



# FIRE HOUSE NEWS

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

SPRING 2010

## Edgewood says "Yes" to merger

**E**dgewood voters overwhelmingly approved the merger with East Pierce Fire & Rescue in a special election February 9. According to election officials, 81 percent of the voters supported the merger.

The next step is for the Board of Fire Commissioners representing both districts to pass a resolution authorizing the merger. At that time, Edgewood Commissioners Dale Mitchell, Kevin Garling and Ed Egan will join the East Pierce board.

The merger becomes effective April 1. Under the terms of the merger, the number of firefighters on duty at the Edgewood station will increase from 2-3 per day to 4-5. "This allows for an additional crew to respond to more than one call at a time," Edgewood Fire Chief Ed Goodlet said. Goodlet will join East



In a special election February 9, Edgewood voters approved the merger with East Pierce with a vote of 81 percent in favor. After the Board of Commissioners of both Edgewood and East Pierce pass a resolution, the merger will be effective beginning April 1.

East Pierce Fire and Rescue  
18321 Oldhacker Highway  
Bonney Lake, WA 98801

ECRWSS  
Postal Customer



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## Protecting the north end of Lake Tapps

**L**ately there has been some confusion about who provides fire protection and emergency medical services for the residents at the north end of Lake Tapps. Although the Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) recently built a fire station at 182nd Avenue East, the citizens who live on or around Lake Tapps are still served by East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

"With the new facility in view, some people think they have a new fire station," said East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson. "The East Pierce fire station on West Tapps Drive East continues to provide fire protection and emergency medical services for Lake Tapps residents, backed up by our other, nearby stations."

According to Thorson, East Pierce officials have met with the VRFA leadership to coordinate issues such as mutual aid. When VRFA firefighters at the new station are out on an incident, they can request assistance of East Pierce firefighters and visa versa. "We are good neighbors, but we still have the primary responsibility for the north end of the lake," Thorson said.

The East Pierce firefighters are trained to handle both fires and medical emergencies. As emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics, they can quickly respond to a medical emergency, providing advanced life-saving services. Paramedics can perform advanced procedures to help people who are not breathing, start IVs and give a variety of life-saving medications.



The East Pierce Fire & Rescue station at 3206 West Tapps Drive East provides primary protection for the north end of Lake Tapps. The firefighters are trained to handle both fires and medical emergencies, providing advanced paramedic care and ambulance transport services at no out-of-pocket expense for Lake Tapps residents.

If you or your family becomes hurt or ill and requires an ambulance ride to the hospital, East Pierce Fire & Rescue will provide that at no out-of-pocket expense to you. "It's part of our service to the citizens in our jurisdiction," Thorson said.

East Pierce officials have been active in the Lake Tapps community, participating in the Cascade Alliance, the Lake Tapps Boat Management Plan and other efforts regarding the lake. Department members were instrumental in getting a Teak Surfing bill passed in the Washington State Legislature that raises awareness of the dangerous practice. Several deaths on Lake Tapps have been attributed to the

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### Services offered by East Pierce Fire & Rescue

- Firefighter-paramedics who provide advanced life support response 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Ambulance transport services provided by East Pierce Fire & Rescue with no out-of-pocket expenses to citizens who live in the East Pierce District.
- A dedicated Water Rescue Team consisting of specially-trained divers who can perform open water or swift water rescues.
- A Marine Rescue Unit at the north end of Lake Tapps
- CPR and First Aid Classes free for East Pierce residents
- Free Life Jacket Loaner Program all summer at both parks on Lake Tapps
- Free Smoke Alarm Installations
- Bicycle Helmet Sales and Fitting
- Life Jacket Sales and Fitting
- Safe Sitter Classes
- Free Child Safety Seat Inspections
- Free Fire Extinguisher Training
- Free Blood Pressure Checks

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# Wakefield leaves his mark

**W**hen East Pierce Assistant Chief Dave Wakefield retires in March, he will have served his community for nearly 40 years.

"Yep, I've seen one or two changes," he laughs.

In fact, he has participated in a half a dozen mergers, trained hundreds of firefighters, authored numerous state, regional, county and local emergency plans and even served as interim chief for a neighboring district. "I have worked with some of the finest people in the fire service," he states.

When he joined the fire service, Wakefield followed a family tradition. "My dad and uncle were two of the founding members of the Edgewood Fire Department," Wakefield said. "Even as a little kid, I was around the fire station."

