



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

"Where Compassion and Action Meet"



HEADQUARTERS STATION
18421 Veterans Memorial Dr. E.
Bonney Lake, WA 98391
(253) 863-1800
fax: 253-863-1848
www.eastpiercefirer.org



"Where Compassion and Action Meet"



Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is a regional leader in providing the highest level of fire and emergency medical and prevention services to a diverse and growing community with:

- Mission-essential staffing and training.
- State-of-the-art facilities, equipment and technology.
- A strong, diverse and sustainable funding base, while maintaining stewardship of taxpayer resources.
- A safe environment for our citizens through effective and comprehensive prevention and public education programs.
- A safe and healthy workforce.

Core Values & Guiding Principles

Our community and our employees are our most important resource
We are committed to:

Doing the Right Thing

Integrity, Trust, Respect and Commitment

Everyone Must Make a Difference

Individual, Organizational, Responsibility, Accountability, Teamwork and Collaboration

Anticipating and Meeting Our Community's Needs

Proactive Planning, Innovation, Creativity, Responsiveness and Excellent Customer Service

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Headquarters Station

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Printing: Minuteman Press
of Puyallup, WA



This annual report covers January 1 through December 31, 2014.

LETTER FROM THE 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. Our personnel were especially busy in the community last year and will continue to work hard for you.

In 2014, East Pierce crews responded to 9,348 emergency calls. More than seven out of ten of those calls were for medical emergencies. I am particularly pleased that citizens who live within the district continue to receive ambulance transport by East Pierce crews at no "out-of-pocket" expense. That is a huge savings for our residents and often makes a difference in whether or not those who are in need seek treatment at a hospital.

This annual report describes many accomplishments by our personnel throughout the year. Most readers will likely be surprised by all of the services we offer our communities. While that is impressive, what is much more difficult to describe is the motivation and desire of our personnel, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to serve the public. It's hard to describe the effort by our crews as they respond to your needs, not just when the alarm hits, but during CPR/first aid classes, fire prevention efforts or in the classrooms of our schools. We truly have exceptional people providing compassionate service to all of our communities' diverse needs.

Just like many families and businesses throughout the country, the recession continues to affect our budget and our ability to provide the services you've come to expect from your fire district. Unfortunately the failure to renew our Maintenance and Operations levy further complicates our budget situation. The loss of over \$3.2 million in revenue after the loss of funding from the recession has negatively impacted our ability to prevent fires and respond to emergencies.

Despite the challenges your fire district is facing, our members are committed to providing the best service possible with the personnel and resources the public provides. We will continue to do our best to serve you, the residents and businesses, throughout the district. For 2015, we will continue to work with all of our partners in the communities we serve to meet your expectations. We will stay as efficient as possible, while remaining wise stewards of your tax dollars.

Two of our bigger challenges continue to be funding and our low staff levels on our fire engines. We must address both of these issues in the near future.

I am proud to be the chief of this extraordinary fire department. It's been an honor to serve with our dedicated members, who are out on the streets every day, making our communities safer for you and your loved ones. As you may have heard, I've decided to retire effective June 30, after serving the public for more than 41 years. I first joined the fire service as a volunteer and worked my way up as a firefighter, captain, battalion chief and then as a fire marshal and emergency manager before serving as your fire chief for past six years. A new fire chief will be named sometime in June.

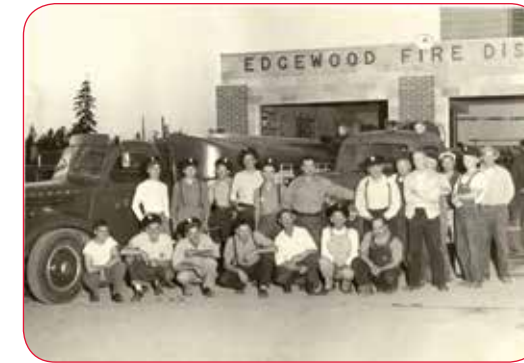
As I leave East Pierce I know that you're re in good hands. East Pierce Fire & Rescue will not lose sight of its commitment to serve with professionalism, preparation and above all, compassion for all of our citizens. In the future, please support your fire district and firefighters. When you see one of our engines or medic units out in public, you can be sure that they are doing their best to fulfill our vital public mission for you, our customers.

Jerry E. Thorson
Fire Chief
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 statements guide the actions of the department and its members. Exceptional customer service and a concern for the members and their families have become hallmarks of our culture.

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



In 2006, voters in Pierce County Fire District 12 and South Prairie Fire District 20 overwhelmingly passed a special election to merge with East Pierce. Two years later, the citizens of the City of Sumner and Pierce County Fire District 1 also voted to join the East Pierce family.

On February 9, 2010, Edgewood residents voted in favor of merging with East Pierce.

In 2013, the Milton citizens voted to annex with East Pierce, bringing expanded fire, rescue and emergency medical services to their city.

Today, East Pierce serves a population of approximately 88,700 residents living in and around Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, the Ridge Communities, South Prairie, Edgewood and Milton. The district covers nearly 152 square miles and protects residents from 11 stations – six staffed and four volunteer, plus a facility on Lake Tapps for the marine rescue unit.

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

An independently-elected board of citizens governs the agency.

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.



2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Meetings start at 7:00 pm at the East Pierce headquarters station, at 18421 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Bonney Lake. The public is encouraged to attend.

2014 FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Dale Mitchell, Chair	Kevin Garling
Mike Cathey	Karlynne McGinnis
Edward Egan	Ron Scholz
Rick Kuss	



East Pierce Organizational Chart – 2014

Citizens

Board of Commissioners

Fire Chief
Jerry Thorson

District Secretary
Michelle Hollon

Human Resources
Tanya Lynch

Deputy Chief
John McDonald

Receptionist
Shelly Nieman

Office Assistant
Vacant

Assistant Chief – Training and EMS
Russ McCallion

Training Admin.
Carla Vigna

B/C Training
Doug Walker

Training Spec.
Lt. Dan Curtis

EMS Admin.
Tricia Brown

B/C MSO
Jeff Moore

EMS Spec.
Lt. Brad Dyson

Public Education
Dina Sutherland

Assistant Chief – Prevention
Vacant

Prevention Admin.
Corina Charest

AFM
Capt. Lane Walthers

DFM
Paul Brockwell

DFM
Brian VanMeter

Assistant Chief – Operations/
Volunteers
Ed Goodlet

Ops Support Admin.
Michelle Hollon

Operations Division

A Shift B/C
Pat Beers

B Shift B/C
Jay Adams

C Shift B/C
Rick Goetz

Volunteers

Assistant Chief Emergency
Management/IT/Logistics
Jim Jaques

Emergency Management/IT/
Logistics Support (.75)
AP/AR Support (.25)
Yvonne Hahn

Info Systems Mgr.
Mike Blaylock

Info. Sys. Tech.
Robert Hanson

Equipment /Fleet
Captain Chuck King

Facilities/Safety
Captain Greg Reinke

Staff Support
Bob Hoth

Finance
Vacant

Payroll Admin.
Kim Johnson

Finance Admin.
Carol Rodriguez

152 Approximate Square Miles
(Land Area Covered)

88,683
Approximate Population Served

65 Career Firefighter -
EMTs
+
39 Career Firefighters-
Paramedics
= 104 Total Number of
Career Officers and Firefighters

29
Total Number of
Volunteer Firefighters

1 Assistant
Fire Marshal

12 Administrative
Staff

1 Public Educator

5 Chief Officers

2 Deputy
Fire Marshals

5 Battalion Chiefs

* Positions were left vacant in an effort to cut costs during the recession.

