



# FIRE HOUSE NEWS

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

FALL 2010

## Annual open house October 2



East Pierce firefighter Doug Mullins helps a junior firefighter take aim at our annual Open House. Have our kids test their skills from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday, October 2 at the free event.

**E**ast Pierce Fire & Rescue invites the public to stop by for its 17th annual Open House. The free health and safety fair will run from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, October 2 and will feature interactive displays, antique fire trucks and more at the Bonney Lake Public Safety Building on Old Buckley Highway.

“The Open House is an opportunity to showcase our programs and services,” said East Pierce Lieutenant Eric McLeroy. “It also gives firefighters a chance to demonstrate fire prevention and safety issues in a fun, interactive setting.”

Parents and children can test their fire safety knowledge, watch a Jaws of Life demonstration, purchase and be fitted for life jackets and bike helmets, communicate with underwater rescue divers, meet members of the bomb squad and tour a rescue helicopter.

Children age 10 and younger can suit up in pint-size firefighter gear to put out a “fire” and perform a rescue. Older children are offered a more challenging course.

East Pierce firefighters will demonstrate some of the equipment they use to fight fires, conduct rescues and provide medical assistance. There will also be fun demonstrations and educational displays from the Bonney Lake and Sumner Police Departments, Puget Sound Energy, Pierce Transit, Department of Natural Resources and Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Parking is available at the Park and Ride at 184th Avenue East, off state Route 410 East. Pierce County Transit will provide a shuttle to the Public Safety Building.

Don't miss the fun!

East Pierce Fire and Rescue  
18421 Old Buckley Highway  
Bonney Lake, WA 98391

ECRWSS  
Postal Customer



### Milton voters choose East Pierce

The residents of the City of Milton took the first step toward a formal annexation with East Pierce Fire and Rescue, approving a proposition in the August 17 elections to increase in the city property tax and enter into an operational agreement with East Pierce.

The proposition – favored by 60 percent of the voters – will increase assessed valuation of property by \$1.21 per \$1,000. In return, East Pierce will provide fire, rescue and advanced emergency medical services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. In addition, ambulance transport will be provided by East Pierce with no out-of-pocket expenses to Milton residents.

“While our fire department has served our citizens well, demands for emergency services in Milton have risen more than 40 percent over the past five years,” Milton Fire Chief James Jaques said.

The “Lid Lift” will help provide dedicated funds to contract with East Pierce. This arrangement will serve as an interim measure until the residents of Milton have an opportunity to

See Milton, page 4

## Antique fire engine dedicated

**A**s the crowd of admiring onlookers cheered, the 1929 Howard Cooper fire engine pulled out of the South Prairie fire station. The late afternoon sun glinted from its glossy red coat, shiny brass fittings and gold-leaf detailing. The restoration of the engine was a dream of the late East Pierce Fire Chief Dan Packer.

In a heartfelt ceremony attended by citizens, firefighters and local officials, East Pierce Fire and Rescue unveiled the refurbished fire engine in August.

The Howard Cooper was originally purchased in the late forties from the city of Buckley for the princely sum of \$400. It served the community well for over thirty years, carrying the town’s volunteer firefighters to numerous fires and emergencies.

The old engine was retired in the mid-1960s and placed in storage, where it stayed, resurfacing occasionally for parades and the annual Santa Run.

In 2007, East Pierce Fire Chief Dan Packer approached the City of South Prairie with a proposal for restoring the old engine.

Restoration began in 2008 and was completed in June 2010. More than 500 hours of labor went into the project, which was coordinated by East Pierce Assistant Chief Barry Barquest. Most of the work was done by Meridian Collision Center, in Puyallup, headed by Bill Jorgensen, Meridian Collision Center’s Chief Operating Officer and vice president of Operations, who attended the dedication ceremony.



