



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

Greetings from the Fire Chiefs office! I hope you are all enjoying this wonderful spring in North Idaho after such a challenging winter season with the record snowfall we received late into it. Much like the snowfall, our call volume set records again in the first quarter of 2019, although the demand for service has not decreased with the arrival of spring. But rest assured that the district will continue to provide the highest level of service in the most efficient and professional manner.



# MESSAGE from the CHIEF

Northern Lakes Fire operates out of two staffed fire stations (one in Rathdrum and one in Hayden) each with an engine crew and ambulance crew, providing Paramedic (ALS) transport and Fire/Rescue/Hazardous Material responses 24 hrs. a day, 7 days a week. Our district covers 106 square miles with more than 42,000 residents.



In 2018 our district surpassed 5,000 calls for service for the first time in our history and so far in 2019 we are already well ahead in calls during the first quarter of any other year in our history.

Construction continues at a steady pace and our population continues to grow, both indicators of future increases in incident numbers. The district's priority over the last several years has been adapting to the on-going increase in growth and emergency response. In 2017, based on our response numbers, I identified the need for a 3<sup>rd</sup> staffed station in a location that would help maintain coverage in a fast growing area of the fire district and also provide another engine crew to respond to all areas within the district during peak call times. In 2018, we relied on mutual aid (another fire department) more than 1,300 times to respond to a third call while both our engine crews were already responding to calls; this has occurred 300 times already in 2019.

Through careful management of existing budgets, the District has the means to remodel an existing building east of Highway 95 on Hudlow Road; the challenge has been finding the funds to hire additional firefighters to staff the station. We have gone to our voters twice in the past with a tax override levy issue on the ballot, but failed to garner the super majority (66 and 2/3<sup>rd</sup> percent) needed. The voters spoke and we listened, developing a bare minimum staffing plan for a new station. This minimum number of new firefighters reduces the funding needed by more than 25%.

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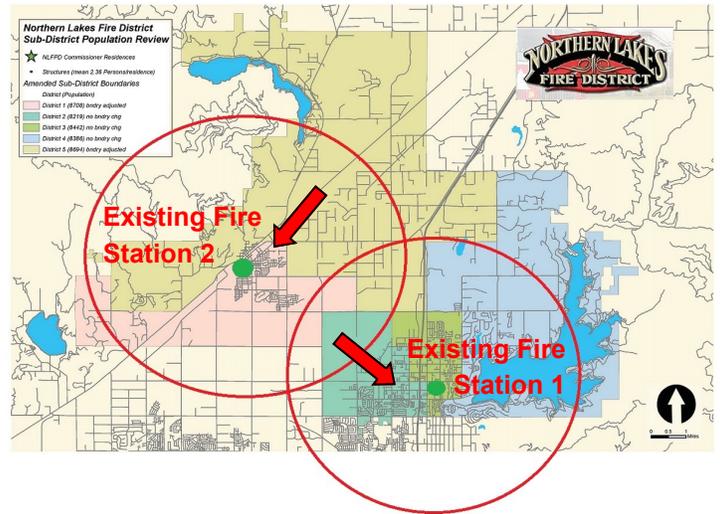


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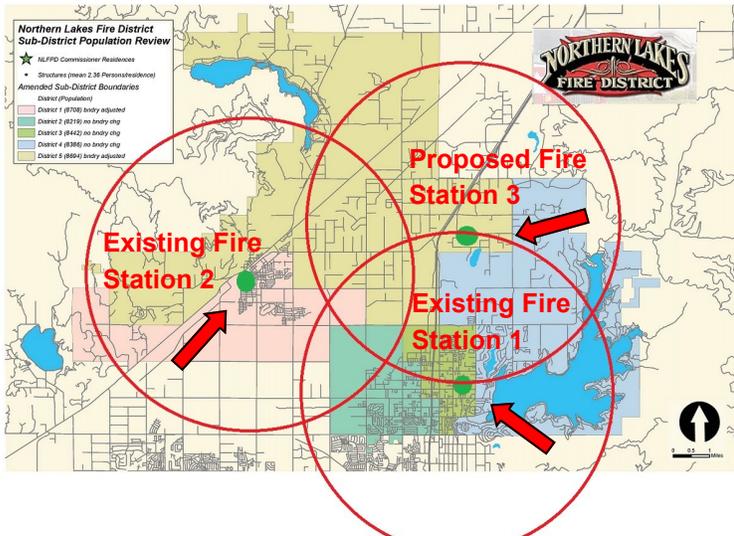
The District's Board of Fire Commissioners have now approved a resolution to put a tax override levy question on the ballot this May 21. We are asking voters in our district to increase our tax levy by \$850,000 annually to allow us to hire a minimum number of additional firefighters to staff a third fire station in the busy, north central section of the District. This amount is down from the previous tax levy override request of \$1.2 million, and will still provide enough funding to hire personnel for a third engine crew in our district.

