



EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

Where Compassion and Action Meet





Our Mission, Vision and Values

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a regional leader in providing fire and emergency medical response services to a diverse and growing community.

Our community and our employees are our most important resource.

We support regionalized fire services for improved public safety.

We strive to influence our community growth to ensure the best possible level of service.

We strive to meet all regulatory obligations, while providing a safe environment for our citizens and our employees.

Stewardship of our taxpayers' resources is paramount, and our goal is to develop a strong and diverse funding base.

We intelligently pursue and utilize technology to improve service delivery, planning and quality.

We strive to educate our community on fire and medical safety while providing the highest level of service.

Core Values and Guiding Principles

We are committed to:

- Doing the Right Thing
- Everyone Must Make a Difference
- Anticipating and Meeting Our Community's Needs

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East Pierce Fire & Rescue 2009 Annual Report

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January 1 through
December 31, 2009.

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letter from the fire chief



Dear Citizens,

It is my pleasure to present this annual report to you on behalf of all the dedicated men and women of East Pierce Fire & Rescue. Our personnel were very busy in the community last year and will continue to hard for you, our residents.

Last year, we began a long-range planning process intended not only to plan for the future, but also to further develop leaders within our organization. This effort will enable us to meet the challenges we'll face for many years to come. The plan addresses our ability to respond to many types of emergencies, develop a training center for our crews and develop our leaders. Importantly, we will seek public input regarding your expectations for your fire department. I truly hope that when we ask for comments, we hear from as many of our residents as possible. This will make us an even stronger department.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is the product of many smaller fire departments merging to form a more efficient, cost-effective, emergency response agency. In April 2010, the residents of Edgewood will also join East Pierce, increasing our capabilities and services. In the near future, we will likely have other communities that will want to merge with us. I believe this reflects our outstanding reputation and ability to provide quality service for reasonable rates to our taxpayers.

In 2009, East Pierce crews responded to 7,249 emergency calls. Seven out of ten of those calls were for medical emergencies. I am particularly pleased that citizens who live within the district receive ambulance transport through East Pierce with no out-of-pocket expenses. That can be a huge savings for our residents and often makes a difference whether or not those who are in need seek treatment at a hospital.

East Pierce firefighters respond to emergencies, but we also work hard to help prevent them. We offer a number of quality fire prevention and life safety programs. In 2009, we provided life jacket loaners at three locations throughout the district. Our firefighters taught fire and life safety classes to students in K-5th grades and CPR classes to 2,000 middle and high school students in the Sumner, White River and Dieringer School Districts. Nearly 600 residents took advantage of the free CPR and first aid classes we offer twice a month. We sold bike helmets and life jackets at discounted rates and participated in numerous community events. We plan to continue these efforts well into the future.

This is an exceptional fire department and I am proud to be your chief. It's an honor to serve with our dedicated members, who are out on the streets every day, responding to emergencies and making our communities a little safer for you and your loved ones.

As we move forward, as fire dynamics and emergency medical care take on new dimensions — as the world around us changes — East Pierce Fire & Rescue will not lose sight of its commitment to provide the best possible service with professionalism, preparation and above all, compassion, for all of our citizens.

Thank you for putting your trust in us. We promise to earn it every single day.

Jerry E. Thorson

East Pierce Fire and Rescue Fire Chief

fire commissioners



EPF&R Fire Commissioners:
Front row, from left Cheryl Bylin and Karlyne McGinnis.
Back row, from left Red Mendenhall, Andrew Longstreth, Rick Kuss, Ray Bunk, Rick Kilbourn, Victor Proulx, City of Sumner Liaison Leroy Goff and Mike Cathey.

Fire Commissioners form a board elected by the public to represent their fire district. The board meets monthly to set budgets, establish policy and provide administrative oversight.

East Pierce fire commissioners serve six-year terms. Any resident, 18 years or older, who lives within the East Pierce service area is eligible to apply for an open position on the board.

All regular meetings of the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioners are held on the third Tuesday of every month. Meetings are open to the public and offer residents an opportunity for citizen input.

2009 Fire Commissioners

Rick Kuss, Chair
Cheryl Bylin
Raymond Bunk
Mike Cathey
Rick Kilbourn
Andrew Longstreth
Karlyne McGinnis
Roy "Red" Mendenhall
Victor Proulx

Meetings start at 7 p.m. at the East Pierce headquarters station, 18421 Old Buckley Highway, in Bonney Lake. The public is encouraged to attend.

