



**Hauser Lake Volunteer
Firefighters Association, Inc.**
10728 N Hauser Lake Rd
Hauser, ID 83854

MAP INSIDE!
Find your house...



Protect & Connect

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Your Name & Address here
(Just email us at admin@hauserfire.org to make
sure you get the mailings!)

Protect & Connect



Issue #1 Nov '22

To: All Hauser Residents
From: Your Hauser Lake FPD & Volunteer Fire Dept

We hope to reach all Hauser community residents four times per year by mail with this newsletter. To update your name or address, including adding or removing it, please contact us. Email admin@hauserfire.org for the fastest response!

What happens if I **CALL 911?**

When someone calls 9-1-1, needing help in the Hauser area, volunteers with Hauser Fire & Rescue will be called to action and respond! Within minutes, members of our volunteer fire department will appear—ready, eager, equipped, and trained to help you in your time of need. You may even recognize your friends or neighbors among the helpful faces who come to your aid... *[Continued inside: "Re-introducing..."]*



EMTs Needed~ Class Starts Soon!

The Hauser Lake Volunteer Fire Dept really needs more volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) as we are about to lose several members as life takes them out of our area. YOU—yes, you—can be the next volunteer on our team. *[Continued on back.]*

Hauser Lake Fire Protection District
10728 N Hauser Lake Rd, Hauser, ID 83854
Website: hauserfire.org | Phone: (208) 773-1174
Emails: chief@hauserfire.org | admin@hauserfire.org
We are on Facebook/HauserLakeFire & NextDoor app

RE-introducing the Hauser Lake Fire Protection District

As we welcome many new residents into our community and adjust after years of isolation, it's a good time to re-acquaint ourselves and help all in our community understand **the volunteer fire district in which we all belong.**

The Hauser Lake Fire Protection District (HLFPD) is located in Kootenai County, on its westernmost side. The district is roughly rectangular and covers **18 square miles**. It's bordered by 2.8 miles of Highway 53 on the south and seven miles of Washington State on the west. Our district includes a beautiful lake for year 'round recreation, mountainous areas, wetlands, a highway, many rural roads, and train tracks on which hazardous materials are transported. **More than 2,000 residents, almost 900 homes**, and over 44,000 square feet of nonresidential structures are under the protection of HLFPD. **We consistently respond to 90% of emergency calls within 10 minutes** which helps us maintain a high ISO rating (fire department performance score), saves us all money on insurance, and, most importantly, means **we get helped FAST when we call 9-1-1!**

HLFPD operates the Hauser Lake Volunteer Fire Department, also called Hauser Fire & Rescue or just **“Hauser Fire”** for short. The volunteer department has just two paid staff, a fire chief and an admin/treasurer, and around **30 volunteers*** who protect the homes, property, and lives of those who live, work, and visit here. Our members come from all walks of life and have a vast array of skills. All of them are passionate, *compassionate*, service-minded, proud to serve, and dedicated to helping.

