



Washington State Fire Marshal's Office Quarterly Newsletter



New FTA Burn Building's Dedication

Two new burn buildings were dedicated during a formal ceremony held at the Washington State Fire Training Academy (FTA) on the afternoon of Friday, August 11, 2023, in North Bend. Washington State Patrol (WSP) Chief John R. Batiste, Washington State Fire Marshal Chad Cross, retired Central Pierce Fire & Rescue Battalion Chief Wayne Garden, and retired Washington State Fire Marshal Chuck Duffy were among the event's speakers. The dedication concluded with a ribbon cutting, bell ceremony, and performance by the King County Fire Pipes and Drums.

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2023 By the Numbers

A MESSAGE FROM STATE FIRE MARSHAL CHAD CROSS

Fire Prevention Division Total

IFSAC Certificates Issued:	2,301
HazMat Students Trained:	206
Mobilization Trainings Delivered:	0
Responses to Mobilization:	28
Initial Inspections Conducted:	1,260
Re-inspections Conducted:	1,060
Fire and Life Safety Training Sessions for Facilities:	8
Fire and Life Safety Plan Reviews for Schools:	10
Plan Reviews for Contracted Projects:	16
Sprinkler Licenses Issued:	495
Certificates of Competency Issued:	1,215
Sprinkler Fitter Certificates Issued:	1,637
Fireworks Licenses Issued:	815
Sprinkler Demonstrations Conducted:	90
Sprinkler Trainings Delivered:	5



This past quarter has been busy for the State Fire Marshal's Office. Staff provided support to 28 authorized Mobilizations which included field response and Emergency Operations Center functions. After the incidents are de-mobilized, the bill payment processing continues. More than 5,000 claims must be processed in order to reimburse fire service personnel, fire agencies, and vendors for their efforts and contributions. Staff from across the Fire Prevention Division and the Washington State Patrol's Budget and Fiscal Services are working hard to process payments as quickly as possible. We thank the fire service, partner agencies, and the vendors for the collaboration in ensuring the All-Risk Mobilization program provides critical resources to requesting fire agency during a time of need.

Two legislative proposals have been submitted for consideration which are geared toward enhancing fire service training. The first request is related to the deposits into the Fire Service Training Account. The second request is to separate the Regional Direct Delivery program from the Basic Firefighter Training Reimbursement program. You can read the overview and Z-draft language [here](#).

The dedication of the two new burn building creates opportunity to enhance live-fire training and allow for more training to take place. The staff at the Fire Training Academy look forward to working with fire agencies to schedule training and use the new structures as part of recruit academies.

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Fire Training Division Students

Weekday Recruit Academy:	67
Fire Service Open Enrollment Courses:	75
Fire Service Department Training:	1,490
Regional Direct Delivery Training:	709
Regional Direct Delivery Recruit Academy:	61
National Fire Academy Training:	750
Law Enforcement / Military / Other Training:	234

A MESSAGE FROM STATE FIRE MARSHAL CHAD CROSS, CONTINUED

Our office continues to work with the fire service, the Board of Community and Technical Colleges, the Center of Excellence – Homeland Security Emergency Management, Washington State University, and the Department of Natural Resources on career pathways, training, and education. The next virtual meeting is scheduled for October 24, at 9 a.m. If you would like more information, please contact Assistant State Fire Marshal Melissa Gannie at: melissa.gannie@wsp.wa.gov.

We would like to thank the Fire Service Delivery Workgroup for hosting a stakeholder meeting on September 26, 2023, at the Lacey Fire District 3's training station. The Department of Commerce is working with the Washington Fire Chiefs, Washington State Council of Fire Fighters, Washington Fire Commissioners Association, and the Washington State Fire Fighters' Association to evaluate existing funding and service delivery related to:

- Fire service training
- Apprenticeships
- Fire prevention, inspections and plan review
- Data collection
- Building Codes
- Fire sprinklers and monitoring systems
- Fireworks
- Fire Safe cigarettes

The findings and recommendations for future delivery of these functions is due to the legislature and governor by December 1, 2023. Keeping with our mission, our office stands ready to provide the best in fire and life safety protection and preparedness services.





