

Inner Southeast Portland

Find the address or utilize GPS and follow the path from one station to the next. These locations represent existing buildings that are either active Portland Fire Stations or former stations. Enjoy the journey!

PortlandFireHistory.com

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Inner SE Portland	13 Stops	Station Description
Old Station 20 <i>(Inactive Site)</i>	8210 SE 13th Avenue, Portland OR 97202	Station 20 began service to the Sellwood community in 1895, prior to being a part of the Portland Paid Fire Department. The Sellwood volunteers would join the Portland Fire Department in 1907 and their station would house Hose Company #4 from 1907 to 1910. In 1910, Engine 20 would be stationed in the old building. The building that still sits on the site today was built in 1921 and was used until the new Station 20 was built in 1959. Once closed, it was occupied by the Boys & Girls Club for many decades. In 1990, the building was purchased by the Sellwood Moreland Improvement League neighborhood association (SMILE).
Station 20 <i>(Active Fire Station)</i>	2235 SE Bybee Street, Portland OR 97202	Station 20 was built in 1959 under the Modernization Program Grant. In the 1890's, Sellwood residents witnessed an epidemic of fires breaking out on vacant lots and out-buildings in the neighborhood - and they pleaded to local leaders for help. Gathering at the former Sellwood City Hall above Campbell's Grocery which was located on the south side of Umatilla between 11th and 13th Streets, a committee was formed to find a suitable fire fighting force. The committee accepted twenty gallant gents who stepped forward to offer their services. The volunteers had neither a fire station building nor adequate equipment available to combat the flames on any structure larger than two-story bungalow. The only available fire-fighting equipment was an assortment of metal buckets previously used in prior years by the 'bucket brigade'. On April 10th, 1895, the new false-fronted two-story firehouse was completed. The main entrance was large enough to store a set of fire-fighting wagons and the needed equipment, and a spacious hall on the second floor was available for the dances held every Saturday night, and other events. In 1907, the City of Portland took control of the Sellwood Volunteer Fire House and finances. It was renamed as Portland Fire Station #20. The editor of the 'Sellwood Bee' newspaper at the time advocated for public support in the construction of a new and more modern building. It was built at SE 13th and Tenino and served from 1920 until the current Station 20 was built. It has

		served continuously since that time.
Old Station 11 <i>(Inactive Site)</i>	5909 SE 43rd Avenue, Portland OR 97206	Engine 11 would be located in the Woodstock community in 1928. The bungalow fire station was part of the city's growth to the east during that time period. Many bungalow fire stations were built because they would most neatly blend into the surrounding residential community. Their house-like appearance included apparatus doors with windows draped with curtains on the inside and flower boxes on the outside. Hose towers were disguised by being partially in a pit at the bottom, and terminating at the top in a dormer. Engine 11 would remain in this location until 1956 when this station would close. Engine 11 would remain dormant for a few years until re-appearing in the Lents district.
Station 25 <i>(Active Fire Station)</i>	5211 SE Mall Street, Portland OR 97206	Station 25 would begin service in 1959 as part of the Modernization Program Grant. As the city of Portland grew to the east, the fire department also expanded. This station replaced the previous Station 25 located at 35th and SE Francis Streets. Station 25 also housed Truck 10, which was changed to Truck 25 in 1984 when the numbering convention changed after the consolidation with Fire District #10. The station covers the Southeastern part of Portland to the edge of the Multnomah County line.
Old Station 31 <i>(Inactive Site)</i>	4530 SE 67th Avenue, Portland OR 97206	Station 31 was built on this site in 1913. The original wooden building would remain until 1927, when it was razed to make room for the new Station 31 and its bungalow design. This was part of the department's evolution to more modern fire stations that were more compact, blended into neighborhoods better, and better accommodated motorized fire apparatus. The use of horse drawn vehicles ceased in April 1920, changing the station design needs. Station 31 would serve until 1959, at which time it was closed and Engine 31 would cease to exist for many years. In 1986, the Portland Firefighters Association purchased the building and established their offices in it. They moved to a new location in January 2022 but maintain ownership of the building.
Old Station 25 <i>(Inactive Site)</i>	3550 SE Francis Street, Portland OR 97202	Station 25 was built in 1913. It was of a design shared by only a couple of stations. These stations were somewhat strategically located and were probably a district headquarters, providing administrative services to different segments of the fire department. The building was built for the service of horses, but transitioned into the motorized vehicle. It would remain in service until 1959 when it was replaced by the current Station 25 during the Modernization Program Grant. The building is now occupied by the Community Music Center. This is a program of Portland Parks and Recreation to bring music activities to the community.
Station 23 <i>(Active Fire Station)</i>	2915 SE 13th Place, Portland OR 97202	Station 23 was built in 1962 as part of the Modernization Program Grant. In 1975, it was joined by Truck 4, which was

