ALF Inspections and Follow Ups State Fire Marshal

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Washington State Patrol

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Fire and Life Safety Inspections



By CDSFM Cozetta Christian

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Overview



Top violations 2026



What to expect on the walkthrough



Required documentation for your Fire and Life Safety binder



Additional Information



Questions

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2026 Top Violations

Top 10 citations for Assisted Livings, Residential Treatment Facilities, Enhanced Service Facilities	Number of citations
903.5 - Sprinklers	1289
907.8 Fire Alarm	960
705.2 Door inspections	699
701.6 Dampers	605
705.2.4 Doors not latching	459
906.2 Fire extinguishers	439
1032.10.2 90 min test	442
1203.4 generator	419
WAC 212-12-044 Fire Drills	264
915.6 Carbon monoxide	239

What do we look for on the physical walkthrough?

- Extension cords / unapproved power adapters / daisy chains
- Broken outlets
- Open junction boxes
- Dirty / corroded sprinkler heads
- Items hanging on sprinkler heads
- Penetrations in fire walls and doors
- Doors not closing and latching
- Hold open devices not connected to the fire alarm
- Emergency lights that do not work
- Storage in mechanical rooms, electrical rooms, egress paths, stairwells.
- Fire extinguishers not inspected

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Fire and Life Safety Binder:

Failure to have each report may result in a violation

The binder should contain the current year and past 3 years' reports

Along with your 5–year inspections. (Older reports can be archived)

Create a tab for each system and monthly inspections



Put reports behind correct tab

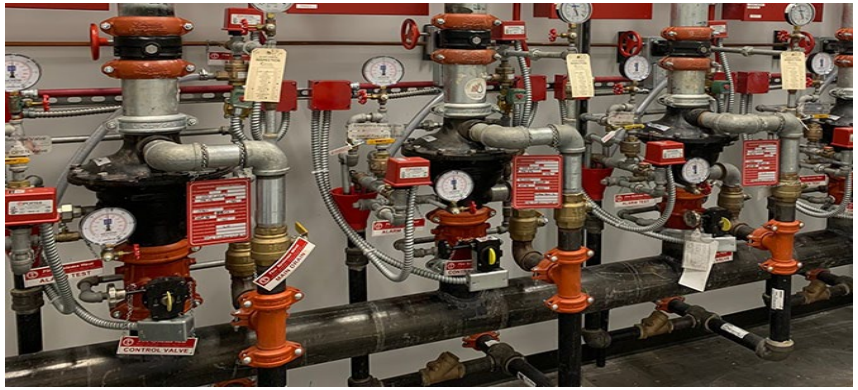
All reports with deficiencies MUST have a correction report(s) or it will result in a violation

Binder Tabs

Tab 1 Sprinkler System	Tab 2 Backflow / Forward flow	Tab 3 Fire Alarm System	Tab 4 Kitchen Suppression System
Tab 5 Kitchen Hood Cleaning	Tab 6 Generator	Tab 7 Fire Doors	Tab 8 Fire /Smoke Dampers
Tab 9 Fire-resistance-rated construction	Tab 10 Exit and Emergency Battery Lights	Tab 11 Carbon Monoxide Detectors	Tab 12 Fire Extinguishers
Tab 13 Fire Drills			

