

# **EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE**

**“Where Compassion and Action Meet”**



**2011 Annual Report**



# 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 the highest level of fire and emergency medical and prevention services to a diverse and growing community with:

- mission-essential staffing and training.
- state-of-the-art facilities, equipment and technology.
- a strong, diverse and sustainable funding base, while maintaining stewardship of taxpayer resources.
- a safe environment for our citizens through effective and comprehensive prevention and public education programs.
- a safe and healthy workforce.

## CORE VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our community and our employees are our most important resource.

*We are committed to:*

### **Doing the Right Thing**

Integrity, Trust, Respect and Commitment

### **Everyone Must Make a Difference**

Individual and Organizational Responsibility  
Accountability, Teamwork and Collaboration

### **Anticipating and Meeting Our Community's Needs**

Proactive Planning, Innovation, Creativity,  
Responsiveness  
and Excellent Customer Service

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**East Pierce  
Fire & Rescue  
2011 Annual Report**

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Minuteman Press of  
Puyallup, WA

# LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



It's 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 work hard for our citizens.

In 2011, East Pierce crews responded to over 8,300 emergency calls. More than seven out of ten of those calls were for medical emergencies. I am particularly pleased that citizens who live within the district continue to receive ambulance transport through East Pierce with no out-of-pocket expenses.

That is a huge savings for our residents and often makes a difference in whether or not those 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 2011, we provided free, life jacket loaners at three locations throughout the district. Our firefighters taught fire and life safety classes to students in K-5th grades. They also taught CPR classes to 653 middle and high school students in the Sumner, White River and Dieringer School Districts. More than 780 residents took advantage of the 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.

Just like many families, businesses and other public agencies, we continue to be challenged by the economy. The decline in assessed valuation throughout our district has resulted in a reduction in our revenue of 20.4% since 2009. In response to this, we have done our best to control spending and find more efficient ways to provide the same high level of services that you deserve. Our spending has been reduced in every area of our budget. All of our members have accepted a reduction in pay for 2012. Our members recognize that we all have to help during these tough economic times and that effort is appreciated.

I am proud to be the chief of this extraordinary fire department. 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 safer for you and your loved ones.

Our mission statement is: *Exceptional people providing compassionate service and rapid response to our community's diverse needs.* 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. Thomson*

Fire Chief  
East Pierce Fire and Rescue

# FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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.



*The East Pierce fire commissioners join community members in the festivities at the 2011 Open House. From the right are Victor Proulx, East Pierce Chaplain Stan Florez, Dale Mitchell, Ed Egan and Gail Bohnas.*

## 2012 Meeting Schedule

Meetings start at 7 p.m. at the East Pierce headquarters station, 18421 Veterans Memorial Drive East, in Bonney Lake. The public is encouraged to attend.

<b>January 17</b>	<b>July 17</b>
<b>February 21</b>	<b>August 21</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>September 18</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>October 16</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>November 20</b>
<b>June 19</b>	<b>December 18</b>

## 2011 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**  
**LEROY GOFF, CITY OF SUMNER LIAISON**

## Leroy Goff Friend of the Fire Department



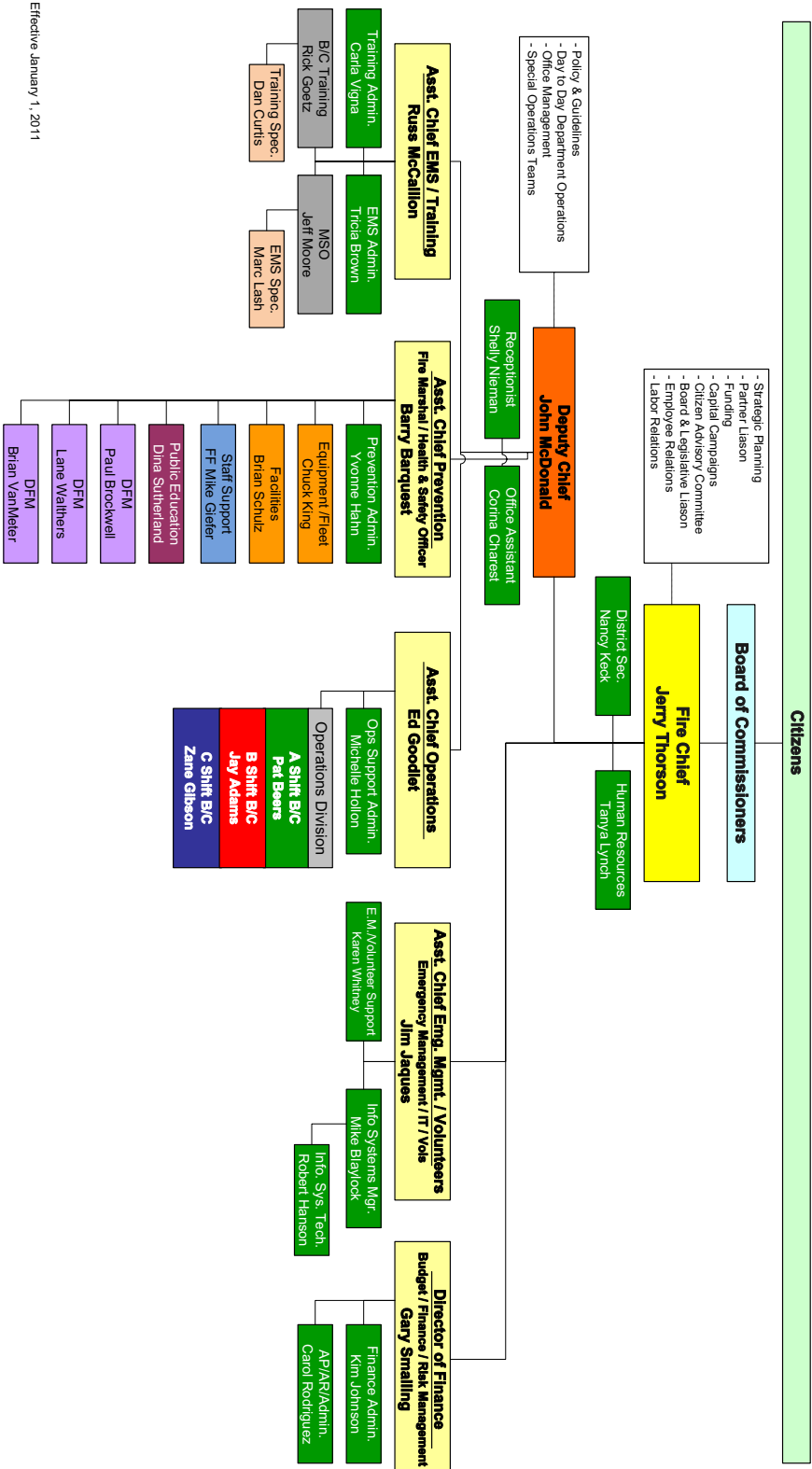
During a special commissioner's meeting in January, 2012, the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Commissioners presented Leroy Goff with an award of appreciation in recognition of his dedication to the fire service. Goff served as the board's liaison for the City of Sumner since the merger with East Pierce in 2008.

