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www.eastpiercefir.org



East Pierce Fire & Rescue

"Where Compassion and Action Meet"

2012 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 & 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, Organizational, Responsibility, Accountability, Teamwork and Collaboration

Anticipating and Meeting Our Community's Needs

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

East Pierce Fire & Rescue

"Where Compassion and Action Meet"



2012 Annual Report

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Headquarters Station

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This annual report covers January 1 through December 31, 2012.

Letter from the 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 work hard for you, our residents.

In 2012, East Pierce crews responded to more than 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 by East Pierce crews at no out-of-pocket expense. That is a huge savings for our residents and often makes a difference in 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 2012, 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. They also taught CPR classes to 2,000 middle and high school students in the Sumner, White River and Dieringer School Districts. More than 2,000 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.

In 2012, we introduced a new "characterization" program to teach fire safety to our students. This was well received by the teachers and staff at the schools, as it provides valuable information to the kids in a way that is entertaining and increases their retention of these important skills.

Just like many families, businesses and other public agencies, the fire department continues to be challenged by the economy. The decline in assessed valuation throughout our district has resulted in a steady reduction in our revenue since 2009. Voters approved the Maintenance and Operations levy for collection in 2013 and 2014. This funding will be used to maintain our level of service.

We thank our voters for their support during these difficult times. We have done our best to control spending and look at more efficient ways to provide the same high level of services that you deserve. Not only have we reduced spending in all areas of the budget, but all of our members accepted concessions to their annual salaries for 2011 and 2012, demonstrating our personnel's commitment to helping the community during times of need. We're doing our best to live within our budget while keeping the service at the level our communities expect.

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.

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
Fire Chief
East Pierce Fire and Rescue

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. That same year, the Milton City Council voted to contract for services with East Pierce. In January 2011, East Pierce began providing fire, rescue and emergency medical services to Milton.



2013 Fire Commissioner's Meeting Schedule

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

Meetings start at 7:00 pm at the East Pierce headquarters station, at 18421 Veterans Memorial Dr. E., Bonney Lake. The public is encouraged to attend.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue



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 nearly 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.

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.

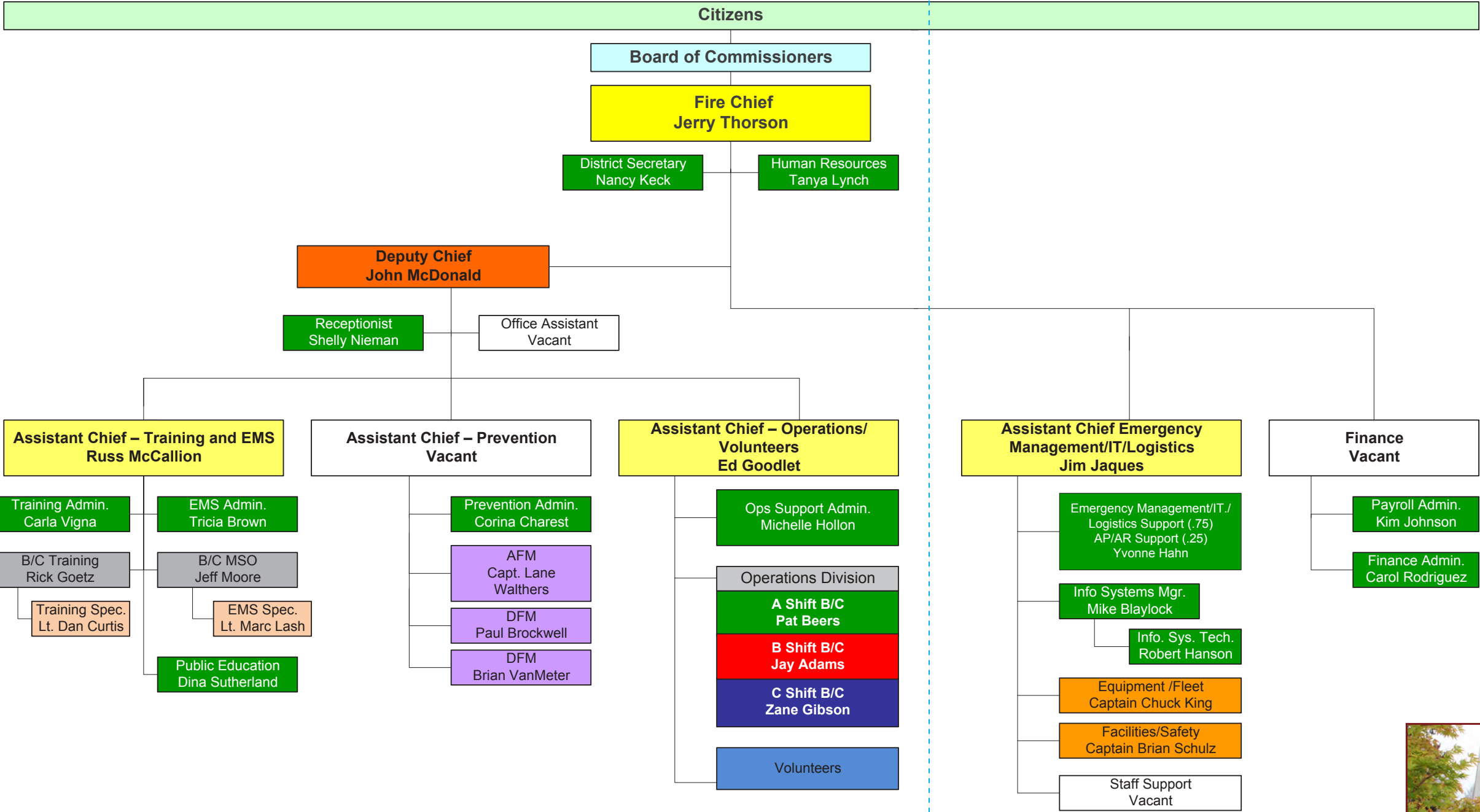
East Pierce Fire Commissioners serve six-year terms. Any resident, 18 years or older, who lives within the East Pierce service area is eligible to apply for an open position on the board.

