



2017

ANNUAL REPORT

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 and emergency medical and prevention services to a diverse and growing community with:

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

CORE VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our community and our employees are our most important resource.

We are committed to:

Doing the Right Thing
Integrity, Trust, Respect and Commitment

Everyone Must Make a Difference
Individual, Organizational, Responsibility, Accountability, Teamwork and Collaboration

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

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HEADQUARTERS STATION

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

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF BUD BACKER



Thank you again for supporting us in our efforts to provide for your safety and quality of life by approving the Fire and EMS Levy Lid Lifts in August 2017. In doing so, you provided us with funding that will allow us to take a step toward increasing our staffing levels to better serve you.

The increased revenue will enable us to hire nine firefighters to staff another medic unit that will help address our rapidly rising EMS call volume.

We also received a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response) Grant from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), which will allow us to hire an additional nine firefighters, adding three to each shift. These firefighters will be hired in January 2018 and increase shift staffing in 2019 at the completion of their training. This will provide for proper staffing levels on three out of five engine companies. The grant requires that the added staffing can only be used to increase staffing levels on fire suppression units.

That's a total of 18 new firefighters in 2018! While that's a large number, it is still not enough to get us to where we should be today. We hope that through efficient use of our levy funds, we'll be able to hire additional firefighters over the next three years to bring the remaining two engine

companies to the proper staffing levels as well.

Toward the end of 2017, the District recruited residents to take part in a Citizen Advisory Committee to assist the District with determining the capital facility, vehicle and equipment needs. That committee will recommend projects and whether or not to ask the public to support a bond Issue to finance the projects.

While rapid growth drives an increase in calls for service, fire district funding lags behind. In 2017, we experienced a 7.5% increase in calls for service, responding to 11,039 emergency calls; up from 10,259 in 2016.

A majority of those require a two-unit response. Others, such as fires, require up to eight units to provide enough firefighters to complete needed tasks in a timely manner. This workload places a strain on our firefighters as 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 time for firefighter training. I'm proud of how our firefighters have responded to the challenge. Adding the 18 firefighters in 2018 will help, but we will still be behind the growth curve of our communities.

You can keep apprised of changes at our fire district by visiting our website at www.east-piercefire.org for updates.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief Bud Backer

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.

In 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 94,000 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 commissioners govern 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.east-piercefire.org for meeting minutes and agendas.

2018 East Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Commissioners Meeting Schedule

January 16 February 20 March 20*	April 17* May 15 June 19	July 17 August 21	September 18 October 16	November 20 December 18
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*Meeting held at Station 118 (10105 24th St E, Edgewood)

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE COMMAND STAFF



Bud Backer
Fire Chief

Years of Service: 33
bbacker@eastpiercefir.org



Ed Goodlet
Assistant Chief

Operations/Training/
Volunteers
Years of Service: 29
egoodlet@eastpiercefir.org



Russ McCallion
Assistant Chief

EMS/Pub Ed
Years of Service: 34
rmccallion@eastpiercefir.org



James Jaques
Assistant Chief

Emergency
Management/IT/
Logistics/Prevention
Years of Service: 35
jjjaques@eastpiercefir.org



Jeff Moore
Battalion Chief
Medical Services
Officer



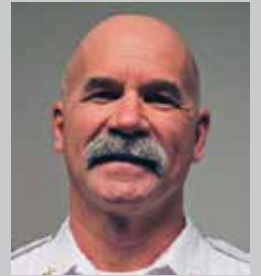
Doug Walker
Battalion Chief
Training Officer