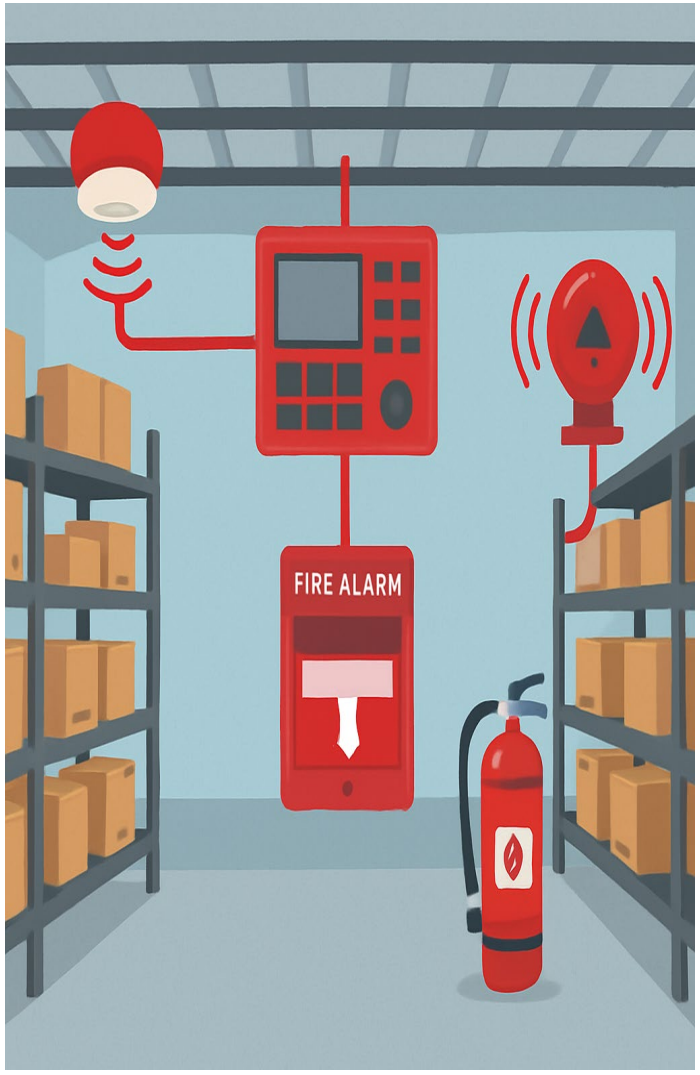
Sprinkler Systems

- Sprinkler systems are required to be **serviced annually**.
- Backflows are required to have an **annual** forward flow inspection. Your forward flow testing is conducted by the sprinkler company
- Sprinkler systems must have a **5-year** internal pipe inspection as well as a **5-year** hydrostatic test on your Fire Department Connection (FDC)
- Sprinkler systems are required to be
- inspected **quarterly**. (by a trained
- individual)
- Dry systems are required a **3-year** full flow trip test



Fire Alarm Systems

- Fire alarms are required to be **serviced annually and semi annually**.
- Smoke detectors shall be tested for sensitivity within 1 year after installation and every alternate year thereafter. After the second required sensitivity test, if the detectors have remained within their listed and marked sensitivity range, the length of time between tests may be extended to a maximum of 5 years
- Smoke detector caused nuisance alarms. If you have a zoned system, you must keep this log behind this fire alarm tab. Your inspector can provide this log and explain how to complete it.
- **NOTE: All persons providing inspection, testing, and maintenance of a fire alarm system shall be NICET certified**.



Kitchen Suppression Systems

- You will have one of the following:
  - Kitchen suppression system that is part of your automatic sprinkler system. This system is required to be **serviced annually**.
  - Chemical agent kitchen suppression system. This system is required to be **serviced every 6 months**.



Commercial Kitchen Hoods:

- Kitchen filters cleaning schedule log: Filters shall be cleaned as often as necessary and a log provided of the cleaning of these filters. If the kitchen staff does the cleaning, the inspector will ask the kitchen staff to provide their log.
- Kitchen Hoods shall be cleaned a minimum of every **6 months**. Depending on the amount of grease buildup/ volume of cooking operations, additional cleaning may be required.



Generators

- Generators are required to be **serviced annually**.
  - Generators are required to be inspected weekly and ran under load for 30 minutes once a month. This can be done by facility staff.
- Emergency generator requirements:
  - Be tested monthly for 30 minutes under load
  - Have records maintained and available for review
  - Automatically start within ten seconds of losing power
  - Have an annual certification test to be conducted with records kept
  - If diesel fuel, an annual fuel test needs to be conducted. Documentation should be kept in the fire binder





Diesel Generators

Additional diesel generator requirements:

- Generators shall be tested monthly for 30 minutes under a load at not less than 30 percent of the emergency power source (EPS) nameplate kW (kilowatts) rating or loading that maintains the minimum exhaust gas temperatures as recommended by the manufacturer.

