

# Annual Report

## MISSION STATEMENT

West Pierce Fire & Rescue, in partnership with the community, protects lives and property through a well-trained, cost effective, pro-active fire department, serving and educating the community.

## VISION STATEMENT

West Pierce Fire & Rescue is a premier fire and life safety organization, dedicated to providing modern, community focused service.



# 2011

## West Pierce Fire & Rescue



3631 Drexler Drive West  
University Place, WA 98466  
[www.westpierce.org](http://www.westpierce.org)

***Respond Efficiently. Execute Flawlessly. BE NICE!***

# 2011 Fire Commissioners

## Pat Tobin, Chair

Term: 2008-2013

*University Place*

## Bonnie Boyle, Vice Chair

Term: 2006-2011

*Lakewood*

## Grant Blinn

Term: 2010-2015

*University Place*

## John Clancy

Term: 2010-2015

*Lakewood*

## Bart Dalton

Term: 2008-2013

*Lakewood*

## Grant Erb

Term: 2010-2015

*University Place*

## Waylin McCurly

Term: 2006-2011

*Lakewood*

## Dan Rankin

Term: 2006-2011

*University Place*

## Ted Wier

Term: 2008-2013

*Lakewood*

## Joe Zelazny

Term: 2008-2013

*University Place*

## LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

On March 1, 2011, after two years of study, community input and preparation, the University Place Fire Department and Lakewood Fire Department officially merged to become West Pierce Fire & Rescue. The Board of Fire Commissioners for both departments unanimously voted to approve the final resolutions that made the merger official.

This merger came at an opportune time to help stabilize costs and weather the economic downturn we have all been facing. During 2010 and 2011, the assessed valuation of properties in University Place and Lakewood dropped by more than 12%. This decline in assessed valuation caused a corresponding decline in revenues for West Pierce. The merger allowed us to eliminate redundant programs and duplicated equipment, helping to contain costs. Through retirements we vacated and eliminated three administrative staff positions and we were able to surplus six of our reserve apparatus that were not needed.

While the merger that created West Pierce Fire & Rescue was certainly the largest piece of news in 2011, it wasn't the

only issue that had merger implications. In November, we saw the passage of Proposition 1, which provides the funding for South Sound 911, providing county-wide 9-1-1 dispatch services. West Pierce currently has a 9-1-1 fire dispatch center, providing 9-1-1 dispatch services for 15 fire departments across the county. Another fire dispatch center is located in the Tacoma Fire Department. South Sound 9-1-1 will consolidate our two centers under one roof, while also building a state of the art digital radio network across Pierce County.

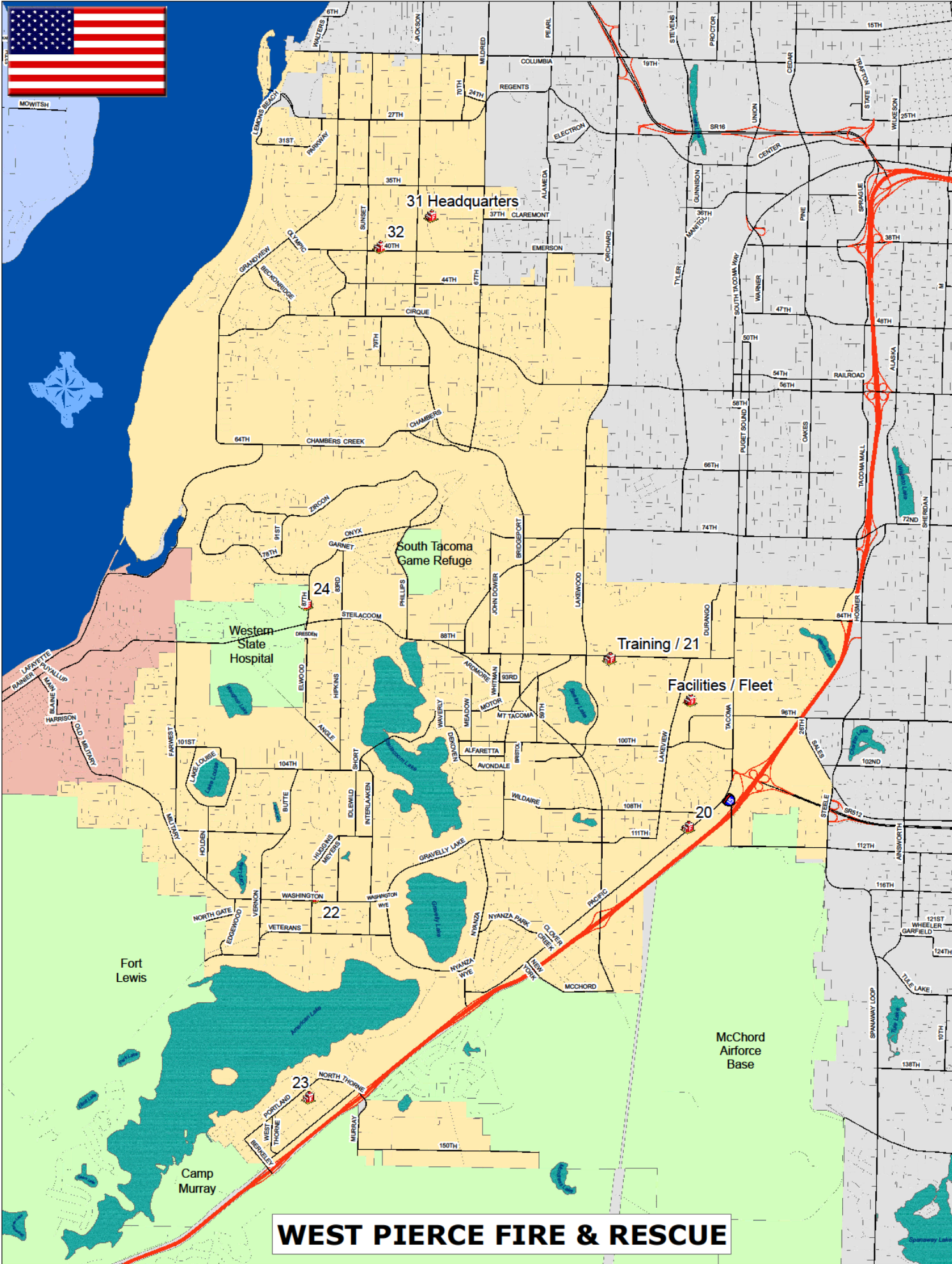
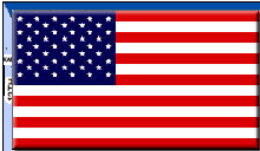
The sky wouldn't have fallen if Prop 1 had failed, but we would have been forced to find patchwork methods to fix problems that continue to reinforce a fractured county communication system. Each dispatch agency and radio system owner would have made adjustments that worked for them because the revenue stream simply would not have existed to create a single, streamlined, countywide system. One of our West Pierce commissioners, Grant Blinn, is assigned to the policy board for South Sound 911 and I currently serve as the chair of the Combined Operations Board for South Sound 911. While West

Pierce clearly has influence over the direction that South Sound 911 takes, it's also a matter of rolling up our sleeves and creating a new agency from scratch. In the short run, very little will change with our dispatch agency or its personnel. It will be at least 2-3 years down the road before the new dispatch facilities are built and ready to occupy. It is business as usual during 2011 to 2012, but we'll see a lot of movement shortly as we begin to build the new South Sound 911 agency. It will be interesting and certainly challenging at times, but West Pierce is excited about the new agency and the state of the art capabilities it will bring to 9-1-1 dispatch services.