LAKE TAPPS ADDRESS LOCATION PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED

Designed to get emergency resources to the scene of water-related and land-based incidents on Lake Tapps as quickly and efficiently as possible, the new Lake Tapps Incident Locator Program implemented by East Pierce Fire & Rescue was launched in the summer of 2014.

In the past, valuable time was often wasted trying to identify exactly where to send rescuers. To rectify that, the program offers inexpensive, easy-to-install signs that display the property's assigned number and can be mounted to each



dock, allowing boaters or swimmers to easily see a number from any point along the shoreline. Where no dock is available, the number signs can be placed on a post or other appropriate location.

Homeowners can purchase the signs through the fire district and mount the sign themselves or the fire department will facilitate the mounting of the sign, if required. They can be ordered online at www.eastpiercefirerescue.org or in person at the fire district headquarters station (18421 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Bonney Lake).

The signs are made to order, so allow 3-4 weeks for processing and manufacturing. Homeowners will be notified by telephone when the sign is ready for pick up at the headquarters station.

WILKESON WITHDRAWS FROM EAST PIERCE

Following two years of talks between the Wilkeson Town Council and East Pierce Fire & Rescue, Wilkeson decided not to renew its contract with the fire district.

During that time, East Pierce had been working with town officials to resolve a tax discrepancy between Wilkeson and the rest of the district's residents. A contract that pre-dated the East Pierce merger allowed the town to pay a lesser rate for fire, rescue and emergency medical services than the rest of the citizens in the East Pierce service area. East Pierce residents pay \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for fire protection and 50 cents per \$1,000 for emergency medical services (EMS).

In 2013, Wilkeson citizens had approved two ballot measures that increased the town's levies, enabling them to pay the same rate as the rest of the district's taxpayers. However, instead of renewing the contract with East Pierce, the Wilkeson City Council decided to contract with both Buckley and the Carbonado Fire Department for fire protection. Since neither Buckley nor Carbonado offer EMS transport, American Medical Response (AMR) will provide paramedic services and ambulance transport for the town.

"If the AMR unit, which is based in Buckley, is out of service on a call and Wilkeson needs help, we will provide mutual aid. However, we will bill for transport to cover our costs," says East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry Thorson. Residents of the East Pierce fire district receive ambulance transport with no out-of-pocket



expense. Non-residents are charged the standard rate for ambulance services, which is between \$700 and \$1,000.

In June 2014, East Pierce removed its equipment from the Wilkeson fire station, including a fire engine, aid car and a brush truck used to fight wildland fires. While Wilkeson owns the fire station, East Pierce had been responsible for maintaining it. The fire district also provided the response vehicles and paid for supplies, equipment and the cost of training and gear for the volunteers who staffed the station.

Thorson says that the apparatus and equipment, including a new generator that had recently been installed at the Wilkeson station, will be used at other stations in the district. "In the end, this allows us to consolidate our response area and focus our resources on the rest of the district where it's more densely populated," he says.

FIRE DISTRICT ANNOUNCES CUTS FOLLOWING FAILED LEVY

Voters twice failed to renew a Maintenance & Operations Levy that had been used to fund East Pierce Fire & Rescue's daily fire, rescue and medical operations. Both times, the levy renewal received more than 50% votes in favor, but fell short of the 60% supermajority required to pass.

With the defeat of the levy, the fire district faces a \$3.2 million shortfall in its 2015 budget, representing 13.7% of the overall budget. As a result, the district was forced to make drastic cuts that have affected service and slowed response times. These cuts come during increased calls for service, compounding response efforts. The department has seen an 18% increase in 9-1-1 call volume over the past two years.

"Every effort was been made to preserve essential services. We still have a service to provide and we want to provide the best service possible with the funds the public has authorized," says East Pierce Fire Chief Jerry E. Thorson. Some of the cuts included:

- Reductions in the daily number of firefighters staffing fire engines and medic units;
- Elimination of special event staffing for football games, youth sporting events and community events;
- Deferred purchase of essential equipment such as fire engines, medic units and medical equipment, in spite of the fact that a number of them are breaking down and should be replaced;
- Administrative staff reductions;
- Significant cuts to overtime;
- A freeze on filling vacant career and volunteer firefighter positions;



- The suspension of a planned recruitment of 10 new volunteers, at a cost savings of \$100,000 for the first year for training, equipment and deployment;
- Dramatic reduction in funding for fire and EMS training; and
- Deferred and reduced maintenance of fire stations, fire engines and medic units.

The fire district also cut a number of public education programs, including the Life and Fire Safety Squad (LAFSS) that teaches annual safety lessons to more than 5,600 children at 18 area schools, plus special presentations for home-schooled children. Reductions were also made in the annual CPR program for 2,000 middle and high school students.

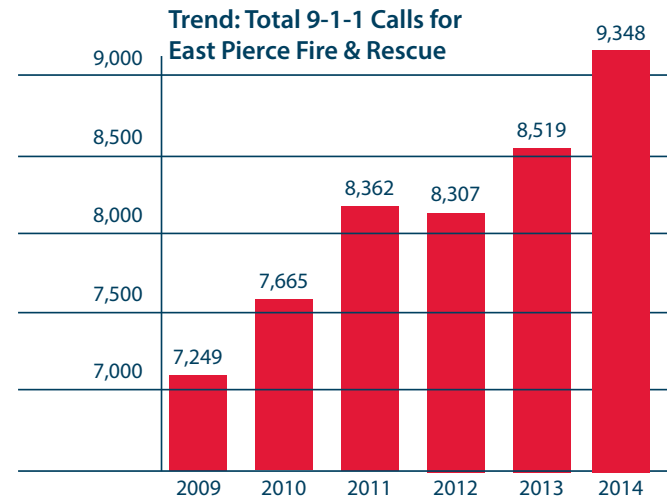


The Operations Division provides fire suppression, emergency medical services and technical rescue response for the communities served by East Pierce Fire & Rescue.

In 2014, the 104 career and 29 volunteer firefighters/EMTs and paramedics assigned to the Operations Division responded to 9,348 calls for emergency services, a 9% increase in call volume from 2013. 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 152 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 2014, East Pierce operated eleven fire stations. Six of the stations are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by career firefighters. The others include four volunteer stations and a water rescue facility located on the north end of Lake Tapps and a logistics building.

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 headquarters fire station – Station 11 – is located in Bonney Lake, at 18421 Veterans Memorial Drive. It houses emergency response personnel in addition to the administrative offices for the District.