Justin Doyle
Battalion Chief
A Shift



Jay Adams
Battalion Chief
B Shift



Rick Goetz
Battalion Chief
C Shift

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

39
YEARS



21
FIREFIGHTERS

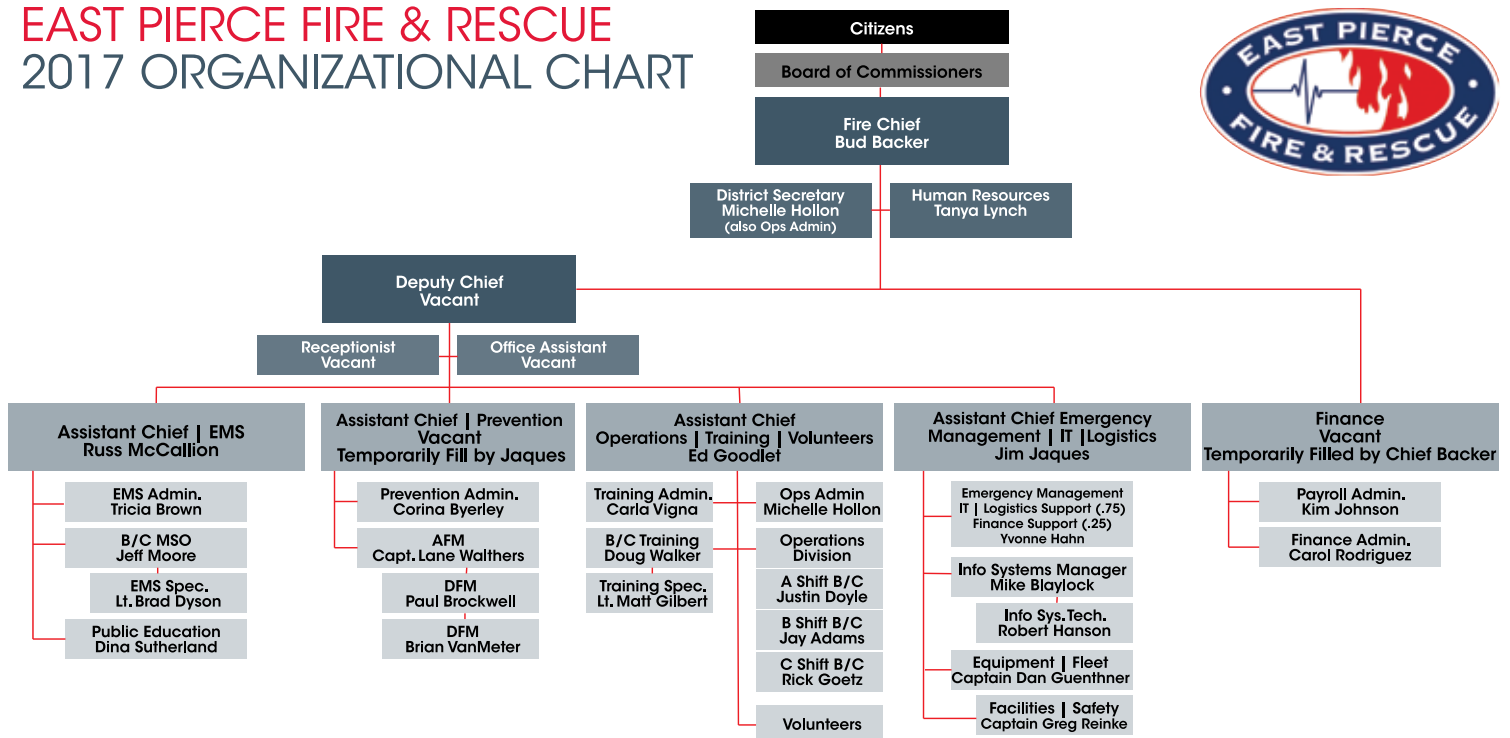
Typical Daily Staffing
for the Fire District:

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE FIRE STATIONS AND STAFFING

