



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

MESSAGE from the CHIEF



As we begin the New Year, the District is coming off the busiest year in its history. Our fire crews (companies) responded to more calls in 2018 that ever before; more than 5,000 emergency medical, fire, and rescue responses.

We continue to see tremendous growth in both residential and commercial properties in the District as well as the surrounding areas. We welcome all who relocate, visit and/or develop in our district. As many of you already know, the secret of living in our beautiful area has gotten out and there appears to be no end in sight!

Speaking of being busy, in 2018 those same fire companies managed to participate in 16,000 hours of required training as well as over one-hundred non-emergency public education presentations. In all, over 10,000 children and adults received critical fire safety presentations by our companies! This is vitally important to reducing the number of fire-related deaths as well as residential structure fires. We are a full service fire department that never stops trying to deliver quality emergency service to our citizens and guests.

I am happy to report that we saw a reduction in residential structure fires in 2018 and am especially pleased to report that we accomplished another year with no fatalities or serious injuries in a residential fire. As you will read later in this edition of the newsletter, a lot of the credit goes to our Deputy Fire Marshal Jim Lyon and all of the on-duty crews for their dedication and devotion to preserving life and property.

In May of 2018, we asked our constituents to vote on an override levy to provide an additional \$1.2 million in funding to staff a 3rd fire station in the north area of our district. The proposed 3rd station would reduce our response times to the areas where most growth is occurring as well as adding staff to respond to the increased call volume. There were no unnecessary funds included in that request that would have funded the most effective staffing numbers. However, the ballot measure failed to garner the support of a super majority and did not pass.

After the override levy vote I was told by many members of the public that the increase was too much. While the election outcome was disappointing, the District continues to provide emergency response as we are sworn to do, even as the need for additional staffing becomes more crucial.

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MESSAGE from the CHIEF (cont.)



Based on feedback from our public following the override tax levy vote, we returned to the proverbial drawing board and were able to develop a bare minimum staffing plan for a 3rd staffed station. This minimum number of new firefighters reduces the previous requested funding amount by over 25%. We will be putting a ballot question to the voting public for a permanent override levy again this May. I realize that several other public agencies in our area are also seeking additional funding; a strong indication that growth is outpacing our collective agencies' capabilities to provide public services effectively. As our own taxing entity, 75% of our budget comes from our fire district taxpayers, not the State or County.

Your elected board of fire commissioners, our administrative staff, and firefighters are committed to providing you with the highest level of service in the most efficient and professional manner.

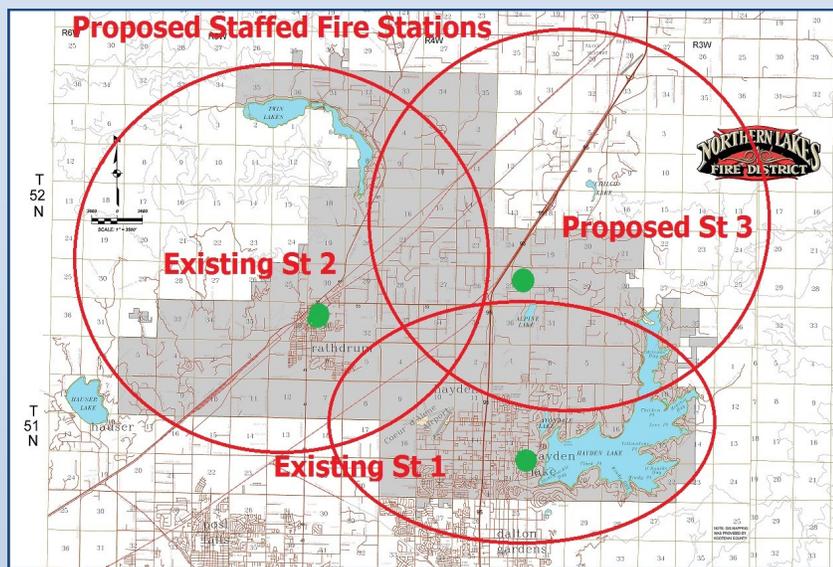
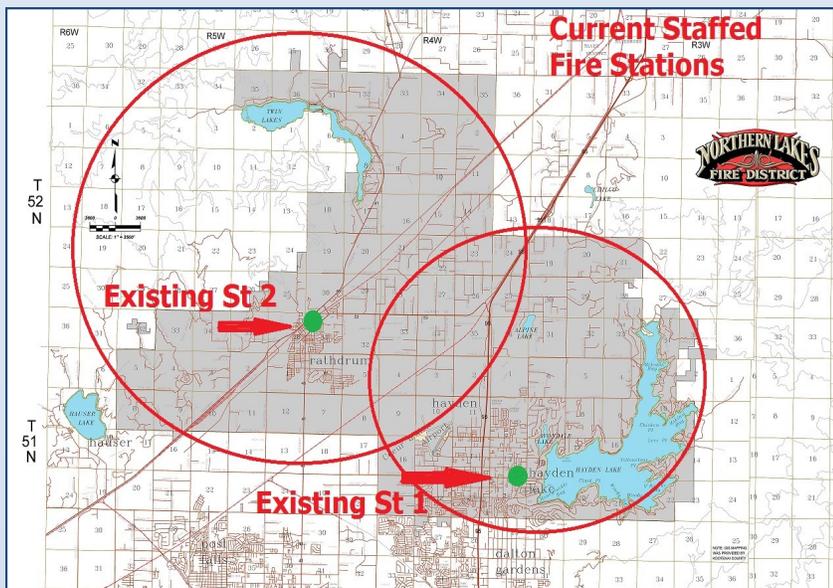
As your Fire Chief, I am also committed to ensuring that we are ready, able and staffed in order to respond to any call for service that we receive. I am always open to suggestions, ready to answer questions, or hear concerns. When you see your firefighters out working hard to protect those that we serve, be sure to say hi and thank them for their service.



