

## **Legeros Fire Blog Archives - 2009 Postings Compiled**

**July 2021**

Greetings!

You have found a PDF compilation of Legeros Fire Blog Archives postings.

If you reached this document via keyword search using Google or another search site, you'll need to scroll through or search the document, to find the specific page(s) with the content that you're looking for.

Ladder One CGFD 2

01/02/09 57 W - + 17 - 8

This one's making the rounds, a decorated ladder truck with lights synchronized to the song *Wizards in Winter* by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. How did they activate the truck's warning lights to match the music? My guess is manual activation, versus any actual electrical system changes. From the [Cedar Grove Fire Department](#) in Jersey.

WOWZERS!! dekotora apparatus – makes me feel like i’m in japan again – talk about conspicuity – now, in japan, for some reason, the road markings seem three times more reflective than they are here (maybe to keep you from falling off a one mile drop cliff), and non-dekotora trucks have mostly yellow led rim lights, so i see no reason why the periphery red lights shouldn’t stay on all year – you can barely see the 18 wheelers on cap

cornerhydrant - 01/02/09 - 23:03

This truck belongs to the Cottage Grove Volunteer Fire Department, Cottage Grove, Wisconsin

Anonymous - 11/21/10 - 20:44

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Radio Traffic From Denver Airport Plane Crash

01/02/09 100 W - + 13 - 14

Here's an end-of-year leftover, found on the Carolinas Fire Page mailing list. [Listen to radio traffic](#) from the Denver airport plane crash on December 21. [Learn more about DFD](#), which manages fire operations at Denver International Airport. From the web site: "A total of 87 fire fighters at DIA are trained in Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting. Machinery and extinguishments include, 11 support vehicles, 16 pieces of emergency apparatus, and a grand total of 25,690 gal. of water, 3,161gals. of AFFF, 3,400 lbs. of dry chemical, and 1,700 lbs. of Halon dispersed by various Airport Rescue Fire Fighting equipment"

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

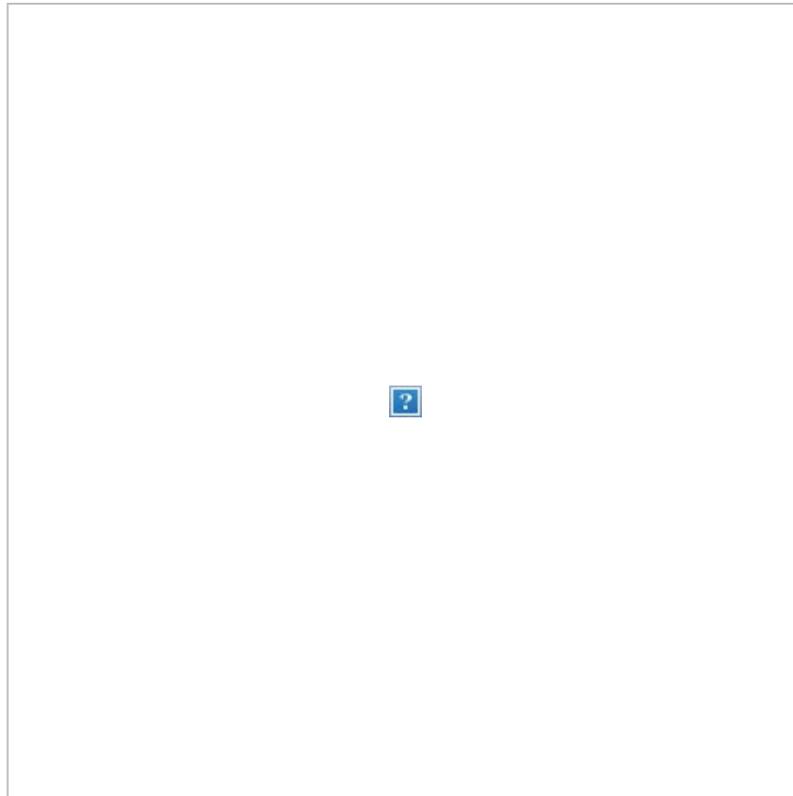
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Social Media Map

01/02/09 49 W, 1 I - + 12 - 11

From Overdrive Interactive, here's a nifty resource for folks interested in social media. Blogs, Wikis, discussion groups, photo sites, search engines, it's all here. [View the map](#). Next, who wants to design one for fire service social media? Or does such an animal already exist?



Whether it ends up being for good or naught I have a part in 99.9% of the above social media groups/sites. And now you all now why the girlfriend whines at me to get off the dang computer. **sigh**

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 01/02/09 - 22:51

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## VCR Programming Problem Solved

01/02/09 91 W, 1 I - + 13 - 8

Has the change to 2009 confounded your VCR, such as happened to the Missus this evening? Her vintage video-cassette recorder-- bought in the 1990s-- won't accept a date setting of 2009. The thing translates 09 into 89. And she has shows to tape! The solution? Program the thing to an earlier year that matches this one. After consulting [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com), a great calendar site, a match is found in 1998. Same days, different year. Problem solved, wife is happy, husband is hero. Not a bad outcome for a Friday night.



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 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

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**FEMA Grants Buy New Fire Trucks for Towns**

01/03/09 94 W, 1 I - + 13 - 10

[WRAL reports](#) on the FEMA Assistance fo Firefighter Grants recently awarded to the towns of Knightdale and Wade. The former received \$430,355, which will be used to buy a new 100-foot ladder truck. The Knightdale Fire Department's present ladder truck is a 1973 Ford/Pierce 50-foot telesquirt, shown below in an older photo. The Cumberland County town of Wade received \$66,500, which will likely be used to purchase a new piece of apparatus. [Read the entire story](#). The latest AFGs were awarded on Friday, as [reported by Firehouse](#).



Congrats to the brothers of K-town, I'm sure a new ladder on that side of the county will be a welcome addition!

**CFP 7021** ([Email](#)) - 01/03/09 - 16:48

Today's News & Observer also covered the story, <http://www.newsobserver.com/print/saturd..>

**Legeros** - 01/03/09 - 22:57

What type of ladder can be purchased for \$430,355?

**ncff** - 01/03/09 - 23:30

The article states a 100 foot (I'm assuming stick). Maybe the town is also kicking in some monies?

**CFP 7021** ([Email](#)) - 01/03/09 - 23:38

From the N&O article: "Town firefighting officials say they'll buy a recent-model fire truck with a 100-foot ladder," e.g. used.

**Legeros** - 01/04/09 - 07:31

Most of the time, the AFG grants are matching grants that require the departments to fund some of the purchase. They are usually like 90%.

**yfd482** - 01/04/09 - 08:47

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

## This Afternoon's MVA / Glenwood Avenue

01/04/09 114 W, 2 I - + 18 - 11

Another major motor-vehicle accident on Glenwood Avenue, this time west of T.W. Alexander Drive. Several vehicles on scene, many stuck in mud on shoulder. Not sure how many involved. One vehicle in woods, overturned on nose, with patient trapped. Four patients total. Eastbound Glenwood Avenue closed with apparatus blocking both lanes. Westbound also closed for a short period. Units on scene included Raleigh E24, T24, R14; Bethesda E421, E411, EMS \_\_, 100; Durham EMS 10; Six Forks EMS 123, EMS 121; Wake EMS D2. Dispatched about 4:50 p.m. Photographer was leaving Frankie's Fun Park, two blocks east, and heard the sirens. His high score on Robotron was promptly forgotten. Click to enlarge:



For all of the "reflective vest patriots" out there. How do you like the Bethesda Chief's "Carolina Blue" reflective ensemble? Is that ANSI 107 or 207 compliant? Actually, we all need to set the example and wear our vests. Good points on the earlier blog.