In the simplest of terms, if approved, our fire district residents will see a potential increase in their property taxes. That increase based on today's property values amounts monthly to \$1.72 per \$100,000 of applicable taxable property value. Several voters have conveyed to me their concern that "growth pays for itself". That is not completely accurate. As a fire district we levy an amount, not a rate. Simply put, as more people move into our district (growth), the amount everyone pays is spread out (divided) evenly amongst the new residents (new district population). In fiscal year 2018, new growth brought in an additional 2.4% to our budget, or approximately \$116,000. This equates to the same number of district staff responding to more citizens with a minimal increase in funding. Don't misunderstand me on this one. The district is not anti-growth; rather, the district is struggling to keep up with it due to the method of funding we are bound to.

Current 2 Staffed Stations



Proposed 3 Staffed Stations



Your elected board of fire commissioners, administrative staff and firefighters are committed to providing you with the highest level of service in the most efficient and professional manner. As your Fire Chief, I am also committed to ensuring that we are ready, able and staffed in order to respond to any call for service that we receive. I am always open to suggestions, ready to answer questions or hear concerns. When you see your firefighters out working hard to protect those that we serve, be sure to say hi and thank them for their service.



Pat Riley, Fire Chief
pwiley@northernlakesfire.com

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



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Our Employee of the Quarter for Spring 2019 is Firefighter/ Paramedic Aaron O'Brien. In 2004, Aaron began his journey in EMS by becoming certified as a First Responder while attending Whitworth University eventually graduating with a B.A. in Secondary Education in Health, Fitness and Physical Education. In the following years, Aaron became a lifeguard, a Wilderness First Responder, and life guard instructor. Aaron continued his quest in emergency medicine and in 2010 obtained his EMT-Basic certification, but did not stop there. He attended a Fire Academy in Texas and then North Idaho College to become an Intermediate EMT. Being a man on a mission, Aaron became a Paramedic, graduating from the University of Iowa program in 2013. A year later in 2014, Aaron was hired full-time at Northern Lakes Fire. In 2018, he earned certification to work out of class as a Fire Engineer.

Aaron is the middle child and only son of three; his older sister, Meghan O'Brien, Ph.D. is a research writer for the United Nations and younger sister, Molly, is an RN back home in Bellingham. Aaron's parents are both teachers and tennis coaches in Bellingham and are excited to retire this year.

Just like our last employee of the quarter, Aaron started taking piano lessons when he was 3 ½ until he was 17. Musically talented, Aaron can play the piano, guitar, bass, and trumpet. And who knew that Aaron started a rock band in high school that even had an original song play on the local radio stations? The band eventually went on to sign a recording contract with Sony...but only after Aaron left for college!

Aaron met Caitlin at Whitworth and they will celebrate 10 years of marriage in October 2019. Caitlin is a graduate of Gonzaga Law School and works as an attorney for a local law firm. Their daughter Charlotte (Charlie) is 2 ½ years old and is Daddy's Little Princess in every sense of the word. They have two dogs named Maverick and Iceman and three horses named Goose, Slider, and Frisbee. Obviously, his favorite movie is Top Gun. Aaron also enjoys cheering for the Seahawks, GO HAWKS!!!

When not on shift at the fire station, Aaron enjoys golfing, fishing, tennis, hiking, BBQs and lake time. Riding and training horses take up a lot of his time... and money! His favorite off duty time is spent raising daughter Charlie.

