



# NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL 2023

**MIKE CAUSEY**, INSURANCE COMMISSIONER & STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
**BRIAN TAYLOR**, CHIEF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## ADMINISTRATION

The OSFM team is actively moving to our new location on Rock Quarry Road in Raleigh. Many hours have been spent getting the facility ready for a smooth transition. We are working with the Legislature promoting the passage of bills for the safety and care of firefighters. One bill addresses the need for continued financial support for fire departments across the country to ensure the best emergency response times with the best equipment to serve every community.

## GIS

- Developed new interactive fire fatality map viewer for the OSFM website.
- Presented at the NC GIS conference on how GIS has helped certain OSFM projects increase productivity and efficiency.
- Worked with multiple fire departments to help analyze the impacts of adding or moving a station.
- Completed dashboard to track AFFF foam inventory and usage.

## AFFF

- Inventory is 94% complete with 102,354 gallons identified to date and 1,152 sites inventoried to date.
- Two site visits for usage were conducted, one of which was a major incident that used 535 gallons of AFFF foam for a fuel tanker incident.

## GRANTS

- Closing out 2022 Rescue Grants due April 15
- Finalizing the 2023 Fire Grant applications
- Finalized a state audit of the Fire Grants for 2021 and 2022
- Working on six direct grants

## **RATINGS & INSPECTIONS**

- Incorporated an updated ISO Water Haul program into our inspection process which now allows us to assess tanker nurse operations.
- Reached the end of a five-year cycle on fire department inspections across the state.
- Built the Everyone Goes Home Advocate Team for NC which now has 11 members across the state. There have been 23 class offerings across the state with 247 attendees.

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

- 3,238 Total certifications issued

## **UPCOMING IMPORTANT MEETINGS**

- Commission meeting April 11 Shelby, NC
- Cert board meeting June 1 Kernersville, NC

## **UPCOMING CLASSES**

- Q Schools Johnston CC May 15-17 and Martin CC on June 5-7
- Fire Officer III, Buncombe Tech April 3-28
- Fire Officer III, Craven CC June 26-July 21
- Fire Investigation Tech, Mitchell CC May 8-26
- Fire Investigation Tech, Johnston CC June 12-30

Technical Rescuer is currently being updated to meet the new standard. More information to follow on instructor upgrades.

## **COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION**

- Opened the smoke alarm canvassing grant portal for fire departments to apply for smoke alarms.
- Opened registration to the Safe Kids NC Conference in January, which is the earliest it has ever opened.
- CRR Staff assisted with both the Fire and Life Safety Conference and the inaugural NASFM CRR Conference. CRR staff presented at the NASFM Conference on the 20 years of injury prevention in NC.
- Led the annual CPS instructors meeting providing updates to all CPS Instructors in NC
- Transitioned to monthly Safe Kids NC network meetings with all Safe Kids coalitions in NC. In February, Daphne Greenlee from Safe Kids Worldwide was the guest presenter. Karen Long, from the American Red Cross, was featured in March.

## **COQB AND HILB**

- Developed OSFM draft Fire Marshal 101 course in Rise 360
- Issued RFP for marketplace inspectors.
- COQB Board and executive committee meeting estimated costs of 2024 Code Board course updates.
- HILB administering state licensure exams at McKimmon Center monthly.
- HILB Board proposed standard of practice rule changes.
- Staff COQB and HILB investigators passed HILB state exam.

## **ELECTRICAL INTERPRETATIONS SECTION**

- Ben Wesley was hired as the Assistant Chief Electrical Code Consultant. Ben has 20+ years in the electrical industry, holds an Electrical Inspector Level III Certification, and an Unlimited Electrical Contractors License. Ben is expected to be prepared to assume the role as Chief Electrical Code Consultant during the 2nd Quarter of 2023.
- Danny Thomas is stepping down as Chief. Danny is currently training Ben Wesley to assume the role as the Chief Electrical Code Consultant for the State. Danny is planning to transition into assisting the Disaster & Recovery Department with constructing the electrical inspector training portion of the Inspector Apprentice Program
- The School Maintenance Electrician Class and Exam was administered on the second floor of the Albemarle Building on January 5 and 6. Provisions have been made to administer the summer class and exam at the Public Safety Education Campus of Wake Tech on Chapanoke Road.
- Electrical ad hoc is meeting monthly with the intent on adopting the 2023 NEC with state amendments as the state electrical in 2024.

## **STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS SECTION**

- State Electrical Inspector Chris Faucette has been promoted into the new classification of Code Official II. Chris has 20+ years in the electrical industry, holds an Electrical Inspector Level III Certification, and an Unlimited Electrical Contractors License.

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL INSURANCE INSPECTIONS SECTION**

- The Field Division has completed its role in the Durham County Fire Marshal's investigation concerning inspections of the county's public schools. Charlie Johnson and Jamie Akers received and categorized the maintenance files. All files have been turned over to Durham County Fire Marshal Jason Shepherd, marking the completion of the project.
- Janet Whittaker is the new supervisor over the Public School Insurance Inspections Section. All inspectors (James Farley, Kelly Grooms, Shannon Sparrow) have met with Janet and Risk Management's Underwriter Jamie Akers to begin unifying the inspections and reporting process.
- Kelly Grooms received his Fire Prevention Inspector Level III Certification.

## **STATE FIRE PREVENTION SECTION**

- State Fire Prevention Inspector, Lee Pierce, has been promoted into the new classification of Code Official III. Lee has 30+ years in the construction industry, holds all five Inspector Level III Certifications, and all contractor licenses.

## **DISASTER AND RECOVERY SECTION**

- Chief Inspector Leon Skinner and Senior Building Inspector Jay Stokley presented the inspector apprentice training program to the Greater Wake inspectors. ECU has agreed to enroll in the building inspector training program to evaluate and determine if the program can be incorporated into its four-year Construction Management curriculum.
- Jay Daunoy has been hired to create the electrical inspector training program. Jay has 30+ years in the electrical industry, holds an Electrical Inspector Level III Certification, and a Limited Electrical Contractors License.

## BUILDING CODES AND PLAN REVIEW

In the interest of consistency across the state, staff supported the continuing education efforts of the NC code associations by developing and leading code courses for them.

Staff provided support to the NC Building Code Council in the development and final release of seven of the ten 2024 editions of the NC State Building Codes.

- Staff handled the following:
  - Calls 2,102
  - Informal code interpretations 2,632
  - Formal code interpretations 2
  - Emails 15,541
  - Meetings and seminars 202
- The Commercial Plan Review staff addressed the following:
  - Completed plan reviews 59
  - Plans received 98
  - Plans approved 5
- Average Plan Review (Days)
  - December 16
  - January 16
  - February 32