

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE





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MISSION, VISION & VALUE STATEMENTS

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

VISION STATEMENT

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

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

CORE VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our community and our employees are our most important resource.

We are committed to:

Doing the Right Thing

Integrity, Trust, Respect, and Commitment

Everyone Must Make a Difference

Individual, Organizational, Responsibility, Accountability, Teamwork, and Collaboration

Anticipating and Meeting Our Community's Needs

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

"Where Compassion and Action Meet"



MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



2023 marked another incredible year for East Pierce Fire & Rescue. This annual report captures just a glimpse of the district's many accomplishments and its incredible employees throughout 2023.

In 2023, we hired several recruit firefighter classes to ensure adequate personnel for opening the Milton and Tehaleh fire stations and additional medic units.

Throughout the year, we also made progress on new fire station projects funded through the 2018 voter-approved bond. The fire station projects include the building of five fire stations. Our first station to be completed was Station 118 in Edgewood. Crews occupied the station in October and have responded to emergencies since then. Construction continued on the Bonney Lake Fire Station 111 (headquarters) and Lake Tapps Fire Station 114, which will be complete in the fall of 2024. We broke ground on the Tehaleh Station 117 and expect to see it open for business in the spring of 2025. It is exciting to see the progress of these much-needed facilities start to take shape!

We also remodeled the Milton Fire Station 124 in late 2023. Crews began staffing the station 24/7/365 in early 2024, marking the first time the Milton fire station has been staffed around the clock and added vital services to the Milton and Edgewood communities.

Emergency call volume in 2023 re-

mained very similar to 2022, with crews responding to 12,558 incidents (compared to 12,653 incidents in 2022). Since most of our emergency responses require more than one unit, emergency vehicles responded over 30,000 times last year. Our emergency units are busy protecting the citizens of East Pierce Fire & Rescue every day!

The last item of note is that the Board of Fire Commissioners approved the 2023 Operating Budget in November. East Pierce Fire & Rescue continues to have the lowest tax rate of any fire district in Pierce County. We are pleased to deliver such a high level of service for a great value to our community.

Thank you for your trust and approved funding to ensure your safety. We could only meet your needs with your support.

-Fire Chief Jon Parkinson

EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE HISTORY



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

EPFR was created when the City of Bonney Lake Fire Department, Pierce County Fire District 22/Lake Tapps Fire, and Pierce County Fire District 24 merged in 2000 to provide a seamless emergency response. Since then,

the following mergers or annexations into EPFR have occurred:

- 2006: Pierce County Fire District 12 and South Prairie/Fire District 20
- 2008: Sumner/Fire District 1
- 2010: Edgewood/Fire District 8
- 2013: Milton Fire Department

Today, East Pierce serves approximately 100,500 residents living in and around Bonney Lake, Sumner, Lake Tapps, the Ridge Communities, South

Prairie, Tehaleh, Edgewood, and Milton. The district covers approximately 153 square miles and protects residents from six stations and one facility on Lake Tapps for the marine rescue unit.

All firefighters are certified as either emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or paramedics and can respond to medical emergencies and fires.

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



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS



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

East Pierce Fire Commissioners serve six-year terms. Any resident 18 years or

older who lives within the East Pierce service area is eligible to apply for an open position on the board.

All regular meetings of the East Pierce Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioners occur on the third Tuesday of every month. Meetings are held in person,

with an option to attend virtually.

