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## Quarterly Newsletter

December 2023

Vol 7 Issue 3

The Washington State Association of Fire Marshals is an organization comprised of seven divisions working on: National Codes, State Codes, Legislative Issues, Professional Development, Communications, Fire Prevention Institute, and Fire Investigation.

### WSAFM Vision and Mission Statement

#### Vision

To be a recognized leader and partner in fire prevention and community risk reduction.

#### Mission Statement

To provide leadership and professional development opportunities for our members and associates through communication, education, legislation, and code development.

### WSAFM President's Report – Tom Maloney

Welcome to 2024 and I hope that everyone has a great start to the New Year! We are excited to continue our work to provide you our members with the best opportunity for success in 2024.

I would like to start out by thanking Tony Doan for his work with WSAFM especially our monthly Webinar Series and Fire Inspector Boot Camps. Tony is stepping away from presenting as he accepted another career opportunity that will reduce his ability to continue our training as in the past. While I am personally saddened by this, I know that this new opportunity for Tony is best for him and his family. Tony was able to elevate our training program to be one of the best in the United States. I would also like to thank Tony for his commitment to the State Building Code Council as well. Being chair of the Council is no short task and his commitment to our state was second to none! We have submitted our request for Tony's replacement to the Council as well as our Fire TAG representative. Thank you Tony and we still look forward to your continued work on the Board.

The 2024 Webinar Series will be presented by Rob Neale and the schedule is set with all the approved topics. Please make sure that you renew or begin your membership to take advantage of this benefit to earn your required CEU's. Rob is a great friend to WSAFM and we look forward to seeing Rob every month.

Also, new this year is our new partnership with the National Fire Sprinkler Association. We will be featuring classes throughout the year within the state. To see our offerings please see our [WSAFM](#) page.

It is a new legislative year and know that your Association will continue to react quickly to all the legislative changes that affect the fire service. We need all of you to continue to be engaged with the code adoption and ensure we continue to be proactive in meeting the needs of Washington State. Please note that we continue to monitor the State FMO discussion as well.

We have begun preparations for the 2024 FPI and I would encourage you to submit a topic. If you are interested in presenting, please submit your proposal. A few topics are still needed for CRR and Investigations. **WE** want you to present and it is a great way to share best practices

with your peers.

I would also like to ask each of you to think about obtaining your Fire Marshal Designation. This is a great way to show

your dedication and the hard work that you have put into making our great state safer. If you have any questions, please contact me so I can answer them or visit the [Center of Public Safety Excellence](#) for more information.

Lastly, I hope you are enjoying our weekly updates as we are trying to help get more information and training in a timely manner. If you have anything to share or need a question answered, please send it to us. Also, we are offering a free job posting board as well. Please use the association email: [wasfm@wasfm.com](mailto:wasfm@wasfm.com) so we can help.

I would like to ask all of you to think about running for the board or joining a committee as our success is based on you and we welcome new perspectives to excel WSAFM.

I will close by saying that we know we will have opportunities for success in 2024 and our success is a result of your support so if I can be of any assistance, please let me know.

Here is to a great 2024!!

Tom



## Elections & Awards - Jon Dunaway

### 2023 WSAFM Board Elections

The 2023 Washington State Fire Prevention Institute is in the record books. As we do every year, elections were held for several of the Director positions. The slate of candidates were all incumbents currently serving on the Board, and all were re-elected to another 2-year term. Those re-elected were:

**Director Position #1** – Lori Burke (Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office).

**Director Position #3** – Karen Grove (Seattle Fire Department).

**Director Position #5** – Robert Ferrell (Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau).

**Director Position #7** – Tony Doan (City of Yakima).

Thank you to all of those who serve on the WSAFM Board of Directors. It's this core group that ensures our committees are working effectively, training continues to be high quality and ongoing, and that your membership continues to have value.