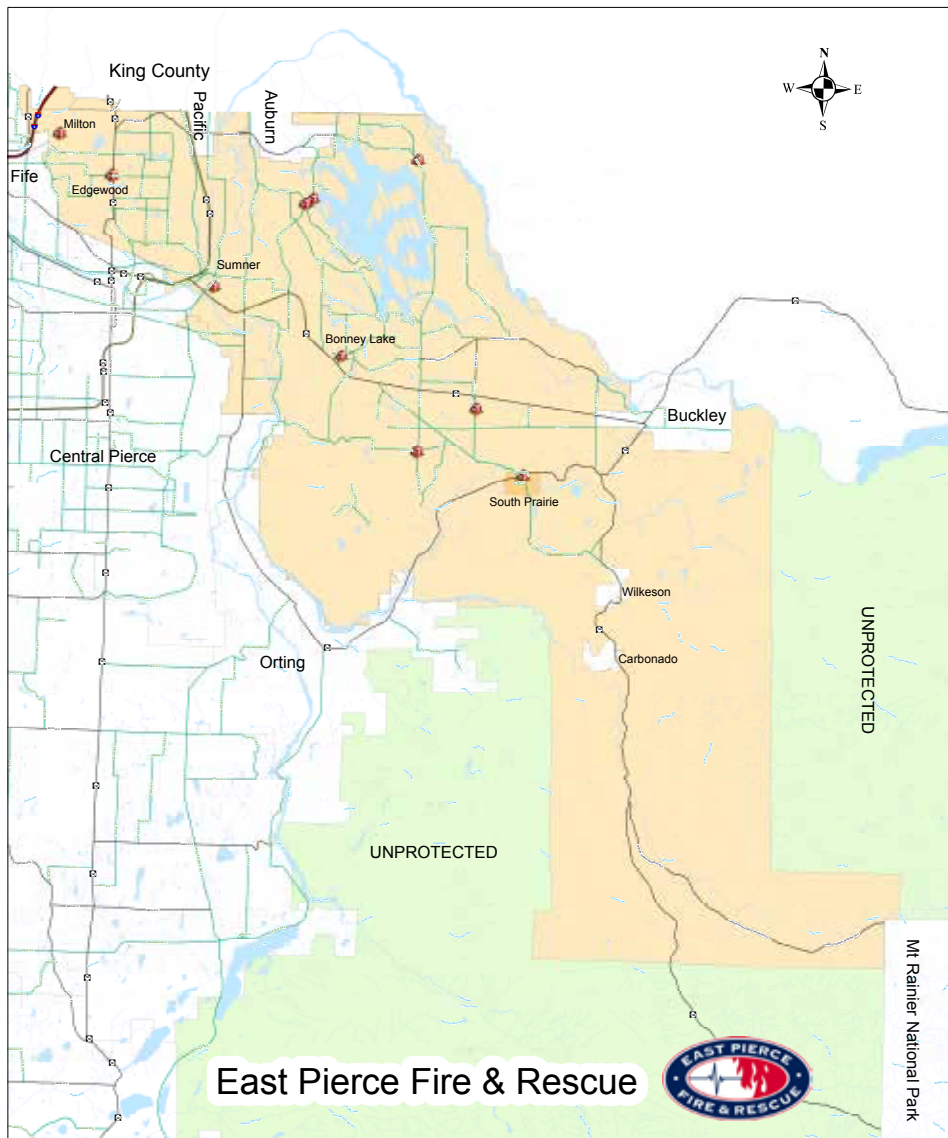
	ADDRESS	CITY/TOWN	YEAR BUILT	DAILY STAFFING
STATION 111	18421 Veterans Memorial Drive E.	Bonney Lake	1994	Fire Engine = 2 Battalion Chief=1 Medic Unit = 2 Total Firefighters: 5
STATION 112	12006 214th Ave. E.	Prairie Ridge	1976	Fire Engine/Medic Unit = 2 Total Firefighters: 2
STATION 113	800 Harrison St.	Sumner	1991	Ladder Truck = 3 Medic Unit = 2 Total Firefighters: 5
STATION 114	3206 West Tapps Drive. E.	Lake Tapps	1960	Fire Engine/Medic Unit = 2 Total Firefighters: 2
STATION 116	10515 234th Ave. E.	Buckley	1979	Fire Engine = 2 Medic Unit = 2 Total Firefighters: 4
STATION 118	10105 24th St. E.	Edgewood	1948	Fire Engine = 2 Medic Unit = 2 Total Firefighters: 4
STATION 115*	1605 210th 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

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE 2017 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE AREA MAP



SPECIAL EVENTS



Easter Egg Hunts



Santa Runs



Pancake Feed

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Service Area Covers
153 Square Miles, with a population of approximately
94,000

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE RECOGNITION

East Pierce Welcomes New Career Firefighters

East Pierce Fire and Rescue hired six new recruits to replace firefighters who have retired. The new recruits graduated the Fire Academy November 28th.

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



From left, Lieutenant Matt Gilbert, Firefighter Erich Ruff, Firefighter Rene Schaller, Firefighter Aubrey Schermerhorn, Firefighter Kyle Mosher, Firefighter Carl Kuiper, Firefighter Brian Koestler and Lieutenant Will Poe.