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



Jon Napier
Chair / Position 2



Ed Egan
Vice Chair/
Position 4



Mike Cathey
Position 3



Kevin Garling
Position 1



Randy Kroum
Position 6



Pat McElligott
Position 5



Cynthia Wernet
Position 7



COMMAND STAFF



Jon Parkinson
Fire Chief



Kevin Stabenfeldt
Deputy Chief
Public Education



Matt Gilbert
Assistant Chief
*Operations/Prevention/
Emergency Mgmt.*



Jeff Moore
Assistant Chief
EMS



Bill Sandlian
Assistant Chief
Logistics



Brad Dyson
Battalion Chief
*Medical Services
Officer*



Will Poe
Battalion Chief
Training Officer



Justin Doyle
Battalion Chief
A Shift



Mike McGinnis
Battalion Chief
B Shift



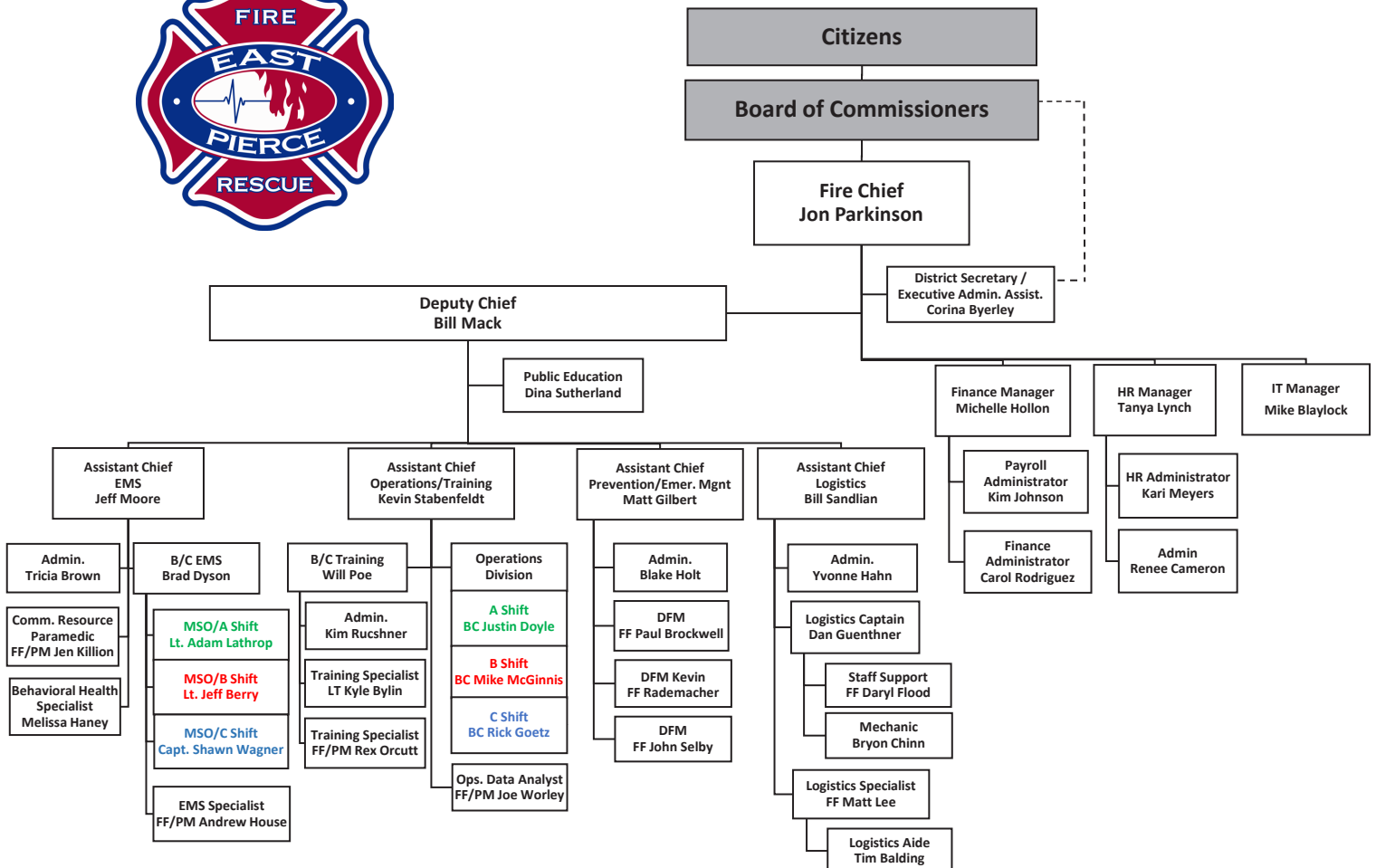
Rick Goetz
Battalion Chief
C Shift



FIRE STATIONS & STAFFING | ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

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

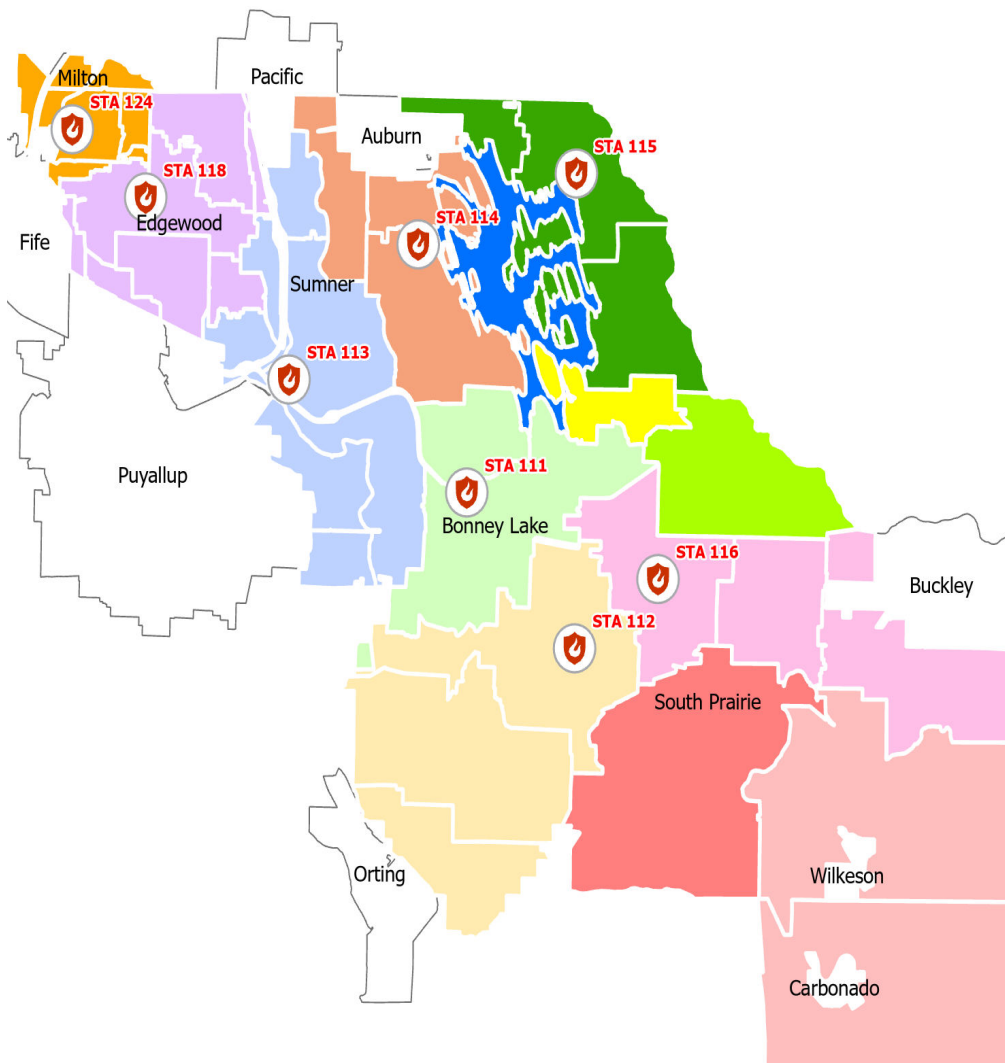
East Pierce Organizational Chart - 2023



Effective: May 2023



EPFR SERVICE AREA



88
FIREFIGHTER-EMTs

57
FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDICS

153
square miles

100,500
total population

2023 CALLS BY TYPE

