



LFD Firefighters reload hose after a fire.

*Lacey Fire District 3
Annual Report
2014*



March 2015

From the Fire Chief



It is my pleasure to highlight the record-setting activities of 2014 here at Lacey Fire District 3 (LFD3).

First, we set a record for incident responses and exceeded our 2013 levels by approximately 10%, a significant growth in just a single year. Even in the midst of this increase in response volume, we were able to maintain consistent response times and actually saw a decrease in the average dollar loss sustained by our citizens who suffered a fire on their property in 2014.

Next, we experienced the highest level of approval for a levy restoration by our voters since we have been keeping those records. We are truly thankful for the level of trust and support demonstrated by you our citizens, and we are committed to remaining faithful stewards of the resources you provide to our agency in order to allow us to effectively serve and protect our growing community.

Another significant milestone attained in 2014 was the improvement in our fire protection rating by the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB). The WSRB rates all fire protection jurisdictions in the state, around 700 in total, and we earned a position in the top 5% among fire districts. The direct impact of these improvements is to hold down the cost of insurance for our property owners. I want to thank both the City of Lacey and Thurston County for partnering with LFD3 in these efforts.

Other significant accomplishments for the year included continued updates to our apparatus fleet by replacing our oldest in service unit, a 1990 water tender, and our command unit operated by our Battalion Chiefs. Both of these purchases were made without the need for additional indebtedness. New financial software for managing budgeting, payroll, and accounts payable/receivable was implemented to streamline processes. Our newly formed Citizens Advisory Committee remained active throughout 2014 and has been a great asset to the Board of Fire Commissioners and staff to serve as a sounding board for new and innovative ideas on how best to deliver services.

Thank you for taking the time to check in and read a bit about our agency. I must also say thanks to the dedicated men and women, career and volunteer, who make our organization such a great place to serve.



Lacey Fire District Overview

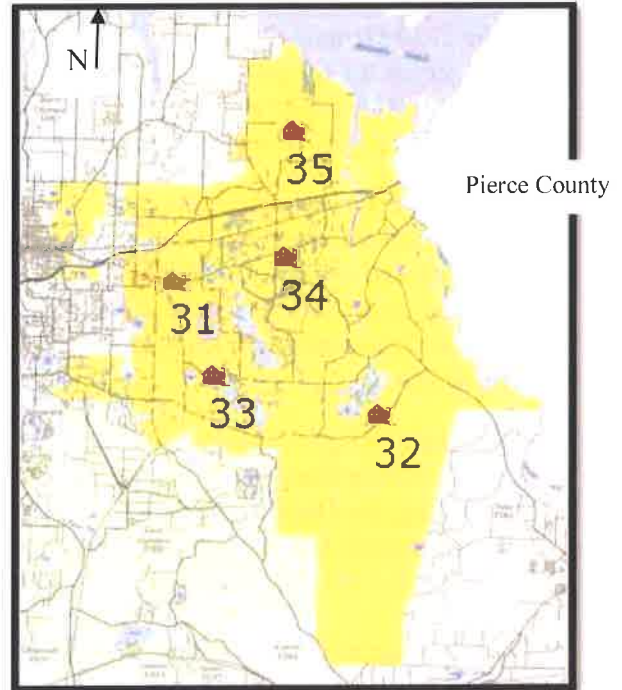
Lacey Fire District 3 began operations in 1948. The current boundaries include the Nisqually River to the East, the City of Olympia to the West, Fire District 8 to the North and Fire District 6 and Joint Base Lewis McCord to the South. Within the District boundaries are the City of Lacey and the Nisqually Indian Reservation. These boundaries encompass about 70 square miles and approximately 88,941 people.

Lacey Fire District protects an assessed valuation of more than \$8.3 billion dollars, which includes a mix of residential and commercial occupancies as well as agricultural and undeveloped wildland. The District holds a Class 3 rating from the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau throughout most of the District.

