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Date: Wed, May 17, 2017 at 3:47 PM  
Subject: May 13 SeaSkills at Blaine Marina  
To: Joe Noonchester <[jnoonchester@nwfrs.com](mailto:jnoonchester@nwfrs.com)>  
Cc: Alex Mazurkewycz <[mazurk1@comcast.net](mailto:mazurk1@comcast.net)>

Hi Joe,

Last Saturday at the Blaine Marine Park, the Bellingham Squadron of the United States Power Squadrons (USPS) hosted a morning of distress flare training and boating skills. Included in this event was one unit from NWFRS with members Jeff Hofstad and TJ Holert. These gentlemen did an outstanding job of training over 60 people how to properly use a fire extinguisher.

Every year, members of the boating public are given the opportunity to learn how to use distress flares. This year they then moved to a fire extinguishing training area set up by Jeff and TJ. The pan of water with 2- and 3-foot flames was a dramatic reminder of what can happen in a boat. Everyone participating received patient instruction and then extinguished the flames. It was excellent training!

We received many comments from people who expressed gratitude that they had the chance to receive this training, and they specifically included the quality of the instruction. We are required to carry flares and fire extinguishers on board boats, but seldom get a chance to get real hands-on training.

Please pass on to Jeff and TJ our gratitude for their skills and patience. The boating public and members of the USPS are very grateful that Northwest Fire and Rescue Service provides this incredible opportunity for hands-on training.

Regards,

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