



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:

Chris Andersen
Gilbert Barthe
Brett Collett
Christopher Perry
Dan Smiley
William Denekamp
Kelsey Hawley
Paul Hobart

Jeff Hayes
Brian Kirk
Kyle Higgins
Patrick Gallagher
Pete Brummel
Sara Thompson
Brian Smith
Kurt Waeschle
Michael Oder
Karen Denny
CDR Trish Jantzen
Russ Read
Michael Lingrey
Andy Collins
Noah Katka
Kurt Wesley
Aaron Patterson
Dave Michaelson

Marine Exchange
Sara Zeman
Lydimar Fuentes

The February 2026 meeting of the Puget Sound Marine Firefighting
Commission was called to order by Andy Collins at 1102

Introductions followed

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

ONE Henry Hudson Fire Presentation

Mike Oder provided an overview of the fire aboard the container vessel *One Henry Hudson* at the Port of Los Angeles. He described initial response actions, including the decision not to deploy firefighters below deck due to heavy fire conditions. The vessel was moved off the pier to anchorage due to smoke impacts and potential harbor disruption. Operational lessons learned: closely monitor fireboat water application rates, continuously assess vessel stability, and anticipate access limitations when operating at anchorage. Approximately 200 containers were affected by fire or firefighting water. Cargo uncertainty remains a challenge in container ship incidents.

Salvage and Marine Firefighting Subcommittee Proposal

CDR Trish Jantzen briefed the group on Coast Guard Headquarters' direction to establish a joint salvage and marine firefighting subcommittee reporting to both the Area Committee and the Area Maritime Security Committee. She proposed leveraging the existing Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission structure rather than forming a new entity. The intent is to centralize marine firefighting planning, align with anticipated national planning updates, and strengthen integration among regional committees. Members discussed structural options and potential funding implications, including coordination with the Harbor Safety Committee.

GAO Review of Near-Shore Marine Firefighting

Kelsey Hawley outlined GAO's congressional review of near-shore marine firefighting. The review examines the frequency and characteristics of marine fires, response challenges, interagency coordination, and Coast Guard oversight. Hawley invited regional stakeholders to participate in a February 17 information session and emphasized GAO's interest in first responder perspectives.

Marine Exchange Update

Patrick Gallagher reported that the upcoming National Harbor Safety Conference in Seattle is sold out. Marine firefighting will be prominently featured on the agenda, reflecting significant national interest in the topic. He noted continued efforts to identify sustainable funding mechanisms for regional marine firefighting initiatives and discussed the potential for greater integration with Harbor Safety Committee processes to strengthen long-term support.

IAFF/NTSB Workgroup Update

Aaron Patterson provided an update on the IAFF shipboard firefighting course developed from NTSB lessons learned. The curriculum is complete and currently offered as an in-person training. A future online version is anticipated, but the current delivery model remains instructor-led. Agencies interested in participation were encouraged to coordinate directly.

US Navy Marine Firefighting Drills Funding Update

BC Collins provided an update on marine firefighting funding and coordination efforts, noting that Port Security Grant funding has been awarded and is undergoing administrative review. He emphasized the importance of continued regional collaboration and sustained funding to support training and preparedness.

Upcoming Trainings

Washington State Maritime Cooperative Marine Firefighting TTX

Dan Smiley announced that WSMC plans to conduct its annual marine firefighting tabletop exercise in September 2026, pending final confirmation of facility availability. The scenario will involve a vessel fire and focus on unified command formation and salvage branch integration. Observers will be accommodated as space allows.

CLOSING REMARKS:

BC Collins reinforced the importance of regional coordination, cross-agency planning, and continued training to strengthen marine firefighting readiness across Puget Sound.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 1204. The next Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission Meeting will take place on May 19, 2026.

/s/

Lydimar Fuentes

Recorder