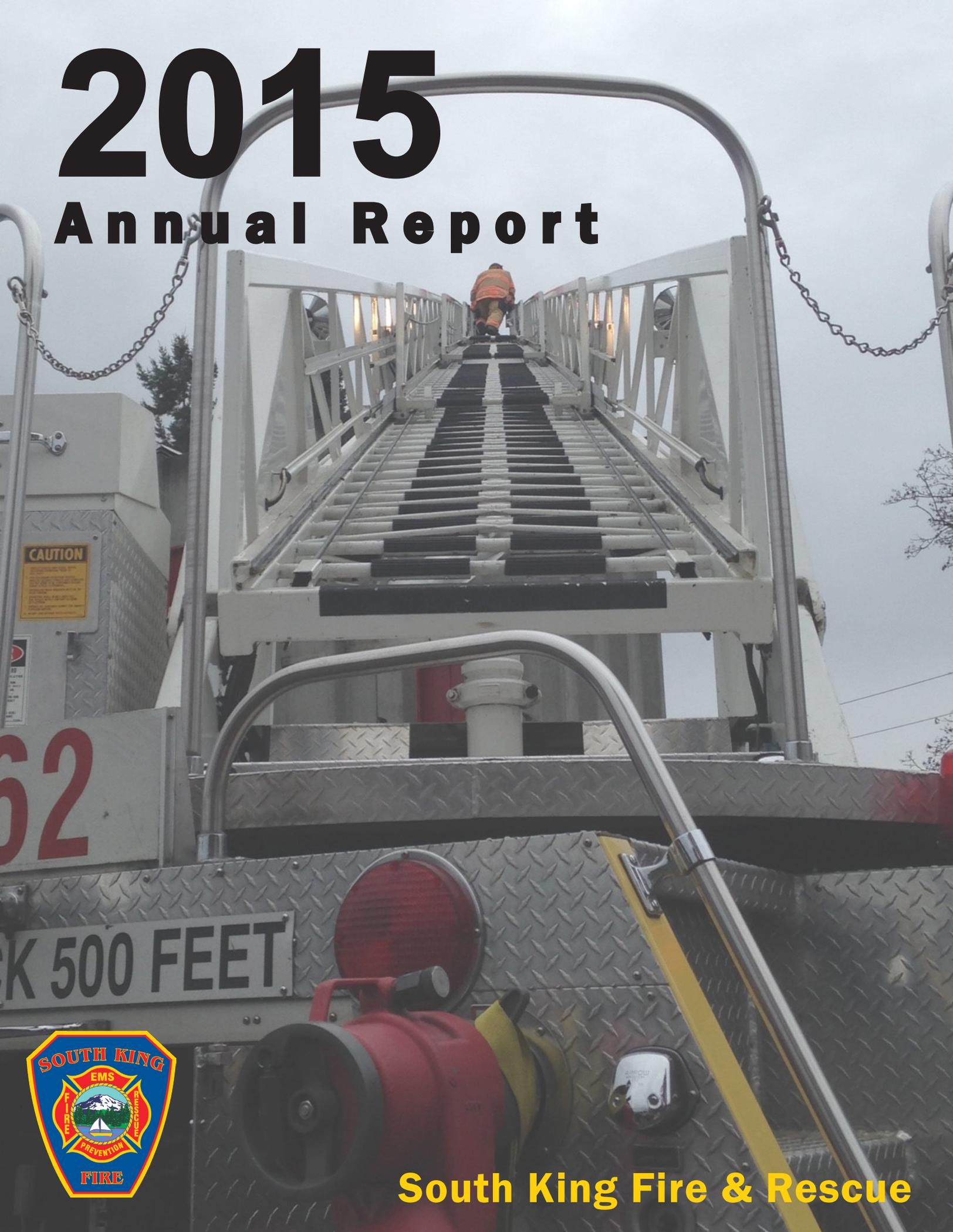


2015

Annual Report



South King Fire & Rescue



Our Mission

We help people by responding with professional Fire Department services.

Our Vision

To be a Regional Leader in providing quality Fire Department services.

Our Principles

- Meet or exceed the customer's needs
- Perform your duties safely
- Keep it clean and professional
- Be honest, respectful, loyal and communicate openly
- Help each other succeed
- Continually improve your skills
- Be prepared to perform
- Help to provide achievable solutions
- Never walk past a mistake
- Be responsible for your actions
- Finish what you start
- Take care of each other; treat each other with respect
- Follow the rules
- Serve with pride
- Hold ourselves and each other accountable
- Support these guiding principles

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Fire Chief/Administrator's Message



Al Church
Fire Chief/Administrator

I am both pleased and proud to be able to present to our community this Annual Report covering the activities of South King Fire & Rescue (SKF&R) for 2015.

The efforts of the entire fire department are contained within this brief overview of all the activities that took place during 2015. We are a very busy fire district serving 150,000 citizens within the cities of Federal Way and Des Moines, and a portion of unincorporated King County.

