

# FIRE WATCH



AUGUST 2025

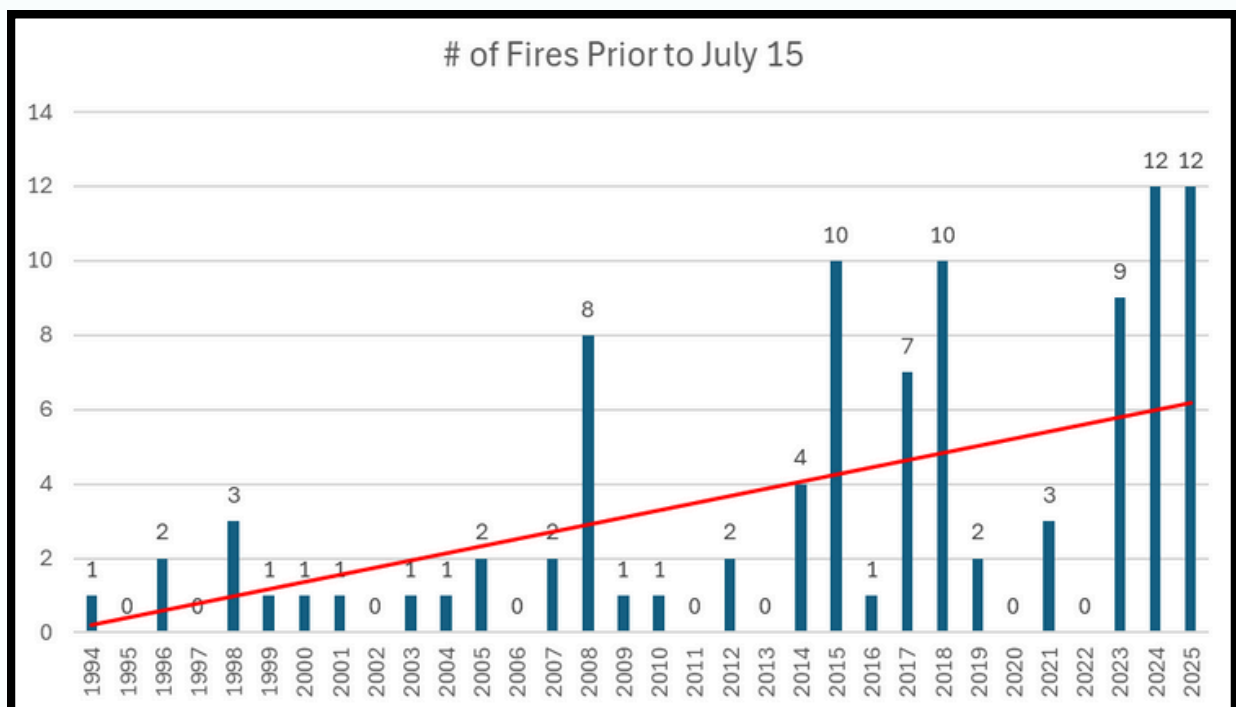
# 2025 Fire Season Off to a Fast Start for Mobilization Program

The 2025 fire season has started quickly for the All-Hazard Mobilization Program. As of July 15, there were twelve mobilizations for wildfires, spread across the state, from Spokane and Asotin Counties in the northeast and southeast corners, over to Belfair in Mason County and Brinnon in Jefferson County. Since inception of the program in 1992, the average number of wildfires before July 15 needing assistance from State Mobilization is three.

The following counties have had fires authorized for Mobilization so far:

- Asotin (Evans Road)
- Chelan (Apple Acres)
- Columbia (Highway 261)
- Jefferson (Belgian)
- Kittitas (Red Bridge Road)
- Lincoln (Western Pines)
- Mason (Toonerville)
- Okanogan (Greenacres)
- Spokane (Siegel)
- Stevens (Hope)
- Walla Walla (Vansycle Canyon and Barstow Road)

Though specific causes have not been determined for most of these incidents, natural causes (lightning) have been ruled out for all of them. Property owners can help prevent wildfires by following all outdoor burning and campfire restrictions and bans, using fireworks only when it is legal and safe to do so, and maintaining spark arrestors on recreational equipment like dirt bikes and side-by-sides. As the summer recreational season picks up, it's also important to inspect and maintain wheel bearings on boat and travel trailers, and make sure trailer chains are the appropriate length and not dragging on the pavement, creating sparks that can start wildfires.





