

# The Monitor



## WEST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

*Proudly serving the citizens of Lakewood and University Place*

31 DREXLER DRIVE WEST, UNIVERSITY PLACE, WA 98466 | [www.westpierce.org](http://www.westpierce.org)

As we enter into the second half of 2014, we are entering into a new era for our department. In March of this year, we celebrated our third anniversary as West Pierce Fire & Rescue. During those three years, we worked diligently to reset our organization in order to meet the economic challenges we were faced with. To that end, we downsized our department significantly. Since the merger of the University Place and Lakewood fire departments, we have seen a 15% reduction in our firefighter staffing. While this represents a significant change in staffing, it does not mean we have reduced the level of service the community has come to expect.

One of the overarching themes for our department, over the last several years, is to figure out better ways to do more with less. Through staff reductions, employee concessions and effective grant writing we have been able to significantly reduce costs while maintaining service levels and in some cases increasing programs and services such as our marine response and medical transport programs.

While the last several years have been extremely challenging, we would not have been successful if it weren't for the continued support we receive from the community. Throughout this economic decline, the citizens of West Pierce have stood beside us, providing us with the support and motivation we needed to reform our department into a highly effective organization designed to meet the demands of today's new economy.

Now for the first time since 2007, we are seeing signs of improvement in the economy, and for the first time in our brief history, West Pierce Fire & Rescue will be hiring new firefighters to replace some of those who retired over the past several years. The number is very small when compared to the number of people we have lost over the past three years, but still a very strong sign we have stabilized as an organization.

We are very excited about the future. The last three years have given us the opportunity to analyze our services and reshape our department into the most effective organization we can be. When we hire these new firefighters they will be coming into a revitalized organization ready to meet the community's needs today and into the future.

Throughout our downsizing, we have lost hundreds of years of institutional knowledge. Certainly it isn't something we can replace overnight. However, we have great staff at all levels ready and willing to take up the mantle and lead this organization into the future. Additionally, the excitement of hiring our first group of firefighters as West Pierce Fire & Rescue will spread enthusiasm and energy throughout the department in a way we have not had the opportunity to witness for some time.

Jim Sharp, Fire Chief

## Thank you West Pierce Commissioners

In 2014, three individuals vacated their seats on the Board of Fire Commissioners for West Pierce Fire & Rescue. We want to thank them for their dedicated service not only to the employees of West Pierce, but to the public as well. Between Commissioners Pat Tobin, Ted Wier, and Grant Blinn, their combined service totals 38 years.

These elected officials spent their terms making decisions based on what was best for the community and how to make the Cities of Lakewood and University Place a safer place to live. Their time and dedication did not go unnoticed and is truly appreciated. Thank you for your service, we wish you the very best!



**Pat Tobin**  
1994 - 2014



**Ted Wier**  
2000 - 2014



**Grant Blinn**  
2010 - 2014



## West Pierce Personnel Respond to Oso Landslide

West Pierce Fire & Rescue had several personnel who responded to the recent landslide in Oso. Emergency Management Coordinator, Christine Badger, and Training Captain, Gary McVay were deployed as part of the Incident Management Team. Both were deployed for over a week and assisted with the coordination of efforts at the incident command post.

Captain, Patrick Lillie and Firefighter/Engineers, Jason Yantzer and Jerry Hamilton were deployed as members of the WATF-1 FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. These members assisted in the search and recovery efforts for the victims of the slide. Two of the team members were deployed for at least two weeks while the third was on site for three weeks.

Since 2011, West Pierce Fire & Rescue has been part of a cooperative emergency management program with the City of Lakewood. This joint program has been highly successful, improving the ability of the fire district and the City of Lakewood to prepare for, respond to and recover from a major disaster such as the Oso landslide. As part of this program, several drills have taken place which has given many community organizations an opportunity to work together prior to an incident occurring. West Pierce has also been working to identify resources in Lakewood and University Place which can be utilized in response and recovery efforts should such a disaster occur in our community.





# Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

## Test Yours Every Month!

Fire Prevention Week • October 5–11, 2014  
Go to [FPW.org](http://FPW.org)



### West Pierce Fire & Rescue Reminds the Residents of Lakewood and University Place to 'Test Their Smoke Alarms'

It's time for Fire Prevention Week, and from October 5-11 West Pierce Fire & Rescue is joining forces with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents to test their smoke alarms monthly.

During this year's fire safety campaign, West Pierce will be spreading the word about the importance of having working smoke alarms installed in their homes. Smoke alarms should be installed in and outside of each bedroom, as well as on each level of the home.

This year's theme was chosen to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, which killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, 1871 and wasn't out until October 9th. Residents are encouraged to protect their homes with smoke alarms, and most importantly, be sure they are working properly.

"Smoke alarms are the first to alert residents there is smoke in the home and consistently saves lives. West Pierce Fire & Rescue is dedicated to helping our citizens to keep their home safe by offering free smoke alarm installations to residents within Lakewood and University Place," said Fire Chief Jim Sharp.

To help reduce the number of fires that spread and injuries that occur, West Pierce Fire & Rescue has received a grant to fund smoke alarm installations in residences within Lakewood and University Place. Installations will be done by appointment by West Pierce Fire & Rescue personnel.

This program funds smoke alarms with a 10-year battery. The battery will not need to be changed each year like a typical 9-volt, but will need to be tested monthly to ensure it is working properly.

Appointments can be made based on the following criteria:

- **If your smoke alarms are more than 10 years old.** However, if your home has smoke alarms that are hard-wired into your electrical system, we cannot replace them, as the protection you have is greater than the battery powered alarms we offer.
- **If you do not have alarms inside and outside each sleeping area.** We recommend a smoke alarm is in each sleeping area, as well as in the hallway outside. If you do not have alarms in both places, we can add alarms where they are needed.
- **If your smoke alarms are not working properly.** We can replace battery operated alarms that are not currently working properly. However, if you have hard-wired alarms, we cannot replace those with a battery operated alarm.
- **If you are not sure what kind of smoke alarms you currently have.** Please call us to make an appointment and we can assess your current alarms. We will then replace or add any alarms we can for you.

**To schedule an appointment, please contact Andee Lugo at 253-983-4569.**

## Chambers Bay to host the 115th US Golf Open in 2015

One year from now, the daily population of University Place will double. Not permanently, but for one week as more than 30,000 spectators flock to Chambers Bay to watch the 115th US Open Golf Championship. In 2015, Chambers Bay will be the first Pacific Northwest venue to host this prestigious event.

Since the course lies within the jurisdiction of West Pierce Fire & Rescue, we are responsible for providing fire and emergency medical services for the Championship. Thousands of spectators will have access to areas of the golf course far off the asphalt paths which are typically filled with walkers, runners, and bicyclists. From a public safety perspective, we must develop plans for efficient access and transportation for potential patients. For the past two years, we have been working closely with the United States Golf Association in preparation for the event. We have also worked with fire and EMS agencies responsible for these services at recent Championships to help in our planning efforts. Our personnel will staff several specialized golf-type carts and bicycles for mobile access across the course to rapidly access patients and transport them to our on-site medic units. MultiCare Health System will be staffing several first aid stations for minor issues. In addition, we will staff an on-site fire engine during operating hours to provide for a rapid response to any fire-related emergencies. Although the event will require on-site staffing and resources, all West Pierce stations will maintain their regular staffing and apparatus for your safety.



## Time for Summer Safety

Kids will soon be out of school, the sun is out, and there are lots of summer activities under way. West Pierce Fire & Rescue would like to share some tips on how to celebrate safely this summer.

