

# East Pierce Fire & Rescue

“Where Compassion and Action Meet”



HEADQUARTERS STATION  
18421 Veterans Memorial Dr. E.  
Bonney Lake, WA 98391  
(253) 863-1800  
fax: 253-863-1848  
[www.eastpiercefirerescue.org](http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.org)



# 2013

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



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Headquarters Station

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## 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 especially busy in the community last year and will continue to work hard for you, our residents.

In 2013, East Pierce crews responded to over 8,500 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.

This annual report describes many accomplishments by our personnel throughout the year. Most readers will likely be surprised by all of the services we offer our communities. While that is impressive, what is much more difficult to describe is the motivation and desire of our personnel, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to serve the public. It's hard to describe the effort by our crews as they respond to your needs, not just when the alarm hits, but during CPR/first aid classes, fire prevention efforts or in the classrooms of our schools. We truly have exceptional people providing compassionate service to all of our communities' diverse needs.

Just like many families and businesses throughout the country, we are affected by changes to the healthcare system. While some readers may not realize it, for many people, their entry into the healthcare system starts with a medical emergency and a visit from the firefighters. How our firefighters interact with the hospitals, and the ensuing treatment or care options by other providers, is critical to a positive outcome.

While we will continue to provide emergency medical services to our communities, it's important to understand that the changes to the healthcare system affect how we treat and where we take our patients. We are working hard with our local healthcare partners to ensure excellent medical care for those medical emergencies when you call for help. As your fire district, we will stay flexible and responsive to your needs to ensure a seamless transition from our paramedic units to the right medical care for the patient.

The future of your fire district is bright. We will continue to do our best to serve you, the residents and businesses, throughout the district. For 2014, we will continue to improve our operational readiness and performance. We will stay as efficient as possible, while being wise stewards of your tax dollars. Our leadership will continue to think strategically to ensure that we provide the best service possible.

As the nation recovers from the recession, 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 service that you deserve. Two of our bigger challenges continue to be funding and our low staff levels on our fire engines. We must address both of these issues in the near future.

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 the world around us changes, as fire dynamics and emergency medical care take on new dimensions, 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

East Pierce Fire & Rescue



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.

In 2013, the Milton citizens voted to annex with East Pierce, bringing expanded fire, rescue and emergency medical services to their city.

Today, East Pierce serves a population of approximately 88,700 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.



## 2014 MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

## 2013 FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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



Citizens

Board of Commissioners

Fire Chief  
Jerry Thorson

District Secretary  
Michelle Hollon

Human Resources  
Tanya Lynch

Deputy Chief  
John McDonald

Receptionist  
Shelly Nieman

Office Assistant  
Vacant \*

Assistant Chief – Training and EMS  
Russ McCallion

Training Admin.  
Carla Vigna

EMS Admin.  
Tricia Brown

B/C Training  
Doug Walker

B/C MSO  
Jeff Moore

Training Spec.  
Lt. Dan Curtis

EMS Spec.  
Lt. Brad Dyson

Public Education  
Dina Sutherland

Assistant Chief – Prevention  
Vacant \*

Prevention Admin.  
Corina Charest

AFM  
Capt. Lane Walthers

DFM  
Paul Brockwell

DFM  
Brian VanMeter

Assistant Chief – Operations/  
Volunteers  
Ed Goodlet

Ops Support Admin.  
Michelle Hollon

Operations Division

A Shift B/C  
Pat Beers

B Shift B/C  
Jay Adams

C Shift B/C  
Rick Goetz

Volunteers

Assistant Chief Emergency  
Management/IT/Logistics  
Jim Jaques

Emergency Management/IT/  
Logistics Support (.75)  
AP/AR Support (.25)  
Yvonne Hahn

Info Systems Mgr.  
Mike Blaylock

Info. Sys. Tech.  
Robert Hanson

Equipment /Fleet  
Captain Chuck King

Facilities/Safety  
Captain Greg Reinke

Staff Support  
Vacant\*

Finance  
Vacant \*

Payroll Admin.  
Kim Johnson

Finance Admin.  
Carol Rodriguez

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

152 Approximate Square Miles (Land Area Covered)  
88,700 Approximate Population Served

5 Chief Officers

12 Administrative Staff

1 Public Educator

1 Assistant Fire Marshal

2 Deputy Fire Marshals

4 Battalion Chiefs

\* Positions were left vacant in an effort to cut costs during the recession.

## EAST PIERCE FIRE RECEIVED NATIONAL HEART SAFE COMMUNITY AWARD

In March, East Pierce Fire & Rescue was presented the 2013 Heart Safe Community Award in the small community category (population less than 100,000) by the International Association of Fire Chief's (IAFC) EMS Section and Physio-Control, Inc. The annual award recognizes organizations that use creative approaches to implement and maintain systems to prevent and treat cardiac-related diseases within their communities.

East Pierce Medical Services Officer, Battalion Chief Jeff Moore accepted the award on behalf of the department at the Fire-Rescue Med Conference in May. Agencies and systems throughout the United States competed for the honor.

East Pierce was selected for the efforts it has made in implementing a comprehensive cardiac arrest resuscitation program that has dramatically improved cardiac arrest survival rates within the community. The department reports that cardiac arrest survival for witnessed ventricular fibrillation patients has climbed from 10% (2005-2010 average) to 38% in the last three years (2011-2013). "Survival is defined as discharge from the hospital, neurologically intact," Moore explains.

The comprehensive program included the establishment of "high-performance" CPR training for the firefighters, quality improvement programs and debriefs following all cardiac arrest calls.

A key component in improving survival rates is teaching citizens CPR. East Pierce augmented an already strong citizen CPR program by launching a new, free, one-hour "Hands-Only" CPR training program targeting older, at-risk populations who do not need full CPR certifications for employment. "This program is a great way to provide citizens with essential life-saving skills in less than one hour," Moore says.

