

ANNUAL REPORT

East Pierce Fire & Rescue



2022



01	MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF
02	BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS & COMMAND STAFF
03	FIRE STATIONS, STAFFING, & ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
04	SERVICE AREA & STATISTICS
05	HISTORY & PERSONNEL RETIREMENTS
06	EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION
08	FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
09	OPERATIONS DIVISION & PUBLIC EDUCATION
10	SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAMS
11	TRAINING DIVISION
12	VOLUNTEER DIVISION & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
13	LOGISTICS DIVISION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
14	BUDGET & FINANCE

MISSION, VISION & VALUE STATEMENTS

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, 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 THE FIRE CHIEF



2022 marked a “return to normal” for East Pierce Fire & Rescue (EPFR) as impacts from the worldwide pandemic eased, and we were able to immerse ourselves back into the community. EPFR prides itself on its relationships and engagement with the public in both emergent and non-emergent settings. I am proud that East Pierce could navigate all of the challenges COVID-19 threw at us while continuing to uphold our motto, “Where Compassion and Action Meet.” This annual report captures just a glimpse of the many accomplishments of the district and its incredible employees throughout 2022.

Administratively, 2022 remained as busy or busier than in years past. In the spring, the district kicked off an evaluation of community risk and emergency unit deployment known as a community risk assessment: standard of cover. Many employees and community stakeholders assisted us through the review over nine months. Once completed, the Board of Fire Commissioners reviewed and accepted the evaluation. They will use it as a guide for the district in future decisions regarding fire station locations, additions of emergency personnel, and

deployment of emergency units.

Throughout the year, we also made progress on new fire station projects funded through the 2018 voter-approved bond. The fire station projects include the building of five fire stations. The first station broke ground in the fall of 2021 in the City of Edgewood (Station 118). Work on the new Station 118 is near completion and will be open in the spring of 2023. In the fall of 2022, construction began on the Bonney Lake Fire Station 111 (headquarters), which will be complete in early 2024. Three more stations (Prairie Ridge Station 112, Tehaleh

Station 117, and Lake Tapps Station 114), will begin construction in 2023. It is exciting to see the progress of these much-needed facilities start to take shape!

Emergency call volume in 2022 remained very similar to 2021 with crews responding to 12,653 incidents (compared to 12,491 incidents in 2021). Since most of our emergency responses require more than one unit, emergency vehicles responded over 25,000 times last year. Our emergency units are busy protecting the citizens of East Pierce Fire & Rescue every day!

Thankfully our local wildfire season was not as significant as in 2020 when the Sumner Grade Fire occurred. The district still saw substantial wildfire activity, including several multi-acre fires. Thankfully no injuries occurred, and no homes were destroyed. But the threat of these types of fires continues to remind us that we are not immune from large-scale fires as seen up and down the West Coast.

The last item of note is that the Board of Fire Commissioners approved the

2023 Operating Budget in November. The adopted budget is a 2.10% increase over 2022, resulting in an increase of \$17 per year to the average homeowner in the district.

Thank you for your trust and approved funding to provide for your safety. We would only be able to meet your needs with your support.

-Fire Chief Jon Parkinson



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS



BOARD OF 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 occur on the third Tuesday of every month. Meetings are held in person, with an option to attend virtually.

Virtual meeting links, meeting minutes, and agenda as posted on our website at www.eastpiercefirerescue.org.

