

A collage of historical fire department photographs and red and blue squares. The photographs include: a firefighter in a dark uniform and helmet; two firefighters in light-colored uniforms; a firefighter holding a hose; a firefighter in a dark uniform and helmet; and a firefighter in a light-colored uniform. The East Pierce Fire & Rescue logo is in the bottom right corner.



EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

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, rescue, 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 and Organizational Responsibility, Accountability, Teamwork and Collaboration

Anticipating and Meeting Our Community's Needs
Proactive Planning, Innovation, Creativity, Responsiveness and Excellent Customer Service

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HEADQUARTERS STATION

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

This annual report covers January 1 through December 31, 2016.

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF BUD BAKER



A Thank you for supporting us in our efforts to provide for your safety and quality of life by lifting the EMS Levy Lid last April. It cushioned the blow when the regular Fire Levy ran into the 1% limitation.

We hit the limitation due to rapidly rising property values. By not allowing your fire protection levy to increase commensurate with the property value, the fire district saw a decrease of 11.5 cents in our Fire Levy collection rate. The decrease will save the owner of a \$300,000 home a total of \$34.50 in taxes in 2017, but left us unable to collect \$1.3 million to maintain your fire protection, rescue and emergency medical services (EMS).

We had hoped to take a few steps in addressing some of our staffing and resource shortages with the anticipated revenue growth. Now, we'll just have to settle for a baby step or two and consider asking you to lift our levy lids again.

We have applied for a FEMA Grant to allow us to hire nine firefighters. The grant covers a sizable amount of the cost over a three-year period for new firefighters. During that time, we anticipate that revenues will grow in order to support maintaining those new positions.

Our intent is to add a third firefighter to three of our five engine companies. This will improve capabilities when arriving on a fire scene, and also reduce the number of fire engines that we currently send to incidents that require additional personnel.

1 This is important. With these engines in service,

we'll be prepared to respond to the next alarm—which happens often when you had a record-breaking 10,259 calls in 2016. But this can only happen if we are awarded the grant!

How can you help? Write or call your U.S. Congressperson and/or Senator and ask them to support East Pierce Fire & Rescue in their FEMA SAFER Grant application. Encourage them to help improve public safety in our area by helping us to add more firefighters.

Last year, many of those 10,259 calls required





two units per call. Others, such as fires, require up to eight units in order to safely provide enough firefighters to complete needed tasks in a timely manner.

This workload places a strain on our firefighters. Many days they go from one incident to another, not returning to their station for hours. Not only does this create stress, it also reduces the time available for training.

I'm proud of how our firefighters have responded to the challenge, but I've got to get them some more help soon. We cannot continue providing quality response at this pace with so few firefighters.

We are also studying how to address facility and emergency vehicle needs. Our ladder truck is 18 years old and unreliable. The replacement cost is estimated to be \$1.2 million. Some of our fire engines are nearing their life expectancy as well, and will need replacement soon, to the tune of about \$750,000 per vehicle. We need to look at replacing six fire engines over the next five years.

We've made effective use of our capital reserve fund, and have been able to cost-effectively re-chassis two medic units, with a third in progress now. Two more are slated for this upgrade during the first half of 2017. A re-chassis saves about \$80,000 compared to a full replacement.

In addition, in 2016 we were able to replace two of our three aging brush engines with new units. All of this was done with funds we were able to save for this specific purpose. However, we'll probably have to ask for some help in funding the upcoming larger purchases.

As part of the growing pains of merging several fire departments into a single, more efficient organization, we need to address our facility needs. We may lose our lease on some buildings soon, while others are older, deficient in serviceability, not designed for 24/7 occupancy by career firefighters, making them too small to efficiently remodel.

In addition, we are evaluating relocating at least

one station in order to better respond to population growth. Frankly, that station is one that should have been replaced some time ago, so it will be a win for everyone.

Our Headquarters Station is leased from the city of Bonney Lake. The city has graciously extended the lease on several occasions, but time is running out. Our current lease ends in 2019. With projected increases in population and the need to increase services, the city anticipates that they will need the space in the Public Safety Building we share with the Bonney Lake Police Department.

We currently own the large empty lot at the corner of Veterans Memorial Drive and Main. This was purchased with an eye toward building a new headquarters there one day. It appears that day is now.

In order to fund such projects, we will have to ask you to support a bond issue. I know that's a big request, but that's the only way to address these larger projects that simply can no longer wait. I will recommend to the Board that we consider a bond issue early next year.

To help us plan a reasonable path, we will be asking for citizen input by forming a committee for the purpose of providing us with feedback on options for fire stations and emergency vehicles. We'll advertise for that soon. If you are interested in serving on this committee, send an email to info@eastpiercefirerescue.org and let us know that you'd like to help decide our future.

You can keep apprised of changes within your fire district by visiting our website at www.eastpiercefirerescue.org.

Once again, we thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Chief Bud Baker
East Pierce Fire & Rescue

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.

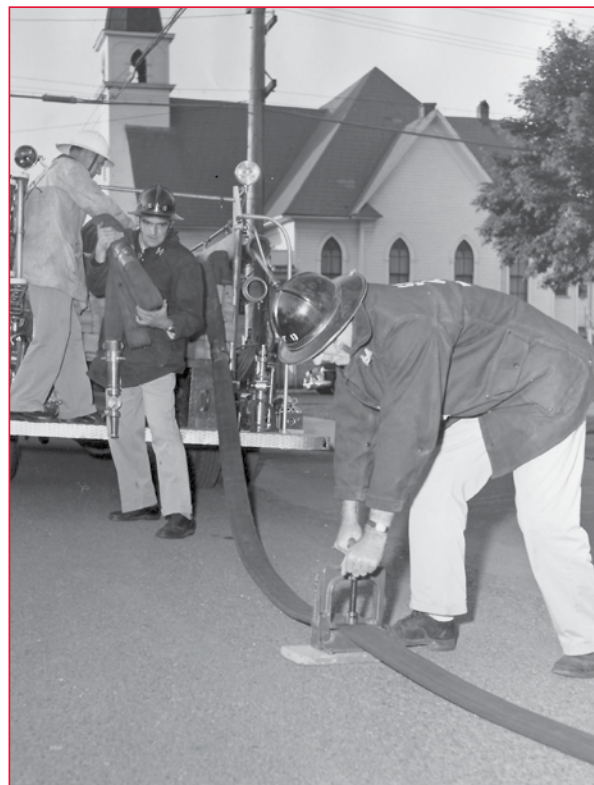
In 2013, the Milton citizens voted to become a part of East Pierce, bringing expanded fire, rescue and emergency medical services to their city.

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, Tehaleh, Edgewood and Milton.

The district covers 153 square miles and protects residents from 10 stations – six staffed and three 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 called fire commissioners governs the agency.



EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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

East Pierce Fire Commissioners serve six-year terms. Any resident, 18 years or older, who lives within the East Pierce service area is eligible to apply for an open position on the board. All regular meetings of the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioners are held on the third Tuesday of every month at headquarters station in Bonney Lake, except in March & April when it is held at Station 118 in Edgewood.

Meetings are open to the public and offer residents an opportunity for citizen input. Visit our website at www.eastpierce.re.org for meeting minutes and agendas.



2017 East Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Commissioners Meeting Schedule

January 17
February 21
March 21 *

April 18*
May 16
June 20

July 18
August 15

September 19
October 17

November 21
December 19

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

East Pierce Fire & Rescue Foundation Supports EPFR



The Sentimental Journey provides free transportation for hospice patients to someplace special, such as a trip to Northwest Trek with a grandson.

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Foundation is a community-based, non-profit charity dedicated to supporting the fire department public education programs and improving the lives of our neighbors.

The Foundation's 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 department and local hospice agencies 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.

2016 Update

We donated \$10,000 to the fire department to

help replace worn out CPR manikins and develop a handout to use at the CPR classes the firefighters teach at all of the middle and high schools in the East Pierce jurisdiction.

Besides providing hospice patients with some amazing Sentimental Journeys, we trained additional East Pierce firefighters to participate in the program and trained more than 250 hospice workers at CHI Franciscan Hospice to identify patients who are appropriate for our program. We are currently working with other fire departments in Pierce County in order to expand the Sentimental Journey program to hospice patients throughout the county.

In April, the Foundation also held its first Hearts and Heroes Dinner/Auction, netting more than \$11,000. Our fundraiser will be held every other year, so save the date: April 2018.

For more information about the Foundation and to learn how you can help, visit our website at www.eastpiercefoundation.org. Your support saves lives in our community.



EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE COMMAND STAFF



Bud Backer
Fire Chief

Years of Service: 32
bbacker@eastpiercefirer.org



Ed Goodlet
Assistant Chief

Operations/Training/
Volunteers
Years of Service: 28
egoodlet@eastpiercefirer.org



James Jaques
Assistant Chief

Emergency
Management/IT/
Logistics/Prevention
Years of Service: 34
jjaques@eastpiercefirer.org



Russ McCallion
Assistant Chief

EMS/Pub Ed
Years of Service: 33
rmccallion@eastpiercefirer.org



Jeff Moore
Battalion Chief

Medical Services
Officer



Doug Walker
Battalion Chief

Training Officer



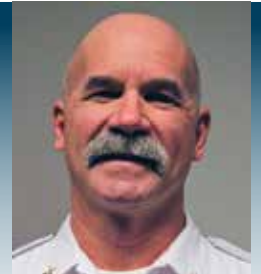
Pat Beers
Battalion Chief

A Shift



Jay Adams
Battalion Chief

B Shift



Rick Goetz
Battalion Chief

C Shift



Operations Support
Administrator
Michelle Hollon
(left) also serves
as the District
Secretary for
the East Pierce
Board of Fire
Commissioners.
She is pictured with
Human Resources
Generalist Tanya
Lynch.

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

FIRE STATIONS AND STAFFING

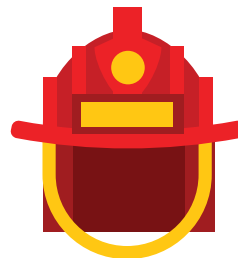
STATION	ADDRESS	CITY/TOWN	YEAR BUILT	DAILY STAFFING	
STATION 111	18421 Veterans Memorial Drive E.	Bonney Lake	1994	Fire Engine = 2 Battalion Chief = 1	Medic Unit = 2 Total: 5
STATION 112	12006 214th Ave. E.	Prairie Ridge	1976	Fire Engine/ Medic Unit = 2	Total: 2
STATION 113	800 Harrison St.	Sumner	1991	Ladder Truck = 3	Medic Unit = 2 firefighters = Total: 5
STATION 114	3206 West Tapps Drive. E.	Lake Tapps	1960	Fire Engine/Medic Unit = 2 Total: 2	
STATION 116	10515 234th Ave. E.	Buckley	1979	Fire Engine = 2	Medic Unit = 2 firefighters = Total: 4
STATION 118	10105 24th St. E.	Edgewood	1948	Fire Engine = 2	Medic Unit = 2 firefighters = Total: 4
STATION 115*	1605 210nd Ave. E.	Lake Tapps	1980	None	
STATION 119*	350 State Route 162	South Prairie	1986	None	
STATION 124*	1000 Laurel St.	Milton	1982	None	
STATION 122*	2905 Sumner/ Tapps Hwy. East	Lake Tapps	1989	None	

* Indicates unstaffed, volunteer stations



Average age of
East Pierce Fire & Rescue
fire stations is:

38
YEARS

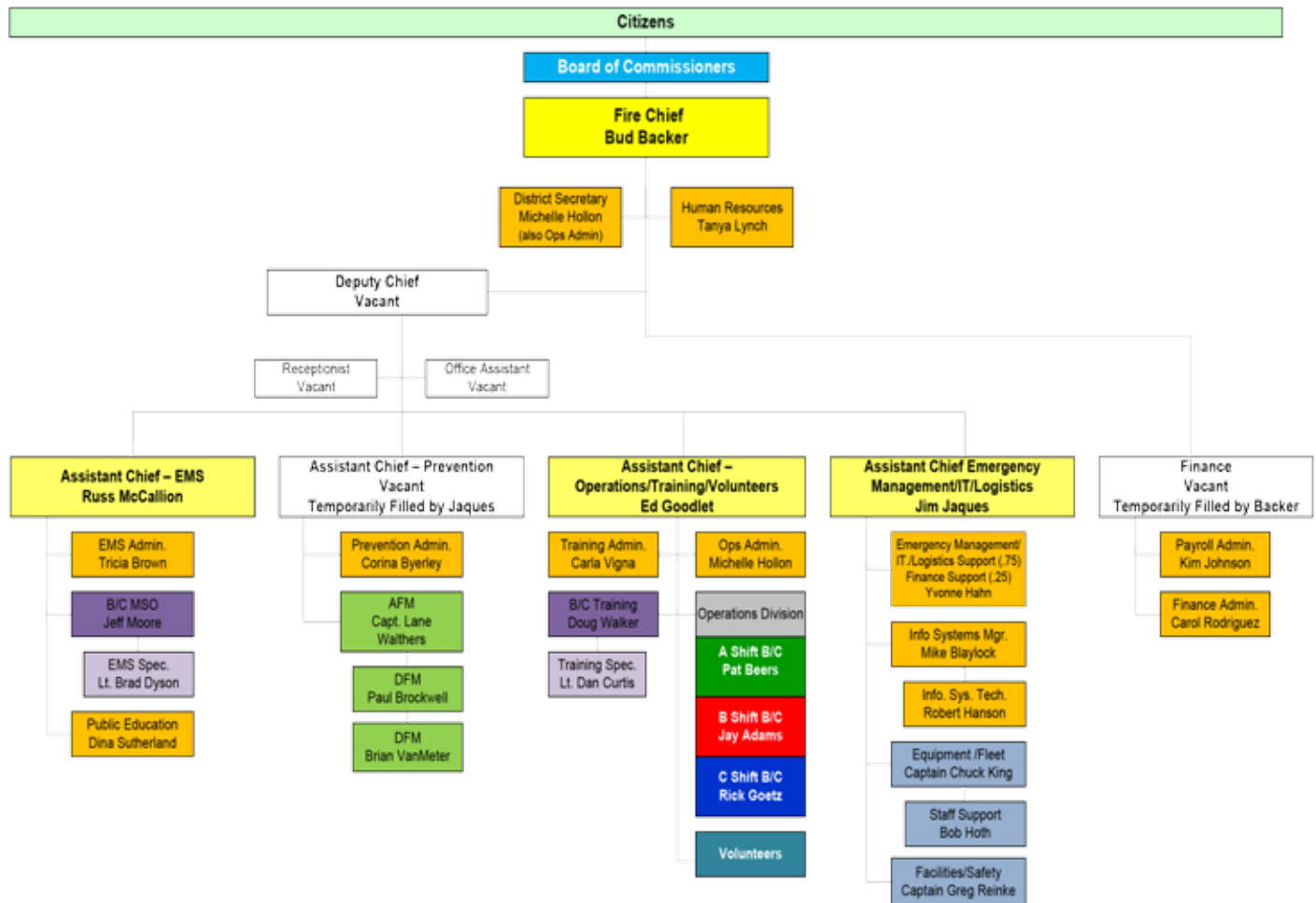


Typical Daily Staffing
for the Fire District:

22
FIREFIGHTERS

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

2016 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

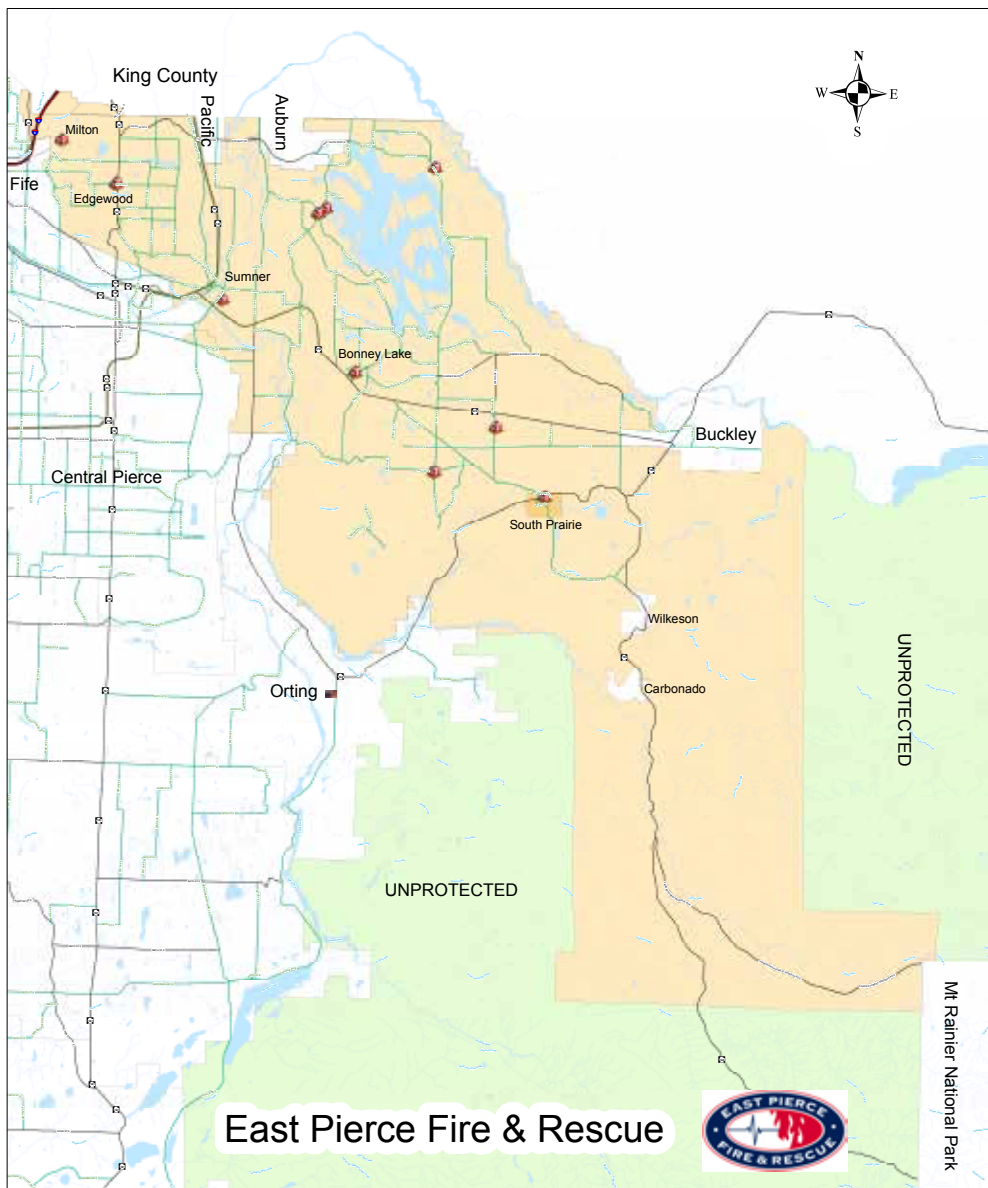


Santa Run



Santa Visits Seniors

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE AREA MAP



SPECIAL EVENTS



Pancake Feed



Easter Egg Hunt

THE EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE AREA COVERS
153 SQUARE MILES, WITH A POPULATION OF 90,000!

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

The East Pierce Open House is Back!

In 2015, budget cuts kept East Pierce Fire & Rescue from celebrating its annual Open House for the first time in more than 20 years—but the free health and safety fair is back. The Open House, celebrated on October 1 at the East Pierce headquarters station in Bonney Lake, drew a crowd of nearly 2,000.

The highlight of the free, health and safety fair for most kids is the chance to play firefighter. Younger children suit up in pint-size firefighter gear

to put out a “fire” and perform a “rescue”. Older children are offered a more challenging course, shooting water from a hose at a target and performing a “rescue”.

In addition to the Open House, East Pierce Fire & Rescue hosted three, community Open Houses throughout its jurisdiction at the Milton, Edgewood and Buckley stations. The purpose is to meet the firefighters, tour the station and learn more about the fire department.



An East Pierce Firefighter lends a hand with the hose to a future firefighter in the making at the Open House.

IN MEMORIAM

East Pierce Fire & Rescue suffered a devastating loss in 2016. Captain Tim McCoy died following a dirt bike crash on his property.

