

Northshore Fire Department

# 2018 Annual Report



## HQ Station 51

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[www.northshorefire.com](http://www.northshorefire.com)

Follow us on social media!



## Northshore Fire Appoints New Fire Commissioners

The District appointed two new members to its Board of Fire Commissioners in 2018. Ron Gehrke was appointed to Position No. 4 in October. Gehrke previously served on the Board of Fire Commissioners for 12 years. In December, Suzanne Greathouse, was selected to fill the vacant Position No. 2.



Ron Gehrke  
Member



Suzanne  
Greathouse  
Chairperson

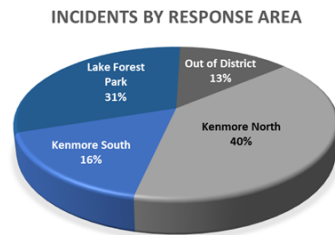
## About Us

Northshore Fire is staffed with 51 dedicated employees. This includes 43 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 Manager, Finance Specialist, Administrative Specialist and part-time Administrative Coordinator.

### Response Area

The District is divided into three response areas for statistical analysis: Kenmore North, Kenmore South, and Lake Forest Park. In addition to the three response areas, Northshore Fire is frequently requested to respond outside the jurisdiction to assist neighboring communities. The graph below displays the distribution of responses between each response area.



*At the Northshore Fire Department, our employees are our most valuable resource and allow us to provide outstanding service to the public. We strive to recruit, develop and retain the very best employees and ensure a workforce that values diversity in support of our organization's mission and core values.*

