



THE FIRE WIRE

Quarterly Newsletter

NORTHERN LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Spring 2017

www.northernlakesfire.com

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I hope this newsletter finds each and every one of you safe and hopefully beginning to dry out from a significant winter. This last winter we saw everything from major blizzards to near record flooding (which to some longtime local citizens was probably what they call a "normal winter" from past years). Our crews have already started off this year responding to an all-time record number of calls for service. Our Fire District population has grown tremendously over the last five years and the demand for service has increased along with the growth. I am proud of our highly trained personnel for answering each call with the highest degree of professionalism and compassion. As we continue with this increased growth and response trend, our administration team is working diligently to assure that we are ready to answer the next call for service.

Emergency preparedness remains a top priority. We are beginning the annual budgeting process for next fiscal year and one of my top funding priorities is to

add additional personnel to our existing staff. The national model for fire department staffing is to strive to have one firefighter on duty for every *one thousand* residents. Currently we maintain one firefighter on duty for every *five thousand* residents. I am committed to responsibly adding staff in order to



get to the recommended national safe staffing level.

My one year anniversary as Fire Chief came and went in January. I am very grateful to the elected officials, peers, constituents and business owners who have reached out to me and my staff to show their support. We are *your fire district* and are firmly committed to protecting you, your family and friends. When you see one of our crews out doing their jobs, please take a moment to let them know how they are doing and what we can do to serve you better.

Sincerely,
Pat Riley
Fire Chief

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Your input is valuable to us!

Please submit any ideas or requests for items to include in future editions of The Fire Wire to:

admin@northernlakesfire.com

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



TO RECEIVE THE NEXT EDITION OF The Fire Wire IN YOUR INBOX, PLEASE EMAIL US AT admin@northernlakesfire.com

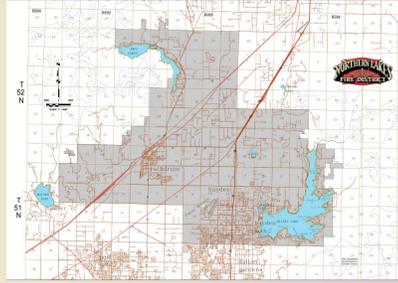
Spring 2017

RESPONSE DATA

1st Quarter 2017

Fire Calls	27
EMS Calls	794
Other	<u>323</u>
Total	1,144

Jan-Mar 2017	Jan-Mar 2016	Jan-Mar 2015
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The Northern Lakes Fire Protection District serves the communities of Rathdrum, Hayden and Hayden Lake, and the surrounding areas of Twin Lakes, East Hayden Lake, Garwood, Hoyt Ranch and Rathdrum Prairie.

Over the past ten years, the District's population has grown by almost 30% to 42,500 residents and has seen its call volume increase by 39%.

Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC) are kept on both District first-out engines. These hand-held tools are used by our firefighters to scan for heat through smoke, darkness and barriers such as ceilings and walls. TICs are constructed with heat and water resistant materials, and are rugged enough to withstand hazards on the fire ground scene.



Although they're called "cameras", fire service TICs only detect differences in heat signatures. Looking through a TIC isn't the same as viewing an object in normal light and they don't provide night-vision capabilities.



TOOL BOX

Thermal Imaging Camera Applications:

1. Hazmat Incidents: TICs can be used to help evaluate leaking gas/liquid containers, and detect the location of vapor clouds.
2. Electrical Hotspots/Overhauls: TICs can help identify overheating light ballasts or other electrical equipment/wiring, as well as hotspots in walls during overhauls.
3. Downed/trapped victims: TICs can detect heat differential and spot people in dark areas; even the heat signature given off by a person's recent footsteps can be detected.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

**Firefighter/Paramedic
Matt Dill**



Matt firmly believes that if you

want something you need to go after it with everything you have! This includes making one of the best decisions of his life by marrying his beautiful wife Liz who is now pursuing a degree in Psychology and Organizational Sciences at the University of Idaho.

When not working at the fire station, Matt enjoys all that the Northwest has to offer; fishing, hunting, camping and his newest hobby of archery. A tidbit about him that few folks know is that Matt spent three years learning Japanese while in high school. So, the next time you see Matt, make sure you tell him “ありがとうございました”(Thank you) for all the great things he does for the people in the Northern Lakes Fire District.

By Jim Lyon, Deputy Fire Marshal/PIO

One of our newest paramedics is being recognized this quarter, Firefighter Matt Dill. Matt’s pathway to the fire service was somewhat of a nomadic one. After completing his college degree in business, Matt worked in a law firm focusing on workers compensation and traveled throughout California. After a year-and-a-half, circumstances led him in an entirely new direction when he began operating an embroidery shop for about a year. Matt’s employment travels then led him to work in finance for a communication company where some very important events happened to change his life. Not only did he complete his MBA degree, he met his future wife, Liz.