FTA Recruit Class 2023-02 Graduation

The Washington State Fire Training Academy (FTA) had the honor of awarding 14 firefighters their certificate of graduation from the Basic Recruit Academy on Thursday, July 27, 2023.

The recruits worked diligently and tirelessly to complete the 12-week program that included 496 hours of in class instruction and hands-on application of basic firefighter principles. All recruits received certifications in Firefighter I and II, as well as, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations.

The graduation was highlighted by the pinning ceremony for all 14 recruits following the graduation. Each recruit was able to select a family member, loved one, spouse, or chief from their respective department to pin their badge. You can view the graduation ceremony on the WSP YouTube channel [here](#).

The FTA has a 51-acre campus and services over 5,000 students annually. The FTA's mission is to train those who serve through facilitation, innovation, education, and motivation.

Congratulations to all 14 firefighters! The Fire Training Academy extends their well wishes on their careers in service to their communities. The recruits and their departments are listed below:

Anacortes Fire Department

Justin Boyle *

Central Mason Fire & EMS

Austen Czuleger *

Grand Coulee Fire Department

Corey Hense

Kennewick Fire Department

Colton Lucas *

Conner Budzeck *

Kent Hagen

Scott Miller *

Mount Vernon Fire Department

Eric Brooks

Jonathan Schampier *

Garret Weekly *

North Mason Regional Fire Authority

Ridge Pellow

Olympia Fire Department

Michael Knapp

Reina Pineda

South Whidbey Fire

Lewis Townsend

** Denotes Leadership Award Recipient*

Personnel Updates



Jenny Griczen

On June 1, 2023, Jenny Griczen rejoined the FTA as a Deputy State Fire Marshal, Scheduling Program Coordinator, where she once held a past position as Event Coordinator 2. DSFM Griczen is excited for the opportunity to be able to continue working with the fire service and being back at the FTA.

Matt Courson

On June 16, 2023, Henry "Matt" Courson joined the FTA as a Deputy State Fire Marshal, Co-Op and Recruit Academy Program Coordinator. DSFM Courson is from the state of Georgia. He and his family of five relocated to Washington last year. Prior to coming to the FTA, Matt served his community for 19 years in the Valdosta Fire Department. His southern charm, excellent work ethic, and knowledge are welcome additions to the FTA family.



Kyle Shomaker

On June 16, 2023, Kyle Shomaker joined the FTA as a Maintenance Mechanic 3, Lead Mechanic. Kyle comes from another state agency and has two children, and enjoys spending his time off with them. He has a vast and diversified background after having served in the armed forces and in various capacities. Kyle brings a great, "can do" attitude, and experience to the FTA.



Bayley Stephens

On July 16, 2023, Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal Bayley Stephens, transferred to the the Professional Development and Response Section, where she had first joined the SFMO in June 2021 as an Administrative Assistant 2. 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.

Timothy Guting

On August 14, 2023, Timothy Guting joined the SFMO as an Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal in the Education, Enforcement, and Analytics Section. ADSFM Guting previously served in the United States Army as a firefighter, stationed at Joint-Base Lewis McChord. He was born and raised in Honolulu, HI, and enjoys the outdoors.



New FTA Burn Buildings Dedication, continued

A burn demonstration followed, showcasing the abilities of the new residential structures as the crowd of approximately 100 attendees safely observed. The multi-family structure was open for tours inside with more details on the versatility of the structures.

The two burn buildings will be used as props for live-fire training scenarios on residential and multi-family structure fires. The training scenarios will allow for more realistic hands-on training for various firefighters who train at the FTA. The new buildings replace the FTA's original multi-story live-fire building, which was dedicated on August 11, 1984. The original structure will be decommissioned from live fire training, but will continue to be used for search and rescue and ladder operations.