- Talk to your kids about how to be safe while walking. Always walk on sidewalks or paths and cross at street corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Even strong swimmers need to be careful when swimming in our local lakes, as cold temperatures can quickly cause hypothermia. Wearing a life jacket is the safest way to enjoy the water. Custom-fit life jackets are available at West Pierce for \$14.
- Biking and other wheeled sports are a great way to get out and enjoy this time of year. Be sure to wear a properly fitted helmet every time you ride. Custom-fit bike helmets are available at West Pierce for \$7 or \$10.
- Never leave a child alone in a vehicle. Temperatures can quickly rise in a car on a warm day, which can be life threatening. More than 25 fatalities were attributed to leaving a child alone in a vehicle in 2013 nationwide and three of those were in Washington State.
- Be sure to look around your vehicle before backing up. Children are hard to see due to their size and taking a quick look around will ensure they are safely out of the way.
- When watching children in or around the water, it's imperative to keep an eye on them, even if they're wearing a life jacket. If you're watching children on a regular basis, CPR and First Aid classes are a great idea. West Pierce Fire & Rescue offers these classes on a monthly basis and information can be found at [www.westpierce.org](http://www.westpierce.org).

For more information on how to stay safe this summer, please visit our website and visit us at our booths at Lakewood's Summerfest on July 13th and UP Sun Fest on August 2nd. There will be lots of safety information, activities for the kids, as well as helmet and life jacket sales.



# Celebrate Safely this 4th of July



As the 4th of July approaches, celebrating safely is key. While this holiday is a fun way to spend a summer day, fireworks can cause various injuries and fire hazards. When using fireworks, please keep these safety tips in mind:

- Attend a public fireworks display
- Store fireworks out of children's reach
- Always keep water handy
- Only use fireworks outdoors
- Do not throw fireworks or hold in your hand
- Light one firework at a time and move away quickly
- Never relight a "dud"
- Soak used fireworks in water
- Be considerate and clean up used fireworks
- Keep matches and lighters away from children

Know the laws regarding  
fireworks

**Visit our website**

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



Each city's ordinance differs slightly in terms of when residents may purchase and discharge fireworks. Please note the laws within your area.

## City of Lakewood

- **Fireworks may be purchased -**  
June 28th from 12 noon to 11pm  
June 29th to July 4th from 9am - 11pm
- **Fireworks may be discharged -**  
during the hours of 11am to 11pm  
July 3rd to July 5th.

## City of University Place

- **Fireworks may be purchased -**  
June 28th from 12 noon to 11pm  
June 29th to July 3rd from 9am - 11pm  
July 4th from 9am - 9pm
- **Fireworks may be discharged -**  
during the hours of 9:00am - midnight  
only on July 4th.

The safest way to celebrate Independence Day is to visit a public fireworks display. Both the Town of Steilacoom and the City of Tacoma offer public displays.

For more information on fireworks safety and the City of Lakewood and University Place's ordinances, please visit [www.westpierce.org](http://www.westpierce.org).

# Retirement - Thank you West Pierce Retirees

In the last year, six West Pierce Fire & Rescue employees decided to move on to the next phase in their career – retirement. These employees have made West Pierce what it is today and we want to thank them for their combined 160 years of service.

West Pierce is lucky to have individuals who have dedicated their careers to serving our communities and for that, we are so very grateful. The fire service is known for being a close-knit family and when someone moves onto a new phase in their career, it's a time for everyone to celebrate their accomplishments with them.

We want to thank each and every one of these folks who have worked at West Pierce Fire & Rescue and the time they've spent making the department what it is today.



**Mike Keohi**  
Battalion Chief  
1975 - 2014



**Dave Adler**  
Firefighter / Engineer  
1983 - 2014



**Laura Worley**  
Communication Project Manager  
1986 - 2013



**Rod Pearce**  
Battalion Chief  
1986 - 2014



**Steven Tank**  
Captain  
1995 - 2013



**Mark Oster**  
Firefighter  
1997 - 2014



# Guide To Services

## Please Contact Us

If you would like to inquire about any of these services please contact us at (253) 564-1623 or visit us on our website at [www.westpierce.org](http://www.westpierce.org).



Find us on  
**Facebook**



## First Aid and CPR Classes

These classes are held one Saturday each month from 9:00am to 5:00pm, alternating locations between Lakewood and University Place. The course covers adult, child and infant CPR and AED training along with basic first aid. The cost is \$40. **Upcoming classes:** July 19, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 14. **Please call to register.**



## Free Blood Pressure Checks

Stop by any fire station to have your blood pressure checked. Please be advised when emergency personnel are out of the station on 911 calls, there may not be anyone at the station to assist you. Thank you in advance for your patience.



