

Q FIRE MARSHALS QUARTERLY



INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION • FALL 2025

The Return of the NCFMA Institute: Advancing Fire Prevention, Education, and Leadership

The North Carolina Fire Marshals' Association proudly hosted the return of the NCFMA Institute this year; an event not held since the 1970s. With more than 150 participants engaged in classes throughout the week, the institute marked a milestone in advancing education and professional development for fire inspection, prevention, and investigation professionals across the state.

Thanks to over \$80,000 in generous donations, the school was fully funded without drawing from the association's account, reaffirming NCFMA's mission of saving lives and protecting property through fire prevention. Adding to the excitement, more than \$3,000 in raffle prizes were awarded, while ticket sales and merchandise raised an additional \$5,783, funds that will directly support future initiatives.

The significance of this event was further underscored by recognition from the International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA). Laurie Christien, IFMA President, joined by Brian Kelly, Past NCFMA President and current Small Jurisdiction Representative on the IFMA Board, presented a resolution honoring the institute and its impact on the fire service community.



IFMA President Laurie Christensen with
an IFMA Update to Attendees



Hands on Training at the NCFMA
Institute

PROVIDING LEADERSHIP FOR FIRE MARSHALS SINCE 1906

The Return of the NCFMA Institute: Advancing Fire Prevention, Education, and Leadership

Continued

This recognition comes at a time when fire marshals nationwide are addressing urgent challenges highlighted during the recent IFMA Chapter Presidents Meeting: staffing shortages, certification delays, cultural barriers between suppression and prevention, and limited resources for inspections and investigations. The institute stands as a model response, demonstrating how education, strong partnerships, and creative funding can build workforce capacity, inspire new engagement in code enforcement and investigations, and elevate prevention roles as a cornerstone of community safety.

By reviving the NCFMA Institute, North Carolina has not only renewed a historic tradition but also set a forward-looking example for chapters across the country. Together, NCFMA and IFMA reaffirm a united commitment to professional education, leadership development, and advocacy that strengthens the fire and life safety ecosystem locally, nationally, and internationally.





Executive Secretary's Report

It has been an exciting and busy few months for IFMA and NFPA. The rollout of the "Don't Chance Safety" campaign has been a big success with a few of our chapters amplifying the message across their regions. Following the initial commercial's success, NFPA partnered with Johnathan Scott (star of Property Brothers among other home improvement reality shows), to bring a bit more humor to the message with the "Reverse Renovations" commercial which rolled out in July. Make sure you check out that message at www.reverserenovations.org and share that with your stakeholders as well. And also look at the details through that page of how you can support the PRO Codes Act moving its way through the US Congress.

Just a few weeks ago, I was excited knowing our IFMA President Lauri Christensen was able to attend the inaugural NC Fire Marshals Institute program. The program was a success for a first time event with nearly 200 attendees and education programs focused on everything from code enforcement, to investigations, and legal aspects of the business. Read more about that event on page one.

Lastly, it is important to know that the IFMA Fire Code Development Committee will begin its work in December preparing for the 2026 and beyond code development cycles. This group's focus will be on NFPA 1 and 101 and the related standards referenced in them as well as CRR and Professional Qualifications Standards related to the fire prevention community. If your chapter has a code committee working on proposed changes, the IFMA Code Committee would certainly like to be aware of those to ensure we deliver a consistent message to the Technical Committees who will be reviewing comments and inputs.

If you would like an IFMA Board Member to attend your conference like Laurie Christensen did for the NC Institute to make a report, participate in educational programs, or swear in the officers of your chapter, please let me know as soon as possible, and we will make that arrangement.

*Robby Dawson
NFPA Regional Director
IFMA Executive Secretary*

Show Your IFMA Pride

Did you know as an IFMA Chapter, you can represent the Association on your Chapter's website? Many Chapters are linking that logo directly to the IFMA Membership website in order to let their members know about the ability to be and IFMA Member—a benefit of NFPA Membership—free of charge.

Contact the IFMA Secretary for an appropriate electronic format for the logo to use.

