

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

East Pierce Fire & Rescue





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VISION, MISSION, & VALUES

Exceptional people providing compassionate service and rapid response to our community's diverse needs.

VISION

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a trusted cornerstone of a safe and resilient community.

MISSION

We provide exceptional service with compassion and action.

VALUES

Our values are the foundation of how we work.

Integrity

We uphold the highest standards of fairness and honesty to ensure we remain trusted by and accountable to our community and one another.

Leadership

We set a meaningful example for our community and one another through principles that are grounded in humility, consistency, and respect among all employees.

Stewardship

We serve with responsibility and care for our community's wellbeing and financial resources, and we prioritize a healthy, safe, sustainable workforce.

Innovation

We encourage new ideas at all levels of our organization to proactively adapt to our community's changing needs through a measured blend of tradition and new practices.

"Where Compassion and Action Meet"



MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



2024 marked another incredible year for East Pierce Fire & Rescue. This annual report captures just a glimpse of the district's accomplishments and incredible employees throughout 2024.

Here is a small snapshot of what we've been working on throughout the last year:

Financial Audit: We completed the audit of our financial records with the

Washington State Auditor's Office. Once again, the East Pierce finance team led us to a clean audit status, which means our finances were in perfect order, and we complied with all state and federal rules.

Fire Levy Renewed: In April 2024, voters approved a lid lift on the fire levy, which was last approved in 2017. The levy makes up the bulk of East Pierce Fire & Rescue's revenue and is critical to our ability to provide emergency services.

Additional Medic Unit: Thanks to voters supporting the fire levy renewal in 2024, East Pierce placed an additional medic unit in service 24 hours a day. A medic unit is utilized for emergency transport to regional hospitals.

Milton Fire Station: The fire levy renewal also allowed staffing of Milton's Station 124 24/7/365.

Fire Station Construction: Several fire station projects made significant progress in 2024. For more information, see

the Bond Update section in the quarterly newsletter.

Emergency Incidents: Crews responded to 13,044 incidents (compared to 12,563 incidents in 2023).

On behalf of the district, I would like to thank you all for entrusting us with the responsibility of protecting the community.

-Fire Chief Jon Parkinson



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 100,500 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 six stations and one facility on Lake Tapps for the marine rescue unit.

All 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.



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 agendas are posted on our website at www.eastpiercefirerescue.org.



