data submitted through the NFIRS by fire agencies around the state.

NFIRS is the fire services' standard for documenting incidents in a uniform method. The information provides valuable insights into the problems facing our communities, and serves as an excellent source of information when developing a community risk assessment, budget proposal, resource deployment model, and other local initiatives.

The 2021 Fire in Washington report will be posted and available on the SFMO website.

Fireworks Licensing

January 1, 2022, marked the beginning of the 2022 fireworks licensing renewal cycle. Renewal notices were sent to 36 fireworks companies and 226 pyrotechnic operators on December 20, 2021. As of this writing, 32 companies and 136 pyrotechnic operators have renewed their licenses. Additionally, the SFMO issued approximately 400 fireworks retail stand license in 2022.

All fireworks companies engaged in manufacture, importation or wholesaling of fireworks and all pyrotechnic operators who present public displays are required to be licensed with the State Fire Marshal's Office.

All lead pyrotechnic operators are reminded, a written public display report is required to be submitted to the SFMO within ten (10) business days following the display. The penalty for failing to provide a written report can include revocation of the pyrotechnic operator's license and/or a monetary penalty.

SFMO Staff Member Leads New Mexico IFSAC Site Visit



The International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) requires all of its member entities to undergo a site visit every five years in order to maintain their accreditation. Site teams typically consist of three representatives from other IFSAC member entities, each with a designated site team leader. All site team members receive training provided by IFSAC before participating in a site visit.

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal (CDSFM) Bill Slosson led a three-person team conducting an IFSAC reaccreditation site visit to the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy (NMFTA), March 8-10, 2022. The site visit was conducted on the grounds of the NMFTA, in Socorro, NM. CDSFM Slosson was joined by IFSAC representatives from the Arizona Center for Public Safety Excellence and the Iowa State Fire Marshal's Office.

During the site visit, the team completed a review of the NMFTA's certification testing policies and procedures, their process for shipping/receiving and securing test items and test banks, and interviewed NMFTA staff, test candidates, and members of the New Mexico fire service who receive services from the NMFTA. The site team also reviewed all written test questions and practical skill sheets to ensure they were correlated to the most recent edition of NFPA professional qualifications standards. Upon completion of the site visit, the team recommended full reaccreditation for the NMFTA. The final step is a vote by IFSAC's Certificate Assembly Board of Governors to approve reaccreditation of the NMFTA.

The SFMO's Certification Program benefits from site visit participation as it provides staff members the opportunity to see other entities' processes and testing methodology first-hand. Site team members and representatives are able to share ideas, best practices, and lessons learned. This helps strengthen the SFMO's program and helps staff prepare for future reaccreditation site visits.

The last SFMO reaccreditation site visit was in October of 2019. It is expected to host the next visit in October of 2024.

