



2018

ANNUAL REPORT

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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

"Where Compassion and Action Meet"

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF BUD BACKER



2018 will prove to be an important year in the history of East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

We began the process of improving our service capabilities and firefighter safety by working to increase staffing levels on three of five engine companies. Sixteen new firefighters were hired to begin this improvement. Although several of the new hires filled retirement vacancies, we are

moving in the right direction. Our goal was to hire 18 firefighters, but two of the recruits didn't complete the process. We still plan to add a fifth medic unit to our system in 2020, which is funded by the levy lid lifts from 2017. This level of hiring will need to continue for the foreseeable future.

We are very excited, at East Pierce, that in November 2018 voters approved a Bond Issue for Capital Facilities and Equipment. This will provide for the replacement of four outdated fire stations and add a new station in Tehaleh. The fire stations to be replaced are located in Edgewood, Lake Tapps, Prairie Ridge and Bonney Lake. Design and functional validation processes will begin in February 2019. The Bond Issue will also fund the replacement of the ladder truck, six fire engines and a few medic units.

The replacement of four of our six staffed stations will support our ability to meet your needs for several years to come. Sometime after 2025, we'll need to remodel the remaining two staffed stations and replace one volunteer station (in Milton), with the anticipation of staffing that station with career firefighters.

Bringing this Bond Issue to the voters was the result of recommendations made by a 16-member Citizen Advisory Committee who reviewed the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) for validity. At the committee's recommendation, the Board of Fire Commissioners adopted the updated CFP and set course to ask the voters to approve funding several of the projects. I'd like to thank all of those involved, as without their efforts we would not have been successful in gaining the Super Majority requirement of 60% approval votes to fund these necessary projects.

2018 saw a moderate increase of only one percent in call volume over 2017. Our firefighters remain busy answering calls for assistance. Population growth is adding to the increased need for services. As we hire to bring our current engine companies to safe staffing levels, we must look to the future by adding more firefighters to staff the new Tehaleh station and other stations as population and demand for service continue to grow.

Thank you for funding these necessary improvements. Without your support, we would not be able to meet your needs.

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 guide the actions of the district and its employees. Exceptional customer service and a concern for the employees and their families have become hallmarks of our culture.

EPFR was created when the City of Bonney Lake Fire Department, Pierce County Fire District 22/Lake Tapps Fire and Pierce County Fire District 24 merged in 2000 with the goal of providing a seamless response to emergency situations.

Since then, the following mergers or annexations into EPFR have occurred:

- 2006: Pierce County Fire District 12 and South Prairie/Fire District 20
- 2008: Sumner/Fire District 1
- 2010: Edgewood/Fire District 8
- 2013: Milton Fire Department

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 approximately 153 square miles and protects residents from 10 stations—six staffed and three volunteer, and one facility on Lake Tapps for the marine rescue unit.

All full-time firefighters are certified as either emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or paramedics and can respond to both medical emergencies and fires.

An independently-elected board of commissioners governs the agency.



COMMAND STAFF



Bud Backer
Fire Chief



Ed Goodlet
Assistant Chief
Operations/Training/
Volunteers



Russ McCallion
Assistant Chief
EMS



James Jaques
Assistant Chief
Emergency
Management/IT/
Logistics



Chuck Kling
Assistant Chief
Fire Marshall/
Prevention/Pub Ed



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

FIRE COMMISSIONERS



Fire Commissioners form a board elected by the public to represent the 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 to provide input. Visit our website at www.eastpiercefirerescue.org for meeting minutes and agendas.

2019 EPFR Commissioners Meeting Schedule

January 15
February 19
March 19
April 16
May 21
June 18
July 16
August 2
September 17
October 15
November 19
December 17

FIRE STATIONS & STAFFING

Station 111 | Bonney Lake 18421 Veterans Memorial Drive E.

Fire Engine = 2 Medic Unit = 2
Battalion Chief=1 **Total Firefighters: 5**

Station 116 | Foothills 10515 234th Ave. E.

Fire Engine = 2 Medic Unit = 2
Total Firefighters: 4

Station 119 | South Prairie 350 State Route 162

Volunteer Firefighter Staffed

Station 112 | Prairie Ridge 12006 214th Ave. E.

Fire Engine/Medic Unit = 2
Total Firefighters: 2

Station 118 | Edgewood 10105 24th St. E.

Fire Engine = 2 Medic Unit = 2
Total Firefighters: 4

Station 124 | Milton 1000 Laurel St.

Volunteer Firefighter Staffed

Station 113 | Sumner 800 Harrison St.