JON NAPIER

Chair / Position 2

ED EGAN

Vice Chair / Position 4

MIKE CATHEY

Position 3

KEVIN GARLING

Position 1

RANDY KROUM

Position 6

PAT McELIGOTT

Position 5

CYNTHIA WERNET

Position 7

2023 Commissioners Meeting Schedule

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



COMMAND STAFF



Jon Parkinson
Fire Chief



Bill Mack
Deputy Chief
Public Education



Kevin Stabenfeldt
Assistant Chief
*Operations/Training/
Volunteers*



Jeff Moore
Assistant Chief
Logistics



Chuck King
Assistant Chief/
Fire Marshal
*Prevention/Emergency
Management.*



Russ McCallion
Assistant Chief
EMS



Brad Dyson
Battalion Chief
*Medical Services
Officer*



Matt Gilbert
Battalion Chief
Training Officer



Justin Doyle
Battalion Chief
A Shift



Mike McGinnis
Battalion Chief
B Shift



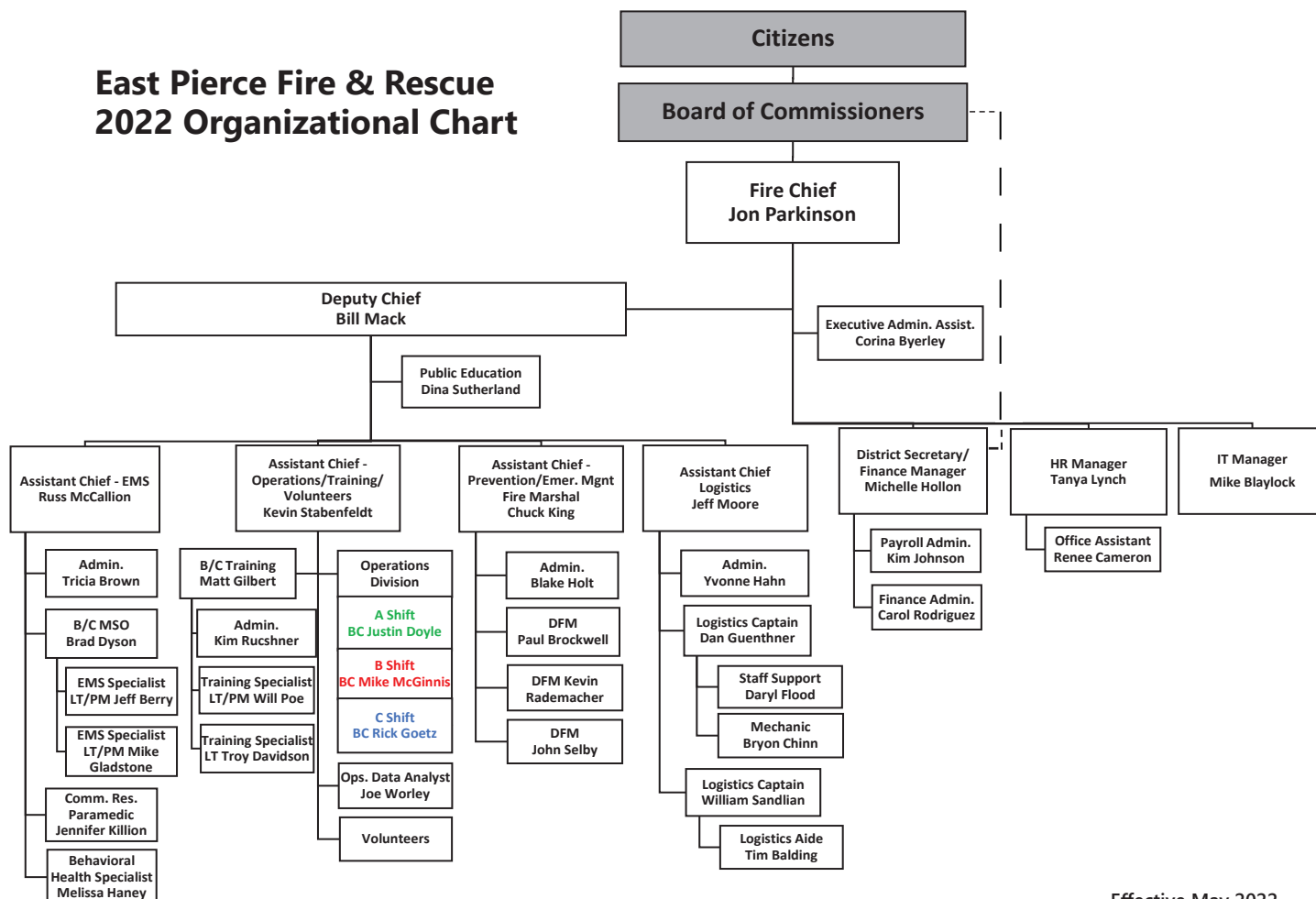
Rick Goetz
Battalion Chief
C Shift



FIRE STATIONS & STAFFING | ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Station 111 Bonney Lake 18421 Veterans Memorial Drive E. Fire Engine = 3 Medic Unit = 2 Battalion Chief = 1 On-Duty Firefighters: 6	Station 112 Prairie Ridge 12006 214th Ave. E. Fire Engine/Medic Unit = 3 On-Duty Firefighters: 3	Station 113 Sumner 800 Harrison St. Ladder Truck = 3 Medic Unit = 2 On-Duty Firefighters 5
Station 114 Lake Tapps 3206 West Tapps Drive E. Fire Engine/Medic Unit = 3 On-Duty Firefighters: 3	Station 115 Lake Tapps - East 1605 210th Ave. E. Occupied by Training Division	Station 116 Foothills 10515 234th Ave. E. Fire Engine = 3 Medic Unit = 2 On-Duty Firefighters: 5
Station 118 Edgewood 10105 24th St. E. Fire Engine = 3 Medic Unit = 2 On-Duty Firefighters: 5	Station 119 South Prairie 350 State Route 162 Volunteer Firefighter Staffed	Station 121 Buckley 27723 Sumner-Buckley Hwy. Logistics Station
Station 122 Lake Tapps 2905 Sumner/Tapps Hwy. East Marine Service Unit	Station 124 Milton 1000 Laurel St. Temporary quarters for Engine 118 during contruction of new Station 118.	

