

# East Pierce Fire & Rescue 2008 Annual Report



Where Compassion and Action Meet



## Our Mission, Vision and Values

### **Mission Statement**

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

### **Vision Statement**

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a regional leader in providing fire and emergency medical response services to a diverse and growing community.

Our community and our employees are our most important resource.

We support regionalized fire services for improved public safety.

We strive to influence our community growth to ensure the best possible level of service.

We strive to meet all regulatory obligations, while providing a safe environment for our citizens and our employees.

Stewardship of our taxpayers' resources is paramount, and our goal is to develop a strong and diverse funding base.

We intelligently pursue and utilize technology to improve service delivery, planning and quality.

We strive to educate our community on fire and medical safety while providing the highest level of service.

### **Core Values and Guiding Principles**

*We are committed to:*

- Doing the Right Thing
- Everyone Must Make a Difference
- Anticipating and Meeting Our Community's Needs

# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



## Table of Contents

### East Pierce Fire & Rescue 2008 Annual Report

Editor and Designer  
Teresa McCallion

Printing  
Minuteman Press of  
Puyallup, WA

East Pierce Fire & Rescue  
Headquarters Station  
18421 Old Buckley Hwy.  
Bonney Lake, WA 98391

phone: 253-863-1800  
fax: 253-863-1848

[www.eastpiercefirere.org](http://www.eastpiercefirere.org)

This annual report covers  
January 1 through  
December 31, 2008.

3	Letter from the Fire Chief
4	Tribute to Chief Dan Packer
7	Fire Commissioners
8	Organizational Chart
9	Facts
10	History of East Pierce Fire & Rescue
11	International Association of Firefighters Local 3520
11	East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters' Association
12	2008 Highlights
13	Operations Division
15	Map of the Service Area
17	Emergency Medical Services Division
19	Volunteer Division
21	Training Division
23	Fire Prevention Division
25	Public Education
27	Safety
28	Emergency Management
29	Budget and Finance
30	Contact Information

## EAST PIERCE FIRE &amp; RESCUE

## Letter from the Fire Chief



Dear Citizens,

It is my pleasure to present this annual report to you on behalf of all the dedicated men and women of East Pierce Fire & Rescue. While it has been a difficult year, we achieved important successes in 2008.

Last year, East Pierce crews responded to more than 6,600 emergency calls. Seven out of ten of those calls were for medical emergencies. I am particularly pleased that citizens who live in within the district receive ambulance transport through East Pierce with no out-of-pocket expenses. That can be a huge savings for our residents and often makes a difference whether or not those who are in need, seek treatment at a hospital.

East Pierce firefighters not only respond to emergencies, but work hard to help prevent them. We offer a number of quality fire prevention and life safety programs. In 2008, we provided life jacket loaners at a newly-installed self-serve kiosk in Allan Yorke Park. Our firefighters taught fire and life safety classes to nearly 6,000 area elementary students and CPR classes to 2,000 middle and high school students in the Sumner, White River and Dieringer School Districts. More than 600 residents took advantage of the free CPR and first aid classes we offer twice a month. We sold bike helmets and life jackets and participated in numerous community events.

For all of our accomplishments, we suffered a great loss last year. On July 26, 2008 East Pierce Fire Chief Dan Packer died in a California wildfire. In this annual report we pay tribute to Chief Packer and his legacy as husband, father, grandfather and firefighter.

I had a chance to participate in the planning process for Chief Packer's funeral service. During my time at the East Pierce headquarters station, I had the unique opportunity to watch this department come together in grief, stand tall and continue to provide the excellent service you, the citizens, have come to expect from East Pierce Fire & Rescue. I witnessed firsthand the untiring commitment to customer service instilled in every employee no matter what their role. It is a fitting legacy to Chief Packer's vision and standards of excellence.

This is an exceptional fire department and I am proud to serve as the new chief.

As we move forward, as fire dynamics and medical care take on new dimensions — as the world around us changes — East Pierce Fire & Rescue will not lose sight of its commitment to provide the best possible service with professionalism, preparation and above all, compassion, for all of our citizens.

Thank you for putting your trust in us. We promise to earn it every single day.

*Jerry Thorson*  
East Pierce Fire Chief

## EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



### Tribute to Fire Chief Dan Packer

East Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Dan Packer died July 26 in a wildfire in northern California. The 49-year-old chief had just begun a two-week assignment as a division supervisor overseeing wildland firefighters in the Klamath National Forest when the blaze suddenly blew up during a routine survey of the area.

His loss has left a great hole in our hearts. To us, he was a respected chief, a valued teacher, a mentor and a friend. He was also a firefighter who loved his job.

Chief Packer taught us that we shouldn't expect the respect of the community just because we are the fire department. We have to earn it every day through hard work and a concentrated effort to provide excellent customer service.

Since 2000, when the East Pierce fire district was formed, the words "Where Compassion and Action Meet" have been emblazoned on all the fire engines, medic units and support vehicles. For Chief Packer, it wasn't just a motto, it was an expectation.

To help put it into daily practice, he encouraged us to share examples of service at our monthly employee meetings. We heard about the time crews responded to a diabetic patient who was having difficulty with his sugar levels. The firefighters cooked the man breakfast to make sure he had a good meal. Another time firefighters helped repair the front door of a disabled man whose home had been burglarized. With every example, he led the rest of us in a rousing "Ooo, Way to Go!"

As a leader, people were drawn to Chief Packer. They trusted his judgment and tried to emulate him. He had a great sense of humor and never took himself too seriously.

One of the reasons he was at the California wildfire that claimed his life was to gain experience that would help in our community's emergency preparedness plans. As a member of an Incident Management Team, Chief Packer was providing management support on a major wildfire. He and other senior staff members at East Pierce participate on these teams not only to help others, but just as importantly, to bring back valuable experience in case of a large-scale disaster in our district, such as an earthquake or lahar.

Chief Packer was extremely proud of East Pierce Fire & Rescue. We are grateful that he provided us with a strong sense of mission. It has helped us move forward despite our grief.

Today, we renew our commitment to serve you, the citizens of our district, with distinction and honor. We know Chief Packer would be proud.



**Daniel B. Packer**  
**1958 - 2008**



## EAST PIERCE FIRE &amp; RESCUE



The Packer family in a photo taken Christmas 2007. Seated from the left is Nellie, Marylee and Dan Packer, and Nicole Demetrescu holding son Wilson. Standing from left are Katrina and Rachel Packer and Nicole's husband Josh Demetrescu.

Dan Packer was born August 12, 1958 in Havre, Montana.

As an only child, he shared responsibility for the family ranch and developed an ambitious discipline that served him well throughout his life. As a young man, he rode bulls, roped cattle, and was well-liked for his sense of humor.

At age seventeen, he moved to the Seattle area for his senior year of high school where he met his future wife, Marylee. While they did not date at the time, they were very good friends. Those early years laid the foundation for their 28-year marriage.

Dan and Marylee married in 1980 and had four daughters. Dan enjoyed being a father and took his responsibilities as a parent seriously. His daughters greatly admired and respected him. For all his gruffness, he was a softhearted man who doted on his family.

Dan began working for the fire service in 1981. He served the first fourteen years of his career in Burien. In 1994, he accepted a position

as battalion chief of the Bonney Lake Fire Department. He was named Chief in 1995.

