

# FIRE WATCH



SEPTEMBER 2025

# 2025 Fire Season Mobilization Program Updates

Since our last update, there has been an additional 11 All-Hazards Mobilizations authorized, bringing the 2025 season's total to 23.

The following counties have had fires authorized for mobilization since July 15:

- Klickitat (Burdoin)
- Stevens (Lake Spokane)
- Columbia (Harting Grade)
- Garfield (Clayton Road)
- Walla Walla (Scenic)
- Mason (Bear Gulch)
- Okanogan (Stud Horse and Brooks Tract)
- Whitman (Central Ferry)
- Spokane (Crescent Road)
- Kittitas (Sun Country)



Burdoin Fire, photo courtesy of Caught the Fire Bug



Lake Spokane Fire, photo courtesy of Stevens County Fire District No.1





Harting Grade Fire, photo courtesy of Walla Walla Scanner



Clayton Road Fire, photo courtesy of Big Country News Connection



Scenic Fire, photo courtesy of Walla Walla Union Bulletin



Bear Gulch Fire, photo courtesy of the National Park Service



Stud Horse Fire, photo courtesy of Okanogan Fire District 6



Brooks Tract Fire, photo courtesy of Shelly Houtz





Central Ferry Fire, photo courtesy of Whitman County Gazette



Crescent Road Fire, photo courtesy of Northwest Washington Interagency Incident Management Team

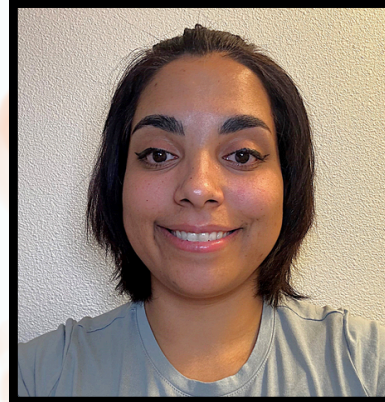


Sun Country Fire, photo courtesy of Southwest Washington Interagency Incident Management Team

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).

# Fire Protection Bureau New Hires

Lindsey Wilson was hired as a Customer Service Specialist 2 in May, 2025, in the Professional Development and Response section of the Fire Prevention Division. Lindsey will assist with Fire Service Certification programs needs and customer service. Before joining the SFMO, CSS2 Wilson was a Team Leader with Target. In her free time, she enjoys reading, spending time with her daughters, and baking.



Larisa Hennessy was hired as a Deputy State Fire Marshal in June, 2025, in the Inspections/Plan Review section of the Fire Prevention Division. Before joining the SFMO, DSFM Hennessy was a Firefighter for the Alaska Air National Guard. In her free time, she enjoys cycling, rock climbing, soccer, and painting.

Dr. Sean Thompson was hired as a Deputy State Fire Marshal in July, 2025, in the newly formed Clean Energy Research and Teaching section of the Fire Prevention Division. Sean will work directly with first and second responders, both in the field and in training, to address new and developing hazards as the State of Washington moves toward a clean energy future. Before joining the SFMO, DSFM Thompson was a part of Ecology's Spill Response Team and served as the Dangerous Waste and Law Enforcement Coordinator for Eastern Washington. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife and their two daughters.



Brad Perkins was hired as a Deputy State Fire Marshal in August, 2025, in the Inspections/Plan Review Section of the Fire Prevention Division. Brad will be assisting with plan review. Before joining the SFMO, DSFM Perkins was an Emergency Management Program Specialist in the Homeland Security Division with the Washington State Patrol. In his free time, he enjoys traveling near and far, and exploring all the things that the PNW has to offer.



# Data Submission Reminder

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

The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is urging all Washington fire agencies 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. Agencies 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 and agencies 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.

All agencies that have already begun reporting in NERIS should not continue submitting reports in NFIRS unless specifically required by a local or state mandate. Upon transitioning 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.