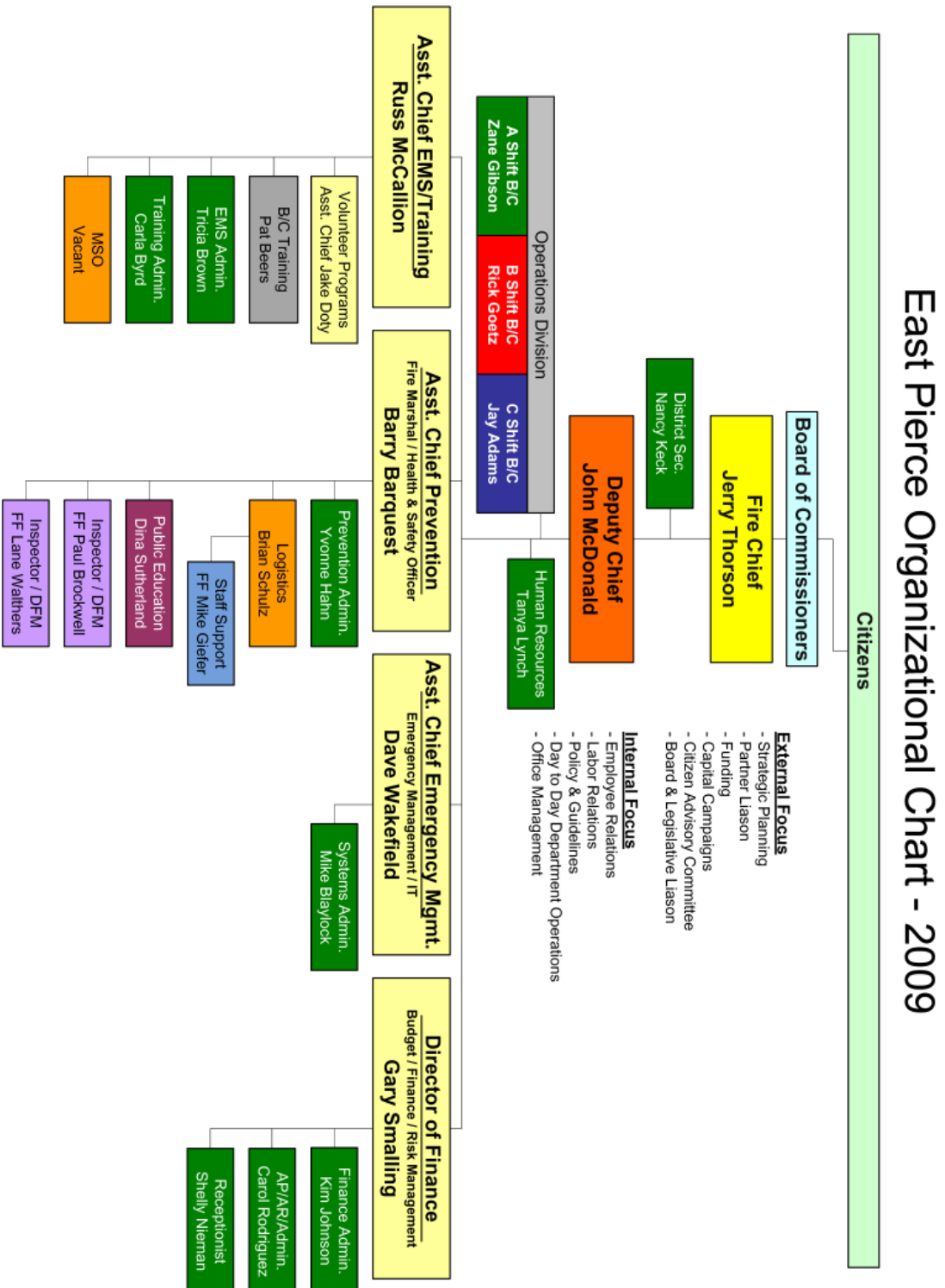
2010 Meeting Schedule

January 19
February 16
March 16
April 20

May 18
June 15
July 20
August 17

September 14
October 19
November 16
December 14

organization chart



facts

Land area covered: Approximately 142 square miles
Population: Approximately 75,000

Chief Officers: 6
Battalion Chiefs: 4
Administrative Support: 6
Total Number of Career Officers and Firefighters: 79
 Career Firefighter-Paramedics: 36
 Career Firefighter-EMTs: 43
Total Number of Volunteers: 43
 Volunteer Firefighter-EMTs: 38
 EMS-only Volunteers: 5

Number of Staffed Fire Stations: 5
Number of Volunteer Fire Stations: 5
Boathouse for the Marine Unit: 1

Total Number of Emergency Calls in 2009: 7,249
Percent Increase since 2008: 8%
Percent of All Responses That Were Medical in Nature: 74%
Number of Patients Transported to Area Hospitals: 3,968

Deputy Fire Marshals: 3
Number of Fire Investigations: 97
Number of Plan Reviews for Bonney Lake: 109
Number of Inspections for Bonney Lake: 660
Number of Plan Reviews for Sumner: 438

Number of Juvenile FireSetter Interventions: 15

Number of Community Events the Fire Department Attended in 2009: 41

Number of Citizens Receiving CPR Training: 2,581
Number of Teens Graduating from the SafeSitter Program: 81
Number of Fire Extinguisher Classes: 12

Number of Bike Helmets Sold in 2009: 235
Number of Life Jackets Sold: 83
Number of Car Seat Inspections: 63



history



This photo of the Bonney Lake Fire Department was taken in 1986 or '87. Back row, far left: Jerry Wallin, Scott Stokes and Skip Homer. The middle row: Fire Chief Alden E. Dobson, Joe Biller, Buck Rogers, Jerry Durdet, Mike Schell, Ed Garner, Jim Clark, Warren Lagton, unknown firefighter and Al Eacrett. Front row: Tim Costner, Dale Whitson and Dave Wilson. The fire engine at the right is also from the Bonney Lake Fire Department.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue was created when the City of Bonney Lake Fire Department, Lake Tapps Fire, and Pierce County Fire District No. 24 merged in 2000. The goal was to provide a seamless response to emergency calls in the Bonney Lake, Lake Tapps and Prairie Ridge area.

At that time, the combined district covered nearly 49 square miles and protected a population of approximately 43,000 residents from six stations. All full-time firefighters were cross-trained as either emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or paramedics in order to respond to medical emergencies and fires.

In the spring of 2006, voters in Pierce County Fire District No. 12 and South Prairie Fire District No. 20 overwhelmingly passed a special election to formally merge the two districts with East Pierce after a three-year trial period.

Since 2007, East Pierce provided fire and EMS services to the City of Sumner and Pierce County Fire District No. 1 under a ten-year consolidation agreement. In 2008 voters in these areas also decided to merge with East Pierce.

In 2009, Pierce County Fire District No. 8 (Edgewood) and the City of Milton signed Administrative Services Agreements with East Pierce with the hopes of eventually merging.

Today, East Pierce Fire & Rescue serves a population of 75,000 citizens living in and around Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, the Ridge Communities, South Prairie and Wilkeson. The district covers approximately 142 square miles and protects residents from eleven fire stations — five staffed, five volunteer and one boat house for the marine rescue unit.

What is a Fire District?

A fire district is a special-purpose entity formed to provide fire and emergency medical services. It is governed by a board of elected citizens who reside in the district.

Board members, called fire commissioners, are elected to six-year terms. Fire commissioners set policy for the department, hire the fire chief and are responsible for budgets, professional audits and authorizing levy requests of the public they serve. The majority of the district's revenue comes from property tax assessments.

highlights

January

Heavy rains and warmer temperatures led to severe flooding throughout the district.

February

East Pierce welcomes new fire chief, Jerry E. Thorson at a swearing in ceremony and reception.



March

Seven East Pierce firefighters participate in the 18th annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb at the Columbia Center. They joined more than 1,300 firefighters in full gear in a sprint to the top of Seattle's tallest building to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

April

The East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters' Association celebrated the 52nd annual South Prairie Easter Egg Hunt at the South Prairie City Park. The same day, the 19th annual Sumner Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the East Pierce Firefighters Local 3520, was held at Sunset Stadium.

East Pierce hosts April Pools Day with the Bonney Lake Police Department.

June

East Pierce launches an updated Web site at www.eastpiercefirer.org.