East Pierce also provides low-cost American Heart Association CPR training for more than 600 adults per year at twice monthly "citizen" classes for the general public.

For many years, the department has provided free CPR training in schools located throughout the fire district. The department has expanded that program to include a refresher for 10th grade students. "East Pierce Fire & Rescue now provides training for 1,500 students per year," Moore says.

The results are impressive. "CPR training programs have resulted in an overall bystander CPR rate of 52% for the past two years," he notes. "For witnessed collapses, the bystander CPR rate is even higher, at 59%, some of the best results reported in the U.S."

According to the American Heart Association, for every minute of



delay in starting CPR on someone in cardiac arrest, the chance of survival falls by 10%. "Bystander CPR doubles a victim's chance of survival," he says.

The timing for implementing a new resuscitation program was challenging, since the fire department had already experienced a 25% drop in tax revenues by 2011, and revenues were projected to continue to fall. Pay freezes had been enacted and existing programs had already been cut.

In spite of the department's financial challenges, the leadership team and line personnel embraced the proposed development of a comprehensive resuscitation program, approving overtime for training and technology to improve CPR quality. "Although the economy made it more difficult to implement, success demonstrates these were the right decisions to make for our community," says East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson.

## CITIZENS VOTE TO INCREASE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS TO SEVEN

In November, voters authorized a request by East Pierce Fire & Rescue for a seven-member board of fire commissioners. "The increase from five to seven Board members will improve commissioner representation of our growing fire district," says East Pierce Fire Commissioner Rick Kuss.

With the merger of Edgewood, there were eight fire commissioners on the East Pierce board. By law, the

## EAST PIERCE FIRE EQUIPS LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS WITH LIFE-SAVING AEDs

East Pierce Fire & Rescue has armed local police officers in Sumner, Edgewood, Milton with an important lifesaving tool—automated external defibrillators (AEDs). "The theory is to get the AED to the patient as quickly as possible," says East Pierce Battalion Chief Jeff Moore. "Law enforcement defibrillation is a proven concept around the country. We're glad for the opportunity to partner with our law enforcement agencies."

The AEDs were obtained through a combination of grants received from the Heart Rescue Foundation and redeployment of older fire department defibrillators.

A person suffering a cardiac arrest related to heart disease, often has a heart rhythm known as ventricular fibrillation (VF). The chambers of the heart are contracting chaotically, prevent-

ing it from pumping blood throughout the body. If this rhythm is not corrected within eight to ten minutes, that person will die. Defibrillation is the process of applying a specially-designed electrical charge to the heart to stop VF and, hopefully, allow the heart to return to a normal rhythm.

Moore notes that, while CPR is important in keeping oxygenated blood flowing to the brain and heart, it doesn't restart the heart. "CPR buys time for the patient to be shocked, but it's the shock that saves their life," he says.

The devices are small, weighing between 3-5 pounds each, and will only shock patients whose hearts have stopped. The fire district provides annual training for the officers, plus medical direction and case reviews after the AEDs are deployed.



In 2014, the fire district plans to expand the program to include the Bonney Lake Police Department and the local division of the Pierce County Sheriffs Department.

In addition, East Pierce has worked with local school districts to ensure that all 22 schools located within the district boundaries are equipped with AEDs.

**6** Number of Staffed Fire Stations

**5** Number of Volunteer Fire Stations

**1** Boathouse for the Marine Rescue Unit

**8,519**  
Number of Emergency Calls in 2013

board must be reduced, through attrition, to five. Kuss says that the commissioners have learned a valuable lesson having a larger board. "We've found that it's been very effective, allowing for larger break-out committees, better representation and more eyes on the issues," he says.

The option to form a larger board was recently adopted by the Washington State legislature. "The legislature recognized that a larger board can provide better oversight," Kuss says. "We thank our citizens for their support with regards to this issue."

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

In 2013, the 104 career and 34 volunteer firefighters/EMTs and fire-fighter paramedics assigned to the Operations Division responded to 8,519 calls for emergency services, a 3% increase in call volume from 2012. While the primary function of the Operations Division is to respond to emergency and non-emergency calls, division personnel also participate in training, public education events, vehicle and equipment maintenance, building familiarization inspections to assist in pre-planning activities 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 un-staffed 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 2013, 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 five 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 Drive. 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.

This year, the Volunteers were placed under the command of the operations chief.

The table below shows improvements to the districts overall response times, reaction times and a significant drop in personal property dollar losses. **Response time** starts when crews are alerted by dispatch of an emergency to the time crews arrive at the incident scene. **Reaction time** is the time from dispatch to the time crews are responding or en-route to an emergency. **Total losses** are an estimated amount of loss as result of fire to personal property and/or structures.

## TREND: RESPONSE/REACTION TIME RESULTS FOR FIRES

	2012	2013
Reaction Time	1:43	1:35
Overall Response Time	6:43	6:34
Total Loss	\$1,601,469	\$823,470

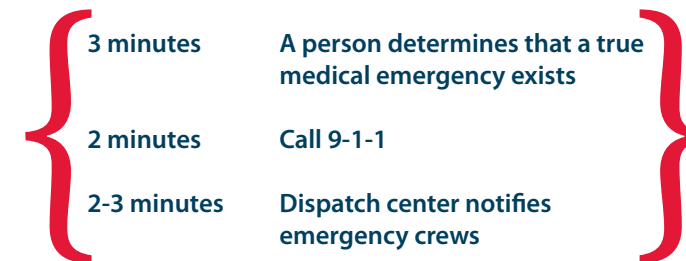
## RESPONSE TIMES

Response times for the fire service are important for two reasons—first, to save lives and second, to reduce the damage to someone's property.

