



# FIRE HOUSE NEWS

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

SUMMER 2010



Last Fourth of July, East Pierce firefighters went on a record number of calls, including a house fire.

## Fireworks tips from your firefighters

Don't let a fireworks mishap spoil your Fourth of July celebration. "You can have fun, just be aware of the dangers and take proper precautions," East Pierce Lieutenant Dan Curtis said.

The risk of a fireworks-caused injury is two-and-a-half times higher for children ages 10-14 compared to the rest of the population. "Make sure to supervise kids with fireworks," Curtis said. Even fireworks as seemingly safe as a sparkler can cause injuries. "Sparklers burn at temperatures exceeding 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit – enough to cause a serious burn," he said.

Fireworks don't just burn people. Last year, a sunny holiday weekend created dry conditions that – combined with fireworks – led to a record number of brush fires in our area.

Residents are reminded to keep a water hose nearby when using fireworks and to discard used fireworks in a metal bucket with water in it to thoroughly wet the remnants and prevent re-ignition.

### More fireworks safety tips:

- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Only use fireworks as intended.
- Don't try to alter fireworks or combine them.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Don't hold fireworks in your hand while lighting.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter."

Of course, we think the best way to enjoy a safe and happy Fourth of July is to attend a public display and leave the fireworks to the professionals.

## Milton to vote August 17

The residents of the City of Milton could take the first step toward a formal annexation with East Pierce Fire & Rescue on August 17. Voters will be asked to approve an increase in the city property tax in order to enter into an operational agreement with East Pierce.

"The agreement will allow East Pierce to start providing the same fire, rescue and emergency medical services to Milton that the Edgewood voters just approved," East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson said.

Currently, the City of Milton's fire department is staffed by two firefighters from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Volunteer firefighters cover the evenings and weekends.

"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.

If approved, the tax known as a "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 vote to annex the East Pierce Fire District.

"A number of options have been explored," Jaques said. "If we were to try to provide the same level of service we would receive from East Pierce, it would cost the City an estimated \$3.5 million. The operations contract with East Pierce will cost the City of Milton \$1.3 million," Jaques said.

The Lid Lift calls for an increase of \$1.21 per \$1,000 assessed valuation of property. For example, an average home of \$275,000 can expect an increase of \$332.75 per year.

"In return, fire, rescue and advanced emergency medical services will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year," Jaques said.

See Milton, page 4

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

ECRWSS  
Postal Customer



## Water safety includes life jackets

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy our local lakes and rivers. It's also important to remember that even though the weather is warm, glacier-fed water in nearby lakes and rivers can be very, very cold. Just a few minutes in cold water makes it difficult to swim or even to keep afloat.

That kind of cold water, even on the hottest summer day, can significantly lower the body's core temperature, making it incapable of functioning properly. Decreased body temperature leads to a loss of dexterity and consciousness. In extreme instances, it is fatal.

The condition is called, "hypothermia". It exists when the body's temperature drops below ninety-five degrees.

Wearing a life jacket or vest anytime you are near water is the best way to stay afloat and stay alive.

Even boaters need to be aware of the danger and wear life jackets. Collisions and accidents happen. You never know when you could end up in the water.

"The fact is, we've never had to rescue someone who was wearing a life jacket," East Pierce Dive Team member Will Poe said.

For more information about water safety and new boating regulations, go to our Web site at [www.eastpiercefirerescue.org](http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.org).



East Pierce Fire & Rescue maintains a Water Rescue Team, trained in both lake and swift-water rescues. Our rescue boat (pictured above) is housed at a Marine Station at the north end of Lake Tapps. In addition to assisting in rescues, it is used as part of our public education effort to encourage water safety. If you are interested in scheduling a water safety class for your group or organization, call Dina Sutherland at 253-863-1800 during regular business hours.

### Need a Life Jacket?

Don't have life jackets for guests? No worries. East Pierce Fire & Rescue offers loaner life jackets in a variety of sizes at Allan Yorke Park, North Lake Tapps Park and at the fire station headquarters in Bonney Lake. A valid driver's license is required to receive a loaner jacket. New, discounted life jackets may also be purchased for \$14 at our headquarters station, located at 18421 Old Buckley Highway.

### What's Hot

- Residential Sprinklers..... 2
- 50th Anniversary of CPR..... 2
- Scholarships Awarded ..... 2
- Firefighters Honored..... 3
- Letter from the Chief ..... 3
- Edgewood Firefighters ..... 3
- Commissioner Update..... 4

**HEALTH Watch****CPR celebrates 50th anniversary**

It's hard to remember a time when CPR – cardiopulmonary-resuscitation – wasn't around. Fifty years ago, if someone went into cardiac arrest outside of a hospital, the chance of survival was zero. There was nothing anyone could do.