Volunteer firefighters Terry Richardson and John (J.P.) McCormick retired after 25 years of service.

July

The district hosts a memorial service for the one-year anniversary of the death of East Pierce Fire Chief Dan Packer. Packer died in a California wildfire on July 26, 2008.

Firefighters converge on North Lake Tapps Park for the annual SplashTacular, a fun, family-oriented public education event focusing on water safety.

August

Chief Ed Goodlet of Pierce County Fire District 8 (Edgewood) and Chief James Jaques of Milton Fire Department join East Pierce Fire & Rescue under an Administrative Services Agreement between the three jurisdictions.

East Pierce Volunteers decide to stick with firefighting after a disappointing finish in the annual lawn mower races at Wilkeson Days.

September

Nearly 4,000 people attend the 16th annual East Pierce Open House and Safety Fair at the headquarters station in Bonney Lake.

October

East Pierce volunteers Captain Bob McDonald, Captain Darrell Seymour, Lieutenant Kathy Seymour, Lieutenant Walter Collins and Firefighter Jack Schmidt retire with a combined total of over 100 years of service.

The first annual community Halloween Party was held at the South Prairie station. The event was hosted by the East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters' Association.

November

East Pierce firefighters rescue a woman from a burning house west of Buckley.

Assistant Chief Jake Doty retires after nearly 50 years of service to the citizens of South Prairie and those protected by East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

December

East Pierce firefighters host an annual Pancake Feed at the Sumner fire station to raise money for the Sumner Family Center.

East Pierce firefighters join Santa on his annual trek to neighborhoods throughout the district. Over the course of eight days, they visited good girls and boys in Bonney Lake, Lake Tapps, South Prairie, Sumner and Wilkeson.

operations



The Operations Division provides fire suppression, emergency medical services and technical rescue response for the communities served by East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

In 2009, the 82 career and 43 volunteer firefighters/EMTs and paramedics assigned to the Operations Division responded to 7,249 calls for emergency services, an 8 percent increase over the call volume in 2008. While the primary function of the Operations Division is to respond to emergency and non-emergency calls, division personnel also conduct building familiarization inspections to assist in pre-planning activities and identify potential fire code problems. While on duty, the firefighters participate in training, public education events, vehicle and equipment maintenance and other routine activities.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a combination department utilizing both career and volunteer firefighters to handle a wide variety of emergencies. Career firefighters and paramedics are automatically dispatched to calls throughout the 142-square-mile district. If unstaffed volunteer stations are located closer to an incident, volunteers will also be dispatched to the scene along with career crews.

District fire stations are strategically located throughout the jurisdiction to enable a quick response. In 2009, East Pierce Fire & Rescue operated eleven fire stations. Five of the stations are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by career firefighters. The other six include five volunteer stations and a water rescue facility located on the northwest corner of Lake Tapps. Of the volunteer stations, one is home to resident

firefighters. Resident firefighters work or attend school in the community, but live in the fire station, responding to calls and maintaining the facility and equipment.

A regional 9-1-1 dispatch center, called Fire-Comm, sends the appropriate fire and EMS units from the fire stations closest to the emergency call. More than a dozen fire districts, including East Pierce Fire & Rescue, financially support Fire-Comm through an inter-local agreement.

The headquarters fire station - Station 11 - is located in Bonney Lake, at 18421 Old Buckley Highway. It houses emergency response personnel in addition to the administrative offices for the District.

The Assistant Chief of Field Operations oversees the Operations Division. This division is split into three shifts, each headed by a Shift Battalion Chief, who works out of the headquarters station and manages the day-to-day operations of the shift.

In addition to responding to the typical fire, emergency medical and rescue incidents, the Operations Division maintains teams of personnel with specialized training in four special operations disciplines. In recognition of risks within the district's boundaries, the department has trained select firefighters to serve as members of four teams: the Wildland Team, the Water Rescue Team, the Hazardous Materials Team and the Technical Rescue Team.



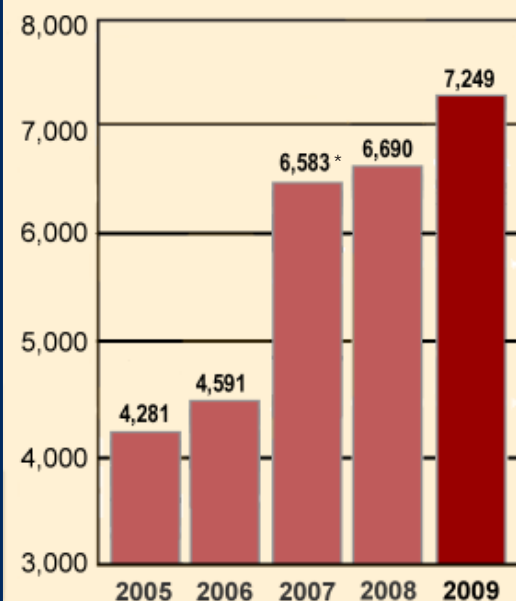
Accomplishments for 2009

- Operations Division personnel, working with an overhead support team of fire and law enforcement officials from other agencies, assisted with the planning and coordination duties, and participated in the memorial services for the four Lakewood Police Officers and the Pierce County Deputy Sheriff who were killed in the line-of-duty.
- Captains Jay Adams, Zane Gibson and Rick Goetz were promoted to the newly-created position of Shift Battalion Chief. The Shift Battalion Chief serves as the commander of a 24-hour shift of firefighters, firefighter/paramedics and volunteer firefighters, and manages the day-to-

day operations of the shift.

- Chief Ed Goodlet of Pierce County Fire District 8 (Edgewood) assumed responsibilities as Assistant Chief of Field Operations for East Pierce under an Administrative Services Agreement between the two jurisdictions.
- Hired eight firefighters resulting in an increase in the minimum daily staffing levels, allowing for staffing of two units out of Stations 11, 12 and 13.
- Implemented the staffing component of the TeleStaff automated staffing software program to more efficiently and effectively manage daily shift staffing and personnel deployment.
- Took delivery of one new fire engine and one new medic unit, helping to standardize the department's fleet of emergency response vehicles.
- Operations Division personnel participated in the merger task process that evaluated the possible merger of Pierce County Fire District 8 (Edgewood) and the annexation of the City of Milton Fire Department into East Pierce Fire & Rescue.
- Operations Division personnel participated in the department's Strategic Leadership Plan process serving on a variety of planning teams.

