



# Washington State Fire Marshal's Office Quarterly Newsletter



## *Quarterly Newsletter Transitioning to Monthly Blog*

In an effort to bring current and updated information to our fire service partners through a better, more timely delivery medium, the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office Quarterly Newsletter will be transitioning to a monthly blog format. This will ensure that pertinent fire and emergency services information is posted in both an efficient and effective manner as possible.

## *NFIRS Data Needed for Annual Report*

The State Fire Marshal Office is doing a final call for all 2023 National Fire Incident Reporting System Data to be submitted no later than April 15, 2024, for inclusion in the Fire in Washington Annual Report. Please review the [NFIRS Monthly Participation Report](#) to see if your agency's data is complete. Incident data should be emailed to [nfir@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:nfir@wsp.wa.gov) as soon as possible.

### *Inside:*

FTA Recruit Academy  
Class 24-01 • Page 4

NFSA Chapter Meetings  
Page 7

Energy and Lithium-Ion Battery  
Symposium  
Page 9

SFMO Pro Board Accreditation  
Page 11

## 2024 By the Numbers

Fire Prevention Division	Total
IFSAC Certificates Issued:	604
HazMat Students Trained:	269
Mobilization Trainings Delivered:	0
Responses to Mobilization:	0
Initial Inspections Conducted:	450
Re-inspections Conducted:	293
Fire and Life Safety Training Sessions for Facilities:	2
Fire and Life Safety Plan Reviews for Schools:	3
Plan Reviews for Contracted Projects:	3
Sprinkler Licenses Issued: Certificates of Competency Issued:	432
Sprinkler Fitter Certificates Issued:	1,131
Fireworks Licenses Issued:	593
Sprinkler Demonstrations Conducted:	0
Sprinkler Trainings Delivered:	0

Fire Training Division	Students
Weekday Recruit Academy:	16
Fire Service Open Enrollment Courses:	6
Fire Service Department Training:	299
Regional Direct Delivery Training:	224
Regional Direct Delivery Recruit Academy:	93
National Fire Academy Training:	309
Law Enforcement / Military / Other Training:	27

## A MESSAGE FROM STATE FIRE MARSHAL CHAD CROSS



The first quarter of 2024 included a busy legislative session for the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO). Below is a high-level overview of legislative action related to our office:

- \$15.5 million in Disaster Response Account funding was approved. Our agency had requested \$15.53 million for fiscal year 2024 and an additional \$10 million for the 2025 fire season. A supplemental budget request will be requested in the 2025 fire season for all additional costs.
- The Regional Direct Delivery Program received an increase in general funding for two additional Deputy State Fire Marshal positions.
- ESB 6087 amended RCW 43.43.944 to increase the portion of the Fire Insurance Premium Tax distributed to the Fire Service Training Account to 22%.
- HB 1726 amended RCW 43.43.934 to separate the Basic Firefighter Training Reimbursement Program from the Regional Direct Delivery Program. The SFMO was granted rule making authority, which we will begin working on in the near future.
- SSB 5812 Electric Vehicle Fire requires the Washington State Patrol, in consultation with the Department of Ecology, local fire protection districts, a representative of the towing and recovery industry and other entities, to study the impacts of electrical vehicle fires and develop best practices for fire response, clean up and disposal, and to provide a report of findings and policy recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 2025. The SFMO will lead this effort.

We look forward to working with all of our partners in the upcoming year!

# FTA Online Classes

The Washington State Fire Training Academy offers online courses, through Washington State University, for Fire Instructor I and Fire Instructor II. Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II are expected to be offered through online courses by the end of 2024!

Below is a list of the Fire Instructor I and II courses being offered in 2024:

## Fire Instructor I:

October 1, 2024 - October 23, 2024

Voluntary, In-Person Practice: October 24, 2024

IFSAC Testing: October 25, 2024

## Fire Instructor II:

August 12, 2024 - September 4, 2024

Voluntary, In-Person Practice: September 5, 2024

IFSAC Testing: September 6, 2024

To register for Fire Instructor I or II, please follow the following steps:

- Navigate to the Fire Training Academy's [website](#).
- Find "Open Enrollment Classes."
- Download and complete the following forms:
  - a. Registration (Open Enrollment)
  - b. IFSAC Testing Candidate Application
- Once the forms are completed, please email them to [FTARegister@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:FTARegister@wsp.wa.gov).
- You will receive email confirmation of your registration for the course.

If you have any questions, please contact the Washington State Fire Training Academy at [FireTrainingAcademy@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:FireTrainingAcademy@wsp.wa.gov) or (425) 453-3000.