If there are any agency members of WSAFM who wish to know more about becoming a Director or simply want to be more involved in a facet of the association, please reach out to one of the Directors. They can provide information about the various committees where additional help is always welcome.



## 2023 WSAFM Award Nominations

During the opening ceremonies of the 2023 FPI, several WSAFM members were recognized by awards for their exceptional work in several areas.

### Life Member Award

City of Longview Fire Chief Jim Kambeitz was awarded WSAFM's 2023 Life Member Award. This award has been established to recognize those individuals who have dedicated all or part of their career to the enhancement and positive influence of fire prevention and community risk reduction. Chief Kambeitz had been a member of WSAFM since 2008 and is a past President of the association. After being appointed Fire Chief for the City of Longview, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Washington Fire Chiefs Association where he continued his fire prevention mission acting as the liaison between the fire marshal and fire chief groups. Jim retired this year at the end of November after a career in the fire service that began in the 1990's in Clark County. He had been with the Longview Fire Department since 2003, serving as Fire Chief for the last 5 years.



### Member of the Year

City of Spokane Fire Protection Engineer David Kokot was awarded the 2023 WSAFM Member of the Year Award. Dave is the most senior member of the association and has served in several capacities over the years. He is a past President, has served on the State Building Code Council, and was awarded the association's Fire Marshal of the Year in 2015. It would be impossible to list all of Dave's accomplishments during his time with WSAFM, but he has been instrumental in always striving to make the association better for our membership and those we serve. For 2023, Dave was recognized for his involvement in several areas: his willingness to take on emerging issues, service on committees, and for being involved in addressing several legislative items. In short, Dave is well-known for always representing WSAFM in a positive and professional manner. Thank you for all you have done (and continue to do) in the interests of those we serve.



### Fire Marshal of the Year

Snohomish County Assistant Fire Marshal Lori Burke was presented with the 2023 WSAFM Fire Marshal of the Year Award. The narrative that nominated Lori outlined the challenges she faced in a county that grew in population by 110,000 people from 2011 to 2021 and the pivotal role she has played leading the county's Fire Marshal's Office through the challenges such changes presented. Having been in the FMO for over 25 years, Lori was described as 'on the leading edge of proposing changes to bring our office into the new era of fire prevention'. With the award, Lori was recognized for her leadership, mentoring those within her agency, and her ability to adapt to the ever-changing community risk reduction challenges for the communities she serves. Well-deserved Lori!



## 2023 WSAFM Proposed By-Laws Changes Ratified by the Membership

During the 2023 Fire Prevention Institute, the membership voted to approve two changes to the association's bylaws.

A Treasurer position was added to the WSAFM Board of Directors. The Board felt this position was necessary due to the increasing complexities of tracking the Association's revenue and expenses. The position of Treasurer and the associated duties have been added to the bylaws in Articles VI, VIII, and Appendix B. The job description has been defined as: "Conducts general financial oversight, financial planning and budgeting, financial reporting, oversees the banking, bookkeeping, and record keeping, reconciliation of bank records, and internal records, and controls of fixed assets and stock." In January, the WSAFM Board will appoint the first Treasurer to serve in this position, after which this will be an elected position serving two-year terms.

Another amendment was approved by the association which removes the membership dues from Appendix C of the bylaws. The Board of Directors felt that having the dues online would better serve the membership and prospective members, and that having the dues schedule in the bylaws was redundant. The existing bylaws already allow the Board to adjust dues by the cost of living for Seattle-Bremerton-Tacoma for clerical workers (CPI-W) based on June figures.



## 2024 Legislative Session Preview and WSAFM Legislative Priorities – Karen Grove

The 2024 legislative session begins January 8. This is the second year in the two-year legislative cycle and will be a short 60-day session.

WSAFM's mission of fire prevention and safety is non-partisan. Our Board worked throughout the fall to identify our [2024 Legislative Priorities](#) to help ensure life safety for all who live, work, and visit in Washington. Our legislative committee will be meeting each Monday in January and February as we respond and advocate to proposed legislation.