Trend: Total 9-1-1 Calls



*In 2007, Sumner merged with East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

Trend: 9-1-1 Calls By Type

Call Type	2008	2009
Emergency Medical Calls, including motor vehicle crashes	74%	74%
Service Calls	7%	8%
Good Intent	7%	7%
False Alarms	4%	5%
Hazardous Conditions	1%	2%
Structure Fires	2%	1%
Brush Fires	1%	1%
Other Fires	1%	1%
Vehicle Fires	2%	0.5%
Severe Weather	1%	0.5%
Total Calls	6,690	7,249

emergency medical services



The EMS Division provides clinical oversight and analyzes department performance on medical aid calls through a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program. The EMS Division staff works with the Training Division to conduct education and training programs.

Each East Pierce fire engine, aid car and medic unit is staffed with firefighter/emergency medical technicians (EMT), firefighter/paramedics or both.

EMTs provide basic emergency care including splinting, bandaging, spinal immobilization, oxygen and airway management, and automated defibrillation. The firefighter/EMTs work in conjunction with the paramedics to prepare patients for transport to the hospital. A paramedic has additional medical training to stabilize critically ill or injured patients at the scene before transporting him or her to a hospital. Paramedics are certified to administer intravenous fluids and more than 40 medications, insert breathing tubes and defibrillate patients.

At East Pierce, each staffed station always includes at least one firefighter cross-trained as a paramedic. The department is able to staff up to five medic units on a daily basis, along with four reserve aid units, all capable of transporting patients.

In the past four years, the number of calls for medical emergencies has increased dramatically. In fact, more than 70 percent of the 9-1-1 calls that East Pierce Fire & Rescue responded to in 2009 were medical emergencies compared to 61 percent in 2006. With an aging population, including the retirement of the “Baby Boomer” generation, this trend is likely to continue.

East Pierce responded to 5,387 emergency medical services (EMS)-related incidents in 2009 – an average of 15 calls per day – and an increase of 14 percent over 2008. East Pierce medic units 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.

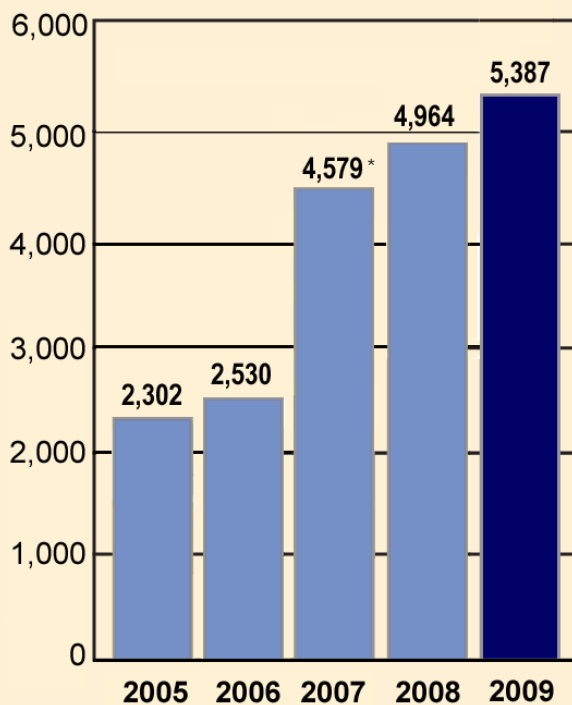
To provide better continuity of care, East Pierce began providing ambulance services to residents in 2004. Unlike private ambulances, this service is offered at no “out-of-pocket” expense for patients who are district residents. A letter from the department’s billing service is sent to residents requesting verification of insurance information. This letter includes a description of the ambulance transport charge for the patient’s information. The district recovers revenues by billing private health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid. However, insurance co-pays are “written off” against the EMS levy, providing hospital transportation at no “out-of-pocket” expense for residents.

On the occasions where all available East Pierce units are already on calls – such as during a major fire – private ambulances and units from neighboring fire departments may respond into the district. In 2008, only 0.4% (one out of every 250) of East Pierce medical aid transports had to be handled by private ambulance or fire mutual aid units – a 90% reduction since 2006.

Accomplishments for 2009

- Working in conjunction with the Training Division, the EMS Division provided medical training and evaluations for eight new firefighter/EMTs and firefighter/paramedics.
- Played a key role in the development and launch of a new, eight-hour "Pierce County EMS Advanced Airway Management Course." The course provides improved paramedic training and quality assurance for this critical, life-saving set of skills.
- Became the first EMS agency in Pierce County to transmit 12-lead EKGs via Bluetooth from medic units to hospitals, giving emergency departments advanced notification of incoming critical cardiac patients and shortening the time to perform life-saving procedures to open up clogged arteries in these patients.
- Conducted several 16-hour Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) training classes and Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS) programs to help improve field care of critical trauma and medical patients.
- Provided more than 160 hours of EMS training classes for Edgewood and Milton firefighters to prepare them to take on expanded roles in the care and transport of medical aid patients.
- Provided medical support and clinical oversight for Orting Valley Fire & Rescue while they contracted with East Pierce for management services during 2009.
- East Pierce was one of 11 agencies throughout the northwest invited to participate in the first-ever cardiac arrest resuscitation fellowship training program sponsored by the University of Washington and King County Medic One, with the objective of improving CPR patient survival at East Pierce.
- Continued development of a new tablet-based electronic EMS record and data management system for documenting and transferring EMS patient care information to receiving hospitals. Implementation of the system is set for 2010.

Trend: Total EMS Calls



*In 2007, Sumner merged with East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

Types of EMS Calls

Call Type	2009
General Medical (including diabetic emergencies, abdominal pain, fainting and general weakness)	24%
Chest Pain	16%
Motor Vehicle Crash	12%
Unconscious patient, seizures or altered mental status	11%
Falls	8%
Respiratory Distress	6%
Assaults/Stabbings/Shootings	6%
Overdose and Poisonings	5%
Psychiatric Emergencies and Suicide Attempts	4%
Pediatric Medical Emergencies	3%
Strokes	3%
Cardiac Arrest	2%

April Pools Day






Sumner Pancake Breakfast



Chief Dan Packer Memorial



The map features are approximate and are intended only to provide an indication of said feature. Additional data. The County assumes no liability for variations ascertained by actual survey. All data is expressly provided

-  EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE
(Pierce County Fire District No. 22)
-  Administrative Agreement with the Edgewood Fire Department
(Pierce County Fire District No. 8) and the Milton Fire Department
-  Towns that contract with East Pierce Fire & Rescue for
fire and emergency medical services



Bonney Lake Days



Santa Run



South Prairie Easter Egg Hunt

Areas that have not been mapped may be present. This is not a survey. Orthophotos may not align with other maps. Map is provided AS IS and WITH ALL FAULTS. The County makes no warranty of fitness for a particular purpose.

volunteer division



Volunteer firefighters and EMTs are on call to respond to a wide array of emergencies including residential and commercial fires, medical emergencies and motor vehicle crashes.

