



# THE FIRE WIRE

THE NORTHERN LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

## WELCOME

To the first quarterly newsletter of 2015

### Inside this Issue:

From the Chief Pg. 2

Employee Achievement Pg. 3

Notable News Pg. 4



To be included on the list to receive future issues via email, please contact us at:

[Admin@northernlakesfire.com](mailto:Admin@northernlakesfire.com)



## ABOUT US

The Northern Lakes Fire Protection District was organized in October 2000 with the consolidation of the Hayden Lake Fire Protection District and the Rathdrum Rural Fire Protection District. The goal was to improve the effective and efficient delivery of fire prevention, suppression and EMS services throughout both districts. We remain dedicated to that goal almost fifteen years later with success based on our commitment to continuous quality improvement at all levels of service delivery.

The District serves an area of approximately 110 square miles, including the cities of Rathdrum, Hayden, and Hayden Lake, and the areas surrounding Twin Lakes, Garwood, and East Hayden Lake. The District has a population of more than 34,000 residents and an estimated property value in excess of 2.9 billion dollars.

The Northern Lakes Fire District has highly motivated and professionally trained employees and volunteers who take pride in their service to the communities they serve. Our staff includes 33 full-time career Firefighter/EMTs, 6 fire/rescue volunteers, 5 support service volunteers, 2 fire prevention bureau inspectors, 4 command staff, and 3 office staff. The District's three fire/rescue battalions staff a minimum two-person engine company

and two-person ambulance crew at both the Hayden and Rathdrum fire stations on a 24 hour basis supplemented by on-call career and volunteer firefighter/EMTs. The District's administrative offices are located at the Hayden Fire Station and are open 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays.

The District is governed by a board of five Fire Commissioners who are elected at large in accordance with Idaho election laws. The board's main focus is to ensure taxpayer dollars are being allocated in a manner that promotes the highest quality fire and emergency services. The board holds public meetings twice a month to conduct the business of the fire district including: adopt annual budgets, set property tax rates in accordance with state law, approve all expenditures, establish policy, enter into contracts on behalf of the District, etc. Public comment is welcome at all board meetings.

The District encourages feedback and input from the public to help us maintain and improve our quality of service. Please take a moment to contact us with your comments:

**Administrative Offices**  
125 W. Hayden Ave.  
Hayden ID 83835

Phone: 208/772-5711

[admin@northernlakesfire.com](mailto:admin@northernlakesfire.com)





Welcome to our new refurbished quarterly newsletter. As we start to prepare for whatever summer may bring, I hope everyone had a great winter.

As Fire Chief, I have the privilege to serve several great communities and work alongside some of the most talented individuals in the Fire Service. Northern Lakes Fire Protection District provides to its residents and guest an all-hazards response. These services include fire suppression, emergency medical response and transport, technical rescue, as well as a fire prevention bureau providing inspections, plan reviews, public fire education programs, emergency preparedness planning, fire cause and origin investigation, and other services based on our community's needs. I have been a proud member of this organization for 22 years and have seen many changes to our organization and the communities it serves. The one thing that has not changed is the continued commitment to our motto "Dedicated to Excellence".

During last year's budget workshops it became evident that the District needed to hire 3 additional firefighters to enhance our staffing levels to allow us to continue offering the highest level of service possible while taking into consideration a fiscally reasonable budget.

This January we hired 3 new firefighters, bringing staffing levels to 11 crew members on each of the three different shifts.

In order to align the District with other departments both locally and across the nation we will be renaming some of our personnel positions this spring with job responsibilities and salaries remaining the same. Driver/Operators will now be Engineers, Lieutenants will become Captains and our three Captains will be Battalion Chiefs.

In April, The District will take delivery of two new Tender/Pumpers. One will replace a tender that was taken out of service in 2008 due to safety issues and one that is currently in service but in need of major repairs. The Tender/Pumpers were designed to perform two functions. One is to carry 1,500 gallons of water to a fire and the other is to have all the equipment and capabilities that our fire engines have. These apparatus will serve a dual role as a water tender and a smaller version of our larger engines allowing them to access and operate it some of the more difficult areas of our District.

Our Hayden Lake Fire Boat is currently out of the water for some minor repairs and annual maintenance including a fresh coat of paint. It is scheduled to be back in service by mid-April.