**reflective vest** - 01/04/09 - 23:33

Saw today at Walmart, Class 2 and 3 reflective vests for \$9. Looked as good as the ones being sold by FD equipment sellers and sure enough had the appropriate ANSI 107/207 on it. Had them in green, yellow/green, orange.

**Walmart** - 01/04/09 - 23:46

Lead by example. Enough said.

On another note, though, notice that the road was 'shut down'. The ultimate safe zone maybe?

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 01/05/09 - 01:49

Vests are great and wonderful tools, but as DJ and other points note, Vests are NOT enough!

**gen3fire** - 01/05/09 - 15:35

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

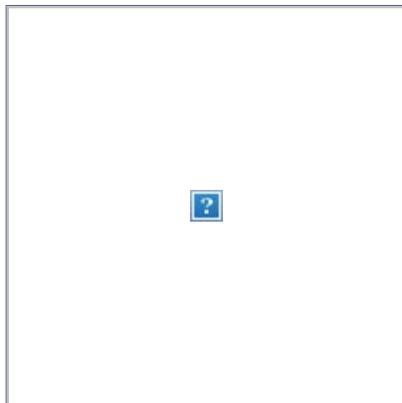
No

/ [Textile](#)

**Lighting**

01/06/09 32 W, 2 I - + 13 - 12

What a difference when then the sun shines. Truck 24 at Station 24 on Saturday, left in the morning by Mike Legeros, right in the afternoon by Lee Wilson. Click to enlarge:



Are you sure it's not just the photographer Mike.... hee hee... Just kidding!

Thanks for all you do!

**yfd482** - 01/06/09 - 09:50

Mr. Wilson is the master of apparatus photography. I am still learning.

**Legeros** - 01/06/09 - 19:33

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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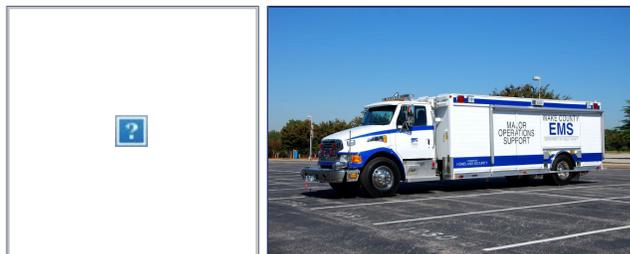
**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

**Lighting, Part 2**

01/06/09 52 W, 2 I - + 12 - 9

EMS Truck 1, posed in October for stock shots. Same time, same space. Legeros vs. Wilson, Canon vs. Nikon. They look pretty close to same. Some color and contrast difference. His angle is much better. Tech specs: 100 ISO, 22mm, 1/200, F10 for Legeros; 100 ISO, 31mm, 1/320, F9.0 for Wilson. Click to enlarge:



Looking at them both side by side on dual monitors, the one on left looks a bit better in my opinion. The one on the right seems slightly distorted, even though the whites appear to be brighter.

**right** - 01/07/09 - 09:22

The picture looked good in Fire Apparatus Journal

**wnh305** - 01/12/09 - 15:48

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Tanker 14**

01/06/09 114 W, 1 I - + 11 - 9

For today's historical tidbit, here's a nice, clean, posed shot of Tanker 14, one of a pair of 1960 GMC/Alexander tankers that served the Raleigh Fire Department from 1960 to 1986. They were placed in service on April 3, 1960, as Tanker 1 (at Station 8) and Tanker 2 (at Station 2). They were acquired to protect newly annexed areas, and the newly constructed Beltline. The former became T8 (1961-1968) and T4 (1968-1986). The latter became T9 (1963-1974) and T14 (1974-1986). The trucks were slow as all get-out, I'm told. They had a 2 1/2-inch discharge, though at least one received a quick-dump value toward the end of its life. Both were transferred to Public Works. [See more photos](#). Click to enlarge:



1500 gallon tank...six cylinder engine. I got behind T4 on a call, going up the ramp from Old Wake Forest Rd onto what is now the inner beltline. Top speed of 20 mph up the hill...I think the beacon was turning faster...

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 01/06/09 - 22:22

What size tank did they have?

**Kurt** - 01/06/09 - 22:23

Someone can read my mind and type the answer a minute faster. Thanks DJ

**Kurt** - 01/06/09 - 22:26

Will we ever see Raleigh getting new tankers in the future as they constantly annex land that may or may not have adequate hydrants? While we know the city should have hydrants everywhere, I could see some areas running into trouble. Are Raleigh's Engineers/Lt.s trained in drafting operations? Any thoughts?

**Annex** - 01/07/09 - 09:19

They already have them. They just have to redo the gold leaf on the doors.

**Looking to the Future RFD** - 01/07/09 - 09:30

What do they look like?

**Sam** - 01/07/09 - 15:13

I think he's being a little sarcastic. As in the city could take over the county owned tankers. But I seem to remember hearing a very high up official in the Raleigh FD mentioning that "we are not in the tanker business, nor do we foresee getting into it."

**CFP 7021** - 01/07/09 - 15:24

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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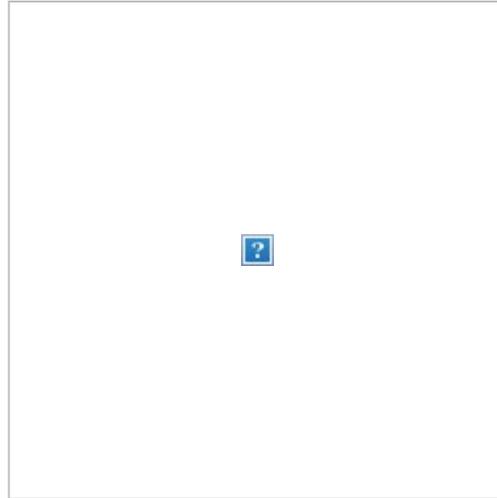
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**Sorry About Spam Not Appreciated**

01/07/09 80 W, 1 I - + 11 - 10

For those of you occasionally unable to post comments, because you receive a "Spam is not appreciate message," just [mail me your comments directly](#). I will post them myself using administrative magic. The reason your comment won't post is probably due to a keyword that the system equates as "this message must be spam." This can also happen if you try posting a comment with multiple web addresses. [Just mail me](#).



Name: (real name preferred)  
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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
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## High Winds, Indeed!

01/08/09 41 W, 1 I - + 12 - 9

As [this WRAL story reports](#), yesterday's blustery conditions sent a Cessna into the woods at North Raleigh Airport in Louisburg. The plane is a total loss, officials report. The big blow occurred around 8 p.m.