Volunteers respond to a wide array of emergencies including fires, medical emergencies, vehicle collisions, “general alarms” and natural disasters. The Volunteer Division coordinates the activities of the East Pierce Fire & Rescue’s 43 fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMT) volunteers; Pierce County Fire District 8’s (Edgewood) 10 Firefighter in Training members; and the Milton Fire Department’s 32 volunteer firefighters.

On a typical day, volunteers respond from home to volunteer fire stations while the career firefighters on shift respond from career-staffed stations. Within the East Pierce Fire District there are five stations staffed by volunteers. During a significant fire that requires a large number of firefighters or when there are an unusually high number of incidents, volunteers are called in to assist during what is known as a “general alarm”.

Depending on the type of emergency, a general alarm can range from 30 minutes to more than 24 hours. Volunteers also sign up for the Volunteer Experience Opportunity Program (VEOP), where they ride along and assist career firefighters to gain valuable experience and training.

Whether it’s the weekend, weekday or the middle of the night, volunteers are there to serve the community.

The Washington State Board of Volunteer Firefighter and Reserve Officers set minimum standards for all volunteers and manages a disability and pension system.

Traditionally, the Volunteer Program has been a gateway to a career in the fire service. Over the

past few years, more than 30 East Pierce volunteers have become career firefighters with East Pierce Fire & Rescue or other neighboring fire departments in Washington State.



2009 Retirements

East Pierce Fire & Rescue thanks the following volunteers who retired in 2009 after many years of service:

Lt. Walter Collins	19 years
Capt. J.P. McCormick	27 years
Capt. Bob McDonald	20 years
Terry Richardson	27 years
Capt. Darrell Seymour	27 years
Lt. Kathy Seymour	20 years

Accomplishments for 2009

- Volunteers participated in the annual East Pierce Fire & Rescue Open House; Santa Runs in Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, South Prairie, Milton and Edgewood; and the 52nd annual Easter Egg Hunt in South Prairie. In addition, East Pierce Volunteers staffed numerous community events.
- Twelve new recruits attended classes to become emergency medical technicians (EMTs), graduating in November. By the time they became full-fledged volunteers, they had completed a year-long training program of more than 500 hours.
- Volunteers also participated in the District's Merger Task Force and Strategic Leadership Planning process, providing valuable input.
- Volunteer Chief Jake Doty retired at the end of 2009 with nearly 50 years of service to his community. He is replaced by Assistant Chief James Jaques. Jaques previously served as the Fire Chief for the City of Milton Fire Department.
- In 2009, East Pierce Fire & Rescue hired four members of the Volunteer Division.

EPF&R Volunteer Firefighters' Association

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Volunteer Firefighters' Association prides itself in protecting the community in which they live, giving back to the neighbors and citizens they serve.

The members organize and staff numerous community events throughout the year, including the South Prairie Easter Egg Hunt, celebrating its 52nd year in 2009.

In 2008, the Association established a scholarship program, providing need-based college scholarships to local students interested in pursuing a career in either public safety or the medical field. These annual scholarships are awarded through White River, Bonney Lake and Sumner High Schools.

In 2009, the Association dedicated the Fire Chief Dan Packer Walk of Honor. The inscribed bricks in the Walk pay tribute to those who have served with their community with distinction.

More information about the Association is available at www.eastpiercefira.org.



Volunteer Chief Jake Doty retires after nearly 50 years

Assistant Chief Jake Doty retired after nearly 50 years protecting his community as both a volunteer and career firefighter.

Doty became a South Prairie volunteer firefighter in 1962, at the age of 20. Previous to that, he could be found hanging around the fire hall with his dad, who was a volunteer firefighter in South Prairie.

In 1983, he was promoted to fire chief, serving South Prairie until the District began the process of merging with East Pierce Fire & Rescue. During his last year as fire chief, he was also the chief for Pierce County Fire District #12.

He spent the ensuing years leading the East Pierce volunteer firefighters. Under his watch, the volunteers became a well-trained resource to the career firefighters, providing essential back up during major incidents and playing an important role in the district's fire and life safety prevention efforts.

On December 6, 2009, more than 200 people attended a retirement party to pay tribute to Chief Doty. He was presented with several mementos, including a plaque from the Town of South Prairie, praising him for his dedication. The command staff presented him with a ceremonial trumpet in honor of his 47 years of service and leadership. But the highlight of the evening was when audience members were invited to share stories about the Chief.

It is with mixed feelings that we at East Pierce Fire & Rescue say goodbye to Chief Doty. For all of the many sacrifices he and his family have made in order to serve his community, he certainly has earned his retirement. We thank him for his exceptional dedication and commitment and wish him many years of happy hunting.

training division



East Pierce firefighters maintain and improve skills and abilities through ongoing training overseen by the Training Division. All career and volunteer personnel must undergo annual firefighting and emergency medical training.

Training and education is essential to maintaining critical firefighting and medical skills. In addition to the more commonly used skills, firefighters must continually update and practice special skills, such as extrication maneuvers used to remove patients trapped in their vehicles following a car crash; rope rescue often used to retrieve a patient who has fallen over an embankment; wildland firefighting; trench rescue techniques and surface and underwater rescue. These are just a sample of the skills required for each of the fire department members.

The Training Division is managed by a Training Battalion Chief. A Lieutenant Training Specialist and an Administrative Support Specialist are also assigned to the division, with oversight provided by the Assistant Chief for EMS and Training.

The Training Division is responsible for assessing training needs, developing a training calendar and curriculum, providing instruction and record keeping. It also conducts evaluations of probationary personnel, crew-based training drills and assists in all testing for new employees and promotional processes.

This division conducts on-duty training for personnel and provides instructors and specialized classes for Officer Development, Incident Command, Tactical Operations and Emergency Medical

Services (EMS). Firefighters attend some specialized classes outside the department at community colleges, firefighting and EMS workshops and fire service academies.