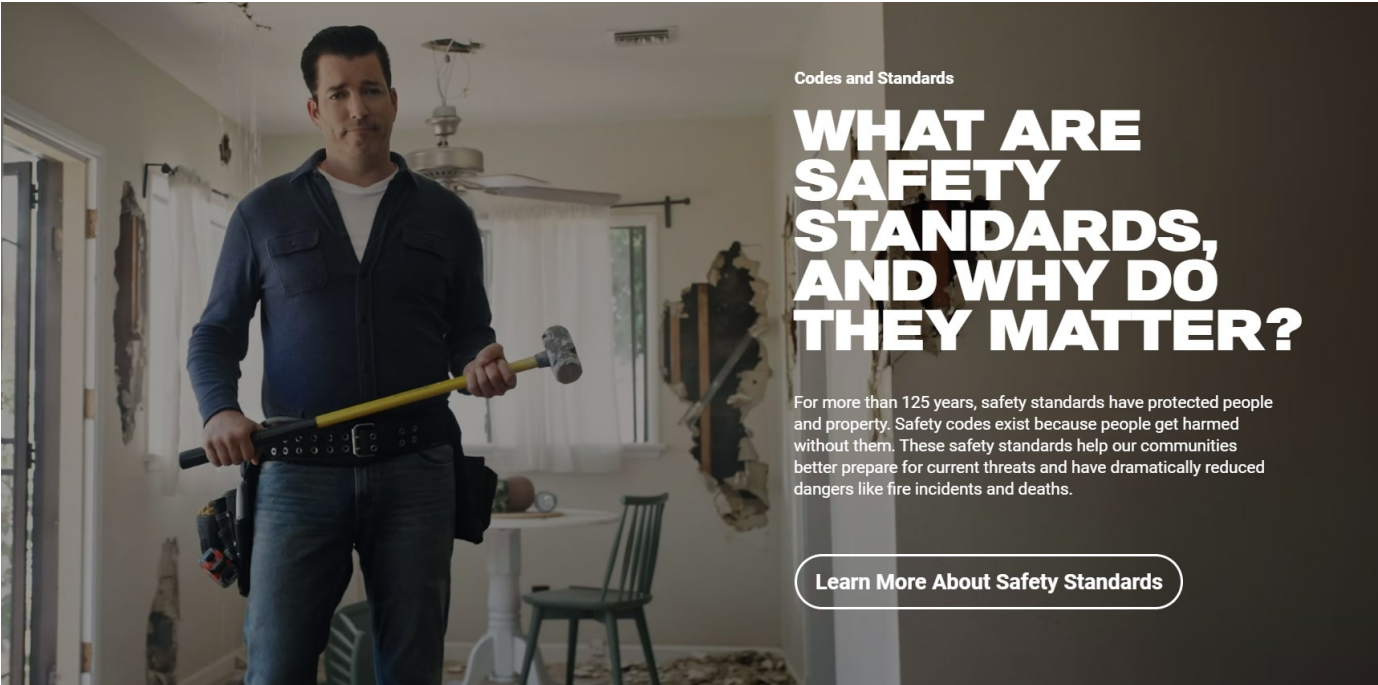


The “Don’t Chance Safety” Campaign Continues

“We have a messaging problem” was the comment delivered by NFPA President and CEO Jim Pauley at the NFPA Conference in June. The public is unaware of where codes and standards come from, who develops them and how, and that they are an integral component of the Fire and Life Safety Ecosystem™ safety professionals use every day to keep their communities safe. This lack of awareness also contributes to how some safety standards are being undermined by legislative and political processes allowing for a degradation of safety in the built environment.

This campaign—anchored by two nationally distributed commercials—hopes to drive viewers to the website where they can learn the answers to the question of how we keep our homes and businesses safe. Public facing information also included on these pages is associated with the Pro-Codes Act making its way through Congress. That bill will protect the intellectual property that is developed by all Standard Development Organizations or SDO’s. The latest commercial released in July called “Reverse Renovations” can be viewed and shared on any social media platform or website.

Anyone can access the website and learn more about how not to “Chance Safety” and how to support the Pro-Codes Act. It’s an easy process accessible via the website below. Also, a number of IFMA Chapters have gone on the record as supporting this effort with a letter of support to their Congressional Delegation. For more information, reach out to your NFPA Regional Director or the IFMA Secretary.



Codes and Standards

WHAT ARE SAFETY STANDARDS, AND WHY DO THEY MATTER?

For more than 125 years, safety standards have protected people and property. Safety codes exist because people get harmed without them. These safety standards help our communities better prepare for current threats and have dramatically reduced dangers like fire incidents and deaths.

[Learn More About Safety Standards](#)

Learn More at www.ReverseRenovations.org

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2025 October 5-11

“Charge Into Fire Safety” is this year’s campaign to raise awareness of the proper way to buy, charge, and recycle lithium-ion batteries. Make sure to visit www.fpw.org to see all the free resources you can use in your community to spread the message of battery fire safety. All of the printable resources and social media artwork are free to download on that website.



