

# FIRE MARSHALS QUARTERLY



INTERNATIONAL FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION • SPRING 2025

## IFMA Board in Washington, DC

Over the course of February 11, 12, and 13, the IFMA Board of Directors held their Board Meeting and were able to connect with our fellow fire service organizations during the 2025 Congressional Fire and Emergency Services Conference.

In addition to reconnecting with the National Association of State Fire Marshals, we were able to build better relationships with the other members of the National Advisory Council and leaders from across the US.

Members of the Board were also able to connect with some of their state legislators as well. This important connection establishes or continues relationships with key political leaders in Washington, and will be important in the coming months given the undetermined status of the National Fire Academy, FEMA Grant funding, and other national issues.

If you aren't aware of the ongoing efforts and initiatives of the Congressional Fire Services Institute, please visit [www.cfsi.org](http://www.cfsi.org) to get updates and see how you can support their efforts at ongoing federal support for the fire service.



IFMA Board Members with Past President John Bender (far left) and NFPA President/CEO Jim Pauley



IFMA Board members checking out the view from the cab of the CFSI Engine



## **Executive Secretary's Report**

By March, most state legislative sessions are well underway. This year has seen the continued degradation of our system of safety outlined in NFPA's Fire and Life Safety Ecosystem – or at least several focused efforts that do so reportedly in the interests of affordable housing, housing availability, smaller government, and many others.

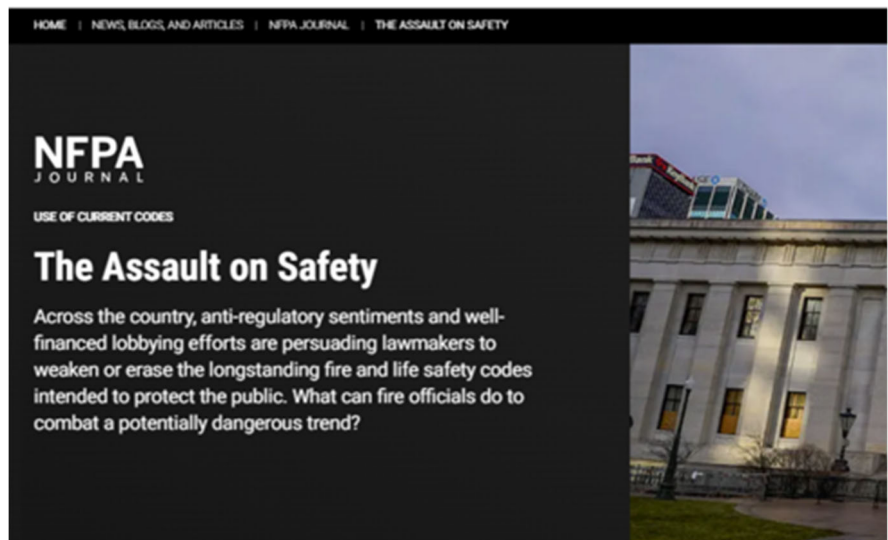
In the January 30, 2025 NFPA Journal Article, "The Assault on Safety", Jesse Roman, Senior Editor, dove into the deep end of the pool on the discussion about how one new state law mandates that, *"two thirds of the fire code must be wiped from the books before the ink ever hits the paper."* Other efforts to constrain how the Ecosystem cog "Code Compliance" is achieved, and how some states outright prohibit the updating of the codes and standards which have the potential of mitigating new and emerging risks.

I remember hearing about this kind of effort at a state level during an IFMA Chapters Meeting when I was serving on the Board of Directors about 12 years ago. The group of IFMA Chapter Presidents at that meeting were concerned about how those special interests would expand their efforts. Those in the room that day were seemingly the next Nostradamus given that we see that exact scenario being played out across the United States at present.

We should all take a look at Jesse's article – [Safety Under Assault](#) – and see how these interested groups are working and how we can be better prepared to get out in front of the issue with our own legislative delegation. Make sure you check out the sidebar, TAKE ACTION, as well.

Jesse also produced a two-part NFPA Podcast on the topic covering the details and updates around the issue of the assault on safety. Check it out here [podcast](#) or listen on any podcast streaming platform.

*Robby Dawson  
NFPA SE Regional Director  
IFMA Executive Secretary*



The Assault on Safety, NFPA Journal January 30, 2025

## New IFMA Chapter

Since 1965, the Association of Fire Prevention Technicians of Quebec (ATPIQ) has brought together fire prevention professionals working in municipal, industrial, institutional, and government environments, as well as the insurance sector and other organizations in pursuit of fire safety across the Province of Quebec, Canada.

After many months of work, ATPIQ became Chapter 37 of IFMA in early 2025. We look forward to meeting in person and discussing common areas of concern with our Canadian colleagues at the NFPA Conference in June during the Chapter Presidents Meeting.

Members of ATPIQ will be joining us at the IFMA Chapter Presidents Meeting June 15 during the NFPA Conference and Expo.



### IFMA Chapter and Member Benefits

The International Fire Marshals Association is a membership section of NFPA. If you're an NFPA Member, there is no cost associated with joining IFMA, simply visit the [IFMA](#) webpage and complete the membership application. Members enjoy access to the resources and connections with other IFMA Members through NFPA XChange.

Chapters of the international Fire Marshals Association are state, provincial, or regional fire safety and prevention organizations that share the mission and purpose of IFMA which 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 Chapters are able to engage and share with other organizations during quarterly virtual Chapter Meetings and the in person Chapter Presidents meeting during the NFPA Conference each June. And with the newly formed IFMA Fire Code Development Committee (see page 6), chapters are able to have a greater involvement in the development of the codes and standards that protect our communities.