The District area is shown at the right, with our five stations; Station 32 is the resident volunteer station.

Services are provided throughout the District from four 24-hour staffed stations strategically located throughout the community. A 5th station, with volunteer residents, provides additional coverage in the south east area of the District. Each of these stations has an Engine company of three career firefighters; the volunteer firefighters provide a 4th crewmember on at least one engine about 90% of the time. Station 34 on Steilacoom Road also has a staffed Medic Unit. Station 31, the headquarters station on Franz St SE, has a staffed Engine, Ladder Truck and Medic unit, as well as the Battalion Chief operating from that station. The District also operates a 3rd Medic Unit, located in the Yelm area.

The District is governed by an elected five-member Board of Fire Commissioners. The District operates as a combination agency, with both career employees and volunteer members. In 2014, the District had 92 career firefighters and officers, and fifteen volunteer firefighters. Additional employees and volunteers support the service delivery mission through administrative and support functions.



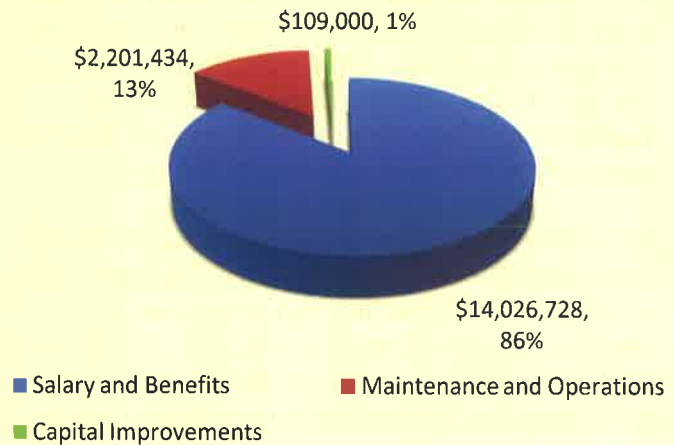
Overview, cont

The 2014 General Operating budget for the District was \$16.3 million, with salary and benefits comprising 86% of total expenses.

2014 revenue included more than \$1 million from SAFER grant funding and approximately \$3.6 million from the Thurston County Medic One contract for paramedic services.

Through thoughtful spending and regular comprehensive financial reporting, the District ended 2014 with General Operating expenses coming in 12% under budget.

2014 District Operating Budget



CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

Paramedic services in Thurston County are coordinated through a central Thurston County Medic One (TCMO) office that contracts with fire service agencies for service delivery. Lacey Fire District 3 operates three of the seven Medic Units in Thurston County, and the District's contract with TCMO covers approximately 80% of the costs of providing those services.

Other intergovernmental agreements provide for efficiencies in District operations:

- Vehicle maintenance – a cooperative agreement between the City of Olympia benefits both agencies; City of Olympia emergency vehicle certified mechanics operate out of the District 3 vehicle repair facility & provide fleet maintenance services to District apparatus and other contracting agencies.
- Training – City of Olympia and Lacey Fire District 3 firefighters trained approximately three days per week in 2014 at the Mark Noble Regional Training Center practicing tactics and skills in Fire Ground Safety & Survival, live fire and Incident Command.
- Special Operations and Rescue Team (SORT) – a county-wide team responds for a variety of specialized rescue needs; the District has several members on that team alongside responders from five other participating agencies.
- Thurston County Sheriffs Water Rescue Operations – the District has three members that participate on the TC sheriffs Dive Team. We also provide swift water rescue services on the Nisqually River in partnership with the Sheriff's Department.