Training provides an opportunity to upgrade skills and keep informed of new regulations and industry “Best Practices”. It allows firefighters to become familiar with equipment and maintain proficiency in critical, but sometimes seldom-used firefighting, rescue and medical skills.

The Division must also maintain records, documentation and certifications for all Firefighter/EMT’s and Firefighter/Paramedics. Assuring that all East Pierce career and volunteer firefighters meet mandatory training requirements is vital for the well-being and safety of our personnel and successful fire and EMS operations.

The Training Division continues to be challenged by a lack of adequate space for training. Some training is provided in classrooms, but much of the fire and rescue training requires “hands on” practice and the deployment of multiple fire engines, hoselines and other equipment. There is no dedicated space available for this type of training, and finding open parking lots in the area is becoming increasingly difficult. In late 2009, the Training Division began the process of locating property to build a dedicated training facility.



Accomplishments for 2009

- Coordinated special-operations training programs, such as Technical Rescue, Water Rescue, Wildland Firefighting and Hazardous Materials.
- Four career firefighters completed the Fire Training Academy and earned Firefighter I, Firefighter 2 and Hazmat Operations Certification.
- Hired and supervised the training of four lateral firefighters, conducting four weeks of training prior to their first shift deployment.
- Conducted a four-week, post-academy training program for the four new, probationary career firefighters, preparing them for shift assignments.
- Performed 30 separate firefighter evaluations for the probationary firefighters and eight driver/operator evaluations.
- Conducted “live fire” training exercises using donated houses, giving firefighters the opportunity to practice various firefighting and rescue techniques.
- Coordinated annual Auto Extrication drills with all members, utilizing 20 “junk cars” purchased by the department for training.
- Conducted multiple Firefighter Rescue Operations training using a variety of donated structures.
- In 2009, as a department, we logged over 24,300 hours of training for an average of approximately 170 hours per person.

Special Operations Teams

Selected firefighters are given the opportunity to participate in one of the special operations teams maintained by the East Pierce Fire & Rescue. Team members attend additional training beyond the fire suppression and emergency medical training received by all career and volunteer personnel.

Wildland Firefighting and Rescue Team:

The Wildland Team is deployed to brush and wildfires in all areas including the wildland/urban interface and wilderness areas within our jurisdiction.

Water Rescue Team: The Water Rescue Team responds to emergencies on the many bodies of water in the area and provides surface, dive and swift-water services.

Hazmat Team: The Hazmat Team is deployed to chemical spills and leaks at fixed facilities and on rail and highway transportation routes.

Technical Rescue Team: The Technical Rescue Team responds to trench and structural collapses and rescues requiring high angle or ropes techniques.



fire prevention division



The Prevention Division provides plan review, code enforcement, juvenile firesetter intervention, and fire investigation within the Cities of Bonney Lake and Sumner along with Public Education Services for all of the residents served by East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

The Fire Prevention Division has changed during 2009. It now has four fire investigators who are also responsible for other duties. Division oversight is provided by an Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal. Public Education is included within the Fire Prevention Division. The division has three plan review and inspection personnel, (four beginning in 2010) including one Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal and two Deputy Fire Marshals. The City of Sumner plan review and inspections are now provided by East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

The Fire Prevention Division also provides juvenile firesetter intervention. The service is provided to families with a child who has displayed interest in fire play or to families with a juvenile who has intentionally set fires for revenge or spite. The referrals come from the firefighters who recognize a juvenile fire setter problem. Referrals also come from local police departments and the families themselves. The division provided 15 interventions during 2009.

Property development has dropped in 2009 throughout the district, particularly in Bonney Lake and Sumner. However, commercial development did not drop as much as residential. Prevention Division personnel conducted 109 plan reviews and pre-applications for Bonney Lake plus 438 plan reviews in Sumner. Plan review projects range from big-box retail outlets, such as the construction of WinCo

Foods and the Bonney Lake Interim Justice Center, to the beginning development stages of school remodels and large warehouse projects.

Prevention personnel conducted nearly 660 inspections during 2009 for the City of Bonney Lake. More than 533 inspections were conducted by prevention personnel in the City of Sumner. The inspections were related to new construction activity and business license renewal.

In addition, 233 inspections were completed under "Self Inspections", coordinated by Administrative Support Specialist Yvonne Hahn.

In 2009, Sumner business owners were sent a self-inspection form they can complete on their own and return to the fire department. The checklist covers fire safety issues that the owner can inspect on their own. If they do not return the form, the Prevention Division will make a site visit. We will send the forms out to business owners for two years. During the third year, the division will provide on-site visits.

On-site inspections are conducted for business license renewals in both cities. In addition, personnel conduct random inspections.

Finally, the division will provide on-site visits when we receive referrals from the firefighters as a result of false alarms or compliance issues.

The Fire District is responsible for determining the origin and cause of all fires that occur within its jurisdiction. The majority of the investigations are conducted by Operations Division personnel or with assistance from the Pierce County Fire Marshal's Office. The Fire Prevention Division has four investigators who share duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

In 2009, the division participated in the investigation of 97 fires, including grass fires, vehicle fires and various commercial and residential structure fires. The fire crews responded to 238 fires in 2009 that ranged from small rubbish fires to commercial building fires.

The number one challenge for the Fire Prevention Division is having enough personnel to complete the work, while keeping pace with the growth. We have on-going inspections within the jurisdiction that will continue to challenge our personnel, especially as construction increases.

Accomplishments for 2009

- Continues to reduce the number of commercial false alarms in Sumner and Bonney Lake.
- Completed the Sonic Drive-in inspection and plan review
- Completed Jay Lee's Honda project
- Completed Green Mountain Coffee Roasters project
- Completed Oil Can Henry project
- Completed Pacific Paper project
- Completed Costco addition project
- Completed self-inspections for the City of Sumner. We have also sent out 469 self inspections in 2009.
- Began WinCo Foods inspection and plan review. The new grocery store is set to open in 2010.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue welcomes new fire chief



Jerry E. Thorson was sworn in as East Pierce Fire & Rescue's new chief during a special session of the fire district's board of commissioners

February 27, 2009. With his wife, son and parents looking on, Chief Thorson promised to lead the fire district with pride and integrity.

He assumed his new duties March 1.

Thorson takes over the top position following the death of Chief Dan Packer, who lost his life in 2008 in a California wildfire. Deputy Chief John McDonald served as interim chief until the fire commissioners hired Packer's replacement.