East Pierce Fire & Rescue 2022 Organizational Chart

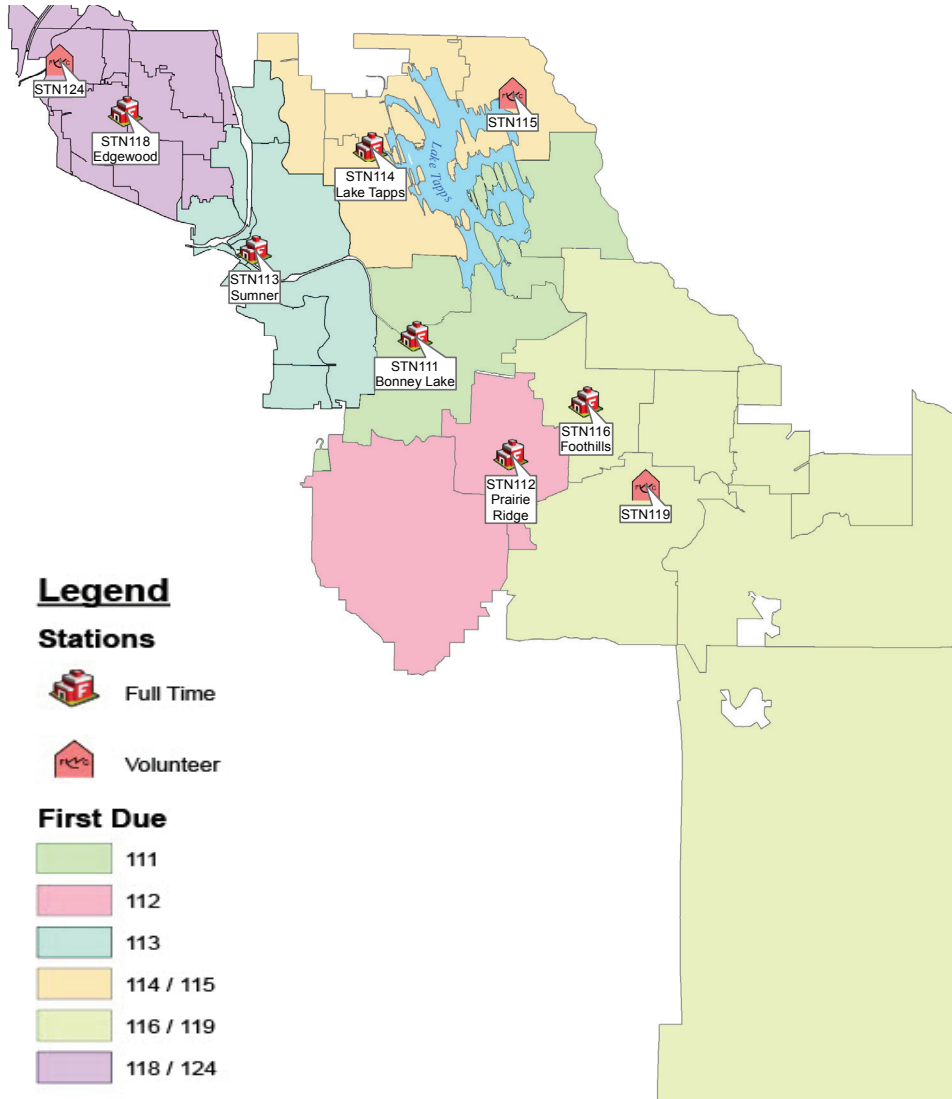


Effective May 2022

SERVICE AREA OVERVIEW & STATISTICS



EPFR SERVICE AREA



82
CAREER FIREFIGHTER-EMTS

59
CAREER FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDICS

5
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

153
square miles

100,500
total population

2022 CALLS BY TYPE

Emergency Medical Calls	9,334
Good Intent	1,185
Public Assist	943
False	637
Fire	314
HazMat	227
Other	13

TOTAL 12,653

TOTAL 911 CALLS BY STATION

Station 113 Sumner	2,846
Station 111 Bonney Lake	2,405
Station 112 Prairie Ridge	1,986
Station 124 Milton	1,582
Station 118 Edgewood	1,155
Station 116 Foothills	930
Station 114 Lake Tapps	679
Station 119 South Prairie	432
* Mutual Aid	322
Station 115 Lake Tapps - East	316

* Mutual Aid provided to neighboring fire departments

TREND: RESPONSE TIMES

Year	Dispatch to Arrival (in minutes)
2016	8:42
2017	7:35
2018	7:44
2019	7:34
2020	8:08
2021	7:38
2022	7:33

Response times for the fire service are essential for two reasons: saving lives and reducing the damage to someone's property. 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.



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 district's actions and 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 to provide a seamless emergency response. 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 approximately 100,508 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 eight stations—six career-staffed, one volunteer-staffed, 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 medical emergencies and fires.

An independently-elected board of fire commissioners governs the agency.

2022 PERSONNEL RETIREMENTS



Volunteer EMT
LUZIA BALLEW
19 Years of Service



Volunteer Captain
Mark Nevill
33 Years of Service



Firefighter
JEFF HARRIS
28 Years of Service



Deputy Fire Marshal
Brian Van Meter
28 Years of Service

Thank you for your many years of dedicated service!

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION



THE EMS DIVISION PROVIDES CLINICAL DIRECTION, MEDICAL OVERSIGHT, AND SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (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 firefighter-EMTs and paramedics responded to 9,334 medical emergencies in 2022, an average of 25.6 medical 911 calls daily. Emergency medical services (EMS) call volume continues to increase steadily, making up almost 71% of the fire department's 911 workload.