The beautifully-restored 1929 Howard Cooper was unveiled last month in a ceremony at the East Pierce fire station in South Prairie. The engine served the town of South Prairie for 30 years before being retired. It is dedicated to the late East Pierce Fire Chief Dan Packer in recognition of his efforts to preserve an important part of the fire district’s history.

The engine was dedicated to the memory of Chief Packer and serves as a tribute to his vision. “Chief Packer felt it was important to preserve the history and traditions of the fire service,” East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson said. Members of the Packer family were on hand for the dedication.

Following the ceremony, East Pierce honored one of its long-time volunteers, Layne Ross, who retired after 38 years of service to the South Prairie Fire Department. Ross became a volunteer firefighter in 1973, serving as the South Prairie Fire Department assistant fire chief.

Photos of the ceremony are available online at [www.eastpiercefirer.org](http://www.eastpiercefirer.org).

### What's Hot

- County Alert System ..... 2
- Sprinkler Update ..... 2
- Wilkeson Fire Station ..... 2
- Survey Results ..... 3
- Health Watch ..... 3
- Fire Safety Plans ..... 3
- Halloween Safety Tips ..... 4

## Get Your Bike Helmets

Here are some sobering facts – According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 716 bicyclists died on U.S. roads in 2008. Bicyclist deaths represented 2% of all 2008 traffic fatalities. One-seventh of the cyclists killed were between 5 to 15 years old. Head injuries accounted for two-thirds of the bicycle fatalities among children.

That's why we are such enthusiastic advocates of bike helmets.

Thanks to the East Pierce Firefighters, Local 3520, we offer low-cost helmets in adult and children's sizes for sale at our headquarters station and now, at our Edgewood fire station.

To get your new helmet, stop by the headquarters station at 18421 Old Buckley Highway in Bonney Lake or at 10105 24<sup>th</sup> Street East in Edgewood during regular business hours.

There are few things more frustrating to us than responding to an emergency that could have been prevented. Do us a favor – have fun and don't forget your helmet!

## New Pierce County ALERT System

The Pierce County Department of Emergency Management recently announced that it now has the ability to send free, automated emergency notification alerts to citizens who live or work in Pierce County.

Public safety officials can send alerts about emergencies such as severe weather, flooding, power disruptions, major road closures or critical police activity. These emergency alerts may be sent 24 hours a day based on severity. The goal is to dispatch emergency messages within 15 to 30 minutes of an incident. The idea is to keep people from calling 9-1-1 to get information and overwhelming the emergency dispatch centers.

PC Alert uses a software system that accesses the existing 9-1-1 landline database and 'white pages' to send emergency notifications to the majority of area residents and businesses. The notification can go out to an entire city or just an affected area.

Citizens who use cell phones instead of landlines, can 'opt in' to receive emergency



East Pierce Assistant Fire Chief James Jaques (center) oversees emergency management services for the district and is our Pierce County ALERT expert.

messages on their cell phone. This option is also available to citizens who work or go to school in this county, but who do not live here. Alerts can be received on a cell phone, work phone, fax, pager and in the form of e-mail or a text message.

East Pierce Assistant Chief James Jaques is excited about the prospect. "For example, we can let residents in flood-prone areas know that an evacuation notice has been issued. It would be especially important to get that information if you work elsewhere but live in the affected area," he said.

Jaques notes that the system will not have access to some resident's landline information. Those who have a non-published or unlisted number, are on a Do Not Call List, or have an Internet phone or TDD/TTY service would need to sign up in order to receive the service.

To register, call the Department of Emergency Management at 253-798-6595 or go online to [www.piercecountywa.gov/ALERT](http://www.piercecountywa.gov/ALERT). Up to ten different electronic devices can be registered.



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

### Wilkeson station protects town

Known as the gateway town to Mount Rainier National Park, Wilkeson has a colorful past. When coal was discovered in the 1870s, the population boomed to 3,000 people and Wilkeson earned a reputation as the roughest mining town west of Butte, Montana.

