



Washington State Fire Marshal's Office Quarterly Newsletter



2022 Employee of the Year

ADSFM HUMBERTO RODRIGUEZ

Please join us in congratulating Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal (ADSFM) Humberto Rodriguez on his selection as the 2022 Washington State Patrol Civil Service Employee of the Year. ADSFM Rodriguez began his career with the SFMO in July 2000 and has been a state employee for 26 years. He is a trusted member of the agency and valued for his dedication, technical expertise, and commitment.

(continued on page 3)

Inside:

State Mobilization
Updates • P5

NFIRS to NERIS • P6

CRR Leadership
Conference • P11

Eastside Hazmat Workshop
• P14

2023 By the Numbers

A MESSAGE FROM STATE FIRE MARSHAL CHAD CROSS

Fire Prevention Division Total

IFSAC Certificates Issued:	1,499
HazMat Students Trained:	364
Mobilization Trainings Delivered:	0
Responses to Mobilization:	8
Initial Inspections Conducted:	221
Re-inspections Conducted:	177
Fire and Life Safety Training Sessions for Facilities:	7
Fire and Life Safety Plan Reviews for Schools:	2
Plan Reviews for Contracted Projects:	4
Sprinkler Licenses Issued:	484
Certificates of Competency Issued:	1,172
Sprinkler Fitter Certificates Issued:	1,593
Fireworks Licenses Issued:	552
Sprinkler Demonstrations Conducted:	0
Sprinkler Trainings Delivered:	1

Fire Training Division Students

Weekday Recruit Academy:	51
Fire Service Open Enrollment Courses:	75
Fire Service Department Training:	1,110
Regional Direct Delivery Training:	7
Regional Direct Delivery Recruit Academy:	8
National Fire Academy Training:	9
Law Enforcement / Military / Other Training:	151



Fire season is upon us, and as of today there have already been 8 authorized mobilizations, with initial estimated costs of nearly \$2 million. With the implementation of the 2023-2025 biennium, the legislature has approved the continuation of a pilot project for the early deployment or prepositioning of Washington state fire service resources in advance of an expected mobilization event. Of the \$8 million appropriation out of the Disaster Response Account, a maximum of \$500,000 can be used for the pilot project.

Preposition requests must follow the process outlined in the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan (Plan).

Our office has also been approved for a modernization/feasibility study that will analyze and report out on the technology needs across every program we administer. It is anticipated that staff and stakeholders will provide input into what is needed to meet our current and future needs as it relates to the services we provide to the fire service, industry, and the public. The report will be provided to the legislature as well as the Office of Financial Management, and future decision packages are anticipated to be generated as a result of the findings.

As a result of changes to RCW 18.160 and 18.270, updates to WAC 212-80 and 212-90 will be needed. Interested parties should watch for the public comment periods to take place in the upcoming months with a goal of having the changes implemented by January 2024.

(continued on page 10)



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR, CONT'D

ADSFM Rodriguez's contributions to the design and implementation of quality improvements to the sprinkler program are invaluable. He participated in updates to WAC 212-80, Fire Protection Sprinkler System Contractors, and the establishment of WAC 212-90, Fire Protection Sprinkler Fitting in 2022. His years of experience and historical perspective on how the licensing and certification program has evolved over the years was appreciated by all who participated in the revision process. He produces high quality work and prides himself on accuracy. He is passionate about the programs he supports and shares his knowledge freely with staff and the industry.

NFIRS and CRR: Telling Your Story

Deputy State Fire Marshal Gregory Baruso and Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal Bayley Norton were joined by City of Pasco Deputy Chief (DC) Ed Dunbar at the 2023 Washington Fire Chiefs Annual Conference in Wenatchee. The group presented on the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and Community Risk Reduction (CRR).

NFIRS is an integral part of CRR and drafting a Community Risk Assessment. The presentation highlighted how comprehensive quantitative and qualitative data can help support and justify fire department budget requests and development planning for fire departments and their fire chiefs. It stressed the importance of making data quality a priority. Being data driven can assist in measuring current performance, identify areas of improvement and training opportunities, set realistic goals, plan development and implementation, and measure success. Data tells your story and data reporting is included in NFPA 1300, Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development.

The presentation was well received by attendees, and we would like to thank the Washington Fire Chiefs for the invitation and DC Dunbar for assisting with the presentation.