During a medical emergency, there are several high-acuity conditions, such as cardiac arrest, shock and heart attacks that require immediate intervention. One important concern is the ability to get enough oxygen to all of our body's systems so they can function correctly. While some of these systems and organs can survive for longer times without full supply of oxygen, our brain, heart, kidneys, lungs and liver begin to suffer irreversible damage in only a matter of a few minutes. Even a person who has not stopped breathing is at risk of permanent harm if they do not receive immediate medical care from emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics.

The American Heart Association found that, to limit long term damage, basic care must be on scene within four minutes or less and advanced care provided by paramedics must be on scene within eight minutes or less.

A typical medical emergency 9-1-1 call can involve up to 8 minutes before emergency crews are even on their way.



An emergency crew's response to the scene can vary depending upon how far the emergency is from the fire station.

In the event of a fire, this time is equally as important. Studies conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology found that an average-size bedroom or living room, with typical furnishings, can become fully engulfed in flames in less than 8 minutes.

Smoke detectors will usually activate within 30-60 seconds of sensing smoke, provided there are working smoke detectors in the home. However, other research has found that the average time it takes for a person to leave was almost four minutes!

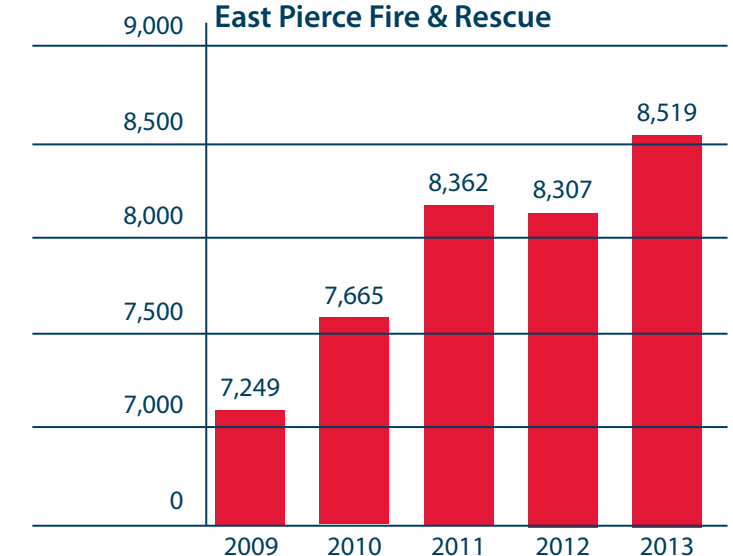
Considering that a fire doubles in size every minute, there is sufficient flame and smoke is produced to limit visibility and cause significant difficulty breathing, often resulting in the occupant being unable to completely exit the building. By the time the fire department is notified and responds to the scene, firefighters are arriving at the point where it is critical they have adequate personnel to quickly control the fire.



## TREND: 9-1-1 CALLS BY TYPE

Call Type	2012	2013
Emergency Medical Calls, em including motor vehicle crashes)	71%	74%
Service Calls	10%	9%
Good Intent	9%	7%
False Alarms	4%	5%
Hazardous Conditions	2.5%	1.5%
Structure Fires	0.5%	0.5%
Vehicle Fires	0.5%	0.5%
Brush Fires	0.5%	0.5%
Other Fires	1%	1.5%
Total Calls	8,362	8,519

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



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 emergency medical education and training programs.

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.

In the past several years, the number of medical emergency calls has increased significantly. In fact, 74% of the 9-1-1 calls that East Pierce responded to in 2013 were medical emergencies compared to 71% in 2012 and 61% in 2006.

The overall number of EMS calls is predicted to continue increasing in coming years because of an aging population, which will have higher 9-1-1 utilization rates, and a worsening 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 heavier use of 9-1-1 and the EMS system.

East Pierce units responded to 6,312 EMS incidents in 2013; an average of 17.3 emergency medical services (EMS) related incidents per day. East Pierce Medic units transported 4,555 patients to area hospitals, an average 12.5 patients per day. This represents an increase of 7.5% from 2012.

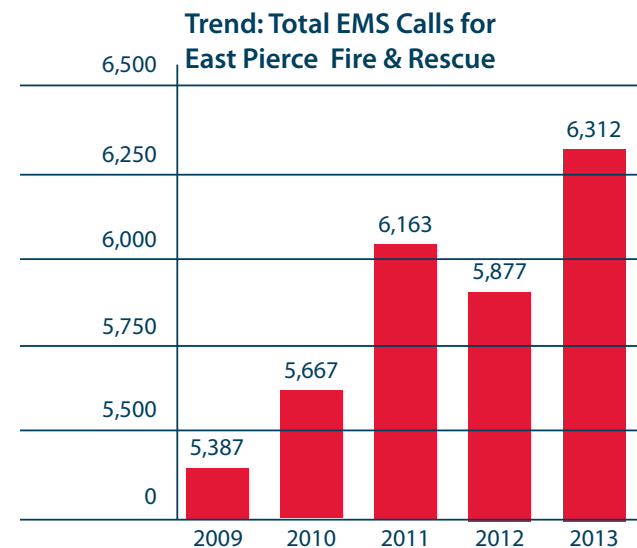
A total of 1,712 patients seen by East Pierce crews were not transported to the hospital. These include "Release of Responsibility" and "Against Medical Advice" patients who may have had minor injuries or illnesses treated at the scene, and chose to refuse further care, or decided to have family or friends take them to a hospital, clinic or doctor's office.

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 recovered \$2,102,000 in 2013 by billing private health insurance providers, Medicare and Medicaid. However, for district residents, insurance co-pays are "written off" against the EMS levy, providing hospital transportation at no "out-of-pocket" expense.

On 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 2013, a total of 34 patients (0.7 % of all East Pierce patients) were transported by mutual aid units.



