Responsive. Courageous. Compassionate.



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Station 51 7220 NE 181st Street Kenmore, WA 98028

- Station 57 17020 Brookside Blvd NE
- Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

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ABOUT US

Since 1942, the Northshore Fire Department has been providing comprehensive fire prevention, education and emergency fire suppression services to the residents of the cities of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park.

Northshore Fire is staffed with 51 dedicated employees, including 42 Firefighters and Officers, Training Captain, Fire Prevention and our 4 person administrative team.



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 three principals 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.

A Message From Northshore Interim Fire Chief, Greg Ahearn



With great pride I present to you the activities and accomplishments of the Northshore Fire Department. Our department provides fire, emergency medical services, special operations, and

public education in an effective and fiscally responsible manner to our taxpayers. We are a full-service emergency management agency.

Northshore Fire Department depends on the continued support of community organizations, NEMCo, city administrations, residents, and business owners to be successful in our everyday operations. In 2020, the department and our community faced an unprecedented worldwide pandemic. Covid-19 challenged every aspect of the department's operations and changed many of our daily routines. Public education, fire prevention, and even routine training activities were canceled or modified, as was our typical interaction with each other at the station. Despite this, the men and women of Northshore Fire Department continue to provide care and comfort to those in need.

Northshore Firefighters responded to 3,497 incidents in 2020. Of those 3,497 total incidents, 2,397 were Emergency Medical Service (EMS) related, and 73 were fire related. Each incident represents someone within our community experiencing an unexpected event that led them to call for assistance. Our firefighters answered every call with professionalism and compassion.

This year had many highlights for the District. While Northshore continues to say goodbye to retirees, we were able to hire six additional firefighters. We also completed our first year with the North King County Training Consortium. The training consortium has been a fantastic boost to our training programs.

I cannot thank the members of our department enough for their hard work and dedication to service during these trying times. In the uncertainty of a global pandemic, they adapted to new policies and procedures and they continued to serve without hesitation. We stand ready to respond to the challenges of 2021 and look forward to serving our community for another year.

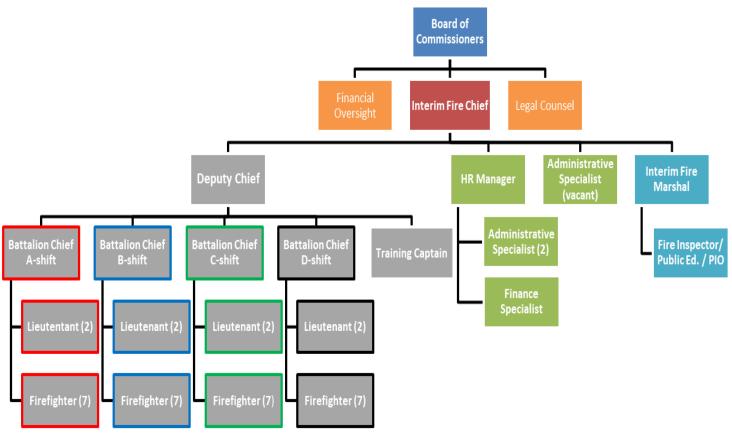
Sincerely,

Grage Schen

Chief Ahearn



Organizational Structure



2020 Board of Commissioners



Dave Maehren, Chair



Rick Webster, Vice Chair (2021 Chair)



Rick Verlinda, Member



Don Ellis, Member



Josh Pratt, Member (2021 Vice Chair)



Operations

The Operations Division carries out the primary functions of the Department and are at the heart of what we do.

1 Deputy Chief



1 Training Captain



5 Shift Battalion Chiefs



8 Lieutenants

30 Firefighters

Administrative Staff

The Administration Division provides administrative support for all Fire Department activities; including customer service, budget preparation, payroll and human resources.

1 Interim Fire Chief



1 Human Resource Manager



1 Finance Specialist



2 Administrative Specialists





Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Division is passionate about safety and offers a variety of services to assure the safety of the community throughout the District.

1 Interim Fire Marshal



1 Fire Inspector/ Public Educator/PIO



Acting Fire Chief Eric Magnuson Retires

After serving the communities of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park for over 21 years, Acting Fire Chief Eric Magnuson retired from the District in March 2020.

Chief Magnuson was hired by the Department as a Firefighter/EMT in July 1998. He promoted through the ranks, with his most recent promotion to Deputy Chief in 2016 and selection to Acting Fire Chief in May 2019.

