

# NORTH WHATCOM FIRE & RESCUE

## Annual Report 2010





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# NWFR's Mission, Vision & Values

## **Mission Statement**

It is the vision of North Whatcom Fire and Rescue to always be ready to protect life and property.

## **Vision Statement**

It is the Vision of North Whatcom Fire and Rescue to be:

- An organization that strives to provide a consistent level of excellence in the provision of services to the residents and guests of the community
- A progressive organization that influences and embraces change
- An organization that promotes a safe, productive and healthy work environment
- An organization that maintains a high level of professional development
- An organization that maintains a high level of legislative/management and labor partnerships that embraces collaborative decision making
- An organization that strives to provide resources and services that reflect the diverse needs of the community and environment
- An organization that is a leading source for community relations, public safety education and prevention
- An organization that is always preparing for future emergency needs

## **Values Statement**

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue embraces and strives to influence all decisions and actions by our organizational core values:

- We value trust, honesty, integrity and humility
- We embrace accountability and respect for all
- We are committed to teamwork and dedicated to excellence
- We value safety and service

# INTRODUCTION



## *2010 The Year of Challenges*

December 3, 2010 marked the completion of the fourth year of existence for North Whatcom Fire and Rescue. In November of 2006, the voters approved the merge of the two fire districts that formed the fire district for January 1, 2007. It was that date when the “new” fire district officially began. Each year since the district’s inception, there has been overall improvement to staffing, equipment, and operations, and 2010 has been no exception. However, improvements and successes in 2010 became more of a challenge than previous years, given that impacts of the 2008-2009 economic downturns were still being realized. Most political subdivisions within the State of Washington “lag” somewhat behind economic factors that can affect financial stability. And, North Whatcom Fire and Rescue was no exception.

### District Finances:

As identified in previous annual reports, North Whatcom Fire and Rescue implemented a six-year financial plan that provided direction to the Board of Commissioners for planning the 2010 financial budget. The accuracy of that plan received further validation, when as predicted, the 2010 assessed values and the increase of new construction revenue fell for the first time in the history of the young district. The assessed value in 2010, decreased by more than eight percent, and new construction was off by more than sixty percent. This will cause significant financial challenges for 2011.

The assessed values in 2009 for the 2010 tax year showed an increase but not at the rate of previous years. New construction showed signs of decline as well. A property tax increase of one percent was possible because the district had not reached their taxing limitation. Adequate funds appeared to be available to sustain operations and growth throughout most of the year. However, as the 2010 year closed, a significant tax payment deficiency was noted, which will have an adverse effect on the revenue planning for 2011 and 2012. At the close of 2010, there existed a more than four-hundred thousand dollar tax revenue shortfall. Businesses and some homeowners simply failed to pay their property taxes for 2010. Because of this tax payment shortfall, there may be times in 2011 when staffing will be reduced and services restricted to ensure sufficient funds are available throughout the year. It is important for all tax payers to realize that a failure to pay property taxes has a direct impact on the operations of the fire district placing employees’ job security at risk, and more importantly, placing the community safety at risk.

*“...the assessed values and the increase of new construction fell for the first time in the history of the young district.”*

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue did complete the 2010 financial year under budget. Total operational expenditure for 2010 was \$5,313,793 which was \$105,757 savings from the budgeted amount of \$5,419,550. Debt payments also were under budget by \$14,975. Capital improvement expenditures showed a considerable “under spending” due to the district realizing late in the summer that property taxes were not being paid as predicted. A very conservative approach to capital spending became obvious as the district approached the end of the budget year.

The District’s financial report identifies substantial balances in various funds, but it is important that the reader recognizes that revenues in each fund are for the most part committed.

Fire District Funds:

<b>Fire District Revenue Funds</b>	<u>2010 Ending Balance</u>
Expense Fund	\$1,624,423.40
Reserve Fund	\$283,087.67
Capital Projects Fund	
Facilities Improvement Fund	719117.62
Apparatus Replacement Fund	\$627,307.74
General	\$216,996.75
Long Term Debt Fund	\$919,515.71
Mitigation Fee Fund	\$0.00
Volunteer Fund	\$62,564.02
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$4,453,012.91</u>

The amount of each fund is dedicated for specific purposes. The expense fund, because of the timing of property tax collections must have a “carry over balance” to ensure operational expenditure obligations are satisfied for the first four months of the ensuing year. Property tax collections do not begin to arrive until late April. The Reserve Fund is the District’s “emergency reserve fund” and is used to ensure sufficient funds are available for unexpected expenditures such as replacing a failed motor in a fire engine. The Capital Projects Fund is used for accruing funds for apparatus replacement, facility improvements, and for replacing other “general capital items” such as protective clothing. The Long Term Debt Fund is where funds are maintained to ensure debt repayment occurs on time as scheduled. Payments on long term debt occur semi-annually and property tax revenue is dedicated to this fund strictly for the purpose of debt payment.

*“The amount of each fund is dedicated for specific purposes.”*

The Mitigation Fee Fund is a new fund for 2010. That fund will build based on mitigation fee contributions from development where such funds will be used to make capital improvements necessary as a result of that development. The volunteer fund is a special fund solely for the purpose of supporting volunteer firefighter activity.

North Whatcom does have financial debt. At the time of the formation of the Fire District, District 13 had accrued debt from constructing or remodeling new facilities, and from purchasing new apparatus. When a merge occurs, the debt goes with the merging fire district and becomes a debt of the new organization. The Fire District also incurred some new debt as the result of replacing three new fire engines and purchasing a new ladder truck. This debt is funded through the Washington State LOCAL program where fire districts can obtain loans through the state at very reasonable rates of interest.

The six year financial plan identifies a debt repayment structure where the funds in the Long Term Debt Fund will continue to grow. Should there be a significant shortfall in tax revenue in the future such as what occurred in 2010, the fire district will have sufficient funds to pay the annual debt payment until lost revenues can be recovered.

Current Fire District Debt:

<u>Fire District Debt</u>	<u>2010 Payments</u>	<u>2010 Ending Balances</u>
Fire District #3 2001 LTGO Debt	119,195.00	\$839,020.00
Fire District #3 2002 LTGO Bond	\$70,910.00	\$412,775.00
Apparatus LOCAL Loan	\$242,534.50	\$2,175,883.00
Total	\$432,639.50	\$3,427,678.00

The overall financial report of the fire district shows a strong financial position with revenue being adequate to allow for operational expenditures and debt repayment. However, North Whatcom Fire and Rescue cannot withstand a continued revenue shortfall due to the failure to pay property taxes. Such continued failures will place the fire district in financial hardship that could alter current operations and thus affect the operational standards set by the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Fire District does have an apparatus replacement schedule that requires funding in excess of the funds existing in the current Apparatus Replacement Fund. Currently, the Fire District is delaying the replacement of any additional apparatus until economic indicators are more favorable.

*“When a merge occurs, the debt goes with the merging fire district and becomes a debt of the new organization.”*

### District Apparatus:

For the most part, District apparatus is in excellent condition. Three new fire engines were placed into service in 2010. The new engines replaced two units that were old and no longer satisfying the requirements of the fire district and satisfying the requirements of the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau. One new engine is in service in each of the district's full paid stations. The three new engines bring a new technology to the fire district that makes the engines more efficient and effective during fire ground operations. The ability to apply Compressed Air Foam (CAF) during fire suppression, results in a better use of personnel, less use of water, and less collateral damage when suppressing fires.

The Fire District also purchased a new ladder truck with a larger ladder capable of reaching planned new structures. The Fire District implemented a Capital Facilities Plan that identified the need for an additional ladder truck to be able to serve planned new and larger commercial structures. Payment for the ladder truck will be made from the Mitigation Fee Fund as funds accrue.

Other Fire District apparatus is in good repair and certainly operational ready. There are certain fire apparatus units that, under normal conditions, should be replaced due to age. The replacement is being directed more by Insurance Survey and Rating age requirements than operational concerns. Because of the constrained budgets, and the fact the units are being monitored in a very strict maintenance program and are operationally sound, it is the opinion of the Fire District to continue to operate these units into the future.