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Emergency Medical Calls | 9,166 |
| Good Intent | 1,174 |
| Public Assist | 991 |
| False | 657 |
| Fire | 355 |
| Hazmat | 209 |
| Other | 11 |

TOTAL 12,563

TOTAL 911 CALLS BY STATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Station 113 Sumner | 2,686 |
| Station 111 Bonney Lake | 2,123 |
| Station 112 Prairie Ridge | 2,036 |
| Station 124 Milton | 1,533 |
| Station 118 Edgewood | 1,417 |
| Station 116 Foothills | 826 |
| Station 114 Lake Tapps | 734 |
| Station 115 Lake Tapps - East | 454 |
| Station 119 South Prairie | 417 |
| * Mutual Aid | 335 |
| Station 122 Water Rescue Facility | 2 |

* Mutual Aid provided to neighboring fire departments

TREND: RESPONSE TIMES

| Year | Dispatch to Arrival (in minutes) |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 2017 | 7:35 |
| 2018 | 7:44 |
| 2019 | 7:34 |
| 2020 | 8:08 |
| 2021 | 7:38 |
| 2022 | 7:33 |
| 2023 | 7:38 |

Response times for the fire service are essential for two reasons: saving lives and reducing the damage to someone's property. Emergency response to the scene can vary depending upon how far the emergency is from the fire station.

