



Association Profile

WHO WE ARE

- Non-profit Association of public ports and private facilities
- Focused the Columbia River and Willamette River marine transportation system
- Coordinate with two states, fourteen cities and seven ports districts
- Collaborate with thirteen public fire agencies in Oregon and Southwest Washington

OUR MISSION

To be the leading provider and advocate of safe, environmentally responsible and cost-effective response services to commercial vessels along the Columbia Willamette waterways.

OUR HISTORY

Following the aftermath of the *Protector Alpha* ship fire in 1982, the Fire Protection Agencies Advisory Council (FPAAC) was formed to ensure a comprehensive system to effectively respond to shipboard fires in the Lower Columbia Region. Currently comprised of 13 fire agencies located throughout the river system, these agencies voluntarily contribute both staff time and equipment costs for participation in meetings, drills and other training exercises.

After the *Exxon Valdez* spill in 1990 and the subsequent Oil Pollution Act (OPA 90), the oil program was added to address specific state preparedness and response regulations. The Plan covers over 1500 vessels each year to meet the high standards established by Washington and Oregon.

WHAT WE DO

Provide training, equipment and planning for regional emergency response agencies.

Services:

- Support training, education, and planning for the Fire Program.
- Manage an Oil Program that meets the regulatory requirements of Oregon and Washington.



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- Operate a regional marine radio system to ensure reliable and effective communications within our area of responsibility.

OUR TEAM

Curtis Cannizzaro, Executive Director

Curtis is responsible for the day-to-day operations for the organization, strategic leadership, team management, financial oversight, service development and association management. An integral member of Merchants Exchange staff since 2015, he has previously held the roles of: General Manager, Clean Rivers Cooperative, Assistant Manager, Maritime Fire & Safety Association (MFSA), Program Manager, Fire Protection Agencies Advisory Council (FPAAC). He holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Bethany College with extensive additional coursework completed in FEMA ICS (Incident Command System), and federal grants management. He is actively engaged in numerous committees, boards, associations, and workgroups focused on the maritime industry. He is currently serving as Board Treasurer, Association of Petroleum Industry Co-op Managers (APICOM), Board Member, Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee (LCRHSC), Board Treasurer, Maritime Information Services of North America (MISNA).

Carl Obermeier, General Manager

Carl Obermeier is the General Manager of the Maritime Fire & Safety Association, a not-for-profit corporation organized in 1983 to promote fire protection, oil spill response programs, maritime safety, and the enhancement of navigation on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Prior to coming to MFSA he had been the Fleet Monitoring Center Manager for Foss Maritime Company and had also previously worked at BP and Hanjin Shipping Company. He served as a Surface Warfare Officer in the United States Navy and sailed as a licensed deck officer aboard a variety of ships including tankers, container, RO/RO, research, and passenger vessels. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Transportation from California Maritime Academy and an MBA from Western Washington University.

Anthony O'Reilly, FPAAC Program Manager

Anthony oversees FPAAC's shipboard firefighting program, coordinating training, and multi-agency collaboration to advance preparedness in the region. He also manages the grants that support these trainings. Previously, he progressed from Administrative Apprentice to Operations Manager in UK local government. Upon resettling in the US, he managed vehicle titling compliance and customer service in the automotive auction industry. Anthony joined



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Merchants Exchange in 2021 as Administrative Specialist, supporting the Executive Assistant, administering grants and assisting with association management.

Our Board Officers (2025)

- President: Kent Cash, Port of Vancouver, USA
- Vice President: Geoff Owen, International Raw Materials
- Secretary/Treasurer: Jori Templeton, EGT, LLC

Our members include, but are not limited to: port authorities, terminals, and private facilities, for a complete list please check our website, www.mfsa.com.

CONTACT

Maritime Fire & Safety Association
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Public Relations Contact: info@mfsa.com

Hours of Operation: 24/7/365
Marine Operations Service Department: (503) 228-4361

BRANDING

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