



FIRE HOUSE NEWS

SERVING THE CITIZENS OF BONNEY LAKE, EDGEWOOD, MILTON, LAKE TAPPS, THE RIDGE COMMUNITIES, SOUTH PRAIRIE, SUMNER, TEHALEH AND SURROUNDING AREAS

FALL 2026

YOU'RE INVITED

30TH ANNUAL
OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026
1 - 4 PM

8601 MAIN STREET EAST, BONNEY LAKE

FREE FAMILY EVENT

JR. FIREFIGHTER CHALLENGE • CHILDREN'S FIRE SAFETY HOUSE • VEHICLE RESCUE DEMO • AIRLIFT NW HELICOPTER • ANTIQUE ENGINE DISPLAY
WATER RESCUE • TECH RESCUE • HAZMAT • WILDLAND & DNR • MEET SPARKY, SMOKEY BEAR & MCGRUFF THE CRIME DOG
FREE ICE CREAM, COTTON CANDY & POPCORN • FACE PAINTING

PARK FOR FREE – RIDE THE SHUTTLE!
Park for FREE at the Sound Transit Park & Ride
(184th Ave E, just off SR 410 E. in Bonney Lake)
A free shuttle, provided by Sumner-Bonney Lake School District will run to and from the fire station during the event

Thank you to our sponsors

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & VENDORS

This fall, East Pierce Fire & Rescue will open its bay doors for a special milestone: our 30th Open House. More than three decades after the first event, the celebration continues to bring residents and firefighters together for an afternoon of family fun, hands-on activities and safety education.

The tradition began in 1993, when Lieutenant Eric McLeroy of the Bonney Lake Fire Department began looking for a way to connect with residents outside of an emergency. The following October, the department welcomed the community to its first Open House in recognition of Fire Prevention Month.

“We simply opened the bay doors and invited the public to come in,” McLeroy recalled. “We offered station tours, encouraged citizens to explore the fire engine and aid car, and asked a few partner agencies to participate. It was a huge success!”

Much has changed since that first event. The Bonney Lake Fire Department became part of East Pierce Fire & Rescue, the Open House moved to a new Headquarters Station, and the number of demonstrations, activities and community partners continued to grow.

What has not changed is the heart of the event. The Open House remains an opportunity for residents to meet their firefighters, explore emergency equipment and learn simple ways to help keep their families safe.

Available at the Open House

- Bicycle helmets: \$11 plus tax
- Multi-sport helmets: \$13 plus tax
- Life jackets: \$19 plus tax

Bicycle helmets, multi-sport helmets and life jackets will be available during the event through East Pierce Professional Firefighters Local 3520. Children and adult sizes will be available while supplies last. The person using the helmet or life jacket must be present so it can be properly fitted.

Local 3520 will also provide free popcorn, cotton candy and ice cream. Flu shots will be available with insurance billing or payment by debit or credit card.

Join us for the 30th Annual Open House on Saturday, October 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Headquarters Station 111 in Bonney Lake.

There will be something for every member of the family to see, try and learn. We hope to see you there as we celebrate our 30th Open House and a community tradition that began more than three decades ago! ■

Help Fill the Community Toybox Early

The Sumner-Bonney Lake Community Toybox brings East Pierce Fire & Rescue, the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District, Sumner Police Department and the Gordon Family YMCA together to support local families during the holidays.

The program works with school counselors to help make sure donated toys, gift cards and other resources reach children and teens in the Sumner-Bonney Lake area who may need extra support.

Starting early helps the Community Toybox prepare for the needs of our growing community.

Ways to Help

- Donate new, unwrapped toys and gifts for ages 0-18
- Give new games, books, crafts or other age-appropriate gifts
- Donate gift cards, especially for teens
- Donate gift wrap, ribbon or tape
- Volunteer your time
- Host a collection box at your business
- Visit the Community Toybox Amazon Wishlist

Questions or interested in hosting a collection box?
Email SBLCommunityToybox@gmail.com.

SUMNER-BONNEY LAKE
COMMUNITY
TOYBOX

SCAN TO DONATE
OR LEARN MORE

“Where Compassion and Action Meet”



FROM THE CHIEF JON PARKINSON

As summer winds down and students return to school, East Pierce Fire & Rescue continues to stay busy serving our communities.

