



North County Regional Fire Authority

Serving our Communities with Compassion

Professionalism • Integrity • Pride • Innovation • Ownership

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

It has been a little over a year since we last reached out with a newsletter and a lot has happened with the North County Regional Fire Authority. Since our merger with the Arlington Fire Department in August 2021, our organization has more than doubled in size. Change is never easy, but our team has done a great job melding in a very short time. We have developed a new set of guiding principles based on unified core values of Integrity, Innovation, Professionalism, Pride and Ownership to “Serve our Communities with Compassion”.

We proudly serve the areas of Kackman, Freeborn, Bryant, Grandview, Warm Beach, the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians and the cities of Stanwood and Arlington. Our diverse region covers over 120 square miles from cities to ultra-rural areas.

We have promoted three new Battalion Chiefs to provide 24-hour command and control, hired a new Mobile Integrated Health Practitioner/Community Resource Paramedic, hired 6 new firefighters and have plans to hire 5-8 more in the next year. All that, and we are in the process of building a new state of the art training facility that will provide an opportunity for safe training, college fire training partnerships, and it is easily accessible for all County fire agencies.

We continue to have many successes and are proud to Serve our Communities with Compassion! If you have any questions, please reach out. I am always happy and proud to discuss our organization.

Thank you!

John Cermak

Fire Chief

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North County Fire's New Training Center Starts to Take Shape

Work on the new Firefighter Training Facility progresses on schedule in northeast Stanwood just west of I-5 off exit 215. This state-of-the-art facility will feature three training pads and one classroom pad divided by a simulated road system to reflect real-world training scenarios. One of the training pads will showcase



a multi-sectional training prop that incorporates a 5-story tower, a single-story rambler, a second-story garden apartment, and a forcible-entry gallery, among other configurations. The prop will be made from shipping containers with custom modifications designed to meet the challenging scenarios today's firefighters face in their communities. The prop is also designed with three burn chambers to train firefighters in live-fire scenarios. The facility is scheduled to be operationally complete in February.

First Year Annex Update

In August we celebrated 1-year since the Arlington Fire Department annexed into the North County Regional Fire Authority. After an overwhelming successful vote by the voters in Arlington to annex in February of 2021 we spent 6-months planning and preparing. We did a good job recognizing many things that needed to occur from an operational standpoint but forgot and underestimated others. We spent our first year accomplishing a great deal of work, it was a heavy lift, but we were successful.

I would like to thank everyone in the organization who played a part, large and small and recognize the members and leadership of the firefighter's union, IAFF Local #3438 for a partnership in public safety and a common goal to provide a really good product delivering you Fire and EMS service. After all it is not our Fire Department, it is yours. We strive to provide the best service we can with the funding you provide through taxation.

Currently we staff five fire stations 24-hours a day, seven days a week. This includes 2 in Arlington, 1 in Stanwood, 1 in the Bryant area and 1 in the Warm Beach area. A sixth station in the Freeborn area is operated as staffing allows and a seventh station in the Grandview area serves as a storage facility for reserve apparatus and equipment.

Our intention is to staff the Freeborn station on 300th Street at an increased level and work with the community of Grandview determining if a volunteer program can be resurrected. Today we operate and deploy resources differently than we did in the past. We utilize several types of software to provide data that shows our call volume concentrations and locations, days of week, time of day etc. We use this to provide the best service we can with the resources we have. It is a combination of risk management and triage, placing and locating units where data shows they are needed or where the call volume is "likely" to occur.

Our communities are experiencing tremendous growth that can be seen with construction and traffic. We will continue to make smart decisions to grow the organization with additional facilities, staffing and resources to provide you a service we can all be proud of. If you have any questions please reach out. I am happy to communicate about the organization. We can learn from each other how we can serve you better.

Respectfully,

Dave Kraski

Deputy Chief of Operations

North County Regional Fire Authority

North County Fire's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Looking for New Members

Looking for a volunteer opportunity that supports your local community during disasters? Then the North County Fire CERT Team is looking for YOU!

Contact Bob Knapp if interested at northcountycert@gmail.com

Go to www.NCCERTWA.org for more information.



Life Support Emergencies

Emergency Medical Services continues to encompass approximately 85% of our calls. Basic Life Support (BLS) units respond to all calls to initiate care and evaluate all of our patients, while paramedics (Advance Life Support (ALS)) respond to high acuity calls such as critical trauma, respiratory emergencies, and cardiac emergencies.

The COVID-19 pandemic is ramping down after a countywide collaborative approach to mitigating the event, including non-stop mandate changes, workforce exposures, and assisting with developing and administering mass vaccinations to community members.

NCRFA holds bi-monthly training which is conducted by the Snohomish County Medical Director Dr. Eric Cooper. During this training, we review critical incidents for quality improvement and protocol adherence, as well as practice hand on skills such as surgical airways and difficult I.V. access.

It is through your support that we continue to maintain this high level of patient care 24/7 to our communities.



Fire won't wait, Plan your escape



North County Regional Fire Authority is committed to the safety and well-being of the community as we respond to calls for service in our area. The fire service has worked hard in education and community development to reduce the risk of fire in our communities. The number of fires has been drastically reduced due to the combined efforts of community leaders and their commitment to safety.

Although fires are less of a threat to our community now than in the past, it is still really important to be vigilant and be active in creating a safer community.

October 9-15, 2022 will mark the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week. FPW was started by the National Fire Protection Association in 1922 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. It is said that the fire was started when a cow kicked over a lantern in the O'Leary barn in the SE side of the city. This fire resulted in over 17000 buildings and structures being destroyed, over 300 people killed, and roughly \$200 million in damages. (This is estimated to be \$4.5 billion in today's dollars)

The campaign this year is "Fire won't wait, Plan your escape"

Although most people feel safest in their home, it is actually where we are at the greatest risk, with ¾ of all US fire deaths occurring in the home. It is more likely today than in 1980 due in part to lighter building materials and open floor plans resulting in faster and hotter fires in the home.

NCRFA urges you to check your smoke detectors monthly, plan your escape and meeting place, and replace batteries every 6 months, and the detector itself every ten years. If you have any questions or have difficulty in obtaining or servicing your smoke alarms, contact us today for a free consultation.



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Community Resource Paramedic

Our Mobile Integrated Health/Community Resource Paramedic (CRP) program is a community-based health care service in which paramedics function outside of their customary emergency response roles. It specializes in connecting with community members who could use assistance accessing and understanding the myriad of resources and social services programs available to them.

The program operates on a referral basis, is completely voluntary and it is free. When responding EMS personnel identify a patient that may benefit from the program, that person is offered the opportunity to enroll. We will then follow up with the goal of identifying and offering the appropriate resources.

The most common reason for a referral is frequent calls for emergency medical services. Many times, these calls are non-emergent and the problem can be managed with alternatives to ambulance transport to the emergency room. Our goal is to find long-term solutions to often complex medical problems that better serve the patient and allow EMS personnel to stay in service for higher acuity calls.

Other services offered by the program include in-home fall prevention assessments, help understanding and managing medications, education for chronic disease management, and assistance with referrals for mental health and substance abuse issues.

Reflective Address Signs

We recommend having a blue reflective address sign at your residence to make it easier to find your home in case of an emergency. If you would like to purchase an address sign, please call 360-629-2184. Suggested Donation of \$12.