All that changed in 1960 when an Austrian doctor named Peter Safar and an electrical engineer named William Kouwenhoven introduced a new way to revive sudden cardiac arrest victims. It involved tilting the victim's head back to open up the airway, using mouth-to-mouth breathing and chest compressions.

Safar advocated teaching this method to lay people as a way to keep blood moving until rescuers arrived. Within a few years, the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross developed programs to train citizens to do exactly that.

"Citizen CPR, delivered before rescuers arrive, saves thousands of lives in the United States every year," East Pierce Lieutenant Marc Lash said. "The importance of citizen CPR cannot be overestimated. At East Pierce, we strive to train members of the public in



Firefighter Doug Mullins and Lt. Doug Babcock practice on a special mannequin that provides feedback on the quality of CPR delivered.

CPR, so they are better prepared should they need to use the skill."

According to Dina Sutherland, East Pierce Public Education Specialist, we trained more than 2,800 residents last year alone. That's one out of every 30 citizens in our area!

We offer regularly-scheduled, three-hour classes – two to four times per month. All of our CPR and First Aid classes are free to residents of our district. In addition, we regularly provide CPR training to eighth graders at local schools and return for a refresher course when they are tenth graders.

As a result, citizen CPR rates in our district routinely exceeds 50 percent – one of the highest rates ever reported!

Even if you don't know CPR, or can't remember the steps, call 9-1-1 right away if you suspect a cardiac arrest. The dispatchers are trained to provide CPR instructions over the phone.

"The fact is that there are a number of citizens whose lives have been saved because their family members, neighbors or co-workers learned CPR," Lash said. "Take this opportunity to sign up and learn these valuable, lifesaving skills."

Visit our Web site for class dates and times  
[www.eastpiercefir.org](http://www.eastpiercefir.org)

**Residential fire sprinkler law to be updated – or not**

On July 1, local governments will have the option to decide whether or not to

mandate fire sprinklers in

single-family homes. The Washington State Building Code Council decided against making it a statewide requirement. Their decision amends a 2009 International Residential Code update that required fire sprinklers in all new homes beginning in

2011. It is unclear at this time, when Pierce County or other local jurisdictions will implement such a mandate.

As firefighters, we support the installation of fire sprinklers. The sad fact is that more than 80 percent of fire deaths occur in the home. We strongly believe that installing a sprinkler system will significantly reduce the chance of a tragedy occurring in your home.

A residential fire sprinkler system consists of a network of piping installed behind the walls and ceiling, with individual sprinkler heads spaced along the ceiling. Because water is always in the piping, the system is always "on call".

Should a fire break out, the sprinklers spray water on the flames, often extinguishing them by the time the fire engines arrive. Only the

sprinklers nearest the fire are triggered. In fact, 90 percent of the time, one sprinkler does the trick. That's the advantage of catching a fire early.

"A residential sprinkler system can keep a small fire from becoming a devastating event," East Pierce Assistant Chief Barry Barquest said.

Changes in building techniques and construction materials have made the need for a sprinkler system even more critical. Today's lightweight construction and the increased use of flammable materials produces a very hot, toxic fire that causes new houses to collapse much faster than older homes – dramatically reducing the time residents have to evacuate a burning house.

In the meantime, working smoke alarms are the most effective way to reduce fire deaths. According to a United States Fire Administration study, from 2001 to 2004, less than four percent of residential fire fatalities occurred in homes with working smoke alarm systems.

**"A residential sprinkler system can keep a small fire from becoming a devastating event."**

**East Pierce Assistant Chief Barry Barquest**

**VOLUNTEER CORNER****Scholarships awarded to local teens**

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Volunteer Firefighters' Association recently announced the winners of its annual Scholarships for Excellence.

Thanks to successful fund-raising and a generous donation from Zato Grill in Bonney Lake, the Association was able to award two additional scholarships this year, assisting a total of six area students.

The 2010 winners are White River High School senior **Katherine Siewert**; Bonney Lake High School senior **Hunter Colegrove**; and Sumner High School senior **Konrad Deissler**.

The scholarships are conferred annually to a graduating senior at each of the high schools within the East Pierce Fire District. Eligible students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and plan to enter the fields of firefighting, law enforcement, medicine or social work.