We **welcome additional members on the legislative committee**, please contact Legislative Chair Karen Grove at [karen.grove@seattle.gov](mailto:karen.grove@seattle.gov). You may also monitor session progress on our [legislative webpage](#).

### WSAFM Top 5 Legislative Priorities for 2024

- Advocacy to ensure the maintenance of fire and life safety code provisions in new housing options such as affordable housing, middle housing, and shelters.
- Defense of existing code standards when directly legislated proposals modify the fire code. WSAFM will encourage routing through the State Building Code Council instead of direct legislation for these highly technical items.
- Support for funding and re-organization to move the State Fire Marshal's Office forward, including a WSAFM vote on any new Fire Services Delivery policy board.
- Engagement to provide additional clarity in the Wildland Urban Interface Code regarding the DNR map and defensible space requirements, to improve enforceability and understanding of these important life safety provisions.
- Support for training and education related to new energy technologies. Billions of dollars of investments are changing Washington's energy infrastructure, making it greener but also presenting new hazards to fire fighters and the public, such as lithium-ion fires. WSAFM supports funding for firefighter training; grants for small and rural agencies for required PPE and public education; and support for expedited code development for Washington, responsive to rapid changes in technology.



## Topics of Interest

### Washington Public Fire Educators – Shawneri Guzman

#### **NFPA 1035 Course Registration Now Open**

The Fire and Life Safety Educator course prepares students in the preparation and selection of educational programs for targeted audiences to reduce risks in their communities. The 4-day class consists of a written exam along with a practical evaluation of select job performance requirements (JPRs).

The 4-day course will be hosted in Snohomish County on April 22-26, 2024. The cost is \$300 for members and \$350 for non-members. Registration is now open on the [Washington Fire Chiefs](https://www.washingtonfirechefs.org) website. For questions contact Shawneri Guzman, course instructor, at [sguzman@southsnofire.org](mailto:sguzman@southsnofire.org)

#### **CRR Week 2024**

Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Week is January 15-21, 2024. CRR Week is a way to promote awareness of Community Risk Reduction within the fire service. Information about CRR Week can be found at [CRRWEEK.org](https://crrweek.org), and be sure to download the new CRR logo to use in your communications.

#### **WPFE Leadership**

We are happy to welcome Courtney Thompson as an at-large member of the WPFE board starting in 2024. Courtney is a Fire and Life Safety Educator at Central Pierce Fire and brings with her a background in teaching.



## Membership

Membership in the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals (WSAFM) is on an annual basis, requiring renewal at the first of the new year. Now that 2024 is here, WSAFM would like to graciously ask for your continued support by renewing your membership.

Email reminders to renew WSAFM memberships were sent out on December 1<sup>st</sup> to all current membership administrators. Included in the email was an invoice for your 2024 WSAFM membership and a link to renew the membership online. We understand that some agencies cannot renew their membership until after January 1<sup>st</sup>. If this applies to you, don't worry, your membership benefits will continue through January 2024 to allow time for renewal. As a reminder, another membership renewal email will be sent out on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. You may also be wondering if membership dues have increased for 2024. They have not, annual dues will remain unchanged for 2024. Please renew your membership as soon as possible to continue receiving your member benefits including the monthly webinar training series.

For Agency Level membership, each agency can sign up as many individuals from their department as they like, and all individuals will enjoy the benefits of membership. When an agency signs up for membership, a bundle administrator is selected, and that person can add and delete individuals to the agency membership bundle at any time. For more information on the bundle administrator role please visit [www.wsafm.com](https://www.wsafm.com).

Agency membership includes voting rights and agencies may cast a single vote in an election or other matters brought before the association. The primary member from the agency shall be the voting member for the agency. The primary member must be identified by the agency a minimum of 14 days prior to any vote.



WSAFM also has a Partner Level membership for those individuals outside the fire service that wish to support the vision and mission of WSAFM and a Retired Level membership for former members that have retired.