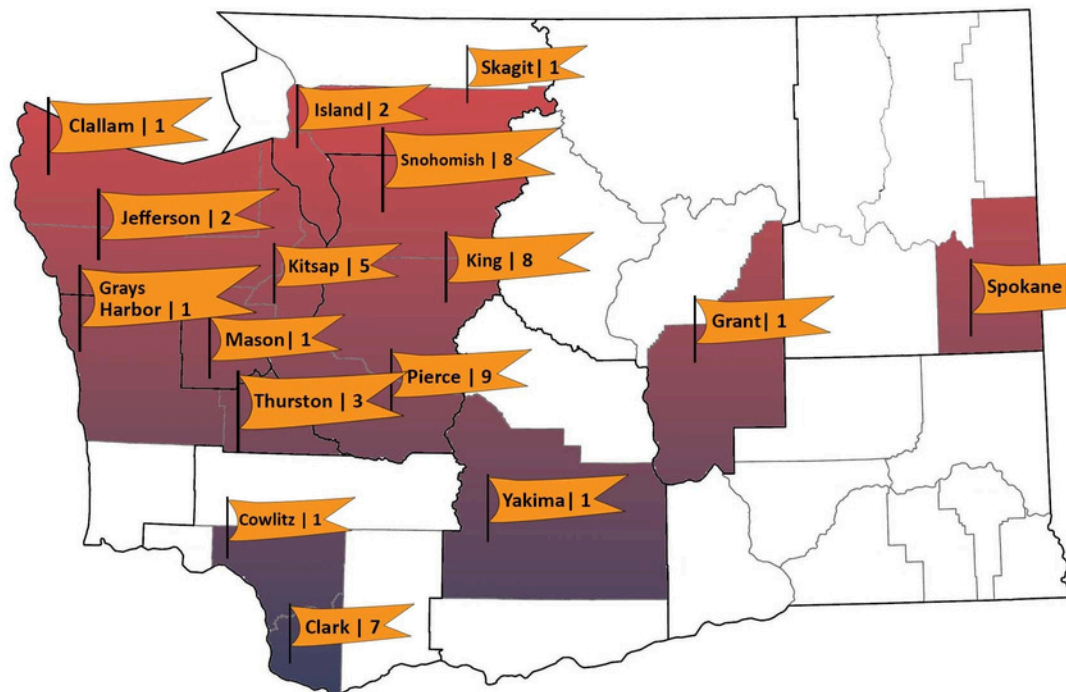
For more guidance or assistance, please contact:

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



# Washington Fire Fatality Statistics

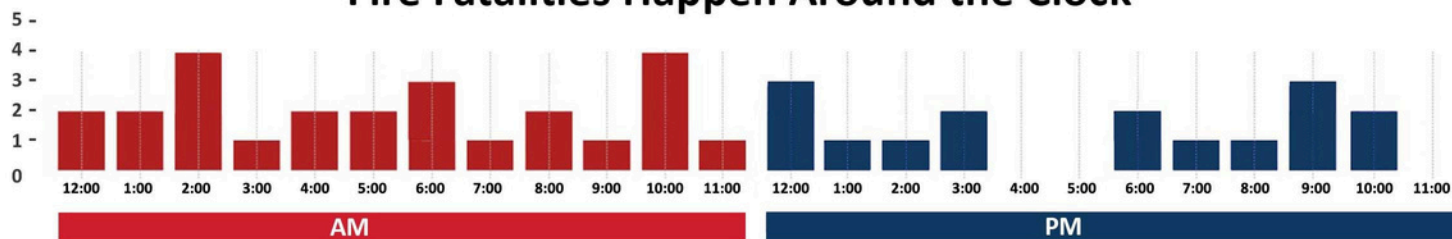
January 1 – July 31, 2025



**INCREASE**  
in fatalities YTD compared  
to 44 by end of July, 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 - 16  
RV/Motor Homes - 8  
Outdoor - 6  
Multi-family Homes - 7  
Vehicle/Transport - 4  
Manufactured Homes - 5  
Garage - 3  
Commercial - 1



