

**RCW 43.43.934 Director of fire protection—Duties.** The director of fire protection shall:

(1) (a) (i) With the state board for community and technical colleges, provide academic, vocational, and field training programs for the fire service; and (ii) with the state colleges and universities, provide instructional programs requiring advanced training, especially in command and management skills;

(b) Cooperate with the common schools, technical and community colleges, institutions of higher education, and any department or division of the state, or of any county or municipal corporation in establishing and maintaining instruction in fire service training and education in accordance with any act of congress and legislation enacted by the legislature in pursuance thereof and in establishing, building, and operating training and education facilities.

Industrial fire departments and private fire investigators may participate in training and education programs under this chapter for a reasonable fee established by rule;

(c) Develop and adopt a master plan for constructing, equipping, maintaining, and operating necessary fire service training and education facilities subject to the provisions of \*chapter 43.19 RCW;

(d) Develop and adopt a master plan for the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of real estate necessary for fire service training and education facilities in a manner provided by law; and

(e) (i) Develop and adopt a plan for the Washington state patrol fire training academy to deliver basic firefighter training and testing to all city fire departments, fire protection districts, regional fire protection service authorities, and other public fire agencies in the state. The plan required by this subsection (1) (e) must specify that the delivery of training and testing services will be provided:

(A) To recipients in the following order of priority:

(I) Volunteer departments;

(II) Combination departments; and

(III) Fire agencies that employ only career firefighters and fire officers; and

(B) By personnel of the fire training academy, either at the academy's facilities in North Bend, Washington, or regionally at local fire agencies.

(ii) City fire departments, fire protection districts, regional fire protection service authorities, and other public fire agencies in the state may seek reimbursement for their firefighter I training expenses in accordance with the rules established by the Washington state patrol, director of fire protection.

(iii) Subject to approval by the director of fire protection, and in accordance with the plan required by this subsection (1) (e), the fire training academy facilities must be made available at no cost to fire service youth programs. The goal of making these facilities available is to increase enrollment of volunteer firefighters, and to improve gender, cultural, and ethnic diversity within the fire service.

(iv) For purposes of this subsection (1) (e), the following definitions apply:

(A) "Basic firefighter training and testing" means training and testing for firefighters that is up to and includes the requirements of firefighter I, as identified by the national fire protection association standard 1001;

(B) "Combination department" means a fire department with emergency service personnel comprising less than eighty-five percent of either volunteer or career membership;

(C) "Delivery of training" includes all resources, personnel, and equipment necessary to deliver training at the fire academy in North Bend, Washington, or regionally at local fire agencies; and

(D) "Volunteer department" means a fire department with volunteer emergency service personnel comprising eighty-five percent or greater of its department membership.

(2) (a) Promote mutual aid and disaster planning for fire services in this state;

(b) Assure the dissemination of information concerning the amount of fire damage including that damage caused by arson, and its causes and prevention; and

(c) Implement any legislation enacted by the legislature to meet the requirements of any acts of congress that apply to this section.

(3) In carrying out its statutory duties, the office of the state fire marshal shall give particular consideration to the appropriate roles to be played by the state and by local jurisdictions with fire protection responsibilities. Any determinations on the division of responsibility shall be made in consultation with local fire officials and their representatives.

To the extent possible, the office of the state fire marshal shall encourage development of regional units along compatible geographic, population, economic, and fire risk dimensions. Such regional units may serve to: (a) Reinforce coordination among state and local activities in fire service training, reporting, inspections, and investigations; (b) identify areas of special need, particularly in smaller jurisdictions with inadequate resources; (c) assist the state in its oversight responsibilities; (d) identify funding needs and options at both the state and local levels; and (e) provide models for building local capacity in fire protection programs.

(4) The Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. [2024 c 46 s 1; 2015 c 43 s 1; 2012 c 229 s 818; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7 s 45; 2003 c 316 s 1. Prior: 1999 c 117 s 1; 1999 c 24 s 3; 1998 c 245 s 65; prior: 1995 c 369 s 16; 1995 c 243 s 11; 1993 c 280 s 69; 1986 c 266 s 56. Formerly RCW 43.63A.320.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Requirements for procurement of goods and services are provided in chapter 39.26 RCW.

**Effective date—2012 c 229 ss 101, 117, 401, 402, 501 through 594, 601 through 609, 701 through 708, 801 through 821, 902, and 904:** See note following RCW 28B.77.005.

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 43.03.027.

**Findings—1999 c 24:** See note following RCW 38.52.505.

**Application—Effective date—1995 c 369:** See notes following RCW 43.43.930.

**Effective date—1995 c 243 s 11:** "Section 11 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health,

or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1995." [1995 c 243 s 13.]

**Findings—Severability—1995 c 243:** See notes following RCW 80.36.555.

**Effective date—1993 c 280:** See RCW 43.330.902.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.