



Volume 12, Issue 10  
October, 2019

### Feature Stories

- Fallen Firefighter Memorial
- Fire Prevention
- BB Berm Project
- Pumpkin Party
- 9-11 Ceremony

### 2019 STATISTICS

*Sept. 1 — Sept. 30*

### District Average Response Time:

9 min. 11 sec.

### Responses by Type:

Fire: 12

EMS: 297

Other: 104

**Total: 413**

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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”*



## IAFF National Fallen Firefighters Memorial

The IAFF National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Foundation sponsors the official national tribute to all firefighters who died in the line of duty during the previous year. Thousands attend the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Colorado Springs.

The Memorial, honors the sacrifice made by IAFF members from the United States as well as Canada who have given their lives in the line of duty.

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue firefighter John Swobody, who lost his battle with cancer on June 4, 2018, was added to the wall this year. A total of 250 fallen firefighters were added during this year's event.

NWFR members Danny Jensen and Chuck Shipp attended the ceremony and presented John's wife Annette with a flag.

Other NWFR attendees participated in the event as part of the Bellingham Fire Department Pipes and Drums, included Kenneth Cunningham, D.J. Riehl, Tony Esser and John Geleynse.

The annual ceremony remains an uplifting service for the families, friends and loved ones, celebrating the lives, heroism and accomplishments of our union's bravest of the brave.



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

## Fire Prevention Month



Fire prevention is a function of many fire departments. The goal of fire prevention is to educate the public to take precautions to prevent potentially harmful fires, and be educated about surviving them. It is a

proactive method of reducing emergencies and the damage caused by them.

For additional information and learning ideas visit <https://www.nfpa.org/fpw>



## Give Praise with Poise



by Steven Gillespie

Praise in public, criticism in private—we have all heard that phrase. Those words, spoken to me long ago, still ring true today. In November 2015, Forbes published an article speaking to the value of praise and how this simple act boosts morale and productivity. Furthermore, in August 2018, the Harvard Business Review reported that respect was ranked as the number one leadership behavior in the

workplace. By the way, did I mention that giving earned praise does not cost a thing?

### Practice what you want to say

When it comes to disciplining employees, there is usually a structured process in place (or there should be). If you don't do things a certain way, it can open an organization up to potential legal action. But if there is structure for disciplining employees, why is there no structured process for giving praise?

It's quite simple: No organization is going to be sued having to defend a supervisor praising someone, no matter how much they stumbled over their words.

In order to maintain the im-

portance and effect of recognizing an employee's good work, you must practice how and what you want to say. After all, if acknowledging good work is truly important to you, would you not take some time to gather your thoughts and not screw it up?

Before you rush off to shower the masses with praise, you must determine who are you praising, why are you praising them, how are you going to do it and if it is consistent. Let's say Jack mentions that Jill has been doing a great job working on project X. You give Jill her due praise, only later to find out that Sally has been the true workhorse.

*continued on pg. 3*



## Praise Cont.

*continued from pg. 2*

Now you have lavished Jill with unwarranted praise and anything you say to Sally is somewhat empty. You must have a plan in place to determine the who, why and how of your praise.

This may seem simple, but you also need to be cautious about over-acknowledging someone, thus minimizing praise as a whole. When it becomes too commonplace, it diminishes its value.

### How will you give praise?

Many options are available to praise an employee. A simple handshake and conversation, a group setting in front of the team, or a more formal setting, e.g., award ceremony, all suffice. Now for the disclaimer—you must be consistent, or your praise will breed discontent.

Make sure you praise everyone equally according to their contribution. The last thing you need is for someone to be thinking, I did the same thing

last week, where's my notice?

Sometimes, we get so busy looking down the road that we forget to notice where we are. So take my advice and do what I have started to do on a regular and warranted basis—let your team know how much you value them and how lucky you are to have them, because your ability to make an impact or positive impression is frequently due, in part, to their hard work. Again, it's free, and it can mean the world to people who want to know that their contributions mean something.

Before I close out this article, I have to hit on something. If, for whatever reason, you criticize someone in a public setting, you need to have the courage to apologize to them in the same public setting. How many times has this scenario occurred when a boss gets upset and lets an employee know about it in front of the team? Later, the boss realizes they were wrong and apologizes to the employee,

but this time, it is in a private setting. We have all seen it, and many of us have done it. If you can chew someone out in front of an audience, you can eat crow in front of the same audience.