As the chief, he facilitated the creation of East Pierce Fire & Rescue – a successful merger of several smaller departments.

His vision for the department and its service to the community was very large, and it showed in how he approached his work.

In 2004, he assumed the presidency of the Washington State Fire Chiefs, a position he retained until July of 2008.

In 2006, Dan's first grandchild was born. Together with Marylee, he spent a great deal of time with his grandson, often having sleepovers and recruiting his "little shadow" to help with projects – such as washing the car and mowing the lawn. His devotion to his children and grandchildren was surpassed only by his love for his wife.

Dan Packer is survived by wife, Marylee; mother Winnie; daughters, Nicole, Katrina, Rachael and Nellie, son-in-law Josh, and two young grandchildren, Wilson and Violet.

## EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



“My dad was a special man. He touched many people, as the turnout today testifies. Not only was he a good leader and respected professional, he was a devoted son, a doting husband, a loving father and grandfather. He was all of these things because he was first and foremost a good person. He cared about people, and that caring shaped how he lived every minute of his life. While his sudden death was a horrible shock, we find some comfort in knowing that he gave his life in the service and care of others.”

– From the eulogy Nicole wrote for her father, with contributions from her mother and sisters. It was read at the service by her sister, Katrina.

# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



## Fire Commissioners

Fire Commissioners form a board elected by the public to represent their fire district. The board meets monthly to set budgets, establish policy and provide administrative oversight.

East Pierce fire commissioners serve six-year terms. Any resident, 18 years or older, who lives within the East Pierce service area is eligible to apply for an open position on the board.

All regular meetings of the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioners are held on the third Tuesday of every month. Meetings are open to the public and offer residents an opportunity for citizen input.

### 2008 Fire Commissioners

- Rick Kuss, Chair
- Cheryl Bylin
- Raymond Bunk
- Mike Cathey
- Greg Hanon
- Don Hayford
- Rick Kilbourn
- Andrew Longstreth
- Karlyne McGinnis
- Roy "Red" Mendenhall
- Victor Proulx



EPF&R Commissioner, Rick Kuss (right) and Sumner Councilmember Leroy Goff (right) present a certificate of appreciation to Michael Carnahan at the 2008 Sumner Open House.



Meetings start at 7 p.m. at the East Pierce headquarters station, 18421 Old Buckley Highway, in Bonney Lake. The public is encouraged to attend.

### 2009 Meeting Schedule

**January 20**  
**February 17**  
**March 17**  
**April 21**

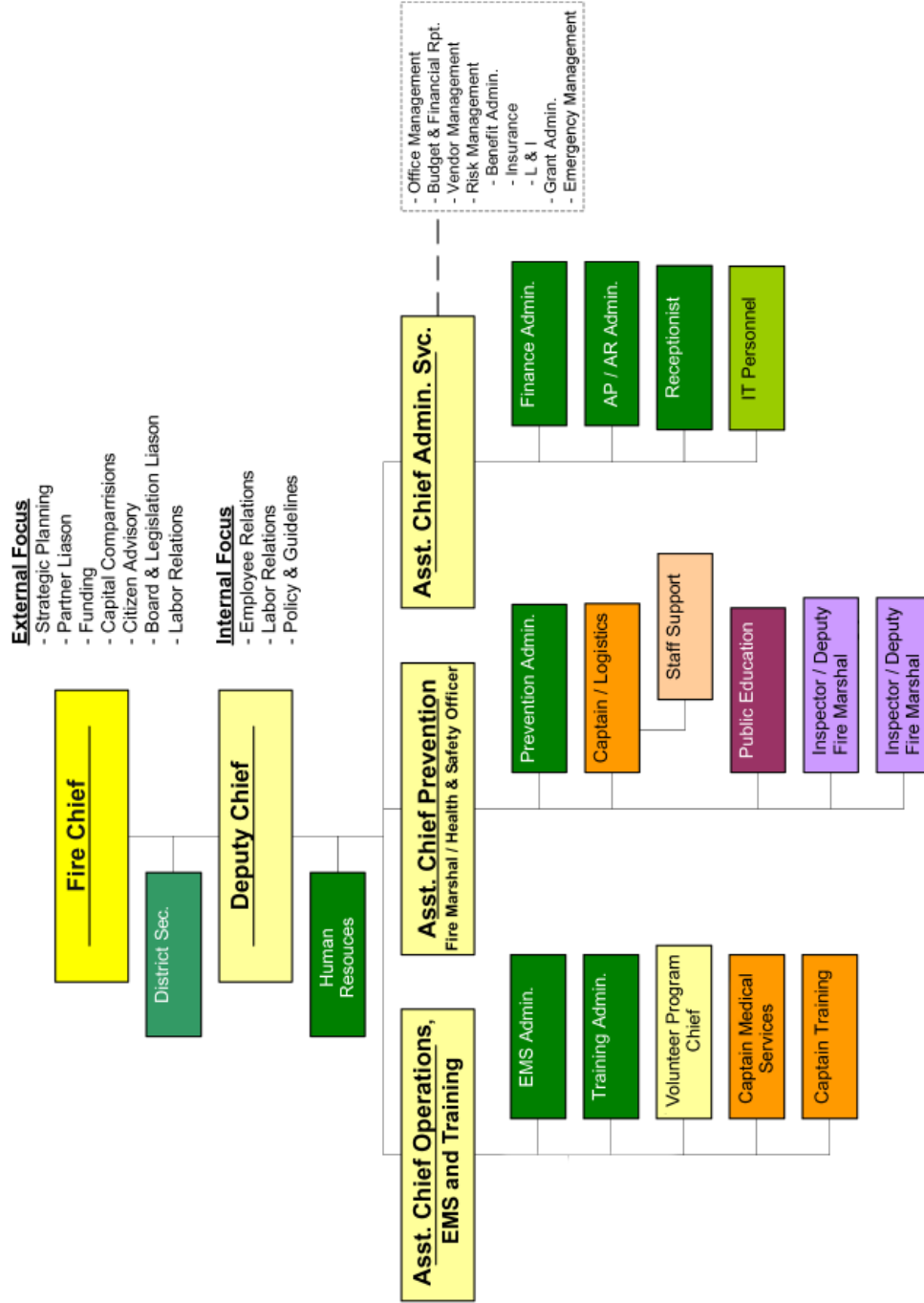
**May 19**  
**June 16**  
**July 21**  
**August 18**

**September 15**  
**October 20**  
**November 17**  
**December 15**



# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

## East Pierce 2008 Organizational Chart



# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



## 2008 Facts



Land area covered: Approximately 142 square miles  
 Population: Approximately 75,000

Chief Officers: 6  
 Administrative Support: 9  
 Total Number of Career Officers and Firefighters: 83  
     Career Firefighter-Paramedics: 34  
     Career Firefighter-EMTs: 49  
 Total Number of Volunteers: 51  
     Volunteer Firefighter-EMTs: 44  
     EMS-only Volunteers: 7

Number of Staffed Fire Stations: 5  
 Number of Volunteer Fire Stations: 5  
 Boathouse for the Marine Unit: 1

Total Number of Emergency Calls in 2008: 6,691  
 Percent Increase since 2007: 2%  
 Percent of All Calls That Were Medical in Nature: 74%  
 Number of Patients Transported to Area Hospitals: 3,678

Number of Fire Investigations: 73  
 Number of Plan Reviews for Bonney Lake: 133  
 Number of Inspections for Bonney Lake: 795  
 Number of Plan Reviews for Sumner: 517  
 Number of Inspections for Sumner: 916  
 Number of Juvenile Fire Setter Interventions: 27

Number of Community Events the Fire Department Attended: 30

Elementary School Students Receiving Fire and Life Safety  
 Classes in 2008: 5,712  
 Citizens Receiving CPR Training: 2,581  
 Teens Graduating the SafeSitter Program: 48

Bike Helmets Sold in 2008: 280  
 Life Jackets Sold: 89  
 Car Seat Inspections: 72  
 Smoke Alarms Installed: 350

# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



East Pierce Fire and Rescue was created when the City of Bonney Lake Fire Department, Lake Tapps Fire, and Pierce County Fire District No. 24 merged in 2000. The goal was to provide a seamless response to emergency calls in the Bonney Lake, Lake Tapps and Prairie Ridge area.

