



FIRE HOUSE *news*

SERVING THE CITIZENS OF BONNEY LAKE, SUMNER, LAKE TAPPS, EDGEWOOD, MILTON, THE RIDGE COMMUNITIES AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

SUMMER 2015

EAST PIERCE RECEIVES LIFELINE AWARD

In May, East Pierce Fire & Rescue received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Silver Award for implementing operational and quality improvement procedures that expedite treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks.

Every year, more than 250,000 people nationwide experience a STEMI, or ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction, a type of heart attack caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart. To prevent death, it's critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by surgically opening the blocked vessel or by giving clot-busting medication.

Fortunately for the citizens served by East Pierce Fire & Rescue, the firefighter-paramedics and firefighter-EMTs work closely with Good Samaritan Hospital as part of a comprehensive emergency cardiac care system. "This system benefits the 20-30 district residents who have a STEMI-type of heart attack each year, as well as those who experience other cardiac conditions," says East Pierce EMS Chief Russ McCallion.

East Pierce was recognized for its early use and interpretation of 12-lead ECGs, which can determine if a heart attack is occurring, and for following protocols derived from national guidelines. The correct tools and training allow firefighter-paramedics to rapidly identify a STEMI patient and alert Good Samaritan that an incoming patient will need immediate treatment in a cardiac lab. This gives the hospital time to assemble a specialized cardiac team to treat the patient.

"EMTs and paramedics play a vital part in the system of care for those who have heart attacks," says Nancy Brown, Chief Executive Officer of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. "Since they often are the first medical point of contact, they

See LIFELINE page 2

Postal Customer
ECRWS

East Pierce Welcomes New Chief: Bud Backer

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners announced the results of a national search to hire a new fire chief at a special meeting May 15. In a unanimous decision, the commissioners voted to issue a conditional offer of employment to E. L. "Bud" Backer, deputy chief of Eastside Fire & Rescue, in Issaquah.

The new chief was sworn in on June 19. He replaces Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson who will retire at the end of June after more than 40 years in the fire service.

East Pierce Commissioner Chair Dale Mitchell says that the board was impressed with the variety of Backer's experience. In addition to his current position, Backer served as deputy chief for Woodinville Fire & Life Safety for over nine years. Prior to that, he was with King County Fire District 45, in Duvall, Washington, where he began his career as a firefighter, eventually advancing through the ranks to fire chief.

Backer has a bachelor's degree in

Industrial Technology from Eastern Washington University; a Master of Science degree in Fire Service Leadership from Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Arizona; and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.

"Bud is skilled in all aspects of the job. He embodies all the things we are looking for," Mitchell says.

Mitchell noted that the decision wasn't an easy one. The selection process began with an initial list of more than 20 qualified candidates. "The inclusive process for selecting a new chief included input from both the community and fire district personnel," says Mitchell. After narrowing the search to five candidates, the public was invited to meet and critique the finalists on May 11. The next day, the applicants underwent a rigorous interview process that involved elected and appointed officials from each of the cities within the East Pierce jurisdiction, including Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, Edgewood and Milton. ■



E.L. "Bud" Backer was sworn in on June 16 as the new fire chief at East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

Improved Fire Protection Lowers Insurance Rates

A recent evaluation by the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB) of the fire suppression provided to communities served by East Pierce Fire & Rescue resulted in several cities receiving improved Public Protection grades. The biggest improvements were for the City of Milton, which went from a Class 6 Public Protection Classification (PPC) to a Class 4, and the Town of South Prairie, which improved from a Class 7 to a Class 5. The City of Bonney Lake received a Class 4 grade, an improvement from its previous Class 5 rating. Grades for the cities of Edgewood and Sumner remained the same at Class 5 and Class 4, respectively.

"We are extremely pleased that our efforts have helped to not only improve fire protection in the communities we serve, but may even lower insurance rates for our citizens," says East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson. He states that the consolidations and mergers have assisted smaller communities by providing improved resources and capabilities to respond to multiple calls at the same time.