SKF&R responded to 18,349 calls for service in 2015, equating to just over one response every 30 minutes. We provide emergency services related to incidents involving fires, medical, rescue, hazardous materials, marine and a host of other emergent and non-emergent responses. We also provide fire prevention, investigation, and public education services to our communities.

We are proud and honored that our citizens passed a capital bond measure on November 3rd, 2015 with over 60% of our citizens voting in favor of upgrading our fire stations, fire apparatus, and informational technology infrastructure. This \$39 million bond issue will allow the fire district to upgrade our needed infrastructure to be able to meet the needs of our community for the next 20 years as related to our facilities, apparatus, and technology.

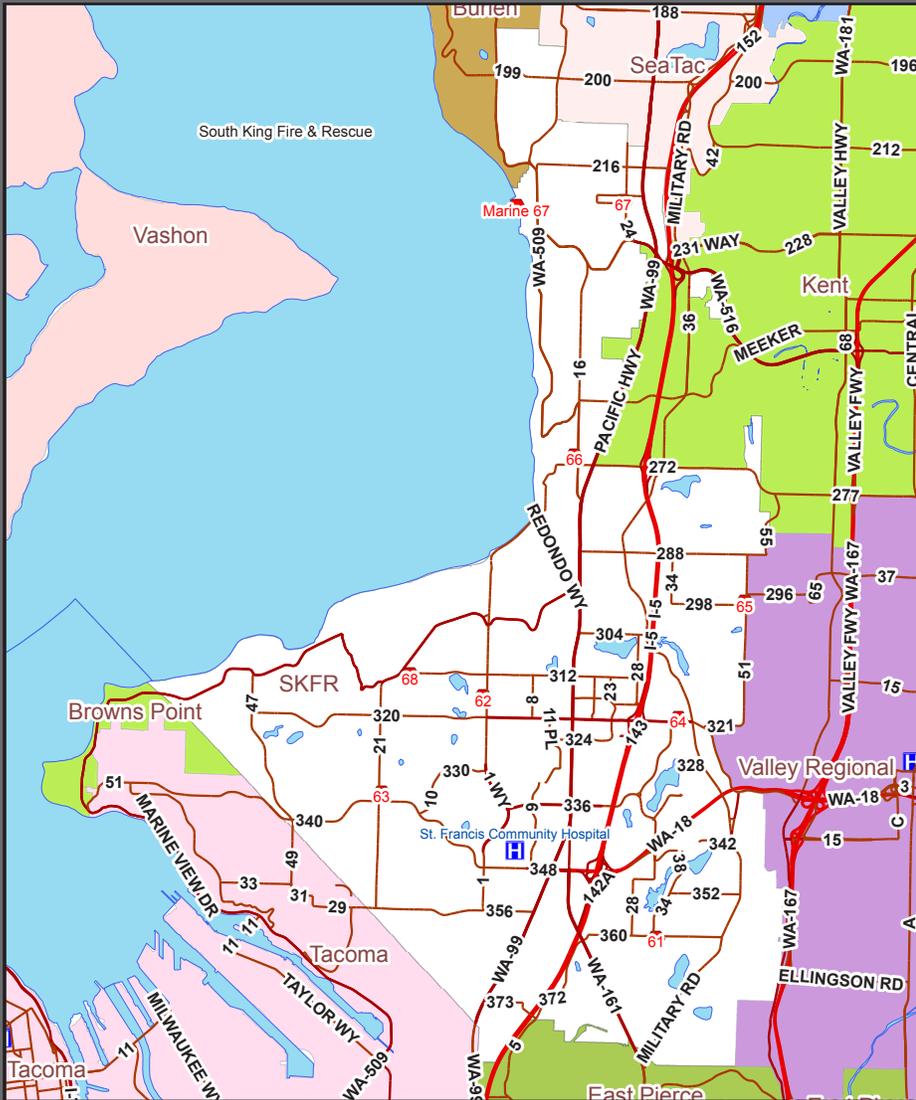
We still have challenges related to our normal revenue to maintain staffing, and thus the Board of Fire Commissioners unanimously decided to place the renewal of our current maintenance and operations levy on the November 8th, 2016 ballot, albeit at a much lower amount (\$2.75 million compared with the current \$3.5 million annually), and a lesser rate (19 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, as compared with the current 29 cents per \$1,000). This proposed levy will require a 60% affirmative vote in order to pass and allow the fire district to maintain its current level of service.

During 2015, the fire district was recertified with a Class 2 insurance rating by the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau, which is the best in the state (matched only by the Seattle, Bellevue, and Olympia fire departments). Having achieved and maintained a Class 2 in Federal Way and a Class 3 in Des Moines means we have saved our citizens and business owners large amounts of money on their annual insurance premiums (the difference between a Class 2 and a Class 4 routinely results in a 20-25% increase in insurance premiums), while maintaining a Standard-of-Cover to rapidly respond and mitigate fires, emergency medical incidents, and any other emergency that may occur in the district. In addition, Standard and Poors recertified the fire district with a AA+ Bond rating, which is the best rating in the State of Washington for a fire district. We are pleased and honored to have achieved these high ratings for our citizens.