Born and raised in Edgewood, he attended Edgemont School from kindergarten through eighth grade, when his family moved to Ogden, Utah. While playing guitar in the band, "The Defenders," he met Jeri, his wife-to-be. They were married in 1970. In 1973, he became a volunteer firefighter. By 1977, he was promoted to assistant chief.



Assistant Chief Dave Wakefield was instrumental in the mergers that led to what is now East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

The couple moved back to Washington later that year to raise their family that would eventually include three daughters and one son.

Despite a growing family and new job, Wakefield volunteered at the Lake Tapps Fire Department.

He was hired by the department in 1981 as the third career fire-fighter on staff. "We did everything," Wakefield said. "I was in charge of training and operations and did some work on wildland fires."

Wakefield was given the assignment of re-addressing the district to provide consistent addresses. "I

changed the address of the Chief and two of the fire commissioners and I still had a job when I was done," he said of the tedious project.

By 1985, Captain Wakefield was assigned to develop a department master plan for the future. "In some ways, it was the beginning steps, leading us to where we are now with East Pierce Fire & Rescue," he said.

Later, the Pierce County Chiefs Association asked him to lead the Emergency Management Committee. The Fire Resource Plan developed by the committee became the catalyst for the State Fire Service Mobilization Plan. By 1991,

Wakefield was well on his way to finding his niche in the fire service as Assistant Chief in charge of Emergency Management.

Lake Tapps Fire Department would eventually merge with the Bonney Lake Fire Department and Pierce County Fire District No. 24 to form East Pierce Fire & Rescue. Wakefield tackled the difficult task of authoring the training plan for the three departments.

Wakefield would see four more mergers.

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## Bike helmets are for everyone

Did you know that bicycle injuries are the second leading cause of injury hospitalization for Washington children 5-14 years old? Head injury is the most common cause of death and serious disability in bicycle crashes. In fact, the majority of bicycle deaths in Washington occurred to children who were not wearing a bicycle helmet.

"Wearing a helmet while biking is the single most effective way of avoiding head injury and even death," said Dina Sutherland, East Pierce Public Education Specialist. "We feel so strongly about the use of helmets that we not only sell helmets that meet the safety standards developed by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, but we will custom-fit your new helmet."

Helmet fit is important. Make sure the helmet fits and your child knows how to put it on correctly. A helmet should sit on top of the head in a level position, and should not rock forward, backward or side to side. The helmet straps must always be buckled, but not too tightly.

Helmets aren't just for children. As a parent, we have a responsibility to set a good example.

"Make it a family rule: every time you and your child ride a bike, everyone wears a helmet," Sutherland said.

### Bicycle Riders Rules of the Road

- Ride with traffic flow on the side of the road, not against traffic.
- Ride as far to the right side of the road as possible.
- Follow all traffic regulations (e.g., stop at stop signs and red lights).
- Use appropriate hand signals.
- Stop and look left, right, and left again before entering a street.
- Don't ride when it's dark. If riding at dusk, dawn, or in the evening is unavoidable, wear reflective material on clothing, and use lights and reflectors on the bicycle.
- Make sure the reflectors are secure, brakes work properly, gears shift smoothly and tires are tightly secured and properly inflated.
- Bicycle helmets should be replaced after a bicycle crash.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### The O'Leary's: A fire service family

**I**n 1995, Brian and DeAnn O'Leary changed the direction of their lives. Brian, a 34-year-old truck driver, decided to become a firefighter. As a member of the Crystal Mountain Ski Patrol, he had become an emergency medical technician (EMT) and enjoyed the job so much, he decided he would like to become a firefighter/EMT. He signed on with the Lake Tapps Fire Department as a volunteer, eventually putting himself through the fire academy.

DeAnn was familiar with the sacrifices required of the family of a firefighter. Her father had been a volunteer at Bonney Lake Fire Department. She did all she could to support her husband, even picking up job applications at area fire departments. "I spent the night in lines to get an application," DeAnn said. "I've been behind him 100 percent."

In 2001, Brian became the first paid firefighter for Pierce County Fire District No. 12, serving the area between Bonney Lake and Buckley.

Soon after, District 12 merged with East Pierce. For Brian, being a firefighter is the fulfillment of a dream. "It means more to me because I wasn't just handed the job," he said. "I had to work for it."

As the wife of a firefighter, DeAnn saw the need for EMT volunteers and, in 2003 she also became a volunteer for District 12, and later for East Pierce. Responding to medical calls led her to a career change as well. She has since become a nurse for the Puyallup School District.



DeAnn and Brian O'Leary have been involved with the fire department for almost as long as they have been married. Brian is a career firefighter and DeAnn serves as a volunteer EMT.

