2016



Annual Report

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OUR VISION

We set the standard for quality fire and emergency services by applying strategic thinking, leadership development, and innovation to maintain financial responsibility and public trust.

Annual Summary



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 (SKFR) for 2016. The efforts of the entire Fire District are contained within this brief overview of activities that took place during 2016. We are very busy serving 150,000 citizens within the cities of Federal Way and Des Moines, and a portion of unincorporated King County.

In 2016 SKFR responded to over 20,000 calls for service, equating to just over one response every 30 minutes. We provided emergency services related to incidents involving fires, medical, rescue, hazardous materials, marine and a host of other emergent and non-emergent responses. We also provided fire prevention, investigation, and public education services to our communities.

We are proud and honored that our citizenry passed a Capital Bond Measure on November 3, 2015, with over 60% of our citizens voting in favor of upgrading our fire stations, fire apparatus, and informational technology infrastructure. We implemented the $39 million bond issue by ordering new fire engines and aid cars, initiated the seismic upgrades at several of our stations, and developed architectural plans for the remaining fire station upgrades. A great deal of work went into the bond issue in 2016, which will be carried forward well into 2017 and beyond.

In order to sustain our current revenue stream, the Board of Fire Commissioners unanimously decided to place the renewal of our current Maintenance and Operations Levy on the November 8, 2016 ballot at a much lower amount ($2.75 million compared with $3.5 million collected annually from 2013 through 2016), and at a lesser rate (19 cents per $1,000 of assessed value, as compared with the previous 29 cents per $1,000). This levy was overwhelmingly supported by our citizenry with a 67% yes vote, far exceeding the required 60%. This levy will assist the Fire District in maintaining its current level of service 2017 through 2020. However, ongoing growth in emergency responses communitywide will challenge the Fire District in years to come, necessitating a strategic look at other revenue options to meet our community's growing needs.

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). Achieving and maintaining a Class 2 allows our citizens and business owners a large savings on their annual insurance premiums (the difference between a Class 4 and a Class 2 routinely results in a 20% to 25% decrease in insurance premiums), while maintaining a Standard-of-Cover to rapidly respond and mitigate fires, emergency medical incidents, and any other emergency that may befall our citizens. 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 maintained 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, continued to work together with the simple goal of ensuring we lived up to our Mission Statement day-in and day-out during 2016: We provide professional fire department services to safeguard the community and enhance quality of life.



