



Volume 19 Issue 10

Oct, 2026



Feature Stories

- Fire Prevention
- 9 –11 Ceremony
- Pumpkin Party
- September Calls

2026 STATISTICS

Sep. 1 — Sep. 30

District Average Response Time:

9 min. 55 sec.

Responses by Type:

Fire: 10

EMS: 341

Other: 159

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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”

Fire Prevention Week 2026: Charge Into Safety!

October 4–10, 2026

This Fire Prevention Week, we’re putting a modern twist on an old safety lesson: **fire prevention starts with the choices we make every day.**

For more than 100 years, Fire Prevention Week has helped families, children, teachers, and communities learn how to prevent fires and stay safe. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored Fire Prevention Week since 1922, and in 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed it a national observance. Today, it remains the longest-running public health observance in the country.

Fire Prevention Week is held each year during the week of October 4 in remembrance

of the **Great Chicago Fire**, which began October 8, 1871. The devastating fire killed more than 250 people, left approximately 100,000 people homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres.

This year's message: Safe Charging Is a SUPER-POWER!

Our homes are filled with rechargeable devices—from phones and tablets to power tools, e-bikes and e-scooters. While these devices make our lives easier, **charging them safely is an important part of fire prevention.**

This year's campaign, **“Charge into Fire Safety™: Safe Charging Is a SUPERPOWER,”** encourages everyone to develop safe

charging habits.

Unleash Your Charging Superpowers

Use the right charger. Use the cord and charger that came with your device or one approved by the manufacturer. A bargain charger isn't a bargain if it creates a safety hazard.

Charge on a hard surface. Keep charging devices on a hard, flat surface such as a table, desk, or bare floor. **Avoid beds, couches, pillows and other soft surfaces.**

Know the warning signs. Stop using a device if it becomes unusually hot, starts to swell, smells strange, leaks, smokes, or makes popping or hissing sounds. *continued on pg. 2*



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



Top Responders

August

CPT McDermott (70)
FF Latham (68)
FF Geleyne (65)

September

FF Witzel (83)
FF Smith (65)
CPT Bowen (65)



Fire Prevention Week cont.

continued from pg. 1

Unplug when charging is complete.

When your device reaches 100%, unplug it rather than leaving it connected indefinitely.

Take larger devices outside.

When possible, charge e-bikes, e-scooters and larger battery-powered tools outdoors. **Never block an exit while charging.**

Keep charging devices in sight when flying.

On an airplane, keep devices where you can see them while they are charging so you can recognize a problem quickly. Never charge e-cigarettes or vapes on a plane, and tell a flight attendant if you notice a problem with a device.

Try the Family Power Check

Fire Prevention Week is a great time to get the whole family involved. NFPA's **Family Power Check** asks families to rate their charging habits as **Always** (3

points), **Sometimes** (2 points) or **Never** (1 point) and earn points for safe choices.

The six questions include whether your family:

- ◇ Uses the correct charger
- ◇ Charges devices on a hard surface.
- ◇ Watches for warning signs such as heat or unusual smells.
- ◇ Unplugs devices when charging is complete.
- ◇ Charges e-bikes, e-scooters and large tools outside.
- ◇ Keeps charging devices where they can be seen when on a plane.

According to the Family Power Check, **15–18 points makes your family a “SUPERCHARGED HERO,”** while 10–14 points

means you're “POWERING UP.” If you score 6–9 points, don't worry—**pick one charging habit to practice and LEVEL UP!**

Our Challenge to You

This Fire Prevention Week, don't just learn about fire safety—**make it a family habit.**

Walk through your home and look at how you charge your devices. Check those phones, tablets, laptops, power tools and e-bikes. Then choose **one charging habit your family can improve.**

Because when it comes to fire safety, **small actions can have a big impact.**

Charge smart. Charge safely. Be a fire-safety SUPERHERO!

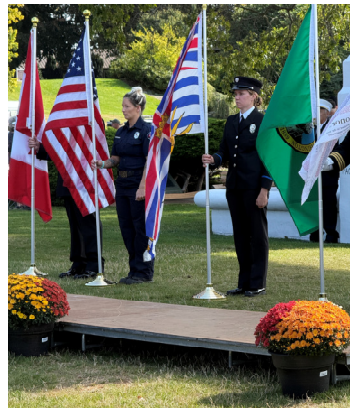
Fire Prevention Week is sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA. ©2026 NFPA. Learn more

25th 9-11 Memorial Service Held at Peace Arch

Dignitaries, first responders, Border Custom and VIP guests gathered on Friday, September 11th at the Peace Arch Park Border for the 25th annual 9-11 Memorial Ceremony and reception. The ceremony was held at 10:00 a.m. followed by a BBQ lunch.

Guests of honor from New York attended 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.



Community Pumpkin Party “SAVE THE DATE”



The top section of the poster features a row of carved pumpkins, including one wearing a fire helmet with the number 63 and another with the number 863. Below this is a red Maltese cross logo with "FIRE" at the top, "NORTH WHATCOM" in the center, and "RESCUE" at the bottom. The background is orange with black bats and autumn leaves. The main title "PUMPKIN CARVING PARTY" is in large, bold, orange and purple letters. Below the title, a green banner contains the event details: "SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2026 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM" and "BLAINE - STATION 61 9408 ODELL ST, BLAINE, WA". The bottom section shows a photograph of the event taking place in a large hall with many people carving pumpkins at tables. A purple box on the right lists activities: "PUMPKIN CARVING", "PHOTO BOOTH", "POPCORN", and "FAMILY FUN". A red bucket in the foreground is labeled "HOMER'S ALL-PURPOSE BUCKET 5 Gallons".