We appreciate his many years of dedicated service and contributions to the Northshore Fire Department.





Congratulations to the following individuals, who were recognized by the majority of their peers for their distinguished performance in 2020 and received the following annual awards:

FF JAYDEN PETRO—Recipient of 2020's **Fire Department Mentoring Award**.

This is awarded to the member who is chosen by his/her peers for being a mentor to other members and exhibiting leadership at any rank.

FF MATT LANGBEHN—Recipient of 2020's **Fire Service Excellence Award** <u>and</u> 2020's **EMS Excellence Award**.

The Fire Service Excellence Award is given to the firefighter or fire officer who is chosen by his/her peers for exhibiting consistent execution of assigned duties where said duties have been carried out in an outstanding, superior manner.

The EMS Excellence Award is awarded to the Emergency Medical Technician chosen by his/her peers for exhibiting compassion, professionalism, and dedication to the emergency medical service.



Retirements



Firefighter Gene Piana retired after 26 years of service.



Fire Marshal Jeff LaFlam retired after 35 years of fire service, with 14 of those years served at Northshore Fire.

New Hires

- Lydon Wilkinson, Firefighter/EMT
- Kevin Schneider, Firefighter/EMT
- Sky Blake, Firefighter/EMT
- Ricki Creger-Zier, Firefighter/EMT
- Jonathan Kroon, Firefighter/EMT
- Kent Park, Firefighter/EMT
- Ethan Sharp, Firefighter/EMT
- Jeremy Taiwo, Firefighter/EMT
- Doug McDonald, Deputy Chief



Promotions



Lieutenant Blake Pritchett

Hired in May 2010, Firefighter **Blake Pritchett** was promoted to the position of Lieutenant in December 2020. In the of Fall 2020, Pritchett was assigned as an instructor at the recent Fire Academy in which Northshore Fire also sent our six most recent Recruit Firefighters.

Years of Service Milestones



FI/PE/PIO Wendy Booth 20 years



LT Blake Pritchett 10 years



FF Kyle Colletti 5 years



FF Chris Hoffman 5 years

Northshore Fire's Facilities



Northshore Fire Department operates out of two stations; 51 and 57. Station 51 is the headquarters located off 181st street in Kenmore.

Station 57 underwent some much needed renovations in 2020. These renovations improve Firefighter health and safety, allowing for continued quality service to the community.



Northshore Fire's Fleet

Northshore Fire has four engines, including two reserve engines. Thanks to our amazing citizens, Northshore was able to begin production of two new engines in 2020. These engines went into service in 2021.

Northshore Fire has two aid cars, including one reserve aid car. The aid car operates out of Station 51. Aid cars have the supplies and equipment to provide basic life support.

Northshore Fire has two command units, including one reserve unit. These units are used by the Battalion Chiefs when they need to respond to a call.

Northshore Fire has one rescue truck and one rescue trailer. This truck carries specialty equipment for technical rescues.

used for attending training and transport of

Northshore contracts paramedic services with Shoreline Fire Department.





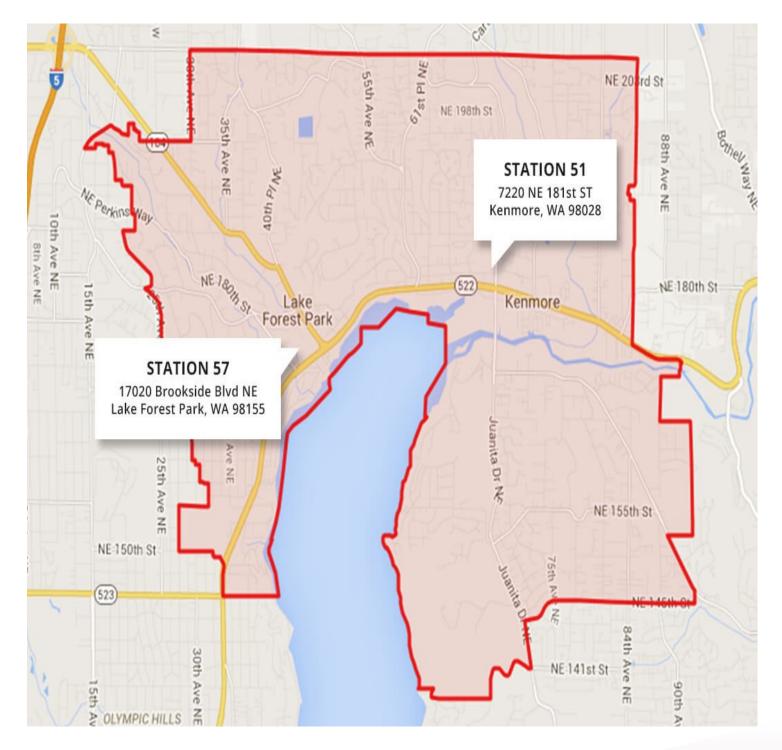




Response Times



Our Service Area



Service Area Statistics

Northshore Fire Responded to 3497 Incidents in 2020.

