



“Where Compassion and Action Meet”

2015

ANNUAL REPORT





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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Where Compassion and Action Meet

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Citizens,

As your new Fire Chief, it's my pleasure to present this annual report to you on behalf of all the dedicated men and women of East Pierce Fire & Rescue. Our personnel were especially busy in the community last year and will continue to work hard for you.

In 2015, East Pierce crews responded to 9,835 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. Private insurance companies, Medicare and Medicaid are billed for the transport, but the cost of the out-of-pocket expenses is covered by the EMS Levy that is supported by the voters.



This annual report describes many accomplishments by our personnel throughout the year. You may be surprised by all of the services we offer our communities. We are fortunate to have highly motivated firefighters and staff that provide excellent service. Not just when dispatched to an alarm, but in providing other services such as CPR/first aid classes, fire prevention and education at our schools, and involvement in other public events.

Over the last several years, the recession caused us to tighten our belts, and cut back in some areas. We still have unfilled positions in administrative staff, and most of all; we are understaffed on our fire engines. Over time we hope to get these positions filled. Having understaffed engine companies limits the actions that firefighters can take when first on the scene of a fire. Meaning, they may have to wait until a second fire engine arrives before attempting to rescue anyone trapped inside the building.

Already understaffed, we are looking to address our rapidly growing call volume which is driven by the rapid growth in our area. Ultimately we will require additional firefighters along with new facilities to address these needs.

Despite these challenges, we are committed to providing the best service possible, given our current resources. We will continue to be fiscally responsible and work efficiently to stretch our funding as far as possible. Soon, we will complete the development of capital plans and present proposals to the public, so we can meet the future needs of our community.

I am extremely proud to have become part of the East Pierce Fire & Rescue family. We have been through some hard times, but have emerged better for it. This group of dedicated professionals (career and volunteer firefighters alike) stand ready to serve you and your family.

Every day, these men and women live up to our motto: Where Compassion and Action Meet.

Bud Backer
Fire Chief
East Pierce Fire & 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.

In 2013, the Milton citizens voted to become a part of East Pierce, bringing expanded fire, rescue and emergency medical services to their city.

Today, East Pierce serves a population of approximately 90,000 residents living in and around Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, the Ridge Communities, South Prairie, Edgewood and Milton. The district covers nearly 153 square miles and protects residents from 11 stations – six staffed and four volunteer, plus a 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.



2016 BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

	Term Expires
Dale Mitchell, Chair	2019
Mike Cathey	2021
Edward Egan	2017
Kevin Garling	2019
Pat McElligott	2021
Jon Napier	2021
Victor Proulx	2017

2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

JAN. 19	FEB. 16	MAR. 15*	APR. 19
MAY 17	JUNE 21	JULY 19	AUG. 16
SEPT. 20	OCT. 18	NOV. 15	DEC. 20

** Meeting held at Station 118 (10105 24th St E, Edgewood)*

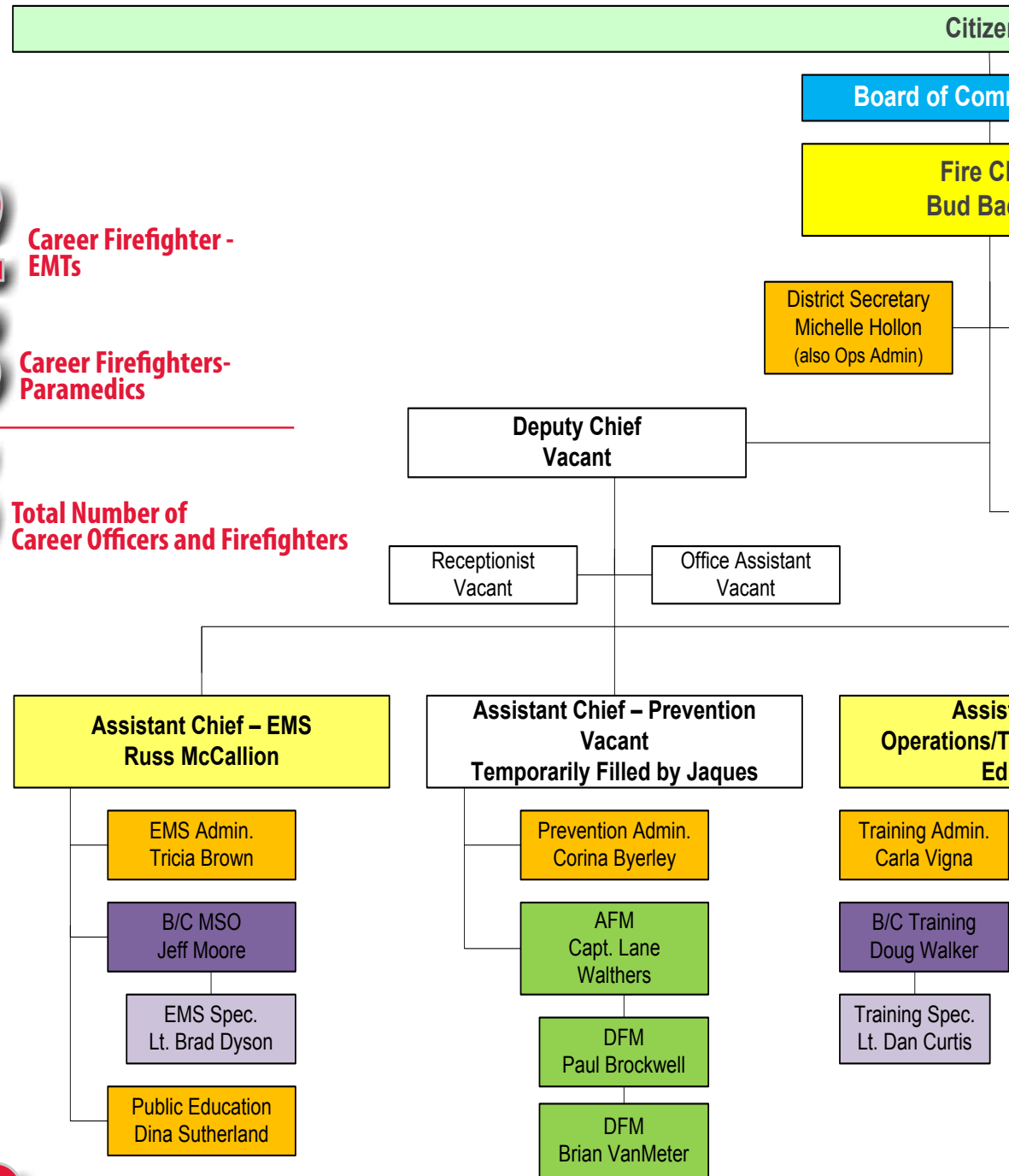
The general meetings start at 7 p.m. at the East Pierce headquarters station, 18421 Veterans Memorial Drive East in Bonney Lake. The public is encouraged to attend.