## 2013 Accomplishments

- Participated with other shareholder organizations in developing collaborative, integrated healthcare opportunities at the local, regional, and state level such as "Community Paramedic" programs to improve patient and public health.
- Provided critical leadership in developing new state-wide clinical Key Performance Indicators. These performance measures will be used by our department to "benchmark" our clinical performance with other EMS agencies around the state, ensuring quality patient care.
- Led an aggressive Infectious disease and vaccination program. The program included training, and opportunity for flu vaccinations of East Pierce Fire employees and their families. By the end of the year, 68% of our career and volunteer employees participated in the voluntary vaccination program—increase of 6% over 2012 levels and exceeding the national average of 50% vaccination rate for fire departments.
- Took the lead in forming a joint purchasing group for eight Pierce County fire departments to purchase EMS supplies and pharmaceuticals. The improved joint purchasing power should reduce costs by 5% to 10% for each department, or a total of more than \$50,000.

## IMPROVING SURVIVAL FROM CARDIAC ARREST

Over the last three years, the EMS Division has taken a number of steps to improve our Cardiac Arrest Patient Resuscitation program, which has resulted in dramatic improvements in patient survival. A review of the five year period, from 2006-2010, of CPR patients with a witnessed collapse and found in a "shockable" rhythm, showed an average survival rate of less than 10%. Since the fire district implemented a comprehensive resuscitation program in 2011, survival (patients discharged home alive) for these CPR patients has climbed dramatically to 38%. This was accomplished by:

- Improving Citizen CPR programs.** We trained more than 2,100 people in 2013, resulting in a "bystander CPR" rate in the East Pierce jurisdiction of 58% for non-traumatic cardiac arrests, which is among the best in the U.S.
- Strengthened Public Access Defibrillator programs.** The EMS Division equipped all of the police officers in Sumner, Milton and Edgewood with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). These AEDs were obtained through a combination of grants received from the Heart Rescue Foundation and redeployment of older fire department defibrillators. More than 35 officers are now equipped with AEDs. Another 80 or more community AEDs are now also deployed throughout the district, including in schools, municipal buildings, churches and businesses.
- Working with our partners in dispatch:** East Pierce has worked with our local dispatch center to reduce the time to dispatch cardiac arrest calls from almost two minutes on average, to 60-90 seconds.
- Providing semi-annual drills:** EMS Division instructors conducted "high-performance" CPR and advanced CPR team management training drills for firefighter and paramedic crews.
- Providing case debriefs:** EMS staff provided intensive "case debriefs" for each cardiac arrest call, allowing the firefighters, and any police officers, who respond to a CPR calls an opportunity to review the CPR performance reports and critique their performance.