Emergency medical care apparatus, ambulances, are being used more with the advent of Basic Life Support transports being provided by the Fire District. This increase in usage creates a replacement schedule where front line, transport ambulances should be replaced every eight years. The Fire District is closely monitoring the usage of these units and will adjust replacement schedules as indicated by maintenance records, and reliability reports. The units being replaced will be rotated into less active volunteer stations where service demands are less.

Command staff vehicles are schedule to begin replacement in 2012. Again, the maintenance of these units is being closely monitored and replacement scheduling will be adjusted as needed to accommodate replacement when required.

### District Facilities:

District facilities continue to provide adequate support for Fire District Operations. Currently there are no plans to replace any of the facilities.

*“Payment of the ladder truck will be made from the Mitigation Fee Fund as funds accrue.”*

At the 2010 Fire District planning retreat, the Board of Fire Commissioners identified stations that may be selected for disposal in the near future. There are some stations that no longer serve the district well with the implementation of full paid staffing at three stations, and the loss of volunteer firefighters in some geographic areas. Response time modeling indicates that some full paid stations can better serve an area than a volunteer station and some stations are located too close to a paid station to be considered a viable station when comparing operational costs. The Board has taken the viability of stations under advisement and will develop plans in the future.

The Fire District implemented facility cost savings measures in 2010 that has created significant savings in operational costs. New telephone systems, lighting systems, computer systems, and alarm monitoring systems have been installed, replaced or refurbished to ensure maximum cost savings.

#### District Personnel:

District staffing levels remained fairly consistent in 2010. The Fire District did re-organize the command staff in 2010. One command staff employee resigned in 2010 and when filling that vacancy, a new command structure was implemented. The District hired a new Division Chief of Training who has considerable experience (more than 12 years) in managing all aspects of a fire district training program.

The Fire District now employs a command staff of four, one Fire Chief, one assistant Fire Chief/Operations, one Division Chief/Training, and one Division Chief/Support Services. Each command staff position serves as a District Duty Officer on a rotational basis to ensure command oversight is available for any major emergency incident. North Whatcom Fire and Rescue also hired a new Training Captain in 2010.

The Fire District maintained a staffing level of thirty-nine full paid firefighters and forty-eight volunteer firefighters during 2010. Personnel received training as required by statute and national standards. Four of the uniformed paid personnel continue to have a portion of their employment cost paid by a federal grant, Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER). This grant has been paying for a portion of four full paid firefighters for the previous four years.

The Fire District continues to employ three administrative support personnel who provide accounting, records management and secretarial support, and an administrative assistant to the fire chief.

In addition, two mechanics keep the Fire District's apparatus running efficiently and a physical trainer promotes health and wellness to all personnel.

*The Fire District maintained a staffing level of thirty-nine full paid firefighters and forty-eight volunteer firefighters during 2010."*

## Operations:

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue responded to two thousand three hundred-five (2,305) incidents in 2010 which is seventy fewer emergency incidents than in 2009. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the 2010 emergency incidents were responses for medical emergencies and injuries. Six percent (6%) of the total response was for fire related emergencies, five percent (5%) were responses to false alarms with the remaining eleven percent (11%) being for all other incident responses.

The total value of property involved in fire in 2010 was two million seventy-nine thousand three hundred sixty five dollars (\$2,079,365). The overall fire loss for 2010 was nine hundred seventy-eight fifty dollars (\$978,050), which means the district saved more than one million dollars in value. This is an almost fifty-three percent (53%) save rate.

Response times improved slightly over the previous year. This has been a goal of the Board of Fire Commissioners since 2007. The board has set operational goals for planning purposes as follows:

- (Tier 1) Urban (population >1000 per square mile) – Eight (8) minutes 90% of the time for arrival of the first due fire engine company/ambulance.
- (Tier 2) Suburban (population of 500-1000 per square mile) – Ten (10) minutes 90% of the time for arrival of the first due fire engine company/ambulance.
- (Tier 3) Rural (population of < 500 per square mile) – Twelve (12) minutes 90% of the time for arrival of the first due fire engine company/ambulance.

Currently, the City of Blaine satisfies the definition of Urban and the response within the City of Blaine meets the response goals. In 2010 the response times within the city limits of Blaine were 7.833 minutes or less ninety percent of the time.

Under current Whatcom Planning rules and regulations, there is no definition identifying Suburban designation. Therefore level of service for suburban areas, the Tier 2 response, is difficult to quantify.

Three Urban Growth Areas (UGA's) exist within the jurisdictional boundaries of the district. Although UGA's are for the most part still rural in nature, the district is planning for future urban service levels in these areas. The City of Lynden UGA is very small and for the most part will not adversely impact service levels provided by Station 71 that serves that area. The City of Blaine UGA will have some impacts to the fire district as future development occurs. The Birch Bay UGA is the one area that will have the largest impact on services as development occurs.

*“Response times improved slightly over the previous year.”*

The Birch Bay UGA is defined as a “non-municipal” which makes it the most difficult to serve at urban levels. The fire district Capital Facilities Plan identifies remedies for service demands as development occurs in these UGA’s.

The majority of North Whatcom’s response area is designated Rural and because of the overall size of the rural area, the district struggles to meet the Tier 3 service levels for rural areas. Because most of the size of rural areas protected by the district, and the distances responding apparatus must travel when responding to an incident, rural response is being reported by paid stations, which more accurately reflects rural area response performance.

Station 61’s (Blaine) response performance for their rural response zone is 10.9 minutes ninety-percent of the time. This is 1.1 minutes under the Tier 3 response goal of 12 minutes.

Station 63’s (Birch Bay) response performance for their rural response zone is 11.15 minutes ninety-percent of the time. This is .85 minutes under the Tier 3 response goal of 12 minutes.

Station 71’s (Lynden) response performance for their rural response zone is 13.25 minutes ninety-percent of the time. This is 1.25 minutes higher than the Tier 3 response goal of 12 minutes. Station 71’s response time performance does not reflect the Automatic Response Agreements the district maintains with Fire District #4 and Fire District #7. Eighty (80) incidents occurring within the Station 71 response zone were served by an Automatic Responses by either or both districts in addition to the normal response from Station 71. The response performance of District #4 and District #7 into North Whatcom are not being reported here, but should be considered. In the majority of the eighty incidents the supporting districts arrival at the incident was prior to Station 71. Therefore the actual response times for Station 71 into the rural areas will be less.

*The district can maintain current levels of service without significant interruption provided emergency response incidents do not exceed the planned ten to twelve percent increase annually.”*

Overall, North Whatcom Fire and Rescue is a strong viable organization. The staff is working hard to meet the service demands from our tax payers. The district can maintain current service levels without significant interruption provided emergency response incidents do not exceed the planned ten to twelve percent increase annually.

It is critical that annual funding sources remain stable or increase if the district is to maintain the current service levels. The district cannot sustain current operational levels if there is a continuing decline in assessed values and/or a continued failure of property tax payments. The six-year financial plan takes into consideration one additional year where assessed values experience a decline. Associated with the assessed value decline are limited new construction values.

Per the six-year financial plan, assessed value declines cannot exceed three percent from the 2010 values and new construction values cannot be less than thirty-eight million for 2010. Should such adverse changes occur, the district will be faced with seeking additional revenue sources, or service level reductions may be required.

2011 will be another challenging year. The district is currently planning a consolidation with another fire district. This consolidation will facilitate a better response in the southeast portion of the district, will improve overall staffing for major incidents, provide better training facilities, all while maintaining current funding levels. The combined districts will provide for more while expending the same tax dollars.

Those served by North Whatcom Fire and Rescue can rest assured that they have an excellent emergency response organization, one capable of meeting current expectations, and one who is planning today for tomorrow's expectations.

