



Volume 14 Issue 5

May, 2021



### Feature Stories

- Member Profile
- Recreational Burning
- RFA Withdrawal
- North Bend Graduates

### 2021 STATISTICS

Apr. 1 — Apr. 30

#### District Average Response Time:

9 min. 09 sec.

#### Responses by Type:

Fire: 13

EMS: 298

Other: 90

**Total: 401**

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

*“Providing Quality Service for a Safe Community”*

## New Member Profile



*by Jackson Saylor*

I was born in Portland, Oregon and grew up a short drive across the Columbia River in Vancouver, Washington. I have two younger sisters and I'm the oldest of nine cousins.

Growing up, I played every sport under the sun from football to croquet. I ending up falling in love with soccer and wrestling. Not only did I play both sports for over a decade, I began coaching kids in high school and have enjoyed it every since. I think I get more out of it than the kids sometimes.

About that same time I started going on service trips to Alaska, Yakima and Spokane through my church and community outreach in my area. I began to see how great of a need there really is in this world, even in my own backyard. I started volunteering for a homeless outreach program in Portland and met a couple

of firefighters there that were volunteering on their off days because they loved their community so much. They told me about what it meant to be a fireman; the amount of determination and perseverance it took, but also how rewarding. I fell in love!

I joined the fire cadet program the next year through my high school. I had the opportunity to spend half the school day at school and the other half at the local fire station learning fire ground techniques and operational principles.

After graduating high school, I started working full-time at a local grocery store, going through EMT school and attending Clark College. I started working as a food delivery driver at night and became the Outdoor and Recreation program president at Clark, running most weekend events. I was a busy guy. I planned various trips, from rock climbing



and backpacking to surfing and snowboarding. We even went to Utah for spring break one year.

After I graduated with my associates degree from Clark, I decided to move across the state and finish my degree at Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman. Go Cougs!

I was hired as a reserve firefighter for Pullman Fire Department shortly the move and began their nine month recruit academy immediately. I formed some strong bonds during the recruit class that I will have for life. We formed a brotherhood that I can't wait to start here at North Whatcom Fire and Rescue.

I continued going to WSU and picked up a gig slinging dough at a local pizza parlor.  
*continued on pg. 2*



## Member Profile cont.

*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*

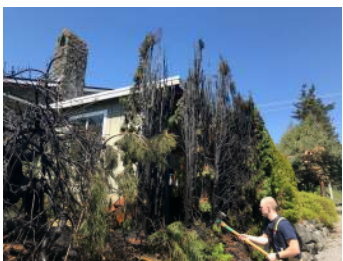
*continued from pg. 1*

About a year after enrolling in Pullman, I also began working for Clarkston Fire Department as a reserve firefighter.

By the time I applied to North Whatcom Fire and Rescue, I had three jobs and was going to school full time. Every call I got inviting me to the next round in the hiring process was more surprising than the last.

When Chief Van der Veen gave me that final call on Dec 11, 2020 I was on my way back to the Clarkston station after a call. I couldn't believe it.

I am so thankful for the support of all my friends and family. I can finally call my dream my career. I am absolutely exuberant and thankful to be a part of NWFR and I look forward to serving the people of Whatcom county!



## Recreational Burning Information

### Outdoor fire safety

- Move the grill away from siding, decking, and other things that can catch fire.
- Stay with the grill the entire time you're cooking.
- Build campfires at least 25 feet away from walls, shrubs, or other things that burn.
- Use a metal screen over wood-burning fires to keep sparks from floating out.
- Have a charged garden hose or two buckets of water nearby.
- Turn off or put out fires before you leave the backyard or campsite.

### Wildfire safety

- Create a safety zone of up to 100 feet around your home. Remove pine needles and dry leaves from around your home and keep woodpiles at least 30 feet from your home.
- Know your community's local evacuation plan. Plan ahead by practicing two ways out of your neighborhood. You should know the evacuation route and plan a place where you will go.
- If you are told to evacuate, do so immediately. If you wait until the last minute, the roads may have heavy traffic. Blowing embers and debris from the fire may make it hard to see.
- Stay informed. Listen to the TV/radio broadcasts for current weather and emergency instructions. Sign up to receive local emergency alerts and warnings on both your home phone and cellphone.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows your meeting place ahead of time. Let your family and friends who do not live in your area know your meeting place.
- Keep your car fueled and keep an emergency supply kit in your car. Back your car into the garage or park it in an open space facing the direction of escape.