The assistant chief of field operations oversees the Operations Division. This division is split into three shifts, each headed by a battalion chief, who works out of the headquarters station and manages the day-to-day operations of the shift. An administrative support specialist is also assigned to the division.



In addition to responding to the typical fire, emergency medical and rescue incidents, the Operations Division maintains teams of personnel with specialized training in four special operations disciplines. In recognition of risks within the district's boundaries, the department has trained select firefighters to serve as members of four teams: the Wildland Team, the Water Rescue Team, the Hazardous Materials Team and the Technical Rescue Team.



TREND: RESPONSE TIMES

Year	Dispatch to Arrival (in minutes)	Dollar Loss
2009	6:26	\$2,171,701
2010	6:27	\$2,075,107
2011	6:22	\$1,381,900
2012	6:26	\$1,601,469
2013	6:21	\$823,470
2014	6:36	\$2,277,076

Response times for the fire service are important for two reasons—first, to save lives and second, to reduce the damage to someone's property. An emergency crew's 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. Total losses are an estimated amount of loss as result of fire to personal property and/or structures.



TREND: 9-1-1 CALLS BY TYPE

Call Type	2014
Emergency Medical Calls, including motor vehicle crashes)	6,892
Service Calls	849
Good Intent	755
False Alarms	428
Hazardous Conditions	178
Structure Fires	47
Vehicle Fires	34
Brush Fires	47
Other Fires	112
Total Calls	9,348

The EMS Division provides clinical direction, medical oversight and support for the department's EMS operations. EMS performance is analyzed through a quality improvement (QI) program. EMS Division staff work with the Training Division to coordinate and deliver EMS-related education and training.

Each East Pierce fire engine, aid car and medic unit is staffed with firefighter-emergency medical technicians (EMTs), firefighter-paramedics or a combination of both.

EMTs provide basic emergency care, including splinting, bandaging, spinal immobilization, oxygen and airway management, and automated defibrillation. Firefighter-EMTs work in conjunction with the paramedics to prepare patients for transport to the hospital. A paramedic has an additional 1,500 to 2,000 hours of medical training in clinical assessment skills and advanced procedures used to stabilize critically ill or injured patients at the scene of an emergency or en route to a hospital. Paramedics are certified to administer intravenous fluids, give more than 40 medications, insert breathing tubes, and provide electrical pacing, cardioversion and defibrillation.

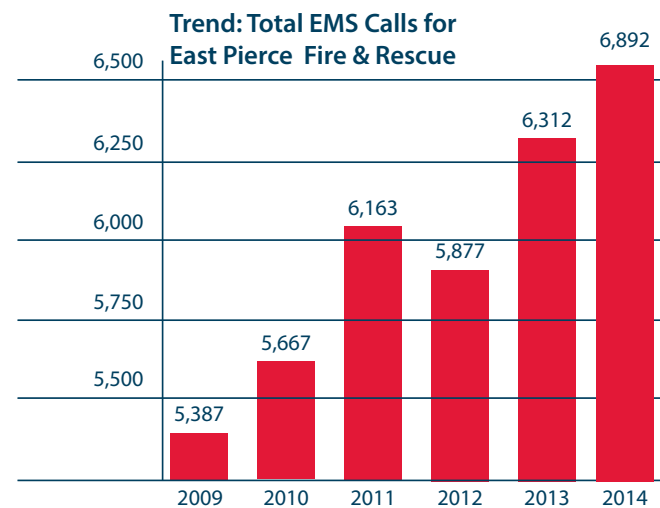
At East Pierce, each of the six staffed stations always includes at least one firefighter cross-trained as a paramedic. The department staffs four medic units (paramedic ambulances) on a daily basis, and has four reserve aid units, all capable of transporting patients.

In the past several years, the number of 9-1-1 medical calls has increased significantly. In fact, EMS calls have increased, as a percentage of overall call volume, from 61% of total 9-1-1 calls in 2006, to 74% of calls in 2014.

- The aging "Baby Boomer" generation will result in increased 9-1-1 call volume. Patients over age 65 call 9-1-1 at a rate 2 to 3 times higher than younger people;
- Increasing shortage of primary care physicians which results in many people simply calling 9-1-1 and going to the ER when they can't see their own doctor; and
- The expansion of health care coverage could also result in increased use of 9-1-1 and the EMS system.

East Pierce units responded to 6,892 EMS incidents in 2014—an average of 18.9 emergency medical services (EMS) related incidents per day. East Pierce medic units transported 4,994 patients to area hospitals an average 13.7 patients per day. This represents an increase of 9.2% ambulance transports from 2013, and a cumulative two year increase in EMS patient transports of 16%.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue celebrated 10 years of providing ambulance services, with the goal of providing improved, continuity



of clinical care at no "out-of-pocket" cost to East Pierce residents. In 2014, district residents who were transported by East Pierce saved an estimated \$700,000-\$1,200,000 in fees that would have been paid to private ambulances.

The district bills private health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid for EMS services, on behalf of the patient. In 2014, East Pierce received nearly \$2.3 million in ambulance transport revenues.

When all available East Pierce units are already on calls—such as during a major fire—private ambulances and units from neighboring fire departments may respond into the district for "mutual aid". Patients transported by these units may be responsible for paying these ambulance service charges. In 2014, a total of 44 patients (0.9% of all East Pierce patients) were transported by mutual aid units.



2014 Accomplishments

- EMS Division staff, supporting crews in the field, started working with the Northwest Physician Group and CHI Franciscans, to identify frequent 9-1-1 caller and provide referrals to nurse case managers. The nurse case managers work with the patients to see if additional medical or social services can be provided to help patients with health-related issues. This helps improve the quality of life for patients, and in most cases, helps these patients to continue to live independently.
- EMS Division staff provided critical leadership in developing and gaining state health department approval of EMS clinical key performance indicators. These performance measures will be used by our department to "benchmark" our clinical performance with other EMS agencies around the state.
- EMS Division staff provided additional infection control and personal protective equipment training to address state and local concerns regarding Ebola and Measles transmission. One older ambulance vehicle was temporarily retrofitted in November 2014 to serve as an "infectious disease" unit capable of providing safe transport for patients with high-risk diseases.
- The EMS Division is managing a new county-wide joint purchasing group of 10 Pierce County fire departments which has issued competitive bids for EMS supplies and pharmaceuticals. The increased joint purchasing power of the multiple fire departments has resulted in net savings of 5% to 10% per department, or a total of more than \$50,000.
- The EMS Division staff was instrumental in initiating and coordinating the largest EMS conference held in Washington State in more than a decade. The Washington Fire Chief's-sponsored "Community Paramedic" Conference, held in early November, was attended by more than 475 fire chiefs, fire labor leaders, EMS physicians, nurses, physicians, health insurance providers, home health providers, and representatives of government agencies and healthcare organizations. The conference focused on how EMS providers can work in "non-traditional" roles to assist with community health programs and connect patients with resources, thereby improving patient health and outcomes, and reducing healthcare costs and unnecessary 9-1-1 call volume.

CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN CPR PATIENT SURVIVAL

Over the last four years, the EMS Division has taken multiple steps to improve our cardiac arrest survival program. Prior to launching our new program, the department's cumulative five year Utstein survival rate for patients found in a "shockable" rhythm was less than 10%. Since the department implemented a comprehensive resuscitation program in 2011, survival (patients discharged home alive) for these cardiac arrest patients has climbed four-fold to 40%.

These efforts were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs in 2013, when they presented East Pierce Fire & Rescue with the national "Heart-Safe Community of the Year Award" for 2013.

The multiple components of this resuscitation program, which have made it so successful, include:

- **On-going Citizen CPR Programs:** East Pierce Fire & Rescue trains more than 2,000 citizens each year, which has resulted in a bystander CPR rate of 62%, more than twice the national average.

- **Law Officer AED Program:** The EMS Division has equipped more than 80 police officers in the five law enforcement agencies located within the fire district with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), which are used to "shock" the hearts of cardiac arrest victims to restore a heartbeat.

- **Reduce Response Times:** East Pierce has worked with our dispatch center to speed up dispatch times for CPR calls, to help reduce response times.

- **High-performance CPR Training:** All East Pierce firefighters and paramedics attend semi-annual high-performance CPR training drills. EMS Division staff also lead intensive "case debriefs" for CPR calls, allowing the crews who respond to CPR calls an opportunity to review and critique their performance.

From 2011 through 2014, a total of 22 patients have been resuscitated from cardiac arrest. These patients survived and were discharged alive to their families—a dramatic increase in the number of cardiac arrest survivors from earlier years.

OPERATION SANTA



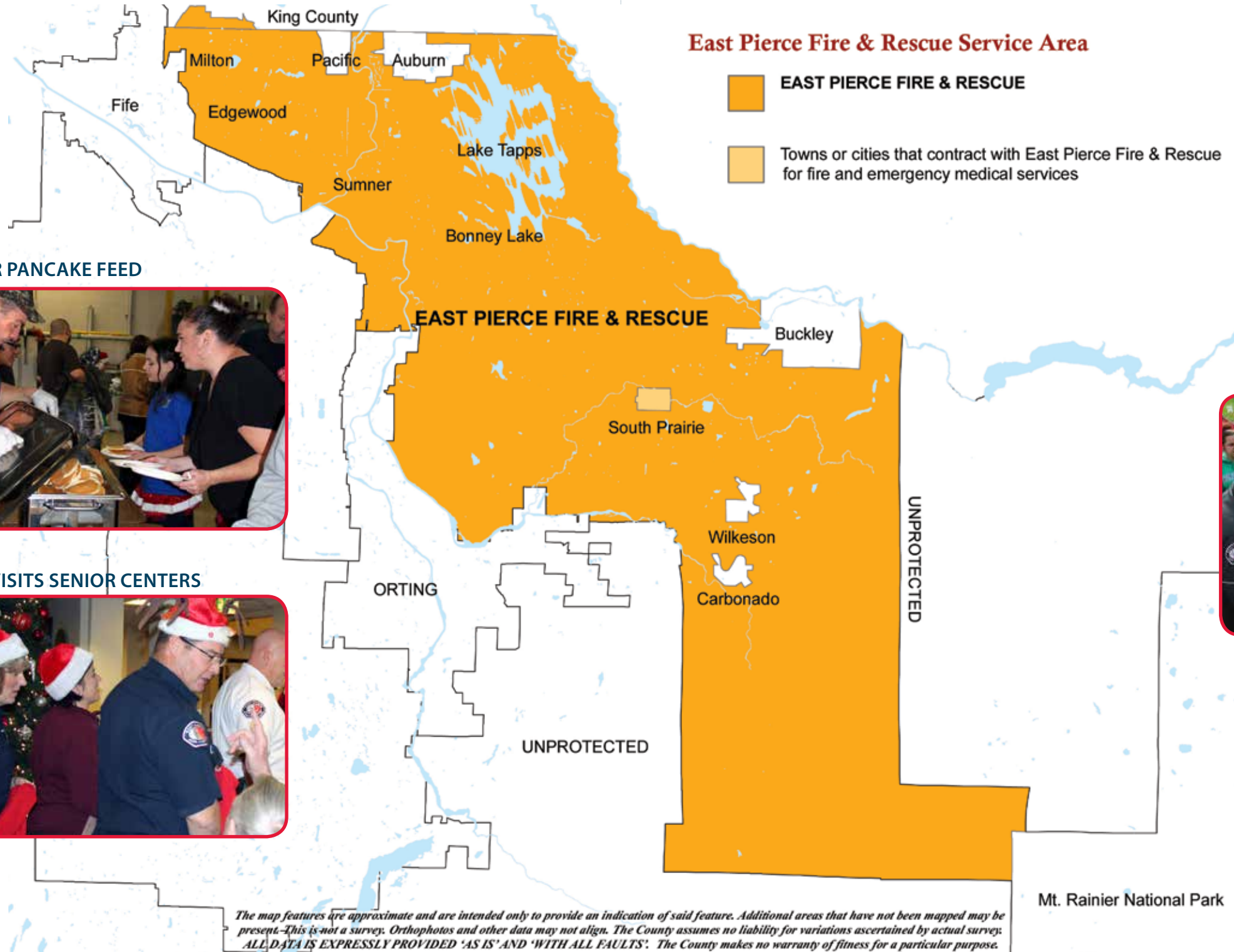
FILL THE BOOT



SUMNER PANCAKE FEED



SANTA VISITS SENIOR CENTERS



APRIL POOLS DAY



EASTER EGG HUNT



OPEN HOUSE



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.

The Volunteer Division coordinates the activities of the East Pierce Fire & Rescue's fire and emergency medical technician (EMT) volunteers. A total of 29 volunteers respond to a broad range of emergencies including fires, medical emergencies, vehicle collisions, Hazmat incidents, "general alarms" and natural disasters. The Volunteer Division is led by the assistant chief of field operations, with the support from two volunteer fire captains.

On a typical day, volunteers either respond from home to volunteer fire stations, staff volunteer stations or work at career stations side by side with the career firefighters during VEOPs (Volunteer Experience Opportunity Programs). VEOPs allow volunteers to gain valuable experience and training. Volunteers also play a critical role assisting with department public education programs such as smoke alarm installations, Fire Safety Trailer events and the annual Open House.

During a significant fire that requires a large number of firefighters, or when there are an unusually high number of incidents, volunteers are called in to assist during what is known as a "general alarm". Depending on the type of emergency, a general alarm can range from 30 minutes to more than 24 hours.

Whether it's the weekend, weekday or the middle of the night, volunteers are there to serve the community.

The Washington State Board of Volunteer Firefighter and Reserve Officers set minimum standards for all volunteers and manages a disability and pension system.

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

2014 Accomplishment

- Recruited and trained nine new volunteer firefighters to the program.