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.

2012 Fire Commissioners

Rick Kuss, Chair	Edward Egan
Karlyne McGinnis	Raymond Bunk
Kevin Garling	Ron Scholz
Mike Cathey	Dale Mitchell

East Pierce Organizational Chart 2012



8,307
9-1-1 responses
in 2012

Nearly 152
Square Miles of Land Covered

Population
83,000
(Approximately)

71%
9-1-1 Responses That
Are Medical in Nature



East Pierce Receives Top Honors

East Pierce Fire & Rescue took home both of the top honors at the annual banquet of the Pierce County Fire Chiefs' and Fire Commissioners' Association. Assistant Chief Russ McCallion was named the "2012 Chief Officer of the Year," and presented with the "Chief Dan Packer Memorial" award. East Pierce Commissioner Dale Mitchell was the recipient of the prestigious "Bill Jarmon Lifetime Achievement" award.

The "Chief Officer of the Year" award was created in memory of East Pierce Fire Chief Dan Packer, who died while battling a California wildfire in 2008. The annual award is given to the Pierce County chief who displays high integrity, care, and compassion towards his/her department and the citizens they serve, while exceeding the expectations of peers and portraying a positive image for the Pierce County Fire Chiefs' Association.

The Association noted that McCallion has demonstrated the personal and professional traits that are the hallmarks of this award.

Among McCallion's achievements is his role in developing Pierce County's reputation as a recognized leader in EMS in Washington State.

McCallion says the award is especially meaningful since it was Packer who brought him to East Pierce Fire & Rescue in 2003. Previously McCallion worked as EMS chief for the San Francisco (Calif.) Fire Department.



The "Bill Jarmon Lifetime Achievement Award" is named in honor of William "Bill" Jarmon, an exceptionally involved fire commissioner for Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One. The annual award is given to the fire commissioner who most embodies Jarmon's community involvement and dedication to the fire service.

Mitchell is only the second person to receive the award. The first was Jarmon himself, when the award was created last year.

Both awards will be displayed at the East Pierce headquarters station for a year.

Two Long-time East Pierce Members Retire

Two long-time members of East Pierce Fire & Rescue retired in 2012. They were Assistant Chief Barry Barquest and Firefighter Mike Giefer. Both made significant contributions to the department and, although we wish them all the best in retirement, we hated to see them go.



Assistant Chief Barry Barquest

If you were to sum up Assistant Chief Barry Barquest's 32 years in the fire service in one word, it would be "safety."

Barquest favored the merger that created East Pierce Fire & Rescue, in part because of the improved safety for both the firefighters and the community. As he moved through the ranks, Barquest eventually became a fire marshal and an assistant chief in charge of safety, logistics, fire prevention and public education. He oversaw the safety of the firefighters and the community.

In the early 1990s, Barquest helped launch a county-wide program to identify and educate children who have an unhealthy interest in fires. Today, the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention program is an integral part of an initiative that works with children and their families to help prevent a tragedy.

More recently, Barquest pushed to get a state law passed to raise awareness regarding carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning among swimmers and boaters on the many lakes in our area. CO poisoning has been responsible for a number of deaths on Lake Tapps. Because of the 2006 law, many boaters take precautions to prevent an accidental drowning.



East Pierce Fire & Rescue Foundation Launched

In 2012, the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Foundation, in partnership with the fire district, announced the launch of this community- based, citizen safety program, dedicated to improving access to public safety education programs and developing compassionate outreach services.

The Foundation is comprised of a board of directors made up of citizens from throughout the district. The idea is for the community to team up with the fire department to support specific initiatives that benefit everyone.

