



THE FIRE WIRE

THE NORTHERN LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016



Fire Prevention Month



Calendar of Events

Tuesday October 25
3:00 p.m. Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting at 125 W. Hayden Ave.

Monday October 31
Halloween



Sunday November 6
2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time Ends

Tuesday November 8
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Election Day

Friday November 11
Veterans Day

Thursday November 24
Thanksgiving Day

To receive the next edition of the Fire Wire in your inbox, please email us at:

admin@northernlakesfire.com



October 2016 School Visits

Week One

Monday October 3rd at Atlas Elementary
Tuesday October 4th at Atlas Elementary
Wednesday October 5th at John Brown Elem.
Thursday October 6th at John Brown Elem.

Week Two

Monday October 10th at North Idaho Christian
Tuesday October 11th at St 1 Hayden Meadows
Wednesday October 12th at St 1 Hayden Meadows
Thursday October 13th at Hayden Meadows
Friday October 14th at Hayden Meadows

Week Three

Monday October 17th at Twin Lakes Elem.
Tuesday October 18th at Twin Lakes Elem.
Wednesday October 19th Shephard of the Hills
Thursday October 20th at Betty Kiefer Elem.
Friday October 21st at Betty Kiefer Elem.

Week Four

Monday October 24th at STEM Charter
Tuesday October 25th at STEM Charter
Wednesday October 26th at Prairie Christian
Thursday October 27th at Garwood Elementary
Friday October 28th at Garwood Elementary

See Page Three for more information on this Year's Fire Prevention Theme

25 Years Ago—Firestorm 1991

On October 16, 1991, after 41 days with no rain, several small fires caused by downed power lines were whipped by wind gusts upwards of 60 mph throughout North Idaho and eastern Washington.

By mid-day on the 16th, 36 separate fires in the two state area were out of control. By that evening, 10,000 homes in North Idaho were without power. Wildfires also burned in Oregon and Montana.

A woman in the Nine Miles Falls area was killed while fleeing the flames, and a front end loader operator digging a fire line near Garwood was killed when his machine overturned.

It was several days before the fires were under control. Neighboring Spokane County suffered the most damage with 92 wildfires consuming 35,000 acres, destroying 100 homes and causing \$15 million in damage.



Firestorm 1991 resulted in changes to emergency management in Kootenai County, including the development of a standing Type 3 Incident Management Team between the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF), the Idaho

Dept. of Lands (IDL), and fire agencies in Kootenai County, as well as the Coeur d'Alene Interagency Dispatch Center.



Welcome to the Fall edition of our quarterly newsletter, the Fire Wire. As we begin preparing for winter weather and the upcoming holiday season, I hope this latest newsletter finds everyone safe and happy!

Call Volume 3rd Quarter 2016	
EMS Calls	797
Fire Calls	47
Other	397
Total	1,241

Since my promotion to Fire Chief earlier this year, I have experienced many new challenges and met many new people out in the community. I feel truly blessed to serve our great community and members of such an outstanding department.

The 2016 summer season was one of our busiest on record. Our dedicated crews are spending more time out "on the streets" doing what they do best: serving the citizens and guests of the Northern Lakes Fire Protection District.

This has also been a very busy year for our Administration with several notable accomplishments taking place. All personnel have put forth tremendous effort to make these possible.

- The Board of Fire Commissioners approved a balanced budget that includes plans to begin acquiring another fire station, as well as adding additional personnel and apparatus over the next several years.
- Our minimum staffing now includes one more responder on each shift.

- The District and its Firefighter Union ratified a fair labor contract that is in effect for the next three years.

- A recent visit by the Idaho Survey & Rating Bureau (ISRB) to perform a routine intensive "audit" of our organization. The information gathered will determine how insurance companies set their rates and issue premiums to both business and home owners in our boundaries. We anticipate maintaining or improving upon our current rating.

As our "busy" season begins to wind down and transition to Fall/Winter, there are several projects on the horizon, including developing a plan to add additional line personnel for emergency response. In addition, Administrative Staff will forge stronger relationships with our local business community by regularly attending city council meetings and joining civic organizations.

Total Calls by Month
July 437
August 440
September 364

As always, I encourage feedback and welcome your comments, concerns and/or compliments of our district and staff. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any of the above at (208) 772-5711 or email me at pwriley@northernlakesfire.com.

Sincerely,
Pat Riley
Fire Chief



DISTRICT BY THE NUMBERS



33
Career firefighters with EMT certifications from Basic to Paramedic levels

3
Fire Battalions (A, B, C) on alternating schedules of 48 hours on, then 96 hours off

2015 FIREFIGHTER & EMS SHIFT SCHEDULE											
A Shift				B Shift				C Shift			
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31					



11
Firefighters assigned to each Fire Battalion including 1 Battalion Chief, 2 Captains, 2 Engineers, and 6 Firefighters



2
Staffed fire stations; one in Rathdrum and the other in Hayden. Each of these stations has an engine company and an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance



24/7
Emergency responders available





FIRE PREVENTION MONTH MESSAGE

Northern Lakes Fire is committed to educating the children in our District and during Fire Prevention Month every year we visit our elementary schools to speak to them about fire safety. This year's theme is **"You're old enough to save lives!"**.