East Pierce Fire Commissioner Chair Rick Kuss commended Goff for more than a quarter of a century of public service, calling him a "gentleman" and a "solid friend of the fire department."

All of his East Pierce friends thank Leroy and wish him all the best.

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

## East Pierce Organizational Chart - 2011



Effective January 1, 2011

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# FACTS

## [Year in Review]

Land area covered: Approximately 152 square miles  
Population: Approximately 83,000

Chief Officers: 6  
Battalion Chiefs: 5  
Administrative Staff: 13  
Public Educator: 1  
Total Number of Career Officers and Firefighters: 105  
    Career Firefighter-Paramedics: 41  
    Career Firefighter-EMTs: 64  
Total Number of Volunteers: 54  
    Volunteer Firefighter-EMTs: 50  
    EMS-only Volunteers: 4

Number of Staffed Fire Stations: 6  
Number of Volunteer Fire Stations: 4  
Boathouse for the Marine Unit: 1  
Logistics/Warehouse: 1

Total Number of Emergency Calls in 2011: 8,362  
Percent Increase since 2010: 8%  
Percent of All Responses That Were Medical in Nature: 74%  
Number of Patients Transported to Area Hospitals: 4,614

Number of Community Events the Fire Department Attended in 2011: 40+

Number of Citizens and Students Receiving CPR Training: 1,433  
Number of Teens Graduating from the SafeSitter Program: 52  
Number of Citizens Attending Fire Extinguisher Classes: 192

Number of Bike Helmets Sold in 2011: 323  
Number of Life Jackets Sold: 123  
Number of Car Seat Inspections: 59

Deputy Fire Marshals: 3  
Number of Fire Investigations: 66  
Total Number of Inspections: 1,091  
Number of Plan Reviews and Pre-applications:  
    Bonney Lake: 154  
    Sumner: 395  
    South Prairie: 39  
    Edgewood: 17  
    Milton: 13

# HISTORY



East Pierce Fire & Rescue was founded on a strong commitment to customer

service. The department's Mission, Vision and Values statements guide the actions of the department and its members. Exceptional customer service and a concern for the members and their families have become hallmarks of our culture.

East Pierce 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 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 April, the Milton City Council voted to contract for services with East Pierce, bringing expanded fire, rescue and emergency medical services to their city.

Today, East Pierce serves a population of approximately 83,000 residents 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.

## Chief Dan Packer Memorial Wall

On July 26, East Pierce Fire & Rescue held a public dedication for a memorial wall honoring the life of the late East Pierce Fire Chief Dan Packer, who died in a wildfire in northern California. The date marked the third anniversary of Packer's death. The 49-year-old chief had just begun a two-week assignment as a division supervisor overseeing wildland firefighters in the Klamath National Forest when the blaze suddenly blew up during a routine survey of the area.

"Chief Packer taught us that we earn our community's respect every day through hard work and a concentrated effort to provide excellent customer service," said East Pierce Deputy Chief John McDonald. McDonald headed up the committee of firefighters, staff, officers and volunteers who worked to develop the memorial. The committee also includes members of Packer's family. "This wall will remind us of his example and our commitment to serve our community with honor," he said.

The wall is located at the headquarters station on Veterans Memorial Drive East, in Bonney Lake. It includes items from Packer's personal and professional life and memorabilia related to the accident that took his life.

"Chief Packer was the true inspiration for East Pierce Fire & Rescue. It was his vision and his strong belief in customer service that still drives our members today," said East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson. "The memorial wall not only acknowledges his contribution to our community and our department, but also ensures that his efforts are recognized by all who come to the fire station."



East Pierce Fire Chief Dan Packer



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# 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

## February

A late February snow and ice storm was blamed for a seven-car pileup at Sumner-Buckley Highway and 214th Avenue East in Bonney Lake. Remarkably, no one was injured.

## March

Twenty-five East Pierce Fire & Rescue firefighters, in full gear, climbed 69 stories to the top of the Columbia Center in downtown Seattle as part of the 20th annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb to raise funds for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

## April

East Pierce firefighters held three, free Easter Egg events throughout the district: the annual Edgewood Easter Egg Hunt and the 21st annual Sumner Easter Egg Hunt, both sponsored by East Pierce Professional Fire Fighters Local 3520; and the 54th annual South Prairie Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters' Association.

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Commissioners decided not to pursue plans to merge with Orting Valley Fire and Rescue, citing poor timing and an initial revenue deficit at a time when the district is experiencing a drop in tax revenues due to decreasing assessed valuation as the reasons for the decision.

## July

Firefighters battled a huge blaze at the former Indian Smoke Shop, on Puyallup Tribal Trust Land in Milton. When firefighters arrived, two buildings, totaling approximately 8,000 square-feet, were fully involved, producing a column of thick, black smoke that could be seen for miles.

