

RIVERSIDE ***FIRE RESCUE***



2018 Annual Report

Mission Statement

Working as a team, we are dedicated to serving our customers. We will strive to be financially responsible and use cost effective systems to provide professional affordable services. Our goal will be to continually learn, change and improve. We will focus on results, providing the best possible service to the citizens and visitors of our district, 24 hours a day.

Vision

Our vision is to be responsive to the changing needs of our community, professional providing quality fire and emergency medical services to the customers in a manner that encourages pride, respect, and confidence in our organization by the members of the community.

Core Values

Professionalism

Accountability

Courtesy

Compassion

Integrity

Commitment

Opening from Chief Kira Thirkield

As the new Fire Chief of Riverside Fire & Rescue I am proud to present our 2018 annual report. 2018 marks my first full year as the Fire Chief and as so it was a year full of thorough evaluation of processes, services and operations coupled with developing and implementing a strategic plan. With the departments mission of providing the highest possible service to the community in mind, the main area of focus has been improving training and creating a more organized command structure with clearly defined job roles and areas of responsibility. This yielded the formal creation of a structured Administrative, Training and Operations Division. All these requiring a strong oversight and structure that reduces budgetary waste, inefficient processes and seeks alternative funding through a variety of faucets.



Evaluation of *the Administrative Division* was broken up into two categories: budget and operations. An in-depth audit of the budget included maximizing revenue sources and reducing wasteful spending. Reducing wasteful spending ultimately began in 2017 with many changes to



venders through competitive shopping and tweaking a few operations to more fiscally responsible habits. Maximizing funding included a change in our transport billing vendor, pursuit of the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program funding, select billing of services such as false alarms, an increase and change in how we recover costs from MVAs and a newly executed contract with the Puyallup Tribe for payment of services to our tax-exempt tribal properties. Additionally, we reestablished our wildland program and participated in several deployments that generated substantial revenue from our brush truck. Lastly, we continued to successfully seek grants from previous sources as well as pursue new.

The Training Division was evaluated with the primary goal of increasing the skills and abilities of all members. Recognizing the importance of this division I allocated the funding recovered through the process changes of the administrative division to hiring a full-time Battalion Chief dedicated to expanding and managing the Training Division. This marked the first time in Riverside's history of employing three full-time positions. This alone made a drastic improvement of highly skilled personnel available to respond to emergencies. The first task of this employee, Brent Dubay, was to organize and



host an in-house fire Academy which started September of 2017. This academy, and the next one in 2018, accomplished several goals. Aside from being extremely fiscally beneficial, it tackled issues of creating an atmosphere of training and comradery that has improved all members skills and supported in retention.



The Operations Division was busy implementing the goals and strategies set forth by both the Training and Administrative Divisions along with a significant focus on our equipment and apparatus. The first step in this process was a detailed inventory, inspection and tracking system of all current equipment and apparatus. We now have the districts first up to date electronic tracking system of every single asset owned. After this was accomplished we prioritized repairs and replacement needs.



The apparatus inspections revealed a significant back log of repairs and maintenance needs. Some of which were discovered to be a result of inadequate repairs from Hughes Fire Apparatus. This lead to pursuit of a new mechanic shop. Several fire garages were examined, and Puget Sound Fire Authority in Kent was identified to best meet our needs. They were willing to do free inspections of our fleet to

formulate lists and costs for every needed repair to begin making repairs as budget allowed. We are proud to say that over the last two years all repairs have been made on E74, and all deemed prudent were made on the remainder of the fleet. Additionally, we completed the annual maintenance and testing fleet wide while adding the air trailer, boat, generators and small equipment that were not previously serviced on an annual basis.

