



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

Present:

Jeff Hayes
Brett Collett
Gilbert Barthe
Andy Collins
Chris DeCapua
Aaron Patterson
Trace Barrow
Morgan Mack
Kyle Higgins
Cory Freeborn
Kurt Waeschle
CDR Trish Jantzen
Sara Thompson
Russ Read
Brian Kirk
John Downing
John Fu
Michael Lingrey
CDR Sarah Rodino

Sara Zeman
Lydimar Fuentes

Marine Exchange

The November 2025 meeting of the Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission was called to order by Andy Collins at 1002

Introductions followed

BC Andy Collins began the meeting with a welcome, introductions, and an overview of the agenda.

Höegh Xiamen Ship Fire Presentation

BC Barrow (Jacksonville Fire & Rescue) reviewed the 2020 Höegh Xiamen ship fire, noting delayed detection, communication barriers with the Mandarin-speaking crew, and uncertainty about CO₂ system activation. Two explosions injured nine firefighters; the vessel burned out over seven days. Barrow emphasized lessons learned: focus on confinement and boundary cooling, verify ship system status early, improve translation capabilities, and strengthen awareness-level training for both firefighters and incident commanders.

Port Security Grant Funding Update

BC Collins reported that Port Security Grant funding has been successfully re-established after a lapse, with an award of approximately \$2 million for regional training and equipment. The award is currently undergoing City of Seattle Council and legal review before funds can be accessed.

US Navy Marine Firefighting Drills Update

BC Collins noted ongoing Navy–local fire coordination across the region. BC Mike Lingrey (Everett Fire) reported that a previously canceled Navy 8010 drill in Everett has been reinstated following the federal budget resolution and is scheduled for November 19 at 0900.

USCG Base Seattle Update

CDR Jantzen (Sector Puget Sound) reported that Coast Guard Headquarters has directed the creation of a joint salvage and marine firefighting subcommittee bridging the Area Maritime Security Committee and the Area Committee. She shared that new national planning architecture for salvage and marine firefighting plans is expected soon. CDR Jantzen also noted that the Coast Guard is prepared to support strong regional proposals, including potential work to rehabilitate the marine firefighting prop at the Washington State Fire Training Academy.

Marine Exchange Update

Sara reported that the National Harbor Safety Conference will be held in Seattle March 24–25, 2026, at Bell Harbor. MFSA is already a sponsor. Early registration with an early-bird discount runs through December 31, and attendees were invited to contact Sara or Lydimar regarding sponsorship or registration.

IAFF/NTSB Workgroup Update

Lt. Patterson provided an update on IAFF's grant-funded, eight-hour awareness-level shipboard firefighting course developed from the Höegh Xiamen and NTSB lessons learned. The course has been pilot-taught in Seattle and Jacksonville, includes instructor guides and interactive 3D walkthroughs of ships and plans, and is expected to be finalized and made available to IAFF members with options to share with non-IAFF partners.

USS Kidd (DDG-100) Marine Firefighting TTX

Lt. Patterson reported on a recent tabletop exercise aboard USS Kidd at Vigor Shipyard. It focused on integration between Navy damage control organizations and local fire incident command. There will be additional opportunities to refine joint Navy–local marine firefighting procedures; interested agencies can contact Lt. Patterson for more information on the exercise design.

CLOSING REMARKS:

BC Collins emphasized the importance of continued regional coordination on shipboard firefighting, planning, and training. No additional comments were offered.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 1054. The next Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission Meeting will take place on February 10, 2026.

/s/

Lydimar Fuentes

Recorder