It's not surprising that the couple's two sons have a keen interest in public safety and medicine. Ben is a sophomore at Washington State University and plans to become a law officer. Sam, a senior at Bonney Lake High School, is considering a career in sports medicine or as a physician's assistant.

Brian and DeAnn say they love the fire service. "The appreciation the community has for what we do is incredible," DeAnn said. "Where else do you get that?"

## EASTER EGG HUNTS

The Easter Bunny will be stopping by three different areas of our District on Saturday, April 3. Don't miss these great Easter Egg Hunts. All three fun events are absolutely free.

### Sumner

The 20th annual Sumner Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by East Pierce Professional Firefighters, Local 3520, will be held at Sunset Stadium, 1707 Main Street, Saturday, April 3.

Times:  
Children, ages 1 to 3 9 a.m.  
Children, ages 4 to 6 10 a.m.  
Children, ages 7 to 9 11 a.m.  
Children, ages 10 to 12 noon

### South Prairie

Join the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Volunteer Firefighters' Association for the 53rd annual South Prairie Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 3. The free event starts at 10 a.m. at the South Prairie City Park, located at Third and Tacoma Streets. Stop by for old-fashioned fun for the whole family.

### Edgewood

The Edgewood Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the East Pierce Professional Firefighters, Local 3520, begins promptly at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 3 at the Edgemont Park at 24th Street East and 110th Avenue East, in Edgewood. Toddlers through fifth graders are invited to participate.

## Edgewood

From page 1

Pierce as Assistant Chief of Operations.

"This merger will provide the best option to better serve this community," he said.

In addition, Edgewood citizens receive a benefit offered to all residents in the East Pierce Fire and Rescue District – ambulance transport services from the fire department with no out-of-pocket costs to the patient. "For patients who desperately need to be transported to the hospital, this represents a considerable savings," Goodlet said.

The no out-of-pocket expense for ambulance rides applies only to fire department transports.

The Edgewood Fire Department began the process of merging with East Pierce when its commissioners signed an Administrative Services Agreement in August of 2009. The agreement provides for the "exchange of services" at no cost to either of the entities.

"We'd like to thank the voters for their confidence and support of the fire department. We truly value your opinion and appreciate the opportunity to serve the Edgewood community," said East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson.

"We are in the process of finalizing the merger and implementing changes to see how to better provide services throughout the District," Thorson said "We expect a smooth transition."

## Lake Tapps

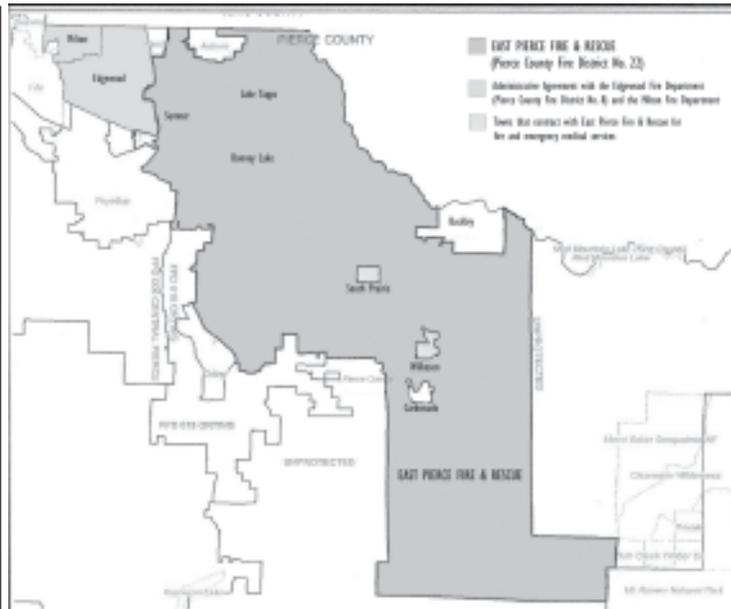
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to the practice of sitting in the water near the swim platform of a boat where deadly gases collect.

To ensure a rapid response to water rescue incidents, East Pierce maintains a rescue boat in a boat house at the north end of Lake Tapps. Members of our elite Water Rescue Team can often be seen on the lake practicing their dive skills. In addition, to the Water Rescue Team, we maintain a core group of specially-trained firefighters who serve on other special operations teams, including Wildland Firefighting, Hazmat and Technical Rescue.

We believe that the best way to protect our citizens is to prevent an accident in the first place. That's why we provide free life jacket loaners at both parks on Lake Tapps and at our headquarters station. A Public Education Specialist coordinates various life safety classes taught at local schools. And our adult CPR and First Aid classes have been so popular we recently added six more classes.