“Captain McCoy had been an integral member of this department for many years,” says East Pierce Fire Chief Bud Backer. “His loss touches each and every one of us. He will be sorely missed.”

The 59-year-old McCoy had joined the Bonney Lake Fire Department nearly 30 years ago. Bonney Lake Fire became a part of East Pierce Fire & Rescue in 2000. During those years, he rose through the ranks, often serving as acting battalion chief. He planned to retire in June 2017.

“I think he was cut out to be a firefighter because he was so calm and caring,” says his wife of 30 years, Anna McCoy. “Tim was definitely passionate in everything he did. He didn’t just want to be a firefighter—he wanted to be a great firefighter. He felt that it was such a privilege.”

His family says that McCoy had been riding dirt bikes since he was a child. As an adult, he earned his professional motocross license and competed in a number of races.

McCoy served as an elder at his church for more than 10 years. After he retired, McCoy had planned to become a chaplain for the fire department.

Above all else, McCoy loved his



Captain Tim McCoy

family. He leaves behind his wife Anna (Koehler), their son and daughter-in-law Joshua and Charis, daughters Emily and Alise; his mother Frances Pickering; brothers Steve and Kevin McCoy and sister Diane Stracener.

More than 700 people attended McCoy’s memorial service. His children praised him as a loving, protective and sometimes silly dad who encouraged them to live life exuberantly, strive for excellence in all things and, above all, love God.

Captain McCoy will be missed.

2016 Retirements



DOUG HINKLE
East Pierce Firefighter Doug Hinkle retired after 25 years.



KARLYNE MCGINNIS
East Pierce Fire Commissioner Karlyne McGinnis left the Board of Commissioners after 23 years.



RON SCHOLZ
East Pierce Fire Commissioner Ron Scholz left the Board of Commissioners after five years.

Sustained Improvements in Cardiac Arrest Patient Survival

Over the last six years, the EMS Division has taken multiple steps to improve our cardiac arrest (CPR) patient "resuscitation" program. Prior to launching the intensive high-quality CPR program in 2011, less than 10% of cardiac arrest patients found in a "shockable" rhythm by East Pierce firefighters survived, which was estimated, at the time, to be the national average.

Since East Pierce implemented a comprehensive resuscitation program in 2011, survival rates for these CPR patients have climbed more than four-fold, to a cumulative six-year total of 43%.

The increase in survival rates is due to several program improvements made in the East Pierce Fire resuscitation program, including:

- Use of grant funds to equip more than 80 police officers, who work for all five of the law enforcement agencies located within the district, with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). These police officers, responding to CPR calls, can now use their AEDs to help restart the hearts of these patients.
- Expansion of "Citizen CPR" programs, which currently train more than 2,000 residents per year, including 8th and 10th grade students in district schools. Result: Citizen CPR rates of 55% are twice the national average.

Since the program was implemented, a total of 26 patients have been resuscitated from cardiac arrest, including 16 bystander-witnessed, ventricular fibrillation patients.

East Pierce Welcomes New Career Firefighters

East Pierce Fire & Rescue has hired four new recruits to replace firefighters who have retired. The new recruits were sworn in at the July meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

All of the new firefighters are also emergency medical technicians (EMTs). They graduated from a 12-week fire academy in Tacoma before being assigned to stations where they will finish 18 months as probationary firefighters.



From left, Fire Commissioner Chair Dale Mitchell, Firefighter Paul Tarabochia, Firefighter Nick Van Maren, Firefighter Mike Malland, Firefighter Colin Murphy and East Pierce Fire Chief Bud Backer.



The 2016-17 Volunteer Recruit Class includes (from left) Kevin Bellack, Will Cuberos, Mathew Boyce, Corey Hall, Steven Thor, Nick Shamberg and Paul Craig.

...And Volunteer Firefighters

Seven new volunteer recruits earned their Firefighter 1 certification at the recruit academy at Brown's Point. For six months, they attended classes and participate in drills, preparing for the day they will join the other volunteers as members of East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

Seventeen people originally applied to join the volunteer program. Following an initial orientation, background checks and a review of driving records, only eight made it to the next step—medical, physical and psychological tests. Seven moved through to the fire academy.



East Pierce Receives Mission Lifeline Award

East Pierce Fire & Rescue received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Award for implementing operational and quality improvement procedures that expedite treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks. Last year, we were honored with the Silver Award.

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 & RESCUE

2016 FACTS AND STATS

Trend: Response Times

Year Dispatch to Arrival
(in minutes)

2011 6:22

2012 6:26

2013 6:21

2014 6:36

2015 6:43

2016 7:10



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 and ends when crews arrive at the incident scene.

In 2016, response times increased due to the rising call volume and reliance on "second in" units responding to calls when the closest unit was already on a call.

2016 9-1-1 CALLS BY STATION

Stations	Locations	Number of Incidents
Station 111	Bonney Lake	1,927
Station 112	Prairie Ridge	1,530
Station 113	Sumner	2,444
Station 114	Lake Tapps	618
Station 116	Lake Tapps	312
Station 116	Buckley	551
Station 118	Edgewood	837
Station 119	South Prairie	304
Station 121	Buckley	81
Station 123	Lake Tapps	100
Station 124	Milton	1,202
Mutual Aid*		330
Other		23
TOTAL		10,259

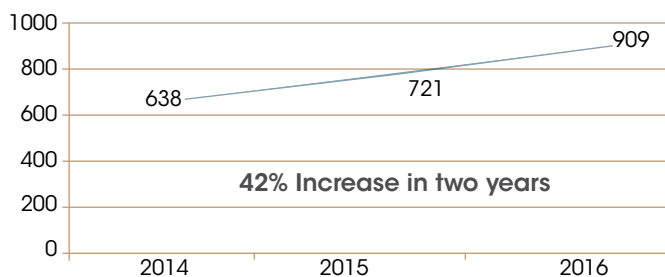
* Mutual Aid provided to neighboring fire departments

EFFECT OF INCREASED SENIOR HOUSING ON CALL VOLUME

Senior Housing within East Pierce Fire District

LOCATION	YEAR OPENED
Milton	2016
Edgewood	2016
Milton	2014
Bonney Lake	2007
Sumner	2000
Sumner	1998
Milton	1995

9-1-1 Responses to Senior Housing Facilities
by East Pierce Fire & Rescue



RESPONSE PERSONNEL:

Career Firefighters-EMTs: **58**

Career Firefighters-Paramedics: **42**

Volunteer Firefighters: **19**

10,259
Total Calls for 2016



OPERATIONS

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

In 2016, career and volunteer firefighter/EMTs and paramedics assigned to the Operations Division responded to 10,259 calls for emergency services, a 4.3% increase in call volume from 2015. While the primary function of the Operations Division is to respond to emergency and non-emergency calls, division personnel also conduct building familiarization walk-throughs to assist them with pre-incident planning activities should firefighters be called back for an emergency.