Now as we enter 2012, West Pierce Fire & Rescue is looking forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Lakewood and University Place in the same professional, caring manner that we have for the past 70 years.

Ken Sharp, Fire Chief





**WEST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE**



Program/  
Number of  
Personnel  
Assigned

Paramedic  
63

Technical  
Rescue

40

Rescue Diver

26

Rescue  
Swimmer

23

Hazmat  
Technician

12



## OPERATIONS

### North Battalion

#### HEADQUARTERS

##### Station 31

3631 Drexler Dr. West #B  
University Place, WA 984366

**Battalion Chief 31**

**Ladder 33**

**Medic 31**

##### Station 32

7409 40th St. W.  
University Place, WA 98466

**Engine 32**

**Medic 32**

**PCSORT Trailer**

##### Station 24

8310 87th Ave  
Lakewood, WA 98498

**Engine 24**



## South Battalion

### Station 20

10928 Pacific Hwy S.W.  
Lakewood, WA 98499

**Battalion Chief 20**

**Engine 20**

**Ladder 20**

**Hazmat 20**

### Station 22

8517 Washington Blvd,  
Lakewood, WA 98498

**Engine 22**

**Medic 22**

**Marine 22**

### Station 21

5000 Steilacoom Blvd  
Lakewood, WA 98498

**Engine 21**

**Medic 21**

**Air and light 21**

**Dive 21**

**Rescue 21**

### Station 23

14505 Grant Ave  
Lakewood, WA 98498

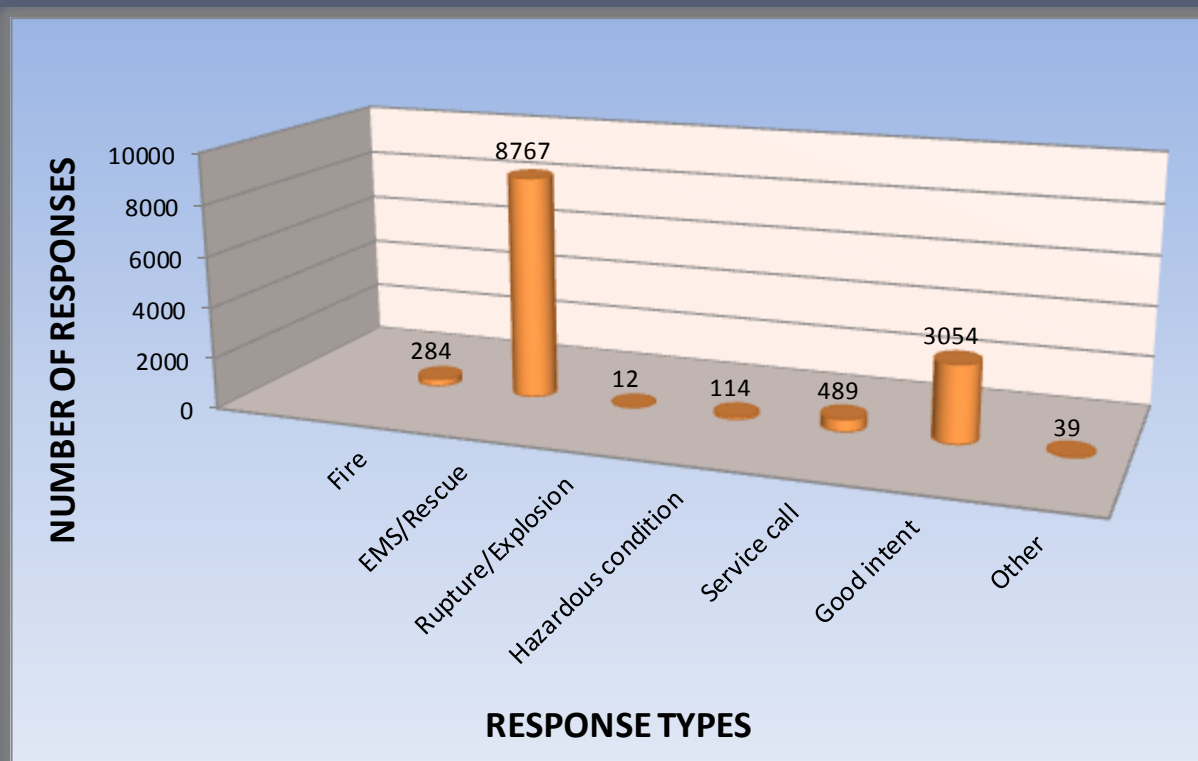
**Engine 23**

**Marine 23**



## 2011 Total Incident Responses

12,759





# West Pierce Fire & Rescue Stations

## STATION 31 - Headquarters



## STATION 21



## STATION 20



## STATION 23



## STATION 32



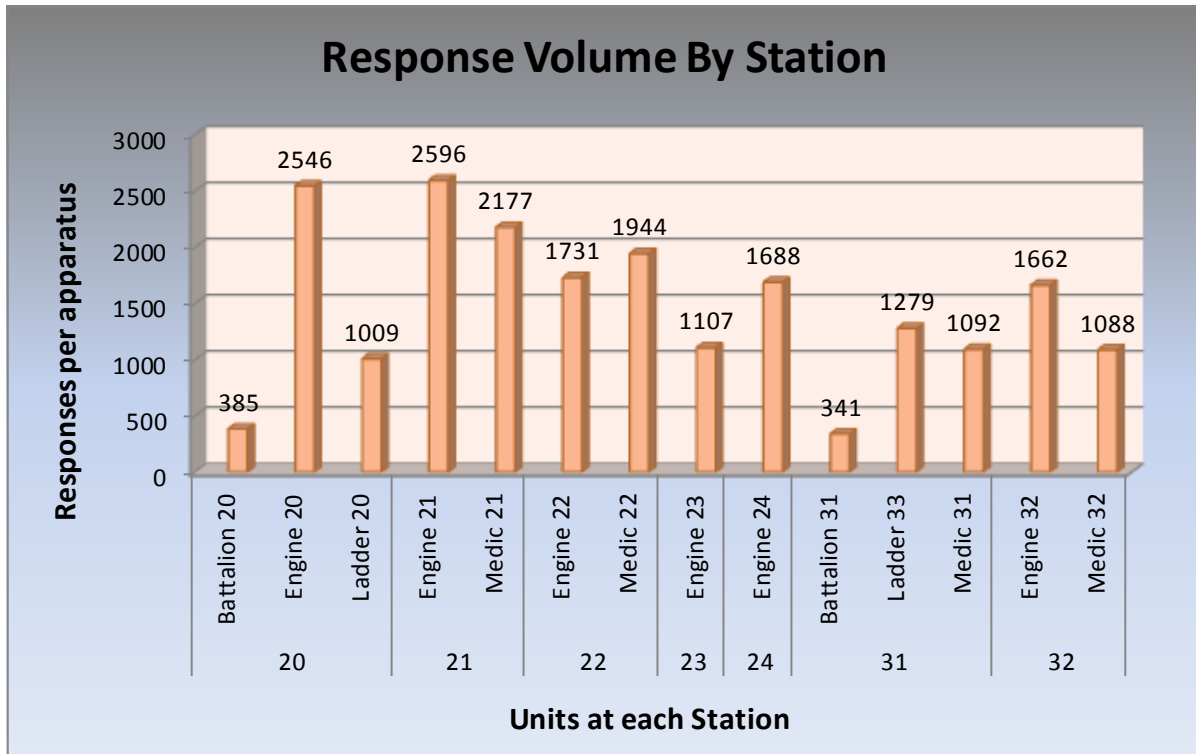
## STATION 22



## STATION 24



# OPERATIONS



The numbers reflected include responses from specialty programs such as Dive, Hazmat and Technical Rescue which are cross staffed.