SANTA RUN



SUMNER PANCAKE FEED



OPEN HOUSE



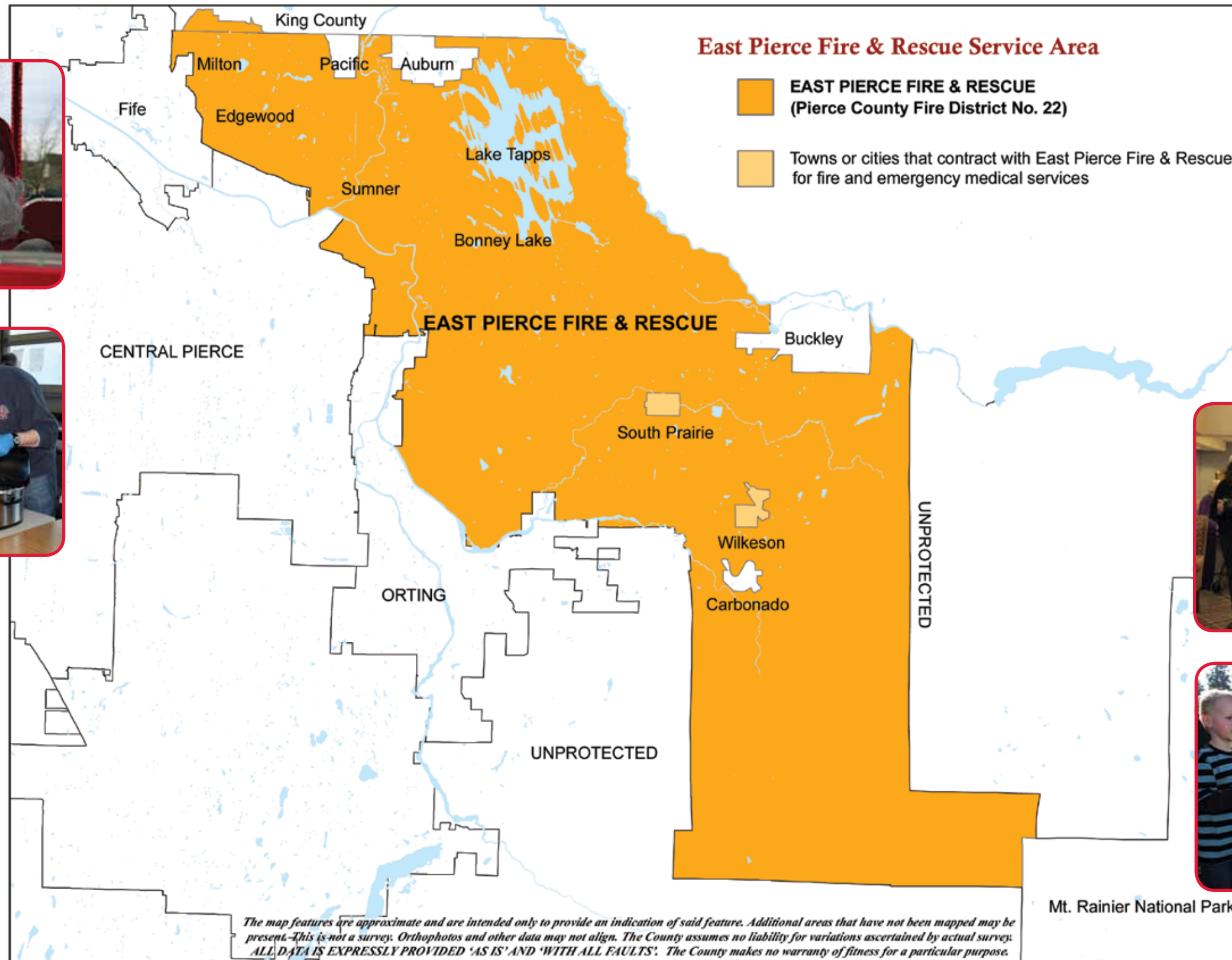
SPLASH-TACULAR



SANTA VISITS SENIOR CENTERS



EASTER EGG HUNT



**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 34 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 VEOs (Volunteer Experience Opportunity Programs). VEOs allow volunteers to gain valuable experience and training. Within the East Pierce Fire District there are five 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.



### 2013 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The East Pierce Volunteer Firefighter's Association announced the winners of its annual "Scholarships for Excellence".

The 2013 scholarship winners were White River High School senior Madeline "Maddy" Burton; Bonney Lake High School senior Chelsea Crawford; and Sumner High School senior Kathryn Wire.

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.

Burton entered the nursing field at Washington State University in the fall of 2013. Wire is a freshman at Montana State University, majoring in physical therapy. Crawford entered the field of psychology. She attends Whitworth College in Spokane.

East Pierce Volunteer Firefighter Sara Arneson says there were no eligible candidates for two other scholarships, including the community scholarship—which is awarded to a senior who lives within the fire district, but attends school outside the district—and the scholarship awarded to an East Pierce career or volunteer member, their spouse or dependent.

### 2013 Accomplishments

- Developed and implemented an updated program manual which addresses all aspects of a volunteer member's responsibilities and expectations.

**34** Total Number of Volunteers



## VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION ENLISTS THE SCOUTS

When the East Pierce station in South Prairie received a new sign, it became the first of a growing number of projects that involved Eagle Scout candidates and the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Volunteer Firefighters' Association.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable among the Boy Scouts of America. Requirements include earning at least 21 merit badges and demonstrating Scout spirit through an extensive service project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads and manages. Only six percent of all Boy Scouts ever achieve the honor.

According to East Pierce Volunteer Fire Fighter Sara Arneson, who coordinates the projects, the effort has been mutually beneficial. The scouts get a service project and the community receives much needed services and programs.

Here is a summary of the projects completed in 2013. The fire district thanks each of the scouts for their outstanding work.



### New South Prairie Fire Station Sign

Originally the Association asked Lake Tapps resident Luke Harlor, for help in refurbishing the wooden plaque that hung in front of the South Prairie Station. Harlor agreed to repair the sign as part of his Eagle Scout service project. However, once he inspected the sign further, it was clear that it needed to be replaced.

So, the 16-year-old designed a new sign, cutting, sanding and painting the wood before assembling the finished prod-

uct. He was only able to salvage the South Prairie emblem from the original sign. The sign was unveiled during a special event in May.

### Kiosks for Life Jacket Loaners

Just in time for summer, Eagle Scout candidate Chris Marks, 17, completed two new kiosks that hold loaner life jackets at each of the two parks on Lake Tapps. Marks gave the Allan Yorke Park kiosk a much-needed face lift and built an all-new self-serve kiosk for the Pierce County Park at North Lake Tapps.

The Sumner High School junior spent three months developing the plans and completing the project. The fire district uses the kiosks to loan out life jackets at both parks.

Previously, life jacket loaners were only available at the concession stand at the North Lake Tapps Park and at a self-serve kiosk at Allan Yorke Park.

"The loaner program was established, so nobody would have an excuse not to wear a life jacket," says East Pierce Public Education Specialist Dina Sutherland. The jackets at both kiosks are available in infant, child, youth and adult sizes. "We only ask that you return them when you are finished so others can use them," she says.

### House Numbering Assistance Program

Imagine that someone needs emergency help in the middle of a dark, rainy night. The firefighters are in the area, but because the house address isn't clearly visible, it's difficult for them to quickly find the right home.

It happens more often than you think. That's why the East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters' Association launched a new House Numbering Assistance Program, in cooperation with a local Eagle Scout candidate Gavin Vrandenburg, a 16-year-old Orting Boy Scout, from Troop DXVI.

"The goal of the program is to educate and assist citizens in our community on how to properly display their house numbers for a quicker emergency response," says Arneson, who spearheaded the project.

The signs—or delineators—offered to fire district residents for purchase at full price, by donation or free of charge are installed by the firefighters and scouts.

"We are excited about the program," says East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson. "Not being able to find house numbers slows our response, often when minutes count."

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

Training and education is essential to maintaining critical firefighting, 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 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 receive training 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 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.

It was another dynamic year for the Training Division. The Training Division was responsible for providing or coordinating a total of 24,569 hours of training for the department's 104 career firefighters and 34 volunteer firefighters—an average of 178 hours per member per year. (That's nearly 15 hours per month for the average firefighter).

Personnel receive most of their training while on-duty. Evening and weekend training is geared toward training the district's volunteer firefighters. Firefighters also attend specialized classes outside the department at community colleges, workshops and firefighting 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 the 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, hose lines 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. In the past, battalion chiefs rotated in and out of the position. In 2013, the fire district reclassified the training battalion chief as its own tested position with specific skills and knowledge, and a six-year commitment to ensure leadership continuity in the position. Training Battalion Chief Doug Walker successfully tested for the position and started in his new role on April 1, 2013. A lieutenant training specialist and an administrative support specialist are also assigned to the division with oversight provided by the assistant chief for training and EMS.