Diesel Generators

- If the diesel generator cannot be tested monthly to meet the required kW rating or exhaust temperature conditions; the generator shall:
  - Be exercised annually with supplemental loads at not less than 50 percent of the EPS nameplate kW rating for 30 continuous minutes and at not less than 75 percent of the EPS nameplate kW rating for 1 continuous hour for a total test duration of not less than 1.5 continuous hours.



- Generator Maintenance:
  - A detailed log of generator operations shall be maintained on the premises.
  - The system is required to run UNDER LOAD for a minimum of 30 minutes per month (Including natural gas generators).
  - A simple exercise run that DOES NOT activate the transfer switch does NOT meet the code requirement.
  - Records will provide adequate detail to differentiate when the system was run under load.

Fire Doors

Fire doors shall be inspected annually. This include resident rooms doors if they are fire doors.
There is a 13-point inspection checklist.
You need to log the inspection to include - Date of inspection, Name of the facility (if more than 1 occupancy), Name of the person conducting the inspection, company if applicable, signature of inspection record, individual record of each inspected and tested fire door assembly, listing if passed or failed. If failed, what is the reasoning, was it repaired? And a date with a signature of the person who repaired it.

13 Point Inspection

1. Labels are clearly visible and legible
2. No open holes or breaks exist in surfaces of wither the door or frame
3. Glazing, vision light frames, and glazing beads are intact and securely fastened in place, if so equipped.
4. The door, frame, hinges, hardware, and non combustible threshold are secured, aligned and in working order with no visible, signs of damage
5. No parts are missing or broken
6. Door clearances do not exceed clearances listed in 4.8.4 and 6.3.1.7
7. The self-closing device is operational,: that is, the active door completely closes when operated from the full open position
8. If a coordinator is installed, the inactive lead close before the active lead
9. Latching hardware operates and secures the door when it is in the closed position
10. Auxiliary hardware items that interfere or prohibit operation are not installed on the door or frame
11. No field modification to the door assembly have been preformed that void the label.
12. Meeting edge protection, gasketing and edge seals were required, are inspected to verify their presence and intertie
13. Signage affixed to a door meets the requirements listed in 4.1.4

Fire/Smoke Dampers

- Fire Dampers shall be inspected 1 year after installation and shall then be every 4 years. Provide written documentation that fire dampers have been inspected and serviced.
- Fire dampers should be identified and labeled
- Report should list whether it passed or failed. If failed, was it corrected, is there a date of correction?



Fire Walls

- Fire walls are to be inspected annually.
- You will need to verify with your building plans and identify where the fire walls are in your building.
- Each fire wall should be identified and labeled on a log. The inspection should note a pass or fail. If the wall falls you will need to identify how it failed, how was it corrected, by whom and the date it was corrected.



Emergency Lighting

Emergency lighting and exit signs that are battery operated shall be tested for 30 seconds once a month and 90 minutes annually. You must document this. This log must also show a pass / fail and how it was corrected, by whom and a date.