Although insurance rates are driven primarily by an area's claim experience, a lower PPC can result in reduced insurance premiums. PPC may affect the underwriting and pricing for a variety of personal and commercial insurance coverage, including homeowners, mobile home and commercial property (including business interruption).

The WSRB measures four categories, including the operational readiness of a fire department (representing 40 percent of the final grade), a review of the community water services (35



The fire district's efforts have helped to not only improve fire protection in the communities served by East Pierce, but may even lower insurance rates.

percent), fire safety control (16 percent) and emergency communications (nine percent).

The fire district's suppression capabilities were evaluated based on its first-alarm response and initial attack to minimize potential loss. East Pierce scored 100 percent in its response to alarms and 98 percent for number of apparatus available. Officer, recruit and driver/operator training all received perfect scores. The department received

its lowest scores for staffing (41 percent), availability of company-wide training (33 percent) and the lack of a training center (15 percent).

"We're pleased to receive this rating, given the increased demand for service we've experienced in recent years. We've worked hard both to keep up with demand and balance the budget," Thorson says. Emergency calls have in-

See INSURANCE RATES, page 3

EAST PIERCE CHIEF THORSON RETIRES

East Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson announced that he is retiring effective June 30. For six years, Thorson has led the fire district, taking over the top position following the death of Fire Chief Dan Packer, who lost his life in a California wildfire. Previously, Thorson was deputy chief for South King Fire and Rescue, supervising Emergency Management and Public Education.

Thorson, a Federal Way native, began his 41-year career in the fire service as a volunteer for South King. He was hired by the department as a full-time firefighter in 1978, moving up through the ranks serving as a battalion chief for 10 years, then 10 years as fire marshal.

"I have truly appreciated the opportunity to serve the public over the years," Thorson says. "Along with many others in the fire service, I've worked hard to deliver the best emergency response to the public."

Thorson says that he had been considering retiring for several months and had been looking for the right time to do so. "This just felt like the right time to retire and allow the next generation of leaders to step into their new roles," he says.

During his time as chief, Thorson successfully oversaw the merger of Edgewood and Milton into East Pierce Fire and Rescue. He also guided the fire district as it faced serious economic challenges during the recession. In 2014, voters twice failed to renew the Maintenance and Operations Levy that provided more than 15 percent of the district's operating funds. As a result, the district was forced to make significant cuts in the fire, rescue and emergency medical services.

Despite the budget issues Thorson is hopeful that the department will bounce back, in large part because of the dedication of the firefighters, officers and staff at East Pierce. "During this time I have seen so many of our members work very hard to meet or exceed the public's expectation. East Pierce has many members who put 'service above self' every day and will continue to do so," he says.

However, he suggests that progress will take a cooperative effort with the public to restore the needed services to the community. "The firefighters and support staff have worked hard to overcome every challenge thrown at them over the years. The district will continue to struggle with staffing that is below national standards, an item that needs to be addressed in the very near future." I would ask the public to get involved, learn about the fire district and help make the important decisions regarding the level and quality of fire and emergency medical services the district provides.

Thorson says that he's looking forward to the next phase of his life. "The six years I've spent as fire chief at East Pierce have been personally rewarding and challenging," he says. "Thank you for the opportunity to serve. It's been a great career, but now it's time to focus on family and spend a little more time on other opportunities." ■



Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson retires in June after serving as chief of East Pierce Fire & Rescue for six years.

Board Appoints Fire Commissioner

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners appointed Bonney Lake businessman Victor Proulx to fill a vacancy following the retirement of Commissioner Rick Kuss. Proulx was sworn in during the May board of commissioners meeting. "Since this vacancy is being filled by appointment, Commissioner Proulx will serve until the results of the November 2015 election have been certified," says East Pierce Fire Commissioner Chair Dale Mitchell.