The equipment was evaluated and found to not fulfill the NFPA requirements for apparatus. Many had also reached their end of life mandating replacement. Small tools and supplies were procured to fulfill these requirements. Hose of numerous sizes was purchased from a small grant allowing us to not only meet the NFPA requirements but have back up hose to be exchanged while hose is being cleaned. Two chainsaws, a reciprocating saw and a generator were found to be over 30 years old and were





replaced from a grant. Nozzles that were failing and becoming difficult to operate were replaced with 8 new Task Force Tip nozzles from another small grant. We were running low on in-service bunker gear and were able to purchase 10 new sets through a Firehouse Subs grant for just over \$20,000. The most significant deficiency was discovered in our SCBA cylinders and packs. Most cylinders were past their end of life according to DOT law and had to immediately be placed out of service. Temporary cylinders were borrowed from a Clark County fire department while the



minimum number we could operate with were purchased from funds acquired with the newly executed tribal contract. We were also able to find low cost, surplus cylinders from Puget Sound Fire that will last 3 years.



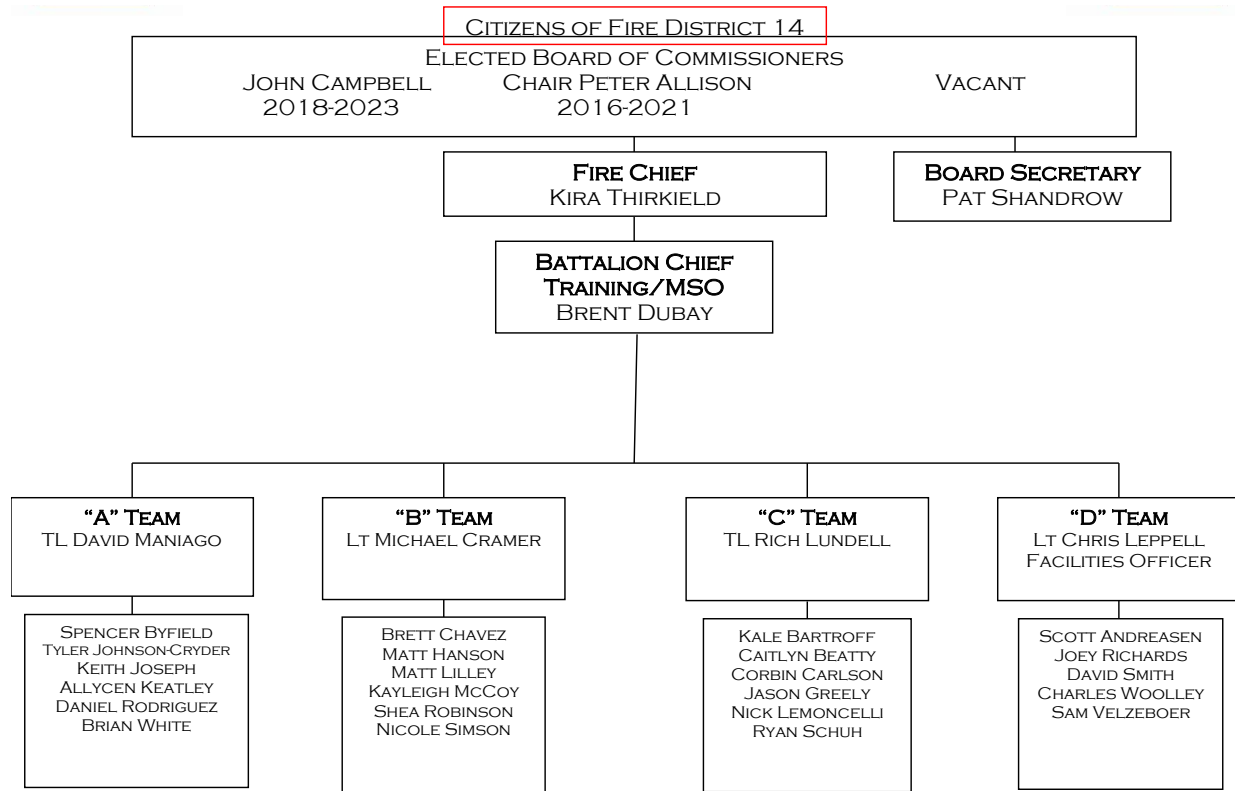
The second part of the process is purchasing the backpack harnesses, masks and all needed adapters and

accessories. The Puyallup Tribe graciously awarded us a grant worth over \$30,000 to purchase 50 new masks, all the accessories and two back pack harnesses. The final stage will be the remaining 16 harnesses which will cost an estimated \$65,000.