Looking forward to the future,



T. M. Fields, Fire Chief

*2011 will be another  
challenging year."*

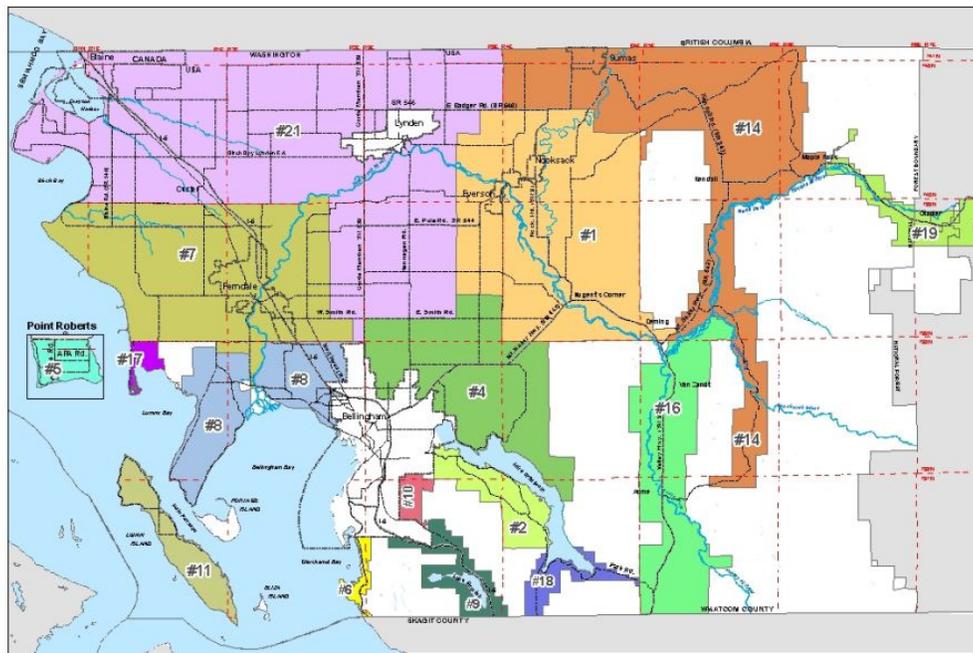
# ADMINISTRATION

## Department Overview

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue was formed December 7, 2006, from a vote to merge Whatcom County Fire Protection District #3 and Whatcom County Fire Protection District #13. In January 2007 the Fire District officially changed their name to Whatcom County Fire Protection District #21 and operates as North Whatcom Fire & Rescue.

## District Statistics

- Service area is one-hundred forty-seven square miles.
- Varied land use that includes forestry, rural and rural agricultural, suburban, urban and some commercial and light industrial.
- The Fire District operates ten fire stations strategically located throughout the district.
- The City of Blaine is one of the fastest growing areas within the State of Washington.
- The City of Blaine includes two marinas, two border crossing stations, and Interstate 5 running parallel to and acting as a feeder into the city.
- The Fire District operates forty-six pieces of apparatus including fire engines, tenders, two ladder truck, brush trucks, ambulances and some specialized apparatus.
- The Fire District is classified as a “combination” fire district incorporating both paid personnel and volunteer “on-call” personnel.
- Fire District operations include fire response, emergency medical services including BLS transport, hazardous materials response at the operations level, some limited rescue, and fire prevention and public education activities.



**Whatcom County  
Fire Districts 2007**



# PERSONNEL

## General Information

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue is a 95 member department with personnel in the following areas:

- 39 full-paid firefighters
- 48 volunteers
- 10 support staff

## 2010 Highlights

- Established monthly tender operations training
- Training Captain moved to Station 71
- Increased utilization of Station 71 training facility
- Designed east and west division training with volunteers
- Three year training cycle developed and implemented assimilate career and volunteer into consistent Training cycle

## New Hires

The following people joined the District in 2010:

- 1 Division Training Chief
- 1 Training Captain
- 6 Volunteer Firefighters
- 5 Volunteers in the Resident Program

## Volunteers

- 40 interested in volunteering
- 14 in process
- 8 interested in support division
- 5 resident volunteers
- 6 completed process



## New Members

*Welcome to the new members of North  
Whatcom Fire and Rescue*

**Division Training Chief**  
Jeff Hofstad

**Training Captain**  
Joe Noonchester

**Volunteer Firefighters**  
Shawn Atwood  
Ashley Berreth  
Brian Botta-Pillo  
Terran Honcoop  
Nick Littleton  
Brandon Heggem  
David Ozmer  
Joe Sellinger  
Richard Weidemann

**Volunteer Support**  
Doug Stuit  
Malcolm Simshauser  
Shelby/Skyler Croy

**Information Technology**  
Tech Help

# OPERATIONS

## 2010 Highlights

- Continued refining the Automatic First Response Agreements with District 7 and District 4
- Consolidation discussions with District 4
- Collaborated with multiple agencies during the Peace Arch Border Olympic Torch Event
- Continued refinement of Resident Program at Semiahmoo
- Presented a mock DUI at Blaine High School to promote safe driving awareness
- Continued refinement of volunteer Support Division
- Hosted an Open House to include a traditional “pushing in” and “christening” ceremony to welcome the newly acquired apparatus to the District.
- Donated surplus hose and SCBAs to less fortunate fire districts both in and out of the State of WA
- Received clean audit for 2009
- Hired new Training Chief Jeff Hofstad
- Hired new Training Captain Joe Noonchester



## Information Management

- Awarded \$195,627.00 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the purchase of mobile data computers in conjunction with District 7 and District 8
- Installation and implementation of web conferencing capability in all three career stations for training purposes and commissioner meetings

### *2010 Year in Review*

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue (NWFR) responded to 2,116 calls through November, 121 fewer than this same time last year. 77 percent of those calls were for emergency medical assistance; 6.5 percent of the calls were for fires. The remaining 16.5 percent of calls were for false alarms, public assists and hazardous conditions.

The Fire Marshal's office coordinated 205 commercial business inspections and fire safety education programs for over 1,400 children in area schools and day cares.

NWFR welcomed Commissioner Larry McPhail, who was appointed December, 2009 to finish out Butch Hinchey's term, who resigned in late 2009.

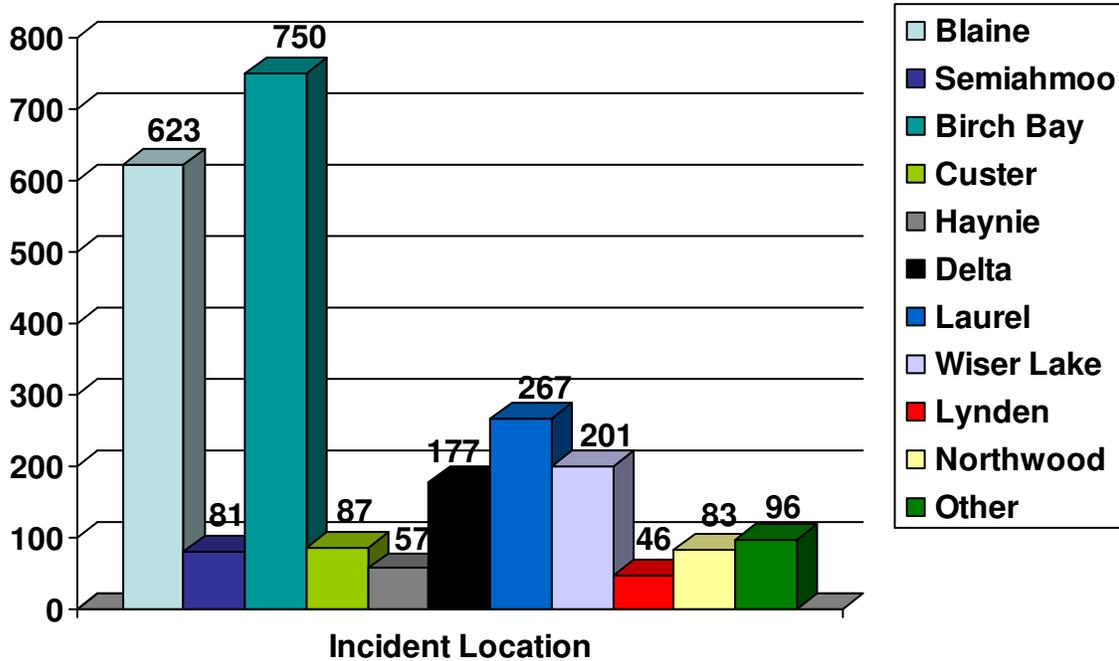
NWFR held an Open House, July 10, 2010 at Station 61 in Blaine where the public was able to join in the tradition of christening all new apparatus, before being officially put into service.

