

# THE FIRE WIRE



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017/2018



## GREETINGS FROM THE CHIEF

I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season and that this newsletter finds you happy and healthy. It continues to be my honor and pleasure to serve as Fire Chief of this great fire district. The brave men and women who serve in this department are among the finest in the fire service.

In 2017, the District managed to cut or maintain costs in ALL areas of our operating budget which allowed us to hire three additional firefighters and purchase or replace critically needed equipment. Through a collaborative effort between our Board of Commissioners and Command staff, we delivered a balanced budget for 2018.

As you are probably already aware, Kootenai County is experiencing growth at a record pace. A fair amount of that growth happens to be right here in our own fire district. We saw a significant increase in commercial and residential development in Hayden and Rathdrum as well as the area centrally located between the two cities.

Last year the District set many new records and was busier than at any other time in our department's history, with our busiest month, quarter and year on record. Our goal is, and always has been, to provide the best level of service to our constituents and guests. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our highly skilled staff, the District continues to meet that goal.

Another record set in 2017 was our reliance on mutual aid (other fire departments) responding into our district for calls that we were not available to respond to. This occurs when our on-duty companies are already on at least two other incidents at the time when a 3<sup>rd</sup> call comes in. More than 1,100 times last year, our fire district had two or more incidents occurring at the same time. From an operational standpoint, I have determined that there is a serious need to open another staffed fire station in the District. A permanent override levy would provide funding for additional firefighter/EMTs to staff this 3<sup>rd</sup> station.

An election will be held May 15 and you are encouraged to get out and vote.

I hope you enjoy looking through our newsletter and encourage you to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns. Please be sure to say "hi" to your firefighting crews when you see them out working hard to protect those that we serve.

### *Supporting the levy will provide:*

- An additional \$1.2 million annually to the District's budget

### *A levy increase would:*

- Only be used to add additional staff to respond to calls for service

### *An override levy approval would cost taxpayers:*

- Approximately \$33 more per year (less than 10¢ per day) for every \$100,000 of taxable property value

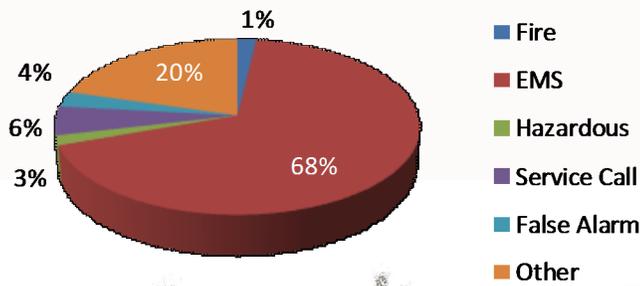
*Pat Riley*  
Fire Chief

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



## 2017 STATISTICS

The past year marked the busiest year in the District's history, with firefighters responding to 4,924 calls for service within our communities. In December 2017, monthly calls for service exceeded 500 for the first time.



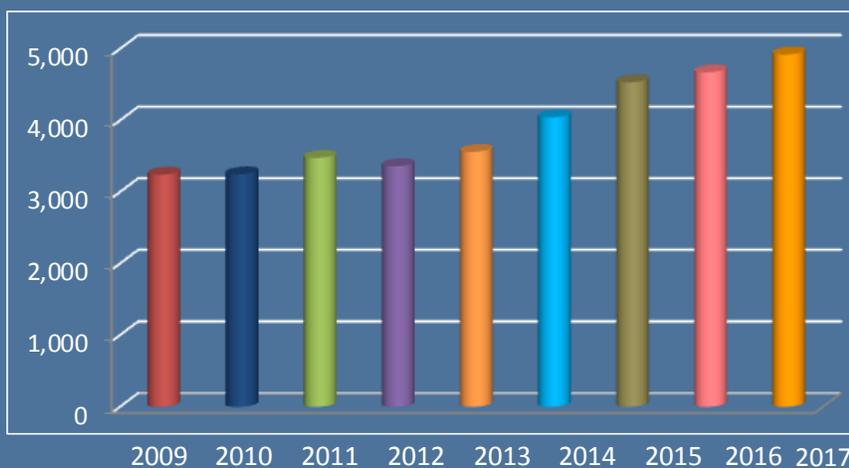
The Northern Lakes Fire District currently operates out of two staffed stations, one in the City of Hayden and one in the City of Rathdrum, with a staffing level of 12 firefighters on duty each day. There are 2 engine companies, 2 paramedic units and 1 command vehicle in operation 24 hours a day to serve the citizens and visitors in our District.