At that time, the combined district covered nearly 49 square miles and protected a population of approximately 43,000 residents from six stations. All full-time firefighters were cross-trained as either emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or paramedics in order to respond to medical emergencies and fires.

In the spring of 2006, voters in Pierce County Fire District No. 12 and South Prairie Fire District No. 20 overwhelmingly passed a special election to formally merge the two districts with East Pierce after a three-year trial period.

Since 2007, East Pierce provided fire and EMS services to the City of Sumner and Pierce County Fire District No. 1 under a ten-year consolidation agreement. In 2008 voters in these areas also decided to merge with East Pierce.

Today, East Pierce serves a population of 75,000 citizens living in and around Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, the Ridge Communities, South Prairie and Wilkeson. The district covers approximately 142 square miles and protects residents from eleven fire stations – five staffed, five volunteer and one boat house for the marine unit.



## What is a Fire District?

*A fire district is a special-purpose entity formed to provide fire and emergency medical services. It is governed by a volunteer board of elected citizens who reside in the district.*

*Board members, called fire commissioners, are elected to six-year terms. Fire commissioners set policy for the department, hire the fire chief and are responsible for budgets, professional audits and authorizing levy requests of the public they serve. The majority of the district's revenue comes from property tax assessments.*



# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



## Membership



### International Association of Firefighters, Local 3520

The International Association of Firefighters, headquartered in Washington, DC, represents more than 292,000 full-time professional firefighters and paramedics who protect 85 percent of the nation's population. The IAFF was formed in 1918 to unite firefighters—for better wages, improved safety, and greater service for their communities.

Career firefighters at East Pierce Fire & Rescue belong to IAFF Local 3520. As a group, the Local sponsors several annual events, including the Summer Easter Egg Hunt, Fill the Boot campaigns and Summer Pancake Breakfast. In addition, they underwrite the cost of bike helmets and life vests sold by the department.

The Local and the East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters' Association work together to chauffeur Santa on his annual visit to neighborhoods in our district.

In 2008, the Local donated money to help the Sumner High School FFA purchase livestock following a devastating fire.

### East Pierce Fire & Rescue Volunteer Firefighters' Association

The East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters' Association (VFA) represents more than 40 volunteer firefighter/EMTs and EMTs, many with over 20 years of experience serving the communities in the East Pierce district.

The Association prides itself on protecting the community in which the volunteers live. It also gives back to the neighbors and citizens it serves by organizing, staffing and supporting various public education and community events throughout the year. The Association sponsors the annual South Prairie Easter Egg Hunt, celebrating its 51<sup>st</sup> year.

In 2008, the Association established the East Pierce VFA Scholarship program, providing need-based college scholarships to local students interested in pursuing a career in either public safety or the medical field. These annual scholarships are awarded through White River, Bonney Lake and Sumner High Schools. Further information about these scholarships is available at [www.eastpiercevfa.org](http://www.eastpiercevfa.org).





# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



## January

A late January storm blanketed the area in snow and ice. Firefighters respond to multiple motor vehicle crashes.

## March

Nine East Pierce firefighters participate in the 17th annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb at the Columbia Center. They joined more than 1,300 firefighters in full gear, to sprint to the top of Seattle's tallest building to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

East Pierce hosts the first-ever Sumner Open House. The free event offered live demonstrations and interactive displays.

The East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters' Association celebrated the 51st annual South Prairie Easter Egg Hunt at the South Prairie City Park. The same day, the 18th annual Sumner Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the East Pierce Firefighters Local 3520, was held at Sunset Stadium.

## April

The residents of the City of Sumner and Pierce County Fire District No. 1 voted to join East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

The East Pierce Volunteer Firefighters' Association established a scholarship fund at each of the three high schools within the district.

East Pierce co-sponsors April Pools Day with the Bonney Lake Police Department.

## May

Nine teenagers are transported to local hospitals following a deck collapse at a private residence.

## June

East Pierce helps establish a new Lifejacket Loaner Station at Allan Yorke Park, allowing patrons to borrow lifejackets for the day. The program is funded through a grant from Safe Kids.

Volunteer firefighters Terry Richardson and John (J.P) McCormick retired after 25 years of service.

## July

East Pierce Fire Chief Dan Packer died in a California wildfire. John McDonald is named interim chief.

## September

The 15th annual East Pierce Open House and Safety Fair was dedicated to the memory of Chief Dan Packer.

The newly-established East Pierce HazMat Team responds to a possible chemical leak in Sumner.

## December

East Pierce firefighters hosted the annual Pancake Feed at the Sumner fire station to raise money for the Sumner Family Center.

Interim Chief John McDonald was recognized by the by Pierce County Fire Chiefs' Association with the first-ever Chief Dan Packer Memorial Award for Chief of the Year.

East Pierce firefighters join jolly old St. Nick on his annual trek to neighborhoods throughout the district. Over the course of eight days, they visited good girls and boys in Bonney Lake, Lake Tapps, South Prairie, Sumner and Wilkeson.

# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

## 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 2008, the 68 career and 45 volunteer firefighters/ EMTs and paramedics assigned to the Operations Division responded to 6,690 calls for emergency services, a 2% increase over the call volume in 2007.

While the primary function of the Operations Division

is to respond to emergency and non-emergency calls, division personnel also conduct building familiarization inspections to assist in pre-planning activities and identify potential fire code problems. While on duty, the firefighters participate in training, public education events, vehicle and equipment maintenance and other routine activities.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a combination department utilizing both career and volunteer firefighters to handle a wide variety of emergencies. Career firefighters and paramedics are automatically dispatched to calls throughout the 142-square-mile district. If unstaffed volunteer stations are located closer to an incident, volunteers will also be dispatched to the scene along with career crews.

District fire stations are strategically located throughout the jurisdiction to enable a quick

response. In 2008, East Pierce Fire & Rescue operated eleven fire stations. Five of the stations are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by career firefighters. The other six are volunteer stations, including a water rescue facility located on the northwest corner of Lake Tapps. Of the volunteer stations, one is home to resident firefighters. Resident firefighters work or attend school in the community, but live in the fire station, responding to calls and maintaining the facility and equipment.

A regional 9-1-1 dispatch center, called Fire-Comm, sends the appropriate fire and EMS units from the fire stations closest to the emergency call. More than a dozen fire districts, including East Pierce Fire & Rescue, financially support Fire-Comm through an inter-local agreement.