Firefighters used high-angle rope rescue techniques to rescue a young man who had fallen to the base of Victor Falls. A second patient was treated and transported to a hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The third patient was not transported.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue held a public dedication for a memorial wall honoring the life of the late East Pierce Fire Chief Dan Packer, who died in a wildfire in northern California. The wall, located at the headquarters station in Bonney Lake, includes items from Packer's personal and professional life and memorabilia related to the accident that took his life.

## August

Voters renewed the medical services levy for EMS services, funding operation and maintenance of emergency medical aid vehicles staffed by firefighters who are also qualified as either emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or paramedics. More than 70 percent of the voters were in favor of the measure, well beyond the 60 percent needed to pass.

The fire department received a Patriot Award from the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for leadership and personnel policies supporting employee participation in the Guard and Reserve.

## October

Nearly 3,000 people braved the threat of rain to attend the 18th annual East Pierce Open House.

## December

The 16th annual Pancake Feed, hosted by the East Pierce Local No. 3520, served breakfast to 700 people at the Sumner fire station, raising just over \$3,500. The money was used to buy presents for more than 600 needy children living in the district.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue firefighters accompanied Santa during his annual visit to local neighborhoods throughout the district. Santa and the firefighters also made a special visit to local senior centers.

East Pierce firefighters joined law enforcement agencies in a statewide effort, led by the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), to remind drivers of the hazards and ruined lives caused by drunk driving.

# OPERATIONS

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



In 2011, the 105 career and 53 volunteer firefighters/EMTs and paramedics assigned to the Operations Division responded to 8,362 calls for emergency services, an 8% increase over the call volume in 2010. 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 152 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 2011, East Pierce operated twelve fire stations. Six of the stations are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by career firefighters. The others include four volunteer stations and a water rescue facility located on the north end of Lake Tapps.

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 Veterans Memorial 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. An administrative support specialist is also assigned to the division.

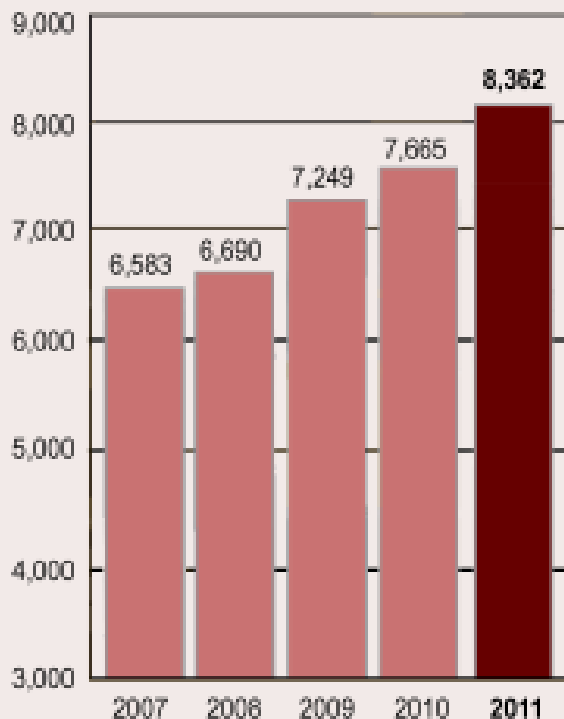
In addition to responding to the typical fire, emergency medical and rescue incidents, the Operations Division maintains teams of personnel with specialized training in four special operations disciplines. In recognition of risks within the district's boundaries, the department has trained select firefighters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



## 2011 Accomplishments

- ✓ Completed an "Operations" task force evaluation between EPF&R and the Orting Valley Fire Department
- ✓ Deployed a dedicated ladder company.
- ✓ Successfully re-organized deployment strategy and significantly reduced cross staffing
- ✓ Implemented new data collection and analysis software enhancing our ability to accurately collect, analyze and generate response data reports
- ✓ Initiated quarterly officer meetings.
- ✓ Transitioned to RCW 52.33 reporting requirements
- ✓ Developed wilderness response plan

**TREND: Total Emergency Calls for East Pierce Fire & Rescue**



**TREND: 9-1-1 Calls by Type**

Call Type	2010	2011
Emergency Medical Calls, including motor vehicle crashes	74%	74%
Service Calls	8%	10%
Good Intent	8%	7%
False Alarms	5%	4%
Hazardous Conditions	2%	1%
Structure Fires	1%	1%
Severe Weather	1%	0.5%
Brush Fires	0.5%	0.5%
Vehicle Fires	0.5%	0.5%
Other	1%	1.5%
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>7,249</b>	<b>8,362</b>

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



The EMS Division provides clinical oversight, analyzes department performance on medical aid calls and works with the Training Division to conduct EMS education and training.

Each East Pierce fire engine, aid car and medic unit is staffed with firefighter-emergency medical technicians (EMTs), firefighter-paramedics or a combination of both.

EMTs provide basic emergency care, including splinting, bandaging, spinal immobilization, oxygen and airway management, and automated defibrillation. 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, electrically pace, cardiovert and defibrillate patients.

At East Pierce, each of the six staffed stations includes at least one firefighter cross-trained as a paramedic. The department staffs four paramedic ambulances on a daily basis, along with four reserve aid units, all capable of transporting patients.

In the past five years, the number of calls for medical emergencies has increased dramatically. In fact, three-quarters of the 9-1-1 calls that East Pierce Fire & Rescue responded to in 2011 were medical emergencies compared to only 61% in 2006. EMS call volume, as a percent of department 9-1-1 incidents, is predicted to continue to increase for the following reasons:

