



Washington State Patrol

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Serving Washington Since 1901

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Wildfire Response During a Pandemic Crisis

In the early spring of this year, the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group, based at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, tasked the three existing national Area Command Teams with developing guidelines for wildfire response during the COVID-19 pandemic. When the plan, titled "Wildland Fire Response Plan COVID-19 Pandemic, Northwest Geographic Area" (WFRP) was completed by Joe Stutler's Redmond, Oregon-based Area Command Team, the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Groups (PNWCG) went one step further, and tasked Pacific Northwest Team 3 (PNW3), led by Noel Livingston, Incident Commander, and Randy Johnson, Incident Commander-Trainee, with "putting a little more meat on the bone."

Key members of PNW3, along with a variety of experienced Type 2 and Type 3 team members from across Washington and Oregon evaluated the Area Command Team's guide, and developed the Northwest Incident Management Teams Recommended Best Practices Guide. The guide was reviewed and approved by the PNWCG steering committee on May 14, 2020, and is available on the NWCC website.

The purpose of this document is to provide information to Incident Management Teams (IMTs) as they modify their team Standard Operating Procedures in preparation for the most active period of the 2020 fire year in the Pacific Northwest (PNW). It is designed to tier to the WFRP and help both IMTs and Agency Administrators adjust their procedures to the current situation.

State Mobilization incidents will follow the WFRP and the Northwest Best Practices Guide to the fullest extent possible, in cooperation with the Washington Department of Natural Resources and our federal land management partners.

For more information on the WFRP or the Northwest Best Practices Guide, contact Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Bill Slosson at (360) 596-3928 or william.slosson@wsp.wa.gov.

2020 Prevention Division by the Numbers

	Total
IFSAC Certificates Issued:	498
Haz Mat Students Trained:	24
Mobilization Trainings Delivered:	4
Responses to Mobilization:	2
Inspections Conducted:	481
Initial Reinspections:	291
Fire & Life Safety Training Sessions for Facilities:	25
Fire & Life Safety Plan Reviews for Schools:	69
Plan Reviews for Contracted Projects:	28
Sprinkler Licenses Issued:	455
Certificates of Competency Issued:	1036
Sprinkler Fitter Certificates Issued:	1968
Fireworks Licenses Issued:	897
Sprinkler Demonstrations Conducted:	0
Sprinkler Trainings Delivered:	13

2020 Fire Training Division by the Numbers

	Students
Weekday Recruit Academy:	37
Weekend Recruit Academy:	0
Fire Service Open Enrollment Courses:	192
Marine Courses:	92
Fire Service Department Training:	753
Regional Direct Delivery Training:	288
Regional Direct Delivery Recruit Academy:	36
National Fire Academy Training:	136
Law Enforcement/Military/ Other Training:	85



A Message from the State Fire Marshal

July 1, 2020, marks the 25th anniversary of the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) being legislatively transferred to the Washington State Patrol (WSP). Since joining the WSP in 1995, there have been many accomplishments. Some of highlights include:

- The construction of a new dormitory and kitchen/dining hall at the Fire Training Academy.
- The addition of the Basic Firefighter Training Reimbursement, Regional Direct Delivery, and Fire Safe Cigarette Certification programs
- Accreditation awarded on 21 levels through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.
- The continuation of plan review and inspection services of state funded public school construction projects, and plan review services provided through contractual agreement with local jurisdictions.
- The success of the All-Risk Mobilization program, as it continues to provide personnel, equipment, and other logistical resources when a wildland fire or other emergency exceeds the firefighting capacity of local jurisdictions.

This quarter has been full of changes and challenges as we all adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic impacts in our daily lives. Teleworking has been implemented within the State Fire Marshal's Office in accordance with Governor Inslee's Stay Home Stay Healthy directives. Our team has been effectively carrying out our program responsibilities, with some modifications and delays in services. The articles in this publication will address many of the adjustments that have had to be made over the past few months. Our contact information is listed on the last page of this document, so please reach out if you need assistance.

