



Volume 18 Issue 11

Nov, 2025



Feature Stories

- Thanksgiving
- CAP Store
- Pumpkin Party
- Trick or Treat
- Fire History
- October Calls

2025 STATISTICS

Oct 1 — Oct 31

District Average Response Time:

10 min. 35 sec.

Responses by Type:

Fire: 9

EMS: 336

Other: 144

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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"

Thanksgiving Safety Tips

Holiday season is a time for family, friends and feasts. This may mean you will be spending more time than usual in the kitchen.

Cooking is the main cause of home fires any time of the year but it is especially common on Thanksgiving.

The average number of home fires in residential buildings on this day is often **double** the number of home fires throughout the rest of the year.

Be smart about how you cook this season by following these ten tips:

1. **Stand by your pan.** If you leave your kitchen, turn the burner off.
2. **Keep an eye on what you fry!** Most cooking fires start when frying food.
3. **Roll up your sleeves.** This reduces the chance that they'll catch fire.
4. **Supervise children and pets.** Make sure they stay away from the stove.
5. **Watch what you're cooking!** If you see any smoke, or grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.
6. **If there's an oven fire, keep the door closed.** Turn off the oven and keep the door

closed until it's cool.

7. **Move things that can burn away from the stove.** This includes dishtowels, bags, boxes, paper and curtains.

8. **Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove.** This is so no one can bump them or pull them over.

9. **Only use a turkey fryer outdoors.** Make sure that it the fryer is on a sturdy surface, away from things that can burn.

10. **Check smoke alarms.** Make sure to have working smoke alarms close to where anyone may be sleeping.

Blaine and Birch Bay Community Toy Store (CAP)



The Community Toy Store is a holiday gift assistance program that seeks to provide a hand up instead of a handout for families facing difficult financial circumstances. This model fully involves the parents, giving them the joy and dignity of personally providing gifts for

their own children, as well as being contributors to their community. The program has been operating successfully in Bellingham for over fifteen years. The Blaine and Birch Bay program began in 2018. It is sponsored by The Community Assistance Program with support from many churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals in our community.

Brand new, unwrapped toys are donated by community members and prices are marked down about 80%. Gift cards to a variety of stores will be available for

children between the ages of 11 and 18. Gifts are arranged in a store-like setting where parents can shop on a cash-only basis, choosing several gifts per child. Voucher assistance is available for those families that need additional help. Proceeds from toy sales will be distributed to non-profits that serve families in our own community.

For more information visit:

<https://blainecap.org/community-toy-store/community-toy-store-donations/>

NWFR Hosts Pumpkin Party at Odell St 61

*North Whatcom
Fire and Rescue
welcomes suggestions
for upcoming
newsletters. Please
submit your ideas or
suggestions to
info@nwfrs.com*

**October
Top Responders**
CPT Mulrooney (60)
CPT Thompson (56)
FF May (50)
FF Brondor (50)
FF Bruch (50)



PUMPKIN CARVING PARTY



NWFR Participates in Trick or Treat on the Berm



This Month in Fire History: November

November 25, 2002, Coos Bay, OR – Auto Supply Store Roof Collapse

On November 25, 2002, an explosive fire at an auto body shop killed three firefighters when the roof collapsed. Witnesses said they heard a loud explosion and saw the roof of the body shop cave in. The State Fire Marshal said that the grease being incinerated in a furnace at a parts-cleaning operation caused the combustion of roofing materials that burst into flames when they came into contact with a supply of oxygen.

OSHA conducted a nearly six-month investigation that found 16 violations of federal safety standards, 13 of them classified as serious. The findings resulted in \$50,450 in fines against the city of Coos Bay.



November 28, 1942, Boston, MA – Coconut Grove Nightclub Fire



On November 28, 1942, the Coconut Grove Nightclub overflowed with customers. The club, which had a legal capacity of 460 people, had more than 1,000 patrons in attendance that

night. The Coconut Grove Nightclub Fire is considered the deadliest nightclub fire in history and the third-deadliest building fire in US history.

The fire originated in the basement and quickly spread through the building with the help of flammable decorations, cloth-covered ceilings and coconut palms. The only entrance into the club was through a revolving front door. Other exits had been bricked over or welded shut during prohibition when the club was one of Boston's hottest speakeasies.

Tragically, 492 people died and another 166 were injured.

The fire led to significant changes in building codes and safety practices across the United States. Laws were enacted requiring public establishments to have a minimum of two clearly marked exits, with doors that swing outward. Regulations mandated that revolving doors must either be flanked by a least one normal, outward swinging door or be retrofitted to fold flat in emergencies. Illuminated exits signs and emergency lighting became mandatory, with independent power source to ensure visibility even in thick smoke.

November 29, 1988, Kansas City, MO – Construction Site Explosion

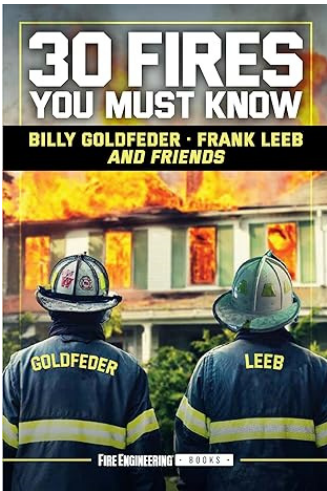
On November 29, 1988, a tragic explosion occurred at a highway construction site resulting the deaths of six firefighters. The Kansas City Fire Department received a call reporting a fire at a highway construction site.