Ladder Truck = 3 Medic Unit = 2
Total Firefighters: 5

Station 115 | Lake Tapps - East 1605 210th Ave. E.

Volunteer Firefighter Staffed

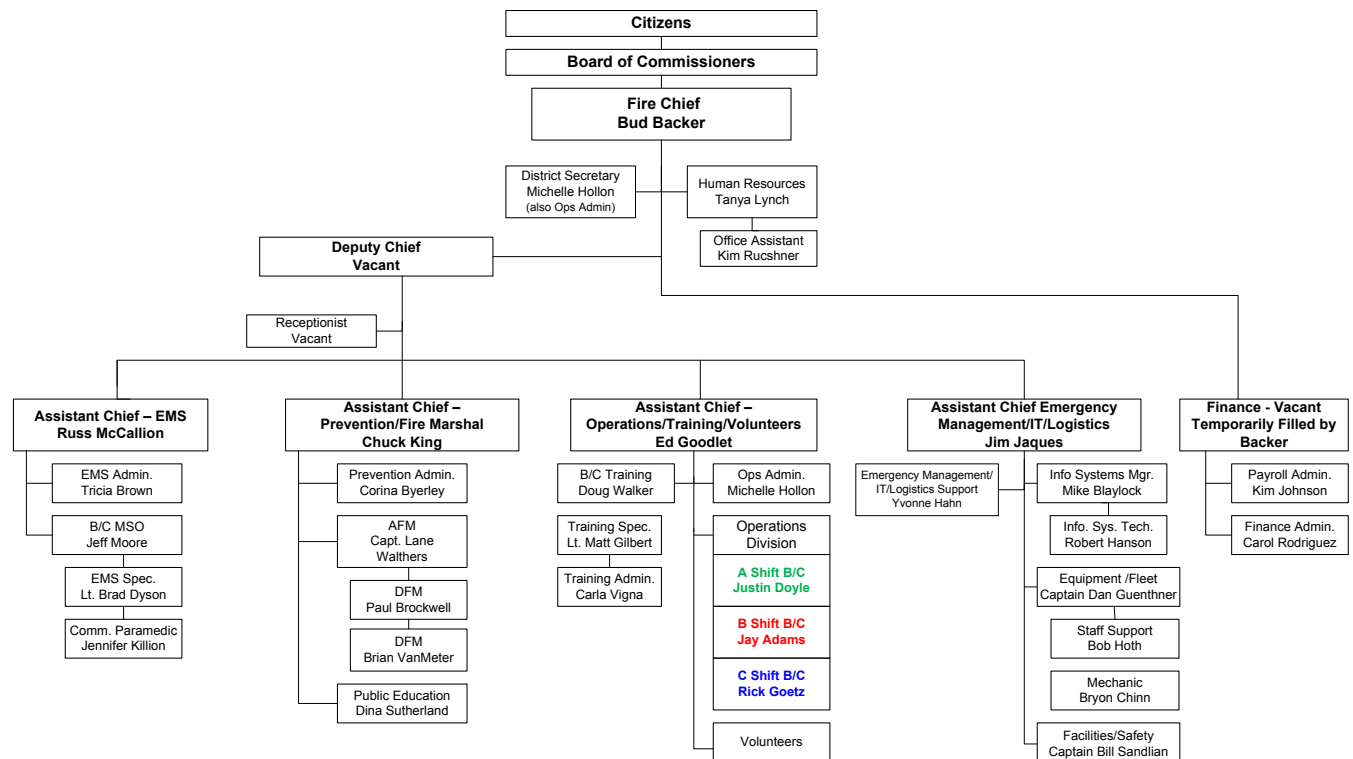
Station 122 | Lake Tapps 2905 Sumner/Tapps Hwy. East

Marine Service Unit

Station 114 | Lake Tapps 3206 West Tapps Drive E.

