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Inspection Report

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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. Membership in the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals is open to individuals in four categories: Governmental, Associate, Educational and Retired. There are many benefits to membership for individuals in all categories.

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 – Dave Kokot

It is a privilege to become the 8th President for the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals. I want to thank our current Past President, Jon Dunaway, and his Past President, Jim Kambietz, for their leadership and guidance during the past few years. It is an honor to work with them in representing our membership through all the activities we have participated in. It is hard to remember at times that we are a volunteer organization, as we maintain such a high standard of professionalism.

The next two years will see some growth in what we do as well as a focus on providing support for our members. We will be doing this by meeting goals that the Board has established. They are:

Goal 1: Provide effective communications networks for our membership and future members.

Goal 2: Involve the membership in all levels of the organization.

Goal 3: Develop and maintain beneficial partnerships with allied professions.

Goal 4: Maintain fiscal sustainability of the Association.

Goal 5: Provide professional development resources for our members.

Goal 6: Facilitate national, state, and local code development and interpretation.

Goal 7: Implement a plan for the regular, periodic evaluation of the association's work plan.

Goal 8: Participate in the Legislative process with the Washington Fire Chiefs and other partners.

Goal 9: Promote fire sprinklers in all residential dwellings.

Goal 10: Provide a high quality educational conference consistent with our mission.

Goal 11: Commitment to community risk reduction

We will meet early next year to make sure we are progressing on the goals, and where improvements can be made. Comments and suggestions from the membership are encouraged and welcome. The updates will be provided in the 2018 Work Plan.

As can be seen from this list, it requires a good amount of participation. During the Fire Prevention Institute, we were approached by members who expressed interest in getting involved. We welcome that! The Association has established several Committees, who can meet regularly during the year that can always use additional voices. If you have interest in participating on any of these, please be sure to let us know:

Budget / Finance

Education / Professional Development

State Codes

National Codes

Legislative

Elections / Awards

Fire Prevention Institute

Communications / Outreach

Residential Fire Sprinkler

WSAFM Past President – Jon Dunaway

The 2017 Washington State Fire Prevention Institute was held October 23rd through October 27th at Campbell's Resort in Lake Chelan. This year was our best attended event ever, with 193 attendees (including instructors) and a very full slate of vendors Tuesday evening.

The line-up of speakers was incredible, kicked off by Shawn Simmons and Alvaro Llanos with their presentation 'After the Fire'. Shawn and Alvaro were students at Seton Hall University in New Jersey on January 19th, 2000 when a deadly fire was set in their unsprinkled dormitory building. They told their story of survival and perseverance as they battled back physically and mentally and learning how to live in their new post-fire world. They now travel the country as advocates for fire safety and prevention so that no other students will have to endure the pain that they suffered.

Three tracks of education sessions extended throughout the week for those in fire prevention, public fire education, and fire investigation. The week culminated in a Friday morning session where the attendees chose topics to discuss with their peers about current issues we are all facing. This provided an opportunity to hear from others and how they are addressing fire prevention challenges in their jurisdictions.

Items of business that were attended to during the week included several WSAFM By-Law modifications and the swearing in of our newly elected WSAFM Board members for 2018.

On Thursday, October 26th, we held our annual banquet at the beautiful Tsillian Cellars. During the

banquet, several people were recognized for their participation and exceptional contributions to fire prevention. Among those were:

Greg Rogers – Recognized for his service to WSAFM as chair of the Fire Prevention Institute for many years. This was Greg's last year as chair and we appreciate his tireless efforts that allowed the FPI to grow and become our premier annual event.

Jim Kambeitz – As the outgoing Past President of the association, Jim was recognized for his many years on the WSAFM Board. During his tenure as President, Jim was instrumental in re-establishing partnerships with many of our affiliate organizations including the Washington Fire Chiefs, NFPA, ICC, and others.

