

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



Estacada Rural Fire District
261 SE Jeremy Loveless Ave
Estacada, Oregon 97023

www.estacadafire.org



2024 Annual Report



Our Mission

To provide professional emergency fire, rescue, and medical services to the citizens and visitors of the district by preventing and minimizing damage and loss to people and property.

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Estacada Rural
Fire District

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Year in Review

2024 was only the third full year of service since the restart in July 2021. Career and volunteer firefighters, support and administration continue to do an outstanding job of providing reliable and professional emergency services to the community. Much of what is listed in this report may sound repetitive from the prior year, but this is a good thing! We are here to stay as Estacada Fire District.



Firefighters responded to 1,630 calls in 2024 which includes 29 working structure fires and 15 brush fires.

District finances continue to thrive with a sustainable and healthy annual budget. This is due to district growth and efficient and effective management of district resources. Using current financial standards, thoughtful spending and diligent tracking of expenditures is allowing the district to improve fire, rescue, and EMS equipment and be competitive in the job market for recruiting. The need for a new fire station and to maintain and improve our capital replacement plan will continue to be a challenge in the coming years. The annual audit and budget documents can be found online at <https://www.estacadafire.org/budget>

The community is rapidly growing with the addition of commercial and housing development as the Portland Metro area expands. Call volume will continue to increase that will require the district to invest in large capital projects, staffing and volunteer programs to keep up with demand. A five-year strategic plan scheduled for 2025 will help guide the district forward to continued success.

We are all proud to serve the Estacada Community and surrounding rural areas.

Thank you for supporting your fire district!

Ian O'Connor – Fire Chief

OPERATIONS

Operations are our busiest programs area, ensuring adequate emergency response every hour of every day. The operations Chief must be certain personnel, equipment and facilities are all in excellent working order and ready to respond. Apparatus maintenance is completed by 3rd party vendors as appropriate using emergency vehicle technician qualified mechanics.

3 career firefighters moved on from Estacada Fire, taking positions with larger agencies leaving vacancies that were quickly filled, helping us to maintain our current staffing model. These 3 firefighters completed an in-house academy followed by a 12-month probationary period.

There were 12,205 volunteer staffing hours recorded in the last year supplementing our career firefighters, providing for rapid and effective deployment to emergencies in the community.

The district successfully obtained grant funding for seasonal firefighters adding 2 daytime firefighters to bolster on duty firefighters from July through October. The addition of these two positions has been critical to maintain services for the public.

The new vehicles purchased in the last 2 years are in service and received significant action on fires locally and across the state in 2024 responding to 13 conflagrations across Oregon. Their effectiveness along with well-trained firefighters has put Estacada in demand when it comes to wildfire response.



Estacada Fire District is an active partner as part of mobilizations for conflagration and immediate response task forces for wildland fires and other large emergency incidents. Locally we stopped multiple brush fires from becoming conflagrations. This included the Stormer Road fire where a fully involved structure fire spread to surrounding vegetation on a hot, dry and windy July afternoon.

Innovation and forward thinking for district operations will allow the fire district to operate independently, effectively, and efficiently for years to come.

TRAINING

A successful fire district relies on a successful training program. Career and volunteer firefighters have proven to be more active and respond to calls with effective, quality training. Training is held weekly on Tuesday evenings and daily for shift firefighters with a goal of 2 hours per shift of training to meet ISO standards and to maintain proficiency. This is in addition to the myriads of training opportunities held off site by other agencies that Estacada Firefighters participate in.



In 2023, the district entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with IAFF 1159 to assist career firefighters financially to achieve their paramedic certification. This was memorialized in the most current labor contract. Lieutenant Christian Coerper is the first recipient of this program. He successfully completed and obtained certification as a paramedic in 2024, adding to the number of on-duty paramedics.

The district also increased the number of volunteer EMTs through grant funding from the FEMA SAFER grant that was obtained in 2023 with 6 members completing EMT training. A strong training budget and grant funding have allowed for amazing training opportunities helping create a proficient workforce.

In April, 12 firefighters attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis, Indiana. The district was well represented. The number of people from Estacada that attended is representative of the strong commitment to providing quality, effective emergency services to the community.



