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Kenmore, WA 98028  
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**Station 57**  
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Lake Forest Part, WA 98155  
[www.northshorefire.com](http://www.northshorefire.com)

# 2019 Annual Report



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## ABOUT US

Northshore Fire is staffed with 51 dedicated employees, including 43 Firefighters and Officers, Training Captain, Fire Prevention (Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector/PIO) and our 5-person administrative team.

In 2019, our two stations responded to a 3583 total calls. In addition to responding within our jurisdiction, Northshore Fire is frequently requested to respond to assist neighboring communities.



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

## FIRE COMMISSIONERS



Dave  
Maehren,  
Chair



Rick  
Webster,  
Vice Chair



Rick  
Verlinda,  
Member

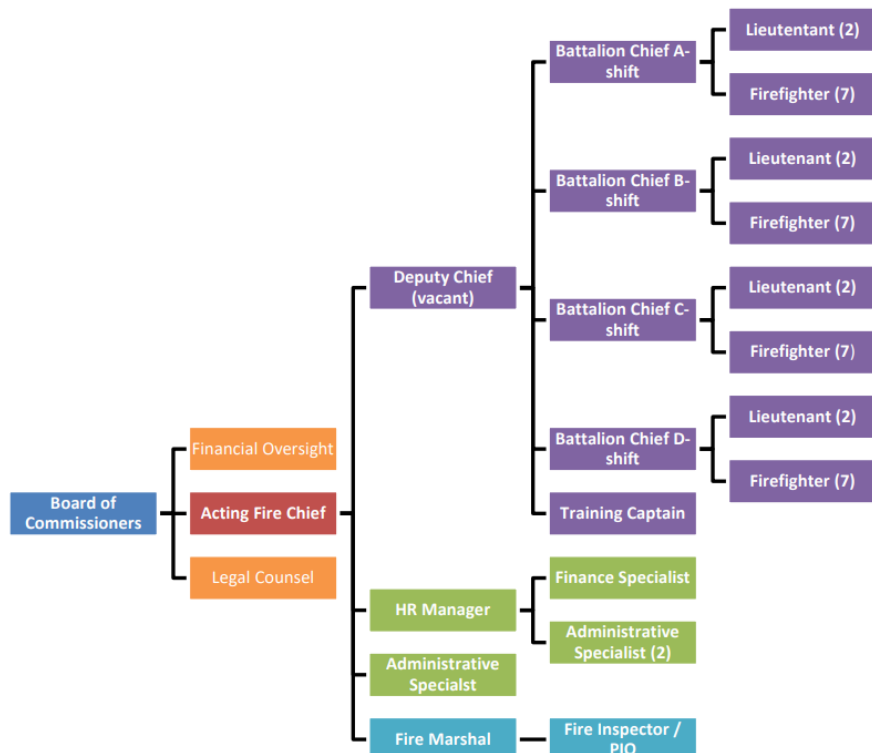


Don Ellis,  
Member



Josh Pratt,  
Member

## ORGANIZATION CHART





*Engine 51 responding to a rapid-moving house fire in Kenmore.*

## NORTHSHORE FIRE REFINANCES BONDS, SAVES MONEY

Northshore Fire Department refinanced the 2009 Unlimited Tax General Obligation Bonds (which were issued for constructing and equipping the headquarters Fire Station 51) for interest cost savings. The District received the highest bond rating of AAA. The average annual reduction in the voted bond payment is \$166,272 for the years 2020 through 2027. The District achieved a total net savings of \$1,333,980 for taxpayers.

The District was very pleased to receive the highest bond rating grade of AAA, which is an upgrade from the AA+ rating previously received. This is a great accomplishment for the District and its citizens. Only one other fire district in the State of Washington has achieved the highest bond rating of AAA. We want to thank the Commissioners and District staff for all of their hard work.

The AAA bond rating grade was based on the following key factors:

1. Demonstrated track record of very strong fund balances in the General Fund;
2. Strength of the local economy;
3. Growth in assessed value;
4. Financial management practices and policies; and
5. Experienced management in operating the District in an efficient manner.

Former Board Chair, Suzanne Greathouse stated, "This bond rating upgrade from AA+ to AAA reflects that the District is very well-managed and has excellent financial policies and practices in place for the benefit of our taxpayers."