While on duty, 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 2016, East Pierce responded out of 10 fire stations. Six of the stations are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by career firefighters. The others include three 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

9-1-1 CALLS BY TYPE

Call Type	2016
Emergency Medical Calls, including motor vehicle crashes)	7,702
Good Intent	928
Service Calls	750
False Alarms	475
Hazardous Conditions	130
Brush Fires	65
Other Fires	83
Structure Fires	78
Vehicle Fires	42
Severe Weather	2
Other Calls	7
Total Calls	10,259



EAST PIERCE FIREFIGHTERS RESPONDED TO 10,259 CALLS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES—A 4.3% INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR.



East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a combination department utilizing both career and volunteer firefighters to handle a wide variety of emergencies throughout the 153-square mile fire district.

2016 ACHIEVEMENTS:

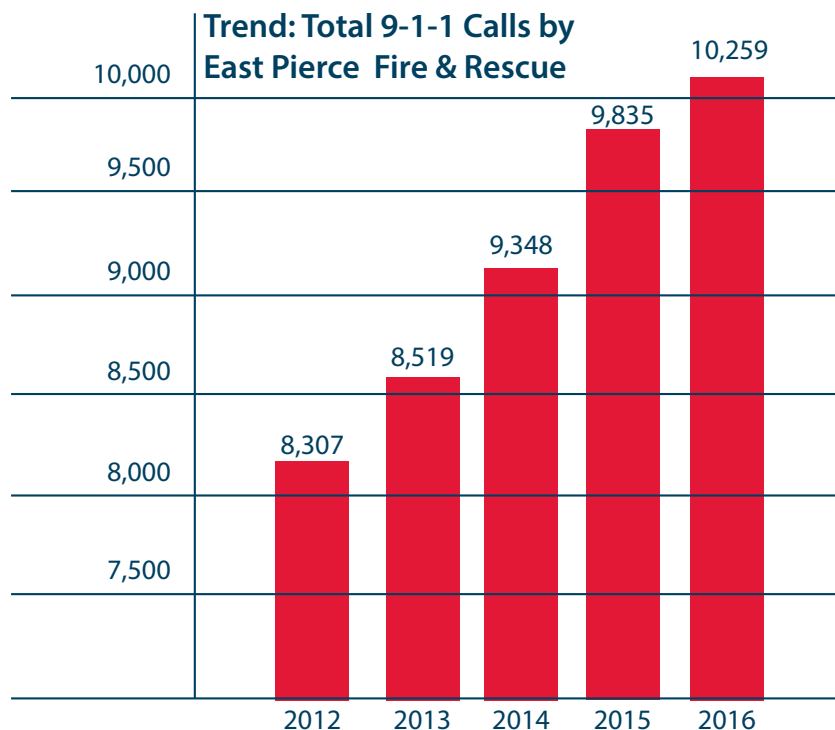
- Hired 4 new firefighter/ EMTs.
- Increased minimum on-duty staffing per day from 21 to 22.
- Successfully transitioned radio service from VHF to 700 MHz, which provides better service coverage, clarity and interoperability capabilities.
- Successfully transitioned to South Sound 911, an interlocal dispatch agency created by local governments and funded by a supportive vote of citizens in November 2011.

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 administrator is also assigned to the division.

In addition to responding to fire calls, emergency medical calls 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: a Wildland Team, a Water Rescue Team, a Hazardous Materials Team and a Technical Rescue Team.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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 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 75% of all 9-1-1 calls handled by East Pierce.

East Pierce units responded to 7,702 EMS incidents in 2016—an average of 21 emergency medical services (EMS) related incidents per day. East Pierce Medic units transported 5,559 patients to area hospitals, an average of 15.2 patients per day. This was an increase of 8.3 % in Medic (ambulance) patient transports from 2015, and a 29.6% cumulative, four-year increase in EMS patient transports.

EMS call volume is predicted to continue increasing steadily in coming years, for reasons including:

- An increasing number of older residents from the aging "Baby Boomer" generation will result in higher 9-1-1 call volume. Patients over the age of 65 call 9-1-1 at a rate 2 to 3 times higher than younger people.
- Increasing shortages of primary care physicians which results in many people calling 9-1-1 and going to the emergency department 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, will result in increased use of 9-1-1 and the EMS system.
- The opening of new assisted living centers, adult family homes, senior apartments and dementia care centers. Each resident in these facilities generates between 2 and

3 EMS transports per year, a 9-1-1 call volume rate some thirty times higher than those of citizens living independently. In total, we estimate that these care centers will generate more than 20% of our total EMS call volume in 2017.

Since 2004, East Pierce Fire & Rescue has provided emergency ambulance service to district residents with the goal of providing improved clinical care at no "out-of-pocket" cost to fire district residents.

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. We estimate that district residents save between \$900,000 and \$1,200,000 each year from this program, which is underwritten by the EMS levy.

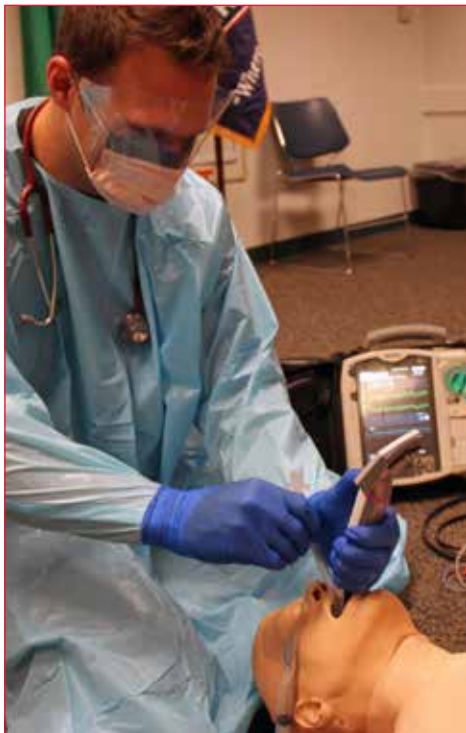
The district does bill, on the patient's behalf, private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and other insurance providers. Last year, East Pierce received \$2.6 million in ambulance transport revenues, which support the EMS Division.

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". In this case, residents may have to pay for ambulance transport, depending upon which agency provided the service. Last year, mutual aid ambulances transported 97 district residents—less than 2% of our EMS patient transports.

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reduced costs through inventory innovations

In 2016, the department implemented a new EMS supply inventory tracking system, which allowed for better inven-





The EMS staff includes (from left) Emergency Medical Services Officer Battalion Chief Jeff Moore, Administrative Support Specialist Tricia Brown and Lieutenant Brad Dyson.

tory control and "just in time" ordering of drugs, IV supplies and other equipment with a short shelf life. Coupled with improved purchasing power of a new countywide EMS supply bid that was originally issued through East Pierce, the department has been able to reduce the cost of EMS supplies to a level 4% below our 2012 costs. These reduced expenses have allowed us to absorb the cost of new, EMS technologies and drugs. The EMS Division, based upon earlier trend lines, believes that between the Operative IQ program and the countywide EMS supply bid, the department saved between \$30,000 and \$40,000 in 2016.