*WRAL photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Wake County Fire Commission Meeting, Thursday, January 15**

01/08/09 64 W - + 10 - 7

The Wake County Fire Commission meets again on Thursday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m., at the Wake EMS Training Facility, located in the lower level of the Wake County Commons Building at 4011 Cary Drive. We or maybe I will post an agenda, if one is made available ahead of the meeting. Maybe even handouts, if they're made available.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Mystery Machine**

01/09/09 41 W, 1 I - + 11 - 9

For your Friday amusement, we present a mystery machine. What is it, and how does it work? Fire suppression tool? Rescue device? Something else altogether? Winner receives a free subscription to this blog. Happy Friday. Click to enlarge:



It looks like a combine to me.

**Farmer Brown** - 01/09/09 - 09:15

Not actually a combine but a reaper. While it may put the operator closer to the process. It is going to make it a very dirty job being that close,

**Kurt** - 01/09/09 - 09:33

I would have to guess something for washing hose and maybe rolling/folding hose also.

**[2redline]** - 01/09/09 - 09:55

I googled it, found it, and am still not too sure what it is. :)

**rfburns** - 01/09/09 - 09:55

rice harvester – not much use for them here – haven't seen any rice paddies around

**cornerhydrant** - 01/09/09 - 10:25

<http://www.yanmar.co.jp/en/environmental..>

**yfd482** - 01/09/09 - 12:12

and to see it in action (sort of), the japanese page:

<http://www.yanmar.co.jp/products/agri/no..>

**cornerhydrant** - 01/09/09 - 14:09

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Yes

No

Comment:

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## State Bureau of Investigation

01/09/09 53 W, 2 I - + 13 - 10

The SBI had a pair of interesting vehicles parked at the Convention Center today for tonight's inaugural ball. Left is a hazardous device unit and trailer, e.g. bomb squad. Right is a mobile command center. [Learn more about the State Bureau of Investigation](#). Click to enlarge photos:



Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
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Remember personal info?

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## Department of Correction

01/10/09 78 W, 1 I - + 10 - 12

Speaking of specialized vehicles for law enforcement agencies, the DOC parks this Special Operations Response Team unit off W. Hargett Street, near the old entrance to Central Prison. It'll turn a head as you're driving by, if you're looking that way. Learn more about the [Department of Correction](#), including a neat section on their site on [closed prisons](#). What other special LEO vehicles are utilized around the area?



RPD has a mobile command center and an armored vehicle that SEU (SWAT team) uses called "The Bear." Looks like an armored car. No markings.

**Native Charlottean** - 01/10/09 - 10:22

CMPD also has the "BEAR" (Ballistic Engineered Response & Rescue) made by, I want to say, Lenco. It is lettered with CMPD SWAT but the lettering is a reflective gray/black color and during the day is only visible from certain angles.

The Bomb Squad has a truck on a 4-dr International Chassis (rescue body with small walk-in office/dress out room/briefing room), which I understand is being replaced by a new truck. The negotiators have a truck (similar to Raleigh's Command Post). SWAT has a few older armored vehicles and some other transport type vehicles. CMPD and CFD share the Mobile Command Post (bus) and also share the MOC (Mobile Operations Center – a 53' tractor trailer). The MOC is also a UASI asset so it can be used by any County in the UASI. CMPD has a surveillance van which is used by the Intelligence Unit. The Aviation Unit has 1 (or 2) Bell Helicopters.

Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office has mobile arrest processing tractor trailer that has a small holding cell and several computers used to process people arrested on the scene of large events. Not sure of anything else they might have.

That's all I can recall off the top of my head.

**Luke** - 01/12/09 - 02:41

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

**Henderson's New Engine**

01/10/09 66 W, 1 I - + 9 - 9

As photographed by Lee Wilson, here's Henderson's new engine, a 2008 Pierce Arrow XT pumper with a 1500 GPM Waterous pump and a 500 gallon tank. [Read more delivery details.](#) Or [see more photos by Lee.](#) Or [learn about HFD,](#) home of the oldest operating fire station in the state! Henderson Fire Station 2, built 1908. [Read about it and others.](#) Click to enlarge:



*Lee Wilson photo*

What are the other oldest active fire stations in North Carolina? See this thread from October: <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>

**Legeros** - 01/10/09 - 10:50

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## Fire Boats to Patrol Wilmington Area, 1943

01/10/09 97 W - + 13 - 9

Interesting item from the March 14, 1943 edition of the *News & Observer*: Wilmington Fire Chief J. Ludie Croom announced on March 13 that the USCG has assigned "three large fire boats to the Wilmington area," to aid "against any waterfront conflagrations that may occur." The boats, manned by USCG personnel, will operate in conjunction with WFD and, in event of a blaze, be under the command of the Fire Chief. The largest boat was 65 feet long, with a 3000 GPM pumping capacity. The others were smaller, with 2000 GPM capacity each.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

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**Lees-McCrae College Building Burns, 1943**

01/10/09 82 W - + 9 - 10

Before Banner Elk had a fire department, Boone, Newland, and Elk Park responded to the town on March 22, 1943, when the Tennessee Dormitory at Lees-McCrae College burned. The four-story, stone building-- built in 1925-- was reduced to ruins within three hours after starting about 1:15 p.m. The occupants numbered 60 and escaped without injuries. The fire departments took about 30 minutes to arrive. Source: *News & Observer*, March 23, 1942. The Banner Elk Fire Department in Avery County was chartered in 1965.

Name: (real name preferred)  
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## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Fire Commission « Lees-McCrae College B... » Supply Line + No Park... Meeting Agenda & Documents, January 15 (Updated)

### Fire Commission Meeting Agenda & Documents, January 15 (Updated)

01/10/09 157 W - + 13 - 8

Below is the agenda for the Wake County Fire Commission Meeting on Thursday, January 15 at 7:00 p.m., at the Wake EMS Training Facility, located in the lower level of the Wake County Commons Building at 4011 Cary Drive. Also available are [several documents related to the agenda](#) released today, including a report from the Staffing Ad Hoc Allocation Committee on discussion on the proposed allocation of 12 new positions for Wake County fire services.

#### Agenda

Call meeting to order

- Invocation
- Roll of Members Present
- Approval of Agenda

Minutes

- Adoption of Minutes for November 20th, 2008, Regular Meeting

Regular Agenda

- Recommendation from Staffing Ad Hoc Committee
- Compensation Committee
  - Market Survey Results
- Facility Committee

Information Agenda

- Apparatus Committee
  - FY 10 Replacement Plan
- Fire Tax Financial Report
- Chair Report
- Fire/Rescue Services Director Report

Other Business

Public Comments

- 30 minutes maximum time allotted, Maximum 3 minutes per person

Adjournment - Next Meeting March 19th, 2009.

#### [See related documents](#)

Link doesn't work :(

**Link** - 01/10/09 - 21:15

Fixed, thanks.

**Legeros** - 01/10/09 - 21:44

One additional handout has been added, the Facility Committee Report to be presented on Thursday.