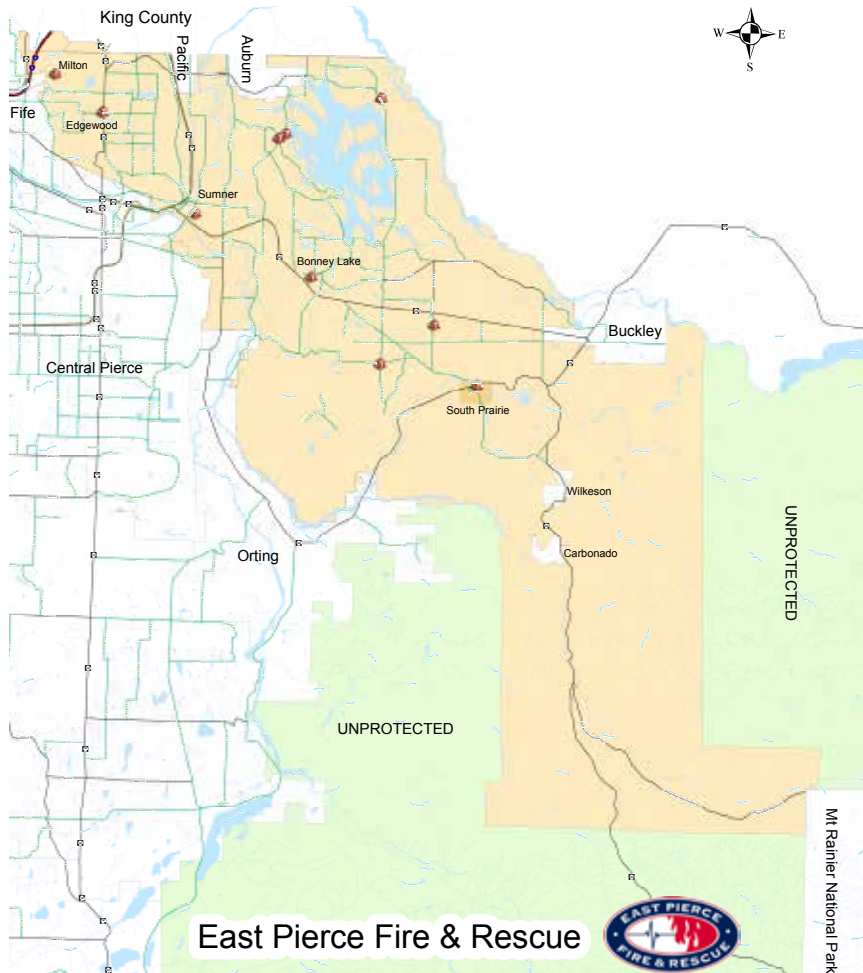
Fire Engine/Medic Unit = 2
Total Firefighters: 2

East Pierce Organizational Chart – 2018



SERVICE AREA OVERVIEW & STATS

EPFR SERVICE AREA



East Pierce Fire & Rescue

153
square miles

94,046
total population

69
CAREER FIREFIGHTER-EMTs

38
CAREER FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDICS

13
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS



CALLS BY TYPE FOR 2018

Emergency Medical Calls	8153
Good Intent	1073
Public Assist	971
False	477
Fire	325
HazMat	133
Other	17
Weather	1

TOTAL 11,150

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
2018	7:44

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 2018, 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.

TOTAL 9-1-1 CALLS BY STATION

Station 113 Sumner	2629
Station 111 Bonney Lake	2093
Station 112 Prairie Ridge	1508
Station 124 Milton	1378
Station 118 Edgewood	1144
Station 114 Lake Tapps	672
Station 116 Foothills	667
Station 119 South Prairie	370
Mutual Aid*	363
Station 115 Lake Tapps - East	326

* Mutual Aid provided to neighboring fire departments

PERSONNEL HIGHLIGHTS



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP "GOLDEN APPLE" AWARD

In 2018, the Sumner School District presented East Pierce Fire & Rescue with the prestigious Community Partnership "Golden Apple" Award.

"In addition to the first responder role, they provide a wide variety of services within the community and support our students, families and schools through Public Education and Community Service." - Sumner School District

East Pierce Fire & Rescue and East Pierce Professional Firefighters Local 3520 collab-

orate to deliver public education and community outreach both in our schools and across the community. Some of the education and outreach efforts recognized during the school board meeting include:

- Equipping students and faculty/staff with CPR skills
- Fitting and providing elementary children with coats through Operation Warm
- Delivery of fire and life safety messages to elementary children through Characterization
- Teaching water safety to students
- Fitting students with life jackets during annual safety assemblies

We value our partnership with the Sumner School District and appreciate their continued support!

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE 2018 RETIREMENTS

Captain
BRIAN SCHULZ
29 Years of Service

Captain
RON ANDERSON
32 Years of Service

Lieutenant
RICH SIMMONS
22 Years of Service

Firefighter/Paramedic
TERRI FLOWERS
20 Years of Service

Captain
MIKE SHINER
27 Years of Service

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR MANY YEARS
OF DEDICATED SERVICE!**

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Commissioners and Command Staff honored the recipients of the 2018 Annual Recognition Awards at a ceremony held on April 16 at the headquarters station in Bonney Lake. Recipients are voted on by their peers through a nomination and ballot process. The only award not chosen this way is the Chiefs Company. The command staff selects the recipients of that award based on leadership skills. The 2018 award recipients include:

Chiefs Company

Captain Greg Reinke, Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Berry, Firefighter Brian O'Leary, Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Lachowitzer and Firefighter Kevin Bellack

Career Officer

Captain/Paramedic Kevin Stabenfeldt

Career Firefighter

Firefighter Matt Reinke

Volunteer Responder

Captain Mark Nevill

EMS Provider

Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Lachowitzer

Fitness Award

Firefighter/Paramedic Ben Pieper

Ken Thawsh Inspirational Award

Captain Mark Nevill

Mike Roberts Goodwill Award

Firefighter/Paramedic Rex Orcutt

Support Staff

Mechanic Bryon Chinn



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.