A unit arrived on scene and found two separate fires burning and requested a second engine to respond. After extinguishing one fire, the units concentrated on the second fire, a truck, trailer and compressor. None of the vehicles or trailer appeared to be marked as containing explosives.

The firefighters had no indication to suspect any explosives were involved in the fires they were attempting to extinguish. As it turned out, the 'trailer' that was on fire was actually an explosive magazine. The explosion from the magazine killed six firefighters that day.



Source URL: <https://www.firehouse.com/operations-training/article/55041408/this-month-in-fire-history-may-2024>
30 Fires You Must Know, Billy Goldfeder and Frank Leeb, Fire Engineering Books, Copyright 2024



Events to Celebrate November Birthdays

- 7 – Scott Wood
- 9 – Jon Abrenholz
- 9 – Liz Bronder
- 12 – Andrew Veith
- 14 – Jennie Sand
- 18 – Russ Briskeen
- 21 – Lane Renskers
- 22 – Wayne Sanders
- 22 – Adam Smith
- 27 – RJ King
- 29 – Alex Georgoulas

NWFR Meetings will be conducted in person

Thur. Nov. 20
9408 Odell St 61
Blaine — 10:30 a.m.



District 4 Meetings continue to be conducted via Zoom with some in person

Thurs. Nov. 13 (in person)
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

Nov 16

Dec 7

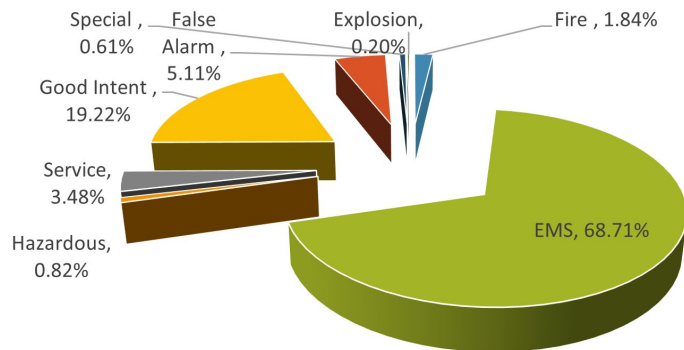
Bellingham Whatcom..
@BWCFBF



venmo

Benevolent Fund
Donation Link

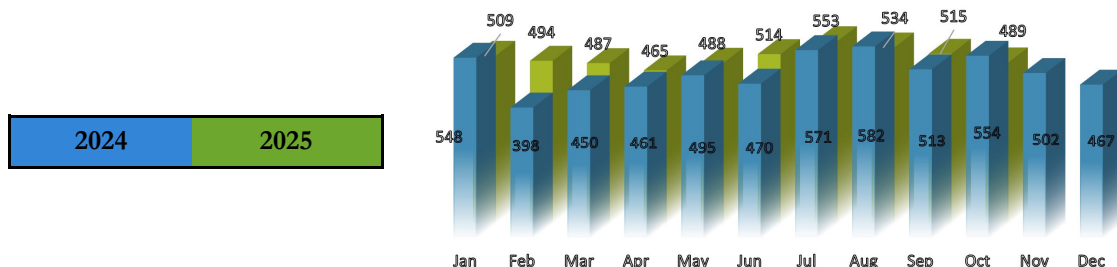
October Calls



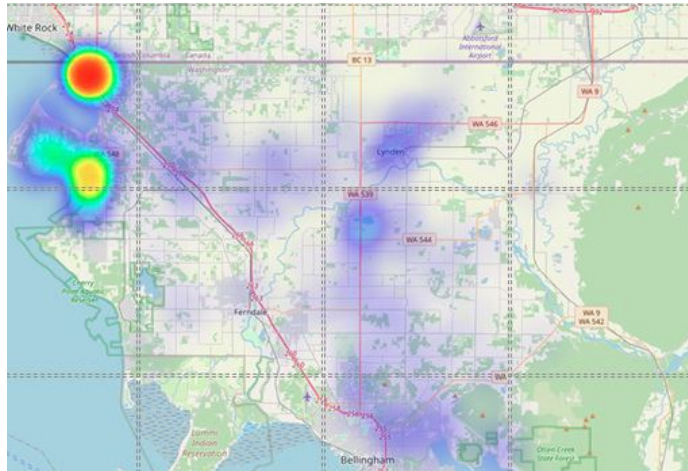
Total Calls = 489

Types of Calls

False Alarms = 25

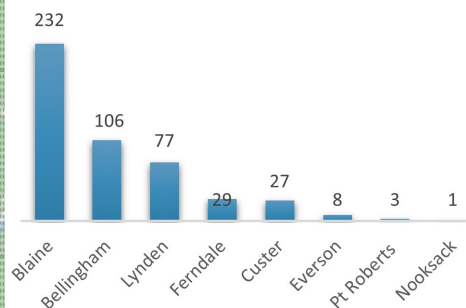


Location of Calls



Average Calls Per Day

16.30



Total Overlapping Calls

184

Patient Care Reports

325

Patient Transports

107

Apparatus Responses