# Wildfire Weather Takes Its Toll



Evans Road Fire, photo courtesy of Idaho Department of Lands



Apple Acres Fire, photo courtesy of Wenatchee Valley Fire Department



Belgian Fire, photo courtesy of East Jefferson Fire and Rescue





Red Bridge Road Fire, photo courtesy of Kittitas County Fire District 7



Western Pines Fire, photo courtesy of NE WA Interagency Type 3 IMT



Toonerville Fire, photo courtesy of Mason County Emergency Management





Greenacres Fire, photo courtesy of One Source News



Siegel Fire, photo courtesy of Spokane County Emergency Management



Hope Fire, photo courtesy of Iris Gardner



Vansycle Canyon Fire, photo courtesy of DNR



Barstow Road Fire, photo courtesy of Walla Walla County Fire District 8

Under [RCW 43.43.961](#), the Fire Service Resource Mobilization Plan is implemented to provide personnel, equipment, and other logistical resources when a wildland fire or other emergency exceeds the firefighting capacity of local jurisdictions. For more information, please email: [FPBMobilizationSec@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:FPBMobilizationSec@wsp.wa.gov).

## **Clean Energy Research & Training Unit (CERT)**

The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is excited to announce the formation of the Clean Energy Research & Training Unit (CERT). The Washington State Legislature provided project funding for the 2025-2027 biennium to support a work unit focused on Clean Energy Technologies and the assessment of new hazards presented as the state of Washington moves toward a renewable energy future. The CERT unit will consist of subject matter experts familiar with renewable energy, energy storage, HAZMAT, and emergency response. The team will consist of a Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal and three Deputy State Fire Marshals as statewide resources. One Deputy State Fire Marshal will be based in Spokane and the remainder of the team in Olympia.

The CERT unit will research and evaluate new and evolving clean energy technologies and the impacts they have on responders and the environment. The goal will be to identify equipment, PPE, and regulatory gaps and areas of need to provide support to local fire and law enforcement partners. Please contact the team should you have an incident that we can learn from as well if you have a project in your jurisdiction needing review support.

Please feel free to contact the SFMO with any questions or concerns.



# Data Submission Reminder

**Final Date for NFIRS: Jan. 31, 2026**

The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is urging all Washington fire departments to complete their National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data entry prior to the program's sunset on January 31, 2026. As the U.S. Fire Administration transitions from NFIRS to the new National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), it is critical that departments ensure their incident reporting is accurate, complete, and submitted on time. Departments should not wait until the final deadline to finalize their data. Early completion reduces the risk of data loss, reporting discrepancies, and compliance issues with local, state, or federal reporting requirements.

## Key Reminders:

- NFIRS data must be submitted through the eNFIRS system by January 31, 2026.
- Fire departments transitioning early to NERIS should ensure that all NFIRS data is complete and submitted up to the point they begin reporting in the new system.

Departments that have already begun reporting in NERIS should not continue submitting reports in NFIRS unless specifically required by a local or state mandate. Once a department transitions to NERIS, all NFIRS data up to the transition date should be fully entered and submitted to the state level.

Whether departments need to export their data from eNFIRS before the January 31, 2026 deadline depends on their current records retention practices. If a department already maintains incident records locally—such as through a records management system (RMS)—and this process aligns with their established retention policy, then the necessary data is likely already preserved. However, if the department does not currently retain incident data outside of the United States Fire Administration's eNFIRS platform, it will be necessary to export that information and store it securely in a locally accessible format before the sunset date. Fire departments are strongly encouraged to review their records retention policies and coordinate with their IT or administrative teams to ensure all required data is properly stored and accessible after the NFIRS system is retired.

## Take Action Now:

- Audit your current NFIRS data for completeness.
- Coordinate with your records management or IT team regarding local data storage.
- Set internal deadlines to complete all NFIRS reporting well before January 31, 2026.
- Contact the SFMO or your local NFIRS program manager if you have questions about data submission or export.

The timely and accurate reporting of fire incidents is essential for understanding community risk, allocating resources, and shaping future fire prevention strategies. The SFMO appreciates your continued efforts during this national reporting system transition.

