



# **Yakima County Fire District #4**

## **East Valley Fire Department**

### **2020 Annual Report**

The year 2020 was both an unusual and exceptional year for the East Valley Fire Department (EVFD). The Board of Fire Commissioners (David Ramynke, Chairman, Les Riel, Commissioner, Ben St. Mary Commissioner) are proud to provide this information that truly reflects the effective and competent operations of the Yakima County Fire District #4 (YCFD4).

Although it had many challenges for all personnel involved in the EVFD, we are truly thankful for having no serious injuries or fatalities within the Department. This is a result of having qualified and caring personnel that take their job, training and care for each other seriously.

The Covid 19 pandemic changed how the district operated both administratively as well as operationally. From holding meetings and training via video conference mediums, to complete lock-down of station to outside personnel, to the way contact was made in the field with those requiring our services, life changed. With cooperation and intensive efforts, EVFD responded to this challenge and overcame numerous obstacles in daily operations during the pandemic.

Even though 2020 saw much of the world shut down, the EVFD progressed through it and continued the proud tradition of moving forward so that the citizens we serve had the best possible attention to their needs. Ultimately topping the list of enhancements that effected our service delivery were:

- Completing the remodel of Station 42 in Terrace Heights
- Changing the staffing model to move shift personnel to Station 42
- Hiring of one day shift firefighter to augment the staffing at the newly staffed Station 42
- Purchasing of a second set of electric extrication tools in order to outfit both first due engines with identical equipment for multiple call potential.

Administratively, 2020 was heavy with changes as Chief Mark Emery announced his retirement. The Board of Fire Commissioners (BOC) wish to thank Chief Emery for his time serving as Chief of EVFD and wish to him a long and healthy retirement.

With the vacancy of the Fire Chief's position, a search and hiring process was put in motion which eventually ended in the hiring of Dale Hille as the new Fire Chief. Chief Hille comes from Grant County and brings a strong operational background as well as administrative competence to direct the EVFD. Welcome Chief Hille!

In December of 2020, EVFD hired an administrative assistant, Katelynn Hogan, who will be developing her skills as an administrative assistant as well as learning the accounting and financial duties, backing-up the District Secretary (Jenifer Huitt) in her role. We welcome Kaydee and wish her a long and successful career with EVFD.

Also, late in the year, Avery Rooks was hired as a career firefighter supplementing our day staff response for EVFD. Avery comes to the East Valley from the Sedro-Woolley area of Washington, and comes from a proud firefighter family with his father (Michael Rooks) serving as a Firefighter/Paramedic at Camano Island Fire and Rescue. We welcome Avery and look to a long career with EVFD!

Several other notable activities were part of 2020. They include:

- Received payment for an outstanding 2018 Assistance to Firefighters Grant for purchase of SCBA.
- Surplus of Brush 242, to be sold due to lack of use
- Surplus of Rescue 41 to be sold due to response protocol changes
- Surplus of Rescue 42 to be sold due to response protocol changes

EVFD continued with courtesy fire inspections to the businesses in the area. There are 328 registered businesses within the YCFD4 boundaries. Each shift has responsibilities to visit these businesses and assist them in being alert to any fire safety issues, as well as familiarize themselves with the business in anticipation of a response to an emergency there.

As with any fire department, much of the proof of its health is in meeting response parameters. The following information will allow you to see that EVFD is healthy and responsive to the needs of its citizens. Although there is a need for growth as the communities in the Yakima County Fire District #4 expand, the dedication and skills of the members of EVFD provide the "Peace of Mind" that we all rely on when it comes to our emergency services.