The Fire District's headquarters fire station, Station 11, is located in Bonney Lake at 18421 Old Buckley Highway and houses emergency response personnel in addition to the administrative offices for the District.

The Assistant Chief of Operations, EMS and Training oversees the Operations Division. This Division is split into three shifts, each headed by a Shift Captain, who works on an engine at the headquarters station.

The Operations Division has maintained teams of personnel with specialized training in surface and underwater rescue and wildland firefighting. In recognition of risks inside the District's boundaries, the department started training firefighters in 2008 to serve as members of two new teams: the hazardous materials team and technical rescue team. The hazmat team is deployed to chemical spills. The technical rescue team responds to trench and

# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



structural collapses, rescues requiring high angle or ropes techniques and wildfires. All four special operations teams provide a safer and more effective response to what are often highly-complex incidents.

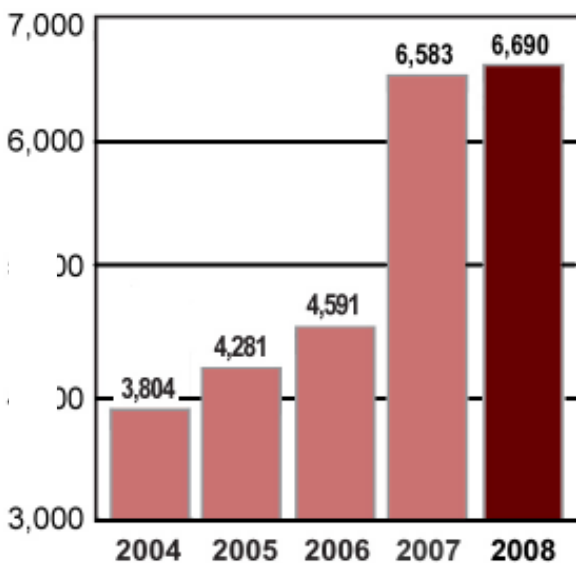
### Accomplishments for 2008

- The Operations Division, working with an overhead support team of fire officials from other agencies, coordinated mutual aid and seamless continuity of 9-1-1 services during the events and services held after the death of East Pierce Fire & Rescue Chief Dan Packer.
- In addition to existing water rescue and wildland firefighting teams, the department deployed a hazardous materials response team and a technical rescue team, which specializes in confined space, trench and high-angle

rescue. Members of both teams serve as part of county-wide response teams.

- Took delivery of one new fire engine and two new medic units helping to standardize the department's fleet of emergency response vehicles.
- Participated with Volunteer officers and members in a six-month review of the entire Volunteer Program, coming up with more than 30 recommendations to strengthen and improve the value and effectiveness of the program.

### Trend: Total Emergency Calls



### Trend: Emergency Calls By Type

Call Type	2007	2008
Emergency Medical Calls, including motor vehicle crashes	70%	74%
Service Calls	9%	7%
Good Intent	8%	7%
False Alarms	5%	4%
Hazardous Conditions	3%	1%
Structure Fires	1%	2%
Vehicle Fires	1%	2%
Severe Weather	1%	1%
Brush Fires	1%	1%
Other Fires	1%	1%
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>6,583</b>	<b>6,690</b>



# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

Summer Easter Egg Hunt



15th Annual Open House



Drowning Prevention

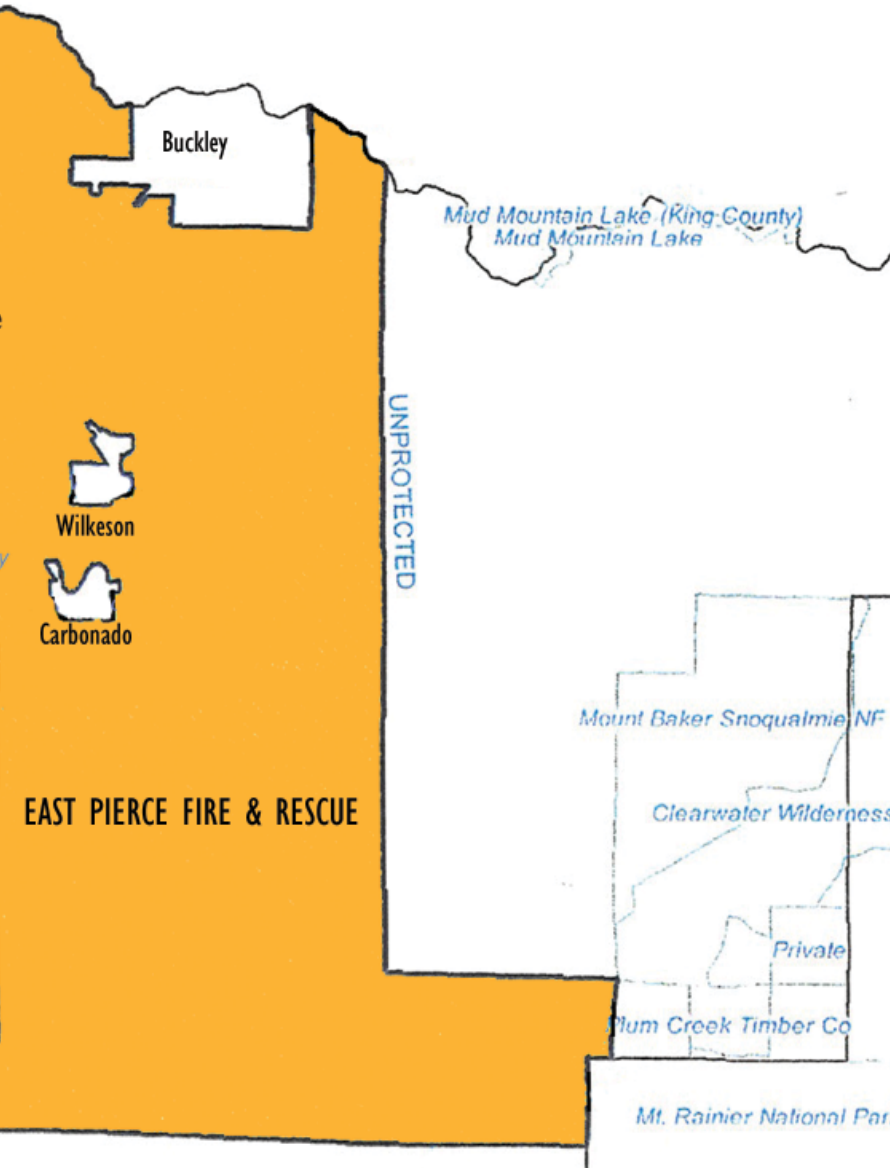


The map features are approximate and are intended only to provide an indication of said feature. Additional area data. The County assumes no liability for variations ascertained by actual survey. All data is expressly provided



# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

**EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE**  
(Pierce County Fire District No. 22)



Santa Run



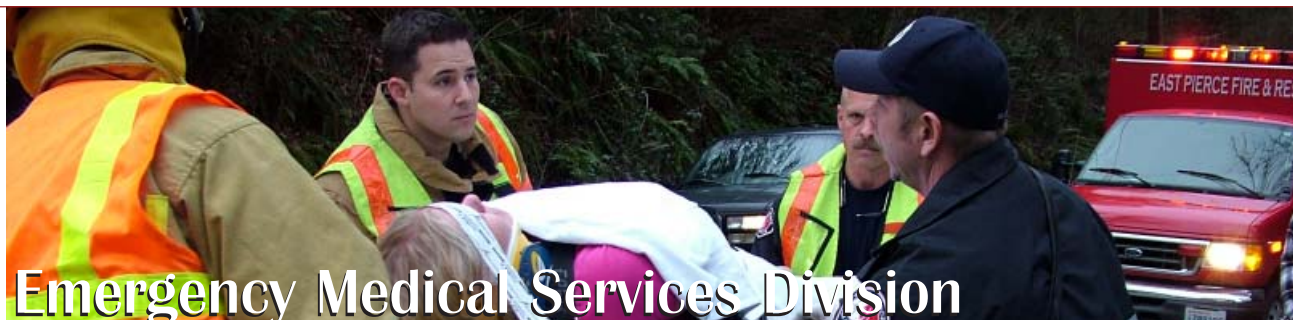
Summer Open House



Summer Splash-Tacular

Areas that have not been mapped may be present. This is not a survey. Orthophotos may not align with other maps. THIS MAP IS AS IS and WITH ALL FAULTS. The County makes no warranty of fitness for a particular purpose.

## EAST PIERCE FIRE &amp; RESCUE



## Emergency Medical Services Division

The EMS Division provides clinical oversight and analyzes department performance on medical aid calls through a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program. EMS Division staff work with the Training Division to conduct education and training programs.



Each East Pierce fire engine, aid car and medic unit is staffed with firefighter/emergency medical technicians (EMT), firefighter/paramedics or both.

EMTs provide basic emergency care including splinting, bandaging, spinal immobilization, oxygen and airway management, and automated defibrillation. The EMTs work in conjunction with the paramedics to prepare patients for transport. A paramedic has additional medical training to stabilize critically ill or injured patients at the scene before transporting him or her to a hospital. Paramedics are certified to administer medications and intravenous fluids, insert breathing tubes and defibrillate patients.

At East Pierce, each staffed station always includes at least one firefighter trained as a paramedic. We staff five medic units and have four reserve aid units, all capable of transporting patients.

In the past four years, the number of calls for medical emergencies has increased dramatically. In

fact, more than 74% of the 9-1-1 calls that East Pierce Fire & Rescue responded to in 2008 were medical emergencies compared to 61% in 2006. With the aging population, including the retirement of the “Baby Boomer” generation, this trend is likely to continue.

East Pierce responded to 4,694 emergency medical incidents and transported 3,691 patients to area hospitals, or an average of 10.1 patients per day. The “non-transport calls” include patients refusing care, non-injury auto accidents and patients treated at the scene or those in police custody.

To provide better continuity of care, East Pierce began providing ambulance services to residents in 2004. Unlike private ambulances, this service is offered for no “out-of-pocket” expense for the 80% of patients who are district residents. A letter from the department’s billing service is sent to residents for verification of insurance information. This letter includes a description of the ambulance transport charge for the patient’s information. The district will bill the private health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid policies for residents transported in East Pierce Medic units, but insurance co-pays are “written off” against the EMS levy.

On the occasions where all available East Pierce units are already on calls – such as during a major fire – private ambulances and units from neighboring fire departments may respond into the district. In 2008, less than 0.5% of calls (one in two hundred) EMS transports were handled by private ambulance or fire mutual aid units – a two-thirds reduction of this type of mutual aid from 2007, and a 90% drop since 2006.



# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



## Accomplishments for 2008:

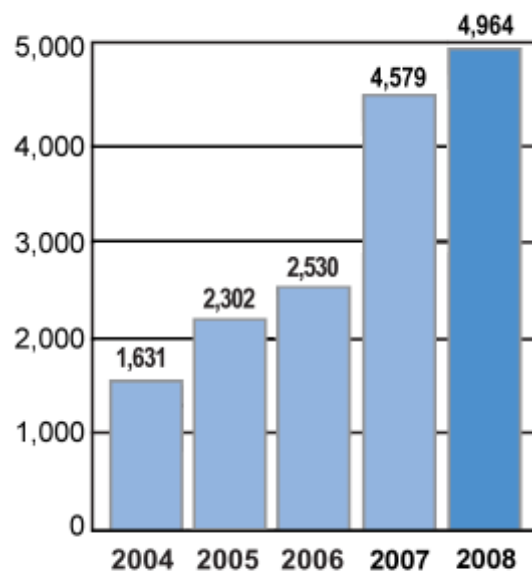
- Working in conjunction with the Training Division, the EMS Division provided medical training and evaluations for eight new firefighter/EMTs and two new firefighter/paramedics.
- Played a key role in developing a new Pierce County EMS advanced airway management training program for improving life-saving paramedic skills.
- Became first EMS agency in Pierce County to transmit 12-lead EKGs via Bluetooth from medic units to hospitals, giving Emergency Departments advanced notification of incoming critical cardiac patients and shortening time to open up clogged arteries in these patients.
- Conducted several two-day, 16-hour Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) training classes to help improve field care of critical trauma patients, certifying over 90% of the department's firefighter/EMTs and paramedics in the program. The remaining members will be certified in 2009.
- Implemented a new team-based EMS quality-improvement program, in which different teams of firefighter and paramedics review specific types of EMS calls (i.e. CPR cases, cardiac calls, critical trauma cases, fall victims) and make recommendations to improve training and care for these patients
- Developed plans to improve EMS training, management and service coordination between East Pierce Fire & Rescue and neighboring fire departments.
- Participated in the development of a new tablet-based electronic EMS record and data management system for documenting and transferring EMS patient care information to

receiving hospitals. Implementation of the system is set for 2009.

- Worked with the Training Division to sponsor a large multi-agency multi-casualty incident training exercise simulating a crash between a passenger train and a freight train. More than 15 agencies and 100 rescuers participated in the exercise, gaining valuable operational experience.



## Trend: Total EMS Calls



## EAST PIERCE FIRE &amp; RESCUE



## Volunteer Division

Volunteer firefighters and EMTs are on call to respond to a wide array of emergencies including residential and commercial fires, medical emergencies and motor vehicle crashes.



In 2008, fifty men and women volunteered their time and energy to serve as firefighters and EMTs for East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

Assistant Chief Jake Doty leads the Volunteer Division. Volunteer officers provide leadership in

maintaining equipment and volunteer stations.

On a typical day, the career firefighters on shift are able to respond to the majority of calls. But during a big fire that requires a large number of firefighters or when there is an unusually high number of incidents, volunteers are called in to assist during what is known as a General Alarm. An alarm can range from 30 minutes to all day, depending on the type of emergency. Whether it's the weekend, weekday or the middle of the night, volunteers are there to serve the community.

A Board of Volunteer Firefighter and Reserve Officers sets minimum standards for all volunteers and manages a retirement system.

The requirements for both firefighters and EMTs

continue to increase as the public expects more of it's first responders. To become a volunteer firefighter requires 310 hours of schooling, plus an additional 140 hours for EMT certification. Each EMT volunteer requires classroom time plus additional technical training. To gain field experience, volunteers participate in the Volunteer Experience Opportunity Program (VEOP).