Today, about 400 residents call Wilkeson home, including East Pierce volunteer firefighters. Jay and Maggie Doty and Jayme Peloli. They cover the area at the south end of our district, from near Carbonado all the way to the Mt. Rainier National Park.

The Wilkeson station averages about ten fire, rescue and medical emergency calls a month. Typically, there are only a few fires. Most of the emergency calls are for motor vehicle crashes or medical aid, although every year, there are several incidents involving wilderness rescues and brush fires in the roughed terrain surrounding Wilkeson.

The three-person crew is on call, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and respond on either a fire engine, aid car or brush truck kept at the station. Often, they are first on scene, while firefighters from the Bonney Lake fire stations rush to join them.

Jay Doty became a Wilkeson volunteer in 1998. Before that, he was a volunteer in South Prairie with his dad.

Maggie (Winter) Doty joined the volunteers in 2003. She and Jay were married last year.

Peloli is the newest member of Wilkeson station. She signed on last year after a year as a volunteer in Mountain View.

Peloli is a familiar name at the Wilkeson fire station. Her grandfather served as a volunteer for 40 years and her father spent a decade as a volunteer. At that time, they responded from the fire station located in the basement of the town hall. The present station was built in 1988. Nearly twenty years later, the Wilkeson fire department became part of East Pierce Fire and Rescue.

Back when Jayme's father and grandfather were running calls out of the Wilkeson

fire station, everyone volunteered. "If you didn't join the fire department, basically your town burned," she said. Jay agreed. "You just did it because you had to. You took care of your own," he said.

Jayme said that her father and grandfather are proud that she is part of the fire department. But these days, there are fewer and fewer citizens who want to make the commitment it takes to become a volunteer. "When I came to Wilkeson there were ten firefighters," Jay said. "Now we have three."

James Jaques, East Pierce assistant chief and head of the volunteer program, has a legitimate concern. "When Jay and Maggie leave town on vacation, the Wilkeson fire station is seriously understaffed," he said. He would like to see a couple more residents living in and around Wilkeson to join the volunteer ranks.

Jay, Maggie and Jayme will tell you that it's a tough, but absolutely rewarding job. "It's still a great way to serve your community," Maggie said.

Those interested in becoming a volunteer, can go to [www.eastpiercefirerescue.org](http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.org) or contact Chief Jaques during regular office hours at 253-863-1800.



The volunteers at the Wilkeson fire station respond to fire, rescue and medical emergency calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. From the left, they are Jay Doty, Maggie Doty and Jayme Peloli. To find out about becoming a volunteer, go to the Volunteer Division section of our Web site, [www.eastpiercefirerescue.org](http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.org).

### Residential fire sprinkler update

The State of Washington said residential fire sprinklers were required in new homes, but it's up to local jurisdictions to implement their own specific ordinances. Previously, the code required fire sprinklers for multifamily residential units and commercial buildings of 8,000 square feet or more.

East Pierce Fire and Rescue supports efforts to require fire sprinklers in duplexes and all new homes of 5,000 square feet or larger. "We believe residential fire sprinkler systems are one of the best ways to protect both lives and property," said East Pierce Deputy Chief John McDonald.

The Bonney Lake City Council voted to require that all new residential construction in the city – regardless of size – include a fire sprinkler system. The City of Sumner passed a similar ordinance last year. In Edgewood and Milton, the city councils are still considering the recommendations.

East Pierce Assistant Chief Barry Barquest called residential fire sprinklers, "life-saving systems." "Studies indicate that a fire can double in size every minute making sprinklers, which activate automatically critically important," he said. "In a house, sprinklers give residents valuable minutes to escape a fire," he said. Additionally, 90 percent of the fires are contained by two sprinklers or less.

Builders have expressed concern over the cost sprinklers add to the construction of a home. According to Barquest, the average cost of installing sprinklers in a new home is \$1.61 per square foot. "You could spend more to upgrade your carpets," he said.