Jon Napier
Chair/Position 2



Ed Egan
Vice Chair/Position 4



Justin Evans
Position 3



Kevin Garling
Position 1



Randy Kroum
Position 6



Pat McElligott
Position 5



Cynthia Wernet
Position 7



COMMAND STAFF



Jon Parkinson
Fire Chief



Matt Gilbert
Deputy Chief
Operations



Kevin Stabenfeldt
Deputy Chief
Administration



Jeff Moore
Assistant Chief
EMS



Will Poe
Assistant Chief
Operations



Bill Sandlian
Assistant Chief
Health & Safety



Mike Westland
Assistant Chief
Logistics



Brad Dyson
Battalion Chief
Medical Services Officer



Dan Curtis
Battalion Chief
Training Officer



Justin Doyle
Battalion Chief
A Shift



Mike McGinnis
Battalion Chief
B Shift



Troy Sterrenburg
Battalion Chief
C Shift

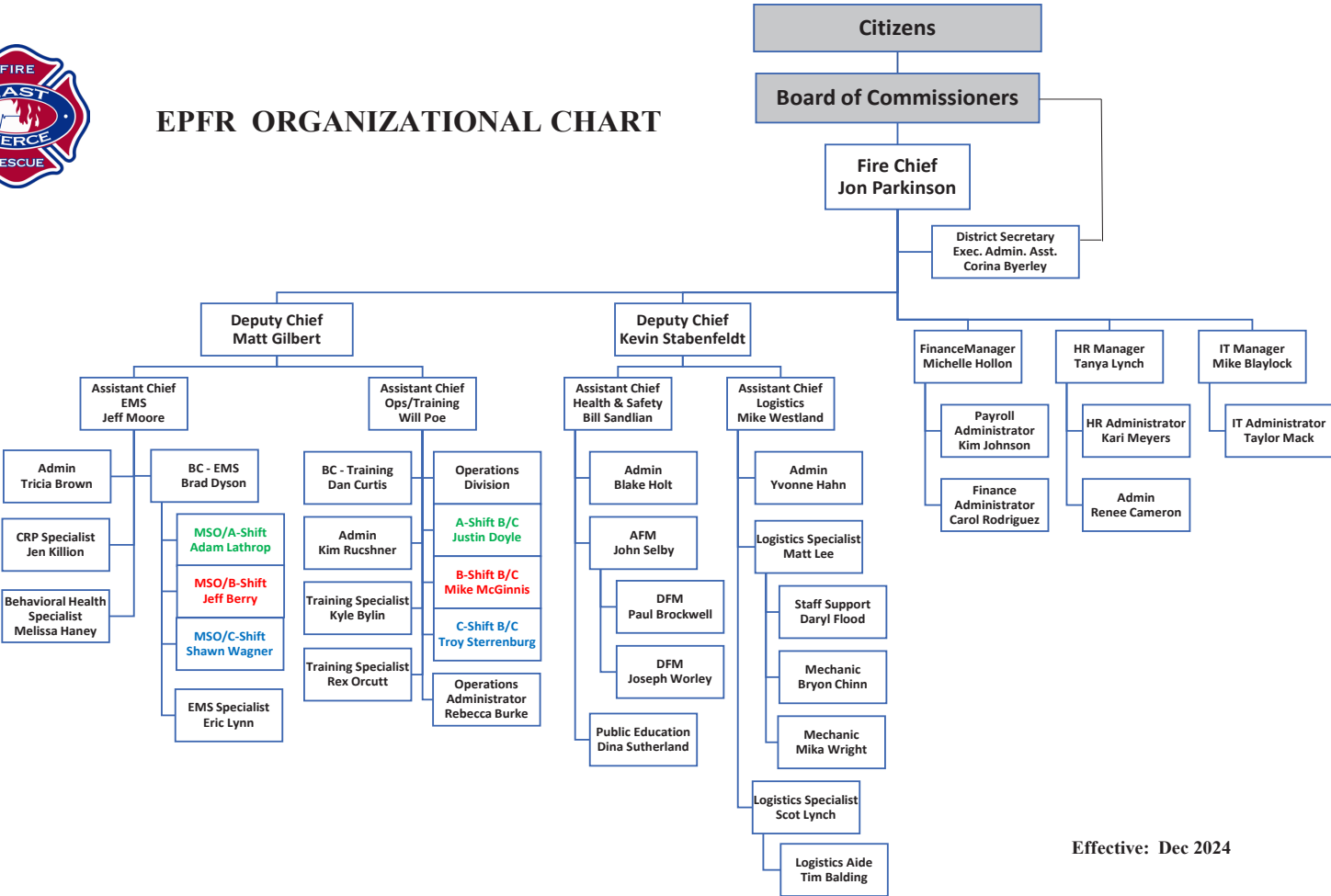


FIRE STATIONS & STAFFING | ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

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 = 3 On-Duty Firefighters: 3	Station 115 Lake Tapps - East 1605 210th Ave. E. Temporary quarters for Engine 114 during the construction of the new Station 114.	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 MSO = 1 On-Duty Firefighters: 6	Station 119 South Prairie 350 State Route 162 Fleet Maintenance Facility	Station 121 Buckley 27723 Sumner-Buckley Hwy. Logistics Facility
Station 122 Lake Tapps 2905 Sumner/Tapps Hwy. East Marine Service Unit	Station 124 Milton 1000 Laurel St. Fire Engine = 3 On-Duty Firefighters: 3	