Previously, Thorson was deputy chief for South King Fire & Rescue, supervising Emergency Management and Public Education.

Thorson began his 30-year career in the fire service as a volunteer for South King Fire & Rescue. In 1978, he was hired by the department as a full-time firefighter. He moved up through the ranks serving as a battalion chief 10 years, then 10 years as fire marshal. Last year, he was promoted to deputy chief.

Thorson graduated from Southern Illinois University, receiving a bachelor's degree with an emphasis on work force education and development. Most recently, he earned a certificate giving him the title of Emergency Manager.

The 50-year-old Federal Way native says he wanted to be a firefighter since he was a boy. His father served as chief of the Federal Way Fire Department. Eventually, the Federal Way department merged with Des Moines to form South King Fire & Rescue.

Thorson and his father aren't the only firefighters in the family. His brother is captain at South King and his step-son is a volunteer firefighter with the Milton Fire Department.

Thorson is married with two sons and two step-sons. He and his family recently moved to Bonney Lake from Milton.

public education



East Pierce Fire & Rescue provides numerous public education programs designed to help keep children and adults safe from fire and other hazards.

The goal of the Public Education Division is the prevention of injuries and deaths from fires, accidents, illnesses, drowning and other preventable causes. The best way to do that is to teach fire and personal safety to children and adults. East Pierce has been working with local schools for many years, sending firefighters to teach grade-appropriate lessons on water safety, bike safety, carbon monoxide poisoning and fire prevention.

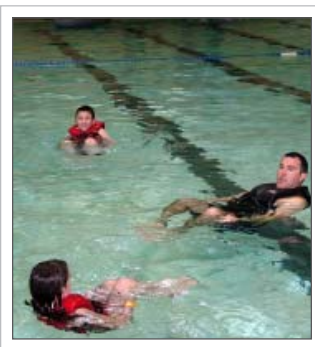
The public education programs East Pierce has created are designed to teach children how to recognize and avoid unintentional injuries, especially around water.



East Pierce career and volunteer firefighters participate in community events such as the Sumner Arts Festival, Sumner and Bonney Lake National Night Out, Daffodil Festival, and Bonney Lake Days and staff the annual East Pierce Fire Open House.

Other prevention programs include fire extinguisher training for local businesses and groups, April Pools Day, Summer Splash-Tacular and Safe Sitter babysitter classes for children ages 11-13 years. We offer CPR and Basic Fire Aid twice a month.

Accomplishments for 2009



- Taught 38 CPR and Basic First Aid classes to a total of 836 citizens
- Taught Fire and Life Safety classes to students in grades K-5 in the Sumner, White River and Dieringer School Districts
- Provided "Stay On Top Of The Water" water safety instruction to 300 local middle school students
- Instructed 1,550 middle school students and 425 high school students in CPR
- Attended 18 local community events with the Children's Safety Trailer, delivering fire safety messages to children of all ages
- Delivered water safety instruction to over 100 preschool students
- Inspected and installed 63 child car seats
- Sold and fitted 235 bike helmets
- Instructed 81 students in the Safe Sitter babysitter program

- Sold and fitted 83 life jackets
- Loaned and fitted life jackets at Station 11, Lake Tapps Park and a self-serve loaner kiosk at Allan Yorke Park



- Installed free smoke alarms in area residences thanks to grant funding received through the Washington State Department of Health
- Loaned "Water Wise Kids" kits to local preschools and daycares. The kits provide teachers with age-appropriate water-safety curriculum
- Loaned the "Learn-Not-To-Burn" kit to local preschools and daycares. The kit provides teachers with age-appropriate fire safety curriculum, games, puzzles, books and activities to apply in the classroom
- Participated in approximately 41 community events, including various school carnivals, Sumner Arts Festival, Orting Resource Fair, Community National Night Out Events, Bonney Lake Days, Camp Fire Camps, Girl Scout Camp, East Pointe Family Fun Fest, career fairs and parades.
- Taught 12 fire extinguisher training classes to over 370 citizens
- Facilitated 44 fire station tours for local schools, day cares, preschool and civic groups
- Provided intervention and education to juvenile

firesetters and their families through the Firestoppers of Washington program

- Provided fire and fall prevention presentations to local seniors at area senior centers, assisted living facilities, churches and retirement communities

East Pierce Fire & Rescue Public Education Programs

Bicycle Helmet Sales and Fitting*

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

Life Jacket Sales and Fitting*

Life jackets are sold for \$12 each. Wearer must be present.

SafeSitter Classes

Registration information and class schedules are available at www.eastpiercefirerescue.org. Cost: \$30

Free Life Jacket Loaner Program

Free loaner jackets are available at the headquarters station, Allan Yorke Park and Lake Tapps Park.

Free Child Safety Seat Inspection

Call for an appointment.

Free Station Tours

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

Free CPR and First Aid Classes

Registration information and class schedules are available at www.eastpiercefirerescue.org. Free for East Pierce residents.

Free Smoke Alarm Installations

Call for an appointment.

Free Blood Pressure Checks

Stop by any staffed station during regular business hours.

Free Fire Extinguisher Training

Call to schedule.

**Sponsored by East Pierce Professional Firefighters Local 3520.*

safety



Firefighting is an inherently dangerous occupation. Firefighters are often exposed to dangerous conditions while performing duties of saving lives through fire suppression and emergency medical care.

The number of duty-related injuries increased from 10 to 14 in 2009. The increase is largely attributable to expanded training activities for the special teams and new employees.

Accomplishments for 2009

- One new fire engine was purchased. One engine and one medic unit was placed in service for 2009.
- We received a compliance audit by Labor and Industry in 2009. On completion of the audit, we received a clean review and no deficiencies were reported.
- Identified training injuries as the number one safety issue in 2009
- We have completed the installation of auto fill foam systems for the fire apparatus. The system allows crews to refill their foam tanks from the ground, eliminating the need for crews to climb up on top of the apparatus with five gallon foam buckets to fill their tanks.
- We added sigtronics to Tender 19. The system will allow the reduction of noise to the pump operator while performing his or

The goal of the Safety Committee is to ensure the safety of all the firefighters and officers at East Pierce Fire & Rescue. We provide a method to solve safety concerns. We also review and remove hazards that may become safety issues.

her duties. The noise reduction will increase the efficiency of radio communications to the pump operator and crews.