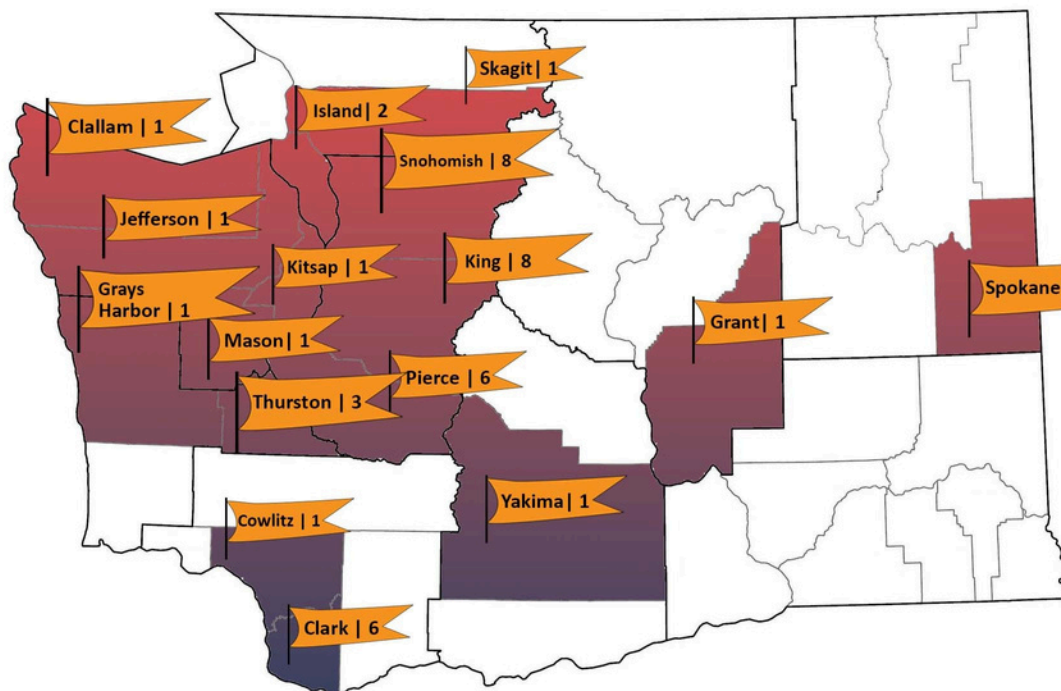
For more guidance or assistance, please contact:

NFIRS@wsp.wa.gov or visit <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfirs/sunset/>



# Washington Fire Fatality Statistics

January 1 – June 30, 2025



44

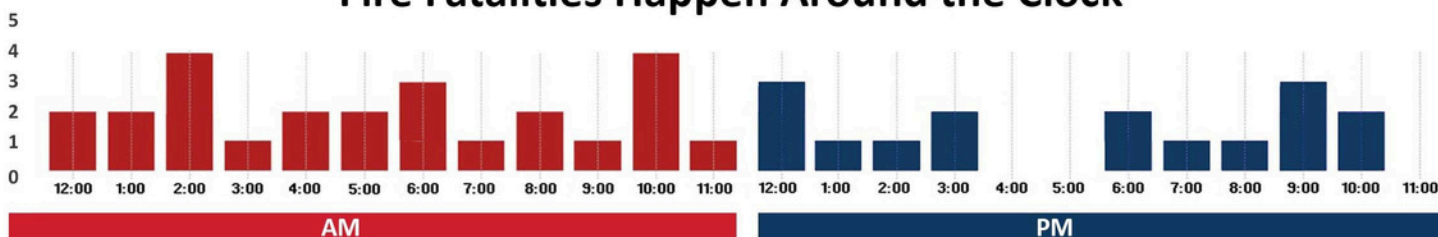
22%

INCREASE

in fatalities YTD compared to 36 by end of June, 2024

Data is derived from reports submitted to SFMO from outside departments and their respective investigators. Subject to change as more information becomes available.

## Fire Fatalities Happen Around the Clock \*



\*3 fatalities were reported without a specific time.