## Custom Fit Helmet Program

Bicycle helmets are available for \$7 and multi-sport helmets for \$10, cash only. Helmet fittings are scheduled by appointment only and the rider must be present in order to purchase.

***FIRE***  
**Stoppers**  
Children's Fire  
Prevention Network  
Of Washington

## Juvenile Fire Setter Program

Fire safety education is available for children who are misusing fire or playing with matches or lighters. Please contact us for more information.



## School Programs

Fire and life safety presentations are conducted at each of the elementary schools in Lakewood and University Place. Fire safety is taught to Kindergarten and 2nd graders, child passenger safety to 1st graders, disaster preparedness to 3rd graders, how to be safe when participating in wheeled sports to 4th graders, and 5th graders learn basic first aid.



## Preschool/Day Care Visits

Two free curriculums are offered to preschools and daycares throughout West Pierce called Learn Not to Burn and I Spot Something Hot. Teachers conduct several lessons of the curriculum and West Pierce Fire & Rescue personnel will come in to teach the final lesson so small children learn firefighters are their friends.



## Fire Station Tours

If you'd like to bring a group to the fire station for a visit, please give us a call to schedule.



## Free Car Seat Checks

Did you know that 8 in 10 children are improperly restrained in the vehicle? West Pierce Fire & Rescue would like to help you make sure your child or grandchild is properly restrained. Please contact us at (253) 564-1623 to set up an appointment with a Certified Car Seat Technician.

# Upcoming Events



## Lakewood SummerFEST - July 12, 2014

Join us on Saturday, July 12 at Fort Steilacoom Park for SummerFEST 2014. Fort Steilacoom Park will be humming with excitement. Beginning at 11:00am over 75 public market vendors and 20 food vendors will provide a variety of things to see, eat and buy. Families can enjoy two stages of FREE entertainment, a soccer tournament and Police, Fire, Army Strong vehicles and other community displays. West Pierce Fire & Rescue will be on site to provide safety information as well as sell and fit life jackets for \$14 and bike helmets for \$7. For a small fee children can enjoy the petting zoo and bouncing, climbing and racing in the KidZone. Come see the classic cars displayed at the Partners for Parks car show. Stay all day and into the night for the Comcast/Xfinity outdoor movie in the park – starting at dusk. This annual event brings our community and guests together to celebrate Lakewood. Check out the schedule of events at [www.cityoflakewood.us](http://www.cityoflakewood.us).

## National Night Out Against Crime - August 5, 2014

This is a great opportunity for Lakewood and University Place citizens to create a safer community by hosting or attending a neighborhood block party. This year's event will be held on Tuesday, August 5th from 5pm to 8pm. Fire and police department personnel attend each block party to visit with citizens and offer various safety information. If you are interested in hosting a block party, please contact Lakewood Police Department at (253) 983-7856 or University Place Police Department at (253) 798-3141.

### WEST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

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### CERT - September 16 through October 4, 2014

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training will be held at West Pierce Fire & Rescue Station 21 located at 5000 Steilacoom Blvd in Lakewood. This class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30pm until 9pm each night. October 4th will be a culminating drill so participants can exercise what they have learned. Participants will be taught how to respond in a disaster situation, fire suppression, search and rescue, emergency medical triage, utility safety and team organization. For more information or to register, please contact Disaster Preparedness Coordinator Rachel Adler at (253) 983-4564 or via email at [cert@westpierce.org](mailto:cert@westpierce.org).

### Safety Pumpkin Patch - October 25, 2014

West Pierce Fire & Rescue's 18th Annual Safety Pumpkin Patch will be held this year on October 25th from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm at Station 21, located at 5000 Steilacoom Boulevard SW. The day includes various activities for families, including custom helmet fitting (cash only and rider must be present for custom fit), a car seat check will be held from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, safety games, information booths, FREE digital photos for kids in costume and of course, pumpkins! Bring the family out for a day of fun! Please bring a non-perishable food donation if possible. For more information, please contact Assistant Fire Marshal Hallie McCurdy at (253) 983-4579.