The primary services provided by the Northern Lakes Fire District include:

- Fire Suppression
- First Response Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- First Response Advanced Life Support (ALS) EMS
- Hazardous Materials Response
- Special Rescue: Marine, Technical
- Fire Investigation
- Fire Prevention Services: Inspections, Plan Reviews
- Public Education Programs

### Call Volume History 2009-2017





## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Joe's journey in the medical field started as a late teen when he and a buddy were working in a restaurant after school. He got talking to some ambulance drivers who would visit the restaurant and after asking a bunch of questions, found himself in a first aid class. He got his first aid cards and began working for an ambulance company in Pasadena with only basic equipment and knowledge. Joe later achieved his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification at the local college and was one of the first in the area to do so.



Volunteer Joe Mallrie

If you ask anyone at Northern Lakes Fire to name a member who shows the greatest amount of pride in his/her work and is always willing to do what is needed, "Joe" will be the response nearly every time. As a volunteer with the District since 2009, Joe has been involved in just about every facet of the District; whether on emergency calls, driving an engine in parades, reconditioning fire equipment, or providing prevention education to school children. His path to Northern Lakes Fire was almost pre-determined at an early age if you look back at the timeline of Joe's life.

Born in Pasadena, California, Joe was introduced to a "work hard - play hard" life which included working in his father's meat cutting business, golfing, camping and backpacking. At 12 years of age, Joe had a paper route, then as a teen worked in an ice-cream factory for two years allowing him to buy his first Jeep CJ 5. His love of Jeeps is obvious and he can be seen driving to the station in his current "toy", a 1984 Jeep which he loves working on and keeping in pristine condition.

After continuing his education to become a nurse, Joe went to work in an Emergency Room at a local hospital. He was asked by the ambulance company to challenge the paramedic exam and successfully did so. Joe was part of the first group to become nurse/medics in Los Angeles County: a huge accomplishment!

Securing a position with the City of Pasadena as a paramedic, Joe found himself working at football events including the Rose Bowl, Super Bowl and at UCLA. He also worked the Rose Bowl Parade among many other unique details. Be sure to ask Joe to share some of these memories.



Joe met his future wife of over 40 years, Alice, who was also a nurse, on the orthopedic floor of the hospital. After marrying they had two boys: Michael and David. After several years the Mallrie family moved to North Idaho to provide the lifestyle they wanted for their family. During the 34 years living in Kootenai County, Joe's career in health care has included 28 years of emergency room experience and 7 years in the operating rooms at Kootenai Medical Center and Sacred Heart.

After so many years of dedicated work to help others, Joe and Alice are now both retired and try to spend their time traveling the world, playing golf, and boating with their children and grandchildren. Between all these adventures you can still find Joe in a Northern Lakes Fire uniform at any number of events or incidents. Please let Joe know his time and expertise are valued whenever you get the chance. Joe is one in a million and we're so fortunate to have him as part of our community family!

By Jim Lyon, Deputy Fire Marshal/PIO



## CREW OF THE MONTH

From L-R, Captain Kramer, FF/Medic Usher, FF/EMT Pitts, KCEMSS Chief Keeley, Battalion Chief Ghirarduzzi, and KCSO Deputy Fanciello

The Kootenai County EMS System awarded the November 2017 Crew of the Month to Northern Lakes Fire District Medic 51 and Engine 521 crews, along with Kootenai County Deputy Sheriff Fanciello.

This team of first responders provided life saving interventions in a recent cardiac arrest incident. Thank you for your service to our community!