In the final analysis, the leadership within the Fire District from the elected Board of Fire Commissioners throughout the entire organization, continues to work together with the simple goal of ensuring we live up to our Mission Statement:

We help people by responding with professional Fire Department services.

Service Area & Response



Total Employees
153

Firefighters & Officers
127

Emergency Responses
18,349

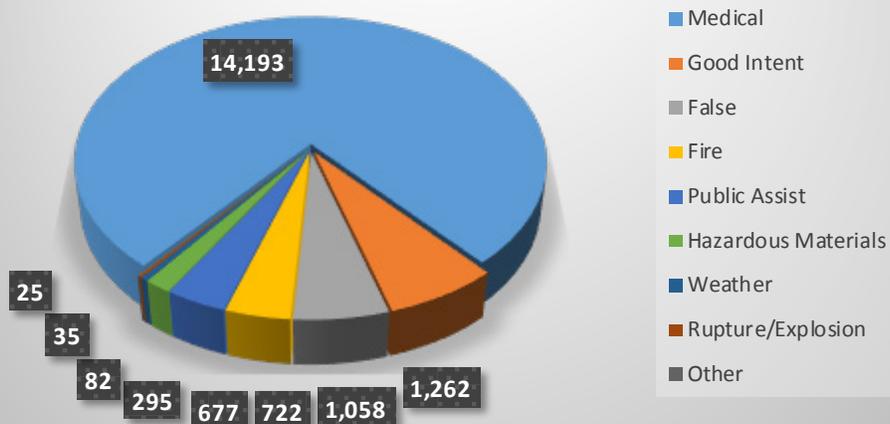
Square Miles
41

Citizens Protected
150,000

Assessed Value
\$13,094,099,032

Operating Budget
\$25,739,269

2015 Call Volume 18,349



Board of Fire Commissioners

SKF&R is governed by an elected Board of Fire Commissioners. The 5-member Board consists of representatives from the Fire District, each serving a 6-year term. The Board, working closely with the Fire Chief/Administrator, holds monthly public meetings, establishing Fire District policy and maintaining responsibility for the District's annual budget, long-range planning and strategic goals.

The Board of Fire Commissioners are pleased to share with you the accomplishments of SKF&R in 2015: as one of the largest stand-alone fire districts in the State of Washington, in existence since 1949, we are pleased and proud to be able to report that we have maintained our insurance ratings of Class 2 in Federal Way and Class 3 in Des Moines while continuing our conservative budgeting approach. We are also proud that the fire district was recertified with a AA+ Bond rating by Standard and Poors, the highest rating of any fire district in the state. This demonstrates the highly professional staff we have in place from top to bottom.



Mark Thompson, Commissioner

James Fossos, Vice Chair of the Board

William "Bill" Gates, Chair of the Board

John Rickert, Commissioner

Mark Freitas, Commissioner

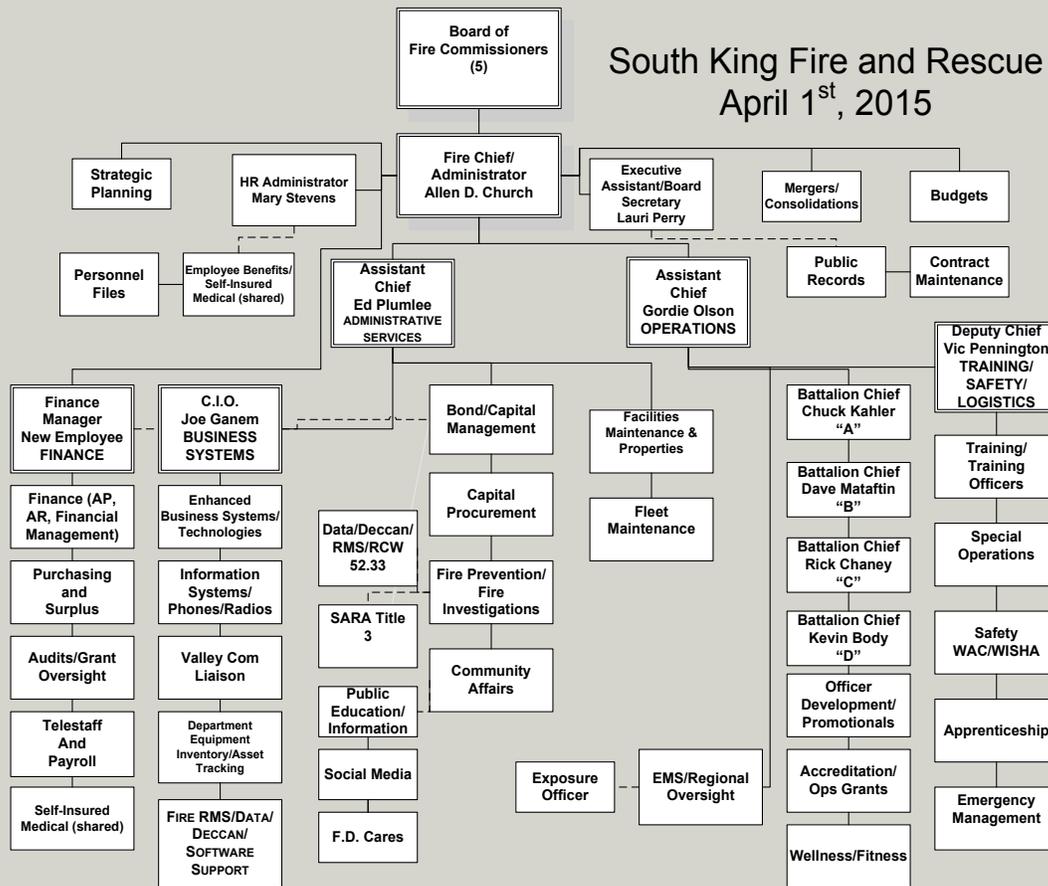
Our goal is to ensure that SKF&R meets the needs of our growing community: whether it is maintaining or upgrading our apparatus, facilities or equipment; or ensuring that we have the funds necessary to maintain our Fire District. We are here to serve the communities of Federal Way, Des Moines, and a portion of unincorporated King County.