Awarded grant to participate in stroke program

East Pierce completed the first year of a Center for Disease Control (CDC) funded grant program, managed by the Washington State Department of Health. The program studies ways to improve stroke patient treatment and outcomes. During year one, we were one of two fire departments asked to participate in the multi-year study. In 2017, with feedback from East Pierce members, the Department of Health is expanding the program throughout

Pierce County and expanding into Spokane County.

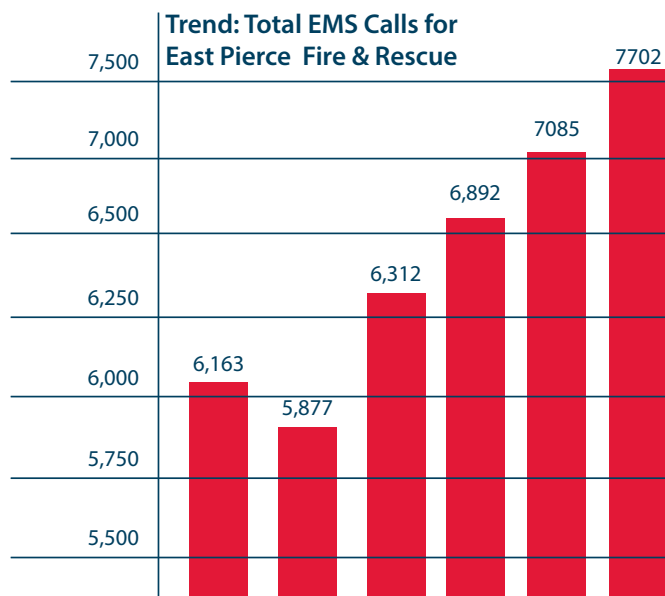
East Pierce members of our Stroke Quality Improvement Team meet regularly with our hospital partners, state agencies, and CDC representatives

developing best practices for assessing and treating stroke patients. The East Pierce members also review each of our stroke cases, which number between 150 and 200 residents per year, and provide feedback to the paramedics who responded to each of these patients.

Our expenses for participating in meetings, analyzing data and providing feedback to crews and developing new "best practices" are covered through the CDC stroke grant.

Implemented case management for frequent 9-1-1 callers

EMS Division staff members support crews in the field by working with the Northwest 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 and reduce unnecessary 9-1-1 calls and emergency department visits. This partnership has slowed the rate of increase in EMS call volume, eliminating 150 or more 9-1-1 calls through the case management program.



EAST PIERCE FIREFIGHTERS RESPONDED TO AN AVERAGE OF 21 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) RELATED INCIDENTS PER DAY AND TRANSPORTED AN AVERAGE 15.2 PATIENTS DAILY—THAT'S A 29.6% INCREASE SINCE 2012.

VOLUNTEER DIVISION

THE VOLUNTEER DIVISION COORDINATES THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE'S FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) VOLUNTEERS. A TOTAL OF 19 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 three volunteer stations located at South Prairie, Lake Tapps and Milton.

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

Volunteers also serve our local community through public education. They participate in citizen CPR training, Open House events and community outreach.

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 sets minimum standards for all volunteers and manages a disability and pension system.

Traditionally, the Volunteer Program has been a gateway to a career in the fire service. Over the past years, many of our volunteers have become career firefighters with East Pierce Fire & Rescue or other neighboring fire departments in Washington State.



Whether it's the weekend, weekday or the middle of the night, volunteer firefighters are there to serve the community. They also serve our local community through public education programs, participate in citizen CPR train, Open House events, and community outreach.

NINETEEN EAST PIERCE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS RESPONDED TO 713 INCIDENTS AND 151 GENERAL ALARMS.

Years of Service

Honoring East Pierce Fire & Rescue Volunteers with 10 or more years of service.

Name	Years of Service
Brian Dougherty	30
Tim Balding	29
Mark Nevill	28
Sara Arneson	18
Ken Bannink	17
DeAnn O'Leary	16
Luzia Ballew	14
Noel Fitzgerald	12
Sean Slattery	12
James (J.J.) Walker	12
Luis Szarko	11
Kyle Mosher	10



2016 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Participated in 1,920 VEOP hours.
- Attended weekly drills.
- Responded to 713 incidents
- Conducted 166 hours of station maintenance duty and conducted 319 apparatus inspections.
- Participated in 44 East Pierce public education events.
- Responded to 151 General Alarms.
- Recruited and trained seven new, volunteer firefighters.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WORKS CLOSELY WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES TO PREPARE AND MANAGE LARGE-SCALE EMERGENCIES.

The mission of the Emergency Management is to prevent, prepare, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards, natural or man-made. 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. During a community-wide disaster, this team provides leadership, deploying highly trained emergency response forces.

Unlike a typical, emergency response, emergency management is proactive. 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 re-

gional 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, Tehaleh 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.

2016 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Helped plan and participated in the following events and exercises:

- Active shooter exercise at Fife High School.
- Cascade Rising, a Pacific Northwest regional earthquake exercise.
- City of Bonney Lake active shooter exercise.
- Pipeline safety training event
- White River flood tabletop exercise.
- Updated the Mt. Rainier Volcanic Hazard Regional Coordination and Response Plan.
- Participated in Mt. Rainier evacuation planning.
- Attended Wildland Urban Interface Planning meeting.
- Continue to train and work with neighborhood emergency teams through the Pierce County Neighborhood Response Team (PCNet).



TRAINING DIVISION

EAST PIERCE FIREFIGHTERS MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE SKILLS AND ABILITIES THROUGH ONGOING TRAINING OVERSEEN BY THE TRAINING DIVISION. ALL CAREER AND VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL MUST UNDERGO ANNUAL FIREFIGHTING AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING.

Training and education is essential 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, 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 then 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. Firefighters receive most of their training while on-duty. Evening and weekend training is geared toward the District's volunteer firefighters drills. 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 firefighters-EMTs and firefighter-paramedics.

Assuring that all East Pierce ca-



reer 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 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.





The Training Division staff includes, (from left) Battalion Chief Doug Walker, Administrative Support Specialist Carla Vigna and Lt. Matt Gilbert.

2016 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Completion of an internal Washington Administrative Code (WAC) compliance audit.
- Completion of an Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention (EVIP) program classroom and Drivers Rodeo for our volunteer firefighters.
- Completed reviews on our Acting Company Office & Probationary Task books.
- Created a Water Use Notification—a procedure was created and implemented to report water use by fire department members while in training and at incidents. This procedure helps East Pierce meet WAC and Revised Code of Washington (RCW) requirements.
- Completion of department-wide auto extrication drills.
- Deliver training on a new computer-aided design (CAD) and Mobile Digital Dispatching (MDD) program for all line personnel.