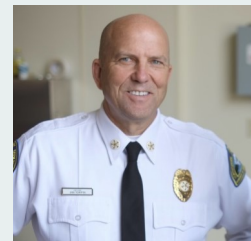
"The higher the rating grade, then the lower the interest cost. We are very pleased and proud to achieve the AAA rating grade," according to Former Commissioner Greathouse.

## FIRE CHIEF JIM TORPIN RETIRES

After serving the communities of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park for over 26 years, Fire Chief **Jim Torpin** retired from the District in May 2019.

Chief Torpin had been with the Department since 1993, when he was initially hired as a Firefighter. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1998, Fire Prevention Division in January 2005, Deputy Chief of Operations in November 2005 and Fire Chief in 2013.

We appreciate the many accomplishments Chief Torpin achieved and contributed to Northshore Fire during this tenure, including the recent AAA bond rating.

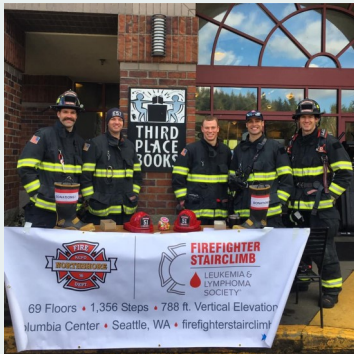




## RAISING AWARENESS AND FUNDS TO BEAT CANCER

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 fundraised and participate in this event each year; Last year included **FF Sullivan**, **FF Hoffman**, **FF Langbehn**, **FF Carrasquillo** and **FF Kuykendall**.

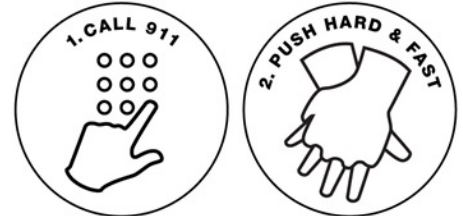


## STOP THE BLEED, HANDS ONLY CPR & AED

Hands-Only CPR can help gain precious time for a person experiencing a cardiac event but knowing First Aid, CPR and how to use an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) will enable you to provide life-saving care in a range of emergencies.

In December, Emergency Manager **Carl Lunak** & Fire Inspector/PIO **Wendy Booth** organized and led three free workshops to teach community members how to save a life in the event of an emergency by teaching “stop the bleed,” hands-only CPR and how to use an AED.

## 2 STEPS TO SAVE A LIFE



Check out this video to see how you can be the difference for someone you love.

## EXPLORING A CAREER AT NORTSHORE FIRE

### JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR

The Department hosted its first job and resource fair in January. In addition to inviting job seekers to learn about a career at Northshore Fire, the job fair included 30 other employers from the public and non-profit sectors recruiting for part-time and full-time positions. This was a free event that welcomed over 200 job seekers! A special thank you to HR Manager **Shannon Moore** and Administrative Specialist **Jen Kunkel**, who organized and led the event.



*LT Burrow and Chief Torpin at the Job & Resource Fair*

### “BECOMING A FIREFIGHTER AT NORTSHORE FIRE” OPEN HOUSE

HR Manager **Shannon Moore** facilitated two open house events at Station 51 for individuals interested in learning about a fire service career with the Department. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who participated on our panel during the event!

News of future events will be posted on the Department’s website and social media pages. Follow us to learn about future events.

## NORTHSHORE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COALITION (NEMCo)

NEMCo engages our community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from various emergencies and disasters through education, volunteer coordination and emergency preparedness training.



In 2019 we had an amazing year with our volunteers and recognized David Harisiades & Rosie Schaffer as our 'Volunteers of the Year!'

We also graduated 74 new CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteers, including 28 teenagers for the first time ever. This was our largest group of volunteers yet!



*To find out more about CERT and becoming a volunteer, visit <https://www.northshorefire.com/education/emergency-preparedness/>*

## OPEN HOUSE, PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND SAFETY FAIR AT STATION 51

A big thanks to everyone who helped at our annual Open House, Pancake Breakfast and Safety Fair last June and to our event's planner, Fire Marshal **Jeff LaFlam**.

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

Note: The date has not been set yet for 2020's Open House and Pancake Breakfast.