2018 has been an incredible year and we are all excited to carry on this momentum into 2019. The main goals of 2019 will include a clearly defined strategic plan further addressing recruitment and retention, training, remaining SCBA replacement and equipment needs, a records and retention plan and a full policy rewrite. We have built an awesome team here at Riverside and together we fully intend on reaching and exceeding next year's goals!

Department Staffing and Personnel



Total (12 hr) Volunteer Shifts: **1235**

Total Volunteer Shift Hours: 14,845

The Organizational Chart shows what Riverside looked like at the end of 2018. During 2018 we promoted Michael Cramer to the position of Lieutenant and both Richard Lundell and David Maniago to Team Leaders. Previously we had Battalion Chiefs filling in these roles. We now have strong mid-level line staff management.



Bryan Phan: 2018 Rookie of the Year and Hot Dog Eating Champion

The day staffing is supplemented with career officers staffing Monday through Sunday with two scheduled Monday-Friday and one on Saturday and Sunday. The average staffing for day and night shift is 2.7 trained members. The 2019 goal is to increase this to 3.75-4 by the end of the year. While our shift staffing is still on the low end our high-risk responses including ALS MVAs, CPRs and confirmed fires average 4.75 trained personnel per response. This increase is credited to responses from home, station drills and undocumented shift hours.



David Maniago: Firefighter of the Year, Most Dedicated

Many notable events took place in 2018 including the annual awards banquet naming Chris Leppell the "Officer of the Year", David Maniago "Firefighter of the Year" and "Most Dedicated", Caitlyn Beatty as "Most Reliable" and Bryan Phan the "Rookie of the Year".



As tradition, we had a Fourth of July BBQ hosted at the fire station along with a Holiday Potluck in December giving family and friends an opportunity to see where their loved ones work. These events were a huge success as always in showing support to the members and family's as well as a great time.



Community events included free blood pressure checks at local businesses and events, CPR and First Aid classes, Fire Extinguisher training, "National Night Out" with the Puyallup Tribal Police, and the popular annual Santa Run.

We proudly watched several members successfully get hired and move on to career fire departments including Robert Stewart to Redmond Fire, Shawn McGrath to Shoreline Fire, and Chloe Read to South King Fire and Rescue.



Chloe Read: South King Fire & Rescue

Emergency Responses

Riverside responded to 469 calls for service which included 7 mutual aid responses to Browns Point, East Pierce and Dupont Fire Departments. EMS calls accounted for 65% (308), MVAs 11% (52), fire related 14% (67), service responses 8% (39) and special rescue <1% (3). The average priority response time to in-district residents was 5 minutes and 19 seconds.