2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The East Pierce Volunteer Firefighter's Association announced the winners of its annual "Scholarships for Excellence." For the first time, seven scholarships were awarded in a single year. "Since the first scholarship was awarded in 2008, the VFA has presented more than \$10,000 in college scholarships to area students," says East Pierce Volunteer Firefighter Sara Arneson.

The 2014 scholarship winners are White River High School senior Madison Budinich, Bonney Lake High School senior Tyler Wassom, and Sumner High School senior Sydney Roberts.

The community scholarship was presented to Andrea Seaton from Cascade Christian High School



Two scholarships awarded to an East Pierce career or volunteer member, their spouse or dependent. Bonney Lake High School senior Sabrina Poe, daughter of East Pierce Firefighter Will Poe, was one of the recipients. She will be studying nursing at Pierce College. Jessica Nicolich, who is currently studying nursing at Pierce College, also received a scholarship. She is the daughter of Firefighter Kirby Pollard.

The annual Doty Community Service Award with a \$250 scholarship was presented to Bonney Lake High School senior Laura Cook. She will be studying nursing at Brigham Young University in the fall.

The scholarships are conferred annually to a graduating senior at each of the high schools within the East Pierce Fire District. Eligible students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and intend to enter the fields of firefighting, law enforcement, medicine or social work. The community scholarship is awarded to seniors who live within the fire district, but attend high schools outside its jurisdiction. Money for the scholarship is raised through donations to the association.



The Foundation also offers a unique program for this area—the Sentimental Journey. It is a cooperative effort between the fire district, MultiCare/Good Samaritan Home Health and Hospice and the Foundation, that provides hospice patients in our area with one last ride to some place special to them. Off-duty firefighters use a district medic

unit to transport the patient to a family gathering, special event or someplace that means something to the patient. The Foundation reimburses the use of the medic unit, fuel and supplies, so the trip is offered at no cost to the patient or the taxpayers.

Here is what the hospice nurses and case workers wrote about the program:

"We at Hospice appreciate the contribution the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Foundation is making in the lives of our patients. Every day is precious, each hour has something to savor and even minutes count at the end of life. The ability to make that last trip to the mountains, clap your hands to live music, smell the salt air, is a gift beyond measure. You are bringing compassion in action to the person who will be leaving this world soon and also bring the gift of consoling memories to the ones who will be left behind."

The Foundation continues to support East Pierce Fire & Rescue and their on-going efforts to make this a safer community. Together, we make a difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors.

For more information, go to www.eastpiercefoundation.org



The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Foundation is a non-profit, community-based organization that works to improve the lives of the community through compassionate outreach services and access to public safety education programs. In partnership with the fire district, it's mission is to help create a safer and more supportive community for the citizens in the East Pierce service area.

The citizens served by East Pierce are incredibly lucky that our fire district does a tremendous job helping to prevent tragedies through comprehensive public education programs. However, during the last several years, the recession and budget cuts have hampered those efforts. The Foundation was formed in 2013 to provide additional support from the community. Members raise money through donations to help subsidize the fire district's efforts.

EAST PIERCE SURVIVORS SOCIETY

To celebrate the growing number of cardiac arrest survivors in our fire district, the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Foundation has launched the East Pierce Survivors Society (EPSS).

Not just anyone can be a member. To get in, you must have survived a cardiac arrest or other potential life-ending event. "It's really a group you don't want to belong to if you can help it," says founding member Duane Bratvold. "The membership qualification is steep."

Bratvold qualified in May of 2012 when he suffered a cardiac arrest at his home in front of his wife and five-year-old grandson. The East Pierce firefighters who responded began working on Bratvold with the precision of a pit crew. Just weeks earlier, they had undergone an intensive review of the department's high-performance CPR program, focused on coordinating patient care and improving patient survival.

The combination of concentrated training, focusing on high-quality CPR, and improved medical oversight, have contributed to a significant jump in East Pierce patient survival from cardiac arrest.

According to the department's EMS Division, survival rates for patients in a "shockable" cardiac arrest rhythm has



climbed from an average of only 10% each year, to more than 40%. Survival rates are based on the number of patients discharged from the hospital without serious complications.

"The Survivor Society was established to support these people," Bratvold says. First, it offers powerful encouragement to the survivors and their families. "The doctors and nurses can tell you what happened to you, but it really helps to talk to someone else who has been through it," he says. In addition, it provides a way to give back to the community through the efforts of the Foundation, especially through the Healthy Hearts Initiative that supports the citizen CPR classes offered by East Pierce.

The group will meet every other month beginning in 2015. Patient privacy regulations prevent the fire district from providing the names or contact information of survivors to the Foundation. If you—or someone you know—would like to join, send an email to survivorsociety@comcast.net or call 253-200-7073 for more information.

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 essential for maintaining and improving critical firefighting, rescue and medical skills. Training provides an opportunity to update members on new regulations and industry "Best Practices". It allows firefighters to become familiar with equipment and procedures and work efficiently and effectively on a wide variety of emergency scenes including house fires, vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, high-angle cliff rescues and hazardous materials incidents.

Firefighters receive training on a range of topics and skills from the most commonly used to the complex and unique. Crews practice rope rescue techniques, wildland firefighting, and swift water, under-water and trench rescue skills. These complex skills require frequent training and practice for members to maintain proficiency.



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

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

In 2014, the Training Division was responsible for providing or coordinating a total of 24,107 hours of training for the department's 104 career firefighters and 29 volunteer firefighters—an average of 181 hours per member per year. (That equals 15 hours per month for the average firefighter).

Personnel receive most of their training while on-duty. Evening and weekend training is geared toward training the district's volunteer firefighters. Firefighters also attend specialized classes outside the department at community colleges, workshops and firefighting academies.

A critical Training Division function is the maintenance of all training records, documentation and certifications for the department's firefighter-EMTs and firefighter-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 as well as successful fire, rescue and EMS operations.

The Training Division is challenged by the lack of a permanent training facility, although building a training facility is a long-term goal for the department. There is no dedicated space available for training involving multiple fire engines, deployment of hose-lines or conducting search and rescue operations or ladder training.

To make up for the lack of a training facility, the Training Division is scheduling training for 2015 at fire drill tower facilities located in other fire districts. The "multi-company operations" training is critical for safe and effective fire-fighting, but crews attending the training will have to be replaced with other firefighters coming in on overtime, to maintain staffing inside the fire district.

The Training Division is managed by the training battalion chief. A lieutenant training specialist and an administrative support specialist are also assigned to the division with oversight provided by the assistant chief for training and EMS.

