



NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

BRIAN TAYLOR, STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Fourth Quarter 2024

Helene Response Update from Chief Brian Taylor, State Fire Marshal

With the assistance of our dedicated partners from all over North Carolina, OSFM has deployed more than 865 personnel, dispatched over 140 apparatus, and coordinated the movement of more than 490 resources to assist with response and recovery from Hurricane Helene.

In addition to staffing the State Emergency Operations Center, pre-staging equipment and teams prior to the storm, and establishing a Base Camp for the collection and distribution of equipment and resources to affected fire departments across the region, OSFM has deployed more than 80 inspectors for building assessments who have completed approximately 8,000 evaluations across eight counties.

OSFM is working with our partners to deliver a wide range of supplies to Western North Carolina. This includes 400 smoke detectors and 1,000 CO detectors for communities relying on generators. Our office has also distributed more than 520 Starlinks to provide emergency communications, approximately 450 sets of PPE, 350 SCBA, 300 pairs of boots, over 130 chainsaws, in excess of 75 generators, and other essential equipment such as apparatus, fire hoses, gloves, medical supplies, rescue equipment, and fire ground tools to affected areas. This comprehensive support, delivered via both land and air, ensures the timely delivery of all needed resources.

This would not be possible without the collaboration and support of our many partners. We are extremely grateful for the overwhelming response and willingness to donate greatly needed supplies and equipment.

This is one of the most devastating storms our state has ever faced. The dedication and tireless efforts of our firefighters, inspectors, and support staff have been truly invaluable during this challenging time. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has stepped up—our local fire departments, state agencies, federal partners, and the many organizations across the country who have provided resources and support. The road to recovery will be a long one. We recognize that WNC will need ongoing assistance for years to come, and we are committed to ensuring the citizens of this region and the fire service agencies who serve them have the resources and tools they need to fully recover.

Fire Investigation Unit Update

Members of the Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) will be attending the 27th Annual Fire Investigative Approaches Training Seminar in Myrtle Beach, SC, from October 21-25. The seminar, hosted by the NC and SC Chapters of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), provides FIU members with advanced-level training on key aspects of fire investigation. This ongoing training is crucial for FIU members to stay current and maintain their state and international certifications.



Reminder: The FIU is available to assist with Origin & Cause investigations. To request assistance, please contact your closest FIU member directly or reach out to Unit Supervisor Craig Jarman at 919-628-2579.

NFPA Safety Summit Coming to Pitt Community College on November 21st

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Safety Summit is set to take place on November 21st at Pitt Community College in Winterville, NC. This event will bring together fire safety professionals, emergency responders, and community leaders from across the state to discuss the latest trends, challenges, and solutions in fire prevention and safety. The summit will focus on critical topics affecting public safety, including advancements in fire protection technology, fire code enforcement, and best practices for community risk reduction.

Fire & Rescue Commission and Training Update

The Fire and Rescue Commission has several upcoming important dates for the last quarter of 2024.

Board Meetings:

- Certification Board: December 12, 2024 at Kernersville Fire Department

Qualification Schools:

- October 14-15: Nash CC – Written Exam Only
- November 18-19: Cleveland CC – Firefighter/Rapid Intervention Crew (FF/RIC) Only

Indoctrination Courses:

- November 12: Cleveland CC
- November 16: Pitt CC
- December 3: Southwestern CC



Q School Information

Important Technical Rescuer (TR) Certification Update: The new Technical Rescuer (TR) program will be live by the end of this year. The committee is finalizing details in the coming months, with some key deadlines for current TR candidates. Complete all current TR classes by December 31, 2024. After this date, certifications will no longer be issued for these courses. Ensure all prerequisites are met prior to December 31, 2024, or certifications will not be granted.

TR VR & Rope Re-qualification: Re-qualification courses for TR VR & Rope are currently available through December. Visit the website for more information and to register.

NFPA Standard Rewrite: Committees for Firefighter, Fire & Life Safety Educator (FLSE), and Driver/Operator have been established to begin the rewrite of the current NFPA Standard. This effort is to ensure compliance with accreditation requirements and maintain the highest standards in the industry.

Fire Safety Shows and CPS Awareness at NC State Fair October 17th – 27th, Raleigh, NC

OSFM will be at this year's NC State Fair, held from October 17th to 27th in Raleigh, presenting four fire safety shows each day, offering interactive, hands-on demonstrations. These engaging sessions will teach attendees how to prevent home fires and what to do in case of an emergency. The family-friendly presentations will cover key topics such as recognizing fire hazards, the importance of working smoke alarms, and developing and practicing a home fire escape plan. At the Safety City exhibit, visitors can also learn about Child Passenger Safety (CPS) from Safe Kids NC. Certified CPS technicians will be on hand to offer guidance on the proper use of car seats and booster seats and provide tips on how to keep children safe while traveling. Parents and caregivers can receive valuable advice on ensuring their car seats are installed correctly.

Annual Turkey Fryer Safety Demonstration – November 25th

OSFM has teamed up with the Cary Fire Department to host its Annual Turkey Fryer Safety Demonstration on November 25th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at the Cary Fire Department. This event is to raise awareness about the dangers associated with turkey fryers and provide valuable tips on how to avoid accidents while preparing holiday meals.

Ratings, Grants, GIS and Foam Program Update

We are actively working with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to compile a list of all fire departments that operate on a well system. This effort is part of the NC Collaboratory's work related to the presence of PFAS in water systems, and OSFM has been tasked with gathering this information for DEQ.

The OSFM AFFF team is currently evaluating potential locations for storage containers across the state. The goal is to place a container in each region to facilitate AFFF take-back and storage. The AFFF take-back program is temporarily on hold, as the Charlotte storage facility has reached full capacity. Once additional storage space is secured, the program will resume.



AFFF Division Website

The 2025 Annual Foam Inventory will begin in January. Departments are encouraged to be prepared and ensure their records are up to date.

Reminder: If your department experiences a foam spill or usage, be sure to fill out a report in Image Trend or reach out to one of the Foam Analysts for assistance. Contact info is available at <https://ncosfm.gov/aff-foam>.