NFPA 800 Battery Safety Code Under Development

The NFPA Standards Council has approved the development of NFPA 800 to address battery safety issues. The Technical Committee has been selected, and a number of Pre-First Draft meetings have already occurred.

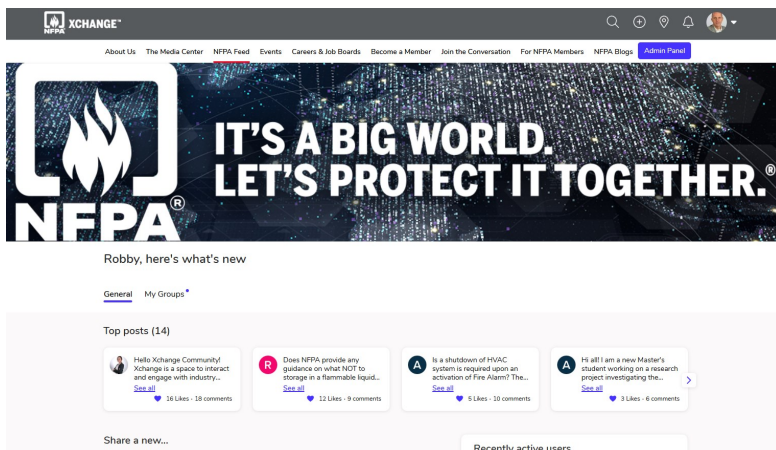
If you are interested in learning more about this new code, go to www.nfpa.org/800 and click on the “Notify Me About Document Updates” button on that page. This will send you an email alert anytime something is updated or announced.

The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for October 21-23 at NFPA Headquarters in Quincy, MA.

IFMA Fire Code Development Committee Update

The following individuals have been appointed to the IFMA Code Development Committee. The first meeting will take place December 3 and 4, 2026 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting, RSVP to IFMA@nfpa.org for details.

- Steven Sawyer from Connecticut, representing small jurisdictions – Chairman
 - Richard Wood, Alternate for Sawyer
- Mike Armstrong from Virginia, representing small jurisdictions
 - Joseph Mullens, Alternate for Armstrong
- William Pildner from Georgia, representing small jurisdictions
 - Chris Campbell, Alternate for Pildner
- Biran Meurer from Kentucky, representing large jurisdictions
 - Joseph Williams, Alternate for Meurer
- Timothy Mossgrove from Florida, representing large jurisdictions
 - Ken McCann, Alternate for Mossgrove
- Mathew Mertens from Wisconsin, representing large jurisdictions
 - Sean Phelps, Alternate for Mertens
- Jason Grant from Maine, representing large jurisdictions
 - John Brennan, Alternate for Grant
- Dan Buchholz from Minnesota, representing State Fire Marshals
 - Rick Huston, Alternate for Buchholz
- Chuck Allen from Texas, representing State Fire Marshals
 - Eric DeArmitt, Alternate for Allen
- Michael Chionchio from Delaware, representing State Fire Marshals



NFPA XChange—IFMA Section Page

IFMA Members can access all of the IFMA information by going to [IFMA XChange](#) and subscribing to the channel.

All approved Board Meeting minutes, IFMA Quarterlies, position papers and more are located under "Documents and Reports".

Also, see all IFMA Chapter and Board events under the "Events" tab.

MEETING NOTICE

International Fire Marshals



Association

IFMA FIRE CODE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

The inaugural meeting of the IFMA Fire Code Development Committee will be held December 3 and 4, 2025 in Atlanta, Georgia. Interested parties are welcome to attend but an RSVP is required to ensure adequate space is available for the meeting.

Any comments to the Committee or participation in the Committee's discussion will be at the discretion of the Chair and may be time limited. Persons wishing to make comments are encouraged to notify the Committee Secretary prior to the meeting.

LOCATION: Atlanta Marriott Marquis

265 Peachtree Center Ave
Atlanta, GA 30303

DATE: Wednesday December 3, 2025 – 8:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday December 4, 2025 – 8:00am – not later than 12:00 noon

RSVP: If you plan on attending, notify the Committee Secretary via email
IFMA@nfpa.org not later than November 14, 2025.

AGENDA: Will be distributed to those attending not later than December 1, 2025



ORGANIZED 1906, REORGANIZED 1927 AS A SECTION OF THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Codes and Standards Representatives at Work

The IFMA Board of Directors is continuing to seek representatives for the NFPA Technical Committees listed below. **This is not the same as the IFMA Fire Code Development Committee noted on page 8.** If you are interested in serving on one of these Technical Committees to represent and communicate with the IFMA Board, forward an email to IFMA@nfpa.org and let us know which committee interests you, and we will guide you through the application process.