Pat Riley

Fire Chief

pwiley@northernlakesfire.com



DID YOU KNOW?

As a fire protection district, Northern Lakes Fire is not a department of any city or county

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

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

A MESSAGE FROM RETIRING DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL JIM LYON



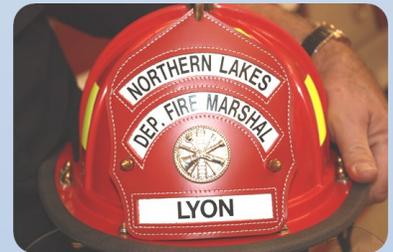
After 36 years of working in the public sector, twenty-one as a classroom teacher and over fifteen years within the fire service, I find myself preparing to retire at the end of February to begin the next phase of a blessed life.

I would like to extend a deep and sincere thank you to all those whom have guided and supported my efforts in fire and injury prevention. This includes the dedicated members of Northern Lakes Fire District, Kootenai County Fire and Rescue, the Kootenai County Fire Prevention Cooperative, Kootenai County Safe Kids, Post Falls Kiwanis, Lakeland, Coeur d'Alene, and Post Falls school districts, and the CDA Press, along with the hundreds of businesses and individuals that number too many to mention but equally as valued.

For over fifteen years, my "day family" at Northern Lakes Fire District and previously Kootenai County Fire and Rescue, has shared their triumphs, tragedies, laughter and support with me in ways that are difficult to understand outside of the fire service. For this, I am both privileged and honored beyond words.

An especially sincere thank you to the amazing women in our front office here at Northern Lakes Fire who have kept me organized and out of trouble these past several years. No one works harder and is more dedicated to their work and taking care of all members of the fire district than Valerie, Lori and Penney!

My wife, Lisa, and I plan to take a break from the work life and spend several weeks exploring this great country of ours visiting family, friends, and whatever unknown adventures may come our way. We're not sure what will be the plan after that but with limitless sights to see and having five children scattered between Alaska and New York, travel will certainly play an important part of our future. Friends are always welcome to visit us at our home or the river to sit back, relax, have a cold one and reflect on the many blessings this life has given us.



Take care and stay safe.

Jim

PLEASE JOIN US to Celebrate & Recognize Jim's 15 Years of Fire Service in Kootenai County

FRIDAY MARCH 1st

11:30 AM 'til 2:00 PM

NORTHERN LAKES FIRE DISTRICT FIRE STATION NO. 2 13876 HWY 53 • RATHDRUM ID

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

PERSONNEL CHANGES

RECENT PROMOTIONS AND HIRING

Deputy Fire Marshal Chris Larson

With the retirement of Jim Lyon at the end of February, Engineer/ Paramedic Chris Larson successfully promoted to step into the position of Deputy Fire Marshal. Chris brings to the Bureau more than 22 years of experience in the fire service, beginning as a volunteer with the Post Falls Fire District in 1996. He was hired full-time for the District in 2000 and obtained his Paramedic certification in 2007. For the last eight and half years, Chris has served as an Engineer (Driver/Operator).

He has extensive experience both inside and outside the fire service which will aid him in his new role, taking over the reins of organizing and presenting public education events as well as assisting with fire inspections and investigations.



Engineer/Paramedic Matt Legg

As Chris Larson moves off the suppression line, an engineer position became vacant and after a written exam, practical testing, and interviews, Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Legg successfully promoted to Engineer in January. Matt has been a member of Northern Lakes Fire since 2008, a paramedic since 2007, and a qualified Swing Up Engineer for the last eight and a half years.

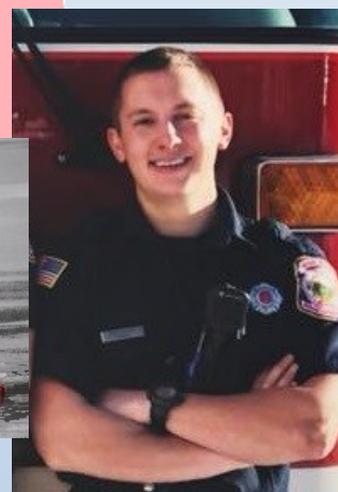
Matt brings years of emergency driving experience to the Engineer position and he will begin his new role running at full steam.



