



BUSINESS Model

FIRE DISTRICT SUMMARY

Volunteer fire and emergency medical services (EMS) in the Browns Point and Dash Point communities began in the early 1900's, and the first documented photos of the District's volunteers are from 1925. Washington State Fire Districts were enacted in 1950, and our Browns Point Dash Point Fire District 13 was officially formed in 1951 as the 13th Fire District in Pierce County. Starting as a fully volunteer fire department, it has grown with the community to a larger number of volunteer firefighters (FF) and emergency medical technicians (EMT), and a few paid staff members, now serving a response district of approximately 1,100 households. We have an on-duty crew of three or more firefighters/EMT's on a 24/7/365 basis. We continually recruit and train new firefighters/EMTs for service within our community and the region. Many of our trained recruits go on to become career firefighters employed in western Washington.

Our Mission Statement

In partnership with the community, we create a safer fire district by providing quality Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) protecting the lives, property, and environment of our citizens.

Vision - To be highly regarded by our community as a first-rate, county fire department, offering unparalleled service.

Values – Knowledge, professionalism, respectfulness, integrity, teamwork, service, accountability, stewardship, and innovation.

Services

We provide fire suppression, basic life-saving emergency medical assistance, transport to hospitals, mutual aid to area fire departments, wildland firefighting, water rescue, disaster support, fire inspections, home safety checks, training of recruits and individual and community assistance. We engage with the community to provide fire, medical, home and personal safety education to adults and youth, as well as participate in community events.

Management

Fire District leadership consists of the Chief, Training Captain, Battalion Chief, five Lieutenants, approximately forty Volunteer Firefighters/EMT's, which includes resident firefighters at the Browns Point station, a Public Information Officer and a part-time administrative position. Current staff members are updated on the website PCFD13.org.



BUSINESS MODEL – Essential Elements

Recruiting

We recruit and educate volunteer firefighters to fill positions opened by current volunteers accepting new challenges or career positions. Recruitment is done at schools, community colleges, and vocational schools by keeping in touch with their management and arranging annual meetings with students. We promote high standards in our recruitment application packet to ensure we receive quality applicants. Our volunteers come from all over the Puget Sound area and receive a small stipend.

Training

We provide thorough industry-standard fire and rescue training for our volunteers (400 hours in the first year alone). We continually update our training to reflect changes within the industry and updates to the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Our emergency medical personnel are trained to national standards and both the Washington State Department of Health and Pierce County standards. We are one of only five Pierce County Fire Districts that accept volunteers, and one of two that conducts fire academies to train our new members.

Support

We mentor volunteer firefighters for position promotions within our Fire District. As vacancies are created, staff may be given additional shifts to gain experience. Volunteers nearing completion of their academy training are given the opportunity to begin working with the team to enable them to learn on-the-job and provide assistance. Promotions to leadership positions are earned by knowledge, skills, and adherence to department policies.

Financial Plan

We judiciously steward the funds provided by our community taxpayers to maintain facilities, equipment, and train volunteers. Revenue is derived primarily from property taxes. Expenses and budget variances are reviewed monthly.

Evaluating Success

We evaluate our success by the following:

- Recruiting and training volunteers to staff the department 24/7/365;
- Leadership that is respected by our community and our volunteers;
- Equipment and facilities that are well-maintained;
- Providing timely fire and EMS response to members of our community; and
- Working for, and earning, positive community feedback

Conclusion – Our existing business model continues to be successful.

Our organization serves our taxpaying residents, and the regional fire and EMS community within Pierce County and the State of Washington. It is dependent on a steady stream of willing volunteers, good leadership, good training, and community support. To ensure continued

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support we need to be good stewards of the taxpayer's money, be forward-thinking and community-service oriented.