



FIREWIRE

Newsletter
Summer 2013

NORTH COUNTY FIRE/EMS

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

Message from the Chief

The economy has continued to be a challenge for many emergency service providers. As property values have fallen, so has the amount of revenue that your fire department receives. Over the last four years, this has meant \$1 million less to fight fires and provide emergency medical service (EMS).

Fortunately, our Board of Fire Commissioners saw the recession coming and started saving money in a reserve account. This means that we could continue to provide the level of emergency service that our community needs without having to ask for a levy increase. Not all fire districts have been that fortunate.

The flip side is that we are spending these reserves to maintain emergency service levels. We also have needed to replace two fire engines and an aid car that were past their usable lives. At this point, we expect the economy to improve and provide us with some relief in

the years ahead to help build back our reserves.

We continue to look for ways to subsidize our budget through grants and other partnerships, as well. We have applied for more than \$200,000 in grants in the past year alone, and hope for a positive response. With regard to partnerships, North County Fire/EMS is participating in an important study to see if there is a way to share costs and improve efficiencies with neighboring emergency service providers. Seven agencies are participating: North County Fire/EMS, the City of Arlington, Arlington Heights, Darrington, Silvana, Tulalip, and Camano Island.

North County Fire/EMS is already a Regional Fire Authority (RFA), formed from two smaller fire districts in 2008 to lower costs and improve efficiencies. It will be interesting to see if the study will recommend merging districts, or simply sharing resources like equipment, stations and staffing. This study is an important step



for North County Fire/EMS as we start developing our Strategic Plan for 2014-2019.

The study began in December of 2012, and a final report is expected at the end of July. There will be a public meeting to discuss the results sometime this fall. Both the report and details of the meeting will be posted to our web site when the information is available.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions you have. We appreciate your support and look forward to providing you with cost-effective emergency services.

Sincerely,
Dale Fulfs
FIRE CHIEF





NORTH COUNTY FIRE/EMS

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North County Fire/EMS at a Glance

Service area (sq mi.):	108
Population:	28,000
2013 calls (as of 6/30):	1,487
2012 calls:	2,991
Full-time firefighters:	25
Part-time firefighters:	45
Volunteer firefighters:	10
Fire engines:	5
Stations:	5
Aid cars:	4
Medic units:	3
Water tenders:	3
Marine rescue boat:	1

Save the Date!

North County Fire/EMS will host two Open Houses this coming September. Please come on out and meet the firefighters and EMTs that serve you, take a tour of the facilities and equipment, and hang out for a barbeque! We'd love to see you at either of the Open Houses. There will be fire engine tours provided for kids along with other activities. So, save the date and come on down!

September 7, 2013 - 11am to 2pm

Station 97—Warm Beach
19727 Marine Drive, Stanwood

September 14, 2013 - 11am to 2pm

Station 96 - Freeborn
3231 300th St NW, Stanwood

Honoring Service

North County Fire/EMS held its annual Awards Banquet on March 22. Each year firefighters and medics are selected for their service above and beyond the call of duty. Honorees are nominated and selected by their captains and crew members.

Congratulations to all of our "Service Above Self" heroes!

Firefighter of the year
Jay Bonnifield



Officer of the Year
Becky Wilbur-Frantzen



Officer Company Award
Nich Sacha, Nick Raught
and Matt Fleischbein