



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

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Issue #2 is here!
Please check your name
& address and let us
know of any needed
changes!

YOUR ADDRESS HERE (IF YOU RESIDE IN
THE HAUSER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT). CONTACT US FOR ADDRESS
CHANGES, ADDITIONS, REMOVALS:
EMAIL ADMIN@HAUSERFIRE.ORG



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February 2023

ISSUE #2

THE NEWSLETTER FOR HAUSER LAKE RESIDENTS FROM THE HLFPD AND HLVFD
(HAUSER LAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT & VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT)

Thank you for taking a look at this newsletter through which we hope to reach every person living within the boundaries of the Hauser Lake Fire Protection District. Please reach out to us with comments, questions, feedback and address changes. Please let us know about any extra, unwanted copies being mailed to your address so we can delete them from our list. For a fast response, within a few days, please email us: admin@hauserfire.org

Emergency? Call 9-1-1

If NOT an emergency, reach us in many ways...

Hauser Lake Fire Protection District (HLFPD)

The Hauser Lake Fire Station is located at
10728 N Hauser Lake Rd, Hauser, ID 83854

Phone: (208) 773-1174

Website: hauserfire.org

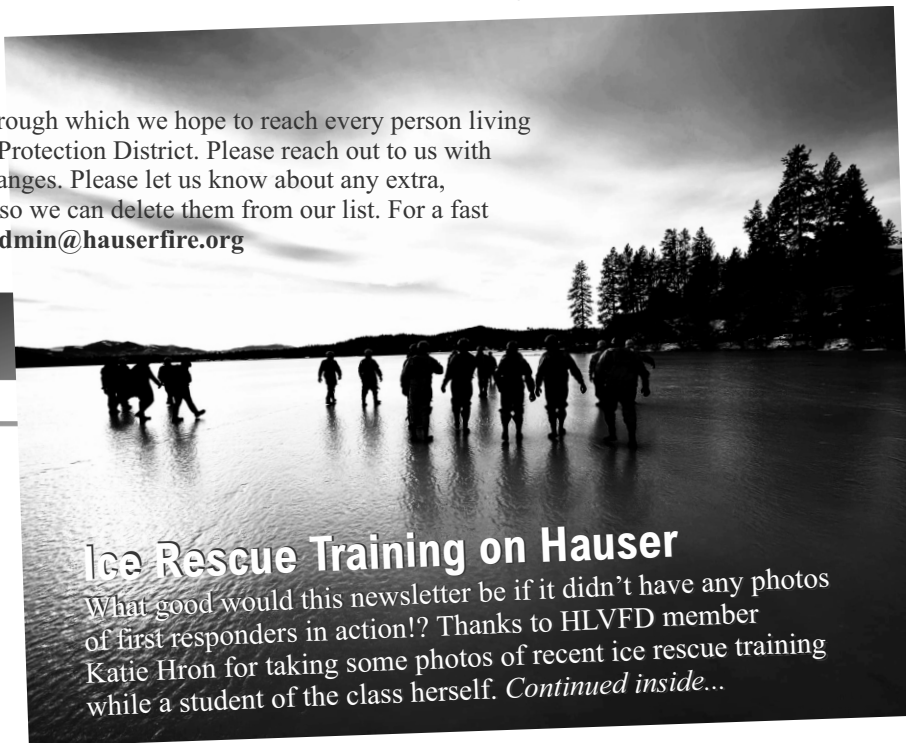
Email addresses: CHIEF@hauserfire.org and

ADMIN@hauserfire.org

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and the NextDoor app

Ice Rescue Training on Hauser

What good would this newsletter be if it didn't have any photos of first responders in action!? Thanks to HLVFD member Katie Hron for taking some photos of recent ice rescue training while a student of the class herself. *Continued inside...*





Captain Gary Mobbs, a Dive Rescue International instructor, and co-instructor, Andy Boyle, recently taught an ice rescue class here in Hauser Lake. Both HLVFD members are Idaho-certified instructors in emergency rescue. Participating districts included Kootenai County Fire & Rescue; Spirit Lake Fire Protection District; Northern Lakes Fire Protection District; North of the Narrows Fire District; and Newman Lake Fire & Rescue. Not only is the Hauser Lake VFD well prepared for ice rescue, but so are many of our mutual aid partners. Go online to our website, hauserfire.org, to see more photos.



EMERGENCY HELP FOR THE EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

The HLFPD hereby sends a little *shout out of thanks* to **Encompass Electric** out of Spirit Lake for helping the emergency responders of Hauser Lake in an emergency fashion but without an emergency cost! Last month, the bathroom lights stopped working suddenly and we could not charge the trucks nor open the garage doors in the middle bay! This was certainly *not good*.

Encompass Electric responded FAST and determined that the underground cable had been "eaten through" (this portion of the station electrical system is estimated to have been installed in 1980.) They ran new wiring to the affected areas and replaced a severely outdated electric panel. They were done within two days so power has been completely restored to the Hauser Lake Volunteer Fire Station.