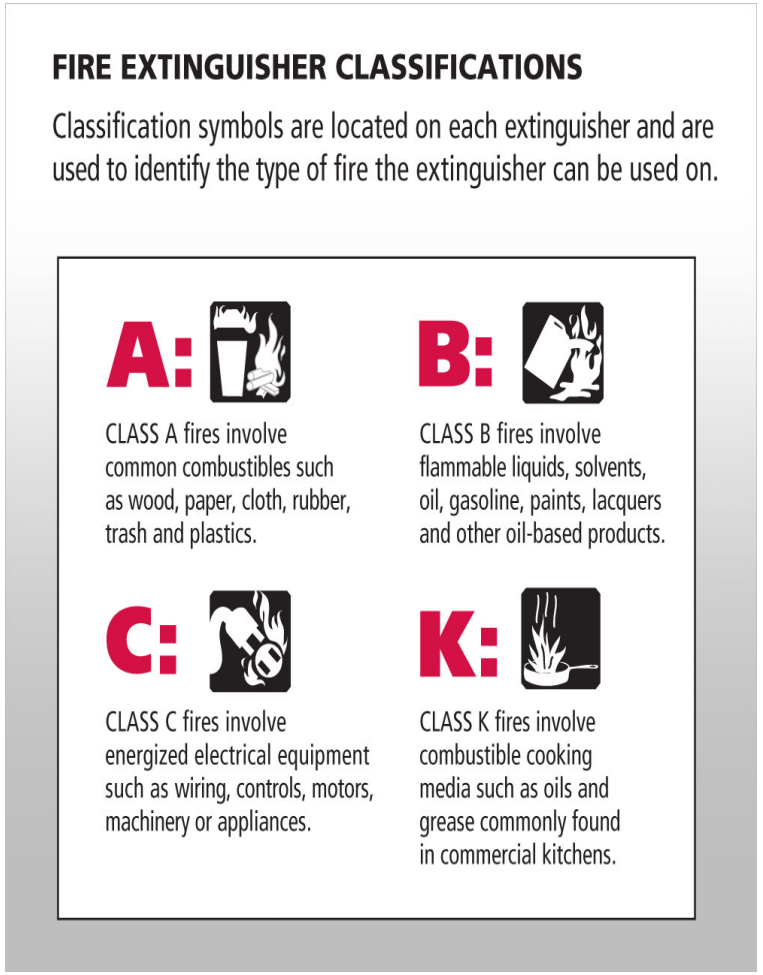
Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Carbon Monoxide detectors shall be installed when the facility has gas fueled equipment.
- Carbon Monoxide detectors batteries shall be tested per manufacturer's requirements. (monthly)
- A log of Carbon Monoxide battery testing shall be provided for review.
- The log should have a pass or fail, if failed when was it corrected and by whom.



Fire Extinguishers

- Fire extinguishers shall be serviced annually by a company. File the report.
- Fire extinguishers are required to be inspected monthly by a facility staff.



Fire Extinguishers cont:

- Things to check for:
  - Is the yellow arrow on the green tab?
  - Is the pin and safety seal still in place?
  - Is there a hose obstruction or damage to the fire extinguisher?
  - Take the fire extinguisher, turn it upside down, shake it, and place it back. This just helps keep the chemical from sticking.
  - Date and initial the tag





Fire Drills

Fire drills are to be conducted so that there is one fire drill per shift per quarter.









Fire Drill Continued

Fire drills shall be conducted quarterly for each shift. Each drill shall be in accordance with the facility evacuation plan. Fire drills shall be initiated by the activation of the fire alarm system. When drills are conducted between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., a coded announcement may be used instead of audible alarms. Records shall be maintained.

Facility Name				
Address				
Date	Time ____ ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m.	Shift ☐ Day ☐ Swing ☐ Night		
Name of Person Conducting the Drill				
SIMULATED FIRE DRILL				
Location of simulated incident:				
Type of alarm device initiated:				
Alarm monitoring company notified before initiation of fire alarm?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A	
Fire alarm system functioned properly?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A	
Fire alarm system reset and back in service?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A	
If no, describe action taken:				
Residents removed from room of origin?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A	
Resident room doors closed and latched?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A	
Residents moved to a safe area of refuge?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A	
Coded announcement initiated to identify location of fire?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A	
Backup 911 call initiated (simulated)	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A	
Staff outside of fire area responded and assumed duties in accordance with fire evacuation plan?	☐ Yes	☐ No		
Fire and smoke barrier doors in corridor closed?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A	
Exit corridors cleared of all equipment and obstructions?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A	
Time fire drill conducted				
Critique of fire drill				

The form should be completely filled out.
Shift
Hours
Was it simulated
Type of alarm
etc.

- If you follow these simple steps the document review portion of your survey will go so much smoother and reduce the level of stress on your maintenance staff. This binder will also assist staff in having all reports available should the maintenance director be gone at the time of inspection.

- # How to avoid repeat citations

- You have 30 days to correct the citations given in your State Fire Marshal Office (SFMO) report. If you know that you have outstanding items that you can not fix during this time you should email your Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM) and ask for an extension. An extension form will be given to fill out and a decision will be made. It is important that once you receive your report you start working on corrections and scheduling items that need to be scheduled.