A regional grant from Federal Assistance to Firefighters was awarded in the amount of \$195,627.00 jointly to Districts 7, District 8, and NWFR, allowing the purchase of new mobile data computers, enabling for better communication within the County as well as Dispatch.

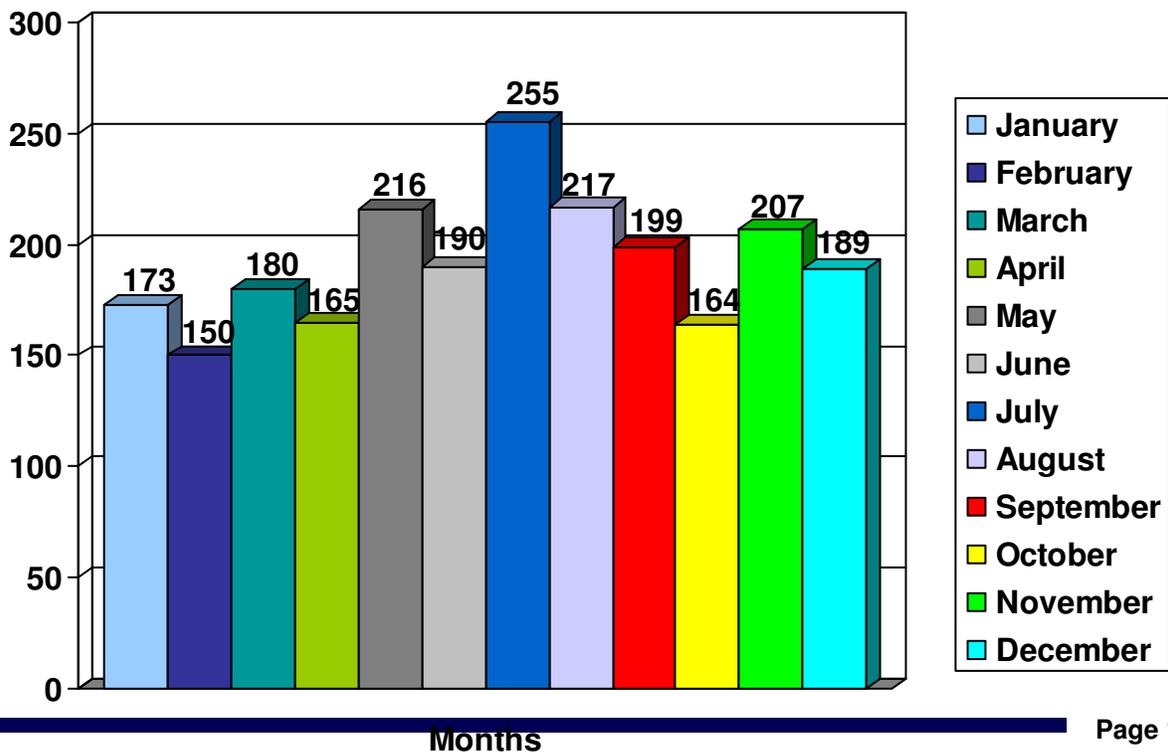
NWFR received a favorable report for their 2009 Accountability and Financial audit, which involved no findings. Subsequently, the Washington State Auditor's office has decided not to schedule the next audit for an additional two years.