Originally from St. Maries, Idaho, Proulx grew up in the Renton area. He moved to Bonney Lake in 1984 where he lives with his partner and co-owner of 410 Rentals, Gail Bohnas. Before opening his own business, Proulx worked for more than 20 years at 40 Rentals and three years at United Rentals, in Bonney Lake. He previously served as an East Pierce fire commissioner from 2005 to 2011 and is a current board member of the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Foundation.

"I'd like to thank the board for this opportunity to fill this open position for the rest of the year," says Proulx. "I'm hoping to bring my business and budgetary experience into the process to help



East Pierce Fire Commissioner Chair Dale Mitchell (left) swore in Bonney Lake business man Victor Proulx during the May meeting.

make sure people's money is being spent wisely and the firefighters are taken care of."

Proulx has announced his intention to run for re-election in November. Four other commissioners are also up for re-election, including Dale Mitchell, Mike Cathey and Ron Scholz. Long-time commissioner Karlynn McGinnis will retire this year at the end of her term. Commissioners Ed Egan and Kevin Garling are the only board members who are not up for election this year. ■

Commissioner Kuss Steps Down

After more than a quarter of a century as a fire commissioner, Rick Kuss stepped down from the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners on March 1. "I've been working in the fire service since I was 17 years old. My goal has always been to retire at 62," he says.

In 1970, Kuss followed his father and older brother into the fire service, first as a volunteer in Sumner. Five years later, he was hired by the Puyallup Fire Department (now a part of Central Pierce Fire & Rescue), eventually serving as a deputy fire marshal. He retired in 2000 and now owns an armed private investigation business.

He was elected to the Lake Tapps Fire Department Board of Fire Commissioners in 1989 and became an East Pierce commissioner when East Pierce Fire & Rescue was created in 2000. He served as the chair for 17 years, stepping down from that position last year. He has also served as president of the Pierce County Fire Commissioners' Association.



Rick Kuss

Association.

"Helping to build East Pierce Fire & Rescue into a regional fire service has been a challenge, but a great benefit to the community,"

he says. "By strategizing regionally rather than locally, residents of the 152-square miles now served by East Pierce Fire & Rescue enjoy an improved 'closest unit response' and seamless fire and emergency medical services, which has always been a goal of mine."

Kuss says he is pleased with what he has helped to accomplish during his tenure. "I am honored to have been a part of building a great organization and bringing an improved level of service to my community." ■

Announcing Our New Office Hours



Our regular business hours are now 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

LIFELINE, cont. from pg 1

can shave precious minutes of life-saving treatment time. We applaud East Pierce for achieving this award that shows it meets evidence-based guidelines in the treatment of people who have severe heart attacks."

While East Pierce is working hard with its partner Good Samaritan Hospital to decrease the time to care for STEMI heart attack patients, many patients still wait hours before calling 9-1-1 with heart attack symp-

SAFE SITTER CLASSES OFFERED

East Pierce Fire teaches the Safe Sitter curriculum to help equip students with lifelong skills and create a future generation of safety-conscious adults and parents. The three-day class is a medically-accurate program that teaches boys and girls, ages 11 to 14, how to handle emergencies when caring for children. In addition to fire and injury prevention, it also teaches business skills for running a babysitting business.

The cost is \$40 per student, due at registration. Call (253) 863-1800 to register. Registration forms and additional information are available at www.eastpiercefirer.org. Register early! Classes are limited to 26 students. ■

2015 Class Schedule

Choose one class option below:

LOCATION: EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE STATION 118 10105 24TH ST. E. EDGEWOOD 98371	
MONDAY JUNE 29	TUESDAY JUNE 30
8:30AM - 12:30PM	8:30AM - 12:30PM
WEDNESDAY JULY 1	
8:30AM - 1:00PM	
LOCATION: EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE STATION 116 10515 234TH AVE. E. BUCKLEY 98321	
MONDAY AUG. 10	TUESDAY AUG. 11
8:30AM - 12:30PM	8:30AM - 12:30PM
WEDNESDAY AUG. 12	
8:30AM - 1:00PM	

NEW STATION NUMBERS

Eagle-eyed citizens may have noticed new numbers on our station signs, fire engines and medic units. The numbers were changed as a result of the implementation of the South Sound 911 Dispatch Center. Previously, East Pierce was dispatched by FireComm, a consortium of fire departments operated from Lakewood. When the departments served by FireComm transferred to South Sound 911, there were some duplicate numbers among the fire departments.

