

# NORTHSHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2021 Annual Report

Station 51  
7220 NE 181st Street  
Kenmore, WA  
98028

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

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# MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

The men and women of Northshore Fire work to save lives, protect property, improve response outcomes and increase public education around fire safety. The department is staffed by professional firefighters trained to provide fire, rescue, and emergency medical services. In addition, we are fortunate to have an established in-house training consortium that educates and prepares our firefighters for any situation that may arise, such as: technical rescue (high and low angle rope, confined space and trench), vehicle extrication, hazardous materials and water rescue. The fire department is continually searching for opportunities to improve our services, promote efficiency, and increase community and firefighter safety.

2021 continued to be a challenging year, dealing with fallouts from Covid, which included mandates that forced our District to lose two of our valued firefighters. I cannot thank the members of our department enough for their hard work and dedication to service during these trying times. I'm grateful we are blessed with such good people and a great community.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Morris".

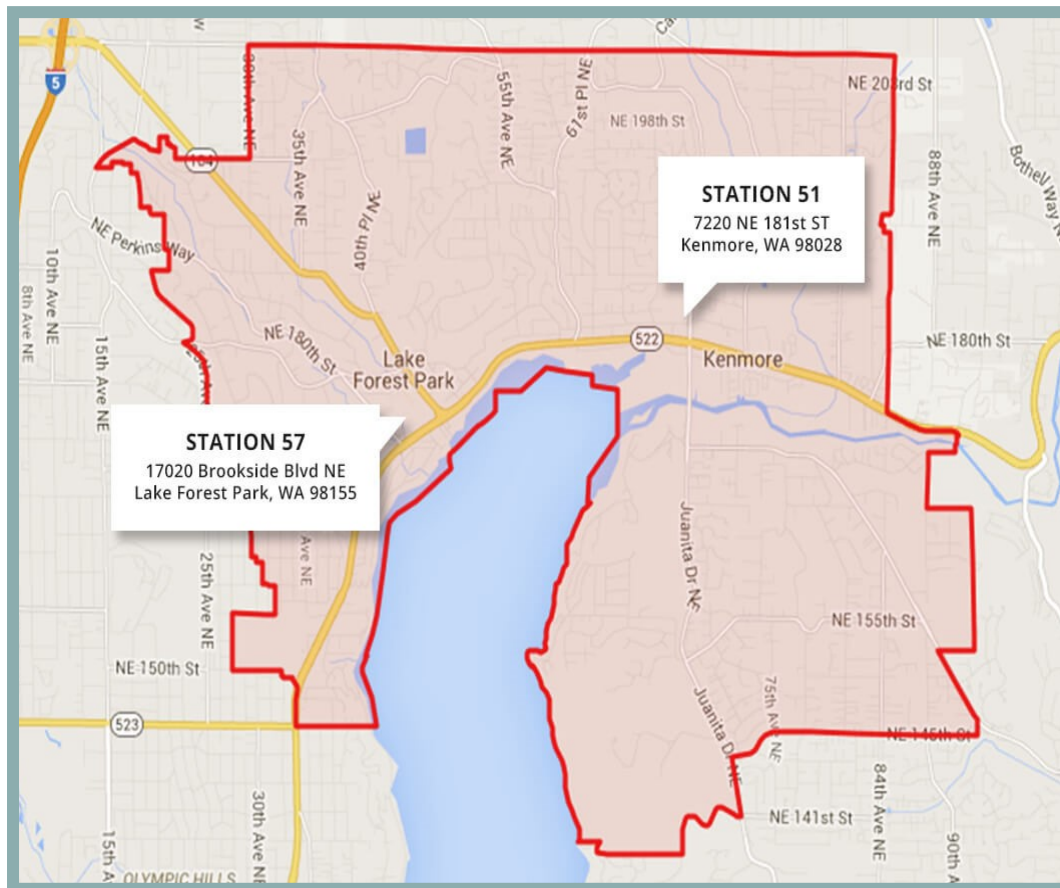
Mike Morris



# ABOUT US

For the last 80 years, 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 serves an area of approximately 11 square miles. Between the two stations we are staffed with 47 dedicated employees, including 40 Professional Firefighters and Officers, a 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