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

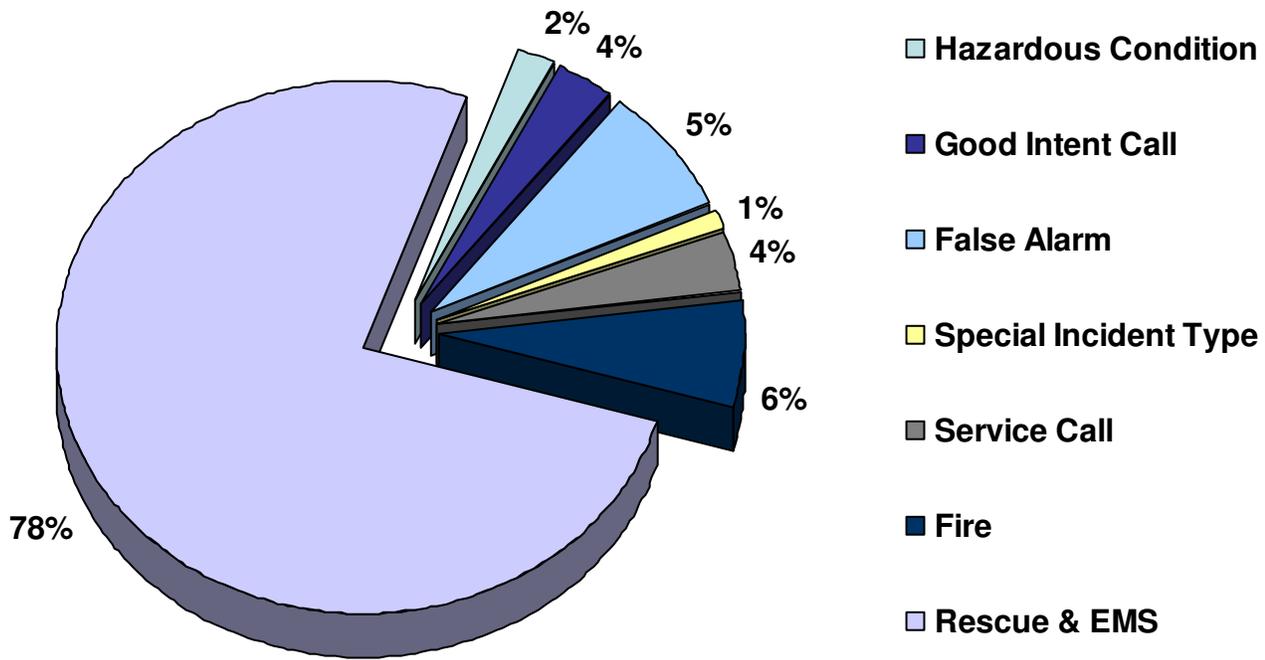
## Calls by Location



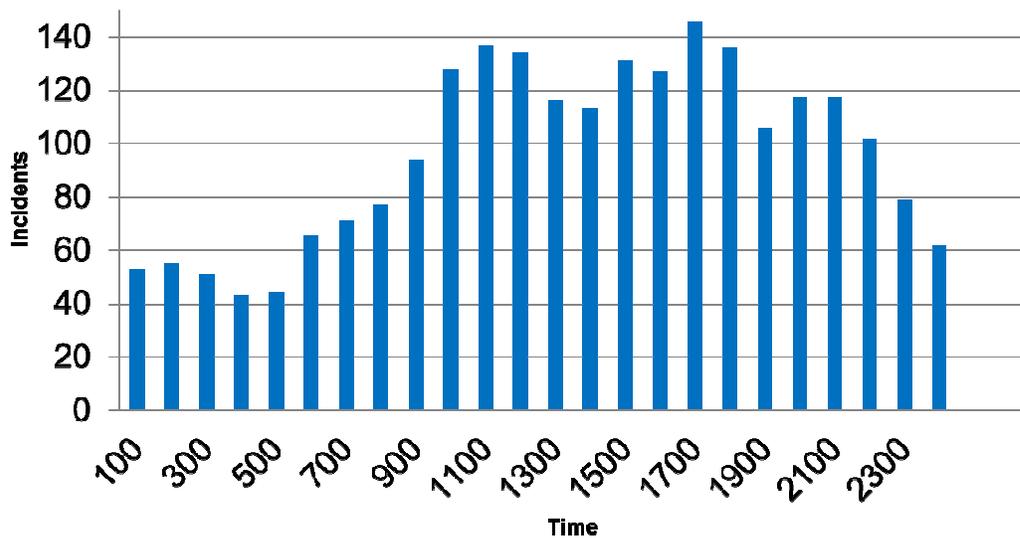
## Monthly Incident Responses



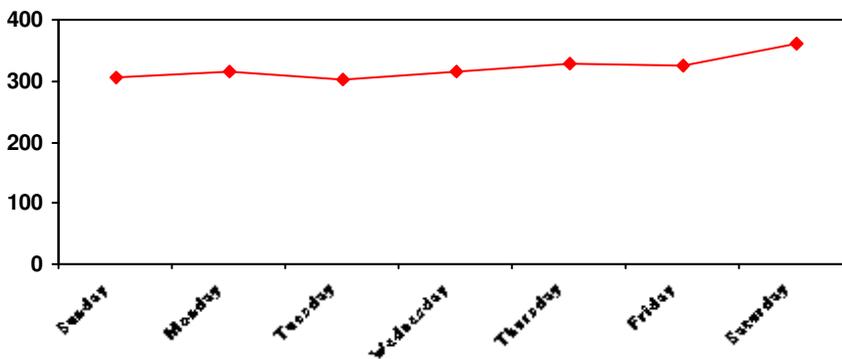
## Responses by Type



Calls by Time of Day



Calls by Day of Week



2010 Total Calls  
2,305

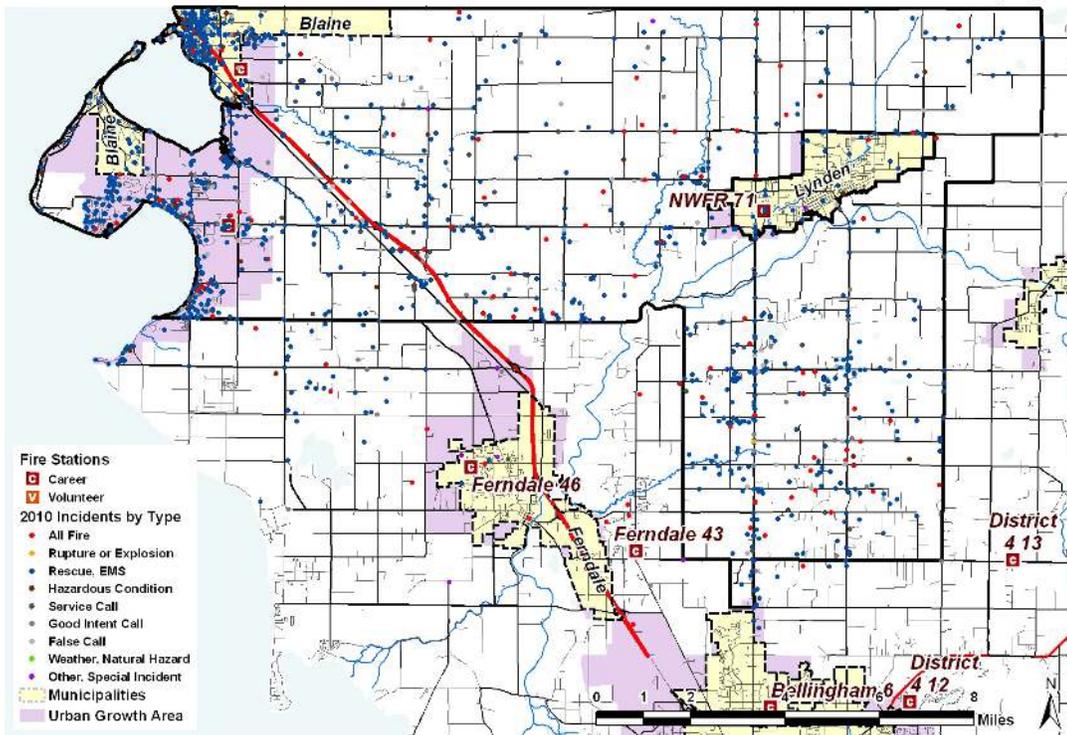
2010 Fire Loss  
\$978,050

2010 Fire Saves  
\$1,101,313

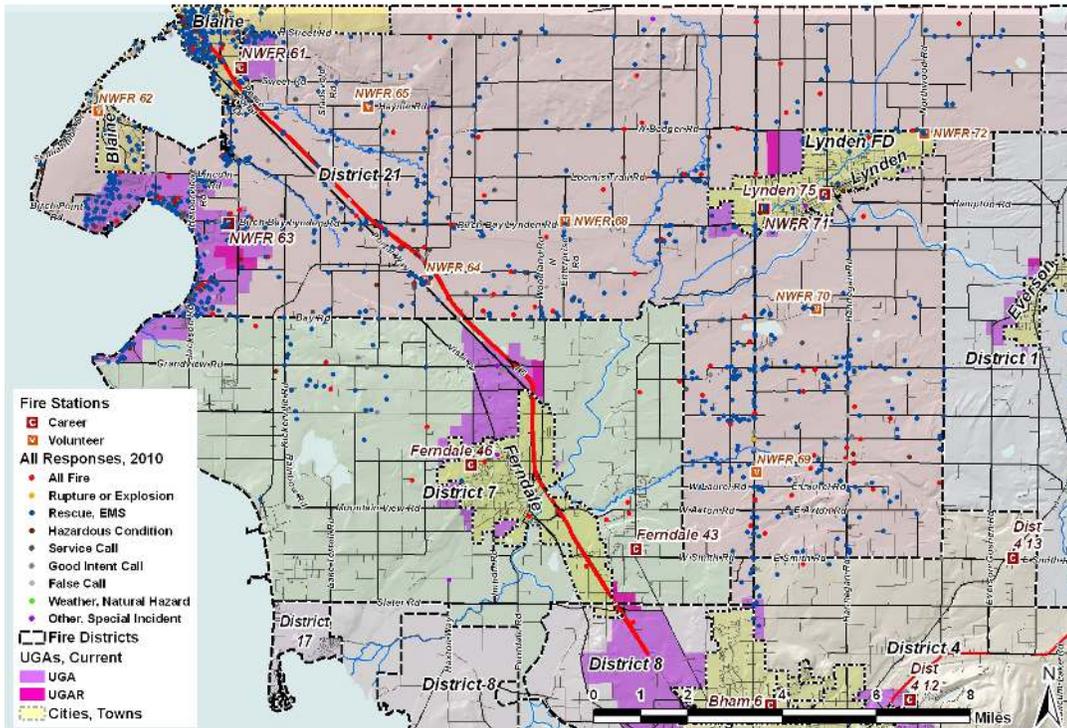
Total Percent  
Saved  
53%

# Incidents

Whatcom County Fire District 21  
2010 Incidents by Type

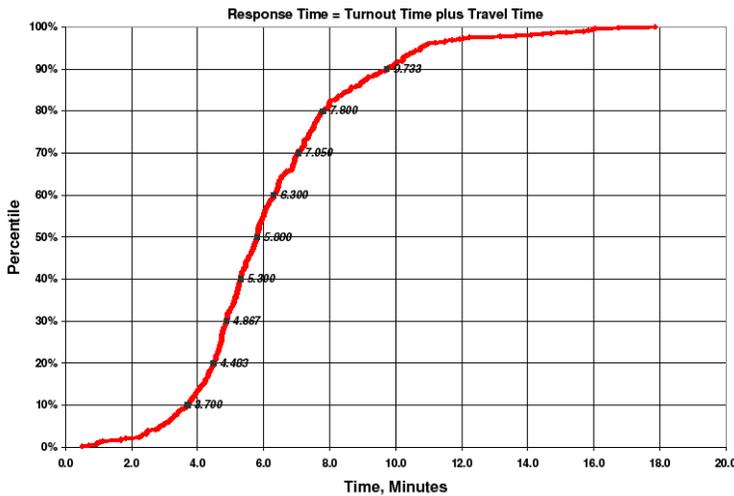


Whatcom County Fire District 21 - 2010 Responses  
Fire Districts, Urban Growth Areas, Cities and Towns