181 AVERAGE NUMBER OF TRAINING HOURS PER FIREFIGHTER PER YEAR



2014 TRAINING HOURS BY CATEGORY

Firefighter Suppression/Operations	5,745
EMS	5,525
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	4,739
HAZMAT	1,532
WATER RESCUE	1,522
TECHNICAL RESCUE	1,499
DRIVER/OPERATOR	1,155
WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING	1,055
FIRE PREVENTION/PUBLIC EDUCATION	886
SAFETY	449
TOTAL	24,107



2014 Accomplishments

- Completed initial "Blue Card" Command training program or all East Pierce officers and acting company officers. This nationally-recognized program provides standardized training for officers and firefighters, who may serve in the role of "Incident Commander" during structure fires and other, large-scale incidents. Advanced Blue Card training, focusing on fire-ground tactics, will start in late 2015.
- Conducted a day-long, multi-company live-fire training exercise in a donated house. This provided critical training on fire behavior, suppression, ventilation and forcible-entry for approximately 25 firefighters.
- Assisted in developing a one-day multiple agency "active shooter" drill at a local high-school, involving law enforcement and fire/EMS agencies. This drill assessed the ability of the agencies to work safely and effectively together to take down suspected shooters while rescuing injured patients.
- Implemented use of a new suite of training software and records management programs, called Target Solutions, which is used by more than 4,000 fire departments around the United States. Additionally, Target Solutions provides hundreds of on-line fire, rescue, EMS and human resource-related educational courses, which firefighters can take while on-duty at their own stations.
- Training Division staff coordinated delivery of eight weeks of full-time comprehensive post-fire academy training for three new probationary firefighters, who were brought on board to replace vacancies created by retirements.
- Training Division staff provided administrative oversight for the initial fire and EMS training provided by outside agencies for nine new volunteer firefighters. Each new volunteer received more than 400 hours of training during 2014 to make them fully-qualified volunteer firefighter/EMTs.



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

The Fire Prevention Division provides a full range of services to the residents of the cities of Sumner, Bonney Lake, Edgewood and Milton as well as fire investigation and public education services to the residents of the unincorporated portions of eastern Pierce County.

During 2014, the Fire Prevention Division continued to focus on providing plan review, inspection, fire investigation and public education services aimed at ensuring a fire-safe community. The Division is staffed by five dedicated fire safety professionals with oversight provided by the deputy chief/fire marshal. The division has four plan review and inspection personnel, including one deputy chief/fire marshal, one assistant fire marshal and two deputy fire marshals. An administrative support specialist provides assistance to division staff and members of the public.

The Fire Prevention Division also provides juvenile firesetter intervention service to residents of the fire district. The service is offered to families with a child who has displayed an interest in fire play or to families with a juvenile who has intentionally set fires. The referrals come from district firefighters who recognize a juvenile firesetter problem while out on an incident, from local police departments, and in many cases from the families themselves.

As the regional economy continued to rebound in 2014, plan review and construction activity remained steady throughout the jurisdiction, particularly in the cities of Sumner and Bonney Lake. Commercial development out-performed residential overall, however there was a significant increase in residential development in Bonney Lake.

Tenant improvements and remodels in existing buildings were the primary drivers of plan review and inspection activity on the commercial side, although development in the Sumner industrial areas remained strong as well. While the amount of new residential construction increased throughout the fire district, the City of Bonney Lake's code requirement for the installation of residential fire sprinklers in all new residential occupancies resulted in significant residential plan review and inspection activity.

Development continues in the Tehaleh (formerly Cascadia) development in the south central portion of the fire district. Fire Prevention Division staff worked with Pierce County staff to provide input on issues of importance to the fire district.

During 2014, prevention division personnel conducted a total of 721 plan reviews for development in Bonney Lake, Milton, Edgewood and Sumner. Reviews included permits for special

events, pre-application conferences, plat reviews, SEPA reviews, site plan reviews, building plan reviews and plan reviews for fire protection systems such as fire alarms and fire sprinklers.

Plan review projects ranged from large commercial projects to small tenant improvements; from single family dwellings to multi-unit apartment complexes. Some of the projects reviewed included the Renwood Apartment Complex in Bonney Lake, a 200 unit assisted living facility in Milton, the Sumner YMCA and several large concrete warehouse projects in Sumner.

In addition, Fire Prevention Division staff reviewed plans for two Alzheimer's facilities in Edgewood, numerous small-to-medium commercial projects throughout the jurisdiction and fire sprinkler systems for both commercial and residential structures.

Prevention personnel conducted 595 inspections in Bonney Lake during 2014. A total of 387 inspections were conducted in Sumner, with an additional 99 inspections conducted in Milton, Edgewood and South Prairie. The inspections were primarily related to new construction activity, existing occupancy inspections, confidence testing, follow-up and business license renewal. The Fire Prevention Division staff also responded to complaints from citizens and referrals from other public agencies.

The fire district is responsible for determining the origin and cause of all fires that occur within its jurisdiction. The



majority of the routine investigations are conducted by Operations Division personnel, while more complex investigations are the responsibility of prevention division personnel with assistance from the Pierce County fire marshal's office.

The Fire Prevention Division has five investigators who share duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In 2014, the operations division crews responded to 226 fires, ranging from small rubbish fires to commercial building blazes. East Pierce members of the Fire Prevention division investigated 23 of those fires.

As the regional economy continues to improve, development activity is likely to increase at a rapid pace due to pent-up demand. The number one challenge the fire prevention division will face is the allocation of sufficient personnel resources to complete on-going inspections for the hundreds of existing commercial, industrial and retail occupancies within the district, while keeping pace with the plan review and inspection demands resulting from new construction

EAST PIERCE FIRE PREVENTION FACTS

Fire Investigations	23	Residential Fire Sprinkler Reviews in Bonney Lake	189
Inspections	1,081	Juvenile Firesetter Interventions	3
PLAN REVIEWS BY CITY:			
Sumner	404	INSPECTIONS BY CITY/AREA:	
Bonney Lake	256	Bonney Lake	595
Edgewood	43	Sumner	387
South Prairie	0	Milton	46
Milton	18	Edgewood	32
Wilkeson*	0	Pierce County	18
		South Prairie	2
		Wilkeson*	1

* Note: The Town of Wilkeson left East Pierce Fire & Rescue in June 2014.

2014 Accomplishments

- Launched Lake Tapps Incident Locator program.
- Worked with the staff and city councils of Sumner and Bonney Lake to adopt the 2012 Edition of the International Fire Code.
- Completed the plan review and inspection of the first liquid natural gas (LNG) vehicle fueling station and storage facility in the State of Washington.
- Provided fire protection systems (fire alarm, fire sprinkler) training for all Operations Division personnel.
- Plan reviews were completed and comments provided to applicants within an average of 11 calendar days of being received by the Fire Prevention Division staff.

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, drowning, medical emergencies, such as cardiac arrest, and other preventable causes. The best way to do that is by providing education and training on fire and personal safety to children and adults.

The public education programs East Pierce has created are designed to teach children and adults how to recognize and avoid unintentional injuries, especially around water.

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

Career and volunteer firefighters participate in community events such as the National Night Out, Sumner Arts Festival, Daffodil Festival, Bonney Lake Days, Edgewood Community Picnic, Milton Days, parades, Touch-A-Truck, and staff the annual East Pierce Fire Open House.