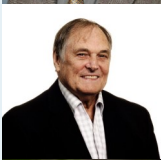
## Fire Commissioners



Carolyn  
Armanini  
Chairperson



Dave  
Maehren  
Vice  
Chairperson



Don  
Ellis  
Member

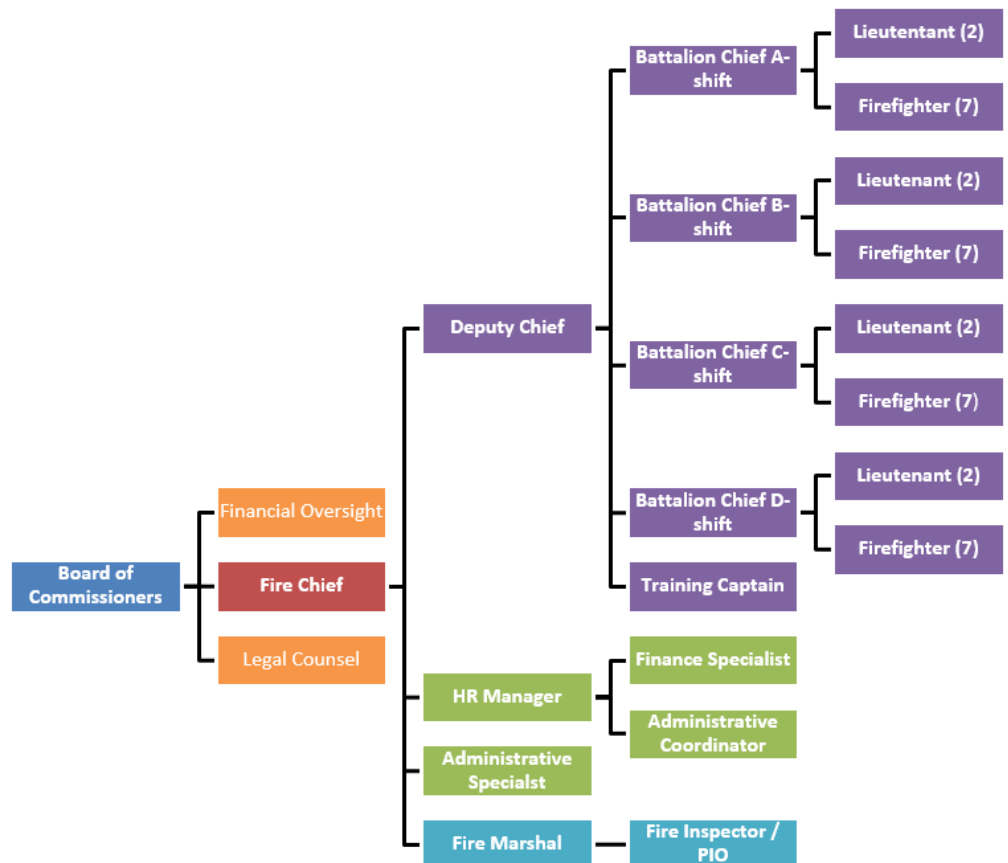


Kae  
Peterson  
Member



Rick  
Verlinda  
Member

## Organizational Chart





*Each year, Northshore Fire teams up with neighboring agencies, volunteers and Inglemoor High School's drama students to conduct our annual Distracted Driver / DUI Drill for the school's seniors prior to prom night.*

## Fire Prevention

The core responsibility of the Fire Prevention Division is to reduce safety hazards throughout the community. Reviewing construction plans, ensuring new buildings are in compliance with the current fire code, conducting building inspections, and ensuring installations of fire protection systems (fire alarm, fire sprinkler, etc.) are working properly are just some of the ways our Division accomplishes this.

Most of the commercial occupancies in the District are inspected on an annual basis to help owners keep their businesses free of safety hazards that could negatively impact their business operations. Every business should be a safe place for workers and customers.

### CPR and First Aid Training

The Northshore Fire Department has a goal to provide as many residents as possible with valuable CPR and AED training. As an authorized Red Cross training site, we offer a number of courses that are delivered in both public and private settings. Our course selection is designed to meet a wide range of needs; from a basic Family and Friends CPR course, to a certified course for private businesses, on up to a course for Healthcare providers. Regardless of your needs we have a course for you!

Our free Family and Friends CPR course is scheduled periodically throughout the year depending on demand and also available upon request to groups of 5-15 students. This hands-on training teaches how to perform CPR - both with and without the use of rescue breaths. Participants will also learn how to use various AED (automated external defibrillator) devices, commonly found in public buildings such as offices, schools, recreation facilities and shopping centers.

If you are interested in CPR Training, you can go to [www.northshorefire.com](http://www.northshorefire.com) to view course descriptions and sign up for a class. To set up a class for your business or small group, please call us Fire Prevention at 425-354-1742 or email [wbooth@northshorefire.com](mailto:wbooth@northshorefire.com).

## Open House and Safety Fair

A big thanks to everyone who helped at our Open House Pancake Breakfast and Safety Fair last year!

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

2019's Open House will be held on Saturday, June 22 at our Kenmore station.





The Northshore Emergency Management Coalition (NEMCo) was created as a partnership between Northshore Fire, City of Kenmore, City of Lake Forest Park and Northshore Utility District 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. It also 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.

Here are a few highlights from the year:

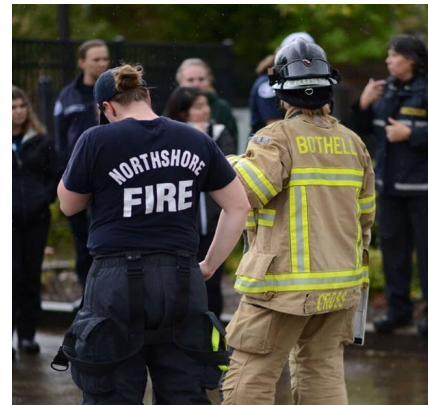
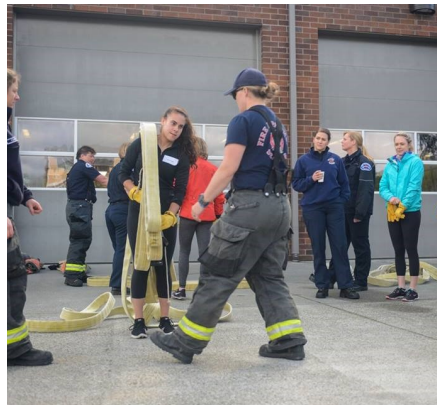
- Graduated 36 new CERT members.
- Hosted 3 Emergency Preparedness Workshops for Kenmore & Lake Forest Park citizens.
- Over 1600 volunteer hours performed in the community by our NEMCo members.

