



PROUDLY SERVING THE AREAS OF AND SURROUNDING HAYDEN AND RATHDRUM, IDAHO

MESSAGE from the CHIEF



Greetings and thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter! I hope you are enjoying your summer and had a safe and happy 4th of July. It is business as usual at the Northern Lakes Fire District and your fire crews are busy responding to calls, performing fire hydrant maintenance, and attending necessary training to maintain their proficiencies and capabilities in all aspects of fire and EMS response.

As many of you are already aware, the secret of our 'slice of paradise' is out and growth in our area is not slowing down. While the fire district is doing its very best to maintain the level of service our constituents have come to expect and deserve, some of our response times are increasing due to the greater demand. Heavier traffic and a more densely populated area are the main contributing factors to that.

In May, we last asked our voters to vote on a permanent tax override levy so that the District could add additional personnel to open a third staffed fire station. While the majority of voters approved the override, it fell short of the super majority needed to pass. Now our board and administrative staff are considering one last attempt to pass the override levy this coming November.



On Saturday, July 6, a guest opinion appeared in the *Coeur d'Alene Press* ([Ward, 2019](#)). In this opinion, the writer wisely stated that "when expenses due to growth exceed the money available...their option is to pass a levy". That article pertained to our public schools and their needs for expansion due to growth, and stated that builders and developers "need to accept some responsibility and contribute with land dedications or fees". We, like every other taxing entity in our area, are in the same proverbial boat.

There is a limit of 3% growth on how much tax we can levy from property owners each year. This amounts to a cost of living increase in doing business, but is not enough to fund the additional staff needed for a third station in our District.

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MESSAGE from the CHIEF (cont.)



The challenge we face is that without adding more staffed stations, homeowners' insurance premiums are being affected (in some cases, more than doubling) and our response times are increasing. We do not take these issues lightly and with the pace of growth continuing, I anticipate they will become even more challenging.

The District is forming a citizens committee that will be important in helping guide our decisions and needs. The goal is to have up to six District citizens comprise a committee with preference for representatives from the various areas within our boundaries. I would ask that any citizen who is interested in serving on this committee please email their contact information to admin@northernlakesfire.com by Friday, August 16th. I will then select those interested citizens who best represent various locations within the Northern Lakes Fire District, anticipating the first committee meeting near the end of August.

In closing, I want to assure all our citizens and guests that we are ready, able, and staffed to respond to your emergencies. I will continue to seek resourceful and innovative means to provide service at the lowest cost to our taxpayers. In turn, we need your help. If you are interested in helping guide the District's future and provide input into determining our needs, please respond to the email mentioned above and become part of the solution.



Pat Riley
Fire Chief

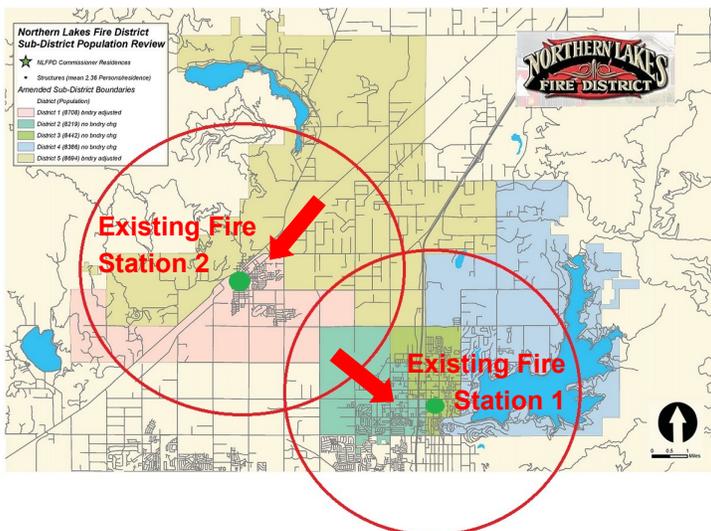
You can contact me with any questions or concerns at 208/772-5711 or via email at pwriley@northernlakesfire.com

The Northern Lakes Fire District currently operates out of two staffed stations, one located in the City of Rathdrum and one in the City of Hayden, with a staffing level of 12 firefighters on duty each day. There are 2 engine companies, 2 paramedic units, and 1 command vehicle in operation 24 hours a day to serve the citizens and visitors in our District.

The District's Board of Fire Commissioners' public meetings are the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at our Fire Station No. 1 located at 125 W. Hayden Ave. in Hayden.

For more information, please visit www.northernlakesfire.com

Current 2 Staffed Stations



Proposed 3 Staffed Stations





PROUDLY SERVING THE AREAS OF AND SURROUNDING HAYDEN AND RATHDRUM, IDAHO

Join Us at these Summer Events



JUL 26-27

HAYDEN DAYS McIntire Family Park

Activities include Live Music, Food and Craft Vendors, Talent Show, Car Show, Beer & Wine Garden, Children's Games, Pony Rides, Military Appreciation Parade & much more!