Initially, the Foundation will focus on three initiatives. These are:

Purchase smoke alarms

The fire district can't buy smoke alarms to give away, but the Foundation can. It will purchase the smoke alarms and East Pierce personnel will install them free of charge for those in need. The goal is to make sure every house has working smoke alarms.

Underwrite the cost of materials and books for citizen CPR classes

For years, the fire district has offered CPR classes free of charge. However, due to budget cuts, the department has had to start charging for classes. As a

result, attendance has fallen. The Foundation will help offset the hard costs of the classes, including purchasing books and supplies, so the district can offer the classes, if not free, at least at a very low rate.

CPR is a critical component in the Chain of Survival, which includes immediate recognition of cardiac arrest, early activation of 9-1-1, early CPR, rapid defibrillation, effective advanced life support and integrated post-cardiac care.

The Sentimental Journey Program

This brand new program, set to launch in late 2013, is a collaborative effort between the Foundation, the fire district, and MultiCare-Good Samaritan Home Health & Hospice to provide transportation and medical oversight to terminally ill hospice patients who want to make one last local trip. The fire department will provide the medic units and the firefighters will volunteer their time to staff the unit. The Foundation will raise money to reimburse the fire department for the use of the equipment and fuel.

Additional information about the Foundation, and how you can help, can be found at www.eastpiercefirerescue.org.



No one will ever know for sure how many lives have been saved because of Barquest's singular focus on safety. His legacy is a constant reminder of his passion and dedication to the firefighters at East Pierce and the community they serve every day.



Firefighter Mike Giefer

Mike Giefer never forgot where he came from. Born in Sumner, he spent 34 years in the fire service, protecting the lives and property of his friends and neighbors. But he has done so much more. Whether it was driving a fire engine in the city parade or organizing the annual Easter egg hunt

for 20 years, Giefer dedicated himself to making Sumner a better place to live for all its residents.

When Giefer started as a volunteer firefighter in 1977, the Sumner fire station was in what is now the city hall. With only five career members, the department relied on the volunteers to respond to emergencies and staff the three fire engines. Back then, it was the place to be. "A lot of people wanted to be a volunteer firefighter," he says.

Giefer got into the fire service like many firefighters do – he followed his dad. He volunteered for fifteen years before being hired in 1990.

Throughout his career, Giefer quietly demonstrated that being a firefighter is more than just a job. His commitment to his community provides a lasting example to the firefighters who follow in his footsteps.

Operations

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

In 2012, the 104 career and 44 volunteer firefighter/ EMTs and paramedics assigned to the Operations Division responded to 8,307 calls for emergency services, a 1% decrease in call volume from 2011. 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, station, 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 2012, East Pierce operated 12 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, a logistic/warehouse and a boat house for the marine unit on 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 Drive East. It houses emergency response personnel, in addition to the administrative offices for the fire 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.



1 Boathouse for the Marine Unit

1 Logistics/ Warehouse



Trend: 9-1-1 Calls by Type Total Number of calls

Call Type	2011	2012
Emergency Medical Calls, (including motor vehicle crashes)	74%	71%
Service Calls	10%	10%
Good Intent	7%	9%
False Alarms	4%	4%
Hazardous Conditions	1%	2.5%
Structure Fires	1%	0.5%
Brush Fires	0.5%	0.5%
Vehicle Fires	0.5%	0.5%
Other Fires	1.5%	1%
Severe Weather	0.5%	less than 1%
Other	NA	less than 1%
Total Calls	8,362	8,307

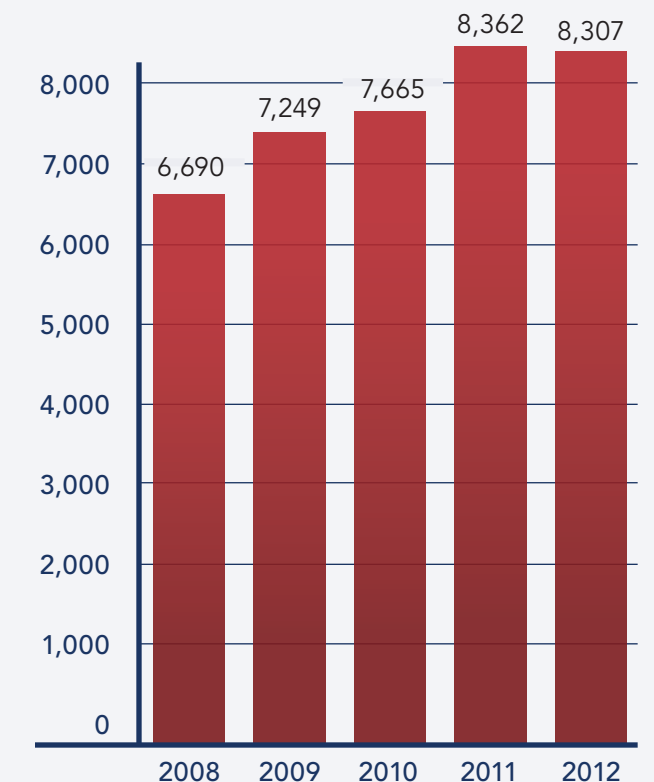


40+ Career Firefighter-Paramedics
64 Career Firefighter-EMTs
=104 Total Number of Career Officers and Firefighters

