



# THE FIRE WIRE

THE NORTHERN LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

## Message FROM THE Chief



Since becoming Fire Chief earlier this year, every day has brought me more knowledge and job experience. I have been a proud member of this organization for 21 years and I feel as excited and lucky to be here as I did on my very first day as a volunteer.

It is important to remember that an organization is only as good as its members and I want to give credit to the competent and dedicated employees of the Northern Lakes Fire District. As a service delivery organization, they are the ones that make this organization special and the ones that strive for excellence in everything that they do.

I look forward to serving as the Chief of the Northern Lakes Fire District for many years to come and will continually evaluate our operations to ensure we consistently exceed the expectations of our community and residents whom we are proud to serve.

The District welcomes your interest and hopes you find our Spring Newsletter to be informative. I encourage you to contact me with any questions at [pwriley@northernlakesfire.com](mailto:pwriley@northernlakesfire.com).



Respectfully yours,

**Pat Riley**  
Fire Chief



## C A L E N D A R

- May 4th..... International Firefighter's Day
- May 8th..... Mother's Day
- May 17th..... Haz Mat Drill at Lakeland H.S.
- May 30th..... Memorial Day
- June 3rd..... Mock Crash at Lakeland H.S.
- June 19th.... Father's Day
- June 25th.... MDA Fill the Boot

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Happy Spring!





## *Employee of the Quarter*

### JIM MONROE

What significant events occurred in the year 1980? That was the year John Lennon was shot; the federal interest rate was 21.5%; the Pac-Man arcade game was created; Ronald Reagan was first elected president; and Mount St. Helens erupted. But what was more important than those events? That's right; Jim Monroe joined the Rathdrum Rural Fire District as a volunteer and has been an active member of the fire service ever since.

Jim was born in New Jersey then moved on to California while in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Somehow Jim found his way to this area and purchased some land in Hidden Valley in 1974 but didn't move here until 1980. While burning yard debris on his property (unbeknownst to Jim it was illegal) he was spoken to by a Wayne Nowacki who saw the love of fire in Jim's eyes and convinced him to volunteer for Rathdrum Fire. Jim worked as a firefighter, Lieutenant, and then Captain of Station 3 (now NLFPD Station 6). Back in the day,

Jim also ran on the ambulance out of Rathdrum Station 1 with Post Falls Ambulance.

Jim's background has always involved electronics and continues to this day as owner of the company Intermountain Security. After graduating from high school, he joined the Navy and became an aviation electronics technician working on communications, radar and other electronic systems of the aircraft. He spent 10 years serving our country in the military which included two years in the reserve.

Jim has been married to his wonderful wife Chris for 20 years and has three children. The two older daughters live in Washington and Wyoming with his youngest, (aka the NLFPD's very own professional photographer) Jessica, about to finish up her first year at the University of Idaho.

Jim spreads his energy throughout the area including being a life member of the Kootenai Amateur Radio Society, volunteering with the Kootenai County

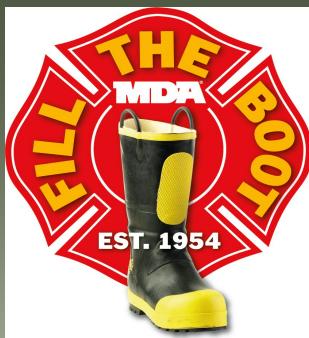


L-R Chris Monroe, Jessica Monroe & Volunteer Jim Monroe

Office of Emergency Management, as a member of the Hayden Eagles and Post Falls American Legion. When not involved with those activities and helping out here at Northern Lakes, you probably can find Jim up on his property on the Coeur d'Alene River.

A little known fact about Jim which raises more questions, and a desire to hear the "rest of the story", involves catching a 32 pound yellow catfish, measuring over six feet, from the Bosque River outside of Waco, Texas. Was Jim an early "noodle" fisherman? Make sure to ask him about that and thank him for the tremendous service he has provided Rathdrum and the Northern Lakes Fire District for more than 30 years. Thank you Jim!

*by Jim Lyon, Deputy Fire Marshal/PFO*



**The Northern Lakes Professional Firefighters raised \$6,750 in 2015 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association thanks to the generosity of our community. This year's Fill-the-Boot event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 25th in Hayden from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please check our website or Facebook page for more information on location(s).**





# *Training News*



## **North Idaho Emergency Services Academy**

The North Idaho Fire Chiefs Association (NIFCA) hosts this academy every year in the spring, providing a training opportunity for emergency responders. The 17th annual NIESA Academy was held April 8-April 10 this year offering several different classes ranging from a 20-hour Fire-fighting Essentials Class to a one-day Fire Commissioner training.

The District continues to provide instructors for classes in the North Idaho Emergency Services Academy (NIESA); in 2016, seven of our members taught the Engine Company Operations Class.

The District's training philosophy is that hands-on training is the most obvious way to ensure readiness. While there may be several ways to accomplish this through fire scenarios, preplanning evolutions, publication review, video training, etc., nothing can replace hands-on training evolutions. This is the best form of training when trying to build skill sets and muscle memory.

On the engine company in particular, there's no substitute for hands-on training evolutions because the role of the engine on a fire is to stretch and operate fire lines. You must stretch hose and place it into service if you're ever going to knock down the fire; therefore, you must be completely aware of and knowledgeable about how to physically perform these duties.

The District looks forward to participating in the 2017 NIESA again next spring!



## **Cascadia Rising 2016 Functional Exercise The Week of June 7th-June 10th**

Emergency responder agencies in North Central and North Idaho will be participating in a region-wide simulated field response operation this June. This exercise will involve agencies in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. It is intended to test the ability of all levels of government, certain private sector and non-governmental organizations to jointly respond to a complex disaster scenario involving a 9.0 magnitude earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) and ensuing tsunami.



