



Volume 18 Issue 3

March, 2025



Feature Stories

- New Member Bio
- Fire History
- February Calls

2025 STATISTICS

Feb 1 — Feb 28

District Average Response Time:

10 min. 20 sec.

Responses by Type:

Fire: 5

EMS: 352

Other: 137

Total: 194



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 Bio



Prob FF Angela Smith

I was born into a Navy family in Cook County, Chicago. I’ve lived in a few different places depending on where we were stationed—New Orleans, Georgia, and Oak Harbor, to name a few. When my father retired, we finally settled in Bellingham. Though none of my family currently live here, this is the place I decided to call my forever home.

I grew up as the younger middle child in a family of four siblings—I have two sisters and one brother. Having siblings in our home is what kept me going. My upbringing taught me grit—adapting, working hard, and keeping going, even when things weren’t easy. I’m grateful for that because it shaped who I am today.

I had always been active and tried almost every sport, but gymnastics became my true passion. I spent years competing for Leading Edge Gymnastics (now North Coast Gymnastics) but ultimately had to call it quits when life got in the way.

I’ve always enjoyed activities that challenge me physically and mentally—mountain biking, snowboarding, hiking, tough backpacking trips, and, more recently, endurance running. After completing a Tough Mudder and the Bellingham Bay half marathon last year, I felt inspired to continue challenging myself. I hope to complete the Bellingham Bay full marathon



this year and, eventually, an ultramarathon.

I graduated from Sehome High School in 2010 and earned my associate’s in sciences from Whatcom Community College, originally planning to go into nursing. I worked as a CNA in a nursing home for a while, but after a mountain biking injury,

I had to step back from lifting patients. Around that time, I also took on a full-time job at Costco, eventually moving into management.

At first glance, Costco is just a big box store. But working there taught me more than I ever expected. I worked alongside people from all walks of life and learned how much teamwork, leadership, and adaptability matter in any job. It showed me that success isn’t about one person—it’s about recognizing people’s strengths, supporting each other, and working toward a common goal. Those lessons have stayed with me, shaping how I approach challenges and work within a team.

The fire service had always interested me, but after seeing my fiancé, Thomas, volunteer as a firefighter, I became even more curious. As I watched him go through the process of becoming a career firefighter—going through testing, interviews, and academy training—I saw firsthand the dedication it required. His passion for the job made me want to learn more, and the more I learned, the more I felt drawn to it.

I also had the opportunity to watch his department grow *continued on pg. 2*

New Member Bio cont.

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue welcomes suggestions for upcoming newsletters.

Please submit your ideas or suggestions to info@mvfrs.com



February Top Responders
PFF Ojukwu (62)
FF Latham (60)
Cpt. Hollander (57)

Station Calls
St 12 – 94
St 61 – 136
St 63 – 135
St 69 – 129



continued from pg. 1
and to meet his coworkers. Seeing their camaraderie and dedication gave me a new appreciation for what it means to serve a community. It wasn't just about the calls they responded to—it was about the way they supported each other and showed up when it mattered most.

Eventually, I volunteered with South Whatcom Fire while still working at Costco. I went through EMT training and a volunteer fire academy, and I quickly realized that my time at the station was something I looked forward to every week. The fire ser-

vice introduced me to a group of people who were much like me—people who challenged each other, looked out for one another, and always learned. It didn't take long to realize this was the path I wanted to take.

One of the things I love most about firefighting is that the learning never stops. Every shift is different, and there's always something new to take in. I've always been the type of person who likes to keep learning and improving, and firefighting provides that in a way I've never experienced before.

After a while volunteering, I made the decision to step away from my management role at Costco to pursue firefighting full-time, and I couldn't be more excited for this next chapter. I hope to expand my skills as a firefighter and EMT, gain more experience, and continue growing in a career that pushes me to improve every day. More than anything, I just want to keep learning, keep challenging myself, and hopefully inspire others to do the same.



This Month in Fire History: March

FIREHOUSE

Excerpts taken from Firehouse article by Steven Shaw/Managing Editor, Firehouse.com

March 10, 1941, Brockton, MA – The Strand Theatre Fire

A fire was discovered in the basement of the theater below the candy counter. What seemed like a small routine fire call, turned into one of the deadliest fires in the history of the US Fire Service. In all 13 firefighters were killed and 20 injured in the blaze. The small fire in the basement made its way up the walls and through the roof eventually causing the steel roof trusses to buckle and partially collapse.