The original burn building was estimated to have a 20-year lifespan. The constant cooling and heating of the building due to fire evolutions caused damage to the structure creating safety concerns. Replacement and upgrade efforts will continue as the SFMO receives funding to implement the FTA Master Plan.

2023 Fallen Firefighter Memorial



Seven fallen firefighters were honored on August 13, 2023, during the annual Washington State Fallen Firefighters' Memorial Service at the Washington State Fire Training Academy. The formal event included a procession, bell ceremony, plaque presentation to the families, and the hanging of embroidered ribbons on the memorial pike pole.

The ceremony honored the following firefighters for paying the ultimate sacrifice:

- Seattle Fire Department Firefighter Matthew Thomas Runte
- Clark County Fire District 6 Firefighter/Paramedic Joe Killian
- Whatcom County Fire District 7 Assistant Chief Dean Crosswhite
- Spokane Valley Fire Department Firefighter Dan Patterson
- South Pierce Fire and Rescue Assistant Chief Larry Spohn
- Central Pierce Fire and Rescue Firefighter/Paramedic John Garner
- Seattle Fire Department Firefighter Michele J. Williams

As of today, 274 firefighter line of duty deaths have been recorded in Washington State since 1891. Events like this help us ensure our fallen are never forgotten.





Fire Prevention Week 2023

Since 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in the United States. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

In a fire, mere seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy. Fire safety education is not just for children. Teenagers, adults, and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it important for every member of the community to take some time every October during Fire Prevention Week to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme is, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention." This works to educate the community about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking.

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. Nationally, cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. Last year in Washington State, cooking was eighth among causes of ignition for all fire incidents with a total of 2,121 and a total dollar loss of over 10 million.

Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed October 8-14, 2023, Fire Prevention Week, in observance of this important fire safety message. The SFMO hopes that all Washingtonians practice safe cooking methods whenever indoors or outdoors, thus preventing fire incidents, burns and injuries.

For more information regarding Fire Prevention Week visit: <https://www.nfpa.org/Events/Events/Fire-Prevention-Week/About>

International Fire Service Accreditation Congress to Hold Conference in Sea-Tac

The 2023 International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) fall meeting will be held at the Hilton Seattle Airport and Conference Center in Sea-Tac, October 18-21, 2023. The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office will provide support to the meeting.

IFSAC meets twice per year, in the spring and fall. The Fall Meeting rotates around different cities in the United States and Canada, while the spring meeting is typically held in either Oklahoma City or Tulsa, Oklahoma. IFSAC is hosted by Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Oklahoma State is also the home of the International Fire Service Training Association and Fire Protection Publications, publishers of the widely used Essentials of Firefighting book.

The meeting attendees include representatives from 39 state-level firefighter certification programs, Washington, D.C. Fire, the Department of Defense, 11 Canadian provinces, and 14 foreign countries. Additionally, representatives from over 40 colleges offering some manner of fire related degree programs will attend.

During the conference, attendees new to IFSAC will have the opportunity to attend new member orientation, receive training on IFSAC's accreditation process, and participate in accreditation site visits as either a team member or team leader. They will also have the opportunity to discuss current issues affecting firefighter certification and the fire service as a whole. IFSAC's standing committees and Board of Governors will also meet during this conference, voting on bylaw and policy changes and electing representatives to vacant positions.

For more information about the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress, visit www.ifsac.org.



WSRB and the FTA

The Washington State Fire Training Academy (FTA) collaborated with the Washington State Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) on two major projects.

The Fire Training Academy: Where Dreams Become Firefighting Reality

This article is posted on the WSRB website and features FTA Commander Kelly Merz. Commander Merz provides a tour of the FTA, its history, and the many facets of what it takes to run a training facility. Many fire departments send their new recruits to the FTA to be trained, and existing members to maintain currency with updated certification standards. With the addition of the two new burn buildings, the FTA is poised to become the leader in fire service training in the Pacific Northwest.