Response Overview

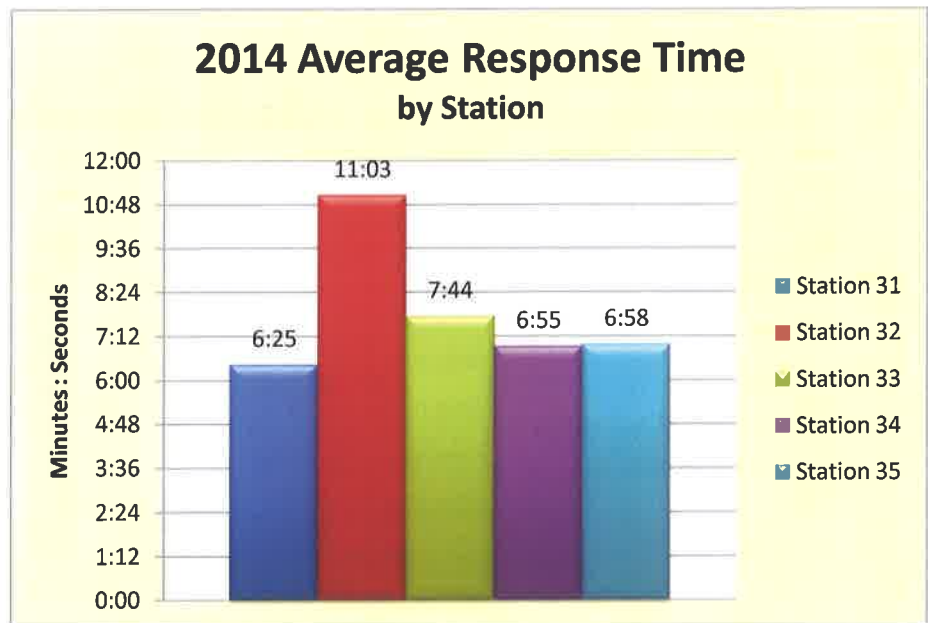
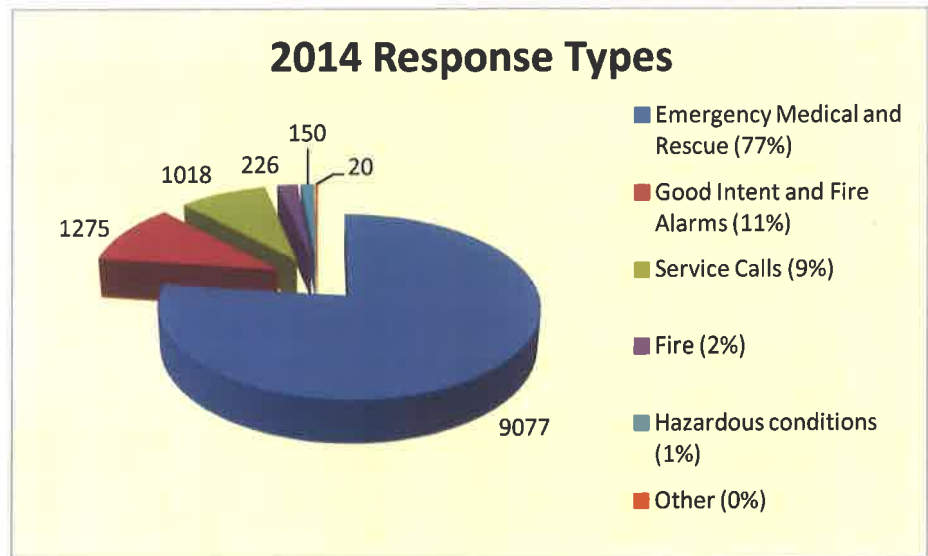
In 2014 the District responded to 11,766 calls for assistance.

Emergency medical services (EMS) and rescue responses included both basic life support (5,579) responses) and advanced life support (3,326 responses) types of calls, as well as rescues from trees, bodies of water and machinery. EMS – type calls comprise about 77% of all District calls for assistance.

For all calls within the District, our average response time varies by Station area. Response time is the time segment from alarm to arrival.

Stations with 24-hour staffing (31, 33, 34 and 35) are able to achieve quicker response times overall.