EPFR ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

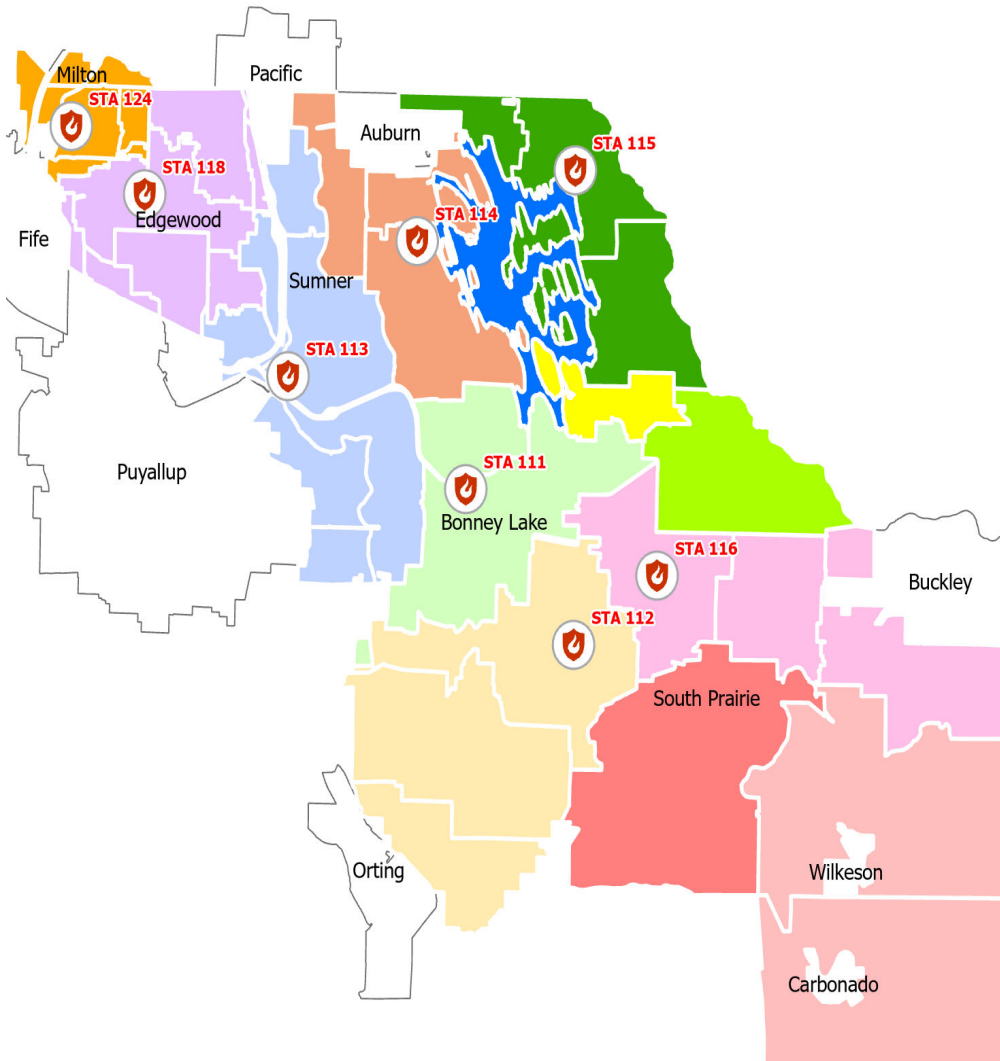


Effective: Dec 2024

SERVICE AREA OVERVIEW & STATISTICS



EPFR SERVICE AREA



106

FIREFIGHTER-EMTs

57

FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDICS

153

square miles

100,500

total population

2024 CALLS BY TYPE

Emergency Medical Calls	9,443
Good Intent	1,291
Public Assist	997
False	699
Fire	306
Hazmat	298
Other	10

TOTAL 13,044

TOTAL 911 CALLS BY STATION

Station 113 Sumner	2,924
Station 112 Prairie Ridge	2,290
Station 111 Bonney Lake	2,109
Station 124 Milton	1,532
Station 118 Edgewood	1,325
Station 114 Lake Tapps	1,311
Station 116 Foothills	1,291
* Mutual Aid	279

* Mutual Aid provided to neighboring fire departments

TREND: RESPONSE TIMES

Year	Dispatch to Arrival (in minutes)
2024	12:43
2023	12:57
2022	13:01

Shown in 90th percentile response times (dispatch to arrival) for first arriving units.

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.



PERSONNEL RECOGNITION

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners and Command Staff honor the 2024 awards recipients during an Awards and Recognition Ceremony. All personnel are invited to attend.

Recipients are voted on by their peers through a nomination and ballot process. The only award not chosen this way is the Chiefs Company, in which the Command Staff selects the recipients based on demonstrated leadership skills.