March 18, 1996, Chesapeake, VA – Advanced Auto Parts Fire

The fire started when a power company employee set up a service truck to disconnect power to a customer who had not paid their bill. The articulating boom of the service truck caused an electrical flash. The flash mixed with the flammable products of the auto parts store contributed to the rapid growth of the fire leading to the deaths of two firefighters.

March 22, 2018, York, PA – Piano Warehouse Collapse

100 firefighters battled a blaze in the warehouse where the seat of the fire was difficult to find due to the thick gray smoke pouring out of the building upon arrival. Two firefighters were killed the following day at the site when a wall collapsed on them while

they were putting out hot spots. Several other firefighters were also trapped at this collapse which required activation of the regional technical rescue team to rescue them.

March 25, 1911, New York City – Triangle Shirtwaist Building Fire

A discarded cigarette ignited a scrap fabric bin leading to one of the worst tragedies New York City had ever seen. 575 workers were finishing a seven-hour overtime shift at the Triangle Shirtwaist Co when the fire broke out on the 8th floor of the ten-story building. The fire rapidly spread from the 8th floor to the 9th floor and then on to the 10th floor due to the factory's hazardous environment (flammable materials stored on production floor, overcrowded workspaces, locked doors, inadequate fire escapes, and lack of sprinkler system).

When the firefighters arrived, they found that their ladders were too short to reach the upper floors. The overloaded fire escape soon collapsed. Many workers were unable to escape the inferno, jumped to their deaths. In all, 146 workers lost their lives that day.

As a result of this fire, there have been many advancements, not only in labor law reforms and the advancement of Woman's Suffrage, but the seeds of the life safety code were planted.

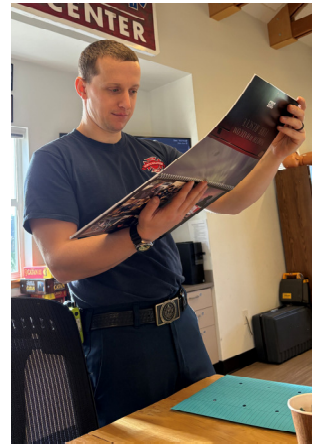
March 25, 1990, Bronx, NY – Happy Land Social Club Fire

The Happy Land Social Club Fire was the result of arson, where an angry patron was kicked out of the club after having a dispute with an ex-

girlfriend. The individual left the club, went to a nearby gas station and purchased gasoline. He then returned to the club and poured the gasoline on the only staircase leading to the only available exit. 87 people lost their lives in this fire.

The incident prompted reevaluation of fire safety regulations and enforcement in NYC. The lack of proper fire exits, alarms, and sprinklers at the club highlighted the importance of stringent safety measures to prevent such tragedies.

URL: <https://www.firehouse.com/operations-training/article/53098102/this-month-in-fire-history-march-2024>



Events to Celebrate March Birthdays
3 – Michael Welch
12 – Trent Viant
13 – Tim Johnson
19 – Haley Urling-Ebinger
25 – John Cranford
28 – Sabrina Renskers

NWFR Meetings will be conducted in person
Thurs. Mar. 20
9408 Odell St 61
Blaine — 10:30 a.m.



District 4 Meetings continue to be conducted via Zoom with some in person
Mon. Mar. 17
4142 Britton Loop St 12
Bellingham — 12:00 p.m.





1507 E. Badger Rd
PO Box 286
Lynden, WA 98264

Providing quality service for
a safe community



CPR / AED Classes 2025

Class will be held at various
fire stations around the district. Check out

<https://www.nwfrs.net/cpr-course/>

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.