The District's *Response Time Compliance Report* provides the performance information required to meet 52.33 RCW Performance Measures, and is available on our website.



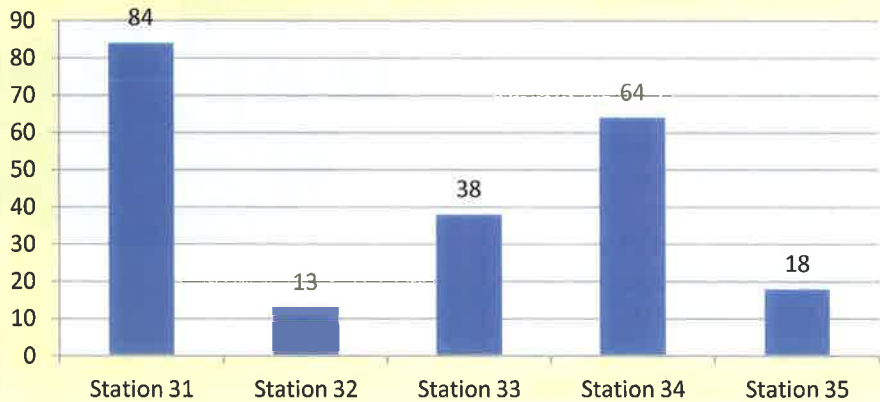
Community Fire Report

There were slightly over 200 fire calls in the District area in 2014. The District also responded with mutual aid to fires in other districts or cities for a total of 226 fire related responses.

By Station area, fires occurred according to the distribution chart at the right.

This includes house fires, chimney fires, vehicle fires, wildland fires and other types of fires such as dumpster fires or stove top fires that are kept to the stove top.

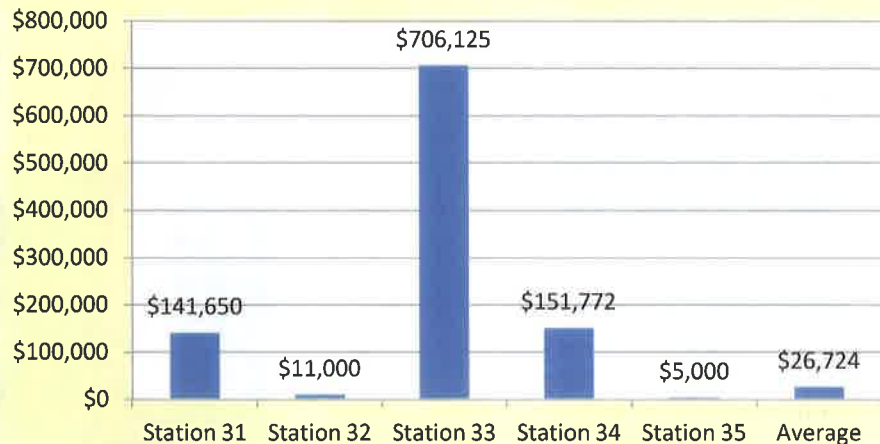
Fires in District Area, 2014 By Station



The total fire loss for the District was just over \$1 million in 2014, slightly under the total fire loss for 2013. The average fire loss dropped about 33%, from \$39,973 in 2013 to \$26,724 in 2014.

There were no civilian fire related deaths in 2014.