## Property Use:

Single Family Homes - 12  
RV/Motor Homes - 8  
Outdoor - 6  
Multi-family Homes - 6  
Vehicle/Transport - 4  
Manufactured Homes - 4  
Garage - 3  
Commercial - 1



## Smoke Alarms:

Unknown/Unavailable - 16  
Alarm Not Present - 16  
Alarm Present - 12

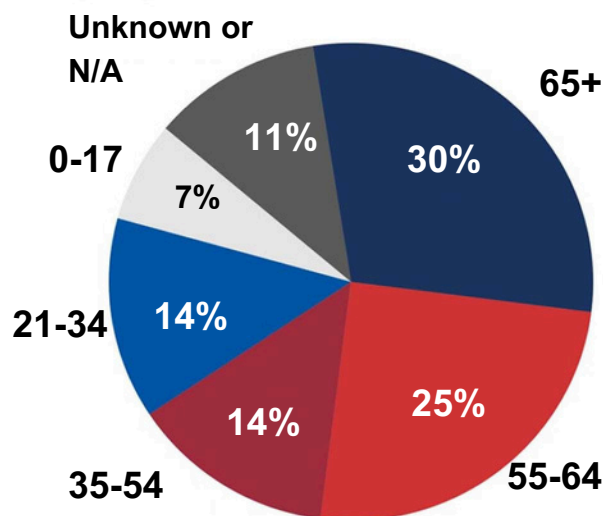


## Fire Fatalities by Age and Gender:

68%  
Male



32%  
Female





## Recent Inspection Findings

A local care facility was fully evacuated after a strong chemical odor and smoke were detected in the kitchen. Emergency services directed staff to move all residents from both North and South Units to a designated evacuation site across the street. The evacuation, assisted by staff, family members, and community partners, was completed in 18 minutes.

Firefighters traced the source to smoldering cleaning and mopping pads stored in a chemical closet within the kitchen. While no flames were present, the smoldering materials produced significant smoke. The fire department cleared the hazard, ventilated the building, and confirmed it was safe for residents to return. Residents were monitored for five days for any respiratory concerns, and all families were notified.

This incident serves as a reminder of the importance of proper cleaning and storage practices for mopping pads and other chemical-related materials. Establishing and practicing an evacuation plan is critical to mitigating risk and ensuring staff and residents respond appropriately in the event of an emergency,

## Residential Fire Sprinkler Trailer Demonstrations

The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) offers a free, interactive outreach opportunity with its Residential Fire Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer. This mobile unit provides a compelling demonstration showcasing the speed and effectiveness of fire sprinkler systems in controlling fires. It is an impactful way to educate your community on home fire safety in a controlled and safe environment. Recently, SFMO staff participated in Grays Harbor County Emergency Management's Emergency Preparedness EXPO as pictured below. To request the trailer for your event, complete the reservation form and email it to [fpbbpio@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:fpbbpio@wsp.wa.gov).

Request the trailer here:  
[Reservation Form](#)



# Education and Outreach Opportunities

## Free Online Sprinkler Training Available

Enhance your knowledge with our free online sprinkler system training courses, available now. These sessions are designed to help you better understand system components, inspection requirements, and maintenance essentials. The remaining courses have been adjusted to allow additional participants, so please check again for any courses that may have previously been full.

Register here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4AADAD2CA0FCC16-54319122-introduction#/>

## Community Risk Reduction

The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is working to offer Community Risk Reduction (CRR) courses throughout the state. We are in the process of identifying local partners, hosts and venues for a variety of one, two, and six day in-field classes that will be offered for free under an Fire Prevention and Safety Grant. There are free online courses offered by the National Fire Academy (NFA) which provide a basis of understanding of what the Community Risk Reduction planning process looks like. They will serve as the basis of knowledge for which the in field classes will build upon.

We encourage every firefighter, prevention practitioner, and fire service leader in the state to familiarize themselves with what CRR is— and what it is not, by taking these online courses. Each one takes about five hours to complete, and will result in NFA credits for training purposes.

Introduction to Strategic Community Risk Reduction (Q0841) is an online self-study course that empowers the learner with basic understanding of what constitutes a strategic CRR process. The course takes students approximately five hours to complete.

<https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details/10802>

Introduction to Community Risk Assessments (Q0843) is an online self-study course that provides fundamental knowledge of how to perform a basic community risk assessment. The course takes students approximately five hours to complete.