 $\begin{array}{l} \Rightarrow \ \ \textbf{2341} \ by \ Station \ \textbf{51} \\ \Rightarrow \ \ \textbf{1156} \ by \ Station \ \textbf{57} \end{array}$

69% of all calls were medical emergencies.

446 calls were outside our jurisdiction. The closest unit is dispatched to a call, regardless of boundaries.

Types of Calls in 2020

2397 Medical Emergency

Our Firefighters are also EMT's and provide the community with basic life support. Northshore Fire also contracts with Shoreline Fire Department for paramedic services, who provide advanced life support (ALS).





22 Hazmat Responses & 27 Flammable/ Combustible Gas

4 Water Rescues 4 Extrication/Rescues 1 Electrical Rescue





73 total fire responses over the year, 38 of those being structure fires.



53 Motor Vehicle Collisions



A Message From the Deputy Chief of Operations

Response Operations' mission is to quickly and effectively respond to all hazards and to mitigate our customers emergencies. As our regional population expands and calls for service increase, Northshore Fire Department continues to provide the highest level of service possible. Members train constantly and are equipped to serve you. We continue to develop and evaluate response plans to ensure our community



receives the quickest and most efficient emergency response possible.

In 2020, the District responded to 3497 calls for service. This was almost as many calls as in 2019. The types of calls that our Firefighters respond to continue to be highly technical, staffing intensive and time critical, consisting of emergency medical care and transport, fire suppression, environmental protection and technical rescue. Technical rescue calls involve high angle rope rescue, trench rescue, confined space, surface water rescue, vehicle extrication, structural collapse or heavy machinery rescue.

Over the year, our staff worked quickly to address the impacts caused by the global pandemic. Efforts included securing necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), safeguarding our workplace, assuring employee and community safety, all while continuing to respond to service calls received over the course of normal business. We continue to work with Federal agencies and our regional partners, King County EMS and Public Health, to develop strategies to keep us all safe, prevent future spread, and manage the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

Our team is honored to be part of this amazing community. We will continue to be progressive in our approach to protecting our citizens, ensuring that we listen, show extreme compassion and react with precision to your needs. Keeping our community safe is our number one goal. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Deputy Fire Chief

Jouclas S. Mc Concle

Doug S. McDonald Deputy Fire Chief, Response Operations

New Deputy Chief Takes Command at Northshore Fire Department

Deputy Chief Doug McDonald joined the Northshore Fire Department in September 2021. A 29 year veteran of the fire service, Deputy Chief McDonald brought an extensive knowledge to the organization and a proven track record of passion and performance. Prior to joining the Department, Deputy Chief McDonald served as Operations Deputy Chief for the City of Bothell since June 2018. During that time, his position had been part of an Interlocal Agreement with the Northshore Fire Department for shared Deputy Chief services. Prior to his employment at the City of Bothell, Deputy Chief McDonald served 26 years with the City of Renton and Renton Regional Fire Authority.

Deputy Chief McDonald has his Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science and graduated from the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Planning Course. In 2019, he graduated from the University of Washington Foster Business School – Seattle Fire Department's Executive Leadership Academy.



Financial

Revenues	2020 (unaudited)
Revenue - Property Tax, Fire Benefit Charge, EMS Levy	\$10,387,746.05
Services/Use Fees/Taxes	\$68,153.20
Reimbursements	\$156,836.40
Miscellaneous - CPR Classes, Helmet Program, Surplus Items, etc.	\$89,614.60
King County Fees, Interest	\$71,144.11
	\$ 10,773,494.36

We remain committed to the efficient and effective use of the tax dollars we receive. The District receives the majority of it's 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 2020, the combined aggregate effective tax rate that citizens paid to the District for fire and emergency medical services was \$1.28 per thousand of their property's assessed value.