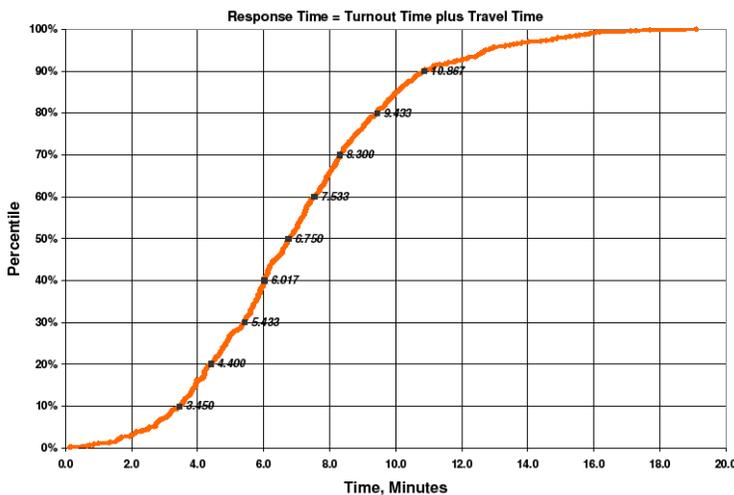


# Response Times

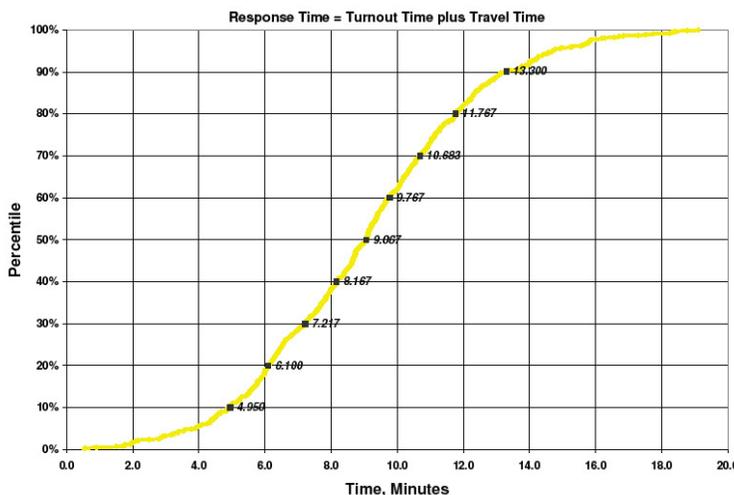
**Fire District 21, Station 61 - 2010 Incidents  
Response Times Fractal - All Emergency Incidents**



**Fire District 21, Station 63 - 2010 Incidents  
Response Times Fractal - All Emergency Incidents**



**Fire District 21, Station 71 - 2010 Incidents  
Response Times Fractal - All Emergency Incidents**



NWFR continues to focus significant time and energy into reducing incident response time. Faster response times mean decreased damage to property and better outcomes in life-threatening medical emergencies.

Even with crews in quarters there are times when a twelve to fourteen minute response time occurs because of long distance travel throughout the one hundred forty-seven square miles the district protects.

The single biggest obstacle to improving response times to the standard adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners is staffing limitations.

**Urban**  
*population > 1000 per square mile*

Eight minutes ninety percent of the time of the arrival of the first due fire engine company/ambulance.

**Suburban**  
*population of 500-1000 per square mile*

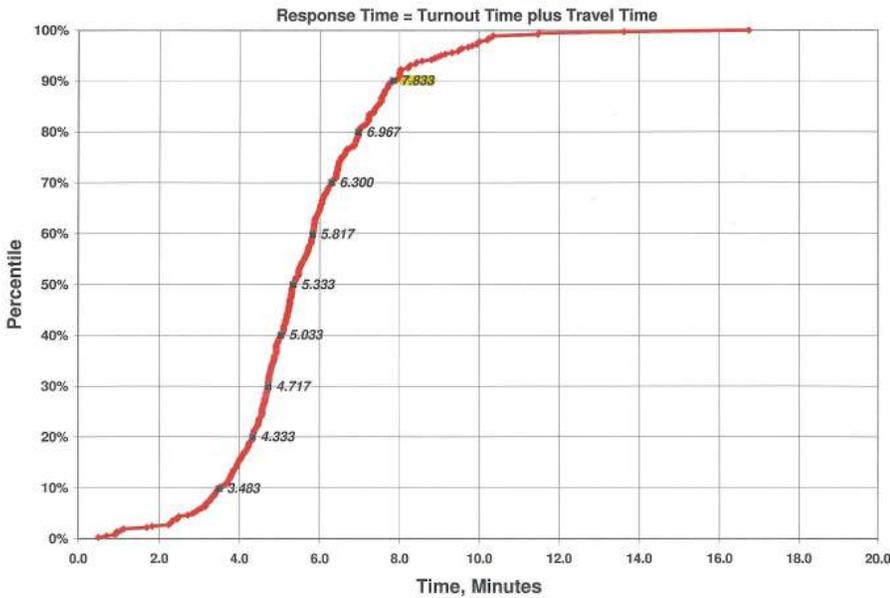
Ten minutes ninety percent of the time of the arrival of the first due fire engine company/ambulance.

**Rural**  
*population < 500 per square mile*

Twelve minutes ninety percent of the time of the arrival of the first due fire engine company/ambulance.

# Response Times

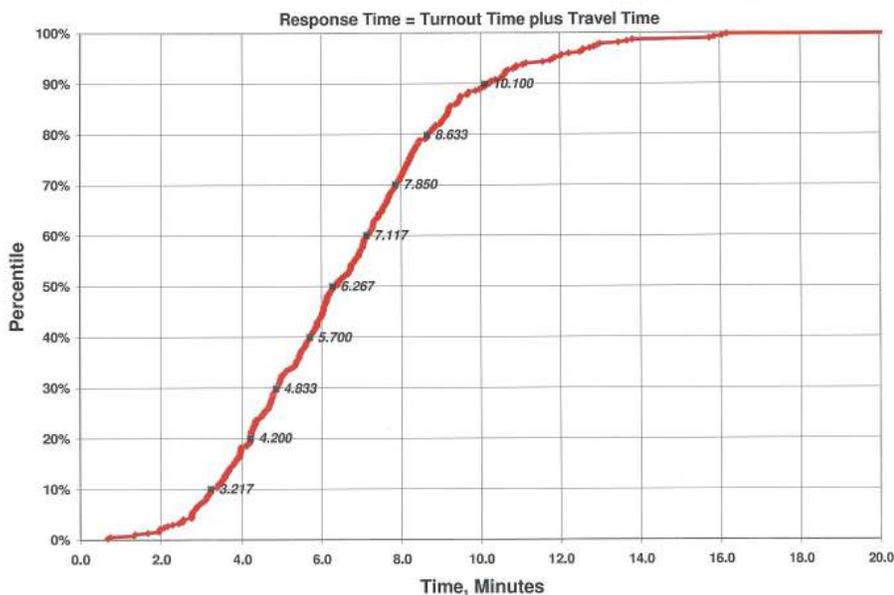
**Fire District 21, Station 61 - 2010 Incidents**  
**Response Times Fractal - Municipal Emergencies**



The City of Blaine is defined as urban. The required response is eight minutes ninety percent of the time for arrival of the first due fire engine company or ambulance.

