



Volume 15 Issue 6

June, 2022



“Providing Quality Service for a Safe Community”

Live Fire Training

Feature Stories

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2022 STATISTICS

May 1 — May 31

District Average Response Time:

9 min. 45 sec.

Responses by Type:

Fire: 13

EMS: 322

Other: 107

Total: 442



North Whatcom Fire and Rescue members hosted a live fire training exercise on Monday, May 9, 2022, at a donated farmhouse on Enterprise Road in Custer. Both Lynden Fire Department and Ferndale District 7 crews participated in the event. Those departments, amongst others, regularly provide mutual aid during an actual fire when necessary.

The donated house was modi-

fied with additional sheetrock layers in four different rooms to allow for multiple consecutive burns. A dedicated safety team was assigned to ignite the fires and monitor the structure's safety. With diligent planning, preparation, and monitoring, 16 live fire evolutions were performed in which firefighters arrived to find a portion of the house on fire. The crews had to work together to make entry and extin-

guish the fire and search for possible occupants. During the final evolution, the structure was allowed to burn to the ground while firefighters concentrated on defensive operations, protecting nearby exposures on the property.

Structure fires are a high-risk, low-frequency event, making it more critical for departments to regularly train their firefighters to be prepared when they do occur. Because of the risk involved with any structure fire, firefighters need to practice their skills in a controlled, practical environment constantly. The training adhered to strict NFPA 1403 requirements.

It takes an incredible amount of time and effort to conduct this type of training exercise, but providing realistic training is priceless.

The training division and many NWFR line staff

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Proudly serving the communities of Blaine, Birch Bay, Custer, Laurel and the unincorporated areas of Lynden & Bellingham

North Whatcom
Fire and Rescue
welcomes suggestions
for upcoming
newsletters. Please
submit your ideas or
suggestions to
info@nwfrs.com



Live Fire Training cont.

continued from pg. 1
members worked diligently
over the last three weeks to
ensure that the house was up
to standards and safe to con-

duct a live burn.

NWFR is very appreciative to
everyone who made this event
possible, including Vander
Griend Lumber CO and
Westside Building Supply for
donating supplies, the What-
com County Tender Group for
providing members and a water
source, and the owner, Gordy
James, for donating the struc-
ture.



Washington State Survey & Rating Bureau (WSRB)

An area of concern for any homeowner are the taxes and associated fees that come along with owning a home. One of these costs is home and fire insurance.



WSRB is an independent, non-profit service organization that evaluates all Washington cities and fire districts for their fire protection/suppression capabilities. This evaluation is done using a rating schedule approved by the Washington Office of Insurance Commissioner.

The evaluation is a score-driven examination of different portions of the department. These items include but are not limited to:

- **Fire Department** – distribution of fire stations, engine and ladder companies, pumping capacity, apparatus maintenance, department personnel staffing and training
- **Water Supply** – adequacy of firefighting water supply including water flow, hydrant locations and system maintenance
- **Emergency Communications** – evaluation of the community's 911 system ability to receive and handle calls for emergency services
- **Fire Safety Control** – fire prevention, public education and building code enforcement

The information gathered by WSRB and the resulting numerical rating or ratings, Protection Class (PC) of 1 through 10 are then utilized by your insurance company to calculate the amount to be charged. The fire department does not set or have any say in the amount charged.

PC 1 = exemplary fire protection capabilities
PC 10 = capabilities if any, are insufficient for insurance credit rating.

In some instances, residents that live in a more condensed area like a city with smaller square mile response areas, have a quicker reaction time from first responders compared to those residents that live in a much larger response area.

Current PC Ratings

City of Blaine = 4
WCFD 21 = 5
WCFD 4 = 5 and 9A

The reports can be viewed on NWFR's website:

<https://www.nwfrs.net/resources/faqs/>

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue (including District 4) is responsible for about 182 square miles of combination response area to include the communities of Blaine, Birch Bay, Custer, Laurel and the unincorporated areas of Lynden & Bellingham. Varied land use includes forestry, rural and rural agriculture, suburban, urban and some commercial and light industrial. To provide the best overall services to all taxpayers, it is necessary to deploy resources according to their statistical needs.