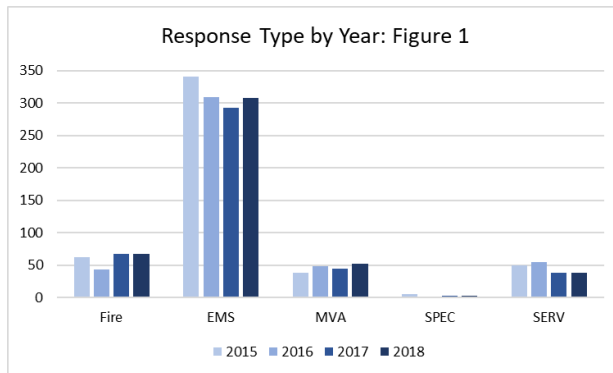
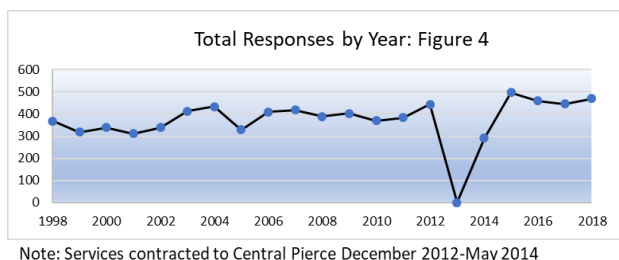
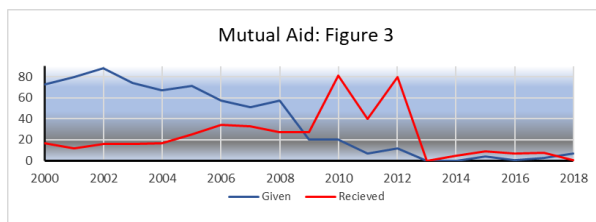
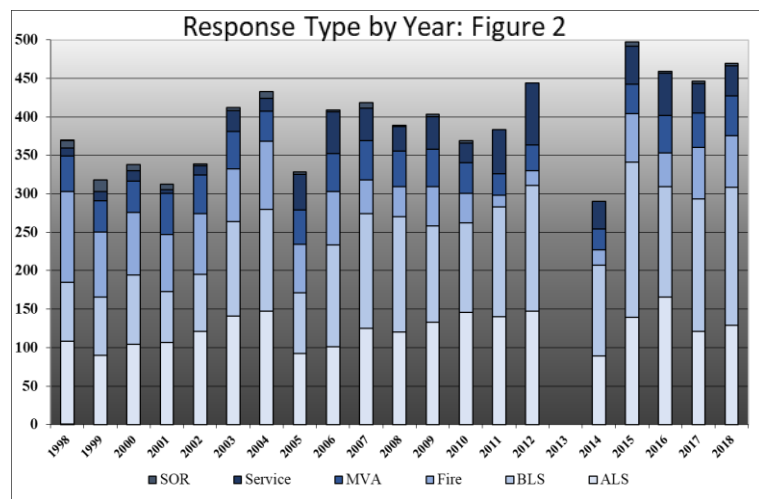


Figure 1 to the left shows the response types over the last 4 years which have remained fairly consistent. Fire related responses average 13% (60), EMS 67% (358.75), MVAs 12% (46), Special Rescue <1% (3.25) and Services calls 10% (45.5). **Figure 2** shows the breakdown over the last 20 years further supporting the consistency in response types with normal rises and falls.

Mutual Aid both given and received has drastically decreased over the years. The merger of the City of Puyallup with Central Pierce in 2009 consequently discontinued mutual aid requests having the most influence as shown in **Figure 3**.

Figure 4 shows the total response volume per year over the past 20 years which reveals a slow increase in overall responses. Excluding 2013 and 2014 due to contracting services with Central Pierce Fire we have seen on average a yearly increase of 1.5% over a 20-year period. This minimal increase is likely due to the restriction of new construction within the flood plain.



How response time are recorded was changed to the time of dispatch to the on-scene time rather than enroute to on-scene to match the National Standard. Due to this switch we are unable to statistically compare responses over several years. Future reports will however be able to accurately track this.

Training Division Report

Total Recorded Training Hours in 2018 were **6346!**

2018 was very busy for the Training Division. The most notable accomplishment of 2018 was the completion of the 2nd Riverside Fire and Rescue Recruit Academy under the direction of myself. This academy brought new challenges for both the Training Division and recruits within the academy. We graduated 9 recruits from this academy. We are beginning to perfect our academy and how we want it to be run. The more academies we run, the more streamlined the process will be. All recruits that graduated have taken their IFSAC Firefighter 1 written test and most have taken their IFSAC Firefighter 1 practical test. IFSAC testing continues to be a challenge for our organization as we don't have a Test Control Officer in house. I will be attending a Senior Evaluator/Test Control Officer course in South King County to help alleviate some of the constraints of setting up IFSAC tests for our people.

