Vol. 4, Issue 2

Summer Newsletter

THE FIRE WIRE 2018

NORTHERN LAKES FIRE DISTRICT

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 summer newsletter! I hope you are enjoying the warm weather and able to spend time outdoors with family and friends.

The mission of Northern Lakes Fire is to provide the highest level of proficient and competent service to our citizens and guests. Our vision is to constantly seek resourceful and innovative means to provide those services.

Our crews are among the finest in the fire service and continue to meet our mission and vision statements in spite of the ever-increasing demand for our services. As always, I am proud and humbled to lead such a fine group of dedicated professionals.

From an operational perspective, the District continues to be busier than ever before. At this point in the year, our run volume is nearly 8% higher than last year. Traditionally, winter and spring are slower seasons and as we are in the full swing of summer and the fire season, I expect that percentage to keep increasing.

A year ago, we identified the need for a third staffed station in our District. The three main reasons for the additional station are:

1. Having staff respond out of a station in the Garwood area would help keep insurance ratings/premiums from increasing to a higher rate for property owners in the north, northeast and northwest of the District
2. A third staffed station will reduce our reliance on other fire departments responding to calls in our fire district. This happens because our crews are already assigned to other emergency incidents when a 3rd call comes in.
3. It will place an advanced life support fire engine in an area where one is not currently staffed.

The District has worked hard over the last several years to budget reserve monies for renovating an existing station as well as purchasing equipment and apparatus for this third station. Rest assured, we will continue to work on finding the funding to hire the additional firefighters.

I encourage you to contact me with questions, comments and concerns you may have. I also encourage you to contact me with any ideas you may have on how we can increase our level of service to our communities.

Be sure to say "hi" to your dedicated firefighting and EMS crews when you see them out working hard to protect the people we serve.

Pat Riley

Fire Chief

pwriley@northernlakesfire.com

COMPANY AWARD

On June 28th, members of Red Shift Battalion were awarded a Unit Commendation for their response to an ice rescue on Avondale Lake in March. The two teenage boys presented a significant rescue challenge to the fire crews and law enforcement. Their rapid response, prompt delivery of acute rescue procedures, medical care and swift transport to the hospital were key to the survival of both young men.

L-R Capt. Fritz Wiedenhoff, FF/EMT Tyler Turrell, FF/Medic Matt Legg, FF/Medic Matt Usher, Capt. Ralph Kramer, Engineer/Medic Jason Paulson, FF/Medic Eric Foti, FF/EMT Jarrod Pitts, FF/EMT Michael Avilla, Batt Chief Marc Ghirarduzzi

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Look for Us At the Following SUMMER EVENTS

Hayden Days

July 27-28

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

National Night Out

August 7

McIntire Family Park

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

For more information visit www.cityofhaydenid.us

Taste of Rathdrum

August 11

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

North Idaho State Fair

August 22-26

Kootenai County 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 Smoke-house with free activities for kids!

Northern Lakes Firefighters Annual Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, July 28 7-9:30 a.m.
Fire St 1 at 125 W. Hayden Ave.
prior to Hayden Days Parade

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

Pancakes ▪ Eggs ▪ Sausage
Coffee ▪ OJ ▪ Water

$7/Adult Donation Suggested

All proceeds benefit the Northern Lakes Firefighters Benevolence Fund

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EMPLOYEE of the Quarter

Fire Marshal Tyler Drechsel

If you know Tyler at all, you already know that he is very passionate about everything he does, whether at work, home or out in the woods. Tyler worked a variety of jobs outside of the fire service before being hired as a full-time fire inspector in 2008 for Northern Lakes Fire. These jobs included plumbing, building maintenance, home improvement supply, and electrical cooperative marketing to name a few. During his time with other employers, Tyler also served as a volunteer firefighter with Coeur d'Alene Fire from 1996 until 2003, then as a volunteer firefighter and station sergeant with Northern Lakes for five years.

Having been promoted to the Division Chief of Fire Prevention/Fire Marshal in the fall of 2015, you might find Tyler pouring over fire code books to keep buildings safe or on-site assisting residents with making sure fire access will be good at all times of the year. Not only does Tyler ensure fire code is followed but is the lead in District fire investigations, building maintenance coordinator, and personnel uniform coordinator. Truly one very busy guy!

Tyler has been married to his high school sweetheart, Amber, for 24 years and says she is the still the best thing that ever happened to him. They are the proud parents of two children; their son, Justin, is a 20 year old apprentice electrician dating his grade school sweetheart; and daughter Keri, 18, graduated from Coeur d'Alene High School this year and will be attending college in the fall to study Botany and Forestry. When not working on their home in Dalton built by Amber's grandparents in 1974, you can find Tyler outdoors fishing, hunting, camping or riding ATVs.

Something interesting about the Drechsel family is their connection with the area. Tyler was born in Boise and was just eight months old when his family moved to Coeur d'Alene. He is a fourth generation Idahoan. His family moved to the Idaho territory in 1887 under the government land grab and started farming in the Worley area where you can still visit the Drechsel farms doing what they have been doing for over 125 years! It's hard to talk to someone local who isn't related to, worked with, or knows a Drechsel!

