



# FIREWIRE

Newsletter  
Summer 2014

## NORTH COUNTY FIRE/EMS

Serving the communities of Bryant, Freeborn, Warm Beach and the City of Stanwood

### Message from the Chief

Once a year we mail a newsletter to all households in the fire authority. We feel it is important to report back to you – our taxpayers – on what we have accomplished and goals we have for the future. We appreciate the support of our community, and want you to know that.

The last 12 months have been busy ones for North County Fire/EMS. The economy has not fully recovered, and we continue to find ways to do more with less until assessed valuations might increase.

Our Board of Fire Commissioners feels very strongly about paying cash for equipment, as opposed to financing and incurring debt. With this philosophy, we were able to purchase two new fire engines and an aid car for our community.

Our firefighters also have been actively training to better serve you in case of an emergency. This year these activities included live fire training. This was quite a commitment, taking about 12 hours for each firefighter between classroom time and live fire burns.

Our big project next year is to develop a strategic plan for

North County Fire/EMS. This plan will guide our fire authority for the next five years and help in making policy decisions involving capital facilities, equipment and operations. It also will provide a cost-benefit analysis on services we provide to determine our spending priorities. After reviewing input from personnel and the public, a committee will make recommendations to the Board of Fire Commissioners in 2015.

Speaking of our board, it is with a heavy heart that I share with you the passing of two great commissioners, Jim Stutzman and Don Wright. Don served as a fire commissioner for our community for more than 20 years. Jim joined the board in 2008. They are both going to be missed sorely.

With that in mind, please take a moment to let those around you know that you care. The loss of two good friends and colleagues has reminded me of the importance in doing so.

Sincerely,

*Dale Fulfs*  
**FIRE CHIEF**



### Remembering Don Wright

Don Wright served the communities of North County Fire/EMS for more than 20 years. He began as a commissioner for Fire District 18 from the Bryant community, and continued his service after Districts 18 and 14 merged to create North County Fire/EMS. His background in construction management was invaluable in helping the fire authority build fire stations 90 and 92 to improve response times for the community. These buildings are a legacy to the man who was such an integral part of this organization.

### Jim Stutzman

Commissioner Stutzman was a volunteer for over 25 years with Fire District 18. He continued his service to the fire authority when he was elected fire commissioner in 2007, a term he fulfilled at the end of 2013. It was with great sadness that we learned of his recent passing. He was dedicated to his community and family. Our fire authority benefited from his experience that he shared for over 30 years. Our thoughts go out to Jim's surviving wife, Cindy, and their family.



## NORTH COUNTY FIRE/EMS

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## Tips for a Safe July 4th

North County Fire/EMS would like to remind you to have a safe and fun Fourth of July! If you celebrate with fireworks, please:

- Always have a responsible adult present and to light fireworks
- Check local regulations for any restrictions
- Only use legal fireworks
- Keep water handy
- Use outdoors only
- Do not throw fireworks or hold in your hand and protect your eyes
- Light one firework at a time and move away quickly; never relight a "dud"
- Soak used fireworks in water
- Keep matches and lighters away from children

## New Fire Commissioners

North County Fire/EMS wants to welcome two new fire commissioners to the Board. Commissioners Greg Oakes and Jeff Sinker were elected to the North County Fire/EMS Board in 2013, and started with the fire authority January 1st. Commissioner Don Wright's position will be filled later this summer.

Commissioner Greg Oakes has worked for Snohomish County Fire District 7 since 1988, and currently serves as a Lieutenant Firefighter/EMT. He is originally from Everett, Wash., and lives with his wife and two sons in the Kackman area about a mile from Station 90. Commissioner Oakes is committed to continuing the fire authority's work to be accountable to taxpayers and good stewards of public resources.

*"This is a great place to call home, and a strong organization to be a part of. I appreciate the opportunity to serve my community in this position,"* he said.

Commissioner Jeff Sinker served as a volunteer and part-time firefighter for the fire authority for 35 years. He says that one of his goals is to look for ways North County Fire/EMS and neighboring fire districts can work together to improve efficiency and save taxpayer dollars. Commissioner Sinker and his wife have lived in the Freeborn area since 1980, and have one grown daughter in Stanwood.

Being accessible to the community he serves is also important. *"I am available to talk anytime about issues impacting fire service, and hope people inside and outside the organization will take me up on that,"* he said.

We would like to welcome our new commissioners and thank them for their service!

## Save the Date!

Our fall Open Houses are scheduled on **October 11, 2014.**

Stations 90, 92, 96, 97, and 99 will be open to the public from **11am - 2pm.** Timed at the end of national Fire Prevention week, our Open Houses will share fire prevention information and host tours of our stations. For station locations or more information, please visit [www.northcountyfireems.com](http://www.northcountyfireems.com) or call (360)652-1246.