



Yakima County Fire District #4

East Valley Fire Department

2023 Annual Report

THE ORGANIZATION

Yakima County Fire District #4, the East Valley Fire Department (EVFD) is proud to provide the following information reflecting the operations of the EVFD for 2023. The EVFD Board of Commissioners (BOC) began the year with Ben St. Mary (2023 Board Chairman), Les Riel (2023 Vice Chairman) and David Ramynke (Commissioner). Ben St. Mary was re-elected to the BOC for a second term as a Commissioner for the EVFD. In August of 2023, David Ramynke stepped down from the BOC due to personal and professional reasons. The BOC appointed Tyler Brandt to the BOC to fill the vacancy.

Tyler has a history in the fire service, serving in the Lower Valley for several years, and then with the EVFD, until his professional obligations took too much time to continue as a volunteer firefighter. When asked to serve as a commissioner, he felt his obligations to his work afforded him the time necessary to take on the role as a Fire Commissioner. He was appointed to the BOC in September of 2023. The EVFD welcomes Tyler to the BOC, and is looking forward to working with him as he serves the EVFD and the people we serve.

The EVFD would sincerely like to thank David Ramynke for the years of service and his dedication to direction of the Fire District, always keeping in mind the community that elected him. His service is appreciated, and we wish him well.

Administratively, the EVFD has a team of committed individuals that work diligently to be the stewards of the resources provided by the East Valley community. The District Secretary, Kaytelynn (Kaydee) Roberts is professional in her administration of the District's financial and legal obligations, as well as the many other facets of the District Secretary role within the Fire District.

Morgan Frost was hired as an Administrative Assistant in June of 2023. She is working with the District Secretary to allow for redundancy in the office for the critical tasks (payroll, AP, BOC agendas and minutes, etc.). We are happy to have Morgan as part of our team to provide seamless service to our community and for our members.

Raymond Lamoureux completed his first full year as the Deputy Chief of Operations and Training for the EVFD in November. His vast knowledge of fire service training programs as well as exemplary skills at electronic data control have given the EVFD the opportunity to grow and use available programs to enhance our pre-incident planning, inventory management,

staffing assignments and internal controls. He is a valuable asset for the EVFD and for the community in his role.

Dale Hille remains as the Fire Chief for the EVFD, continuing to lead the Department and provide vision for the immediate timeframe as well as long term. He is diligent to give the East Valley community the best response to emergency situations possible, as well as keep our responders focused on the mission and vision of the department with their safety on the forefront.

As the East Valley experiences growth, we work daily to be proactive in meeting the challenges that this can bring to the emergency services. Working in harmony with our neighboring Fire Districts and Fire Departments, both in giving and receiving aid when asked allows us to provide a high quality of service throughout the Yakima Valley. The EVFD BOC, the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief and all the staff make the most of the tax dollars provided for our needs, as well as saving for future expansion and growth, apparatus replacement, and staffing needs. We all thank you for your continued support and we pledge to remain good stewards of that which we are entrusted.

Established in 1947, Yakima County Fire District #4 (YCFD4), the East Valley Fire Department (EVFD), serves the residents of Terrace Heights, Moxee and all the area East of the Yakima River from ridge top to ridge top. The District is bordered on the West by the cities of Yakima and Union Gap, the City of Selah and the JBL Firing Center to the North, and Yakima County Fire District #5 to the South.

With over seventy years of service, the department has emerged into a well-staffed, well equipped and highly competent fire protection district. Serving a mix of industry, concentrated residential areas and rural agricultural land, YCFD4 is a full-service fire agency. With three stations covering the 145 square mile fire district the 24-hour staffing of two of the stations provides reliable service to the citizens that call the area home.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission statement of an organization is intended to describe, in succinct terms, the purpose for the organization’s existence. It articulates the principal reason for the organization’s presence within the community.

“THE EAST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT IS DEDICATED TO SERVING AND PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE HIGHEST REGARD GIVEN TO INTEGRITY, COMPASSION, TRUST AND PROFESSIONALISM.”

OUR VISION STATEMENT

In addition to knowing who they are and understanding their beliefs, all successful organizations need to define where they expect to be in the future. After having established the organization's mission the next logical step is to establish a vision of what the East Valley Fire Department should be in the future. Vision statements provide targets of excellence that the organization will strive towards and provide a basis for their goals and objectives. The following vision statement was developed for the East Valley Fire Department.

