



NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL QUARTERLY REPORT

AUG 2023

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

ADMINISTRATION

The OSFM Team is now operating from the new location on Rock Quarry Road in Raleigh. Many hours were spent preparing the facility. It has been an extremely smooth transition due to the hard work completed ahead of the move. We are working with the legislature promoting the passage of bills for the safety and care of firefighters.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

- Presented at the NC GIS conference on how GIS has helped certain OSFM projects increase productivity and efficiency.
- Mapped all state properties by fire districts.
- Completed development of Statewide NC fire district data set by cross checking local GIS submissions with OSFM Grants information. Will need to do more verification and write metadata before submitting to NC GIS portal.
- Meet with AFFF staff and have begun phase 2 use and inventory forms.

AQUEOUS FILM-FORMING FOAM (AFFF)

- Inventory is 100% Complete with 120,904 gallons identified to date with 1223 sites inventoried.
- Working on data entry for all foam and usages across the state.

GRANTS

- Worked on finalizing the 2023 Fire Grant Applications and made the announcements.
- Working on audits by OSBM on the Covid Grants that were given out.
- Working to get the Rescue Grant Applications ready to go out in August.
- Currently working on 7 Direct Grants across the state.

RATINGS/INSPECTIONS

- Completed the new pre-survey form updates and they are on the website.
- Completed a program to present to North Carolina fire departments that use a hauled water method of inspection for their rating. This program will explain the recent changes that have been implemented from ISO due to the new program we are using for calculating hauled water flows. A virtual pilot class with 27 fire chiefs across the state was held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. This was two virtual sessions to vet the program. The new water guidelines were sent out Tuesday, July 11, 2023, to all chiefs and fire marshals. They are now posted on our website.
- Participated in the NCOSFM High School Firefighter Challenge held at the AB Technical Community College Training Center in Buncombe County June 19-22, 2023. Twenty students attended. They divided into four companies.
- Completed 31 inquiries from ISO in the second quarter of 2023.
- Worked eight line-of-duty firefighter deaths in the second quarter of 2023.

COMMISSION/RPD/TRAINING

- Important Dates
 - Sept 7, Certification Board Meeting
 - Oct 10, Fire Rescue Commission Meeting
- Upcoming Classes
 - Aug. 14, FIT Fire Investigation Technician, AB Tech
 - Aug. 21, Haz-Mat Technician, Greensboro FD
 - Aug. 23-25, Fire Instructor III, AB-Tech Community College (seats still available)
 - Aug. 28, Fire Officer III, Sampson Community College
 - Sept. 18/19, Written Exam Only Q School, Rowan Cabarrus Community College
 - Oct. 3, Firefighter Only Q School, Guilford Tech Community College
 - Oct. 20, NC Extrication School, Sandhills Community College
 - Oct. 24, Trench Qualification, Fayetteville Emergency Training Center
 - Nov. 3, Technical Rope Rescue, Rowan Cabarrus Community College
 - Nov. 6/7, Written Exam Only Q School, Pitt Community College
- TR Committee approved by the Fire Rescue Commission; TR update is moving forward.
- May/June certifications issued: 2,559.

EVERYONE GOES HOME PROGRAM UPDATES

- There were 18 Everyone Goes Home (EGH) classes conducted across the state in the second quarter. Total attendance in all classes was 251 students.
- The team qualified seven new EGH instructors on May 10-11, 2023. Two new advocates were added to our team in May, Retired Battalion Chief Jamie Vaughan from the Rocky Mount Fire Department and Chief Stephen Barney from the Hawtree Fire Department. We welcome them to our team.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

- Safe Kids NC held its annual Safe Kids NC conference in May at the Great Wolf Lodge in Concord. The conference had 265 registered attendees. It featured 25 injury prevention sessions and 17 exhibitors. Child Passenger Safety technicians attending the conference also had the opportunity to work with car seat manufacturers and earn all six CEUs needed for recertification.
- The Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Division chief, along with two CRR specialists, attended the NFPA conference in June. The division chief represented North Carolina at the NFPA Network Meeting.
- The CRR Division chief, along with two CRR specialists, attended the National Lifesavers Conference in April representing North Carolina. The Lifesavers Conference is the longest running conference addressing highway safety initiatives including child passenger safety.
- Smoke Alarm Saturday was held on the first Saturday in June. To kickoff SAS, the CRR Division partnered with Greensboro Fire Department and held the kickoff event in conjunction with Firefighter Friday
- On SAS, the CRR Division along with the Commissioner of Insurance (COI) joined both the Pinecroft-Sedgefield Fire Department and the Greensboro Fire Department in their canvassing initiatives.
- Fifty-three fire departments went out on SAS to check and/or install smoke alarms; 2,308 homes were checked, 2,201 smoke alarms were installed and 330 homes did not have a working smoke alarm.
- Awarded Smoke Alarm Canvassing (SAC) Grants to 63 fire departments with a total of 6,156 alarms awarded between the combined SAS and SAC.
- CRR Division along with COI joined the Wilmington Fire Department and the Red Cross at its Get Alarmed kickoff in Wilmington.
- Joined the COI and Safe Kid Cape Fear for the Operation Medicine Drop (OMD)ntakeback on the National DEA takeback day in April.
- Sponsored a one-day CPS CEU update in Johnston County. Attending CPS technicians can get all six CEUs for recertification.
- Partnered with Safe Kids Pitt County to hold a hot car awareness media event in Pitt County.
- Partnered with the DEA on that spring medicine takeback. Multiple OMD takeback events were held across the state including a takeback event sponsored by OSFM at the State Employees' Health and Safety Day.