Thank you for your ongoing support. It has allowed us to live up to our mission statement on a daily basis.

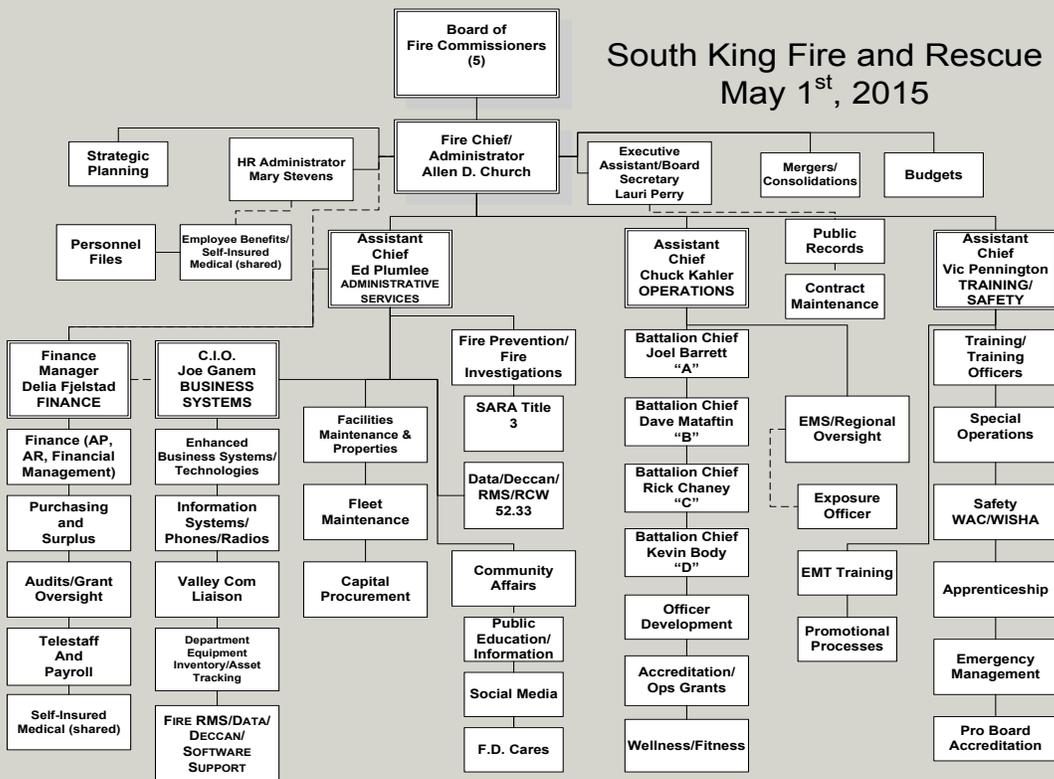


Organizational Charts

South King Fire and Rescue April 1st, 2015



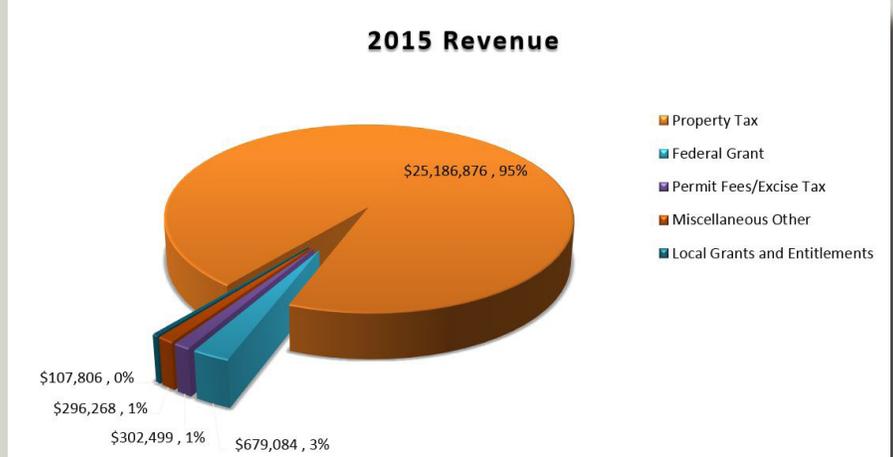
South King Fire and Rescue May 1st, 2015