In April we will start to develop our fiscal year budget for next year, which becomes effective October 1, 2015. I invite all District members to please take the time to become familiar with us by attending a board meeting, which meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, visiting our website or contacting me directly with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Dean S. Marcus*

Fire Chief

[dmarcus@northernlakesfire.com](mailto:dmarcus@northernlakesfire.com)



### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Northern Lakes Fire District is to provide a high level of proficient and competent service to the citizens and guests within the boundaries of the Fire District. Our personnel will set the standard for professionalism and compassion while performing our duties in the most expeditious and efficient manner.

**Employee Achievement**

**EMPLOYEE of the QUARTER**

**Amanda Tams**



The District recently held its Annual Awards Banquet to celebrate the past year and recognize individual achievement.

Many folks have had an eclectic list of experiences leading up to their current service at Northern Lakes Fire, but Amanda's background is diverse enough to make you dizzy. While in high school, Amanda was often found at the local veterinarian clinic in her hometown of St. Maries where she cleaned kennels for three years. She graduated and went to college at Idaho State University & the University of Idaho where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in geology. Amanda also earned her certification in both secondary education and as an athletic trainer. If that wasn't enough education, she also earned a master's degree in physical education.

Amanda's brother still blames her for his son's day of suspension from kindergarten - when he stood up on his desk and began yelling, "Fire! Fire! Fire!" Gotta' love that kid! Some of Amanda's outside-of-work interests include hiking, backpacking, staying in yurts and cross country skiing. Always the family person, Amanda enjoys fishing with her father and going to musicals with her mom.

A couple points that you may not know about Amanda include her early fear of large great white sharks in Lake Cd'A (thanks to her brother making her watch Jaws when she was very young while the parents were gone), and the time she fell on a running chainsaw resulting in only a few scratches on an arm. Yikes!

We are so happy to have Amanda in the Northern Lakes Fire District family. Next time you see her, make sure to say "congrats" for earning FF of the Year and thank her for all she does.

Amanda has 10 years' fire experience working on a wild land hand crew and two years teaching middle school science and high school biology in Utah. Following these jobs, she did a summer stint with the Washington Department of Transportation before landing her current job here at Northern Lakes Fire. Did I mention she has an eclectic experience history? Having earned the respect of her fellow firefighters, Amanda was nominated and selected for Firefighter of the Year for 2014. Very impressive for a relative newcomer to the District!

**Years of Fire Service**



L-R Fire Chief Dean S. Marcus (20), Burt Maines (20), Kevin Croffoot (20), Michael Duke (20) & Jim Monroe (30)

**Life Saving Award**



L-R Michael Duke, Cody Moore, David Sherman, Jarrod Pitts, Fritz Wiedenhoff & Matt Legg

**Unit Commendation**



L-R Eric Sorenson, Matthew Dill, Brad Belmont & Jason Paulson



L-R Michael Mather (Anson Gable Humanitarian Award), Jim Lyon (Employee of the Year), Jim Monroe (Volunteer of the Year) & Amanda Tams (Firefighter of the Year)

Current members of the Northern Lakes Fire Protection District



# Notable News

Fire/Rescue - Prevention - Inspection  
Investigation - Public Education

## 1st Quarter of 2015

- ⇒ The Northern Lakes Fire District has responded to more than 950 calls so far this year
- ⇒ Thirty-three members were recertified as Idaho Fire Inspectors, and 25 commercial business inspections were completed in the first quarter
- ⇒ Have performed 24 fire investigations so far this year
- ⇒ The Prevention Bureau has reviewed and approved 28 residential projects and 20 commercial projects in the cities of Hayden, Rathdrum and unincorporated areas of Kootenai County located within our boundaries
- ⇒ Sixty-six new property parcels were added into the District



### 2014 Call Volume

Fires	104
EMS	2,767
Other	<u>1,173</u>
	4,044

### Increase in Calls Over Prior Year

**↑ 13.5%**

### 2013 Call Volume

Fires	108
EMS	2,459
Other	<u>997</u>
	3,564



Fire safety education

**In 2014, Northern Lakes Fire District personnel participated in 117 fire and injury prevention presentations involving more than 5,700 children and adults**



Fire extinguisher training



Fire safety education

**Other prevention activities in 2014 included 64 commercial business inspections, 89 fire investigations and 127 wildland hazardous fuels inspections.**

**The Prevention Bureau reviewed and approved 93 residential projects and 424 commercial projects with 262 new property parcels added to the District.**



Fire Investigation



Wildland-Urban Interface Training

Mass Decontamination Drill