The training battalion chief leads the EPF&R training committee which was formed in 2011. The training committee consists of a group of dedicated 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.

## TRAINING DIVISION LAUNCHES FIREFIGHTER AIR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Training Division's major accomplishment for 2013 was the implementation of a comprehensive "Air Management" program for the firefighters. Air management involves using and understanding the limitations of our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), used while fighting a fire.

The Training Division signed an agreement with Albertson's grocery chain to utilize the vacant Bonney Lake store for training during May and June. The planning phase of this took approximately a year. During the entire month of June each and every one of our firefighters—career and volunteer—underwent a series of safety-oriented drills dealing with "air" and "air management".

Of all the skills that firefighters use in putting out structure fires, we are limited by one common factor: Air. Our training at



Albertsons was the first step in meeting national standards in air management training.

Multiple training drills were conducted including:

### 2013 Accomplishments

- Conducted two, day-long, live-fire training burns in acquired structures, providing critical training for approximately 50 firefighters.
- Conducted a series of collapse/technical rescue training drills for specialized local and regional technical rescue teams at an acquired structure.
- Hosted a regional Advanced Hose Handling class (called "Nozzle Forward") for more than 40 firefighters. Trained 12 East Pierce firefighters to serve as instructors for future training.
- Hosted two, county-wide Metro Drills on Water Rescue and Forcible Entry.
- Expanded our Blue Card Command training program for Acting Company Officers. This program provides standardized training for officers and firefighters, who may serve in the role of "Incident Commander" during structure fires and other, large-scale incidents.
- Began development of a three-year comprehensive training calendar.
- Researched and selected a new training software and records management program.

- **Air consumption.** This drill put each firefighter through a standardized set of operations in full protective equipment, including SCBA. The firefighter's time on air was calculated to see exactly how much air each firefighter used and how long their air tanks lasted. By understanding these two basic factors, fire fighters and incident commanders can calculate safe operating times, the number of firefighters needed on scene and the time needed to recycle crews.
- **Firefighter survival.** Each firefighter was placed alone in the center of the building wearing a zero visibility mask. They were given an SCBA that was low on air and asked to find their way out of the building. At no time were other firefighters allowed to witness or even find out about this drill. Each individual firefighter was filmed during the drill and results were shared with them. Learning what (and what not to do) in a safe environment could save one of these firefighter's lives one day. Additional training is being developed as a result of our findings.
- **Mayday.** This drill is a reenactment of a fatal fire in Phoenix Arizona, when a firefighter became lost inside a Safeway Store, ran out of air and died. The drill focused on self-rescue skills, communication, rescue crew response and incident command.
- **Wide area searches.** These two drills allowed firefighters using previously-learned skills to practice search techniques in a large building using thermal imaging cameras (TIC).

## 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 services 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 2013, 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 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 firesetter problem while out on an incident, from local police departments, and in many cases from the families themselves.

As the regional economy began to rebound in 2013, plan review and construction activity increased throughout the jurisdiction, particularly in the cities of Sumner and Bonney Lake. While com-

mercial development out-performed residential, there was steady improvement in both segments after several years of slow growth.

Tenant improvements and remodels in existing buildings were the primary drivers of plan review and inspection activity on the commercial side, although development in the Sumner industrial areas remained strong as well. While the amount of new residential construction increased throughout the fire district, the City of Bonney Lake's code requirement for the installation of residential fire sprinklers in all new residential occupancies resulted in significant residential plan review and inspection activity.

During the fall of 2013, development finally began in earnest in the Tehaleh (formerly Cascadia) development in the south central portion of the fire district. Fire Prevention Division staff worked with Pierce County staff to provide input on issues of importance to the fire district.

During 2013, prevention division personnel conducted a total of 732 plan reviews for development in Bonney Lake, Milton, Edgewood and Sumner. Reviews included permits for special events, pre-application conferences, plat reviews, SEPA reviews, site plan reviews, building plan reviews and plan reviews for fire protection systems such as fire alarms and fire sprinklers.

### EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE FACTS:

Fire Investigations: .....**28**

Inspections: .....**1,074**

#### PLAN REVIEWS BY CITY:

Sumner: .....**370**

Bonney Lake: .....**317**

Milton: .....**23**

Edgewood: .....**22**

Residential Fire Sprinkler Reviews  
in Bonney Lake: .....**194**

Juvenile Firesetter Interventions: .....**2**



East Pierce Fire & Rescue



Plan review projects ranged from large commercial projects to small tenant improvements; from single family dwellings to multi-unit apartment complexes. Some of the projects reviewed included the Renwood Apartment Complex in Bonney Lake, two Alzheimer's facilities, a liquid natural gas (LNG) vehicle fueling station and storage facility (the first in the state), the Sumner YMCA and several large concrete warehouse projects in Sumner.

In addition, Fire Prevention Division staff reviewed plans for two senior living facilities in Milton, numerous small-to-medium commercial projects in Edgewood and fire sprinkler systems for both commercial and residential structures.

Prevention personnel conducted 410 inspections in Bonney Lake during 2013. A total of 488 inspections were conducted in Sumner, with an additional 176 inspections conducted in Milton, Edgewood, 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.

The fire district is responsible for determining the origin and cause of all fires that occur within its jurisdiction. The majority of the routine investigations are conducted by Operations Division personnel, while more complex investigations are the responsibility of prevention division personnel 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 2013, the operations division crews responded to 153 fires, ranging from

small rubbish fires to commercial building blazes. The fire prevention division investigated 28 of those fires.

As the regional economy continues to improve, development activity is likely to increase at a rapid pace due to pent-up demand. The number one challenge the fire prevention division will face is the allocation of sufficient personnel resources 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.