## Programs

### Rescue Technician program

Currently WPFR has 40 trained rescue technicians. They are trained to handle incidents related to confined space, structural collapse, trench rescue and high/low angle rescue. WPFR also belongs to a regional response team that includes Central Pierce Fire and Rescue, Gig Harbor Fire and Rescue, and East Pierce Fire and Rescue.

### Marine Operations program

Currently WPFR has 2 boats, one of which is housed on American Lake and the other is trailered, which allows it

the versatility to respond to all water locations. WPFR has 26 trained rescue divers and 23 trained rescue swimmers.

### Hazmat Technician program

Currently WPFR has 12 trained Hazmat Technicians who respond to any incident that involves the potential of a hazardous material threat. WPFR also belongs to a regional hazmat response team that consists of Central Pierce Fire and Rescue, Graham Fire and Rescue, Gig Harbor Fire and Rescue, and East Pierce Fire and Rescue. This team was recently utilized for the train derailment in University Place



## West Pierce Facts

West Pierce  
Fire & Rescue  
has 59  
Paramedics  
and 100  
Emergency  
Medical  
Technicians  
(EMTs).

EMTs are  
required to  
receive 165  
hours of initial  
training and  
testing,  
followed by an  
Ongoing  
Training and  
Evaluation  
Program  
(OTEP)

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

With the 2011 merger of the University Place Fire Department and Lakewood Fire Department, the newly formed West Pierce Fire & Rescue became a combined EMS group with 59 Paramedics and 100 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). EMTs are required to receive 165 hours of initial training and testing, followed by an Ongoing Training and Evaluation Program (OTEP) which requires quarterly continued education over a three year period in order to recertify. Paramedics attend an approximately 2000 hour yearlong college level program to learn advanced emergency medicine procedures and are required to take several examinations in order to certify and subsequently recertify

every three years. In 2011, WPFR had four of its former EMT's complete Tacoma Fire's Paramedic program and they are now providing Advance Life Support (ALS – Paramedic) services to our citizens.

WPFR provides continuing medical education in a variety of ways. In addition to classroom and hands on training activities, we subscribe to two online Emergency Medical Services training programs. This allows our EMTs and Paramedics the ability to log onto the internet and take classes anytime of the day or night, virtually worldwide. EMTs and Paramedics are also afforded the opportunity to take advantage of several regional EMS classes and conferences. We additionally offer in house

training of advanced classes in adult and pediatric resuscitation, advanced trauma management and adult medical emergencies twice a year. Our participation in the Pilot Paramedic Advanced Airway Management course, which allows our Paramedics to forego visits to the operating room for annual ET intubation requirements, is ongoing and preliminary data has shown that this program has increased the skill and proficiency of personnel in field airway management. Another EMS educational and quality assurance opportunity our personnel are offered is the monthly WPFR "Base Station," where our EMS personnel have a chance to meet with their Physician Advisor to review





# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

their EMS reports and receive a focused medical lecture.

There were several EMS issues that needed to be addressed in 2011 as a result of the merger. Among these was standardizing EMS equipment and supplies carried on all our vehicles, especially the Medic units. This was accomplished through both committee and Division work along with relocating the District's "Central Stores" and totally revamping our EMS inventory and delivery systems. These changes

had the combined effect of saving the District thousands of dollars through increased efficiency in the tracking of EMS equipment, supplies, and drugs. Another issue addressed post-merger was a District wide EMS Subscriber Program which mandates that if a citizen of WPFR is transported by a District Medic Unit, then only the patient's insurance provider will be billed for services. When a patient does not reside in the District, the insurance provider is billed first and the patient is subsequently billed for the

remainder not covered under insurance. Along with adoption of the Subscriber Program, our transport program was expanded during 2011 to routinely include patients only requiring basic life support (BLS) care. BLS patients are those that require medical care and transport, but don't require advanced medical care such as ECG monitor, IV or drugs.

BLS patients are those that require medical care and transport, but don't require advanced medical care such as ECG monitor, IV or drugs.



In 2011  
Dispatchers  
handled  
109,713 phone  
calls

The Top Five  
Medical  
Related  
Incidents

FALLS

14%

SICK PERSON

13.8%

BREATHING  
PROBLEMS

10.4%

CHEST PAIN

8.7%

TRAFFIC  
INCIDENTS

7.8%

## FIRE COMMUNICATIONS

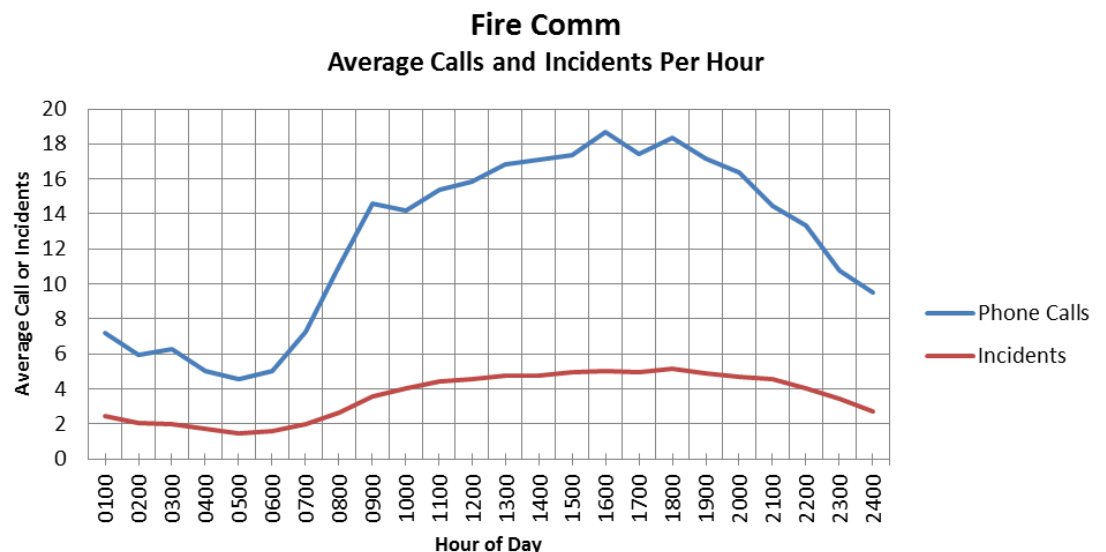


Formed February 14, 1983, Fire Comm serves as a dedicated Fire and EMS dispatch center, for fifteen fire agencies, Pierce County DEM and the Pierce County Fire Marshal's Office. The fire agencies served cover areas within Pierce County, King County and Lewis County.

Fire Comm dispatch staff is made up of four Dispatch Supervisors and sixteen Dispatchers, who work on a 24 hour four shift schedule. The staff with dispatch responsibilities has a combined total of

237 years' experience with Fire Comm. Support staff is made up of an Assistant Chief, Battalion Chief, CAD System Specialist, and GIS Analyst.