If you or someone you know is not a member, please consider joining WSAFM today. Membership benefits include monthly training webinars, discounts on events including the Fire Prevention Institute (FPI) and the WSAFM newsletter. Go to [www.wsafm.com](http://www.wsafm.com) for more information on how to join and member benefits.

If there are any membership questions, please contact Membership Committee Chair Robert Ferrell at [robert.ferrell@wsrb.com](mailto:robert.ferrell@wsrb.com) or 509-228-8062.

Thank you for supporting WSAFM. Your membership allows the Association the ability to actively pursue our mission of providing leadership and professional development opportunities for our members and partners through communication, education, legislation, and code development.



## **Mentoring – Past President Dave Kokot**

The long-term success of a professional association can be based on several things including financial stability, membership retention, professional growth, and the ability of the Board of Directors (BOD) to respond to current issues and challenges.

The BOD needs to be comprised of members that are active, diverse, and open-minded to the industry we are in as well as working to develop a succession path and plan for the replacement of Directors and Officers.

So – how does a general member move to become a member of the Board? One way is mentoring.

The Board meets regularly throughout the year. The meetings are open to the membership for not only listening but also to participate in the discussions about the items on the agenda. The best way to learn about being a Director or an Officer is to sit in on the Board meetings. Some items on the agenda can be mundane, but others can involve spirited discussions, but there is a lot to be learned about the process and the issues. Participation in the meetings affords members the opportunity to experience the interactions of the Board members as well as getting to understand what they do to meet the published goals and objectives.

It is more comfortable now than in the past. Each group of individuals that has come up through the Board has seen to it that we are stronger and more influential.

When I joined the Board as an appointed Director along with Jon Dunaway in 2000 something (does the year matter?). Neither of us had attended a meeting prior and we both felt like flies on the wall with the discussions. Over time, we became more involved to the point that we became Officers and now are part of the historical archives of what we have been through. Our success was assisted by the mentoring of the other Board members in providing guidance and support when we went out of our comfort zone in representing WSAFM. The leaders at that time saw that we were provided with the tools and knowledge to allow us to take their place.

The leaders now are looking to do the same thing. Even though there is not a formal mentoring process, new Board members can receive mentoring from those who have been there and done that and bring their own experience and energy as they gain more confidence to take on more duties.

If you have an interest in participating in the operations of WSAFM as a Committee Member, Board Member, or even a fly on the wall – we welcome your participation.

Dave Kokot, P.E.



## 2023 Fire Prevention Institute Retrospective – Tom Maloney

We had a little normal and the FPI was a great success in our new normal. This year's event was held October 16-20 at Campbell's with great weather.

We were excited to offer the topics you asked for in the previous FPI survey and hope that you found the presentations educational and interactive. We would like to thank you again for your surveys this year.

We continued the 1-hour format for most of the sessions. This format allows for an overview of a topic to generate discussion and interaction after the session. Not all sessions will be 1-hour but it does allow for more repeat sessions so attendees can go to other tracks.

This year we did have an increase in attendance and each track was well attended. It was great to see these tracks attended and to hear the message. Every program offered something new for everyone to help us improve.

The Fire Prevention track offered a wide variety of information, and we brought back the old too. The panel discussion was well attended while generating great participation. These panels were a last minute audible because of a scheduling conflict.

With our partners at the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO), the Washington Fire Chiefs, the Washington Public Fire Educators, and other fire service associations. The goal is always to deliver training to fire agencies that utilizes the principle and practices of CRR as we engage and educate local communities.

The Fire Investigation track continued to provide some exceptional education from exceptional presenters. This track is never falling short in providing great programs. We are greatly appreciative of our partnership with Washington IAAI as they continue to make things happen.

If you have a presentation that you would like to submit, please see the [WSAFM](https://www.wsa-fm.com) website for the proposal form and return the form so it can be reviewed.