Finance

REVENUE

Overall District revenues increased from \$25,322,440 collected in 2014 to \$26,572,532 in 2015 (\$1,250,092 increase or 4.9%). In addition, the District collected on its third year of the \$3.5 million Maintenance and Operations Levy approved by the citizens within the SKF&R community. The District also collected \$679,084 in federal funds awarded to the District to enhance staffing. Fortunately, property tax values continued to improve by a moderate increase in 2014 and 2015. The Maintenance and Operations Levy that the citizens of SKF&R passed in August of 2012 with a 60.3% vote, coupled with stabilizing assessed valuations, enables staffing levels to be maintained for SKF&R in the long-term. The chart to the right represents the sources of revenue for the District.

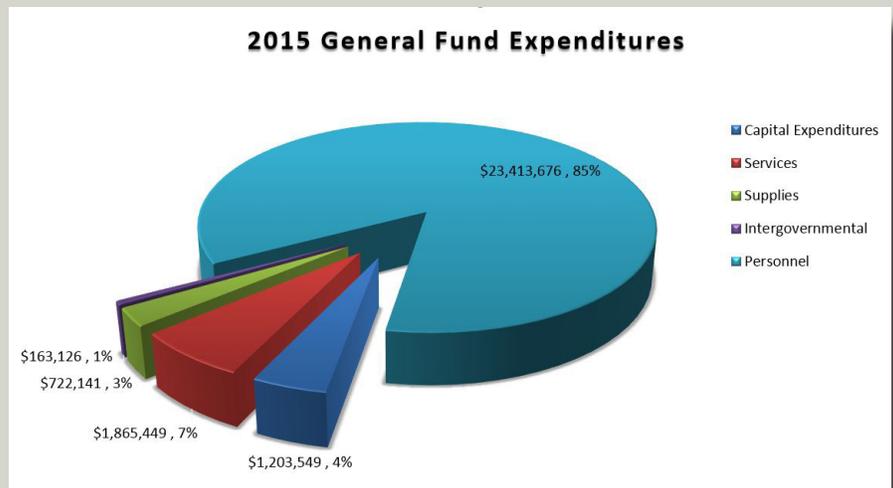


GO BOND

In November 2015, the citizens served by our District approved the \$39M bond issue put on the ballot, successfully passing with a 61.69% “Yes” vote. The bond proceeds will be used to maintain the District’s capital infrastructure (apparatus, facilities and equipment).

EXPENDITURES

The District’s operating expenses for 2015 were \$26,164,392, capital expenditures were \$1,203,549, and the net operating increase to the general fund was \$408,140. The District’s capital expenditures in 2015 represented a combination of Federal Grant matching, necessary capital ancillary equipment for the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus purchase not funded by the Federal Grant, and two additional Thermal Imaging Cameras which were also not funded by the Federal Grant. As reflected in the chart to the right, salaries and benefits represent the vast majority of the district’s expenditures representing a total of 85% in 2015.



Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) Division maintains responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the Fire District's computer network and communications infrastructure. The infrastructure consists of servers, computer workstations, laptops, tablets, mobile data computers, and hundreds of emergency response radios. Additionally, computer-projected training facilities and a computer lab/ Emergency Operations Command Center keep staff trained and ready to respond. All locations have video- conferencing capabilities and are connected via a dark fiber-optic backbone. The IT Division has one full-time and two part-time employees working under the direction of IT Director Joe Ganem.



In the realm of firefighting, the IT Division's core mission is to support the technological conduit between firefighters and the citizens we serve. To improve operational continuity, we use technology to enhance communication to our firefighters working the front line. IT ensures that appropriate technologies are implemented in a way that serves SKFR's most important goal – serving the public.



In 2015, Internet-born threats caused temporary data corruption to noncritical areas of the fire department's server system. As a result, the division revamped internal network security standards and upgraded critical components. After repairing corrupted data, Internet and email security solutions were replaced and security was hardened to further protect the critical infrastructure that supports emergency response. Although the damage was limited, it stressed the importance of adequate funding for timely replacements of core technologies.

Prevention Division

The Prevention Division is staffed with the Fire Marshal, Assistant Fire Marshal, Community Affairs Officer, and five Deputy Fire Marshals. The primary focus of the Prevention Division is education, engineering, code enforcement and fire investigations.