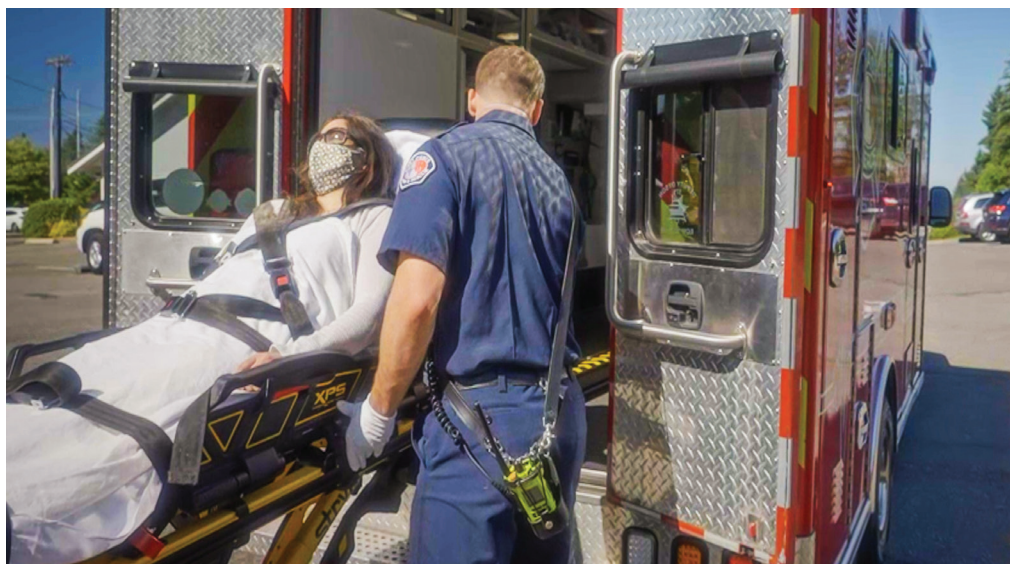
EPFR provides a full range of EMS services for the community, including "first-response" by fire engines, basic and paramedic-level ambulance transport of patients, and patient assistance and care management through our Community Resource Paramedic program.

Fire engines, deployed at each of our six career-staffed fire stations, serve as "first response" units to get medically-trained firefighters to the scene of EMS calls quickly. East Pierce also deploys four medic units (paramedic ambulances), staffed 24 hours per day, which respond to EMS scenes and transport patients to area hospitals and specialized trauma, burn, cardiac and stroke centers. One fire engine crew also "cross-staffs" an additional medic unit for 12 hours during the day to help with increased call volume.

To provide needed emergency medical services for the community, all EPFR firefighters are cross-trained at a minimum Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level, and 59 members are cross-trained and certified as paramedics.

EMTs receive 150 hours of training to provide basic emergency care, including splinting, bandaging, spinal immobilization, oxygen, airway management, and automated defibrillators. EMT-certified members can also administer a limited number of drugs, such as epinephrine, for patients suffering from anaphylactic shock. Firefighter-EMTs work in conjunction with the paramedics to prepare patients for transport to the hospital.

Paramedics receive an additional 1,500



to 2,000 hours of medical training focused on clinical assessment skills and the 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, interpret 12-Lead ECGs, and provide electrical pacing, cardioversion, and defibrillation.

In 2022, East Pierce medic units transported 6,245 patients to area hospitals, an average of 17.1 patients per day, a 3.3% increase over 2021. Overall, there has been a cumulative five-year increase of 8.2% in EMS transports.

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

- An increasing older population will increase EMS call volume. Patients over 65 typically call 911 at a rate 2 to 3 times higher than younger people.
- Increasing shortages of primary care physicians result in people calling 911 and going to the emergency department when they can't see their doctor.
- The opening of new assisted living

centers, adult family homes, senior apartments, and dementia care centers. Residents in these facilities typically generate between 2 and 3 EMS transports per person per year, a 911 call volume rate some thirty times higher than those of citizens living independently. In total, these care centers generate 10% to 15% of our medical calls per year.

Over two-thirds of patients seen by EPFR crews are transported in medic units to area hospitals. Many patients choose not to be taken to the hospital in an East Pierce medic unit. These "non-transport" patients sign a medical "release of responsibility" or "refusal against medical advice" forms. These patients typically present with minor injuries or illnesses treated at the scene. These patients may not require additional care or decide to have family or friends take them to a hospital, clinic, or doctor's office.

Since 2004, East Pierce Fire & Rescue has provided emergency ambulance service to district residents to provide improved clinical care at no "out-of-pocket" cost to fire district residents. The district bills private health insur-

9,334
Total EMS Calls

6,245
Patient Transports

82
Firefighter-EMTs

59
Firefighter-Paramedics

ance, Medicare, Medicaid, and other insurance providers on the patient's behalf. Last year, East Pierce received nearly \$6.6 million in total ambulance transport revenues, which support the department's 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 over \$1.1 million

each year from this program, which the EMS levy underwrites.

A letter from the department's billing service may be sent to residents requesting verification of insurance information. Patients are required to submit this requested information to enroll in the levy "write-off" program. The letter also includes a description of the ambulance transport charge if the EMS levy didn't cover them.

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 to the district for "mutual aid." In this case, residents may have to pay for ambulance transport, depending upon which agency provides the service. Last year, 83 district residents were transported by mutual aid ambulances or 1.4% of our total EMS patient transports.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Deployment of New Paramedic ECG Monitor/Defibrillator

In 2021, the department evaluated a new "paramedic-level" cardiac monitor/defibrillator to equip all our medic units and fire engines. Philips Medical was awarded a bid for the new Tempus Pro monitor/defibrillator, which offered significant improvements in technology, data management, treatment, and diagnostic capabilities. These units serve as the cornerstone piece of bio-medical technology used by paramedics.

