

ARIZONA FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION

Business Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2026

The Arizona Fire Marshals Association (AZFMA) held its business meeting on July 14, 2026, with members participating both in person and virtually. The meeting included updates from association committees, regional and partner organizations, discussion of proposed bylaw amendments, legislative and code-related issues, and planning for upcoming training, elections, and association activities.

Association Business

The May meeting minutes were not available for consideration and will be posted for membership review and presented for approval at the September meeting.

AZFMA has also received newly produced association challenge coins. The Board will establish pricing and distribution details before making them available to members.

The Membership Committee reported 79 paid members within the preceding 12 months and 107 members current between 2024 and 2026. Memberships now operate on a rolling 12-month cycle based on the individual member's renewal date. Members receiving an invoice should consider it notification that their annual membership is due for renewal.

Education and Professional Development

Planning continues for the upcoming State Fire School. Rather than offering the traditional Fire Inspector course this year, the program will feature a Fundamentals of Fire Inspection course designed primarily for newer inspectors and company officers performing inspection responsibilities. The course is being developed with an emphasis on practical, hands-on learning, including field inspection activities.

Work also continues toward IFSAC accreditation for the Fire Inspector certification program. Members were advised that the accreditation effort remains active despite delays associated with other state accreditation priorities.

The Association discussed expanding the Education Committee structure to better support the growing demand for professional development. Potential focus areas include inspector certification, quarterly training opportunities, ICC continuing education, and recurring virtual training or “lunch and learn” programs. Members interested in assisting with education initiatives will be invited to participate.

Legislative and Partner Organization Updates

AZFMA continues to coordinate with the Arizona Fire Chiefs Association, Arizona Fire Districts Association, and other fire-service partners on legislation affecting fire and life safety interests. Members were encouraged to remain engaged in the legislative process and to build productive relationships with policymakers—not only when opposing legislation, but also when supporting measures that advance public safety.

The legislative update noted that 315 bills passed during the most recent legislative session, with AZFMA tracking legislation of particular relevance to fire prevention and community risk reduction.

Updates were also provided from regional fire marshal groups and partner organizations, including ICC, NFPA, IAAI, and the State Fire Training Committee.

ICC and Emerging Issues

The ICC Annual Conference and Business Meeting is scheduled for October 18–21 in Nashville. ICC representatives also offered to provide AZFMA with a future virtual presentation addressing data centers, including permitting considerations, emerging hazards, and issues jurisdictions should anticipate as these facilities continue to expand.

Data centers, energy infrastructure, and small modular nuclear reactors generated additional discussion during the meeting. Members emphasized the importance of sharing information and developing consistent approaches as these projects become increasingly common in Arizona communities.

NFPA Update

The NFPA update highlighted several emerging fire and life safety issues, including energy storage systems, electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, parking garages, battery-fire contamination of firefighter PPE, and national efforts affecting model-code adoption.

Members were also advised of the development of NFPA 800, a provisional battery safety standard intended to address battery hazards throughout the product life cycle.

Fire Prevention Week will be observed October 4-10, 2026, with the theme "Charge Into Fire Safety," reflecting the increasing importance of safe charging practices and awareness of hazards involving rechargeable batteries and charging equipment.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

The Board formally presented proposed amendments to the AZFMA bylaws. In accordance with the existing bylaws, the proposed amendments were presented to the membership at the July meeting and will be brought forward for a vote at the September 8, 2026, business meeting. For the official meeting record, the July minutes are accompanied by the 2024 AZFMA Bylaws, the 2026 Edit Draft showing the proposed changes, and the 2026 Clean Copy of Proposed Amendments.

