



Volume 14 Issue 1

January, 2021



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2020 STATISTICS

Dec. 1 — Dec. 31

District Average Response Time:

10 min. 03 sec.

Responses by Type:

Fire: 5

EMS: 279

Other: 116

Total: 400



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

“Providing Quality Service for a Safe Community”

Interim Division Chief of Operations



By Chief Ward

I am from Salt Lake City, Utah, lived in Juneau, Alaska from 1975-1982 with my mother Joyce and step father Jack. My stepfather worked for Juneau/Douglas Fire Department where I witnessed my step father’s commitment to the Juneau/Douglas Fire Department and envied his involvement as a Fire Captain. I have always had a strong desire to

help others and seeing his willingness cemented my decision to become a firefighter. I never imagined how rewarding it would become and never looked back.

My father Ferris, lives in Salt Lake City, and is still an 82 year old cool dude, and my step dad Jack has passed away.



I have grandkids twin monkeys Tatum and Brooklyn, the “Dude” Axton and newest addition Tinsley. I am never far from stories of my adventures with them; they keep this old

man young! My daughter is an amazing mother and cares for all of the kiddos so well. I am the neighbor everyone calls the pug people as we have always had pugs since we moved into our home. They are our second kids.

My wife Pam is an excellent cook and has routinely shared skills with his crew. Smoking meats on the other hand is my cooking skill and anyone who has had some smoked pulled port with Wardie Sauce hasn’t ever complained. Off duty I usually can be found at Homestead Gym for a couple hours every day and when my dad visits they often go to the gym together. I still enjoy working in the yard, tinkering in the garage and *continued on pg. 2*

Regional Fire Authority Information

Q: What happens to the firefighters and staff in the two Districts—will they still be providing service to my community?

A: Yes. If the RFA is approved by voters, firefighters and other staff from both NWFR and WCFD4 will become employees of the RFA. Similarly, the fire stations and fire trucks,

and other emergency response vehicles will become the responsibility of the RFA.

Q: How is the RFA funded? Does this funding differ from current fire services funding?

A: The RFA has the same funding authority as a fire district. In sum, the RFA can

either be funded by a property tax, or a combination of a property tax and a voter-approved “fire benefit

charge.” The RFA Planning Committee has yet to decide upon the funding plan, but at this time anticipates the RFA would initially rely simply on property tax levies. *continued on pg. 2*

Division Chief cont.

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yah I *kinda* have a green thumb.

As many of us have, I worked various jobs prior to being joining North Whatcom Fire and Rescue (NWFR) including Ernst Home Center, Sanderson Safety, Office Depot and Marietta Fire (WCFD 8). With the exception to the Fire Chief I was the first full time (FTE) firefighter to work for the WCFD 8 in 1999. At WCFD 8 I worked my way up from Training Captain to Assistant Chief and eventually Fire Chief. I left WCFD 8 to join NWFR in 2007 as a Firefighter and promoted to the position of Shift Lieutenant in 2008 and

then Shift Captain on May 8, 2011, and now moving back to the Admin side of things accepting the Interim Division Chief of Operations position in December.

I have prided myself in looking at what equipment we have, need and strive to ensure our crews are equipped with the best equipment we can afford. As a Shift Captain I managed the small tools as a collateral duty for the district. I am one who sees something to be done or needed to be accomplished, be it personal or job related I am willing step up and assist. I have always emphasized family and consistently left the door open for the crew's families to visit the station for the holidays. I still firmly believe in pride and ownership so the

improvements around station 63 are a direct result of my crew's handy work or because of his support.

I still am proud to be a part of D shift, well now Admin we have a great operation here at NWFR and getting better every day. You will still see me wearing my custom Blind Alley bandoleer (*shoulder-belt*) reads "old guy," I have no intention of calling it quits in the near future.



Please remember to keep the district up to date with any changes including your contact information.

All changes should be directed to Kelly.

These changes may include:

Phone

Address

Email

Family Additions

Name changes



Regional Fire Authority cont.

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Q: What is a fire benefit charge?

A: A fire benefit charge (FBC) is not a property tax. It is a charge based on a

national standard and considers required firefighting resources, the size of the building(s) on a property, and the hazards associated with those building(s). For example, a business storing pressurized gas products would pay a larger FBC than an office building of the same size. A new house and an older house of the same size will typically pay the same amount. Eligible low-income senior citizens and disabled persons would typically receive the same percentage discounts

on their FBC as they currently do for property taxes. The FBC funding mechanism requires the approval of not less than 60% of the voters and must be re-approved by voters every six years.