Service Area & Response

Total Employees
153

Firefighters & Officers
127

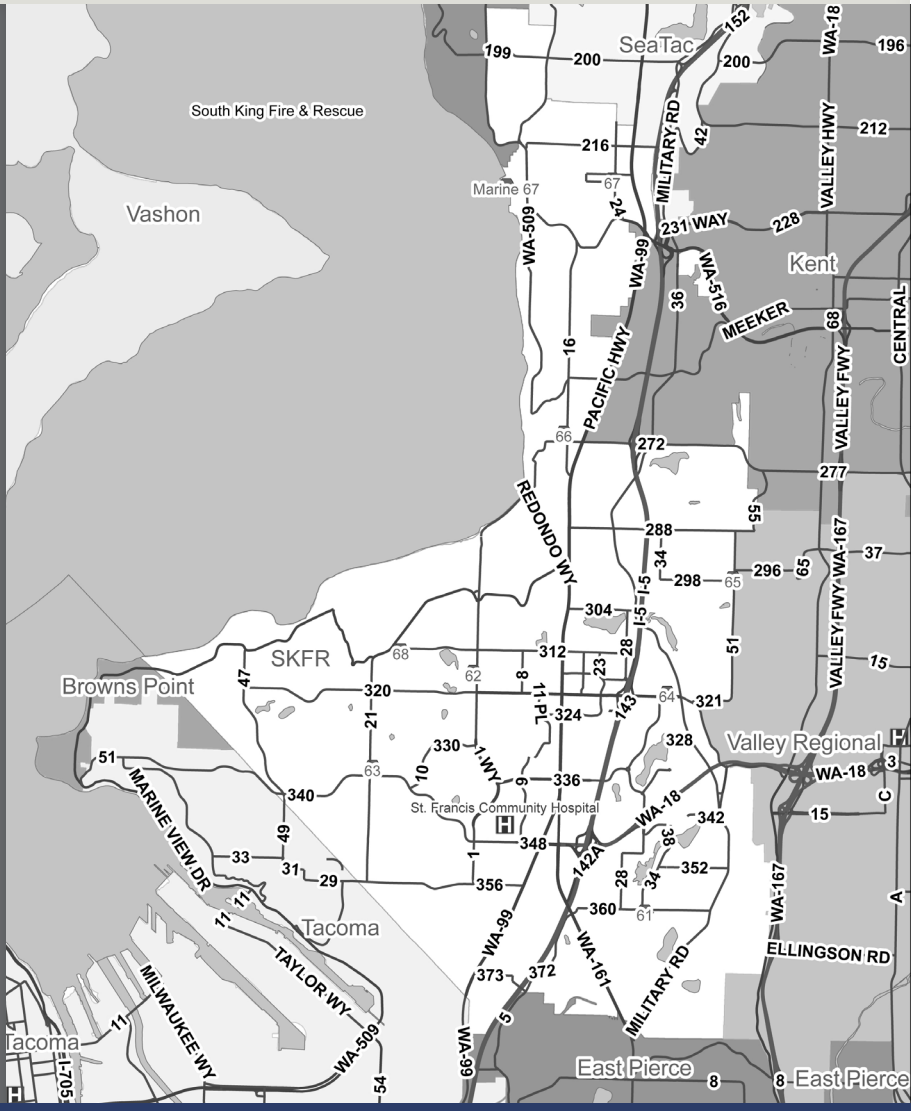
Emergency Responses
20,258

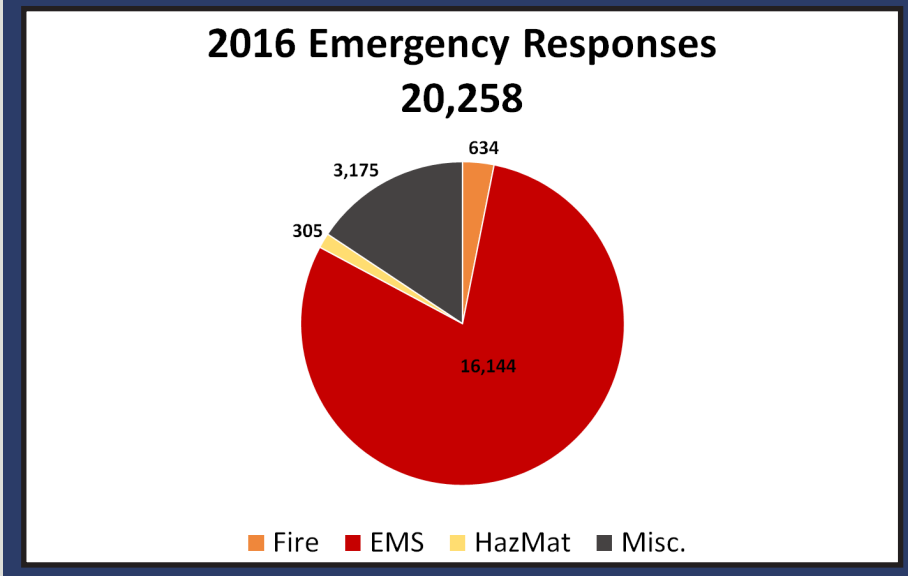
Square Miles
41

Citizens Protected
150,000

Assessed Value
$13,887,569,292

Operating Budget
$28,713,189





Our Mission

We provide professional fire department services to safeguard the community and enhance quality of life.