East Pierce Organ

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 & 62 & \text{Career Firefighter - EMTs} \\
 + & 43 & \text{Career Firefighters-Paramedics} \\
 \hline
 = & 105 & \text{Total Number of Career Officers and Firefighters}
 \end{array}$$

10 Administrative Staff

1 Public Educator



Organizational Chart

ns

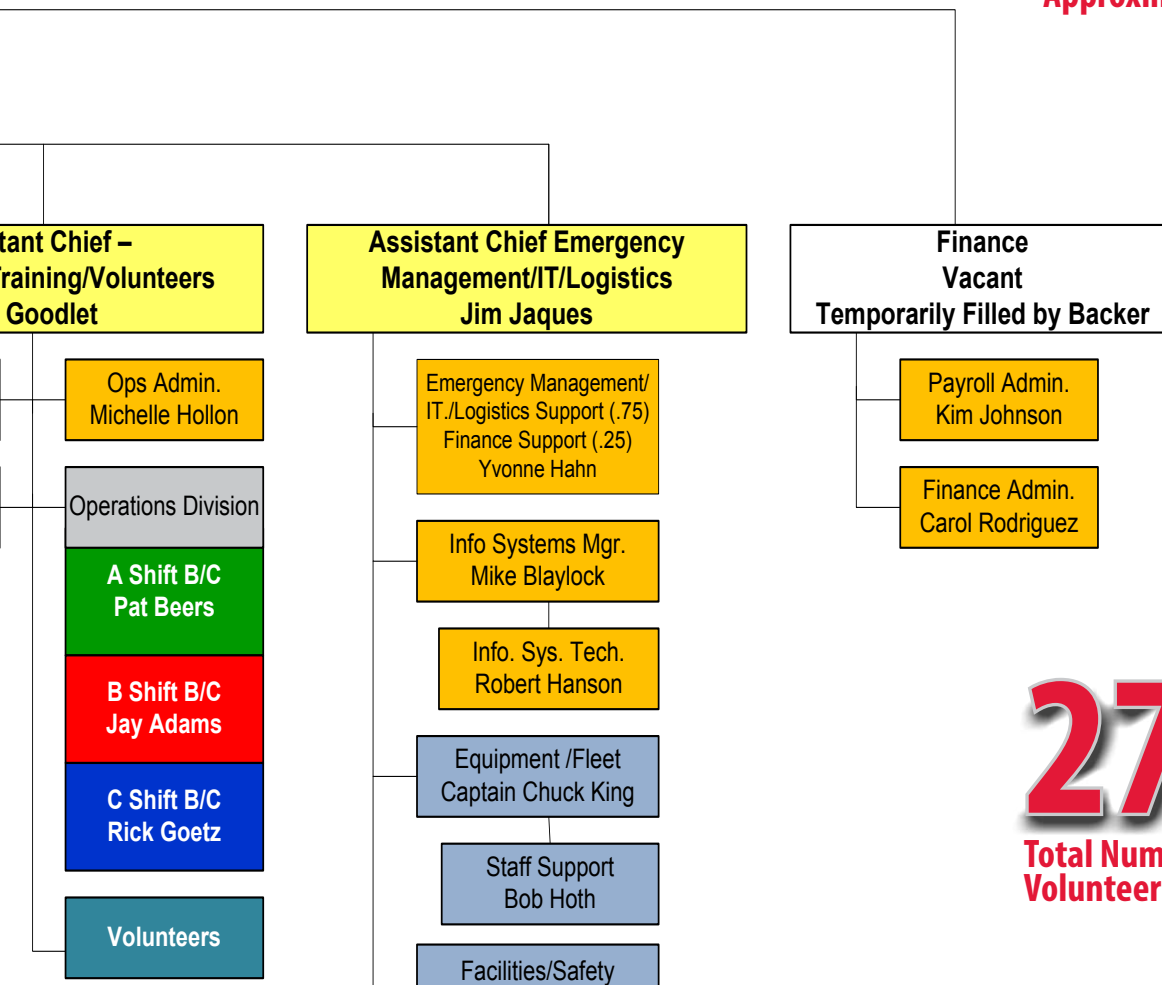
Commissioners

Chief
BackerHuman Resources
Tanya Lynch

153 Approximate Square Miles
(Land Area Covered)

90,000

Approximate Population Served



27

Total Number of
Volunteer Firefighters

5 Battalion Chiefs

East Pierce Fire & Rescue Selects New Chief

Last May, the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners announced the results of a national search to hire a new fire chief. In a unanimous decision, the commissioners voted to issue an offer of employment to E. L. "Bud" Backer, deputy chief of Eastside Fire and Rescue, in Issaquah.