**Legeros** - 01/12/09 - 22:09

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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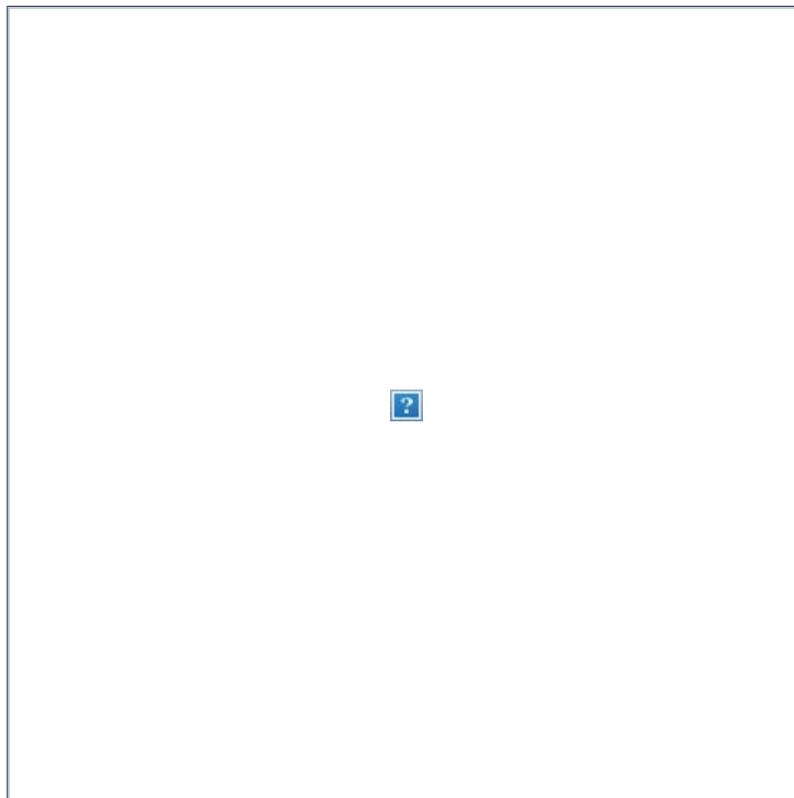
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## Supply Line + No Parking

01/11/09 57 W, 1 I - + 12 - 8

[Dave Statter surfaces a photo](#) that will certainly be making the rounds. Ron Trout took this photo at a Gloucester City, NJ, fire on Thursday. [See more at Philly Fire News](#). What are your supply line stories involving obstructions between your hose and the hydrant? Click to enlarge:



*Ron Trout / PFN Photo*

---

Outstanding!!

**Silver** - 01/11/09 - 20:31

I like the one from PGFD where the cop car parked too close to the back of the engine. All the supply lines and attack lines go over and around the cop car.

**Mike** - 01/12/09 - 07:34

That is awesome. It's just a shame that one would lose their job if such an accomplishment was attempted in Raleigh.

**RescueRanger** - 01/12/09 - 10:45

This individual deserves an award

**J.Boggs** - 01/12/09 - 18:36

Moral of the story is; don't park where it's clearly marked "No Parking" with yellow painted on the curb and this won't happen.

**Silver** - 01/12/09 - 20:30

Mike... something similar happened here in Charlotte when an Officer decided to park directly in front of a house with fire showing.

<http://www.the1house.com/Rozzles%20Ferry..> (scroll through the pics)

After reading the link off of Statter's page, it appears as though the driver of this vehicle is a local volunteer/buff/"you name it..." Pretty interesting reading there.. he should have known better!

**Luke** - 01/13/09 - 02:25

My van. Oops. Smoke happens!!! lol

**Robert W. Schemelia** ([Email](#)) - 03/30/09 - 18:17

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Big Black Column of Smoke

01/11/09 155 W, 1 I - + 15 - 9

County units were going to a woods fire on Tarheel Club Road. City units were going to a house fire on Haig Point Way. Which side of the Neuse River was that big black column of smoke coming from, which could be seen from the airport and probably farther out? New Hope 100 found it first, an abandoned house at [3124 Tarheel Clubhouse Road](#). Fully aflame and down to the ground. Tax records don't show a "before" photo, but describe the structure as one-story, wood-frame residence with a full basement and 2,706 square-feet. Built 1969. That is, if I'm reading the correct record. The "after" photo is below. Engine 27 pumped, New Hope Engine-2 Engine 8 supplied Engine 27, and tankers supplied Engine-2 Engine 8. Other units on scene included New Hope Brush 7, Engine 2, Tanker 9, Tanker 10, Tanker 11, EMS 16, EMS 5, and EMS D3. Incident time about 3:51 p.m.



Actually New Hope E-8 supplied 27 E-2 crew went to work  
Also on scene NH Tanker 11

**WNH305** - 01/12/09 - 15:23

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

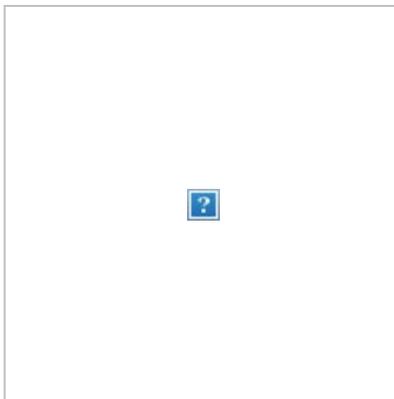
/ [Textile](#)

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**Durham to Discuss City/County Merger**

01/13/09 118 W, 1 I - + 10 - 10

[The News & Observer reports](#) that members of the Durham City Council and Durham County Board of Commissioners have agreed to start talks about merging the city and county governments. A merging of the two has been formally proposed several times, the article notes, since the mid-1920s. It was defeated in public referenda, in particular, in 1960 and 1974. No mention of fire services in the article. How big would a Durham City/County Fire Department be, do you suppose, with no reductions? Presently the combined stations would equal 25, from Durham (14), Bahama (2), Bethesda (2), Lebanon (1), Parkwood (3), and Redwood (3). See a list of Durham fire stations on the [CFP site NC fire station list](#).



Name: (real name preferred)  
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Remember personal info?  
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No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## Durham Fire Captain Injured at Fire

01/13/09 69 W - + 13 - 13

Speaking of the Durham Fire Department, Capt. Sean Boone was injured Monday night at a house fire on West Piedmont Street. [This News & Observer article](#) reports he was struck by a stream of water and suffered injuries to his left eye and face. He was treated and released from Duke, and is scheduled for further medical evaluation today. Get well soon, Sean!

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: [/ Textile](#)

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## Kernersville Backdraft Caught on Camera

01/15/09 56 W - + 14 - 15

Dave Statter surfaces a dashboard camera that captured the backdraft at a Kernersville house fire early yesterday morning. Firefighter Jay Coleman was transported with minor injuries, after the roof collapsed while crews were still inside. [More coverage from Dave](#). Also [read the FireNews story](#). More about the [Kernersville Fire Department](#).

---

Scary to say the least.

**[2redline]** - 01/15/09 - 11:12

Not a backdraft. There is too much visible fire via self ventilation and no other visible signs of one from that camera. Maybe a smoke explosion somewhere in the house but I doubt that as well. I put my \$\$ on some kind of BLEVE from a propane tank in the house or something like that especially to blow the roof upward and the walls out.

**Mike** - 01/15/09 - 11:32

I agree with Mike. If you look at the comments on Stater911, the K'ville chief apparently stated that it was a backdraft "caused by a buildup of smoke in the crawlspace of the home". Definately sounds like a smoke explosion of some sort to me.

**Barrett** ([Email](#)) - 01/15/09 - 13:20

Or the possibility of a gas line rupture (if the house used propane or gas) and filling the crawl space. I also do not believe it was a backdraft.

