



NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL QUARTERLY REPORT

JUNE 2021

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

ADMINISTRATION

The North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal implemented a cancer registry located in OSFM 24 on our website intended for command staff to report cancer cases and deaths. This data will help state leaders understand how cancer is affecting the service and what resources are needed. We are asking for your help to keep data up-to-date so we have real-time information to quantify requested increases in coverage for presumptive cases of cancers.

Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Causey asks that all fire chiefs log into the [Fire & Rescue Services](#) page on the NCDOI web site to participate in the cancer registry. **HB-535 Firefighters Fighting Cancer Act 2021** was being discussed in the General Assembly and health committee members were asking for the data. North Carolina is the only state that does not have presumptive cancer coverage for firefighters and our numbers are rising. Please note that you can update as many times as needed.

On May 5, 2021, Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Causey hosted firefighters from across the state for Firefighter Legislation Day. Commissioner Causey and Chief State Fire Marshal Brian Taylor are working with legislators and fire service leaders to boost state grants that go to volunteer fire departments as well as other pertinent legislation. We are proud to advocate for our first responders who keep our state safe.



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LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET PRIORITIES

- Commissioner Causey is asking for 28 additional positions.
- HB-315 – Arson Law Amendments to clarify jurisdiction and add five fire investigators
- Inspection authority for state construction and add field inspectors and engineers
- Funding to transition Injury Prevention/SAFE KIDS NC to the Community Risk Reduction Division
- Recurring funding to support the Image Trend Elite Fire Reporting System
- Requested \$28 million from the America Response Program (ARP) for NC emergency training
- Additional fire and first responder bills.

GRANTS & GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

- Closed out the 2020 Fire Grant
- Announced the 2021 Fire Grant on May 17, 2021
- Closing out 2020 Rescue Grant (only 8 extensions left to complete)
- Issued 50 more fire grants this year from last year
- Completed a podcast episode for Pocket Tools.

FIRE & RESCUE COMMISSION

- The Emergency Responders Mental Health Symposium begins June 7th. Attendees will receive credit for two NFA courses – the Health and Safety Program Manager and Department Wellness Program.
- We will be hosting an NFA Command and Control of Incident Operations class September 20 – 25 in Pinehurst.
- We will be hosting an NFA Plan Review for Fire and Life Safety class in Monroe. We are trying to secure another class for Water Based Plans Review in Forsyth County in the fall.
- There are several online offerings for NFA courses posted on our website.
- All NFA information can be found on our website [HERE](#).
- The High School Firefighter Challenge will be held June 21 – 25 in Asheville, NC. We currently have 38 students signed up.
- The NFA NC State Weekend is scheduled for November 19 – 21 and registration information should be posted by July 1st.
- ImageTrend Fire Bridge RMS software is being updated to the elite version with a planned released date of July 12. The Image Trend Records Management System is available to all fire departments, rescue squads and county fire marshal office at **no cost**.

RATINGS & INSPECTIONS

- OSFM conducted 56 surveys, 17 – 9S inspections for a total of 73 surveys and inspections
- Inspection staff trained on and started using a new GIS mapping program during our surveys that was developed in-house
- Inspection staff rolled out a new way to teach online with two statewide offerings of the NCRRS Preparing for Ratings Inspection Course. This class has been a great success and is now offered twice every other month.

FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING

- Started scheduling classes at the State Training Center in Stanly County
- Average cost per student is \$28.41 totaling 1558 students as of March 2021
- Participated with commission staff to develop additional podcasts
- Completed return to “normal operations” in June 2021
- Upcoming events and projects
 - Complete delivery of live fire upgrades by June 30, 2021
 - Start live fire audits in July 2021
 - Staff to attend SAFRE Conference in August

INJURY PREVENTION

- Shannon Bullock, Division Chief of OSFM Injury Prevention retired after 28 years of service with the state.
- Staff hosted a successful Safe Kids Conference in Concord.
- Smoke Alarm Saturday was successful with preliminary results showing 3,368 homes checked, 2,781 alarms were installed and 573 homes were without alarms.
- Staff hosted Operation Medicine Drop Events.
- Staff hosted Hot Car Events and will continue these events across the state during the summer.

ENGINEERING

- Engineering began a new initiative this past quarter called “Inspector Open Mic,” a half hour collaborative call on Friday mornings for code officials to informally meet via WebEx. This has been well attended with 70 to 120 inspectors on any given morning. It provides a weekly communication forum between NCDOI/OSFM Engineering Division and local government.
- The Qualification Board mandated inspectors to take an one hour online educational course about the new NC GS 160D section which covers cities and counties in one section instead of two. Currently Q board has about 75-80% of all active inspectors who have taken the course. The course provides all their CE credit needs for one year. The CE credit can be applied to the 2020 code year or the 2021 code year. This was done to ease the lack of CE available during the pandemic.
- Engineering Division staff are developing Level 1 Exam Preparation courses for the upcoming September NCDOI Code College 2021. This is done to curb the over 600 level I temporary certificates issued because of the pandemic, which expire December 31, 2021. The goal of the exam prep course is to increase pass rates on the state certification exams.
- Engineering Division staff developed the Residential Changeout Inspector (RCI) state exam and will be administering it in June. The exam will be remotely proctored to approximately 40 students of the pilot course who hold a standard certificate in any level in Mechanical, Electrical or Plumbing.