



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

Spring is finally in the air, and that always creates a sense of renewal, fresh starts, and meetings to attend. It seems that there are always meetings to participate in, locally, regionally and nationally. I will be participating in the Congressional Fire Service Institute April 18th and 19th in Washington, DC as part of a contingent from Washington State. We will have the opportunity to meet with our representatives from both the Senate and the House regarding fire service concerns and issues. It is a great opportunity to speak to Prevention and Community Risk Reduction. We also are going to be participating in the Washington Fire Chiefs Annual meeting in Kennewick in May. WSAFM will be making a presentation at the meeting, and it has been formatted to provide the attendees with a sense of what it means to be involved with Prevention. We do have to keep it to two hours, so it will be more of a summary.

Another meeting coming up is the International Fire Marshals Association meeting this June in Las Vegas as part of the NFPA Expo and Conference. As it happens, I have a conflict and have asked Past President Jon Dunaway to participate. It took a significant effort to get Jon to go (asked if he was available). I appreciate the support and he will be a great representative for our Section.

We also received news that one of our long time Board members, Robert Bradley, is retiring. He has been a great resource for the Association, and a strong presence in the hearings in Olympia. I have great respect for him, and will miss his experience and knowledge. Although he received the Fire Marshal of the Year Award last year, he is a Fire Marshal of the Year every year.

Although we are still working to get at least one training class this year, we are also now focusing on next year. But, let's not forget the Fire Prevention Institute coming up in October. Notices will be coming out soon (if they have not already), and we have a great lineup of tracks and speakers. This year marks the 20th Roundtable/Institute conference of the Association.

Again, I am grateful for the participation of the Board and members involved in our Committees. It is a very busy time for all, and the efforts are appreciated to keep the Association moving forward.

Upcoming WSAFM Board Meetings:

- June 19th – Teleconference
- August 14th – Teleconference
- September 25th – Teleconference
- October 22nd – Fire Prevention Institute
- December 11th - Teleconference

Code Corner - Traci Harvey, P.E., Spokane Valley Fire Department – SBCC Fire Service Representative

The 2018 code development cycle for the Group 1 codes: IBC, IEBC, IFC & WSEC; is in full swing. The TAG’s have been meeting every two weeks for months evaluating the impact of the new model code language on the current WAC’s. The final report has been submitted to the SBCC.

New code proposals are being accepted until May 25, 2018. Code proposals need to be submitted through the SBCC website; forms are available through the following link:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/es/apps/sbcc/page.aspx?nid=7>

As code proposals are submitted and the TAG’s continuing to meet to discuss the proposals keeping informed about what is happening in the code world is more important than ever. Check the SBCC website for upcoming meeting dates and topics. All TAG meetings are public meeting so all are invited, there are phone-in options and webex connections available. Attending in person is also encouraged, agendas provide locations.

For those unable to attend, or for those who do attend but have additional comments, remember that public testimony is accepted (encouraged) through the SBCC web:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/es/apps/sbcc/page.aspx?nid=55>

Remember that you are an important part of this process. If you know of a constituent group that should be involved reach out and make them aware. This process is for all who are or may be affected.

As a side note the 2021 ICC Code Hearings are starting this month in Columbus, Ohio. The fire code portion will be heard April 20th – 23rd. Feel free to watch: <https://www.iccsafe.org/codes-tech-support/codes/code-development/current-code-development-cycle/>



Congratulations to Robert Bradley 2017 Fire Marshal of the Year

Robert Bradley was awarded the Fire Marshal of the Year in October 2017. His work toward sprinklers in every residence is an accomplishment that has impacted most all in the City of Olympia. Robert’s efforts in the legislative arena to improve fire and life safety is immeasurable and appreciated by all Fire Marshal’s in the State of Washington.

Plan Review Comments – Dave Kokot

When you get involved in plan review, the one thing that you learn quickly is that the code may not be as clear as it should. That is usually due to compromised and consensus language that occurs at Code Hearings. Those are the meetings in which the model code language can be massaged from an original proposal to satisfy the majority of the members voting on it.

So, the plan reviewer may be put into a situation in which an “interpretation” is required. At first glance, that seems to be simple. The plan reviewer looks at the code, looks at the situation, and then declares how the project can come into compliance with the “intent”. “Intent” is an interpretation of what the language states. You may also hear another word – “consistency”. What may have worked in one case may not work for another. What usually happens is that an “interpretation” sets a precedence. The users of the code apply the interpretation with the prior decision being determined as the direction and path that the plan reviewer had previously accepted a document. So, the plan reviewer needs to consider as many outcomes from the “interpretation” as possible.

There are many resources that can be used to determine the intent of the code (usually the Code Commentary or the Significant Changes handbooks address this), as well as communicating with plan reviewers in your general area. There are also a few plan reviewers from jurisdictions across the State that participate in the Code process as authors or editors. You can also contact ICC or NFPA for their interpretations.

The most important thing that a plan reviewer needs to do, is to provide a clear and concise response. The last thing you want to do is to interpret your interpretation.

If you want to look at a piece of the code that has a number of interpretations, check out the definition for “work area” in the International Existing Building Code. Everyone seems to know what it is, but there is a wide range of answers for that one.

Fire Prevention Institute 2018 – Tom Maloney

Mark your calendars for this year’s Fire Prevention Institute – Please join your colleagues and attend the conference in Lake Chelan. The keynote speaker is Dr. David Griffin. His presentation is *In Honor of The Charleston 9: A Study of Change Following Tragedy*.

Monday, 10/22 – 1:00 – 5:00 (Keynote Speaker – 1:30)

Tuesday, 10/23 – 8:00 – 5:00 (Vendor Night)

Wednesday, 10/24 – 8:00 – 5:00

Thursday, 10/25 – 8:00 – 5:00

Friday, 10/26 – 8:00 – 12:00

It is anticipated that online registration will be up and running in May.

Please contact Campbell’s at (800) 553-8225 for lodging reservations. Please be sure to provide registration code #406984. Room rates will be based on the government per diem rate in effect on October 1, 2018. **In order to receive this special rate, reservations must be made by September 15, 2018.** Once this date has passed, **or the room block has been filled**, you will need to find alternate lodging.

Upcoming Classes

May 16 & 17 – Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist. Registration & Course Contact, Marty Long – mlong@scrd8.org. 509-926-6699. [See class flyer.....](#)

June 19 & 20 - Fire Alarm Plan Review & The Code Official's Role in Fire Alarm Maintenance and Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarms. For class questions, contact Teri Wallace – Twallace@kirklandwa.gov. 425-587-3634. [See class flyer....](#)

ICC Preferred Provider Documents and Forms

The Washington State Association of Fire Marshals (WSAFM) has long been a supporter of fire prevention professionals in providing educational training credits required for certifications as well as re-certifications. With the recent changes to ICC continuing education units (CEU), WSAFM has entered into an agreement to be a Preferred Provider (PP) through ICC so that CEU credits can be issued through classes sponsored and approved by the Association. This agreement allows members of WSAFM who would like to sponsor training courses to apply for CEU to be issued by the Association. This process involves a two tier process, with approval that may take up to 30-days.

For more details, check out the CEU Program folder in the [Document Library](#).

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>

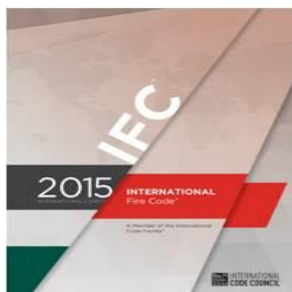
In addition, the State Building Code Council provides printable insert pages for the ICC Codes of the Washington State Amendments. These can be located at:

<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