FEMA Student Identification Numbers Required for Firefighter Certification Testing

Federal Emergency Management Agency Student Identification Numbers (FEMA SID) are now part of the key records in our firefighter certification candidate databases. Using the FEMA SID number instead of the IFSAC ID will help eliminate duplications in the system, make sure firefighters who have a name change will only have one ID number, and significantly reduce the amount of personal identifiable information transmitted electronically. FEMA SID numbers are randomly assigned, are good for a minimum of forty years, and cannot be used to derive an individual's personal information.

The most current version of the firefighter certification candidate application includes a space for the candidate's ten-digit FEMA SID. All candidates are required to complete this box; candidate applications that are missing the FEMA SID will be returned to the Test Control Officer/Proctor for completion. The most current Candidate Application document is available on our website at https://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire-service-certification/.

Personnel who have forgotten their FEMA SID, or need to register for one, can do so at https://cdp.dhs.gov/FEMASID. The process of registering or recovering a FEMA SID takes less than five minutes to complete.

For questions regarding the use of the FEMA SID in the Certification Program, contact the Professional Development and Response Section at (360) 596-3945 or ifsacquestions@wsp.wa.gov.
The programs and services delivered by the State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) are designed to enhance fire and life safety of the public and the responder community. The enhancements being made at the Fire Training Academy will enable state of the art live-fire training to be conducted in a safe and modern setting. We anticipate the new training prop to be completed in the upcoming months. In the meantime, recruit academies continue to be delivered utilizing existing props and equipment.

The 2022 Fire in Washington Report was published on March 31, 2023. The Report compiles all incident data reported to our office through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) as well as fire fatality, and fireworks injury data, into one report. The SFMO is using the Fire in Washington Report, Census data, and GIS data to update our Statewide Risk Assessment (SRA). In partnership with the Washington State Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Coalition, the SRA will follow the CRR model and be used to develop strategies designed to prevent and mitigate hazards at the local level.

See the report here: [2022 Fire in Washington Report](#).

The Training and Education Workgroup recently met with the Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the Center of Excellence – Homeland Security Emergency Management to discuss career pathways, two-year, and four-year degree programs. We will be working together moving forward to ensure we are striving collectively to meet the fire service’s needs with regards to training and education at the local level.

I hope the articles included in this edition of the SFMO Newsletter help you stay informed about topics that are important to you. We are always looking at ways to improve the content. If you have any feedback on this newsletter, please feel free to reach out to us.
The 23-01 Recruit Academy comprises of 25 recruits from 12 different fire departments around Washington and Oregon. The recruits will complete 12 weeks of rigorous physical and mental training and graduate with their IFSAC Firefighter 1 and 2, Hazmat Awareness and Operations Certifications.

Utilizing the positive feedback received over the years from the departments that have sent recruits to the Washington State Fire Training Academy, we consistently implement changes that position us as one of the premier fire academies in the United States. Our recruits graduate with the confidence, skills, and knowledge to make them an asset to their agencies. The Academy brings the recruits together and instills the importance of teamwork in the fire service. Nearly everything in the Academy is focused on two things: individual performance under pressure and teamwork.

The contract instructors from all parts of the country, the administrative staff, and the program chiefs at the Fire Training Academy make this transitional process from the civilian world to the firefighter world possible.

Central Mason
Alexander Antonoff

Kennedwick Fire Department
Efrain Caballero
Conner Kennedy
Aaron Mynatt

Kittitas County #7
Daniel Hinkle

Moses Lake
Fallon Walls

Mount Vernon FD
Siobhan Gallagher-Bloemer

North Mason RFD
Kyle Barker

Wenatchee Valley
Andrew Gore
John Shimek

North Whatcom Fire & Rescue
Aaron Logerstedt
Brandon May
Collin Thomas
Dylan Witzel

Port Angeles FD
Cory Mintz

Portland Airport Fire and Rescue
Zach Haveland
Joseph Hedden
Justin Heidmann
Trenton Lovell
John Zogas