To avoid confusion, East Pierce had to change our designations. The headquarters station formerly known as Station 11 is now Station 111. The new designations for the fire engine and medic unit are Engine 111 and Medic 111. East Pierce firefighters operate from 11 stations—six are staffed by career firefighters and four are volunteer stations.

The good news is that the cost of changing all of the signs with the new station numbers was covered by South Sound 911. ■

toms—such as unexplained chest pain or discomfort, shortness of breath, dizziness or sweating. "When in doubt—check it out and call 9-1-1," McCallion says. ■

Swimsafe Seeks a Third Drown-Free Summer

Swimsafe partners celebrated a second drown-free summer last year and are ramping up efforts to ensure another swim safe summer this year!

The group was formed after three people drowned in Lake Tappas during the summer of 2012. The multi-faceted drowning prevention campaign helps improve the safety of swimmers and boaters who enjoy recreation on the popular lake and other area waterways.

Swimsafe partners strongly believe the two recent drown-free summers are largely due to the multi-faceted outreach and education provided by the partner agencies. Unfortunately, due to the failed levy vote, East Pierce Fire has had to limit its participation, including cancelling this year's annual April Pools Day and Summer SplashTacular. "These are free events that focus on open water safety. It's discouraging and frustrating to take a step backward as we begin 2015's drowning prevention efforts," says East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson.

Here are a few highlights of the 2015 Swimsafe campaign:

- **East Pierce Fire life jacket sale and loaner programs.** Life jackets are available at a discounted rate of \$14. The loaner program allows swimmers to borrow a free life jacket for short term/day use from a

self-serve life jacket loaner kiosk at both Allan Yorke Park and Pierce County's North Tapps Park.

- **Bonney Lake Police Department's water safety assemblies:** More than 7,000 elementary and middle school students throughout the Sumner and Dieringer school districts attend this important presentation. Last year, East Pierce Fire sold and fitted more than 150 life jackets to students during the assemblies.
- **East Pierce Fire class-room based water safety lessons:** New this school year, we launched lessons in all middle and high schools throughout the district. By the end of this school year, we will have created awareness on the hazards of cold water bodies and teal surfing related carbon monoxide poisoning to nearly 2,000 students.
- **East Pierce Fire's Lake Tapps Incident Locator Program:** Designed to get emergency resources to the scene of water-related and land-based incidents on Lake Tapps as efficiently as possible, the program provides waterfront property owners the opportunity to purchase a sign to mount to their dock, boat house or on a post. Emergency dispatchers use the signs to quickly route re-

sponders to the appropriate location. Signs can be ordered online at www.eastpiercefirer.org or at the headquarters station for \$28 each.

To bring attention to the primary contributing factor in most of the drowning deaths on Lake Tapps—our lake's cold water—East Pierce Fire and Bonney Lake Police have been working on a solution involving innovative, high-tech buoys that would accurately measure and prominently display the water temperature at both public parks on Lake Tapps. The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Foundation is partnering with Swimsafe to raise needed funds to implement the project on Lake Tapps. Stay tuned for more information as this project progresses.

"It's the on-going joint efforts of East Pierce Fire, Bonney Lake Police, Pierce County Sheriff, Cascade Water Alliance, Sumner and Dieringer School Districts, Sumner-Bonney Lake Aquatics Center, Pierce County, and the City of Bonney Lake who have contributed to the success of the Swimsafe campaign," said East Pierce Public Education Specialist Dina Sutherland. "Each of our agencies are committed to sustaining the Swimsafe goal of maintaining zero drownings."

