



Volume 17 Issue 6  
June, 2024



**Feature Stories**

- Levy Lid Lift
- Beach Fires
- Workshop
- Memorial
- Years of Service
- Promotion
- May Calls

**2024 STATISTICS**

*May 1 — May 31*

**District Average  
Response Time:**  
9 min. 22 sec.

**Responses by  
Type:**

Fire: 8

EMS: 385

Other: 102



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

*“Providing Quality Service for a Safe Community”*



**North Whatcom Fire and Rescue**

1507 E. Badger Rd. | PO Box 286 | Lynden, WA 98264  
360 318-9933 | [www.nwfrs.net](http://www.nwfrs.net)

**Fire District Seeking a Fire Levy Lid Lift**

*Higher call volumes and costs are exceeding revenue to provide service*

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue is asking voters to consider a fire levy lid lift on the August 6, 2024, primary election ballot. The fire district requires additional firefighters to maintain the level and quality of services the community requires.

Emergency medical service accounts for 71% of all calls. The lid lift would put an additional EMS unit in the field to reduce response times. Funding also would replace apparatus and equipment that has reached the end of their usable lives.

Costs to provide service are increasing more than the revenue received by the fire district. Please learn more at [www.nwfrs.net](http://www.nwfrs.net). Fire Chief Jason Van Der Veen also welcomes questions at 360-318-9933 or [jvanderveen@nwfrs.com](mailto:jvanderveen@nwfrs.com).

**Recreational Beach Fires**

Fires on Private Land

To have a recreational fire on a privately owned beach property, follow the Northwest Clean Air Agency ([NWCAA](http://www.nwcaa.com)) residential burn regulations for Whatcom County.

Recreational fires do not need a permit if ALL the conditions below are met:

- The landowner must give permission if the fire is not on your property.
- The fire must consist only of charcoal or firewood and must only be used for cooking or pleasure.
- The fire is in an enclosure no larger than 3 feet across. The enclosure must be a minimum of 16 inches high and made of cement block, stones, or 10-gauge steel.
- Materials being burned must be kept lower than the sidewalls of the enclosure.
- A charged garden hose or two five-gallon buckets of water must be on site.
- A shovel or rake must be on site.
- The fire must be 25 feet from any structure or standing timber.
- Tree branches must be cleared to a height of 15 feet above the enclosure.
- One person age 16 or older who is capable of putting the fire out must be in attendance at all times.
- The fire must be contained within a firebreak (bare ground).
- The fire must not create a nuisance.
- No burning when winds exceed 7 miles per hour

*continued on pg. 2*

# Whatcom County Future Women in EMS and Fire Workshop

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



By FF Bronder

On May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, NWFR and other local Fire and Emergency Medical Service agencies hosted the Whatcom County Future Women in EMS and Fire Workshop.

This two-day event provided enthusiastic participants with no previous experience the opportunity for a hands-on introduction to firefighter and EMS skills.

During the firefighter skills portion participants deployed and flowed water with fire hose, learned about chainsaws, threw ladders, broke open doors, completed an obstacle course, and did fitness testing.

EMS stations taught CPR, wound care, taking basic vital signs, spinal immobilization, and recognizing strokes, seizures, anaphylactic reactions, and chest pain.

Each day finished with instructors answering questions about, and providing insight on what it means to be a woman in the fire service.

We thank the participants for their great attitudes and the instructors from NWFR, South Whatcom Fire Authority, Bellingham Fire Department, Whatcom County Fire District 7, Whatcom County Fire District 1, Everett Fire Department, and Mount Vernon Fire Department for the work they put in to making this event possible.



If you are interested pursuing a career in fire or emergency medicine and would like to attend next year's event, look for our social media advertisements in spring of 2025.



Photos courtesy of Lemomving.com



## May Top Responders

- Lt Freeman (66)
- FF Placzek (65)
- Lt Jensen (62)



## Beach Fires cont.

### Fires on Whatcom County Properties and in State Parks

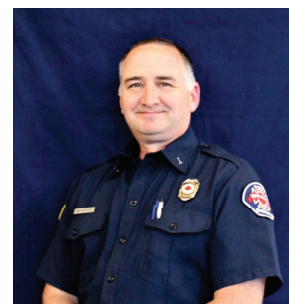
Fires may only be lit in designated fireplaces and fire rings. Wood and coal-burning devices must comply with the [NWCAA](#) guide for recreational fires. Gas-operated devices must be Underwriters Laboratories rated. Visitors must check with the product manufacturer to ensure their device is UL-rated.

Wood fires are prohibited in grills. Use only charcoal briquettes. The following are also prohibited:

- Leaving a fire without completely extinguishing it.
- Allowing a fire to escape from control.
- Building, attending, maintaining, or using a campfire during a burn ban. Burning of garbage, plastic, styrene, construction materials, or other non-wood products.

\*Check for additional restrictions in your area.

Joel Nielsen  
Deputy Fire Marshal, NWFR  
jnielsen@nwfrs.com



# Lt. Leslee Smith Memorial June 29 at PAC



Everyone is invited to attend

A Line of Duty Death (LODD) Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 29, @ 1:00 p.m. at the Blaine Performing Arts Center (PAC) located at 975 H St.