In 2010 the response time within the City of Blaine was under 8 minutes.

**Fire District 21, Station 63 - 2010 Incidents**  
**Response Times Fractal - UGA Emergencies**



The Birch Bay area is defined as rural. The required response is twelve minutes ninety percent of the time for arrival of the first due fire engine company or ambulance.

In 2010, response time for the Birch Bay area was 11.5 minutes.

# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the City of Blaine, as well as the surrounding rural areas of Whatcom County. It operated on a budgeted total of \$5,313,793 in operating expenditures in the general fund, for fiscal year 2010.

## 2010 Highlights

- According to the State Auditor's report released November 2010, the District's internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets. In addition, no instances of noncompliance or other matters were found that are required under Washington State Government Auditing Standards.

## Grants

- **Assistance to Firefighters Grant:** Federal grant awarded in the amount of \$195,627.00 for the purchase of mobile data computers.

## 2010 Budget vs. Actual

	2010 Budget	2010 Actual
Salaries	3,413,252	3,445,102
Deferred Comp	5,600	5,687
Benefits	1,021,982	1,061,735
Operational Supplies	95,800	64,140
Fuel & Oil	78,850	72,589
Items Purchased for Resale	5,000	1,910
Small Tools & Equipment	35,250	21,583
Professional Services	234,150	215,525
Communication Systems	70,705	64,853
Travel	23,300	12,865
Advertising, Rentals & Insurance	95,850	86,500
Facilities Utilities	124,550	95,169
Maintenance	142,130	112,591
Miscellaneous	72,130	43,634
Intergovernmental Services	1,000	9,910
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>5,419,550</b>	<b>5,313,793</b>
F/C Debt Principal	296,563	286,337
F/C Debt Service	131,433	126,684
<b>Total Debt Payment</b>	<b>427,996</b>	<b>413,021</b>
Capital Improvements - Fire	297,535	18,628
Capital Improvements - EMS	142,000	150,845
<b>Total Capital Improvements</b>	<b>439,535</b>	<b>169,473</b>
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET</b>	<b>6,287,081</b>	<b>5,896,287</b>

# FACILITIES

## Fire Stations

North Whatcom Fire & Rescue currently operates from the following 10 facilities:



### **Blaine Station #61**

9408 Odell Rd., Blaine

Year Built: 2004

Land: 1.16 Acres

- Staffed 24-hours by a 3 or 4-person full-paid crew
- Assessed Value: \$1,421,800

Condition: Excellent



### **Semiahmoo Station #62**

9001 Semiahmoo Pkwy, Blaine

Year Built: 1995

Land: .92 Acres

- Staffed with 6 Resident Volunteers in cooperation with the Skagit Valley College Fire Science Program
- Assessed Value: \$1,170,600

Condition: Poor – water leakage and damage



### **Birch Bay Station #63**

4581 Birch Bay Lynden Rd, Blaine

Year Built: 1981

Land: 2 Acres

- Administrative Headquarters
- Staffed 24-hours by 4-person full-paid crew
- Shop added in 1996 and staffed by 2 full-time mechanics
- Assessed Value: \$1,125,850

Condition: Average condition for age of building



**Custer Station #64**

7625 Custer School Rd., Custer

Year Built: 1972 Land: .6 Acre

- Volunteer Station
- Assessed Value: \$325,110

Condition: Average condition for age of building



**Haynie Station #65**

3401 Haynie Rd., Blaine

Year Built: 1987 Land: 1.85 Acres

- Volunteer Station
- Assessed Value: \$401,625

Condition: Average – poor septic system



**Delta Station #68**

8188 N. Enterprise Rd., Ferndale

Year Built: 1974 Land: .90 Acre

- Volunteer Station
- Assessed Value: \$242,010

Condition: Average condition for age of building



**Laurel Station #69**

6028 Guide Meridian, Bellingham

Year Built: Approx. 1972 Land: 1.47 Acres

- Volunteer Station
- Offices rented to the Sheriff's Department
- Assessed Value: \$486,315

Condition: Average condition for age of building



**Wiser Lake Station #70**

633 E. Wiser Lake Rd., Lynden

Year Built: 1995 Land: 1 Acre

- Volunteer Station
- Assessed Value: \$284,980

Condition: Average condition for age of building



**Lynden Station #71**

307 19<sup>th</sup> St., Lynden

Year Built: 2001 Land: .87 Acres

- Staffed 24-hours by a 3 or 4-person full-paid crew
- Office space provided to Whatcom County Support Officers
- Assessed Value: \$872,715

Condition:



**Northwood Station #72**

1507 E. Badger Rd., Lynden

Year Built: Approx. 1980 Land: 1.65 Acres

- Volunteer Station
- Assessed Value: \$368,835

Condition: Average condition for age of building

# VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

## 2010 Highlights

- 3 new engines and one used ladder truck were delivered

## Fleet Apparatus



**Asset: AP101**                      **Assigned To: Station 70**

In Service: April 97              Mileage: 73,829

1997 Ford Ambulance by Road Rescue

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP102**                      **Assigned To: Station 61**

In Service: April 99              Mileage: 31,953

1999 Ford Ambulance by Road Rescue

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP103**                      **Assigned To: Station 65**

In Service: Dec 98                Mileage: 20,865

1999 Ford Ambulance by Road Rescue

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP104**                      **Assigned To: Station 62**

In Service: Jan 93                      Mileage: 74,548  
1992 Ford Ambulance by Mobile Medical

Condition: Average – continuing repair issues



**Asset: AP106**                      **Assigned To: Station 68**

In Service: July 05                      Mileage: 33,623  
1994 Chevy Ambulance by Wheeled Coach

Condition: Fair



**Asset: AP107**                      **Assigned To: Station 63**

In Service: June 00                      Mileage: 37,409  
2000 Ford Ambulance

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP111**                      **Assigned To: Station 72**

In Service: Jan 07                      Mileage: 68,870  
1998 Ford Ambulance

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP112**  
In Service: Jan 07  
1998 Ford Ambulance

**Assigned To: Station 69**  
Mileage: 114,915

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP113**  
In Service:  
2007 North Star Ambulance

**Assigned To: Station 61**  
Mileage: 51,039

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP114**  
In Service: Apr 09  
2008 North Star Ambulance

**Assigned To: Station 71**  
Mileage: 28,288

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP115**  
In Service: Dec 09  
2009 Ford Ambulance

**Assigned To: Station 63**  
Mileage: 16,480

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP201**                      **Assigned To: Station 63**  
Pump Cap. 1250 GPM      Tank Cap. 3000 Gallons  
In Service: July 94              Mileage: 20,253  
1994 Pierce Tender

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP202**                      **Assigned To: Station 72**  
Pump              750 GPM      Tank Cap. 2800 Gallons  
Cap.  
In Service: Nov 72              Mileage: 25,744  
1971 Ford Tender

Condition: Poor – Under power engine



**Asset: AP203**                      **Assigned To: Station 69**  
Pump Cap. 1250 GPM      Tank Cap. 2800 Gallons  
In Service: Oct 97              Mileage: 8,777  
1998 Inter Tender

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP204**                      **Assigned To: Station 68**  
Pump Cap. 1250 GPM      Tank Cap. 2800 Gallons  
In Service: Oct 97              Mileage: 8,648  
1998 Inter Tender

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP205**      **Assigned To: Station 65**  
Pump Cap. 1000 GPM    Tank Cap. 3500 Gallons  
In Service: May 87      Mileage: 18,045  
1986 Ford Tender

Condition: Average



**Asset: AP206**      **Assigned To: Station 70**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM    Tank Cap. 3000 Gallons  
In Service: June 86      Mileage: 26,900  
1986 Ford Tender

Condition: Average



**Asset: AP305**      **Assigned To: Shop**  
In Service: Oct 86      Mileage: 28,565  
1987 Chevy Crew cab Artruck

Condition: Poor



**Asset: AP401**      **Assigned To: Station 61**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM    Tank Cap. No Tank  
In Service: Oct 98      Mileage: 17,918  
1976 Vanpelt Aerial

Planned engine rebuild for 2010.