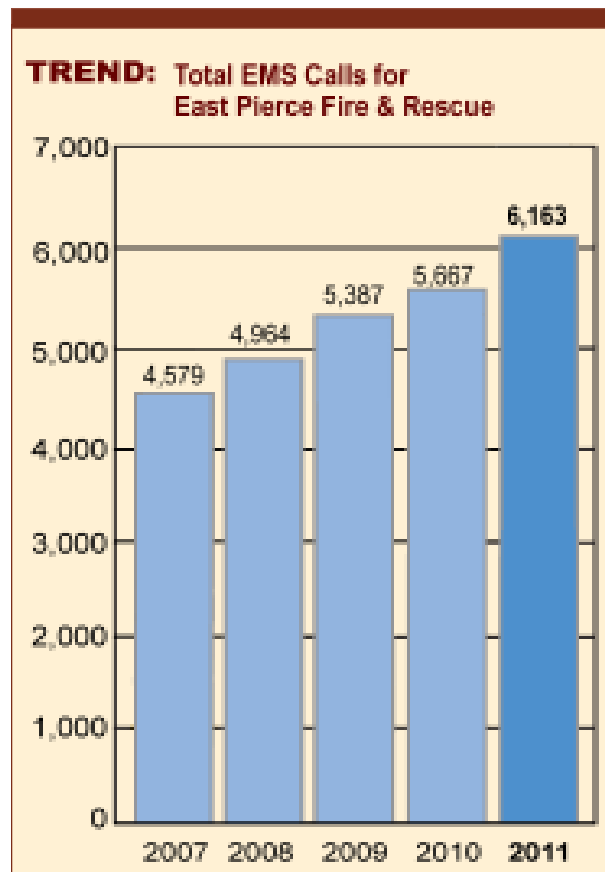
- *An aging population will result in more EMS calls.* People over age 65 call 9-1-1 up to four times more often than younger people. The retirement of the “Baby Boomer” generation, which has already started, will require additional health resources.
- *A shortage of primary care physicians or other providers.* If patients can’t get in to see their physician, they often call 9-1-1 and go to the Emergency Department.
- *Expanded health insurance coverage could result in more use of 9-1-1 and the EMS system.*

East Pierce responded to 6,163 emergency medical services (EMS) related incidents in 2011 – an average of 17 calls per day – and an increase of 9% percent over 2010. East Pierce medic units transported 4,614 patients to area hospitals, an average of 12.6 patients per day. Patients who

are not transported to the hospital include those treated at the scene with minor injuries or illnesses. These patients either chose to refuse further care or decided to have family or friends take them to a facility.

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. 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, private ambulances and units from neighboring fire departments may respond.



## 2011 Accomplishments

- ✓ The department provided training and simulations emphasizing delivery of “high-performance” CPR as part of overall effort to improve patient survival.
- ✓ The department implemented “field hypothermia” to lower the body temperature of post-CPR patients who have regained a pulse and blood pressure. This cooling therapy has been shown to minimize brain damage in cardiac arrest survivors.
- ✓ The vacant Medical Service Officer position in the EMS Division was filled in August 2011. This staffing allowed for delivery of EMS training modules in the field, improving crew availability to respond to 911 calls, and provided staff time for mandated quality management programs and reports.
- ✓ The EMS Division sent ten members to a two day University of Washington/King County Medic One “Resuscitation Academy” training program focused on improving patient survival from cardiac arrest.
- ✓ EMS Division staff provided critical paramedic input and helped implement new, statewide cardiac, stroke and trauma destination guidelines.
- ✓ EMS Division staff participated in a county-wide effort to review and update EMS treatment protocols for paramedics and EMTs which were implemented in early 2012.
- ✓ Recertified the entire department in CPR and provided a Pediatric Advanced Life Support certification course for East Pierce paramedics.
- ✓ Deployed a new device for inserting advanced airways in critically ill or injured patients. This device should help paramedics improve success in this high-risk procedure.
- ✓ Retrofitted and deployed an existing Medic unit with specialized equipment to safely lift, extricate and transport bariatric (obese) patients to hospitals. Use of this unit will improve patient safety and help reduce back injuries for firefighters.

# SERVICE AREA

Firefighter's Stairclimb



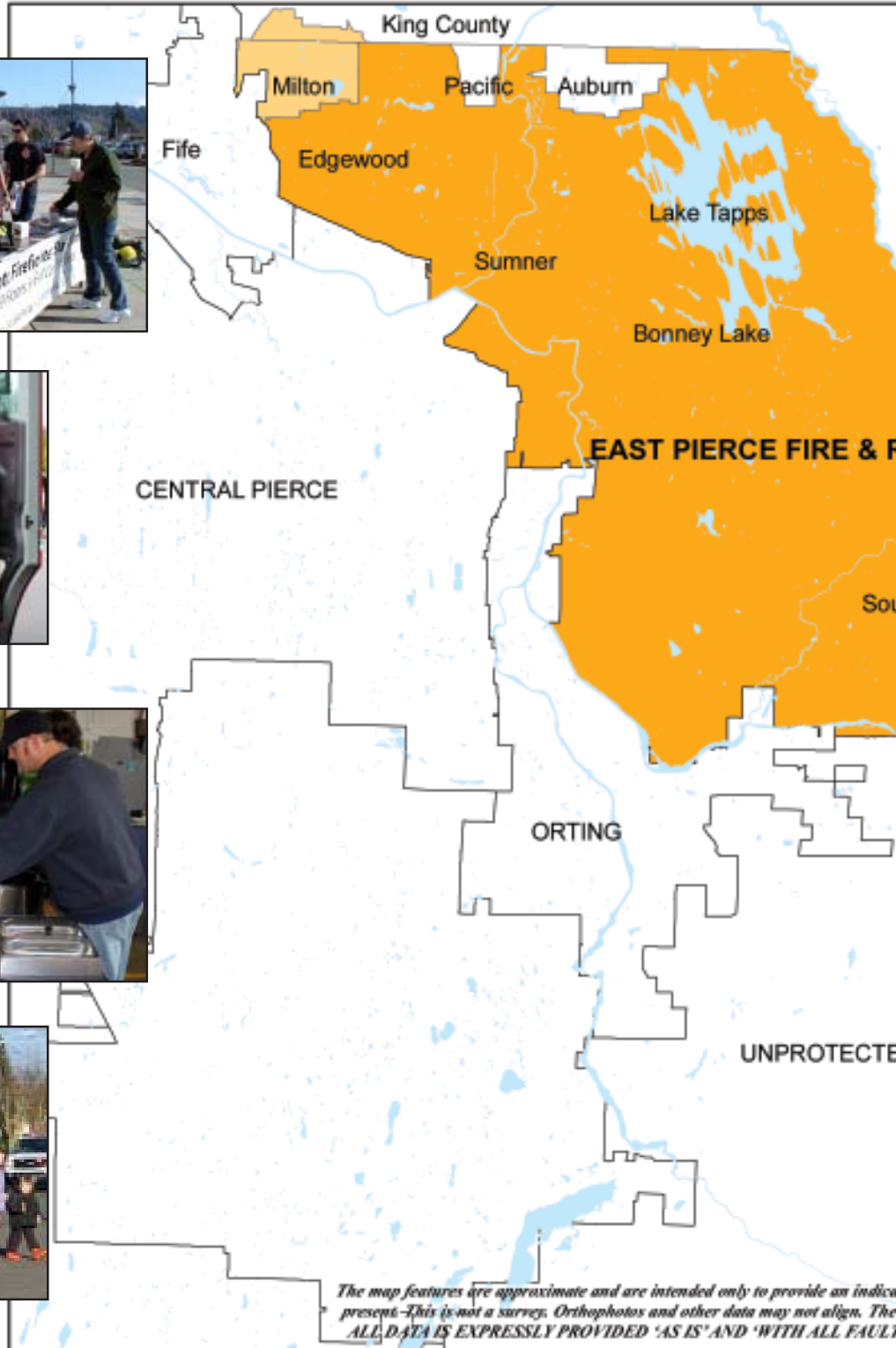
"Pink for the Cure"