### Events to Celebrate June Birthdays

- 2 – Mike Nelson
- 8 – John Geleynse
- 8 – Delanie Warne
- 10 – Joel Nielsen
- 11 – Casey Martin
- 15 – Jason Donnelly
- 16 – Tony Placzek
- 17 – D.J. Riehl
- 27 – Brandon May
- 28 – Kelly Freeman



### NWFR Meetings

Thurs. June 20  
9408 Odell St 61  
Blaine — 10:30 a.m.

### District 4 Meetings (via Zoom)

Mon. June 17  
4142 Britton Loop St 12  
Bellingham — 12:00 p.m.



## Completed Years of Service Anniversaries at NWFR

June	Position	Years of Service
Tye Thompson	Firefighter	5
Jennie Sand	Executive Assistant	15
<b>July</b>		
Mike Nelson	Lieutenant	25
Joel Nielsen	Deputy Fire Marshal	25
Mike Schmidt	Captain	25
Jeff Hofstad	Lieutenant	13
Robert King	Tender Support	21
Cody Bowen	Lieutenant	6
Delanie Warne	Firefighter	6
Jon Ahrenholz	Captain	13

## NWFR Promotes Lieutenant

Please join North Whatcom Fire and Rescue in congratulating FF Cody Bowen on his successful completion of all phases of the Lieutenant promotional process.

Cody's promotion will become official at the start of the next FLSA cycle, May 21, where he will become the company officer for D Shift at Odell Station 61.

Lt. Bowen has been a member of NWFR since 2018.

CONGRATULATIONS





1507 E. Badger Rd  
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Lynden, WA 98264

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a safe community



### CPR / AED Classes 2024

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 bank

CPR/AED

June 21

Bellingham Whatcom..  
@BWCFFBF

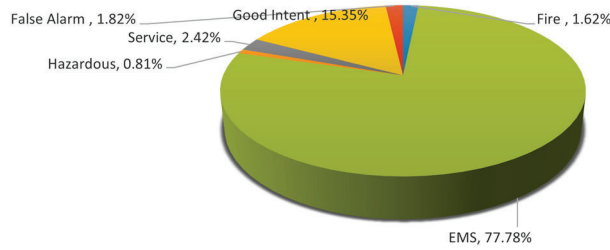


venmo

Benevolent Fund  
Donation Link

# May Calls

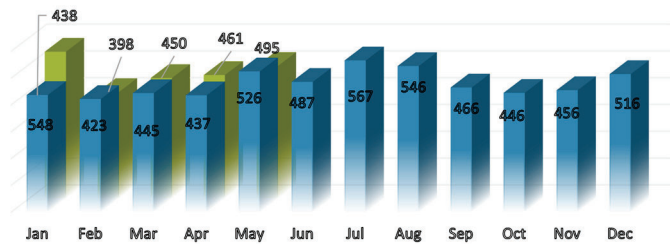
495



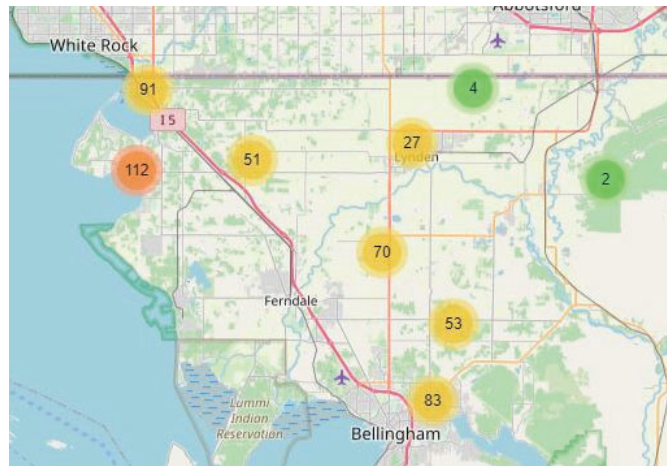
## Types of Calls

False Alarms = 9

■ Fire ■ EMS ■ Hazardous ■ Service ■ Good Intent ■ False Alarm

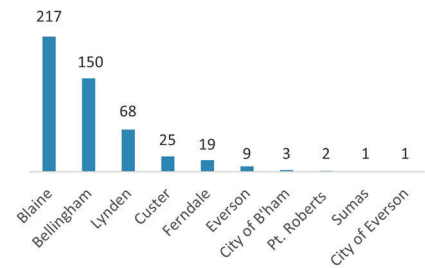


## Location of Calls

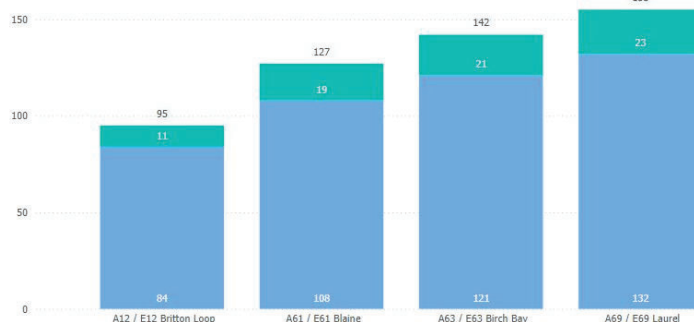


### Average Calls Per Day

16.50



Dispatch Category ● EMS ● Fire



### Total Overlapping Calls

186