- Adding a formal AZFMA mission statement focused on advancing fire prevention, life safety, and community risk reduction through professional excellence, education, collaboration, and the exchange of technical knowledge.
- Updating annual membership language so the effective membership period begins on the date dues are paid and continues for the following 12 months.
- Clarifying that Association officers are the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, while Members at Large and the Past President serve as members of the Board of Directors.
- Clarifying eligibility for President and Vice President to require a currently employed Arizona fire-service member with fire prevention or community risk reduction experience, or a fire marshal of a business or educational institution that collaborates with the fire service.
- Increasing the number of Members at Large from two to four and revising the Board composition accordingly.
- Revising election provisions so two Member-at-Large positions are elected in even years and two are elected in odd years.
- Revising presidential succession so that, if the Vice-President cannot ascend to President, both the President and Vice-President positions are elected at the November business meeting.
- Establishing authority for the Board of Directors to fill vacancies when a vacant position does not have a designated successor.
- Updating financial signatory, meeting, quorum, attendance, committee, website, and other administrative provisions.

- Recognizing virtual and telephone participation as attendance and adding the International Association of Arson Investigators among identified partner organizations.

Membership participation at the September meeting is strongly encouraged because the proposed bylaw amendments are scheduled for a membership vote on September 8. Approval of the amendments would allow applicable Board and election changes to be implemented before the November election.

Publication and Distribution: The July 2026 Business Meeting Minutes will be posted with the original AZFMA Bylaws, the tracked-changes version of the proposed amendments, and a clean amended copy of the Bylaws. These materials are to be posted to the AZFMA website by end of day Monday, August 24, 2026, and included with the calendar invitation for the September 8, 2026, meeting.

Food Truck Inspection Program

Members discussed the statewide food-truck inspection program, including inspection recognition between jurisdictions, decals, application processing, and the usability of the current online portal.

The current application system, hosted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, has presented navigation and administrative challenges. An RFI is being prepared to evaluate alternative software platforms that may provide a more effective solution.

The roundtable also included discussion regarding inspection frequency, kitchen exhaust cleaning, suppression-system requirements, and the importance of consistent enforcement practices across jurisdictions while avoiding unnecessary duplication for mobile food vendors operating in multiple communities.

Regional Collaboration and Emerging Code Issues

Members discussed the value of strengthening regional fire marshal groups as forums for addressing jurisdiction-specific code and enforcement issues before bringing broader concerns to the statewide association.

Particular attention was given to areas where fire-code enforcement authority may be unclear or unavailable outside established fire districts. Continued regional collaboration was encouraged to identify common challenges and potential solutions.

Association Engagement

The Board discussed potentially returning AZFMA to a monthly meeting schedule beginning in 2027. Meetings could include traditional business meetings, brief virtual training sessions, or discussions of emerging fire and life safety issues. The goal would be to increase consistency, participation, and value for members while maintaining a virtual attendance option.

The Association will continue evaluating this concept based on membership interest.

Upcoming Meetings and Elections

September 8, 2026 – Mesa

The next AZFMA business meeting will be held immediately before State Fire School. Members will vote on the proposed bylaw amendments.

November 3, 2026 – Glendale

The November business meeting will coincide with the opening of the Desert Southwest Community Risk Reduction

Conference, presented in partnership with the Arizona Fire and Burn Educators Association. Board elections will also be conducted during this meeting.

December 16, 2026

The newly elected Board will meet to support leadership transition, transfer organizational information, and establish priorities for the coming year. Newly elected Board members will assume their positions on January 1, 2027.

Several leadership positions are expected to be available during the November election, including President, Vice President, and multiple Member-at-Large positions, depending on the outcome of the September bylaw vote. Members with the interest, capacity, and vision to help advance AZFMA are strongly encouraged to consider serving.

Looking Ahead

AZFMA continues to focus on strengthening professional education, expanding member engagement, improving collaboration with partner organizations, and preparing Arizona's fire-prevention professionals for emerging challenges. Members are encouraged to participate in committees, training opportunities, regional groups, and upcoming elections as the Association continues to expand the services and resources it provides to Arizona's fire and life safety community.

Next Business Meeting: September 8, 2026 – Mesa