South Whidbey Fire / Rescue
Peter Lund

SPFR
Christopher Donohue
Forest Hanson
Mitch Holbrook
Spokane Fire Department Community Risk Assessment Featured on Vision 20/20 Website

The Spokane Fire Department is currently featured on the mainpage of the Vision 20/20 website. The department developed their Community Risk Assessment (CRA) using the process outlined in the Vision 20/20 Data Collection and Analysis (DCA) course hosted by the SFMO last year. The 2-day DCA course breaks down the CRA process into a set of well-defined and manageable tasks to draft a basic CRA. "Vision 20/20’s Data Collection and Analysis for the fire service course provided me the opportunity to spend a couple days with national experts in Community Risk Reduction, digging into our data, and generating questions to take back to our leadership team," said Spokane Fire Department CRR Manager Jamie McIntyre.

To learn more about the DCA course or Spokane's CRA, visit www.strategicfire.org.

Study on Preventing Long-Term Health Risks for Firefighters

Every day while on the job, firefighters take on risks when responding to emergencies. With these risks, they also encounter exposures to toxic chemicals and other occupational hazards that could affect their long-term health.

The University of Washington Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences department (DEOHS) recently conducted research studies that involve both volunteer and career firefighters. Their research includes investigating the health hazards of firefighting and finding ways to reduce those exposures.

Recently, DEOHS worked with recruits and trainers from Central Pierce Fire and Rescue during live-fire training at the Washington State Fire Training Academy. Research was conducted on the exposures firefighters experience while fighting a fire. Although not exactly like a fire encountered while working, training fires are easily reproduced and offer a better sense of the type of exposures that firefighters see in their everyday line of work.

The DEOHS also conducted a study on exposure to radio frequency waves that are produced from the communication devices firefighters use while on an emergency. This study was done to find any association with sleep disruptions among firefighters. Although an association wasn't found, the study did confirm high levels of sleep disruption occur among those in this line of work. The research found a correlation between how many nights on shift a firefighter works and how much sleep is lost while on shift.

This interesting report can be found at: UW Newsletter.
Occupancy Classification and Code Requirement Concerns In State-Licensed Group Care Facilities

The State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) has statutory authority to inspect Group Care facilities under RCW 18.20.130. These facilities are licensed by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) under Washington Administrative Code 110-145. Group Care facilities are defined as providing care on a twenty-four hour basis of more than five children, ages 17 or less. The type of care provided in these facilities varies from custodial care, transitional living services, emergency respite services, and even medical care, including the use of mechanical life support for medically fragile children.

The diversity in the level of care provided, particularly the use of life support equipment for medically fragile children, can create potential questions and concerns for code enforcement personnel. Over the past few years, the SFMO has seen confusion and inconsistency on the appropriate occupancy classification and required fire and life safety systems when these care facilities (including newly licensed facilities) for medically fragile children are located within existing one and two family dwelling units.

For example, a Group Care facility for medically fragile children, located in an existing single-family dwelling, can be licensed by DCYF for the care of at least six children requiring the use of mechanical ventilators. This scenario, because the facility is providing medical care to more than five persons who are incapable of self-preservation, would require classification under the Washington State-Amended Building Code as an I-2 facility, even though the building was constructed as a single-family dwelling. Classification as an I-2 would then require the installation of a fire sprinkler system along with a manual and automatic fire alarm system.

Additionally, an existing facility providing the type of care in this example could be subject to the retroactive fire sprinkler and fire alarm installation requirements for an I-2 occupancy under Chapter 11 of the Washington State-Amended Fire Code.

With the extremely diverse level of services provided by licensed Group Care facilities, it is important that code officials determine the true occupancy classification, based on the level of care, and not the structure type, in order to provide the residents with the appropriate level of protection in the event of a fire.

For questions or concerns regarding fire and life safety in licensed Group Care facilities, please contact the Plan Review Section at (360) 596-3948.

Childcare Consultations

The State Fire Marshal’s Office is responsible for inspections of childcare facilities licensed by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). Currently, there is a high demand for licensed childcares and providers are searching to find locations that can house childcare occupancies. Many nuances can arise in terms of fire code requirements, especially when dealing with existing buildings.