Mission Lifeline Gold Award for Cardiac Care

For the third consecutive year, East Pierce Fire and Rescue was awarded the American Heart Association Mission Lifeline Gold Award for our efforts in improving recognition, time to treatment and expedited transport of patients with severe heart attacks. We worked with area hospitals to develop a "cardiac alert" system, and reduced the time it took for patients to receive life-saving treatment to open up blocked coronary arteries. East Pierce was one of three departments in the state to receive this recognition in 2017.

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."

2017 Retirements



PAT BEERS
East Pierce Battalion Chief Pat Beers retired after 27 years.



STAN FLOREZ
East Pierce Fire Chaplain Stan Florez retired after nearly 27 years of service.

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE 2017 FACTS AND STATS

Trend: Response Times

Year	Dispatch to Arrival (in minutes)
2012	6:26
2013	6:21
2014	6:36
2015	6:43
2016	8:42
2017	7:35



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.

In 2017, 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.

2017 9-1-1 CALLS BY STATION

Stations	Locations	Number of Incidents
Station 111	Bonney Lake	2,166
Station 112	Prairie Ridge	1,639
Station 113	Sumner	2,603
Station 114	Lake Tapps	680
Station 115	Lake Tapps - East	302
Station 116	Foothills	685
Station 118	Edgewood	1,035
Station 119	South Prairie	336
Station 124	Milton	1,256
Mutual Aid*		337
TOTAL		11,039

* Mutual Aid provided to neighboring fire departments

EFFECT OF INCREASED SENIOR HOUSING ON CALL VOLUME Senior Housing within East Pierce Fire's District



PERSONNEL:

Career Firefighters-EMTs: **66**
 Career Firefighters-Paramedics: **42**
 Volunteer Firefighters: **21**



11,039
 Total Calls for 2017

OPERATIONS

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

In 2017, career and volunteer firefighter/EMTs and paramedics assigned to the Operations Division responded to 11,039 calls for emergency services, a 7.6% increase in call volume from 2016. While the primary function of the Operations Division is to respond to emergency and non-emergency calls, division personnel also conduct building familiarization walkthroughs 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 and Rescue is a combination department utilizing both career and volun-

teer 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 2017, personnel responded out of 10 fire stations, of which six of the stations are staffed 24-hours a day, seven days a week by career firefighters. The remaining stations consist of 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 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 Operations oversees the Operations Division. This division is split into three shifts, each headed by a shift Battalion Chief



who works out of the headquarters station and manages the day-to-day operations of the shift. An administrative support specialist is also assigned to the division.

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

Trend: 9-1-1 Calls by Type

Call Type	2017
Emergency Medical Calls, (including motor vehicle crashes)	8,231
Good Intent	953
Service Calls	808
False Alarms	509
Hazardous Conditions	191
Brush Fires	106
Other Fires	112
Structure Fires	65
Vehicle Fires	46
Severe Weather	10
Other Calls	8
Total Calls	11,039

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 and medic unit is staffed with firefighter-emergency medical technicians (EMTs), firefighter-paramedics or a combination of both.

Firefighter-EMTs, who provide basic emergency care, 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.

The number of emergency medical service calls has increased rapidly. EMS calls now make up nearly 75% of all 9-1-1 calls handled by East Pierce.

East Pierce units responded to 8,231 EMS incidents in 2017, and transported 5,753 patients to area hospitals. This was an increase of 3.7% in patient transports from 2016, and a cumulative five year increase of 26.3%.

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

- An increasing number of older "Baby Boomers".
- Shortages of primary care physicians results in people calling when they can't see their own doctor.
- The opening of new assisted living centers, adult family homes, senior apartments and dementia care centers. In total, these care centers generated almost 13% of our total EMS call volume in 2017.

Since 2004, East Pierce Fire and 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.

The district does bill, on the patient's behalf, private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and other insurance providers. In 2017, East Pierce received nearly \$2.8 million in ambulance transport revenues which are utilized to support the EMS program.

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.

A letter from the department's billing service is sent to residents requesting verification of insurance information. This information is required for patients to enroll in the levy "write-off" program. The letter also includes a description of what the ambulance transport charge would have been if they weren't covered by the EMS levy.

When all available East Pierce units are already on calls – such as during a major fire– private ambulances may respond into the district for "mutual aid". In this case, residents may have to pay for ambulance transport. Last year, 95 district residents were transported by mutual aid ambulances, or 1.6% of our total EMS patient transports.