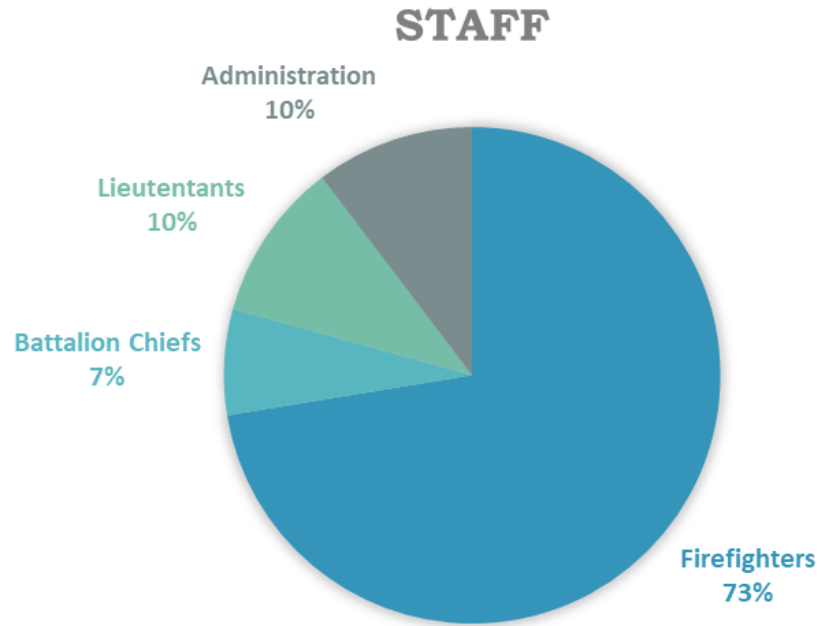
We are an organization that continues to be innovative in meeting our mission in a changing environment. We accomplish our mission by providing superior services in partnership with our community.