**gen3fire** - 01/15/09 - 18:45

From [http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/smoke\\_expl...](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/smoke_expl...), Smoke Explosion – An extreme fire behavior phenomenon in which a mixture of products of combustion (such as carbon monoxide), pyrolysis products, and air are ignited explosively within a compartment upon contact with a source of ignition. Conditions for a smoke explosion require that the fuel/air mixture be less than 600°C, otherwise it would have already experienced autoignition. The term smoke explosion is often used (incorrectly) as a synonym for backdraft which is a completely different extreme fire behavior phenomenon.

**Legeros** - 01/15/09 - 18:56

While enroute, rec'd report of 3 persons trapped inside; 1st & 2nd engines arrived simultaneously with 3 personnel each, both Captains w/20+ yrs exp. and no personnel w/less than 8+ years paid exp.; 1st arriving Capt. performed complete walkaround to find heavy fire showing from side B; 2-1/2 attack line and water supply established as walkaround performed; residents on scene difficult to communicate w/due to language barrier; no structural integrity problems visualized during walkaround; initial attack line in front door and then towards side B which placed it between fire and bedrooms; 3rd and 4th due engines, 1st due truck, and BC arrived at this time; explosion occurred approx. 2-3 minutes after entry; explosion separated floor joists from main beam and dropped section of floor approx. 18-24" into crawl; interior crew able to self extricate; resident attempted re-entry after initial crew went inside and was restrained by 2nd due pump operator; all appliances total electric; house was not meth lab; no flammable/combustible storage found; no lp or natural gas present

**[Kville Fire]** - 01/16/09 - 12:12

Whatever it was, I'm glad my friends in Kernersville are OK.

**A.Rich** - 01/16/09 - 13:28

What was the flaming object that appears to be rocketing in the air away from the B/C corner of the structure? Potential LP gas cylinder?

**Invest1** - 01/24/09 - 14:09

Interesting postscript, [http://firenews.net/index.php/headlines/..](http://firenews.net/index.php/headlines/)

**Legeros** - 01/27/09 - 20:51

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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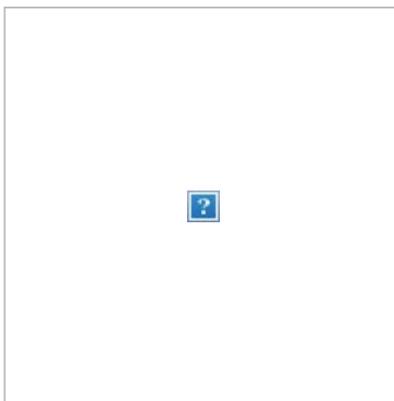
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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## City Installs Solar Thermal Hot Water Heating System At Fire Station

01/16/09 76 W, 1 I - + 11 - 9

A City of Raleigh fire station is relying on the sun for its hot water. A solar thermal hot water heating system has been installed at Fire Station No. 15, located at 1815 Spring Forest Road in front of Millbrook Exchange Park. It supplements a natural gas unit that had been the fire station's only source of hot water. [Read the entire press release.](#)



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E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Comment:

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## Controlled Collapse Exercise Concludes in Raleigh

01/16/09 120 W, 1 I - + 12 - 8

The gang was all there this week at the corner of Jones and West streets in downtown Raleigh, for a controlled collapse exercise with North Carolina Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force 8. The 210-member team, one of 11 regionally located, all-hazard search-and-rescue teams in the team, is comprised of members from the Raleigh Fire Department, Cary Fire Department, Chapel Hill Fire Department, Durham Fire Department Wake County EMS, and Atlas Engineering. The three-day, 72-hour exercise was conducted at a structure scheduled for demolition. [Read the entire press release](#). Or visit the [official site for NCTF8](#). Photos are coming from Lee and Mike. Good work, all. Now go inside and get warm.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## There's a Plane in the Hudson

01/16/09 114 W, 1 I - + 13 - 11

Another great photo from yesterday, water spots notwithstanding, was this well-composed image from a ferry passenger named Janis Krums, who [posted his image to Twitter](#) with the one-line caption "There's a plane in the Hudson. I'm on the ferry going to pick up the people. Crazy." Citizen journalism, just like that. One photo, one sentence. The picture has been picked by the AP, and appeared on the front page of today's *News & Observer*. And probably many other print outlets. At least, those that haven't closed shop. Firegeezzer [talks about this photo](#) and this subject today. The *New York Times* [also discusses](#).



*Janis Krums Photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Wake County Honors Recruits of Inaugural Fire Academy**

01/17/09 110 W, 1 I - + 14 - 13

Wake County held its first Fire Academy Graduation Ceremony last night at the Wake Technical Community College Student Services Conference Center, 9101 Fayetteville Road, Raleigh. Twelve recruits received their certifications after completing 19 weeks of training. The county Fire/Rescue division partnered with Wake Technical Community College and the county's 20 contracting fire departments to train the recruits. This first Fire Academy will add more professional firefighters to handle the county's fire protection services ranks. Currently, there are 601 volunteer, and 422 paid full- and part-time, firefighters serving Wake County. [Read the entire press release.](#) Watch for [photos from Lee Wilson](#).



*Lee Wilson Photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Panoramas

01/17/09 74 W, 2 I - + 12 - 13

Here's a pair of panoramic images of the controlled collapse exercise conducted this week with NC Task Force 8. [Read the prior posting](#). They are *almost* before and after photos, taken Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The photographer (Legeros, actually wearing long sleeves) shifted his positions, however. They were created using the Photomerge feature of Photoshop Elements 5.0. Click to enlarge either, or click twice if your browser resizes them to fit your screen:



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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No

Comment:

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**Garner Rescue, Then & Now**

01/17/09 56 W, 2 I - + 13 - 10

Some Saturday photo fun compares a pair of similiar shots of Garner Rescue & EMS. Top shot ~~should be late 1970s~~ is circa 1981 or 1982. Bottom shot is early last year. White 'n' orange versus blue 'n' white. Bread truck versus heavy rescue. Etcetera. Times they have changed. Click to enlarge either:



In the top photo, the van ambulance was a local conversion and it ran for a short time as a standard van before the fiberglass top was put on. The step-van pictured was actually the second crash truck. The first was an actual bread truck and was nicknamed "Wonder Wagon". The WW logo was actually painted on the unit.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 01/17/09 - 22:06

The top picture is more accurately 1981 or '82-very shortly after the move from the old bldg. on Pearl St. (off Main). Note also we were known as Garner "St. Marys" Rescue Squad then. All volunteer, EMT staffing with numbered "duty crews" and an active jr. member (cadet) program for high school aged kids with an interest. Good group of folks back in the day!!

**Wayne** - 01/18/09 - 16:56

The good ole days. I was a cadet there from 1983-1985. Then ran as a member from 1986-1992. A lot of veteran medics in Wake County cut their eye teeth at "860"

**Donnie** ([Email](#)) - 01/19/09 - 00:07

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

[/ Textile](#)

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## Fire and Water

01/18/09 62 W - + 11 - 10

The coldest night of the year saw a spat of water pipe problems today, and notably in Cary. Did I hear dispatch correctly around 7:00 p.m., informing all stations that CFD ran 51 fire calls today? Not counting first responder? There were also a number of reported fires around the area. Were any working? Tell your stories, and stay warm.