EDUCATION & PUBLIC INFORMATION

Our Community Affairs Officer provides timely information to the public, and organizes firefighter involvement in the community. Fire and life-safety messages are coordinated and delivered through school activities, nonprofit events, and city-sponsored festivals. Additionally, SKF&R creates and delivers public events such as free CPR classes and open houses in group and individual settings. Timely communication with the media is delivered face-to-face and also accomplished through the use of Twitter and other social media platforms. The division also delivers a youth fire-setter prevention and education intervention program.

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY PLAN REVIEW AND NEW CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS

Our staff is trained and certified for the Fire and Life Safety Review of new construction and remodel plans. We work closely with the City of Federal Way and the City of Des Moines building departments to ensure proposed buildings and remodels are in compliance with Building and Fire Codes. Once the plans are approved and permitted, our Deputy Fire Marshals ensure the work is completed properly and all systems are tested to ensure they will function as designed.



FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

All commercial businesses, schools, public buildings and multi-family residential complexes are inspected annually in an effort to keep the people working and living in these buildings safe and to ensure they are in compliance with the Fire Code. Most of the 3,142 inspections are completed by firefighters assigned to engine companies, with Deputy Fire Marshals assisting when needed. Deputy Fire Marshals also conducted 720 Fire Code Permit Inspections for occupancies that require a permit for hazardous processes such as cutting and welding or storage of hazardous materials.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

Deputy Fire Marshals are trained to determine the origin and cause of fires. They provide this service to the community and they share the duty that requires their response after hours and on the weekends. Engine companies call a Fire Investigator when the cause of a fire is unknown, or the crime of arson is suspected. The on-duty Fire Investigator answered 168 calls in 2015.

NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Several large construction projects were underway in 2015. These projects included a large business park in Des Moines and the new Federal Way High School on Pacific Highway. New residential buildings included: Celebration Senior Living, Kits Corner and High-Point Apartments and the new Federal Way Veteran's Housing Project.

Operations

Firefighter/EMTs respond to fire, medical and rescue incidents from seven different fire stations deployed strategically within the Fire District. The types of calls for service are varied: from major structure fires and cardiac arrests, to lower-acuity responses assisting people who have fallen, but are not injured.

The Operations Division is comprised of four different shifts that provide 24/7/365 coverage. Each shift is comprised of 10 company officers and 17 firefighters. All officers and firefighters are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) with defibrillator training. Each fire engine, ladder truck and aid car has first-aid capabilities, with medical aid equipment and a defibrillator for cardiac arrest patients.

Operations also contains specialty teams for hazardous materials incidents, salt-water marine rescue, technical rescue, and rescue swimmers for fresh and salt-water rescues. The firefighters and officers who are on these specialty teams have the training and certifications to allow them the safest and most efficient response to help people in distress.

Each fire engine and the ladder truck carry one officer and two firefighters. The aid cars carry one officer and one firefighter. Fire engines remain the most versatile fire department apparatus, capable of fire suppression, emergency medical response, and operations level equipment to initiate a hazardous material response, technical rescue, or surface water rescue. The ladder truck carries specialized equipment to assist in forcible entry or ventilating a burning structure, and it has fire hose with a pump to act like a fire engine when necessary.

Aid cars are smaller ambulance type vehicles that respond to medical emergencies as well as fires, extrications, and many other types of responses. Aid cars are normally located in a “dual house” fire station that has an engine or ladder company. In dual houses the aid car is the first unit dispatched to an aid response, with the engine or ladder responding when the aid car is at another call.

There is one battalion chief (BC) on duty each day. The BCs are experts at scene command, assuming control of an incident that requires multiple apparatus to carry out the mission.

In 2015 SKF&R responded to 18,349 alarms, an increase of 4% over 2014. As mentioned later in this report, SKF&R has had two years of significant response growth that will begin to impact response times without a reduction in the rate of growth.



Special Operations

RESCUE TEAM

The Technical Rescue Team consists of 16 highly trained rescue technicians and rescue specialist operating out of Station 64. The team's mantra is "improving readiness every day." This mind set permits a state of operational readiness in the areas of: structure collapse rescue, rope rescue, confined space rescue, swiftwater rescue, trench rescue, and heavy vehicle extrication rescue. Several members of the team are also members of Washington Task Force-1, one of FEMA's 28 national Urban Search and Rescue teams. Members of the team maintain an extensive specialized cache of equipment housed on Rescue 64, able to respond locally as well as regionally.



MARINE TEAM

Marine 67 (M67) is a 32-foot rescue/fire boat that operates in Puget Sound out of the Des Moines Marina with 16 trained pilots. M67 responded to 22 incidents with 397 training hours between all pilots. Pilots were given a tour of the Coast Guard facility and trained 120 hours with the Coast Guard, performing towing, navigation, search and rescue. Training with the Coast Guard was a great opportunity and experience for the pilots of M67. The pilots also spent 32 hours with the Surface Water Swimmer Team which was important training for both teams. Other drill hours were spent on general operation such as pumping, close quarters, fueling, and navigation.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

The HazMat team was originally placed in service in 1982 to address issues with the Weyerhaeuser Technology Center along with the danger of hazardous spills on I-5. As hazardous materials threats have increased over the years, so has our team, which now includes up to 16 firefighters trained as HazMat Technicians. They work hand-in-hand with the HazMat teams of Kent, Renton and Port of Seattle Fire to provide hazmat coverage and leadership for all of Zone 3.