In 2011 Dispatchers handled 109,713 phone calls, resulting in 45,030 CAD entries. 2011 phone and CAD volumes were a decrease from the totals in 2010. These figures show a decrease from 2010 volumes of 5% for phone calls and 3.8% for CAD entries.

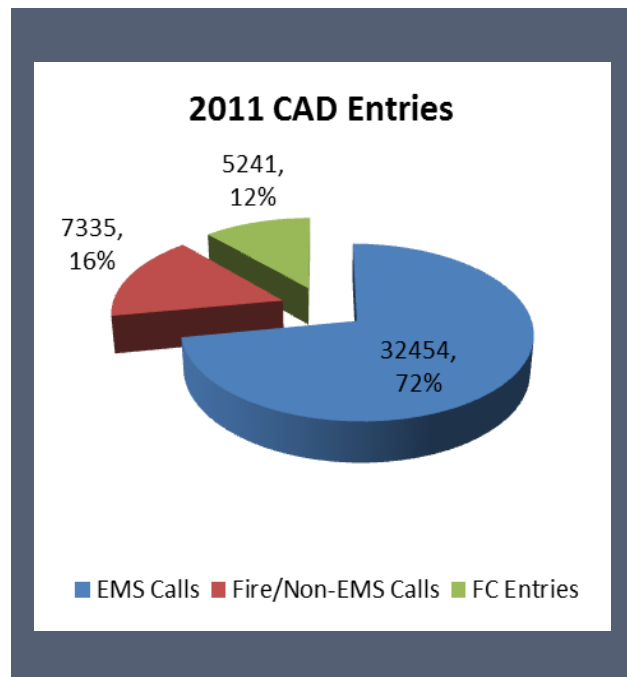


# FIRE COMMUNICATIONS

The incidents entered by dispatchers included 32,454 (72%) medical calls, 7335 (16%) Fire/Non-EMS calls and 5241 (12%) incidents handled by Fire Comm with no unit responses.

The top five medical related incidents were; Falls (14%), Sick Person (13.8%), Breathing Problems (10.4%), Chest Pain (8.7%) and Traffic Incidents (7.8%).

Fire and Non-EMS top five incidents were; Alarms (28.2%), Citizen Assist/Service Call (21.6%), Outside Fire (18.9%), Structure Fire (12.3%) and Smoke Investigation (4.3%).



## The Top Five Fire and Non-EMS Incidents

### ALARMS

28.2%

### CITIZEN ASSIST/ SERVICE CALL

21.6%

### OUTSIDE FIRE

18.9%

### STRUCTURE FIRE

12.3%

### SMOKE INVESTIGATIONS

4.3%





# FIRE COMMUNICATIONS

## Call Volume and Types

### Fire & Non-EMS

Incident Type	# of Incidents	% of Fire & Non-EMS Calls
Aircraft Emergency	5	0.1%
Alarms	2072	28.2%
Citizen Assist/Service Call	1585	21.6%
Electrical Hazard	257	3.5%
Elevator/Escalator Rescue	14	0.2%
Explosion	30	0.4%
Extrication/Entrapped	10	0.1%
Fuel Spill	70	1.0%
Gas Leak/Gas Odor	159	2.2%
Hazmat	21	0.3%
High Angle Rescue	10	0.1%
Marine Fire	5	0.1%
Mutual Aid	80	1.1%
Odor	130	1.8%
Outside Fire	1388	18.9%
Smoke Investigation	312	4.3%
Structure Fire	901	12.3%
Train and Rail Incident	6	0.1%
Vehicle Fire	216	2.9%
Water Rescue	55	0.7%
Watercraft in Distress	9	0.1%

### Medical

Incident Type	# of Incidents	% of EMS Calls
Abdominal Pain/Problems	1178	3.6%
Allergies/Envenomation	391	1.2%
Animal Bites/Attacks	98	0.3%
Assault/Sexual Assault	746	2.3%
Back Pain	468	1.4%
Breathing Problems	3368	10.4%
Carbon Monoxide/Inhalation/Hazmat	19	0.1%
Cardiac/Respiratory Arrest/Death	408	1.3%
Chest Pain	2810	8.7%
Choking	160	0.5%
Convulsions/Seizures	1073	3.3%
Diabetic Problems	741	2.3%
Drowning/Diving/Scuba Accident	8	0.0%
Electrocution/Lightning	7	0.0%
Eye Problems/Injuries	44	0.1%
Falls	4535	14.0%
Headache	242	0.7%
Heart Problems/ A.I.C.D.	642	2.0%
Heat/Cold Exposures	14	0.0%
Hemorrhage/Lacerations	846	2.6%
Inaccessible/Other Entrapments	2	0.0%
Involuntary Commitment	512	1.6%
Overdose/Poisoning	930	2.9%
Pregnancy/Childbirth/Miscarriage	206	0.6%
Psychiatric/Suicide Attempt	559	1.7%
Sick Person	4479	13.8%
Stab/Gunshot/Penetrating Injury	113	0.3%
Stroke (CVA)	849	2.6%
Traffic/Transportation Incidents	2534	7.8%
Transfer/Interfacility/Palliative Care	807	2.5%
Traumatic Injuries	902	2.8%
Unconscious/Fainting	1499	4.6%
Unknown Problems	986	3.0%
Voluntary Commitment	236	0.7%
Walk-in/No Chief Complaint	42	0.1%

## Fire Inspection Numbers

Prevention  
Division Annual  
Inspections:  
197

Prevention  
Division Re-  
Inspections :  
225

New  
Construction  
Inspections:  
276

Engine  
Company  
Inspections:  
1,270

Engine  
Company  
Re-Inspections:  
384

## PREVENTION



### Education Programs

#### Preschool Program

36 engine appearances were made to local preschools and daycares. We teach the children basic fire safety lessons and that firefighters are their friends.

#### Safe Sitter Program

2 classes were taught this year to approximately 50 students. This is a 13 hour course that teaches children ages 11-13 basic tips for babysitting, including CPR and basic first aid.

#### CPR in School

6 CPR classes were taught to approximately 170 students at Lakes High School. 6 CPR classes were taught to 12 classes at Curtis High School reaching approximately 270 students.

#### Fire Prevention Week Activities

Fourteen assemblies were conducted during Fire Prevention Week this year. In addition to the assembly, a contest was also held. Each child throughout the district received a Fire Prevention

Checklist to take home and complete with their families. If children completed the checklist the parents were to fill out the entry form, sign it and return it to the school. Classrooms with 100% participation received an ice cream party. Thirty one classrooms throughout Lakewood and University Place won parties. We also drew five names from the hundreds of entries received to win rides to school on the fire engine.

#### Juvenile Fire Setter

We educated 11 juvenile fire setters on the dangers of playing with fire.

#### Car Seat Inspections

The Prevention Division conducted 68 car seat checks by appointment throughout the year and 30 seats were checked at our Pumpkin Patch event.

#### Water Safety

We conducted five water safety presentations throughout the year.

#### Helmet Fittings

Approximately 300 helmets were sold this year

#### First Aid and CPR

12 First Aid and CPR classes were taught this year. We offer these classes to community members on a monthly basis alternating between Lakewood and University Place.

#### Crime Free Multi-Housing

We partnered with Lakewood and University Place Police to teach this course twice.

#### Station Tours

Firefighters hosted 34 station tours for various groups throughout the year.

#### Event Appearances

Throughout the year we are requested at many local events. In 2011, firefighters attended 44 community events not including the large events we are partners in coordinating.