Most importantly, we maintain a strong commitment to customer service. "If you have a question about East Pierce Fire & Rescue or our services, call me," Thorson said. "We value your input." Call 253-863-1800 with questions.



East Pierce Fire & Rescue has been actively involved in a number of issues affecting the north end of Lake Tapps including the Cascade Alliance, the Lake Tapps Boat Management Plan and other efforts regarding the lake. Department members were instrumental in getting a Teak Surfing bill passed in the Washington State Legislature that raises awareness of the dangerous practice.

## Thank You!



A donation from Evergreen Pre-Cast helped the Technical Rescue Team practice important life-saving skills.

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Technical Rescue Team thanks Summer businessman Jim Wolfe for donating five pre-cast concrete vaults. His company, Evergreen Pre-Cast, Incorporated, delivered the vaults, estimated at a value of \$5,000, to a training area behind Fire Station 16, on 234<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

According to East Pierce Technical Rescue Team Leader Lieutenant Rich Simmons, the vaults are being used by the team to practice confined space rescues and structural collapse scenarios. "It's pretty challenging training," Simmons said.

The Team practiced breaching the concrete vaults, simulating a rescue response to an earthquake. Confined space rescues can sometimes occur following an industrial accident. "Typically industrial workers are very good at taking precautions, but sometimes, things happen," Simmons said.

"It's very difficult to find places to do these kinds of drills," he added. "We are grateful to Evergreen Pre-Cast for their generous donation."

## HEALTH Watch

### Strokes are a 9-1-1 emergency

Every 40 seconds, someone in the United States has a stroke. It is the third leading cause of death for Americans and it is the leading cause of adult disability.

A stroke – sometimes called a cerebrovascular accident (CVA) – is the rapid loss of brain function due to a disturbance in the blood supply to the brain, caused by either a blocked or burst blood vessel. After approximately three hours, the brain will suffer irreversible injury. Getting medical treatment early can minimize the chance of death or serious damage to the brain.

Stroke symptoms typically start suddenly and depend on the area of the brain affected. Some of the most common symptoms are:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

The standard treatment is to give the patient a "clot busting" drug called TPA that dissolves the clot inside the brain, restoring blood flow and oxygen. But with each passing minute, irreversible brain damage occurs.

"Time is absolutely critical for stroke patients," said East Pierce

Lieutenant Marc Lash. "The chance of effective treatment after three hours is dismal. Unfortunately, we are seeing people wait for hours before calling 9-1-1."

If you call, paramedics can provide early supportive treatment and notify the hospital so neurologists are standing by to treat the patient quickly.

Furthermore, only certain hospitals are equipped to treat strokes. If people try to drive their loved ones to the hospital, it's likely they could go to the wrong hospital where no aggressive treatment is available. "That's why you should always call 9-1-1 if you suspect a stroke," Lash said.

The good news is that better and more effective treatments are available, including emergency care and rehabilitation. "But time is the enemy. The treatments are only effective if applied soon after the stroke occurs," Lash said.

To help recognize the symptoms of a stroke, the use the FAST system:

**F** = Face - Ask a person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?  
**A** = Arm - Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

**S** = Speech - Does the speech sound slurred or strange?

**T** = Time - If you observe any of these signs, do not delay. Call 9-1-1

For information about strokes, go to the American Stroke Association's Web site at [www.strokeassociation.org](http://www.strokeassociation.org).

## Wakefield

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Last year, Wakefield got a taste of what is it like to be a fire chief when he was assigned interim chief of Orting Valley Fire & Rescue following the departure of the previous chief.

After his retirement, Wakefield said he is looking forward to spending time with his family. "One of the sacrifices of being able to live your dream job is your family," he said. "There have been way too many dance recitals, school programs, weddings, birthdays and holidays I have missed because I was out doing my job. I don't want to miss any more of those opportunities."

One of those opportunities is the chance to serve as crew chief for his son David, an avid drag car racer.



Assistant Chief Dave Wakefield and his wife Jeri at the East Pierce Fire & Rescue 2009 Annual Banquet.

"East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a leader in the fire service due, in part, to Chief Wakefield's even hand and calm demeanor," East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson said. "Although those of us who have had the honor to serve with Chief Wakefield will miss him, we wish him a long and rewarding retirement."