SURFACE WATER SWIMMER TEAM

The Surface Water Swimmer Team continues to be effective in recovering drowning victims in our numerous lakes and Puget Sound. With the exception of the Marine Team, all the other special teams partner with neighboring fire departments to provide expertly trained firefighters to mitigate special response needs. Collaborating with neighboring fire departments provides more consistent training regionally, and the daily staffing to carry out a special response mission without overburdening one department.



Training Division

SKF&R is continuing to experience internal changes as more firefighters continue to retire. Members of the Training Division make every effort to train highly-qualified professional firefighters with the necessary continuing education and training to deliver the Mission of SKF&R: Helping people by responding with professional Fire Department services.

In 2015 the Training Division delivered or facilitated 19,037 hours of departmental training that included continuing firefighter and officer education. The Division is also responsible in managing new hires during their pre-academy, Bates Fire Academy, and post-academy training. In 2015 the Division completed training for eight new recruit firefighters. Firefighter and officer training were offered in conjunction with local and regional training groups that included: King County Training Officers Association, Seattle Paramedic Training, Zone 3 organizations, and Bates Technical College. The Training Division also provided oversight for the updating of departmental hose, ladder, ventilation, and joint apprentice training manuals.



The Training Division staff consists of one assistant chief, two training officers and one administrative assistant. The Training Division is privileged to work with firefighters, fire officers and chiefs that are engaged, skilled trainers that provide support to the Division and throughout our region as leaders and subject-matter experts.

The Training Division makes every effort to meet the challenges of these changing times now and into the future.

Support Divisions



FLEET DIVISION

The Fleet Division is comprised of three Emergency Vehicle Technician Certified Mechanics, including one supervisor. To accomplish the mission of SKF&R requires a fleet of fire engines, aid cars, ladder trucks, haz mat and rescue apparatus, a marine unit, and staff vehicles (totaling 54 vehicles). These mechanics accomplish the daunting task of maintaining all apparatus for emergency response. Along with normal drive-train maintenance, most of our apparatus have specialty-type equipment such as fire pumps, gurneys, emergency lighting, mobile radios, on-board computers, and a host of other equipment that requires on-going maintenance. The mechanics play an important role in maintaining a safe and timely emergency response to our community.

Since 2010 SKF&R has not purchased any large capital equipment, mostly due to the great recession. In 2015 Fleet worked with SKF&R Commissioners and Administration to identify fleet vehicle replacement needs that were added to a Bond measure placed before voters in April and again in November. The Bond passed in November of 2015. Starting in early 2016, funds from this Bond will be used to replace much needed apparatus.

FACILITIES DIVISION

The Facilities Division currently has one staff member, the Facilities Manager. Prior to 2012 there were three employees, and many station repairs/remodels were conducted by them. Currently, most repairs are being conducted by outside vendors due to the workload of 83,345 square feet of fire station space. Each fire station has components found in a residence, along with office space and a truck bay for equipment. The mechanical systems in each facility need to be maintained constantly, roofs and gutters cleaned regularly, and repairs made to plumbing and electrical repairs, along with many other routine maintenance items.

One other task of the Facilities Division that is important to our citizens is the annual inspection and testing of all 5,875 fire hydrants in the fire district. Each summer students from a nearby technical school are interviewed and hired as temporary employees to conduct hydrant testing. This is a very successful, cost effective program that also allows young men and women that are interested in a firefighting career an opportunity to learn more about the fire service.

SKF&R facilities are in serious need of safety upgrades, including seismic modifications to allow fire stations to operate after a design-level earthquake. Most of our stations were built before seismic upgrades were required by the building code. Consequently, most would suffer some collapse during an earthquake, making it impossible for firefighters to respond to our community. In 2015 the Facilities Division was involved with design teams regarding station safety improvements that were incorporated into the Bond measure. In November, with the passage of the Bond, Facilities began the planning and design work necessary to improve our fire stations. The construction projects funded by the Bond will begin sometime in 2016 after design and permitting is accomplished. Community members will see signs at the fire stations announcing when the construction projects will begin.