Personnel Updates



Jason VanGorkum

On March 16, 2023, Jason VanGorkum joined the SFMO as a Deputy State Fire Marshal in the Inspection Section. He will be working out of the Bellevue office. DSFM VanGorkum previously worked as a Regional Maintenance Supervisor for a nursing home provider in southwest Washington.

Bayley Norton

On April 16, 2023, Bayley Norton promoted to Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal in the Education, Enforcement and Analytics Section. She joined the SFMO in June 2021 as an Administrative Assistant 2 in the Professional Development and Response Section. She quickly promoted to Administrative Assistant 3 and then Administrative Assistant 4 as the Fire Prevention Division Secretary. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Central Washington University and has a family connection to the fire service; her stepfather serves as a Lieutenant in the Olympia Fire Department.



Britney Johnson

On May 22, 2023, Britney Johnson joined the SFMO as an Office Assistant 3 with the Education, Enforcement, and Analytics Section. Britney received her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Human Services at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. She later worked as a Graduate Assistant at Ottawa University in Arizona where she received her Masters of Business Administration with a concentration in Leadership Development. She is from Northern California and enjoys the outdoors and hanging out with friends and family.

All-Risk Mobilization Updates

There are two recent and significant administrative changes to the All-Risk Mobilization program for 2023 and beyond. First, on May 11, 2023, Governor Jay Inslee ended the COVID-19 vaccination mandate for state employees. This means volunteer firefighters who become emergency exempt employees (or “casual hires”) of the Washington State Patrol will no longer need to provide proof of vaccination to participate in Mobilization. Secondly, the Engrossed Substitute version of House Bill 1361 mandates that all state employees hired on or after July 1, 2023, including those hired in an emergency or temporary status, must be paid by electronic funds transfer (EFT).

All firefighters becoming casual hires of the Washington State Patrol will need to complete an EFT form, along with their other mobilization paperwork, when checking into a mobilization incident. Firefighters will need to know their banking institution’s routing number and account number, but will not need to provide a voided check.

Additionally, the most current version of the Mobilization Plan has been approved by WSP Chief John R. Batiste, and can be found on our website. The Mobilization Plan, the updated Wage & Equipment Rates, and all other necessary forms for All-Risk Mobilization can be found on the WSP website at <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/all-risk-mobilization/>.

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER REGISTRY GOES LIVE!

The Washington State Fire Training Academy is excited to share the National Firefighter Registry (NFR), the largest existing effort to understand and reduce cancer risk among firefighters. The NFR is open to all U.S. firefighters – paid or volunteer, active or retired, with or without cancer.

Studies have shown that firefighters’ exposure on the foreground may increase their risk of cancer. When you sign up for the NFR, researchers will match information you provide to cancer diagnosis information from state cancer registries. This will allow them to study the relationship between firefighting and cancer outcomes.

Answer the call. Join the NFR today at [NFR.cdc.gov](https://www.nfr.cdc.gov).



NERIS Replacing NFIRS

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced the launch of the modernization effort to develop a new, interoperable fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), for the fire and emergency services. This effort is being carried out as a partnership between USFA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T). The goal of NERIS is to empower the local fire and emergency services community by equipping them with near real-time information and analytic tools that support data informed decision-making for enhanced preparedness and response to incidents involving all hazards.

The platform is intended to integrate data from multiple federal data sets, computer-aided dispatch and other authoritative live-data sources to inform community risks including vulnerable populations, the wildland urban interface, drought areas and flood plains. Further, it will support rapid data capture from hostile event response, including response to structure fires, emergency medical incidents and hazardous materials events.

This project is made possible through a research and development contract awarded through S&T's Long-Range Broad Agency Announcement program awarded to the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI). FSRI is a part of Underwriters Laboratory Research Institutes, the nonprofit safety science organization within the UL enterprise. In collaboration with USFA, DHS S&T and the fire service, FSRI will develop and provide the new NERIS platform for use by fire and emergency services departments nationwide.

The new NERIS platform will replace the legacy data system known as the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) with a secure, cloud-hosted platform that will fulfill the USFA's National Fire Data Center's obligation under the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-498) to mitigate the fire problem, reduce loss of life and property, and educate the public on fire prevention and protection, as well as effects of all hazards.

