

Fire District #10

In June of 1932, a house on 83rd and Sandy Boulevard burned to the ground as the Portland Fire Bureau and local residents looked on. The house was located outside the city limits of Portland and the Portland firefighters could not legally assist.

This incident prompted a group of Parkrose residents, with the strong support of the Parkrose Lions Club, to begin a three-year project to legalize rural fire protection districts in Oregon. This required monetary resources, circulating petitions, and strong lobbying of the State Legislature. This effort resulted in the formation of Parkrose Fire District #2 on April 6, 1935. This was the first rural fire protection district formed in Oregon that provided its own fire protection. During the district's operation it had two fire chiefs.

In September 1946, Rockwood District #9 was formed and moved from Gresham City Hall to a Quonset hut near Twelve-Mile Corner (SE 223rd Avenue and Stark Street). District #9 had four chiefs during its existence.

July 1947 brought together a combination of the Gilbert Volunteers and a subscription fire service into the Powellhurst District #10 Rural Fire Protection District. In September 1949, they moved to SE 122nd Avenue and Madison Street, the site of present day Portland Fire Station #41. District #10 was served by five different chiefs.

Rose City District #13 was formed in August 1947 as an all-volunteer department. Career firefighters were hired in 1948 and located at NE 59th Avenue and Going Street (present day Portland Fire Station #40). District #13 was headed by only one chief.

In December 1965, Districts #9 and #10 were consolidated. These consolidations continued with District #7 joining in 1966. November 1970 brought the consolidation of District #2 and District #10. District #6 joined the district in July 1971 with District #13 coming into the consolidated district in November 1971.

When the consolidations were completed in 1971, District #10 became the second largest fire department in the state as well as the second largest fire district west of the Mississippi River, with ten stations covering 75 square miles.

The east county drill tower was built in 1969 with the training center classroom and offices completed in late 1971.

In the early 1980s, annexations by the City's of Portland and Gresham began to reduce the size of the District. In 1982 the District alarm room was consolidated with Portland Fire Alarm Dispatch, making for not only a cost savings but eliminating jurisdictional confusion of 9-1-1 operations. Negotiations began in 1983 to enter into an inter-agency contractual agreement with the City of Portland. The 235 Fire District #10 employees

became members of Portland Fire & Rescue on July 1, 1984. This contract was to last ten years before the District decide to not renew the arrangement.