For more information visit www.cityofhaydenid.us

AUG 6

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT McIntire Family Park

Activities include entertainment, food & beverages, giveaways for children, as well as crime prevention and personal safety tips/information.

For more information, Capt. Edmondson, KCSO, 208-446-1315

AUG 17

TASTE OF RATHDRUM Majestic Park

Activities include BBQ Cook Off, Burger Battle, Hot Dog & Pie Eating Contests, Food & Craft Vendors, Petting Zoo, Beer Garden & much more!

For more information visit www.rathdrum.org

AUG 21-25

NORTH IDAHO STATE FAIR Kootenai Co. Fairgrounds

Activities include Rodeo, 4-H Events, Live Music, Carnival, Food & Craft Vendors & much more!

For more information visit www.northidahostatefair.com

While at the Fair, be sure to visit the Kootenai County Fire Prevention Co-Op Smokehouse with free activities for kids!

Northern Lakes Firefighters *Pancake Breakfast*



WHEN Saturday, July 27 7-11 a.m.
WHERE Fire St 1 at 125 W. Hayden Ave.

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Pancakes ■ Eggs ■ Sausage ■ Coffee ■ OJ ■ Water
\$7/Adult Donation Suggested

All proceeds benefit the Northern Lakes Firefighters Benevolence Fund for those in need in our community



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EMPLOYEE of the QUARTER



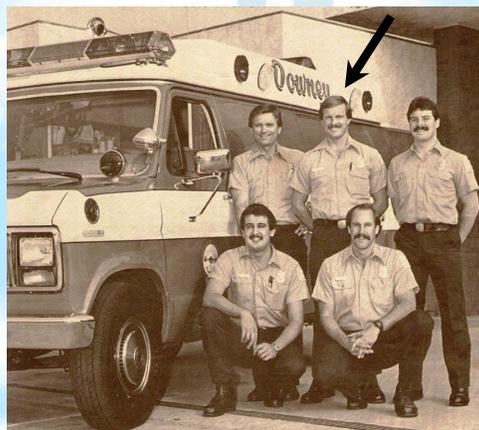
The Employee of the Quarter for Summer 2019 is Division Chief Brad Van Ert. Brad has almost 40 years of experience in the fire service, including 32 years with the Downey, California Fire Department. After a nationwide hiring process, he was hired by Northern Lakes Fire in January 2013 bringing a lifetime of fire and EMS experience to his position of EMS Chief.



EMS Chief Brad Van Ert

Brad was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and is a life-long Packers fan. In fact, he is a minority NFL owner with 2 shares of stock! His family moved to Littleton, Colorado when he was 4 years old, then to southern California 5 years later. He graduated from El Camino College in 1978 with an Associate Degree in Fire Science, eventually being hired as a firefighter by the City of Downey in 1980. Brad went on to graduate from paramedic school at Harbor/UCLA in 1982. He was promoted to Captain in 1989 and spent 3 years as a Training Captain and 7 years as an EMS Coordinator, retiring after 32 years.

During his career with Downey Fire, Brad also found time to earn a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Studies in 2004 and his Master Degree in Emergency Services Administration in 2010. Always looking for opportunities to educate himself, Brad has been a part-time consultant/reviewer for the Firefighter Near Miss Program since 2005 and just did an EMS Near Miss presentation at the 2019 IAFF Fire-Rescue-Med conference in Nevada.



Brad has been married to Jeanmarie for 33 years and they have two daughters; Lindsay is an NICU nurse at St. Luke's in Boise and Hilary is a Certified Public accountant. They have three grandchildren; grandsons Caleb (12) and Ian (10), and granddaughter Peyton (7).

In addition to spending most of his spare time outdoors with family and friends skiing, snowboarding, surfing, wakeboarding, mountain biking, backpacking and fishing (whew!), Brad also enjoys watching the Lakers, Dodgers and, of course, the Green Bay Packers! If you can catch this busy guy, be sure to ask him about his role in an episode of CHiPS back in 1982, and say "thank you" for his dedication to emergency response!