Summer Pancake Breakfast



Santa Run



“Tie One on for Safety”



Open House





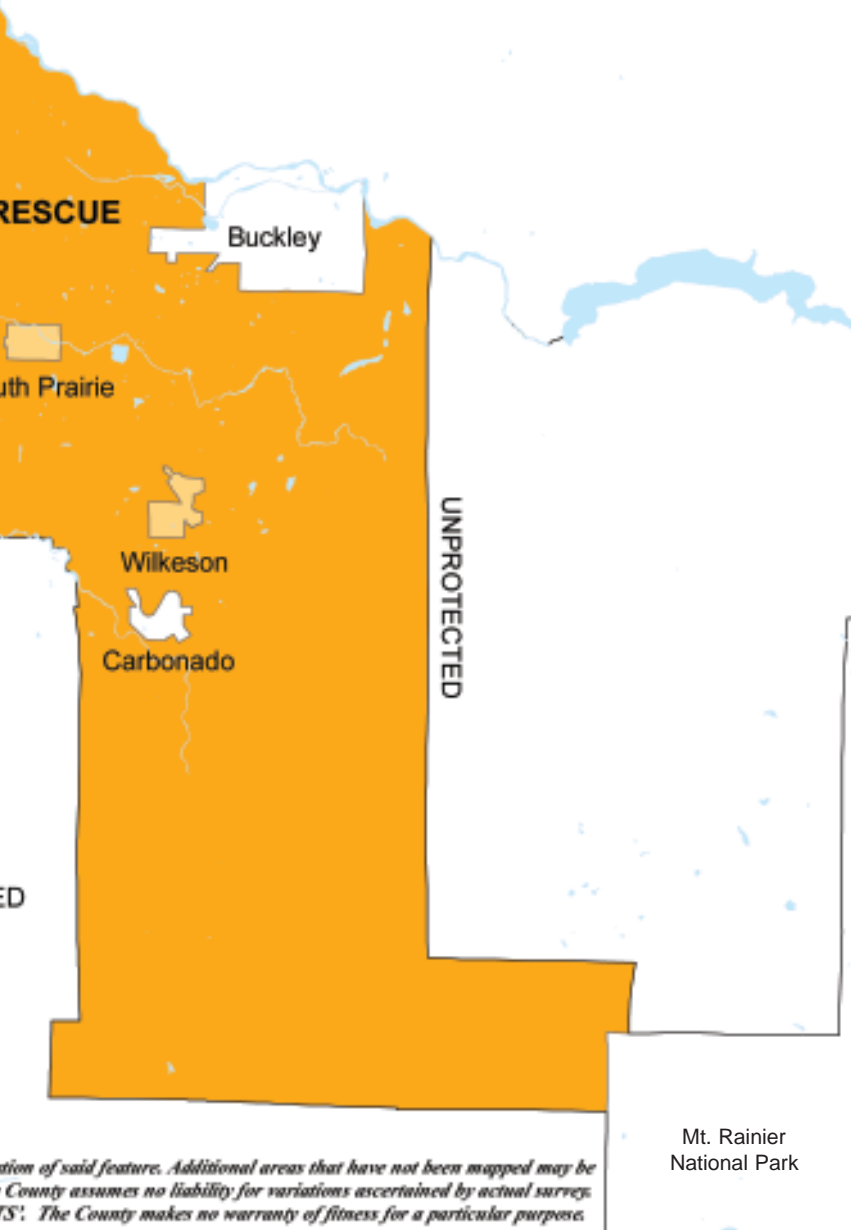
Santa Visits Senior Centers



Award Recognition



-  EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE (Pierce County Fire District No. 22)
-  Towns or cities that contract with East Pierce Fire & Rescue for fire and emergency medical services



# VOLUNTEER DIVISION

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



The Volunteer Division coordinates the activities of the East Pierce Fire & Rescue’s fire and emergency medical technician (EMT) volunteers. A total of 55 volunteers respond to a broad range of emergencies including fires, medical emergencies, vehicle collisions, Hazmat incidents, “general alarms” and natural disasters.

On a typical day, volunteers either respond from home to volunteer fire stations, staff volunteer stations or work at career stations side by side with the career firefighters during VEOPs (Volunteer Experience Opportunity Programs). VEOPs allow volunteers to gain valuable experience and training. Within the East Pierce Fire District there are four volunteer stations and six career staffed stations and one water rescue facility located on the northwest corner of Lake Tapps.

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.

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 years, many of our volunteers have become career firefighters with East Pierce Fire & Rescue or other neighboring fire departments in Washington State.