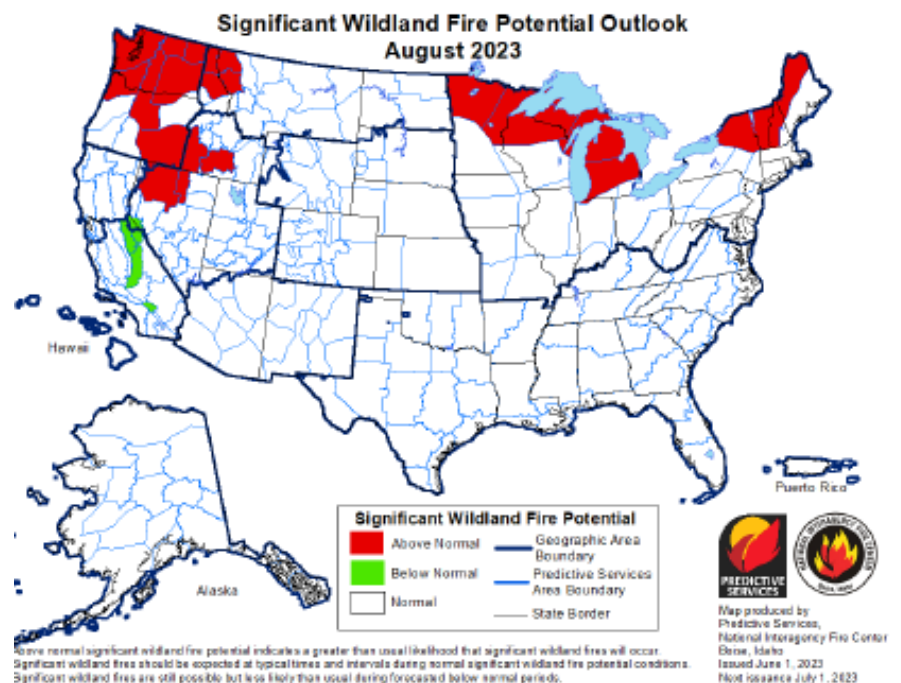
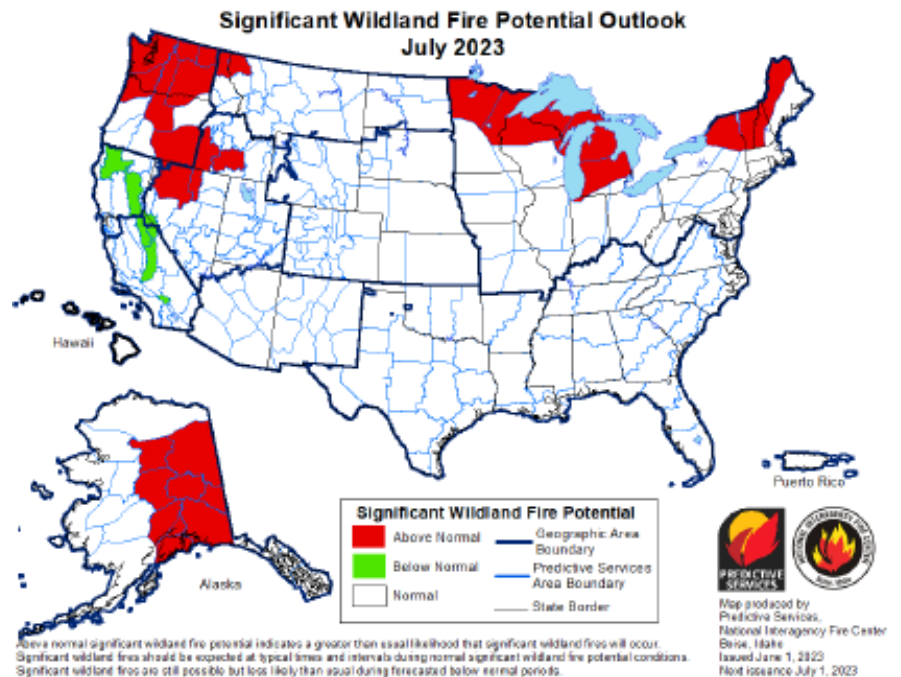
Once NERIS is developed and operational, USFA will work to migrate fire and emergency services departments onto the new platform. The legacy NFIRS will remain operational throughout the transition process so all fire and emergency services departments should continue to use the current NFIRS data system and maintain status quo until migrated to the new platform. For the latest information on NERIS development, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/nfirs/neris.

2023 Fire Season Outlook

The Northwest Interagency Coordination Center's Climate and Significant Fire Potential Outlook was published June 1. The Outlook called for an elevated change of significant wildland fires across the east slopes of the Cascades and through the lower Columbia Basin for June, and across the entire state of Washington for July.