2014 Fire Losses by Station Area



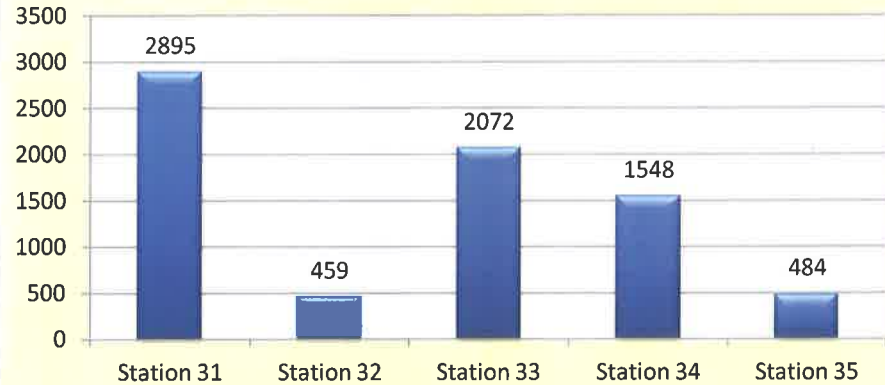
Emergency Medical Responses

Lacey Fire District responded to 9,077 emergency medical calls in 2014; of those calls, 8128 were within the District boundaries. The remainder of the EMS calls had a District 3 EMS unit, generally a medic van, but were outside of District 3.

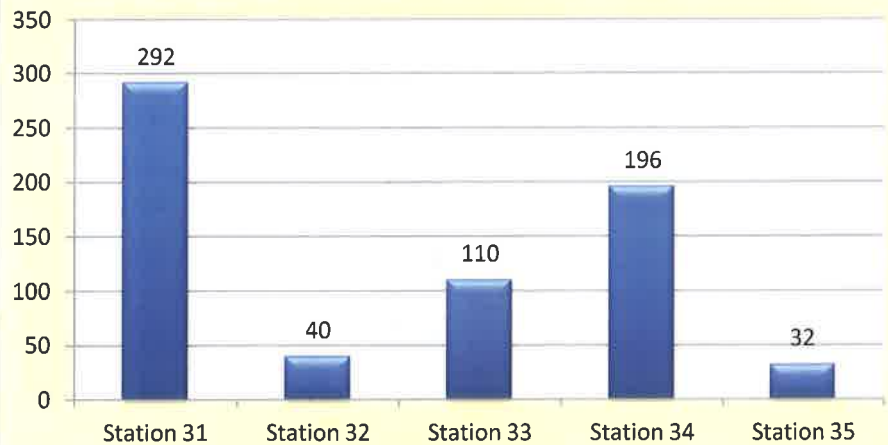
The District provides both advanced life support, or paramedic responses, and basic life support, calls that are managed by emergency medical technicians or EMTs. In 2014 the emergency medical needs of our callers was divided as 63% basic life support and 37% advanced life support.

Lacey Fire District also responded to more than 650 motor vehicle accidents in the District area.