2016 EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING HOURS

FIREFIGHTER SUPPRESSION/OPERATIONS **6,628**

EMS **5,025**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT **2,300**

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING **805**

DRIVER/OPERATOR **1,602**

TECHNICAL RESCUE **1,815**

WATER RESCUE **519**

HAZMAT **1,852**

TOTAL 20,546

Average number
of training hours
per month: **13**

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

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 2016, 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.

Five, dedicated fire safety professionals staff the Fire Prevention Division, 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 staff must maintain training and certifications to meet the qualifications of their positions. Training includes maintaining status as firefighters and

EMTs, fire and building code updates, investigation techniques, and much more.

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. One juvenile firesetter intervention was conducted in 2016.

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 continue to be 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



2016 EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE PREVENTION FACTS

Fire Investigations24

Inspections1279

Juvenile Firesetter Interventions1

PLAN REVIEWS BY CITY:

Sumner287

Bonney Lake170

Edgewood50

Milton32

Pierce County0

South Prairie0

Residential Fire Sprinkler Reviews
Bonney Lake90

INSPECTIONS BY CITY/AREA:

Bonney Lake393

Residential Fire Sprinklers90

Other7

Sumner593

Edgewood251

Milton34

South Prairie7



The East Pierce Fire Prevention Division staff includes (from left) Deputy Fire Marshal Brian VanMeter, Administrative Support Specialist Corina Byrley, Deputy Fire Marshal Paul Brockwell and Assistant Fire Marshal Lane Walthers.

DURING 2016, FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION PERSONNEL CONDUCTED A TOTAL OF 539 PLAN REVIEWS.

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.

Fire Prevention Division staff worked with Pierce County staff to provide input on issues of importance to the fire district. Development continues in areas of unincorporated Pierce County that is within the boundaries of East Pierce. The Tehaleh development in the south central portion of the fire district is rapidly expanding.

During 2016, Fire Prevention Division personnel conducted a total of 539 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.

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 an Alzheimer facility, commercial development like Taco Time and Starbucks, as well as several multi-family units and subdivisions in Edgewood, an assisted living facility in Milton, units with more than 200 multi-family dwellings, over 900,000 square-feet of new warehouse construction in Sumner and the Park Place Condos in Bonney Lake. In addition, Fire Prevention Division staff reviewed plans for fire sprinkler systems for both commercial and residential structures.

Prevention personnel conducted 393 inspections in Bonney Lake

during 2016. A total of 593 inspections were conducted in Sumner, with an additional 293 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. Operations Division personnel conduct the majority of the routine investigations, 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 2016, firefighters responded to 268 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.

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 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 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 each month, and Hands-Only CPR every other month.



Number of
Graduates of
the SafeSitter Program:

51

137

Number of Citizens
Trained in the Use of
a Fire Extinguisher:

38

Number of Car
Seat Inspections:

2016 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Hosted four community spring open houses at our fire stations in Milton, Edgewood, Prairie Ridge and Buckley.
- Celebrated a fourth year of zero drownings in Lake Tapps and surrounding waterways.
- Reestablished the characterization program (Life and Fire Safety Squad) in schools after taking a year off due to budget cuts.
- Thanks to funding from Cascade Water Alliance, 162 signs were provided to Lake Tapps property owners at no charge as part of the Lake Tapps Incident Locator Program.
- Hosted the annual fall Open House after taking a year of due to budget cuts.





Number of Citizens
Who Attended CPR
and First Aid Classes: **778**



American
Heart
Association®

life is why®

**HANDS-ONLY
CPR**

881

Number of Junior High
and High School Students
Who Were Taught CPR:

Number of Citizens
Who Attended Free
"Hands-Only" CPR
Classes: **15**



East Pierce's public education efforts are headed by Public Education Specialist Dina Sutherland.



Number of Multi-sport
Helmets Sold
and Fitted: **31**

267 Number of Life
Jackets Sold
and Fitted:

Number of
Station Tours: **17**

Off-site school/
day care visits: **34**

Number of
Bike Helmets
Sold & Fitted: **390**

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: Like the other teams, the HazMat members have been extensively trained and equipped to respond to specific types of incidents. When you have a train track and a couple of highways running through your district, you have to be prepared for anything. Commercial buildings – from storage warehouses to home improvement stores – pose a particular risk. They can contain everything from flammable liquid to toxic materials.

As part of their on-going training, the East Pierce HazMat Team drills once a month, practicing responses to fuel spills, gas leaks and radioactive materials spill. They also train to respond to biohazard emergencies and terrorist attacks.

Maintaining a large team with all of the proper equipment is an expensive operation, so the East Pierce Team works with the Pierce County Hazardous Incident Team, a multi-jurisdictional response team that includes hazmat-trained firefighters from Lakewood, Graham, Gig Harbor, Puyallup and Central Pierce. In addition to the monthly training, the HazMat Team drills with the regional team twice a year.

The HazMat Team Leader is Firefighter Pat Risley.

Water Rescue Team: Members of the Water Rescue Team regularly practice skills and techniques they learn in various water rescue training classes. Team members gain hands-on experience diving at Lake Tapps and the Puget Sound. They also practice swift water rescue on the Carbon River.

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

The Water Rescue Team Leader is Firefighter Jay Smith.

Technical Rescue Team: These East Pierce firefighters who belong to the Technical Rescue Team respond to extraordinary or highly dangerous rescue situations such as building collapses, confined-space entrapments, wilderness and high-angle rescues.

Before team members can respond to a call, they must have completed several hundred hours of demanding training, demonstrating proficiency in specialties such as trench rescue, confined space, rope rescue and complicated motor vehicle extrications.

The East Pierce team is a member of the Pierce County Technical Rescue

Team. Together they form a regional response throughout Pierce County. East Pierce crews have become proficient responding to numerous emergencies in isolated locations.

The East Pierce Technical Rescue Team is led by Lieutenant Rich Simmons.

Wildland Firefighting and Rescue Team: This team trains rigorously before the start of every fire season, practicing everything they have learned before they have to use it at a real fire.

The team is comprised of career and volunteer firefighters who train to battle brush fires that occur with some frequency in our area.

The tactics, strategies, equipment and techniques for fighting wildfires is different than fighting structure fires. The Wildland Team often must bring water to areas without fire hydrants, refill engines in remote locales and use chain saws to clear brush surrounding a fire.

The team is also available to help neighboring districts. Occasionally, they are deployed to Federal or State wildfires, where the team gains valuable experience. In these cases, the Federal government or the State Department of Natural Resources pays for the cost of the firefighter's deployment.

Wildland Firefighting Team Lead: Firefighter Kyle Bylin.