All volunteers are required to attend 75 percent of the weekly drills and achieve 84 points per quarter for attendance at General Alarms. Each drill is approximately 3 hours long, averaging 117 hours annually of drill time per volunteer. To receive the 84 points required, volunteers are expected to also contribute a significant number of hours staffing public education events sponsored by East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

Within the East Pierce fire district there are five stations staffed by volunteers. Volunteer and career personnel respond together at five other stations. One of the volunteer-only stations serves as a resident station where volunteer firefighter/EMTs – referred to as resident firefighters – live at the station.

The Volunteer Program has been a gateway to a career in the fire service. Over the past few years, nearly 30 East Pierce volunteers have become career firefighters with East Pierce Fire & Rescue or other neighboring departments in Washington State.

The merger that created East Pierce Fire & Rescue combined the volunteer departments of three separate fire districts. In 2008, the command staff and a committee of 12 East Pierce volunteers reviewed the entire program, establishing new



# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



standards. The volunteer manual was updated to reflect the new requirements. The Board of Commissioners accepted and passed the panel's recommendations in late 2008.

## Accomplishments for 2008

- The East Pierce Volunteers' Association launched a new Web site ([www.eastpiercevfa.org](http://www.eastpiercevfa.org)). The project, spearheaded by volunteer firefighter Sean Slattery, provides a history of the East Pierce volunteers, announcements about upcoming events and information about becoming a volunteer.
- Volunteers participated in the annual East Pierce Fire & Rescue Open House, the Santa Runs and the Sumner Pancake Breakfast, in addition to numerous community events.
- Volunteers installed free smoke alarms in homes on Inlet Island.
- One volunteer graduated from North Bend Fire Career Academy, receiving awards for "Most Improved Firefighter" and the prestigious "Bull Dog Award".
- Seven new volunteer firefighters graduated from Graham Fire Academy in June. Their graduation was attended by more than hundred guests and commissioners.
- New recruits attended classes to become emergency medical technicians (EMTs), graduating in November. By the time they became full-fledged volunteers, they had completed a year-long training program of more than 500 hours.

## East Pierce Volunteers with Ten or More Years of Service

East Pierce Fire & Rescue thanks the following volunteers for their many years of service:

Layne Ross	36 years
Brian Dougherty	27 years
Darrell Seymour	27 years
Lon Snope	25 years
Jay Doty	24 years
Jack Schmidt	22 years
Bob McDonald	20 years
Kathy Seymour	20 years
Tim Balding	19 years
Mark Nevill	19 years
Walter Collins	18 years



Visit the East Pierce Volunteers' Association Web site at [www.eastpiercevfa.org](http://www.eastpiercevfa.org)

# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



## Training Division

East Pierce firefighters maintain and improve skills and abilities through ongoing training overseen by the Training Division.

All career and volunteer personnel must undergo annual firefighting and emergency medical training.

Training and education is crucial in keeping critical firefighting and medical skills current. In addition to the more commonly used skills, firefighters must continually update and practice special skills, such as extrication maneuvers used to remove patients trapped in their vehicles following a car crash; rope rescue often used to retrieve a patient who has fallen over an embankment; wildland firefighting; trench rescue techniques and surface and underwater rescue.



The Training Division is currently managed by a Training Captain and an Administrative Support Specialist, with oversight provided by the Assistant Chief for Operations/EMS and Training.

The Training Division is responsible for assessing training needs, developing a training calendar and curriculum, providing instruction and record keeping. It also conducts evaluations of probationary personnel, crew-based training drills and hires new employees.

This Division conducts on-duty training for personnel and provides instructors and specialized classes for Officer Development, Incident Command,

Tactical Operations and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Firefighters attend some specialized classes outside the department at community colleges, firefighting and EMS workshops and fire service academies.

Training provides an opportunity to upgrade skills and keep informed of new regulations. It allows firefighters to become familiar with equipment and maintain proficiency in critical, but sometimes seldom used firefighting, rescue and medical skills.

The Division must also maintain records, documentation and certifications for all firefighter/EMTs and paramedics. Assuring that all East Pierce career and volunteer firefighters meet mandatory training requirements is vital for the well-being and safety of our personnel and successful fire and EMS operations.

The Training Division continues to be challenged by a lack of adequate space for training. Some training is provided in classrooms, but much of the fire and rescue training requires "hands on" practice and the deployment of multiple fire engines, hoselines and other equipment. There is no dedicated space available for this training, and finding open parking lots in the area is becoming increasingly difficult.

### Accomplishments for 2008

- Coordinated special operations training programs, such as technical rescue, water rescue, swift water rescue and wildland firefighting classes.
- Eight career firefighters completed the Fire Training Academy and earned Firefighter I Certification.
- Two career lateral firefighter/paramedics were hired and assigned to shift



# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



- Conducted a ten week post-academy training program for the ten new probationary career firefighters, preparing them for assignment to shifts.
- Performed 28 separate firefighter evaluations for the probationary firefighters and eight driver/operator evaluations.
- Seven volunteer firefighters completed a Volunteer Fire Academy, earning Firefighter I Certification.
- Conducted two day-long “live fire” training exercises in donated houses, giving firefighters the opportunity to practice various firefighting and rescue techniques.
- Conducted multi-company fire operations training using a commercial strip mall donated by Investco. Training included using saws and other power tools to cut ventilation holes in roofs and gain entry.
- Conducted a multi-agency mass-casualty drill involving a passenger train incident. The drill included approximately 100 participants and 15 area agencies.
- Brought in expert instructors to provide specialized auto extrication training for career and volunteer firefighters. Department members were able to practice using specialized rescue equipment, such as the “Jaws of Life”.

## Special Operations Teams

Selected individuals of both career and volunteer firefighters are given the opportunity to participate in one of the special operations teams maintained by the District. Team members attend additional training beyond the fire suppression and emergency medical training received by all career and volunteer personnel. In 2008 a Hazmat Team and Technical Rescue were added.

**Wildland Firefighting and Rescue Team** - Maintain skills to fight wildfires like the Carbon River Fire in 2006.

**Water Rescue Team** - Trained divers and support personnel perform lake and swift water rescues.

**Hazmat Team** - Respond to a variety of chemical spills or accidents involving rail, highway and marine equipment.

**Technical Rescue Team** - Respond to trench and structural collapses, wilderness rescues and rescues involving high-angle or ropes techniques.





## EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



### Fire Prevention Division

The Prevention Division provides plan review, code enforcement, juvenile fire setter intervention, and fire investigation within the Cities of Bonney Lake and Sumner along with Public Education Services for all of the residents served by East Pierce Fire and Rescue.



The fire prevention division has changed during 2008. It now has four fire investigators who are also responsible for other duties. Division oversight is provided by an Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal. Public

Education is included within the Fire Prevention Division. The Prevention Division has three plan review and inspection personnel, including one Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal and two Deputy Fire Marshals. The City of Sumner plan review and inspections are now provided by East Pierce Fire and Rescue.

The Fire Prevention Division also provides juvenile fire setter intervention. The service is provided to families with a child who has displayed interest in fire play or to families with a juvenile who has intentionally set fires for revenge or spite. The referrals come from the firefighters who recognize a juvenile fire setter problem. Referrals also come from local police departments and the families themselves. The division provided twenty-seven interventions during 2008.