East Pierce Fire & Rescue provides a full-range of EMS services for the community, including "first-response" by fire engines, basic and paramedic-level ambulance transport of patients, and patient assistance and care management through our new Community Resource Paramedic program.

Fire engines, deployed at each of our six career-staffed fire stations, serve as "first response" units to quickly get medical-trained firefighters to the scene of EMS calls. East Pierce also deploys four medic units (paramedic ambulances) which respond to EMS scenes and transport patients to area hospitals and specialized care.

To provide needed emergency medical services for the community, all EPFR firefighters are certified to provide emergency medical care. Of the 103 members assigned to shift in 2018, 65 are certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and 38 are certified Paramedics.

In 2018, East Pierce medic units transported 5,694 patients to area hospitals, an

average of 15.6 patients per day. This was a drop of 1.0% from 2017, the first decline in almost a decade at EPFR. However, there still has been a cumulative five-year increase of 14% in EMS transports.

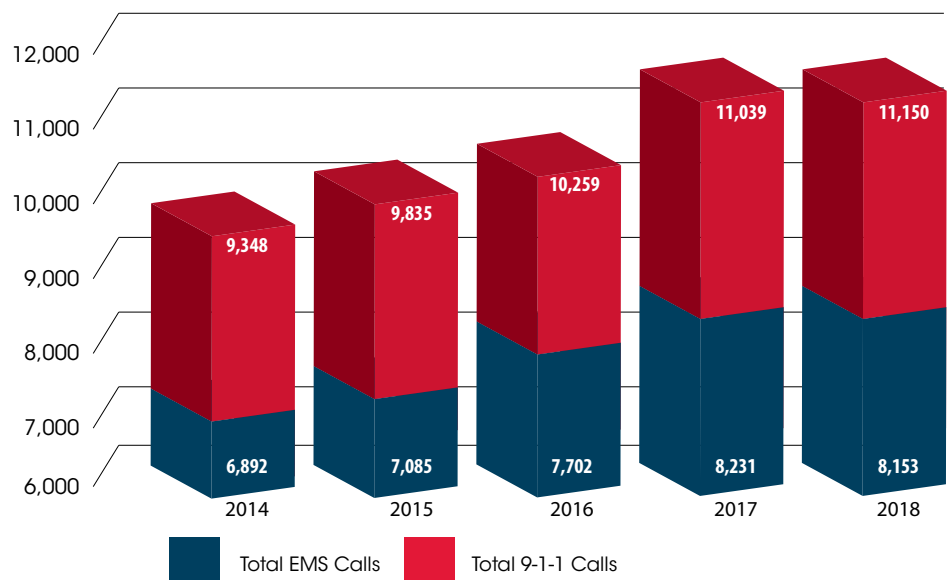
Since 2004, East Pierce Fire & Rescue provided emergency ambulance service to

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, generating over \$2.8 million in ambulance transport revenues in 2018.

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 \$1.2 million each year from this program.

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, 95 district residents were transported by mutual aid ambulances, or 1.6% of our total EMS patient transports.

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



8,153
total EMS calls

5,694
patient transports

65
firefighters-EMTs

38
certified paramedics

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENTS IN CARDIAC ARREST (CPR) PATIENT SURVIVAL

Over the last eight years, East Pierce Fire & Rescue, and the EMS Division, have taken multiple steps to improve our cardiac arrest (CPR) patient "resuscitation" program. Since East Pierce implemented a comprehensive resuscitation program in 2011, survival rates for these CPR patients has climbed from less than 10% (the national average at that time), to a cumulative seven-year total of 44%. The increase in survival rates is due to several program improvements made in the EPFR resuscitation program, including:

- Expansion of "citizen CPR" programs which currently train more than 1,500 residents per year, including 8th and 10th grade students in district schools. Citizen CPR rates last year exceeded 60%, which is almost twice the national average.
- Equipping more than 80 police officers, in law enforcement agencies, with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). These officers respond to nearby CPR calls with the ability to "jumpstart" the heart prior to our arrival. 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 eight years, 2011-2018, a total of 40 patients have been resuscitated from cardiac arrest, including 26 bystander-witnessed collapses. These patients were able to be discharged home alive to be with their families, a dramatic increase in numbers from earlier years.