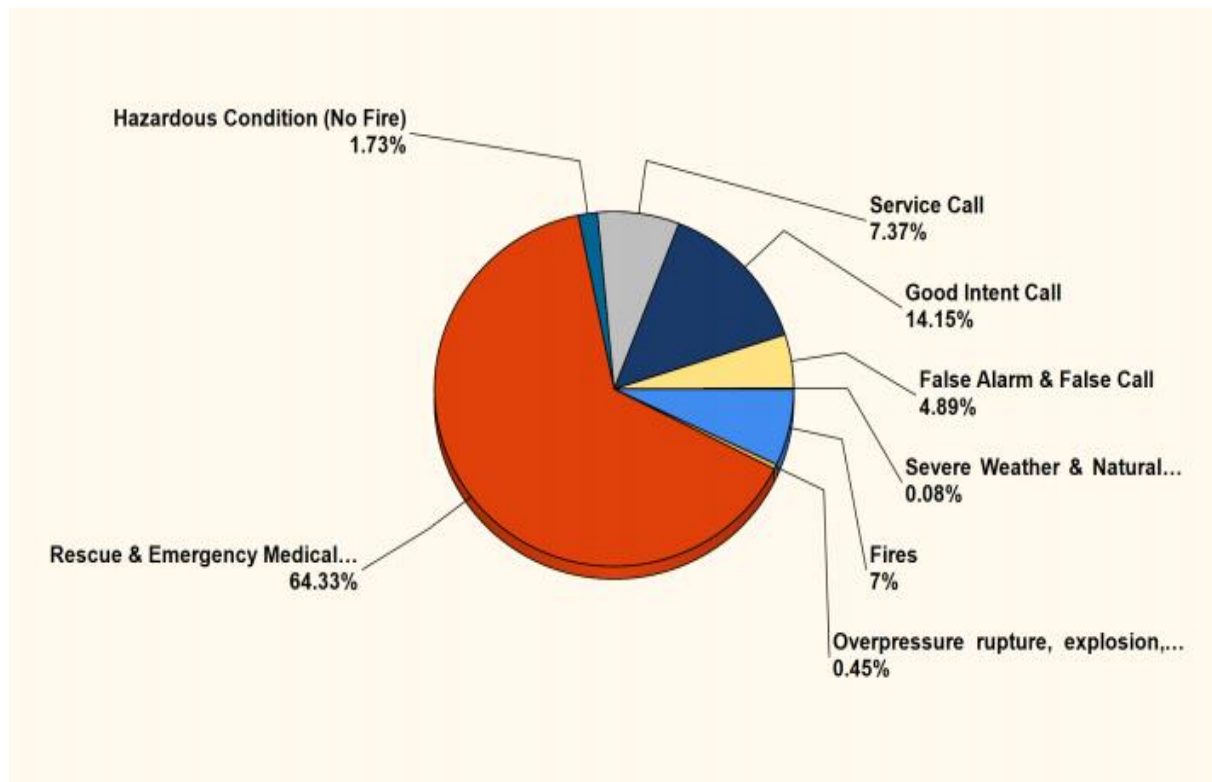
# “THE DISTRICT”

TOTAL CALLS 2019 - 1219

TOTAL CALLS 2020 - 1329

INCREASE 2019 – 2020 = 9.023%

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	93	7%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat - no fire	6	0.45%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	855	64.33%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	23	1.73%
Service Call	98	7.37%
Good Intent Call	188	14.15%
False Alarm & False Call	65	4.89%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	0.08%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1329</b>	<b>100%</b>



Overlapping calls, when one call comes in during a call already in progress, tax the District personnel.

The average for 2020 was:

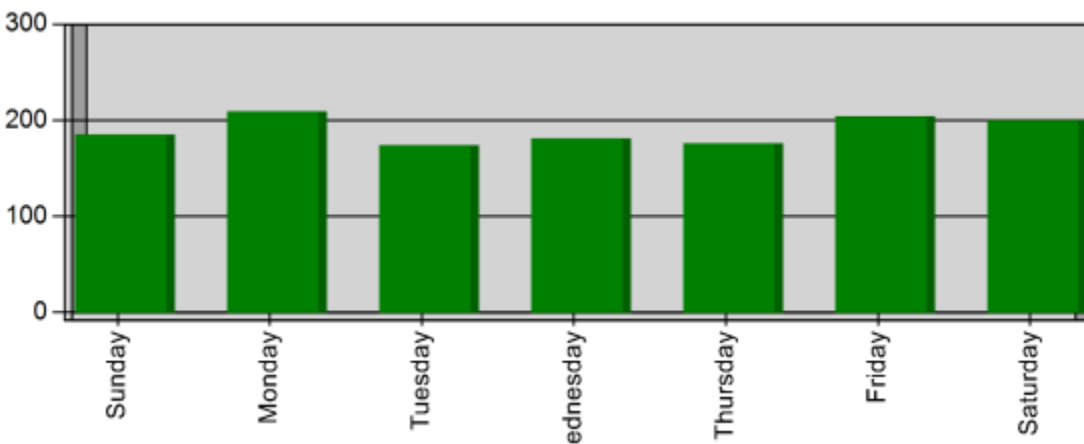
# OVERLAPPING	% OVERLAPPING
185	13.92

This average had months when it was as high as 26%. Yet, the EVFD handled the load with skilled personnel.

Of all the calls, a more detailed look at the calls includes:

- 3% of fires involved structures
- 3% of EMS calls were lift assistance
- 3% of EMS calls assisted physically disabled
- 7% of calls were to investigate circumstances (smoke, storm damage, etc.)
- 10% of calls the crews were cancelled by dispatch en route
- 3% of calls are to assist the public when they have problems they need assistance with
- 57 of the EMS calls were to motor vehicle incidents of all types
- 10 calls for downed power lines
- 45 calls for outside/wildland fires of all types
- Of 519 EMS calls, 337 patients were transported to the hospital

As you can see, calls for emergency service delivery has very little to do with the day of the week.



EVFD also responded 15 times to Mutual Aid requests from our neighboring departments and requested Mutual Aid 2 times.

## **“OUR PERSONNEL”**

EVFD has 15 full time career personnel. Three shifts cover the Fire District working a schedule of 48 hours on and 96 hours off. Each shift has a Captain, a Lieutenant, and two firefighters. Until October of 2020, all four shift personnel were assigned out of station 40 (EVFD main station). In October, the shift split to accommodate staffing the newly remodeled Station 42 in Terrace Heights. This allows the Captain and one firefighter at Station 40 and the Lieutenant and one firefighter to be assigned to Station 42. Station 42 also has a career day-shift firefighter assigned to it as Station 40 has the Training Captain assigned to it to augment the daytime response to 3 personnel for each call for each station. The Fire Chief is also available for response during normal office hours as well as overnight on an as needed basis. During the weekday daytime hours the Fire District meets NFPA standards for response with 6 people (3&3). In the evenings, we are deficient in career staffing, and rely on volunteer firefighters pulling overnight shifts. Although EVFD has a strong core of volunteer responders, there are not enough shift hours pulled in overnight hours to remain compliant.

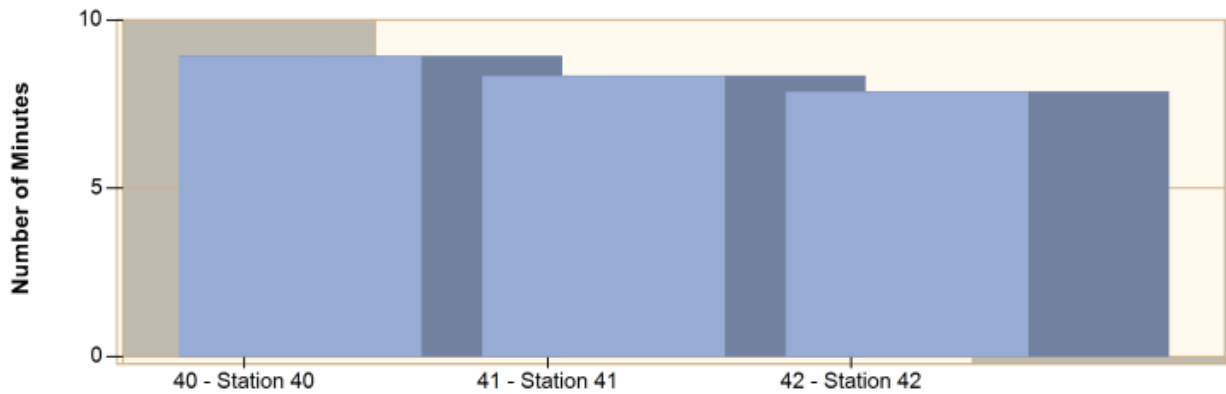
Of the 1329 calls for service in 2020, volunteers responded, on average, for the year to 42 calls each. This is with a high of 114 and a low of 4 calls for the volunteer firefighters. 3 of 20 volunteers responded to over 100 calls. In 2020, and partially due to the Covid 19 issue, we lost 3 volunteer firefighters bringing our total at the end of 2020 to 20 volunteer firefighters.

