

# Clackamas County Fire District #1

Clackamas County Fire District #1 (Formerly Milwaukie Fire District #56) had its beginning in 1955 when a Board of Directors was formed to protect the rural area of Milwaukie. The Chief at the time was Bryce Spence, formerly of Multnomah County Fire District #10. They operated out of one station located near the intersection of SE King Road and Fuller Road. They had six paid men, thirty volunteers, and a paid Chief.

Upon Chief Spence's resignation in 1963, Harry Carpenter became Chief and remained in that position until his retirement in 1987 (24 years). The area grew during that time to provide fire and emergency medical protection to nearly 34,000 residents in about 8 square miles.

Clackamas County Fire District #1 owned and operated a central dispatch center out of the building on SE Railroad Avenue, which housed Milwaukie Fire Departments administrative office. They dispatched for Milwaukie, Oak Lodge, Boring, Sandy, Hoodland, Estacada, Happy Valley, Clackamas County Fire District #71, and themselves. In 1974 a new, more modern dispatch center was built on District #1 property at 6600 SE Lake Road.

In 1973 Multnomah County Fire District #12 merged with Fire District #1 for fire protection and inspection services. There were two stations to man at that time. Also, in 1974, a new third station was built next to the dispatch center on the Lake Road property the district owned. In 1977 a new apparatus maintenance facility was constructed at the Lake Road site and provided many adjacent districts and cities with much needed repair services.

In 1984 a new central fire station was built on district property at Fuller and Causey Road that was financed through the Tax Increment Plan that Clackamas County had for improvements in the area around the Clackamas Town Center.

July 1, 1986 a contract was negotiated with the City of Portland to provide emergency fire and medical service to that area. At the time they operated out of 3 fire stations, had a dispatch center that dispatched for most of North Clackamas County, and a maintenance facility that provided maintenance to most of the apparatus in Clackamas County. At the time of the Portland merger, there were 33 firefighters, 7 dispatchers, 3 secretaries, 2 inspectors, 1 public information officer, 1 mechanic, 3 assistant chief officers, and 1 chief for a total of 51 personnel. Under the proposed 5-year agreement, the Districts employees were absorbed into the Portland Fire Bureau. The District would retain its own board of directors and ownership of all buildings and equipment, but Portland would maintain the district equipment under a lease at no cost arrangement. The board as the elected officials, would continue to decide what levels of service to offer the public.

The Portland/District #1 contract continued for the agreed upon 5-year period then in 1991 it was dissolved and a merger of District #1, District #71, Happy Valley and Redland Fire District was agreed upon and put into effect. District #1 became the survivor district and is now the largest operating fire district in Clackamas County. The

station on S.E. Fuller and Causey Road is now serving as the main administrative offices for the joint operations with 2 engines and a rescue vehicle also responding from this location.