Kyle Higgins
Battalion Chief, Kirkland Fire Department | Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve | Marine Fire Specialist



Kyle Higgins has more than 30 years of emergency response, hazardous materials, and marine firefighting experience. He currently serves as a Battalion Chief with the Kirkland Fire Department and as a Commander in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, where his assignments have included the National Strike Force Coordination Center and the Pacific Strike Team.

Throughout his career, Chief Higgins has operated at the nexus of shipboard emergency response, regulatory oversight, and complex casualty investigation. For Resolve Marine Group, he coordinates specialized response teams prepared for worldwide maritime emergencies and has responded to numerous major incidents involving commercial vessels, including container ships, Ro-Ro vessels, and tankers. His military and civilian background includes operational leadership during high-profile environmental and industrial disasters, including the Deepwater Horizon response, major wildfire operations, and maritime casualty investigations with the U.S. Coast Guard and Transport Canada.

A recognized subject matter expert in marine fire dynamics and emergency response, Higgins serves on the NFPA 921 Marine Fire Investigations Task Group and the NIST-OSAC Fire & Explosion Investigation Subcommittee and is past president of the Washington State Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). He holds dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Fire & Safety Engineering Technology and Fire Arson & Explosion Investigation from Eastern Kentucky University and a Master of Science in Forensic Sciences from Oklahoma State University and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Forensic Sciences focused on marine fire and explosion analysis.

Representing the responder community, Higgins advocates for practical fireground safety, tactical firefighting adaptations, and interagency incident management frameworks essential for managing the emerging hazards and fire dynamics associated with alternative maritime fuels and new propulsion technologies.