NEW COMMUNITY RESOURCE PARAMEDIC PROGRAM LAUNCHED:

In 2018, EPFR became the first fire department in the county to launch a "Community Resource Paramedic Program." This program utilizes a specially-trained Community Resource Paramedic to work with patients in the community who are struggling with chronic healthcare and social service problems. These vulnerable persons often use 911 as their "lifeline", sometimes calling 911 daily, attempting to get needed help.

Our program is focused on connecting patients with the resources they need. Reducing their reliance on 911 should free up fire engines and medic units for other urgent 911 calls, reducing both the workload on our fire/EMS crews and healthcare costs in hospital emergency departments.

MISSION LIFELINE—GOLD AWARD FOR CARDIAC CARE

For the third consecutive year, East Pierce Fire & 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. EPFR worked with area hospitals to develop a "cardiac alert" system reducing the time it took for patients to receive life-saving treatment to open blocked coronary arteries. East Pierce was one of three departments in the state to receive this recognition.

COVERDELL STROKE PROGRAM AND QI/FEEDBACK

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, EPFR was one of two fire departments asked to participate in the multi-year study. In 2017, with feedback from EPFR members, the Department of Health expanded the program throughout Pierce County and into Spokane County.



FIRE PREVENTION

THE FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION PROVIDES A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS, VISITORS TO OUR COMMUNITY, AND EMPLOYEES OF OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES AGAINST THE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY THROUGH EFFECTIVE AND INNOVATIVE PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES. THE DIVISION APPLIES A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO FIRE PREVENTION AND ENCOURAGES ALL TO PRACTICE SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE DAY...EVERYDAY.

In 2018, the Fire Prevention Division reviewed 321 construction plans, performed 804 inspections, and completed 37 fire investigations. 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, Edgewood, and areas of unincorporated Pierce County within East Pierce. The Tehaleh development in the south-central portion of the fire district continued to rapidly expand.

Tenant improvements and remodels in existing buildings continued 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 municipal code requirement for the installation of residential fire sprinklers in all new residential occupancies resulted in significant residential plan review and inspection activity.

Plan review projects ranged from large commercial projects to small tenant



The Fire Prevention Division reviewed plans that included permits for fire district key access to secured residences/developments, special events, pre-application conferences, plats, SEPA, site plans, building plans, and plans for fire protection systems such as fire alarms and fire sprinklers.

The fire district is responsible for determining the origin and cause of all fires that occur within its jurisdiction. Many of the routine investigations are conducted by Operations Division personnel, while more

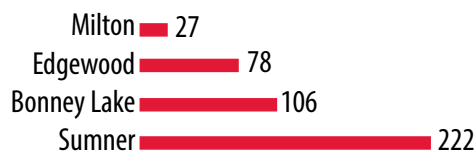
complex investigations are completed by Prevention Division personnel with assistance from the Pierce County Fire Marshal's office.

The Fire Prevention Division has four fire investigators who share response duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In 2018, firefighters responded to 324 fires, ranging from small rubbish fires to commercial building blazes. East Pierce members of the Fire Prevention Division investigated 37 of those fires.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

37

PLAN REVIEWS BY CITY

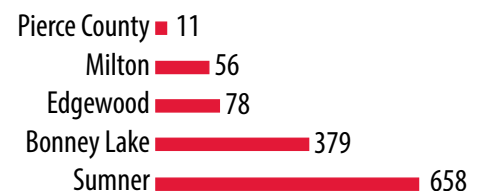


improvements; from single-family dwellings to multi-unit apartment complexes. Some of the projects reviewed included Costco in Bonney Lake, Bonney Lake High School Stadium, Bonney Lake Fred Meyer, Sumner High School, Candlewood Suites in Sumner, Telecare Evaluation and Treatment Center in Milton, Northwood Elementary in Edgewood, and many multifamily residences in each city.

FIRE INSPECTIONS

1182

INSPECTIONS BY CITY/AREA



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 driving force behind the Public Education Division is to reduce the risk of injuries and deaths from fires, drownings, medical emergencies, such as cardiac arrest, and other preventable causes.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue's public education programs are designed to teach children and adults how to recognize and avoid unintentional injuries, especially around water.

