

# 2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



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

[www.estacadafire.org](http://www.estacadafire.org)



**2023**

## Annual Report

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### 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

2023 was the completion of our second full year since the restart in July 2021. Career and volunteer firefighters, support and administration continue to do an amazing and reliable job of providing professional emergency services to the community. We continue to prove that we are here to stay as Estacada Fire District.



Firefighters responded to 1,726 incidents, a 14% increase from the year prior. Volunteer callback continues to be strong allowing for efficient and effective emergency responses.

District finances continue to thrive with a sustainable and healthy annual budget. This is due to 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 our capital replacement plan will be a challenge in the upcoming years.

Increasingly longer wait times for an ambulance to take patients to the hospital by the county's ambulance provider is a growing problem and will need to be addressed sooner than later. In conjunction with Clackamas County EMS the district is pursuing capital improvements to allow for transporting patients to the hospital.

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 is one of our busiest programs areas, ensuring adequate emergency response. The operations Chief must be certain personnel, equipment and facilities are all in good working order. Apparatus maintenance is completed by 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors as appropriate.

The district received a new Type 3 wildland interface fire engine, a new Type 6 brush engine and a new water tender. These were the result of grant funding from the Oregon State Fire Marshals Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grant.



The installation of apparatus exhaust filters was completed on all vehicles. Those existing systems had filters serviced to ensure adequate operation. This investment will help to reduce emissions in the fire station to help reduce firefighter cancer risk.

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. We continue to prove effective at keeping wildfires in and around the fire district small. The 224 Fire in July had potential to be a large devastating fire to the community but was held to 38 acres thanks to a quick response, Seasonal Firefighter staffing, and our partners at the US Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry.

We continue to look for ways to collaborate with our neighboring and partner agencies to improve service delivery and be good neighbors. Examples of this are the old water tender being repurposed to Colton Fire District; assisting Hoodland Fire District with coverage while they participate in other local events; participating in a regional contract for MDT service and repair.

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 are 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. This is in addition to the myriad of training opportunities held off site by other agencies that Estacada Firefighters participate in.

The district entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with IAFF 1159 to assist career firefighters financially to achieve their paramedic certification. In addition to continually increasing training funds in the annual budget, grant money was also received to pay for volunteers to gain their EMT license.

With new apparatus and equipment purchases comes a greater need for training. Prior to being put in service new equipment must be trained with to ensure safe and effective use. Each new vehicle requires driving time and hands-on practice using all its features.

New training props were purchased and are now in place to supplement the district's training facility. A new forcible entry door prop and vertical ventilation roof prop were all received and put in service this past year helping to increase training opportunities in firefighting techniques that could only be talked about before. Hands on training can now take place with real-life training props.

Technical rescue has become a regular monthly training evolution for Estacada. Monthly training evolutions are necessary to maintain training for low frequency, high risk incidents such as technical rescue. Firefighters are kept current in swift water and high angle rescue techniques.



# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The volunteer program is the backbone to a successful fire district. There are 46 volunteers for the district, this includes combat firefighters, support, EMS only and water tender operators. 8 volunteer firefighters graduated following successful completion of their academy and one-year probationary period.

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

## VOLUNTEERS

- 6 Officers
- 25 Firefighters
- 3 Student Firefighters
- 4 Support
- 3 Water Tender
- 2 EMT
- 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. We are proud of those that have moved on to successful careers elsewhere and we will continue to grow quality, well-trained firefighters for the district and beyond.

A future volunteer firefighter academy will be based on fire district response need, logistics and data driven information to support the program. A volunteer firefighter academy is planned for 2024.

# PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

An active and positive fire district means an active and forward-thinking 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 has helped us foster a better working relationship and provides for current and future fire prevention efforts. We were also proactive in lobbying with county commissioners to help enforce arson laws resulting in a successful conviction of Arson 1 helping to reduce the chance of repeat offenses that endanger the public. Our larger public education events continue to attract the public with positive interaction.