**Volunteer firefighters gave 3363 hours of their time pulling shifts to benefit the career coverage of the Fire District.**

There was 3656 hours of training accomplished in 2020 with both career and volunteer firefighters. Volunteer firefighters spent 1647 total man hours, or an average of 82 hours per individual training for their craft. Several of the people included in this figure were completing their recruit courses and probationary year, totaling approximately 160 of training each.

## “OUR RESPONSE”

In 2020, the response model for EVFD was changed dramatically. It began morphing in March as the Covid 19 pandemic changed how we looked at patient interaction, or interaction with the public in general. More time was allotted for donning of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to keep our responders as safe as possible. In October, when Station 42 began having 24 hour coverage, the model changed again. Responding by zones was developed for the “two halves” of the Fire District (Moxee area and Terrace Heights area), as well as the surrounding rural community. This change of response has skewed the 2020 data, yet we can still get a good picture of the response times and turnout times. Please note that when you see “Station 41” as a zone, it is now incorporated into the Station 40 response zone.



STATION	AVERAGE RESPONSE MM:SS (Dispatch to Arrived)
40 - Station 40	8:55
41 - Station 41	8:20
42 - Station 42	7:51

NFPA 1720, the standard that governs combination volunteer/career fire departments sets parameters of response (tone to arrival) between 10 and 14 minutes 80% of the time, depending on population density for the area. Although we were deficient in the minimum staffing required (between 6 and 10) to deploy, we met the time parameters 100% of the time. This is a true indicator of the training level and response agility of the staff of EVFD. Please keep in mind that for 9 months of 2020, the response to calls was all coming from Station 40, when over 50% of the calls were in what is now the zone for station 42. We anticipate these response times to diminish in the coming years with the staffing of Station 42.

On average, the turnout time (Dispatch to Enroute time) was 2 minutes for EMS calls, and 4 minutes for fire calls (personnel dress for fire calls before checking enroute).

STATION	TURNOUT TIME (min) (Dispatch to Enroute)
40 - Station 40	3:24
41 - Station 41	2:37
42 - Station 42	3:02
<b>AVERAGE TURNOUT TIME:</b>	<b>3:01</b>

## **“The Future”**

As 2021 unfolds, we will be constantly vigilant on what we can do to make our personnel and our citizens safer in their daily life. It will be a year where we need to “let the dust settle” a bit after the Corona Virus and personnel changes we saw in 2020, yet at the same time continually progress and move forward in our administrative function as well as our operational efficiency.

We welcome input from our members as well as the public on how we can improve. Some changes take time and careful consideration, while other changes may be easily implemented that increase efficiency with a small adjustment. Whatever the case, we are open to new and innovative ideas to help us serve better.

We have a strong and proud tradition in the East Valley Fire Department of selfless service to our people and those we serve. This will not change. The dedication of our personnel, both career and volunteer is unwavering and strong. We look forward to the coming year and providing the best service and “Peace of Mind” to our people.