EPFR has a longstanding presence in our local schools by sending personnel to teach age-appropriate lessons on water

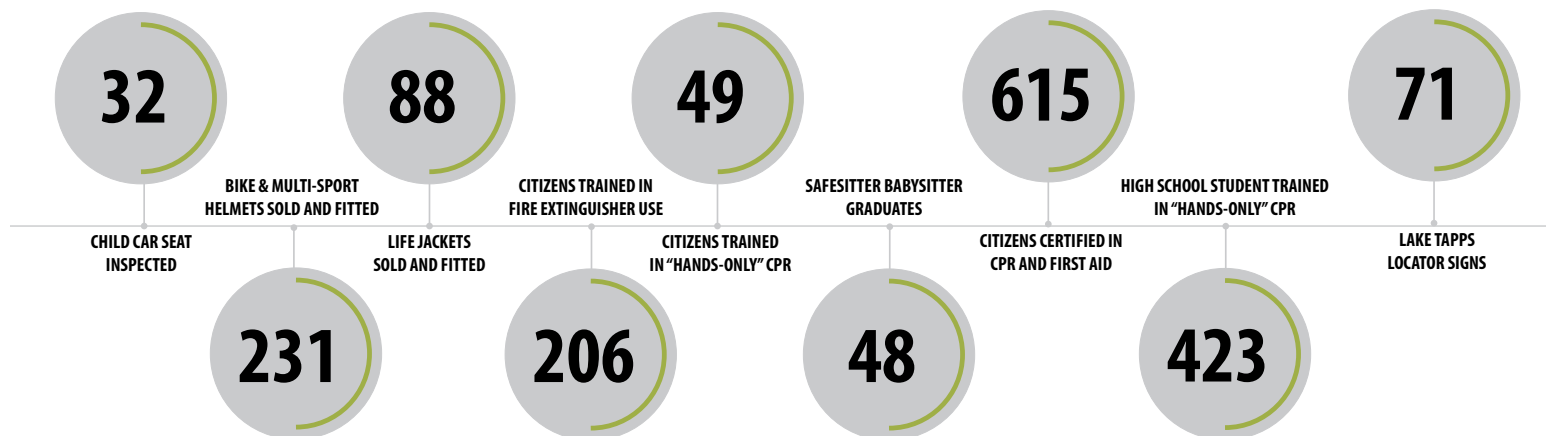
safety, bike safety, CPR, burns, carbon monoxide poisoning and fire prevention. Outreach consists of assembly-style delivery in the elementary schools and classroom-based delivery in the middle/junior and high schools.

Career and volunteer firefighters provide outreach at many community events, including 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 EPFR Open House.

Other risk reduction programs and services include fire extinguisher training, Safe Sitter babysitter classes and child car seat inspections. EPFR also offers regularly scheduled CPR and Basic First Aid classes at least twice each month, and Hands-Only CPR classes to groups upon request.



PUBLIC EDUCATION by the numbers



ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Continued collaborative efforts with the Swimsafe drowning prevention campaign to include classroom-based water safety lessons in the high schools, life jacket sale and loaner programs, and joint outreach activities with Swimsafe partners.

Thanks to funding from Cascade Water Alliance, 71 signs were provided to Lake Tapps property owners at no charge as part of the Lake Tapps Incident Locator Program.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

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

In 2018, East Pierce career and volunteer firefighter-EMTs and firefighter-paramedics assigned to the Operations Division responded to 11,150 calls for emergency services, a 1% increase in call volume from 2017. 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, the firefighters participate in training, public education events, vehicle and equipment maintenance and other routine activities.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a combination district 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 2018, 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 station closest to the emergency call.

The headquarters fire station – Station 111 – located in Bonney Lake at 18421 Veterans Memorial Drive E, 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 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, emergency medical and rescue incidents, the Operations Division maintains four special operations teams comprised of personnel with specialized training. The special operations teams include: Wildland, Water Rescue, Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAMS

SELECTED EAST PIERCE FIREFIGHTERS ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE ON 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.

EAST PIERCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAMS:

Hazardous Materials Team: 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 West Pierce, Graham, and Central Pierce. In addition to the monthly training, the HazMat Team drills with the regional team twice a year.

2018 HazMat Team Leader: 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.

2018 Water Rescue Team Leader: 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.

2018 Technical Rescue Team: 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.

2018 Wildland Firefighting Team Leader: Firefighter Kyle Bylin.



TRAINING DIVISION

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

Training and education are essential 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, effectively, and safely on a wide variety of emergency scenes including house fires, vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, high-angle cliff rescues and hazardous materials incidents.

East Pierce 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 rescue, and water rescue skills. Frequent training and practice are required for members to maintain proficiency in these skills.

The EPFR Training Division is responsible for assessing training needs, developing a training calendar and curriculum, coordinating the delivery of instruction for specialized training programs—including special teams and EMS training—and maintaining training records and certifications.

