



# NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

BRIAN TAYLOR, STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Fourth Quarter 2025

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## **North Carolina Emergency Training Center Expands Training Opportunities**

The North Carolina Emergency Training Center (NC ETC) continues to grow as a premier destination for specialized fire and rescue training. With new facilities, cutting-edge technology, and a strong commitment to firefighter safety, the NC ETC is preparing responders from across the state—and the nation—for the toughest challenges.

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – October 14:** Join us for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Tuesday, October 14, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event will feature both water and Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) demonstrations, showcasing the unique training capabilities now available at the center.

**Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) Training Prop:** The NC ETC is now home to a state-of-the-art, full-scale 737/C130 aircraft prop, paired with a 3,500-gallon Hydrocarbon Burn Pit. This one-of-a-kind training environment allows both civilian and military firefighters to prepare for real-world airfield emergencies.

The NC ETC has already delivered more than 60 FAA-139 ARFF training classes, with hundreds of firefighters completing their annual FAA-required training. In addition, the center, in collaboration with NC State University, offers quarterly courses on the use of environmentally safe PFAS-free F3 Firefighting Foam. The next class is scheduled for September 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Swift Water Training Village**

Another highlight of the NC ETC is the Swift Water Training Village, featuring a one-of-a-kind channel where boats can operate in moving water conditions unlike anywhere else in the nation. Training opportunities include:

- Swift water rescue operations
- Boat handling in swift currents
- Water survival and swim training
- Helicopter-based water rescue scenarios

The Water Training Village, with its five-million-gallon moving water system, is now operational. Crews are currently fine-tuning water flow and operations, with training opportunities opening in the coming weeks.

**Phase II Underway:** Construction is underway on Phase II of the NC ETC expansion, which will add:

- 116 dorm rooms to house students on-site
- Cafeteria, classrooms, and office space to support training delivery
- Warehouse facilities and a Burn Village for advanced, realistic training scenarios
- Additional areas designed to promote interaction, collaboration, and networking among responders

**Plan Your Training:** The NC Emergency Training Center is committed to delivering high-quality, real-world training that enhances readiness and saves lives. To learn more or to schedule training, visit <https://ncosfm.gov/NCETC>

## **Ratings & Inspections Update**

The Ratings/Inspections Division has completed an update to the NC Administrative Rules governing fire departments. This process included a thorough vetting period with input from 53 fire chiefs across North Carolina, as well as representatives from the three regional associations, the NC Association of Fire Chiefs, and the NC State Firefighters Association. OSFM Attorney Kyle Heuser has submitted the updated rules to the NC Office of Administrative Hearings for review and approval. A tentative approval date is expected in the first quarter of 2026.

### **Community Risk Reduction Updates**

October is Fire Prevention Month! This year's Fire Prevention Week, October 5–11, will highlight the theme: "Charge Into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home." Be sure to share resources with your community and emphasize the safe use of lithium-ion powered devices in homes.

If you're planning to attend the NC State Fair, October 16–26, stop by Safety City to visit the CRR Team and enjoy the Fire Safety Shows.

### **Child Passenger Safety**

Several Child Passenger Safety Technician Courses are scheduled across the state this fall:

- Cabarrus County: November 4–7
- Dare County: November 4–7
- Edgecombe County: November 17–20
- Robeson County: December 2–5
- Orange County: December 9–12

To register, visit: <https://cert.safekids.org>

### **Two Child Passenger Safety Renewal Testing Courses are also coming up:**

- Robeson County: December 1
- Orange County: December 8

Classes may be requested through your regional CRR Specialist. Assistance is also available from the CRR Division to help cover both certification and recertification fees.

### **Upcoming Training Opportunities**

- NFPA Safety Summit – November 18, Hickory
- Youth Firesetting Intervention Training – Fayetteville Technical Community College:
  - Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist: September 29–30
  - Interviewing and Educational Intervention Strategies: October 20–21
  - Program Manager: November 6–7

To register for Youth Firesetting courses, contact Kim Williams at [kim.williams@ncdoi.gov](mailto:kim.williams@ncdoi.gov). More details: <https://ncosfm.gov/nfa-youth-firesetting-courses>

### **Save the Dates**

- Vision 20/20 Symposium 9 – Model Performance in Community Risk Reduction (February 24–26, 2026 | Concord, NC)
- Fire and Life Safety Educator Conference – 50th Anniversary (March 4–6, 2026 | Great Wolf Lodge, Concord, NC)

### **Fire & Rescue Commission and Training Update**

The Fire and Rescue Commission has several upcoming important dates for the third quarter of 2025.

#### **Board Meetings:**

- Certified Fire Investigator Board: October 7 - Raleigh, NC
- Fire Rescue Commission: October 14 - New London, NC
- Certification Board: December 4 - Kernersville, NC

#### **Qualification Schools:**

- Firefighter Q School - November 17-18: Forsyth Tech Community College

#### **Indoctrination Courses:**

- October 8: Forsyth Technical Community College

#### **Other Courses:**

- **Fire Officer III** - November 3: Fayetteville Tech CC
- **Fire Fatality Investigation** - December 3: Wilson CC
- **Fire Officer III** - January 5: Alamance CC
- **Fire Investigator Technician** - January 12: Fayetteville Tech CC



Q School Information