For the month of August, expect the risk of significant fires to remain above normal for all sections of Washington and Oregon, both east and west of the Cascades. There is chance for that condition to remain through September. The seasonal temperature and precipitation outlooks call for above normal temperature and below normal precipitation through the summer, and an El Nino Watch is in effect.

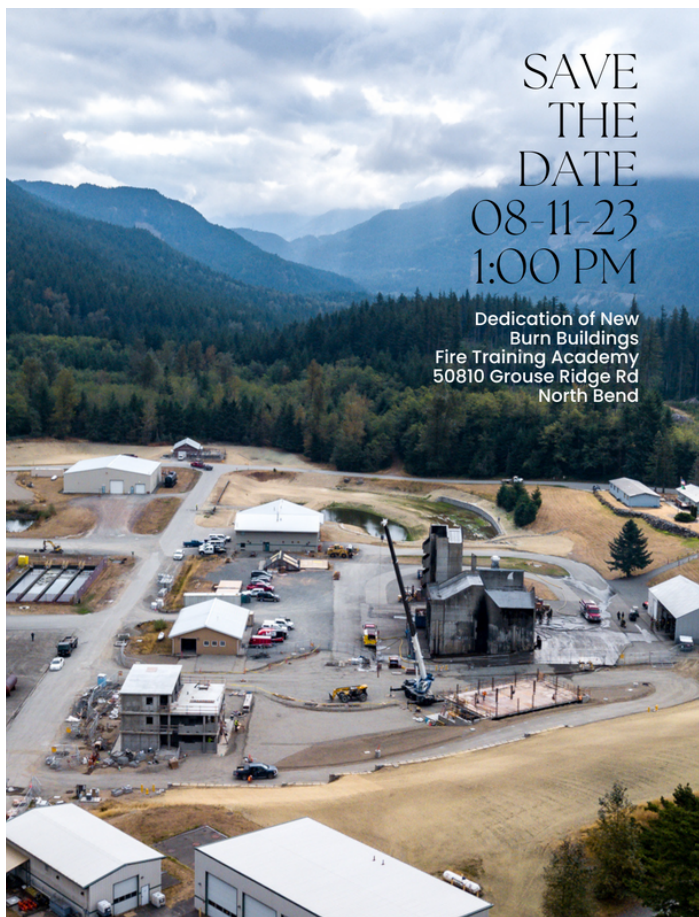
The July 1 seasonal outlook from the Coordination Center, based in Portland, Oregon, is available at gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/predict/outlook.aspx.



Adoption of the 2021 I-Codes Delayed

The State Fire Marshal's Office is preparing for the adoption of the 2021 edition of the model codes. Every three years, the International Code Council publishes a new version of the International Codes. These new versions build upon previous versions to add, edit, or remove codes as new technologies are developed, further research is conducted, or new areas of risk are discovered. Along with the adoption of the new codes, the State Building Code Council (SBCC) also reviews and amends the codes to ensure they best fit the state of Washington. The referenced standards within the codes are also updated.

To ensure the SFMO is ready for the adoption of the new codes, staff are being trained on significant changes between editions and are updating our databases to reflect those changes. The effective date of the building code adoption of the 2021 editions was originally July 1, 2023. However, the SBCC voted on May 24, 2023, to delay the effective date of the 2021 codes for 120 days. The new effective date is October 29, 2023. For more information, visit sbcc.wa.gov.



SAVE
THE
DATE
08-11-23
1:00 PM

Dedication of New
Burn Buildings
Fire Training Academy
50810 Grouse Ridge Rd
North Bend

Washington State
Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service
August 13, 2023 - 1:00 P.M.
Washington State Fire Training Academy - North Bend

Honoring their Sacrifice ~ Upholding Our Traditions



For Additional Information
Please Contact: Pat Ellis
pellis@pugetsoundfire.org or 253-856-5826



33rd Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner

CDSFM Marshal Esther Hernandez attended the Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA) for Vision 20/20's Champions and Emerging Leaders (CEL) Group, May 22-24, 2023, in Washington D.C. The CEL Group is Vision 20/20's connection to the field, providing insight into gaps, challenges, wants and needs, as well as a powerful voice for advocacy on a local, state and national level. The objective is to help each member grow as a leader and showcase their talents on a national level, work collaboratively and understand different perspectives in a truly inclusive environment, and help Vision 20/20 chart its course for the future.