## 2011 Accomplishments

- ✓ 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 annual Easter Egg Hunt in South Prairie. In addition, East Pierce Volunteers staffed numerous community events.



## 2011 Scholarship Winners

The East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters' Association announced the winners of its annual Scholarships for Excellence. In 2011, the winners were: White River High School senior Katherine Siewert; Bonney Lake High School senior Hunter Colegrove; and Sumner High School senior Konrad Deissler.

Three additional scholarships were awarded to children of East Pierce firefighters. They include Krysta Beers, daughter of Battalion Chief Pat Beers; Emily McCoy, daughter of Captain Tim McCoy; and Shelbi Simmons, daughter of Lieutenant Rich Simmons.

Thanks to successful fundraising, the Association was able to grant two additional scholarships, assisting a total of six area students.

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 intend to enter the fields of firefighting, law enforcement, medicine or social work.

The students were honored at the June Volunteer Association meeting and the July East Pierce Fire Commissioner's meeting.

The East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters' Association is pleased to present these worthy students with much needed financial aid. Congratulations to each of them.



## 2011 Walk of Honor Inductees

In 2011 East Pierce Fire & Rescue paid tribute to some very special individuals. To acknowledge their service, inscribed bricks were placed in the Chief Dan Packer Walk of Honor, located at the headquarters station.

The purpose of the Walk is to honor those who have given of their time and energy to improve the lives of their fellow citizens. It is our hope that the Walk of Honor will also serve as a reminder of what we can achieve when we dedicate ourselves in service to others. For more information about how to purchase a brick to be placed in the Walk of Honor go to [www.eastpiercevfa.org](http://www.eastpiercevfa.org).

With great pride we salute:

- Firefighter Joshua Baker, City of Renton Fire and Emergency Services Department
- Firefighter John Holyan, Wilkeson Fire Department
- Fire Chief Robert "Wade" Joyner, Sumner Fire Department
- Lieutenant Ron Lightburn, East Pierce Fire & Rescue Volunteer
- Assistant Chief Layne Ross, East Pierce Fire & Rescue Volunteer
- Captain Lon Snope, East Pierce Fire & Rescue Volunteer
- Fire Chief Dane Tidball, Bonney Lake Fire Department
- Assistant Chief Dave Wakefield, East Pierce Fire & Rescue
- Gary and Ellen Wofford

# TRAINING DIVISION

East Pierce firefighters maintain and improve skills and abilities through ongoing training overseen by the Training Division.



Training and education are essential to maintaining critical firefighting, rescue and medical skills. 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 procedures and allows them to work efficiently and effectively on the emergency scene.

Firefighters are trained on a wide range of topics and skills from the most basic and commonly used to the more complex and unique such as vehicle extrication maneuvers using specialized “jaws of life” rescue tools. Additionally, crews practice rope rescue techniques, wildland firefighting, swift water, underwater and trench rescue skills. These complex skills require frequent training and practice for members to maintain competency and proficiency.

The Training Division is responsible for assessing training needs, developing a training calendar and curriculum, and providing direct delivery of instruction for many classes, while coordinating the delivery of other specialized training programs. It also conducts evaluations of probationary personnel, crew-based training drills and assists in all testing for new employees and promotional processes.

Most of the training for personnel is conducted while they are on-duty. Many classes, held in the evenings and on weekends, are specifically geared toward training volunteer firefighters in the district. Firefighters attend some specialized classes outside the department at community colleges, firefighting and EMS workshops and fire service academies.

A critical Training Division function is the maintenance of all training records, documentation and certifications for the department’s 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 as well as successful fire, rescue and EMS operations.

The Training Division continues to be challenged by a lack of a permanent training facility. 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 adequate space in a growing community is becoming increasingly difficult. The long-term goal is to build a training campus, however, this may take several years to accomplish due to difficulties in finding an adequate site, securing funding to purchase the property and build a facility.

The Training Division is also challenged to provide our members with the training necessary to work efficiently, effectively and most importantly safely, on a very limited budget. Yet, our mission to provide high-quality training and education in order to maintain critical firefighting, rescue and medical skills remains unchanged. We will focus on required training for 2012 and with the help of the Training Committee pursue new and creative ways to deliver valuable training to our members while being good stewards of our resources.

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

The division is supported by the Training Committee which was newly formed in 2011. The Training Committee consists of a mixed group of dedicated individuals that includes volunteers, firefighters, company officers, administrative staff and chief officers. This group has been instrumental in, prioritizing training needs, providing direction for the future, developing new curriculum and providing hands on instruction to department members.

## 2011 Accomplishments

- ☑ Organized and established a Training Committee
- ☑ Developed a core instructor group to be used for instruction and development of new courses
- ☑ Developed templates for formalized and ad hoc lesson plans that standardized the process for developing training curriculum and classes
- ☑ Developed a Blue Card Command Program to provide Command and Control emergency scene management program for officers. Implemented February 1, 2012
- ☑ Purchased and implemented a Digital Combustion Simulation Program
- ☑ Developed task books for acting company officers
- ☑ Developed a draft Return To Duty document and assessment work sheet to provide a consistent assessment and evaluation process for members returning to duty after a prolonged absence
- ☑ Conducted several live training burns
- ☑ Purchased and built forcible entry, ventilation and bail out props
- ☑ Researched and developed a driver's training program
- ☑ Initiated the update and revision of the Hose and Pump Ops Manuals
- ☑ Developed a new Training Topic of the Month Calendar for 2012



# FIRE PREVENTION

The Prevention Division provides plan review, code enforcement, juvenile firesetter intervention and fire investigation.



The Fire Prevention Division provides the full range of service to the residents of the cities of Sumner, Bonney Lake, Edgewood and Milton as well as fire investigation and public education services to the residents of the unincorporated portions of eastern Pierce County.

During 2011, the Fire Prevention Division continued to focus on providing plan review, inspection, fire investigation and public education services aimed at ensuring a fire safe community. The Division is staffed by six dedicated fire safety professionals with oversight provided by the Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal. Public Education is included within the Fire Prevention Division and is overseen by the Public Education Coordinator. The division has four plan review and inspection personnel, including one Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal and three Deputy Fire Marshals. An Administrative Support Specialist provides assistance to Division staff and members of the public.