Jakki McLean – Jakki was the recipient of WSAFM's Life Member Award. As the Yakima County Fire Marshal for many years, Jakki spent her career devoted to public safety and service to her community as well as to the citizens of Washington State through her work with WSAFM. Specifically, Jakki was a pioneer and ushered in the era of wildland/urban interface codes in her county and was an advocate for WUI across the state.

Robert Bradley – Robert was named WSAFM's Fire Marshal of the Year, recognizing his exceptional service to the citizens he serves in Olympia and his outstanding work as a member of WSAFM.

I can't say enough about the phenomenal work done by the FPI Planning Committee: Greg Rogers, Tom Maloney, Kirsti Weaver, Jim Kambeitz, Ellen Tombleson, Robert Ferrell, Mike Makela, and Jeff Pfaff. This team worked with many others to put the event together and make sure it was executed smoothly throughout the week. Thanks to you all for making this the most successful FPI yet!



Shawn Simmons and Alvaro Llanos -After the Fire Presentation



Jackie McLean Receiving Life Member Award from President Jon Dunaway and Vice President Dave Kokot



Bellevue Fire Marshal Ken Carlson and Redmond Fire Marshal Todd Short being introduced by Puget Sound Fire Marshal Jon Napier



Vendor Night Festivities – Fire Prevention Institute

Plan Review Comments – Dave Kokot

The fundamental duty of the plan reviewer is to verify that construction in your jurisdiction meets the requirements of the State Fire Code, as well as any local amendments. What you may not be aware of is that the State amended version of the International Fire Code has several sections that are removed from the model code. If a plan reviewer is not aware of these modifications, they can create a challenging situation when the developer disagrees with a ruling by the plan reviewer.

One of those sections is RCW 19.27.060 (4), which reads:

(4) No provision of the uniform fire code concerning roadways shall be part of the state building code: PROVIDED, that this subsection shall not limit the authority of a county or city to adopt street, road, or access standards.

The result of this RCW is WAC 51-54A-0503, Fire apparatus access roads. This WAC removes several sections from the model code in Chapter 5 of the IFC that are not adopted by the State. If there are no local amendments to these code provisions, then it is possible that your jurisdiction does not have a code path to enforce fire access lanes. Several years ago, it was discovered that 9 counties did not have any code development process that would amend the code (no review for cities was conducted). A more recent count has not been made.

The best thing that a plan reviewer can do is to review the local requirements for street, road, or access standards to make sure that they are applicable to supporting the ability of your fire apparatus to have access to structures. With the changing specifications for fire apparatus, a periodic review of the turning radii, width, height, and ground clearance needs to be made. Keep in mind that the construction of streets, both private and public, needs to meet the

requirements for fire access.

With the adoption of the 2009 IFC, site fire access is now applicable to single family residences. Normally, the single-family residence permits are not reviewed by the Fire Code plan reviewer, but by another plan reviewer of the jurisdiction. Are they aware of this requirement? Some jurisdictions have included alternative methods to the site access requirements for single family residences to accommodate local concerns. For instance, driveway width can be reduced if an acceptable turn-around is provided on the property for fire apparatus.

Without a State standard for fire access roads, this results in requirements that change from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Be sure that developers and plan reviewers approving streets, roads, and access in your jurisdiction are made aware of your requirements.

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>

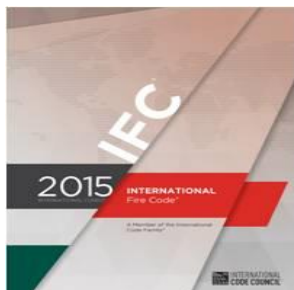
In addition, the State Building Code Council provides printable insert pages for the ICC Codes of the Washington State Amendments. These can be located at:

<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.

Member Opportunities

WSAFM is always looking for volunteers to assist in the operations of the Association. When we have openings on Committees, Board Positions, or other opportunities, we will include that information in the newsletter.



***Be sure to download and
print the ICC published
errata on a regular basis***