2017 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Sustained Improvements in CPR Patient Survival

East Pierce Fire and Rescue, and 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 resuscitation program in 2011, survival rates for CPR patients has climbed more than four-fold to a cumulative six year total of 44%. These efforts were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs in 2013, when they awarded East Pierce Fire & Rescue with the national "Heart-Safe Community of the Year Award".

Improvements made in the EPF&R resuscitation program include:

- Expansion of "citizen CPR" programs. Citizen CPR rates of 58% are almost twice the national average.
- Use of grant funds to equip all 80 police officers working for the law enforcement agencies located within the district with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). These police officers, when responding to CPR calls, can now use their AEDs to help restart the hearts of these patients.
- Initiation of semi-annual high-performance CPR training for EPF&R firefighters and paramedics followed by "case debriefs" on selected patient calls to review and critique performance.

In the last seven years, 2011-2017, a total of 32 patients have been resuscitated from cardiac arrest. These patients were able to be discharged home alive to be with their families, a dramatic increase from the past.

Coverdell Stroke Program

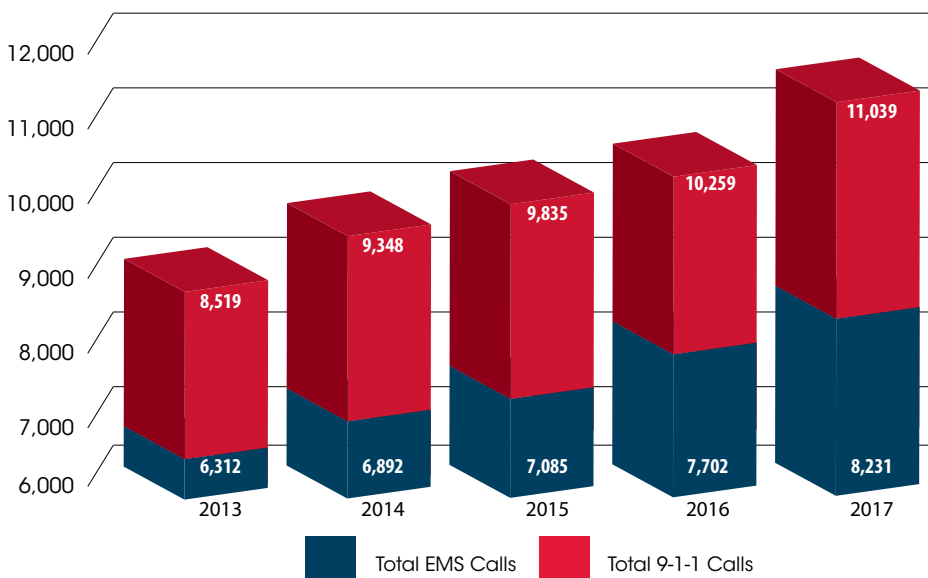
East Pierce completed the second year of a Center for Disease Control (CDC) funded grant program, managed by the WA State Department of Health, studying ways to improve stroke patient treatment and outcomes. During the first year of this program, EPF&R was one of two fire departments asked to participate in the multi-year study.

East Pierce members of our Stroke Quality Improvement Team met regularly with our hospital partners, state agencies, and CDC representatives to develop best practices for assessing and treating stroke patients. The East Pierce members also reviewed each of our stroke cases, which number between 150 and 200 residents per year, and provided feedback to the paramedics who responded to each of these patients.

New Pierce County EMS Treatment Protocols Implemented in 2017

All department firefighter/EMTs and paramedics went through extensive training on new EMS treatment protocols, which were implemented in February 2017 by Pierce County. These new protocols included the addition of new drugs and procedures for treating patients with respiratory distress, stroke symptoms and behavioral emergencies.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue Total EMS Calls | Total 9-1-1 Calls



VOLUNTEER DIVISION

THE VOLUNTEER DIVISION COORDINATES THE ACTIVITIES OF EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE'S FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) VOLUNTEERS. A TOTAL OF 21 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 alongside career firefighters during VEOP (Volunteer Experience Opportunity Program) shifts. VEOPs allow volunteers to gain valuable experience and training. Within the 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.