Here is a snapshot of what we have been working on:

Fourth of July: During the holiday weekend, our crews responded to 115 incidents, including 65 medical emergencies, 23 fire-related calls, and 27 other incidents. Of the fires, 18 were documented as fireworks-related. Three medical calls involved fireworks-related burns or explosions. Thankfully, no structure fires were reported.

Wildfire Season: Warm, dry weather increased the risk of wildfires across our region, and burn restrictions were put in place to help reduce that risk. Several East Pierce members have also been deployed this summer to support wildland firefighting efforts. Thank you to everyone who followed the restrictions and helped keep our communities safe.

WSRB Rating Update: We are proud to share that East Pierce earned Tender Credit for its improved rural water response capabilities. Learn what this means for qualifying homeowners on Page 3.

Community Connections: Our crews and staff participated in events throughout the district, shared fire and water safety information, and joined our neighbors for National Night Out. We love having opportunities to connect with our community, answer questions, and spend time with the people we serve.

Welcoming New Firefighters: In June, thirteen East Pierce recruits graduated from Red Knight Academy, a joint recruit academy with West Pierce Fire & Rescue. After several weeks of post-academy training, they joined the line in July as probationary firefighters. We're proud to have them serving in our stations and communities.

Station 112: The new Station 112 in Prairie Ridge is scheduled to open in September. We hope to welcome the community for a grand opening in October or early November. Watch our website and social media pages for event details.

30th Annual Open House: Join us on October 3 for our 30th Annual Open House! It is a great opportunity to meet your firefighters, explore emergency vehicles, and learn how to keep your family safe.

Stay connected with us on Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter), and at www.eastpiercefirer.org, where you can find the latest news and updates from across the district.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Serving this community is a privilege, and one our entire team remains committed to, every single day. ■



Bond Updates: Fall 2026

In November 2018, voters approved a bond to replace all six front-line fire engines and a ladder truck, replace four fire stations, and build a new fire station in Tehaleh.

Here is a brief snapshot of the status of these projects.

Fire Station Construction Status

- Station 118 - Edgewood: Opened Fall 2023.
- Station 111 - Bonney Lake: Opened February 2025.
- Station 114 - Lake Tapps: Opened June 2025.
- Station 117 - Tehaleh: Opened June 2025.
- Station 112 - Prairie Ridge: Opening September 2026.

Vehicle Status

- Ladder 113 and Engines 111, 112, 114, 116, 118, and 1119 are received and serving our communities.

Thank you for providing us with the equipment and facilities to serve you better. ■

HEALTH WATCH

BE SOMEONE'S HERO

Learn CPR. Find an AED. Be Ready to Help.

Sudden cardiac arrest can happen anywhere: at home, at work, at school, or during sports. When someone's heart stops, every second matters. CPR can keep blood moving until firefighters and paramedics arrive, while an automated external defibrillator, or AED, can help restore a normal heart rhythm.

Know the Signs

- A person in cardiac arrest may suddenly collapse, become unresponsive, stop breathing normally, or only gasp.

What Should I Do?

- Check for a response and normal breathing.
- Call 9-1-1. Put your phone on speaker and follow the dispatcher's instructions.
- Send someone to find the nearest AED.
- Begin CPR.
- Use the AED as soon as it arrives. Continue CPR until emergency crews take over.

Begin CPR

- **For infants and children:** If they are unresponsive and not breathing normally, begin CPR with chest compressions and breaths. Give 30 chest compressions followed by 2 breaths. If you cannot give breaths, begin chest compressions and follow the 9-1-1 dispatcher's instructions.

- **For adults:** If someone suddenly collapses and is not breathing normally, begin Hands-Only CPR. Place both hands in the center of the chest and push hard and fast at 100 to 120 times per minute.

Use an AED

- AEDs are designed for members of the public to use in an emergency. Turn it on, attach the pads as shown, and follow its spoken directions. The AED will check the person's heart and deliver a shock only if one is needed.
- Do not wait for emergency crews before beginning CPR or using an AED.

