



Washington State Patrol

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Serving Washington Since 1901

*****For Immediate Release*****

Captain Deion Glover
Government and Media Relations

State Fire Marshal's Office
State Fire Marshal Chad Cross

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Contact: Deputy State Fire Marshal Mikaila Hayes

Phone: (360) 596-3904

Email: fpbpio@wsp.wa.gov

Twitter: @WaFireMarshal

Fire Safety for People with Disabilities

Olympia- National Disability Independence Day is celebrated every year on July 26. According to the Center for Disease Control, up to one in four people in the United States (U.S.) lives with a disability. The U.S. Fire Administration indicates 30 percent of the fire deaths that occurred between 2017 to 2019 involved a person with a disability. Of the 67 fire deaths that occurred in Washington State in 2023, 22 percent were reported as individuals having a disability.

The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) wants to reduce the risk of fire in every community across the state. Preparation and prevention can help your family stay safe and unharmed from fire incidents. Having a familiar and regularly tested evacuation plan that works for all household members is critical.

Here are some suggestions to increase fire preparedness:

- Have an interconnected smoke alarm system.
- Test smoke alarms monthly and conduct regular maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- If you are hearing impaired, install smoke alarms that notify you of danger with flashing lights or vibrating alarms.
- When possible, sleep on the ground floor.
- Sleep with bedroom doors closed.
- Have an escape plan with at least two exit options.
- Make sure to involve all household members in your escape plan and practice regularly.
- If you have a service animal, make sure to practice with them as well.
- Talk to your local fire department about your evacuation plan.

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3904.

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The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State. These services include public education, licensing and certification of the fire sprinkler, fireworks, and cigarette industries, data collection and analysis, fire and life safety inspections for state facilities, plan review of school construction projects, all-risk mobilization of statewide fire service resources, hazardous materials training, and the training and certification of firefighters.

www.wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office/