There were 17,043 training hours, 860 classes offered, and 68 certifications obtained over the past year.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Estacada's volunteer program is strong. There are 46 volunteers for the district, this includes combat firefighters, support, EMS only and water tender operators. There are an additional 8 recruits beginning in 2025.



In March, Captain Jeff R. Aldridge was promoted to Battalion Chief. Chief Aldridge oversees all support services for the fire district including support, chaplains and water tender positions.

Jenn King and Cody Preston were promoted to Senior Firefighter. This sets them on the path to becoming a company officer and future leadership for the district.

In 2023, the fire district was the recipient of a FEMA SAFER grant for \$550,672 over a four-year period. This money helps fund a Recruitment & Retention and Training position, LOSAP, volunteer training, marketing, and stipend programs.

Volunteers:

- 5 Officers, 22 Firefighters, 6 Student Firefighters, 6 Support, 2 Water Tender, 2 EMT, and 3 Chaplains



The implementation of a Chief officer to provide direct oversight of the volunteer program and training has proven its value.

Retention is high and participation is good. The program is based on valid information and facts to help support the volunteers to ensure a positive relationship between individuals and the fire district.

With a successful program comes positive attrition. The volunteer ranks have lost several people to career jobs with other fire districts. Our firefighters often attend their academy graduation ceremonies, and we are exceptionally proud of those that have moved on to successful careers.

The district has 4 recruit volunteers this year who successfully completed their academy and will graduate in 2025. This will continue to keep the program strong.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

A proactive and positive fire district means an active and perceptive prevention and public education program. These programs continue to evolve helping maintain a positive image and proactive role in the community. Our relationship with the city for inspection, code enforcement and plan review are strong and helps maintain a positive working relationship for current and future fire prevention efforts. A strong prevention program helps limit the risk of death or injury to the public, keep financial damages to a minimum and shows commitment to the community that the fire district is being proactive to keep them safe.

Our public education events continue to attract the public with accepting interaction.

Events:

- The Volunteer Firefighters Association Sponsored the 2nd Independence Day Fireworks display.
- Participation in the National Night Out event sponsored by Clackamas County Sherriff at the Springwater Grange and City of Estacada.
- Christmas light parade, Christmas tree lighting ceremony at city hall, fire engine transported Santa to the event.
- Miscellaneous fire station tours
- Miscellaneous school public education events

The number of fire inspections increased by 13.36% in 2024 while the number of plan reviews increased by 110.71%, a dramatic increase showing the growth the community is experiencing. These numbers do not consider the use of Compliance Engine which is used by the fire district to ensure cooperation with basic business requirements for fire safety.

Inspections & Plan Review:

- Inspections – 212
- Plan Reviews – 177

Community Risk Reduction Programs:

- Chimney brush loaner program
- Address signs
- Hazardous fuel assessment for residents



STUDENT PROGRAM

The Estacada Fire Districts student program provides student firefighters with training, on the job experience, and tuition reimbursement while working a 48-hour tour with an assigned shift. We have 6 Student Firefighter positions available and strive to keep those positions filled, this helps with day-to-day staffing of the fire station and allows for additional help with daily chores and duties.

Our program has had significant success in recruiting, maintaining and finding full time career positions for the students. Our ability to offer a true opportunity for students to work as firefighters contributes to the success of the program.

We continue to actively recruit through the local community colleges to fill vacancies and maintain a working list of applicants for the program with Portland Community College and Chemeketa Community College as our primary schools.

Student Firefighters must attend school full time (12 credits min.) and fulfill their obligations working on an assigned shift. Students are paid a flat monthly stipend to cover their time, fuel, tuition, etc.

Our students add a special dynamic to the district. We enjoy teaching them and watching them develop into trustworthy and quality firefighters.

LOGISTICS

Operations monitor and maintain facilities, apparatus, and equipment to serve the needs of the staff and public.

The fleet of the district is in good shape with some replacements of staff and smaller emergency response vehicles needed in the foreseeable future. The average age of fire apparatus is 14 years while the average age of staff vehicles is 11 years. The 2005 type 6 brush engine, 2008 rescue, DO331 and C333 staff vehicles need replacement. These vehicles have exceeded their expected service time for the district.