We have already addressed the challenges that occurred, and we are in the process to better serve you as well. We will continue to embrace the dynamic environment we operate within.

**2024 Fire Prevention Institute Announcement**  
**October 14 - Monday through October 18 - Friday**

**2024 Fire Prevention Keynote Speaker Announced**  
**Clark Roberts**



To encourage and support smaller fire departments in attending the Fire Prevention Institute with all the training and networking that goes with the conference WSAFM began a program to provide 2 Fire Prevention Scholarships. One scholarship is sponsored by the Washington State Surveying and Rating Bureau and the second by the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals. This year's winners are Phillip Cecere and Kinsey DeHaan.

Congratulations to you both!

**The Washington State Surveying and Rating Bureau scholarship was awarded to: Phillip Cecere Fire Marshal/Building Official Jefferson County DCD**

I have gained my ICC certification as a CFM as well as a CBO in recent years. I have recently accepted a job at Jefferson County as the Building official and Fire marshal where I have served as a building inspector then a plans examiner 1 and then a plans examiner 2. I have previously held plans examiner positions at another jurisdiction, Kitsap County. When employed at Kitsap County I was fortunate enough to have a member of the Fire Marshal office within DCD to tutor me and take me in the field to conduct bucket and acceptance testing. From my introduction I was hooked, this spurred me to pursue fire inspector certification, fire plans examiner certification and ultimately Fire Marshal certification. My current jurisdiction has a large area and rather rural, we have not had an engaged fire marshal in recent memory. The traditional role of the Fire marshal and the Building official has been administratively attached to the DCD director. I feel that we are woefully behind with a fire inspection program and have hit the ground running. Some efforts that been started are: selecting a firm to develop a CWPP, a coordinated water system plan revision in the works to revisit fire flow requirements and availability, a updated comp plan for 2024 and a Department of Ecology community assistance visit for our NFIP review. I have an idea where I want to go to protect the community where my family work, lives, learns and recreates, I just need the knowledge that comes from exposure to like-minded individuals that would be found in WSAFM.



**The Washington State Association of Fire Marshals scholarship was awarded to: Kinsey DeHaan Fire Support Services Manager/ FLSE I Lynden Fire Department**

The Lynden Fire Department is currently in the process of developing a Fire and Life Safety Prevention Team. Within the team I will be responsible for building our Community Risk Reduction and Community Outreach programs, as well as delivering Fire and Life Safety Education to our community. I am currently working on getting all the necessary certifications, and attending whatever workshops, training, and classes available to me to be able to implement the best program that the Lynden Fire Department can offer. I believe when you do something, it should be done right. The best place to learn how to do something the correct way, the first time, is to learn from those who have traveled that road before. I have found the greatest knowledge I have gleaned is from those with experience. I feel this conference would be a great way to network, learn, and ultimately assist in bringing an incredible program to the Lynden Fire Department. Which not only benefits our community, but our department. Thank you so much for your consideration, I look forward to seeing everyone in October.





## Code Corner

### State Building Code Council

The adoption of the 2021 cycle of State Codes has been further delayed until March 15<sup>th</sup> 2024. The State Building Code Council has accepted and re-submitted proposals for changes to the energy code to satisfy the concerns from stakeholders across the State.

- September 21 The emergency rule related to energy storage systems was refiled and will be effective until March 14<sup>th</sup>
- October 19<sup>th</sup> Public hearings on changes to the Energy Code on EPCA concerns were held; proposed rules are posted on the [Rulemaking page](#) under Off Cycle Rules.
- November 27<sup>th</sup> Wildland-Urban Interface: Proposed Changes: Please see the SBCC [Rulemaking Page](#) to view filings and [proposed draft language](#).
- November 29<sup>th</sup> The SBCC is currently deliberating the composition of the Technical Advisory Groups for the 2024 Code Cycle. Public input is welcome so please submit comments to the SBCC mailbox: [sbcc@des.wa.gov](mailto:sbcc@des.wa.gov).
- December 5<sup>th</sup> Adopted changes to the Energy Code for EPCA concerns – The CR103 forms should be filed by the end of the month. Drafts of the adopted changes are available here:  
Washington State Energy Code - [Commercial Provisions](#)  
Washington State Energy Code - [Residential Provisions](#)