Three "Family Scholarships" were awarded to the children of East Pierce firefighters. This year, the recipients include **Krysta Beers**, daughter of Battalion Chief Pat Beers; **Emily McCoy**, daughter of Captain Tim McCoy; and **Shelbi Simmons**, daughter of Lieutenant Rich Simmons.



Hunter Colegrove (left) and Emily McCoy (right) were each presented with a Scholarship for Excellence at the Bonney Lake High School Awards Banquet. Also pictured are members of the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Volunteer Firefighters' Association Scholarship Committee, from left, Jayme Peloli, DeAnn O'Leary and Sara Arneson.

The East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters' Association congratulates each of these students and wishes them much success.

For information about these annual scholarships, go to [www.eastpiercevfa.org](http://www.eastpiercevfa.org).

**SafeSitter classes**

There are still two more Safe Sitter classes this summer. Sign up for this 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 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- 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.eastpiercefir.org](http://www.eastpiercefir.org). The class is limited to 25 students, so register today!

# Fire safety trailer reinforces messages



Since it was dedicated in October, 1999, the Fire Safety Trailer, custom-built by the firefighters, has helped an estimated 5,000 children learn and practice important fire safety skills.

**H**ave you seen our Fire Safety Trailer? It's a fun, hands-on learning tool to teach children what to do in the event of a fire.

The custom trailer looks like a two-story house. It was designed with a living room on the first floor and a bedroom upstairs. Children listen to safety messages about E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drills in the Home), how to "Stop, Drop and Roll" and other important tips.

Then, they go upstairs where they get a chance to practice what they have learned. Non-toxic smoke simulates a fire near a sleeping area. The children are taught to feel the door for heat and escape from the upstairs window onto a balcony and down a ladder to safety.

The trailer was the brain child of the late Chief Dan Packer. In 1995, he began construction of the educational vehicle. Many of the firefighters worked on the project, including Assistant Chief Barry Barquest and Volunteer Firefighter Brent Lewis. With generous donations from local businesses, the trailer was finished for a total cost of less than

\$6,000. It was dedicated at the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Open House in October, 1999.

We bring the trailer to elementary school fairs, community events and feature it at our own Open House. "It's a magnet for kids as soon as you put the ramp down," Barquest said. "The message is simple – helping kids and families escape a fire safely," he said.

Since it was dedicated, the firefighters have used the trailer to teach an estimated 5,000 children.

To schedule the Fire Safety Trailer for your event, call Dina Sutherland at 253-863-1800.

## Upcoming Fire Safety Trailer Events

July 24	Healthy Living Expo Allan Yorke Park 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
July 31	Orting Saturday Market 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Aug. 6	Sumner Arts Festival 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Aug. 7	Sumner Arts Festival 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Aug. 21	Bonney Lake Days Allan Yorke Park 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

## A letter from the Chief

Recently, East Pierce Fire & Rescue published its first Strategic Leadership Plan. It's our vision and plan for the future of our department.

The plan is somewhat unique in that it has a dual purpose of setting goals for the future and developing our current and future leaders along the way. The document was created by a cross-section of personnel from within the department including line firefighters, union representatives, volunteer firefighters and administrative staff.

As a result of this process, we have identified the top priorities for the department to accomplish in 2010. These include:

- Review, update and implement a department Tactical Operations Manual
- Implement a Performance Management Program
- Conduct a comprehensive facilities and equipment needs analysis followed by a feasibility study to determine the cost of building a training facility
- Develop an Organizational Leadership Development Plan
- Conduct a survey to identify community expectations

Our goal is to continue to provide great service to our residents and we need your input to make sure our efforts are meeting your expectations. That is why we are forming a Citizens Advisory Committee. If you are interested in participating, email me at [chief@eastpiercefirer.org](mailto:chief@eastpiercefirer.org). Copies of the plan are on our Web site, [www.eastpiercefirer.org](http://www.eastpiercefirer.org).

Finally, I would like to let you know that we are continuing our efforts to operate more efficiently. Our income has fallen nearly five percent over last year and we are doing our part to establish priorities so we provide the level of service you expect and deserve.

On behalf of all our personnel, we thank you for the privilege of serving you.

– East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson

## SAVE THE DATE FOR ANNUAL EAST PIERCE OPEN HOUSE

East Pierce Fire & Rescue will host its annual Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. **Saturday, October 2** at the East Pierce headquarters station at 18421 Old Buckley Highway, in Bonney Lake. Don't miss the fun at this **free** health and safety fair.