6 Staffed Fire Stations
4 Volunteer Fire Stations



Trend: Total 9-1-1 Calls for East Pierce Fire & Rescue



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.



to area hospitals—an average 11.7 patients per day. This was a decrease of 7% from 2011. During the recession, similar drops have been noted by other fire/EMS agencies in King, Pierce and Thurston Counties. Because of financial hardship and the loss of health insurance, some patients may simply not be calling 9-1-1.

The overall number of EMS calls is predicted to increase in coming years because of an aging population, who will have higher 9-1-1 utilization rates, and due to an increasing shortage of primary care physicians, which results in many people simply calling 9-1-1 and going to the Emergency Department when they can't see their own doctor. The Affordable Care Act which provides expanded health insurance coverage could also result in increased use of 9-1-1 and the EMS system.

Patients not transported to the hospital include a total of 1,465 "Release of Responsibility" and "Against Medical Advice" patients who may have had minor injuries or illnesses treated at the scene and chose to refuse further care, or decided to have family or friends take them to a hospital, clinic or doctor's office.

The EMS Division provides clinical direction, oversight and support for the department's EMS operations. EMS performance is analyzed through a quality improvement (QI) program. EMS Division staff work with the Training Division to coordinate and deliver EMS-related education and training.

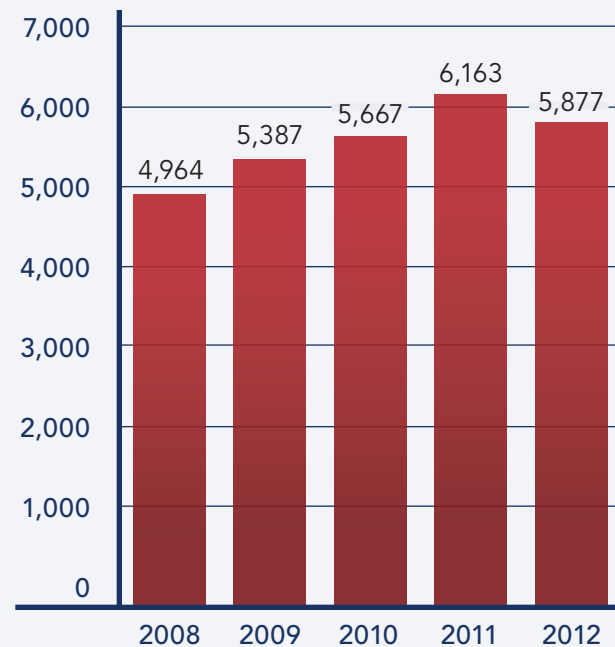
Each East Pierce fire engine, aid car and medic unit is staffed with firefighter-emergency medical technicians (EMTs), firefighter-paramedics or a combination of both.

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 an additional 1,500 to 2,000 hours of medical training in clinical assessment skills and advanced procedures used to stabilize critically ill or injured patients at the scene of an emergency or en route to a hospital. Paramedics are certified to administer intravenous fluids, give more than 40 medications, insert breathing tubes, electrically pace, cardiovert and defibrillate patients.

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

East Pierce units handled 5,877 EMS incidents in 2012—an average of 16.1 EMS-related incidents per day. East Pierce medic units transported 4,288 patients

Trend: Total EMS Calls for East Pierce Fire & Rescue



East Pierce has been providing ambulance services to residents since 2004, with a goal of improving continuity of patient care. 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. For the patient's information, this letter also includes a description of what the ambulance transport charge would have been.

The district recovers \$2,000,000 per year by billing private health insurance providers, 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

Accomplishment for 2012

Over the last two years, the EMS Division has taken multiple steps to improve our cardiac arrest (CPR) patient "resuscitation" program, which has resulted in dramatic improvements in patient survival. Our five year (2006-2010) CPR patient survival averaged between 10% and 20% per year, for witnessed patients found in a "shockable" rhythm. In the two year period since the resuscitation program began, survival of these CPR patients climbed dramatically to 41%.