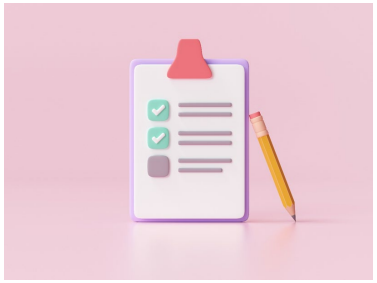
- # Why do providers remain uncorrected

- I do not have stats on why providers do not get things done but I have seen it due to having a lot of turn over in buildings, management not giving funding, or just facilities not knowing what to do and not reaching out.

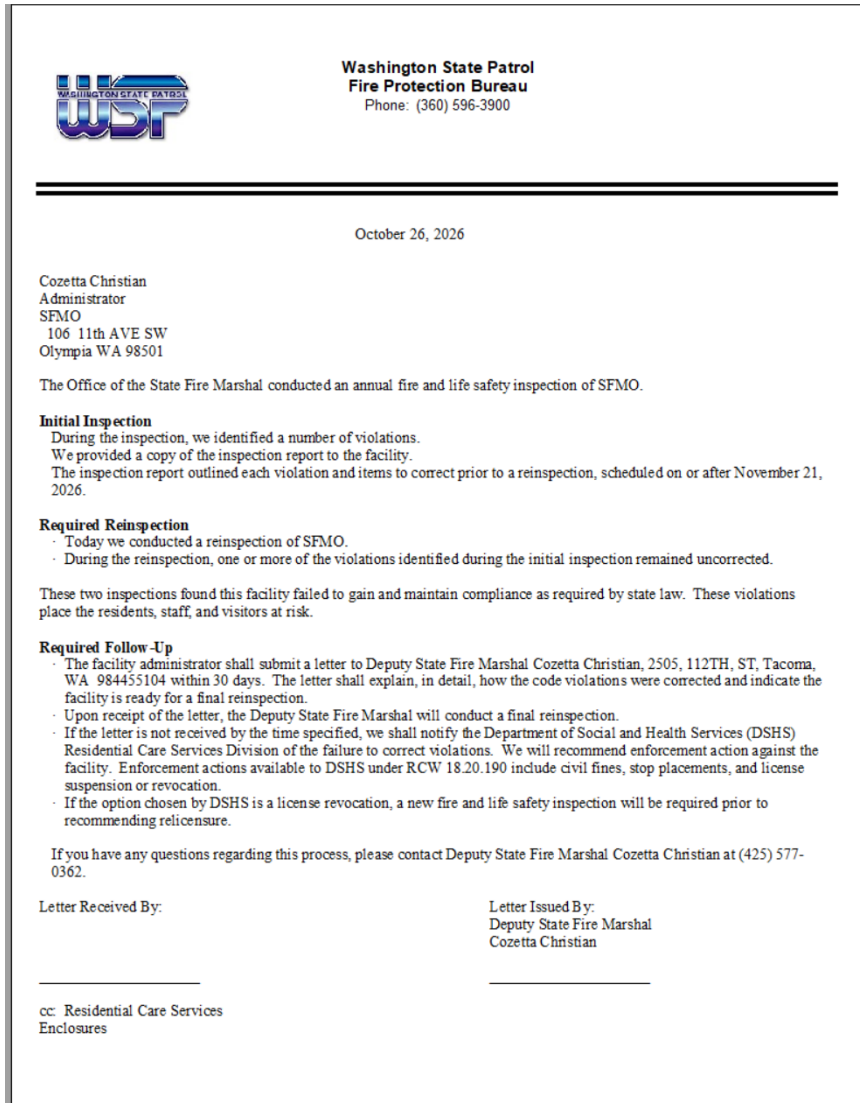
- # How can providers be in compliance.

- Schedule early – doing regular walkthroughs of your building. Make sure more than 1 person knows where your maintenance binder is. Don't be afraid to reach out with questions. We are here to help and support you.