2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

CHIEF'S COMPANY

Captain/MSO Adam Lathrop
Firefighter Brandon Kalilikane
Firefighter Spencer Byfield
Logistics Aide Tim Balding

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Lieutenant/Paramedic Jeff Lachowitzer

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Firefighter Jeremy Paul

EMS PROVIDER

Firefighter/Paramedic Jim Landefeld

FITNESS

Firefighter Andrew Craig

MIKE ROBERTS GOODWILL

Firefighter Jason Stearns

SUPPORT STAFF

Admin. Support Specialist Yvonne Hahn

2024 RETIREMENTS



Firefighter/Paramedic
SEAN ALIX
20 Years of Service



Firefighter/Paramedic
FRANK GIBBONS
24 Years of Service



Battalion Chief
RICK GOETZ
28 Years of Service



Captain
DAN GUENTHNER
23 Years of Service



Captain
MATT JEWITT
24 Years of Service



Firefighter/Paramedic
JEFF LUCAS
31 Years of Service



FF/Deputy Fire Marshal
KEVIN RADEMACHER
36 Years of Service



Firefighter/EMT
HEIDI ROLFSNESS
29 Years of Service

Thank you for your many years of dedicated service!



THE EMS DIVISION PROVIDES CLINICAL DIRECTION, MEDICAL OVERSIGHT, AND SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) OPERATIONS. EMS PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS OCCURS 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 9,443 medical emergencies in 2024, an average of 25.84 medical 911 calls daily. Emergency medical services (EMS) call volume continues to increase steadily, making up almost 72% of the fire department's 911 workload.

EPFR provides a full range of EMS services for the community, including "first-response" by fire engines, EMT 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 seven career-staffed fire stations, serve as "first response" units to quickly get medically trained firefighters to the scene of EMS calls. East Pierce also deploys five 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.

To provide needed emergency medical services for the community, all EPFR firefighters are cross-trained at a minimum Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level, and 57 members are cross-trained certified paramedics.

EMTs receive 150 hours of training to provide basic emergency care, including splinting, bandaging, spinal immobilization, oxygen, airway management, and automatic external 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 2024, East Pierce medic units transported 6,614 patients to area hospitals, an average of 18.1 per day.

EPFR's EMS call volume is predicted to steadily increase in coming years due to:

- An increasingly older population. Patients over 65 typically call 911 at a rate 2 to 3 times higher than younger people.
- Continuing shortages of primary care physicians result in people calling 911 and going to the emergency department when they can't see their doctor.
- An increasing number of assisted living centers, adult family homes, senior apartments, and dementia care centers. Residents in these facilities typically generate a 911 call volume rate thirty times higher than residents 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. They 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 insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, and other

insurance providers on the patient's behalf. Last year, East Pierce received nearly \$7.3 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. A letter from the department's billing service may be sent to residents requesting verification of insurance information. Patients are required to submit the 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, 122 district residents were transported by mutual aid ambulances, 1.8% of our total EMS patient transports.



9,443
Total EMS Calls

6,614
Patient Transports

106
Firefighter-EMTs

57
Firefighter-Paramedics



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Emergency Medical Services Training Program

In 2024, our dedicated EMS training instructors delivered approximately 550 hours of outstanding continuing education training for over 164 uniformed firefighters. These comprehensive sessions blended hands-on workshops, engaging lectures, and realistic simulations to equip our emergency medical personnel with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle real-life medical emergencies they encounter in the field.

Implemented RFID Medical Inventory Program

In 2024, we implemented an electronic management system with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) for EMS asset control - a game-changer in efficiency and accuracy. The RFID readers are strategically placed to ensure comprehensive coverage and real-time tracking of valuable assets and inventory. The data collected by the readers is transmitted to the EMS Division, which processes and stores it

for easy access and analysis. This system allows for instant asset location, improved inventory management, and reduced losses due to theft or misplacement. Additionally, integrating RFID technology with existing management software enhances overall operational efficiency and provides detailed reports for better decision-making.

Mobile Integrated Health Program

Our Mobile Integrated Health team was instrumental in proactively assisting EPFR's vulnerable residents by connecting them to appropriate resources and providing care coordination and referral for those with complex needs.

EPFR Firefighters Graduate Paramedic Program

Two firefighters completed the 2024 Tacoma Fire Paramedic Program and will be mentored by EPFR paramedics before providing ALS care to our community in early 2025.



THE HEALTH & SAFETY DIVISION FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION BY PROVIDING A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES TO PROTECT OUR RESIDENTS, VISITORS, AND LOCAL BUSINESS EMPLOYEES FROM IDENTIFIED RISKS, FIRE-RELATED LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY DAMAGE. THROUGH IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE AND INNOVATIVE PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS, THE DIVISION ADOPTS A PROACTIVE STANCE TOWARD FIRE PREVENTION, WITH PUBLIC EDUCATION PLAYING A PIVOTAL ROLE.