**FIRE
NORTH WHATCOM
RESCUE**

NORTH WHATCOM FIRE AND RESCUE

PUMPKIN CARVING PARTY

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 17, 2026
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**BLAINE - STATION 61
9408 ODELL ST,
BLAINE, WA**

**PUMPKIN CARVING
PHOTO BOOTH
POPCORN
FAMILY FUN**

**HOMER'S ALL-PURPOSE BUCKET
5 Gallons**



Events to Celebrate

October Birthdays

1 – Aaron Johansson
8 – Shawn Ward
12 – Seth Meredith
16 – Steve Cooley
26 – Alisa Bowen

BURN BAN LIFTED

District 21 (NWFR)

*Meetings will be
conducted in person*

Thur. Oct. 15

9408 Odell St 61

Blaine — 10:30 a.m.

District 4 Meetings

*continue to be conducted
via Zoom with quarterly
and special in person*

Thurs. Oct. 12

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

Bellingham Whatcom..
@BWCFFBF

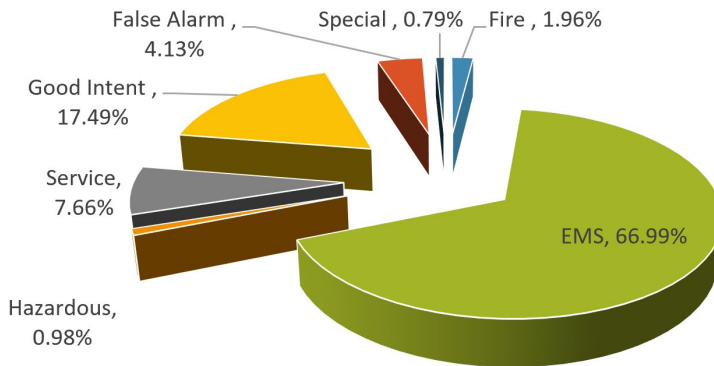


venmo

Benevolent Fund
Donation Link

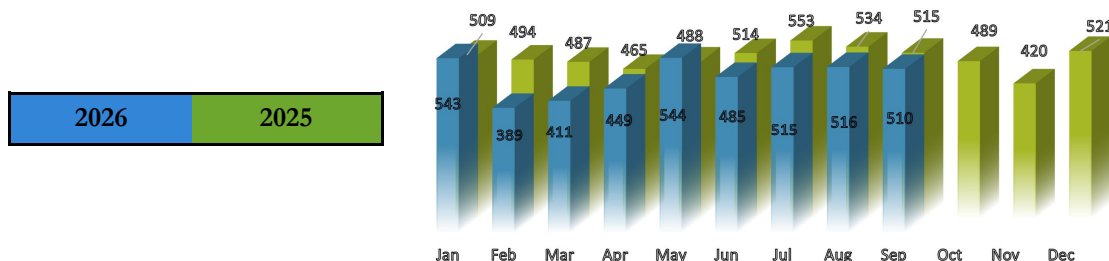
September Calls

Total Calls = 510

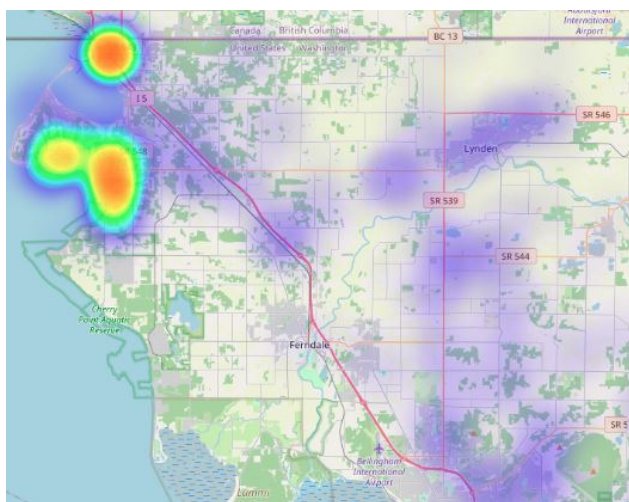


Types of Calls

False Alarms = 21

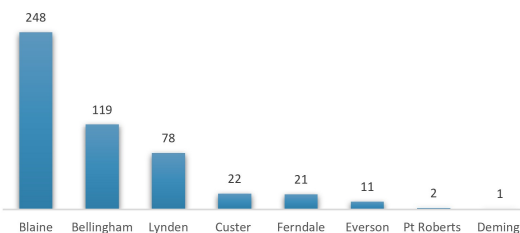


Location of Calls

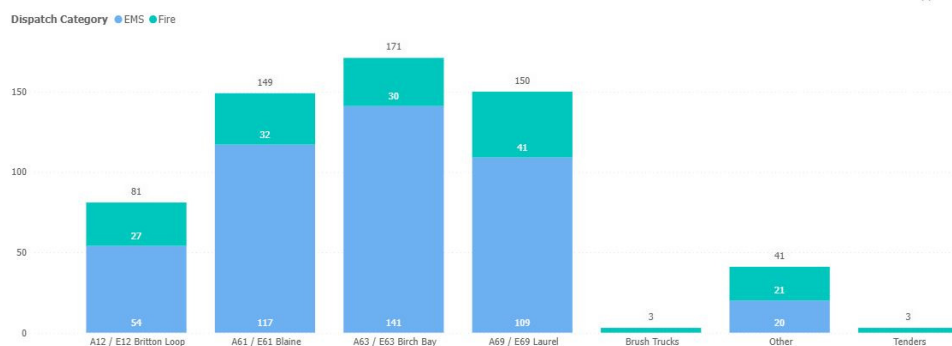


Average Calls Per Day

17.59



Apparatus Responses



Total Overlapping Calls

214