Once a childcare provider has found a viable location, they should participate in a plan review consultation with DCYF and the SFMO. During the consultation, the SFMO provides the potential new childcare owner/operators with information on fire code requirements specific to the location they are proposing.

It is suggested that anyone looking to open a new childcare should attend one of these consultations before committing to any lease, rental, purchase, or construction of any building intended for licensed childcare use.

If you would like to schedule a plan review consultation, contact your local DCYF licensing office.
INCIDENT COUNTS*

FIRE: 2,956
EMS: 89,508
OTHER: 34,222
TOTAL REPORTED: 126,686

INCIDENT TYPES

FIRE 2.3%
EMS 70.6%
OTHER 27.1%

50.1% AGENCIES REPORTING

INCIDENT TYPES

FIRE 2.3%
EMS 70.6%
OTHER 27.1%

50.1% AGENCIES REPORTING

PERCENTAGE OF AGENCIES REPORTING TO NFIRS PER COUNTY

WASHINGTON STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE | WSP.WA.GOV/STATE-FIRE-MARSHALS-OFFICE/ | FPBPIO@WSP.WA.GOV

*Data through 3/21/2023. Incident counts do not include: incidents that have not met the NFIRS validation standard, No Activity Reports, or mutual aid given incident reports.
WASHINGTON STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE | WSP.WA.GOV/STATE-FIRE-MARSHALS-OFFICE/ | FPBPIO@WSP.WA.GOV

**WASHINGTON FIRE FATALITY STATISTICS**

JANUARY - MARCH 2023

**25** REPORTED FATALITIES

**13.6%** INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FATALITIES COMPARED TO SAME PERIOD IN 2022

**PROPERTY USE**

11 SINGLE FAMILY
5 MULTI-FAMILY
2 MOTOR HOME/RV
2 MANUFACTURED HOMES
2 OUTDOOR
3 VEHICLE

**SMOKE ALARMS**

5 PRESENT
(2 OPERATED, 2 DID NOT OPERATE, 1 UNKNOWN)
1 NOT PRESENT
14 UNKNOWN

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

**FIRE DEATHS BY AGE & GENDER**

56% MALE
36% FEMALE

28% Ages 65+
20% Ages 0-14
12% Ages 15-24
4% Ages 25-64

*Percentages rounded to nearest whole number: 8% not shown for gender percentages accounts for 2 fatalities where the deceased gender was unable to be identified.

*Percentages rounded to nearest whole number: 20% for unknown age percentage accounts for 5 fatalities where the deceased age was unable to be determined.
Fire Departments Eligible for Fuel Tax Exemptions/Refunds

Fire Departments in Washington can save money on fuel costs by taking advantage of the special fuel tax exemption authorized by Revised Code of Washington 82.38.080, which in part, states that certain fuels sold for publicly owned firefighting equipment is exempt from the state share of fuel taxes. Washington Administrative Code 308-77 defines “publicly owned firefighting equipment” as “equipment owned and used for firefighting by any agency or political subdivision of the state of Washington, and will include fire engines, aid cars, ambulances, and vehicles used to transport firefighting personnel.” The exemption applies to the Washington State tax paid per gallon of “special fuel,” which includes diesel, among other fuels, but not gasoline for on-road use. The savings created by this exemption can add up quickly for fire departments of all sizes.

Capturing the savings from this exemption is not as simple as pulling up to the fuel pump and filling your apparatus with dyed diesel fuel. Fire Departments have two options; they can get a dyed diesel license and purchase dyed fuel, or purchase “clear” diesel and request a refund for the eligible tax paid on that fuel. Departments can use both programs, but according the Department of Licensing (DOL), most exempt utilize one method or the other. There is no fee to participate in either program.

Information on the dyed diesel special use license can be found on DOL’s website at https://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/dyeddiesel.html, and information on fuel tax refunds can be found at https://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/ftrefunds.html.

To find out if your agency or city/county fuel provider is already a licensed dyed diesel user, a list of participating agencies can be found at https://www.dol.wa.gov/about/dyeddiesellists.html.