# PREVENTION

## Senior Project

Seven seniors from Clover Park and University Place School Districts took part in our senior project program this year. Students are able to fulfill their 20 hour requirement for graduation by participating in this program.

## Smoke Alarm Installations

West Pierce Fire & Rescue installed 669 smoke alarms this year.

## Media

47 press releases were sent to local media throughout the year. All of these stories were run in our local media and many of them were covered by the major news outlets.



## Elementary School Programs

We taught in 202 classrooms this year in 14 of the 20 elementary schools

## Kindergarten

47 safety presentations

## 1st Grade

32 fire safety presentations

## 2nd Grade

35 fire safety presentations

## 3rd Grade

31 disaster preparedness presentations

## 4th Grade

31 wheeled sports safety presentations

## 5th Grade

26 first aid presentations

## Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement Activities

### Code Meetings

48 Code Meetings were attended by prevention personnel. These meetings are held on Thursday mornings at City Hall and members of the City's Building Department, Police Department and Code Enforcement Divisions are in attendance along with us. The goal of these meetings are to rid the City of problem properties.

### Plan Reviews

Approximately 150 Plan Reviews were conducted. The plans reviewed include, fire alarm, fire suppression, fire sprinkler and building plans.

### Pre-Application Meetings

50 meetings, which are held on Thursday afternoons were attended in 2011. The purpose of these meetings is to educate future business owners in the City on the requirements they will need to fulfill in order to open their business. Members of the Building Department, Water District, Fire Department, Planning Division and Public Works participate in these meetings.

### Fire Investigations

Approximately 40 fires occurred in 2011 which required an investigation by the Prevention Division.



## West Pierce Facts

### Service Area

31.2 square  
miles

### Service Area Population

92,223

### 2011 Total Fire Loss

\$719,091.00

## PREVENTION



## Community Events 2011

### Read Across America-March

We read to nearly 1,600 kids in 60 classrooms

### West Pierce Unveiling Ceremony

**Disaster Preparedness Day—April**  
500 attendees

**Mock DUI Crash—May**  
200 high school seniors

**Kids Fishing Derby—May**  
500 attendees

**Duck Daze Open House—June**  
2,000 attendees

**Summerfest—June**  
10,000 attendees

**National Night Out—August**  
42 parties

**UP Festival—August**  
2,000 attendees

**Caring For Kids—August**  
Gave away 100 helmets

**Patriot's Day Ceremony-September**  
500 attendees

**Pumpkin Patch-October**  
1,500 attendees

**Fall Fun Day-October**  
1,500 attendees

**Thanksgiving dinner at Boys and Girls Club-November**



## Training Division Goal

The goal is to provide our personnel with the knowledge, skills and abilities they may require while performing their duties for our citizens. These duties include, but are not limited to; firefighting fundamentals, safety, emergency vehicle operations, fire officer and command functions, specialized rescue operations, hazardous materials responses, dive and marine operations, customer service and leadership development.

## TRAINING

The West Pierce Fire and Rescue (WPFR) Training Division is responsible for scheduling, tracking and coordinating the delivery of training for all the District's personnel. The goal is to provide our personnel with the knowledge, skills and abilities they may require while performing their duties for our citizens. These duties include, but are not limited to; firefighting fundamentals, safety, emergency vehicle operations, fire officer and command functions, specialized rescue operations, hazardous materials responses, dive and marine operations, customer service and leadership development. The goal of the division is to provide some type of training or learning opportunity each day.

With the merger forming

WPFR in 2011, the Training Division was tasked with providing these services for over 200 employees. In order to be more efficient and to limit needed movement of resources outside their response areas, a new web based computer training (CBT) program called Target Solutions was implemented by Training. This program allows personnel to conduct assigned training from any computer with internet access and works well for classes that would be normally taught in the classroom setting. An Enterprise site through Target Solutions was subsequently set up between WPFR and other Pierce County Fire agencies also using this same program; Central Pierce, East Pierce, South Pierce, Graham, Eatonville, Steilacoom, and Dupont and several classes

were developed and shared among these agencies in 2011 through Enterprise. Some of these were: a 16 hour Hazmat Operations continued education (CE) course, several lessons learned courses, and a SCBA air management course. The ability to share training courses using the internet creates efficiencies by reducing and/or eliminating the duplication of efforts by individual agencies. Also in effort to create some efficacy and to gain the ability of certifying our personnel in various fire service disciplines, WPFR pursued and was designated as a Pro-Board Certifying agency in 2011. This accomplishment allowed the department to expedite the process of certifying all suppression personnel up to the level of





# TRAINING



The Training Division is tasked in providing training opportunities to over 200 employees

Firefighter II. With the attainment of this certification level, the number of required fire service continuing education hours was reduced from 180 to 120 hours annually. Working with the other three Pro-Board agencies in the State (Central Pierce, South King, and Spokane Valley), a Pro-Board Alliance was established in order to

facilitate the sharing of resources and exchange of ideas.

Several other major projects were either completed or initiated in 2011 and include the creation of a central library, along with smaller libraries at all stations; initiation of Dive Master training for 3 firefighters to reduce redundancy and aid in shift level instruction; and

having three of our officers attend the Blue Card Incident Commander train-the-trainer instructor certification course. This last Training Division accomplishment will hopefully allow for the certification of all our suppression officers as Blue Card Incident Commanders by the end of 2012.

West Pierce Fire & Rescue was designated as a Pro-Board Certifying agency in 2011.





## West Pierce Facts

The Fleet  
Maintenance  
Division  
consists of a  
Fleet Manager  
and three  
mechanics

The shop has the  
ability to lift  
203,000 lbs.  
worth of vehicles  
with the use of 3  
post in-ground  
80,000 lb. hoists  
capable of lifting  
an engine  
company or  
ladder truck with  
ease.

## FLEET MAINTENANCE



The Fleet Maintenance Division consists of a Fleet Manager and three Mechanics who operate out of a spacious maintenance facility located in the City of Lakewood. The facility has a fully equipped machine shop with welding capability, a parts room, office space, day room and a fully furnished kitchen. The shop has the ability to lift 203,000 lbs. worth of vehicles with the use of 3 post in-ground 80,000 lb. hoists capable of lifting an engine company or ladder truck with ease. Also, a 2 post above ground 15,000 lb. hoist safely allows for the lifting of medic units and staff vehicles. In addition to these fixed hoists, there are six (6) portable column lifts which have a lifting capacity of 108,000 lbs., which allows for the option of lifting any vehicle anywhere within or on the

facility grounds.

The year 2011 was a challenging and demanding year for the Fleet Maintenance Division. Even though fleet maintenance for both Districts was already being performed by the shop, with University Place's being done under a contract for services, the merger of the two Districts in March brought with it the priority issues of fleet relabeling and the standardization of equipment.

Over the next six months, every vehicle, vessel and trailer in the fleet was relabeled with both the "West Pierce Fire & Rescue" name and logo. Compartmental equipment on like vehicles was also standardized as much as physically possible. This all had to be done while also keeping up on routine and emergent repairs for over 70

vehicles, vessels, and trailers in the WPFR fleet. Each vehicle is put through a safety inspection (up to a 75-point) annually with routine maintenance checks being performed either quarterly or semiannually based upon the equipment's use. Emissions and pump tests are also done on an annual basis for all appropriate vehicles. These services are also performed for the Town of DuPont and Brown's Point Fire Departments under contracts for service. In total, 188 vehicle inspections and 724 work orders were completed in 2011. Fleet also conducts pump tests for Tacoma Fire Department under a service contract signed in 2011. Other regular responsibilities include the engine maintenance and repair

# FLEET MAINTENANCE



service of seven facility generators, two breathing air compressors and all small power tools; which includes chainsaws, portable ventilation fans, extrication tools, and portable generators.