## NORTHSHORE FIRE

### 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.



## NORTH KING COUNTY TRAINING CONSORTIUM (NKCTC)

In 2019, Northshore Fire continued work alongside Shoreline, Bothell, and Woodinville Fire Departments to move closer to an official joint training consortium. As the Administrations of each respective organization continued to work out the details, the Training Officers and Administrative Specialists of each Department worked with a high level of collaboration to align and elevate the training offered to the Departments.

The NKCTC will be a larger training resource that will work together to create operational efficiencies across the four organizations.

There is much excitement about the continued direction of the Consortium!

Note: The NKCTC officially launched in March 2020 and is headquartered at Northshore Fire's Kenmore station.



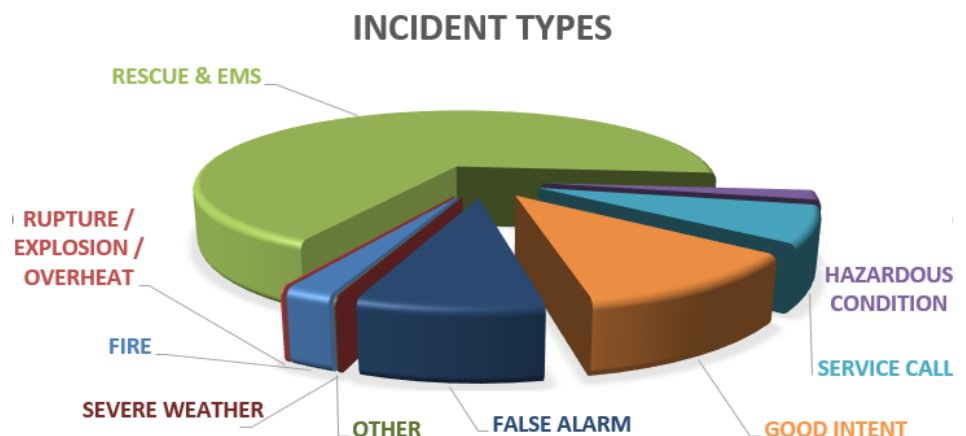
*A few members of the NKCTC team*

## TRAINING AND OPERATIONS

In 2019, Northshore Fire responded to 3,583 incidents. 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 2,457 (68.6%) 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 2.2% of the 2019 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.

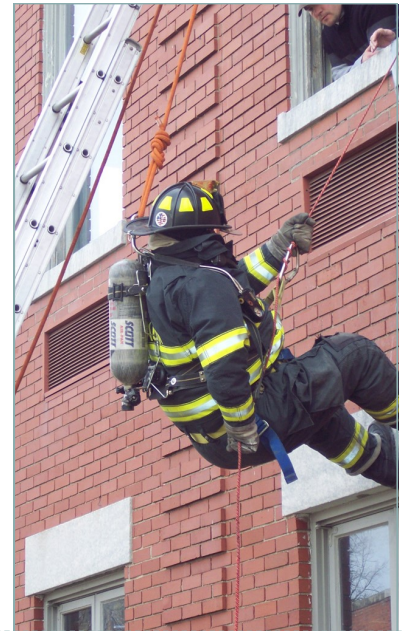


## ACQUIRED STRUCTURE TRAINING AT COUNTRY VILLAGE

In July 2019, Northshore Fire had the opportunity to join our North End partners for training at the now torn down Country Village Shopping Center.

Before the contractor demolished the buildings, Bothell Fire Department was able to coordinate with the Developer an opportunity to train at the site for nearly a month. Almost daily we had crews training at Country Village on hose, ladders, ventilation, forcible entry, search and rescue, and more.

This was a unique chance for crews to perfect their craft on real buildings we wouldn't normally get to train on.



*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.*

## NORTHSHORE FIRE FOUNDATION

In the course of our daily work and emergency responses, Northshore Firefighters recognize a need to provide support to our communities outside the scope of the fire department. Our Northshore Fire Foundation (NFF), a non-profit organization, helps support these needs. In 2019 NFF:

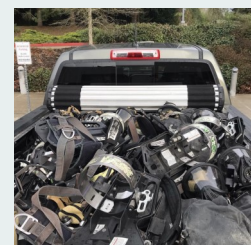
- Hosted a concert with Asterhouse Music, with proceeds going towards the purchase of coats through Operation Warm Coat; 60 coats were donated to Mary's place and Babies of Homelessness.
- Donated \$600 to Babies of Homelessness for an emergent request for a homeless mother and child.
- Held a toy drive for Hopelink.
- Each year the Northshore Fire Foundation does an annual

fitness competition to raise money for a cause related to the Fire, Police, or Military community. This year we raised money for “Four Seasons Fighter” to help their cause in helping veterans, firefighters, and police officers whose lives have been altered permanently because of the sacrifices they made while serving our country and communities making what they once thought impossible, possible! We were able to raise \$3000.