Rechargeable Batteries

In the past couple of years we have seen several incidents involving lithium-ion batteries across the globe. From small cellphone and laptop batteries to large containers being transported internationally. Micro-mobility devices like electric scooters, bikes, wheelchairs, and skateboards have resulted in multiple incidents resulting in deaths, injuries, and millions of dollars in property damage. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there has been a 127% increase for injuries dealing with micro-mobility devices, and the number of deaths rose from 5 to 48, in the 2000-2021 timeframe.

CPSC suggests the following safety recommends to prevent fires with micro-mobility devices:

- Always be present when charging devices that have lithium-ion batteries.
- Never charge these devices while sleeping.
- Only use the charger that came with your device.
- Only use an approved replacement battery pack.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for proper charging, and unplug the device when done.
- Never use an e-mobility device with a battery pack that has been modified/rewored by unqualified personnel or with re-purposed or used cells.

There have been incidents involving independent businesses providing charging services for micro-mobility devices. In New York City, these business have been found in various locations to include mixed occupancy uses with residential dwelling units attached. The number of rechargeable battery units being charged may over power the buildings power capabilities and extension cords/multiplug adapters are in use. If a battery pack were to experience thermal runaway and fire starts, a situation like this poses a serious risk to life safety as well as property and environmental concerns. When the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code goes into effect on July 1, 2023, local fire agencies will have additional provisions to address energy storage systems. The SFMO will continue to work with the fire service to address these hazards.
Training and Workforce Development Survey

Fire Chiefs or Training Officers: Please complete this survey to help identify delivery modality options and opportunities to increase recruitment towards a career in fire and emergency services. This survey will help the SFMO gain a better understanding of the firefighter training criteria, retention rates, academies offered and interest in expanding academy options, funding and resource needs. The survey will be used to determine current and needed changes to programs to better serve and prepare firefighting candidates for departments within our local communities and region.

The link for the survey is: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/78NXRVD
Upcoming Events and Training

**April 11-12: Wildland Urban Interface - Strategies for Developing a Fire-Adapted Community, Course II**
Deer Park, WA

**April 14-15: Health and Safety Program Manager**
Langley, WA

**April 18-19: Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking**
Mukilteo, WA

**April 18-19: NFA – Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations**
Selah, WA

**April 27-28: NFA – Incident Safety Officer**
Everson, WA

**April 29-30: NFA – Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking**
Sequim, WA

**April 29-30: NFA – Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Office**
Snoqualmie, WA

**May 9-10: Wildland Urban Interface - Developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Course III**
Ellensburg, WA

**May 16-17: NFA – Leadership in Supervision: Frameworks to Success**
Mukilteo, WA

**May 19-20: NFA – Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations**
Wenatchee, WA

State Fire Marshal’s Program Contacts

**FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU**

State Fire Marshal
Chad Cross  
Chad.Cross@wsp.wa.gov  
(360) 596-3902

**Plan Review**
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal
Kelly Merz  
Kelly.Merz@wsp.wa.gov  
(425) 453-3000 Ext. 102

**FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**

Assistant State Fire Marshal
Melissa Gannie  
Melissa.Gannie@wsp.wa.gov  
(360) 596-3903

**Education, Enforcement, and Analytics**
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal
Esther Hernandez  
Esther.Hernandez@wsp.wa.gov  
(360) 596-3913

**Inspections**
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal
Dylan Montgomery  
Dylan.Montgomery@wsp.wa.gov  
(360) 596-3906

**Professional Development and Response**
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal
Bill Slosson  
William.Slosson@wsp.wa.gov  
(360) 596-3928

**FIRE TRAINING DIVISION**

Assistant State Fire Marshal
Chris Brown  
Chris.Brown@wsp.wa.gov  
(425) 531-8085

**Assistant Division Commander**
Katie Rasmussen  
Katie.Rasmussen@wsp.wa.gov  
(425) 453-3000 Ext. 109

**Regional Direct Delivery**
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal
Howard Scartozzi  
Howard.Scartozzi@wsp.wa.gov  
(425) 401-7732

**Instruction**
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal
(360) 596-3911