

West Linn Station 59

1860 Willamette Falls Drive
West Linn, OR 97068

Project Status: COMPLETED



Now Open!

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue firefighters hosted nearly 500 visitors on April 3, 2010, during Willamette Station 59's open house. Families were invited to learn about the daily lives of firefighters, explore the new building, and check out both modern and antique fire apparatus.

Station 59 is home to a daily engine company crew of four firefighters and the District's Water Rescue Team. In addition to responding to fire, medical and rescue incidents, firefighters at Station 59 respond to a significant number of motor vehicle accidents along Interstate 205. They also respond to water emergencies in Clackamas County.



The 12,260-square-foot building includes sleeping quarters, a kitchen, physical fitness area, an office, a large apparatus and storage bay, and a community room. The Willamette Station was constructed to survive a major earthquake and is large enough to accommodate today's modern fire apparatus. It also allows the Water Rescue Team to keep its rescue vehicle hooked up to Boat 59, significantly improving the team's response time. The historic bell that called firefighters to action for more than half of a century now sits atop the new building for all to see.

The station is energy efficient and designed to meet a certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. The building incorporates extensive use of natural light, solar panels to preheat water, on-demand water heaters, rain-water capture for toilets, use of low-emission and recycled construction materials, and high-efficiency lighting, heating, and cooling systems.

The \$2.26 million station was designed with extensive public input. TVF&R participated in more than 40 public meetings with neighborhood associations, historical resource advisory groups, the Planning Commission, and the West Linn City Council detailing plans for reconstructing fire stations in West Linn. Station 59 was one of two stations built in the city. The District also built a new station in the Bolton neighborhood to replace the aging Station 58.

Location/Service Area

Station 59 serves the historic Willamette District in the city of West Linn as well as Interstate 205. Easy access to the Willamette and Tualatin rivers makes this the logical location for the District's Water Rescue Team. This team acts as the primary responder to water rescue emergencies within the TVF&R service area and assists other jurisdictions as a support unit for a variety of rescue tasks.

Why a new station?

The former two-story brick structure did not meet current seismic, design or Americans with Disability Act standards. The facility was also significantly undersized for standard fire apparatus and did not accommodate the Water Rescue Team craft and tow vehicle that work out of the location.

Construction and Project Highlights

February 2010

Crews installed a historic fire bell that has been part of West Linn history for more than 60 years. According to former West Linn fire volunteers, the 700-pound, steel-alloy bell was used before World War II in the original Willamette District building as a way to summon firefighters to the station to respond to service calls. The bell lived on in front of the former Station 59, which was originally built in the 1950s.

During construction of the new station, TVF&R shipped the bell to a company on the East Coast, where it was refurbished. Crews used a crane to hang the bell on the new building. The bell has an electronic ringing device so that the District can ring it on special occasions.



January 2010

TVF&R's logistics and communications professionals worked inside Station 59 after making one of their final walk-throughs with the building's contractor. CSI Construction reached substantial completion of the building, and the District put the finishing touches on its interior. Landscapers finished their work on the station's exterior as well.

The building's community room, located on the bottom floor next to the apparatus bays, has its own entrance on the east side and will serve as a gathering place for local nonprofit organizations to use free of charge.

Station 59, also known as the Willamette Station, has the standard features, including a kitchen, day room, exercise facility and sleeping quarters for the male and female firefighters who will live there during their 24-hour shifts.



December 2009

The Willamette Station will be the first of TVF&R's three new stations on track to be completed. Workers were busy inside Station 59 installing lighting, plumbing, and phone lines. The interior work proceeded from top to bottom: second-floor sheetrock and paint was completed, and activity got underway on the ground level. Workers poured the apparatus bay floors and made good progress in the kitchen and day room.



November 2009

The Willamette Station's exterior brickwork was completed. Now that the roof and windows have sealed the building's interior from the elements, crews made progress inside the station, completing much of the tile work in the locker rooms and preparing to lay the floor in the apparatus bays.



September 2009

Framing neared completion and the roof was under construction. Crews began work on electrical systems and plumbing. Station 59's shape bears a striking resemblance to other stately buildings that line West Linn's Willamette Falls Drive.

August 2009

Crews raised the walls at Station 59. The apparatus bay doors can be seen on the Willamette Falls Drive side of the building. These are the doors the paramedic engine and Water Rescue Team will drive through when responding to emergencies. Workers also used a crane to lift the building's second-floor walls and secure them into place. Walls were assembled on the ground and hoisted into position with the help of a large crane. While their new station was under construction, Station 59's firefighters lived and worked out of a home across the street. This temporary location meant the community did not see a change in response times.