Northshore Fire's General Operating Budget for 2020 was \$10,216,712 with wages and benefits comprising of over 85% of total expenses. The 2020 actual expenses totaled \$10,098,248. The District also 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 2020, approximately \$1,141,352 was expensed from the Reserve Fund.

General Fund

Budget/Expenditures	2020 (unaudited)	2019 (unaudited)	2018	2017	2016
Appropriated Amount	\$10,216,712	\$9,145,326	\$8,644,995	\$8,405,431	\$8,210,980
Actual Expenditures	\$10,098,248	\$9,751,118	\$8,357,624	\$8,001,669	\$7,612,394

Reserve Fund

Budget/Expenditures	2020 (unaudited)	2019 (unaudited)	2018	2017	2016
Appropriated Amount	\$657,011	\$703,000	\$588,000	\$413,000	\$350,000
Actual Expenditures	\$1,141,352	\$1,627,814	\$262,677	\$273,157	\$403,079



Training Division

In 2020, Bothell, Woodinville, Northshore and Shoreline Fire Departments combined resources to create the North King County Training Consortium (NKCTC), which is housed at Station 51. Since these departments respond to calls together, it is imperative that they also train together.



Firefighters received a variety of general training courses including emergency vehicle driver training, basic firefighter skills training,

emergency medical aid, multi-company operations and rescue.

Training includes classroom, drill ground practice and performance evaluations. Station 51 has a full training ground, including a training tower and classroom facilities, which regional agencies come to use.

In 2020, the Northshore Fire Department Training Division directed the education and training needs of 42 uniformed Firefighters.

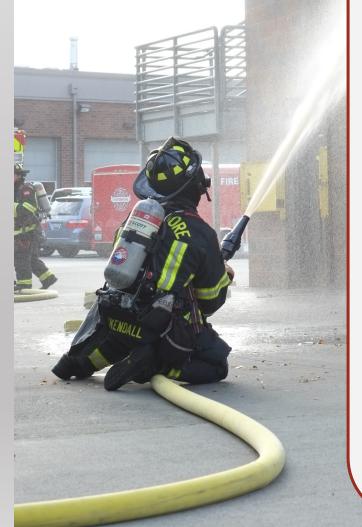








John Burrow, Training Captain



NKCTC 2020 Accomplishments:

- Developed a NKCTC Recruit Academy Firefighter Fundamentals Manual.
- Combined the Training Program of four agencies into one NKCTC Program.
- Developed and facilitated a NKCTC Pump Academy in August and associated task-book.
- Developed and implemented a pre-academy and post-academy on-boarding process.
- Developed and implemented a Probationary task-book for several new firefighters.
- Initiated a survey/recommendation of a records management system.
- Partnered in the September Recruit Academy with South King County Fire Training Consortium (SKCFTC).
- Provided Quarterly Competency Based Tactical Training (IMS) to Battalion Chiefs and Lieutenants.
- Facilitated Incident Safety Officer Certification to 37 students in the NKCTC.
- Provided 4th Quarter Live Fire training to all four agencies at the Gold Bar facility.
- Upgrades to the training office, equipment and IT.
- Purchased an Academy Trailer and outfitted with NKCTC logo.

Special Operations

COVID-19 has had many effects on not only our community, but also on our Department.

Despite the unique challenges, the Department is still responsible to complete training to maintain proficiencies in a variety of skillsets to serve our citizens in not only Firefighting, Advanced and Basic Life Saving techniques, but also Special Operations: Auto Extrication, Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, Structural Collapse, and Water Rescue emergencies.





Northshore crews partnered with other crews from Bothell, Shoreline and Woodinville Fire Departments to train on a variety of complex scenarios.

Pictured to the left, a simulated car trapped under a bus with two patients who are also trapped; Crews were required to lift and stabilize the 25,000 pound bus, remove the car to a safe working distance and extricate the two simulated patients.



The Northshore Fire Department has eight dedicated Technical Rescue Technicians who respond from both Station 51 in Kenmore and Station 57 in Lake Forest Park. These Technicians maintain their certifications in Structural Collapse, Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and Trench Rescue.

Additionally, we have five Rescue Swimmers that respond to not only our response area, but also to our neighboring communities.



Highlighted Incidents



On October 4th, Northshore Engine 151 and Battalion 151 responded with Bothell,

Woodinville and Snohomish District 7 units to a working mobile home fire at Green Acres Mobile Home Park

(in Bothell). Arriving units did an outstanding job of keeping the flames primarily to the unit of origin. Multiple patients were treated by medics.