Learn more about Swimsafe at www.eastpiercefirer.org. ■

DEPUTY CHIEF MCDONALD RETIRES

After a career that lasted more than 32 years and stretched from a small town in upstate New York to Bonney Lake, East Pierce Deputy Fire Chief John McDonald, who announced his retirement more than a year ago, made it official in March.

McDonald originally went to college to become a police officer. But when he was offered a permanent position after serving in the reserves, he realized that his true love was the fire service. So he accepted a job as firefighter-EMT for the City of Pullman Fire Services, where he served for seven years.

From there, it was a steady climb to deputy chief. "I was fortunate that, early on in my career, I chose to detour to prevention and administration. That afforded me an opportunity to move up, which kept it fun," he says.

Moving up also meant moving to a new community. In 1992, McDonald accepted a position as a captain and fire inspector with Clark County Fire District No. 5. Five years later, he moved again, to serve as assistant chief and fire marshal for the Bonney Lake Fire Department. In January 2000, East Pierce Fire & Rescue was formed and McDonald remained in the same position with the new organization. He was promoted to deputy fire chief in 2007.

His time at East Pierce has given him a huge sense of accomplishment. "I'm proud of the organization that we were able to build and the services we are able to provide to this community, including many services other fire departments don't offer," he says.

Along with the ups, came the downs. "The lowest point in my career was when (East Pierce Fire Chief) Dan Packer died," he says. "I was incredibly fortunate to have worked with Dan as a leader, mentor and good friend. He was the most influential person for me." Following Packer's death, McDonald was named interim chief and led the organization through the painful recovery process. With the appointment of Fire Chief Jerry Thorson in March 2009, McDonald returned to the deputy chief position, where he continued to serve until his retirement.

McDonald and his wife Tamar have three children. Their youngest will be a senior in high school next year. While his wife is still working, McDonald says he is learning to be a house husband. During his retirement, he looks forward to spending more time with his family and playing a bit of golf.

His fondest memories of the fire service involve the people he has met. "Every step along the way, I worked with good people—folks who wanted to do the best for their community," he says. "I have been very blessed to do a job I love." ■

Firefighter Chumbley Honored

The Sumner Downtown Association presented East Pierce Fire & Rescue Firefighter-paramedic Hunter Chumbley with a First Citizen's Award for his volunteer work in the community.

Chumbley heads the annual Firefighters' Coats for Kids program, sponsored by the East Pierce Firefighter's Local 3520. The Local raises money to purchase and distribute warm coats to elementary school children who live within the fire district. Last year, 618 local school children received new coats from the firefighters.

Chumbley serves as chair of the Local's Benevolent Fund and has been a key player in organizing special projects to benefit local citizens in need. The Fund also sponsors the Fill the Boot campaign, hosts the Sumner Easter Egg Hunt and raises money at the annual Pancake Feed to purchase Christmas gifts for children.

Chumbley is also an active volunteer for the Burn Foundation and the Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

In a newspaper article, Laurie Miller executive director of the Sumner Downtown Association explained why they chose to honor Chumbley. "Although firefighters put their lives on the line every day — from braving burning buildings to risking exposure



East Pierce Fire & Rescue Firefighter-paramedic Hunter Chumbley (right) received this year's First Citizen's Award for his volunteer efforts, including the Coats for Kids program.

to hazardous chemicals — their commitment to their community doesn't end with their shift at the firehouse,"

she says.

Congratulations, Hunter for demonstrating "Compassion in Action". ■

INSURANCE RATES, cont. from pg 1

creased by 23 percent over the past five years—from 7,249 in 2009 to 9,348 in 2014, according to fire district records.

He is also concerned. "Unfortunately, several of the items that helped provide improved classifications have been cut due to budget restraints," Thorson says.