- ✓ East Pierce has sent 15 paramedics and officers through a multi-day "Resuscitation Academy", sponsored by King County Medic One. The academy provides comprehensive training emphasizing delivery of "high-performance" CPR as part of an overall effort to improve patient survival.
- ✓ Improved Citizen CPR programs, during which East Pierce trained more than 2,000 people annually, has resulted in a high percentage of bystander CPR, improving a patient's chance of survival.
- ✓ The EMS Division, working with the Public Education Division, launched a new, free one-hour "Hands-Only" CPR training program for the public, focusing on essential life-saving skills.
- ✓ The EMS Division strengthened Public Access Defibrillator programs in the community by placing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in local city buildings and in Sumner and Milton police vehicles. The department supports school districts, municipal agencies and businesses by providing AED training and providing medical support and incident debriefs.



occasions where all available East Pierce units are already on calls – such as during a major fire or multiple incidents – private ambulances and units from neighboring fire departments may respond into the district for "mutual aid". Patients transported by these units may be responsible for paying these ambulance service charges. In 2012, a total of 44 patients (1.0 % of all East Pierce patients) were transported by mutual aid units.



- ✓ EMS Division instructors provide "high-performance" CPR and advanced CPR team management training for firefighter and paramedic crews.
- ✓ EMS staff provides intensive "case debriefs" for each cardiac arrest call, allowing the crews who respond to a CPR call an opportunity to review the CPR performance reports and critique their performance.
- ✓ EMS Division staff provided critical paramedic input and helped implement new, statewide cardiac, stroke and trauma destination guidelines designed to ensure that the "right patient goes to the right hospital in the right time".

In addition to focusing on improving CPR patient survival, the EMS Division accomplished the following:

- ✓ Led county-wide efforts to revise and update the Pierce County Paramedic Airway Management program, which has improved paramedic success in managing the airway and ventilation status of patients.
- ✓ Recertified the entire department in CPR and provided Advanced Cardiac Life Support certification courses for 42 East Pierce paramedics.

Open House



Fill the Boot



"Pink for the Cure"



Santa Visits Senior Centers



SplashTacular



Bonney Lake Days



Milton Pancake Breakfast



Edgewood Easter Egg Hunt



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.

The Volunteer Division coordinates the activities of East Pierce Fire & Rescue’s fire and emergency medical technician (EMT) volunteers. A total of 44 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 five volunteer stations, 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.



37+ Volunteer Firefighter-EMTs
 4 EMS-Only Volunteers
 +3 Firefighters-Only Volunteers
 = 44 Total Number of Volunteers

Whether it’s the weekend, a weekday or the middle of the night, volunteers are there to serve the community. The Washington State Board of Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers sets 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.



2012 Scholarship Winners

It is with great pride that the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Volunteer Firefighters’ Association announces the six worthy recipients of its 2012 Scholarship for Excellence.

Scholarships were awarded to Bonney Lake Senior Alise McCoy, Sumner Senior Carly Lange, and White River Senior Amanda St. John. All three plan to enter the field of nursing.

Since 2008, these scholarships have been awarded to a graduating senior at each of the high schools within the East Pierce Fire District.

To be eligible, students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and intend to enter the fields of firefighting, law enforcement, medicine or social work.

In 2012, the Association added a Community Scholarship for high school seniors living within the



fire districts boundaries, but who attend schools other than Bonney Lake, Sumner or White River. The winner of this scholarship is Breanna Clarke of Auburn-Riverside High School. Clarke plans to attend Boise State University and major in physical therapy.

The East Pierce VFA Family Scholarship recipient is Sam O’Leary, son of East Pierce Firefighter Brian O’Leary and East Pierce Volunteer EMT Deann O’Leary. He attends Washington State University and is studying Athletic Training, with the hopes of one day becoming a firefighter.

Bonney Lake Senior Meaghan Oakes was presented the first-ever Doty Community Service Award. This award is particularly special to the East Pierce Volunteers. It is named for Assistant Chief Jake Doty, who retired in 2010. Doty oversaw the Volunteers as part of his duties. Congratulations to all.



New! Quick “Hands-Only” CPR Program

For citizens who want to learn CPR, but don’t need a certification card for work, East Pierce Fire & Rescue launched a new, one-hour “Hands-Only CPR” course, in 2012. This free course focuses on essential life-saving skills, including “Hands-Only” CPR for adult victims and recognition of heart attack and strokes.

The fire district offers the new course once a month at its headquarters station, but will go to a homeowners association, church group, business or any assembly of 10 or more citizens in the district to provide this valuable training.



More Than
 2,000
 Citizens and Students Received CPR Training in 2012

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 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. It also allows them to work efficiently and effectively on a wide variety of

emergency scenes including house fires, vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, high-angle cliff rescues and hazardous materials incidents.

Firefighters are trained on a range of topics and skills from the most commonly used to the complex and unique. Crews practice rope rescue techniques, wildland firefighting, and swift water, underwater and trench rescue skills. These complex skills require frequent training and practice for members to maintain proficiency.

The Training Division is responsible for assessing training needs, developing a training calendar and curriculum, coordinating the delivery of instruction for specialized training programs—including special teams training and EMS training—and maintaining training records and certifications. Training Division members provide direct delivery of many fire and rescue training oriented programs. The Training Division also conducts evaluations of probationary personnel, crew-based training drills and assists in all testing for new employees and promotional processes.