The budgetary impacts of the global pandemic will have an effect on the SFMO service delivery in the upcoming fiscal year, which starts today. At this time, the Washington State Patrol is awaiting further direction from the Washington State Office of Financial Management on those impacts. We will continue to provide information, as it becomes available. As recently as the past week, we were notified of the implementation of furloughs, which apply to the majority of our staff. The furlough period at this time has been identified as July 1 through November 30. Our dedicated employees will do their best to assist you with your program needs, however, there may be some delays.

With wildfire season upon us, operations and safety measures will also look and feel different during response to a Mobilization. The Fire Defense Committee has been carefully reviewing and developing guidelines for local fire agencies and Incident Management Teams during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing and enhanced use of Personal Protective Equipment will be implemented. This very fluid situation requires flexibility and adaptability. We are hopeful that the fire service will continue to provide personnel and apparatus through the All-Risk Mobilization program.

We thank you for your support and ask for your patience as we navigate through this difficult time. Stay safe and healthy!

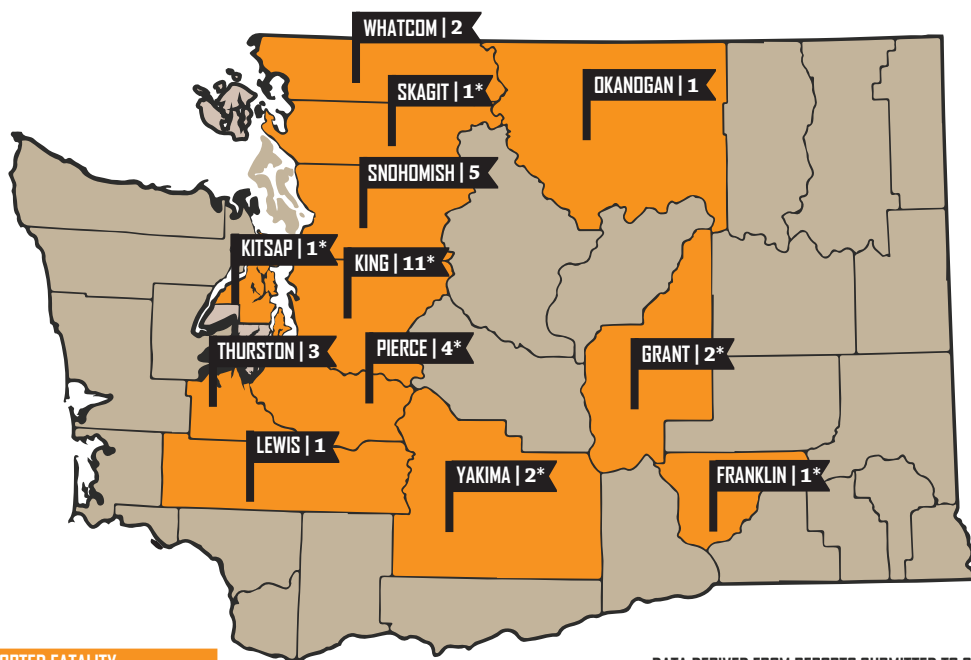
WASHINGTON RESIDENTIAL FIRE FATALITY STATISTICS