## SafeSitter classes offered

Safe Sitter® is a medically-accurate program that teaches boys and girls ages 11 to 13 how to handle emergencies when caring for children. The three-day class teaches safe and nurturing childcare techniques, behavior management skills and appropriate responses to medical emergencies. Classes are held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Station 16, 10515 234th Ave. E., Bonney Lake on the following dates:

- June 21, 22 and 23
- July 19, 20 and 21
- Aug. 16, 17 and 18

The cost is \$30 per student, due at registration. Call (253) 863-1800 to register. Registration forms and additional information are available online at [www.eastpiercerefire.org](http://www.eastpiercerefire.org). The class is limited to 25 students, so register early!



Registration forms and additional information about the Safe Sitter classes are available online at [www.eastpiercerefire.org](http://www.eastpiercerefire.org).

## 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.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue 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 the two districts 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.

In August, 2009 officials from Pierce County Fire District 8 in Edgewood and the Milton Fire Department entered into an Administrative Services Agreement as the first step towards merging with East Pierce Fire & Rescue. On February 9, 2010, Edgewood residents resoundingly voted in favor of merging with East Pierce.

Today, East Pierce serves a population of more than 85,000 living in and around Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, the Ridge Communities, South Prairie, Edgewood and Wilkeson. The district covers approximately 152 square miles and protects residents from 12 stations – six staffed and five volunteer and one facility on Lake Tapps for the marine 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 governs the agency. Additional information is available at [www.eastpiercerefire.org](http://www.eastpiercerefire.org).

The FireHouse Newsletter is published quarterly by East Pierce Fire & Rescue. It is written and produced by Teresa McCallion.

## East Pierce Classes and Meetings

### CPR and Basic First Aid Classes

April 17 or April 24 **Where:** East Pierce Fire & Rescue headquarters station  
 May 15, 21 or 22 18421 Old Buckley Highway  
 June 12 or 26 Bonney Lake, WA  
 July 16, 17 or 31 **When:** CPR classes are from 9 a.m. until noon  
 Aug. 14 or 28 First Aid classes are from 1 to 4 p.m.

Classes are **free** for citizens residing within the jurisdiction of East Pierce Fire & Rescue, including Sumner, Bonney Lake, Lake Tapps, Wilkeson, South Prairie and Edgewood. The cost for non-residents is \$30 for either a CPR or First Aid class, or \$45 for both. Call 253-863-1800 during regular business hours to register!

### East Pierce Fire and Rescue Fire Commissioner's Meetings

The public is welcome to attend the Commissioner's meeting at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the headquarters station, 18421 Old Buckley Highway, in Bonney Lake.

## Public Education Programs

East Pierce Fire & Rescue offer the following services:

### Bicycle Helmet Sales and Fitting\*

Wearer must be present for custom fitting. Helmets are sold for \$7 each.

### Life Jacket Sales and Fitting\*

Wearer must be present for custom fitting. Life jackets are sold for \$14 each.

### Safe Sitter Classes

Registration information and class schedules are available at [www.eastpiercerefire.org](http://www.eastpiercerefire.org). Cost: \$30

### FREE CPR and First Aid Classes

Registration information and class schedules are available at [www.eastpiercerefire.org](http://www.eastpiercerefire.org). Free for East Pierce residents.

### FREE Life Jacket Loaner Program

Wearer must be present for fitting. Free loaner jackets are available at the headquarter's station, at 18421 Old Buckley Hwy.

### FREE Child Safety Seat Inspections

Call for an 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.

### FREE Station Tours

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

### FREE Smoke Alarm Installations

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

### FREE Blood Pressure Checks

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

### FREE Fire Extinguisher Training

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

\*Sponsored by East Pierce Professional Firefighters Local 3520.

## East Pierce Fire & Rescue Staffed Fire Stations

Station 11	18421 Old Buckley Hwy, Bonney Lake (Headquarters Station)
Station 12	12006 - 214th Ave. E., Bonney Lake
Station 13	800 Harrison Street, Sumner
Station 14	3206 W. Tapps Drive E., Bonney Lake
Station 16	10515 - 234th Ave. E., Buckley
Station 18	10105 24th Street East, Edgewood



18421 Old Buckley Highway  
 Bonney Lake, WA 98391

253-863-1800  
[www.eastpiercerefire.org](http://www.eastpiercerefire.org)

### East Pierce Fire Commissioners

Rick Kuss, Chair	Raymond Bunk	Mike Cathey
Edward Egan	Kevin Garling	Rick Kilbourn
Andrew Longstreth	Karlyne McGinnis	Roy "Red" Mendenhall
Dale Mitchell	Victor Proulx	Ron Scholz



### Jerry E. Thorson, Fire Chief

"Exceptional people providing compassionate service and rapid response to our community's diverse needs."