



THE FIRE WIRE

NORTHERN LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Administrative Offices
125 W. HAYDEN AVE.
HAYDEN ID 83835
208/772-5711

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2017

GREETINGS FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



Pat Riley

Fire Chief

priley@northernlakesfire.com

I hope this message finds everyone healthy, happy and safe after a long and hot summer! It continues to be a pleasure and honor to serve as Fire Chief of a premier full-service fire district in beautiful North Idaho.

As your fire chief, I remain committed to ensuring that your fire district is both ready and capable of responding to any call for service that we receive. I am also proud to say that your firefighters and staff remain dedicated to our mission of providing the highest level of service in the most proficient, competent and professional manner possible.

So far, 2017 continues to be the busiest year on record with our population increasing at a significant pace. One goal of this administration has been to take steps to keep up with the growth in both our population and run volume using our existing budget; and to do so with minimum impact on our constituents. By being fiscally responsible and properly budgeting we have been able to meet that goal.

This year the District added a new fire engine and wildland engine to our fleet in order to replace older equipment that became cost prohibitive to maintain. We also added three additional firefighters in order to maintain safe levels of on-duty staffing daily; all three are also certified EMTs. Due to the increase in the number of our calls, we continue to rely heavily on mutual aid from neighboring fire agencies.

Relying on crews to respond from other departments and areas can often cause an increase in the time for units to respond to your emergency. One way to reduce response times while providing rapid and efficient service is to add another fire station to one of the busier areas of our district.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, October 31

Halloween

Sunday, November 5 2:00 a.m.

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Tuesday, November 7

Election Day



Thursday, November 9

Board Meeting 10 a.m.

Fire Station 1

Saturday, November 11

Veterans Day

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 30

Board Meeting 10 a.m.

Fire Station 1

A Busy Department



- From October 2016 to September 2017, Northern Lakes Fire crews responded to 4,768 calls for service
- In the same period in 2012-2013, responses totaled 3,352
- Call volume over the last five years has increased more than 42%

We are now in a great position to be able to make that happen; through careful and diligent management of our existing budget we have the means to acquire land and build a station without increased funding from our taxpayers and constituents. Our remaining challenge will be staffing the new fire station with personnel to respond to emergency calls.



Over the next few months, the District will be considering asking for the public's support in providing us with an increase to our current levy to allow us to hire firefighters to respond

out of a third fire station. Without your support the District could not afford to staff that much needed station.

Your fire district now needs your help in achieving and reaching these goals of improving and increasing our level of service.

In closing, I thank you for your continued support and I encourage you to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns you may have. I also ask that when you see your firefighting crews out working hard to protect you, be sure to say "hi" and thank them for their service.



FireSmart™

FireSmart™ is a proactive program of Kootenai County and the National Fire Plan (NFP) that helps homeowners to mitigate the chances of serious wildfire damage in areas where home sites and forested areas meet; called the Wildfire Urban Interface or WUI.

The program provides educational tools for landowners to learn how to create fire safe zones around their homes, reduce ignitability of structures, and create safe access for firefighters and other emergency responders. Northern Lakes Fire District personnel are available to help with home assessments.



For more information about FireSmart™ go to www.kcgov.us/firesmart.asp.



Tyler Drechsel
Fire Marshal
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End of SUMMER Wrap Up



As the summer comes to a close, the District puts another wildland fire season to bed. While North Idaho didn't suffer the devastation other areas in the west did this year, much of that is due to our residents being fire safe.

Many residents in our District have taken a proactive approach in preparing their homes for wildfire by removing hazardous fuels and being safe with fire in and around their properties.

Wildfires are always going to be a part of living in rural North Idaho, but the far reaching devastation can be greatly reduced or almost eliminated when we work together to reduce the threat.

Although we are not completely out of the woods yet as the Fire Storm in October of 1991 proved, the prediction is for a normal level of precipitation throughout the later months which greatly reduces the risk of a catastrophic fire occurring.

If you would like a hazardous fuels assessment performed on your property please feel free to contact us at 208-772-5711 and we would be happy to schedule a convenient time to meet.

Be safe and have a great fall!



Response Data 3rd Quarter 2017

 30 Fire Calls

 853 EMS Calls

 398 Other Calls



July - September 2017
1,281 Total Calls

July - September 2012
995 Total Calls





Welcome To NEW MEMBERS



Cody has been a member of NLFPD since 2013 when he started as a volunteer for the District. He was hired by the District as a full-time Firefighter/EMT in May of this year.

Congratulations to Cody, his wife Renee, and daughter Harper on the newest addition to their family in July...daughter Hope!