On day shift between 0630 and 1830 we sent out 54 fire alarms between RFD and county departments (not including Cary because we dont dispatch them). Considering there was 129 total fire dispatches during those 12 hours I would say the cold definately was a factor. Several incidents included water flow with building damage. 54 fire alarms is a steep increase from the normal number we send out. The previous day was only a total of 20 which is about normal for an average day.

**Dispatch** - 01/18/09 - 14:01

Yes, you heard correctly. It ended up being a total of 63 calls for the shift. Mostly, broken sprinkler pipes in attic spaces and heads in empty buliding and 2- house fires going at the same time but nothing major from neither(one citizen was thawing out his garden hose ? & set the side of the house on fire). I wonder if B shift will have the same calls with the temps. rising today. Thanks goes out to Apex,Fairview, Swift Creek for the coverage during the peak times.

**fire1983** - 01/18/09 - 14:45

I belive Apex had a working fire last night herd a little of it on the scanner.

**4447** - 01/18/09 - 16:08

Decided to break down the calls from yesterday in Charlotte, while at work last night...

53 – Water Problems/Shut-off

103 – Fire Alarms (many were water-flow/sprinkler activations directly related to frozen/busted pipes)

27 – “Other” fires (vehicles, outside, trash, dumpster, brush, etc) – including 14 cars burning in 1 parking lot

9 – Reported structure fires (of which 2 were Working Fires)

202 – EMS/Rescue/MVAs

21 – Other misc. calls

GRAND TOTAL for 23.45hrs (1/17/09 07:00 – 1/18/09 06:45) = 415 calls

**Luke** - 01/18/09 - 23:45

Fuquay Fire had a working fire yesterday morning at 830am and Holly Springs had one this at midlight last night.

**fvfire** - 01/19/09 - 17:25

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**Rocky Mount Firefighter Injured on the Job**

01/18/09 94 W - + 12 - 10

[WRAL reports](#) that Rocky Mount Firefighter Kerry Dennis was transported to the UNC Burn Center today, and is recovering from serious burns to his foot and ankle resulting from fighting a mobile home fire off Highway 43 this morning. His condition is reportedly stable. [Read the entire story](#). The *Rocky Mount Telegram* has more details. RMFD responded as mutual aid with West Edgecombe Fire Department. Dennis was injured during overhaul operations, when his leg fell through a floor and something burning entered his boot. [Read the entire article](#).

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

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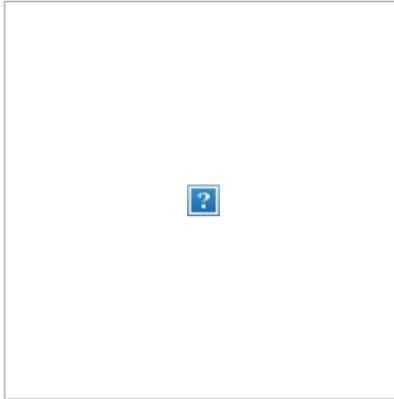
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### Barry Doyle Featured in People Magazine

01/19/09 60 W, 1 I - + 10 - 11

The January 26, 2009, issue of *People Magazine* features Barry Doyle as a Heroes Among Us. The full-page photograph on page 100 shows Barry Doyle, along with wife Denise and daughter Catherine, serving food to firefighters from their Feed the Firefighters Foundation rehab unit. A short article accompanies the photo. Read more about [Barry and the foundation](#).



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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## Snow Day

01/20/09 159 W, 1 I - + 15 - 10

The white stuff's still falling. The Governor's declared a state of emergency. The President's been inaugurated. What else has happened today? Numerous units responded to an MVC involving a bus on Maywood Avenue at Morning Street about 7:25 a.m. Raleigh Engine 2, EMS 1, 11, 13, 8, 81, Truck 1, District 1, and Chief 100. Seven patients from the bus, 5 immobilized. No serious injuries. Driver of second vehicle not hurt. About 8:07 a.m., a vehicle was found upside down in a creek beside Blue Ridge Road south of Crabtree Valley Avenue. Vehicle empty, driver found at nearby fast-food restaurant. Engine 14, Rescue 14 (shown below), Engine 16, and Ladder 17 were on scene, and helped block traffic. [See some pictures by Legeros](#). Other weather stuff? RDU cancelled a mess of flights, and delayed three-dozen more, as of 11 a.m., as [WRAL reports](#). The DOT is busy plowing and salting. The Celine Dion concert has not been cancelled. Remain calm on that last item.



My wife works at RBC, so I have the latest. All of you can breath a little easier...Celine is postponed until tomorrow night.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 01/20/09 - 19:25

Phew. Calmer now.

**Legeros** - 01/20/09 - 19:32

DJ-

Brother you would have made my day if you said that the concert was canceled instead of postponed.

Methinks the Ice witch Celine brought the winter weather with her. (Can ya tell I am not a fan?)

BTW: good shots as always Mike!

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 01/21/09 - 20:44

Yeah, but if the concert had been cancelled, then my other half would not be working. Therefore, she could not be earning the money to support me in the manner I am trying to get accustomed to...

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 01/21/09 - 22:02

The secret to snowy photography? First, gloves. Second, umbrella. Probably looked goofy— bright red umbrella held by guy in bright yellow parka— but, hey, it worked.

**Legeros** - 01/21/09 - 22:03

Probably no goofier than the dude in the Hawaiian shirts...

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 01/21/09 - 22:03

Yeah, he's a nut.

**Legeros** - 01/21/09 - 22:03

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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**New Archives of Older Photos**

01/20/09 78 W - + 10 - 10

By popular demand, the [Raleigh/Wake incident/event photo site](#) has been updated with an expanded archives page. An entire year's worth of earlier photos by Legeros are [now available](#), as well as some things from 2007. More may be added, from the year before last. Earlier photos from Wilson are still found on his Flickr Site, on the [Archives page](#). Browse by date, or use the search box in the upper-right corner. Enjoy!

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
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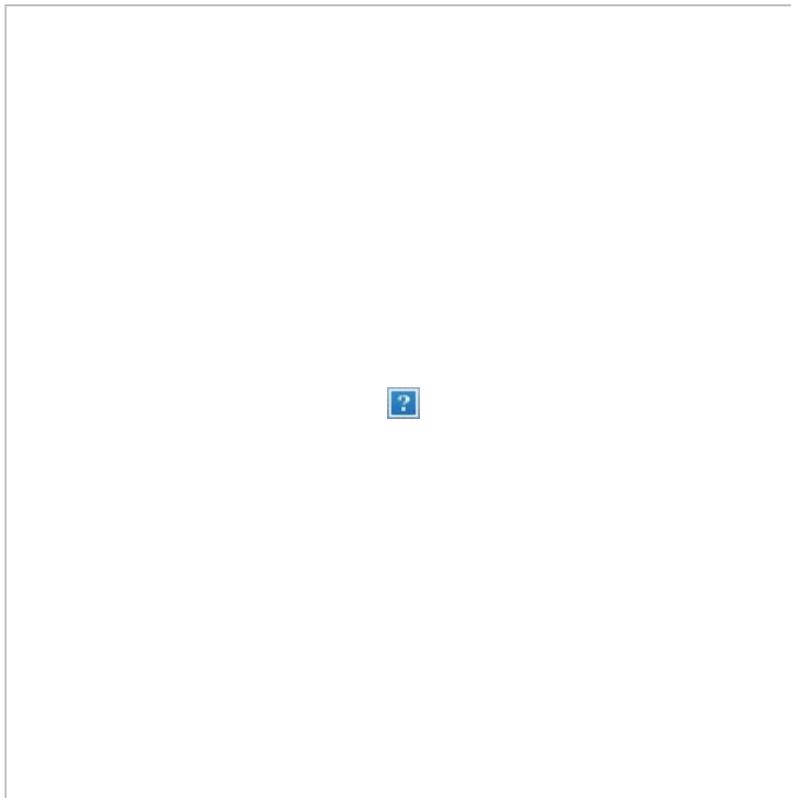
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**2009 Cadillac Presidential Limo**