The article highlights the FTA's unique location and the different training disciplines it offers local, state, and regional fire departments, both paid and volunteer. Volunteer firefighters play a major part of the fire service in Washington State, and the FTA is mandated by law to prioritize volunteer training. With the Regional Direct Delivery Program, the FTA can bring its training out to the smaller, more rural volunteer fire departments, whose members aren't able to attend the FTA in North Bend.

The FTA has also hosted training for law enforcement, the Department of Natural Resources the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Washington State Ferries, the military, insurance companies, and private companies such as Amazon's SpaceX program.

Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat

This documentary takes viewers into the heart of the volunteer fire service, and by extension on a journey through the many facets of America. Told through an unexpected cast of characters, the film challenges stereotypes and preconceptions at every turn of the film.

At what is considered a fragile and fractured point in our history, this film offers hope and optimism, and reminds us that we are all in this together. Parts of the film were shot on location at the FTA and convey the depth, diversity, and critical role volunteer fire departments play across the United States.



<https://www1.wsrb.com/blog/fire-training-academy>



<https://oddhoursfilm.com/>

Busy Wildfire Season Winding Down for All-Risk Mobilization Program

Cooler and somewhat wetter weather across the state, combined with shorter days, is helping draw the wildfire season to a close, particularly for the All-Risk Mobilization (Mobe) program. To date, the Mobilization program provided resources to 28 wildfire incidents in 14 counties across the state at an approximate cost of \$20,000,000.

The fire season kicked off in late May, supporting the Tenth Street Fire in Douglas County. The passage of a dry cold front in mid-June stirred up a number of fires in the Tri-Cities area. Additional fires scattered around Asotin, Chelan, Stevens, and Walla Walla counties rounded-out June. In total, there were 9 fires before July 1, 2023; the average since 1994 is 3.

Fire season continued at a steady pace through mid-August. The two largest and most devastating fires in recent history were the Gray and Oregon Road fires in Spokane County. Each fire burned over 10,000 acres (15.6 square miles). The Gray Fire destroyed 240 homes and 86 other structures. The Oregon Road fire destroyed 126 homes and 258 structures were lost. Sadly, each fire accounted for 1 fatality, and there was 1 injury reported for the Gray Fire. Both fires started August 18, 2023, and were strengthened by high winds and low relative humidity.

The day before the Gray and Oregon Road fires ignited, the SFMO pre-positioned two task forces in the Lower Columbia region; one in Kittitas County and the other in Klickitat County. Those resources were pre-positioned at the request of the Lower Columbia regional coordinators in anticipation of high winds and low relative humidity expected in those areas. One task force augmented local initial attack in Yakima County, helping to suppress some small fire starts there and preventing them from becoming larger, more costly and more damaging incidents. Both task forces were reassigned to the Spokane County fires, getting resources there to assist much sooner than the additional task forces that were requested from other parts of the state.

As the season comes to an end, SFMO staff will turn their focus on completing the reimbursement process for the 2023 incidents, which will involve handling in excess of 5,000 individual reimbursement claims for firefighters, fire departments, fire contractors, and other vendors. This process requires assistance from across the Fire Prevention Division. The program is only allocated 1.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, one of which has been vacant since December 2022. Though the number of Mobe incidents continues to increase year after year, staffing has remained unchanged since 2009.

More information about the Mobe program is available at <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/all-risk-mobilization/>.

Fire Inspections and the Public

As with the fire service in general, numerous responsibilities have been added to the role of the fire marshal. Inspections remain a constant responsibility that should be at the top of that critical list. Fire inspections are not flashy or exciting compared to other aspects of the fire service, but one could argue that few things benefit the fire department and the community more than a robust fire inspection program can.

Fire inspections provide an opportunity to connect with, and educate your citizens on the importance of fire safety. Most people want to do the right thing, but sometimes they don't know what that right thing is. The average person may not understand the reasons or think about the importance of simple things like clearance from a sprinkler head, keeping clear egress paths, or not storing items under a stairwell. It is our job to educate, not to punish. Through education, it is hoped people understand the reasoning and history behind the codes, and willingly comply. Business owners want to make sure that their employees and customers are safe and that their investment is protected from fire risk. Ideally, the more education we can provide to the average citizen the safer we can make our communities.