In 2024, East Pierce firefighters responded to 306 fire incidents, ranging from small rubbish fires to commercial building fires. Health and Safety's three fire investigators, on-call 24/7, investigated 20 fires within the East Pierce Fire & Rescue jurisdiction. Pierce County fire marshals investigated eight fires in the unincorporated areas of the district and assisted with six within the city limits. Additionally, the deputy fire marshals reviewed 32 construction plans for the City of Milton, performed 416 fire and life safety inspections, and completed 339 pre-incident plans.

The fire district determines the cause of fires within the jurisdiction's city limits. Our operations responders often conduct routine investigations, while East Pierce fire investigators and Pierce County fire marshals complete more complex investigations.

Fire prevention and life safety inspections for businesses within East Pierce Fire & Rescue, authorized by the board of fire commissioners and through interlocal agreements with our partner cities, aim to provide low-impact inspections and educational opportunities. These efforts help commercial businesses and property owners reduce risk and enhance the safety of citizens, workers, and first responders. The goal is collaborating with business owners and employees to foster cooperation and a commitment to developing and maintaining a fire-safe work environment.

Inspections include identifying, assessing, and mitigating potential life safety

and fire hazards, such as improper use of electrical cords, combustible storage, blocked exits, hazardous conditions, and missing fire protection system confidence tests. Deputy Fire Marshals conducting the inspections document any code violations and explain them to the business's representative.

In most cases, violations can be easily corrected. A re-inspection to ensure compliance is necessary unless the business self-reports corrections. Levels of non-compliance (violations) are handled differently depending on severity, with options including self-clear, re-inspection, or enforcement. Significant non-compliance issues are reported to the applicable city enforcement division.

The Health & Safety Division manages pre-incident plans to help personnel effectively manage emergency incidents and events, protecting occupants, responders, property, and the environment. Pre-incident planning assesses important factors related to a structure, such as fire suppression systems, occupancy, hazards, and water sources.

Community Risk Reduction through PUBLIC EDUCATION

An integral part of the Health & Safety Division, East Pierce Fire & Rescue boasts a robust public education program. This program encompasses various initiatives, including:

- **Car Seat Inspections:** Ensuring the safety of children by offering inspections and guidance on proper car seat installation.
18 car seat inspections provided to district residents.
- **Characterization School Assemblies:** Educating children about fire safety and prevention through engaging and informative sessions.
9 assemblies delivered to 5,000 students.

- **CPR/First-Aid Classes:** Equipping community members with life-saving skills through CPR and first-aid training sessions.
680 Students taught in 34 classes

- **Fire Extinguisher Training:** Teaching individuals how to safely and effectively use fire extinguishers, empowering them to take action during emergencies.
280 students taught in 8 classes

- **Safe Sitter Classes:** Educating babysitters on essential safety practices and emergency procedures to ensure the well-being of children under their care.
60 students taught in 3 classes

- **Community Risk Reduction Efforts:** Implementing strategies to identify and mitigate fire-related risks within the community, promoting overall safety and resilience.

- **Information Officer Resources:** Responsible for gathering, verifying, and disseminating accurate information to the public through various channels, particularly during emergencies or critical situations, acting as the primary point of contact for the media and ensuring consistent messaging across all communication platforms. Their key resources include media contacts, communication plans, social media platforms, and internal stakeholders within their organization to deliver information effectively.

Through these initiatives, East Pierce Fire & Rescue aims to enhance public awareness, preparedness, and resilience, ultimately reducing the occurrence and impact of fire-related incidents in the community.

2024 FIRE INVESTIGATIONS BY CITY/AREA	
Milton	1
Edgewood	2
Unincorporated Pierce County	8
Bonney Lake	6
Sumner	3
TOTAL	20



OPERATIONS DIVISION

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

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is an all-hazards agency comprised of 140 firefighters and firefighter/paramedics that provide fire suppression, emergency medical response, and special operations response throughout the 153-square mile fire district. Fire stations are strategically located throughout the district for quick and efficient emergency response.

In 2024, East Pierce suppression personnel responded from seven fire stations staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by career firefighters. Additionally, a water rescue facility located on the north end of Lake Tapps houses a fireboat used for marine and land-based firefighting and support-

ing water rescue responses on Lake Tapps. Crews are dispatched through the regional dispatch center, South Sound 911.

In addition to emergency response, East Pierce firefighters participate in training, public education events, vehicle and equipment inspections, and other routine activities while on duty.