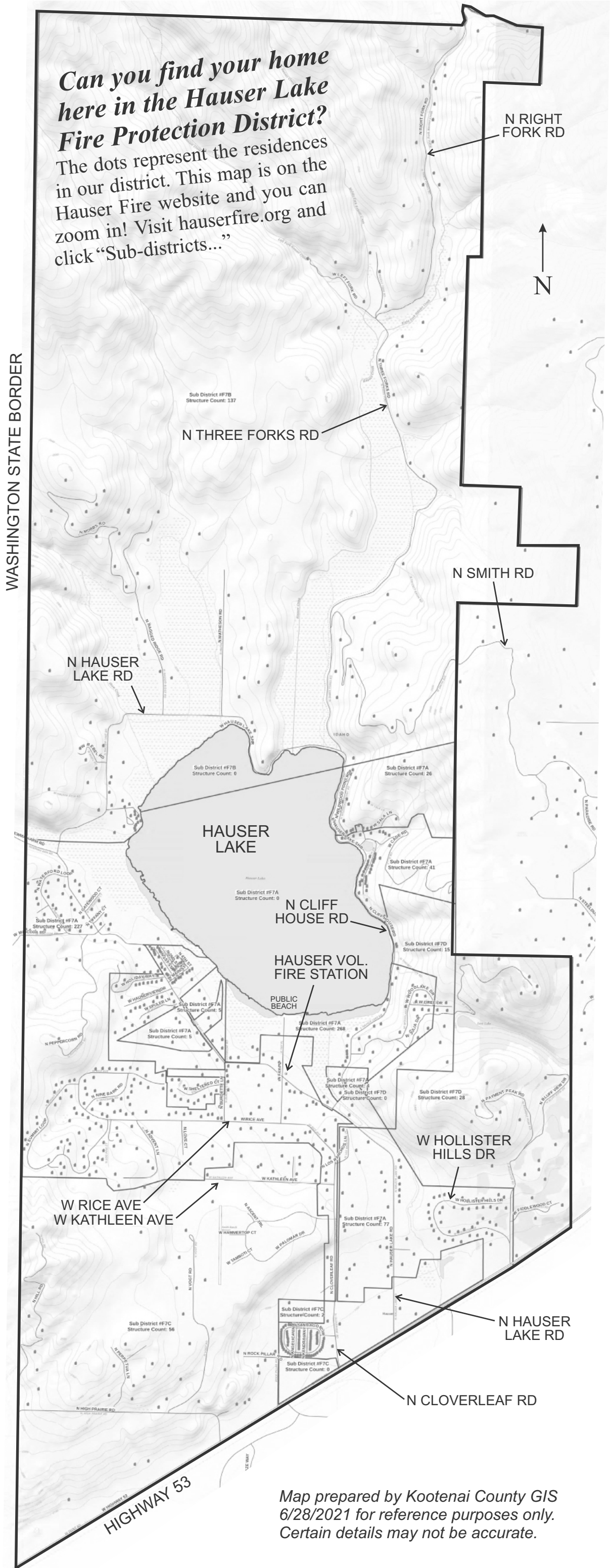
In addition to protecting people and property, members of the Hauser Volunteer Fire Department do a great deal of *non-emergency* work to ensure that vital emergency response and community services are possible. For example, we are responsible stewards of the numerous resources that are funded mainly by our property taxes. **The Hauser fire station and all it holds belongs to all of us.** It's *your* fire station; the trucks and ambulances are *yours*; the equipment inside—it's all *your* tools and gear. Volunteers work hard to procure the tools, learn how to use it properly, put it to work safely and effectively when neighbors are in need, and keep it all maintained in the meantime. It's challenging, beneficial, messy, meaningful work which our community values and supports and in which we can all take great pride. ***Thank you for your support of the HLFPD!***

*We have 30 volunteers as of this newsletter's printing but always need more. Training is free to members and an EMT class is starting in just a few weeks. **Please apply today** by contacting Chief James Neils. (Background checks are required.) Join the HLFPD and you can serve in the capacity that best suits you, be it firefighting, medical response, or support services. You might even find a new passion!

***Can you find your home
here in the Hauser Lake
Fire Protection District?***

Fire Protection

The dots represent the residences in our district. This map is on the Hauser Fire website and you can zoom in! Visit hauserfire.org and click "Sub-districts..."



Map prepared by Kootenai County GIS
6/28/2021 for reference purposes only.
Certain details may not be accurate.

SAVE THE DATES:
Candy Cane Run: Dec 16 and 17!
 Volunteers of HLFPD and Hauser Lions
 Club collect **food donations** while touring
Santa and Mrs. Claus through Hauser.
 Schedule at hauserfire.org

We Need EMTs Class Starts Soon!



To apply as a volunteer, please contact
 Chief Neils in-person or by phone or email.
 Unsure? Let EMT Andrea's story inspire you...



Life's Taught Me: Never Say Never!

By Andrea Knorpp

About two years ago, I found myself craving human interaction and in need of escaping the house. I knew several neighbors and friends were a

part of the fire department so I decided to join also—as a Support Services volunteer. Support Service members do all sorts of helpful things: traffic control, refilling air tanks, providing meals during incidents and so much more. A few weeks after joining, it was suggested that I sit in on the EMT class being offered soon at the fire station. I wanted a pleasant way to pass the cold winter nights and thought I could learn something potentially useful. I'm not sure I understood the commitment then but I sure did learn a lot and I enjoyed pushing myself out of my comfort zone and learning something new. I took the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) exam in September 2021. It was the hardest test of my life but I managed to pass the exam on the first try!

I love living in Hauser and being a volunteer with the HLFVD. I am among those who help people in our community at some of the most difficult times in their lives...a neighbor helping neighbors. Never in a million years would I have seen myself volunteering at a fire department, becoming an EMT, or even driving big red trucks around the lake—but I do all that now simply because I said 'yes' to a new opportunity.