In 2012, the Training Division was responsible for providing a total of 21,798 hours of training to the department's 104 career firefighters and 44 volunteers—an average of 147 hours per member per year (12 hours/month per average firefighter).

Most of the training personnel receive is conducted while they are on-duty. Evening and weekend training is 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-EMTs 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 is 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 our growing community is difficult. The long-term goal is to build a training campus. In the meantime, Training Division officers spend time scouting areas in which drills can be conducted. They also work with business and homeowners who offer buildings that can be used for drills and live-fire training.

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

21,798

Total Hours of Training in 2012

Assistant Chief for Training and EMS. The division is supported by the Training Committee which was 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, developing new training classes and curriculums, providing direction for the future, and leading specific training programs for department members.

Accomplishments for 2012

The Training Division's major accomplishment for 2012 was implementation of the "Blue Card" Incident Command Training and Certification Program. This training program was designed by retired Phoenix Fire Chief Alan Brunacini, and his colleagues to provide standardized training for officers and firefighters, who may serve in the role of "Incident Commander" at structure fires and similarly-sized events. The Blue



East Pierce Fire & Rescue



Card training program has become the standard command system for many Pierce County and Puget Sound fire departments.

Steps completed, or in progress for, East Pierce Blue Card Incident Command Training program:

- ✓ All 32 East Pierce officers, and a number of acting officers and firefighters who signed up of their own accord, completed a 50 hour on-line "Blue Card" training program.
- ✓ All of the officers then completed the Blue Card Command Training Simulation Lab and were successfully certified at the Incident Command 1 (IC-1) and Incident Command (IC-2) level. Since each simulation lab can only certify two officers, a total of 16 different simulation labs were conducted over seven months.
- ✓ All career and volunteer firefighters went through an initial four hour Blue Card orientation program to familiarize them with how the program will be integrated into command and fire operations.

Other Major Accomplishments Included:

Funds have been budgeted for 2013 to put all acting company officers through the on-line training program in the first half of 2013, with Blue Card simulation labs scheduled starting in late spring 2013. In addition to Blue Card Incident Command training, the Training Division accomplished the following in 2012:

- ✓ Working with Human Resources, developed an Acting Company Officer Task Book which will help prepare firefighters to work successfully in the company officer role. Each actor will be mentored by a company officer. The task books will be distributed in early 2013.
- ✓ Conducted a department-wide "Safety and Survival Stand-Down Week" in June.
- ✓ Coordinated two multi-day training modules on Ladder Company Operations for members assigned to Ladder 13.
- ✓ Conducted a critical live-fire training burn for more than 20 department members at a donated house located south of Sumner.
- ✓ Conducted a 40-hour training program for members assigned to positions other than the field (i.e. Deputy Fire Marshals, Logistics, EMS and Training Division Officers) to ensure basic fire and EMS competencies.
- ✓ Implemented monthly training "Topic of the Month" for 2012.

Fire Prevention

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

The Fire Prevention Division provides a 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 2012, 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 five dedicated fire safety professionals with oversight provided by the Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal.

The division has four plan review and inspection personnel, including one Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal, one Assistant Fire Marshal and two Deputy Fire Marshals. An Administrative Support Specialist provides assistance to Division staff and members of the public.

The Fire Prevention Division and is overseen by the Public Education Specialist. The Fire Prevention

end of the year. Commercial development continues to out-perform residential across most of the fire district; although there are isolated pockets where residential development remains strong.

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. Prevention Division personnel conducted 185 plan reviews and pre-applications in Bonney Lake, 12 in Milton, 23 plan Edgewood, plus 302 plan reviews in Sumner.

Plan review projects range from large commercial projects—such as the construction of the Jackson’s Mini-Mart and Gas Station in Edgewood; the a three-story Franciscan medical office building in Bonney Lake; the Maple Lawn Elementary School remodel; and several 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 and provided comments for other planning actions and special event applications.

Prevention personnel conducted 264 inspections in the City of Bonney Lake during 2012. A total of 411 inspections were conducted

by prevention personnel in the City of Sumner, with an additional 153 inspections conducted in the cities of Milton and Edgewood and the towns of South Prairie and Wilkeson. The inspections were primarily related to new construction activity, existing occupancy inspections, confidence testing, follow-up and business license renewal. The Fire Prevention Division staff also responded to complaints from citizens and referrals from other public agencies.

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.

Property development continued to lag in 2012, although there was a slight improvement toward the

48
Fire
Investigations



In previous years, due to a lack of adequate staffing within the division, many business owners were sent a self-inspection form they could 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 2012, 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 conducted 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.



East Pierce Fire & Rescue



828
Inspections

93 Residential Fire Sprinkler
System Plan Reviews

The Fire Prevention Division has five investigators who share duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

In 2012, the crews responded to 133 fires, ranging from small rubbish fires to commercial building blazes. The Fire Prevention Division investigated 48 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 for 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.