By Chris Larson,
Deputy Fire Marshal/PIO



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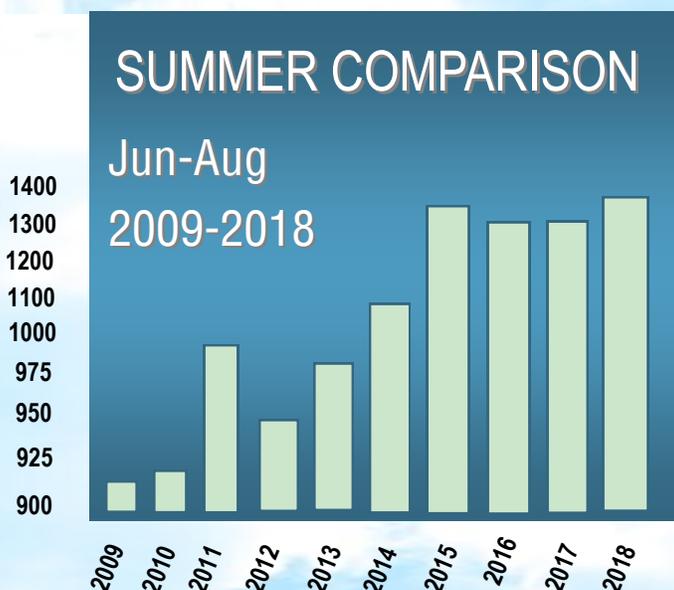
OPERATIONS | Call Volume Statistics



**Total calls for
2nd Quarter 2019
(April - June)**

As we enter the summer months, it is the busiest time of the year for the Northern Lakes Fire District. In addition to the increase in wildland fire response, we also see increases in motor vehicle accidents due to higher traffic volume. Along with the warmer temperatures, we also see more injuries as a result of outdoor activities on both land and water.

From 2009-2018, the District experienced a 48% growth in calls during the months of June, July and August



Incident Type	Number
Structure Fire	11
Wildland, Grass Fire	10
Vehicle Fire	4
Illegal Burn	1
Rescue/EMS Incident	697
Motor Vehicle Accident	44
Medical Assist	1
EMS Transport (Non Emergency)	84
EMS Transport (Critical Care)	21
Locked-In Rescue	1
Hazardous/Toxic Condition	2
Leak-Combustible/Flammable	2
Leak-Natural Gas or LPG	2
Electrical Wiring/Equip Problem	4
Power Line Down	1
Service Call	32
Person in Distress	18
Animal Rescue	1
Assist Law Enforcement, Other	2
Assist Invalid	16
Unauthorized Burning Check	2
Smoke/Odor Removal	1
Lock-Out	5
Water Problems, Other	1
Good Intent Call	221
Smoke Scare, Odor, Other	7
Authorized Burning Check	14
False Alarm, Call	39



PROUDLY SERVING THE AREAS OF AND SURROUNDING HAYDEN AND RATHDRUM, IDAHO

PERSONNEL CHANGES

RECENT PROMOTIONS AND HIRING



Captain Luke Michael was promoted in June. Luke has been with the District since 2004, starting as a temporary seasonal firefighter before becoming a full-time career firefighter six months later. He obtained his Advanced EMT certification in 2006 and was promoted to Engineer in 2011.



With Luke's promotion to officer, an engineer position was vacant and Firefighter/Paramedic Aaron O'Brien became the District's newest engineer. Aaron graduated from the University of Iowa Paramedic Program in 2013 and was hired by Northern Lakes Fire as a firefighter/paramedic a few months later.

Firefighter/Paramedic Alex Tull became our newest member to fill Aaron's position. Alex joins us from Spokane Fire District No. 4 and American Medical Response in Spokane where he has been a Field Supervisor/Paramedic since 2014.



Congratulations

ALERT! Kootenai

Alert! Kootenai is the emergency alert program that enables the County to provide the public with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as winter storms, flooding, major forest fires, unexpected road closures, evacuations of neighborhoods and more.

It's a free, opt-in emergency alert program you can easily register for online at <https://member.everbridge.net/> or by calling 208-446-1850. Landline phones are automatically set up to receive the emergency alerts.

Through a registered account, you provide contact information, preferences and choose locations of interest and the types of notifications you want to receive. When the county issues an emergency or other important notification, you will receive a message wherever you specify such as your home, cell or business phones, email address, text messages and more. If requested for the notification, you can confirm that you have received the message and you will not be contacted by any subsequent methods regarding that particular notification. If you do not confirm, the system will continue to attempt to reach you at all of the contact paths that you have registered.

The information you provide is protected and will not be used for any other purpose. You can stop receiving messages at any time by removing your contact information from your registered account.

Alert! Kootenai is a joint effort of the Kootenai County Board of Commissioners, Kootenai County Sheriff, Local Emergency Planning Committee and first response agencies.





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Rathdrum Days 2019

In the Rathdrum Days Parade on July 20, Northern Lakes Fire had fire trucks, Honor Guard members, and our own retired Deputy Fire Marshal Jim Lyon as the Grand Marshal!

After the parade, volunteers from Northern Lakes Fire, the Idaho Dept. of Lands, and the US Forest Service were on hand at the Kootenai County Fire Prevention Co-Op's Smokehouse. More than 150 children went through the Smokehouse and received education on fire prevention.



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The Fire Wire is a quarterly newsletter published by the Northern Lakes Fire Protection District

Visit us on the Web at www.northernlakesfire.com