Board of Fire Commissioners

SKFR 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. Working closely with the Fire Chief/Administrator, the Board holds monthly public meetings, establishing Fire District policy and maintaining responsibility for the District's annual budget, long-range planning and strategic goals.

In existence since 1949 and as one of the largest stand-alone fire districts in the State of Washington, 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 SKFR 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.

Our goal is to ensure that SKFR 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.



James Fossos, Commissioner

Mark Thompson, Board Vice Chair

William "Bill" Gates, Board Chair

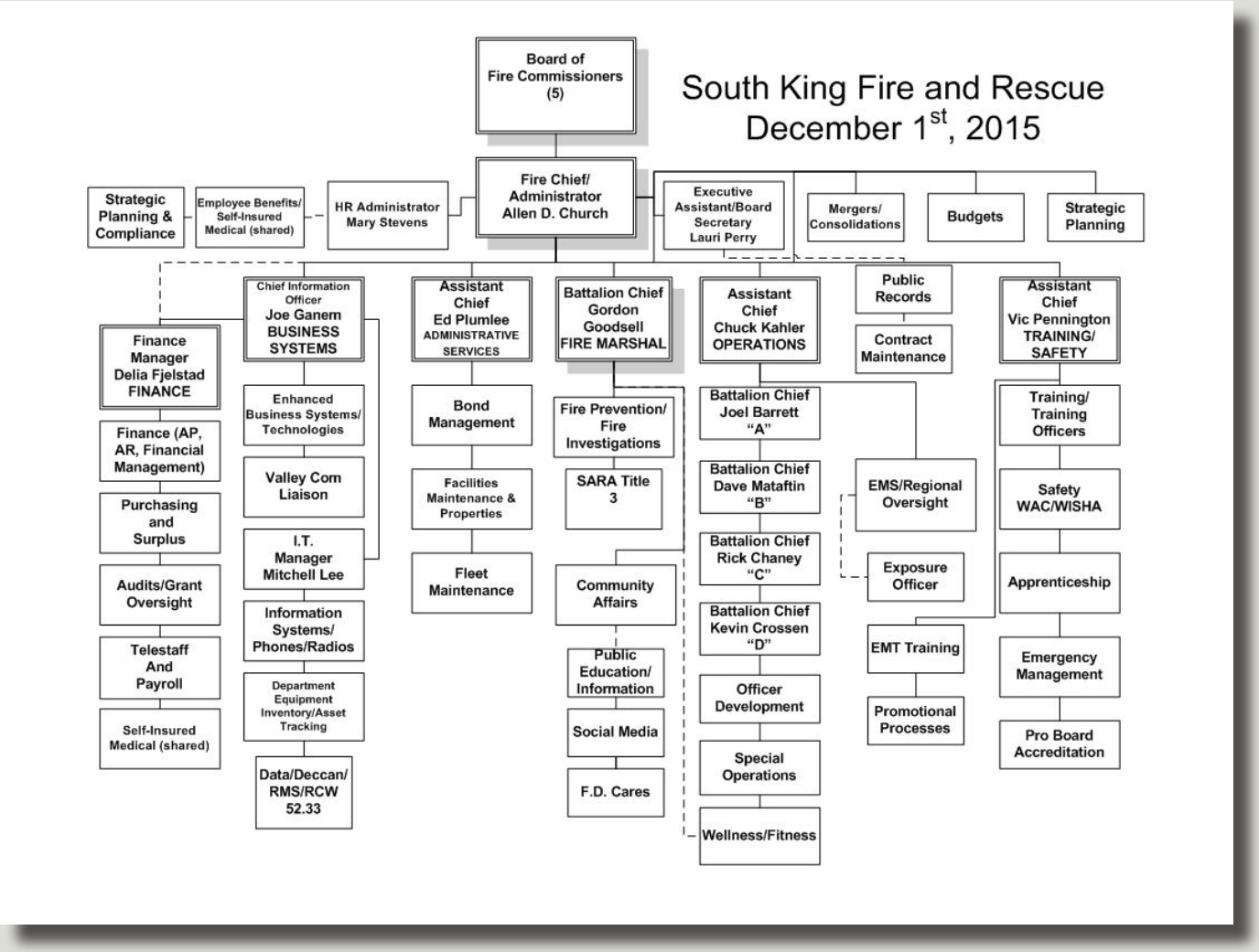
Bill Fuller, Commissioner

John Rickert, Commissioner



Bill Fuller, accompanied by his wife Pat, being sworn in as an SKFR Commissioner by Judge Dave Larson on January 26, 2016

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

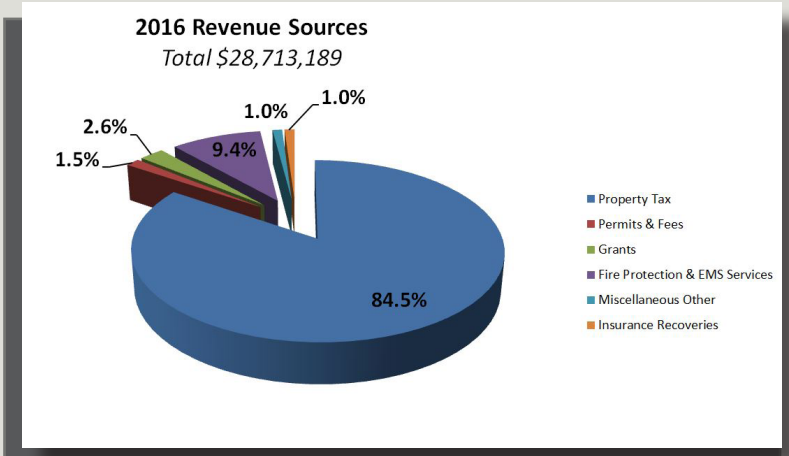
- Meet or exceed the customer's needs
- Perform your duties safely
- Keep it clean and professional
- Be honest, respectful, loyal and communicate openly
- Help each other succeed
- Continually improve your skills
- Be prepared to perform
- Help to provide achievable solutions
- Never walk past a mistake
- 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

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE

Overall District revenues increased from $26,572,532 collected in 2015 to $28,713,189 ($2,140,657 increase or 7.46%) in 2016 due to moderate increases in property tax values. In addition, the District collected on its fourth and final year (before expiration) of the $3.5 million Maintenance and Operations Levy (M&O), approved by the citizens within the SKFR community in August of 2012.

In November 2016, voters approved a renewal of the M&O Levy with a 66.71% "Yes" vote. The reduced amounts of $2.5 million per year is in place for another four years. The M&O Levy, coupled with stabilizing assessed valuations, enables Fire District staffing levels to be maintained for the long-term. The chart to the right represents the sources of revenue for the District.

