



NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL QUARTERLY REPORT

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Third Quarter 2024



Fire Investigation Unit Announces Fire Fatality Investigation Classes

The Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) is offering several upcoming Fire Fatality Investigation classes, now open for registration through OSFM24. This course is approved for NC-CFI credit, providing a valuable opportunity for those in the fire investigation field to enhance their skills and knowledge. This initiative aims to equip investigators with the necessary tools and expertise to effectively handle fire fatality cases, ensuring thorough and accurate investigations. For agencies interested in this class or seeking more information, visit the FIU website.



2024 NC NFA Weekend Scheduled for November 22-24 at National Fire Academy

The 2024 NC NFA Weekend is set to take place from November 22 to 24 at the prestigious National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. Fire service professionals are encouraged to mark their calendars for this significant event, which promises to offer extensive training and networking opportunities. Registration for the event will be open from July 1 through September 30. Attendees can find detailed information and registration on our website at <https://ncosfm.gov/nfa-weekend>. The weekend event is an excellent opportunity for fire service members to enhance their skills, gain valuable insights, and collaborate with peers from across the region. Don't miss the chance to be part of this important gathering at the National Fire Academy.



Successful Smoke Alarm Saturday Campaign

This year during Smoke Alarm Saturday, more than 63 fire departments installed over 2,300 smoke alarms and identified more than 1,100 non-working alarms in homes across the state.

Firefighters' Cancer Insurance Program

Thanks to the tireless advocacy and united voice of the entire North Carolina Fire Service, the General Assembly passed landmark legislation creating a permanent fund that provides benefits to firefighters who have received a new diagnosis of cancer on or after January 1, 2022. The program will become effective on July 1, 2025 and will be administered by OSFM. The program provides a lump sum benefit of \$37,000 for each diagnosis of cancer and a monthly disability benefit for eligible firefighters.



Ratings and Inspections

The Ratings and Inspections Division is actively conducting the 2024 five-year rescue grant equipment audits on private non-profit rescue squads across the state, with a tentative completion date set for the end of July. Statewide fire department inspections continue on a five-year cycle. If you have any questions regarding your department, please reach out to your assigned inspector. All ratings classes are currently undergoing updates and are expected to be completed by the spring of 2025.



North Carolina Emergency Training Center Update

The North Carolina Emergency Training Center construction is on track to be completed in 2025. 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. For those interested in following the progress, a live stream from the construction site is available at <https://ncosfm.gov/etclivestream>. For more information, visit the NC Emergency Training Center (ETC) page on the OSFM website at <https://ncosfm.gov/nc-emergency-training-center-etc>.

Upcoming 2024 Fire and Rescue Board Meetings and Events Announced

The Fire and Rescue Commission has several upcoming important dates for the second half of 2024, with important board meetings, training events, and re-qualification periods scheduled.

Board Meetings:

- F&R Commission Board: July 9, 2024, and October 8, 2024. Both meetings will be held at the Kernersville Fire Department.
- Certification Board: September 12, 2024, and December 12, 2024. Both meetings will also be held at the Kernersville Fire Department.

TR Re-Qualification:

The Technical Rescuer (TR) re-qualification period will run from July to December 2024.

Participants are encouraged to check the NC DOI website for detailed information. Under Course Category, select Re-Qualification and select Search.

Qualification Schools:

- July 23: A-B Tech – Written Exam Only
- August 6: Wake Tech – Written Exam Only
- September 16: Cape Fear CC – Firefighter/Rapid Intervention Crew (FF/RIC) Only

CRR Division Urges Hot Car Awareness as Temperatures Soar

With summer temperatures on the rise, the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Division is issuing an urgent reminder about the dangers of leaving children, senior adults, or pets in parked vehicles. The interior temperature of a vehicle can increase by 80% in the first 30 minutes and can quickly surpass 150 degrees, creating a deadly environment. Tragically, North Carolina has already reported its first hot car fatality of the year.

North Carolina State Building Code

After extensive work by the Engineering Division to make necessary clarifications and modifications, the 2024 Existing Building Code, the 2024 Building Code, and the 2024 Fire Code were approved by the North Carolina Rules Review Commission. The 2024 update process is now complete as each of the codes that make up the North Carolina State Building Code have been approved by the Rules Review Commission. OSFM is proud of the Engineering Division staff for their hard work and diligence in securing approval for the codes.

Grant Updates

- Tire Replacement Grant: This grant closed on June 17th. OSFM awarded 142 grants and 7 more departments were awarded from the excess funds.
- Volunteer Rescue Units/Equipment & Capital Improvement Grant: NCDOT IT is currently working on integrating this grant into the OSFM database, with a release expected in July.

AFFF Updates

The 2024 AFFF Inventory will be completed by the end of June. We are almost ready to begin the takeback and sampling of all unwanted AFFF, with only a few logistical details left to finalize. Please remember that all AFFF usage must be entered in Image Trend, even if you use another reporting software.

With assistance from NCSU, we are testing environmentally friendly foams. Training sessions will be available for everyone to view. The first class was conducted at Gaston College on June 25th with 30 registered participants. More classes will be scheduled later this year and announced on our website.

Upcoming Engineering Events Announced

June 20-23: The Carolina Electrical Contractors Association will be gathering in Myrtle Beach, SC.

July 15-19: The Southeastern Firefighters Association will hold its annual conference.

July 28-31: NC Building & Mechanical Inspectors Association Conference in Wilmington, NC

July 28-August 1: The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) Conference
August 25-28: NC Electrical Inspectors Association Annual Conference in Cherokee, NC