**CPR/AED
FIRST AID**
April 25,
Odell St 61
10:30 am

Bellingham Whatcom..
@BWCFBF

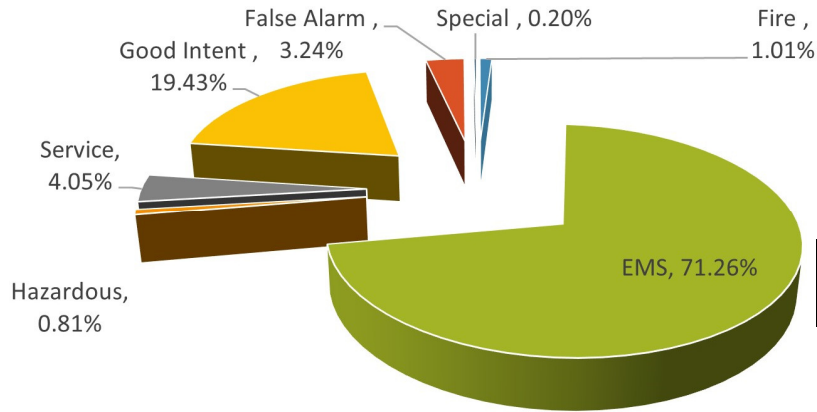


venmo

Benevolent Fund
Donation Link

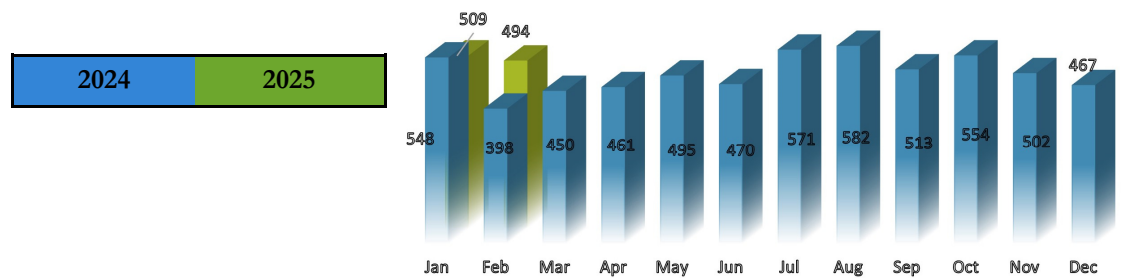
February Calls

Total Calls = 494

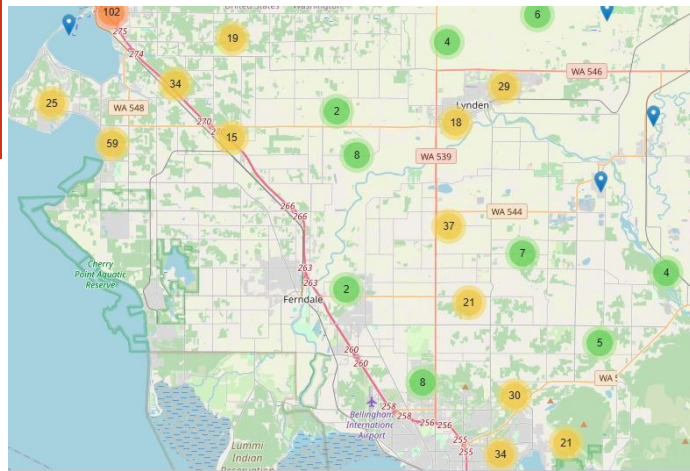


Types of Calls

False Alarms = 16

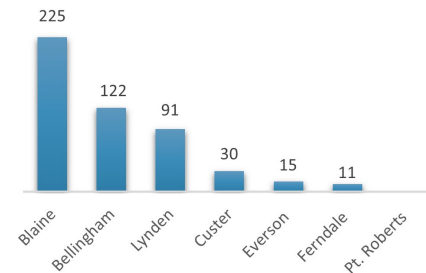
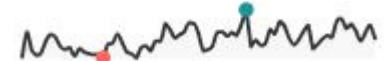


Location of Calls



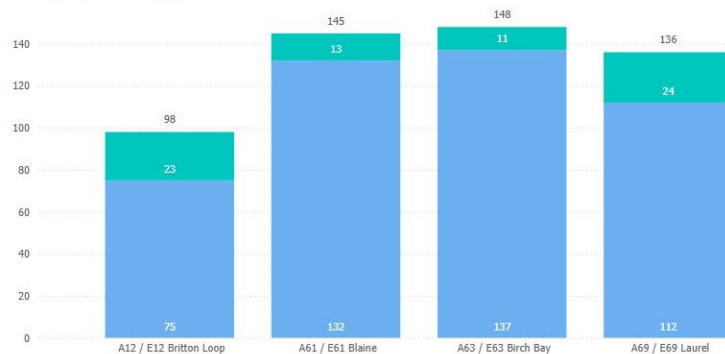
Average Calls Per Day

18.30



Apparatus Responses

Dispatch Category ● EMS ● Fire



Total Overlapping Calls

221