

Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission Quarterly Meeting

Date: May 20, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Chair: Battalion Chief Andy Collins, Seattle Fire Department

Location: Virtual (Online Meeting)

Attendees: Representatives from Seattle Fire, Tacoma Fire, Marine Exchange of Puget Sound, WSMC, Navy, USCG, and various regional emergency response organizations.

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Chief Andy Collins opened the meeting, acknowledged expected brevity due to a light agenda, and welcomed attendees.
- Confirmed this is the Commission's quarterly stakeholder gathering.

2. Navy Drill Status (Noah Katka)

- Discussion of ongoing challenges with Navy vessel drill scheduling.
- A future meeting is being planned with senior Navy leadership and Chief Lombard.
- Emphasis placed on the importance of continuing these training opportunities.

3. Marine Exchange Update (Cynthia Reed)

- Nothing urgent to report.
- Participating in the upcoming WSMC exercise in June, to be discussed in more detail by Dan Smiley.

4. NTSB Findings & Training Gaps (Chief Collins)

- Highlighted NTSB findings from a recent maritime fire.
- Stressed the identified need for standardized training for municipal departments.
- Shared a link to the report and encouraged attendees to review.

5. IAFF Training Development (Aaron Patterson)

- The IAFF is developing interactive training modules with a virtual walkthrough of a ship.
- Training will be made nationally available to municipal fire departments.
- Other parallel training efforts are underway with the USCG and Transcare.

6. Grant Funding Considerations

- Chief Collins noted federal grant funding is currently unstable.

- Encouraged leveraging recent incidents and findings to support future funding proposals.

7. Upcoming Marine Firefighting Trainings

- ****a. WSMC Seminar – June 4, 2025 (Dan Smiley):****
- - Location: Hilton DoubleTree Seattle South Center.
- - Focus: Unified Command formation during maritime emergencies (not tactics or specific fire types).
- - Morning: Presentations from USCG, Resolve Marine, T&T Salvage, DOE, and WSMC.
- - Afternoon: Live Unified Command simulation for a vessel fire scenario involving hazardous materials.
- - Over 80 regional agencies registered. QR code provided for registration.
- - Related podcast episode from "The Tactics Meeting" mentioned and shared.
- ****b. Port of Tacoma Training – June 10–11, 2025 (Colin Millan):****
- - June 10: Port bus tour, visit to Resolve Marine facility, RORO vessel tour for first responders.
- - June 11: Presentations on Jacksonville fire, breakout discussions, SWOT sessions, and strategy planning.
- - Planning for a full-scale live drill in 2027.

8. Vessel Configuration Concerns (Capt. Perry)

- Highlighted challenges due to hidden fire loads and storage configurations on ships.
- Dan Smiley confirmed related storage plans and diagrams will be available during the June 4 exercise.

9. Recognition & Transition

- Captain Christopher Perry acknowledged for his 34 years of service; this was his last meeting before retirement.
- Captain Brett Collett announced as his successor.
- Welcomes and introductions of new attendees, including:
 - - James Hampton, Seattle Fire, Marine One team.
 - - Captain Randy Anderson, Seattle Fire.

10. Closing Remarks

- Upcoming meeting dates:
 - - September 9, 2025
 - - November 14, 2025
- Attendees encouraged to contact Cynthia Reed or Sarah at the Marine Exchange for meeting invitations or to be added to the distribution list.
- Meeting adjourned with thanks and reminders to stay safe.