

# COGGLEVATION

APRIL 2017 | THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PF&R'S STRATEGIC PLAN

COGGLE

## THE FLOOR SHOW

*How Firefighters Discovered a Smart Solution Right Under Their Feet*



From left: Lee Etten, Robbie Hendrx, Jason Howland, and Sally Olson cement their love of the new floor at Station 9.

Some of the most basic elements of a building are the floor and ceiling. They're mostly things you don't notice...until you do. And the tile floors at many of Portland Fire & Rescue's stations get noticed a lot by the firefighters. These floors get noticed not because they're good looking, or able to withstand the pounding of three shifts of firefighters 24/7. They get noticed because they're wasteful.

Tile floors require a lot of upkeep. And when it comes time for station inspections, that upkeep goes into overdrive. "All of a sudden you have to become floor experts," says Battalion Chief Jamie Ziegler. "And firefighters will polish anything." In an effort to make the floors look ship-shape for inspections, crews would use chemicals to try to solve the problem of dim-looking floors. Not only are those chemicals bad for the environment, they're probably not great for our lungs either. "We look out for our own safety," notes Chief Ziegler.

Senior Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Shawn Roberti noticed another wasteful element about the tile layout. When crews attempted to become flooring experts and make the tiles sparkle for inspections, they inadvertently banged into things because they're firefighters, not flooring experts. "They damaged the floors, the walls, the molding, etc...all trying to make the floors shiny," he says.

Crew hours, the cost of chemicals, the chemical byproducts, and expensive repairs all add up to inefficiencies. That's why when Station 21 opened its doors,

crews from other stations were smitten with the gorgeous, naturally shiny, and low upkeep polished concrete floors flowing through PF&R's newest building on the block.

As Chief Myers went from station to station during strategic planning, he heard about the problematic floors. Crews suggested switching to polished concrete. This kind of sustainable, cost-effective solution to a problem is exactly what the strategic planning process is all about. It was added to the Coggle.

The first station to get concrete floors is Station 9. While the project was a bit bumpy for this first installation – it took much longer than expected and there was a problematic contractor – the end result is a success. Station 9 Captain Lee Etten says that even though the unexpected longer installation time (five weeks when it was supposed to be three days) was inconvenient and the dusty concrete grinding kicked was messy, the end result looks great and will be far more efficient. During a recent tour, Etten opened up a supply closet and pointed to shelves of products that will no longer be necessary: wax strippers, sealers, buffers, and more.

Roberti says next up for a new polished concrete floor is Station 3. The plan is to do two stations a year until the tile is a thing of the past. And with each installation, the process will go faster and the result will be better. COGGLED!

## COGGLES IN PROGRESS

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## SOCIAL MEDIA MENTIONS



Historic Parkrose with Portland Fire & Rescue.  
March 21 at 3:59pm · 🌐

Always great to see the Portland Fire & Rescue in the community. They are hiring too!



Margi Bradway @margibr... Mar 6  
Safety Speed Cameras on Outer Division are on! Thank you Commissioner @dansaltzman Great #VisionZero teamwork @PBOInfo @PDXFire @PPBPIO



Red Cross Cascades Region added 12 new photos.  
March 24 at 2:24pm · 🌐

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Incredible people and an incredible day. Congratulations to our Red Cross Heroes. Thank you for stepping up when needed, saving the life of another, and making amazing contributions to our community. You have truly lived up to the Red Cross mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering  
KATU News Angelica Thornton KATU Brian Wood KATU Portland Fire & Rescue



Do you have a story about a PF&R coggle that would be great for this newsletter?

Contact Caryn Brooks on the Communications Team

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