



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 22, 2017

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Fire Department Employees Honored

Bonney Lake, WA—The East Pierce Fire and Rescue Fire Commissioners and command staff honored the recipients of the annual Recognition Awards at a ceremony held February 21 at the headquarters station in Bonney Lake. They included:

Officer of the Year	Lieutenant Matt Gilbert
Career Firefighter of the Year	Firefighter Matt Reinke
Emergency Medical Services Provider of the Year	Firefighter-paramedic Jeff Berry
Volunteer Responder of the Year	Captain Mark Nevill
Mike Roberts Goodwill Award	Firefighter-paramedic Hunter Chumbley
Ken Thawsh Inspirational Award	Volunteer Firefighter DeAnn O’Leary
Fitness Award	Firefighter Daryl Flood
Support Staff of the Year	IT Specialist Mike Blaylock

The Chief’s Company includes **Lieutenant Jason Sanders, Firefighter Scot Lynch, Firefighter-Paramedic Sean Alix and Firefighter Jim Clarke.**

At the ceremony, East Pierce Fire Chief Bud Backer congratulated this year’s recipients, noting that their peers vote to select those honored. “It means a lot to know that your co-workers are seeing your efforts,” he said. The only award not chosen this way is the Chief’s Company. The command staff selects the recipients of that award based on leadership skills.

Dale Mitchell, the chair of the East Pierce Fire and Rescue Board of Commissioners led a standing ovation for the award recipients. “On behalf of the Board, we appreciate all that you have done,” he said.

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Cutline: East Pierce Fire and Rescue recognizes outstanding service at an annual ceremony on February 21. (From left to right) East Pierce IT Specialist Mike Blaylock, Lieutenant Jason Sanders, Firefighter-paramedic Jeff Berry, Captain Mark Nevill, Lieutenant Matt Gilbert and Firefighter Jim Clarke.