Residential Fire Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer

This past quarter, SFMO staff attended the Grays Harbor Emergency Preparedness EXPO in Aberdeen, the Central Kitsap Annual Kid's Day in Bremerton, and the First Responder Safety Fair in Long Beach. The trailer is scheduled to appear at three events in October and one event in November before it is winterized and stored until the spring.



Every event brings expanded learning for both the public and SFMO staff that attend. Each event has its own character, and brings many different vendors with their own specialized knowledge. Whether it's the United States Coast Guard providing information regarding boater safety and free life vests, to participation of the Red Cross, law enforcement providing important information on highway safety and public safety, or each local fire jurisdiction attending and showcasing their equipment and resources to highlight emergency response, each community event focuses on public safety.

The Residential Fire Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer will continue to be a part of public education, public safety, and community risk reduction for years to come. If you would like to have the sprinkler trailer at your event, please use this link for reserving: [Sprinkler Reservation Form](#).

2023 MOBILIZATIONS

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



OIE

- Benton County
- 900 Acres
- \$ 75,000

McEwan

- Mason County
- 232 Acres
- \$ 250,000*

Baird Springs

- Grant County
- 2,400 Acres
- \$ 250,000*



June

Moran Creek

- Stevens County
- 61 Acres
- \$ 355,000*

July

Tunnel Five

- Skamania County
- 529 Acres
- \$ 800,000

Rest Haven

- Yakima County
- 300 Acres
- \$ 150,000



Wagner Road

- Whitman County
- 1,700 Acres
- \$ 400,000*

Badger

- Chelan County
- 473 Acres
- \$ 820,000

2023 MOBILIZATIONS



Pine Hollow

- Yakima County
- Acres
- \$ 50,000

West Hallett

- Spokane County
- 126 Acres
- \$ 300,000*

August

Trinity

- Benton County
- 602 Acres
- \$ 200,000



July, continued

Newell Road

- Klickitat County
- 60,551 Acres
- \$ 1,050,000*

Wawawai

- Whitman County
- 526 Acres
- \$ 375,000

Eagle Bluff

- Okanogan County
- 16,428 Acres
- \$ 200,000



Lower Columbia Pre-Position

- Kittitas and Klickitat Counties
- 0 Acres
- \$ 75,000

Toothaker

- Benton County
- 188 Acres
- \$ 325,000

2023 MOBILIZATIONS

1991 Spokane Fire Storm

October 16, 1991, was the beginning of the Spokane Fire Storm. Dozens of fires destroyed over 100 homes and overwhelmed local fire agencies.

Although fire service resources responded from across the state, there was no mechanism in place for requesting, ordering, or reimbursing those resources.

In 1992, the Washington State Legislature passed the Mobilization Act which directed the creation of the Washington State Fire Services Mobilization Plan (Plan). The State Fire Defense Board, now the Fire Defense Committee, was formed with representatives from nine regions across the state.

The purpose of the Plan is to quickly notify, assemble, and deploy fire service personnel and equipment to any local fire jurisdiction in the state that has expended or will expend all available local and mutual aid resources in attempting to manage fires, disasters, or other events that jeopardize the ability of a jurisdiction and/or region to provide for the protection of life and property.

On August 18, 2023, the SFMO and the FDC worked collectively to provide 14 task forces of fire service resources for the Gray, Winona, and Oregon fires.

August, continued

Gray

- Spokane County
- 10,085 Acres
- \$ 2,000,000*

Winona

- Whitman County
- 2,525 Acres
- \$ 500,000

Oregon

- Spokane County
- 10,817 Acres
- \$ 1,500,000*

Yellepit

- Benton County
- 1,582 Acres
- \$ 150,000



** Cost estimates are for direct costs to be paid by the SFMO to fire agencies and vendors for personnel, equipment, and other services. It does not include additional amounts owed for cost shares on interagency incidents.*

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