On November 14th, Northshore responded to a residential fire in the 7500 block of 202nd. Two occupants were home at the time and evacuated with no injuries.





On November 16th, Northshore

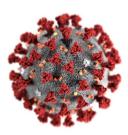
responded to a residential structure fire in the 15300 block of 72 Avenue NE. Two people were home at the time of the fire and one person was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries. The Northshore Fire Department was assisted by Bothell, Kirkland, Redmond and Shoreline Fire Departments.

Pictured to the right are Northshore Firefighters rinsing off after fighting a live fire in order to help decontaminate their PPE.

Turnout clothing not only represents an investment for the Department, but more importantly it can be the difference between adequate protection and injury for firefighters.



COVID-19



COVID-19 impacted the Northshore Fire Department just like it did the rest of the world. We endured staff member vacancies, initiated changes to our response procedures, PPE and equipment shortages and improved our sanitization and decontamination procedures.

The Fire Department recognized the impending impact the pandemic would have upon the department's operations and in April, appointed Battalion Chief Douglas Knight to the position of the department's COVID-19 Medical Officer. Assigned to the day shift for six months, BC Knight's duties included:

- Development of the department's response, sanitization and decontamination procedures.
- Coordination of information with other fire departments and King County Public Health.
- Development of an employee screening program that tested each employee as they entered the fire station to prevent a widespread exposure from potentially sick individuals.
- Development of employee exposure, tracking and return to work guidelines.
- Assisted employees with testing and follow-up care.
- Information dissemination through a weekly department newsletter the "COVID Connection".
- Data tracking of possible COVID incidents (incident information, patient outcome, apparatus, personnel, etc.).
- Tracking locations of known COVID outbreaks.
- PPE and equipment inventories and procurement.



Based upon the tracking and record keeping procedures, in December, a federal/state grant application was submitted for reimbursement of approximately \$68,000 of our COVID related expenses.



PPE Procurement

Fortunately, we stockpiled PPE supplies following the Ebola health concerns of 2014-2015. As news of the COVID outbreak in Asia was reported in February and March, we responded proactively and began ordering additional supplies. This allowed us to remain ahead of the curve for several months. However, by early summer, our regular suppliers were unable to meet the demand and we had to turn to other sources. Purchases included infrared thermometers, masks, gloves and gowns and sanitization equipment for the fleet and stations.

Sanitizing/Decontamination Equipment

The pandemic brought new sanitizing and decontamination equipment to the department. Most noticeably were an ultra-violet light based sanitation cabinet, affectionately known as the "pizza oven" and an electrostatic spray gun.

The "pizza oven" was designed by Engineering students at the University of Washington and uses UV light to sanitize small items that can't be wiped down or sprayed with a solution, primarily portable radios and medical equipment. A cabinet was installed at each fire station.



The electrostatic gun places an electrostatic charge on the fine mist of sanitizing solution so the particles reach hidden areas for better coverage and effectiveness.

The spray gun is used to sanitize the crew and patient areas of the apparatus and around the fire station in the restrooms and exercise areas.



Grant for Ballistic Vests

Body armor is used by firefighters as protection during potentially violent incidents such as shootings, civil unrest and domestic violence situations. Body armor is not "bulletproof", it only prevents fatal injuries to the vital organs, critical injuries are still possible. Designed to provide limited protection from firearms, they provide little protection from knives or other stabbing/slashing instruments. Body armor is carried on all "first-out" apparatus and donned whenever necessary. Unfortunately, per state law and manufacturers standards, regardless of their use and condition, they must be replaced every five years.

In 2019, we applied for a grant to replace our expiring body armor through the Department of Justice, Ballistic Vest Partnership. In late 2019, we were notified our application was approved and we had been awarded almost \$12,000 in matching funds towards the total purchase price of approximately \$25,600. We placed the new vests into service in 2020.



The vests feature a plate carrier design, reducing the cost of replacement items to just the armor after the five-year cycle. The plates are "lightweight" composite material with a IIIA ballistic rating, capable of stopping the most common handgun and rifle rounds. With adjustable Velcro straps at the shoulders and waist, and front and back extension panels covering the lower back and abdomen, the vest can fit virtually every body size. For additional firefighter safety, a tourniquet is mounted to the vest.