Selected firefighters and paramedics went through a "train-the-trainers" course in February 2022, so they could assist with ongoing training and serve as 24/7 resources for crews as the new units were rolled-out.



New paramedic -level Tempus Pro cardiac monitor/defibrillators were deployed on all EPFR medic units in 2022.

Deployment of the new Tempus units was a significant project. All field members underwent a training program in March of 2023, and the Tempus units were put-in-service late that month. The new technology necessitated a steep learning curve for crews, but they successfully adapted to the new units. The EMS Division has provided ongoing training and communications with crews, who helped identify equipment issues that Philips is modifying.

2. Hiring of Behavioral Health Specialist

With an ever-increasing number of patients suffering from behavioral health emergencies, EPFR moved forward and hired a licensed behavioral health specialist to serve as the second member of our Community Paramedic/Mobile Integrated Health team. This team helps connect vulnerable patients, who often have mental health issues, with resources and referrals to outside agencies. Melissa Haney, LMFT, brings a wealth of experience in "case management" to her new position and coordinates with multiple healthcare organizations to get patients the needed ongoing assistance. Connecting patients with resources also helps reduce unnecessary 911 calls, keeping fire/EMS engines and medic units available for other emergency calls.

3. Field Medical Services Officers Deployment Plan Progresses

In September 2022, the department conducted a selection process to staff new, shift-based Medical Services Officers (MSOs) who will be deployed in early 2023. During the fall, a training program was developed to help prepare members for their new roles and responsibilities.

One MSO will be deployed on each of the of the department's three shifts. MSOs will be automatically dispatched to high-priority EMS calls to help provide clinical oversight and improve the medical care delivered daily to patients by EPFR fire/EMS providers.

The three new MSOs are all firefighter-paramedic officers. In addition to responding to critical 911 incidents, the MSOs will provide training and mentoring in the field to help our members. One particular focus for the MSOs will be assisting with the EMS training of new probationary Firefighter/EMTs and Firefighter/Paramedics.

The MSOs will be based out of the new Edgewood Fire Station 118 when it opens in the spring of 2023 but will respond to 911 calls throughout the district.

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION



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...EVERY DAY.

In 2021, the Fire Prevention Division took a new direction since plan reviews and construction inspections moved back to city employees - except in the City of Milton. The new approach provided a proactive fire prevention and life safety inspection program for businesses within the cities of East Pierce Fire & Rescue. The new process gained authorization from the Board of Commissioners and approval by the cities through inter-local agreements. It also placed the responsibility of developing pre-incident plans for businesses throughout the jurisdiction on the division.

This program is intended to provide low-impact inspections and educational opportunities to help protect commercial properties by reducing risks and increasing the safety of citizens, workers, and first responders. Most issues found during inspections are easily corrected. The goal was to work with business owners and employees to create cooperation and a willingness to develop and maintain a fire-safe work environment.

The scope of these inspections identifies, assesses, and mitigates potential life safety and fire hazards (electrical cords, combustible storage, blocked exits, hazardous conditions, lack of fire protection system confidence tests, etc.). The Deputy Fire Marshals

conducting the inspections document noted code requirement violations and explained them to the business's representative. A re-inspection to ensure compliance is necessary unless the business self-reports corrections. Levels of non-compliance or violations were handled differently depending on the severity (self-clear, reinspect, or enforce). Non-compliance with significant requirements was subject to notification of the applicable city enforcement division.

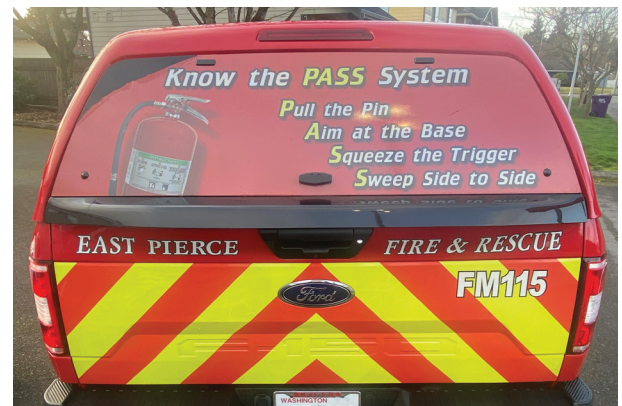
Pre-incident plans, formerly pre-fire plans, are developed to assist personnel in effectively managing emergency incidents and events to protect occupants, responding personnel, property, and the environment.

The fire district was responsible for determining the cause of fires within the city limits of the jurisdiction. Many of the routine investigations were conducted by our operations responders, while East Pierce fire investigators and Pierce County fire marshals completed more complex investigations.