Response time starts when crews are alerted by dispatch of an emergency to the time crews arrive at the incident scene.



PERSONNEL RECOGNITION

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

The East Pierce Fire & Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners and Command Staff honor the 2023 awards recipients during an Awards and Recognition Ceremony. All personnel are invited to attend.

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

2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

CHIEF'S COMPANY

Captain Troy Sterrenburg
Firefighter Daniel Hille
Firefighter Jeremy Paul
Finance Administrator Carol Rodriguez

EMS PROVIDER

Firefighter/Paramedic Chelsea Lovejoy

FITNESS

Firefighter/Paramedic Tera Green

CAREER OFFICER

Lieutenant Jeff Lachowitz

MIKE ROBERTS GOODWILL

Firefighter Brandon Kalilikane

CAREER FIREFIGHTER

Firefighter Jay Smith

SUPPORT STAFF

Admin. Support Spec. Tricia Brown &
Behavior Health Spec. Melissa Haney

2023 RETIREMENTS



Captain
STEVE BISIG
39 Years of Service



Firefighter/Paramedic
CHRIS DUOS
28 Years of Service



Firefighter
RHONDA GRANT
33 Years of Service



Assistant Chief
CHUCK KING
42 Years of Service



Deputy Chief
BILL MACK
31 Years of Service



Assistant Chief
RUSS MCCALLION
42 Years of Service



Firefighter
PAT RISLEY
42 Years of Service



Firefighter/Paramedic
CRAIG WILLIAMS
40 Years of Service

Thank you for your many years of dedicated service!



THE EMS DIVISION PROVIDES CLINICAL DIRECTION, MEDICAL OVERSIGHT, AND SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) OPERATIONS. EMS PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS OCCURS THROUGH A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QI) PROGRAM. EMS DIVISION STAFF WORK WITH THE TRAINING DIVISION TO COORDINATE AND DELIVER EMS-RELATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

East Pierce firefighter-EMTs and paramedics responded to 9,166 medical emergencies in 2023, an average of 25.1 medical 911 calls daily. Emergency medical services (EMS) call volume continues to increase steadily, making up almost 73% of the fire department's 911 workload.

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

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

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

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

the paramedics to prepare patients for transport to the hospital.

Paramedics receive an additional 1,500 to 2,000 hours of medical training focused on clinical assessment skills and the performance of advanced procedures used to stabilize critically ill or injured patients. Paramedics are certified to administer intravenous fluids, give more than 40 medications, insert breathing tubes, interpret 12-lead ECGs, and provide electrical pacing, cardioversion, and defibrillation.

In 2023, East Pierce medic units transported 6,249 patients to area hospitals, an average of 17.1 per day.

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

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

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

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

Since 2004, East Pierce Fire & Rescue has provided emergency ambulance service to district residents to provide improved clinical care at no "out-of-pocket" cost to fire district residents. The district bills private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, and other insurance providers on the patient's behalf. Last year, East Pierce received nearly \$7.3 million in total ambulance transport revenues, which support the department's EMS program.

For district residents, insurance co-pays are "written off" against the EMS levy, providing hospital transportation at no "out-of-pocket" expense to the individual patient.

A letter from the department's billing service may be sent to residents requesting verification of insurance information. Patients are required to submit the requested information to enroll in the levy "write-off" program. The letter also



9,166
Total EMS Calls

6,249
Patient Transports

88
Firefighter-EMTs

57
Firefighter-Paramedics

includes a description of the ambulance transport charge if the EMS levy didn't cover them.

When all available East Pierce units are already on calls – such as during a major fire – private ambulances and units from neighboring fire departments may respond to the district for "mutual aid." In this case, residents may have to pay for ambulance transport, depending upon which agency provides the service. Last year, 113 district residents were transported by mutual aid ambulances, 1.8% of our total EMS patient transports.