<https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details/10807>







*The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office,  
South Kitsap Fire & Rescue, and the Washington Public Fire Educators*  
Supported Training

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY OFF – CAMPUS NO COST COURSE

**Best Practices in Community Risk Reduction (F0635)** is a 2-day course that demonstrates nationally recognized principles that, when used appropriately, can lead to community risk-reduction programs that can measure success in local communities. This course will give students the opportunity to explore programs from communities across the United States that have been showcased at Vision 20/20 symposiums. These programs demonstrate what nationally recognized organizations identify as examples of “best practices” in community risk reduction. At the end of the course, students will be evaluated through a 25-question, multiple-choice examination. A final grade will be provided to each student. The minimum score needed to pass is 70.

- DATE:** August 11 and August 12, 2025
- TIME:** 0800-1700 hours each day
- LOCATION:** South Kitsap Fire and Rescue Station 31, 200 Tremont Ave, Port Orchard, WA 98366
- PREREQUISITES:** Pre-course assignment [https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/ax/pcm/pcm\\_f0635.pdf](https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/ax/pcm/pcm_f0635.pdf)  
ICS-100-level ([Q0462](#)) and ICS-200-level ([Q0463](#))
- MATERIALS:** Course Syllabus, Pre-course Assignment, Bring Your Own Device
- LUNCH:** Coffee and water will be available (lunch not provided)
- STUDENT ID's:** Registration requires an identification number obtained online at:  
<https://cdp.dhs.gov/FEMASID>
- REGISTRATION:** [State Fire Marshal's Office: Community Risk Reduction](#)  
Contact for questions: [courtney.chambers@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:courtney.chambers@wsp.wa.gov)
- LOCAL CONTACT:** Trace Richard, Community Risk Reduction Specialist, South Kitsap Fire & Rescue  
(E) [trichard@skr.org](mailto:trichard@skr.org) (P) 360-895-6512



*The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office, Spokane Fire Department, and the Washington Public Fire Educators*

**Supported Training**

**NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY OFF – CAMPUS COURSE**

**Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist (F0633)** is a two-day course based on the requirements of NFPA Standard 1035 pertaining to the Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist. The course focuses on how identification, intake, screening, disposition, and follow-up are used to mitigate youth firesetting behavior. Course content includes how the impact of adverse childhood experiences and behavioral/mental health challenges can influence firesetting behaviors. This course is for the practitioner who provides services at the program delivery level.

**DATE:** September 15 and September 16, 2025

**TIME:** 0800-1700 hours each day

**LOCATION:** Spokane County Fire District 10 - 929 S. Garfield Road, Airway Heights, WA 99001

**FEE:** There is NO COST for this course

**PREREQUISITES:** Pre-course assignment. Bring your device (BYOD)

**MATERIALS:** BYOD Instructions Student Manual

**LUNCH:** Coffee, snacks and water will be available (lunch not provided)

**STUDENT ID's:** Registration requires an identification number obtained online at:  
<https://cdp.dhs.gov/FEMASID>

**REGISTRATION:** State Fire Marshal's Office: Community Risk Reduction- NFA Courses

**CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS:** [courtney.chambers@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:courtney.chambers@wsp.wa.gov)

Include student name, SID, department

**LOCAL CONTACT:** ~~Jamie McIntyre~~, Spokane Fire Department  
E: [jmcintyre@spokanefire.org](mailto:jmcintyre@spokanefire.org) P: (509) 625-7058





*The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office,  
Spokane Fire Department, and  
the Washington Public Fire Educators*

**Supported Training NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY OFF – CAMPUS COURSE  
Youth Firesetting Interviewing and Educational Intervention Strategies (F0621)** is a two-day

course

that provides students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform an interview/screening and develop an educational intervention program for identified youth exhibiting fire misuse behaviors. The course addresses how to establish and implement these strategies to meet the needs of these youths and their families. Participants will learn how to interview youth who have

engaged

in high-risk behaviors such as youth firesetting (YFS) or experimentation with incendiary/explosive devices. Participants will also learn how to provide educational intervention options for simple and complex youth firesetting situations.