**727** Number of  
Adults Receiving CPR Training

**1,420** Number of Middle  
& High School Students  
Receiving CPR Training



### 2013 Accomplishments

- Worked with the staff and city councils of Sumner and Bonney Lake to adopt the 2012 Edition of the International Fire Code.
- Completed the plan review and inspection of the first liquid natural gas (LNG) vehicle fueling station and storage facility in the State of Washington.
- Provided fire protection systems (fire alarm, fire sprinkler) training for all Operations Division personnel.
- Plan reviews were completed and comments provided to applicants within an average of 11 calendar days of being received by the Fire Prevention Division staff.

## 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, drowning, medical emergencies, such as cardiac arrest, and other preventable causes. The best way to do that is by providing education and training on fire and personal safety to children and adults.

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

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.

East Pierce career and volunteer firefighters participate in community events such as the National Night Out, Sumner Arts Festival, Daffodil Festival, Wilkeson Handcar Races, Bonney Lake Days, Edgewood Community Picnic, Milton 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, April Pools Day and Safe Sitter babysitter classes for children ages 11-13 years. We also offer regularly scheduled CPR and Basic First Aid classes at least twice a month, and Hands-Only CPR every other month.



**53** Number of Teens Graduating from the SafeSitter Program

**150** Number of Citizens Trained in Fire Extinguisher Use

#### 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Partnered with city and community groups to launch the Swim Safe Campaign, designed to reduce the risk of drowning on Lake Tapps. East Pierce joined the Bonney Lake Police Department to deliver water safety assemblies to all elementary school children in the Sumner and Dieringer school districts and sold and fitted life jackets during the school visits. The fire district also facilitated two water safety events—Summer Splash-Tacular and April Pools Day—that focused on open water safety.
- Unveiled a new, self-serve life jacket loaner kiosk at Pierce County's Lake Tapps North Park, and updated the existing kiosk at Allan Yorke Park.
- For the second year, the East Pierce Fire & Life Safety Squad presented safety messages to local elementary school children. The Life & Fire Safety (LAFS) Clowns

presented over 5,600 children with fire and life safety lessons during 25-minute assemblies at 18 schools, including home school students.

- Expanded the "CPR in Schools Program" include all public middle, junior and high schools within our jurisdiction—totaling eight schools and more than 1,400 CPR-certificated students.
- Received grant funding to purchase 2,500 smoke alarms, including 40 hearing impaired smoke alarms. The federal grant proposal is part of a comprehensive community risk reduction effort with home visits that focus on safety measures, such a working smoke alarms. The smoke alarm program is specifically intended for at-risk citizens, including older adults, low income families and those who reside in a mobile home.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue



### FIRE DISTRICT PRESENTS RECOGNITION AWARDS

The recipients of the 2012 Recognition Awards were honored at the August fire commissioner's meeting. The awards are based on efforts during the past year.

Firefighter-paramedic Rex Orcutt received the Mike Roberts Goodwill Award. The award is named for retired East Pierce Lieutenant Mike Roberts. It is presented to the firefighter who has done the most to embody selfless service. Orcutt and his wife Cindy organize the annual Sumer Pancake Feed that raises money to purchase Christmas gifts for local children in need.

#### OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Battalion Chief Doug Walker

#### CAREER FIREFIGHTER

Kyle Bylin

#### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER

Firefighter-paramedic Mike Gladstone

#### VOLUNTEER RESPONDER

James Walker

#### FITNESS AWARD

Firefighter Jason Russell

#### SUPPORT STAFF

Nancy Keck



Volunteer firefighter Sara Arneson was presented the Ken Thawsh Inspirational Award. The Thawsh Award is given to the person who most exemplifies the East Pierce mission statement – "Exceptional people providing compassionate service and rapid response to our community's diverse needs." Arneson was instrumental in helping to establish the annual East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters Association scholarship program for high school seniors in the area and heads the committee in charge of the program. She also coordinates the district's program with Eagle Scouts.

The Chief's Company included Firefighter-paramedic Kevin Stabenfeld, Firefighter-paramedic Vance Mettlen, Firefighter Jeff Collins, Firefighter Bill Sandlian and Volunteer Firefighter Luis Szarko. While all the other awards are voted on by the firefighters, the Chief's Company is determined by the command staff. Typically the awards are distributed during an annual banquet. However, due to cost-cutting measures, the banquet was not held this year. Instead, the honorees were acknowledged at the Board of Commissioners meeting.

### PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Free Life Jacket Loaner Program

Free Child Safety Seat Inspections

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

Life & Fire Safety (LAFS) Clowns

**45** Number of Offsite/Classroom Visits



**33**

Number of Multi-Sport Helmts Sold/Fitted

**351**

Number of Bike Helmets Sold/Fitted

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 2012 to 2013, the number of duty-related injuries decreased by 25%, for a total of 15 work injuries. The leading causes were lifting injuries. Operational (on scene) and training injuries are largely attributable to call volume and expanded training activities.

**57** Number of Car Seat Inspections



**243** Number of Life Jackets Sold/Fitted

## 2013 Accomplishments

- Appointed a new Health and Safety Officer.
- Completed annual safety inspections at all East Pierce Fire & Rescue stations.
- Tested all fire hose carried on East Pierce Fire & Rescue apparatus.
- Completed 315 respirator fit tests for 145 emergency response personnel, per state requirements. Each member was tested for the N100 respirator that is used on EMS calls and a Survivair SCBA mask is used during fires.
- Tested the HazMat Team members in specialized MSA-SCBA mask used for HazMat calls.
- Tested fire prevention members with masks to protect them during fire investigations.
- Reviewed the most current changes to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-305-Firefighter Safety Standards, which will take effect in 2014.

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAMS

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

### THE FOUR TEAMS ARE:

**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

## 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 agencies. 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.