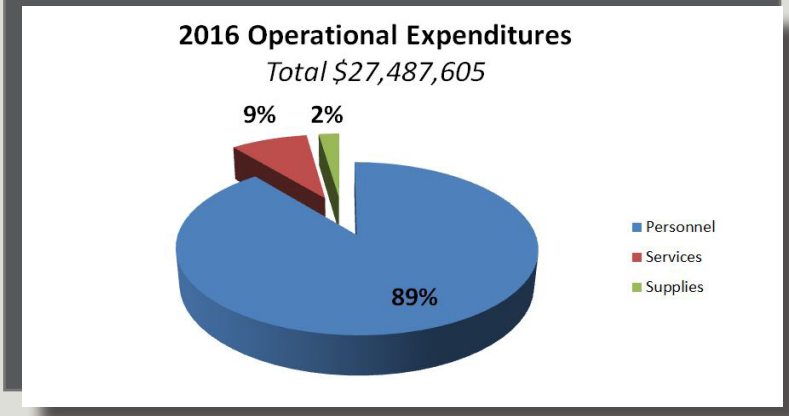


EXPENDITURES

The District's operating expenses for 2016 were $27,489,523 and capital expenditures were $1,884,819. The District's capital expenditures in 2016 included necessary equipment and maintenance outside of what was funded by the recently approved General Obligation Bond. Capital expenditures included: replacement of personal protective equipment worn by first responders; uniforms for newly hired firefighters; surface water rescue equipment; necessary training props; and minor facilities projects. As reflected in previous annual budgets, personnel represent 89% of the District's operating expenses.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In November 2015, our citizens approved a $39 million dollar Safety and Improvement Bond with a 61.69% "Yes" vote. The bond proceeds are used to maintain the District's capital infrastructure (apparatus, facilities and equipment).



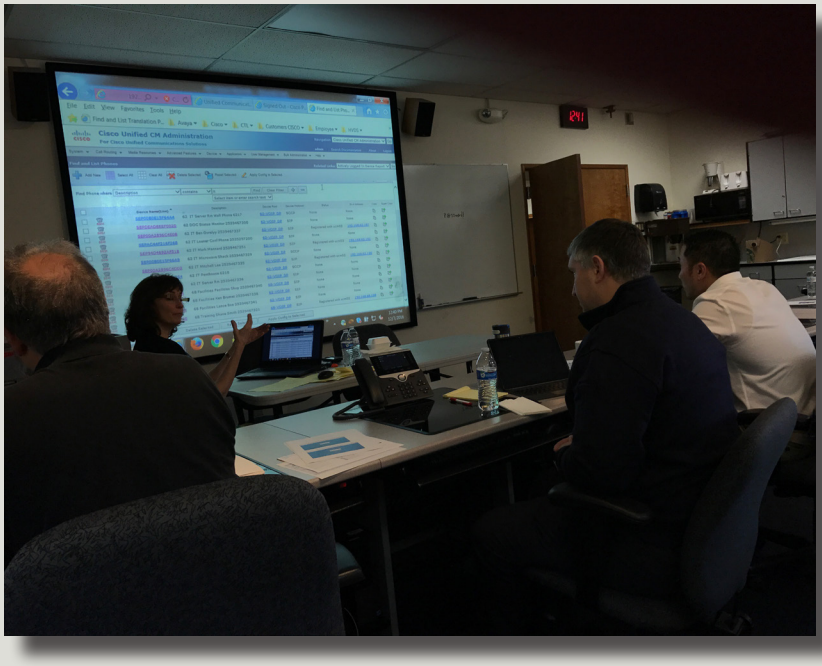
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

2016 was a pivotal year as SKFR's IT Division reached a milestone for technological advancements. With a reduced funding model that started during the Great Economic Recession, we lacked the ability to achieve alignment between technological needs and our strategic vision. Unfortunately, this impending deficit hampered our organization's ability to achieve our full strategic intent, for which technology plays a critical role. Thankfully our citizens understood the needs of their fire department and passed the November 2015 Bond measure.

Upon passage of the bond, SKFR's IT Division road-mapped a series of projects into corresponding themes for the 3-year duration of the bond: Improving communications and IT security systems.

- Focusing on communication during the first half of the year, IT embarked upon two large-scale projects that were comprised of: high-bandwidth, fiber-optic networks, and a modernized voice-over IP (VoIP) phone system. IT partnered with CenturyLink for both projects. After countless hours of planning and research, the network infrastructure upgrades were completed in July and the new phone system went live in December.

- In terms of security, IT initiated the planning for a new firewall system near the end of the third quarter. In lieu of all the social, engineering-driven malware attacks such as the notorious Cryptolocker and WannaCry ransomware, upgrading our protection systems was imperative. We needed to ensure that our highly-sensitive data was not compromised through deceptive phishing emails and erroneous web links. With the growing complexity of malicious software, there was a concern that our existing firewalls did not have the appropriate mechanisms to prevent present-day threats. Consequently, after 3-months of configuration and testing, we secured our protection systems by installing state-of-the-art firewalls before the end of the year.