# FTA Recruit Academy 2024-01

Recruit Academy 2024-01 will graduate from the Washington State Fire Training Academy on April 19, 2024. The recruit academy is held over 12-weeks and includes 496 total hours of rigorous training. Recruits receive approximately 100 hours of live-fire training. Recruits are offered the opportunity to take IFSAC certification testes on Hazardous Materials Awareness, Hazardous Materials Operations, Firefighter I, and Firefighter II.

## Company Officer

### **Clallam Co. Fire District #2:**

Matt Aston

## Recruits

### **Aberdeen Fire Department:**

Adam Suggs

### **Clallam County Fire District #3:**

Marquita Espinoza

Ryan Hueter

William "Hayden" Pyle

### **Kennewick Fire Department:**

Mitchell Garcia

Barron Hemphill

Tyler McDonald

Chris Parrish

### **Port Angeles Fire Department:**

Morgan Branum

### **South Pierce Fire & Rescue:**

Shawn Halpin

Kurtis Holberg

Daniel Kaner

### **South Thurston Fire & EMS:**

Nijah Ahmed

Sierra Seward

### **South Whidbey Fire & EMS:**

Chavo Camargo

### **Tumwater Fire Department**

Zachariah Robertson

# Personnel Updates



## ***James Ross***

On January 2, 2024, James Ross joined the SFMO as an Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal as part of the Education, Enforcement, & Analytics Section supporting the National Fire Incident Reporting System. Originally from Orange County, California, ADSFM Ross grew up playing baseball and was once part of the Seattle Mariners. He graduated from Santa Ana College's Basic Fire Academy and has a myriad of hobbies to include mountain hiking, and spending time outdoors. We welcome James to the SFMO.



## ***Andrea Ely***

On February 20, 2024, Andrea Ely joined the FPB inspection team as a Deputy State Fire Marshal. She is assigned to Union Gap and will cover the central Washington area. She has been working within the public sector industry for over nineteen years. Her certifications include Fire Inspector I and II and Fire and Life Safety Educator I. For the last four years DSFM Ely as also served as a volunteer firefighter in Support Services for the West Valley Fire Department. We are excited to have her join us. Welcome Andrea!

# Personnel Updates cont'd

## ***Damon Roberson***

On March 1, 2024, the SFMO welcomed Damon Roberson as a Deputy State Fire Marshal in the Education, Enforcement, and Analytics Section supporting the licensing and certification programs. DSFM Roberson's father serves in the military which is what brought him to Washington State. He has spent 11 years living here, after moving from the East Coast. DSFM Roberson comes to us after working for the Department of Social and Health Services at Western State Hospital and the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board.



## ***Aaron Robertson***

On March 11, 2024, the SFMO welcomed Aaron Robertson to the Professional Development and Response Section as a Deputy State Fire Marshal assigned to the All-Risk Mobilization program. DSFM Robertson was born and raised in Southern Ohio and enlisted in the Army at 17 years old. He earned a Bachelors in Botany from Ohio University. DSFM Robertson worked as a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear all-hazards officer. He has worked in over ten states, South Korea, Africa, Europe, and Japan.

## ***Gregory Baruso***

The SFMO is pleased to announce the promotion of Gregory Baruso to Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal of the Education, Enforcement, and Analytics Section. CDSFM Baruso previously served as a DSFM Public Information Officer/Community Risk Reduction Officer in the same FPB Section. CDSFM Baruso looks forward to the new challenges and opportunities in his position.



# NFSA Chapter Meetings



The Education, Enforcement, and Analytics Section presented at the National Fire Sprinkler Association's Quarterly Chapter Meetings on February 13th in Tukwila, WA, and February 14th in Vancouver, WA.

The presentations contained information on the current Fire Sprinkler System Contractor Law (RCW 18.160), the Fire Protection Sprinkler Fitter Certification Law, (RCW 18.270), as well as WAC 212-80 and WAC 212.90.

Assistant State Fire Marshal Humberto Rodriguez made the presentation to explain each level of certification and licensing. He also provided an overview on compliance and complaints related to the programs.

Changes to the applicable WACs were discussed.

Revisions to WAC 212-80 include:

- Licensing fees.
- Enforcement/Regulatory language clean up.
- Penalty Range increases:
  - \$300 - \$15,000 for basic infractions
  - \$1,000 - \$25, 000 for using uncertified Certificate of Competency holders

Revisions to WAC 212-90 include:

- Enforcement / Regulatory language clean up.
- Supervisory Ratios
  - Residential Work: Not more than two (2) trainees to one (1) Journey or Residential Level Fitter.
  - Commercial Level Work: Not more than one (1) Trainee or Residential Level Fitter to one (1) Journey Level Fitter.