## 2013 Accomplishments

- Emergency Management Assistant Chief attended HAM Radio Class; Washington State Record-Disaster Preparedness Training; Volcanic Crises Awareness Class; and the 2013 Vulnerable Populations Disaster Planning Conference.
- The Emergency Management Division conducted training for partner cities.

emergencies on the many bodies of water in the area and provides surface, dive and swiftwater response.

**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.



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, the Logistics Division provides coordination of the complex operation of supporting 12 facilities, 68 emergency response and support vehicles, and 126 employees in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. The Logistics Division deals with the procurement, storage, distribution, maintenance and replacement of District materials and equipment and maintains the fire stations inside and out.

Logistics personnel order supplies needed for the fire department, such as firefighter uniforms, firefighting gear, and the tools they use to fight fires. They have been certified to repair the self-contained breathing apparatus and taught to program radios. They repair items they can in-house like vehicle exhaust systems to reduce costs of hiring the work out. Major items such as apparatus, HVAC, roof repairs and services are coordinated by the Logistics Division.

The Logistics Division Assistant Chief oversees Information Services, which is comprised of an Information Systems Manager and Technician. 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 firefighters use for patient care reports during an EMS call.

Vital health information can be transmitted wirelessly from the tablet to the hospital, 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.

### 2013 Accomplishments

- To reduce costs, moved personnel from a leased building to district-owned facilities.
- Moved fire marshals from Sumner City Hall to another city-owned building.
- Installed idle reduction equipment on medic units and fire engines as part of a Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and Department of Ecology grant program to reduce emissions and fuel consumption.
- Developed an apparatus tracking system to assist crews in locating reserve emergency apparatus when needed.
- Completed Public Education Safety Trailer improvements.
- Updated insurance valuations on facilities and apparatus for increased coverage and reduced costs.
- Assisted Water Rescue Teams with the purchase of a new boat and boat motor.
- Replaced furnaces at two fire stations.

STAFFED STATIONS		VOLUNTEER STATIONS	
<b>STATION 11</b> <b>Headquarters Station</b> Bonney Lake 18421 Veterans Memorial Drive East 253) 863-1800		<b>STATION 15</b> - Lake Tapps 1605 210 Avenue East	<b>STATION 114</b> - Milton 1000 Laurel Street
<b>STATION 12</b> - Prairie Ridge 12006 214th Avenue East	<b>STATION 16</b> - Buckley 10515 234th Avenue East	<b>STATION 19</b> - South Prairie 350 SR 162	<b>STATION 111</b> 27723 Sumner-Buckley Hwy.
<b>STATION 13</b> Sumner 800 Harrison Street	<b>STATION 18</b> - Edgewood 10105 24th Street East	<b>STATION 110</b> - Wilkeson 501 Church Street	<b>Boathouse -Marine Unit</b> 2905 Sumner-Tapps Hwy. East
<b>STATION 14</b> - Lake Tapps 3206 W. Tapps Drive East		<b>STATION 113</b> - Bonney Lake 4824 Aqua Drive East	



## 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.

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

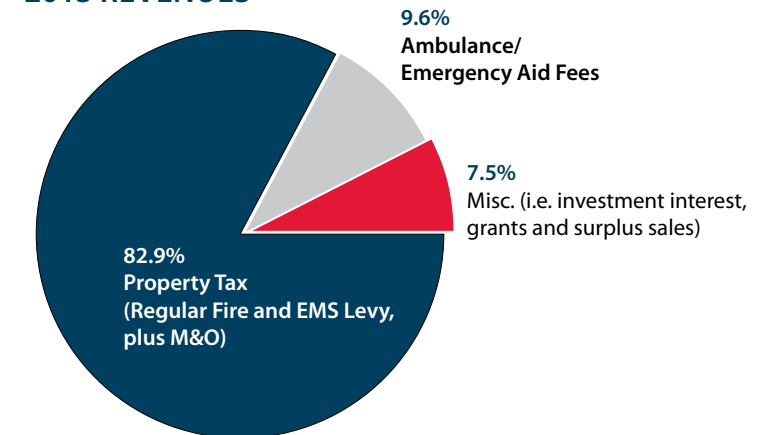
The division ensures compliance with policy, state and federal law, and generally accepted accounting practices. It prepares the annual budget and monthly financial statements, reconciles bank accounts and manages cash and debt. The division prepares the annual financial report, which includes detailed 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 collections on property taxes and EMS levy (82.9 percent of total revenues) and EMS transport fees (9.6 percent).

The Maintenance and Operations Levy funds provided 16.4% of the funds included in the property tax receipts, or 13.6% of our total revenue. The two-year M&O Levy was first implemented in 2013 and expires at the end of 2014 unless it is renewed by a public vote in 2014.

Total revenues in 2013 were \$22.0 million. Total expenses were \$22.1 million. An additional \$0.1 million was used from reserves to balance the budget.

### 2013 REVENUES



### 2013 Accomplishments

- Received a clean audit review from the Washington State Auditor's Office.
- Revised accounting codes to comply with the new framework mandated by the Washington State Auditor's Office (528 expense and revenue codes across all funds).
- Entered approximately 6,190 transaction lines in posting accounts payable and revenue for the year (an average of 476 lines per month, and each transaction requires multiple field entries).
- Submitted regulatory documents to federal agencies and private corporations (such as Dun & Bradstreet) as required for disclosure and oversight (bond issue and general financial).
- Our payroll administrator processed 170 payroll files throughout 2013. This consisted of 126 career/administrative employees, 34 volunteers and 8 board commissioners. The payroll administrator is also responsible for billing/collecting funds for personnel and equipment from our State and Federal Emergency Mobilizations. The total amount billed/collected in 2013 was \$48,397.71.

### 2013 EXPENDITURES