“The East Valley Fire Department is always striving to provide exceptional customer service in a dynamic and growing community through leadership, training, public education, preparedness and stewardship of our resources.”

OUR VALUES

Establishing values embraced by all members of an organization is extremely important. They recognize those features and considerations that make up the personality of the organization. Those assembled for the East Valley Fire Department strategic planning process felt it absolutely necessary to declare the following statements of values for the organization.

EAST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT VALUES:

- **LOYALTY:**

The members of the East Valley Fire Department are extremely loyal to our citizens which count on us, our District that we protect, and our brothers and sisters we work side by side with in the fire service. We will consistently do the right thing in every situation we face, and dedicate ourselves to the fire service and its ethics.

- **DUTY:**

We will serve in a selfless manner providing the best possible service in every situation. We understand our moral obligation of upholding each other and strive to improve ourselves consistently to serve at the highest level possible.

- **HONOR:**

We honor our past by remembering those who walked before us, through embracing our departments history and showing depth of integrity that would make our predecessors proud.

We honor today with an unwavering commitment to excellence in all we do.

We honor the future by maintaining a disciplined focus on our values, participating in dynamic training, and showing exemplary leadership that will shape the future of our Fire District, its members, and the community we serve.

The mission, vision, and values are the foundation of any successful organization. Every effort should be made to keep these current and meaningful so that the individuals who make up the organization are well-guided by them in the accomplishment of the goals, objectives, and day-to-day tasks.

THE DISTRICT'S CALLS FOR 2023

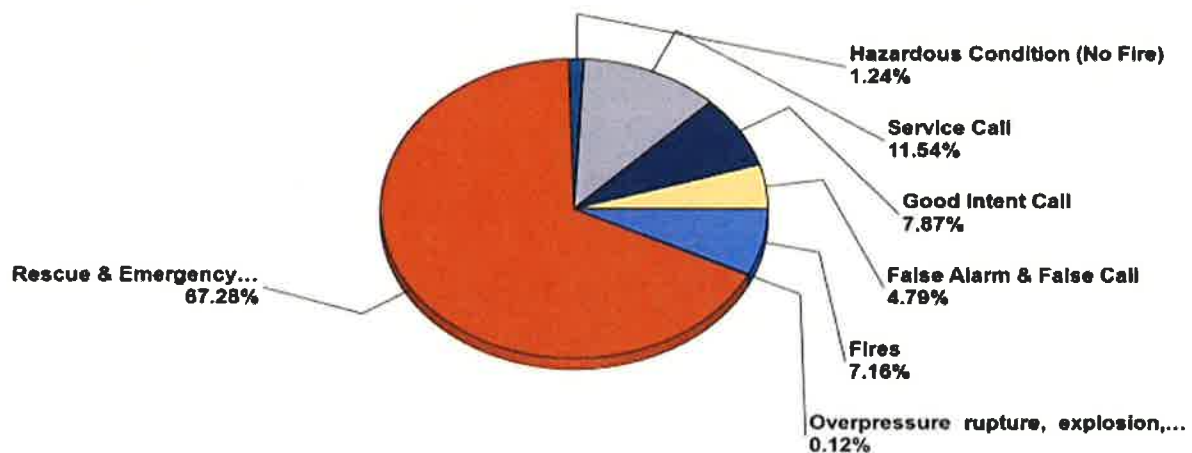
TOTAL CALLS 2022 – 1642

TOTAL CALLS 2023 – 1690

% INCREASE 2022 – 2023 = 3%

As we look closer at the call volume for 2023, here is the where it breaks out as far as EMS vs. all other call types by the numbers:

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	121	7.16%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear - no fire	2	0.12%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	1137	67.28%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	21	1.24%
Service Call	195	11.54%
Good Intent Call	133	7.87%
False Alarm & False Call	81	4.79%
TOTAL	1690	100%



As you can see, the majority of the calls the EVFD respond to are medical calls. When we track our calls, we break them down into more detailed accounts, but this represents the broad picture.

Here is an explanation of the call types shown on the graphs shown previously:

FIRES:

This is when we arrive at a scene and find a fire of any type as the major reason for the call. It could be a structure fire, a wildland fire, a vehicle fire, or many other types that we respond to.