For more information about residential fire sprinklers, go to [www.eastpiercefirerescue.org](http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.org).

## HEALTH *Watch*

### East Pierce offers no out-of-pocket ambulance services



To handle a variety of emergencies, all East Pierce firefighters are either emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or paramedics. If a patient needs to be transported to the hospital, we provide that service at no out-of-pocket expense to citizens living within our district.

It's true. We offer emergency medical transportation services to East Pierce district residents at no "out-of-pocket expense". If you live in our jurisdiction, you are eligible for this service.

"It's great to tell patients that cost is not an issue. Particularly now, money issues are a big concern for many people," East Pierce firefighter-EMT Jason Russell said. Some patients, who desperately need medical attention, may hesitate to call for help because they fear a huge ambulance bill. "Not only is it safer and easier to go with us, but many of the most effective treatments for strokes or heart attacks only work if the patient is seen at the hospital soon after symptoms first appear," he said. "Don't wait to call us. Our motto is: When in doubt, check it out."

Patients are transported in a medic unit – an ambulance staffed with at least one paramedic. It carries advanced life support level equipment including defibrillators, IV lines, drugs and specialized airway management devices that the paramedic is trained to use. All of East Pierce firefighters are either emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or paramedics.

East Pierce responded to 5,387 emergency medical services incidents in 2009. We transported 3,968 patients to area hospitals, an average of 10.8 patients per day. The "non-transport calls" include patients refusing care, non-injury auto accidents and patients treated at the scene or those in police custody.

Patients will receive an invoice and request for more information to assist us in billing insurance companies and Medicare. Residents who are not covered by insurance are not charged. However, patients who live outside the district boundaries are billed.

## SURVEY SAYS...

### Results of customer satisfaction survey

As part of our emergency medical services (EMS) quality improvement program, East Pierce Fire and Rescue implemented a written EMS Customer Satisfaction Survey. Overall, 86.8% of respondents stated that their overall satisfaction with our response to their incident was "excellent".

That was good news to Assistant Chief Russ McCallion, who oversees Training and EMS. "We think we are doing a good job, but answers to survey questions provide valuable information on the effectiveness of our EMS program from the patient perspective," he said.

From July 1, 2009, through March 31, 2010, a total of 350 patients were surveyed, comprising 10% of East Pierce's EMS patient contacts. Respondents gave almost uniformly high scores to the firefighter-EMTs and paramedics providing care. East Pierce responders received "Excellent" marks of

79% or higher on all seven questions, with ratings of "Good" raising scores to at least 96% in each category. The questions included whether or not the crews were polite and courteous; cared for the patient in a professional manner; and were knowledgeable and competent.

"We are very pleased to learn that our patients are happy with our service. We work hard to make sure that we provide exceptional customer service at every call," East Pierce Assistant Chief Russ McCallion said.

The district plans to survey customers of other services, such as fire protection and public education, in order to measure customer satisfaction.

"We believe the customer satisfaction survey is an important component of our quality improvement program," McCallion said.



How did we do? East Pierce sent surveys to patients who received emergency medical care from firefighter-EMTs and paramedics. Soon it will be surveying people involved in other 9-1-1 calls, such as residential and commercial fires, public education classes and fire inspections.

## Prepare your family for a fire with E.D.I.T.H

If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely.

"It sounds like such a simple task, but in the middle of the night in the confusion of a fire, your ability to get out may depend on smoke alarms and advance planning," East Pierce Firefighter-paramedic Shawn Wagner said. "Everyone in the family needs to know what to do and where to go if there's a fire."

We recommend E.D.I.T.H. – "Exit Drills In The Home". It starts with a plan. To start, have everyone in the family walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Then draw a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm. There should be smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and all of them should be in good working order.

"When you have your plan, walk through it to make sure escape routes are clear and doors and windows can be opened easily," Wagner said.