2018 also brought with it many other certifications and training opportunities for our senior members. Multiple members were



certified as Incident Safety Officer, which is a course hosted by the National Fire Academy and is a prudent certification for all members of the fire

service to hold. We had 6 members complete their requirements for the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Red Card, giving us the opportunity to deploy members and resources to statewide incidents. We had 5 members attend a hybrid IFSAC Instructor 1 course, which also allowed these members to attend the IFSAC



Evaluator course. These members will have the opportunity to represent the organization at any IFSAC test needing evaluators. We had members attend the West Region EMS Conference and the Wenatchee Fire School. Both conferences provided great knowledge and skills to our members. Caitlyn Beatty intends to use the knowledge she learned to put on a "Hoarders" class identifying the dangers they pose to firefighters.

2019 holds a lot of opportunities in store. We currently have 2 recruits in the Buckley academy with a projected graduation in the month of June. We will begin recruiting for an in-house academy March 1st. We are hoping to get 20 recruits in this academy. We will continue to stress the importance of certifications and continue to provide opportunities for certification testing in the future. The Training Division intends to provide opportunities to test for Firefighter 2 and Officer 1.

Budget and Financial Report

ACCOUNT NAME	ACCOUNT No.	2017	2018	2019
REVENUE				
Beginning Cash - unreserved	308.8	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
General Tax (\$1.50)(\$273,515) (98%)	311.10.01	\$ 234,260.00	\$ 262,302.00	\$ 268,045.00
EMS Tax (\$.50)(\$75,708)(98%)	311.10.02	\$ 78,086.00	\$ 73,123.00	\$ 74,194.00
M/O Levy	311.10.03	\$ 131,232.00	\$ 136,481.00	\$ 141,940.00
Total Tax		\$ 443,578.00	\$ 471,906.00	\$ 484,179.00
Dept of Health EMS Grant	334.04.01	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Puyallup Schools District	342.21.04	\$ 725.00	\$ 725.00	\$ -
Chief Leschi	342.21.03	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 750.00
County Land	342.21.05	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Training Reimbursement	342.21.06	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -
Recruit Reimbursement (BVFF)	342.21.07	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
EMS Transports	342.60.01	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Tribal Contract	342.21.06	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Grants - Transfer In	397.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GEMT	332.93.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Response Recovery	342.60.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,475.00
TOTAL REVENUE & BEGINNING CASH		\$ 555,503.00	\$ 579,031.00	\$ 610,804.00

2018 saw a budget increase of 6.4% through revenue from taxes and levies as values of homes rose 12% on average throughout Pierce County. The 2019 budget increased in tax revenue slightly less at 2.6%. However, 2019s overall budget increased 5.5% through alternative funding sources.

The general fund ended the year with \$107,366.80 allowing us to increase our carry-over to \$90,000 and move the remaining \$17,366.80 to the reserve account.

The reserve account that has been quiet at \$25,000 for a few years is now seeing a steady growth through the reestablished wildland program and GEMT funding. The end of year balance was \$44,640.70. This account is projected to reach well over \$125,000 in 2019 with the continuation of the wildland program, the expected FY2017 GEMT settlement of around \$60,000 coming in along with FY2018/2019 GEMT money being paid on current invoices.

In Closing

2018 has been a remarkable year amongst all divisions and services provided at Riverside Fire and our department could not be prouder. We are excited to tackle the goals of 2019 and continue providing the high level of service the community and members have come to expect. All these successes could not be possible without the tremendous support of the friends and family of the members, the community and the Board of Commissioners.