CODE OFFICIALS QUALIFICATION BOARD (COQB) & HOME INSPECTOR LICENSURE BOARD (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.

CATEGORY	COQB
CEOs	4,549
Applications	468
Pre-Qualification	28
Probationary	227
Standard	213
Criminal History	1
Board courses	57
Students	624
Exam eligibilities	126
Exams taken	425
Exams passed	344
Certificates Issued	667
Probationary	381
Standard	286
Certificates Total	9,359
Complaints	5
Disciplinary actions	0

CATEGORY	HILB
Licensees	2,072
Applications	89
Pre-Licensing	50
Military/Spouses	16
Criminal History	10
Exam eligibilities	110
Exams taken	110
Exams passed	76
Licenses issued	68
Complaints	13
Disciplinary actions	6

ENGINEERING FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION

- Joe Starling and Rob Roegner attended the Annual NFPA conference and expo in Las Vegas, Nevada in June. At the conference, Joe and Rob attended the board and business meeting of the NFPA's Electrical Inspectors Section. At the meeting, the agreement was made that OSFM would have its electrical staff join the new association and be participants in committees in exchange for education and testing material.
- Joe Starling assisted at the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs at Wilmington in June with the AV needs.

STATE ELECTRICAL DIVISION

Electrical Interpretations Section

- The 94th-annual meeting of the Electrical Institute was held at the North Hilton in Raleigh on April 11 and 12. Ben Wesley did his first act moderating the conference as an OSFM employee. Danny Thomas served as a panelist. The state received positive feedback about the overall performance including Danny and Ben's abilities as code experts.
- Ben Wesley taught a photovoltaic class for the NCEIA in Franklin in May. The association received great reviews on Ben's abilities.
- The School Maintenance Electrician class and exam was administered at the Public Safety Education Campus of Wake Tech on June 29 and 30.
- The Building Code Council accepted the 2023 NEC as a B-Item at the June regular meeting. The fiscal note is under construction.

State Electrical Inspections Section

- Tommy Green, state electrical inspector, has returned to the electrical department as a Code Official III. Tommy has 20+ years in the electrical industry, holds an Electrical Inspector Level III Certification, an Unlimited Electrical Contractor License, and level III in the other four trades. Tommy will take over his previous area before he left.

State Fire Prevention Section

- Jeff Payne, state fire prevention inspector, has been promoted into the new classification of Code Official III. Jeff has 20+ years in the fire protection industry, holds all five Inspector Level III Certifications, and was a former deputy fire marshal for Asheville.
- Jim Stipe, state fire prevention Inspector, has been promoted into the new classification of Code Official III. Jim has 20+ years in the construction industry, holds all five Inspector Level III Certifications, and was the former director of inspections and public works for the Town of Swansboro.

Disaster & Recovery Section

- The two ECU professors who took the 12-week building course provided feedback to Leon Skinner. The professors are still interested in a partnership to use the program for the university's four-year construction management degree program.
- Eugene Edwards has been hired to create the electrical inspector training program. Eugene has 30+ years in the electrical industry, holds an Electrical Inspector Level III Certification, and a Limited Electrical Contractors License. Eugene recently retired from the City of Raleigh where he served as the chief electrical inspector.
- Brandon Davis, building inspector apprentice, was hired by the Fayetteville Inspections Department and left OSFM on July 21. Fayetteville has expressed interest in allowing Brandon to remain enrolled in the online teaching portion of the building inspector training program that meets weekly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- Roderick Bigelow and Noah Vance, building inspector apprentices, have job interviews schedule in July with Wake County and Rocky Mount respectively.

Building Codes

- Developed the approved edits of the North Carolina Building Code Council for the proposed 2024 North Carolina Building Codes including Mechanical, Fuel Gas, Plumbing and Residential.
- Attended and presented on various days at the 2023 North Carolina Building Inspectors Association Winter Code Seminar in Hickory.
- Staff performed seven code officials continuing education course reviews per the NCCOQB rules. Six courses were approved for the full amount of time requested.
- Visited building various jurisdictions across the state to discuss code compliance issues.
- Attended N.C. Association of Insurance Agents (NCAIA) Building Code CE meetings to discuss development an NCAIA presentation including the most significant changes in the proposed 2024 N.C. Building Code, 2024 N.C. Existing Building Code, 2024 N.C. Energy Conservation Code, 2024 N.C. Fire Code and the 2024 N.C. Administrative Code.