Washington State Patrol
Fire Protection Bureau
Phone: (360) 596-3900

October 26, 2026

Cozetta Christian
Administrator
SFMO
106 11th AVE SW
Olympia WA 98501

The Office of the State Fire Marshal conducted an annual fire and life safety inspection of SFMO.

Initial Inspection
During the inspection, we identified a number of violations.
We provided a copy of the inspection report to the facility.
The inspection report outlined each violation and items to correct prior to a reinspection, scheduled on or after November 21, 2026.

Required Reinspection
- Today we conducted a reinspection of SFMO.
- During the reinspection, one or more of the violations identified during the initial inspection remained uncorrected.

These two inspections found this facility failed to gain and maintain compliance as required by state law. These violations place the residents, staff, and visitors at risk.

Required Follow-Up
- The facility administrator shall submit a letter to Deputy State Fire Marshal Cozetta Christian, 2505, 112TH, ST, Tacoma, WA 984455104 within 30 days. The letter shall explain, in detail, how the code violations were corrected and indicate the facility is ready for a final reinspection.
- Upon receipt of the letter, the Deputy State Fire Marshal will conduct a final reinspection.
- If the letter is not received by the time specified, we shall notify the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Residential Care Services Division of the failure to correct violations. We will recommend enforcement action against the facility. Enforcement actions available to DSHS under RCW 18.20.190 include civil fines, stop placements, and license suspension or revocation.
- If the option chosen by DSHS is a license revocation, a new fire and life safety inspection will be required prior to recommending relicensure.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Deputy State Fire Marshal Cozetta Christian at (425) 577-0362.

Letter Received By:

Letter Issued By:
Deputy State Fire Marshal
Cozetta Christian

cc: Residential Care Services
Enclosures

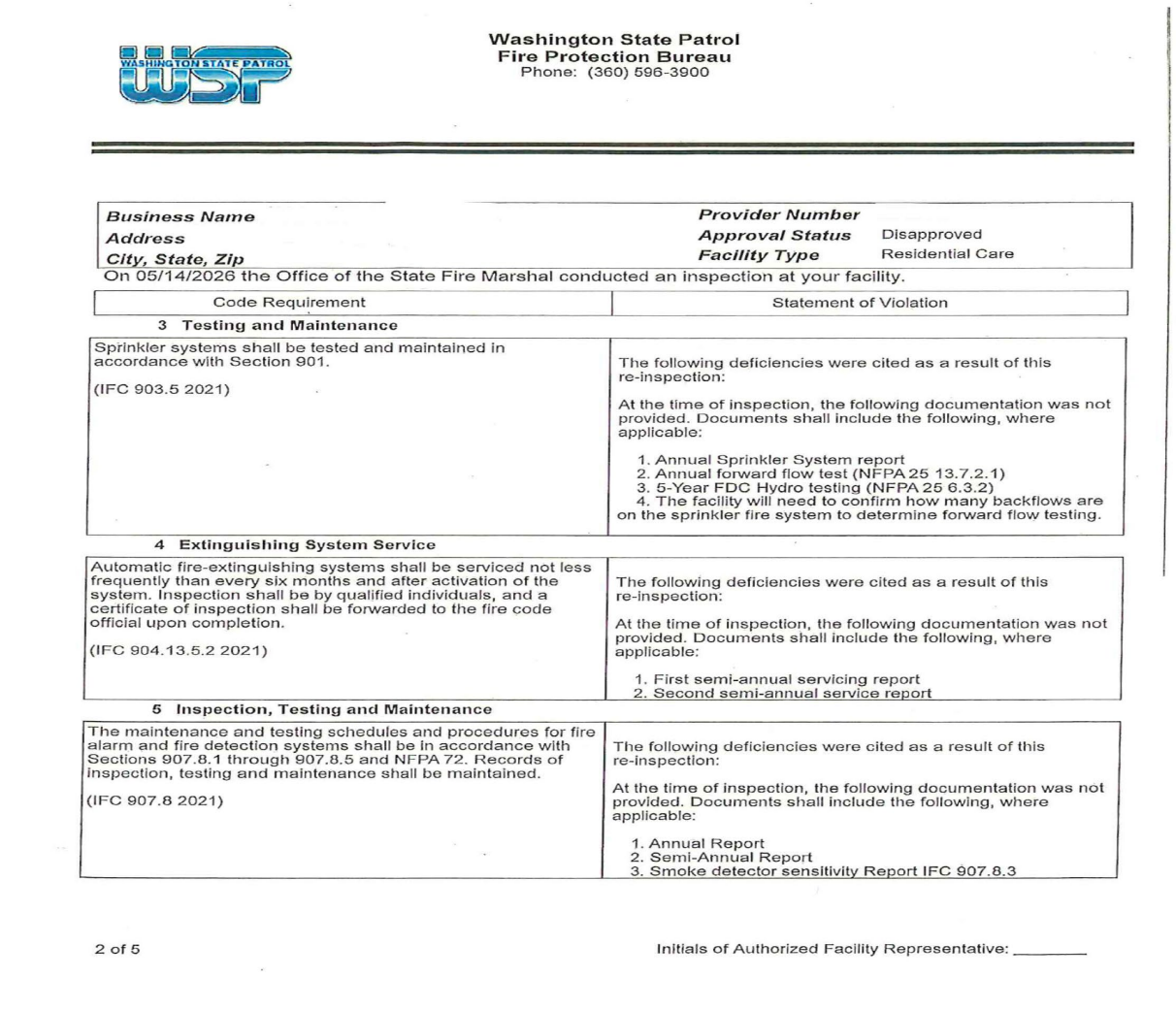
Noncompliance Letter

If you fail the re-inspection, you will be given a noncompliance letter. This letter states that you have failed to come into compliance with our office. You have 30 days to explain in detail how the code violations were corrected and when the corrections will be made. You will send this to your DSFM through email or mail at the address given on the letter.

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Business Name	***Provider Number***	
Address	***Approval Status***	Disapproved
City, State, Zip	***Facility Type***	Residential Care

On 05/14/2026 the Office of the State Fire Marshal conducted an inspection at your facility.

Code Requirement	Statement of Violation
3 Testing and Maintenance	
Sprinkler systems shall be tested and maintained in accordance with Section 901. (IFC 903.5 2021)	The following deficiencies were cited as a result of this re-inspection: At the time of inspection, the following documentation was not provided. Documents shall include the following, where applicable: 1. Annual Sprinkler System report 2. Annual forward flow test (NFPA 25 13.7.2.1) 3. 5-Year FDC Hydro testing (NFPA 25 6.3.2) 4. The facility will need to confirm how many backflows are on the sprinkler fire system to determine forward flow testing.
4 Extinguishing System Service	
Automatic fire-extinguishing systems shall be serviced not less frequently than every six months and after activation of the system. Inspection shall be by qualified individuals, and a certificate of inspection shall be forwarded to the fire code official upon completion. (IFC 904.13.5.2 2021)	The following deficiencies were cited as a result of this re-inspection: At the time of inspection, the following documentation was not provided. Documents shall include the following, where applicable: 1. First semi-annual servicing report 2. Second semi-annual service report
5 Inspection, Testing and Maintenance	
The maintenance and testing schedules and procedures for fire alarm and fire detection systems shall be in accordance with Sections 907.8.1 through 907.8.5 and NFPA 72. Records of inspection, testing and maintenance shall be maintained. (IFC 907.8 2021)	The following deficiencies were cited as a result of this re-inspection: At the time of inspection, the following documentation was not provided. Documents shall include the following, where applicable: 1. Annual Report 2. Semi-Annual Report 3. Smoke detector sensitivity Report IFC 907.8.3

2 of 5

Initials of Authorized Facility Representative: _____

How to read a report:

The code reference is on the left side of the report.