Other major projects in 2011 were the installation or updating of all front line emergency response vehicle mobile data computers (MDC) and the rebuilding of a pump and transmission on one of the District's fire

engines. The installation of a new or updated MDC unit sometimes takes a week or more to accomplish and is coordinated with regular vehicle maintenance whenever possible. The rebuilding of a pump along with transmission repairs on a fire engine can sometimes take a few weeks. All in all, 2011 was a busy and productive year for the Fleet Maintenance Division and it looks forward to providing continued quality service to "West Pierce Fire & Rescue."



## West Pierce Facts

188 vehicle inspections and 724 work orders were completed in 2011

Each WPFR vehicle is put through a safety inspection annually, with routine maintenance checks being performed either quarterly or semiannually based upon the equipment's use.

## West Pierce Facts

February 8, 2011;  
Citizens voted to  
merge Fire District  
2 into Fire District 3,  
effective 3/1/11,  
with an approval  
rating of 82%

### Assessed Value

\$8,616,834,655

### Levy Rates

Regular \$1.50

EMS \$ 0.50

### Excess

### Lakewood

\$1.076

### University Place

\$ 0.876

### Lakewood

Median home value  
\$245,700

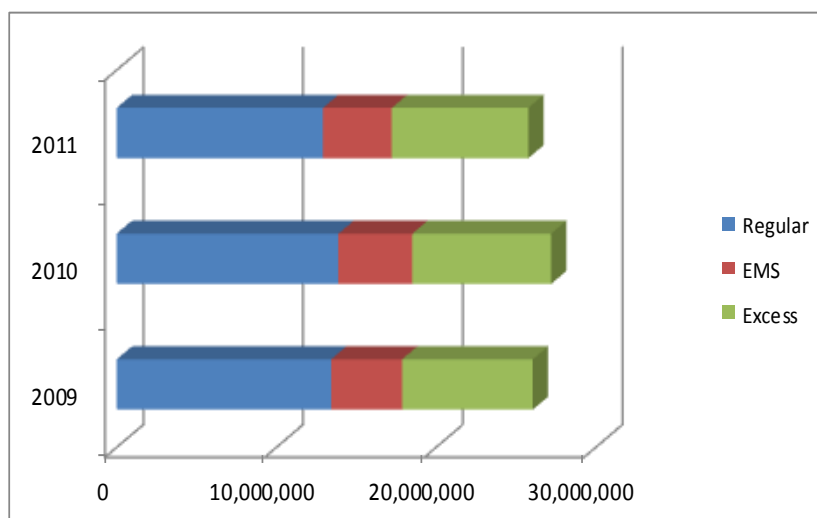
Per capita income  
\$26,760

### University Place

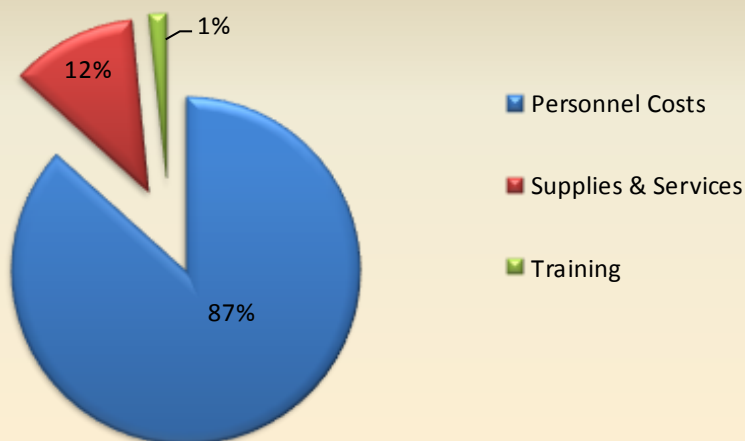
Median home value  
\$325,800

Per capita income  
\$29,753

## FINANCE

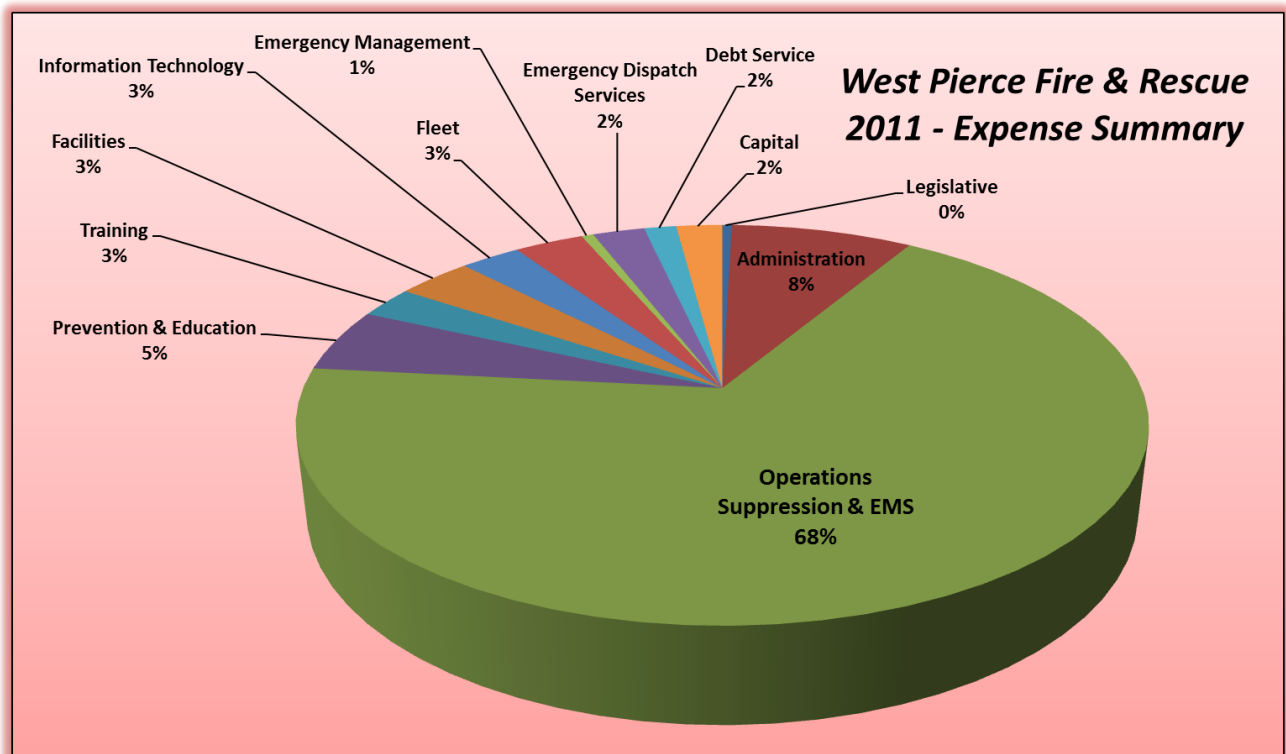
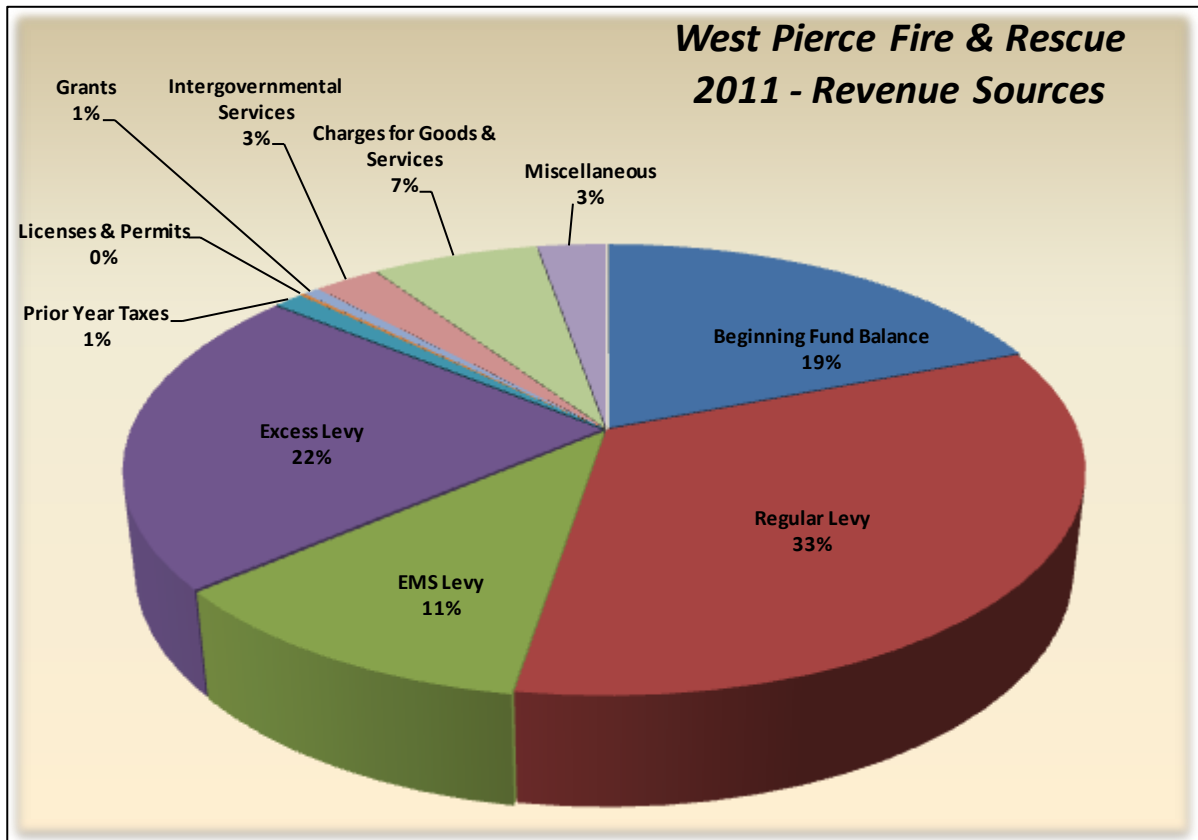