National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES)

- Attended various NCEES, International Code Council, North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs and North Carolina Building, Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, North Carolina Firefighters Association and North Carolina Building and Mechanical Inspector Associations committee meetings to plan continuing education opportunities for code officials and development of future codes.
- Attended various committee meetings at the N.C. General Assembly concerning proposed legislation that impacts the fire service and code enforcement.
- Attended various ad-hoc and standing committee meetings concerning development of the 2024 N.C. Building Codes.
- Attended meetings, developed the notice of hearing and agenda, and coordinated the receipt of the agenda items for the June 2023 North Carolina Building Code Council meetings.
- Virtually attended and participated in the weekly open mic meetings as presented by the North Carolina Code Officials Qualifications Board staff.
- Performed 16 code officials continuing education course reviews per the NCCOQB rules. Fifteen courses were approved for the full amount of time requested.
- Visited various jurisdictions across the state to discuss code compliance issues or teach educational modules.
- Developed the March 2023 N.C. Building Code Council permanent rules submission to the North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings – Rules Review Commission.
- Attended various North Carolina Fire Marshals Association, North Carolina Building Inspectors Association, Council of Code Officials, North Carolina Code Officials Qualifications Board, American Institute of Architects, International Code Council, North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality, American Wood Council, Greater Wake Inspectors Association, North Carolina Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors, North Carolina Code Council, Underwriters Laboratories and National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors meetings and workshops.
- Attended various committee meetings at the N.C. General Assembly concerning proposed legislation that impacts the fire service and code enforcement, including the Fire Service Legislative Day.
- Attended various ad-hoc and standing committee meetings concerning development of the 2024 N.C. Building Codes and future code amendments.
- Assisted the North Carolina Building Code Council in conducting the NCBCC Appeals Hearing: Davidson County Fire Marshal’s Office v. NCDOT (BCC 2022-2) in Raleigh on April 26.

- Participated in a meeting to discuss the NCDOI-OSFM procedure for handling inspections requests for when a jurisdiction cannot provide a timely inspection within two business days as per NCGS 143-139.4.
- Developed meeting agendas and attended the June 2023 North Carolina Building Code Council meetings.
- Developed the 2018 NC Building Codes amendments through March 14, 2023, and posted them on the NCDOI-OSFM website.
- Worked on revisions to House Bill 488/Senate Bill 378. However, those revisions were rejected by the proponents of the bill in the N.C. General Assembly.
- Virtually attended and participated in the weekly open mic meetings as presented by the North Carolina Code Officials Qualifications Board staff.
- Performed seven code officials continuing education course reviews per the NCCOQB rules. Six courses were approved for the full amount of time requested.
- Met with representatives of various designers, owners and contractors across the state to discuss code compliance issues: Walnut Cove/Stewart Apartments, Toyota, New City Design, Hager Smith Architects and Minges Bottling Co.
- Visited various jurisdictions across the state to discuss code compliance issues or teach educational modules: New Hanover County, Charlotte, Wake County, Stoke County, Randolph County, City of Raleigh and Pitt County.
- Attended various North Carolina Plumbing Inspectors Association, North Carolina Building Inspectors Association, North Carolina Code Officials Qualifications Board, American Institute of Architects, International Code Council, North Carolina Fire Marshals Association, Greater Wake Inspectors Association and Underwriters Laboratories meetings and workshops.
- Completed various IT training modules.
- Attended various committee meetings at the N.C. General Assembly and with stakeholders concerning proposed legislation that impacts the fire service and code enforcement, including House Bill 488/Senate Bill 378, House Bill 893, Senate Bill 675 and House Bill 603.
- Attended the NCDOI-OSFM Marketplace Inspections Management Team meeting to witness a demonstration of permitting software by a vendor.
- Attended Fire Code revision committee meetings.

Building Codes Interpretations Section | Statistics

Calls	1,700
Letters of Interpretation	2
Informal E-Mail Interpretations	1,959
Other E-Mails	12,856
Meetings, Seminars and Visits	156

Building Systems Interpretations Section

- Kate Whalen presented at the N.C. Building Inspectors Association (NCBIA) in Hickory the Mechanical Continuing Ed class to approximately 100 code officials for their annual continuing education mechanical certificate requirements.
- Kate Whalen completed Electrical Level II standard coursework.
- Dan Dittman prepared and present spray foam presentation to approximately 80 participants (code officials) at the open mic Friday event.
- Kate Whalen completed Bldg Level II coursework.
- Dan Dittman completed Bldg Level I coursework.