LOGISTICS DIVISION

THE LOGISTICS 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. Personnel from this division deal with the procurement, storage, distribution, maintenance and replacement of fire district materials and equipment and maintain 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 and perform rescues. 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.

The Logistics Division also coordinates the purchase and maintenance of major items such as apparatus, HVAC, roof repairs and services.



The Logistics and IT staff include Information Services Tech Rob Hanson, Logistics Specialist Bob Hoth, Information Systems Manager Mike Blaylock, Captain Dan Guenthner, Administrative Support Specialist Yvonne Hahn and Captain Greg Reinke.

2016 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Completed respirator fit tests for emergency response personnel, per the state requirements. Each firefighter was tested for the N100 respirator that is used on EMS calls and the new Scott-SCBA masks used during fires.
- Installed new station alerting equipment in Station 116 to improve reliability and reduce response time. The equipment was obtained through a regional grant.
- Refurbished two medic units that had high miles and increased maintenance costs. Instead of purchasing brand new medic units we removed the patient care portion of the unit and put it on a new chassis.
- Purchased two new brush trucks to replace one that was 22 years old and one that was 25 years old.

THE LOGISTICS DIVISION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING 12 FACILITIES AND 68 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND SUPPORT VEHICLES.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION COORDINATES AND MANAGES THE DEPLOYMENT OF NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, MAINTAIN COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND PROVIDE END-USER TECHNICAL SUPPORT.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue relies on Information Technology to remain up to date on the most current information available. Computer systems are an essential part of department's communications.

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.



2016 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Replaced several outdated personal computers and some of the fire stations.
- Replaced the obsolete Mobile Data Computers in all the medic units and fire engines with new computers
- that work with the new regional South Sound 911 computer aided dispatch system.
- We also replaced the obsolete tablet computers our crews use for patient care reports.

EAST PIERCE FIREFIGHTERS AND STAFF HONORED

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Commissioners and command staff honored the recipients of the annual Recognition Awards at a ceremony held February 21 at the headquarters station in Bonney Lake. They included:

Career Officer
Lieutenant Matt Gilbert

Career Firefighter
Firefighter Matt Reinke

EMS Provider
Firefighter-Paramedic Jeff Berry

Volunteer Responder
Captain Mark Nevill

Mike Roberts Goodwill Award
Firefighter-Paramedic Hunter Chumbley

Ken Thawsh Inspirational Award
Volunteer Firefighter DeAnn O'Leary

Support Staff
IT Manager Mike Blaylock

Fitness Award
Firefighter Daryl Flood

The Chief's Company includes
Lieutenant Jason Sanders, Firefighter Scot Lynch, Firefighter-Paramedic Sean Alix and Firefighter Jim Clarke.



East Pierce Fire and Rescue recognizes outstanding service at an annual ceremony on February 21. (From left to right) East Pierce Information Systems Manager Mike Blaylock, Lieutenant Jason Sanders, Firefighter-paramedic Jeff Berry, Captain Mark Nevill, Lieutenant Matt Gilbert and Firefighter Jim Clarke.

your co-workers are seeing your efforts," he said. The only award not chosen this way is the Chief's Company. The command staff selects the recipients of that award based on leadership skills.

Dale Mitchell, the chair of

the East Pierce Fire and Rescue Board of Commissioners led a standing ovation for the award recipients. "On behalf of the Board, we appreciate all that you have done," he said.

At the ceremony, East Pierce Fire Chief Bud Backer congratulated this year's recipients,

noting that their peers vote to select those honored. "It means a lot to know that

BUDGET AND FINANCE

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 is the only major fire district in Pierce County attempting to operate with only the Fire Protection Levy and the EMS Levy. This places us at a distinct disadvantage when comparing our service levels and abilities to other agencies in the area.

As we continue to climb out of the recession, revenues from property taxes are rebounding. But even with that, we must work diligently to make the money we collect go as far as possible.

The Budget and Finance 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. Currently, this division is operating without a finance director. The Fire Chief is filling the position.

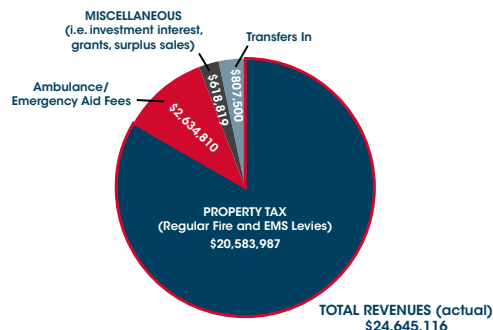
The division prepares the annual financial report, which includes detailed audited financial statements and statistical information about the department. Annual and quarterly financial reports are posted on the East Pierce website, www.eastpiercefirer.org.

The two primary sources of funding

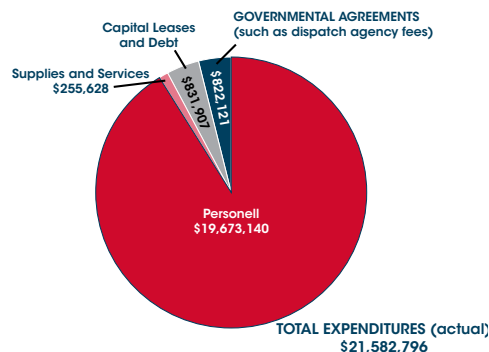


The Finance Division has two staff members. They are (from left) Carol Rodriguez Finance Administrator and Kim Johnson Payroll Administrator.

2016 REVENUES (actual)



2016 EXPENDITURES (actual)



are property taxes (Fire and EMS Levies), which provided 86.5% of total revenues, and EMS transport fees that provide 10.9%.

Total revenues collected in 2016 were \$24.1 million, with an additional \$807,500 transferred in from reserve for capital projects. Total expenses were \$22.7 million. Expenses finished the year 3.3% under budget, while revenues were 3.8% over what was anticipated.

2016 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Four firefighters were hired to fill vacancies due to retirements. Some of those positions had been vacant for several years because of declining revenues. (General Operating Budget).
- Accomplished some critical safety improvements and upgraded vehicles for the first time since the beginning of the recession (Capital Improvement Funds).
- Re-chassised two Medic units (Capital Reserve).
- Power Load Gurney systems were installed in five Medic units (Capital Reserve).
- Station 118 in Edgewood was connected to the sewer system (Capital Reserve).
- Two brush engines were replaced (Operating Capital).
- A deposit of \$864,177 was made to the Capital Reserve Fund. By making such deposits to this "savings account" the district is able to fund capital improvements such as those listed above. This was a major accomplishment. From 2011 through 2015, the district was only able to deposit \$210,000 in 2014 (no other deposits were made during that time.)

Collection rates per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2016:

Fire Protection Levy (Regular Levy)	(Max approved by voters \$1.50)
EMS Levy	\$0.447 (Max approved by voters \$0.50)*

*Note: The EMS Levy had been reduced by the 1% limitation.



“Where Compassion and Action Meet”

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