As part of the ELA, CDSFM Hernandez attended the 33rd Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner. Each year, the Symposium provides unique opportunities for fire and emergency services leaders to interact with their colleagues, members of congress and federal agency officials. It features a unique seminar program with nationally-recognized speakers who address current issues impacting the health, safety and readiness of our nation's first responders. The two-day event culminates with the annual dinner that pays tribute to the men and women of our nation's fire and emergency services.

Presentation topics at this year's Symposium included lithium-ion batteries, advocating for the fire service, the wildland urban interface, fire service-based EMS, and more. Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, the U.S. Fire Administrator, was also in attendance. She discussed the USFA's Fire Service National Strategy, phasing out NFIRS and replacing it with the National Emergency Response Information System, wildfire response, budget requests, and continuing to support the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program.

Computer-Based Firefighter Certification Testing

The Firefighter Certification program's computer-based testing platform is ready to expand beyond the pilot testing phase to broader statewide use. The computer-based platform Eva Exam, by Scantron, is easy to use, web-based, and does not require participating agencies to purchase any software. Test proctors who have already been through the SFMO's Senior Evaluator/Test Control Officer training only need to complete a short PowerPoint-based training. At this time, the SFMO is requiring all candidates to use an agency-owned device, either a laptop, tablet, or desktop PC; no personal devices are allowed. The testing location must also have ample space to allow a sufficient number of proctors to be able to monitor candidate activity on the computers.

Some agencies participating in testing the computer-based platform have purchased refurbished laptops specifically for certification testing; those departments were able to do so for less than \$70 per unit. Others have arranged with local high schools and/or community colleges to use computer labs at little or no cost. Departments that have used tablets for testing have found other browsers more reliable than the tablets' proprietary browser.

Sponsoring agencies have the option to decide if their testing candidates get instant score reports, or have the scores emailed to the proctor by the SFMO. The score reporting choice must be selected when the exam is registered, and cannot be changed once the exam session is created. When the exam session is set-up by Certification program staff, the system creates randomly generated passcodes that are distributed to each candidate by the proctor. The individual passcodes are associated with each candidate's FEMA SID, which is used by the SFMO as testing candidates' unique ID.

If your department, college, or training consortium is interested in computer-based certification exams, please contact the Firefighter Certification Program at ifsacquestions@wsp.wa.gov or call (360) 596-3945.

A Message From State Fire Marshal Chad Cross, cont'd

The Training and Education Workgroup has now joined forces with the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges as well as the Center of Excellence in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. On June 20, 2023, a meeting was held at the Fire Training Academy to begin discussion on career pathways related to the fire service. To help us better understand the training and education needs of the fire service, we are asking every fire agency across the state to complete this quick survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/78NXRVD>. Updates on this effort will be shared in future publications.

We hope everyone has a safe Fourth of July!

Fire Training Academy: Regional Direct Delivery Activities

The Regional Direct Delivery program continues to be very active supporting training across Washington State.

Regional National Fire Academy:

January – May, 2023, 28 NFA classes were hosted statewide, resulting in to 648 students being trained.

FireVent Props:

January – May, 2023, the FireVent Props were delivered and set up for training at 16 different locations. The props were used in training sessions for 504 firefighters. The fire vent props are valuable to supporting regional, and local trainings.

The FireVent prop is capable of Ventilation Training: flat to 12/12 pitch roof and gable end; Forcible Entry: inward/outward door, garage panel & roll up door, through the lock/deadbolt, drop bar, window bars, carriage bolts, with irons, tools, circular saws.

Regional Basic Fire Fighter Recruit Academy:

The Regional Direct Delivery Program sponsored three spring volunteer recruit academies that included recruits from eight different fire departments in three different regions of the state. Grays Harbor, East Whatcom, and South Pend Oreille all served as the host locations. A total of 54 new volunteers received training which resulted in testing to the National Fire Protection Association standards.

In a partnership with the regional host, Regional Direct Delivery Firefighter Recruit Training Program delivers a standard recruit training curriculum that meets national standards on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in rural areas.

Upon successful completion of this program, all students have met the standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001. In addition, they participated in IFSAC testing to become certified to the level of Firefighter I, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations Level.