Cardiac Arrest or Heart Attack?

- A heart attack happens when blood flow to part of the heart is blocked. The person is often awake and may have chest pain, trouble breathing, nausea, or sweating.
- Cardiac arrest happens when the heart stops pumping blood. The person is unresponsive and not breathing normally. A heart attack can lead to cardiac arrest.

Learn Skills That Can Save a Life

- EPFR offers CPR/AED and Basic First Aid classes at HQ/Station 111 in Bonney Lake. Classes cover adult, child, and infant CPR, AED use, choking, and cardiac emergencies. Students must be at least 12 years old.

See EPFR Classes & Public Education on Page 4 for dates, prices, and registration information. ■

TURN YOUR PHONE INTO A LIFESAVING TOOL



- PulsePoint Respond is a free app connected to the 9-1-1 system
- Get alerted when someone nearby may need CPR in a public place.
- Find a nearby registered AED
- **DOWNLOAD PULSEPOINT RESPOND**
Select East Pierce Fire & Rescue. Show that you are CPR-trained and willing to help.

OWN OR MANAGE AN AED?
Register it at AED.new so it can be found during an emergency

A Life Saving Legacy at Allan Yorke Park

Two public AEDs at Allan Yorke Park were dedicated in memory of East Pierce Fire & Rescue Deputy Chief Bill Mack.

The AEDs were placed through Project 100, a program of the Nick of Time Foundation. They are available to athletes, families, and other park visitors during an emergency.

The Nick of Time Foundation was started in memory of Nick Varrenti. Nick was a healthy, 16-year-old athlete who died from sudden cardiac arrest.

Today, the foundation provides heart screenings for young people. It also teaches CPR and AED skills, helps schools prepare for heart emergencies, and places AEDs where people gather.

Chief Mack served on the foundation's board for many years. He cared deeply about keeping young people safe. These AEDs continue his work and create a lasting way to help save lives.

During an emergency at Allan Yorke Park, call 9-1-1. The dispatcher will send help and provide the code needed to open the AED cabinet. ■



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK | OCTOBER 4–10, 2026

CHARGE INTO FIRE SAFETY™

WHY THIS MATTERS



Lithium-ion batteries power many of the devices we use every day, from phones and laptops to power tools, e-bikes, and toys.

These batteries store a lot of energy in a small space. If they are damaged or charged improperly, they can overheat, catch fire, or even explode.

Lithium-ion battery fires have caused deaths, injuries, and property damage across the U.S.

By following a few simple steps, you can help protect your home, your loved ones, and your community.

SAFE CHARGING IS A SUPERPOWER



USE THE RIGHT CHARGER

Always use the cord and charger that came with your device or one approved by the manufacturer.



CHARGE ON HARD SURFACES

Use a table, desk, or countertop. Avoid beds, couches, or under pillows where heat can build up.



UNPLUG WHEN FULLY CHARGED

Leaving devices plugged in longer than necessary increases heat and battery stress.



KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS

Stop using a device if it gets hot, swells, leaks, smells strange, smokes, or makes popping or hissing sounds.



CHARGE LARGER BATTERIES SAFELY

When possible, charge e-bikes, scooters, and power tools outdoors. Never block an exit while charging.

WARNING SIGNS OF BATTERY FAILURE



FEELS VERY HOT



SWELLING OR BULGING



LEAKING



STRANGE ODOR



SMOKE



POPPING OR HISSING SOUNDS

If you notice these signs, stop using the device immediately and move away from it if you can do so safely.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



Scan the QR code or visit eastpiercefire.org

EPFR Awarded WSRB Tender Credit & W Class Update

Great news for our community! Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) has completed its evaluation and has officially granted Tender Credit to East Pierce Fire & Rescue due to East Pierce’s commitment to strong rural water operations, training, and response readiness.

This credit applies to homes within five road miles of a responding fire station that do not have a standard fire hydrant within 1,000 feet. Qualifying properties will now receive a Protection Class 5 rating, an improvement from the previous Protection Class 8A.

In addition, areas served through alternative water supply operations (W Protection Class) now have updated classifications that reflect our improved capabilities in delivering water to non-hydranted areas. This specific protection class is for homes within 5 to 7 road miles of a responding fire station.