JAN - JUNE 2020



13%

INCREASE FROM JAN-JUNE 2019



DATA DERIVED FROM REPORTS SUBMITTED TO SFMD, CURRENT AS OF 6/18/2020

* Pending Medical Examiner Reports, numbers subject to change

THE MAJORITY OF FIRE FATALITIES HAPPEN DURING THE DAY



6pm - 6am

38%



6am - 6pm

62%

PROPERTY USE



- 13** SINGLE FAMILY
- 9** MOBILE HOME/RV
- 3** MANUFACTURED HOME
- 3** STORAGE
- 6** MULTI-FAMILY

SMOKE ALARMS



- 11** PRESENT (2 OPERATED, 4 DID NOT OPERATE, 5 UNKNOWN)
- 7** NOT PRESENT
- 15** UNKNOWN

FIRE FATALITIES BY AGE & GENDER

50% MALE



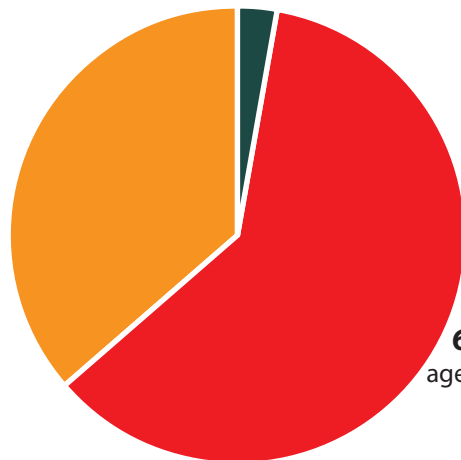
50% FEMALE



36%
age 65+

3%
age 6-14

61%
age 25-64



State Fire Marshal's Office Personnel Updates



On April 13, 2020, Mr. Josh Holbrook joined the Fire Training Division as a Maintenance Mechanic 2. Josh spent the last 6 years as an automotive technician. He has experience with diesel equipment and engine maintenance. Previously, Josh also spent time as a Conductor Engineer for railroads in Eastern Washington.



On June 8, 2020, Mr. Robert Wittenberg joined the Fire Prevention Division as Deputy State Fire Marshal - Public Information and Community Risk Reduction Officer. Robert has a background in home inspections, broadcast television, and volunteer fire service.

It is with deep sorrow that the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) announces the passing of two Fire Training Academy (FTA) staff members: Bob Jones and Darrell Orndorff.



Bob Jones joined the SFMO after retiring as Fire Chief from the Raymond Fire Department and was a staple at the FTA for over 30 years. Bob served in the Fire Training, Safety and Officers Section of the Washington Fire Chiefs and was a member of the governor-appointed Fire Protection Policy Board. During his tenure as a Vocational Education Program Specialist and Deputy State Fire Marshal, he was involved in many programs at the FTA. He also oversaw the Fire Investigation program for a short time and contributed to the Fire Mobilization program.



Darrell Orndorff held many titles in his 12 plus years with the FTA, including Drillmaster, Vocational Education Program Specialist, and Acting Administrator. Some of Darrell's most impactful contributions to the FTA were his involvement in the construction of the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting prop and the first recipient of the Bulldog Award. He received the award because he embodied the attitude of a "Bulldog" with courage, dependability, flexibility, integrity, good judgement, and respect for others. Darrell's legacy lives on, as the Bulldog Award continues to be presented to one individual during every Recruit Academy.

The SFMO grieves the passing of these tremendous individuals and the loss to their families. Both men will be sorely missed, and remembered as true leaders among the Washington State Fire Service for the many impacts they had within the fire training community.



Start of Weekday Recruit Academy 20-02

On May 7, 2020, fifteen firefighter recruits started a 12-week Recruit Academy that meets National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications at the Firefighter I and Firefighter II, and NFPA 1072 at the Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations levels. The recruits will learn fire service principles through classroom instruction and rigorous hands-on, live-fire training. The following fire departments and districts are represented in Recruit Academy 20-02:

Company Officer

Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue, Firefighter Drew Perry,

Recruits

South Kitsap Fire and Rescue, Matthew Bryant
South Kitsap Fire and Rescue, Chris Buczkowski
Douglas County Fire District # 2, Donn Etherington III
South Kitsap Fire and Rescue, Rebecca Heiner
Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue, Trey Helgeson
Port of Portland, Andrew Ikemoto
Redmond Fire Department, Quinn Kesselring
South Kitsap Fire and Rescue, Michael LaBadie III
King County Fire District # 27, Dylan Lindberg
South Kitsap Fire and Rescue, Cole Mason
Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue, Seth Meredith
South Kitsap Fire and Rescue, Brandon Neal
North Mason Regional Fire Authority, Antonio Summerlin
Port of Portland, Michael Steven Torralba Molion
Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue, Kris Vanicek

Is Your Department Reporting to the National Fire Incident Reporting System?

In 2019, 67% of Washington’s fire agencies reported over 821,000 incidents to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Fire incidents alone accounted for 1 fire every 22 minutes, nearly \$218 million in total property and contents loss, and the loss of 54 Washingtonian’s lives.



Reporting your incident data to NFIRS allows you to:

- Measure current performance
- Identify areas of improvement and training opportunities
- Set realistic goals
- Plan development and implementation strategies
- Justify budget requests and obtain grant funding

There are many free reporting options available, such as the Data Entry Browser Interface (DEBI), which will soon be mobile-compatible, or the Washington EMS Information System (WEMSIS) State Bridge. The State Fire Marshal’s Office and the United States Fire Administration also have reporting resources available on their websites.