01/21/09 78 W, 1 I - + 11 - 9

Speaking of the inauguration, below is the big man's new ride, a tough-looking 2009 Cadillac. The press release is mum on security features, but the Caddy in Chief includes LED spotlights to illuminate the front-fender flags at night. [Read and see more](#). On the subject of Capitol rides, Popular Mechanics has a nifty article on the top presidential limos of all time. [Read that article](#). Or consult Wikipedia on the subject of [presidential state cars](#).



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History Channel the other night had a show called "Presidential Movers" about the Planes, Helicopters, and Limos. Pretty interesting stuff. Guess I'm too young to remember that both the Army and Marines used to fly helicopters for the President, then that job was turned over solely to the Marines. I'm trying to remember that date, I'll see if I can locate it.

**Luke** - 01/22/09 - 10:25

Here it is, courtesy of Wikipedia: "Prior to 1976, responsibility for helicopter transportation of the President was divided between the Army and the U.S. Marine Corps until the Marine Corps was given the sole responsibility of transporting the President by helicopter."

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Army\\_One](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Army_One)

**Luke** - 01/22/09 - 11:17

It's nicknamed "The Beast"....

**Silver** - 01/22/09 - 12:01

I bet that thing gets some great gas mileage.....

**Jim K.** - 01/22/09 - 12:42

It was originally reported as being a hybrid by both CNN and the NY Daily News. Not sure if that is true or not....

**Hybrid** - 01/22/09 - 14:09

It's not a hybrid. Some news outlets were calling it that not because of the fuel it uses, but because it is a hybrid of a car and tank (though they did not make this differentiation clear!).

**Native Charlottean** ([Email](#)) - 01/22/09 - 19:14

I read that it actually has a GM Duramax diesel engine.

**Olson** - 01/24/09 - 00:12

As long as it's not a Ford 6.0L diesel!

Skip

**CHIEF100** ([Email](#)) - 01/24/09 - 09:11

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Numbers For Last Year

01/21/09 145 W - + 11 - 11

Between January 1 and December 31, 2008, this blog received 120,264 visits from 27,992 unique visitors. Folks spent an average 1 minute and 47 seconds on the site. Just over three-quarters of those visitors were returning visitors. Guess they liked what they saw. Total entries posted last year numbered 645, with readers adding another 1,751 comments.

What entries received the most comments? The top five:

- [New Numbering Scheme for Wake Forest Fire](#) (66)
- [Gone](#) (45)
- [Closed / Merged Fire Departments in North Carolina?](#) (41)
- [Improvements at Station 7](#) (40)
- [Sunset for Analog Cellular](#) (39).

What were the most popular blog entries, by number of visitors? The top five:

- [The Slammer](#) (2,014)
- [Fire Commission Meeting Highlights](#) (1,753)
- [New Numbering Scheme for Wake Forest Fire](#) (1,170)
- [Improvements at Station 7](#) (1,112)
- [Wake County Announces Budget](#) (1,029).

Yup, everybody loves *The Slammer*.

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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**Illinois Fire Service Institute**

01/22/09 84 W, 1 I - + 15 - 10

From the Missus, who saw this on a library resources mailing list, the Illinois Fire Service Institute has a nifty [online database of firefighter line-of-duty deaths](#). The resource provides both historical background information and related digitized images about almost 800 firefighter deaths over the last 150 years. There's even an online tutorial to get users started. Search by name, agency, gender, rank, age, and death year. How many of those are Chicago Fire Department fatalities, you ask? They total 569, beginning in 1898.



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 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

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**History of Firefighting in North Carolina**

01/22/09 107 W, 1 I - + 13 - 12

The Winter 2009 issue of *Carolina Fire Rescue EMS Journal* features a feature on the history of firefighting in North Carolina by Mike Legeros. It's a four-page piece starting on page 42, and includes a half-dozen images. You can download a PDF version of the entire issue from the [journal's web site](#). Be aware, the file is rather large! The article is really just a sketch, a minor overview of early efforts. There's so much more to tell. Give me a few more years to research, record, and retell. Then we'll really have something.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
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 No

Comment:

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 Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**More Vintage EMS (Updated)**

01/24/09 139 W, 7 I - + 15 - 18

For your Friday enjoyment, here's some more vintage EMS action. These are circa 1980, give or take a year or two or three on either side. Left to right is Benson, Durham, Garner times two. What's the history of area EMS, outside Wake County? I leave that to readers to recall as desired. Click to enlarge:



From Clayton EMS Asst. Chief Jason Thompson, here are some photos of a Clayton Swab ambulance. This 1979 Chevrolet was utilized as a transport unit until 1999, and for another year or two as a reserve heavy rescue. One of the Swab trademarks is that they were designed for BLS care, he notes. There were windows on each side, and minimal cabinet space. The newer Swab ambulances replaced some of the rear windows with cabinet space. Thanks Jason! Click to enlarge:



Well...the far left picture shows Benson Rescue Squad long time members Billy and Shirley Byrd (also the former, I think owners of Billy Byrd's Western store in downtown Benson). The unit is a Ford van conversion by National Custom Coaches (no longer in business. They also made a Dodge version that was cut down the middle, and widened by about 18". CP&L had something similar when Shearron Harris was being built). The side flood lights were a trademark. Note the jump box, patterned after a TV tube caddy. These were 'the deal' back 'in the day'. Cary had some that were designed for EMS during the early 80s. A lot of other agencies simply used a real TV tube caddy. I remember seeing a many of them with RCA or Sylvania on the side.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 01/23/09 - 16:16

The third pic shows Eddie Cashwell checking off one of the modular units – probably 871. I seem to remember Schwab (sp?) building some of our ambulances around that time. Things get a little fuzzy with time you know. The interior layout is still very similar to today, isn't it!

**Wayne** - 01/24/09 - 01:08

Swab Wagon Co built a bunch of units around Wake County. Wendell had the first (eventually having several), Wake County EMS, Cary (they also had a Swab rescue truck), Wake Forest/North Wake, Knightdale, Zebulon, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, and Clayton. They were popular and they were well built.