2014 Emergency Medical Calls By Station

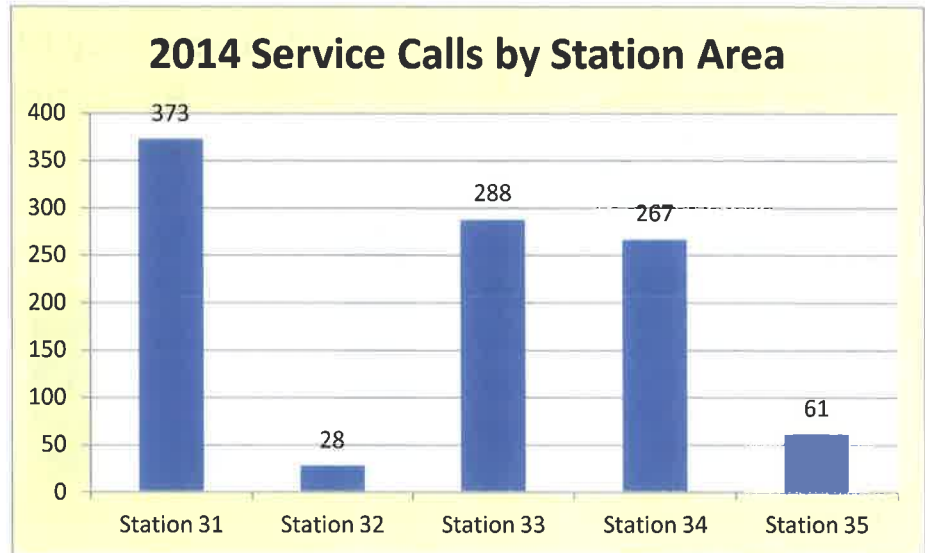


Motor Vehicle Accidents

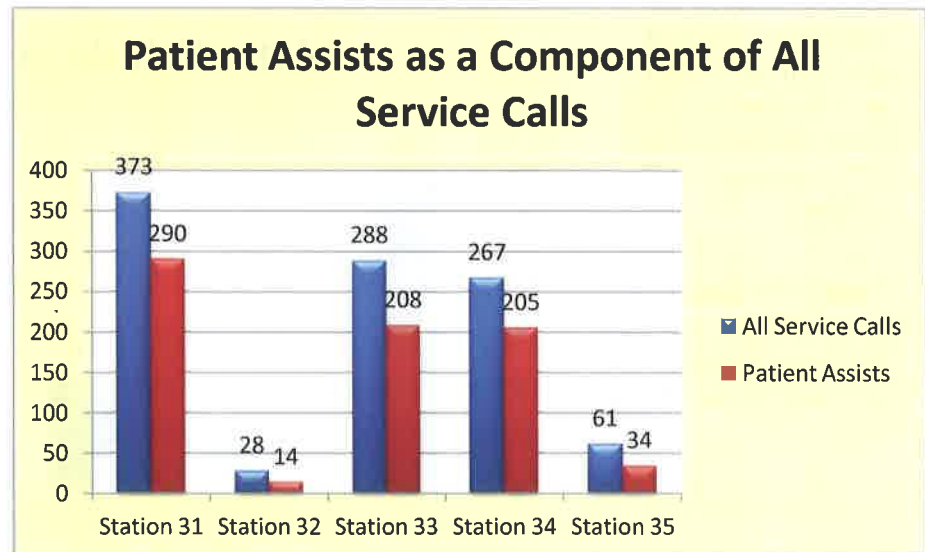


Service Calls

After EMS calls, the second most frequent call type is service calls, accounting for about 8.5% of all calls the District is dispatched for. Lacey Fire District responded to over 1,000 service calls in 2014. These calls ranged from broken water pipes to outdoor burning complaints, to assisting citizens who had fallen but had no medical complaint (patient assists).



Patient assists account for 74% of all the service calls, and on a volume basis, accounts for 6% of the entire 2014 call volume.



Community Involvement

One of the biggest surprises of 2014 was related to our social media presence. The crews responded to a structure fire in a modular home; the family had made it out but the family pets – hamsters – were still inside. The crew rescued “Oreo” and “Madonna” and their babies; the tweeted photo of oxygen being administered to one of the babies went viral. The tweeted message also highlighted our pet first aid equipment, which had been purchased through a generous donation from citizens several years ago.



Presentations on the District’s current operations and future needs were made to Homeowner Associations, service groups, elected officials, and other organizations. Apparatus with responders participated at community events, and staff members provided static displays on fire service safety and emergency preparedness throughout the year.

Thurston County has one of the highest cardiac arrest “save” rates in the nation, and District 3 responders have one of the highest rates in the County. In addition to focusing on our responder efforts in CPR, the District provides CPR training to seventh –graders throughout the District. This “CPR7” curriculum is specifically designed to positively impact that age group regarding the ease and benefits of performing CPR. High schoolers, who now have a CPR requirement for graduation, were also recipients of CPR training by District emergency responders.

The District hosted regular monthly child and infant car seat installation sessions throughout 2014. When confronted by a variety of straps and attachment points and a myriad of other details, many new parents were very relieved to have their car seat installed and inspected by our professionals.

October 2014 brought focused involvement in all the District area elementary schools. All 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders in all schools, public and private, received age –appropriate fire safety education delivered by the firefighters in the classroom.



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