## Future Women in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Fire Academy

In April 2018, Northshore Fire proudly hosted a "Future Women in EMS/Fire Academy," put together by King County EMS.

Individuals spent the weekend participating in hands-on interactions and

training, demonstrations, discussion panels, and received First Aid and CPR training. This event served as a great opportunity for women to learn about a career in the fire and EMS industry.



## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

NEMCo provides at least two CERT Academies each year. CERT training is designed to provide interested citizens training in basic disaster response skills with the intent of organizing a group of volunteers that are capable of supplementing existing emergency responders in the event of a major disaster.

If you would like to know more about how you can become a CERT member, please visit our website: <https://www.northshorefire.com/education/emergency-preparedness/> or call Carl Lunak at (425) 354-1744



March 2018's graduating CERT members. CERT members are emergency trained citizen volunteers in our community.

## Improved 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.

Our goal is to achieve this 90% of the time for all emergency responses. In 2018, our shifts achieved this performance benchmark 90% for fire responses and 93% for basic life support emergency medical responses (up from 66% fire responses and 78% basic life support emergency medical responses in 2017).

**In 2018, how many total hours did our Firefighters train?**

- A) 11,550 hours
- B) 7,560 hours
- C) 9,340 hours
- D) 3,500 hours

*\*See last page for answer.*



*The Northshore Fire Department has been providing service to the communities of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park for over 75 years.*

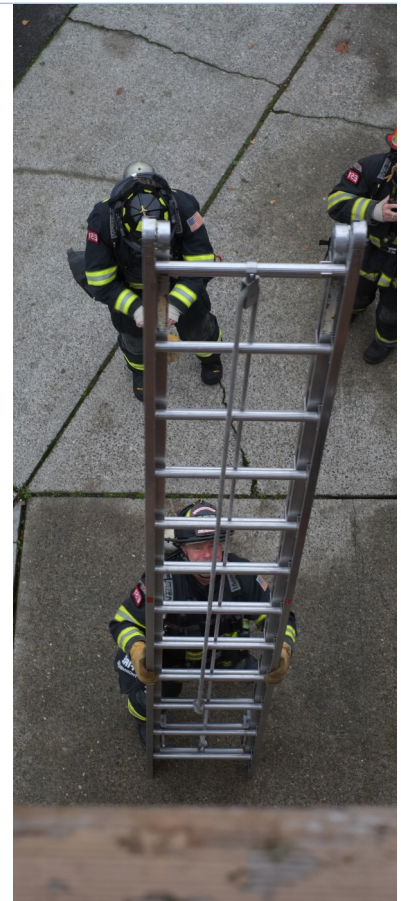
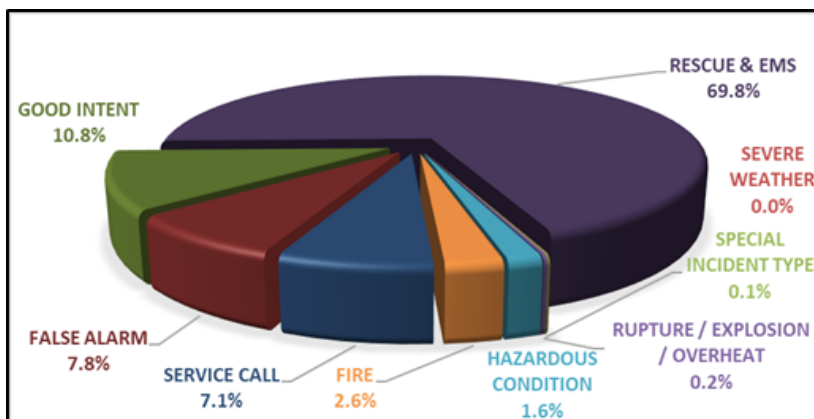
## Training and Operations