Property development continues to be strong throughout the district, particularly in Bonney Lake and Sumner. Prevention Division personnel conducted 133 plan reviews and pre-applications for Bonney Lake plus 517 plan reviews in Sumner. Plan review projects range from big-box retail outlets, such as the expansion of the Fred Meyer Fuel Station, to the beginning development stages of a hotel complex and several large warehouse projects.

Prevention personnel conducted nearly 800 inspections during 2008 for the City of Bonney Lake. More than 900 inspections were conducted by prevention personnel in the City of Sumner. The majority of inspections were related to new construction activity.

In addition, 400 inspections were completed under a new program called, "Self Inspections", coordinated by Administrative Support Specialist Yvonne Hahn.

In 2009, Sumner business owners will be sent a self-inspection form they can complete on their own and return to the fire department. The checklist covers the fire safety issues that the owner can inspect on their own. If they do not return the form, a site visit is made by the Prevention Division. We will send the forms out for two years. Then the third year, the Division will provide on-site visits.

In addition, on-site inspections will be conducted for business license renewal in both cities along with random inspections.

Finally, the division will provide on-site visits when we receive referrals from the firefighters as a result

# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



of false alarms or compliance issues.

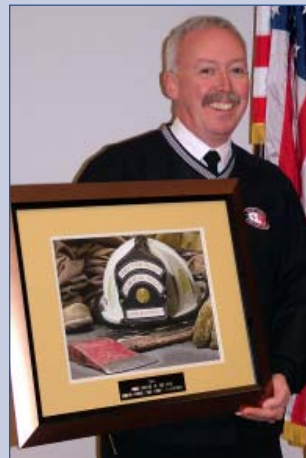
The fire district is responsible for determining the origin and cause of all fires that occur within the jurisdiction. The majority of the investigations are conducted by Operations Division personnel or with assistance from the Pierce County Fire Marshal's Office. The Investigation Division has four personnel that share duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In 2008, the Division participated in the investigation of 73 fires, including grass fires, vehicle fires and various commercial and residential structure fires.

The number one challenge for the Fire Prevention Division is having enough personnel to complete the work and keeping pace with the growth. We have on-going inspections within the jurisdiction that we simply cannot get done as a result of the lack of personnel.

## Accomplishments in 2008

- We continue to reduce the number of commercial false alarms in Sumner and Bonney Lake.
- Completed the Fred Meyer Fuel Dispensing expansion.
- Completed the Sumner Benaroya (Toy Smith) warehouse project.
- Completed the Holiday Inn project (new hotel in the warehouse district).
- Conducted over 1,600 inspections for the City of Sumner and Bonney Lake.
- Implemented self-inspections for the City of Sumner.

## 2008 Pierce County Chief of the Year



In December, the Pierce County Fire Chiefs' Association presented East Pierce interim Fire Chief John McDonald with the first-ever Chief Dan Packer Memorial Award for Chief of the Year.

The award was presented to McDonald by Packer's wife, Marylee during a moving ceremony at the Association's annual banquet.

Fire Chiefs' Association officials said they recognized McDonald for the exemplary way he managed the fire district following the death of Chief Packer. McDonald served as interim chief for East Pierce Fire & Rescue for seven months until Chief Jerry Thorson was hired.

The award is named for Packer, who is recognized as a leader of the firefighter's community on a local and state level.

The award will be presented annually to a Pierce County fire chief who displays excellent leadership either during a particular incident or over the course of a year.

# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



## Public Education

East Pierce Fire & Rescue provides numerous public education programs designed to help keep children and adults safe from fire and other hazards.



The goal of the Public Education Division is the prevention of injuries and deaths from fires, accidents, illnesses, drowning and other preventable causes. The best way to do that is to teach fire and personal safety to children and adults. East Pierce has been

working with local schools for many years, sending firefighters to teach grade-appropriate lessons on water safety, bike safety, carbon monoxide poisoning and fire prevention.

The public education programs East Pierce has created are designed to teach children how to recognize and avoid unintentional injuries, especially around water. Our senior programs encourage fire awareness and fall prevention. We offer CPR and Basic Fire Aid twice a month.

The Division also coordinates citizen safety awareness programs, such as free First Aid and CPR classes offered each month.

Representatives participate in community events such as the Sumner Arts Festival, Sumner and Bonney Lake National Night Out, Daffodil Festival,

and Bonney Lake Days and organize the annual East Pierce Fire Open House.

Other prevention programs include fire extinguisher, training for local businesses and groups, April Pools Day, Summer Splash-Tacular, and SafeSitter classes for children ages 11-13 years.

### Accomplishments for 2008

- Taught 35 CPR and Basic First Aid classes (606 students).
- Taught Fire and Life Safety classes to 5,712 elementary school students in 232 classes in 13 schools in the Sumner, White River and Dieringer School Districts.
- Provided "Stay On Top Of The Water" water safety instruction to 312 local middle school students.
- Instructed 1,550 middle school students and 425 high school students in CPR.
- Attended 14 local community events with the Children's Safety Trailer, delivering fire safety messages to children of all ages.
- Delivered water safety instruction to 104 preschool students.
- Inspected and installed 72 child car seats.
- Sold and fitted 280 bike helmets.
- Instructed 48 babysitters in the Safe Sitter program.
- Sold and fitted 89 life jackets.
- Loaned and fitted life jackets at Station 11, at Lake Tapps Park and the newly implemented self-serve loaner kiosk at Allan Yorke Park.
- Installed 350 smoke alarms in area residences.



# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



- Loaned out “Water Wise Kids” kits to nine preschools and daycares. The kits provide teachers with age-appropriate water-safety curriculum.
- Participated in approximately 30 community events, including various school carnivals, Summer Arts Festival, Orting Resource Fair, Sierra Community National Night Out Event, Bonney Lake Days, Camp Fire Camps, Girl Scout Camp, East Pointe Family Fun Fest, career fairs and parades.
- Provided fire extinguisher training.
- Facilitated over 80 fire station tours for local schools, day cares, preschool and civic groups.
- Facilitated the first-annual April Pools Day at the Summer High School Pool, focusing on open water and boat safety in a controlled environment.
- Developed a “Learn Not To Burn” kit that is offered to preschools and daycare facilities. The kits provide teachers with age-appropriate fire and life safety curriculum, games, puzzles, books and activities to apply in the classroom.
- Provided intervention and education to juvenile firesetters and their families through the Firestoppers of Washington program.
- Provided fire and fall prevention presentations to local seniors at area senior centers, assisted living facilities and retirement communities.



## East Pierce Fire & Rescue Public Education Programs

### Bicycle Helmet Sales and Fitting\*

Wearer must be present for custom fitting. Helmets are sold for \$7 each. Wearer must be present for fitting.

### Life Jacket Sales and Fitting\*

Life jackets are sold for \$12 each. Wearer must be present.

### SafeSitter Classes

Registration information and class schedules are available at [www.eastpiercefirerescue.org](http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.org). Cost: \$30

### Free Life Jacket Loaner Program

Free loaner jackets are available at the headquarters station, Allan Yorke Park and Lake Tapps Park.

### Free Child Safety Seat Inspection

Call for an appointment.

### Free Station Tours

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

### Free CPR and First Aid Classes

Registration information and class schedules are available at [www.eastpiercefirerescue.org](http://www.eastpiercefirerescue.org). Free for East Pierce residents.

### Free Smoke Alarm Installations

Call for an appointment.

