



2017 Annual Report

NORTHSHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF
KENMORE AND LAKE FOREST PARK



MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

It is my pleasure to present the 2017 Annual Report for the Northshore Fire Department, highlighting some of our activities during the year. Northshore Fire continues to focus on providing the highest level of service possible to the communities we serve by focusing on innovation and training efforts.

Our Training Division continues to work closely with 8 other local agencies (Bellevue, Bothell, Kirkland, Mercer Is., Eastside Fire & Rescue, Redmond, Shoreline & Woodinville) as a member of the East Metro Training Group to promote and improve training excellence & safety through inter-agency cooperation.

Last year we received an improved fire protection class rating (upgraded from a Class 4 to a Class 3) from the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau. We also teamed up with neighboring agencies and volunteers to conduct active shooter training, as well as our annual DUI / Distracted Driver Drill for Inglesmoor High School's Senior class before prom night.

I would like to thank our employees for their dedication to the District and the community we serve, as well as to our citizens and partner agencies for the support and trust you place in us daily.

- Jim Torpin, Fire Chief

“We are dedicated to protecting the health, life, and property of the community with professionalism, respect, and integrity.” - Northshore Fire’s Mission

COMMISSIONERS



Eric Adman,
Chairperson



Carolyn Armanini,
Vice Chairperson



Don Ellis,
Member



Dave Maehren,
Member

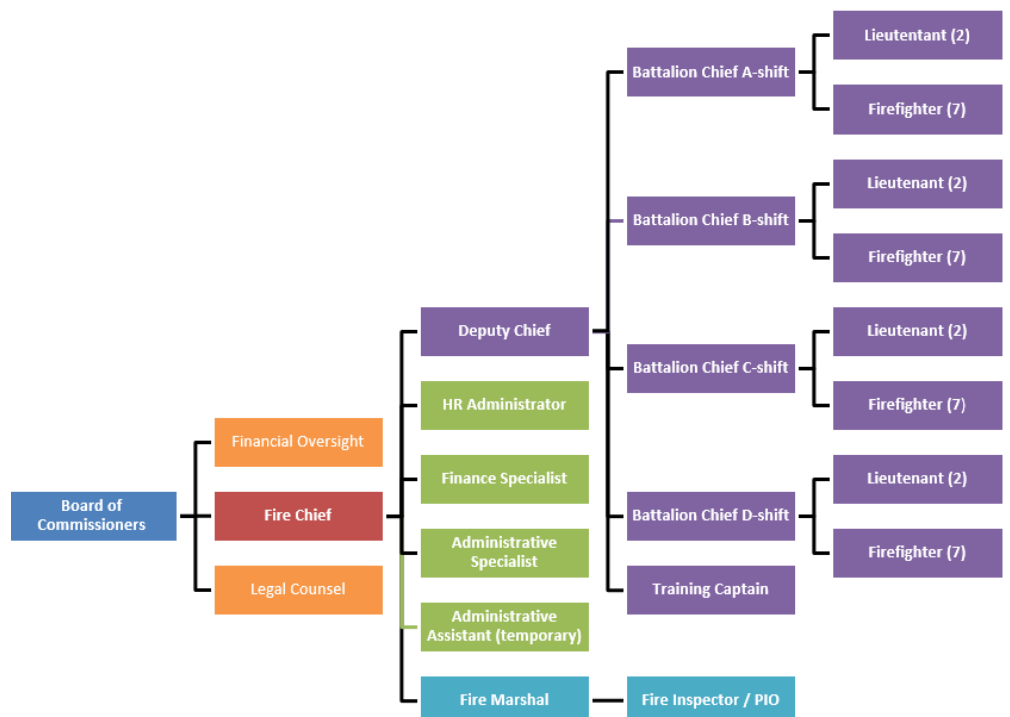


Kae Peterson,
Member

ABOUT NORTSHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Northshore Fire is staffed with 48 dedicated employees. This includes 40 Firefighters and officers who are assigned to one of four shifts. Firefighters work 24 hour shifts and are assigned to response apparatus. Operations and Training Divisions are led by our Deputy Chief and Training Captain.