Firefighter/EMT Cody Palmer and Family



Firefighter/EMT Tyler Turrell and Family

Tyler began his career in fire service in 2015 volunteering for Timberlake Fire District while also working seasonally for Spirit Lake Fire. In 2016, he was working full-time as a Firefighter for Shoshone Fire District 1 while also continuing as a volunteer for Timberlake Fire, before he was hired by the Worley Fire District.

We welcomed Tyler, his wife Mariah, and sons Brixton and Noxon to the Northern Lakes Fire Family in May.



Firefighter/EMT Garrett Kitterman and Family

In 2012, Garrett started as a resident/volunteer firefighter with Spokane County Fire District 8, before being hired part-time as a firefighter/EMT in 2013 after earning an Associates of Applied Science in Fire Science Technology. He was hired full-time by the Worley Fire District in 2016.

Garrett and his new wife, Katie, became part of the Northern Lakes Fire Family in July.



Crew of the Month

The Kootenai County EMS System awarded the September Crew of the Month to Northern Lakes Fire District Medic 51 crew, along with CDA Fire Engine 4, Engine 2, and Battalion Chief.

The medic crew honored was Firefighter/EMT Turrell (2nd from right) and Firefighter/Medic Bill Daniels (not pictured). Congratulations to both of them!

And a thank you to all first responders in Kootenai County for the amazing work they do each and every day!



EMPLOYEE Of the Quarter

Mike
Avilla

Firefighter/EMT Mike Avilla is our Employee of the Quarter. Mike was born in Fairfield, California where he grew up and helped his family maintain 20 acres of land until he was a teenager. At sixteen, Mike moved to Truckee, California and became a professional snowboarder; spending his free time backpacking and riding dirt bikes. Eventually he began work in the construction trade in California, specializing in remodels, before moving to Idaho in 2003.



Over the years, Mike tried his talents in many different areas including custodial work, gas station attendant, mechanic, cook, welder fabricator and commercial property manager. But one of his most important jobs involved being a foster parent for five years during which he helped raise almost 20 children in this area.

In 2009, Mike applied all the skills he had acquired over the years and became a volunteer firefighter for Northern Lakes Fire. After putting himself through the EMT program at Spokane Community College, Mike was eventually hired as a career Firefighter/EMT for the District in 2012. By 2015, Mike had acquired the skills to be able to work out of class as an Engineer.



To find out about Mike's hobbies you may have to look overseas or just look up! He not only travels to foreign countries when time allows, but Mike also has almost 200 skydives so far and is only looking to do more whenever he gets the chance. Mike is now a licensed skydive coach and is working on getting his instructor rating. Achieving this instructor level will allow him to carry a "Go-Pro" camera with him so he can chronicle not only his dives, but his students' as well.

Helping others didn't start when Mike joined the fire service. When asked to share something that most people don't know about him, Mike shared a story from his childhood; while in 4th grade, he was playing alongside a creek with a good friend when a rainstorm came through the area and, unbeknownst to them, caused a flash flood. His friend was swept down the torrent. Mike raced downstream until he saw a downed tree, climbed out onto it and grabbed his friend before he could be swept away. Luckily for his friend, Mike was a quick thinker and fast to take action!

We here at Northern Lakes Fire are proud to work with Mike and know that the constituents of our Fire District are better served because he is a part of our family!

By Jim Lyon, Deputy Fire Marshal/PIO



Fire Prevention MONTH



Every October is Fire Prevention Month at Northern Lakes Fire District. This year's theme is "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!".

Activities during the month included tours of our fire stations, as well as firefighters and the Deputy Fire Marshal visiting elementary schools in the District concentrating on those ages identified as most at risk for playing with fire: Kindergarten, 2nd and 5th grades.

Parents are encouraged to review a fire escape plan with the entire family. The goal is to have all family members safely outside and at the "meeting place" within two minutes.

You can download the NFPA Home Fire Escape Plan worksheets at <http://www.nfpa.org/fpw>

How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan

The Official Sponsor of Fire Prevention Week Since 1922

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- Practice your home fire drill!
- Make your own home fire escape plan using the grid provided on page 2.



How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan

Memorize your fire department's emergency phone number and write it below:

The Official Sponsor of Fire Prevention Week Since 1922

- Draw a floor plan or a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Mark two ways out of each room.
- Mark all of the smoke alarms with ☹️. Smoke alarms should be in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- Pick a family meeting place outside where everyone can meet.
- Remember, practice your plan at least twice a year!

Don't always wake up when the smoke alarm sounds. Know what your child will do before a fire occurs. For more information on smoke alarms and escape planning at www.nfpa.org/factsheets.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends replacing smoke detectors every 10 years as their sensors can lose sensitivity to heat and/or smoke

You can find the date of manufacture on the back of a smoke detector

Change your CLOCKS and smoke alarm BATTERIES!

REMEMBER TO TURN CLOCKS BACK ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