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Deployment of New EMS Continuous Quality Improvement Program

In 2023, the department evaluated and implemented a new "Continuous Quality Improvement Program" to improve the quality and care of EMS services to the citizens of EPFR. The program has elevated our exceptional people so they can continue to provide compassionate and clinically sound service through the following:

- Establish a coordinated framework for evaluating and promoting quality patient care and processes.
- Employ a "Just Culture" philosophy as the foundation for program activities.
- Maintain a clinical database and perform clinical analysis that supports the program's mission.
- Encourage our healthcare providers to participate in focused quality improvement activities, including quality improvement meetings.
- Maintain collaboration and idea exchange as the central tenets of the program.
- Empower our healthcare providers with tools and feedback to write professional and legally defensible patient care reports.

Implemented PulsePoint Verified Responder Program

In 2023, East Pierce Fire & Rescue added the Pulse Point Verified Responder (VR) program to our current Cardiac Resuscitation Program. Forty EPFR Firefighters are now staying involved with our community cardiac arrest initiative by responding off duty to a "CPR Needed" through Pulse Point VR with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and CPR kit when in proximity. Our current Resuscitation Program now includes the following Improvements:

- Establish a coordinated framework for evaluating and promoting quality patient care and processes.
- Citizen CPR training.
- Expansion of the Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program to include Pulse Point VR.
- Continued emphasis on high-performance CPR training for firefighters.
- Case review debriefs provided to crews for all witnessed ventricular fibrillation (VF) patients.
- Participation in WA Cardiac Arrest Registry for Enhanced Survival (WA CARES).

Mobile Integrated Health Program

Our Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) team was instrumental in proactively assisting vulnerable residents of EPFR by connecting them to appropriate resources and providing care coordination for over 266 referrals with complex needs. The team was presented the 2023 "Organization Recognition Award" from Pierce County Aging and Disability to appreciate their community service in serving the needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities in Pierce County.



Two EPFR Firefighters Graduate Paramedic Program

Two firefighters completed the 2023 Tacoma Fire Paramedic Program. Upon completing the program, they were mentored by EPFR paramedics before serving as paramedics for our community.



THE FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS, VISITORS, AND LOCAL BUSINESS EMPLOYEES FROM THE RISKS OF FIRE-RELATED LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY DAMAGE. THROUGH IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE AND INNOVATIVE PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES, THE DIVISION ADOPTS A PROACTIVE STANCE TOWARD FIRE PREVENTION, WITH PUBLIC EDUCATION PLAYING A PIVOTAL ROLE.

In 2023, firefighters responded to 355 fire incidents, ranging from small rubbish fires to commercial building fires. The Fire Prevention Division's three fire investigators, on call 24/7, investigated 29 fires within the East Pierce Fire & Rescue jurisdiction. Pierce County fire marshals investigated nine fires in the unincorporated areas of the district and assisted with six within the city limits. Additionally, the deputy fire marshals reviewed 39 construction plans for the City of Milton, performed 1,830 fire and life safety inspections covering over 14.6 million square feet, and completed 265 pre-incident plans.

The fire district is responsible for determining the cause of fires within the jurisdiction's city limits. Our operations responders often conduct routine investigations, while more complex investigations are completed by East Pierce fire investigators and Pierce County fire marshals.

Fire prevention and life safety inspections for businesses within East Pierce Fire and Rescue, authorized by the board of fire commissioners and through interlocal agreements with our partner cities, aim to provide low-impact inspections and educational opportunities. These efforts are

designed to help commercial businesses and property owners reduce risk and enhance the safety of citizens, workers, and first responders. The goal is collaborating with business owners and employees to foster cooperation and a commitment to developing and maintaining a fire-safe work environment.

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC EDUCATION

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

- **Car Seat Inspections:** Ensuring the safety of children by offering inspections and guidance on proper car seat installation.
- **Characterization School Assemblies:** Educating children about fire safety and prevention through engaging and informative sessions.
- **Public Information Officer Resources:** Providing resources and expertise to disseminate crucial fire safety information to the public through various channels.
- **CPR/First-Aid Classes:** Equipping community members with life-saving skills through CPR and first-aid training sessions.
- **Fire Extinguisher Training:** Teaching individuals how to safely and effectively use fire extinguishers, empowering them to take action during emergencies.
- **Safe Sitter Classes:** Educating babysitters on essential safety practices and emergency procedures to ensure the well-being of children under their care.
- **Community Risk Reduction Efforts:** Implementing strategies to identify and mitigate fire-related risks within the community, promoting overall safety and resilience.