The new chief replaced Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson who retired at the end of June after more than 40 years in the fire service.

East Pierce Commissioner Chair Dale Mitchell says that the board was impressed with the variety of Backer's experience. In addition to his current position, Backer served as deputy chief for Woodinville Fire and Life Safety for over nine years. Prior to that, he was with King County Fire District 45, in Duvall, Washington, where he began his career as a firefighter, eventually advancing through the ranks to fire chief.



Backer has a bachelor's degree in Industrial Technology from Eastern Washington University; a Master of Science degree in Fire Service Leadership from Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Arizona; and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.

"Bud is skilled in all aspects of the job. He embodies all the things we are looking for," Mitchell says.



Communities Receive Positive Public Protection Grades

A recent evaluation by the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB) of the fire suppression provided to communities served by East Pierce Fire & Rescue resulted in several cities receiving improved Public Protection grades.

The biggest improvements were for the City of Milton, which went from a Class 6 Public Protection Classification (PPC) to a Class 4, and the Town of South Prairie, which improved from a Class 7 to a Class 5. The City of Bonney Lake received a Class 4 grade, an improvement from its previous Class 5 rating. Grades for the cities of Edgewood and Sumner remained the same at Class 5 and Class 4, respectively.

East Pierce Receives Mission Lifeline Award

In May, East Pierce Fire & Rescue received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Silver Award for implementing operational and quality improvement procedures that expedite treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks. East Pierce was one of four departments in the state to receive this recognition.

East Pierce was recognized for its early use and interpretation of 12-lead ECGs, which can determine if a heart attack is occurring, and for



following protocols derived from national guidelines. The correct tools and training allow firefighter-paramedics to rapidly identify the type of heart attack and alert the hospital that an incoming patient will need immediate treatment in a cardiac lab. This gives the hospital time to assemble a specialized cardiac team to treat the patient.

"EMTs and paramedics play a vital part in the system of care for those who have heart attacks," said Nancy Brown, Chief Executive Officer of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. "Since they often are the first medical point of contact, they can shave precious minutes of life-saving treatment time. We applaud East Pierce for achieving this award that shows it meets evidence-based guidelines in the treatment of people who have severe heart attacks."



East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson receives accolades at his retirement party.



East Pierce firefighters at the 9/11 Dedication in Milton.



East Pierce Lt. Matt Gilbert receives his lieutenant pin from his children during his promotional ceremony.

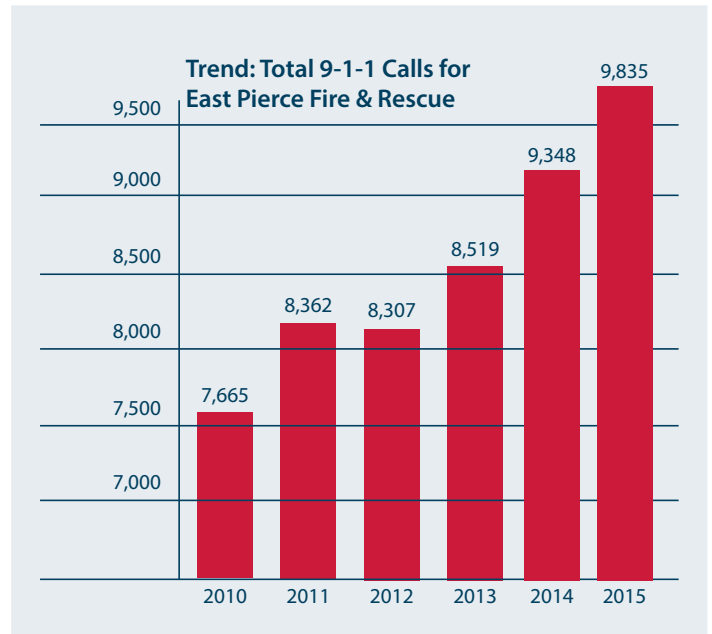
THE OPERATIONS DIVISION PROVIDES FIRE SUPPRESSION, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND TECHNICAL RESCUE RESPONSE FOR THE COMMUNITIES SERVED BY EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE.

In 2015, the 105 career and 27 volunteer firefighters/ EMTs and paramedics assigned to the Operations Division responded to 9,835 calls for emergency services, a 5% increase in call volume from 2014. While the primary function of the Operations Division is to respond to emergency and non-emergency calls, division personnel also conduct building familiarization inspections to assist in pre-planning activities and identify potential fire code problems.

While on duty, the firefighters participate in training, public education events, vehicle and equipment maintenance and other routine activities.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a combination department utilizing both career and volunteer firefighters to handle a wide variety of emergencies. Career firefighters and paramedics are automatically dispatched to calls throughout the 153 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 2015, East Pierce operated 11 fire stations. Six of the stations are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by career firefighters. The others include four volunteer stations, and a water rescue facility located on the north end of Lake Tapps.



A regional 9-1-1 dispatch center, South Sound 911, sends the appropriate fire and EMS units from the fire stations closest to the emergency call.

The headquarters fire station – Station 111 – is located in Bonney Lake, at 18421 Veterans Memorial Drive East. It houses emergency response personnel in addition to the administrative offices for the district.

The assistant chief of field operations oversees this division. The 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.



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 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.

Trend: Response Times

Year	Dispatch to Arrival (in minutes)
2010	6:27
2011	6:22
2012	6:26
2013	6:21
2014	6:36
2015	6:43



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

Response time starts when crews are alerted by dispatch of an emergency to the time crews arrive at the incident scene.

Response times have increased due to the rising call volume and reliance on "second in" units responding to calls, where the closest unit was already on a call.