Parents should take a few moments to discuss and reinforce the following ideas that we shared with children in our schools this year:



1. It is recommended that smoke detectors be replaced every 10 years. You can usually find the manufactured date on the bottom of the detector.
2. Remind your parents to have at least one working smoke detector on every level of your home and to change the batteries in all smoke detectors once a year.
3. When smoke is present, crawl under the smoke and make noise to alert others. Get out as fast as you can and stay out! Go to a pre-determined meeting place.
4. If you see other children playing with fire (lighters or matches), tell an adult right away!



You're Old Enough to Save Lives!

Eleven years ago we responded to a fully involved house fire in the early morning hours and found four adults and two young girls standing outside barefoot in the snow, with temperatures well below freezing. We later learned that the girls, ages 4 and 6, had crawled out of their bedroom under the smoke and flames and alerted their grandparents, aunt and uncle of a fire in the home.

The amazing part of this story is that the adults had told the kids to "go back to bed" when initially woken up. The girls persisted and as a result, all exited the home unharmed.

These girls named Jaden and Katrina changed how we educate children. Ever since, we have taught that kids of almost all ages are "Old Enough to Save Lives".

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

- 367,000 home fires are reported in the United States annually
- 3 out of 5 home fires involving fatalities did not have a working smoke detector



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



Firefighter/EMT Eric Foti brings eight years of fire service experience to the District. Prior to his hire in August, Eric completed a Paramedic Program and will be taking the national licensing exam in December. Congratulations, Eric!



Firefighter/EMT Eric Foti, wife Jessika and two of their sons

We welcome Eric, his wife Jessika, and their four children to our Northern Lakes' Family!



In September, the District hired Firefighter/Medic Bill Daniels who was previously employed by the Hanford Fire Department in Richland, WA since 2013. Bill is also an Army Veteran having served two tours of duty in Iraq. We thank him for his service!

Bill, his wife Jill and their three young daughters are a welcome addition to our Northern Lakes' Family!



Firefighter/Medic Bill Daniels, wife Jill and their three daughters

Welcome to the newest member of our Northern Lakes' Family born October 13th to Firefighter/Medic Aaron O'Brien and his wife Caitlin.



Charlotte "Charlie" Joyce O'Brien



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Our Employee of the Quarter has been a ranch hand, sawyer, mechanic, truck driver and is currently one of our fire commissioners. Dennis Amende feels that a lot of positive changes have occurred at Northern Lakes since he was first elected in 2005 and says he will stay as long as he can help facilitate positive growth. Dennis is about to complete his 11th year as one of our fire commissioners.

Foreshadowing his future career, Dennis learned to drive at three years old on his family's ranch so he could drive while others loaded hay in the back. Born in 1941 in Sheridan, Wyoming, he has moved between Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, then Idaho, working an assortment of jobs



Dennis & Rita Amende

all involving hard work. After an injury while working as a sawyer, Dennis decided driving truck would be a safer career, especially after the birth of his first child.

We've all had lapses of judgement when bravado and testosterone kicked in and Dennis is no exception. While working in the oil fields of South Dakota, Dennis and a buddy climbed up an oil rig, locked fingers and he then swung his buddy back and forth 60 feet above the ground supported by just one of his fingers. The roles were not reversed as Dennis was about 20 pounds heavier than his buddy and fortunately, some brain activity had resumed by then.

With over 20 years driving truck, several years working on ranches where his family worked over 9,000 acres with livestock and 300 acres of grain, and going to school to be a heavy equipment operator, Dennis has never shied away from tough jobs. As a matter-of-fact, there was a time that Dennis was working as a ranch hand and had so impressed a local business on how hard he worked, the owner asked him to take on managing his business as well. Soon Dennis was working nearly 20 hour days for a year,



Fire Commissioner Dennis Amende

managing a restaurant, bar and grocery store AFTER putting in a full day on the ranch.

Dennis met Rita, his wife of 54 years, at a football game in Hamilton, Montana. They have three boys: Dennis, Jr., a teacher in Post Falls; Brett, a Norco employee; and Todd, a firefighter with Kootenai Fire & Rescue. Being a true family man, Dennis loves spending time with his kids and nine grandchildren.

Next time you see Commissioner Amende, please thank him for his many years of support for all employees of Northern Lakes Fire and for continuing to use his life-long hard work ethic on behalf of the constituents of our District.

by Jim Lyon, Deputy Fire Marshal/PIO



Compact Fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are becoming more popular because of their energy efficiency; they use approximately 65%-75% less energy than incandescent and last up to 6-10 times longer. However, they can be dangerous if not used properly and if used in fixtures that aren't designed for their use can result in damaging and expensive fires.

SAFETY TIPS FOR CFL BULBS

A CFL bulb should NOT be used in any light fixture where the base of the bulb will be encased or enclosed. The key is to only use them in fixtures where air can circulate around the base; in other words, any fixture that encloses the base like track lighting or recessed lighting, is not safe for CFL bulb use.

When a CFL bulb burns out, it may smoke and the plastic base may blacken; this is normal and is not a fire safety issue.

For more information on safe use of CFLs, visit the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) at <http://www.nfpa.org>

Your input is valuable!
Please submit any ideas or requests for items to include in future editions of *The Fire Wire* to:
admin@northernlakesfire.com