Meet the Fire Chief

An interview with Chief James Neils who had been the Assistant Chief and was hired as the full-time Chief when Larry Simms retired late in 2021.



Fire Chief
James Neils

When and why did you join the HLFPD as a volunteer?

I joined in June 1993, right out of college. There were no mechanical engineering jobs at the time and I needed something to do. Being active in the community as part of the fire department looked like a lot of fun!

Your biggest challenges?

As a volunteer, balancing time between home, work and the station was my biggest challenge. Currently, the biggest challenge is keeping up with the demands of the job when there is so much to be done in so little time. Thank goodness for our volunteers!

Of what are you most proud so far?

I'm proud of having been active without a break in service or leave of absence except one long vacation a few years ago... And of being an officer for all but a few of these years. As chief, I'm also proud of the grants I've secured for us—over \$162,000 so far this year; also for my role in increasing our volunteer roster and for arranging for the rapid intervention training building behind the station which took several years.

What about our community requires special consideration?

We have a lot of rural roads and areas that require specialized equipment to reach which can slow our response. Luckily, a benefit of being a volunteer department with members all over the district is that folks can respond directly and get there faster. We are an 'all hazards' district and must be trained, equipped, and prepared for a variety of incidents, from normal fire and medical runs to hazmat, wildland fires, ice and water rescue, extrication, and basic life support (BLS) medical. We also partner with neighbor departments all over the region for mutual aid and are one of the only agencies that can provide bariatric transport around Kootenai County.

What's the best part of this work?

I really enjoy the work and the people. I enjoy helping. If you want to provide one of the biggest benefits to the community and help them in the most significant ways, join the fire department. You'll help people during the worst times of their lives and perhaps make their situation a little better. It's very fulfilling, very meaningful.

What do you like least?

Cleanup! There's a lot of cleanup. This is messy work and there is a lot of behind-the-scenes work needed to make it all possible. Also paperwork!

A fun fact about you?

With my sons, I'm currently converting a 1980 Camaro (my first car) to electric. Oh, and my son, William, just joined the department so he's the third generation to serve in Hauser and the fourth generation volunteer following in the footsteps of multiple grandparents. I'm proud of that for sure!



VOLUNTEER TODAY! **HAUSER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Also simply called Hauser Fire, the HLFPD is a dedicated volunteer organization with only two paid staff and 35 volunteers which provides vital fire suppression and prevention and emergency medical response to the community of Hauser Lake, Idaho.

WHY VOLUNTEER?

Several of our members replied:

"Great way to learn new things, meet people and serve your community... Help people at their lowest times and maybe save someone's life." ~ Gary

"The satisfaction of knowing the job wouldn't have been done without you." ~ Wes

"I like that we take a sour situation and make it better." ~ Shaya

"It feels good to know I'm helping someone else. I've not always been in a position to do this so it's very fulfilling and I know that I can maybe put a smile on someone's face." ~ Vickie

"Learning to act in a crisis... Gaining many fire, EMT, and basic skills... Actually making a huge difference in your community... The camaraderie... Getting to participate in Breakfast with Santa and other fun events... and—you get to wear cool gear, ride in cool vehicles with sirens, and use tools to cut metal—all cool and amazing things I have done!" ~ Connie



WHAT OPPORTUNITIES EXIST?

Just a few things our volunteers do:

- structural and wildland fire fighting
- interior search and rescue
- ice and water rescue
- vehicle extrication
- motor vehicle accident response
- citizen assists
- collaborate with other agencies
- emergency medical response
- basic life support and CPR
- injury and illness care
- traffic control
- fund raising events
- community education
- ...and many more behind-the-scenes work that make extraordinary public service possible.

Contact us to learn more!
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chief@hauserfire.org
[Facebook.com/HauserLakeFire](https://www.facebook.com/HauserLakeFire)





Sponsored by the
Hauser Lake Volunteer
Fire Department

36th Annual
Shalena's
Breakfast
with
Santa



SUNDAY

December 11th

7am to 1pm

@ the Hauser Lake Fire Station



*Connect with your community and
spread some holiday spirit*



*Enjoy a hearty breakfast served up
by the Hauser Lake Fire Department
Eggs, sausage, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, and more!*



Try your luck at amazing raffle prizes

PROCEEDS BENEFIT:

Jacob, a 17 year old from
Genesee, ID with Leukemia

SUGGESTED DONATIONS:

\$3 per person or \$10 per family