The East Pierce Operations Division includes administrative day-shift staff and 24-hour shift personnel. The day staff comprises a Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief, and Operations Administrator. The 24-hour shift personnel include firefighters on three shifts, each supervised by a Battalion Chief. The

Battalion Chiefs are responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of their respective shift. All division members work together to ensure operational readiness and optimal response throughout the fire district.

In addition to fire and EMS response, the Operations Division maintains four Special Operations Teams comprised of personnel who have completed specialized training in their respective discipline. The teams include Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, Water Rescue, and Wildland response.



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 PERSONNEL

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM:

Hazmat Team members are extensively trained and equipped to respond to various incidents involving hazardous materials. Being well prepared is essential as East Pierce has two rail lines, an interstate, large industrial complexes, two pipelines, and several highways running through the fire district. East Pierce Fire & Rescue responds to hazmat incidents both in-district and regionally to mitigate incidents involving hazardous materials.

In addition to monthly in-house training, the team drills with neighboring hazmat jurisdictions throughout the year. Team members are also encouraged to participate in outside training classes and seminars like those offered through the National Fire Academy.

WATER RESCUE TEAM:

Water Rescue Team members respond to surface, dive, and swift water rescue incidents on the many bodies of water in the fire district and are called upon to respond to incidents throughout the region.

Team members participate in monthly training drills, gaining continuous, hands-on experience diving at Lake Tapps or the Puget Sound, practicing

swift water rescues on local rivers, and boat rescue operations.

The team maintains a fireboat on Lake Tapps and swiftwater rescue boats that deploy throughout the district and even the region as incidents occur.

TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM:

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

Before team members can respond to a call, they must complete over 250 hours of demanding training demonstrating proficiency in the primary disciplines: trench rescue, confined space, rope rescue, and structural collapse. In addition to monthly team drills, the Technical Rescue Team partners with other local agencies in regional training drills and exercises.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING TEAM:

Wildland Team members train to mitigate brush fires that occur with

some frequency in our area, such as in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The United States Fire Administration defines the WUI as "...the zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. It is the line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels."

The team trains every month to prepare for the upcoming fire season, allowing them to refresh their past skills and learn new techniques. The tactics, strategies, equipment, and methods for fighting wildfires and brush fires differ from fighting structure fires.

Team members must often fight fire in remote locations without fire hydrants. In addition to bulldozers and helicopters, crews commonly use chainsaws, portable water pumps, and hand tools to control and extinguish fires. The team also gets called upon to help neighboring districts and respond to Federal or State deployments to fight wildfires. Funded by the Federal Government or State Department of Natural Resources, these deployments give our team members valuable experience.





TRAINING DIVISION

EAST PIERCE FIREFIGHTERS MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE SKILLS AND ABILITIES THROUGH ONGOING TRAINING OVERSEEN BY THE TRAINING DIVISION

Training and education are critical for maintaining and enhancing the vital firefighting, rescue, and medical skills required to keep East Pierce Fire & Rescue at the forefront of emergency response. All personnel must undergo annual firefighting and emergency medical training to ensure they are prepared to respond effectively to a wide range of incidents.

The training program provides firefighters with the latest updates on regulations and industry "Best Practices," allowing them to stay current with evolving standards and safety protocols. Training also ensures that personnel are familiar with various equipment and emergency procedures, which enables them to work efficiently and effectively across diverse emergencies, from house fires and vehicle collisions to medical emergencies, high-angle rescues, and hazardous materials incidents.

EPFR firefighters undergo extensive training across various topics and skills, ranging from the most commonly used techniques to more complex and specialized rescue operations. For example, crews regularly practice rope rescue techniques, wildland firefighting, swift water rescues, underwater operations, and trench rescue skills. These skills are vital for the safety and success of fire and rescue operations and require continuous practice to maintain proficiency.

The Training Division is responsible for assessing training needs, developing a comprehensive training calendar and curriculum, and coordinating the delivery of specialized instruction, including programs for special teams and emergency medical services (EMS) training. In addition, the Training Division ensures the accurate maintenance of training records and certifications. Division members directly deliver many

fire and rescue training programs to ensure that all personnel are equipped with the skills necessary for their roles. The Training Division also oversees the evaluation of probationary personnel, conducts crew-based training drills, and assists in all testing processes for new employees and promotional exams.