Trend: 9-1-1 Calls by Type

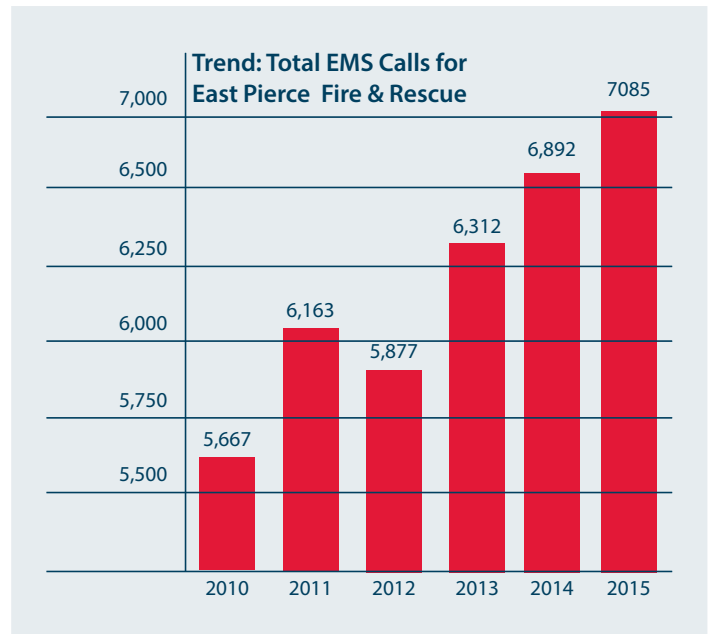
Call Type	2015
Emergency Medical Calls, including motor vehicle crashes)	7,085
Good Intent	952
Service Calls	839
False Alarms	421
Hazardous Conditions	170
Brush Fires	128
Other Fires	82
Structure Fires	76
Vehicle Fires	61
Severe Weather	12
Other Calls	9
Total Calls	9,835

THE EMS DIVISION PROVIDES CLINICAL DIRECTION, MEDICAL 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 firefighter paramedics to prepare patients for transport to the hospital. Paramedics have an additional 1,500 to 2,000 hours of medical training focused on clinical assessment skills and performance of advanced procedures used to stabilize critically ill or injured patients. Paramedics are certified to administer intravenous fluids, give more than 40 medications, insert breathing tubes, and provide electrical pacing, cardioversion and defibrillation.

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 emergency medical service calls has increased significantly. In fact,



EMS calls now make up 72% of all 9-1-1 calls handled by East Pierce.

East Pierce units responded to 7,085 EMS incidents in 2015—an average of 19.4 emergency medical services (EMS) related incidents per day. East Pierce medic units (ambulances) transported 5,134 patients to area hospitals. We transported an average of 14.1 patients per day—an increase of 2.8 % patient transports from 2014 and a 12.7% cumulative three-year increase in EMS patient transports.

More than 1,100 were transported by way of Basic Life Support. Another 4,000 patients required critical Advanced Life Support.

The EMS call volume for East Pierce Fire & Rescue is predicted to increase sharply in coming years, for reasons including:

- An increase in senior housing and multi-family developments in our jurisdiction, especially Milton and Edgewood.
- The aging "Baby Boomer" generation: Patients over age 65 call 9-1-1 at a rate up to 2 to 3 times higher than younger people.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

- East Pierce was one of two fire departments asked by the Washington Department of Health to participate in a three-year study designed to improve stroke patient care and outcomes. This federal-grant-funded-study provides an opportunity for East Pierce firefighters and paramedics to partner with hospitals and other healthcare agencies to help determine pre-hospital best practices for assessing and treating stroke patients. Each year, between 150 and 200 East Pierce residents will have a stroke. Almost 700,000 people suffer from a stroke each year in the United States, and it is the 5th leading cause of death, and leading cause of disabilities in the nation.
- EMS Division staff members, supporting crews in the field, continue to work with the North-

west Physician Group and CHI Franciscans, to identify frequent 9-1-1 callers and provide referrals to nurse case managers. The nurse case managers work with these “at risk” patients to see if additional medical or social services can be provided to help patients in continuing to live independently, while reducing unnecessary 9-1-1 calls and Emergency Department visits. While data is still being analyzed, it appears that this partnership, has eliminated 150 or more 9-1-1 calls this year through the case management program.

- Due to the efforts of East Pierce firefighters, 26 patients in cardiac arrest since 2011 have survived to be discharged from the hospital to family and friends.

- Increasing shortages of primary care physicians which results in many people calling 9-1-1 and going to the ER when they can't see their own doctor
- The expansion of health care coverage, with many newly insured patients who are unable to find a primary care physician, is resulting in increased use of 9-1-1 and the EMS system.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue has provided emergency ambulance service to district residents for more than 11 years, with the goal of providing improved continuity of clinical care at no “out-of-pocket” cost to fire district residents. We estimate that district residents save between \$700,000 and \$1,200,000 per year.

The district does bill, on the patient's behalf, private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and other insurance providers. In 2015, East Pierce received \$2.4 million in ambulance transport revenues. However, for district residents, insurance co-pays are “written off” against the EMS levy, providing hospital transportation at no “out-of-pocket” expense to the individual patient.

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.

When all available East Pierce units are already on calls—such as during a major fire—private ambulances and units from neighboring fire departments may respond into the district for “mutual aid”.

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE SAID GOOD-BYE TO TWO CHIEFS AND A FIRE COMMISSIONER WHO RETIRED IN 2015. ALL HAD SERVED THE PUBLIC FOR MANY YEARS. WE WISH EACH OF THEM A LONG AND RELAXING RETIREMENT. THEY DESERVE IT.

Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson

For six years, East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson led the fire district that serves approximately 90,000 residents living in and around Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, South Prairie, Edgewood and Milton. He took over the top position following the death of Fire Chief Dan Packer, who lost his life in a California wildfire. Previously, Thorson was deputy chief for South King Fire and Rescue, supervising Emergency Management and Public Education.



The Federal Way native began his 41-year career in the fire service as a volunteer for South King. In 1978, he was hired by the department as a full-time firefighter. He moved up through the ranks serving as a battalion chief 10 years, then 10 years as fire marshal.

During his time as chief, Thorson successfully oversaw the merger of Edgewood and Milton into East Pierce Fire and Rescue. The fire district has also faced challenges. In 2014, two ballot measures failed to renew a Maintenance and Operations Levy that provided more than 15 percent of the district's operating funds. As a result, the district was forced to make significant cuts in the fire, rescue and emergency medical services the firefighters provide.

Despite the budget issues Thorson believed in the dedication of the firefighters, officers and staff at East Pierce. "During this time I have seen so many of our members work very hard to meet or exceed the public's expectation. East Pierce has many members who put "service above self" every day and will continue to do so," he says.

"The six years I've spent as fire chief at East Pierce have been personally rewarding and challenging," Thorson says. "Thank you for the opportunity to serve. It's been a great career, but now it's time to focus more on family and spend a little more time on other opportunities."

Deputy Fire Chief John McDonald

After a career that lasted more than 32 years and stretched from a small town in upstate New York to Bonney Lake, Deputy Fire Chief John McDonald, who

announced his retirement more than a year ago, made it official in March.

McDonald began his career as a firefighter-EMT for the City of Pullman Fire Services, where he served for seven years. From there, it was a steady climb to deputy chief. Moving up also meant moving to a new community. In 1992, McDonald accepted a position as a captain and fire inspector with Clark County Fire District No. 5.

Five years later, he moved again, to serve as assistant chief and fire marshal for the Bonney Lake Fire Department. In January 2000, East Pierce Fire & Rescue was formed and McDonald remained in the same position with the new organization. He was promoted to deputy fire chief in 2007.

His time at East Pierce has given him a huge sense of accomplishment. "I'm proud of the organization that we were able to build and the services we are able to provide to this community, including many services other fire departments don't offer," he says.



Along with the ups, came the downs. "The lowest point in my career was when (East Pierce Fire Chief) Dan Packer died," he says. "I was incredibly fortunate to have worked with Dan as a leader, mentor and good friend. He was the most influential person for me."

Following Packer's death, McDonald was named interim chief and led the organization through the painful recovery process. With the appointment of Fire Chief Jerry Thorson in March 2009, McDonald returned to the deputy chief position, where he continued to serve until his retirement.

His fondest memories of the fire service involve the people he has met. "Every step along the way, I worked with good people—folks who wanted to do the best for their community," he says. "I have been very blessed to do a job I love."

Fire Commissioner Rick Kuss

After more than a quarter of a century as a fire commissioner, Rick Kuss stepped down from East Pierce Fire & Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners on March 1.

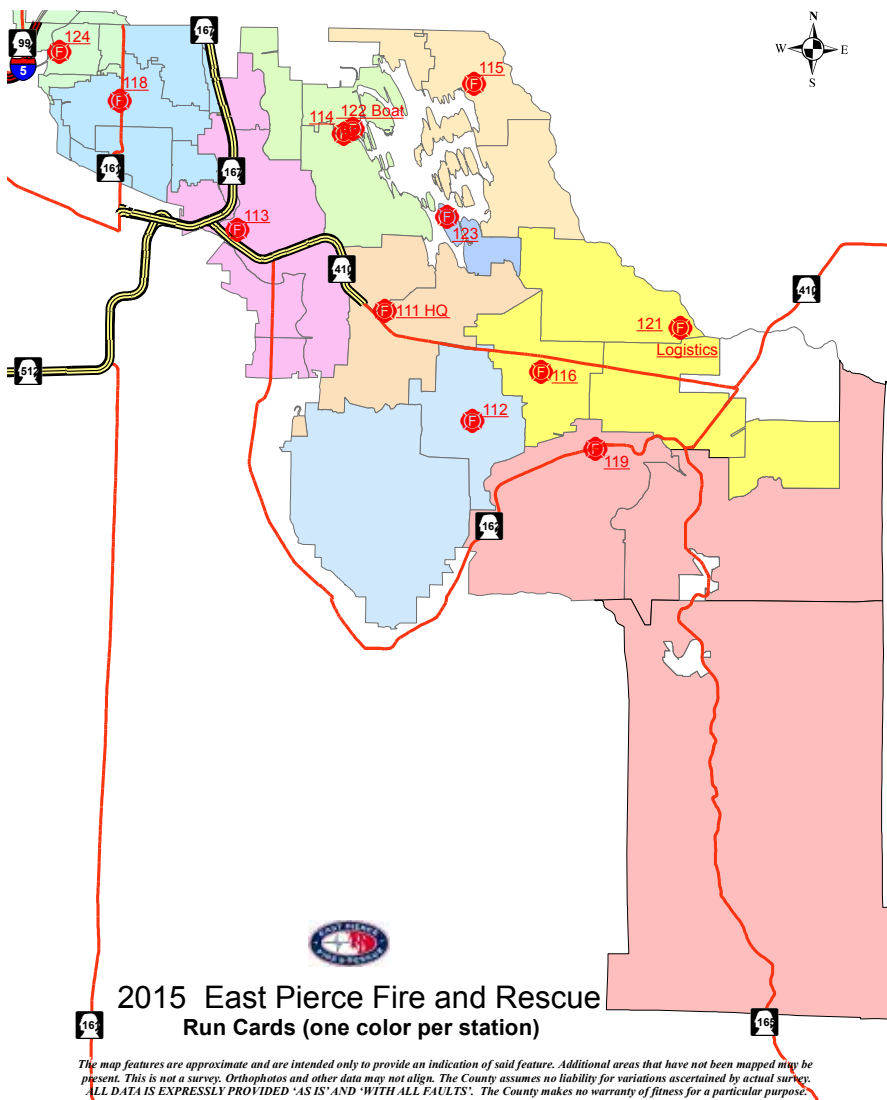
In 1970, Kuss followed his father and older brother into the fire service, first as a volunteer in Sumner. Five years later, he was hired by the Puyallup Fire Department (now a part of Central Pierce Fire & Rescue), eventually serving as a deputy fire marshal. He retired in 2000 and now owns an private investigation business.