Aaron is an important member of our Northern Lakes Fire family, not to mention the tallest! Make sure you thank him for his dedicated service to our community the next time you see him!



By Chris Larson, Deputy Fire Marshal/PIO

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



# PROTECTION CLASS RATINGS



## What is the ISRB?

The Idaho Survey & Ratings Bureau (ISRB) is an independent property insurance rating organization licensed through the Idaho Dept. of Insurance; it is operated as a not-for-profit association of insurers doing property business in Idaho. The ISRB provides property insurance rating information for the insurance industry in Idaho.

## What is Protection Class?

One of the ISRB's important services is to evaluate the fire suppression delivery systems of public fire agencies in Idaho. The result of these reviews is a classification number, or Protection Class, that is distributed to insurers as a property insurance pricing tool. The ISRB assigns Protection Class ratings of 1 through 10 with Class 1 indicating an excellent fire protection system, and Class 10 indicates virtually no protection. These ratings are used by property insurance companies to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance.



## What is the District's Current ISRB Rating?

The ISRB evaluation ratings are based on many factors including apparatus, staffing, training, geographic distribution of firefighting companies, and water district capabilities. In 2018, the District received a scheduled evaluation by the ISRB to determine property insurance classifications; the last evaluation was done in 2009. As of 12/1/18, the District's Protection Class Ratings are as follows:

	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Commercial</u>
Within 1,000 feet of fire hydrant on approved water system* and within 5 miles of approved station	4	4
Within 5 miles of Northern Lakes Fire Station Nos. 1, 2, & 6 (based on automatic aid from Hauser Lake FD)	8	9
Between 5 & 10 miles of Fire Stations 1, 2, & 6 (based on automatic aid from Hauser Lake FD)	9	9
Over 10 miles to Fire Stations 1, 2, 5 & Hauser Lake FD (mutual aid)	10	10

- Northern Lakes FD Fire Station 1 – 125 W. Hayden Ave. in Hayden;
- Northern Lakes FD Fire Station 2 – 13876 W. Highway 53 in Rathdrum;
- Northern Lakes FD Fire Station 6 – 12420 N. Chase Rd. in Rathdrum with automatic aid from Hauser Lake FD Station at 10728 N. Hauser Lake Rd. in Hauser

\*There are more than 20 approved water systems in the District. Please contact the District for a full list.

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



# PROTECTION CLASS RATINGS

(Continued)



## What Changes were made to the District's Rating?

Northern Lakes Fire District closing three stations". That is not accurate. The buildings that ISRB states are being closed were never staffed or utilized for responses. Instead, these are buildings belonging to the District that are used to store reserve apparatus and equipment. Those properties that were rated as being within 5 to 10 miles from one of these storage buildings may see a change in their property insurance classification, particularly properties located in the extreme north of the District. The District has NOT closed any previously staffed fire stations.

Since 2017, the District has been working on plans to remodel and open one of these storage buildings as a fire station with response personnel 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This station would be in a strategic location to help maintain coverage in a fast growing area of the District as well as provide another engine company to respond to all areas of the District during peak call times. In order to staff this 3<sup>rd</sup> station, the District must find the funding to hire additional firefighters and will be putting a ballot question to the voting public for a permanent override levy again this May 21<sup>st</sup> to accomplish this goal.

Lithium ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, smart luggage, laptops, scooters, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys and even cars.

Take care when using them. In rare cases, they can cause a fire or explosion.

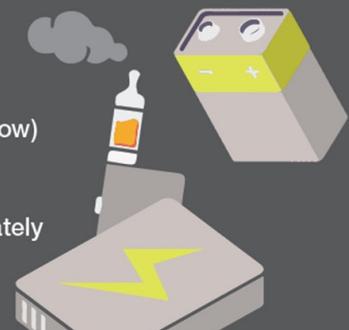


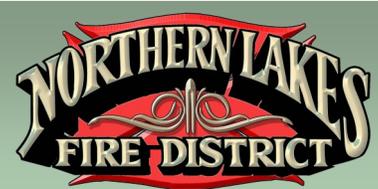
## LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY



Use these safety tips to avoid danger when at home or traveling with lithium battery-powered devices and chargers:

- Don't use off-brand products
- Follow manufacturer's guidelines on charging
- Keep away from hot surfaces and flammable materials
- Provide air flow (e.g., don't wrap in blanket or under pillow)
- Don't use cords that show damage
- Look for UL-certified products
- Feels hot enough to hurt? Stop using/charging immediately
- Call 9-1-1 if you see smoke or flames



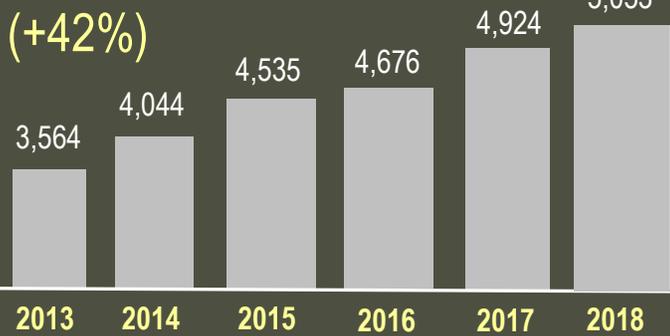


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## OPERATIONS CALL VOLUME

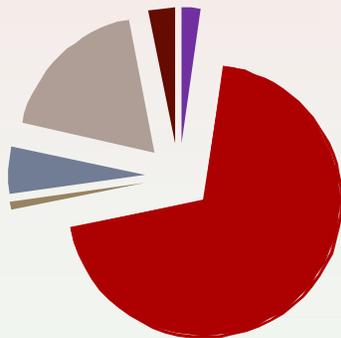


### Annual Calls for Service 2013-2018



1,246 Calls in 1st Quarter 2019 (Jan-Mar)

- Fire
- Rescue/EMS
- Hazardous Condition
- Service Call
- Good Intent Call
- False Alarm



### Calls for Service in 2019 (Jan - Mar)

Incident Type	Number
Structure Fire	15
Chimney Fire	6
Vehicle/Equipment Fire	5
Cooking Fire, Container	1
Outside Rubbish Fire, Other	1
Rescue/EMS Incident	710
Motor Vehicle Accident	48
EMS Transport (Non Emergency)	85
EMS Transport (Critical Care)	23
Flammable Liquid Spill	2
Hazardous/Toxic Condition	1
Gas Leak	6
Electrical Wiring/Equip Problem	2
Power Line Down	2
Service Call	28
Person in Distress	16
Animal Rescue	1
Assist Law Enforcement, Other	2
Assist Invalid	22
Unauthorized Burning	2
Good Intent Call	219
Authorized Burning Check	5
Smoke Scare, Odor	4
Hazmat Investigation, Cleared	1
False Alarm, Call	39

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## DISTRICT SUMMARY



The Northern Lakes Fire Protection District was organized in October 2000 with the consolidation of two neighboring fire districts; the Hayden Lake Fire Protection District and the Rathdrum Rural Fire Protection District.

As a fire protection district, Northern Lakes Fire is not a department of any city or county government. We are governed by five fire commissioners elected by the public to four-year terms.

In 2000, the District responded to an average of 2 calls per day out of two staffed stations; in 2018 daily calls averaged 14 out of the same two stations.



The District's Board of Fire Commissioners public meetings are held the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at Fire Station #1, 125 W. Hayden Ave. in Hayden



## History of Rathdrum Fire Bell



In 1880 the Village of Rathdrum had the very first organized volunteer fire department in North Idaho. In 1897, the Meneely Bell Foundry of Troy, New York built and delivered a fire bell to the Village of Rathdrum for \$133. Inscribed on the bell is "Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty" along with the names of firemen and community members who had lost their homes or businesses to fire.

This bell was used for 70 years to summon volunteers to fires and then alert the community once the fire was out. It was replaced by a siren in the 1960's. In 1977 the fire bell was displayed in Rathdrum City Park with funds raised by the 20th Century Book Club.

In 2012 the City generously loaned the fire bell to Northern Lakes Fire where it now sits outside a working fire station in Rathdrum once more.

Northern Lakes Fire displays this piece of history with honor and pride!

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

Please email us to be included on our mailing list

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