Why This Matters:

- Improved protection class ratings may affect homeowner fire insurance premiums.

How to find your protection class (PC or W PC):

- Contact the WSRB Customer Service team at 206-217-0101 for the protection class rating assigned to your specific property.
- Then reach out to your insurance agent to learn how your updated classification, whether PC 5 or W Protection Class, may impact your policy.

We are proud of the work that went into this evaluation and grateful for the collaboration of East Pierce personnel throughout the process.

Scan the QR code to the right to learn more and view the official WSRB Tender Credit Approval Letter on our website. ■

MOVE OVER.
SLOW DOWN.
IT'S THE LAW.

When approaching an emergency or work zone:

1 SLOW DOWN

2 MOVE OVER WHEN SAFE

If you cannot move over, continue slowing and pass with caution.

GIVE CREWS ROOM TO WORK SAFELY.

WASHINGTON STATE LAW • RCW 46.61.212

CAR SEAT QUESTIONS? WE CAN HELP.

FREE CARSEAT INSPECTIONS

Our certified technicians can help check:

1 THE RIGHT SEAT FOR YOUR CHILD

2 CORRECT INSTALLATION AND VEHICLE FIT

3 PROPER HARNESS OR SEAT-BELT FIT

CALL 253-863-1800 | BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

“Where Compassion and Action Meet”

Who Is East Pierce Fire & Rescue?

East Pierce Fire & Rescue was founded on a strong commitment to customer service. The district's *Vision, Mission, and Values* guide the district and its employees' actions. Exceptional customer service and concern for employees and their families have become hallmarks of our culture.

EPFR was formed 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 response to emergencies.

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 over 100,000 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 the community from nine fire stations, eight staffed and one dedicated marine rescue facility on Lake Tapps.

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

An independently-elected Board of Commissioners governs the agency.

Commissioners

- Jon Napier, Chair
- Edward Egan, Vice Chair
- Justin Evans
- Kevin Garling
- Randy Kroum
- Pat McElligott
- Pete Connell

Staffed Stations

- Station 111 - Bonney Lake**
Headquarters Station
8601 Main St. E.
(253) 863-1800
- Station 112 - Prairie Ridge**
12060 207th Ave E.
- Station 113 - Sumner**
800 Harrison St.
- Station 114 - Lake Tapps**
3206 W. Tapps Dr. E.
- Station 116 - Foothills**
10515 234th Ave. E.
- Station 117 - Tehaleh**
14504 181st Ave. E.
- Station 118 - Edgewood**
10105 24th St. E.
- Station 124 - Milton**
1000 Laurel St.

Milestones: New Beginnings, Lasting Legacies

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is proud to recognize the accomplishments, service and dedication of our members.

New Probationary Firefighters

On July 20, thirteen probationary firefighters began serving in the field. Please join us in welcoming *Marc Camilo, Kyle Combs, Tyler DeJong, Cody Dieni, Dalton Fisher, Coner Goodlet, Zachary Hersey, Daniel May, Nick May, Luke McMahon, Alexander Nowjack, Nathan Reece, and Mason Rice.*

Probation Completed

Sixteen members successfully completed probation and now continue their careers with EPFR as firefighters and firefighter/paramedics: *FF Breanne Bok, FF Jeff Brock, FF Marcus Brittain, FF Travis Calderwood, FF/PM Cody Coffman, FF Robert English, FF Ryan Galon, FF Brady Jacobowitz, FF Joshua Lawrence, FF Brandon Lloyd, FF Isaac Lyro, FF Brian O'Mara, FF Keith Peterson, FF Trey Rainwater, FF Mikhal Snovel, and FF Duncan Walker.*

New Paramedics

On February 20, three members completed paramedic school, strengthening EPFR's ability to provide advanced medical care throughout our community. Congratulations to our newest paramedics: *FF/PM Mitchell Nguyen, FF/PM Nathan Rasmussen, and FF/PM Jason Wonio.*

New Appointments

Three members accepted new assignments supporting EPFR's emergency medical services: *Lt./PM Jen Killion, Medical Services Officer; Lt./PM Tucker Walker, Medical Services Officer; and FF/PM Craig Ryan, EMS Specialist.*