Changes to WAC 212-80 and WAC 212-90 will go into effect April 21, 2024.

For more information or questions contact the SFMO at: (360) 596-3946 or e-mail at: [firesprinkler@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:firesprinkler@wsp.wa.gov).

# Vision 20/20 Community Risk Reduction Symposium 8

SFMO staff attended the Vision 20/20 Community Risk Reduction Symposium 8 Conference in Murfreesboro, TN that occurred on February 20-23, 2024.

The conference was filled with many Community Risk Reduction (CRR) success stories and presentations from practicing CRR agencies throughout the United States.

The conference opened with the keynote address by Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, the United States President-Appointed Fire Administrator. Dr. Moore-Merrell discussed the importance of relevant and accurate data gathering, and how data plays a key role in CRR and resource allocation.

She discussed the move from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) and how the new system will help improve fire incident reporting. <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfirs/neris/>.

Other topics included:

- Empowering Seniors to Tackle CRR in their Communities - Michigan Fire Prevention.
- Surviving a Vacation on the Beach - Surf City Fire Department.
- There's More than One Problem - And it Takes More Than One "E."
- Paramedic-Pharmacists Partnerships in Community Paramedicine - National Association of MIH Providers Colerain Township Department of Fire and EMS.
- Youth Firesetting with Mental Health Partners - Colorado Springs Fire Department.
- Rural-Based Youth Firesetting Intervention Program - Barnstable Maine Fire Department.

These are just a few of the conference topics but there were many more presentations that are extremely helpful in not only creating a Community Risk Assessment, CRA, but also maintaining and enhancing CRR programs.

The SFMO is proud to be one of eight CRR national organizations to be awarded Vision 20/20's CRR Vision Award. The Washington State CRR Coalition was recognized as being a national leader in supporting the CRR efforts in Washington State and was commended for the dedication to Vision 20/20's Statewide Collaboration and Engagement Framework, and for reducing risks across our state. Our thanks to Vision 20/20 and we look forward to attending next year's event.

For more information on Symposium 8 visit: <https://strategicfire.org/symposiums/symposium-8/s8-presentations/>

More information on Vision 20/20 can be found at: <https://strategicfire.org/>.



# Energy and Lithium-Ion Battery Symposium

In February, the Washington State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) hosted the Washington State Energy Symposium, as part of the Washington State Energy Workgroup in Lacey, WA.

The event featured presentations on energy from national subject matter experts. It offered those in attendance a comprehensive understanding of the technologies involved in the emerging use of electricity, alternative energy, lithium-ion rechargeable batteries, and more. Presentations also focused on hazards associated with new energy sources and technologies, including how to prevent and react to problems.

*“Over 175 first and second responders attended the 2024 Energy Symposium in Lacey WA, which valuable instruction from regional and international presenters.” – Scott Lancaster, Deputy State Fire Marshal*

Local, state, tribal, and federal responder officials attended with exhibits of the E-Mach Mustang, electric transit bus, and a large tractor for tractor-trailer operations on-site for inspection. The event drew attendees as far away as St. Louis Park, Minnesota, Chesapeake, Virginia and Orlando, Florida.

The Washington State Energy Workgroup includes representation from the SFMO, the Washington Department of Ecology, the Washington Department of Commerce, the Washington Military Department’s Emergency Management Division, the Towing Recovery Association of Washington, and the Washington Insurance Commission, as well as representatives from fire departments in Seattle, West Pierce, Port of Seattle, and many more groups and individuals in the responder community.



# New FTA Burn Buildings Being Utilized



The Fire Training Academy's new burn buildings are open for training! The buildings are comprised of an Apartment-Style Burn Building, which includes three stories, five burn pits, and ventilation props on the roof; and a Residential-Style Burn Building with one story, a daylight basement, three burn pits, and a Fire Control I/Burn to Learn Room.

If you are interested in scheduling training in either new burn building, please follow the instructions below:

1. Navigate to the Fire Training Academy's [website](#).
2. Find "Co-Op, Facilities Use, & Other Scheduled Training."
3. Download the "FTA Training Request Form."
4. Complete the Training Request Form and email it to [FTARegister@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:FTARegister@wsp.wa.gov).
  - a. If you would like to discuss training dates or availability, feel free to call the Fire Training Academy at (425) 453-3000.
  - b. If you are interested in booking a tour of the new burn buildings prior to submitting a Training Request Form, please contact [FireTrainingAcademy@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:FireTrainingAcademy@wsp.wa.gov) or call (425) 453-3000.

Kindly note that the original Burn Tower is no longer in use for live fire training. However, it remains available for non-live fire training purposes, such as Search and Rescue exercises.