The Training Division also conducts evaluations of probationary personnel and crew-based training drills and assists in all testing for new employees and promotional processes.

Career firefighters receive most of their training while on-duty, while evening and weekend training are geared toward volunteer firefighter drills. Personnel also attend specialized classes outside the department at community colleges, workshops and firefighting academies.

Managed by a battalion chief with oversight by an assistant chief, the Training Division also consists of a Lieutenant Training Specialist and Administrative Support Specialist.



Average number
of training hours
per month

12

Average number of
Training Hours per
Firefighter for 2018

145

17,641

Total Hours
of Training

2018 TRAINING HOURS BY CATEGORY

5765 Suppression/Operations

4968 Emergency Medical Services

2480 Hazardous Materials

1194 Professional Development

1108 Technical Rescue

920 Recruit Training

674 Wildland Firefighting

532 Water Rescue

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Helped plan and/or participated in the following events and exercises:

Onboarding of 16 new career fire-fighter recruits to include: a 2-week pre-academy, 13-week fire academy, and an 8-week post-academy.

Facilitated two Formal Badge Pinnings.

Completion of a Drivers Rodeo for B shift.

Completion of a Boat Skills Rodeo for A and C shifts.

Completion of Part III of district wide auto extrication hands-on drills.

Water Rescue Team began regional training with neighboring agencies (Orting Valley Fire and Rescue, Central Pierce Fire and Rescue, and Pierce County Sheriff Department).

Began training program for new UTV (Utility Terrain Vehicle).

Hosted the International Society of Fire Service Instructors Training Officer Credential class.



VOLUNTEER DIVISION

THE VOLUNTEER DIVISION COORDINATES THE ACTIVITIES OF EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE'S FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) VOLUNTEERS. VOLUNTEERS RESPOND TO A BROAD RANGE OF EMERGENCIES INCLUDING FIRES, MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, VEHICLE COLLISIONS, HAZMAT INCIDENTS, "GENERAL ALARMS" AND NATURAL DISASTERS.



STATISTICS In 2018, volunteer staffed

1213
VEOP hours

566
volunteer personnel incident responses

196
station maintenance duty

On a typical day, volunteers either respond from home to volunteer fire stations, staff volunteer stations, or work at career-staffed stations side by side with career firefighters during a Volunteer Experience Opportunity Program (VEOP) shifts. VEOPs allow volunteers to gain valuable experience and training.

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 other 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 Program 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 & Rescue or other neighboring fire departments in Washington State.

In today's society, it is becoming more difficult to maintain a volunteer program. We are thankful for the volunteers that we have and appreciate their commitment and time they give to our community.

286
apparatus inspections

43
public education events



EPFR volunteer personnel coordinate the annual South Prairie East Egg Hunt.

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 environ-

mental 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 public safety building in Bonney Lake. The EOC manages fire, EMS, rescue and hazmat resources within East Pierce Fire & Rescue's jurisdiction, while closely 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 re-

sources 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.



ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Helped plan and/or participated in the following events and exercises:

Participated as a member on the Oversight Board for the Tri-County Complex Coordinated Terrorism Attack (CCTA) planning

Local Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams (PC NET)

Participated in the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series (JCTAWS) follow up

Pierce County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Sumner Bonney Lake School District meetings and tabletop exercises

Mt. Rainier evacuation planning, workgroup meetings and table top exercises

Cities of Bonney Lake and Sumner emergency planning

Evacuation planning on both a regional level and with the Tehaleh community

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.

The Logistics Division of East Pierce Fire & Rescue provides coordination of the complex operation of supporting 10 facilities, 80 emergency response and support vehicles, and 145 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 district, 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



ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

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 two 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 placed on a new chassis.

Installed US Digital Designs Phoenix G2 Station Alerting System which alerts our firefighters of emergency incidents clearly and precisely through sound, light, and other devices to speed their responses.

Replaced outdated and unsupported telephone systems at nine fire stations and two support offices with a new standardized VOIP system. Service charges for the new system are considerably lower and are currently saving the district \$12,000 per year.

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 responsible for the 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.