Getting to Know the Volunteer

Meet Him Before You Must: Lieutenant Shane Kamps

Many Hauser residents have met Shane Kamps already because he responded to 83% of Hauser's emergency calls in 2022—189 out of 227! He's one of the most active and involved volunteers in the district and serves many roles: firefighter and first responder, Lieutenant, certified EMT, EMS Coordinator, and Fire District Commissioner. From an interview on February 2, here is his story of being a volunteer with Hauser Lake Fire.

How did you join the Hauser Lake Volunteer Fire Department? Early in 2016 and new to the area, he was apparently puttering too much because his wife suggested he attend the Hauser Lake Lions' Club Fathers Day Breakfast. While there he met some neighbors and fellow Veterans and won a raffle item donated by then Fire Chief Larry Simms. To retrieve the prize he went to the fire station and got talking to Larry... He began to wonder if he could join the department himself and contribute in some meaningful way.

Shane had retired from the U.S. Navy in 2007 with extensive medical experience as a pharmacy tech and then as an Independent Duty Corpsman; he was excited at the prospect of being able to help people again and put his skill set, similar to those of a civilian physician's assistant, back into practice. With the HLVFD he began responding to emergency calls immediately but was annoyed to find he wasn't allowed to even take a patient's pulse! He was chagrined, finding himself at square one and facing a lot of EMT training. But Shane was motivated to again be of help to others, so he began the EMT course within about four months of joining.

One Sunday in early 2017, he was studying away for his EMT test when Chief Simms called and asked him to come down to Embers on the Lake. The whole department was attending the annual awards banquet that night and Larry suggested he join them. Shane set aside his studies and went. He was awarded "Rookie of the Year for 2016." It was a nice surprise which was followed closely by HLVFD's top honor, Firefighter of the Year, for both 2017 and 2018.

Did you have any apprehension about joining? Shane expected only to be involved in the medical side of the department but took opportunities as they came along. Before he knew it, he found himself out on a wildland fire with only one other volunteer and the Chief. From there, he was off and running, excited about the opportunity and finding it pretty fun—"except that one time we got stung about a dozen times by hornets!" But while he's completely confident of the medical side of things, he admits he's still apprehensive when the fire alarm sounds. "I trust in my training and teammates but know that it can kill a volunteer just as easily as a paid guy." He feels confident when fighting fires now, but every fire is different and he takes none of them lightly.

What challenges or drawbacks do you face as a volunteer? Shane laughs and says he finds himself pretty tired and "a little overworked" sometimes. He recognizes that it's ironic, but the biggest challenge of being in a volunteer department is that it's a volunteer department.





Shane pictured in February '17 with his 2016 Rookie of the Year award, and in January '23 as a seasoned veteran of the fire service

Members' participation levels are in constant flux and vary widely. A lot of money and training goes into people, whether they serve as EMTs or fire-fighters or support, and when member response is inconsistent, it can put a burden on the other responders. Shane is quick to acknowledge that life changes often for everyone and only a few members have schedules as flexible as his; however, varying participation levels are difficult to anticipate and accommodate and are a never-ending issue which the department and its officers address constantly.

Does being such an active volunteer affect your personal life? Shane laughs and recalls this last Christmas when Hauser had five runs in a 30-hour period. He missed Christmas Eve dinner with his kids and grandkids, missed presents being opened the next morning, and came home to leftovers. But he and his family have adapted, he said. His wife is used to planning days in advance just to go to dinner, and ready to adjust at the last minute, knowing plans may change depending on the availability of the responders in the District.

What keeps you motivated and active? "The bottom line is that I like helping people. If someone dials 911, they're having a worse day than I am and it's great to help them in some capacity... Equally important is the camaraderie. These aren't just coworkers and fellow volunteers; we become good friends. I cherish these friendships."

Of what are you most proud? "In Hauser, volunteers are always there. When there's mutual aid or whatever kind of call, we always answer!" Shane explains that it's not uncommon in some other rural districts for response to take 20 minutes or more—but not here, he says, not in Hauser. "We always respond quickly... We take good care of this community."

Shane is also very proud of our department for playing such an important role in helping young people get started on their careers. (Chief Neils had expressed this same sentiment recently! See the 'Volunteers Needed' article.) It is rewarding to mentor others, to help them gain confidence, and then to see them succeed in the field. Shane notes that, "Three young lads in three years have started as members here. They respond with our department for a couple years and then take off for careers... It's cool to see that."

Is there anything about our Department that you think is special? Shane answers, "Yes. You get out of it what you put into it." No matter what capacity you want to serve, he says—EMT, fire fighter, driving the trucks, support—you can. "You have that choice. You're allowed to see where it takes you and follow your heart."

