



# 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 Inland Boatmen'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:

Daniel Mustard  
Gilbert Barthe

Bremerton Fire Department  
Tacoma Fire

## Others Present:

Tim Lupher  
Zachary Verfaillie  
Chris Ritter  
Todd Duke  
Chad Kasin  
Damian Smith  
Christopher Lombard  
Russ Reed  
Brian Kirk  
Shawn Raymond  
Patrick Gallagher  
Sara Thompson  
Aaron Patterson

USCG

Sara Zeman

Admin: Marine Exchange

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

Introductions followed.

Mustard began the meeting with an introduction of the commission and a review of its purpose.

**USCG REQUIRED FIREFIGHTING RESPONSE FOR VESSELS UNDER 33CFR PART 155:**

Todd Duke, from Resolve Marine, presented on the USCG required firefighting response for vessels including a review of the history of OPA90, significant past events, and included parties & requirements for vessel response plans.

**Key Points**

- 155.4010 states a placeholder must ensure response resources are available to respond and compliance is based upon whether adequate response resources are available not the performance.
- Planning Standards: Identify Salvage and Fire Fighting response providers in each COTP zone with core services within time frames. This also includes funding agreements put in place, annual training & drills, and clear guidelines on how service providers will interact with those organizations. They must be consistent with ACP and NCP.
- SMFF requirements include criteria such as the documented history of successful salvage/marine firefighting ops, personnel with training certification and experience, 24-hour availability of response, insurance that covers the services they intend to provide, up-front capital to support operations, and more.
- Vessel fires qualify as a “threat of spill” and require the vessels QI to be notified as well as a variety of other notifications. Activation of the vessel response plan is separate from notification and should be clarified throughout the start of an incident.

Duke further shared Resolve Marine’s response processes, services, and activities throughout an incident as well as how they fulfill their documentation. Tim Lupher shared that the Northwest Area Contingency Plan Marine Firefighting section is also about to receive updates and further comments and questions can be directed to him regarding these updates.

**REVIEW OF PORT OF NEWARK:**

Lt Aaron Patterson reported on the Grande Costa D’Avorio New Jersey fire including information about the vessel, fire, and response. The fire broke out while the vessel was in the process of loading with significant cargo already on board.

Patterson highlighted the importance of looking at incidents like this to better train and prepare for responses in the future. He reported that most fire departments in Puget Sound are not properly trained for this type of large vessel fire with firefighters unfamiliar with the ships that visit our ports. If a similar incident were to occur here comparable challenges regarding capabilities and equipment would most likely be faced.

Upcoming training in Puget Sound to combat this includes the below:

- September 21 Chapter 13 Drill Training at Vigor Shipyard
- October 11-12 Regional Marine FF Two-Day course at Port of Tacoma
- November 14 Marine FF and Stability Course at Fisherman’s Terminal in Seattle
- Fall 2023 TBD Seattle Fire Department Recruit Class #119 Live Fire Marine Training at MITAGs in Fremont

**DUES DISCUSSION:**

Sara Zeman reported that dues have not begun for the 2023 year yet. Clarification on who is to receive dues and at what amount dues will be set need to be decided. Zeman reported that the last time dues were collected in 2019, they were set at \$150. Contacts for dues also need to be updated before this process can proceed.

Mustard shared that dues will be postponed until the Board of Directors can discuss further.

**STAKEHOLDER UPDATES:**

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

None.

**ADJOURN:**

Meeting adjourned at 1120. The next Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission Meeting will take place on November 14<sup>th</sup>, followed immediately by a Board of Directors meeting to discuss collecting dues and to hold the biennial election of officers.

/s/

Sara Zeman  
Recorder