This is not a guarantee that you will be selected to serve on a Technical Committee. The decision on membership to any NFPA Technical Committee rests with the NFPA Standards Council and will depend upon the current make-up and membership of that committee.

NFPA 3: Standard for Commissioning of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems

NFPA 4: Standard for Integrated Fire Protection and Life Safety System Testing

NFPA 30: Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code

- * Committee on Operations
- * Committee on Storage and Warehousing

NFPA 54: National Fuel Gas Code

NFPA 72: National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code

- * Committee on Testing and Maintenance
- * Committee on Public Emergency Reporting
- * Committee on Protected Premises

There is no financial support available through IFMA, however those who qualify can apply for funding through the Enforcer Funding Program.

Learn more about qualifications, expectations, and requirements for Technical Committee membership at www.nfpa.com/Codes-and-Standards

Important Dates and Meetings

October 21, 2025: Virtual Board of Directors Meeting, 2:00pm EDT.

November 18, 2025: Virtual Board of Directors Meeting, 2:00pm EDT

December 3-4: IFMA Fire Code Development Committee Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

January 20, 2026: Virtual Chapter Presidents Meeting, 2:00pm EDT

March 18-19, 2026: CFSI Annual Conference and Dinner, IFMA Board meeting on the 19th.

Board of Director Meetings are open for IFMA Members to attend unless a closed session is declared. Contact the Executive Secretary via email at IFMA@nfpa.org for information on how to attend.

Chapter Presidents Meetings are exclusively for the President of an IFMA Chapter or their designee.

2026 NFPA CONFERENCE & EXPO

SAVE THE DATE - June 22 - 24 | Technical Meeting June 25 - 26 | Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV

SAVE THE DATE

The IFMA Chapters Meeting will be held on June 21, 2025. Make plans not to attend the Conference and Expo. The IFMA Board has proposed several programs specific to the IFMA Membership and our stakeholders.

IFMA Board of Directors

Laurie Christensen, *President*
Fire Marshal
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Justin Finan, *First Vice President*
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Nick Dawe, *Second Vice President*
Division Chief/Fire Marshal
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Ken Bush, *Secretary*
Chief Fire Protection Engineer
Maryland State Fire Marshals Office
E-mail: Kenneth.bush@maryland.gov

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Ken Tyree, *Immediate Past President*
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West Virginia State Fire Marshals Office
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Robby Dawson, *Executive Secretary*
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Fire Marshals Quarterly

The mission of the International Fire Marshals Association is to aid in the preservation of life and property by advocating, promoting and providing leadership in the prevention or mitigation of fire, explosions and other related hazardous conditions.

IFMA was incorporated in 1906.
In 1927, IFMA became a membership section of NFPA.

Published quarterly as a service to the membership of the
International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA).

The articles published in the Quarterly are the opinion of the
authors and not necessarily the opinion of IFMA or NFPA.

Editor: Robby Dawson

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IFMA Chapters

Fire Marshals Association of Alabama, Chapter 8

Arizona Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 5

Arkansas Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 26

California Fire Prevention Officers, Southern Div.
Chapter 27

California Fire Prevention Officers, Northern Div.
Chapter 28

Fire Marshals Association of Colorado, Chapter 20

Fire Marshals Association of Delaware Valley, Chapter 6

Florida Fire Marshals & Inspectors Association, Chapter 3

Georgia Fire Prevention Association, Chapter 35

Illinois Fire Inspectors Association, Chapter 15

Iowa Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 24

Fire Marshals Association of Kansas, Chapter 32

Kentucky Fire Inspectors Association, Chapter 31

Maryland State Chapter of IFMA, Chapter 36

Michigan Fire Inspectors Society, Chapter 1

Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota, Chapter 11

Fire Prevention Association of Nevada, Chapter 22

New England Association of Fire Marshals, Chapter 2

New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association,
Chapter 21

New York State Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association,
Chapter 4

North Carolina Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 12

Ohio Fire Officials Association, Chapter 25

Fire Marshals Association of Oklahoma, Chapter 7

Oregon Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 19

Association of Fire Prevention Technicians of Québec, Chapter
37

South Carolina Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 14

South Dakota Fire and Life Safety Committee, Chapter 33

Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association, Chapter 16

Texas Fire Marshals Association, Chapter 9

Fire Marshals Association of Utah, Chapter 17

Virginia Fire Prevention Association, Chapter 29

Washington Chapter, Chapter 18

West Virginia Chapter, Chapter 13

Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association, Chapter 23

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals, Chapter 34