In 2014, voters failed to renew a Maintenance and Operations levy forcing the fire department to make an additional \$3.2 million cut in the 2015 budget, including reductions in the number of firefighters staffing

fire engines and medic units; deferred purchase of essential firefighting equipment, engines and medic units; a freeze on filling vacant firefighter positions; continued reductions to fire and EMS training and deferred and reduced maintenance of fire stations, fire engines and medic units. In addition, the fire district has cut a number of public education programs, including annual fire and life safety classes to more than 5,600 elementary school children and CPR instruction to 1,200 middle school

and high school students within the fire district.

"The report confirms what we have been saying. Low staffing levels, aging fire engines and medic units and deferred maintenance will eventually affect our ability to provide adequate fire protection. A community's investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire loss," Thorson says. ■



East Pierce Deputy Chief John McDonald retired after more than 30 years in the fire service.

Who is East Pierce Fire & Rescue?

East Pierce Fire & Rescue was founded on a strong commitment to customer service. The department's *Mission, Vision and Values* guide the actions of the department and its employees. Exceptional customer service and a concern for the employees and their families have become hallmarks of our culture.

EPF&R was created when the City of Bonney Lake Fire Department, Lake Tapps Fire and Pierce County Fire District 24 merged in 2000 with the goal of providing a seamless response to emergency situations.

In 2006, voters in Pierce County Fire District 12 and South Prairie Fire District 20 overwhelmingly passed a special election to merge with East Pierce.

Two years later, the citizens of the City of Sumner and Pierce County Fire District 1 also voted to join the East Pierce family.

On February 9, 2010, Edgewood residents voted in favor of merging with East Pierce.

In 2011, the Milton City Council voted to contract for services with East Pierce, bringing expanded fire, rescue and emergency medical services to their city.

Today, East Pierce serves a population of approximately 88,400 residents living in and around Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, the Ridge Communities, South Prairie, Edgewood and Milton. The district covers approximately 151 square miles and protects residents from 11 stations – six staffed and four volunteer, and one facility on Lake Tapps for the marine rescue unit.

All full-time firefighters are cross-trained as either emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or paramedics and are able to respond to both medical emergencies and fires.

An independently-elected board of citizens govern the agency. ■

Commissioners

Dale Mitchell, Chair
Victor Proulx
Edward Egan
Karlyne McGinnis
Kevin Garling
Ron Scholz
Mike Cathey

Staffed Stations

- Station 111 (Headquarters Station)**
18421 Veterans Memorial Drive East
Bonney Lake, 98391
253.863.1800
www.eastpiercefirer.org
- Station 112** 12006 - 214th Ave. E.,
Bonney Lake
- Station 113** 800 Harrison Street,
Sumner
- Station 114** 3206 W. Tapps Drive E.,
Bonney Lake
- Station 116** 10515 - 234th Ave. E.,
Buckley
- Station 118** 10105 24th Street East,
Edgewood

Employees Receive Recognition

The recipients of the 2014 Recognition Awards were honored by the East Pierce Fire and Rescue Fire Commissioners and command staff in a ceremony held at the Edgewood station.

The Chief's Company included Lieutenant Matt Gilbert, Firefighters Heidi Rolfsness, Jeff Conover and Jeff Lachowitz, and Volunteer Captain Mark Nevill. While all the other awards are voted on by the firefighters, the Chief's Company is determined by the command staff.

East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson congratulated all of this year's recipients, noting that they were selected by their peers for their leadership skills and efforts to mentor and educate others, setting a standard for themselves and others. ■



The Chief's Company included (from right) Lieutenant Matt Gilbert, Firefighters Jeff Conover, Heidi Rolfsness and Jeff Lachowitz, and Volunteer Captain Mark Nevill. Also pictured is East Pierce Board of Commissioners Chair Dale Mitchell and Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

Firefighter-paramedic
Mike Gladstone

CAREER FIREFIGHTER (tie)

Firefighter Jeff Lachowitz
and Lieutenant Rob Ruszala

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Lieutenant Kevin Stabenfeldt