Fire Prevention & Public Education

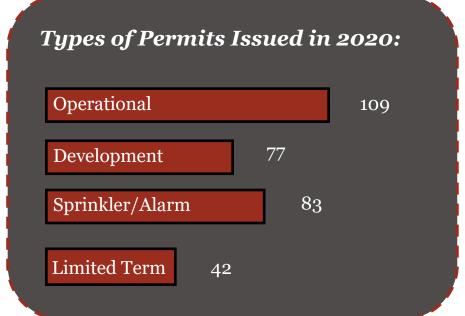
Number of Inspections Completed by each Station*:

Station	Assigned	Completed
51	185	167
57	112	106
Fire Prevention	119	109

*These numbers include self-inspections, as crew inspections were heavily impacted by COVID-19.

311

total permits were issued in 2020, which despite the challenges of the year, is an increase from 2019.



The Fire Prevention Division had some significant challenges in 2020. Fire Stations were closed to the public and special events such as our Open House/ Pancake Breakfast, station tours, fire engine visits to the schools, along with CPR/First Aid classes and bike helmet fittings were cancelled.



The main focus of our outreach to the public turned to all things Covid; how to protect our firefighters and our community. Fear from the public set in and the first task was to get the message out that if you were having an emergency - to call 911.

Trying to navigate the online only school format was challenging for our teachers/students and equally difficult for our Public Educator, Wendy Booth. She was able to put together a fire safety video for the 5th and 6th grade classrooms in the District to present in lieu of their annual school visit. In an effort to increase visibility in the community, the Northshore Firefighters participated in several drive-by birthday events.

The next hurdle was to keep businesses open and operating safely within the Fire Code. Fire Inspector, Wendy Booth, created a self-inspection checklist that allowed property owners and/or managers to do their own walk through of their business and verify they were in compliance.

In June 2020, Fire Marshal Jeff LaFlam retired and Northshore welcomed Butch Noble from Bothell as our interim Fire Marshal.



Pandemic Messaging

Fire Inspector/PIO Booth collaborated with Northshore's internal Covid-19 medical officer to streamline and push information out about the pandemic. This was done through social media platforms to keep the citizens of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park up to date on this ever evolving virus.

Fire Safety

Fire Prevention worked with both cities, local restaurants and bars to develop a cohesive plan that allowed businesses to remain open during the pandemic. The goal for the Department was to ensure that everyone was working within the parameters of the code and able to continue serving their dedicated patrons.

Fire Prevention

Fire Inspector/PIO Booth continued to educate the community with safety messaging to help reduce risk in Northshore. Some of the key messaging included: smoke alarms, fire escape planning, cooking, candles, handsonly CPR and weather related incidents.



Wendy Booth, Fire Inspector/ Public Educator/PIO





Carl Lunak, Emergency Manager

Northshore Fire Department partners with

Northshore Utility District and the Cities of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park (LFP) to establish the Northshore Emergency Management Coalition (NEMCo). NEMCo is housed at Station 51 and is one of the only such consortiums in the region.

The vast majority of 2020 was spent responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and coordinating the response of the NEMCo partner agencies. The development and implementation of remote work policies, employee screening and social distancing requirements dominated our schedule. As the pandemic continued, NEMCo did find a way to accomplish training, public outreach and additional work including:

- Hosting 10 virtual staff safety meetings for the NEMCo partner agencies field staff.
- A hybrid Emergency Preparedness Workshop for 28 Kenmore and LFP citizens with the classroom sessions online and a social distanced hands on class outside at Fire Station 51.
- NEMCo volunteers met virtually every month and continued to practice amateur radio communications from their homes.
- City staff for Kenmore and LFP continued to build out their capacity for responding to emergencies with the completion of an online training focused on our incident management software WebEOC.
- NEMCo organized a collection of Personal Protective Equipment and helped supply senior care facilities in our community that desperately needed additional items and could not purchase it.
- In response to the needs of the community NEMCo volunteers operated two food drive, receiving almost 300 bags of groceries for local foodbanks from members of the community.



Events in 2020



January – Job Fair



Fundraising for the Firefighter Stair Climb



February – Tebow Dance

UA9



NEMCo Toy Drive

<image>

NEMCo COVID-19 Food Drives

Drive-By Celebrations



"Since it's inception in 1942, the mission of the Northshore Fire Department and it's members has been to provide quality service to the community"



Follow Northshore Fire Department for Information and Updates



www.northshorefire.com