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 Pro-



"Whether it's the weekend, weekday or the middle of the night, volunteers are there to serve the community."

gram has been a gateway to a career in the fire service. Over the past several years, many of our volunteers

have become career firefighters with East Pierce Fire and Rescue or other fire departments in Washington State.

2017 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Volunteer Staffed
VEOP Hours - 1816

Volunteer Personnel
Incident Responses - 695

Station Maintenance Duty - 208

Apparatus Inspections - 303

Public Education Events - 57

General Alarm Responses - 86



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 Division 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, various school districts and city, state and federal agencies. When disaster strikes, whether 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



within East Pierce Fire and Rescue's jurisdiction while closely coordinating with Sumner, Bonney Lake, 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 act, if needed. This will expedite and improve cost recovery for our citizens and response area.

2017 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Helped plan and participated in the following events and exercises:

Earthquake workshops

Joint Counterterrorism workshops

Awareness workshops

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Volcano Hazard Risk Profile workshop

Mud Mountain Dam tabletop exercise

Lake Tapps Dike Failure tabletop exercise

Regional Reunification workshop

Pipeline safety training event White River flood tabletop exercise

Mt. Rainier evacuation planning

Wildland Urban Interface Planning meetings

Train and support Pierce County Neighborhood Response Teams (PC-NET)



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 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, trench, swift water and underwater 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 firefighter drills. Firefighters also attend specialized classes out-



side the department at colleges, universities, 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 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 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. In 2017, a temporary Training Specialist was added to the division with the sole focus of preparing new hire firefighters for work on the line.



Average number
of training hours
per month:

12

2017 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Added Temporary Training Specialist to the Division w/sole focus of recruit firefighters

Onboarding of 6 new career firefighters:

Two-week "Pre-Academy":

- Strong emphasis on physical fitness and preparedness which included time spent on work-outs, stretching and flexibility.
- Functional movement screening
- Review of basic equipment
- Setting recruit expectations

8-week "Post Academy":

Emphasis on "Getting Ready for the Street":

- The "EPFR way"
- ALS assist and transport
- Expanding knowledge learned to the next level
- Functional movement screening

13-week "Fire Academy":

- Over 300 hours of training
- IFSAC FF1, FF2, HazMat Awareness, HazMat Ops certifications gained

First ever "Formal Badge Pinning Ceremony"



Average number of training hours per firefighter for 2017:

132



2017 EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING HOURS BY CATEGORY

FIREFIGHTER SUPPRESSION/OPERATIONS	7123
EMS	4493
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	1632
WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING	731
TECHNICAL RESCUE	974
WATER RESCUE	544
HAZMAT	1282
TOTAL	16779

FIRE PREVENTION

THE PREVENTION DIVISION PROVIDES PLAN REVIEW, CODE ENFORCEMENT, JUVENILE FIRE-SETTER INTERVENTION, AND FIRE INVESTIGATION WITHIN THE CITIES OF BONNEY LAKE, SUMNER, EDGEWOOD AND MILTON ALONG WITH PUBLIC EDUCATION SERVICES FOR ALL OF THE RESIDENTS SERVED BY EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE.

During 2017, the Fire Prevention Division continued to focus on providing plan review, inspection, and fire investigation services aimed at ensuring a fire-safe community. Five, dedicated fire safety professionals staff the 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.

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 and areas of unincorporated Pierce County that are within the boundaries of East Pierce. The Tehaleh development in the south-central portion of the fire district is rapidly expanding.

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 Lake's code requirement for the installation of residential fire sprinklers in all new residential occupancies resulted in significant residential plan review and inspection activity.

During 2017, Fire Prevention Division personnel conducted 464 plan reviews for development in Bonney Lake, Milton, Edgewood and Sumner. Reviews included 15 permits for special events, pre-ap-

plication 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.

Prevention personnel conducted 1,005 inspections throughout the district during 2017. The inspections were primarily related to new construction activity, tenant improvement inspections, confidence testing, follow-up, and business license renewal.

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 2017, firefighters responded to 235 fires, ranging from small rubbish fires to commercial building blazes. East Pierce members of the Fire Prevention division investigated 57 of those fires.

As the regional economy continues to improve, development activity has increased. The Fire Prevention Division, at its current staffing level, 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.



