New year, new station: Station 23 B-shifters Alex Hinkle, Tyler Gordon, Garrett Poetsch, and Lee Etten

On November 16th of last year, PF&R re-opened Station 23. Station 23 sits in the booming area of lower Southeast Portland where the City’s encouragement of urban density is becoming more and more a reality. When the station closed in 2010, the area around it was mostly industrial. Now, it is packed with live/work infill development and ribbons of booming restaurants and businesses. A new light rail line snakes through the FMA.

The Coggle calls for measures like increased response reliability, zero fire deaths, and increased survivability from incidents such as cardiac arrest, strokes, and trauma. Part of the strategy to fulfill these goals is reopening Station 23. At first, Station 23 was launched with a two-person rescue transferred from Station 19. But now, due to a rejiggering of crews from Rescue 7 and Rescue 31’s B shift, a full four-person engine company works out of 23s on the B shift. Battalion Chief Bill Goforth notes that when there are extra travelers available, they can join A or C shift at 23s to flip it into an engine company again.

So how is 23s making due on its promise? Lee Etten is the B-shift captain and he notes that on one of the crew’s first shifts as an engine company, they were first in on an January apartment fire. “We were able to extinguish the fire before it spread outside the apartment of origin,” he says. “Even though we don’t necessarily measure the damage or injuries that didn’t occur, it’s clear that by getting there so quickly and stopping the fire from spreading, we made quite a difference.”

Let’s look at the data:

• Since reopening, Station 23 (Rescue 23 or Engine 23) is averaging 6.3 unit responses per day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change in FMA 23 Response Times to High-Priority Incidents</th>
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• FMA 23’s call volume increased from 983 in 2010 to 1,323 in 2017, an increase of 35%. In 2010, FMA 25 had 52 confirmed fires. In 2017, FMA 23 had 100 confirmed fires.

• Since Station 23 opened, Engine 19 (the station where the Rescue 23 crew was transferred away from) has seen its run volume increase from 10.1 unit responses per day to 12.2 responses per day.

• Since reopening, the average response time for PF&R’s first-responding unit to high-priority incidents in FMA 23 is 1 minute, 28 seconds faster than in the 12 weeks prior to Station 23 reopening. FMA 19 has seen a slight decline in response time of about 16 seconds on average.

• Fewer PF&R units are having to respond into FMA 23: In the 12 weeks since it reopened, the surrounding engines and trucks have responded to incidents in FMA 25 121 fewer times than in the preceding 12 weeks.

• Engine 23 operates on B shift. According to the journal, there have been 2 shifts in 2018 when E25 operated on a different shift due to extra travelers being available.

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