Choose an outside meeting place – for example, a neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign – any place that's a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Make sure to mark the location

of the meeting place on your escape plan. This is an especially important part of your plan. In the chaos of a fire, it's often difficult to know if everyone made it out safely.

Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the fire department dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.

Practice your home fire escape plan twice a year, making the drill as realistic as possible. Practice getting low and crawling under the smoke as make your way to the exit. Smoke and heat rise, so the freshest, coolest air will be closer to the floor.

Time is the enemy in a house fire. By planning ahead and making sure all fire alarms are working, you increase your chances of safely escaping a house fire.

**Sparky says,  
"Remember  
to get out  
and stay  
out."**



### More safety tips

- Go outside to see if your street number is clearly visible from the road. If not, paint it on the curb or install house numbers to ensure that responding emergency personnel can find your home.
- Make sure even the youngest children know how to dial 9-1-1.
- If there are infants, older adults, or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and in the event of an emergency. Assign a backup person, in case the designee is not home during the emergency.
- Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately and stay out.

**Milton**  
From page 1

vote to annex into the East Pierce Fire District.

The contract with East Pierce will go into effect January 1, 2011 and could last until the annexation is completed, but no more than five years. An annexation vote could come as early as March 2011.

"We thank the voters for their trust in us and we promise to provide the excellent service Milton residents deserve," East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson said.

**Fill the Boot**

The East Pierce Professional Firefighters Local 3520 thank all those who donated to the recent "Fill the Boot" for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). With your help, the firefighters raised more than \$17,000.

East Pierce firefighter Andrew House spearheaded the campaign. He presented the check September 6, during the national telethon. "Once again, this community has been incredibly generous. Your donations will help families in our area who are struggling with this disease. Thank you," he said.

**Halloween Safety Tips**

East Pierce Fire and Rescue wants everyone to have a fun and safe Halloween. Here are a few safety tips from East Pierce Public Education Specialist Dina Sutherland:

- ☞ Make sure that you are wearing a flame retardant costume. Avoid billowing or long trailing features that could cause you to trip. (We think dressing up as a firefighter is the best costume!)
- ☞ Use face paint instead of masks that cover your eyes.
- ☞ Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so you are more visible. (You can put reflective tape on treat bags too!)
- ☞ Plan your route and share it with your family. If possible, have an adult go with you.
- ☞ Carry a flashlight to light your way.
- ☞ Stay in well-lit areas and only visit homes with the porch light on.
- ☞ Walk on sidewalks, not in the street.
- ☞ Always look both ways before crossing the street.
- ☞ Don't cross the street between parked cars.
- ☞ Be especially careful around Jack-O-Lanterns lit with candles. Costumes and some props can be extremely flammable. Should your costume catch fire, don't forget to **Stop** immediately, **drop** to the ground, covering your face with your hands, and **roll** over and over to extinguish flames.
- ☞ Be cautious of animals and strangers.
- ☞ Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating. And don't eat candy if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.
- ☞ And last but not least, don't forget to say "thank you" for your Halloween treats!

**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.

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

Last August, Milton residents entered into an Operations Agreement to have East Pierce provide fire, rescue and emergency medical services to their city.

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, Milton 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 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 governs the agency.

Additional information about East Pierce Fire and Rescue is available at our Web site, [www.eastpiercefirerescue.org](http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.org).

**East Pierce Classes and Meetings**

**2010 CPR and Basic First Aid Classes**

Oct. 16 or 30      **Where:** East Pierce Fire & Rescue headquarters station  
 Nov. 13, 19 or 20      18421 Old Buckley Highway  
 Dec. 11 and 18      Bonney Lake, WA  
**When:** CPR classes are from 9 a.m. until noon  
 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, Edgewood and Milton. 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 offers 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.eastpiercefirerescue.org](http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.org). Cost: \$30

**FREE CPR and First Aid Classes**

Registration information and class schedules are available at [www.eastpiercefirerescue.org](http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.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.eastpiercefirerescue.org](http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.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."