Most of the training takes place during on-duty hours. In addition to in-house training, EPFR personnel gain further expertise by attending specialized classes at community colleges, workshops, and firefighting academies.

The Training Division is managed by a Battalion Chief, with oversight from an Assistant Chief. It consists of two Training Lieutenants and an Administrative Specialist, all working together to ensure that EPFR personnel maintain the highest training and readiness standards.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Onboarding of 31 new career firefighter recruits to include a 2-week pre-academy, 15-week fire academy, 7-week EMT school, and a 4-week post-academy.
- Sixteen firefighters completed their probationary period from a previous recruit class.
- Thirty-one members completed Live Fire training.
- Nine members completed Fire Officer I training.
- One member completed Fire Officer II training.
- Four members completed Fire Instructor I training.
- Three members completed Fire Instructor II training.
- Nine probationary firefighters completed Driver/Operator training, making them eligible to operate an engine.

2024 TRAINING HOURS BY CATEGORY

6,499

EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SVCS.

1,791

HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS

4,221

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

18,361

RECRUIT
TRAINING

5,492

SUPPRESSION/
OPERATIONS

717

TECHNICAL
RESCUE

760

WILDLAND
FIREFIGHTING

978

WATER
RESCUE

38,819

TOTAL HOURS
OF TRAINING

222

AVERAGE # OF TRAINING HRS
PER FIREFIGHTER

19

AVERAGE # OF TRAINING HRS
PER FIREFIGHTER/PER MONTH

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ENSURES ALL COMPUTERS, PRINTERS, COPIERS, AND AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT ARE IN WORKING ORDER ACROSS THE DISTRICT – PLUS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 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.



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Upgraded apparatus dispatch computer tablets.
- Upgraded network connectivity to SS911 dispatch center.
- Installed IT equipment for Station 124 remodel.
- Created a mobile case with 10 tablets for training and MCI events.
- Upgraded station copiers.
- Upgraded Headquarters Station VOIP phones.



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 for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards – natural or manufactured. Emergency management is managing risk to life from environmental and technical hazards and dealing with the disasters they may cause. This team provides leadership during a community-wide disaster by coordinating with 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 and works closely with city, county, state, and federal agencies, including law enforcement and school districts.

The All-Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2025 has been updated and rewritten including EPFR's response capabilities, vulnerable risk assessments, and mutual and automatic aid agreements throughout the region.

With population growth and development, many new risks and frequency of service needs have increased, and EPFR has planned for the increased demand for these services and capabilities in the future.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Helped plan or participated in the following events and exercises:

- Puget Sound Energy Wildfire Risk Reduction Plan
- East Pierce County Lahar Rapid Action Procedure and Drill
- Local Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams (PC-NET)
- Northwest Pipeline Emergency Response
- Pierce County Emergency Operations Center (PC-EOC)
- Pierce County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Pierce County Utility and Fire Entity Wildfire Coordination.
- Tehaleh Firewise
- South Prairie Creek Flood Control Process
- Sumner-Bonney Lake School District Safety Advisory Council



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 is integral to the seamless functioning of East Pierce Fire & Rescue, overseeing the acquisition, maintenance, and management of fire and EMS vehicles, equipment, protective gear, and facilities. By efficiently procuring and distributing essential supplies and materials, the division ensures that the department can respond to emergencies and serve the community effectively.

In 2024, the Logistics Division continued to excel in resource management, focusing on operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The team supported 11 facilities, 84 emergency response and support vehicles, and 194 personnel, ensuring that each element of

the department's operations was well-equipped and maintained. Logistics plays a pivotal role in the procurement, storage, distribution, and upkeep of the critical materials and equipment that underpin daily operations while maintaining the upkeep of the district's fire stations.

The Logistics Division's achievements in 2024 reflect its commitment to sustaining East Pierce Fire & Rescue's mission. Focusing on strategic planning, streamlined procurement, and proactive maintenance, the division continues to enhance the safety, reliability, and effectiveness of emergency response operations.