In 2018, the Northshore Fire Department responded to 3,515 incidents. 3,408 of these incidents were emergency responses. Lights and sirens are used for these types of incidents to expedite travel when seconds can make a dramatic difference. The accompanying chart provides a more complete breakdown of the different types of incidents and how often they typically occur.

The largest single type of incident were requests for emergency medical aid,

accounting for 2,455 (69.8%) of the total call volume. Most EMS responses were requests for service related to medical illnesses; the rest were primarily related to injuries caused by accidents or other events.

Fires represented only 2.6% of the 2018 call volume, however, preparation and training for these types of events takes the greatest amount of time due to the inherent danger and risk fires pose to both the community and responders.



## Fire Chaplains

Northshore Fire Department, along with other fire departments, will utilize the resources and service of Fire Chaplains when needed.

A Fire Chaplain may be brought on scene to support our first responders, patients and their families during difficult times. Much like the fire service, Fire Chaplains are available 24/7, including weekends and holidays.

Last year, our Department welcomed Fire Chaplain Andy Koss to the team.

## Laws and Paws Project

During the year, Northshore Fire hosted King County Sheriff's Office Foundation's "Laws and Paws Project." The non-profit organization incorporates dogs with an array of projects, such as reading programs, canine care and bringing joy through interaction between youth and dogs.



Elementary school aged children and their families joined officers from Kenmore Police Department to read to the dogs and were able to take home a donated book.

*"Since its inception in 1942, the mission of the Fire Department and its members has been to provide quality service to the community."*

## A Visible Home Address Could Save Your Life

Can you see your home's address clearly from the road? Having a clearly visible address will help first responders find the right location faster, which is critical in emergencies.

Ensure your home's numbers contrast with their background and are placed in a position that is legible and visible from the street fronting the property. Remember, a building that is further from the street will require either larger numbers or the address on a sign located near the street.



## Firefighter Stairclimb

Firefighters from across the world come together each year in Seattle to climb 1,356 steps to the top of the Columbia Tower, all supporting a common goal of beating cancer. Members from our Local fundraise and participate in this event each year.



FF Seefeld, FF Carrasquillo, FF Hoffman, FF Jamerson, and FF Colletti participated in the Firefighter Stairclimb last year, raising donations in support of the event.



*Engine 51 dropping off lots of brand new coats to Mary's Place in Kenmore, generously donated by the Northshore Fire Foundation.*

## Northshore Fire Foundation

In the course of our daily work and emergency responses, Northshore Firefighters recognized a need in the local and surrounding communities to provide services or goods outside the scope of the fire department. In response to this need, the non-profit organization, Northshore Fire Foundation (NFF), was formed. 100% of donations made to the NFF are used to support our local and surrounding communities. In 2018, NFF:

- Purchased 10 cases of brand new youth coats for [Mary's Place](#), as part of [Operation Warm](#).
- Donated \$1000 to [Babies of Homelessness](#) during their summer fundraiser.
- NFF partners with our community members each year to donate toys to [Hopelink](#) during the Christmas season. Toys that are not immediately distributed are given as birthday gifts throughout the year.
- Each year, NFF hosts a fitness competition to raise money for a cause related to the Fire, Police, or Military community. In 2018, money was raised for [Behind the Badge Foundation](#), an organization that provides resources and logistics to families of police officers that die in the line of duty; \$3500 was raised in honor of Kirkland Police Sergeant Nathan Rich. At 43 years old, Nate unexpectedly passed away from natural causes, but left a huge hole in the heart of the Kirkland Police Department.
- Donated \$500 to [Code 4 Northwest](#), an organization that specializes in crisis response to firefighters, police officers, nurses, EMT's, and their families.