**DATE:** September 17 and September 18, 2025

**TIME:** 0800-1700 hours each day

**LOCATION:** Spokane County Fire District 10 - 929 S. Garfield Road, Airway Heights, WA 99001

**FEE:** There is **NO COST** for this course

**PREREQUISITES:** Pre-course assignment. Bring your device (BYOD)

**MATERIALS:** BYOD Instructions Student Manual

Coffee, snacks and water will be available (lunch not provided)

**LUNCH:** Registration requires an identification number obtained online at:

**STUDENT ID's:** <https://cdp.dhs.gov/FEMASID>

**REGISTRATION:** [State Fire Marshal's Office: Community Risk Reduction- NFA Courses](#)

**CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS:** [courtney.chambers@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:courtney.chambers@wsp.wa.gov)

Include student name, SID,  
department

**LOCAL CONTACT:** Jamie McIntyre, Spokane Fire Department

E: [jmcintyre@spokanefire.org](mailto:jmcintyre@spokanefire.org) P: (509) 625-7058

# Fire Hazard Recalls: Stay Informed and Stay Safe

The State Fire Marshal's Office has compiled a list of items currently under recall by the Consumer Product Safety Commission due to fire or burn hazards. As these products pose potential risks to safety, it is important to stay informed. Please review the following list to help ensure your safety and take appropriate action if any of these items are in your possession.

- **DEMDACO Maril Brand Scented Candles**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/DEMDACO-Recalls-Maril-Brand-Scented-Candles-Due-to-Laceration-and-Fire-Hazards>

- **Yamaha Corporation of America Power Adaptors for Digital Pianos and Music Workstations**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/Yamaha-Corporation-of-America-Recalls-Power-Adaptors-for-Digital-Pianos-and-Music-Workstations-Due-to-Burn-and-Fire-Hazards>

- **Kohl's Tea Light Candle Holders**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/Kohls-Recalls-Tea-Light-Candle-Holders-Due-to-Fire-Hazard>

- **Baseus Portable Chargers**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/Baseus-Portable-Chargers-Recalled-Due-to-Fire-Hazard-Sold-on-Amazon-com-by-Shenzhen-Baseus-Technology>

- **Santa Cruz Electric Bicycles**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/Santa-Cruz-Bicycles-Recalls-Electric-Bicycles-Due-to-Fire-Hazard>

- **Casely Wireless Portable Power Banks**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/Casely-Recalls-Wireless-Portable-Power-Banks-Due-to-Fire-and-Burn-Hazards>

For more information and to search for recalls on specific products, please visit:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>



## Fire Training Academy Utilized by the Department of Natural Resources to train Wildland Firefighters

The Washington State DNR has been hard at work this season at the Washington State FTA, training the next generation of wildland firefighters.

Through hands-on instruction, live-fire exercises, and classroom learning, DNR's Recruits gained critical knowledge and experience in wildfire behavior, suppression tactics, safety protocols, and teamwork. This intensive training prepares them to respond effectively and safely during Washington State's increasingly complex wildfire seasons.

We are proud to support DNR's efforts and are honored to play a role in preparing these future wildland firefighters to serve and protect our state's natural resources and communities.



# FTA Facility Use Agreement Amendment: New Cancellation Policy Effective July 1, 2025

If your department or agency currently holds a Facilities Use Agreement or contract with the Washington State Patrol to utilize the FTA's training facilities, please be advised that you will be receiving an amendment to your existing agreement/contract. This amendment outlines changes related to the FTA's new cancellation policy, which was implemented on July 1, 2025. To ensure uninterrupted access to scheduling future trainings, departments are asked to review and sign this amendment as soon as possible.

This policy aims to reduce last-minute cancellations and no-shows, which impact the FTA's ability to effectively manage training schedules and resources.

## New Cancellation Policy Fee Structure:

- Cancellation with more than two weeks' notice: \$75 cancellation fee
- Cancellation with a one to two weeks' notice: \$75 plus one-third of the anticipated facility use fees for the event
- Cancellation with a less than one week notice or a one-day notice: \$75 cancellation fee plus two-thirds of the anticipated facility use fees for the event
- Failure to show at the scheduled training event or cancellation the same day as the training event: \$75 cancellation fee plus the full facility use fees for the event

We appreciate your prompt attention to this important update and your continued collaboration in delivering high-quality, professional fire service training across Washington State.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the amendment process, please contact the FTA at 425-453-3000 or [FireTrainingAcademy@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:FireTrainingAcademy@wsp.wa.gov).

## Welcome to Recruit Academy 2025-03

The Washington State FTA welcomes Recruit Academy 2025-03! Over the next twelve weeks, these dedicated individuals will embark on a rigorous journey, designed to challenge them both mentally and physically, as they prepare for a career in the fire service.