## Operating Cost Breakdown





# FINANCE



## DEFINITIONS

### Turnout Time

The time interval that begins when the notification process begins by either an audible alarm or visual annunciation, or both, and ends at the beginning point of travel time of the first arriving unit. Reference NFPA 1710 3.3.53.8.

### National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1710 Standard-2010 Edition)

The Standard for the organization and deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operation to the Public by Career Fire Departments.

### NFIRS

National Fire Incident Reporting System.

## West Pierce Fire & Rescue

### 2011 RCW 52.33 Report

Enacted in 2005, RCW 52.33 requires each “substantially career fire department” to maintain a written document declaring the department as “established” and describing the department’s basic organizational structure, core

services provided, and response time objectives for such services . Beginning in 2007, RCW 52.33 requires an annual report be issued documenting the achievement of each response time objective. The report shall

identify the objectives which are met less than 90% of the time, the predictable consequences of the deficiencies, and the steps necessary to improve achievement.

### 2011 RCW 52.33 Report

#### 1) Turnout Time<sup>1</sup>

- a. The National Fire Protection Association<sup>2</sup> defines 80 seconds as the turnout time<sup>1</sup> performance standard for a fire suppression<sup>15</sup> and special operation response<sup>5</sup>. Our agency meets this objective 33 percent of the time.
- b. Due to circumstances outlined in Appendix 1, our agency has defined 110 seconds as the turnout time<sup>1</sup> performance standard for a fire suppression<sup>15</sup> and special operation response<sup>5</sup>. Our agency meets this objective 45 percent of the time.
- c. The National Fire Protection Association<sup>2</sup> defines 60 seconds as the turnout time<sup>1</sup> performance standard for an emergency medical services response<sup>9</sup>. Our agency meets this objective 22 percent of the time.
- d. Due to circumstances outlined in Appendix 1, our agency has defined 110 seconds as the turnout time<sup>1</sup> performance standard for an emergency medical services response<sup>9</sup>. Our agency meets this objective 62 percent of the time.
- e. 90% of our emergency medical services responses<sup>9</sup> have a turnout time<sup>1</sup> of 160 seconds or less.
- f. 90% of our fire<sup>15</sup> and special operation<sup>5</sup> responses have a turnout time<sup>1</sup> of 195 seconds or less.

**2) Response time<sup>10</sup> for the arrival of the first arriving engine company<sup>12</sup> at a fire suppression incident<sup>15</sup> (building or dwelling only)**

- a. The National Fire Protection Association<sup>2</sup> defines 4 minutes as the performance standard. Our agency meets this objective 71 percent of the time.
- b. Due to circumstances outlined in Appendix 2, our agency has defined 1 geographic area within our jurisdiction:
  - For this geographic area, our agency has defined 6 minutes as the performance standard. Our agency meets this objective 100 percent of the time.
  - 90% of our response times<sup>10</sup> for this objective are 4 minutes 52 seconds or less.

**3) Response time<sup>10</sup> for the arrival of the first arriving engine company<sup>12</sup> to all other fires<sup>16</sup>**

- a. The National Fire Protection Association<sup>2</sup> defines 4 minutes as the performance standard. Our agency meets this objective 46 percent of the time.
- b. Due to circumstances outlined in Appendix 3, our agency has defined 1 geographic area within our jurisdiction.
  - For this geographic area, our agency has defined 6 minutes as the performance standard. Our agency meets this objective 84 percent of the time.
  - 90% of our response times for this objective are 7 minutes 20 seconds or less.

**4) Response time<sup>10</sup> for the arrival of the 4<sup>th</sup> firefighter at a fire suppression incident<sup>15</sup> (building or dwelling only)**

- a. The National Fire Protection Association<sup>2</sup> defines 4 minutes as the performance standard. Our agency meets this objective 42 percent of the time.
- b. Due to circumstances outlined in Appendix 4, our agency has defined 1 geographic area within our jurisdiction.
  - For this geographic area, our agency has defined 6 minutes as the performance standard. Our agency meets this objective 90 percent of the time.
  - 90% of our response times<sup>10</sup> for this objective are 6 minutes or less.

