The Responder

Volume 10, Issue 9
September, 2017

Never Forget 9/11

"Providing Quality Service for a Safe Community"

Feature Stories

- Member Profile
- Northlake Block Party
- Training Corner
- Back to School
- 9-11 Ceremony

2017 STATISTICS

August 1 — August 31

Average Response Time:
9 min. 32 sec.

Responses by Type:

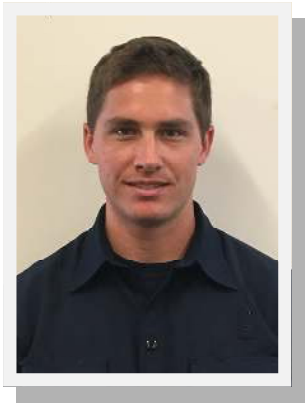
Fire: 23
EMS: 221
Other: 148

Total: 392

Like Us On facebook

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

Member Profile



by Recruit FF Zackary Balonick

I spent the first eighteen years of my life living north of Los Angeles, California, in Sunland, in a close knit family with three older sisters and my parents. Growing up my family and I spent summers taking road trips, as far east as Colorado, from border to border We spent most of our time along the coast, bouncing from lake to Lk., our favorite being lake Shasta in Northern California. We'd take our boat with us and spend days skiing and camping. This shaped my hobbies to become what they are today, spending as much time as I can outdoors; water skiing, dirt and mountain biking, snowboarding and hiking. If it's outdoors there's a good chance I'll find enjoyment in it.

Living in California is what initially got me thinking about the fire service. Down south we joke that our four seasons are mild, hot, windy and fire, and from an early age I can remember smoke filled summers and seeing flames licking off the ridge tops from down in the valley where we lived. The summer of 2009 was by far the most memorable fire season looking back. The station fire started early on and began working its way towards our town, gaining momentum as it closed in. At night my now fiancé, Amy and I would go up to an old radio tower on the opposing ridge top and watch as the fire pushed west across the mountain side. During the day I'd sit on my parents roof, watching through my dad's spotting scope and

continued on pg. 2

NWFR Attends Northlake Annual Block Party

Britton Loop Station 12 firefighters participated in the annual Northlake Community Church Block Party on Wednesday, August 9th, from 5:00 - 8:00 PM at 1471 McLeod Rd. in Bellingham. The event which was open to everyone, provided food, games, face painting, inflatables, antique cars and music. North Whatcom Fire and Rescue manned the fire safety house and provide an opportunity for children to discuss fire safety and practice home escape routes.

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

All changes should be directed to Jennie. These changes may include:

Phone

Address

Email

Banking

Family Additions

Name changes

Member Profile cont.

continued from pg. 1

watch as crews, helicopters, and planes tried to slow the Front. I was amazed by the scale of the operation taking place. It was at this moment I knew I wanted to become a firefighter.

The following summer I moved to Bellingham to attend Western Washington University. Through Western I earned a degree in Math and joined the Men's Rowing team. When I graduated I wasn't sure what direction to go, I knew I wanted to join the fire service but had no idea where to start. Then I remembered, every sleepy eyed morning driving to rowing practice at 4:30 a.m. passing by Station 21 and the sign asking for volunteers. Since then, about two years ago now, I began volunteering for South Whatcom, which is what helped me to get a job with the Department of Natural Resources as a wildland firefighter,

and later led me to learn more about North Whatcom Fire and Rescue. I am very happy and honored to be serving with North Whatcom. My fiancé and myself look forward to the adventures that lay ahead of us.

The Training Corner

by Captain Kris Jorgensen

North Whatcom Fire & Rescue career firefighters (Sean Roberts, Zach Balonick & Steve Latham) are currently attending the North Bend Fire Academy and are doing great. All members are excelling on their practical skills, classroom work, quizzes and tests. Each member is working hard while attending all day Monday through Thursday. Upon completion, each recruit will test for the Washington State Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Hazardous Materials Operations. Academy graduation date is scheduled for November 3, 2017.

We now have four volunteers (Ian Kjera, Spencer Morgan, Kyle Wheeler and Luke Haran) who have just began the Whatcom County Recruit Fire Academy. Recruits meet on Tuesday, Thursday evenings, all day Saturday and some Sundays. Upon completion, each recruit will test for the Washington State Firefighter 1, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Hazardous Materials Operations. Academy graduation date is scheduled for mid-December.

We now have one more Tender Operator, Mike Peetoom. Tender Operator Peetoom will be attending training on Monday evenings learning about tender driving, operations and pumping along the rest of the North Whatcom Fire & Rescue Tender Group.

Sparky's Back-to-School Safety Tips

Say goodbye to summer and hello to fall. It's school time again! Just like teachers, books, and homework go hand in hand with the school year, so should safety.

* While waiting for the bus, take five giant steps back from the curb until the bus has stopped completely.
* Inside the bus, stay seated at all times.
* Keep head, arms and hands inside the bus. Never throw anything out of the bus window.
* Always hold on to the bus handrails when you are getting on or off the bus so you don't fall.
* Be careful that clothing, book bags, and key rings don't get caught in the handrails or doors
* When getting off the bus, go to the closest sidewalk or side of the road and take five giant steps away from the bus.
* If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. If you bend over to pick it up, the bus driver may not be able to see you.

* Children under age 10 should never cross a street without a grown-up.
* Choose a safe route to school. Look for the most direct route with the fewest street crossings.
* When crossing the street, stop at the curb or edge of the road.
* Look left, then right, then left again for moving cars before crossing.
* Keep looking left and right until you are safely across the street – and remember to walk, not run.
* Follow all traffic signals and markings.
* Don't enter the street from between parked cars or from behind bushes or shrubs. Drivers might not be able to see you.

* If you are old enough to ride alone, plan a safe route to school and have a grown-up ride with you the first few times.
* Children under 10 shouldn't ride on the road without a grown-up.
* Be sure that your helmet fits. It should sit even on top of the head –not rocking in any direction–and always fasten the safety strap.
* Learn the proper hand signals and use them when you turn or stop.
* Walk, do not ride your bike across the street.
* Come to a complete stop before entering driveways, paths or sidewalks, then look left, right and left again for bikes, cars or pedestrians heading your way.
* Do not ride at night.

Events to Celebrate September Birthdays

11—Levi Wigg
12—Jeff Haley
19—Brian Botta Pillo
21—Stefen Paige
25—Rob Mulrooney
27—Mike Ross

Fire Commissioner Meetings
NWFR
Thurs. September 21
9408 Odell St 61 Blaine — 7:00 p.m.

District 4
Thurs. September 14
4142 Britton Loop St 12
Bellingham —12:00 p.m.

4142 Britton Loop Rd.
Bellingham, WA 98226

Providing quality service for a safe community

Free Friends and Family CPR Classes

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

January 17
February 27
March 28
April 18
May 23
June 17
June 27
July 26
August 22
September 25
October 23
November 15
December 20

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

9-11 Peace Arch Memorial Ceremony

Join first responders, Border Custom and VIP guests on Monday, September 11th at the Peace Arch Park Border for the 16th annual 9-11 Memorial Ceremony and reception. The ceremony is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. followed by a BBQ lunch.

Guests of honor from New York will attend the event to represent their fallen comrades and all those who perished on September 11, 2001.

The event was founded in 2002 to commemorate the nearly 3,000 people who died in the attacks, including more than 400 police officers and firefighters.

Donation proceeds will benefit Behind the Badge Foundation and the Honour House Society.

NWFR Welcome Back Blaine Students