Again, at this time the Committee anticipates the RFA will initially rely upon property taxes to finance operations and not seek approval for an FBC. For more information about FBCs see: coming soon

Q: How much will the RFA cost?

A: Costs cannot be firmly estimated until the RFA Plan being developed by the Planning Committee is completed.

Q: When will I know what the plan is for the RFA and how much it will cost me? How can I have input into the process?

A: The Planning Committee will conduct public meetings as the Plan is developed to answer questions and get input. Meeting summaries and materials the Planning Committee is reviewing will be posted on the website. You can also submit questions and comments at info@nwfrs.net.

For more information please visit the [link](#) to the Regional Fire Authority page.



Be fire smart

with electricity in your home.

45, 

There are approximately **45,000** home electrical fires each year.



Half of all home electrical fires involve lighting equipment or home electrical wiring.



Home electrical fire deaths peak between **midnight and 8 a.m.**



Peak months for electrical fire deaths are **November through March.**

Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (like a coffee maker, space heater or microwave) directly into a wall outlet at a time.



Never use an extension cord with a heat-producing appliance.



Extension cords should only be used temporarily. Have an electrician install additional wall outlets where you need them.



For more information about electrical fire safety, visit www.usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org/public-education.



Events to Celebrate January Birthdays

- 5 — John Hollstein
- 13 — Steve Latham
- 18 — Alden Roberts



NWFR Board Meetings may be conducted via Zoom Meeting/Webinar

*Thurs. January 21
9408 Odell St 61
Blaine — 1:00 p.m.*





4142 Britton Loop Rd.
Bellingham, WA 98226

Providing quality service for
a safe community



CPR / AED Classes 2021

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.



FOR THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY, ALL CPR CLASSES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE

NWFR Donates Apparatus

In 2020, NWFR donated an aid unit, engine and other equipment to Firefighters United, aka Bomberos Unido, who relocate items where they are most needed. Below is the letter of thanks from Union de Tula in Jalisco Mexico, the final destination of the apparatus.

“Today Tuesday, December 15th has been a very significant day as we formally received the donation of the fire truck and ambulance unit. More protective equipment consisting of oxygen tanks, boots, helmets, full costumes and tools from our benefactors: Susy Leon, Fire Captain Moses Castellón, Executive Director of "United Firefighters" in Washington, Seattle. Battalion Chief John Crawford; Captain Dave Steven of North Whatcom Fire and Rescue and Cuauhtémoc Hernandez of Happy Faces A.C.

We also held the inauguration

of the interim base of the Coordination of Civil Protection and Firefighters Union of Television with the placement of an allusive license plate to the benefactor Moses Castellón, son absent from Union of TVla.

There was a special mention to Jesus Ortega, Secretary General of this Honorable City Hall for making it possible that customs formalities, such as documentation, regularization, payment of taxes and requirements was managed so that vehicles could be moved from the United States to our municipality.

Now these units will be a big help to our municipality. All of the above, is real proof that we are changing history for good, because one of the priorities is to care for the health and integrity of Tulians and Tulians.

These emergency care vehicles that are now in service will



provide help to the population and allow us to meet the needs of this region.

Union de Tula now has the civil protection and firefighters that citizenship requires. Thank you so much!”



Immune Boosting Wellness Smoothie



courtesy of Ambitiouskitchen.com

Ingredients

- 1 banana
- 1cup frozen pineapple
- 2-3 cups organic spinach
- 1 knob fresh ginger (2 inches)
- 1 knob turmeric root

- 1/2 TBS manuka or raw honey
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground pepper
- 1/2-3/4 cup almond or coconut milk

Directions

In a large high-powered blender, add in all ingredients and blend on high for 1-2 minutes or until all ingredients are well combined. If necessary, add in more milk to thin the smoothie.

Makes 2 smoothies.

Recipe Notes

Feel free to add in a scoop of your favorite protein powder! If you don't like bananas, feel free

to sub a cored apple.

Nutrition

- Servings: 2 smoothies
- Serving size: 1 smoothie
- Calories: 139.2kcal
- Fat: 2.7g
- Saturated fat: 0.2g
- Carbohydrates: 32.6g
- Fiber: 4g
- Sugar: 19.4g
- Protein: 2.8g

“Immune boosting wellness smoothie packed with nourishing ingredients. Delicious and great for digestion”

