

the COUNCIL CONNECTION

Official Publication of the Washington State Council of Firefighters
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Governor signs bill qualifying first responders for PTSD benefits



On March 23, 2018, Governor Jay Inslee signed Senate Bill 6214 into law, allowing first responders to file for workers' compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Senate Bill 6214 clears the way for our members suffering from PTSD who were previously ineligible for coverage for mental injuries on presumption to file claims for benefits. The law also includes law enforcement officers and emergency medical technicians.

The presumption in the law would apply to those in the field for 10 years before the condition developed and who are examined by a psychologist who can rule out that the injury was present prior to employment.

WSCFF Legislative Liaison Michael White was among those who testified at a House committee about the need for the coverage. "I'm OK, but a lot of my brothers and sisters that I ride the fire engine with are not OK. And what we're talking about here is repeated exposure trauma. It's this consistent exposure to bad situations when you are seeing people on their worst day ... and we're seeing those people on their worst day every single day that we're at work. And when we look at how we're getting PTSD it is from these repeated exposures."

Thank you to all who advocated tirelessly for this landmark legislation.

"Our firefighters, police officers and other first responders are exposed to a level of trauma on the job that the average person doesn't face, and it can take a heavy toll. We need to address it through the workers' compensation system so that they get the support they need and deserve."

Senator Steve Conway, D-South Tacoma, sponsored the bill.

April 2018

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WSCFF Second District Report

This is an exciting time in Eastern Washington with the coming of the 79th Annual Washington State Council of Fire Fighters Convention, which will be held in the Tri-Cities June 26-28, 2018. Hosting this convention are 1052 (Richland), 1296 (Kennewick), 1433 (Pasco), 4362 (Benton 1), Locals I-24 (Hanford), and 4965 (Tri-County Firefighters). These locals have been planning and working very hard for two years to bring you the best convention they possibly can. This is a very family-oriented event with a “Water2Wine” boat cruise Tuesday between 1-3 p.m. for spouses and kids to enjoy while our members are working on the convention floor. Tuesday evening will feature a Cornhole tournament. Families are encouraged to participate. This is going to be a great time, and we are all looking forward to seeing everyone in Eastern Washington.

We are all working hard to ensure this labor movement we are embroiled in continues moving forward. That said, I want to take a minute to put the spotlight on a few of our Locals in the 2nd District that step up consistently to ensure that one of the largest and most successful events that benefits every professional firefighter comes off without a hitch.

For the 12th straight year, the IAFF 7th District Fire Ops 101 was held earlier this month within the 2nd District at the HAMMER Training Facility. This facility is located on the Hanford Nuclear Site, which is staffed and protected by members from Local I-24 Hanford Firefighters Union. The amount of work required to put this event on is daunting. It takes a team effort to ensure it runs smoothly. Hanford Local I-24, Walla Walla Local 404, Richland Local 1052, Kennewick Local 1296 and Pasco Local 1433 have sent members to assist in making sure each event station is staffed and runs smoothly.

Because of these individuals and the locals that support them, policy makers and news media are able to get a firsthand look at what we deal with every day. In particular, I would like to call out a few who above and beyond to make this event happen. Travis Leonard of Local 1052 organizes the IAP and is the Incident Commander for the event. Todd Ofsthun, Local I-24 runs the HAMMER Training facility day-to-day and ensures all of the props are ready for use and work without fail. And the outstanding staff of the WSCFF Helen, Debbie, Therese and Laura—who make all of our hotel accommodations, take registrations applications and run the check in process on the day of the event.

All of us cannot thank you enough for all you do each and every year to make this, one of the best educational opportunities for the folks who make decisions that shape lives our lives and those of our families. Have a great rest of the spring, and we are very much looking forward to seeing everyone in the Eastern Washington this summer.

Jeff Wainwright

WSCFF 2nd District Representative Jeff Wainwright began his fire service career in 1991 and is currently a Shift Captain with Spokane County Fire District #8, serving South Spokane County. Jeff was the charter President of the Spokane County District #8 Fire Fighters Local 3711, a position he held for 17 years. Elected to the WSCFF Board in 2012, Jeff represents the 2nd District, spanning much of Eastern Washington and comprised of nearly 900 IAFF members in 25 locals from Yakima to the Tri-Cities to the Spokane Valley. He resides in Deer Park with his wife Melissa, daughter Mattison, and son Scott.

**You can reach Jeff at
wainwright450@hotmail.com or
(509) 953-4800.**





Washington State became the first in the country to ban the sale of firefighting foams containing chemicals known to be a health hazard.

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

Governor Jay Inslee signed [Senate Bill 6413](#) that will make Washington state the first in the country to ban the sale of firefighting foams containing chemicals known to be a health hazard.

WSCFF Legislative Liaison Michael White told [KIRO 7](#) news this is a big win for firefighters. “We think that there is going to be a reduction in firefighter cancer or, at least, on the prevention side, minimizing the exposure to firefighters with these chemicals.”