## Firefighters honored in annual ceremony

East Pierce Fire & Rescue named the recipients of the 2010 Recognition Awards at a banquet for department members and their families, May 1 at Swiss Park.

"These awards are particularly meaningful because the firefighters themselves nominate the winners," said East Pierce Fire and Rescue Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson. The single exception is the Chief's Company, which is determined by the command staff.

For the third year in a row Captain Greg Reinke was named Career Officer of the Year. Reinke's son, Matt was presented the Volunteer Responder of the Year award. Although he received the award for his work as a volunteer, Matt has since been hired by East Pierce.

Career Firefighter of the Year went to Kyle Bylin. Firefighter-paramedic Rhonda Grant received the Emergency Medical Services Provider of the Year award.

Captain Mark Nevill was named Volunteer Officer of the Year.

Mike Giefer received the Mike Roberts Goodwill Award. The award is named for retired East Pierce Lieutenant Mike Roberts. It's presented to the firefighter who embodies selfless service. Giefer was also the 2008 and 2009 recipient of the award.

Volunteer firefighter Sean Slattery received the Ken Thawsh Inspirational Award. The Thawsh Award is given to the volunteer who most exemplifies the East Pierce mission statement – "Exceptional people providing compassionate service and rapid response to our community's diverse needs".

The annual Fitness Award went to Firefighter Jason Russell.

Mike Blaylock received the Administrative Support Staff of the Year Award.

The Chief's Company included Matt Jewitt, James Parke, Kevin Stabenfeldt, Rob Ruzsala, Sean Slattery and Teresa McCallion.

## Edgewood Takes Oath



East Pierce Fire & Rescue Commissioner Rick Kuss led the Edgewood firefighters, commissioners and command staff in an oath to protect and serve all the citizens of our district. The event took place during a regularly-scheduled fire commissioner's meeting that was held at the Edgewood Fire Station. East Pierce welcomes our newest members and looks forward to a very long and rewarding relationship.

**Milton**

From page 1

"In addition, ambulance transport will be provided by East Pierce with no out-of-pocket expenses to Milton residents," he added.

Mail-in ballots will begin arriving in homes at the end of July or early August.

If the proposal is passed, 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.

The City will be holding public hearings and meetings with Milton citizens to answer questions regarding the Lid Lift and annexation. If you have a community group or organization that would like to schedule a meeting with the City and Milton Fire Department officials, contact the Milton Fire Department at 253-922-0944. For more information, go to [www.cityofmilton.net](http://www.cityofmilton.net) or contact Milton Mayor Katrina Asay at 253-517-2700.

**Commissioner update**

Our newest fire commissioner, Ron Scholz, was elected by the district citizens to fill the seat vacated by longtime commissioner Cheryl Bylin.



Ron Scholz

Born in McMillin, WA, Scholz moved to Sumner in 1968. That same year, he joined the Orting Fire Department as a volunteer. He served as a volunteer firefighter for both Orting and Sumner before being hired by Tacoma in 1973.

He retired in 1994 and began an active career in community politics, serving as a member of the Sumner City Council, the Pierce County Regional Council, Puget Sound Regional Council and National League of Cities.

"I see what people do here at East Pierce and I'm impressed with the relationship between this fire service and the community it serves," he said.

**Outdoor burning regulations**

The legal period for permitted burning ended May 31. Recreational fires are the only outdoor burning that is allowed this time of year. If you plan to have a campfire, be sure to take precautions so your little fire doesn't become a big wildfire.

Burn only dry, seasoned wood or charcoal briquettes – that means no garbage or yard waste. The fire should not exceed three-feet in diameter by two-feet in height and must be for the purpose of cooking, pleasure or religious ceremonies only.

If you have yard waste or other organic material to dispose of, there are alternatives to burning. You can haul it to a transfer station – there's one in Prairie Ridge – or compost it, chip it or mulch it.

For more information about alternatives to burning, go to [www.eastpiercefirerescue.org](http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.org) and click on "Outdoor Burning".

**East Pierce Classes and Meetings**

**CPR and Basic First Aid Classes**

July 16, 17 or 31	<b>Where:</b> East Pierce Fire & Rescue headquarters station
Aug. 14 or 28	18421 Old Buckley Highway
Sept. 11, 17 or 25	Bonney Lake, WA
Oct. 16 or 30	<b>When:</b> CPR classes are from 9 a.m. until noon
Nov. 13, 19 or 20	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 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.

**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.eastpiercefirerescue.org](http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.org).

**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."