He was elected to the Lake Tapps Fire Department Board of Fire Commissioners in 1989 and became an

East Pierce commissioner when East Pierce Fire & Rescue was created in 2000.

He served as the chair for 17 years, stepping down from that position last year. He had also served as president of the Pierce County Fire Commissioners' Association.

"I am honored to have been a part of building a great organization and bringing an improved level of service to my community," Kuss says.



IAFF Local 3520 & East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters Association Activities



COATS FOR KIDS



PANCAKE FEED



SANTA VISITS NURSING HOME

THE VOLUNTEER DIVISION COORDINATES THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE'S FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) VOLUNTEERS. A TOTAL OF 27 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 VEOP (Volunteer Experience Opportunity Program) shifts. VEOPs allow volunteers to gain valuable experience and training. Within the East Pierce Fire District there are four volunteer stations and six career staffed stations and one water rescue facility located on the northwest corner of Lake Tapps.

During a significant fire that requires a large number of firefighters, or when there are an unusually high number of incidents, volunteers are called in to assist during what is known as a "general alarm". Depending on the type of emergency, a general alarm can range from 30 minutes to more than 24 hours.



2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The East Pierce Volunteer Firefighter's Association announced the winners of its annual "Scholarships for Excellence." The winners were selected from nearly 60 applications.

The 2015 scholarship winners are White River High School senior Kaitlyn Sharp, Bonney Lake High School senior Heather Hopkins, and Sumner High School senior Troy Salisbury.

The community scholarship was presented to Sara Vargus from Sumner High School.

The annual Doty Community Service Award was presented to high school senior Colin-Michael Wakefield.

The scholarships are conferred annually to a graduating senior at each of the high schools within the East Pierce Fire District. Eligible students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and intend to enter the fields of firefighting, law enforcement, medicine or social work. The community scholarship is awarded to seniors who live within the fire district, but attend high schools outside its jurisdiction. Money for the scholarship is raised through donations to the association.

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 Firefighters 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.

1,172 TOTAL EMERGENCY
RESPONSES
BY VOLUNTEER
PERSONNEL

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 fire, EMS, rescue and hazmat resources in the East Pierce Fire & Rescue jurisdiction, while coordinating with Sumner, Bonney Lake, Lake Tapps, Milton, Edgewood, South Prairie and Pierce County. 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 provide 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 2015

- Created a new Pierce County Neighborhood Response Team (PCnet) in a 55 and older neighborhood.
- Completed Rapid Responder Training for school responses.
- Participated in Mt. Rainier Evacuation Planning.
- Responded to significant weather event in November.



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 for maintaining and improving critical firefighting, rescue and medical skills. Training provides an opportunity to update members on 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 wide range of topics and skills from the most commonly used to the complex and unique. Crews practice rope rescue techniques, wild-land 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 then maintaining training records and



ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

- In 2015, the Training Division was responsible for providing or coordinating a total of 21,829 hours of training for the department's 105 career firefighters and 27 volunteer firefighters—an average of 163 hours per member for the year. That equals 14 hours of training per month for the average firefighter.
- In the fall, the Training Division conducted a series of Multiple Company Operations (MCO) Drills. East Pierce Fire does not have its own training center, but by partnering with Central Pierce Fire & Rescue, the Training Division was able to utilize Central Pierce's training tower and grounds. Eight-to-ten firefighters trained each day. In the morning, they attended skills stations. In the afternoon, they participated in scenario-based drills. The MCO training is critical for safe and effective firefighting, but it is expensive. Crews attending the training were replaced with other firefighters on overtime to maintain staffing for the fire district.

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.

Firefighters receive most of their training while on-duty. Evening and weekend training is geared toward the district's volunteer firefighter drills. Firefighters also attend specialized classes outside the department at communi-

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAINING HOURS

21,829

ty 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 wellbeing 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, although building a training facility is

a long-term goal for the department. There is no dedicated space available for training involving multiple fire engines, deployment of hose-lines or conducting search and rescue operations or ladder training.

The Training Division is managed by the training battalion chief. A lieutenant training specialist and an administrative support specialist are also assigned to the division with oversight provided by an assistant chief.



14 HOURS OF TRAINING PER MONTH
FOR AVERAGE FIREFIGHTER

192 AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER
OF TRAINING HOURS PER
CAREER FIREFIGHTER

2015 TRAINING HOURS BY CATEGORY

FIREFIGHTER SUPPRESSION/OPERATIONS	11,283
EMS	5,457
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	1,523
WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING	1,333
DRIVER/OPERATOR	1,105
TECHNICAL RESCUE	557
WATER RESCUE	409
HAZMAT	362
TOTAL	21,829

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 2015, 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 fire marshal. The division has three plan review and inspection personnel, including, 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 continued to rebound in 2015, plan review and construction activity remained steady throughout the jurisdiction. Commercial development out-performed residential overall, however there was a significant increase in residential development in Bonney Lake.

