



HISTORY

What is now Washington County Fire District 2 was originally established in 1952 as Hillsboro Rural Fire Protection District. In 1966, the all-volunteer department built a temporary station off Brookwood Avenue on the eastern edge of Hillsboro to support firefighting needs in the developing area. In the 1970s, the district headquarters opened in the Orenco area. By 1973, the name was changed to Washington County Fire District 2 (WCFD2).

In 1981, the city approved plans for a new fire station off Brookwood, which became the Drake Lane Station that later became part of the Hillsboro Fire Department (HFD). Neighboring Fire District 1 (now Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue) gave WCFD2 a used tanker truck in 1984, and at that time, WCFD2 was the largest in the county, covering 150 square miles.

WCFD2 signed a five-year contract with Hillsboro in July 1987 that moved eight paid firefighters from the district to the HFD and consolidated operations to where both forces responded to emergencies in both territories. The agreement also called for HFD to relocate an engine company from the city's Parkwood Station to the district's Orenco Station, which it did in July 1988, after annexing Tanasbourne. At that time, the district had four fire stations: North Plains, Orenco, Brookwood, and Midway.

The next year, WCFD2 considered consolidation with the then new Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R), which maintained the district's equipment. The district sought consolidation, but not a merger, after continuing to lose territory to annexations. The consolidation did not go through.

Plans started in 1991 to replace the Midway fire station built in the 1950s. WCFD2 built the new station directly south of the prior one, building it over four years to spread the construction costs over several tax years.

The district sent firefighters in August 1994 to help fight wildfires around Leavenworth, Wash., along with other firefighters in the county. WCFD2 had only three paid firefighters as of 1995, with 30 volunteers at each of the two stations.

In 1997, WCFD2, again, contracted with the Hillsboro Fire Department for the latter to provide administrative support for the district, which allowed the district to support four paid firefighters. Those duties included inspections, education, maintenance, and training. During that time, the chief of the Hillsboro department served as the chief of WCFD2 and reported to the district's board of directors.

The district opened a new fire station in North Plains in February 1998 on Northwest Commercial Street that was paid for by a \$750,000 bond approved by voters in 1996. At the time, the station had just two paid firefighters along with 30 volunteers. The old station, built about 1951, had been damaged by the Spring Break Quake in 1993. The new station is 12,000 square feet and can house up to eight apparatus in the four equipment bays.

EXPANDING PARTNERSHIP

On Sept. 1, 2015, WCFD2 and TVF&R entered into an administrative contract under which TVF&R Chief Mike Duyck served as WCFD2's chief executive officer and a TVF&R division chief provided administrative oversight 40 hours per week. Over the next several months, staff evaluated the district's operations, needs, funding, and long-term options.

On Feb. 17, 2016, the WCFD2 Board of Directors approved a functional consolidation contract, which paved the way for TVF&R to oversee all district operations. During the contract, TVF&R will provide staffing, emergency medical services, fire protection, fire investigations, community education, and training. TVF&R will also perform all business functions. WCFD2 will retain its employees and volunteers, who integrated with TVF&R staff.

Washington County Fire District 2 and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue joined forces to serve residents of North Plains, Scholls, Midway, Helvetia, Rock Creek and central Washington County on March 1, 2016. Because the contract is not a long-term solution, elected leaders will recommend permanent service solutions in the coming months.