## Smoke Alarms:

Unknown/Unavailable - 16  
Alarm Not Present - 19  
Alarm Present - 12

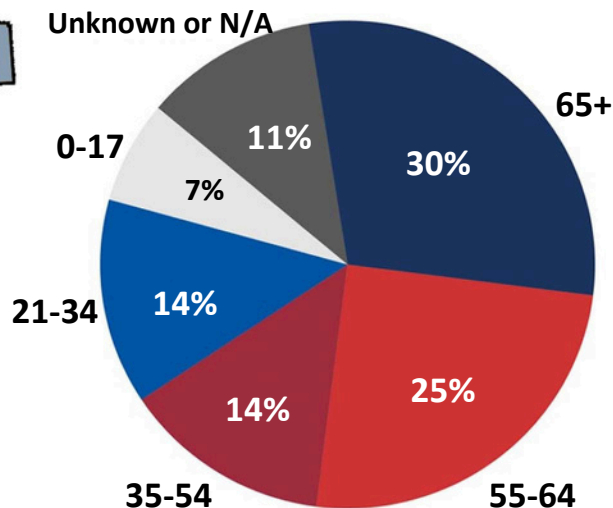


## Fire Fatalities by Age and Gender:

70%  
Male



30%  
Female





# Fire Code Compliance Guidance for Childcare Facilities

The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) conducts initial inspections, responds to environmental changes, performs critical assessments, and provides consultation inspections for childcare facilities licensed by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).

Due to the high demand for licensed childcare, providers often face challenges in finding buildings that meet fire code standards, particularly when working with existing structures.

Before signing a lease, rental agreement, purchase, or beginning construction for a proposed childcare facility, providers are strongly encouraged to request a consultation. This consultation, coordinated through the assigned DCYF licensor and involving SFMO representatives, will identify the specific fire code requirements for the proposed location.

To schedule a consultation, providers should contact their local DCYF licensing office.

## Residential Fire Sprinkler Trailer Demonstrations

The 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 Oak Harbor's National Night Out as pictured below. To request the trailer for your event, complete the reservation form below and email it to [fpbpio@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:fpbpio@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 a 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>

## Honoring Retired Fire Chief Lyall Smith

As the first paid Fire Chief of Black Lake Fire Department, Lyall modernized and strengthened local fire services, mentoring generations of firefighters and creating lasting programs that shaped public safety. His leadership and compassion left an indelible mark on all who worked with him. For anyone who could not attend Retired Fire Chief Lyall Smith's memorial or would like to share it, the link to the live stream is below:

[Ret. Fire Chief Lyall Smith Memorial Service](#)





## The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office, the Washington Fire Chiefs, and the Washington Public Fire Educators Supported Training

### Living Your Potential: The Next Generation of Fire Service Leadership

Living your organizational potential in the fire service focuses on bringing the future into the present. It requires letting go of the status quo, embracing high-performance organization principles, social science, value streaming, and change leadership. This workshop facilitates a journey using human-centered system thinking, social science, and innovation to elevate the value and relevance of your organization. Ultimately, an entity develops a community-centric culture that resonates with the workforce and a brand identity that extends throughout the community. After participating in this session, attendees will understand the positive impact of using an outcome-based focus (social return on investment) to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of their organization. The intended audience includes elected officials, labor leaders, city managers, and current and future chief officers.

**DATE:** September 4, 2025

**TIME:** 0900-1300 Richland Library, Doris Roberts Gallery

**LOCATION:** Conference Room,  
955 Northgate Dr, Richland, WA 99352

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**MATERIALS:** Bring Your Own Device

**LUNCH:** Lunch will not be provided. Coffee and water will be available.

**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:** James Hempstead  
Email- [jlhemp2380@gmail.com](mailto:jlhemp2380@gmail.com)  
Phone- (509) 392-3278

# 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.

- **Frigidaire-brand Minifridges**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/Curtis-International-Recalls-Frigidaire-brand-Minifridges-Due-to-Fire-and-Burn-Hazards-More-Than-700-000-Reported-in-Property-Damage>

- **iMirror Inc. Electric Bug Zapper Racket, Fly Swatter, and Mosquito Swatter**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/iMirror-Inc-Recalls-Electric-Bug-Zapper-Racket-Fly-Swatter-and-Mosquito-Swatter-Due-to-Shock-Hazard>