NFF is made possible because of the voluntary efforts and donations of numerous members of our Department and community. However, fundraising efforts and the many positive impacts NFF is able to provide each year throughout our communities would not be what it is today without Lieutenant John Burrow, who leads the non-profit. Thank you, John!

### Firefighters do much more than just fight fires

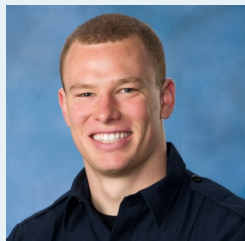
They provide a wide variety of services such as:

- Annual inspection of commercial and multi-family residential buildings for fire or life safety violations.
- Provide emergency medical services.
- Perform non-emergency service calls such as assisting with flooded buildings and homes.
- Assist with investigations of suspicious fires.
- Work within the community to educate and raise general awareness on issues of safety.
- Provide "walk-in" blood pressure screening at fire stations.
- Give free fire station and apparatus tours upon request.

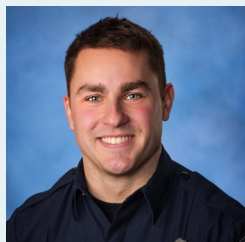


*Rescuing a few ducklings that fell into a storm drain*

## New Hires



Firefighter Matt Langbehn



Firefighter Jayden Petro

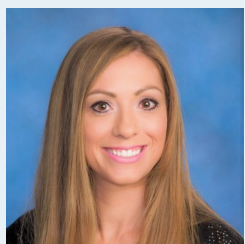


Firefighter Hans Hurn

## Promotions



Shannon Moore - promoted to HR Manager



Jennifer Kunkel - promoted to Administrative Coordinator

## Annual Awards Ceremony

During Northshore Fire's Annual Awards Banquet we recognized the accomplishments and years of service milestones of our employees over the past year. Congratulations to Lieutenant Ryan Davis, Firefighter Brian Ford, and Firefighter Brandon Kuykendall who received special recognition for the following:

### Brandon Kuykendall—2018 EMS Excellence Award:

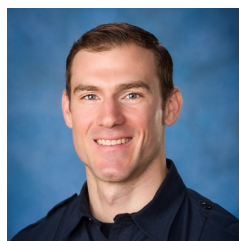
Awarded to the Emergency Medical Technician chosen by his/her peers for exhibiting compassion, professionalism, and dedication to the emergency medical service.

### Brian Ford—2018 Fire Service Excellence Award:

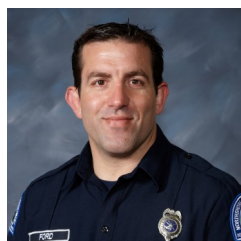
Awarded to the firefighter or fire officer chosen by his/her peers for exhibiting consistent execution of assigned duties where said duties have been carried out in an outstanding, superior manner

### Ryan Davis—2018 Fire Department Mentoring Award:

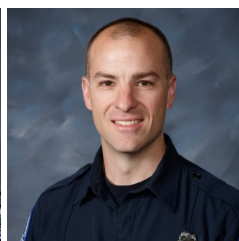
Awarded to the employee chosen by his/her peers for being a mentor to other members and exhibiting leadership at any rank and/or position.



Firefighter Kuykendall



Firefighter Ford



Lieutenant Davis

## Years of Service Milestones

The following employees were recognized for their many dedicated years of service to our Department and community in 2018:



Firefighter John Blake, 35 years



Lieutenant Paul Schultz, 35 years



Battalion Chief Jeff Tagart, 25 years



Fire Chief Jim Torpin, 25 years



Lieutenant Anders Hansson, 20 years



Deputy Chief Eric Magnuson, 20 years



Firefighter Kevin Brackett, 5 years

## Northshore Receives Federal Funding for Equipment Replacement

The Northshore Fire Department joined forces with the Shoreline, Bothell and Woodinville Fire Departments to secure federal grant funding to replace aging self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment.