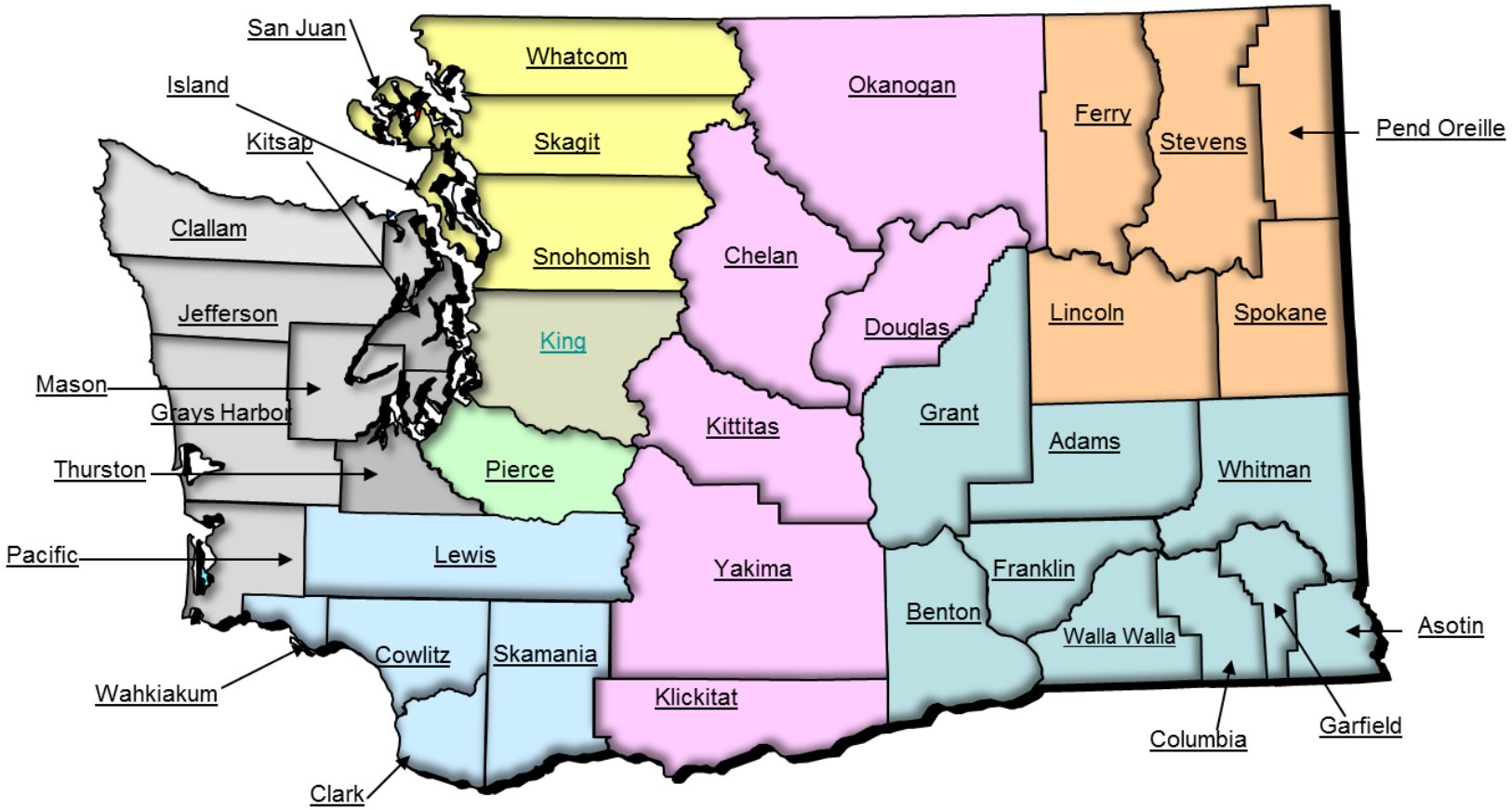
The deficiencies found will be on the right side of the report.

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Deputy State Fire Marshal Areas



References

- International Fire Code
- International Building Code
- WAC 212-12
- NFPA 110: Standard for Emergency and Standby Power Systems
- NFPA 25: Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems
- NFPA 13: Installation of Sprinkler Systems
- NFPA 72: National Fire Alarm Code