The Fire Prevention Division is staffed with our Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector/PIO. Administration is led by the Fire Chief who is supported by our HR Administrator, Finance Specialist, Administrative Specialist and part-time Administrative Assistant.



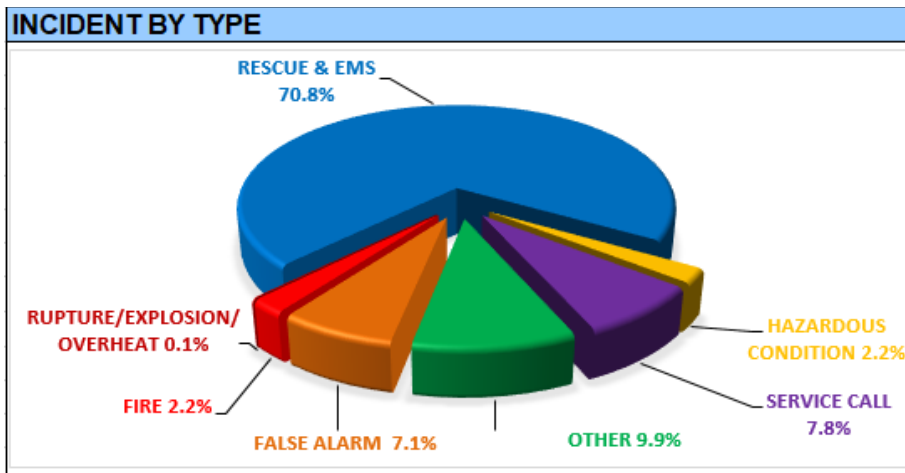


Northshore Fire will train often with other local fire departments, utilizing our training tower at Station 51 in Kenmore.

TRAINING & OPERATIONS

In 2017, Northshore Fire responded to 3,511 incidents. Emergency medical aid made up the largest single type of incident request, accounting for 70.8% of the total call volume. Most emergency medical services (EMS) responses were requests for service related to medical illnesses; the rest were primarily related to injuries caused by accidents or other causes.

Fires represented only 2.2% of last year's call volume. However, preparation and training for these types of events takes the greatest amount of time due to the inherent danger and risk fire poses to both the community and responders.



RESPONSE TIME

Northshore Fire has established response time standards that provide a benchmark for our shifts' performance goals. For all emergency responses our standard is a two minute turnout time with a four minute travel time for a total response time of six minutes from dispatch to arrival.

In 2017, our shifts met this benchmark turnout time 66% for fire responses and 78% for basic life support emergency medical responses.

Our Department's goal in 2018 is to achieve this performance benchmark 90% of the time for all emergency responses.

DID YOU KNOW?

Northshore Fire employees trained a total of **9,922 hours** in 2017.



WHAT IS NEMCO?

Northshore Fire Department partnered with the Cities of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park, as well as the Northshore Utility District to create the Northshore Emergency Management Coalition (NEMCo).

NEMCo was created in an effort to maximize each of the participating agency's emergency preparedness efforts and resources to efficiently serve our community.

NEMCo's focus is to engage the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters through education and volunteer coordination. NEMCo provides a number of emergency preparedness training opportunities throughout the year for those interested in volunteering, or for those who just want to be better prepared at home.

NORTHSHORE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COALITION (NEMCO)

NEMCo added 48 volunteers in 2017, bringing our total to 252 volunteers in our database; 48 of those volunteers are prescreened as credentialed volunteers.

Over the past year, our volunteers participated in numerous community events including:

- Northshore Fire Department's Annual Pancake Breakfast and Open House.
- Lake Forest Park's "Pack the Park."
- Pet Parade.
- The grand opening of the Kenmore Hanger Building.
- Two Fun Runs.
- Special Olympics fund raiser Salmon Bake.
- Two active shooter drills.

NEMCo completed two Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) academies, graduating 46 new CERT members.