If you have questions about reporting to NFIRS, or would like to start reporting and need assistance, please contact to the NFIRS Coordinator, Ms. Alicia Causey, at (360) 596-3924 or NFIRS@wsp.wa.gov.

Use Data to Tell Your Story

National Fire Protection Association 1300 Community Profiles



NFIRS

IS YOUR DEPARTMENT REPORTING?

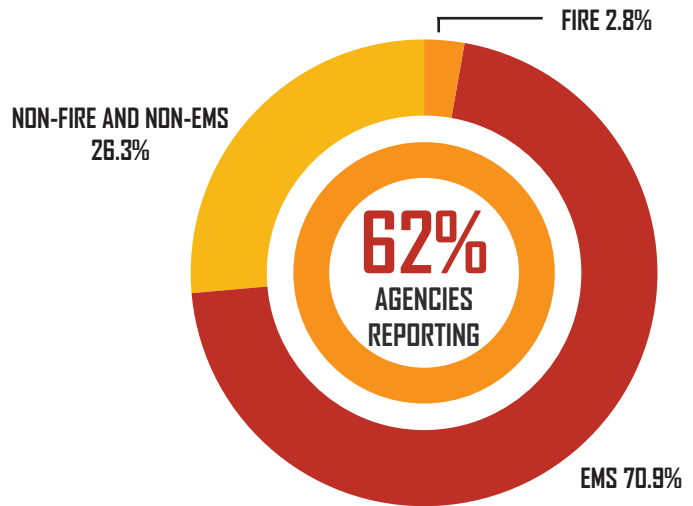
* As of 6/2/2020

INCIDENT REPORTING DATA

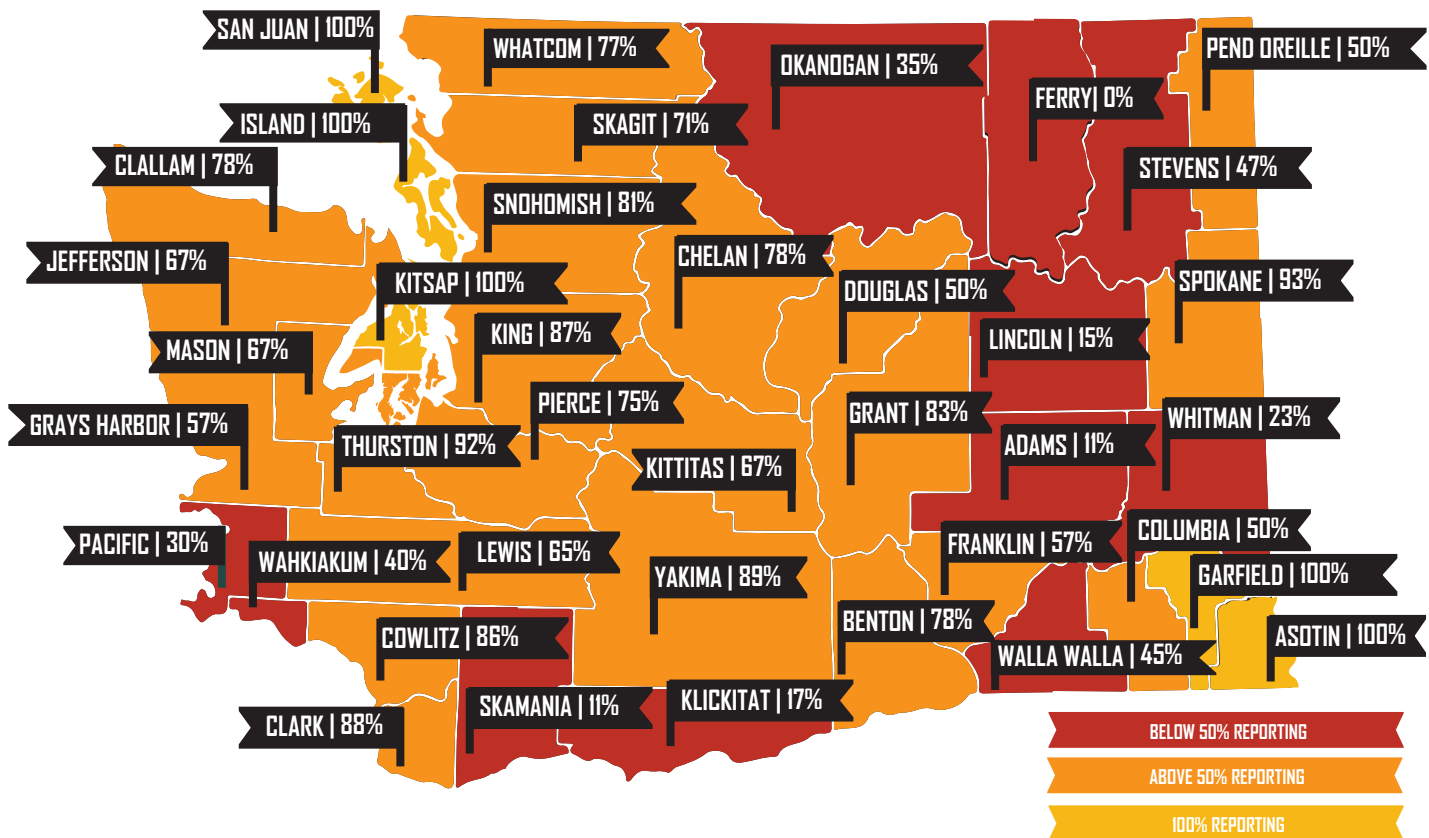
INCIDENT COUNTS

FIRE:	6,965
EMS:	177,266
NON-FIRE/EMS:	65,784
<hr/>	
TOTAL REPORTED:	250,015

INCIDENT TYPES



PERCENTAGE OF AGENCIES REPORTING TO NFIRS PER COUNTY



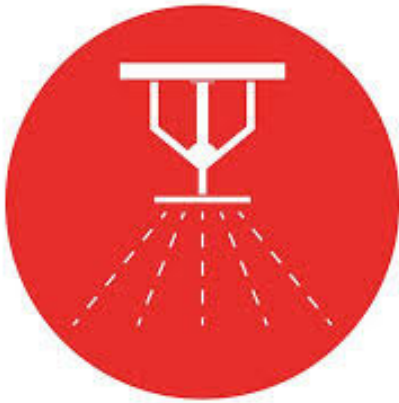
Firefighter Certification Carries on During Pandemic

Registration and processing of certification exams continues throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Some services may be delayed due to certain workplace restrictions, however, SFMO staff continue to ensure minimal impact to our fire service partners.

Agencies conducting certification exams during the pandemic should follow their local public health agency's guidelines for social distancing. Organizations needing to reschedule exam sessions, or needing additional guidance should contact the Certification Program at (360) 596-3945 or ifsacquestions@wsp.wa.gov.

Fire Sprinkler and Fireworks Licensing and Certification

The SFMO is committed to ensuring the licensing and certification of the fire sprinkler and fireworks industries. Processing of licensing and certification applications will continue throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Some services may be delayed due to certain workplace restrictions.



Certification exams for Journey and Residential Fitters, Level 1 and U Certificate of Competency holders, and Pyrotechnic Operators are on temporary hiatus. There is currently no estimated date to resume conducting certification exams. Both the fireworks and fire sprinkler industries are still required to be licensed and certified to comply with applicable RCWs and WACs. Licensing staff remain in contact with those affected by the testing hiatus. Individuals needing additional guidance should contact the Licensing Section at (360) 596-3946, firesprinkler@wsp.wa.gov, or fireworks@wsp.wa.gov.



Updated Fireworks Materials Available Online

Updated Celebrate Safely Campaign materials are available for download! Fire and law enforcement agencies can contact the Licensing Section at (360) 596-3946, or fireworks@wsp.wa.gov to request access to the secure site.

**Celebrate Safely -
Be Prepared!
Be Safe!
Be Responsible!**

Developing and Implementing a Continuity of Operations Plan

Continuity of Operations (COOP), as defined by the National Continuity Policy Implementation Plan, is an effort by individual departments and agencies to ensure that essential functions can be carried out during a wide range of emergencies.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), “Continuity planning is simply the good business practice of ensuring the execution of essential functions and a fundamental duty of public and private entities responsible to their stakeholders.”