A SCBA is the air tank that a firefighter wears whenever he or she enters a hazardous environment whether it's smoke, chemical, or other toxic environments. The SCBA equipment generally has a 15 year lifespan and Northshore's equipment was due for replacement no later than February of 2019.

The cost to purchase this essential equipment was offset by \$178,181 in grant funding through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



*Northshore Fire Department 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. [Contact us](#) to schedule a class.*

## Financial Overview

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 2018, the combined aggregate effective tax rate that citizens paid to the District for fire and emergency medical services (EMS) was \$1.12 per thousand of their property's assessed value. Voter approved fire station bond payments add an additional \$0.19 per thousand of assessed value.

Northshore Fire's General Operating Budget for 2018 was \$8,644,995 with wages and benefits comprising approximately 80% of total expenses. The 2018 actual expenses totaled \$8,396,104.

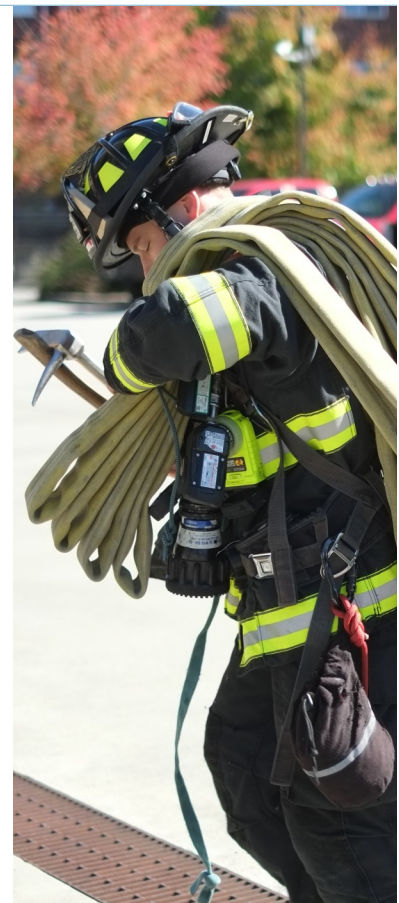
The District maintains a Reserve Fund for other liabilities such as

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 2018, approximately \$260,000 was expensed from the Reserve Fund.

Although not assessed by the District, King County Medic One / Emergency Medical Services collected \$0.22 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.

For more financial information, visit our website:

[www.northshorefire.com](http://www.northshorefire.com)



### Our Mission

We are dedicated to protecting the health, life, and property of the community with professionalism, respect, and integrity.

### Our Values

Our core values are honesty, integrity, trust, compassion, and courage. We believe these principles provide the foundation for our success. We embrace a positive atmosphere where teamwork, competence, pride, and mutual respect provide an opportunity for all employees to succeed.

### Our Vision

We are an organization that continues to be innovative in meeting our mission in a changing environment. We accomplish our mission by providing superior services in partnership with our community.

## Message From Our Fire Chief

It is my pleasure to present the 2018 Annual Report for the Northshore Fire Department, highlighting some of our activities and accomplishments made during the year. As you can see in the pages of this report, the Department has been very busy.

I would like to recognize our employees for their dedication to the District and the communities we serve. Their continual focus on providing the highest level of service by emphasizing innovation, training, and customer service is the source of our success. We also benefit greatly from the collaborative relationships we have with the Cities of Lake Forest Park and Kenmore, as well as the Northshore Utility District and other regional partners.

As an organization, we are all very appreciative of the overwhelming community trust and support that is received. Each and every one of us consider it an honor to serve those who live, work and visit in our community.

- Jim Torpin, Fire Chief



### Northshore Fire Department

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Directions: Color



Answer to page 5: A) 11,550 hours