



Volume 19 Issue 8

August, 2026



Feature Stories

- Families
- Grilling Safety
- National Night Out
- Battle of the Badges
- July Calls

2026 STATISTICS

July 1 — July 31

District Average Response Time:

9 min. sec. 42

Responses by Type:

Fire: 23

EMS: 352

Other: 140

Like Us On  **facebook**

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

Whatcom County Fire District 21 (NWFR)

‘Providing Quality Service for a Safe Community’

Thank You to Our Firefighter Families

By Chief Van der Veen



Behind every firefighter on shift is someone at home holding everything together. We don't thank you enough.

You've sat alone in the bleachers at the game, snapped birthday photos solo, and explained (again) why Dad or Mom couldn't make the band concert. And of course, the universe has a sense of humor: the

water heater always dies, the car always breaks down, and the dog always eats something questionable exactly when your firefighter is 24 hours into a shift and can't do anything but call and ask, "Wait, seriously? Right now?"



You've become the on-call parent, plumber, mechanic, and emergency vet — often all in the same week — without ever wearing a uniform. And when a 24-hour shift extends into 48 because of a mandatory shift holdover, you've adjusted plans, rescheduled the day, and kept everything running without a single complaint.

We know our firefighters couldn't do this work without your support, patience, and grace. You are just as much a part of this department as anyone who answers a call, and we are truly grateful for everything you carry so they can serve this community.

To the spouses, partners, and families of our firefighters:

thank you. We see you, and we appreciate all you do.



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

Top Responders July

Cpt McDermott (64)
FF Gerow (63)
Cpt Brown (63)



SAFETY TIPS

- ◆ Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- ◆ The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- ◆ Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- ◆ Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- ◆ Never leave your grill unattended.
- ◆ Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.
- ◆ If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- ◆ There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- ◆ If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- ◆ Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- ◆ There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- ◆ When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



Battle of the Badges BBQ

The Battle of the Badges BBQ was an outstanding success, bringing together Whatcom County Fire District 21 Firefighters, the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, and hundreds of community members for an afternoon filled with fun, great food, and meaningful connections.

Held in front of the Birch Bay Waterslides, the event featured a friendly BBQ cookoff between our local first responders, giving everyone an opportunity to interact with firefighters, deputies, and emergency personnel in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Visitors enjoyed exploring fire engines, law enforcement vehicles, SWAT equipment, motorcycles, and other emergency apparatus while learning more about the people who proudly serve our community.

A special congratulations goes to this year's Battle of the Badges BBQ Champion: Firefighters

Throughout the event, families enjoyed free food generously provided by our presenting sponsor, Dairy Queen, as well as music, children's activities, raffles, and prize giveaways made possible through the generous support of many local businesses. Monies raised for the raffles benefited Clean Cut Futures.

The smiles, conversations, and community spirit on display made the event a memorable experience for everyone who attended.

Whatcom County Fire District 21 extends its sincere appreciation to the Whatcom County

Sheriff's Office, Dairy Queen, our local business sponsors, volunteers, and every community member who came out to support this special event. Your participation helped make the day an overwhelming success.

Thank you for helping strengthen the relationships between our first responders and the community we are honored to serve.

We look forward to seeing everyone again at next year's Battle of the Badges BBQ!

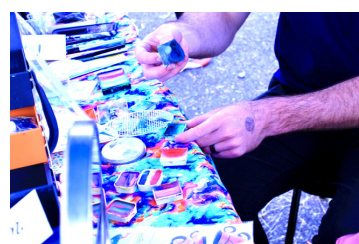


Events to Celebrate August Birthdays
 11 – Tommy Erickson
 12 – Craig Anthony



District 21 (NWFR)
Meetings will be conducted in person
 Thur. August 20
 9408 Odell St 61
 Blaine — 10:30 a.m.

District 4 Meetings
continue to be conducted via Zoom with quarterly and special in person
 Mon. August 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

2026

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

Check out
<https://www.nwfrs.net/cpr-course/>
for updated information
about our program, 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: no Aug Class



Bellingham Whatcom..
@BWCFFBF

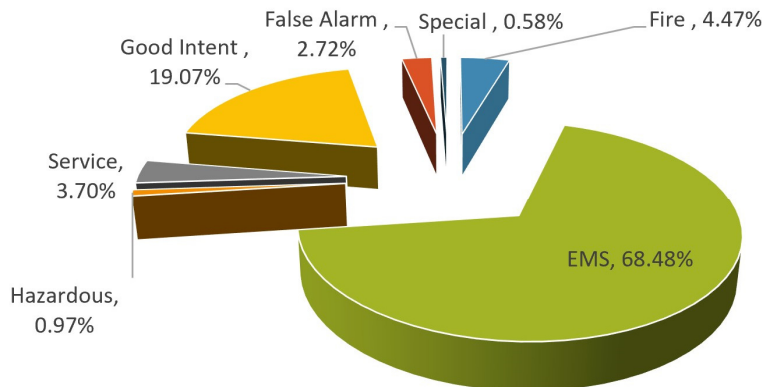


venmo

Benevolent Fund
Donation Link

July Calls

Total Calls = 515

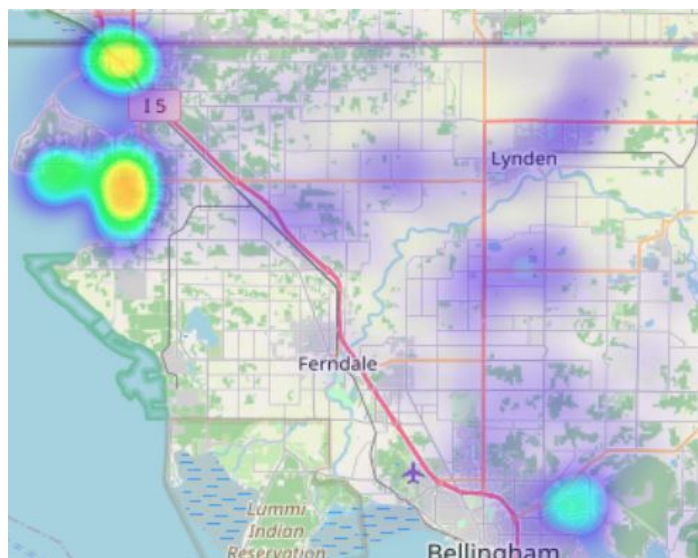


Types of Calls

False Alarms = 14



Location of Calls



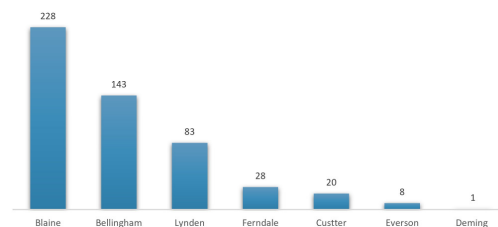
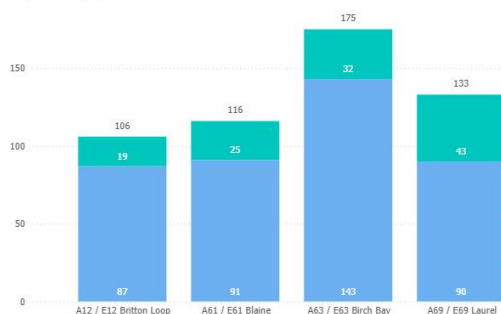
Average Calls Per Day

17.17



Apparatus Responses

Dispatch Category ● EMS ● Fire



Total Overlapping Calls

200