Condition: Average - old



**Asset: AP402**                      **Assigned To: Station 63**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM      Tank Cap. 300 Gallons  
In Service: April 10              Mileage: 51,859  
2006 Crimson Ariel

Condition    Excellent



**Asset: AP501**                      **Assigned To: Station 72**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM      Tank Cap. 750 Gallons  
In Service: Jan 88              Mileage: 88,551  
1988 Arrow Pumper

Condition    Fair - High mileage  
:



**Asset: AP502**                      **Assigned To: Station 64**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM      Tank Cap. 1500 Gallons  
In Service: June 92              Mileage: 25,004  
1992 Pierce Pumper

Condition:    Average



**Asset: AP503**                      **Assigned To: Station 65**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM      Tank Cap. 1500 Gallons  
In Service: Oct 89              Mileage: 20,062  
1989 Pierce Pumper

Condition:    Average



**Asset: AP504**      **Assigned To: Station 62**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM    Tank Cap. 750 Gallons  
In Service: Jan 88      Mileage: 163,060  
1988 Arrow Pumper

Condition: Fair – High mileage



**Asset: AP506**      **Assigned To: Station 68**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM    Tank Cap. 1500 Gallons  
In Service: March 90    Mileage: 34,054  
1990 Pierce Pumper

Condition: Average



**Asset: AP508**      **Assigned To: Station 68**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM    Tank Cap. 750 Gallons  
In Service: April 95      Mileage: 61,123  
1994 Spartan Pumper

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP509**      **Assigned To: Station 69**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM    Tank Cap. 750 Gallons  
In Service: Feb 90      Mileage: 41,223  
1989 WSDAR Pumper

Condition: Average



**Asset: AP510**      **Assigned To: Station 70**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM    Tank Cap. 750 Gallons  
In Service: Apr 95      Mileage: 40,050  
1994 Spartan Pumper

Condition: Good



**Asset: AP511**      **Assigned To: Station 63**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM    Tank Cap. 725 Gallons  
In Service: May 10      Mileage: 41,223  
2008 Crimson Pumper

Condition: Excellent



**Asset: AP512**      **Assigned To: Station 71**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM    Tank Cap. 750 Gallons  
In Service: May 10      Mileage: 40,050  
2008 Crimson Pumper

Condition: Excellent



**Asset: AP513**      **Assigned To: Station 61**  
Pump Cap. 1500 GPM    Tank Cap. 625 Gallons  
In Service: May 10      Mileage: 6,549  
2008 Crimson Pumper

Condition: Excellent



**Asset: AP801**                      **Assigned To: Station 63**  
 Pump Cap. 200 GPM      Tank Cap. 300 Gallons  
 In Service: May 02      Mileage: 14,235  
 2002 Ford Flatbed Brush Rig  
 Condition: Good



**Asset: AP802**                      **Assigned To: Station 72**  
 Pump Cap. 250 GPM      Tank Cap. 300 Gallons  
 In Service: May 02      Mileage: 12,173  
 2002 Ford Flatbed Brush Rig  
 Condition: Excellent



**Asset: AP805**                      **Assigned To: Station 72**  
 Pump Cap. 250 GPM      Tank Cap. 300 Gallons  
 In Service: May 02      Mileage 18,135  
 2002 Ford Flatbed Brush Rig  
 Condition: Excellent

# TRAINING

## Volunteer Training Highlights

- Four recruits in the spring and two recruits in the fall graduated from the Whatcom County Volunteer Recruit Academy.
- All quarterly and annual continuing education/training for fire and EMS skills completed
- Began a focused tender operations division/monthly training August 2010
- Developed new volunteer manual – Rookie Book



## Career Training Highlights

- Live Fire Training
- All quarterly and annual continuing education/training for fire and EMS skills completed
- Area and target hazard training by company officers
- Career staff accountability/Whatcom County IMS Manual guidelines and incident management
- Joint training efforts with Lynden Fire Department at the company level

## Specialized Training

- Incident Management Training with Simulated Emergency Scenarios with Lynden Fire Department
- Tender Operations Joint Training with NWFR, BFD, Fire District 4
- Took delivery of new CAFS engines and new ladder truck/fire attack method based on CAFS application
- Ladder 63 operation and safety
- CAFS pump operations and applications
- Air management course developed and administered
- Auto extrication/pinned victim
- Epinephrine Intramuscular Injection Training
- King Airway

## Outside Training Attended by Staff

- National Fire Academy – Challenges of the Local Training Officer
- Washington State Fire Academy – Fire Officer 1
- North County Regional Fire Authority – Pride and Ownership, Chief Rick Laskey
- Live fire training – acquired structure – WCFD #5
- Multi-lumen Airway - BTC
- Developed a Volunteer Hire Checklist

## Statistics / Hours

- Total Training Hours = 4,564 hours (*all career staff & volunteer personnel training*)
- Physical Fitness Training = 1,343 hours

# PREVENTION & EDUCATION

## 2010 Highlights

- Nearly 200 Engine Company Inspections in the City of Blaine
- Follow Up & Citizen Requested Inspections by staff
- Visited over 40 School and Pre-School classrooms
- Summer picnic



## Fire Safety Education

Fire Safety and Public Education Programs were presented to over 1,400 students in local schools and Senior Community Group members.

Presentations included:

- Fire Safety House
- Fire Extinguisher Classes
- First Aid & Emergency Information
- DUI Awareness
- Fire Hose and Equipment Demonstrations
- Grade-appropriate video presentations and vehicle tours

### Events

- National Fire Prevention Week
- Trade/Tech Fairs at local schools
- Safety Fairs in the communities
- Memorial Day Event in Lynden
- City of Blaine Fourth of July Fireworks Show and Parade
- Station Tours
- Senior Citizen Blood Pressure Checks
- Open House



# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Fitness Assessments

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue continues to focus on the health and wellness program. Bi-annual physical fitness assessments are performed and quarterly body fat percentages are documented. These baselines are used to track and record the progression or regression of each member's physical fitness level.

## 2010 Highlights

- Continuation of TacFit Program
  - Focused place on:
    - Improving movement and the ability to retain use of all motor skills in high stress and physically taxing situations.
    - Functional fitness and the ability to improve muscular strength and endurance as well as increase anaerobic capacity.
  - The District played a major role in the further development of the program, which was developed by two City of Bellingham Fire Department captains.
  - The Wellness Director and Training Captain took the information collected by the TacFit program and correlated it within the Air Management Safety course.
- Fitness Challenge – Over fifty teams from Whatcom County Emergency Responders, including North Whatcom Fire and Rescue competed for three months to lose body fat while maintaining muscle mass.
  - One staff member won for overall top female in 2010
  - Two teams placed in the top five in 2010
- Ski to Sea Race – North Whatcom Fire and Rescue entered one team in the Ski to Sea Race in 2010. The team did well and there are plans to re-enter in 2011.
- Lake Paden Triathlon – Three firefighters from “C” shift trained and competed as a crew
- Biggest Loser Audition Tape – The District assisted in the Wellness Coordinator's audition video, for a reality show.



# WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING...

The team was extremely professional and took my needs seriously. Well trained and very "client" focused!

Very prompt and professional – it takes special people to do these jobs. Thank you

Thank you for your quick and professional response! I might not be here without you.

Our family would like to thank you for the care of our son. We appreciate all you did.

You men and women are a credit to our community.

Thank you for the wonderful kindness, you were great!

I'm so happy and delighted that I received such excellent and knowledgeable service.

I couldn't have asked for such a more caring group of guys.

*A big thank you! I'll support the NWFR anyway I can. They helped me when I needed them the most.*

*Couldn't have asked for two nicer young men. Professional, sensitive and considerate.*

**They were exemplary!**

*Everyone was very professional and took good care of me.*

**You guys are great! Thank-you for your help and care**