Firefighter/Paramedic Dan Schaefer

With Matt's promotion opening up a firefighter/paramedic position, Dan Schaefer was recently hired, coming to us from American Medical Reserve in Moses Lake. Prior to AMR, Dan was a full-time Firefighter with Shoshone Fire District #2 in Kellogg for four years.

Dan was certified as a paramedic in 2017, even spending time with Northern Lakes Fire to complete his field hours for several months that year. We are very fortunate to have Dan join our "family".



By Jim Lyon, Deputy Fire Marshal/PIO



STAFFING BY THE NUMBERS

2 staffed stations. Our 3 fire/rescue battalions staff a minimum 2-person engine company and 2-person ambulance crew at both our Hayden and Rathdrum fire stations 24/7. Each battalion includes a Battalion Chief, 2 Captains, 2 Engineers and 7 Firefighters. The 3 battalions work a 48 hour on/48 hour off shift schedule.

The District currently employs 36 full-time career firefighters that are all certified as emergency medical technicians (EMT), including 12 paramedics.

We serve more than 42,000 residents in approximately 106 square miles out of

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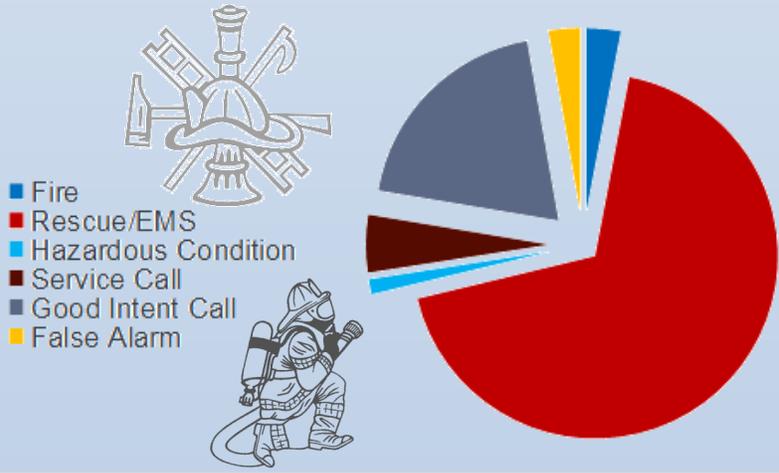
OPERATIONS | CALL VOLUME 2018



IN COMPARISON (+2.6%)

2017	2018
TOTAL: 4,924	TOTAL: 5,053
Fire 93	Fire 152
Rescue/EMS 3,334	Rescue/EMS 3,448
Other 1,497	Other 1,453

Calls for Service in 2018 (Jan - Dec)	
Incident Type	Number
Structure Fire	46
Wildland, Grass Fire	28
Vehicle/Equipment Fire	14
Illegal Burn	64
Rescue/EMS Incident	2,801
Motor Vehicle Accident	231
Medical Assist	2
EMS Transport (Non Emergency)	345
EMS Transport (Critical Care)	67
Water/Ice Rescue	2
Flammable Liquid Spill	11
Hazardous/Toxic Condition	6
Gas Leak	16
Electrical Wiring/Equip Problem	19
Power Line Down	4
Vehicle Accident Clean Up	2
Open Burning Extinguishment	8
Service Call	103
Person in Distress	33
Animal Rescue	3
Assist Law Enforcement, Other	2
Assist Invalid	116
Good Intent Call	929
Authorized Burning Check	31
Smoke Scare, Odor	28
Hazmat Investigation, Cleared	2
False Alarm, Call	140



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TRAINING NEWS | ICE RESCUE TRAINING

In January, District crews completed their annual ice rescue training on Avondale Lake, along with members from Coeur d'Alene Fire, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office Dive Team, and Dive Team member Hauser Lake Fire Capt. Gary Mobbs.

In March 2018, crews successfully rescued two teens who had fallen through the ice on Avondale Lake. Thanks to this great multi-agency training, our crews are prepared to put their skills to use when needed.



BE ICE SAFE THIS WINTER



- 1 NEVER GO ON ICE THAT IS LESS THAN 4 INCHES THICK
2 ONLY GO ON CLEAR, THICK ICE. CLOUDY ICE IS UNSAFE!
3 WEAR A LIFE JACKET
4 CARRY ICE PICKS OR CLAWS & KNOW HOW TO RESCUE YOURSELF OR OTHERS
5 ALWAYS GO WITH A PARTNER AND INFORM OTHERS OF YOUR PLANS

EQUIPMENT GRANT

In November 2018, the District was awarded \$18,811.47 in grant funds from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for the purchase of a portable rescue/extrication tool set. In addition to providing rescue and EMS to the motoring public on two state highways and US Highway 95, the District also has several miles of difficult to access off-road locations within its boundaries. The battery-operated vehicle extrication equipment enables quick deployment with faster speed and better performance.



Thank you to Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for their support of local fire responders and their generous contribution to help us better protect those we serve.

In 2005, the Firehouse Subs founders established the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation with the mission of providing funding, lifesaving equipment, and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations. Through the non-profit 501 (c)(3), Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has granted more than \$37.7 million to hometown heroes in 47 states, Puerto Rico, and Canada, including more than \$165,000 in Idaho.

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

Admin@northernlakesfire.com

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