The bill bans the sale, manufacturing, and distribution of foams where PFAS have been intentionally added starting in 2020. It also prohibits the use of those foams in training. It requires manufacturers who sell firefighter protective gear to notify buyers if the equipment contains the chemicals.



Firefighter and Local 1352 Valley Regional Fire Authority members Gervase Henson, left, and Battalion Chief Rudy Peden. *Courtesy photos from Local 1352, Valley Regional Fire Authority.*

Valley Regional Fire Authority honors employees at annual awards banquet

Firefighter Gervase Henson and Battalion Chief Rudy Peden earned top honors at the Valley Regional Fire Authority's annual awards presentation March 2 at the Auburn Golf Course banquet room. Henson received the Firefighter of the Year award and Peden was chosen Fire Officer of the Year for 2017. Henson, who began his career with the Legacy Auburn Fire Department in 2003, represents the VRFA on the King County Fire Training Association Community Outreach Team, influencing diversity awareness.

Educational Seminar

2018 IAFF/WSCFF EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

APRIL 17-19, 2018 ~ The Davenport Hotel – Spokane, WA

The 2018 IAFF/WSCFF Jointly Sponsored Educational Seminar is April 17-19 at The Davenport Hotel in Spokane, Washington. Rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis (Checklist & Accommodations Sheet were mailed. Please see [wscff.org](#)). Your local may send as many participants as you deem necessary.

The registration fee is \$75 per person until April 2. *After that date, the fee is \$100.* The fee is fully transferable within your local and is refundable until April 9, 2018.

We hope to see you in Spokane.



July 25 – August 5, 2018

**Location: Washington State Patrol
Fire Training Academy, North Bend, WA**

Application deadline: April 15



***Our vision is to empower, inspire,
and support strong women leaders.***



It is the mission of the **Camp Blaze** organization to:

- ~ Facilitate leadership camps and mentorship opportunities for young women in a fire service environment.
- ~ Provide leadership and career development opportunities for women.
- ~ **WE NEED YOU!**



<https://www.campblazefirecamp.org/>

**To donate in honor and memory of Crystal
Murphy, use the link and consider leaving a
comment on the tribute line.**

Honoring Heroes

APRIL 1-30



Olympic Hot Tub continues its annual tradition of honoring and providing support to our American Heroes
Your hot tub & sauna purchase will help make a difference!

This year's beneficiary: Washington State Fallen Firefighters Foundation. This foundation was created to honor the firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting and serving us. Their loss is felt by their communities, families, friends and fellow firefighters.

- Hot Spring Spas has partnered with Olympic Hot Tub to **donate \$300** to WSFFF for every Hot Spring Spa sold between April 1 and 30, 2018.
- Olympic Hot Tub will also **donate \$100** for every Freeflow Spa, Finnleo Sauna & Covana Automated Gazebo sold during this event!

Our goal: To give a total of \$15,000

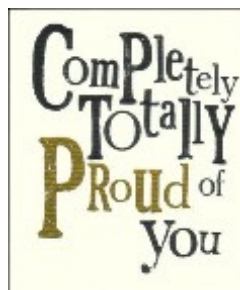
Donations to the WSFFF go directly to the families of fallen firefighters, assisting with funeral and life transition costs. The Foundation is also raising funds to create a memorial in our State Capitol to commemorate these brave women and men. You can learn more about this terrific organization at www.wsfff.org and on their [Facebook](#) page.



In the March Council Connection, Doug Baier, Local 437 Bremerton, was left off the list of EMS Committee members. If you notice an error, contact the WSCFF office.



Olympia Fire Chief Larry Dibble, who has spent 44 years in the fire service and the last 20 as chief, is retiring at the end of March. He is the longest serving fire chief in the city's history.
Happy Retirement
Chief Larry Dibble!





For agenda and registration:

[YFF Final Agenda.pdf](#)
[YFFC Registration Form 18.pdf](#)
[5.15 Young Fire Fighters Conference.pdf](#)



Marysville Fire Department recruit Katie Hereth hauls a 5-inch, 140-pound line 200 feet in Snohomish County's first fire training academy obstacle course at the South County Snohomish Fire & Rescue training grounds in late March. (Photo courtesy Everett Herald)

For the first time, local firefighting recruits do not need to travel to North Bend for their 14-week academy training. Ten Snohomish County fire departments have formed their own fire academy. Right now, 27 recruits are in training, including seven from South Snohomish Fire.

For years, local firefighters have learned the basics in North Bend, with 30 or more other recruits from around the state. Seats in those classes are in high demand. So in 2017, a group of local fire chiefs decided to create an academy that caters to the needs of the local departments, one than can keep up with the county's growing population.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**



"I'm afraid I can't treat you, Mr. Fisk. I have a conflict of interest."

79th Annual Convention

June 26-28, 2018

Three Rivers Convention Center
 Kennewick, Washington
 Call to Convention mailings will go out the first week in April.