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

2023 INSPECTIONS BY CITY/AREA

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Milton | 215 |
| Edgewood | 278 |
| Bonney Lake | 522 |
| Sumner | 815 |
| TOTAL | 1,830 |

2023 FIRE INVESTIGATIONS BY CITY/AREA

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Milton | 2 |
| Edgewood | 7 |
| Unincorporated Pierce County | 9 |
| Bonney Lake | 10 |
| Sumner | 11 |
| TOTAL | 39 |



OPERATIONS DIVISION

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

East Pierce Fire & Rescue is an all-hazards agency comprised of nearly 150 firefighters and firefighter/paramedics that provide fire suppression, emergency medical response, and special operations response throughout the 153-square mile district.

Fire stations are strategically located throughout the District to provide quick and efficient emergency response. In 2023, East Pierce personnel responded from six fire stations staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by career firefighters. Additionally, a water rescue facility located on the north end of Lake Tapps houses

a fireboat used for marine and land-based firefighting and supporting water rescue responses on Lake Tapps.

While on duty, the firefighters also participate in training, public education events, vehicle and equipment inspections and maintenance, and other routine activities.

A regional 911 dispatch center, South Sound 911, sends the appropriate fire and EMS units from the fire station closest to the emergency location.

The Assistant Chief of Operations oversees the Operations Division. This

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

In addition to responding to fire, emergency medical, and rescue incidents, the Operations Division maintains four special operations teams comprised of personnel with specialized training. The special operations teams include Wildland, Water Rescue, Hazardous Materials, and Technical Rescue.





SELECTED EAST PIERCE FIREFIGHTERS ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE ON ONE OF THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAMS MAINTAINED BY THE FIRE DISTRICT. TEAM MEMBERS ATTEND ADDITIONAL TRAINING BEYOND THE FIRE SUPPRESSION, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING RECEIVED BY ALL CAREER AND VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM:

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

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

WATER RESCUE TEAM:

The Water Rescue Team members regularly practice skills and techniques they learn in various water rescue training classes.

Team members gain hands-on experience diving at Lake Tapps and in the

Puget Sound. They also practice swift water rescue on local rivers.

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

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

TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM:

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

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

The East Pierce team participates in the Pierce County Technical Rescue

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

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING TEAM:

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

The tactics, strategies, equipment, and techniques for fighting wildfires differ from fighting structure fires. The Wildland Team must often fight fire in remote locales without fire hydrants.

In addition to bulldozers and helicopters, crews commonly use chainsaws, portable water pumps, and hand tools to control and extinguish fires.

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





TRAINING DIVISION

EAST PIERCE FIREFIGHTERS MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES THROUGH ONGOING TRAINING OVERSEEN BY THE PIERCE COUNTY FIRE TRAINING CONSORTIUM (PCFTC). ALL PERSONNEL MUST UNDERGO ANNUAL FIREFIGHTING AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING.

Training and education are essential for maintaining and improving critical firefighting, rescue, and medical skills. Training provides an opportunity to update members on new regulations and industry "Best Practices." It allows firefighters to become familiar with equipment and procedures and work efficiently and effectively on various emergency scenes, including structure fires, wildland fires, vehicle collisions, medical emergencies, and special operations incidents such as water rescues, hazmat, or technical rescue incidents.

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

Pierce Fire & Rescue, and Graham Fire and Rescue, who collectively work together under the direction of the PCFTC Training Chief. The consortium is responsible for assessing training needs, developing a training calendar and curriculum, coordinating training on various fire and rescue-related topics, and running fire academies for recruit firefighters.

Training is conducted by the Pierce County Fire Training Consortium (PCFTC), which is supported by members from East Pierce Fire & Rescue, Central Pierce Fire & Rescue, West

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Onboarding of 17 new career firefighter recruits to include a 2-week pre-academy, 14-week fire academy, 7-week EMT school, and a 4-week post-academy.
- Fourteen recruit firefighters started the firefighter academy.
- Seven members completed the new Driver/Operator training.
- Four staff members were assigned to the Pierce County Fire Training Consortium.