**Minimum On-Duty Staffing:**

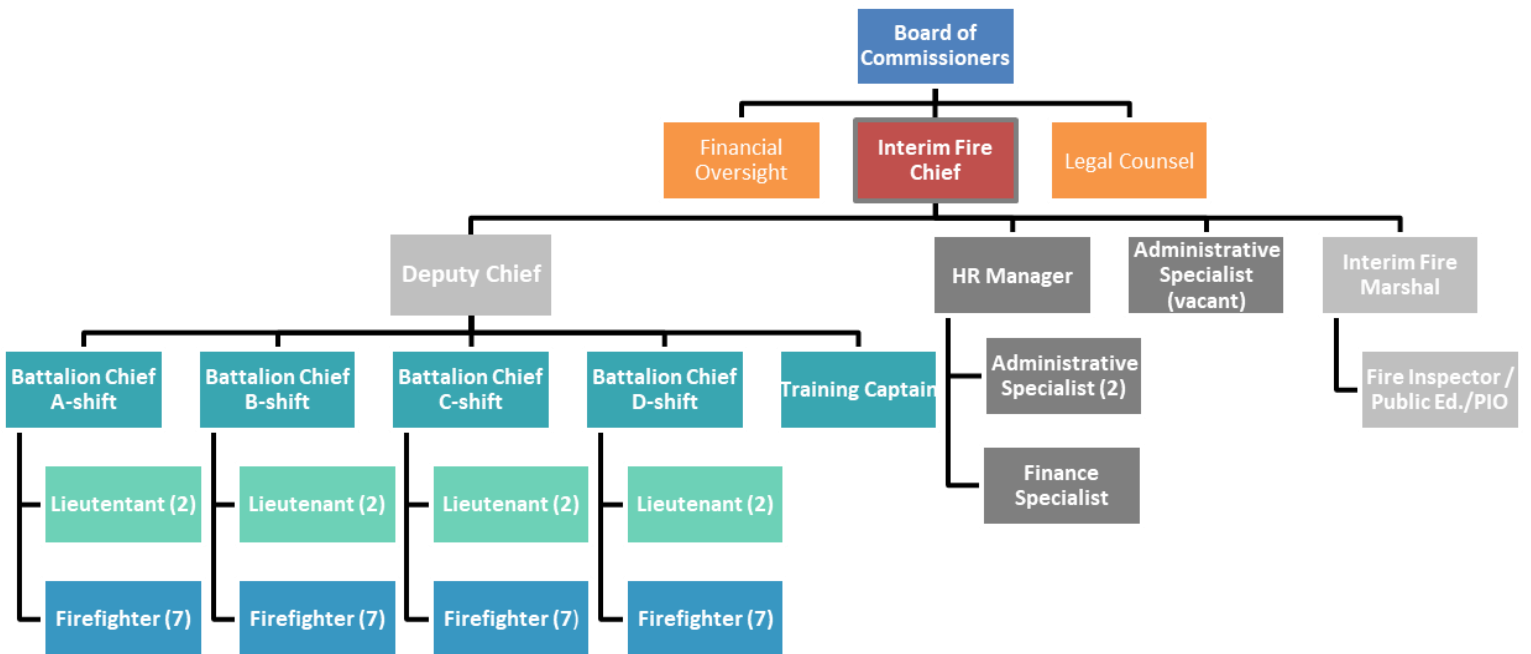
9

**2021 Total Staff:**

47



## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



# 2021 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



**Rick Webster** - Chair



**Josh Pratt** - Vice



**Dave Maehren**



**Eric Adman**

August 10th  
forward



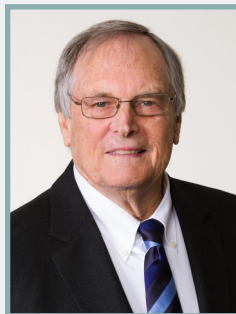
**Curtis Milton**

August 10th—  
November 22nd



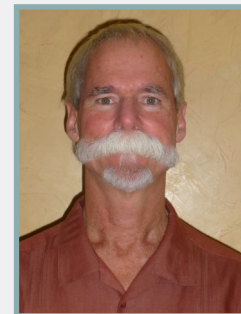
**Tyler Byers**

November 23rd  
forward



**Don Ellis**

IN  
LOVING  
MEMORY



**Rick Verlinda**

On May 25, 2021 Northshore Fire Department was saddened to hear of the unexpected passing of Fire Commissioner, Don Ellis. A Kenmore resident for over 50 years, Don originally joined the Northshore Fire Department Board of Commissioners in 1988 and served through 2011. He returned to the Board in January of 2016, when he was re-elected to a six-year term that ran through this year. He will be missed.

On June 24, 2021 Northshore Fire Department was saddened by the passing of another Fire Commissioner, Rick Verlinda. A Kenmore resident for over 20 years. In 2017, Commissioner Verlinda was elected to the Board of Commissioners for Northshore Fire. He brought with him an extensive career with the Seattle Fire Department, where he worked for over 30 years serving in many positions, including Battalion Chief. He will be missed.

# YEARS OF SERVICE

## 5 Years



Acting Lieutenant Travis Ross



Firefighter Brandon Kuykendall



Firefighter Lauren Peterson



Finance Specialist Dawn Killion

## 15 Years



Lieutenant Jeremey Jamerson



Firefighter Joe Heilman

## 25 Years



Battalion Chief Mike Morris



Battalion Chief Matt Hochstein



Lieutenant Tim Schwartz

## 40 Years



Battalion Chief Doug Knight



# STAFF RECOGNITION

## AWARDS

Congratulations to the following individuals who were recognized by the majority of their peers for their distinguished performance in 2021 and received the following annual awards:

**LIEUTENANT STEVE LOUTSIS** — Recipient of 2021'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.*

**ACTING LIEUTENANT TRAVIS ROSS** — Recipient of 2021's **Fire Service 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.*

**FIREFIGHTER MATT LANGBEHN** — Recipient of 2021's **EMS Excellence Award**.

*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.*



FF Langbehn, A-LT Ross, LT Loutsis



## PROMOTIONS

**Tim Schwartz** was promoted to Lieutenant. Congratulations!



## NEW HIRES

**Amy Oakley,**  
Board Secretary



**Chris O'Dougherty,**  
Firefighter/EMT



## RETIREMENTS

**Battalion Chief Mitch Sauer**

After over 29 years of dedicated service, Northshore Fire celebrated the retirement of Battalion Chief Mitch Sauer in January of 2021. Mitch promoted through the ranks from Firefighter, Lieutenant, Training Captain, and Battalion Chief.



**Firefighter Tim Osgood**

After over 34 years of exceptional service, Northshore Fire celebrated the retirement of Firefighter Tim Osgood in April of 2021. Tim started as a volunteer in Kenmore.



**Lieutenant Pete Van Dusen**

After over 37 years of exceptional service, Northshore Fire celebrated the retirement of Lieutenant Pete Van Dusen in June of 2021. Pete started in 1982, as a volunteer for Kenmore.