The Fire Prevention Division also provides Juvenile Firesetter Intervention service to residents of the Fire District. The service is offered to families with a child who has displayed an interest in fire play or to families with a juvenile who has intentionally set fires. The referrals come from district firefighters who recognize a juvenile fire setter problem while out on an incident, from local police departments and in many cases from the families themselves. In 2011, Fire Prevention Division staff members conducted 13 Juvenile Firesetter interventions.

Property development continued to slump in 2011, however commercial development did not fall as dramatically as residential. Tenant improvements and remodels in existing commercial buildings were the primary drivers of plan review and inspection activity. While the amount of new residential construction remained relatively steady throughout the fire district, the City of Bonney Lake's adoption of a code requirement for the installation of residential fire sprinklers in all new residential occupancies resulted in a significant increase in residential plan review and inspection activity.

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Prevention Division personnel conducted 154 plan reviews and pre-applications in Bonney Lake, 13 plan reviews and pre-applications in Milton, 17 plan reviews and pre-applications in Edgewood, plus 395 plan reviews in Sumner. Plan review projects range from large commercial projects—such as the construction of the new Les Schwab Tire Center in Edgewood, the Sumner Middle School remodel, a three-story Multicare medical office building in Bonney Lake and large warehouse projects in the north Sumner industrial area—to numerous commercial tenant improvements and remodels.

In addition division staff conducted numerous residential fire sprinkler plan reviews as well as providing comments for pre-application conferences and special event applications.

Prevention personnel conducted 517 inspections in the City of Bonney Lake during 2011. A total of 445 inspections were conducted by prevention personnel in the City of Sumner, with an additional 129 inspections conducted in the cities of Milton and Edgewood and the Town of South Prairie. The inspections were primarily related to new construction activity, existing occupancy inspections, confidence testing, follow-up and business license renewal. Fire Prevention Division staff also responded to complaints from citizens and referrals from other public agencies.

In previous years, due to a lack of adequate staffing within the division, many 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 his or her own. In 2011, Fire Prevention Division staff began the process of conducting on-site inspections of business that had completed self-inspections in previous years. Business owners were provided information on areas of concern and offered assistance with correcting any violations that were identified by the inspectors. In addition to the self-inspection follow-ups, personnel conducted random inspections and business license renewals in the four cities covered by the fire district.

Finally, the division will conduct site visits based upon 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 Prevention Division personnel or with assistance from the Pierce County Fire Marshal's Office. The Fire Prevention Division has five investigators who share duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

In 2011, the crews responded to 143 fires, ranging from small rubbish fires to commercial building blazes. The Fire Prevention Division investigated 66 of those fires.

While the current economic downturn has led to a decrease in development activity for the past two years, as the economy improves development is likely to increase at a rapid pace due to pent-up demand.

The number one challenge the Fire Prevention Division will face is sufficient personnel to complete on-going inspections in the hundreds of existing commercial, industrial and retail occupancies within the district, while keeping pace with the plan review and inspection demands resulting from new construction.

## 2011 Accomplishments

- ✓ Increased the number of regular inspections conducted for existing commercial occupancies to ensure code compliance and assist business owners in improving fire safety within their businesses
- ✓ Completed the Multicare Medical Office Building project in Bonney Lake, including inspections and final occupancy
- ✓ Completed the Les Schwab Tire Center project in Edgewood, including inspections and final occupancy
- ✓ Completed the Sumner Middle School remodel project in Sumner, including inspections and final occupancy

# 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, burns, carbon monoxide poisoning and fire prevention.

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

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

Other prevention programs include fire extinguisher training for local businesses and groups, Summer Splash-Tacular and Safe Sitter babysitter classes for children ages 11-13 years. We offer regularly scheduled CPR and Basic First Aid classes at least twice a month.

## Public Education Programs:

- 🚒 **Free Life Jacket Loaner Program**
- 🚒 **Free Child Safety Seat Inspection**
- 🚒 **Free Station Tours**
- 🚒 **Free Smoke Alarm Installations**
- 🚒 **Free Blood Pressure Checks**
- 🚒 **Free Fire Extinguisher Training**
- 🚒 **CPR and First Aid Classes**
- 🚒 **Bicycle Helmet Sales and Fitting**
- 🚒 **Life Jacket Sales and Fitting**
- 🚒 **SafeSitter Classes**

## 2011 Accomplishments

- ✓ Taught 34 CPR and Basic First Aid classes to a total of 780 citizens
- ✓ Taught Fire and Life Safety classes to students in grades K-5 in the Sumner, White River and Dieringer, Puyallup and Fife School Districts
- ✓ Taught fire safety during 91 station tours and/or classroom visits to preschool and scout groups
- ✓ Provided "Stay On Top Of The Water" water safety instruction to local middle school students
- ✓ Instructed 283 middle school students and 370 high school students in CPR
- ✓ Attended 14 local community events with the Children's Safety Trailer, delivering fire safety messages to children of all ages
- ✓ Delivered water safety instruction to local preschool students
- ✓ Inspected and installed 59 child car seats
- ✓ Sold and fitted 323 bike helmets
- ✓ Instructed 52 students in the Safe Sitter babysitter program
- ✓ Sold and fitted 123 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 pre-schools 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
- ✓ Loaned the "Mr. YUK Kit" to the community. The kit provides teachers with poison prevention education for children and adults that focus on "look alike" chemicals that often are confused with food or medicines.
- ✓ Participated in various community events, including school carnivals, community events, neighborhood block parties, career fairs and parades
- ✓ Taught fire extinguisher training classes to 192 employees at area businesses
- ✓ Provided fire and fall prevention presentations to local seniors at area senior centers, assisted living facilities and retirement communities

## 2010 recognition awards

Each year, the fire district recognizes personnel and staff for outstanding achievements and service. The recipients of the 2011 East Pierce Fire & Rescue Recognition Awards are:

Career Officer of the Year .....	Lieutenant Matt Jewitt
Career Firefighter of the Year .....	Tomas Sumbera
EMS Provider of the Year .....	Jennifer Killion
Volunteer Officer of the Year .....	Captain Mark Nevill
Volunteer Responder of the Year: .....	James Walker
Mike Roberts Goodwill Award .....	Mike Giefer
Ken Thawsh Inspirational Award .....	Sara Arneson
Fitness Award .....	Jason Russell
Administrative Support Staff of the Year .....	Mike Blaylock

### The Chief's Company

Lieutenant Justin Doyle, William Sandlian, Jennifer Killion, Andrew Hinson, Ken Bannink and Kyle Mosher

# SAFETY

The Safety Committee helps to ensure the safety of all personnel by providing a method to resolve safety concerns and by reviewing and removing hazards that may become issues.