- Raised nearly \$1000 at our Open House to donate \$1000 to a non-profit art project in Kenmore.
- Donated \$2500 to Bothell Fire's benevolent fund for Lt. Kirk Robinson's family

### FIRST-IN TRAINING & EDUCATION (F.I.T.E.) DONATION

Northshore Fire donated expired bunker gear, masks, packs and bottles to the local non-profit entity, [F.I.T.E.](#) Fire and EMS, WANIC program in April. These items will be used by their students who train in the fields of firefighting and emergency medicine.





## YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES

The following employees were recognized for their many dedicated years of service to our Department and community in 2019:



*LT Pete VanDusen:  
35 years*



*FF Nick Lewis and FF Brian Livingston: 5 years*



*FF Gene Piana and FF Todd McInturff: 25 years*

*“At the Northshore Fire Department, our employees are our most valuable resource and allow us to provide outstanding service to the public.”*

## NEW HIRES

In 2019, we welcomed Part-Time Administrative Specialist **Kathy Walsh** to the team, along with Firefighter **Jake Gillis**, Firefighter **Joel Stephens**, and Firefighter **Jessica Walters**; The three Firefighter Recruits completed a 13-week long East Metro Training Group Fire Academy before starting on shift January 2020.



*FF Gillis, FF Stephens, FF Walters*

## ANNUAL AWARDS

During Northshore Fire’s Annual Awards Banquet we recognized the accomplishments of the following employees:

**FF Hans Hurn**—Recipient of the *2019 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.

**LT Jeremiah Ingersoll** —Recipient of the *2019 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

**LT Brian Ford**—Recipient of the *2019 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.



*FF Hans Hurn*



*LT Jeremiah Ingersoll*



*LT Brian Ford*





*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.*

## RETIREES

Thank you to all our retirees for your years of dedicated service!



Capt. **Jim Harvey** retired from Northshore Fire after 28 years of dedicated service. Starting in May 1991, Jim promoted up through the ranks at the Department. During the last three years of his career, he served in the Training Division as Training Captain.



Firefighter **John Blake** was hired at Northshore Fire in September 1983 and retired in March 2019. Thank you, John, for your many years of dedicated service to our communities!



Lieutenant **Paul Schultz** began his career at Northshore Fire in July 1983 and retired from Northshore Fire after serving the District for over 35 years. He most recently was assigned at Station 57 in Lake Forest Park.

## PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following individuals who were promoted in 2019:



**Ryan Davis (center):**  
promoted to Lieutenant

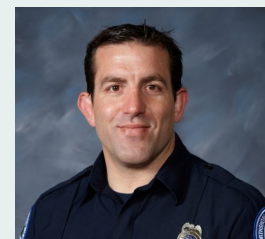


**Matt Hochstein (left):**  
promoted to Training Capt.  
then Battalion Chief

**Jeremy Jamerson (right):**  
promoted to Lieutenant



**Tim Tyler:** promoted  
to Lieutenant



**Brian Ford:** promoted  
to Lieutenant

## "SNOWMAGEDON" 2019



*"Frosty" the snowman looks good in a Station 51 helmet.*

*Fresh snow at Station 51*



## 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 2019, the combined aggregate effective tax rate that citizens paid to the District for fire and emergency medical services (EMS) was \$1.06 per thousand of their property's assessed value. Voter approved fire station bond payments add an additional \$0.16 per thousand of assessed value.

Northshore Fire's General Operating Budget for 2019 was \$9,145,326 with wages and benefits comprising approximately 80% of total expenses. The 2019 actual expenses totaled \$9,224,211.

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 2019, approximately \$1,452,044 was expensed from the Reserve Fund.

Although not assessed by the District, King County Medic One/EMS 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)

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