VOLUNTEER RESPONDER OF THE YEAR

Volunteer Firefighter
DeAnn O'Leary

FITNESS AWARD

Ben Pieper

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR

Shelly Nieman

MIKE ROBERTS GOODWILL AWARD

Firefighter-paramedic
Hunter Chumbley

KEN THAWSH INSPIRATIONAL AWARD

Volunteer Firefighter
Kyle Mosher

CPR to the Rescue

Do you need to renew your CPR certification? We can help! East Pierce Fire & Rescue offers CPR and First Aid classes at least once a month at the East Pierce headquarters station. You can register by calling 253-863-1800, online at www.eastpiercefirer.org, or in person at the headquarters station. The cost for citizens residing within the jurisdiction of East Pierce Fire & Rescue is \$20 for either a CPR or First Aid class, or \$40 for both. The cost for non-residents is \$35 for each class, or \$70 for both. Students receive a two-year American Heart Association Heart-Saver-level certification

at the completion of class.

Don't need a certification? Register in a Hands-Only CPR class. This FREE one-hour class focuses on essential life-saving skills, including "Hands-Only" CPR for adult victims only and recognition of heart attack and strokes. The valuable training is offered every other month at the headquarters station, but may be taught at your location for groups of 10 or more citizens (homeowners association, church groups, or businesses, etc.)

Visit www.eastpiercefirer.org to learn more about our CPR and First Aid program or to register for a class. ■

2015 OPEN HOUSE CANCELLED

For the first time since the free health and safety fair began, the 2015 Open House has been cancelled. "Budget constraints prevent us from offering the event this year," says East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson. "We are deeply disappointed. It's as much fun for the firefighters and staff as it is for the citizens who attend."

The event, that attracts 2,500 to 3,000 annually, first began in 1993. It showcases programs and services provided by the fire district, including demonstrations by its special operations teams. It is held in cooperation with other public safety partners including the Bonney Lake Police, Sumner Police and Pierce County Sheriff's Departments, plus the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. ■

East Pierce Classes & Public Education

FREE! TO EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE CITIZENS

LIFE JACKET LOANER PROGRAM

Wearer must be present for fitting | Headquarters Station
18421 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Bonney Lake

CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTIONS

District residents can call 253.863.1800 for appointment. Our certified child passenger safety technicians will check to make sure your child is in the right seat, your seat is installed correctly and your child is placed in the seat correctly.

STATION TOURS

Call to arrange a tour of any of our fire stations.

SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATIONS

Includes smoke alarm with 10-year batteries. Call 253.863.1800 for appointment

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Stop by any station during regular business hours. (Subject to staff availability)

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

Learn how to use a fire extinguisher in case of a residential or commercial emergency. Call 253.863.1800 to schedule

HANDS-ONLY CPR CLASS - FREE

Non-certification class for adult CPR, from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (1 hour) July 23 | Sept. 24 | Nov. 16

SERVICES OFFERED

CPR 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | BASIC FIRST AID 1:00–4:30 p.m.
Fire Headquarters Station 18421 Veterans Memorial Dr. E., Bonney Lake

June 12 or 27 | Aug. 15 or 19 |
Sept. 19 or 29 (CPR only) or 30 (First Aid Only)

The cost for citizens residing within the jurisdiction of East Pierce Fire & Rescue, including Sumner, Bonney Lake, Lake Tapps, South Prairie, Milton and Edgewood, is \$20 for either a CPR or First Aid class, or \$40 for both. The cost for non-residents is \$35 for each class, or \$70 for both.

To register, call 253-863-1800 during regular business hours or register online at www.eastpiercefirer.org.

HELMET SALES AND FITTING* Wearer must be present for custom fitting. Bike helmets sold for \$7 each. Mult-Sport helmets sold for \$10 each.

LIFE JACKET SALES AND FITTING* Wearer must be present for custom fitting. Life jackets are sold for \$14 each. Exact change is appreciated.

* Sponsored by East Pierce Professional Firefighters Local 3520