SKFR's mission is to maintain high-level fire and emergency medical services to our citizens and to meet our strategic objectives. Through bond-related technology improvements in 2016, we have increased efficiency, quality, reliability, and security; all while reducing ongoing support costs. The IT Division has made certain that technology serves as a catalyst to meet our strategic objectives with measured success through communications and security projects.

We look forward to reporting on 2017, as many key projects are already underway.

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, SKFR creates and hosts 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 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 Fire and Life Safety Review of commercial new construction and remodel plans. We work closely with the Cities of Federal Way and 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 3,380 inspections are completed by firefighters assigned to engine companies, with Deputy Fire Marshals assisting when needed. Deputy Fire Marshals also conducted 748 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.



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.

Special Teams

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.



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.



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, fueling, and navigation.



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

SKFR's Training Division continues to meet the internal training needs of the District, and continues to be a regional leader in the development of firefighters and special team operations. Listed below are some highlights of the many accomplishments of the Training Division for 2016:

- Developed and delivered the initial training for the new MSA G-1 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus to the entire Operations, Fire Prevention, and Administration Divisions.
- Hosted the Zone 3 Structural Collapse Drill at the SKFR DiRT site.
- Hosted live fire training for approximately 650 Zone 3 firefighters at SKFR's Training Facility.
- Hosted the 2nd and 4th quarter Zone 3 Truck Drills.
- Hosted King County Medic One Paramedic student Mass Casualty Incident training.
- Hosted King County Prosecutor training exercise to include participants from the King & Pierce County Prosecutor's Office, King County Sherriff's Office and the King County Medical Examiner's Office.
- Provided 4 days of Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention Training.
- Completed recruit training academy 2016-1 training and certifying 7 new recruit firefighters at the IFSAC Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, Hazardous Materials Operations levels utilizing Bates Technical College, SKFR's 6 week post recruit academy and the Washington State Firefighters JATC.
- Completed the planning, development, and creation of the SKFR Disaster Response Training Site (DiRT).

The Training Division also supported the Operations Division with the facilitation and development of comprehensive post-incident analysis for the following major incidents:

- Multiple alarm Crosspoint Apartment fire.
- Southbound Interstate 5 under-ride car fire.
- Drowning at 5 Mile Lake involving Zone 3 Dive Teams, King County Sheriffs Dive Team King County Medical Examiner's Office and SKFR's Chaplaincy Program.
- Multiple-alarm Dollar Store fire at Pacific Highway South and Kent Des Moines Road.

The Training Division remains an active member of the Washington State Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee through the activity of the SKFR JATC sub-committee. The Training Division delivered 18 written and practical apprenticeship step advancement tests.

In conclusion, the Training Division continues to be innovative and strives to meet the ever-changing demands of the fire department. We provide the highest quality learning environment and training facilities, delivering outstanding career development and emergency response skills that exceed the expectations of the fire service and the communities we serve.