OVERPRESSURE RUPTURE, EXPLOSION, OVERHEAT – NO FIRE:

This designation is used when a container of some sort exceeds its working pressure and ruptures, with no fire associated.

RESCUE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE:

This is the majority of our call volume. It correlates to any medical related call we respond to including falls with injuries, sickness, medical conditions, etc. It also includes vehicle accidents, water rescues and other emergency rescue situations we respond to. Along with the fire department being dispatched to the call, an ambulance is typically dispatched also. The ambulance may be cancelled if the EMT's on scene and the patient determine that emergency transport is not needed.

HAZARDOUS CONDITION (NO FIRE):

This category is often associated with calls that have potential of a dangerous situation, and we are called to help mitigate the problem before it becomes an emergent situation.

SERVICE CALL:

Service calls are those times when we are called to assist the public in a non-emergency situation. These often are calls for a smoke detector or CO2 detector sounding, and yes, the proverbial "cat stuck in a tree".

GOOD INTENT CALL:

A good intent call is most often associated in our area with lift assists for someone that has fallen, with no injuries, but needs help getting up again.

FALSE ALARM & FALSE CALL:

This category is for false alarms, smoke investigations which produce no fire emergency, unfound accidents or vehicle collisions, etc.

PLEASE NOTE:

We respond to all calls we are dispatched to. We urge the public to use the 911 system wisely. False alarms, false calls, medical calls that are truly not emergencies, and other calls that could be handled in another way are very costly to the Fire District, and ultimately, the taxpayers that trust us to be stewards of their money. In addition, these non-emergent calls can potentially take our firefighters from other true emergency situations occurring.

OVERLAPPING CALLS are when we are already on an emergency call and we are dispatched to another call at the same time. This is where having response from two stations, as well as having stations staffed with personnel is critical to mitigate each emergency quickly and efficiently. When we have overlapping calls, it puts stress on our operations, but we have dedicated professionals that provide the service needed, as well as *mutual aid* partners we can count on for assistance when needed.

OVERLAPPING CALLS	
# OVERLAPPING	% OVERLAPPING
342	20.24

MUTUAL AID: How we helped our neighbors, and how they helped us.

MUTUAL AID	
Aid Type	Total
Aid Given	28
Aid Received	4

OUR PERSONNEL

The East Valley Fire Department has 15 full time career firefighters. Working in one of three shifts (A, B, C), they are on duty for 48 hours and off for 96 hours. Each shift has a Captain, a Lieutenant and three firefighters. Normal operations have the shift Captain and two firefighters at Station 40 (Moxee) and the shift Lieutenant and one firefighter at Station 42 (Terrace Heights). The Fire Chief as well as the Deputy Chief are also available for response depending on the nature of the call and the necessity for their response.

As we always strive to have full compliments of responders, we fill the open spots at our two staffed stations with qualified volunteers. At the end of 2023, as with all volunteer agencies, the EVFD was short in volunteers. The numerous hours of training and education that go with becoming a volunteer firefighter in today's world can be overwhelming for many. However, we had 10 qualified applicants for the 2024 recruit academy starting in January that are eager to learn, willing to put in the time, and wanting to join the ranks as responders. We are always

taking applications to be a volunteer firefighter. If you have interest in this, stop by one of our stations, call us, or visit our website for more information. www.ycfd4.org

In 2023 the EVFD firefighters spent 4100 total hours training, whether it be hands-on, or classroom instruction. 490 hours of this time is training on medical response, while the rest is spent on operational training for structure fires, wildland fires, rescue situations, etc.

Of all the hours training, 831 hours were training hours completed by our volunteers. This averages out to 69 hours per individual. This is time they spend away from their families to remain proficient in their skills when on emergency calls. Much of this time was in recruit classes, as well as weekly drills. We are very proud of our volunteer firefighters and appreciate all they sacrifice to make our community safe.

OUR 2023 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Kyle Schlotfeldt, Matthew Strunk, Jeff Taylor, Eddy Juarez, Steven Feeney, Tyler Ireton, Aaron Livingston, Jose Virrueta, Anthony East, Nathan Uriostegui, Dominic Feldi, Carl Valmonte

Likewise, our career firefighters spent 3206 hours training while on shift. Each firefighter averaged 229 hours of training to keep their skill level high. Much of the training is done with both stations training together, which is why you may see both engines at one station or the other, or perhaps out in the community training. It is imperative that the shift members operate as a coordinated unit so critical time is not lost on an emergency scene. The career and volunteer firefighters all train the same so they can operate in unison when needed. Training is an imperative portion of their time. We are proud they take this time so seriously.