Accomplishments for 2012

- ✓ Completed the Maple Lawn Elementary School remodel project in Sumner, including inspections and final occupancy.
- ✓ Completed the Jackson’s Mini-Mart and Gas station reconstruction project in Edgewood, including inspections and final occupancy.
- ✓ Completed plan review and inspections for over 2.5 million square feet of new warehouse space in the industrial area in Sumner.
- ✓ Conducted 93 plan reviews for residential fire sprinkler systems in new single family homes in the City of Bonney Lake.

Plan Reviews and Pre-applications By City

Sumner 302
Bonney Lake 185
Edgewood 23
Milton 12

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, 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.

In 2012, East Pierce Fire launched a new program targeted at area elementary schools. The Fire and Life Safety Clowns present children with fire and life safety lessons during 25-minute assemblies at their schools.

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 Sumner 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, and Hands-Only CPR monthly.

Accomplishments for 2012

- ✓ Implementation of a citizen's Hands-Only CPR class.
- ✓ Implementation of an all-new Characterization Program for elementary-school age children.



40+
Community Events the Fire
Department Attended in 2012

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
- ☐ Free "Hands-Only" CPR Classes
- ☐ CPR and First Aid Classes
- ☐ Bicycle Helmet Sales and Fitting
- ☐ Mutli-Sport Helmet Sales and Fitting
- ☐ Life Jacket Sales and Fitting
- ☐ SafeSitter Classes

337 Bike Helmets
Sold in 2012

243 Citizens Attending Fire
Extinguisher Classes

108 Life Jackets
Sold in 2012

East Pierce Fire & Rescue Celebrates the 19th Annual Open House

East Pierce Fire & Rescue hosted its 19th annual Open House on Saturday, September 29 at the East Pierce headquarters station in Bonney Lake. The free, annual health and safety fair is an opportunity to showcase programs and services provided by the fire department and other emergency responders.

Parents and children tested their fire safety knowledge and purchased life jackets and helmets. Live presentations throughout the event featured the firefighters demonstrating life-saving tools such as the "Jaws of Life". A special audience participation portion involved a citizen fire brigade.



But for most kids, the highlight every year is the chance to play firefighter. Younger children suit up in firefighter gear to put out a "fire" and perform a "rescue." Older children are offered a more challenging course, shooting water from a hose at a target and performing a "rescue".



Join us for the 2013 Open House, September 28!

Innovative Safety Programs Sends Clowns into Schools



In 2012, East Pierce launched a unique, new educational program to teach fire and life safety skills to area school children. To make the presentation memorable, East

Pierce personnel dress in clown costumes, silly make-up and funny noses. Believe us, you won't forget these faces or their message!

Designed for kindergarten through third graders, the 25-minute assembly-style format features songs, lots of audience participation, puppets, sound effects, and, of course, the clowns "Backdraft" and "Highrise".

The lessons include what to do in case of an emergency, how to call 9-1-1, the importance of exit drills in the home, what to do if a smoke alarm goes off and how to stop, drop, cover and roll if



on fire. More importantly, the children seem to remember these critical safety lessons taught by our funny fire friends.

The troupe performed at all 18 of the elementary schools within the fire district, entertaining—and educating—nearly 5,000 students.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue has a long history of providing fire and life safety instruction to area students. The Fire Safety Trailer has been a mainstay at school and community events. For many years, the firefighters have gone into the local schools to teach everything from water safety to CPR.

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.

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.

From 2011 to 2012, the number of duty-related injuries decreased by 10%, for a total of 20 work injuries. The leading causes were lifting injuries. Operational (on-scene) and training injuries are largely attributable to call volume and expanded training activities.



Accomplishments for 2012

- ✓ A new Health and Safety Officer was appointed this year.
- ✓ Four new members were elected by their peers to serve on the Fire Department Safety Committee.
- ✓ Completed an annual safety inspection on all stations within East Pierce Fire & Rescue.
- ✓ Provided training to all members on lifting techniques and moving of patients.
- ✓ Two members received Health and Safety Officer training.
- ✓ Participated in public hearings on the new Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-305 – Firefighter Safety Standards.
- ✓ Completed 368 respirator fit tests for 158 emergency response personnel, per state law requirements. Each member was tested for the N100 respirator that is used on EMS calls and the Survivair SCBA mask used during fires. Seven Hazmat Team members were also tested in the specialized MSA SCBA masks used for regional hazmat responses. In addition, four fire prevention members were tested with masks to protect them during fire investigations.
- ✓ Tested all fire hose carried on all fire engines and emergency response apparatus.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management works closely with law enforcement and local, state and federal agencies to prepare 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. When area resources are depleted, our EOC can request resources from the EOCs operated by Pierce County and Washington State.

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.

Accomplishments for 2012

- ✓ Personnel who help staff the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) participated in several drills and exercises in 2012, including a trip to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute in Washington DC for a four-and-a-half-day exercise with officials from throughout Pierce County.