New Hires



Delia Fjelstad
Finance Manager



Julie Westfall
Chaplain



Blair Cottrell
Firefighter



Ryan Dupras
Firefighter



Brian Jack
Firefighter



Sal Somoza
Firefighter

Ann Hoag
Firefighter

James Czekanski
Firefighter

Terry Miller
Firefighter

Jacob Hampson
Firefighter

Annual Awards

20 Years of Service

Firefighter Joe Eliassen
Firefighter Dean Fuller
Lieutenant Barry Hassell
Lieutenant Anthony John

25 Years of Service

Firefighter Gary Bowen
Firefighter Alex Charoni
Lieutenant Ed DeGagne

30 Years of Service

Firefighter Doug Campbell
Firefighter Jeff Hamel
Captain Dan Jones
Firefighter Sven Schievink

40 Years of Service

Assistant Chief Vic Pennington

45 Years of Service

Assistant Chief Chuck Kahler

Officer of the Year

Lieutenant Joel Bergfalk

Firefighter of the Year

Firefighter Ross Anderson

Non-Combat Employee of the Year

Matt Rinehardt

Sustained Excellence Award

Deputy Fire Marshal Vince Faranda

William Martin Award

Joe Ganem, Chief Information Officer

Whitney Bellinghausen Community Service Award

Richard "Dick" Body

Marcel Trotignon Award

Jordan Barrett

Makes Our Life Easier (MOLE) Award

Mary Stevens, Human Resources
Pat, Marilyn & Matt, Finance

Chiefs' Company Award

A Shift - Firefighter Brad Chaney
B Shift - Lieutenant Todd Williams
C Shift - Firefighter Tony Sirgedas
D Shift - Firefighter Kris Lindahl

Stations

STATION 61 (1979): 3203 S 360th St, Auburn, WA



This station is located just east of Wild Waves. The firefighters that staff this station are part of the Hazardous Materials Team that responds to hazardous materials incidents in King County, from the Seattle City border to the Pierce County border.

STATION 62 (1978): 31617 1st Ave S, Federal Way, WA



Administrative and business services for SKF&R are located at Station 62. It is the busiest station in the District. Firefighters oversee the purchase and maintenance of the bunker gear that is worn into hazardous fire environments. SKF&R also maintains a Surface Water Rescue Team, ready to respond to any incident involving water rescue, although the members of this team reside at different stations.

STATION 63 (1964): 33414 21st Ave SW, Federal Way, WA



Station 63 is located in the Twin Lakes area of Federal Way. It is the third busiest station in the district. The Federal Way Police also have a small substation within this station.

STATION 64 (1987): 3700 S 320th St, Auburn, WA



A public memorial honoring those who perished on 9/11 is located in front of this station, on S 320th St just east of I-5. Members of this station are on the Rescue Team, ready to respond to incidents that involve confined spaces or high/low angle rescues. Paramedics from King County Medic One are also housed at this station.

STATION 65 (1968): 4966 S 298th St, Auburn, WA



This facility is located in unincorporated King County. Station 65 is responsible for the logistics of SKF&R including the purchase and distribution of emergency medical equipment and station supplies.

STATION 66 (1966): 27010 15th Ave S, Des Moines, WA



Station 66 is located above Redondo Beach, just west of Pacific Hwy South.

STATION 67 (1970): 2238 S 223rd St, Des Moines, WA



Station 67 is located in Des Moines off the Kent-Des Moines Rd, west of Pacific Hwy South. The Marine Team and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Respiratory Program are located at this station. Paramedics from King County Medic One and their Medical Services Officer also reside in this station, ready to respond to calls in south King County. Station 67 is the second busiest station in the District.

STATION 68 (1964): 1405 SW 312th St, Federal Way



Station 68 houses the Training, Fleet and Facilities Divisions. Firefighters continually drill at this station to keep up their emergency skills, and many training courses are held in the classroom.

CITY HALL

33325 8th Ave S, Federal Way



Federal Way City Hall houses the Fire Marshal's Office. This division works closely with the Cities of Federal Way and Des Moines, along with a small portion of unincorporated King County, to provide inspections, plan review, investigations, and prevention services.

OTHER PROPERTIES

SKF&R owns several parcels of property throughout the Fire District related to future planning and potential growth as necessary. They include the following: 47th Ave SW & Dash Pt Rd, which is available should long-term growth occur in the west portion of the District; S 356th St & Pacific Hwy S, which is available should growth in the south end of the Fire District require an additional fire station; S 288th St and approximately 30th Ave S, in anticipation of future department needs; and S 320th St just east of I-5, upon which a future training and emergency operations center are planned.

Retirements

...representing 257 years of firefighting experience



Chief Financial Officer David Lawson

10/6/2008 - 4/1/2015

7 years of dedicated service as Chief Financial Officer



Lieutenant Pat Soper

4/15/1991 - 6/30/2015

24 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter and Lieutenant



Asst Chief Gordon Olson

9/15/1986 - 4/30/2015

29 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief, Fire Marshal and Asst Chief



Firefighter Dave Smothers

11/28/1979 - 7/31/2015

36 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter



Firefighter Rob Pysher

9/15/1986 - 5/31/2015

29 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter



Deputy Fire Marshal Chris Ingham

5/14/1980 - 11/1/2015

35 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter and Deputy Fire Marshal



Lieutenant Steve Carlman

1/5/1981 - 6/30/2015

34 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter and Lieutenant



Battalion Chief Kevin Body

4/1/1982 - 11/30/2015

33 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain and Battalion Chief



Firefighter John Ronald

12/20/1978 - 6/30/2015

37 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter

SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE

31617 1st Avenue South
Federal Way, WA 98003

www.southkingfire.org