OUR 2023 CAREER FIREFIGHTERS

<u>“A” Shift</u>	<u>“B” Shift</u>	<u>“C” Shift</u>
Captain Trevor Lenseigne	Captain Keith Schrank	Captain Ryan Evers
Lieutenant Nick Henle	Lieutenant Charles Erickson	Lieutenant Blake Reeves
FF Lars Enger	FF Travis Young	FF Collyn Stafford
FF Chris Robillard	FF Jay Cruz	FF Kyle Knapp
FF Fletcher Larson	FF Jack Wutzke	PFF Kevin Durand

OUR RESPONSE

The East Valley Fire Department response area is split into two zones for dispatching and response purposes. The type of call and the severity of the call are determinants on whether one, or both stations are paged to an alarm. For example, active fires, vehicle accidents and CPR calls get both stations dispatched as they require more manpower on the scene. While the more “routine” calls will only be assigned to the station located in that zone. The Department officers have the ability to upgrade calls, and request assistance from the other station when needed, as well as release equipment that is enroute if it is found they will not be needed once the first crew arrives on scene.

The following shows the breakdown of incidents responded to by the dispatch zones. Please note that the Central (Station 40 Area) and the East (Station 41 Area) are both served out of Station 40, on Beaudry Rd. So when you consolidate that information, Station 40 (Moxee) was dispatched to 710 calls, and Station 42 (Terrace Heights) was dispatched to 980 calls, for the 1690 total call count.

ZONE	NUMBER OF CALLS
Central - St-40 Area	104
East - St-41 Area	606
West - St-42 Area	980
TOTAL:	1690

The crews pride themselves on a rapid response to emergencies, in other words, from the time they are dispatched to how fast they get out the door and ultimately to the emergency scene.

First, we start with the time it takes from the time the call comes in to 911 to when it is dispatched to our stations. This is called the Dispatch Time. The average for our dispatch time is quite normal, and one that the dispatch center is always working to improve upon

AGENCY	AVERAGE DISPATCH TIME (Alarm to Dispatch)
Yakima County FD #4	0:02:29

From there, we track the time it takes for crews to respond out of the station. This is called our Response Time. The response time can vary depending on the time of day and the nature of the call, as fires and vehicle accidents require personnel to don extra personal protective equipment before leaving the station.

AGENCY NAME	TURNOUT TIME in minutes (Dispatch to Enroute)
Yakima County FD #4	2:09

We also track the average time it takes for our units to arrive on scene from the time of dispatch to the time of arrival. This time reflects the average for calls close to the stations, as well as those that require more significant drive times and poor road conditions.

AGENCY	AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME MM:SS (Dispatch to Arrived)
Yakima County FD #4	7:21

THE FUTURE

As always, the future is dependent on the support of the East Valley community. In 2024 we will bring a ballot measure before the voters in the East Vally to bring our levy rate back to where it was when the voters approved the previous measure in 2018. This funding will insure we can keep moving forward with our staffing plans to have both our staffed stations having three personnel on duty at all times. This staffing, along with expanding our volunteer program, will allow us to continue to bring a robust response to emergency calls. The ballot measure will also allow us to keep our equipment safe and compliant.

After several years of putting money aside from our operating budget, the East Valley Fire Department is planning on having a multi-function live fire training facility placed behind Station 40. This facility will have numerous training opportunities including two burn rooms, both fueled by propane so as to be good neighbors to the schools, search mazes, high angle and confined space rescue, a forcible entry door, and other skill stations based on what is done in the field. The Board of Commissioners and staff of the EVFD are very excited to have this facility at our department, which can be shared with our neighbors for training and testing.

The East Valley Fire Department is always striving to provide exceptional customer service in a dynamic and growing community through leadership, training, public education, preparedness and stewardship of our resources. We welcome input from you on how we are doing, as well as suggestions 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 you better.

We thank you, the community we serve, for your continued support of the East Valley Fire Department.