**1:14**

**Average First Apparatus  
Turnout Time**

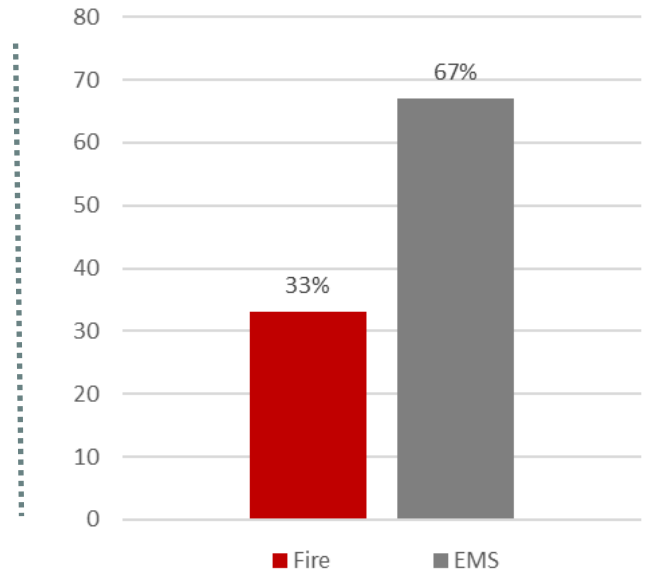
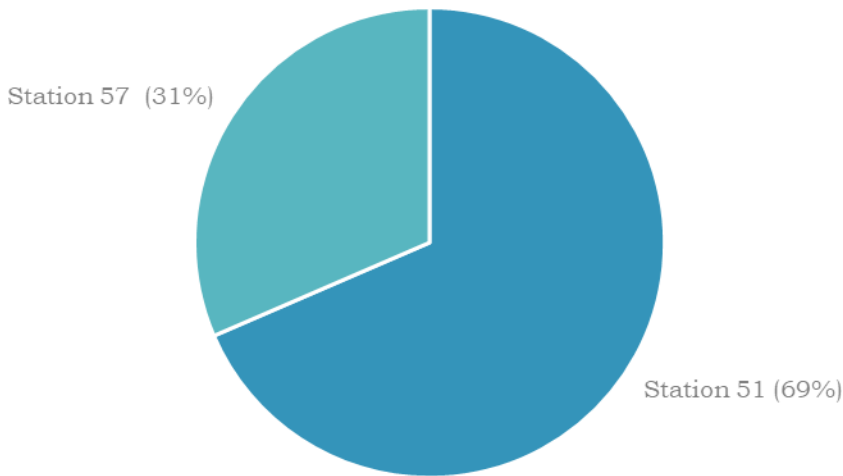
**5:29**

**Average First Apparatus  
Response Time**

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Both of our stations are staffed 24 hours a day,  
365 days a year, to provide fast response.