The logo for the Community Risk Reduction Leadership Conference is displayed on a dark blue background. The text "Community Risk Reduction Leadership Conference" is in white, with "Community" on the first line, "Risk Reduction" on the second line, and "Leadership Conference" on the third line. A yellow fire hydrant icon is positioned to the right of "Community", and a yellow flame icon is to the right of "Reduction". A thin yellow horizontal line is located below "Leadership Conference". Below this line, the text "International Association of Fire Chiefs" is written in white.

Community Risk Reduction Leadership Conference

International Association of Fire Chiefs

Staff members from the State Fire Marshal's Office attended the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Leadership Conference, sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, May 9-11, 2023, in Murfreesboro, TN.

The conference was filled with many educational classes that focused on CRR and showcased how important risk reduction is to communities that the fire service and others serve. This conference is the only one offered in the United States that is geared specifically to the education and training needs of chief officers and other fire service managers seeking to create, execute, and evaluate measurably successful CRR platforms and programs.

The specialized leadership training highlighted proven methods and strategies to assess community risks and develop achievable strategic and operational plans to reduce them. Topics such as lithium-ion batteries, community approaches to risk reduction, and how to leverage GIS for effective community risk reduction were offered.

Inspirational keynote speakers discussed stories of rebirth and transformation, and disability inclusive fire safety approaches in regard to community risk reduction strategies. Breakout sessions were well attended with many of the participants representing agencies from the Pacific Northwest.

The 2024 CRR Leadership Conference will be held May 14-16, 2024, at the Renaissance Phoenix-Glendale in Glendale, AZ. Registration will open in late fall of this year.

Stay up to date at www.IAFC.org/CRRL.

100th Annual Conference and Fire School



The State Fire Marshal's Office was excited to participate in the Washington State Firefighters Association's 100th Annual Conference and Fire School in Wenatchee, on May 18-21, 2023.

Along with the Fire Training Academy (FTA), the Residential Fire Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer joined the well-attended vendor night, showcasing firefighter tools, gear, firefighter software for computer programs, and the many informative and educational vendors throughout the United States.

The annual fire school is committed to bringing quality training to all volunteer and paid firefighters across Washington State with the goal of improved safety. Each year, the fire school continues to improve and expand upon the courses offered, from basic skills, Rapid Intervention Team operations, and new this year, training on hybrid vehicles, to include new car technology.

At the SFMO vendor table, the FTA shared space with the Fire Prevention Division to discuss academy programs such as weekend fire academies, academy classes and online testing, fireworks safety, residential fire sprinklers, and smoke alarms. Also included was information on Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol Program, a national program funded through a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from FEMA that includes the availability of free home smoke alarms. Attendees were also invited to visit the residential fire sprinkler demonstration trailer, located outside in the parking lot, which was well received by those that got to see the demonstrations.

The SFMO appreciates the invitation from the Washington State Firefighters Association and the great networking opportunity.

If you would like to have the Residential Fire Demonstration Sprinkler Trailer at your event, contact us at: firesprinkler@wsp.wa.gov or complete a Fire Sprinkler Trailer Reservation Form.

2023 MOBILIZATIONS

Together, we have a successful and proven Plan that benefits the citizens of the State of Washington.



