



protect & connect

June 2026
ISSUE #8



Let's Build the Future of Hauser Lake Together! Your Voice Powers Our Fire District!

This is your chance to help shape an even better, faster, and stronger fire district tailored to the needs of our growing community. We're excited to hear your ideas, dreams, and priorities! The Hauser Lake Fire Protection District is supercharging our future with a dynamic new Strategic Plan—a bold roadmap that will guide and strengthen our fire protection, emergency medical response, and community safety for the next 5 to 10 years!

Ready to make an impact? It's quick and easy! Just scan the QR code to the right in this newsletter and complete our short **Strategic Planning Questionnaire**. In just a few minutes, your feedback will directly help guide the future of our department!



Don't miss the fun—join us at our **Community Open House!** Saturday, July 11, 9am to 1pm. Come meet our dedicated firefighters and leadership team in a lively, welcoming atmosphere. Share your thoughts, ask questions, connect with neighbors, and enjoy light refreshments while helping build a safer Hauser Lake!

Gaining Training

Life-Saving Skills Sharpened in Realistic Live Fire Training

On Sunday, May 19, Hauser Fire dedicated firefighters participated in a valuable live fire training exercise at the Kootenai County Fire District's state-of-the-art training facilities. Under the expert guidance of Battalion Chief Gary Mobbs and Lieutenant Andy Boyle, crews refreshed and strengthened their critical skills through a realistic, simulated residential fire scenario that included "known" victims inside the structure. Live fire training is one of the most effective ways to prepare firefighters for the unpredictable challenges they face. It builds muscle memory, confidence, and clear decision-making needed to stay calm and effective under extreme pressure, directly translating into faster, safer, and more successful responses when real emergencies occur. By investing in this hands-on, realistic training, Hauser Lake Fire ensures its members are always ready to protect lives, property, and the well-being of our neighbors. These drills not only enhance firefighter safety but also strengthen the overall emergency response capabilities that our entire community relies upon. Thank you to all firefighters who participated and to our instructors for their leadership. Your commitment to continuous training helps keep our community safe, day and night!



1 A big shout out to KCFR for use of their facilities!



2 Firefighter getting ready to close the ventilation window to heat up the training room.

3 Our support team takes vitals after the firefighters go through two bottles of air.

4 Instructors Lt Boyle and BC Mobbs discuss what to expect inside the training tower.



5 KCFR's burn training tower.

All-Day Training Builds Critical Skills

On Saturday, June 6th, our volunteer firefighters dedicated a full day to intensive wildland fire training to sharpen their readiness for the wildfire threats our region faces each season. The crew successfully completed their RT-130 training, focusing on essential techniques and safety protocols needed to respond effectively to wildland incidents. Wildland fire training is vital for our community. As dry conditions and increasing wildfire risks become more common, these hands-on sessions ensure firefighters are well-prepared to protect homes, property, natural resources, and lives. The skills practiced directly enhance rapid response, firefighter safety, and successful containment, helping safeguard the entire Kootenai County area when every second counts. A big thank you to every participating firefighter!



Play the Name Game!

Help us christen our exciting new fireboat, built to strengthen water rescue and emergency response on Hauser Lake! We are currently readying it for new graphics. Submit your creative name ideas for a chance to win a **special prize**.

Let's make this vessel a proud symbol of our community's spirit and dedication. Email, drop off your suggestions at the station, or bring them to our Community Open House on July 11!



Myla, our beautiful, sweet 2025 Breakfast with Santa recipient, has received her Angel Wings.

The family has graciously asked in lieu of flowers, donations be made to this year's recipient.

If you would like to donate, please use the Venmo QR code below or send a check to Hauser Fire at the station address.

Thank you.



venmo

2026 Awards Banquet

Volunteers, families, and guests enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship and recognition at the 2026 Hauser Fire Awards Banquet on May 4th at Embers by the Lake. Against the beautiful spring backdrop of Lake Hauser, attendees celebrated the outstanding achievements and teamwork of our firefighters and volunteers over the past year. Recognizing our members is important to the community, it honors the dedicated individuals who train hard and respond at all hours to protect their neighbors, while boosting morale and showing gratitude for their service.

Fire Fighter of The Year and Dedication & Devotion Award | JAKE CROSON

Jake Croson joined Hauser Lake Fire just over one year ago on June 18, 2025, and has quickly become an indispensable member of the team. Always one of the first to respond, Jake's proximity to the station allows him to have EMS 71 ready and rolling by the time other volunteers arrive. In his first year, he has already responded to more than 70 calls and contributed over 850 hours of service. Jake's commitment to excellence is evident in everything he does. He regularly attends department trainings and actively seeks out additional opportunities, including wildland training and the Clearwater Fire Academy, where he earned certifications in forcible entry, ventilation, and propane fire extinguishment. He also qualified for recent live fire training. Whether it's shift work, station chores like washing apparatus, or stepping up wherever needed, Jake consistently demonstrates outstanding initiative and dedication. Congratulations, Jake! Your rapid growth, reliability, and true devotion embody the spirit of volunteer firefighting.



Lieutenant John Belanger | Firefighter Jake Croson | Fire Chief James Neils

KOOTENAI COUNTY
KNOW YOUR ZONE



DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE
Know your evacuation zone so you can act quickly, follow official guidance, and stay safe when it matters most.

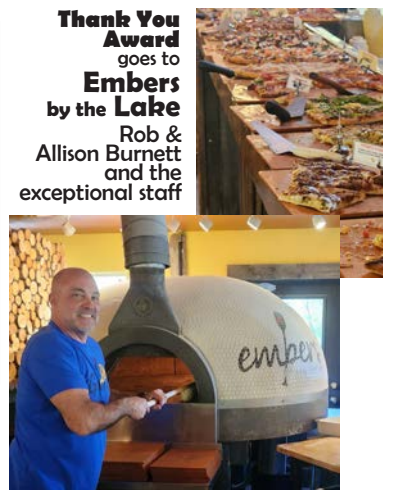
KCSHERIFF.COM/317/KNOW-YOUR-ZONE



Lieutenant John Belanger | Battalion Chief Gary Mobbs | Firefighter Josh Owens | Fire Chief James Neils

Camaraderie Award | JOSH OWENS

With a dose of good-natured humor, Josh Owens was proudly presented with this year's Camaraderie Award. This award celebrates those bringing positive energy, laughter, and a great attitude to the department. Josh's outgoing personality, funny comments, and ability to lighten the mood—even through his own humorous mishaps—help strengthen the bonds between firefighters and create a more enjoyable, supportive team environment.




IF WE CAN'T REACH YOU, WE CAN'T ALERT YOU
 SIGN UP FOR
ALERT! KOOTENAI

KCSHERIFF.COM/228/ALERT-KOOTENAI



How to Contact Hauser Fire
 IN AN EMERGENCY: Call 911. Otherwise...

Hauser Lake Volunteer Fire Department
 10728 N Hauser Lake Road, Hauser, ID 83854
 Phone: (208) 773-1174
 Website: hauserfire.org
 Emails: chief@hauserfire.org | admin@hauserfire.org
 We are on NextDoor and Facebook (/HauserLakeFire)

 *Find your home on the Hauser Fire District map. Online, visit hauserfire.org and click "District."

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