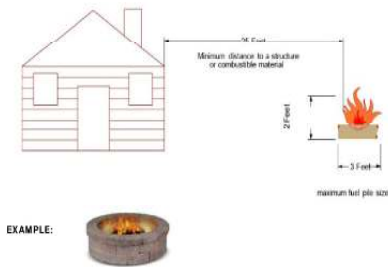
# Recreational Burning cont.

## General Fire Rules

- All fires must be attended by 16 year old or older
- Can only burn natural vegetation grown on that property
- No burn barrels allowed anywhere at any time
- No burning at any commercial business
- No burning of household garbage
- No burning of paper or cardboard (except to get fire started)
- No burning when winds exceed 7 miles per hour
- No construction debris / milled lumber of any kind
- Must have landowner permission to light all fires



Recreational Fires (Wood Fire Pit)



Portable outdoor fireplaces (Wood)



## NWFR Withdraws from RFA Press Release

April 19, 2021

**Board of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 21 (“District 21”) Announces Withdrawal From the Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Planning Committee with Whatcom County Fire District No. 4 (“District 4”)**

(Lynden, WA)-The District 21 Fire Commission has announced that they have ended the joint effort to form a Regional Fire Authority (RFA) with District 4. Pursuant to statute, the withdrawal becomes effective 30 days after notification, but no Planning Committee meetings are scheduled during the 30 days.

Commissioner Bruce Ansell said, “Although we plan to continue exploring regionalization opportunities for the benefit of our citizens, District 4 is not the right partner for us at this time”.

In an open public meeting on April 15, 2021, the commission unanimously approved withdrawing from the RFA process. They noted that the decision was very difficult, especially because District 4 has terminated the Inter-Local Agreement for District 21 to provide fire and emergency medical services to District 4 residents and businesses. However, District 21’s commissioners agreed that there are cultural and strategic differences between the two fire commissions that made moving forward with an RFA inadvisable.

District 21 will continue to provide fire and emergency medical services in District 4 through December 31, 2021. District 21 will work collaboratively with District 4 during the transition period, and has invited District 4 to submit recommendations for a new Inter-Local Agreement to ensure that District 4 continues to receive high quality fire and emergency medical services.

Commissioner Ansell stated, “Our commission thanks all of our dedicated staff members who worked to support the planning committee. We are deeply disappointed, but must always keep at the forefront of our work our taxpayers and employees and what is best for them. We are committed to providing excellent service to our taxpayers, and we are committed to the employees who provide that service”.

Each district will be separately communicating with their residents about future plans.

## Events to Celebrate May Birthdays

- 2 — Mike Peetoom
- 25 — Melissa Van Cleve
- 26 — Scott Fischer
- 27 — Brian Carlson
- 30 — Jessica King
- 31 — Noah Silverman



**NWFR Board Meetings may be conducted via Zoom Meeting/Webinar**

Thurs. May 20  
9408 Odell St 61  
Blaine — 1:00 p.m.





1507 E. Badger Rd.  
Lynden, WA 98264

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### 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

## Recruits Graduate North Bend Academy

NWFR applauds the newest probationary firefighters who recently graduated from the Washington State Fire Academy in North Bend. The academy consisted of twelve weeks of intense training. Following each week of training, North Whatcom Fire and Rescue received their evaluations; all consistently positive.

Patty McDermott received the “Most Inspirational Recruit” award; it was said she always had a smile, kind words and a go get em attitude.

Evan Maack received the “1<sup>st</sup> Due Engine Company” award for his role in the group and was considered a leader in the academy.

Jackson Salyer also received the “1<sup>st</sup> Due Engine Company” award. Jackson always had a smile on his face and worked very hard to hone his skills.

All three are very motivated and possessed great attitudes.

Seth Meredith arrived at the same time as the other three, but had previously completed

the North Bend program. Seth assisted the other three in ensuring that they were ready to hit North Bend with no limitations.

The three new members will be at Birch Bay Station 63 for the next ten shifts.

Please welcome them to NWFR when you see them.

## Washington State FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY



## RECRUIT ACADEMY GRADUATION CLASS 2021-01

Thursday, April 22, 2021  
3:00 p.m.

Fire Training Academy  
North Bend, Washington



Seth Meredith

Evan Maack

Patty McDermott

Jackson Salyer

Division Chief Ward