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. Development continues in the Tehaleh 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 2015, Fire Prevention Division personnel conducted a total of 665 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

2015 EAST PIERCE FIRE PREVENTION FACTS

Fire Investigations**24**

Inspections**1482**

PLAN REVIEWS BY CITY:

Sumner**347**

Bonney Lake**152**

Edgewood**121**

South Prairie**3**

Milton**42**

Juvenile Firesetter Interventions**0**

INSPECTIONS BY CITY/AREA:

Bonney Lake**603**

Residential Fire Sprinklers**426**

Other**177**

Sumner**597**

Milton**160**

Edgewood**86**

Pierce County**31**

South Prairie**5**

Residential Fire Sprinkler Reviews

Bonney Lake**85**

plan reviews and plan reviews for fire protection systems such as fire alarms and fire sprinklers.

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 Arbors, Maple Grove, Edgewood Estates and Simon Mill Apartment Complexes in Edgewood, the Meridian at Stone Creek Assisted Living in Milton, the 64th Street Apartments, Washington Tractor, the YMCA, Trackside Pizza and Composite Solutions, over 1.5 million square feet of new warehouse construction in Sumner and Park Place Apartments. In addition, Fire Prevention Division staff reviewed plans fire sprinkler systems for both commercial and residential structures.

Prevention personnel conducted 603 inspections in Bonney Lake during 2015. A total of 597 inspections were conducted in Sumner, with an additional 282 inspections conducted in Milton, Edgewood and South Prairie. 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 four investigators who share duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In 2015, firefighters responded to 347 fires, ranging from small rubbish fires to commercial building blazes. East Pierce members of the Fire Prevention division investigated 24 of those fires.

As the regional economy continues to improve, development activity has increased. The Fire Prevention Division struggles 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 with the number of personnel allocated to the division.



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 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.

Career and volunteer firefighters participate in community events such as the National Night Out, Summer Arts Festival, Daffodil Festival, 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 and Safe Sitter babysitter classes for children ages 11-14 years. We also offer regularly scheduled CPR and Basic First Aid classes at least twice a month, and Hands-Only CPR every other month.

EAST PIERCE FIREFIGHTERS AND STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

The recipients of the 2014 Recognition Awards were honored by the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Commissioners and command staff in a ceremony held at the Edgewood station in February.

Lieutenant Kevin Stabenfeldt was named Officer of the Year. For the first time, there was a tie for Career Firefighter of the Year. The award went to Firefighter Jeff Lachowitz and Lieutenant Rob Ruzala. Earlier in the evening, Ruzala was pinned in a ceremony to commemorate his promotion to Lieutenant. In the same ceremony, Matt Gilbert received his lieutenant's pin.

For the second year in a row, Firefighter-paramedic Mike Gladstone received the Emergency Medical Services Provider of the Year award.

Firefighter-paramedic Hunter Chumbley 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. Chumbley heads the Local 3520's annual Firefighters' Coats for Kids program that raises money to purchase

and distribute warm coats to elementary school children who live within the fire district. In 2014, they provided 618 coats to area children.

Volunteer Firefighter Kyle Mosher was named Volunteer Responder of the Year. Mosher was also 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."

The Chief's Company included Gilbert, Firefighters Heidi Rolfsness, Jeff Conover and Jeff Lachowitz, and Volunteer Captain Mark Nevill. While all the other awards are voted on by the firefighters, the Chief's Company is determined by the command staff.

The annual Fitness Award went to Fire-



fighter Ben Pieper.

Former receptionist Shelly Nieman received the Administrative Support Staff of the Year Award.

East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson congratulated all of this year's recipients, noting that they were selected by their peers for their leadership skills and efforts to mentor and educate others, setting a standard for themselves and others. "Thanks to everyone for your hard work for the district and our citizens, it is appreciated," he told them.

Number of
of Station Tours

26

56

Number of Teens Graduating
from the SafeSitter® Program

40

Number of
Car Seat Inspections

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

MULTI-SPORT HELMET SALES AND FITTING

LIFE JACKET SALES AND FITTING

SAFESITTER CLASSES

LIFE & FIRE SAFETY SQUAD (LAFSS)

154

number of Bike Helmets
Sold/Fitted

8

Number of
Multi-Sport Helmets
Sold/Fitted

Number of Life Jackets
Sold/Fitted

206



75

Number of Citizens Trained
in Fire Extinguisher Use



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.

Since last year, the number of duty-related injuries has remained stable, with a total of 13 work injuries in 2015. The leading causes were lifting injuries. Operational (on-scene) and training injuries are largely attributable to call volume and expanded training activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

- Completed annual safety inspections at all East Pierce Fire & Rescue stations.
- Tested all fire hose carried on East Pierce Fire & Rescue apparatus.
- Complete respirator fit tests for emergency response personnel, per the state requirements. Each member was tested for the N100 respirator that is used on EMS calls and the new Scott-SCBA masks used during fires.
- Tested the HazMat Team Members in specialized MSA-SCBA masks used for HazMat calls.
- Tested fire prevention members with masks to protect them during fire investigations.



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 125 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, protective clothing, and the tools firefighters use to fight fires. They have been certified to repair the self-contained breathing apparatus and taught to program radios. They repair some items 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 also oversees the Information Technology Division, which is comprised of an information systems manager and a 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 reporting and documentation 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.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

- Replaced the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) on our apparatus.
- Annual mask fit testing.
- Installed new mobile radios and portable radio provided to us by South Sound 911 for all of our apparatus.