2023 TRAINING HOURS BY CATEGORY





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

Information Technology is responsible for the firefighters' electronic tablets used for patient care reporting and documentation during EMS calls. Vital health information can be transmitted wirelessly from the tablet to the hos-

pital, saving precious time, especially for patients experiencing a cardiac event, stroke, or trauma. Mobile Data Terminals, used in fire and EMS vehicles, provide maps and updates as the firefighters respond to 911 calls.



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Upgraded apparatus patient care computer tablets.
- Upgraded staff and apparatus cell phones.
- Upgraded video conference equipment at Headquarters Station.
- Relocated IT equipment from Station 114 to Station 115 for new construction build.
- Installed computer, phone, network, and camera system in new Station 118.
- Upgraded wireless network equipment at stations.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

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

Unlike a typical emergency response, emergency management is proactive. Effective emergency management relies on the integration of emergency plans at many levels. The Emergency Management Division works closely with personnel from local law enforcement, various school districts, and city, state, and federal agencies. Emergency Management has a plan when disaster strikes - whether a severe winter storm or massive flooding.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Helped plan or participated in the following events and exercises:

- Bonney Lake Municipal Court Incident Guide Committee.
- East Pierce County Lahar Rapid Action Procedure Committee.
- East Pierce Interlocal Coalition for Emergency Management.
- Local Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams (PC-NET).
- Northwest Pipeline Emergency Response.
- Pierce County Emergency Operations Center (PC-EOC).
- Pierce County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).
- Pierce County Utility and Fire Entity Wildfire Coordination.
- Tehaleh Firewise.
- South Prairie Creek Flood Control Process.
- Sumner-Bonney Lake School District Natural Disaster Sub-committee.



LOGISTICS DIVISION

THE LOGISTICS DIVISION SUPPORTS THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS THROUGH THE ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE AND EMS VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES AND THE PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS NECESSARY FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO FUNCTION.

The Logistics Division is responsible for acquiring and maintaining essential assets including fire and EMS vehicles, equipment, personal protective gear, and facilities. Logistics ensures that the District effectively serves the community through efficient procurement and distribution practices.

In 2023, the Logistics Division continued to uphold its commitment to cost-effective and efficient management of resources. With a focus on supporting 11 facilities, 84 emergency response and support vehicles, and 194 employees, the division success-

fully coordinated the procurement, storage, distribution, maintenance, and replacement of critical materials and equipment. The division also maintains the internal and external upkeep of the district's fire stations.

The achievements of the Logistics Division in 2023 reflect its dedication to supporting the mission of East Pierce Fire & Rescue. Through strategic planning, efficient procurement practices, and diligent maintenance efforts, the division plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and effectiveness of emergency response operations.



2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Upfitted Station 118 (Edgewood) ensuring operational readiness.
- Purchased two Chevrolet 3500 trucks, upfitted and deployed as Battalion Chief and Medical Services Officer vehicles for emergency response.
- Procured three Ford F450 medic units to replace aging apparatus to enhance safety and reliability and reduce maintenance costs (delivery scheduled for March 2024).
- Conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the Fleet Maintenance Program to improve fleet safety efficiencies.
- Developed a 15-year Facility Maintenance plan, ensuring adequate funding and addressing repair and replacement needs for all 11 buildings within the district.
- Formulated a 15-year Fleet and Equipment replacement and funding plan.
- Completed respirator fit tests for emergency response personnel as mandated by State requirements.
- Completed annual hearing tests for all employees.
- Executed annual fire hose, ladder, and nozzle flow testing, replacing all failed equipment on emergency response apparatus.
- Specified and ordered a Rescue-Pumper for the Foothills station, enhancing operational capabilities.
- Procured and upfitted a staff vehicle for EPFR's Public Information Officer, facilitating communication and outreach efforts.
- Provided personal protective equipment (PPE), uniforms, and safety gear to 17 new firefighter EMT/paramedics in preparation for their employment with EPFR, ensuring their readiness for academy and shift work.



THE FINANCE DIVISION PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTING, BUDGETING, PAYROLL ADMINISTRATION, DEBT MANAGEMENT, INVESTMENT, FINANCIAL REPORTING, AND INTERNAL CONTROL SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT.