**5) Response time<sup>10</sup> for the deployment of a full first alarm assignment<sup>17</sup> at a fire suppression incident<sup>15</sup> (building or dwelling only) In WPFR, a full first alarm assignment includes 3 engines, 1 ladder, 2 medic units, and 1 Battalion Chief.**

- a. The National Fire Protection Association<sup>2</sup> defines 8 minutes as the performance standard. Our agency meets this objective 31 percent of the time.
- b. Due to circumstances outlined in Appendix 5, our agency has defined 1 geographic area within our jurisdiction.
  - For this geographic area, our agency has defined 10 minutes as the performance standard. Our agency meets this objective 50 percent of the time.

## DEFINITIONS

### Fire Incident

All NFIRS 100 incident types.

### Special Operation Incident

Those emergency incidents to which the fire department responds that require specific and advanced training and specialized tools and equipment. Reference NFPA 1710 3.3.41.2.

### CPR

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

### BLS

Reference NFPA 1710 3.3.36.2

### ALS

Reference NFPA 1710 3.3.36.1



## DEFINITIONS

### Emergency Medical Incident

The treatment of patients using basic first aid, CPR, BLS, ALS, and other medical procedures prior to the arrival at a hospital or other health care facility. Reference NFPA 1710 3.3.17. Note: Only NFIRS 321, 322, and 323 incident types.

### All Other Fires

All NFIRS 100 level incident types except 111 and 121.

### Full First Alarm Assignment

Means the appropriate number and type of both apparatus and fire suppression personnel as defined by each jurisdiction sufficient to perform the eight NFPA defined fire-fighting tasks at a working structure fire incident. Reference NFPA 1710 5.2.4.2.2

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- 90% of our response times<sup>10</sup> for this objective are 12 minutes 1 second or less.

### 6) Response time<sup>10</sup> for the arrival of a unit with first responder<sup>18</sup> or higher level capability at an emergency medical incident<sup>9</sup>

The National Fire Protection Association<sup>2</sup> defines 4 minutes as the performance standard. Our agency meets this objective 57 percent of the time.

Due to circumstances outlined in Appendix 6, our agency has defined 1 geographic area within our jurisdiction.

- For this geographic area, our agency has defined 6 minutes as the performance standard. Our agency meets this objective 84 percent of the time.
- 90% of our response times<sup>10</sup> for this objective are 6 minutes 50 seconds or less.

### 7) Response time<sup>10</sup> for the arrival of an advanced life support unit<sup>19</sup> at an emergency medical incident<sup>9</sup>, where this service is provided by the fire department<sup>20</sup>.

The National Fire Protection Association<sup>2</sup> defines 8 minutes as the performance standard. Our agency meets this objective 94 percent of the time.

Due to circumstances outlined in Appendix 7, our agency has defined 1 geographic area within our jurisdiction.

- For this geographic area, our agency has defined 6 minutes as the performance standard. Our agency meets this objective 86 percent of the time.
- 90% of our response times<sup>10</sup> for this objective are 6 minutes 40 seconds or less.

### Premises

1. We are only capturing the apparatus' times when that unit is responding and arriving priority.
2. We are only reporting on incidents that occur within our own jurisdiction.
3. Apparatus from neighboring agencies that respond into our jurisdiction Mutual aid and automatic aid received apparatus will be measured.

### Appendix 1: Turnout Time

Prior to the merger, PCFD 3 had established 90 seconds as the turnout time objective for all priority incidents. At that time, the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system marked the initiation of turnout

time immediately following the end of the verbal dispatch information. During 2011, we intended to upgrade to a new CAD system which mandatorily marked the initiation of turnout time at the beginning of the verbal dispatch information. This change would result in increased turnout times. For this reason, we changed this objective to 110 seconds for all priority incidents. Currently, technical performance issues with our CAD vendor and potential South Sound 911 impacts have delayed installation and implementation of the new system likely into late 2012.

#### Appendices 2-7: Geographic Areas

The service delivery area in West Pierce Fire & Rescue is a homogeneous, suburban locality with a fairly uniform population density and geography. These features, in addition to 24/7 staffing at seven fire stations and multiple main arterial roadways preclude the need to establish additional geographic areas.

## Summary

Intuitively, the consequences for not achieving our objectives 90% of the time are delayed total response times, which in turn delay intervention actions for the protection of life and property. The deficiencies (<90%), explanations, and steps for improvement are as follows:

### **1.b. Turnout Time for fire suppression and special operations response: 45% achievement**

WPFR maintains crew safety guidelines which require all personnel to don complete Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) prior to the apparatus' departure from the station.

Efforts to encourage personnel to speed up their pre-response preparations have begun.

### **1.e. Turnout Time for emergency medical services response: 62% achievement**

See 1.b. above. A higher achievement in comparison to fire response turnout time is predictable given the level of required PPE is reduced and less time-consuming.

Efforts to encourage personnel to speed up their pre-response preparations have begun.

### **3.b. Response Time for the arrival of the first engine company to all fires, other than building/dwelling fires: 84% achievement**

Although less than 90%, this is a significant achievement given these types of responses may include reports of fires now out, dumpster fires without exposure risk, etc.

### **5.b. Response Time for the deployment of a full first alarm assignment at building/dwelling fires: 50% achievement**

Call volumes and frequency of back to back alarms continue to increase. We are also increasing our medic unit transports (much of the time to downtown hospitals). As a result, response units may be deployed on other alarms or out of their first-due areas. This in turn will require units from

## DEFINITIONS

### First Responder

A trained individual providing initial assessment and basic first-aid intervention, including cardiac pulmonary resuscitation and automatic external defibrillator capability. Reference NFPA 1710 3.3.24

### Advanced Life Support Unit

Personnel and equipment capable of providing ALS care.

### Advanced Life Support Unit

Reference Revised Code of Washington 52.33.020 (4)

### Special Operation Incident

Those emergency incidents to which the fire department responds that require specific and advanced training and specialized tools and equipment. Reference NFPA 1710 3.3.41.2.

## DEFINITIONS

### CPR

Cardiopulmonary  
resuscitation

### BLS

Reference NFPA 1710  
3.3.36.2

### ALS

Reference NFPA 1710  
3.3.36.1

### Emergency Medical Incident

The treatment of  
patients using basic first  
aid, CPR, BLS, ALS,  
and other medical  
procedures prior to the  
arrival at a hospital or  
other health care facility.  
Reference NFPA 1710  
3.3.17. Note: Only  
NFIRS 321, 322, and  
323 incident types.

## West Pierce Fire & Rescue

other response zones/agencies to be dispatched, increasing response times.

We continue to evaluate our response deployment model, Station 32 relocation, and specific resource placement and will consider changes when supported by data.

### **6.b. Response Time for the arrival of a unit with first responder or higher level capability at an emergency medical incident: 84% achievement**

Although less than 90%, this is a significant achievement. See 5.b. above.

### **7.b. Response Time for the arrival of an advanced life support at an emergency medical incident, where this service is provided by the fire department: 86% achievement**

Although less than 90% this is a significant achievement given WPFR's 6 minute objective is 2 minutes less than the NFPA 1710 Standard. WPFR meets the 8 minute NFPA standard 94% of the time. In addition, 90% of our response times for this objective are 6 minutes 40 seconds or less.

Locally and nationwide, fire departments are faced with persistent economic challenges which can negatively impact staffing and service levels. West Pierce Fire & Rescue is no exception to these economic forces. However, it is clearly evident that the efficiencies gained from the 2011 merger of the Lakewood and University Place Fire Departments have afforded West Pierce the opportunity to continue levels of service commensurate with a highly functioning Class 3 fire department.