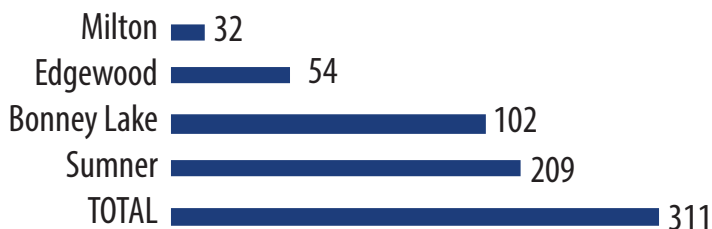
The Fire Prevention Division's four fire investigators share response duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In 2022, firefighters responded to

314 fire incidents, ranging from small rubbish fires to commercial building fires. East Pierce fire investigators conducted investigations of 26 fires in the East Pierce Fire & Rescue jurisdiction. The Pierce County fire marshals investigated four fires within the unincorporated areas of the district and assisted with six within the city limits. In 2022, the deputy fire marshals reviewed 44 construction plans for the City of Milton, performed 1590 fire and life safety inspections covering over 27 million square footage, and completed 311 pre-incident plans.

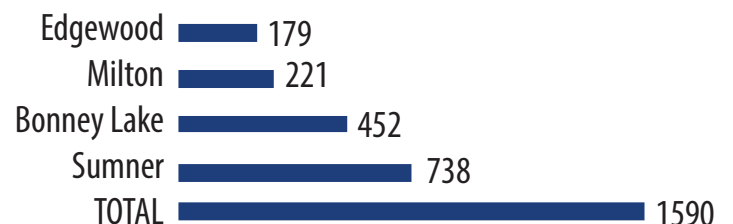
East Pierce Fire & Rescue is committed to improving public safety through education and services, like this new fire prevention and life safety inspection program, to reduce the potential for injury and property loss due to fire.



2022 PRE-INCIDENT PLANS BY CITY



2022 INSPECTIONS BY CITY/AREA





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 2022, East Pierce career and volunteer firefighter-EMTs and firefighter-paramedics assigned to the Operations Division responded to 12,653 (a 1.3% increase over last year) calls for emergency services. 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 also participate in training, public education events, vehicle and equipment inspections and maintenance, and other routine activities.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a combination department comprised of career and volunteer firefighters to handle various emergencies. Career firefighters and paramedics respond to calls throughout the 153-square-mile district. If volunteer stations are closer to an incident, both volunteer and career

personnel respond to the incident.

District fire stations are strategically located throughout the jurisdiction to respond quickly. In 2022, East Pierce personnel responded from eight fire stations, with six stations staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by career firefighters. The remaining two stations include one volunteer-staffed station and a water rescue facility located on the north end of Lake Tapps.



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

The headquarters fire station – Station 111 – located in Bonney Lake, houses emergency response personnel and the administrative offices for the district.

The Assistant Chief of Operations oversees the Operations Division. This division includes three shifts supervised by a Battalion Chief who works out of the headquarters station and manages the day-to-day operations of the entire shift. An Operations Data Analyst also supports 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.

PUBLIC EDUCATION



The driving force behind EPFR's public education programs is to reduce the risk of injuries and deaths from fires, drowning, medical emergencies, such as cardiac arrest, and other preventable causes. These programs teach children and adults how to recognize and avoid unintentional injuries through in-person learning, demonstrations, and activities.

In 2022, most of EPFR's public education programs, such as Safe Sitter and CPR/First Aid

classes, bike helmet and life jacket fittings and sales, smoke alarm installations, and fire extinguisher training, resumed following a lengthy break due to COVID precautions.

The EPFR Open House also returned, as did involvement in community outreach events, such as the Daffodil Parade, National Night Out, Sumner Rhubarb Days, Bonney Lake Days, Edgewood Community Picnic, and Milton Days.



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.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM:

HazMat members are extensively trained and equipped to respond to various incidents involving hazardous materials. Preparing for anything is essential when you have two rail lines, an interstate, a large industrial complex, two pipelines, and a couple of highways running through your district.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a member of the Pierce County Hazardous Incident Team (PCHIT), which responds regionally to mitigate incidents involving hazardous materials. This multi-jurisdictional response team includes hazmat-trained firefighters from West Pierce Fire & Rescue, Graham Fire & Rescue, Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One, and Central Pierce Fire & Rescue. In addition to monthly training at East Pierce, the HazMat team drills quarterly with the county team and neighbor-

ing hazmat jurisdictions throughout the year.

WATER RESCUE TEAM:

Members of the Water Rescue Team regularly practice skills and techniques they learn in various water rescue training classes.

Team members gain hands-on experience diving at Lake Tapps and the Puget Sound. They also practice swift water rescue on local rivers.

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

The team maintains a fireboat located on Lake Tapps in addition to swift water rescue boats that can deploy throughout the region.



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

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING TEAM:

This team trains monthly in preparation for every fire season, refreshing past skills and learning new techniques. The group consists of career firefighters who train to mitigate brush fires that occur with some frequency in our area.

The tactics, strategies, equipment, and techniques for fighting wildfires differ from fighting structure fires. The Wildland Team must often fight fire in remote locales without fire hydrants. Crews commonly use chainsaws, portable water pumps, and hand tools to extinguish fires. Additionally, bulldozers and helicopters are often used to contain and control wildfires.

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



TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM:

East Pierce firefighters who belong to the Technical Rescue Team respond to extraordinarily dangerous rescue situations such as building collapse, confined-space entrapments, trench, machine, vehicle rescues, and high-angle rope incidents. They also support injured wildland firefighters by participating as REM (Rapid Extrication Module) team members.