Nationwide, fire departments must work within their allocated budgetary parameters. North Whatcom Fire and Rescue receives the vast majority of its funding from property tax and ambulance transports. The overall monies received each year fund a large number of functions such as personnel, maintenance

and upkeep of apparatus, station/facility maintenance, repairs, firefighting equipment and gear, and insurance for all vehicles and stations.

It is easy to see that the tax money that comes in, goes out equally as fast to facilitate and support effective service to the community as a whole. When considering all of this and the amount of tax money that is received and spent each year. North Whatcom Fire and Rescue must be very cost-conscious to do the best with what they receive. Even then the district still faces serious financial challenges relating to acquiring more employees, apparatus and fully operational stations to respond to the needs of the community. In the end, the district receives a set amount of tax money. They then deploy resources to the best of their ability based on statistics such as call volume, possible emergency threats, residential density and projected growth of all of the above.

WSRB evaluates each community in Washington state on a regular basis. They plan to rerate NWFR's response area sometime this summer.

NWFR wants you to be aware that rates are expected to change, triggering the possibility of a rise in homeowners' insurance.

To learn more contact your insurance company and ask them for a breakdown of the charges you receive and why and/or visit the WSRB website at:

<https://www1.wsrb.com/resources/public-protection>



Events to Celebrate June Birthdays

- 2 — Mike Nelson
- 8 — Delaine Warne
- 8 — John Geleyne
- 10 — Joel Nielsen
- 15 — Jason Donnelly
- 17 — D.J. Riehl
- 21 — Blake Scott
- 28 — Kelly Freeman

NWFR Meetings will be conducted in person

NWFR

Thurs. June 16
9408 Odell St 61
Blaine — 10:00 a.m.

District 4 Meetings continue to be conducted via Zoom

District 4

Mon. June 13
4142 Britton Loop St 12
Bellingham — 12:00 p.m.





1507 E. Badger Rd
PO Box 286
Lynden, WA 98264

Providing quality service for
a safe community



CPR / AED Classes 2022

Class will be held at various
fire stations around the district. Check out

<https://www.nwfrs.net/resources/classes/> for more information and to reserve your spot.

Donations of nonperishable food items are encouraged but not mandatory. All food donations will be forwarded to local area food banks.

Recent Food Donations = 95#

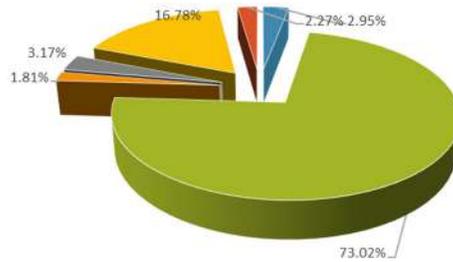


Opportunities

TBD

May Calls

Total Calls = 442



Types of Calls

■ Fire ■ EMS ■ Hazardous ■ Service ■ Good Intent ■ False Alarm



Location of Calls

Postcard Surveys — What People are Saying



Thanks for the great care! *JM* – B'ham

They were all wonderful people. *BJ* – Everson

Response was quick, professional, well done and confident. *DP* – B'ham

Very impressed with them. *TR* – B'ham

These men went above and beyond! Amazing. I will never forget them. *JW* – B'ham

When I win the lottery, I am contributing a new van with shock absorbers. *LA* – Blaine

I appreciate the excellent treatment. *RG* – B'ham

I received excellent care. *JM* – Lynden

Thank you for your service. *VF* – Blaine

Very efficient/effective/compassionate care. Thanks!!! *CB* – B'ham

Thank you so much! God bless each one of you. *SO* – Blaine

Wonderful young men. *CW* – B'ham

The kindness and care along with the professionalism...just outstanding! *FS* – Blaine