68 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND SUPPORT VEHICLES

STAFFED STATIONS

STATION 111 Headquarters Station

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

STATION 112 | Prairie Ridge
12006 214th Avenue East

STATION 113 | Sumner
800 Harrison Street

STATION 116 | Buckley
10515 234th Avenue East

STATION 118 | Edgewood
10105 24th Street East

STATION 114 | Lake Tapps
3206 W. Tapps Drive East

VOLUNTEER STATIONS

STATION 115 - Lake Tapps
1605 210 Avenue East

STATION 119 - South Prairie
350 SR 162

STATION 124 - Milton
1000 Laurel Street

STATION 123 - Bonney Lake
4824 Aqua Drive East

BOATHOUSE - MARINE UNIT
2905 Sumner-Tapps Hwy. East



THE FINANCE DIVISION PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTING, BUDGETING, PAYROLL ADMINISTRATION, DEBT MANAGEMENT, INVESTMENT, FINANCIAL REPORTING AND INTERNAL CONTROL SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

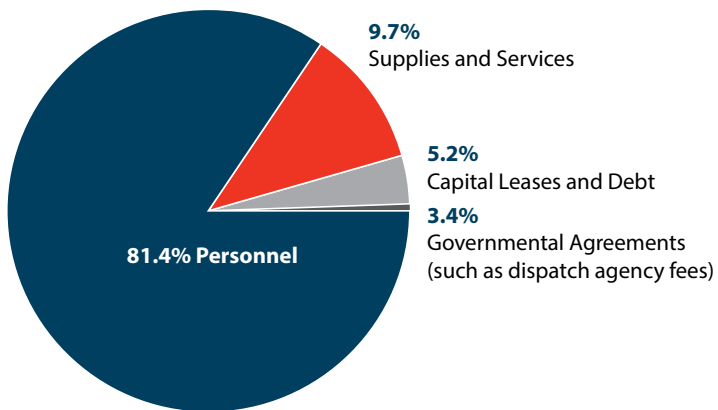
East Pierce Fire & Rescue continued to deal with budget shortfalls as a result of the failed Maintenance and Operations Levy in 2014, which caused a 13.7% decrease in revenues. Several positions remained vacant in 2015 as a result.

The Budget and Finance Division, operating without a finance director (the position is being filled by the Fire Chief), 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 (www.eastpiercefirer.org).

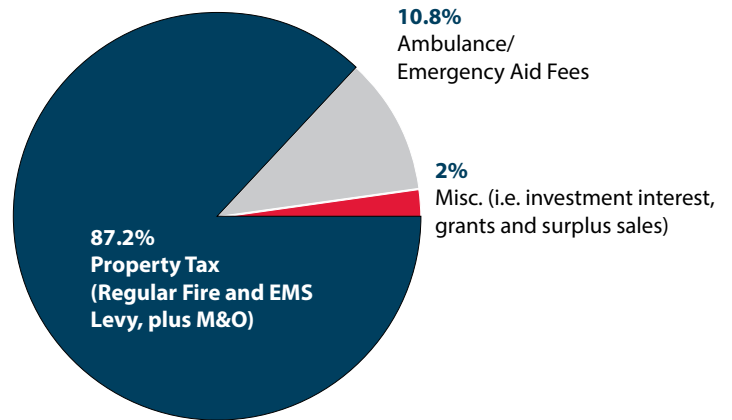
The two primary sources of funding are property taxes (Fire and EMS levies) which provide 87.2% of total revenues and EMS transport fees that provide 10.8%.

Total revenues collected in 2015 were \$23.3 million, with an additional \$1.2 transferred in from reserve for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus. Total expenses were \$22.7 million. Expenses finished the year 2% under budget, while revenues were 2.8% over what was anticipated.

2015 EXPENDITURES



2015 REVENUES



ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2015

- The Washington State Auditor completed the annual audit for the budget year 2014. The audit found that the District complied with applicable requirements and provides adequate safeguarding of public resources. It also found that East Pierce complied with state laws and regulations along with its own policies and procedures in the areas examined.



The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Foundation is a community-based, non-profit charity dedicated to supporting the fire department public education programs. In 2015, the foundations three initiatives included:

Heart Healthy Initiative: By underwriting the hard costs of adult CPR classes and raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of heart attacks and strokes, the Foundation helps the fire department improve the survival rates of those who suffer from one of the leading causes of death and disability.



Sentimental Journey Program: A cooperative effort with the Foundation, the fire district and MultiCare Home Health, Hospice and Palliative Care to provide one last ride somewhere special to hospice patients.

Smoke Alarm Initiative: The Foundation provides funds for the fire department to purchase smoke alarms that East Pierce firefighters install in high-risk homes free of charge.

Taking a Sentimental Journey

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Foundation launched the Sentimental Journey program in 2014. It provides a one-time, free ride to hospice patients who can't travel by private vehicle. The ride could be a

trip to a special occasion (such as graduation or wedding), a visit to a special place (including church or Mt. Rainier), or to a family member's home for the holidays. Although many fire departments conduct these types of transports on occasion, what is different about this program is that it is offered to all hospice patients on an on-going basis.

A crew of three, off-duty firefighters provides the transport in a fire district Medic unit. The trip can last anywhere from two to five hours. The Journeys are funded by the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Foundation, a 501(c)(3), charitable organization. The trips are offered at no cost to the patient or taxpayers. The Foundation reimburses the fire department for the use of the medic unit (fuel) and any supplies.

For the past year, the Foundation

has been working with East Pierce Fire & Rescue and MultiCare Home Health, Hospice and Palliative Care as part of a pilot project. The program proved to be a wonderful success not only for the hospice patients and their families, but the firefighters as well.

This year, we have begun to expand the program to the other fire districts and departments in Pierce County. The Foundation will continue to administer the program, provide training for the firefighters, coordinate with the three hospice agencies and organize each Journey. Firefighters at the various fire departments will do the transport. We are working now to bring the other departments on board. When complete, we will be the only fire-based organization in the nation to provide this unique program to every hospice patient in an entire county.





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