## Events:

- The annual open house was held in October with roughly 250 members of the public attending. Partner agencies were present with their own booths. Those agencies included AMR, Oregon Department of Forestry, C.E.R.T., Clackamas County Disaster Management, Oregon State Fire Marshal, and US Forest Service.
- The Community Wildfire Preparedness meeting was held in May. Again, multiple community partners attended the event.
- Participation in the National Night Out event sponsored by Clackamas County Sheriff 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.
- Misc fire station tours
- Misc school public education events

## Inspections & Plan Review:

- Inspections – 187
- Plan Reviews – 84
- Code issue assistance – 37

## Community Risk Reduction Programs:

- Chimney brush loaner program
- Address signs
- Hazardous fuel assessment for residents
- Smoke Alarm campaign where 50 detectors were installed in local homes.



## 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 available 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.

Last year we had 3 students move on from the program to career jobs with larger departments, which is the goal of the student 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) and fulfill their obligations working on shift. At the end of the term students submit for reimbursement of tuition and fees. During school breaks in Summer and Winter students are given a stipend for each shift they work to make up the difference between off school and regular school terms.

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





# LOGISTICS

Operations monitors and maintains facilities, apparatus, and equipment to serve the needs of the staff and public.

The fleet of the district is in very good shape with only somewhat minor replacements needed in the foreseeable future. The average age of fire apparatus is 13 years while the average age of staff vehicles is 10 years. The current rescue is a 2008 vehicle and will need to be replaced sooner with a transport capable vehicle.

## 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 Staff Vehicle DO331
- 2008 Staff Vehicle C333
- 2005 Type 6 Brush Engine BR332
- 2003 Freightliner Water Tender WT332
- 1996 HW Type 1 Engine E332

The current Estacada Fire Station has been outgrown by firefighters and equipment. 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 will be sent to prospective vendors in 2024. The cost of a new fire station is anticipated to cost more than 13 million dollars. This 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 has also invested 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.

Small capital purchased since the restart:

- SCBA, Face Masks and bottles (15 yrs)
- 4 gas monitors (10 yrs)
- LUCAS CPR devices (10 yrs)
- 12 lead ECG machines (10 yrs)
- Thermal Imagers (10 yrs)
- Mobile Data Computers (MDC) (5 yrs)
- Chainsaws (10 yrs)
- Turnouts/Personal Protective Equipment – Structure and wildland (10 yrs)
- Fire Hose (10 yrs)
- Mobile and portable radios (10 yrs)
- Workstation Computers (5 yrs)

Purchasing following the restart proved very difficult due to supply chain problems from overseas, COVID and workforce problems. Although there are still delays for purchases, those issues have subsided.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Paul Miller – Board President

Matt Day – Vice President

John McAdoo – Secretary

Ken Oliver – Director

Mathew Silva – Director

# CAREER & VOLUNTEER STAFF

## ADMINISTRATION

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

## CAREER LINE STAFF

A – SHIFT: Lieutenant Ben Rolichcheck; Firefighter/Paramedic James Hebrlee;  
Firefighter/EMT Tyler Troutman

B – Shift: Lieutenant Jesse Metheny; Firefighter/Paramedic Brenden McKenzie;  
Firefighter/Paramedic Nathan Shadrick

C – Shift: Lieutenant Tony Hadeed; Firefighter/Paramedic Jaeden Brown;  
Firefighter/EMT Christian Coerper

## VOLUNTEER OFFICERS

Jeff Aldridge - Captain	Travis Aldridge - Lieutenant
Tom Benschoter - Lieutenant	Trystan Hall - Lieutenant
Brook Nelson – Lieutenant	Mike Platz – Lieutenant

## VOLUNTEERS

Jeff W. Aldridge, Stephanie Barber, Billy Camp, Michael Cassinerio, Nick Castillo,  
Tony Difrancisco, Julian Dumlao, Danielle Dunn, Matt Dymment, David Espinosa,  
Rachel Everist, Aylin Factor, Glen Felix, Moises Flores-Pelayo, Shawn Henrickson,

Brian Hone, Jason Jackson, Merissa Jensen, Mark Johnston, Kendra Kavanagh, Morgan Kester, Jenn King, Micah Koch, Gabrielle Lumbroso, John McAdoo, Shirley McAdoo, Laura Montez, Jennifer Motherway, Brenden O'Connor, Jenna O'Connor, Cody Preston, Jenn Purcell, Robert Purcell, Kaden Reidhead, Clayton Rife, Dominic Siri, Cam Vagg, Tyler Vanderbout, Tanya Vanderlinde, Sam Ward, Murdoch Word, Harrison Wright, Dick Youngberg, Lisa Youngberg