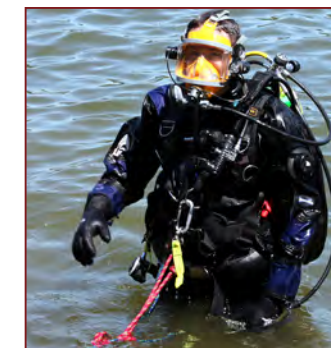
Special Operations Teams

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



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

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



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



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



Logistics and Information Technology

The Logistics and Information Technology Division supports day-to-day operations through the acquisition and maintenance of fire and EMS vehicles, equipment and facilities, and the procurement and distribution of supplies and materials necessary for the fire department to function.

At East Pierce Fire & Rescue, this division supports 12 facilities and 68 emergency response and support vehicles.

Logistics Division personnel order most of the supplies needed for the fire department, such as firefighter uniforms, firefighting gear and the tools they use to fight fires. While division personnel coordinate repairs, they typically don't do the repairs in-house. Since they do not have the proper facilities, they coordinate with outside vendors for necessary services.

An assistant chief supervises the two-man crew in charge of information technology. They make sure all the computers, printers and copiers are in working order, plus they keep the network and phone systems running. They are also responsible for the department cell phones, pagers and any other communication

equipment, including the electronic tablets the fire-fighters use for patient care reports during an EMS call.

Vital health information can be transmitted wirelessly from the medic unit to the hospital so doctors can prepare for a patient before he or she arrives, saving precious time, especially for patients experiencing a cardiac event, stroke or trauma. Mobile data terminals, used in both the fire and EMS vehicles, provide maps and updates as the firefighters respond to 9-1-1 calls.

Accomplishments for 2012

- ✓ In 2012, East Pierce converted an underutilized building into a logistics center to better serve the fire stations. Equipment and supplies are kept in one location, instead of being spread throughout the fire district, helping to improve inventory control and efficiency.

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

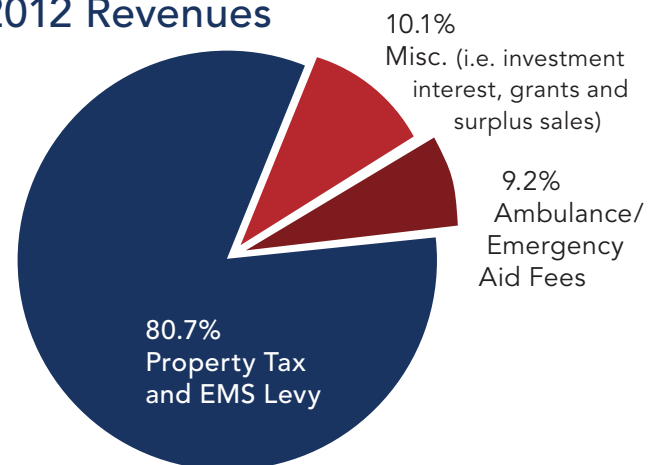
manages cash and debt. The division prepares the annual financial report, which includes detailed audited financial statements and statistical information about the department. Annual and quarterly financial reports are posted on the East Pierce website.

The two major sources of funding for East Pierce are property taxes and EMS levy collections (80.7 percent of total revenues) and EMS transport fees (9.2 percent). Total revenues in 2012 were \$21.1 million. Total expenses were \$21.4 million. An additional \$0.3 million was used from reserves to balance the budget.

Accomplishments for 2012

- ✓ In an effort to lower employee costs, the district reduced the Finance Division staff by not filling a vacant position. The remaining personnel took on additional work while maintaining the previous high level of customer service.
- ✓ Received a clean audit review from the Washington State Auditor's Office.

2012 Revenues



53 Teens Graduating from the SafeSitter Program



104 Station Tours or Classroom Visits in 2012



36 Multi-Sport Helmets Sold in 2012



58 Car Seat Inspections in 2012

Staffed Stations

Station 11
Headquarters Station - Bonney Lake
18421 Veterans Memorial Drive East
253) 863-1800

Station 12 - Prairie Ridge
12006 214th Avenue East

Station 13 - Sumner
800 Harrison Street

Station 14 - Lake Tapps
3206 W. Tapps Drive East

Station 16 - Buckley
10515 234th Avenue East

Station 18 - Edgewood
10105 24th Street East

Volunteer Stations

Station 15 - Lake Tapps
1605 210 Avenue East

Station 19 - South Prairie
350 SR 162

Station 110 - Wilkeson
501 Church Street

Station 113 - Bonney Lake
4824 Aqua Drive East

Station 114 - Milton
1000 Laurel Street

Marine Rescue Unit

Station 112 - Lake Tapps
2905 Sumner-Tapps Hwy. East

Logistics/Warehouse

Station 111
27723 Sumner-Buckley Hwy.