Other prevention programs include fire extinguisher training for local businesses and groups, Summer Splash-Tacular, April Pools Day and Safe Sitter babysitter classes for children ages 11-13 years. We also offer regularly scheduled CPR and Basic First Aid classes at least twice a month, and Hands-Only CPR every other month.

2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Celebrated a drown-free summer for two consecutive years by partnering with city and community groups to participate in the Swim Safe Campaign, designed to reduce the risk of drowning on Lake Tapps. East Pierce joined the Bonney Lake Police Department to deliver water safety assemblies to all elementary school children in the Sumner and Dieringer school districts and sold and fitted life jackets during the school visits. The fire district also facilitated two water safety events—Summer Splash-Tacular and April Pools Day—that focused on open water safety.
- For the third year, the East Pierce Fire & Life Safety Squad (LAFSS) presented safety messages to local elementary school children. LAFSS would normally present to over 5,600 children with fire and life safety lessons during 25-minute assemblies at 18 schools, including home school students. However, this year only 6 assemblies were presented to 1,000 children. The program was discontinued for the rest of 2014 due to funding loss resulting from the levy failure.
- Canvassed multiple mobile home communities and installed more than 400 smoke alarms purchased through a federal grant. The smoke alarm program is specifically intended for at-risk citizens, including older adults, low income families and those who reside in a mobile home.

Number of Station Tours

34

52

Number of Teens Graduating from the SafeSitter® Program

55

Number of Car Seat Inspections



PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Free Life Jacket Loaner Program
- Free Child Safety Seat Inspections
- Free Station Tours
- Free Smoke Alarm Installations
- Free Blood Pressure Checks
- Free Fire Extinguisher Training
- Free "Hands-Only" CPR Classes
- CPR and First Aid Classes
- Bicycle Helmet Sales and Fitting
- Mutli-Sport Helmet Sales and Fitting
- Life Jacket Sales and Fitting
- SafeSitter Classes
- Life & Fire Safety (LAFSS) Squad

33

Number of Offsite/Classroom Visits

65

Number of Citizens Trained in Fire Extinguisher Use

93

Number of Citizens Receiving Hands-Only CPR

1,176

Number of Middle and High School Students Receiving CPR and First Aid Training

EAST PIERCE FIREFIGHTERS AND STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

The recipients of the 2013 Recognition Awards were honored by the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Commissioners and command staff in a ceremony held at the Edgewood station in March.

Firefighter-paramedic Rex Orcutt received the Mike Roberts Goodwill Award. The award is named for retired East Pierce Lieutenant Mike Roberts. It is presented to the firefighter who has done the most to embody selfless service. Orcutt and his wife spearhead the annual Sumner Pancake Feed to raise money for needy families at Christmas time.

Volunteer firefighter Sara Arneson was presented the Ken Thawsh Inspirational Award. The Thawsh Award is given to the person who most exemplifies the East Pierce mission statement – "Exceptional people providing compassionate service and rapid response to our community's diverse needs." Arneson is the chair of the scholarship program and works with local Eagle Scouts on projects with the fire district.

The Chief's Company included Firefighter Matt Gilbert, Lieutenant Jason Sanders, Firefighter-paramedic Rob Ruzsala, Firefighter Corey Snope and Volunteer Captain Noel Fitzgerald. While all the other awards are voted on by the firefighters, the Chief's Company is determined by the command staff.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

Firefighter-paramedic Mike Gladstone

VOLUNTEER RESPONDER OF THE YEAR

Volunteer Firefighter DeAnn O'Leary

CAREER FIREFIGHTER

Firefighter Matt Gilbert

FITNESS AWARD

Firefighter Jason Russell

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Captain Matt Jewitt

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR

Mike Blaylock

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 their duties of saving lives by providing fire suppression and emergency medical care.

Since last year, the number of duty-related injuries has remained stable, for a total of 15 work injuries in 2014. The leading causes were lifting injuries. Operational (on-scene) and training injuries are largely attributable to call volume and expanded training activities.



2014 Accomplishments

- Completed annual safety inspections at all East Pierce Fire & Rescue stations.
- Tested all fire hose carried on East Pierce Fire & Rescue apparatus.
- Completed respirator fit tests for emergency response personnel, per state requirements. Each member was tested for the N100 respirator that is used on EMS calls and a Survivair SCBA mask is used during fires.
- Tested the HazMat Team members in specialized MSA-SCBA mask used for HazMat calls.
- Tested fire prevention members with masks to protect them during fire investigations.
- Reviewed the most current changes to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-305-Firefighter Safety Standards, which took effect in 2014.

329 Number of Bike Helmets Sold/Fitted

Number of Multi-Sport Helmets Sold/Fitted **50**

293 Number of Life Jackets Sold/Fitted



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

Emergency Management involves mitigation, preparation, coordination of response and recovery for man-made and natural disasters. In the simplest terms, emergency management is the management of risk so that we can live with environmental and technical hazards and deal with the disasters they can cause.

Unlike an emergency response, emergency management is proactive instead of reactive. Effective emergency management relies on the integration of emergency plans at many levels. The Emergency Management Division works closely with personnel from local law enforcement and various school districts, city, state and federal agencies. When disaster strikes, whether it's a severe winter storm or massive flooding, the Emergency Management Division has a plan. During a disaster, members of a regional team activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the East Pierce headquarters station in Bonney Lake. The EOC manages incidents and resources for the residents in the East Pierce Fire & Rescue jurisdiction, including Sumner, Bonney Lake, Lake Tapps, Milton, Edgewood, South Prairie, Wilkeson and the Ridge Communities. The EOC tracks resources, manages responders and moves needed supplies to the affected areas. When area resources are depleted, our EOC can request resources

from the EOCs operated by Pierce County and Washington State.

The Emergency Management team is trained to provide a quicker, more comprehensive look at the cost and damage assessment during these disasters. In the event our jurisdiction needs to request a disaster declaration, our Emergency Management team is ready to take action if needed. This will expedite and improve cost recovery for our citizens and response area.

2014 Accomplishments

- Participated in the planning process for a complete update to the Mitigation Plan for Pierce County; the Municipalities, School Districts, and Water Utilizes served by East Pierce Fire & Rescue, as well as our own.
- Participated in a Pierce Transit Exercise.
- Emergency Management served as one of the leads for a multi-agency Active Shooter Exercise at the White River High School.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAMS

Selected East Pierce firefighters are given the opportunity to participate on one of the special operations teams maintained by the fire district. Team members attend additional training beyond the fire suppression, rescue and emergency medical training received by all career and volunteer personnel.

THE FOUR TEAMS ARE:

HazMat Team: The HazMat Team is deployed to chemical spills and leaks at fixed facilities and on rail and highway transportation routes.

Water Rescue Team: The Water Rescue Team responds to emergencies on the many bodies of water in the area and provides surface, dive and swiftwater response.



Technical Rescue Team: The Technical Rescue Team responds to trench and structural collapses and rescues requiring high angle or ropes techniques.

Wildland Firefighting and Rescue Team: The Wildland Team is deployed to brush and wildfires in the wildland/urban interface and wilderness areas within our jurisdiction.