East Pierce Fire & Rescue continues to be the only major fire district in Pierce County functioning within the limits of the two primary levy sources for funding. Operating with only the Regular Fire Levy (\$1.50/\$1,000 A.V.) and the EMS Levy (\$0.50/\$1,000 A.V.) limits us to a maximum combined tax collection rate of \$2.00 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Most career fire districts operate with an additional Maintenance & Operations Levy or a Benefit Charge, which brings their total rates well above what East Pierce collects (one agency is over \$3.00).

While this limits how fast we can ad-

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

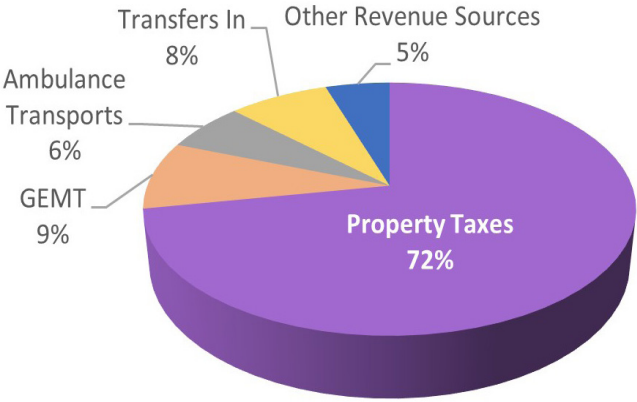
East Pierce Fire & Rescue's annual audit covered fiscal year 2022, which yielded a clean audit status.

During 2023, revenues totaled \$52,040,198, and expenditures were \$49,758,904. Payments received in 2023 for the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program were \$3,642,891 (Federal reimburse-

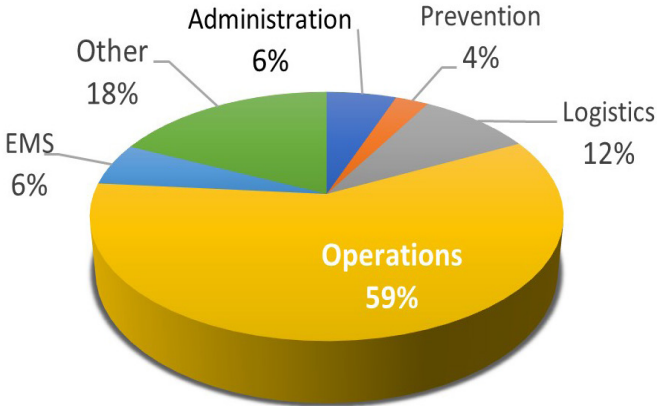
| 2023 Operating Budget | Budgeted | Actual |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Expenditures | \$57,433,688 | \$49,758,904 |
| Revenues | \$49,503,898 | \$52,040,198 |

ment for the transport of Medicaid patients). Ambulance fees collected in 2023 were in the amount of \$3,112,451. The 2023 collection for the district's Unlimited Tax General Obligation (UTGO) Bond was \$4,867,917 based on \$0.18 per \$1,000 assessed value.

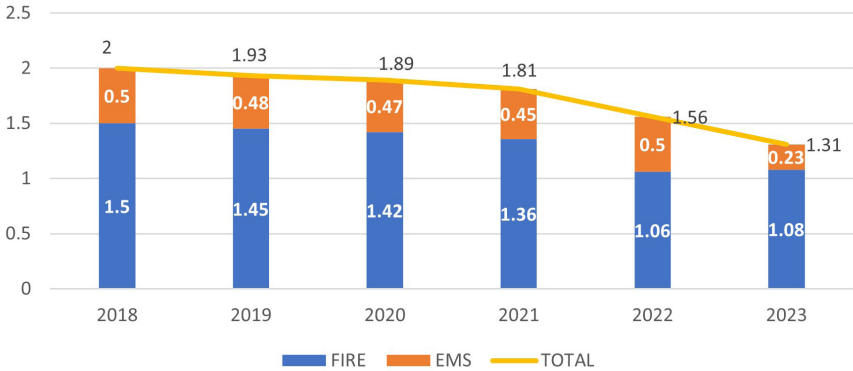
Revenues



Expenditures



HISTORICAL OPERATING FUND COLLECTION RATES





HEADQUARTERS STATION

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"Where Compassion and Action Meet"