According to the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (IBHS), in the event of such a disaster along the Oregon/Washington coasts, it is likely that the Idaho emergency responder community will be asked to assist our neighboring states, and may also be "directly affected" by the effects of such a disaster. These could include mass evacuation of residents in the CSZ to other states such as ours, as well as transportation disruptions impacting the availability of supplies and resources, including food, to Idaho.

The Cascadia Rising Exercise will provide an opportunity to test both state and local plans/procedures to be implemented during this type of disaster. Successful response operations to save and sustain lives in the aftermath of a large disaster depends upon the effective coordination of all levels of government, local, county, state, and federal, as well as the military, tribal nations and the private sector.



Northern Lakes Fire is proud to be a participant in this upcoming regional exercise with the goal of identifying any problems to improve our response in the event of a large disaster.





## *Community Involvement*



### **Hands-Only CPR Classes at Lakeland H.S.**

Several District members volunteer their time to teach hands-only CPR to students at Lakeland High School's Health Class.

The Northern Lakes Fire District values its communities and residents who reside in them. Our staff participate in many events throughout the year including public education, emergency medical services training, and fire prevention programs.



### **Rathdrum Power Plant Rescue Drill**

Along with the Kootenai County Fire & Rescue Technical Rescue Team, a training drill was conducted in October 2015. The drill was in conjunction with plant employees to exercise emergency response plans and first aid skills.



### **Fire Extinguisher Training at the Kootenai Technical Education Campus (KTEC) in Rathdrum**



### **Hazmat Decon Drills at Lakeland H.S.**

Each year, the District's Training Division coordinates a mass decon drill for the engine companies with assistance provided by students at Lakeland High School.



### **"Hot Dogs and Hard Hats" Job Fair at KTEC with demonstrations of fire equipment and apparatus**



### **Kootenai County Fire Prevention Cooperative**

As a member of the Kootenai County Fire Prevention Co-Op, the District participates in the annual Smokey Bear Skits performed at our local elementary schools every spring for first graders, reaching more than 1,600 children in our county with fire safety messages.



### **Fire Prevention Month every October with presentations at all our local elementary schools**



### **Mock Crash at Lakeland H.S.**

Since 2011, the District has participated in a Mock Crash every year with many other community partners to educate graduating seniors about the dangers of inattentive or drunk driving.



## Fire Safety Tips

Every year in the United States, about 3,000 people lose their lives in residential fires. Most fire victims die from inhalation of smoke and toxic gases, not as a result of burns. Most deaths and injuries occur in fires that happen at night while the victims are asleep.

Properly installed and *Maintained* smoke alarms in your home are considered one of the best and least costly means of providing early warning of a potentially deadly fire. The risk of dying from fire in homes without working smoke alarms is twice as high as in homes with working smoke alarms.

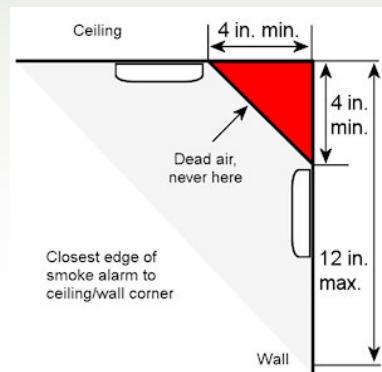
All smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month. If the alarm is battery operated, replace the batteries once a year to ensure they will work when needed. A good practice is to make replacement a seasonal routine such as when setting clocks back in the fall, or forward in the spring. *Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for testing smoke alarms and replacing their batteries.*

### Home Smoke Alarm

#### Checklist

- On each floor of home
- In kitchens, garages, attic spaces
- In hallways & bedrooms
- Test monthly
- Practice escape plans
- Keep exits clear

**Never** disable your smoke alarm even when experiencing "nuisance" alarms when cooking or showering. Be sure to clean the alarm per the manufacturer's instructions. Or you can consider using photoelectric smoke alarms which are less sensitive to common causes of false alarms.



### Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook Predictive Services & National Interagency Fire Center

*Issued April 1, 2016*

**Northwest:** Normal significant wildland fire potential is expected for the Northwest Geographic Area for the Outlook period April, May and June through July. Temperatures remained at or above normal across the Northwest Geographic Area in March, as they have been since 2015. The warmest temperatures were observed far inland near the Idaho border. March was much wetter-than-normal over the Area. A procession of Pacific frontal systems moved across the region nearly non-stop all month significant rains to the lowlands and additional snow to the Cascades. Some reporting stations recorded over double the normal amount of rainfall for March. Snow accumulation at higher elevations was enhanced after a relatively warm and dry February. Consequently, snowpack remains well above average in many reporting basins, particularly at elevations above 4,500 feet. Elevations below 4,500 feet are generally reporting less-than-typical snow accumulation so far in 2016 due

to the warmer temperatures observed.

Climate outlooks from NOAA and other sources suggest that generally warmer-than-normal conditions are likely from April through July. This is consistent with conditions usually observed during El Niño winters of the past. Precipitation accumulation during this period is not certain, however, so normal amounts of rainfall from April through June is assumed. Spring fire danger historically remains too low for noteworthy risk of large fires. Even during dry spells, large naturally ignited fires are unlikely. Conditions so far in 2016 have been wet so the risk of an early start to fire season for the northwest geographic area appears low. Given poor snow accumulation below 4,000 feet elevation due to warm temperatures, opportunities for prescribed burning will arise earlier than usual at low and mid elevations in April and May of 2016.