### Free Blood Pressure Checks

Stop by any staffed station during regular business hours.

### Free Fire Extinguisher Training

Call to schedule.

\*Sponsored by East Pierce Professional Firefighters Local 3520.

# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



The goal of the Safety Committee is to ensure the safety of all the firefighters and officers at East Pierce Fire & Rescue. We provide a method to solve safety concerns. We also review and remove hazards that may become safety issues.



Firefighting is an inherently dangerous occupation. Firefighters are often exposed to dangerous conditions while performing duties of saving lives through fire suppression and emergency medical care.

Our injury rate has remained at 10 for both 2007 and 2008, despite the addition of the Sumner Fire personnel. Call volume also continues to increase each year.

## 2008 Accomplishments

- One new fire engine was purchased and providing enhanced safety. One more has been ordered along with two medic units for 2008 and one for 2009.
- Submitted a Federal grant request to purchase three emergency generators for stations 15, 110, 19. The grant was approved and the generators were installed at each of those stations. The generators will provide a more stable environment for these stations.
- Identified lifting injuries as the number one safety issue in 2008.

- Replaced light bars with “LED” lights on most of the staff units to add increased safety for those assigned to those units. The project was completed in 2008.
- Asbestos abatement was completed at fire station 14.
- Ceiling and exterior repairs have been completed for the training trailer located at station 14. Repairs have provided a better climate for the department and needed classrooms to host training and events.
- We have been re-evaluated by Labor and Industry. The evaluation period was from July 2004 to July 2007. Since 2004, we have dropped from 22 injuries to 10 in 2008 while more than doubling our workforce and 911 response to emergencies.

We support the National Fire Academy’s “Everyone Goes Home” initiatives and display them in every fire station. The purpose of these initiatives is to reduce firefighter fatalities. Currently there are over 100 firefighter fatalities every year. The biggest contributor to the fatalities is heart attacks and apparatus collisions (15,000 a year nationwide). Firefighters are 100 times more likely to die from a heart attack than the general public. We want to do everything we can here at East Pierce Fire & Rescue to support these initiatives and reduce firefighter injuries and fatalities.

We have been nominated for the Seal of Excellence by the Region 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coordinator for our work in safety and support of the Everyone Goes Home Program. The nomination will be considered with other regional nominations across the nation for selection.

# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



Emergency Management works closely with law enforcement and local, state and federal agencies to prepare and manage large-scale emergencies.

Unlike most emergency response, Emergency Management involves preparing for disaster **before** it occurs. Since effective emergency management relies on the integration of emergency plans at many levels, the Emergency Management Division works closely with trained personnel from local police and sheriff's agencies and various city, state and federal departments. When disaster strikes, whether it is a wicked winter storm or massive flooding, the Emergency Management Division has a plan.



Those plans include the mobilization of appropriate emergency services and first responders, such as firefighters, police and emergency medical crews in the disaster area. To ensure proper training among all of the resources, periodic drills are held with neighboring fire departments and law enforcement.

During a disaster, members of a regional team activate the emergency operations center (EOC) at the East Pierce headquarters station in Bonney Lake. The EOC manages incidents and resources for the

residents in the East Pierce Fire and Rescue jurisdiction, including Sumner, Bonney Lake, Lake Tapps, South Prairie, Wilkeson and the Ridge Communities. The EOC tracks resources, manages responders and moves needed supplies to the affected areas.

By coming together as a larger community, we can better manage a significant incident, providing improved response to the public. Together, we can get a faster, more comprehensive look at the cost and damage assessment in order to request a presidential declaration, improving cost recovery for our citizens.

The functions of the EOC include:

*The Planning Section.* These professionals develop a plan and track resources for the immediate response and plans for responses up to 12 hours down the road.

*The Operations Section.* This section includes police, fire and public works. They manage responders and request additional personnel, if needed.

*The Logistics Section.* Personnel locate needed materials, such as sand and sand bags, barricades and, depending on the size of the incident, supplies, such as food and water for responders.

*The Finance Section* tracks the cost of the operation and writes contracts, if needed.

Working together on a unified approach to a large-scale incident, helps to ensure a better coordinated response and contain costs for our citizens.



# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE



## Budget and Finance

The Budget and Finance Division continually reviews and analyzes finances and budget performance to ensure that district residents receive maximum value and service from their fire service.



The Budget and Finance Division works closely with the State Auditor's office, which performs an annual accountability report to review budget compliance. The department chose to have the analysis performed annually, rather than the minimum cycle of every

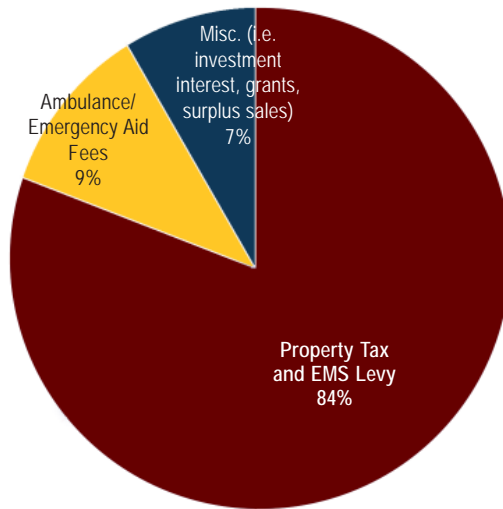
three years. This gives the department the opportunity to continually update and improve its accounting practices on a timely basis.

Major sources of funding include personal property taxes, which make up 84 percent of funds; followed by EMS transport fees, in which the department bills third-party payors such as private insurance companies, Medicare, etc.

In line with most departments, 72 percent of department costs went toward employee salary and benefits. Repair and maintenance costs for maintaining 11 stations and more than forty vehicles continue to rapidly increase, along with fuel and other fire and EMS supplies.

In 2008, the department's final operating budget was \$18,770,044.

### 2008 Annual Revenues



### 2008 Expenditures (as percentage of budget)

Personnel	71.8%
Facilities Repair & Maintenance	4.1%
Lease/Purchase of New Vehicles	4.6%
Fire Suppression Equipment	3.4%
Medical Services & Transport	2.7%
Dispatch Agency Fees	2.0%
Training Costs	1.9%
Vehicle Repair & Maintenance	1.4%
Professional Services	1.0%
Volunteer Program	0.6%
Miscellaneous	1.0%

# EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

## Staffed Stations

**Station 11 ~ Headquarters Station ~ Bonney Lake**  
18421 Old Buckley Hwy.  
Phone: (253) 863-1800

**Station 12 ~ Prairie Ridge**  
12006 214th Ave. E.

**Station 14 ~ Lake Tapps**  
3206 W. Tapps Dr. E.

**Station 16 ~ Buckley**  
10515 234th Ave. E.

**Station 13 ~ Sumner**  
800 Harrison St.

## Volunteer Stations

**Station 15 ~ Lake Tapps**  
1605 210 Ave. E.

**Station 19 ~ South Prairie**  
350 SR 162

**Station 111 ~ Buckley**  
27723 Sumner-Buckley Hwy.

**Station 110 ~ Wilkeson**  
501 Church St.

**Station 113 ~ Bonney Lake**  
4824 Aqua Dr. E.

**Station 112 ~ Lake Tapps**  
2905 Sumner-Tapps Hwy. E