With the increased call volume and use of our larger type 1 engines it will be necessary to consider earlier replacement or full refurbishment. Type 1 engines are expected to be anywhere between \$750,000 and \$1 million for a new unit. The capital replacement timeframe for vehicles was implemented many years ago and needs to be revisited to establish a realistic replacement schedule given the demands of the community for emergency response.

Expected Life Span:

- Water Tender: 30 years
- Type 1 and 3 Engine: 25 years
- Staff Vehicle: 10 – 15 years
- Rescue: 20 years
- Type 6 Engine: 20 years

Current Apparatus:

- 2023 BME Type 3 Interface Engine IE334
- 2023 Type 6 Brush Engine BR331
- 2023 BME Water Tender WT331
- 2023 Staff Vehicle C332
- 2022 Staff Vehicle C330
- 2015 Pierce Type 1 Engine E333
- 2014 Staff Vehicle C331
- 2010 Pierce Type 1 Engine E331
- 2008 Ford F550 Rescue R331
- 2009 Ford F350 DO331



- 2008 Staff Vehicle C333
- 2005 Type 6 Brush Engine BR332
- 2003 Freightliner Water Tender WT332
- 1996 HW Type 1 Engine E332

The fire district has outgrown the current station in the city. Apparatus bays are cramped and sleeping quarters are limited. A request for proposals (RFP) was created by a subcommittee of the board of directors. The RFP was sent to prospective vendors in 2024. With costs exceeding \$1 million for design, the board opted to not pursue this project. Room for growth and to support a robust program will be the largest obstacle for the fire district in the foreseeable future to be able to maintain services while balancing operational costs and capital replacement items to keep current.



The district continues to invest in multiple, smaller capital items to ensure firefighters have the tools needed to perform the job. Grants were a significant source of the district's ability to purchase capital items as part of the restart. Staff will continue to pursue grant opportunities to continue updating equipment and save the district money for other capital projects.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John McAdoo – Board President

Matthew Silva – Vice President

Matt Day – Secretary

Ken Oliver – Director

Paul Miller – Director

CAREER & VOLUNTEER STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Ian O'Connor – Fire Chief Finance Manager – Nicole Meyer
Deputy Chief – Joe Smith Administrative Assistant – Angel Todd
Fire Marshal – Sarah Poet Battalion Chief – Matt Aalto

CAREER LINE STAFF

A – SHIFT: Lieutenant/Paramedic Christian Coerper; Firefighter/Paramedic Jaeden Brown; Firefighter/EMT Jenn Purcell

B – Shift: Lieutenant/Paramedic Jesse Metheny; Firefighter/Paramedic Brenden McKenzie; Firefighter/EMT-A David Champion

C – Shift: Lieutenant/Paramedic Tony Hadeed; Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Dymant; Firefighter/EMT-A Tyler Troutman

VOLUNTEER OFFICERS

Jeff Aldridge - Battalion Chief Travis Aldridge - Lieutenant
Brook Nelson - Lieutenant Trystan Hall - Lieutenant
Mike Platz – Lieutenant

VOLUNTEERS

Jeff W. Aldridge, Stephanie Barber, Emma Conner, Mary Cruise, Tony Difrancisco, Dakota Dixon, Julian Dumlao, Zachary Ellis, David Espinosa, Rachel Everist, Aylin Factor-Najera, Shawn Henrickson, Jason Jackson, Mark Johnston, Kendra Kavanagh, Morgan Kester, Caleb King, Jenn King, Micah Koch, Jason Lawson, Gabrielle Lumbroso, John McAdoo, Shirley McAdoo, Laura Montez, Jenna O'Connor, Ayla Platz, Cody Preston, Robert Purcell, Kaden Reidhead, Kristin Sewell, Dominic Siri, Dorinda Stoller, Cam Vagg, Tanya Vanderlinde, Mikayla Wacker, Sam Ward, Luke Weems, Murdoch Word, Harrison Wright, Angela Zeise