BUDGET & FINANCE

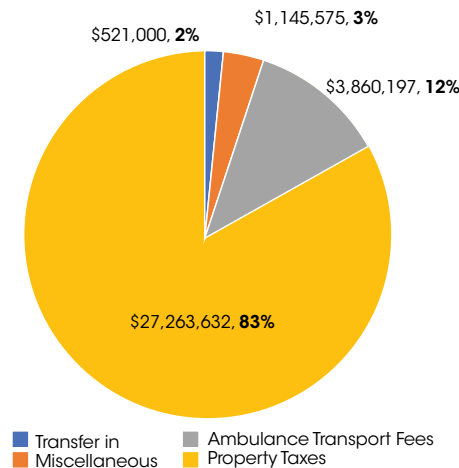
THE FINANCE DIVISION PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTING, BUDGETING, PAYROLL ADMINISTRATION, DEBT MANAGEMENT, INVESTMENT, FINANCIAL REPORTING AND INTERNAL CONTROL SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue continues to be the only major fire district in Pierce County operating within the limits of the two primary levy sources for funding. Operating with only the Regular Fire Levy (\$1.50/\$1,000 A.V.) and the EMS Levy (\$0.50/\$1,000 A.V.) limits us to a maximum combined tax collection rate of \$2.00 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Most career fire districts are operating with an additional Maintenance & Operations levy, which brings their total rates well above what East Pierce collects (one agency is over \$3.00).

While this limits how fast we can address our staffing shortages, working within the \$2.00 for as long as we can ensures strong fiscal responsibility and controls costs to the public.

A new revenue source became available that provided for an increase in collections from Medicaid. A great deal of work had to be done to justify the cost of EMS transport to Medicaid. Agencies that do this work now collect a higher portion of what the agency bills Medicaid for transporting patients covered by that

REVENUES BY TYPE



system. This increased revenues in 2018 by \$989,554. This revenue source is anticipated to double ambulance transport revenues in the coming years.

The 2018 operating budget expenditures were under budget by 5.3% or \$1,675,123, while the revenues were higher than bud-

geted at 5.4% or \$1,692,000. Under budget expenditures were impacted by: projects not completed, not meeting hiring goals, capital vehicle purchases delayed, and effective cost control by project managers.

In November, voters narrowly approved an \$80 million-dollar Bond Issue for Capital Improvements to be repaid over 20 years. A 60% super majority was required to pass the measure, which passed with a 60.27% approval. Funds from the bond will not be used for annual operating costs and can only be used for the capital projects, such as building fire stations and purchasing vehicles and equipment.

Half of the bonds were sold near the end of December 2018, meaning repayment of those Bonds in the amount of \$40 million will begin in 2019. The other half of the bonds are planned to be sold near the end of 2021. Spreading out the sale is necessary to comply with IRS regulations, specifically the requirement to have 85% of the revenue committed/spent within three years of selling the bonds.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

RESERVE FUND CONTRIBUTION

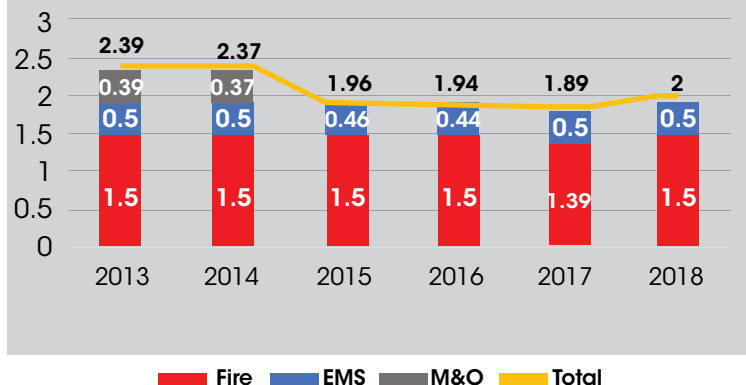
A deposit of \$1,500,000 was made to the Reserve Fund in 2018. The Reserve Fund is a savings account used to set funds aside for future use, such as purchasing equipment and maintaining facilities. 2018 is the third year in a row where EPFR has been able to put funds aside. Previously, deposits to the fund were not possible due to the recession.

CLEAN ANNUAL AUDIT

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is audited annually by the Washington State Auditor's Office. At the end of 2018, the audit was completed for the 2017 budget, with another clean audit report for the district with no findings reported. Again, reiterating that EPFR has strong financial policies and management practices.

Historical EPFR Tax Collection Rates

Dollar per \$1,000 of Assessed Property Value



2018 Operating Budget	Budgeted	Actual	Percent of Budget	Percent Over/Under
Expenditures	\$31,390,897	\$29,715,774	94.7%	5.3% Under
Revenues	\$31,098,403	\$32,790,404	105.4%	5.4% Over



“Where Compassion and Action Meet”

HEADQUARTERS STATION

18421 Veterans Memorial Dr. E.

Bonney Lake, WA 98391

(253) 863-1800

fax: (253) 863-1848

connect with us!



@eastpiercefireandrescue
@EastPierceFire
www.eastpiercefire.org

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