- **Transpro US Recalls Electric Scooters**

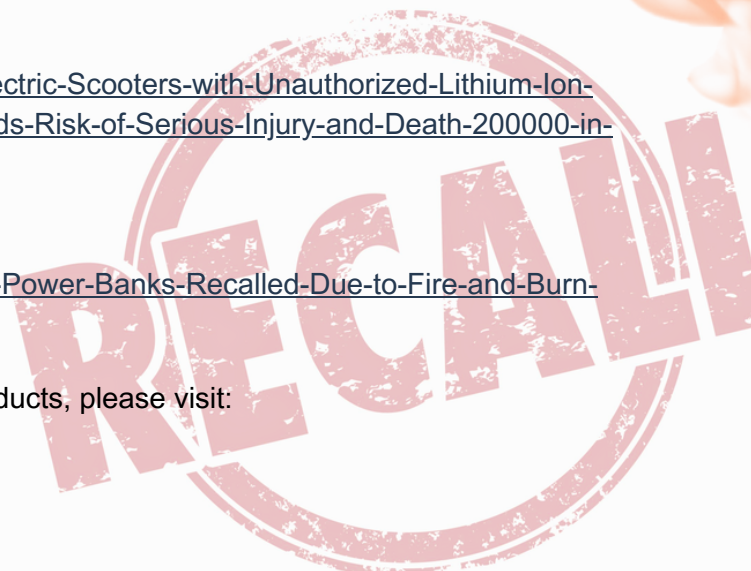
<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/Transpro-US-Recalls-Electric-Scooters-with-Unauthorized-Lithium-Ion-Battery-UL-Certification-Labels-Due-to-Fire-and-Burn-Hazards-Risk-of-Serious-Injury-and-Death-200000-in-Property-Damage-Reported>

- **ESR HaloLock Wireless Power Banks**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/ESR-HaloLock-Wireless-Power-Banks-Recalled-Due-to-Fire-and-Burn-Hazards-Distributed-by-Waymeet>

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

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



## Reminder: Social Media Posts Regarding Incidents

Recently, there has been an increase in social media posts from fire department accounts regarding ongoing incidents, including law enforcement scenes. These posts can unintentionally disrupt investigations, share sensitive details before facts are confirmed, and cause unnecessary distress for victims, families, and communities. In one recent case, a collision photo posted online led to public arguments among those involved, and the incident was later confirmed as a fatality.

To avoid these issues, please remember: when posting on social media, only essential details should be shared, and photos of active investigations, especially collisions, should not be posted. Public Information Officers (PIOs) should coordinate to determine the primary agency responsible for communications, and other agencies should share information from that primary source. When in doubt, contact the lead law enforcement agency's PIO before posting. We ask all fire PIOs and personnel managing social media to observe this professional courtesy. For anyone serving in a PIO role, the PIO Basic class is strongly encouraged for guidance on what and when to post.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and dedication to fire and life safety.



# 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).

## Driver/Operator – Pumper Course Completion

On August 1, 2025, the Washington State Fire Training Academy proudly celebrated the completion of a Driver/Operator – Pumper course. This specialized training equips firefighters with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively and safely operate a fire engine.

Throughout the course, students received hands-on instruction in hydraulics, water drafting, apparatus staging, and basic engine maintenance. The curriculum was designed to prepare participants to meet the demands of real-world fireground operations.

This class included 12 dedicated firefighters from departments across Washington State, each bringing their own experience and commitment to public safety. Throughout the course, students demonstrated their ability to apply classroom concepts to practical scenarios, ensuring they are ready to serve their communities with confidence and skill.

The Fire Training Academy congratulates all participants for their hard work and dedication and commends them for taking this important step in advancing their fire service careers.

# 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 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

## IFSAC/ProBoard Testing:

### **-Hazardous Materials Awareness:**

Written: September 6, 2025  
Practical: September 6, 2025

### **-Hazardous Materials Operations:**

Written: September 6, 2025  
September 6, 2025

### **-Firefighter I:**

Live-Fire: September 13, 2025  
Written: September 20, 2025  
Practical: September 20, 2025

### **-Firefighter II:**

Live-Fire: September 13, 2025  
Written: October 4, 2025  
Practical: October 4, 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

\*This course has a capacity of 12 participants and is filling quickly. Please contact the FTA to check for available spots or to inquire about scheduling an additional session.





# 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