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

The number of duty-related injuries increased from 2010 to 2011, with a total of 22 work injuries, an increase of 33%. The leading causes were operational (on-scene) and training injuries largely attributable to increased call volume, new employees and expanded training activities for the special teams.

## 2011 Accomplishments

- ✓ Completed the retro-fit of a reserve medic unit to be used as a bariatric transport unit. This included a power gurney, winch, air bags for moving patients and other equipment to assist responders with lifting obese patients
- ✓ Identified training injuries and operations as the number one safety issue for 2011. Training was provided to all members on techniques for lifting and moving patients
- ✓ Certified one member as Health and Safety Officer, by the Fire Department Safety Officers Association. Another was re-certified as Incident Safety Officer.
- ✓ Monitored the new Washington Administrative Code (AC) 296-305 – Firefighter Safety Standards. Reviewed our Health & Safety Standard Operation Procedures and Guidelines to ensure they are compliant with the new standards when they are adopted.
- ✓ Completed 379 respirator fit tests for 177 emergency response personnel, per state law-requirements.
- ✓ We completed the rental uniform program for firefighter uniforms that included laundry, repair and replacement. This process insures proper cleaning and disinfecting of garments meeting federal and state cleaning requirements. This program represents a cost savings to the department.



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management works with other departments and agencies to prepare for and manage large-scale emergencies.



Emergency Management involves mitigation, preparation, coordination of response and recovery for man-made and natural disasters. In the simplest terms, emergency management is the management of risk so that we can live with environmental and technical hazards and deal with the disasters they can cause.

Unlike an emergency response, emergency management is proactive instead of reactive. Effective emergency management relies on the integration of emergency plans at many levels. The Emergency Management Division works closely with personnel from local law enforcement and various school districts, city, state and federal departments. When disaster strikes, whether it's a severe winter storm or massive flooding, the Emergency Management Division has a plan.

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, Milton, Edgewood, South Prairie, Wilkeson and the Ridge Communities. The EOC tracks resources, manages responders and moves needed supplies to the affected areas.

The Emergency Management team is trained to get a quicker, more comprehensive look at the cost and damage assessment during these disasters. In the event our jurisdiction needs to request a disaster declaration, our Emergency Management team is ready to take action if needed. This will expedite and improve cost recovery for our citizens and response area.

## 2011 Accomplishments

- ✓ Updated the Mitigation Plan
- ✓ Completed a table top exercise with the City of Bonney Lake
- ✓ Helped the town of Wilkeson become a FireWise Community

# 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 Finance Division provides comprehensive accounting, budgeting, payroll administration, debt management, investment, financial reporting, and internal control services for the department.

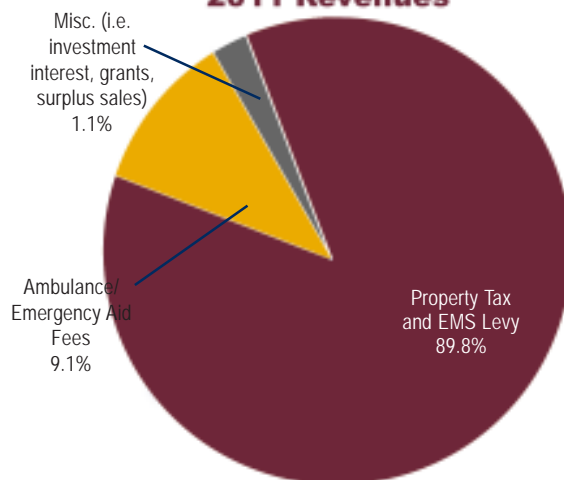
The division ensures compliance with policy, State and Federal law and generally accepted accounting practices. It prepares the annual budget and monthly financial statements, reconciles bank accounts, and manages cash and debt. The division prepares the annual financial report, which includes detailed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

The two major sources of funding for East Pierce are property tax and EMS levy collections, which make up 89.1 percent of total revenues, and EMS transport fees at 9.1 percent. Total revenues in 2011 were \$22.2 million. Total expenses were \$22.7 million.

## 2011 Accomplishments

- ☑ Received a clean audit review from the State Auditor's office
- ☑ Maintained a \$22.2 million budget
- ☑ The recently adopted purchase card system saved not only time and money by reducing processing and mailing costs, but the district received a \$5,900 rebate from purchases

## 2011 Revenues





## **Staffed Stations**

**Station 11 ~ Headquarters Station ~ Bonney Lake**  
18421 Veterans Memorial Drive East  
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.

**Station 18 ~ Edgewood**  
10105 24th St. E.

## **Volunteer Stations**

**Station 15 ~ Lake Tapps**  
1605 210 Ave. E.

**Station 19 ~ South Prairie**  
350 SR 162

**Station 110 ~ Wilkeson**  
501 Church St.

**Station 113 ~ Bonney Lake**  
4824 Aqua Dr. E.

**Station 114 ~ Milton**  
1000 Laurel St.

## **Marine Rescue Unit**

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

Logistics/Warehouse  
27723 Sumner-Buckley Hwy.



**East Pierce Fire & Rescue**

18421 Veterans Memorial Drive East

Bonney Lake, WA 98391

phone: 253-863-1800 • fax: 253-863-1848

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