We also held two free Citizen Workshops, teaching 56 citizens basic emergency preparedness skills.

In addition, NEMCo held two joint Emergency Operations Center trainings for city staff, led a public notification system training, and ran a functional rapid damage assessment drill for Northshore Utility District.



Our newest CERT graduates. It is great to have a continually growing group of emergency trained citizens in our community. Thank you to all our members for volunteering your time to join our CERT Team!

If you'd like to know more about how you can become a CERT member, please visit our website: <https://www.northshorefire.com/education/emergency-preparedness/>



FIRE PREVENTION

Friends and Family CPR: Northshore Fire offers a “Friends and Family CPR” class free of charge for residents of Lake Forest Park and Kenmore. This class is ideal for community groups, new parents, grandparents, babysitters and others interested in learning how to save a life. It teaches hands-only CPR, CPR with breaths, AED use, and covers mild and severe airway blockages. The focus is primarily for Adult CPR, but classes can be tailored for child and infant instruction. Groups interested in this valuable training can contact us to schedule a class.

Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Having working smoke alarms in residences is critical to our fire safety mission. Smoke alarms provide early warning of potential fires in your home. We can help you to ensure that your smoke alarms are ready to operate in case of a fire emergency. Seniors and others incapable of maintaining their own alarms can contact us to arrange a free home visit to check your smoke alarms, install batteries, or install a new smoke alarm as needed. To arrange a home visit, contact our Fire Marshal at jlaflam@northshorefire.com or (425) 354-1741. Our smoke alarm program improves community safety by helping one community member at a time!



“The Fire Prevention division of the Northshore Fire Department is passionate about safety... We provide a wide variety of services to the citizens of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park.”

OPEN HOUSE AND SAFETY FAIR

Thank you to all the friends, families, and volunteers who helped at our annual Open House Pancake Breakfast and Safety Fair last year!

In addition to our popular breakfast, the Open House included live firefighter demos, kid firefighter challenge, and booths hosted by a variety of safety and service agencies.

Mark your calendars for this year’s event, to be held on Saturday, June 16th at our Kenmore station (7220 NE 181st St). We look forward to seeing you there!





BUNKER GEAR DECONTAMINATION IMPROVEMENTS

In 2017 Northshore Fire won a Ram Air Gear Dryer in the “Hometown Hero’s contest.” The Ram Air Gear Dryer is a piece of equipment that will dry four sets of firefighting bunker gear in about 20% of the time it normally takes to air dry.

The Ram Air Gear Dryer speeds the drying time of decontaminated personal protection equipment and allows a firefighter to get back into their primary bunker gear sooner. In the past, drying has required days and if two major incidents occurred

in a short duration of time, crews had to work in either contaminated, wet, or damp bunker gear.

Washing and drying gear in under five hours allows our Department to maintain optimum operational readiness.

“We are an organization that continues to be innovative in meeting our mission in a changing environment.” - Northshore Fire’s Vision

IMPROVED FIRE PROTECTION CLASS RATING

Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) upgraded the fire protection class rating for Northshore Fire Department from a Class 4 to a Class 3. Many insurance companies use the WSRB protection class rating to assess insurance premium rates for homeowners and commercial properties.

This upgrade places the Department’s rating in the top 10% for the state for exemplary fire protection capabilities

The upgraded rating provides validation of a number of improvements made at Northshore Fire in the last ten years to enhance operations, training, and fire prevention programs.

NEW RESCUE MANIKINS

Northshore Fire was a recipient of the 2017 Central Region Trauma Grant. This allowed a 50/50 partnership to purchase two new rescue manikins to replace our aging, broken manikins with new, more life-like manikins that better simulate the human form. Both a regular “Rescue” manikin and a “Water Rescue” manikin were purchased. They provide a more realistic level of training for Fire Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, High Angle Rope Rescue, and Water Rescue.

We also purchased a new manikin with donations made to the Department which provides us real time feedback on important data points such as compression depth and rate, ventilation volume and rate, and overall CPR performance.