### Closing thoughts

Be sincere with your praise. Know why you are praising, give the praise to those who deserve it, and be consistent about it. Do these small things and you will prove the research right: Respected leaders lead high-functioning teams with off-the-charts morale. That gets the job done better and with the pride of group ownership, and isn't that ultimately the best for everyone?

Information provided by Firehouse

<https://www.firehouse.com/leadership/article/21090842/leadership>



### Events to Celebrate October Birthdays

- 5 — Kris Parks
- 8 — Shaun Ward
- 10 — David Hancock
- 31 — Aaron Ebner



### Fire Commissioner Meetings NWFR

Thurs. October 17  
9408 Odell St 61 Blaine —  
1:00 p.m.

### District 4

Tues. October 15  
4142 Britton Loop St 12  
Bellingham — 12:00 p.m.

## Birch Bay Drive & Pedestrian Facility Project

by Chief Joe Noonchester

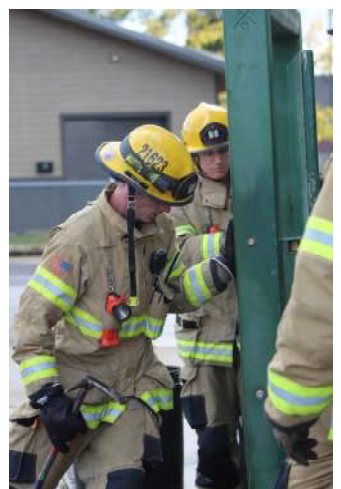


I was honored to attend the Birch Bay Drive & Pedestrian Facility Project dedication on Friday September 6<sup>th</sup>. The planning of this project goes back nearly 40 years and has finally come to fruition.

The project will help to reduce, if not eliminate the threat of flooding along Birch Bay Drive during a king tide event. It will also provide a clean and safe place for bikers and pedestrians along the road.

I was extremely impressed by the number of attendees. Many dignitaries were there including our County Executive Jack Louws, State Representative Luann Van Werven, Tribal Elders from The Lummi Tribe and many others. The Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce and several other groups have worked extremely hard for many years to see this project through.

Thank you to Mike Peetoom for your efforts in this also! Great job!





4142 Britton Loop Rd.  
Bellingham, WA 98226

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### Free Friends and Family CPR Classes 2019

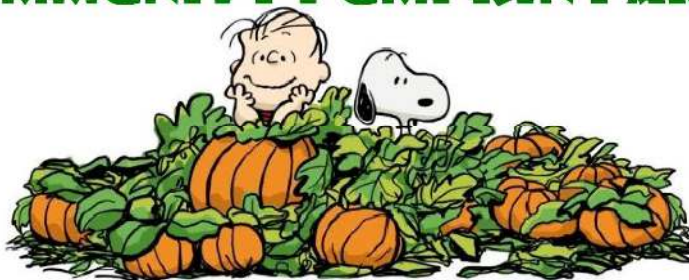
Class will be held from 6:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m. at various fire stations around the district. Check out [www.nwfrs.com](http://www.nwfrs.com) for more information and to reserve your spot.

- March 27
- April 24
- May 29
- June 15 CPR and First Aid
- June 26
- July 31
- August 21
- September 21
- September 25
- October 30
- November 20
- December 18



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

# COMMUNITY PUMPKIN PARTY



**Monday, October 28, 2019 6-8pm**

**Where: Fire District 4, Station 12 (4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham)**

**Cost: FREE**

**Bring the whole family to carve pumpkins, decorate cookies and have fun! Carving equipment will be provided. Limited pumpkins available on a first come, first serve basis.**

**E-mail: [jsand@nwfrs.com](mailto:jsand@nwfrs.com)**

## 9-11 Peace Arch Memorial

Wednesday, September 11, 2019, motorcycle enthusiasts, first responders, Border, Custom and VIP guests converged at the Peace Arch Park to honor those who lost their lives in the horrific attacks in 2001. This is the eighteenth anniversary of the 9-11 attacks. The ceremony at the border began at 10:30 am followed by a special BBQ luncheon, with donation proceeds benefiting [Behind the Badge Foundation](#) and the [Honour House Society](#).

Four guests of honor from New York attended the event to represent their fallen comrades and all those who perished on September 11, 2001.

The group arrived a few days prior to the event and received extensive tours on both sides of the border.

- ◆ Robert Abril FDNY
- ◆ Marna Rann NYPD
- ◆ Dennis O'Connell NYPD
- ◆ Christine Reyes NYPD

Others in attendance included US Consul General Katherine Dhanani, and Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of British Columbia, Rich Coleman.

Over two-hundred fifty heroes from both sides of the border participated in the memorial and reception.