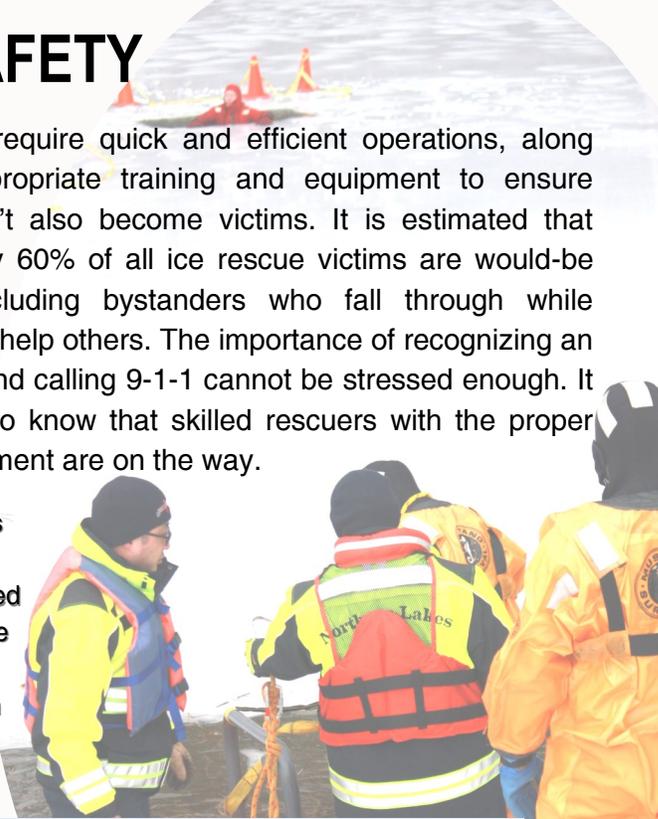




## ICE SAFETY

Ice rescues require quick and efficient operations, along with the appropriate training and equipment to ensure rescuers don't also become victims. It is estimated that approximately 60% of all ice rescue victims are would-be rescuers, including bystanders who fall through while attempting to help others. The importance of recognizing an emergency and calling 9-1-1 cannot be stressed enough. It is important to know that skilled rescuers with the proper rescue equipment are on the way.

Northern Lakes Fire District crews completed their annual ice rescue training this January on Avondale Lake in Hayden.



### General Guidelines for Ice Safety:

- 3"-4" of solid ice is the minimum to support a person, and thicker ice is needed for groups
- 10" of solid ice are needed to support an ATV or snow machine
- Ice does not typically get thick enough to drive cars and trucks onto Idaho lakes and reservoirs
- Drill test holes to determine thickness and remember that thickness is not always uniform. Holes can be no larger than 10" in diameter for safety sake.
- Beware of conditions that can create weak ice such as inlets and outlets, springs, or near docks and other structures that can absorb sunlight and weaken ice.

From the Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game at [www.idfg.idaho.gov](http://www.idfg.idaho.gov)



# THE FIRE WIRE



## FIRE PREVENTION



### Be Warm AND Safe this Winter!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from any heat source, including furnace, fireplace, woodstove or portable space heater
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected each year by a qualified professional
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them into a metal container; always put the container outside at a safe distance away from any structures
- Remember to turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed
- Never use your oven to heat your home
- Have a three foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month



### DID YOU KNOW?

Half of all home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January and February

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

## PUBLIC EDUCATION



Please contact us at (208) 772-5711 to schedule group and individual tours of our stations, or to schedule an on-site visit to your organization



## U.S. Home Heating Equipment Fires FACT SHEET

During 2011-2015, U.S. fire departments responded to 54,030 home structure fires involving heating equipment. These fires caused:

- ⇒ 480 Civilian Fire Deaths
- ⇒ 1,470 Civilian Fire Injuries
- ⇒ \$1.1 billion in direct property damage

Heating equipment fires accounted for 15% of all reported home fires in 2011-2015; second to only cooking fires. These heating equipment fires accounted for 19% of all home fire deaths.

The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (28%) was failure to clean heating equipment, primarily chimneys.

The leading factor contributing to ignition of home heating caused deaths (53%) was the equipment being too close to flammable items such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding.

Most home heating fire deaths (85%) involved stationary or portable space heaters.

The number of home heating fires peaked in the hours between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Source: NFPA Research  
[www.nfpa.org/research](http://www.nfpa.org/research)



## THE FIRE WIRE A quarterly newsletter of the **Northern Lakes Fire Protection District**



Administrative Offices  
125 W. HAYDEN AVE.  
HAYDEN ID 83835  
208/772-5711