Social and workplace restrictions put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic tested many organizations’ ability to implement their COOP. Developing your agency’s COOP isn’t as daunting a task as it may sound. A good starting point is to identify your organization’s essential functions, who will do them, where will they do them, and what are the tools they need?

Web-based training is available through FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute, IS-1300 Introduction to Continuity of Operations. You can also get more information by going to www.fema.gov/about/org/ncp/coop/planning/shtm or contacting the FEMA Region X office at (425) 482-3721.



2020 Fire Prevention Week Theme Announced!

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) announced “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen” as the theme for Fire Prevention Week (FPW), October 4-10, 2020. Home cooking fires were the leading known cause of fires in Washington last year, causing 12 civilian injuries and \$7.2 million in loss. It is currently tied with home heating as the leading known cause in 2020, with one fatality, two civilian injuries, and four firefighter injuries.

Key messages for this year’s campaign include:

- Keep a close eye on what you’re cooking; never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep anything that can catch fire, i.e., oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains, at least three feet away from your stovetop.
- Be on alert. If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don’t use the stove or stovetop.

NFPA has been the official sponsor of FPW for over 90 years. For more information about FPW and this year’s theme, please visit www.fpw.org.

Deployment of New eNFIRS Suite Delayed Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

The long-anticipated deployment of the new eNFIRS Suite, originally slated to take place in March, has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The United States Fire Administration's (USFA) new deployment target is now October 2020, but will be subject to change depending on national emergency response needs.

This is a major system update, and it will cause the national level NFIRS system and all reporting tools to be unavailable for a period of time. Currently, USFA estimates that the deployment will take roughly a week before it will be fully online and available for use. The SFMO's NFIRS Coordinator will be relaying any news or changes as soon as possible to those who use the current free NFIRS reporting tools that USFA provides.



COVID-19 Special Study

USFA implemented the COVID-19 Special Study in order to collect and analyze data related to fire and emergency response during the COVID-19 pandemic. USFA and the NFIRS Support Center recommend that all NFIRS-participating agencies participate in the Special Study, and if possible, to go back and amend past reports to include the special study information.

Nationwide, 4,796 fire agencies in 46 states are participating in the Special Study, with a total of 100,316 incidents where COVID-19 was either confirmed or suspected. For more information on the Special Study at a national level, please visit USFA's COVID-19 Dashboard.

As of May 28, 2020, 190 Washington fire agencies have reported a total of 26,543 incidents with Special Study data. Among these incidents, 564 Fire Service Injury exposure reports have indicated that COVID-19 was suspected or confirmed at the incident.

Special Study Code	Number of Incidents	Percentage
1 - Yes, COVID-19 was suspected	1,506	5.67%
2 - Yes, COVID-19 was confirmed	276	1.04%
3 - No, COVID-19 was not a factor	19,102	71.97%
4 - Unknown	5,659	21.32%
TOTAL	26,543	100%

If you have questions about the COVID-19 Special Study, or need to know how you can participate or other as-sistance, please contact the NFIRS Coordinator, Ms. Alicia Causey, at (360) 596-3924 or NFIRS@wsp.wa.gov.

Waivers for Healthcare Facilities During COVID-19

Due to COVID-19, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has suspended on-site inspections of licensed healthcare facilities they regulate. As a result, the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is not conducting the normally scheduled fire and life safety surveys/inspections in those facilities.

The SFMO conducts these federal CMS fire and life safety inspections in cooperation with the licensing agencies, Department of Health and Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). When federal inspections are conducted, the 2012 NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (LSC) is enforced.

During COVID-19, CMS has implemented some temporary blanket waivers for healthcare facilities. The SFMO has received several questions from facilities on the waivers below:

Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance (ITM) of Fire and Life Safety Systems in Healthcare Facilities

The Code of Federal Regulations requires hospitals, critical care hospitals, inpatient hospice, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, skilled nursing facilities, and nursing facilities to be in compliance with the LSC and Health Care Facilities Code (HCFC). CMS is temporarily modifying these provisions to the extent necessary to permit these facilities to adjust scheduled ITM frequencies and activities required by the LSC and HCFC.