Support Divisions



FLEET DIVISION

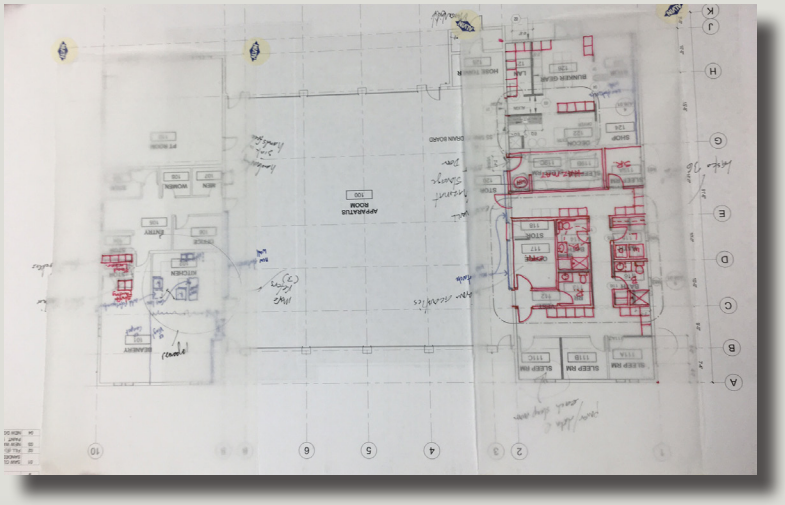
The Fleet Division was comprised of three Emergency Vehicle Technician Certified Mechanics, including one supervisor. To accomplish the mission of SKFR requires a fleet of fire engines, aid cars, ladder trucks, haz mat and rescue apparatus, a marine unit, and staff vehicles (totaling 54 vehicles). These mechanics accomplish the daunting task of maintaining all apparatus for emergency response. Along with normal drive-train maintenance, most of our apparatus has 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.

FACILITIES DIVISION

In 2016 the Facilities Division was comprised of one staff member, the Facilities Manager. Prior to 2012 there were three employees who conducted many station repairs/remodels. 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, 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 allows young men and women that are interested in a firefighting career an opportunity to learn more about the fire service.

SKFR 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 2016 the Facilities Division was involved with design teams regarding station safety improvements that were incorporated into the Bond measure.



Fire stations & facilities

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 SKFR 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. SKFR 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 SKFR 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 at 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

SKFR 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.

NEW HIRES



Ken Brumet
Admin Assistant
Fleet



Ben Gorelyy
Network
Administrator



Dean Bastin
Firefighter



Josh Bellinghausen
Firefighter



Nich Gullickson
Firefighter



Adam Joyner
Firefighter



Stefan McPherson
Firefighter



Kelly Salvage
Firefighter



Joe Stevens
Firefighter

RECOGNITIONS

20 Years of Service
Lieutenant Scot McDonald

25 Years of Service
Firefighter Craig Burrus
Lt. Deputy Fire Marshal Chris Cahan
Yvette Dominguez
Firefighter Shane Youells

30 Years of Service
Captain Jeff Bellinghausen
Lieutenant Gregg Bordner
Firefighter Allen Crandall
Firefighter Daren DeBoer
Steve Denton
Lieutenant Chris England
Lieutenant Scott Ervin
Firefighter Ed Hobbick
Firefighter Joe Perusse
Deputy Fire Marshal John Strub
Captain Aaron Weeks

35 Years of Service
Lieutenant Dan Dragovich
Deputy Fire Marshal Vince Faranda
Firefighter Kerry Moore
Lieutenant John Riley
Firefighter Tony Sirgedas
Firefighter Gary White

40 Years of Service
Ret. Firefighter/Data Analyst Roy Brewer
Deputy Chief Dave Mataftin

Officer of the Year
Lieutenant Jason Lambert

Firefighter of the Year
Firefighter Chris Mathis

Non-Combat Employee of the Year
Lance Boe

Sustained Excellence Award
Assistant Chief Ed Plumlee

William Martin Award
Battalion Chief Kevin Crossen

Whitney Bellinghausen Community Service Award
Valerie Danforth

Retirements



Firefighter Steve Crews

9/1/1977 - 9/4/2016

40 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter



Firefighter Allen Crandall

9/15/1986 - 9/1/2016

31 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter



Lieutenant John Riley

1/5/1981 - 7/1/2016

36 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter and Lieutenant



Firefighter Ed Hobbick

9/17/1990 - 5/20/2016

27 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter



Lieutenant Mike Trotto

1/5/1981 - 7/1/2016

13 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter



Ryan Lex

4/12/2004 - 4/1/2016

13 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter



Firefighter Tony Sirgedas

7/20/1981 - 8/1/2016

36 years of dedicated service as a Firefighter

SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE

31617 1st Avenue South
Federal Way, WA 98003

www.southkingfire.org