



NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL QUARTERLY REPORT

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Fire Safety Report: 2023 Fire Fatalities in North Carolina | In 2023, NC witnessed 146 fire-related deaths, showing a slight decrease from the previous year. This highlights ongoing challenges in fire safety across the state. The report revealed 7 fatalities from vehicle fires, stressing the need for comprehensive safety education. Alarmingly, 40 fatal fires occurred between 1-2 a.m. over a four years' time span, indicating the necessity for heightened awareness during these times. Harnett County recorded the highest number of fire fatalities in 2023, with Guilford County showing the highest on a three-year average. Individuals aged 50-64 accounted for 41 deaths, emphasizing the importance of fire safety education for at-risk populations. [Fire Fatality APP V2 \(arcgis.com\)](#)

The North Carolina High School Firefighter Challenge | We are thrilled to announce the upcoming NC High School Firefighter Challenge, an opportunity for high school students across our state to immerse themselves in a week-long fire and rescue training program nestled in the beautiful mountains of NC. This annual program, being held June 17-21, 2024, in Weaverville, invites high school students currently enrolled in a High School Fire Tech Program or Junior Firefighter Program in NC to participate. It's a chance for young minds to experience firsthand the challenges and rewards of the firefighting profession. [Junior Fire Fighter Program | OSFM \(ncosfm.gov\)](#)

The North Carolina Electrical Institute | The 95th Annual NC Electrical Institute is an educational program hosted by OSFM, the State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors, and the NC Electrical Inspectors Association that aims to establish consistent application of electrical construction standards and practices, promoting uniformity and public safety. The upcoming institute will be held April 16 – 17, 2024 at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills, 3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27609. [NC Electrical Institute - NC State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors \(ncbeec.org\)](#)

Grants | Announcements regarding the tire grant scheduled for April 16th and the Fire Grant set for May 15th are on schedule. However, the Standalone Rescue Squad Grant has been postponed pending further clarification from the General Assembly on qualifying criteria. Furthermore, the division is committed to enhancing transparency and accessibility by updating ratings classes online for all types of surveys in the coming months.

Exciting News: North Carolina Emergency Training Center Groundbreaking | We are thrilled to announce that we're breaking ground on the North Carolina Emergency Training Center! This groundbreaking marks a significant milestone for us as we strive to provide top-notch training opportunities for our State. Construction of the NC ETC is slated for completion in 2025, and this facility will enhance capabilities to offer training in critical areas such as Swift Water Rescue, Aircraft Firefighting, Urban Search & Rescue, Hazmat, and Fire Investigation Technician courses. [NC Emergency Training Center \(ETC\) | OSFM \(ncosfm.gov\)](#)



Save the Date: Spring 2025 NC Breathing Equipment/Firefighter Survival School | Secure your spot for the Spring 2025 NC Breathing Equipment/Firefighter Survival School! Pre-registration is a must! Don't miss out, as spots fill up fast through Gaston College's lottery system. Registration for the March 2025 class opens on May 1st, 2024, at 8 am EST, closing on May 15th, 2024, at 8 am - Limited spots available—only 60 participants per class. [North Carolina Breathing Equipment/Firefighter Survival School - Economic & Workforce Development \(gaston.edu\)](https://www.gaston.edu/nc-breathing-equipment-firefighter-survival-school-economic-workforce-development)

Q-School: Qualification School for Fire and Rescue Personnel | All certification classes in North Carolina must be taught by a Qualified Instructor. If you are interested in becoming Qualified, learn more on our website. [Qualification School | OSFM \(ncosfm.gov\)](https://www.ncosfm.gov/qualification-school)

NC Everyone Goes Home Advocate Team | The NC Everyone Goes Home (EGH) Advocate Team is proud to announce its partnership with the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation and the NC Office of State Fire Marshal. Through this collaboration, the EGH Advocate Team will provide essential classes across the state, focusing on crucial topics such as courage, leadership, and accountability. [Everyone Goes Home Team | OSFM \(ncosfm.gov\)](https://www.ncosfm.gov/everyone-goes-home-team)

Exciting Announcement: Launch of OSFM Communications Team | We're thrilled to announce the creation of our new Communications Team at OSFM! This is a big step forward in improving how we operate internally and connect externally with the public. Our team is made up of experienced professionals in communications, graphic design, marketing, and public relations. The team will focus on the OSFM website, social media, events, and public information.



JUNE 1, 2024

SMOKE ALARM SATURDAY

Smoke Alarm Saturday: June 1, 2024 | Mark your calendars for Smoke Alarm Saturday! This one-day, statewide smoke alarm canvassing event aims to raise awareness of the need for working smoke alarms in homes. Fire departments across North Carolina will come together on the first Saturday in June to educate their communities on how to stay safe in the event of a home fire. [Smoke Alarm Saturday \(SAS\) | OSFM \(ncosfm.gov\)](https://www.ncosfm.gov/smoke-alarm-saturday)

North Carolina Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program | January 1, 2024, the NC Firefighter Cancer Benefit Pilot Program continued, replacing the former Firefighters' Health Benefits Pilot Program. The OSFM will now manage the program directly, eliminating reliance on private insurance. OSFM has partnered with Co-Ordinated Benefit Plans LLC to administer the program, ensuring oversight remains with the OSFM. Key features of the program include reimbursement of up to \$12,000 for eligible firefighters' out-of-pocket medical expenses related to cancer diagnoses. Additionally, a lump sum benefit of \$25,000 will be provided for each cancer diagnosis, with a maximum cumulative benefit of \$50,000. OSFM will continue to work with the Associations and the GA on providing a permanent benefit program. [North Carolina Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program | OSFM \(ncosfm.gov\)](https://www.ncosfm.gov/north-carolina-firefighter-cancer-benefit-program)

Safe Kids NC Activities | Mark your calendars for a series of important events aimed at enhancing safety and well-being in North Carolina. From April 22 to 25, the NC Traffic Safety Conference will gather experts to discuss strategies for safer roads. On April 27, Brunswick County will host a Smoke Alarm Blitz in partnership with the Red Cross, followed by National DEA Drug Take Back Day. Safe Kids Week will take place from May 6 to 10, focusing on child safety education and awareness. Then, from May 13 to 16, the Safe Kids NC Conference and 30th Anniversary Celebration will mark three decades of promoting child safety.

AFFF Updates | AFFF Division is gearing up for a proactive approach in managing its inventory and addressing environmental concerns with the initiation of the Take Back program this summer. In preparation, the team is diligently collecting current inventory data for 2024 and coordinating logistics for warehousing and disposal of foam. They are actively engaging with departments to gauge interest and participation in the program.