Response By Station



2,486 total medical  
emergency responses



71 Total Fire  
Responses, 39 of those  
being Structure Fires



589 Out of  
District Responses



86 Motor Vehicle  
Collisions

**3725**  
**Total Responses**  
**in 2021**

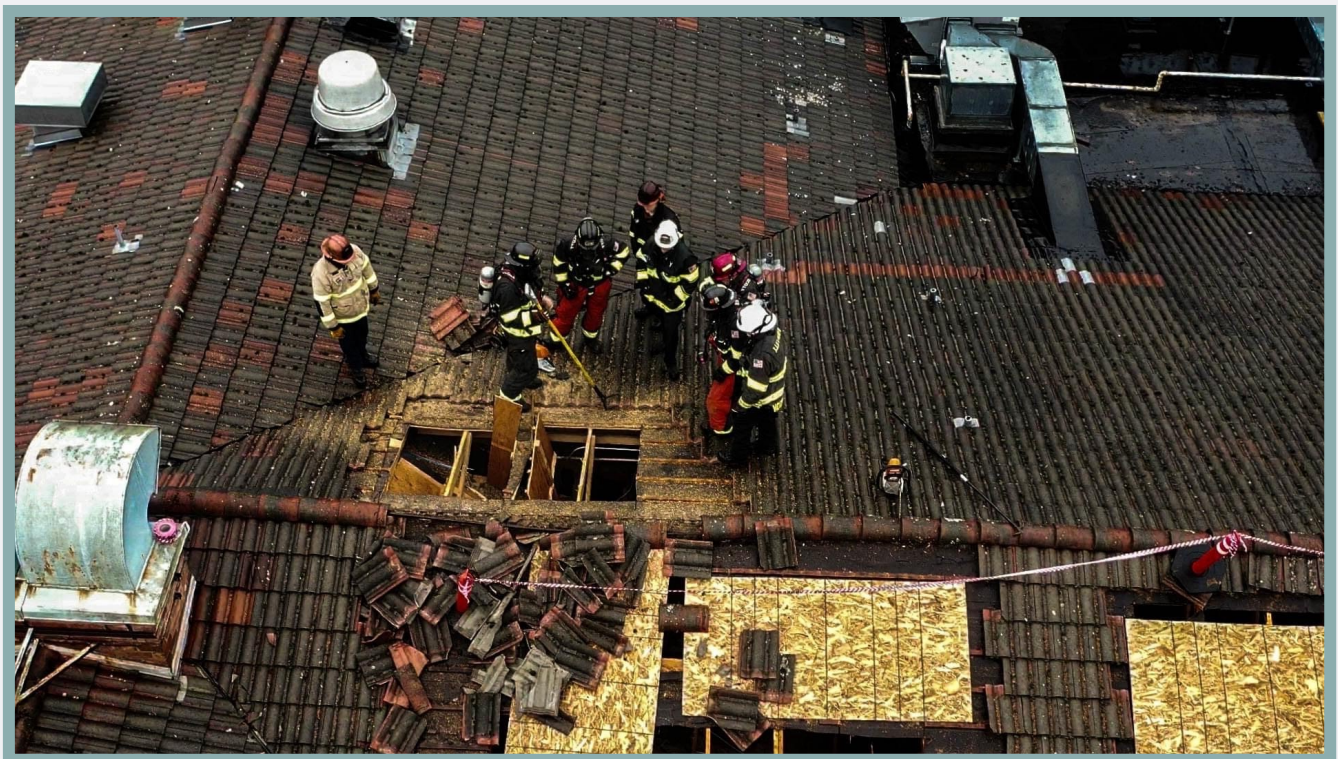
# TRAINING DIVISION

In 2020 the Training Division for the Northshore Fire Department partnered with a regional Training Consortium called the North King County Training Consortium (NKCTC). NKCTC partners consist of Battalion 3 of Eastside Fire and Rescue (formerly Woodinville Fire and Life Safety), Bothell Fire Department, Northshore Fire Department, and Shoreline Fire Department. Our training is delivered to the day staff firefighters, administrations of each agency, as well as the 267 line firefighters. During 2021, the 40 firefighters of the Northshore Fire Department recorded 5,439 hours of training. This training included: Emergency Medical Services, Fire Prevention, Firefighter Survival, Hazardous Materials, Health and Wellness, Automobile Extrication, Fire Suppression, Emergency Vehicle Operator, Leadership Training, and Technical Rescue.



NKCTC hosted its first internal Fire Academy to serve the partnering agencies that also included Kirkland Fire Department's participation with their recruit firefighters. The academy is a 20 week process that teaches recruit firefighters the basic fundamentals of firefighting, followed by Emergency Medical Technician school. Upon completion of the Fire Academy, recruit firefighters are awarded the title of "Probationary Firefighter" as they return to their home agency and begin their 12 month probationary process which includes a series of academic and practical education followed by evaluations to monitor their progress. There are two more academies scheduled in 2022.

In 2021 NKCTC had 14 structures donated to fire department training which allowed the Training Officer's the opportunity to provide training to 267 firefighters at these "acquired" structures. These are buildings (both commercial and residential) that are intended to be demolished and property owners allow the fire department to do destructive training. During our destructive training we simulate scenarios that incorporate all the skills and tasks that firefighters are expected to be proficient at, such as; rescuing victims from a home that is on fire, searching a smoke filled structure for unaccounted victims, cutting ventilation holes in roofs of buildings. At times it is not possible to exit a structure the same way you entered so firefighters have to cut new exits in the side of a building for interior crews to exit the structure, identify building construction and what affect that may have to a fire.



# FIRE PREVENTION & PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Fire Prevention Division faced some unique challenges in 2021. We, like everyone else, had to ride the ever changing Covid restriction roller coaster. While our fire stations remained closed to the public for classes, special events, station tours and bike helmet fittings, we continued to focus on ensuring public safety as best we could. We accomplished this by conducting annual fire inspections at all of the businesses in Kenmore and Lake Forest Park, field inspections for new construction and posting fire safety messages on social media.