What We Do



Medical

Quick Response • Transport • Medical Standby • Bariatric Transport • Welfare Checks • Medical Evaluations



Fire

Structural Fire Fighting • Wildland Fire Fighting • Motor Vehicle Accidents • Rescue • Hazmat • Hazard Mitigation • Water Shuttle • Citizen Assistance



Rescue

Extrication • Ice Rescue • Water Rescue



Support Services

Rehab • Decontamination • Training Support • Traffic Control • SCBA Filling • Inventories • Academies • Community Outreach • Responder Support



Mutual Aid

Medical • Fire • Rescue-Structure Fires • Rescue • Wildland • Natural Disasters • Hazards • Mass Casualty



Training

EMT Classes • Recertifications • CPR • Structural Fire Fighting • Wildland Fire Fighting • Ice Rescue • Hazmat • ICS (Incident Command System)



Disaster Preparedness

OEM Collaboration • Wildland Fire • Flood • Storm • Regional Disaster Response with other Agencies



Fire Department Administration

Budget • Bills • Taxes • Insurance • Payroll • Reports • Grants • Procurement • Media Management



Maintenance

Apparatus • Equipment • Station • Grounds • Cleaning



Fire Marshal

Business Fire Inspection • Fire Investigations • Hydrant Inspections & Flow Testing • Insurance Rating • Building Permits: City and County



Community Education

Fairs • Festivals • Parades • Fire Prevention Education • Mailings • CPR



Fundraising

Breakfast with Santa • Yard Sale • Candy Cane Run



Meeting Place

Elections • Government • Support Groups • Exercise Groups • Civic Groups • Ski Patrol • Neighborhood Groups



Membership

Recruitment • Retention • Awards • Benefits • Support



*Breakfast with Santa 2022
photo courtesy of Phillips
Shutter Photography*

Shalena's Breakfast with Santa

A Little Wrap-Up of the Last Three Years

Shalena's Breakfast with Santa wasn't held in 2020—we all remember why. In 2021, with concerns lessened but still looming, we came up with a safe but greatly scaled-

down version: a drive-through event for which 1,000 breakfast burritos were made.

How fun to have Breakfast with Santa again in-person in 2022! 1,350 people came to the Hauser Lake Fire Station on December 11 for the 36th Annual Shalena's Breakfast with Santa event. We hereby wholeheartedly give thanks to and for this wonderful community and its surrounding supporters. We could not ask for kinder, more generous hearts and souls. We are especially grateful for Hauser Lake and surrounding area businesses for their tremendous generosity and terrific support.

All who participated shared delicious food together, many won incredible prizes, some shared their lists with Santa, and all gave hope to a deserving family in need. It is always our wish that everyone leaves the station after Breakfast with lighter wallets but tummies full of great food and hearts full of the Christmas spirit. For sure, everyone contributed in life-changing ways that made a positive impact on our community. Maybe this year, on December 10, 2023, we will surpass our highest numbers—in 1999, 1,860 people were served. Better mark your calendar now!

In other post-holiday news: HLVFD's Annual Candy Cane Run took place over TWO nights in 2022. Santa and Mrs. Claus toured our community and collected over 800 pounds of food for the Post Falls Food Bank!

Volunteers Needed*

**There is one little caveat...*

The Hauser Lake Fire Protection District & Volunteer Fire Department operates primarily with volunteers. With just two paid staff members, the Chief and secretary, it takes many volunteers for us to succeed in our mission to provide the Hauser Lake community with fire prevention and suppression and medical response. People willing and able to fight fires, provide medical assistance, and do many other things are needed, as there is a great deal of work to be done for which a wide variety of skills are needed.

[*Volunteers are needed but must live in the fire district.
There is a LOT to be done! See inside: "What We Do"* **]**

There is one important criteria for those who volunteer with the HLVFD and become members: they must live in the Hauser Lake Fire Protection District. For a map of our district, visit the "Sub-districts & Commissioners" page of hauserfire.org.

We receive many inquiries each year from people who live outside our district but want to get started in firefighting and first aid. Volunteering with our district gives one 'a foot in the door,' so to speak. However, providing the exceptional level of service that we do—responding to calls in our district within ten minutes 90% of the time—requires that our responders live here. Usually the members who respond to emergencies in our district are able to be there fast because they are already nearby when the call comes in.

The HLVFD is often a starting point for people entering the fire and rescue profession, which benefits our community, encouraging capable people to serve in our district as they learn and gain confidence in the field. Recently, we were in contact with two people who started out in Hauser: Rick Herrera had a successful and satisfying career with Spokane Fire and recently retired; Tyrel Shaw is the Chief of Pierce Volunteer Fire in Pierce, Idaho. Several of our current members will be moving on to professional positions soon. At a regular meeting February 1, appreciation was expressed to Jared Cysewski who is moving on to a career with Spokane Valley Fire. He was recognized for his "dedication, superior performance of duties, and outstanding volunteerism." We miss all of them—especially Jared as we had only just begun pronouncing his name right—but we're excited to see all our members grow and succeed. Have we mentioned that more volunteers are needed?

*Left to right: Deputy Chief Maddalone, Jared Cysewski, Chief Neils.
Photo by Andrea Knorpp.*