If your state association is not an IFMA Chapter, reach out to the IFMA Executive Secretary by email at [IFMA@nfpa.org](mailto:IFMA@nfpa.org) to learn about how to become a chapter and other IFMA Chapter benefits.

## **IFMA Membership Meeting—Important Votes**

The membership meeting of the International Fire Marshals Association will be held Sunday June 15, 2025 at 3:00 pm at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas in connection with the NFPA Conference and Expo (check the NFPA Conference app for location and any updates). Members will be voting on two important issues during that meeting:

1. IFMA Bylaws Update—This will be the first revision of the IFMA Bylaws in many years. Key changes include:
  - Updated Chapter approval process. This will streamline the votes and approvals needed for new IFMA Chapters
  - Clarification of the make-up of the Executive Board and Board of the Association and more definition to the roles and responsibilities of each group.

The draft of these changes will be posted by April 15 to the NFPA XChange IFMA Membership page for review prior to the meeting.

2. Annual election of officers to the IFMA Board. The Nominations Committee Report will be published by April 15 to the NFPA XChange Membership page, and will include instructions for additional nominations to be considered.

We hope that members will attend the meeting. NFPA Conference registration is not required, but IFMA Membership is required for the previous 180 days in order to vote on the Bylaws proposals and the election of officers.



IFMA Members and Chapter Presidents  
2024 Meetings, Orlando, FL

## **IFMA Fire Code Development Committee** **A New (old) Way to Participate**

Several years ago, NFPA and IFMA hosted several Regional Code Development Committees who met and make proposals and comments on fire safety related NFPA codes and standards. These committees were dissolved several years ago and the level of fire code enforcers involvement in the codes and standards development process has waned.

For 2025, the NFPA Board of Directors has once again made the decision to support the participation of fire code officials in the process by establishing the IFMA Fire Code Development Committee. The work of this group is expected to be the same as the previous regional committees, but consolidated into a single group for a more cohesive and efficient effort.

The IFMA Board of Directors will formally appoint this committee during their June Board Meeting and their work will begin later this year. If you are interested in applying to this committee, there are a few requirements for appointment.

1. Each member of the committee will be an enforcer of the fire and safety regulations in their community, state, or province.
2. Each member of the committee must be endorsed by their IFMA Chapter.
3. Each member of the committee must be endorsed by their employer to allow for potential travel.

Members of the committee will be encouraged to engage with their home chapters to discuss, promote, and vet proposals that the committee will be considering in each update cycle. The goal is to provide better fire service and fire code official involvement in the process. In addition to the primary voting member of the committee, each chapter representative is encouraged to have an alternate as well in the event the primary member cannot attend.

We expect there to be some travel commitment involved with committee participation, but not more than two sessions in any given year. In addition, there will also be some expectation of work on proposals between in person meetings. Travel funding for airfare and lodging as well as some meals will be supported by IFMA and NFPA.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating with this committee, please fill out the application in this link [APPLICATION](#) **not later than May 1, 2025.**

## **Codes and Standards Committee at Work**

The IFMA Codes and Standards Committee 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 the previous page.** 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](mailto:IFMA@nfpa.org) and let us know what 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](http://www.nfpa.com/Codes-and-Standards)

## **Important Dates and Meetings**

**April 15, 2025:** Board of Directors Meeting—Virtual

**May 20, 2025:** Board of Directors Meeting—Virtual

**June 14, 2025:** Board of Directors Meeting—Las Vegas, NV

**June 15, 2025:** IFMA Chapter Presidents Meeting (tentative), Las Vegas, NV.

**June 16—19, 2025:** NFPA Conference and Expo—Las Vegas, NV

**August 10, 2025:** Board of Directors Meeting, Biloxi, MS

**August 11—13, 2025:** 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire Prevention Symposium, Biloxi, MS. [www.firemarshals.org](http://www.firemarshals.org) for registration.

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](mailto:IFMA@nfpa.org) for information on how to attend.

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

IFMA Executive Board

Laurie Christensen, President
Fire Marshal
Harris County, TX
E-mail: laurie.christensen@fmo.hctx.net

Ken Bush, Term Expires 2025
Chief Fire Protection Engineer
Maryland State Fire Marshals Office
E-mail: Kenneth.bush@maryland.gov

Kevin Sehlmeier, First Vice President
State Fire Marshal
Michigan State Fire Marshals Office
E-mail: sehlmeierk@michigan.gov

Ariana Kistner, Term Expires 2025
Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal
Rockwall Fire Department
Rockwall, TX
E-mail: akistner@rockwall.com

Kip LaMotte, Second Vice President
Fire Marshal
New Brighton Fire Division
New Brighton, MN
E-mail: kip.lamotte@newbrightonmn.gov

Byron Mathews, 1st Term, Expires 2026
State Fire Marshal
Wyoming Director Department of Fire Prevention
E-mail: byron.mathews@wyo.gov

Justin Finan, Secretary
Captain/Deputy Fire Marshal
Henrico Division of Fire
Henrico, VA
E-mail: fin04@henrico.us

Nick Dawe, 2nd Term, Expires 2026
Division Chief/Fire Marshal
Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services
Cobb County, GA
Email nick.dawe@cobbcounty.org

Ken Tyree, Immediate Past President
Fire Marshal
West Virginia State Fire Marshals Office
Email: Kenneth.E.Tyree@WV.gov

Robby Dawson, Executive Secretary
NFA SE Regional Director
E-mail: rdawson@nfpa.org
Cell: 804-401-9063

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 Officers of Quebec, 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

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

International Fire Marshals Association
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02169
E-mail ifma@nfpa.org