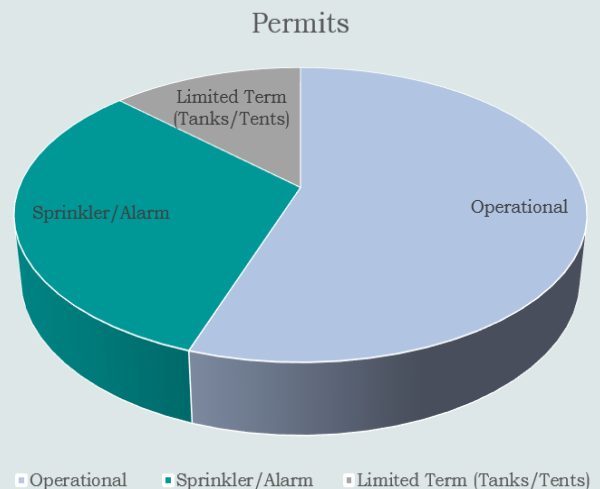
## Number of Inspections:

*(Many inspections could not be completed due to closures or unable to access due to restrictions.)*

Station	Assigned	Completed
51	202	190
57	100	94
Fire Prevention (Business Inspections)	128	120
Fire Prevention Field Inspections (Residential & Commercial Sprinkler/Alarm/Hood System/Tents/Food Trucks)		127

## Permits:

Operational	120
Sprinkler/Alarm	69
Limited Term (Tanks/Tents)	28



## Development Reviews:

Kenmore	95
Lake Forest Park	17



In 2021, we implemented a new tracking system for all fire and life safety systems in Kenmore and Lake Forest Park. The Compliance Engine (TCE) is a useful tool to quickly identify fire sprinkler, fire alarm and cooking suppression systems that have deficiencies. This is just another tool that our Fire Prevention Division uses to educate and improve safety measures in our response area.



Northshore Fire Department teamed up with the Shoreline Fire Department to provide Covid vaccinations to our most at risk community members. We visited local Adult Family Homes, went several schools and hosted pop-up clinics in an effort to get as many citizens in Kenmore and Lake Forest Park vaccinated.



# HIGHLIGHTED INCIDENTS

On April 25th, Kenmore Officers assisted Northshore Fire Department with a downed power line that fell on an unoccupied vehicle in the 8400 block of NE 169 Street, sparking a fire. This is a reminder of the danger of downed power lines.



On June 28th, the Northshore Fire Department was dispatched to a structure fire in the 18700 Block of 68 Avenue NE. Two adults and 2 cats were able to safely self-evacuate their residence without injury. The fire was contained to a single unit. Northshore Fire Department was assisted by Shoreline, Bothell, Woodinville, Kirkland, Redmond, Seattle, Bellevue and South County Fire.



In July, Northshore Fire responded to a house fire in Kenmore that started from a vape pen that was in a purse and either overheated or was turned on accidentally. Vape Pens/Electronic Cigarettes cause fires and injuries each year in the US. 62% of the incidents of explosion and fire involving an electronic cigarette or its battery occurred when the device was either in a pocket/purse or actively in use.

On November 21st, Northshore Firefighters responded to a house fire in Lake Forest Park. Although the homeowners were not in the house when the fire began, smoke alarms had activated and they were an early alert to the danger inside. Two slightly traumatized cats were retrieved by fire personnel and are doing well. Northshore was supported by Shoreline and Bothell Fire Departments. The cause of the fire was determined to be faulty electrical.





# FINANCIAL

Northshore Fire Department is 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 2021, the combined aggregate effective tax rate that citizens paid to the District for fire and emergency medical services was \$1.15 per thousand of their property's assessed value. Voter approved fire station bond payments add an additional \$0.15 per thousand of assessed value.

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.

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>2021 (Unaudited)</b>
Revenue - Property Tax, Benefit Charge, EMS Levy	\$10,548,788.43
Services/Use Fees/Taxes	\$57,111.22
Reimbursements	\$231,437.08
Miscellaneous - CPR Classes, Helmet Program, Surplus Items, etc.	\$32,534.68
King County Fees, Interest	\$33,540.88
	\$10,903,412.29

<b>General Fund - Budget/Expenditures</b>	<b>2021 (Unaudited)</b>
Appropriated Amount	\$10,492,279.00
Actual Expenditures	\$10,772,055.00
<b>Reserve Fund - Budget/Expenditures</b>	<b>2021 (Unaudited)</b>
Appropriated Amount	\$730,500.00
Actual Expenditures	\$737,284.00

# EVENTS IN 2021



Pump Academy



Swim Techs with their New Gear



New Engines Put Into Service



CERT  
Classes





Inglemoor High Graduation



National Night Out



Kenmore Air Harbor - 100 Years



Polar Plunge



Birthday Cake Delivery



Thank you to Norcom!



*Follow Northshore Fire Department  
for Information and Updates*



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