This intensive experience will push the recruits to become proficient in essential firefighting skills, develop strong teamwork, and build the resilience necessary to serve their communities with courage and professionalism. From live-fire training to classroom instruction, every aspect of the program is crafted to shape well-rounded, confident, and capable firefighters.

The FTA applauds the commitment and determination of each recruit and looks forward to supporting their success throughout the Recruit Academy. Welcome, Recruit Academy 2025-03!



# Congratulations to Recruit Academy 2025-02

On July 25, 2025, the Washington State Fire Training Academy (FTA) proudly celebrated the graduation of Recruit Academy 2025-02.

Over the course of twelve intensive weeks, these recruits demonstrated unwavering dedication, resilience, and professionalism as they trained to meet the high standards of the fire service. From live fire scenarios to classroom instruction, each Recruit has proven their readiness to serve and protect their communities.

The staff at the FTA extend our congratulations to the firefighters of Recruit Academy 2025-02! Your hard work, determination, and commitment to excellence have not gone unnoticed. We are confident that you will make a lasting impact wherever your career takes you!

Well done, recruits, and welcome to the fire service family!





# Upcoming Courses Offered at the Fire Training Academy

Below is a list of available courses and testing dates offered at the Fire Training Academy (FTA) If you are interested in attending, please contact the FTA at (425) 453-3000 or [FireTrainingAcademy@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:FireTrainingAcademy@wsp.wa.gov). For full course details, prerequisites, and updates, visit the Fire Training Academy website: <https://wsp.wa.gov/fire-training-academy/>

## Online Courses (via WSU Registration)

### **Fire Instructor I**

Registration/Payment Due: August 11, 2025  
Zoom Introduction: August 12, 2025  
Coursework: August 13 – September 3, 2025  
In-Person Practice (Voluntary): September 4, 2025  
Testing: September 5, 2025

### **Fire Officer I**

Registration/Payment Due: September 8, 2025  
Zoom Introduction: September 9, 2025  
Coursework: September 10 – 24, 2025  
Testing: September 26, 2025

### **Fire Instructor II**

Registration/Payment Due: September 29, 2025  
Zoom Introduction: September 30, 2025  
Coursework: October 1 – 22, 2025  
In-Person Practice (Voluntary): October 23, 2025  
Testing: October 24, 2025

### **Fire Officer II**

Registration/Payment Due: October 27, 2025  
Zoom Introduction: October 28, 2025  
Coursework: October 29 – November 6, 2025  
Testing: November 7, 2025

## In-Person Courses

### **Driver/Operator- Pumper**

Dates: October 6-10, 2025  
Testing: October 11, 2025

### **Hazardous Materials Technician**

Course Dates:  
Week 1: November 3 – 7, 2025  
Week 2: November 10 – 14, 2025  
\*Note: No training on November 11 (Veterans Day)  
Testing: November 15, 2025

# Contact List

**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

Inspection Section  
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Barbara Maier  
[Barbara.Maier@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Barbara.Maier@wsp.wa.gov)  
(509) 969-4536

Plan Review Section  
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Cozetta Christian  
[Cozetta.Christian@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Cozetta.Christian@wsp.wa.gov)  
(360) 596-3906

Education, Enforcement, and Analytics Section  
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Gregory Baruso  
[Gregory.Baruso@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Gregory.Baruso@wsp.wa.gov)  
(360) 596-3929

Professional Development and Response Section  
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Bill Slosson  
[William.Slosson@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:William.Slosson@wsp.wa.gov)  
(360) 596-3928

Clean Energy Research and Training Section  
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Dylan Montgomery  
[Dylan.Montgomery2@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Dylan.Montgomery2@wsp.wa.gov)  
(360) 995-2378

## FIRE TRAINING DIVISION

Assistant State Fire Marshal  
Kelly Merz  
[Kelly.Merz@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Kelly.Merz@wsp.wa.gov)  
(425) 453-3000 Ext. 102

Assistant Division Commander  
Matt Denton  
[Matthew.Denton@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Matthew.Denton@wsp.wa.gov)  
(425) 453-3000 Ext. 122

Chief of Instruction  
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Brian Smith  
[Brian.Smith@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Brian.Smith@wsp.wa.gov)  
(425) 453-3000 Ext. 104

Regional Direct Delivery  
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Howard Scartozzi  
[Howard.Scartozzi@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Howard.Scartozzi@wsp.wa.gov)  
(425) 401-7732