Promotions

We are proud to recognize the members who advanced into new leadership roles over the past year: *AC Jeff Berry, AC Doug Mullins, BC Shawn Wagner, AFM Paul Brockwell, Capt. Troy Davidson, Lt. Brycen Giove, Lt. Scot Lynch, Lt. Aubrey Schermerhorn, Lt. Rich White, DFM Craig Labriola, and DFM James Parke.*

Retirements

Over the past year, six longtime members retired from EPFR after contributing a combined 161 years of service to our department and community: *AC Jeff Moore (31 years), AC Bill Sandlian (24 years), AFM John Selby (25 years), Capt./PM Jeff Palensky (27 years), Lt./DFM/PM Joe Worley (31 years), and FF/PM Ted Rogowski (23 years).*

We thank them for their dedication and wish them all the very best in retirement.

We are proud to celebrate each of these milestones and look forward to the next chapter of service ahead. ■



Top left to right: Rice, Nowjack, Goodlet, McMahon, Fisher, N. May, Hersey
Bottom left to right: Reece, Camilo, Combs, Dieni, DeJong, D. May

Outdoor Burning Permits

Residential fire permits are available online from October 1st through May 31st in designated areas of the fire district, pending no active fire safety or air quality burn bans are in effect.

Visit www.eastpiercefirerescue.org to sign up for Community Connect, obtain a burn permit, and view regulations and burn area boundaries.

Or take a greener route! Instead of burning, consider chipping, composting, mulching, or hauling yard debris to a local recycle or transfer station.



scan QR code to learn more

connect with us!



@EastPierceFire

info@eastpiercefirerescue.org

www.eastpiercefirerescue.org

253.863.1800

Fire Commissioner Meetings

Board of Fire Commissioner meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are in person with an option to attend virtually. Agendas and links to the meetings are posted at www.eastpiercefirerescue.org.

2026 Meeting Schedule
Sept 15 | Oct 20 | Nov 17 | Dec 15

East Pierce Classes & Public Education

- FREE PROGRAMS - To residents of East Pierce Fire & Rescue

LIFE JACKET LOANER PROGRAM

Wearer must be present for fitting. Available at the Headquarters Station.

CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTIONS

District residents can schedule a free appointment. Certified child passenger safety technicians check to ensure your child is in the right seat, the seat is installed correctly, and your child is placed in the seat correctly.

STATION TOURS

Call to arrange a tour of any of our fire stations.

SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATIONS

Includes smoke alarm equipped with 10-year battery (subject to availability).

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Stop by any staffed station (subject to staff availability).

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

Learn how to use a fire extinguisher with our interactive, digital training prop either at your location or ours for groups of 10 or more.

HANDS-ONLY CPR CLASS

One-hour, non-certification class for adult, hands-only CPR. Groups of 10 or more can schedule this training at their location or at our Headquarters Station.

- SERVICES OFFERED -

CPR 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | BASIC FIRST AID 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Sep 2 or 19 | Oct 1 or 24 | Nov 5 or 21 | Dec 12

The cost for citizens residing within EPFR's jurisdiction (including Sumner, Bonney Lake, Lake Tapps, South Prairie, Tehaleh, Milton, and Edgewood) is \$25 for either a CPR or First Aid class, or \$50 for both. The cost for non-residents is \$40 for each class, or \$80 for both. All classes are held at our Headquarters Station.

To register, call 253-863-1800 during regular business hours or on-line at www.eastpiercefirerescue.org.

HELMET SALES AND FITTING* Wearer must be present for custom fitting. Bike helmets \$11 plus tax. Multi-Sport helmets \$13 plus tax. Station 111/Headquarters.

LIFE JACKET SALES AND FITTING* Wearer must be present for custom fitting. Life jackets \$19 plus tax. Station 111/Headquarters.

SAFE SITTER CLASSES

The 2027 summer class schedule will be posted early next year.

Cost: \$45. To view class details and register on-line, visit www.eastpiercefirerescue.org.

* Sponsored by East Pierce Professional Firefighters Local 3520