After two years, Matt followed a job to Liberty Lake for the same company and began his work in the fire service when he began volunteering for Northern Lakes Fire in 2009. After two years, he decided to take



a gamble when he took a chance and accepted a temporary seasonal job with the fire district in hopes it might provide an avenue to a full-time position. Fortunately for Matt and Northern Lakes, the gamble paid off when he was hired full-time in 2012.

After just four years as a career firefighter, he had earned his certification as a paramedic and qualified to work out of class as an Engineer/Driver Operator.

Matt & Liz Dill



HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

FREE Skin Cancer Screenings

Where: Kootenai Clinic Cancer Services
1440 E. Mullan Avenue, Post Falls

When: Sat., April 29th 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Sat., May 6th 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

If detected early, skin cancer is one of the most curable diseases. These “spot checks” are not a total examination, but a screening of specific areas of concern where providers will check for suspicious spots called “lesions”.

Registration is required for the free screenings.

**To schedule your appointment,
call Kootenai Health at 208/625-4704.**

Screening made possible by Kootenai Clinic Cancer Services, North Idaho Dermatology, and Advanced Dermatology

FIRE PREVENTION /

PUBLIC EDUCATION

For twenty years, the Greater Kootenai County Fire Prevention Co-Op has brought a fire safety program every April to elementary schools in Kootenai and Shoshone Counties. This year's program is geared towards young children in kindergarten and first grade and will focus on:

- Safety with campfires and burning of yard waste.
- Calling 9-1-1 for an emergency.
- The importance of having and practicing a home fire escape plan.
- Not playing with matches or lighters and telling an adult if they see someone else playing with them.

The schedule for school skits in the District begins April 24th and runs through May 4th

FIRE PREVENTION CO-OP FIRE SAFETY PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

APRIL 2017

24	Atlas Elementary ✓
26	Twin Lakes Elementary ✓
27	Hayden Meadows Elementary ✓

MAY 2017

01	Garwood Elementary ✓
02	Betty Kiefer Elementary ✓
03	North Idaho Stem Charter ✓
04	John Brown Elementary ✓

Co-Op Skit 2012



Co-Op Skit 2013



DID YOU KNOW?

Commercial potting soil can contain peat moss, wood chips, vermiculite and polystyrene that can be highly flammable when dry, and it dries out quickly.

Don't use planters, flower pots or potted plants as an ashtray. Over the last few years, many fires across the country have been started by cigarettes discarded in containers with potting soil.



Keep your home safe this spring and summer! Water your potted plants regularly and keep stored potting soil away from combustible materials like cleaning products, gasoline and aerosols.



When you set your clocks forward last month, did you remember to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors?



AWARDS BANQUET



The District recently held it's Annual Awards Banquet at the Calam Shrine Public Event Center in Hayden to celebrate the past year and recognize individual and unit achievements. More than 80 personnel, family members and guests attended this year's event.

Top honors were given to Training Chief Mike Mather, recipient of the Employee of the Year Award; and, Years of Service Awards to Engineer Mike Duke (25 years) and Firefighter/Paramedic Burt Maines (25 years).

Each year, Lifesaving Awards are presented to individuals and units who have performed an act in the line of duty the previous year that resulted in saving the life of a cardiac arrest patient who is later released from the hospital to resume a normal and productive life. This year, citations were awarded to:

- ◆ Firefighter/EMT Mike Avilla, Firefighter/EMT Josh Gernns and Firefighter/Medic Matt Usher for a successful field resuscitation in July 2016.
- ◆ Fire Chief Pat Riley and EMS Division Chief Brad Van Ert for a successful field resuscitation in October 2016.

This year's Community Partner Award was presented to the Rathdrum Power Plant for their support coordinating, conducting and participating in full-scale emergency drills with the District annually since 2005.



Employee of the Year

Training Chief Mike Mather



Years of Service

(L-R) Engineer Mike Duke and Firefighter Burt Maines



Community Partner

(L-R) Fire Chief Riley, Rathdrum Power Plant General Manager Gary Allard & Fire Protection Coordinator Dave Howerton



Honor Guard



Lifesaving Award

(L-R) EMS Chief Brad Van Ert and Fire Chief Pat Riley



Lifesaving Award

(L-R) FF/EMT Josh Gernns, FF/EMT Mike Avilla and FF/Medic Matt Usher