2017 EAST PIERCE FIRE PREVENTION FACTS

Fire Investigations.....	41
Inspections.....	1005
Inspections.....	2

PLAN REVIEWS BY CITY:

Sumner.....	234
Bonney Lake.....	153
Edgewood.....	62
Milton.....	15
South Prairie.....	0
Residential Fire Sprinkler Reviews - Bonney Lake.....	90

INSPECTIONS BY CITY/AREA:

Bonney Lake.....	403
Residential Fire Sprinklers...	44
Other.....	13
Sumner.....	455
Milton.....	10
Edgewood.....	132
South Prairie.....	0
Pierce County.....	5

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 age-appropriate lessons on water safety, bike safety, burns, carbon monoxide poisoning and fire prevention. Outreach consists of assembly-style delivery in the elementary schools and classroom-based delivery in the high schools.

Career and volunteer firefighters participate in community events such as the National Night Out, Sumner Rhubarb Days, Daffodil Festival, Bonney Lake Days, Edgewood Community Picnic, Milton Days, community parades, Touch-A-Truck displays, 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. Regularly

scheduled CPR and Basic First Aid classes are also taught at least twice each month, and Hands-Only CPR classes to groups upon request.



50

SafeSitter
Babysitter
Graduates:



Citizens
Trained in
Fire Extinguisher
Use:

162

197

Life Jackets
Sold and Fitted:



Mult-sport
Helmets Sold
and Fitted:

99

Bike Helmets
Sold and Fitted:

225

High School Students
Trained in
"Hands-Only" CPR:

472

Citizens Certified
in CPR and
First Aid:

518



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 SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAMS ARE:

HazMat Team: 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 must 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 spills. They also train to respond to biohazard emergencies and terrorist attacks.

Maintaining a large team with all 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 swiftwater rescue on the Carbon River.

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

The Water Rescue Team Leader is Firefighter Jay Smith.

Technical Rescue Team: The 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 Team: This team trains rigorously before the start of every fire season, refreshing past skills and learning new techniques before they must use them 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.

The Wildland Firefighting Team is led by Firefighter Kyle Bylin.

LOGISTICS DIVISION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

THE LOGISTICS DIVISION SUPPORTS THE 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.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue's Logistics Division provides coordination of the complex operation of supporting 11 facilities, 80 emergency response and support vehicles, and 151 employees in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. The Logistics Division deals with the procurement, storage, distribution, maintenance and replacement of the district's 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 and

perform rescues. They have been certified to repair the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and taught to program radios. Logistics personnel 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 and roof repairs and services.

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.

Information Technology staff 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 EMS calls. 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.



2017 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Completed respirator fit tests for emergency response personnel, per the state requirements. Each member was tested for both the N100 respirator that is used on EMS calls and the Scott-SCBA masks used during fires.

Refurbished three medic units that had high miles and increased maintenance costs. Instead of purchasing brand new medic units, the patient care portion of the unit was removed and put on a new chassis.

To reduce firefighter injuries, new power-load and power-ambulance cot systems were installed in four medic units.

Replaced two air conditioning units at Sumner's Station 113.

EAST PIERCE OPEN HOUSES

The 23rd Annual Open House drew a crowd of 2,000+ on October 7 at the East Pierce headquarters station in Bonney Lake.

The highlight of the free, health and safety fair for most kids is the chance to play firefighter. Younger children suit up in pint-sized 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 fall Open House, East Pierce Fire and Rescue hosted four smaller, community-based open houses throughout



its jurisdiction at the South Prairie, Edgewood, Sumner and Lake Tapps stations. The purpose is to meet the firefighters, tour the station and



learn more about the fire department on a more personal level.

EAST PIERCE FIREFIGHTERS AND STAFF HONORED

The East Pierce Fire and Rescue Fire Commissioners and Command Staff honored the recipients of the annual Recognition Awards at a ceremony held February 20 at the headquarters station in Bonney Lake. They included:

Career Officer

Lieutenant Matt Gilbert

Career Firefighter

Firefighter Jason Brooks

EMS Provider

Firefighter Jeff Lachowitzer

Volunteer Responder

Captain Mark Nevill

Mike Roberts Goodwill Award

Firefighter James Parke

Ken Thawsh Inspirational Award

Firefighter Luzia Ballew

Support Staff

IT Technician Rob Hanson

Fitness Award

Firefighter Dale Maris

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 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.