Before team members can respond to a call, they must have completed over 250 hours of demanding training demonstrating proficiency in trench rescue, confined space, rope rescue, and emergency building shoring.

The East Pierce team participates on the Pierce County Technical Rescue Team. To-



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 and effectively on various emergency scenes, including house fires, vehicle collisions, medical emergencies, high-angle cliff rescues, and hazardous materials incidents.

To maintain proficiency, East Pierce firefighters receive frequent training on various topics and skills, from the most commonly used to the most complex and unique. Crews hone skills related to rope rescue techniques, wildland firefighting, swift water, underwater,

and trench rescue.

The Training Division is responsible for assessing training needs, developing a training calendar and curriculum, coordinating the delivery of instruction for specialized training programs—including special teams and EMS training—and maintaining training records and certifications. Training Division members provide direct delivery of many fire and rescue training-oriented programs.

The 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 is geared toward volunteer firefighter drills. Personnel also attends specialized community college classes, workshops, and firefighting academies.

Managed by a Battalion Chief with oversight by an Assistant Chief, the Training Division consists of two Training Lieutenants and an Administrative Support Specialist.



2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Onboarding 10 new career firefighter recruits to include a 2-week pre-academy, 13-week fire academy, and an 8-week post-academy.
- Eleven firefighters completed their probationary period from a previous recruit class.
- Completed transition to the Washington Fire Chiefs Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention Program (EVIP).
- Ninety-six firefighters participated in "live fire" training.
- Trained two additional TDA (tractor-drawn aerial) operators.
- Completed boat pilot training and placed the new fireboat in service.
- Ten members completed the Hazmat Incident Command training.

2022 TRAINING HOURS BY CATEGORY

5,612

SUPPRESSION/
OPERATIONS

5,632

EMERGENCY
MEDICAL
SERVICES

1,358

HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS

1,578

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

1,176

TECHNICAL
RESCUE

2,986

RECRUIT
TRAINING

646

WILDLAND
FIREFIGHTING

485

WATER
RESCUE

19,473

TOTAL HOURS
OF TRAINING

12

AVERAGE
NUMBER OF TRAINING
HOURS PER FIREFIGHTER
PER MONTH

146

AVERAGE
NUMBER OF TRAINING
HOURS PER FIREFIGHTER

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.

During a significant fire that requires many firefighters, or when there are an unusually high number of incidents, volunteer firefighters 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 EPFR or other neighboring fire departments in Washington State.

Maintaining a volunteer program today is becoming more challenging. We are

thankful for the volunteers we have and appreciate their commitment and time to our community.



December 31st, 2022, marked the final day of the volunteer firefighter/EMT program at East Pierce Fire & Rescue.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WORKS CLOSELY WITH CITY, COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS, TO PREPARE AND MANAGE LARGE-SCALE EMERGENCIES.

The mission of the Emergency Management Division is to prepare, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards – natural or manmade. In the simplest terms, emergency management is managing risk to life with environmental and technical hazards and dealing with the disasters they may cause. This team provides leadership during a community-wide disaster by participating in local Emergency Operation Centers and deploying highly trained emergency response units. Emergency management involves four phases: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

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, Emergency Management has a plan - whether a severe winter storm or massive flooding.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Helped plan or participated in the following events and exercises:

- Bonney Lake Municipal Court Incident Guide Committee.
- East Pierce County Lahar Rapid Action Procedure Committee.
- Local Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams (PC-NET).
- Northwest Pipeline Emergency Response.
- Pierce County Critical Transportation Workshop.
- Pierce County Emergency Operations Center (PC-EOC).
- Pierce County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).
- Tehaleh Firewise.
- South Prairie Creek Flood Control Process.
- Sumner-Bonney Lake School District Natural Disaster Sub-committee.



LOGISTICS DIVISION

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 cost-effectively and efficiently coordinates the complex operation of supporting 11 facilities, 80 emergency response and support vehicles, and 175 employees. The division also deals with procuring, storing, distributing, maintaining, and replacing the district's materials and equipment

and maintains the fire stations inside and out.

Logistics personnel order all supplies and equipment for the district, including uniforms, protective clothing, and firefighting and rescue tools. They have been certified to repair the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and

taught to program radios. Logistics personnel repair some items in-house to reduce outsourcing costs, like vehicle exhaust systems.

Logistics also coordinates purchasing and maintaining significant items such as apparatus, HVAC, and roof repairs.