#### 2024

- January 12<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing: International Residential Code – Written testimony submit to [sbcc@des.wa.gov](mailto:sbcc@des.wa.gov)  
[Oral Testimony Sign up Sheet](#) complete form and send to [sbcc@des.wa.gov](mailto:sbcc@des.wa.gov)
- January 19<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting



### ICC Codes – Traci Harvey

The 2027 I-Code cycle is wrapping up. cdpAccess will close to new code proposals on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The proposed changes to the I-Codes will be posted February 26<sup>th</sup> for viewing. At that point the Hearing process will start, the process this cycle is a bit different with 2 Committee Action Hearings instead of 1, more changes to modify proposals to gain committee approval.

#### 2024

- April 7<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Committee Action Hearing #1
- May 16<sup>th</sup> cdpAccess open for comment submittals to CAH#1 actions  
Web posting of Report of the Committee Action Hearing #1
- July 8<sup>th</sup> Deadline for cdpaccess online receipt of comments on CAH#1 actions
- September 5<sup>th</sup> Web posting of Comments to CAH#1
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Committee Action Hearing #2
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> Web posting of Report of the Committee Action Hearing #2

The Public Comment Hearing and Online Governmental Consensus Voting are slated for 2025. The Group B process will start when cdpAccess opens October 15, 2024.



**ICC Calendar of Events** Washington State Association of Fire Marshals is an ICC Chapter and as such we're here to give you the latest on what ICC is offering.

- January
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Building Membership Council Governing Committee Meeting
- February
  - 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> ICC Upper Great Plains Region III Educational Institute
  - 24<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup> EduCode

For details and registration: [Training - ICC](#)



## Upcoming Trainings: Washington State Association of Fire Marshals

### Monthly Webinar Series

The Monthly Webinar Series has been an ongoing success! 2024 will see some changes. After the January webinar the schedule will change to Wednesdays at 8:30am. The 90-minute courses will still be viewable live or later via the recording. Check the website for the full details of the 2024 lineup.

January 25	IFC 5306: Medical Gases
February 14	Flammable Refrigerants: The Evolving Code Impact
March 27	Fire Flow for Dummies
April 24	Not All Fire Sprinkler Systems are Created Equally
May 29	Commercial Cooking: Ventilation and Fire Control
June 26	Why Codes Matter
July 24	Carbon Monoxide
August 28	High-Piled Storage Commodity Classification
September 25	Pallet Storage
October 30	Appendix E, F, G, H of the International Fire Code
November 20	I-Code Approach to Hazardous Materials: Part I (Introduction)
December 18	I-Code Approach to Hazardous Materials: Part II (Real World Storage Rules)

Another change for the webinar series is that there will be a new, but not unfamiliar, presenter. We want to welcome and thank Rob Neale for taking on the webinar series for WSAFM.

### About the Presenter

Rob is the owner and principal of Integra Code Consultants, a Maryland-based firm that provides construction code consulting, plan review and training.

Previously, he was the International Code Council's Government Relations Vice President for National Fire Service Activities and Deputy Superintendent for the United States Fire Administration National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

He is the former Bellingham Fire Marshal and chief at Lynden/Whatcom County Fire District No. 3. If you have any questions, please Rob at [RNeale1951@Outlook.com](mailto:RNeale1951@Outlook.com)



## Rough and Final Inspection of Fire Sprinkler Systems

One Day Class

[January 10, 2024 - Spokane Area](#)

[January 11, 2024 - SeaTac](#)

08:00 – 16:00hrs

Presented by

National Fire Sprinkler Association

Locations:

### **January 10, 2024**

City of Spokane Fire

1618 N. Rebecca Street

Spokane, Washington 99212

Contact: Lance Dahl – [ildahl@me.com](mailto:ildahl@me.com) or 509-991-0700

### **January 11, 2024**

Puget Sound Fire

3521 S 170th Street

SeaTac, Washington 98188

Contact: Mike Six – [Michael.Six@ci.bremerton.wa.us](mailto:Michael.Six@ci.bremerton.wa.us) or 360-434-6406

Class Description:

This one-day course provides attendees with vital information on how to conduct the field inspections for new fire sprinkler and standpipe systems. Fire sprinklers and standpipes are installed in stages and inspections are required before commencing to the next stage. The codes require periodic on-site inspections as the work progresses, to be installed according to the approved construction documents. This work must be inspected and approved before being covered or before the system is commissioned. This course points out the visual and physical inspection requirements of the latest codes and standards.

**Attendees must bring a copy of NFPA 13, NFPA 14 and IBC or IFC to class.**

Cost:

WSAFM Members: \$125.00

NFSA Members: \$125.00 (email: [tmaloney@mfdrra.org](mailto:tmaloney@mfdrra.org) for the code)

Non-Members: \$200.00



## Washington Fire Chief's – Calendar of Events

- January
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 Commissioners & Chiefs Legislative Day
- March
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> EVIP 3.0 Virtual Training
- April
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> Fire & Life Safety Educator 1 With IFSAC Testing
  - 29<sup>th</sup> WFC Officer Education Conference 2024

For details and registration: [Event Calendar](#)



## State Fire Marshal's Office

Good Afternoon Washington State Fire Agencies,

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) in partnership with Underwriter Laboratory, Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) is in the process of developing the National Emergency Information Reporting System (NERIS). Last week they held a webinar titled, *Modernizing the U.S. Fire Data System: Understanding the Proposed NERIS Data Framework*. The on-demand recording is located [here](#).

**The feedback period on the Draft Data Framework starts today.** USFA and FSRI launched a 30-day national engagement period for NERIS's Draft Data Framework. The review period is December 18, 2023, and **concluding on January 19, 2024.**

During this vital engagement period, your valuable input is needed on the data schemas, which is foundational to the development of NERIS.

### About the Draft Core NERIS Data Framework and Schemas:

1. **Fire Department Specification:** Designed to characterize the capabilities and staffing of fire departments and communities they protect.
2. **Computer Aided Dispatch:** Designed to capture timing and location data as well as initial incident type designations.
3. **Incident Data:** Designed to ensure comprehensive and accurate capture of incident-specific details, enabling effective response and analysis.

To access the Draft Data Framework click [here](#).

### Who Should Participate?

Your perspective is crucial. We are reaching out to:

- emergency response professionals and administrators.
- software developers and data scientists in emergency response.
- public safety and emergency management officials.
- representatives from relevant government agencies, and
- interested members of the public.

### Your Input is Invaluable

Your feedback will play a crucial role in refining and enhancing [NERIS](#). Comments may be considered in the final NERIS Framework. For accessibility requests or any further assistance, please contact NERIS with questions at [NERIS@ul.org](mailto:NERIS@ul.org).

**Melissa Gannie**

**Assistant State Fire Marshal**

**State Fire Marshal's Office**



## Resources

There are many resources available at little to no cost to AHJs as well as to the public.

ICC has the current (and some historical) codes available online. There are limitations to what you can do with the codes, but they serve as a suitable location for reference. These are located at:

<https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/collections/I-Codes>

In addition, the State Building Code Council provides printable insert pages for the ICC Codes of the Washington State Amendments. These can be located at:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/sbcc/Page.aspx?nid=14>

Do you have a question on the code, or just want to be sure you have a consistent interpretation? We will be providing contacts of several members who participate in the National and State development of the Codes who can provide the information you need to make an informed code decision.