We're very fortunate to have Tyler overseeing our Fire Prevention Bureau. He is always available to answer customers' questions about fire codes or to just talk about the area. Make sure you say hello and thank Tyler for all his hard work at keeping the residents of our fire district safer the next time you see him.

By Jim Lyon
Deputy Fire Marshal/PIO

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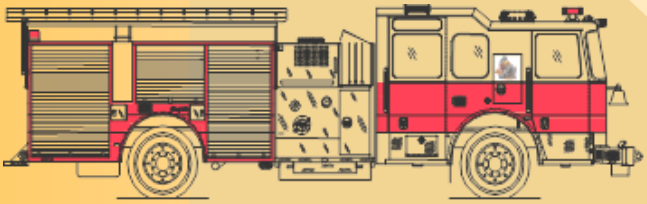
OPERATIONS | Call Volume Y-T-D

January	461	April	415
February	341	May	484
March	416	June	391



IN COMPARISON Jan-Jun

2017
TOTAL: 2,324
Fire 49
Rescue/EMS 1,612
Other 663

2018 (+7.9%)
TOTAL: 2,508
Fire 50
Rescue/EMS 1,733
Other 725

Calls for Service in 2018 YTD (Jan-Jun)

Incident Type	Number
Structure Fire	26
Wildland, Grass Fire	9
Vehicle Fire	8
Illegal Burn	7
Rescue/EMS Incident	1,438
Motor Vehicle Accident	100
Medical Assist	2
EMS Transport (Non Emergency)	149
EMS Transport (Critical Care)	43
Water/Ice Rescue	1
Flammable Liquid Spill	2
Hydraulic Fluid Spill	1
Gas Leak	9
Electrical Wiring/Equip Problem	11
Power Line Down	2
Vehicle Accident Clean Up	1
Open Burning Extinguishment	4
Service Call	50
Person in Distress	19
Animal Rescue	3
Assist Law Enforcement, Other	1
Assist Invalid	54
Unauthorized Burning Check	11
Good Intent Call	475
Smoke Scare, Odor	5
Authorized Burning Check	17
Hazmat Investigation, Cleared	1
False Alarm, Call	59

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WILDFIRE SEASON

On July 5, the Kootenai County Fire Chiefs and Idaho Dept. of Lands Mica District ceased issuing all burn permits in the Mica Fire Protection District which includes the Northern Lakes Fire District. All burning with the exception of recreational/cooking fires is closed for the season. As conditions continue to change, more restrictions may be placed in the near future. Please check the District's website or Facebook page regularly for updates.

Nearly 9 out of 10 wildfires nation-wide are caused by humans and could have been prevented

As many as 90 percent of wildland fires in the United States are caused by people, according to the U.S. Department of Interior. Human-caused fires have resulted from campfires left unattended, the burning of debris, negligently discarded cigarettes and intentional acts of arson. The remaining 10 percent are started by lightning or lava.

Because wildfire is a natural part of the Inland West ecosystem, residents living in WUI areas should learn to prepare accordingly, just as residents in other parts of the country prepare for tornadoes, floods and hurricanes. The wildland/urban interface (WUI) refers to areas where people have built homes in or near adjacent wildland areas. WUI areas often border state or federal forests where fire-based ecosystems exist with plants that depend on periodic fires to maintain their structure and function.

The District's Fire Prevention Bureau uses a Wildfire Home Protection Zone Evaluation Form to identify risks and recommend steps that can be taken to protect your home in a wildland fire situation.

Please contact the District to request an Evaluation Form or to schedule a site visit assessment of your property by our Bureau personnel.

In 2017, Idaho had 1,598 wildfires that burned more than 685,000 acres

Reach the District Bureau by calling 208/772-5711 during business hours Monday through Friday or contact personnel directly:

Fire Marshal Tyler Drechsel at
tdrechsel@northernlakesfire.com

Deputy Fire Marshal Jim Lyon at
jlyon@northernlakesfire.com

GRILLING SAFETY

In recent weeks, the District has responded to a number of outdoor barbeque grill fires. On average, almost 9,000 home fires in the U.S. are started by grills each year. Please enjoy your summer and be safe while grilling outdoors with these tips.

If you use a charcoal grill, be careful with charcoal starter fluid. If the fire starts to go out, don't add any starter fluid or other flammable liquids to the fire. Consider a chimney starter using newspaper to start the fire instead. Remember to allow the coals to cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container.

If you have a gas grill, always check for gas leaks by ensuring the connections are tightened and not loose between 1) the propane tank hose and regulator, 2) regulator and cylinder, and 3) where the hose connects to the burners. Check for potential leaks by applying a light soap & water solution in a spray bottle to the propane hose & connections. Turn the propane tank on. If there is a leak, the propane will release bubbles around the hose that are big enough to see.

Be sure to keep your grill clean by removing grease build up from both the grill and tray below the grill after each use