Chief's Company

Lieutenant Kevin Stabenfeldt, Firefighter-Paramedic Mike Gladstone, Firefighter Mason Lewis, Firefighter Doug Mullins and Firefighter Luzia Ballew.

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 and Rescue continues to be the only major fire district in Pierce County attempting to operate with only the Fire Protection Levy and the EMS Levy. This limits the total property tax collection rate to \$2.00 (or less) per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV).

In August 2017, voters reauthorized the collection rates for both the Fire Protection Levy and the EMS Levy to their maximum amounts for collection in 2018. The ballot measure also authorized an annual collection increase of up to 6%, rather than the state mandated 1%. This will allow the fire district to address some staffing shortfalls and improve service levels. But even with a potential 6% growth factor, the district cannot exceed the combined \$2.00 per \$1,000 of AV.

We continued to work diligently to make the tax revenues go as far as possible through efficient budgeting processes.

The Fire Protection Levy had been reduced by the 1% limitation on property tax growth. We were fortunate that voters reauthorized the EMS Levy collection at the 0.50 per 1,000 in 2016 for collection in 2017.

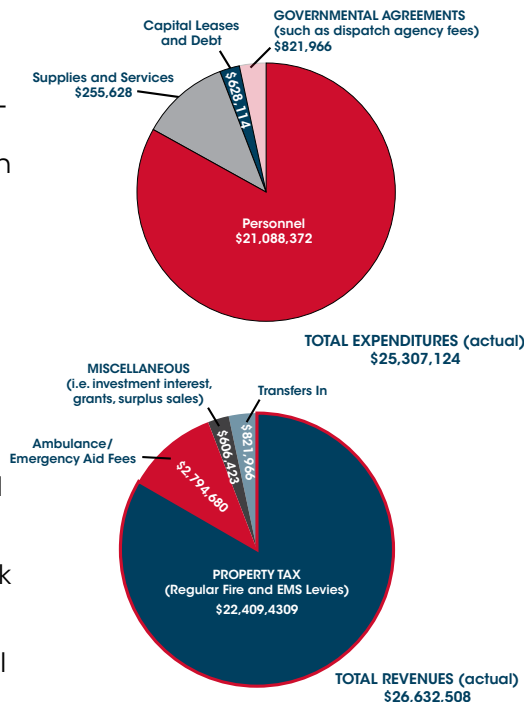
The Budget and Finance Division (operating without a finance director - the position continues to be filled by the Fire Chief), ensured compliance with policy, state and federal law, and generally accepted accounting practices. It prepared the annual budget and monthly financial statements, reconciles bank accounts and manages cash and debt.

The division prepared the annual financial report, which included detailed audited financial statements

and statistical information, about the department. Annual and quarterly financial reports are posted on the East Pierce website at www.east-piercefire.org.

The two primary sources of funding are property taxes (Fire and EMS levies), which provided 86.5% of total revenues and EMS transport fees that provides 10.9%.

Total revenues collected in 2017 were \$25.8 million, with an additional \$657,000 transferred in from reserve for capital projects. Total expenses were \$26.24 million. Expenses finished the year 0.67% over budget (\$177,008), while revenues were 2.5% (\$645,303) over what was anticipated.



2017 ACHIEVEMENTS:

East Pierce Fire and Rescue is audited annually by the Office of the Washington State Auditor. Audits are conducted for the previous year. The audit conducted of the 2016 finances had no findings, and represented another clean audit report for the district.

From the General Operating Budget, six firefighters hired to fill vacancies created resulting from retirements. Some of those positions had been vacant for several years due to declining revenues.

Using Capital Reserve Funds, the department upgraded three medic units by cost-effectively re-chassisising the vehicle avoiding a complete replacement.

A deposit of \$725,000 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. The district is now on track to deposit funds to the Reserve Fund annually. However, the upgrade of Medic Units and other equipment also requires withdrawals from the same fund. There is still a significant shortfall in the Reserve Fund due to not being able to add funds during the recession. Board Policy is that the Reserve Fund should be large enough to cover anticipated Capital Expenditures over the next five (5) years.

Collection rates per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2017:

Fire Protection Levy (Regular Levy)	\$1.39 (Max approved by voters \$1.50)
EMS Levy	\$0.50 (Max approved by voters \$0.50) *

Total Collection Rate : \$1.89 per 1,000 AV



“Where Compassion and Action Meet”

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