The Logistics and Information Technology Division supports 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.

At East Pierce Fire & Rescue, the Logistics Division provides coordination of the complex operation of supporting 12 facilities, 68 emergency response and support vehicles, and 126 employees in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. The Logistics Division deals with the procurement, storage, distribution, maintenance and replacement of District materials and equipment and maintains the fire stations inside and out.

Logistics personnel order supplies needed for the fire department, such as firefighter uniforms, firefighting gear, and the tools firefighters use to fight fires. They have been certified to repair the self-contained breathing apparatus and taught to program radios. They repair items they can in-house like vehicle exhaust systems to reduce costs of hiring the work out. Major items such as apparatus, HVAC, roof repairs and services are coordinated by the Logistics Division.

The Logistics Division Assistant Chief also oversees the Technical Division, which is comprised of an information systems manager and a technician. They make sure all the computers, printers and copiers are in working order, plus they keep the network and phone systems running. They are also responsible for the department cell phones, pagers and any other communication equipment, including the electronic tablets the firefighters use for patient care reports during an EMS call. Vital health information can be transmitted wirelessly from the tablet to the hospi-

tal, saving precious time, especially for patients experiencing a cardiac event, stroke or trauma. Mobile data terminals, used in both the fire and EMS vehicles, provide maps and updates as the firefighters respond to 9-1-1 calls.

2014 Accomplishments

- Switched from alpha pagers to Active911 notifications, decreasing department costs and improving information available to crews.
- Installed nineteen cellular routers in department apparatus to improve network access and reliability.
- Installed a new mobile data computer in the Battalion vehicle to provide enhanced functionality.
- Replaced network firewalls at nine fire stations.
- Replaced wireless access points at three fire stations.
- Replaced several old file servers with two new virtual server host computers and storage system.
- Worked with the EMS Division to implement new wireless connection devices in their Philips heart monitor / defibrillators.
- Worked with the Operations Division to deploy pre-fire plans to apparatus mobile data computers.
- Worked with the Finance Division to move to new accounting software system.
- Updated information in department map books.

STAFFED STATIONS	VOLUNTEER STATIONS
<p>STATION 11 Headquarters Station Bonney Lake 18421 Veterans Memorial Drive East 253) 863-1800</p> <p>STATION 12 - Prairie Ridge 12006 214th Avenue East</p> <p>STATION 13 Sumner 800 Harrison Street</p> <p>STATION 14 - Lake Tapps 3206 W. Tapps Drive East</p> <p>STATION 16 - Buckley 10515 234th Avenue East</p> <p>STATION 18 - Edgewood 10105 24th Street East</p>	<p>STATION 15 - Lake Tapps 1605 210 Avenue East</p> <p>STATION 19 - South Prairie 350 SR 162</p> <p>STATION 114 - Milton 1000 Laurel Street</p> <p>STATION 113 - Bonney Lake 4824 Aqua Drive East</p> <p>BOATHOUSE - MARINE UNIT 2905 Sumner-Tapps Hwy. East</p>



The Finance Division provides comprehensive accounting, budgeting, payroll administration, debt management, investment, financial reporting and internal control services for the department.

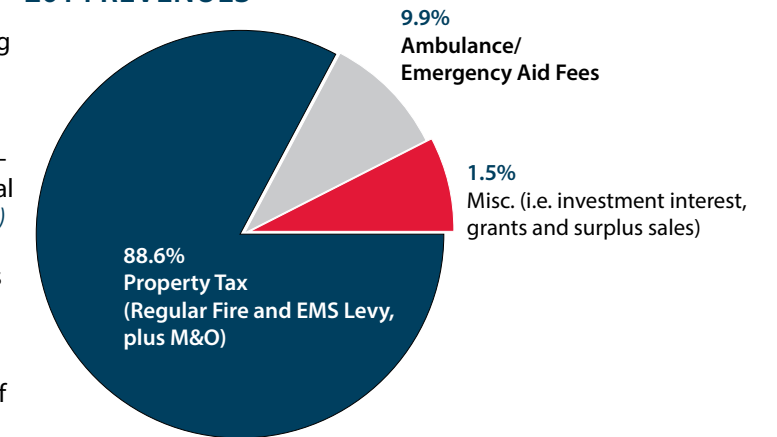
The Budget and Finance Division ensures compliance with policy, state and federal law, and generally accepted accounting practices. It prepares the annual budget and monthly financial statements, reconciles bank accounts and manages cash and debt. The division prepares the annual financial report, which includes detailed audited financial statements and statistical information about the department. Annual and quarterly financial reports are posted on the East Pierce website (www.eastpiercefirer.org)

The two major sources of funding for East Pierce are collections on property taxes and EMS levy (88.6% of total revenues) and EMS transport fees (9.9%).

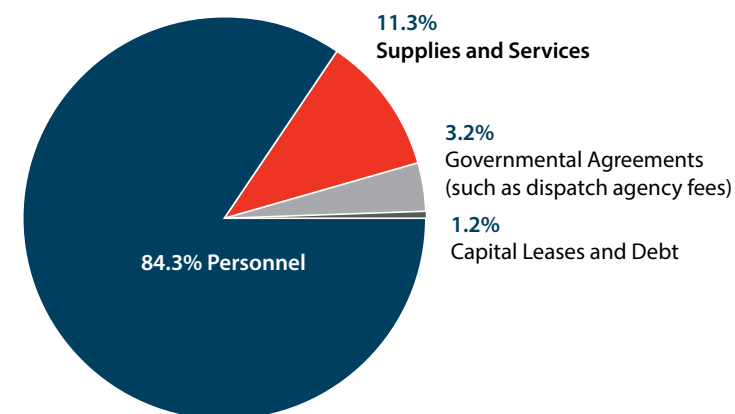
The Maintenance and Operations Levy funds provided 15.5% of the funds included in the property tax receipts, or 13.7% of our total revenue. Despite two attempts to renew the levy in 2014, the measure failed to gain the supermajority vote required to pass.

Total revenues in 2014 were \$23.3 million. Total expenses were \$23.3 million. In 2013, \$100,000 was used from reserves to balance the budget, but in 2014, in order to avoid running down reserves, program managers reduced or delayed purchases, even critical ones.

2014 REVENUES



2014 EXPENDITURES



2014 Accomplishments

- Received a clean audit review from the Washington State Auditor's Office.
- Successfully transitioned to new accounting software.
- Entered approximately 5,128 transaction lines in posting accounts payable and revenue for the year (an average of 395 lines per month, and each transaction requires multiple field entries).
- Submitted regulatory documents to federal agencies and private corporations (such as Dun & Bradstreet) as required for disclosure and oversight (bond issue and general financial).
- Our payroll administrator processed 160 payroll files throughout 2014. This consisted of 125 career/administrative employees, 28 volunteers and 7 board commissioners. The payroll administrator is also responsible for billing/collecting funds for personnel and equipment from our State and Federal Emergency Mobilizations. The total amount billed/collected in 2014 was \$58,218.21.