JANUARY 2022 - MARCH 2022

INCIDENT COUNTS*

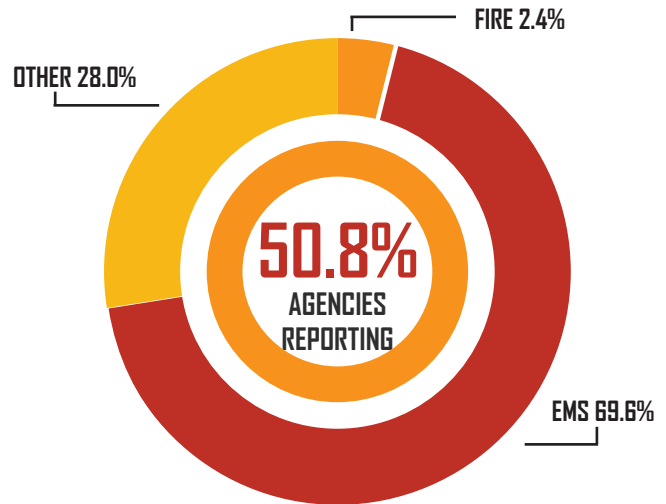
FIRE: 2,737

EMS: 80,102

OTHER: 32,134

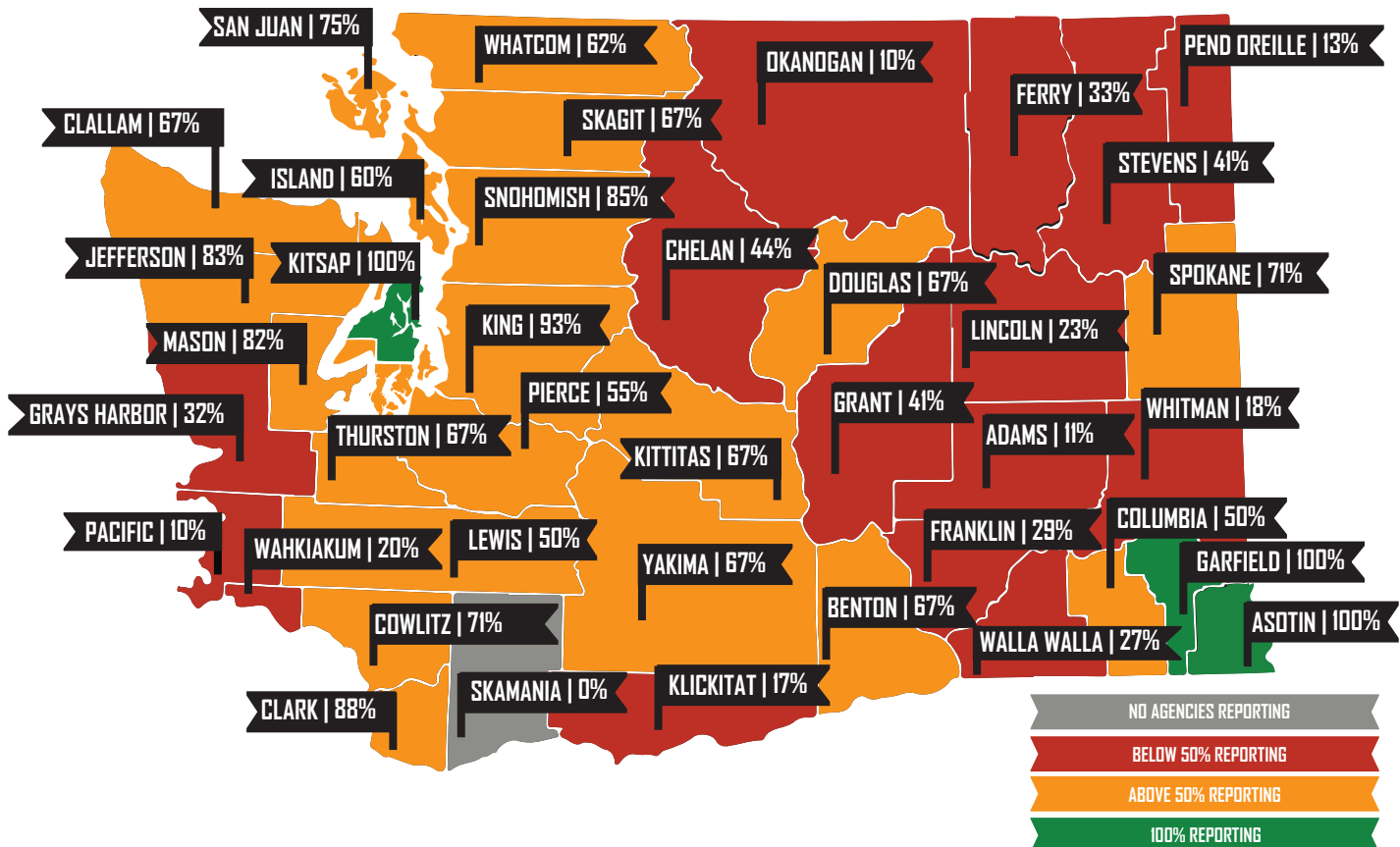
TOTAL REPORTED: 114,973

INCIDENT TYPES



*Incident counts do not include: incidents that have not met the NFIRS validation standard, No Activity Reports, or mutual aid given incident reports.

PERCENTAGE OF AGENCIES REPORTING TO NFIRS PER COUNTY



Upcoming Events and Trainings

[April 9 - Fire Control I](#)

North Bend, WA

[April 10: Search and Rescue](#)

North Bend, WA

[May 3-5: Fire Instructor I](#)

North Bend, WA

[May 20-21: NFA - Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer](#)

Wenatchee, WA

[May 20-21: NFA - Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking](#)

Wenatchee, WA

[May 5-29: Weekday Recruit Academy 22-02](#)

North Bend, WA

ONLINE COURSES

[Introduction to Community Risk Assessment](#)
NFA Online

[Intro to Strategic Community Risk Reduction](#)
NFA Online

[2022 WSU Live Fire Instructor](#)
WSU Online

State Fire Marshal's Program Contacts

FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU

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