



# NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

BRIAN TAYLOR, STATE FIRE MARSHAL

First Quarter 2025

➤ For more news, visit [ncosfm.gov/news](https://ncosfm.gov/news)

## NC Code Officials Qualification Board (NCCOQB) and Home Inspector License Board (NCHILB)

### Updates

**Ongoing Projects:** The NC Code Officials Qualification Board (NCCOQB) staff are actively developing 17 new Board courses, worksheets, and state exams to align with the 2024 NC Building Code updates. Additionally, the Home Inspector License Board (NCHILB) staff are implementing strategic priorities identified during the October workshop to advance the Board's goals.

**Professional Development:** Staff members holding NCCOQB certificates will participate in mandatory continuing education (CE) through professional associations such as the North Carolina Building Inspectors Association (NCBIA) and others.

### Upcoming Meetings:

A series of key meetings are scheduled:

- January 6: NCHILB Pre-Drywall Committee Meeting
- January 6: NCHILB Standards of Practice Committee Meeting
- January 10: NCHILB Quarterly Board Meeting
- January 15: NCCOQB Education & Research Committee Meeting
- January 28: NCCOQB Quarterly Board Meeting
- January 30: Rules Review Commission Meeting to review proposed changes to NCCOQB certificate levels

## Fire & Rescue Commission and Training Update

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

### Board Meetings:

- Fire Rescue Commission: January 14 at Kernersville Fire Department
- Certification Board: March 13 at Kernersville Fire Department
- Fire Rescue Commission: April 8 at Kernersville Fire Department

### Qualification Schools:

- January 21-22: Nash CC – Firefighter/Rapid Intervention Crew (FF/RIC) Only
- February 10-11: Pitt CC – Written Exam Only
- April 28-29: Western Piedmont CC – Written Exam Only

### Indoctrination Courses:

- January 24: Burlington Fire Department
- January 28: Mid-Winter Conference
- February 18: Sampson CC
- April 7: Cleveland CC

**TR Requalifications Completed:** OSFM recently completed 13 Technical Rescue (TR) requalification sessions, successfully requalifying 314 Vehicle Rescue Instructors and 236 Ropes Instructors.

**Upcoming Training Opportunity:** The Technical Rope School is scheduled for the first week of May. Stay tuned for more details and registration information.

## Grants and Governmental Services Updates

Important Dates for 2025 Grants and Reporting:

- Volunteer Department/Apparatus Tire Replacement Grant: Opens January 15th
- Fire District Tax Values: Due February 1st
- Volunteer Fire Department Fund Grant: Opens January 2nd and closes March 1st

Reminder for Departments: When changing fire chiefs, addresses, or banking information, be sure to update these details with the grant staff to ensure accurate and timely payments. For assistance, please contact your assigned county liaison.



Q School Information

### **FOAM Update: AFFF Inventory and Disposal Progress**

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), in collaboration with the NC Collaboratory, continues its efforts to manage Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) inventory and disposal:

- Visit us at the NC Fire Chief's Mid-Winter Conference: The NC Collaboratory will host a booth at the conference, featuring OSFM Foam Analysts. Departments are encouraged to stop by to complete their AFFF inventory for 2025. This inventory initiative will continue through the spring and summer.
- AFFF Disposal Efforts Underway: The NC Collaboratory is finalizing bids for the destruction of AFFF currently in storage at the Charlotte warehouse. Once this inventory is disposed of, AFFF collection from departments will resume.
- Reporting AFFF Spills or Usage: Departments are reminded to report any spills or usage of AFFF via ImageTrend or by contacting an OSFM Foam Analyst. Contact details are available on the OSFM website under the AFFF section.



AFFF Division

### **OSFM Launches Initiative to Support Fire Departments with ISO Ratings**

The OSFM Ratings and Inspections Division is spearheading a new initiative to assist fire departments that have yet to undergo an ISO rating inspection. This effort aims to help departments achieve a better rating than Class 9, which can lead to lower insurance premiums and enhanced fire protection services for their communities.

If your department is currently a Class 9 and has not undergone an ISO rating inspection but is interested in doing so, feel free to reach out to Tony Bailey at 919-218-9694 ([tony.bailey@ncdoi.gov](mailto:tony.bailey@ncdoi.gov)) or Vernon Ward at 919-605-6474 ([vernon.ward@ncdoi.gov](mailto:vernon.ward@ncdoi.gov)).

### **Fire Marshal 101 Course Offerings**

The primary objective of the Fire Marshal 101 course is to inform current and future Fire Marshals or Code Enforcement Officials about various topics pertaining to fire protection and prevention, fire inspections and investigations, applicable North Carolina Laws & Regulations with updates, and the Organization and Operation of the North Carolina Department of Insurance – Office of the State Fire Marshal.

There are four course offerings in early 2025:

- New Hanover County - Wilmington, NC - February 24-27
- Wake County - Raleigh, NC - March 31-April 3
- Guilford County - Greensboro, NC - April 7-10

Pre-registration is required. For more information and registration, please visit <https://ncosfm.gov/firemarshal101>



Fire Marshal 101

### **New Edition of North Carolina State Building Code Set for 2025 Rollout**

OSFM Building Codes and Interpretations Section is hard at work finalizing the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code. The comprehensive suite of 10 codes is expected to become effective on July 1, 2025, marking a significant update to the state's construction and safety regulations.

The current suite of 11 codes, which make up the 2018 North Carolina State Building Code, will remain in effect through June 30, 2025. This overlap ensures a smooth transition for industry professionals, designers, and contractors as they prepare to adopt the updated codes.

Both online and print versions of the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code are anticipated to be publicly available during the first quarter of 2025. These resources will provide essential guidance for building and safety compliance across the state.



State Building Code  
Timeline

For additional details about the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code and its implementation timeline, please refer to the official letter linked below: <https://www.ncosfm.gov/2024-1212-effective-date-2024-north-carolina-state-building-code>