		<p>re-named to Truck 23 in 1984 as part of the consolidation with Fire District #10. For many years, it served as the in-service training center for all new hires. New firefighters, beginning on their first day of work, would be responding firefighters. Training staff accompanied them on all calls as they built their skill base over their first year of employment. The drill grounds behind the station served the trainees. Training would be re-vamped in 1984, with all new hires being trained in an academy format for the first few months of service. Station 2 in Parkrose now serves as the training station. The basement of Station 23 began service in about 1980 as a Television studio for programs designed to train the 650+ members of the department. It would later be moved to the Station 2. The grounds around the station house the apparatus maintenance facility, the building maintenance services, and the fire marshal's office. Station 23 was mothballed in 2010, but was reactivated with response services from a rescue unit only in 2017. An Engine 23 was fully restored in 2023.</p>
<p>Old Station 23 (<i>Inactive Site</i>)</p>	<p>1917 SE 7th Avenue, Portland OR 97214</p>	<p>Station 23 was first built in 1891. It would be re-built to its current design in 1912. This was a relatively standard design for the era, designed by then Battalion Chief Lee Holden. At one time, the homes adjacent to it on 7th Avenue were called "firefighters row." That was a row of private houses owned by the firefighters who worked there. This was said to be a larger number of homes than most stations but the concept was not uncommon. In the days before cars were common, people typically lived near their work. Firefighting was not a high paying job so many firefighters even lived in the fire station. Work schedules were 7 days a week with only 12 hours per week off (prior to 1908). In 1908, firefighters were rewarded with a full 24 hours off per week. On November 1, 1919, a second platoon was added that allowed firefighters one day on, one day off, a 72 hour work week. This would continue until July 1, 1947 when the pension reform added a third platoon creating a 56 hour week. The schedule has remained similar to this day. Station 23 would close in 1962 when the new Station 23 was built.</p>
<p>Station 9 (<i>Active Fire Station</i>)</p>	<p>1706 SE Ceasar Chavez Boulevard, Portland OR 97214</p>	<p>Station 9 was built in 2003 as a replacement for the fire station on Belmont Street that would become the Historic Belmont Firehouse. It continues the tradition of service in the community that started in 1894 at SE 34th and Yamhill. It would evolve from Hose Company #5 to Engine 9.</p>
<p>Historic Belmont Firehouse / Old Station 9 (<i>Active Fire Station</i>)</p>	<p>900 SE 35th Avenue, Portland OR 97214</p>	<p>The Historic Belmont Firehouse originally housed Hose Company #5 beginning in 1897. It is more known for Engine 9, which served from 1904 until the building closed as a fire station in 2003. Yet another Battalion Chief Holden designed building, it was built to house horses. In fact, damaged woodwork from a nervous fire horse still exists within the</p>

		<p>firehouse. The original pole from the upper floor to the apparatus floor still exists and the building still boasts a hay loft. Developed as the Safety Learning Center, it also serves as an interpretive center for the history of Portland Fire & Rescue's rich history, which began on August 2, 1853. It houses features like the state of the art "fire engine experience," a high-tech, fire engine simulator allows visitors to climb aboard a fire engine and respond to an emergency in the city of Portland without ever leaving the building. It takes visitors through a historic timeline using photos, stories, and Portland firefighting artifacts to tell the story. It remains a valued part of the Belmont community.</p>
<p>Lone Fir Cemetery Firefighter's Section (Active Site)</p>	<p>601 SE 26th Avenue, Portland OR 97214</p>	<p>The "Firefighter's Section" of Lone Fir Cemetery is one of the hallowed grounds of Portland Fire & Rescue. Established on November 16, 1862, when then landowner Colburn Barrell donated the 100 foot by 100 foot section of the cemetery for exclusive use of Portland Firefighters. Lone Fir Cemetery, as a whole, has received varying levels of care over the decades. The Firefighter's Section has also had its ups and downs. It was somewhat forgotten after World War II because so many dying firefighters chose Willamette National Cemetery, due to their military service. Since the regional government organization Metro took over the cemetery administration, Lone Fir, overall, has received better care. the Portland Firefighters Association has since stepped up to better caretake the Firefighter's Section. To date, 146 firefighters have chosen it as their final resting place. There are also 4 spouses of firefighters, and three children of firefighters (as of 2021). 12 members who died in the line of duty also rest in the Firefighter's Section.</p>
<p>Old Station 7 (Inactive Site)</p>	<p>1036 SE Stark Street, Portland OR 97214</p>	<p>Station 7 was built in 1927. It was unique in its design and configuration, indicating it may have been intended as a district headquarters or for other reasons. The station also housed Truck 4. It would eventually add an adjacent building that would serve as the auto shop for many years. This facility provided maintenance for all fire apparatus. As the fleet grew and the inner east side of Portland became more populated, the facility became too small. The station closed in 1975 and a new maintenance facility would be built at SE 13th and Powell Boulevard. Truck 4 would be reassigned to Station 23 and Engine 7 would move to the east end of the Hawthorne Bridge and replace what was formerly known as Engine 29 (later becoming Engine 21).</p>
<p>Station 21 (Active Fire Station)</p>	<p>5 SE Madison Street, Portland OR 97214</p>	<p>Station 21 has had many different identities over the years. Built in 1961 as part of the Modernization Program Grant, it began service as Station 29. It would maintain this identity until 1975, at which time Station 7 closed and moved to Station 29. The 29 designation was mothballed for many years</p>

		and the station would then house Engine 7. It also housed Fireboat 1 from its opening until 1982. From 1988 to 1990, it also served as the station that made up half of the Hazardous Materials Team (the other half being housed at Station 6 and/or 16). The station closed in 1990 and was used for various administrative purposes, like the EMS office. It would re-open in 2010 as Station 21 after being seismically upgraded. A new, floating boathouse would also accompany the station, bringing fireboat services back to the upper Willamette River.
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Thank you for visiting.