



PUGET SOUND MARINE FIREFIGHTING COMMISSION

Fire Departments

Anacortes
Bainbridge Island
Bellingham
Bremerton π
Edmonds
Everett π
Olympia
Port Angeles
Seattle π
Tacoma π

Foss Maritime

Inlandboatmen's Union

Marine Response Alliance

NPFVOA
Vessel Safety Program π

Olympic College

Pacific Merchant
Shipping Association π

Washington State Ferries

Washington State
Department of Ecology

Washington State
Maritime Cooperative

Western States
Petroleum Association π

ADVISORY PANEL

DHS FEMA OSHA

Public Member at Large

Recreational Boaters Association

State Fire Marshals Office

U.S. Coast Guard

Washington Public Ports
Association

Commission Members Present:

Noah Katka
Dan Mustard
Michael Lingrey
Barthe Gilbert

Seattle Fire Department
Bremerton Fire Department
Everett Fire Department
Tacoma Fire

Others Present:

Joel McKeen
Tim Lupher
James Collins
Mike Mock
Aaron Patterson
Sam Dressel
Bryan Alonso
Melanie Godinez
Russ Reed
Paul Snider
Eric Wilmarth
Josh Foley
Rich Gale
Marc Glasser

Port Angeles Fire
USCG

Sara Zeman

Admin: Marine Exchange

The May 2023 Meeting of the Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission was called to order by Chief Mustard at 1000.

Introductions followed.

USCG ROLE IN PRIVATE MARINE FIREFIGHTING CONTRACTORS/SALVORS:

Tim Lupher highlighted that vessel response plans for Washington are required and are to include salvage and marine firefighting sections. He reviewed the requirements and regulations of vessel firefighting for those carrying petroleum products, are 400 tons & above, or are otherwise required to have a vessel response plan. If these vessels are involved in a fire, there will be responders required by the state there to help through these plans. 33CFR Part 155 for reference.

REVIEW OF GROUNDING OF WALLA WALLA:

BC Josh Foley reported on the Walla Walla Ferry Vessel grounding. The call was received just before 1700 and after arriving on scene a plan for the sheltering of the 700 people on the boat began in case needed. Kitsap, USCG and police were all contacted. USCG informed unified command that the captain was still officially responsible for passengers, and that the boat could also not be pulled off the beach unless passengers were removed. At 1813 he declared a level-3 MCI after the Walla Walla's Captain called for passengers to abandoned ship. Seven incidents within the incident occurred ranging from minor to moderate injuries. Offloading of the Walla Walla finished at 2203 with the help of Kitsap Transit.

Lessons Learned

- Liaisons and PIOs on scene asap
- Security on scene to assist with panicked people and to secure the command post
- Food for personnel to be considered if the response has the potential to be ongoing
- Limit who has access to the IC phone number – not handed to the general public calling 911

REGIONAL TRAINING OVERVIEW:

Lt Aaron Patterson reviewed the regional classes that have taken place so far. Two training courses have taken place so far this year with Seattle and Bremerton/Bainbridge. Topics covered included basic response introductions, marina fire tactics, EV fire tactics, fire boat information and tours, and how to integrate with other organizations. Activities and scenarios were also worked through. Typical attendance runs around 30 people with representatives from various organizations.

Captain Noah Katka reported that upcoming training plans are in the works for the fall, but no official dates are set yet.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABS - MARITIME RAD/NUC TRAINING PROGRAM

Melanie Godinez shared that Pacific Northwest National Labs has funding for training with Seattle Fire and is funded through Port Security Grants. Godinez reviewed the goals and details of the program in conjunction with Seattle Fire, USCG and FBI. This includes supporting the Department of Homeland Security with small vessel security strategies and various trainings. For further information and questions contact Captain Katka at Seattle Fire.

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES:

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

No discussion.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 1111. Dates for upcoming 2023 meetings are August 8th and November 14th.

/s/

Sara Zeman
Recorder