The following LSC and HCFC ITM are considered critical and are NOT included in this waiver:

- Sprinkler system monthly electric motor-driven and weekly diesel engine-driven fire pump testing.
- Portable fire extinguisher monthly inspection.
- Elevators with firefighters' emergency operations monthly testing.
- Emergency generator 30 continuous minute monthly testing and associated transfer switch monthly testing.
- Means of egress daily inspection in areas that have undergone construction, repair, alterations, or additions to ensure its ability to be used instantly in case of an emergency.

Facilities are required to ensure their systems are in operational condition at all times. Should there be a system failure, the facility is required to report failure to the DSHS hotline, notify local Authority Having Jurisdiction, implement fire watch if necessary, and schedule repairs immediately.

Fire Drills

Due to the inadvisability of quarterly fire drills that move and mass staff together, CMS will instead permit a documented orientation training program related to the current fire plan, which considers current facility conditions. The training will instruct employees, including existing, new or temporary employees, on their current duties, life safety procedures, and the fire protection devices in their assigned area. Refer to: 2012 LSC, sections 18/19.7.1.6.

All waivers are available in their entirety at the following website:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/summary-covid-19-emergency-declaration-waivers.pdf>

If you have any questions, concerns, or need further clarification on any of the blanket waivers, please contact CDSFM Mary Valladares at (360) 791-6479 or mary.valladares@wsp.wa.gov.

Inspection Trends in Technological Advances with Fire Alarm Communication Systems

In recent years, the SFMO has seen an upward trend in technological advances especially when it comes to fire alarm communication systems. Historically, the primary means of transmitting the status of a fire alarm system to a supervising station has been through the use of a Plain Old Telephone System (POTS) line with an approved means for secondary notification. Due to the continued improvement of telecommunication technologies and adoption of the 2013 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72, the use of Internet Protocol (IP) systems for the primary or secondary means of Fire Alarm Control Panel communications has seen a steep increase in usage. Though there are numerous advantages to using IP systems for fire alarm communications, the SFMO when completing inspections has seen that there are some specific concerns with using these systems.

NFPA 72-26.6.3.1.15.1 (2) requires any fire alarm transmitter that is sharing on-premises communications equipment, to have a secondary power supply capacity of 24 hours.

For these systems that depend on a functioning internet connection, a loss of normal electricity will cut off power to the modem or router, severing the connection to the internet and rendering the Fire Alarm transmitter and communications system useless. In the event of an extended power outage, when primary power is interrupted and the data equipment does not have the required 24-hour secondary power, it cannot be ensured that a fire alarm signal will be transmitted to the Supervising Station.

The SFMO wants to bring this to your attention since we have seen this trend in the facilities that we inspect. If you have any questions regarding our inspections or other trends please contact the SFMO, Plan Review section at (360) 596-3911.

Plan Review Services

The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office provides plan review and site inspection services contractually to any and all local jurisdictions that may not have the trained staff, time, availability, or the resources to provide these functions. For information on these programs, call (360) 596-3948 or visit <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire-inspection-plan-review/>.



Upcoming Events and Trainings

[Aug 13 – Nov 6: Weekday Recruit Academy 20-03](#)
North Bend, WA - Fire Training Academy

[Aug 8 – Nov 1: Weekend Recruit Academy 20-05](#)
North Bend, WA - Fire Training Academy

[Sept 14-19: Fire Officer I](#)
North Bend, WA - Fire Training Academy

[Oct 13: Introduction to Fire Sprinkler Systems](#)
Webinar

[Oct 13: NFPA 25 Overview](#)
Webinar

[Oct 14: Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances](#)
Webinar

[Oct 14: NFPA 25 Step by Step Testing](#)
Webinar

[Oct 17-18, 24-25: Fire Instructor I](#)
North Bend, WA - Fire Training Academy

REGISTRATION OPEN!
[October 19-23: Fire Prevention Institute](#)
Chelan, WA - Campbell's Conference Center

Many NFA classes have been cancelled or rescheduled due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements. The full FTA calendar is available [here](#). The full fire sprinkler training calendar is available [here](#).

State Fire Marshal's Program Contacts

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