Ruppert Road

- Benton County
- 157 Acres
- \$85,000

Hat Rock

- Walla Walla County
- 15,843 Acres
- \$140,000

Oasis

- Walla Walla County
- 4,250 Acres
- \$450,000



May

Tenth Street

- Douglas County
- 342 Acres
- \$65,000

June

Hover Road

- Benton County
- 528 Acres
- \$150,000

Hansen Road

- Benton County
- 6,289 Acres
- \$479,000



Matson

- Asotin County
- 666 Acres
- \$400,000

Methow

- Chelan County
- 150 Acres
- \$150,000

Fireworks Retail Stand and Public Display Inspection Training

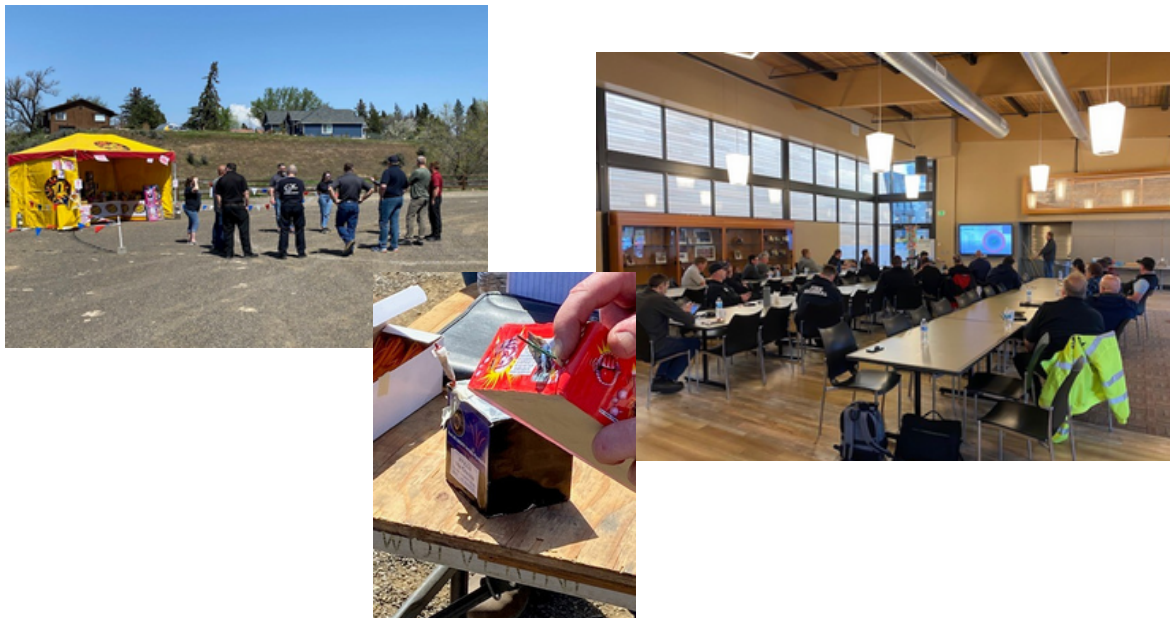
The SFMO hosted Fireworks Retail Stand and Public Display Inspection training classes in Ellensburg, at the Kittitas Valley Event Center on May 3rd, and at the Chehalis Tribe Community Center in Oakville on May 4th.

The classes were designed to familiarize AHJs with how to conduct retail stand inspections, recognize the difference between legal and illegal fireworks, and how a fireworks display is setup and fired. The training was well attended at both locations and those that participated were very thankful for the information that they received from the instructors from Wolverine West LLC, and TNT Fireworks.

Proper setup and inspection of a retail stand was given by TNT Fireworks, and the pyrotechnic portion of the class showed the importance of a proper setup and what to look for upon inspection was given by Wolverine West LLC.

Although the weather for the training in Oakville was a little wet at times, this didn't diminish the quality of the training that was given or received. All in all, it was a great success and we look forward to future training sessions.

For more information on fireworks visit: <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/fireworks/>.



2023 Eastside Haz-Mat Workshop

The State Fire Marshal's Office, Washington State Emergency Management Division, and the Department of Ecology hosted the "Eastside Hazmat Workshop" at the Spokane Fire Department Training Facility, May 5-7, 2023. Response information was provided in several different tracks including:

- The Washington Army National Guard's 10th Civil Support Team, with an overview of their team and its capabilities.
- Members of the Spokane County Sheriff's Office and Washington State Patrol Bomb Squads provided an overview of their team's respective structure, including required training and review of their response equipment.
- Mike Callan, opened the second day, with a keynote message and provided courses on *Hazmat Past, Present and Future*, *Hazmat Safety*, and *Hazmat Safe, Unsafe, and Dangerous*.
- Fire Chief Les Stephens, from the San Marcos, Texas Fire Department provided an in-depth review of the West Texas Ammonium Nitrate explosion that killed 15 people, including 12 firefighters.
- Justin Piper, Hazardous Materials Director for Burlington Northern – Santa Fe Railroad provided a presentation on railroad safety, as well as what resources to call for in cases of railroad emergencies.
- Captains Chris Green (Seattle Fire Department) and Chris Pfaff (West Pierce Fire & Rescue), and Department of Ecology responder Sean Thompson, PhD, provided an overview of stored energy and rechargeable battery hazards. This included a review of what energy emergencies are, along with hazards associated with rechargeable batteries. Dr. Thompson provided a review of the Home Depot Fire in 2023, which involved various rechargeable batteries, along with testing that was done at the Spokane Fire Training Facility in October of 2022.

Approximately 50 responders participated in the three-day hazmat training workshop from all over Washington. The audience consisted of fire service, law enforcement, emergency management, and health agency members. It is intended that this valuable workshop will be continued in 2024.

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