Firefighter Robert Carrasquillo and Firefighter Gunnar Seefeld graduated from the East Metro Group's (EMTG) Fire Academy April 2017.

ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

During Nortshore Fire's Annual Awards Banquet we recognized the accomplishments and years of service milestones of our employees over the past year.

Congratulations to Firefighter **Nick Lewis**, Firefighter **Ken Hofschulte**, and Battalion Chief **Mitch Sauer** who received special recognition for the following:

NICK LEWIS - 2017 EMS Excellence Award:

Awarded to the Emergency Medical Technician chosen by his/her peers for exhibiting compassion, professionalism, and dedication to the emergency medical service.

FF Lewis was also awarded a "**Lifesaving Award**" for saving a human life while off duty. This award is given to members who take actions above and beyond their normal duties and responsibilities that are instrumental in saving a life.

KEN HOFSCHULTE - 2017 Fire Service Excellence Award:

Awarded to the firefighter or fire officer chosen by his/her peers for exhibiting consistent execution of assigned duties where said duties have been carried out in an outstanding, superior manner.

MITCH SAUER - 2017 Fire Department Mentoring Award:

Awarded to the employee chosen by his/her peers for being a mentor to other members and exhibiting leadership at any rank and/or position.



PERSONNEL UPDATES

NEW HIRES

Gunnar Seefeld and **Robert Carrasquillo** were hired January 2017 as Firefighter/EMTs.

Jennifer Kunkel, Administrative Assistant, was hired part-time July 2017.

They have been great additions to the District!

RETIREMENTS

Eric Adman served the community as a Fire Commissioner for the last six years. He is very active in a number of causes throughout our greater community. Unfortunately, Eric decided not to run for reelection. We thank Eric for his dedicated service.



A NEW LOOK FOR NORTHSHORE

Our new uniform patches are here and look great.

A special thank you to Firefighter **Joe Heilman** for leading the project.



ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY CONTINUED

During our Annual Awards Banquet the following employees were recognized for their many dedicated years of service to the Department and our community:

- Lieutenant Steve Loutsis (30 yrs)
- Firefighter Tyler Williams (25 yrs)
- Firefighter Brian Ford (20 yrs)
- Firefighter Russ Holmes (20 yrs)
- Firefighter Tim Tyler (20 yrs)
- Firefighter Ryan Davis (15 yrs)
- Firefighter Doug Thornburg (15 yrs)
- Firefighter Brian Gilbert (15 yrs)
- Lieutenant Jeremiah Ingersoll (15 yrs)
- Lieutenant John Burrow (15 yrs)
- HR Administrator Shannon Moore (5 yrs)



LT Steve Loutsis FF Tyler Williams FF Brian Ford



FF Russ Holmes FF Tim Tyler FF Ryan Davis



FF Doug Thornburg FF Brian Gilbert LT Jeremiah Ingersoll



LT John Burrow HR Shannon Moore

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Follow us on social media!



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Northshore Fire's General Operating Budget for 2017 was \$8,405,431 with wages and benefits comprising 82% of total expenses.

We are committed to the efficient and effective use of the tax dollars we receive. The District receives the majority of its revenue through property taxes and a fire benefit charge assessment. The property tax is based on a property's value and the benefit charge is based on the square footage of the property's structures. In 2017, the combined aggregate effective tax rate that citizens paid to the District for fire and emergency medical services (EMS) was \$1.22 per thousand of their property's assessed value. Voter approved fire station bond payments add an additional \$0.18 per thousand of assessed value.

Although not assessed by the District, King County Medic One / Emergency Medical Services collected \$0.24 per thousand of assessed value for advanced life support (Paramedic) services. Paramedic services are provided by a two person paramedic unit stationed at the Lake Forest Park fire station.

The District maintains a Reserve Fund for other liabilities such as major facility repairs and upgrades, vehicle/apparatus/equipment replacement, post-employment benefit costs and emergency funds for use in the case of financial and/or natural and man-made disasters. In 2017, approximately \$156,000 was expensed from the Reserve Fund.

For more financial information, visit our website: www.northshorefire.com