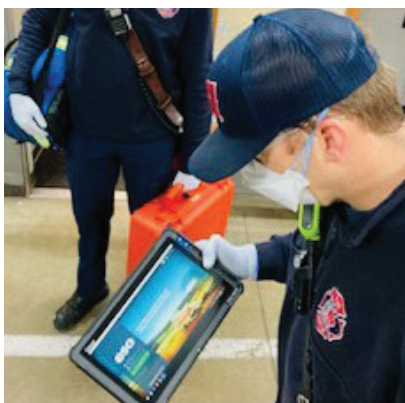
2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Purchased and replaced a 33-year-old fire boat with a new 26-foot aluminum catamaran due to age and increased maintenance costs. This fire boat will serve the East Pierce Fire & Rescue community for many years.
- Completed Station 122 (boat house) upgrades and repairs to accommodate new fire boat.
- Purchased three Dodge 4500 medic units to replace aging apparatus to improve safety, unit reliability, and maintenance costs.
- Completed HAAS R2R/R2V alerting system software installation on nine engines and one ladder truck. This software improves firefighter and public safety while our apparatus responds to emergencies.
- Completed respirator fit tests for emergency response personnel per State requirements. Each member tested the two respirators used during EMS and fire incidents.
- Completed annual fire hose, ladder, and nozzle flow testing per State requirements, replacing all failed equipment on all emergency response apparatus.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ENSURES ALL COMPUTERS, PRINTERS, COPIERS, AND A/V EQUIPMENT ARE IN WORKING ORDER ACROSS THE DISTRICT – PLUS, IT KEEPS THE NETWORK AND PHONE SYSTEMS RUNNING.



Information Technology is responsible for the firefighters' electronic tablets 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 fire and EMS vehicles, provide maps and updates as the firefighters respond to 911 calls.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Upgraded wireless equipment at Headquarters Station.
- Upgraded server equipment at Headquarters Station.
- Installed Starlink service at Headquarters Station to provide network redundancy.
- Moved IT office from Station 114 to Station 113.



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 functioning 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 operate with an additional Maintenance & Operations levy or a Benefit Charge, which brings their total rates well above what East Pierce collects (one agency is over \$3.00).

While this limits how fast we can

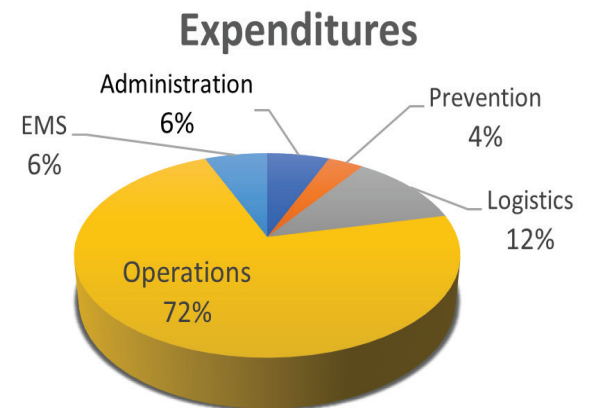
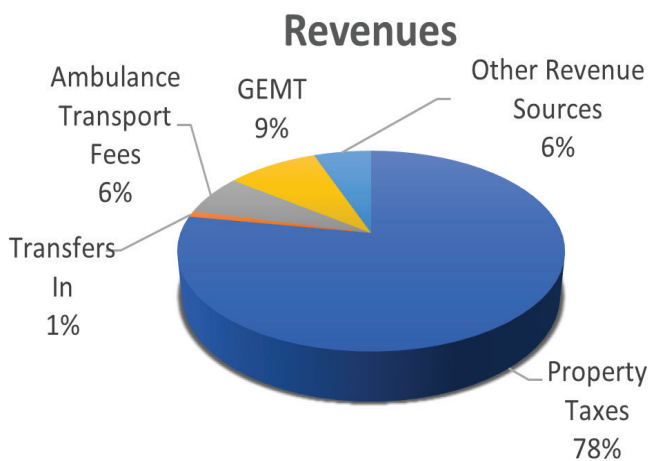
address our staffing shortages, working within the \$2.00 for as long as possible ensures strong fiscal responsibility and controls costs for the public.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue's annual audit covered fiscal years 2020 and 2021, which yielded a clean audit status.

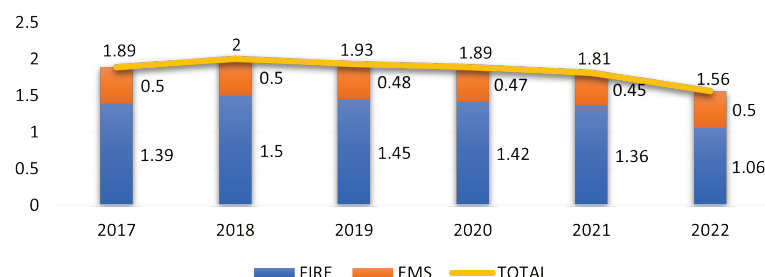
During 2022, revenues totaled \$46,572,602, and expenditures were \$45,522,853. Payments received in 2022 for the Ground Emergency

2022 Operating Budget	Budgeted	Actual
Expenditures	\$47,811,894	\$45,522,853
Revenues	\$43,237,296	\$46,572,602

Medical Transport (GEMT) program were \$3,590,263 (Federal reimbursement for the transport of Medicaid patients). Ambulance fees collected in 2022 were in the amount of \$2,883,857. The 2022 collection for the district's Unlimited Tax General Obligation (UTGO) Bond was \$2,265,207 based on \$0.101 per 1,000 assessed value.



HISTORICAL OPERATING FUND COLLECTION RATES





📍 **HEADQUARTERS STATION**
18421 Veterans Memorial Dr. E.
Bonney Lake, WA 98391

☎ (253) 863-1800

✉ info@eastpiercefire.org

🌐 www.eastpiercefire.org

Connect With Us!



@eastpiercefireandrescue



@EastPierceFire



@EastPierceFire

"Where Compassion and Action Meet"