# State Fire Marshal's Office Applies for Pro Board Accreditation

In early January 2024, the State Fire Marshal's Office applied to the National Board for Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board) for accreditation of its Fire Service Certification Program, adding to the program's existing International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) accreditation. The Pro Board's technical review of the SFMO's application has been completed. Subsequently, a site team has been assigned by Pro Board's Committee on Accreditation. The site team will conduct a thorough review of the SFMO's certification policies, procedures, test items, and skill sheets, to ensure they are compliant with Pro Board's criteria for accreditation.

Pro Board's accreditation criteria (as well as those of IFSAC) are rooted in the content of NFPA 1000, Standard for Fire Service Professional Qualifications Accreditation and Certification Systems. Pro Board places a significant emphasis on an accredited entity's policies and procedures, while IFSAC places a larger focus on the breadth of test items and their development. Being accredited by both organizations ensures a program meets all requirements of NFPA 1000 to the greatest extent possible, which delivers the greatest benefit to Washington's fire service and the citizens we serve.

The SFMO anticipates a Pro Board site visit in June of 2024 with accreditation by Pro Board's Committee on Accreditation in September. Upon Pro Board accreditation, the SFMO will be the 38th state or provincial level certifying organization to hold dual accreditation.

For more information about accreditation and certification, email [FirefighterTesting@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:FirefighterTesting@wsp.wa.gov) or call (360) 596-3945.



# Fire Sprinkler Program Updates

The State Fire Marshal's Office administers licensing and certification programs related to RCW 18.160 Fire Sprinkler System Contractors and RCW 18.270 Fire Protection Sprinkler Fitting. Our website at [www.wsp.wa.gov](http://www.wsp.wa.gov) is a great place to visit for information on the various levels of licenses and certifications.

Click here for a list of licensed contractors in accordance with RCW 18.160: [www.wsp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/02.24-All-Contractors.pdf](http://www.wsp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/02.24-All-Contractors.pdf)

Click here for a list of certificate of competency holders in accordance with RCW 18.160: [02.24-All-Certificate-Holders.pdf \(wa.gov\)](http://02.24-All-Certificate-Holders.pdf(wa.gov)).

Click here for a list of certificate of competency holders in accordance with RCW 18.270: [02.24-All-Fitters.pdf \(wa.gov\)](http://02.24-All-Fitters.pdf(wa.gov)).

Changes to WAC 212-80 and WAC 212-90 will go into effect April 21, 2023.

Free fire sprinkler classes are offered by the SFMO through a third-party vendor. Many of the classes are offered online, but there are still a few in-person classes offered. To review course offerings and to register, go to: [Sprinkler Classes](#).

# Fireworks Program Updates

In accordance with RCW 70.77 and WAC 212-17, the SFMO licenses wholesalers, importers, manufacturers, pyrotechnic operators, general display, and retail fireworks licenses for individual and wholesalers.

The 2024 fireworks license renewal process is currently underway.

Updated fireworks license information can be found at: [Fireworks](#)

# State Fire Marshal's Office Contacts

## **FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU**

State Fire Marshal Chad Cross

[Chad.Cross@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Chad.Cross@wsp.wa.gov)

(360) 596-3902

## **FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**

Assistant State Fire Marshal Melissa Gannie [Melissa.Gannie@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Melissa.Gannie@wsp.wa.gov)

(360) 596-3903

### ***Education, Enforcement, and Analytics***

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Gregory Baruso [Gregory.Baruso@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Gregory.Baruso@wsp.wa.gov)

(360) 596-3929

### ***Inspections***

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Dylan Montgomery [Dylan.Montgomery@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Dylan.Montgomery@wsp.wa.gov)

(360) 596-3906

### ***Plan Review***

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal (Vacant)

(360) 596-3911

### ***Professional Development and Response***

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Bill Slosson [William.Slosson@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:William.Slosson@wsp.wa.gov)

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## **FIRE TRAINING DIVISION**

Assistant State Fire Marshal Kelly Merz [Kelly.Merz@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Kelly.Merz@wsp.wa.gov)

(425) 453-3000 Ext. 109

Assistant Division Commander Katie Rasmussen [Katie.Rasmussen@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Katie.Rasmussen@wsp.wa.gov)

(425) 453-3000 Ext. 110

### ***Regional Direct Delivery***

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Howard Scartozzi [Howard.Scartozzi@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Howard.Scartozzi@wsp.wa.gov)

(425) 401-7732

### ***Instruction***

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Chris Brown [Chris.Brown@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Chris.Brown@wsp.wa.gov)

(425) 428-1810