- Ladder 13 passed the United Laboratories (U.L.) testing this year without any deficiencies.
- We have completed the lighting upgrade project throughout the District's eleven fire stations. The project involved the replacement of high lead/mercury lighting to a greener and more efficient lighting plan. By doing so, we have reduced the energy necessary to light our stations and have reduced the cost associated with the disposal of expired lighting. During 2010, we will begin to install photo sensors in identified rooms that will help in the reduction of electrical usage in our stations. A portion of the cost will be shared with our energy provider.

We support the National Fire Academy's "Everyone Goes Home" initiatives and display decals in every fire station. The purpose of these initiatives is to reduce firefighter fatalities. More than 100 firefighters die throughout the United States every year. The biggest contributor to the fatalities is heart attacks and apparatus collisions (15,000 a year nationwide). Firefighters are 100 times more likely to die from a heart attack than the general public. We are dedicated to doing everything we can at East Pierce Fire & Rescue to support these initiatives and reduce firefighter injuries and fatalities.

emergency management

Emergency Management works closely with law enforcement and local, state and federal agencies to prepare and manage large-scale emergencies.



Unlike emergency response, Emergency Management involves preparing for disaster **before** it occurs. Since effective emergency management relies on the integration of emergency plans at many levels, the Emergency Management Division works closely with trained personnel from local police and sheriff's agencies and various city, state and federal departments. When disaster strikes, whether it's a wicked winter storm or massive flooding, the Emergency Management Division has a plan.

Those plans include the mobilization of appropriate emergency services and first responders, such as firefighters, police and emergency medical crews in the disaster area. To ensure proper training among all of the resources, periodic drills are held with neighboring fire departments and law enforcement.

During a disaster, members of a regional team activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the East Pierce headquarters station in Bonney Lake. The EOC manages incidents and resources for the residents in the East Pierce Fire and Rescue jurisdiction, including Sumner, Bonney Lake, Lake Tapps, South Prairie, Wilkeson and the Ridge Communities. The EOC tracks resources, manages responders and moves needed supplies to the affected areas.

Together, we can get a faster, more comprehensive look at the cost and damage assessment in order to request a presidential declaration, improving cost recovery for our citizens.

Severe flooding activates the Emergency Operations Center

In January, Western Washington saw some of the worst flooding since the storms of 2006. East Pierce Fire & Rescue itself was impacted by the severe winter weather when Station 19 in South Prairie flooded when the nearby creek breached its banks for the first time in many years.

Our efforts in planning and training staff for these types of events were realized during this emergency. Our Emergency Operations Center was up and running 24 hours a day for several days. Personnel from East Pierce and the Cities of Bonney Lake, and Sumner staffed the EOC. The objectives included evacuations, sand bagging and detours of flooded roads. The EOC also assisted citizens during the recovery process after the waters receded.

Over 100,000 sand bags and 100 yards of sand were made available and distributed throughout the jurisdiction. By combining resources with the cities, the EOC team was able to coordinate responses, dispatch supplies, provide updated messages and maintain the accountability of our crews.

Members of East Pierce Fire and Rescues' Swift Water Rescue Team were dispatched to join with other Pierce County Teams and respond to rescues throughout Pierce County, including near the city of Orting.

budget and finance



The Budget and Finance Division continually reviews and analyzes finances and budget performance to ensure that district residents receive maximum value and service from their fire service.

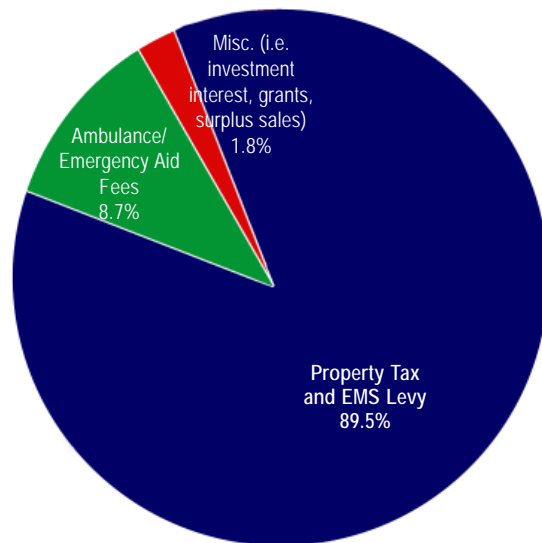
The Budget and Finance Division prepares the annual budget and monthly financial statements; reconciles bank accounts and manages cash and debt. It also prepares the annual financial report, which includes detailed audited financial statements and statistical information about the Department. It ensures compliance with policy, State and Federal law and generally accepted accounting practices.

To ensure the safe and effective use of taxpayers' dollars, East Pierce Fire and Rescue is audited annually by a team from the Washington State Auditors Office. Copies of the District's past audits are available at the State Auditor's Web site, www.sao.wa.gov.

In 2009, the division developed a new account coding system for the 2010 budget that tracks costs by management function. It also created policies and standard operating guidelines for purchasing, budget and cash management; improved the accuracy of the vehicle replacement schedule; implemented an improved purchasing card program; and redesigned the budget development process.

The two major sources of funding for East Pierce are the tax levy on personal property – which makes up 89.5 percent of funds – and EMS transport fees. Total revenues in 2009 were \$20.1 million. Total expenses were \$18.8 million.

2009 Revenues



2008 Expenditures

(as percentage of total budget)

Personnel	74.6%
Supplies and Services	13.5%
Capital leases and debt	6.7%
Governmental Agreements (such as dispatch agency fees)	5.2%

Staffed Stations

Station 11 ~ Headquarters Station ~ Bonney Lake
18421 Old Buckley Hwy.
Phone: **(253) 863-1800**

Station 12 ~ Prairie Ridge
12006 214th Ave. E.

Station 13 ~ Sumner
800 Harrison St.

Station 14 ~ Lake Tapps
3206 W. Tapps Dr. E.

Station 16 ~ Buckley
10515 234th Ave. E.

Volunteer Stations

Station 15 ~ Lake Tapps
1605 210 Ave. E.

Station 19 ~ South Prairie
350 SR 162

Station 111 ~ Buckley
27723 Sumner-Buckley Hwy.

Station 110 ~ Wilkeson
501 Church St.

Station 113 ~ Bonney Lake
4824 Aqua Dr. E.

Marine Rescue Unit

Station 112 ~ Lake Tapps
2905 Sumner-Tapps Hwy. E

www.eastpiercefirerescue.org