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Remodeled Station 124 to accommodate an additional engine response crew, enhancing service to the Milton/Edgewood communities.
- Procured and upfitted a new rescue/engine for Station 116, improving overall fleet reliability and technical rescue response to the district and region.
- Three new F-450 medic units were deployed to replace the aging apparatus, reducing maintenance costs while enhancing safety and reliability.
- Ordered two new F-450 medic units with delivery scheduled for May 2026.
- Updated fire engine specifications for two new engines on order, with delivery scheduled for January 2026.
- Ordered a new water tender (delivery scheduled for April 2025), greatly enhancing the ability to provide water to fires in areas without hydrants and for wildland fires.
- Procured and placed in service two staff vehicles, providing reliable transportation for the Information Technology division.
- Hired a second mechanic, which directly supports our mission to provide reliable and safe apparatus for emergency response.
- Evaluated the Fleet Maintenance Program to improve and optimize fleet safety and operational efficiencies.
- Installed and placed in service HAAS alerting system on all front-line apparatus, significantly improving emergency response safety.
- Completed the refurbishment of Station 122 (EPFR boathouse), ensuring the long-term reliability of this station.



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 (\$1.08/\$1,000 A.V.) and the EMS Levy (\$0.36/\$1,000 A.V.) limit us to a maximum combined tax collection rate of \$2.00 per \$1,000 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 ad-

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

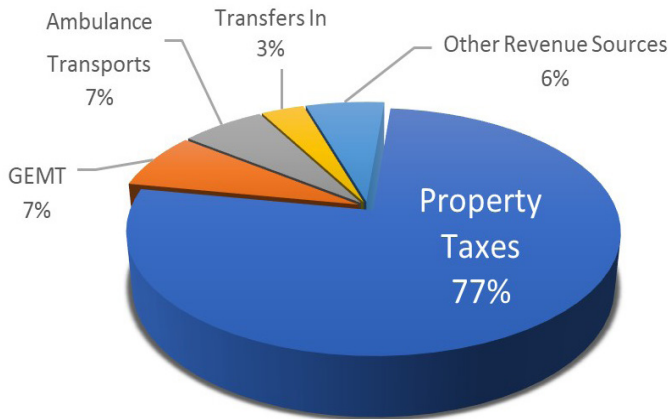
East Pierce Fire & Rescue's annual financial audit for fiscal year 2023 yielded a clean audit status.

In 2024, revenues totaled \$52,109,920, and expenditures were \$51,991,391. Payments received in 2024 for the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program were \$3,872,351

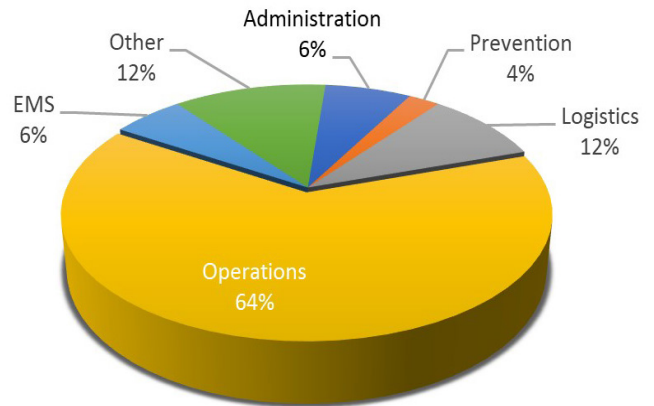
2024 Operating Budget	Budgeted	Actual
Expenditures	\$59,865,333	\$51,991,391
Revenues	\$58,022,515	\$52,109,920

(Federal reimbursement for the transport of Medicaid patients). Ambulance fees collected in 2024 were \$3,397,240. The 2024 collection for the district's Unlimited Tax General Obligation (UTGO) Bond was \$5,070,011 based on \$0.18 per 1,000 assessed value.

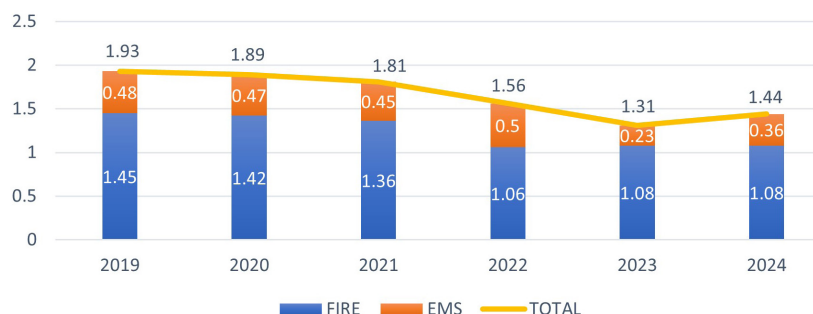
Revenues



Expenditures



HISTORICAL OPERATING FUND COLLECTION RATES





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