In 1994 Anne Arundel County (MD) had several that had been originally purchased in the 70s that were on their third and fourth chassis. And those boxes were in better condition than a lot of the newer units.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 01/24/09 - 12:05

Looking at the picture of the Garner unit interior, it is interesting to see some of the stuff- sandbags for head immobilization, a home-made wooden short backboard, the Motorola MOCOM 70 radio control head, the 'poison antidote kit', and the wool army blanket on the cot. Looks like a big MINITOR I on his hip. And check out the big steel E cylinder at the head of the stretcher, probably held in by the single screw in the mounting base.

Wow, how things have changed.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 01/24/09 - 12:09

Having started in the Rescue / EMS field in the early 70's. All I can say is not to knock unless you done it.

**rnln** ([Email](#)) - 01/24/09 - 12:36

Started in the mid 70s...been there...done that...have t-shirt...ball cap...sweat shirt...

SYBM- 24/7/365/33+

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 01/24/09 - 13:17

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preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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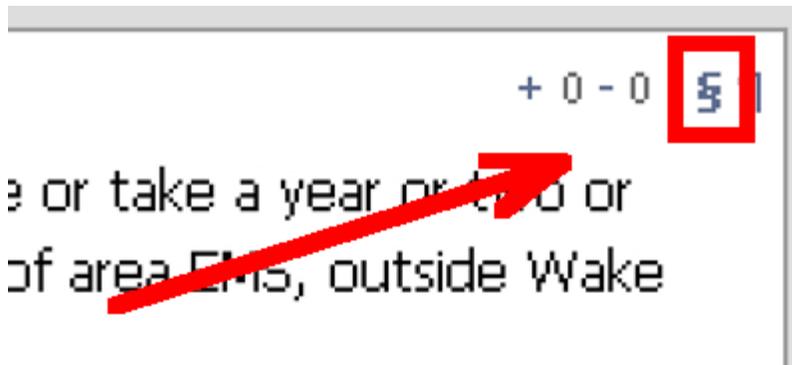
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

### Linking to Postings

01/23/09 46 W, 1 I - + 12 - 13

Here's a fast way to link to blog postings. Click the funny character in the upper-right corner, which displays a permanent link to the postings. For extra credit, what's that funny character called? No cheating please.



I believe it's something to do with "sections". I generally see them when a new section begins in case law reading or in legal contracts. Let's go simple and say it is a "sections sign/symbol".

**RPD** - 01/23/09 - 16:55

Section sign-used for showing paragraphs, sometimes uses other symbols, depending on cultures (the degree work actually paid for once!!)

**JD** - 01/23/09 - 17:33

Our readers are very wise. There's even a Wikipedia page on the thing: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C2%A7>

**Legeros** - 01/24/09 - 09:08

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 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## No Snickering: That Road Sign Means Something Else

01/24/09 69 W, 1 I - + 15 - 11

The *New York Times* profiles some [funny road names in Europe](#), such as the "butt" in the South Yorkshire sign, that "probably refers to a container for collecting water." Crapstone. Pratts Bottom. Etcetera. Yes, we are easily amused. But just imagine Locution announcing some of those names...



*Russell Bates/Ross Parry Agency/New York Times photo*

I can think of several people of which this road may be named after?

**ha!** - 01/25/09 - 16:45

There is one in Hoke County that got past the authorities- DILIGAF Rd. And then there was the old road in Knightdale- Jack Ass Road.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 01/25/09 - 20:29

Acronym, heh.

**Legeros** - 01/25/09 - 21:48

DJ had to google the diligaf. But funny once i figured it out.

**ha!** - 01/28/09 - 18:19

Name: (real name  
preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

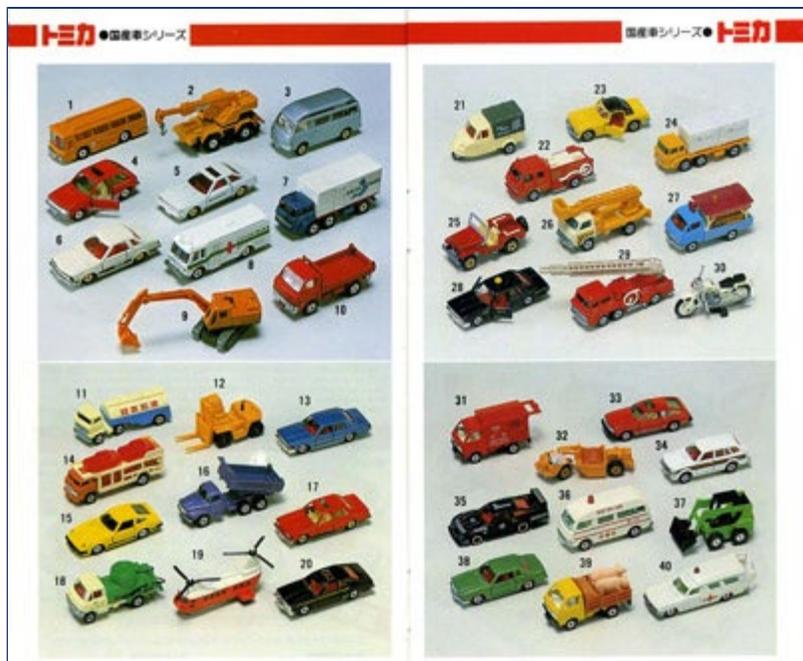
/ [Textile](#)

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1982 Tomica Catalog

01/24/09 105 W, 1 I - + 9 - 15

For toy collectors out there, here's a [Tomica catalog from 1982](#), found during some Christmas break cleaning. It's also a nice survey of Japanese vehicles from that era. The small-scale range, comparable to Matchbox, was available in the US in the late 1970s. Or least in stores around Minneapolis, MN, such as a five-and-ten store in the nearby town of Wayzata. Tomica Dandy was the range of larger-scale models. The Hino aerial ladder on page 13 is a gem, with "working" ladder, outriggers that auto-extend, and a booster reel hose that auto-retracts. High play value, there! Click to see the entire catalog:



See this site, for guides to Tomica emergency vehicles, <http://www.legeros.com/toys/guides/>

Legeros - 01/24/09 - 10:00

Nice find.. I glanced through the pics and realized I still had quite a few of these up in the attic put away from when I was small. Over 3k matchbox style cars at least. Should be worth something sooner or later. I'm sure I have an old book or two up there as well, spring cleaning isn't too far away.

Joe - 01/25/09 - 16:24

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Photographing Fire Apparatus by FAJ

01/24/09 93 W - + 13 - 12

*Fire Apparatus Journal* has an excellent [online article about photographing fire apparatus](#). The article by Dennis Maag presents pointers on photographing apparatus in a style similar to what's shown in *FAJ*. Some of the key points: use a 3/4 front/side view, shoot in full-sun, and utilize a fixed 50mm lens, or digital SLR equivalent. We've also blogged about a FireNews feature on [photographing fire apparatus](#), posted a couple years. Great examples in that article's Do's and Don'ts page. Both are excellent resources. Now get out and shoot.

Memo to self. With my Canon Rebel XT and its 1.6 multiplier, try a 31mm focal length when shooting apparatus.

**Legeros** - 01/24/09 - 11:08

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Fire Apparatus For State Highway Patrol Training Division**

01/24/09 93 W, 1 I - + 14 - 10

The Winter 2009 issue of *Carolina Fire Rescue EMS Journal* lists a new apparatus delivery for the North Carolina State Highway Patrol Training Division. They've received a 1995 F-350/21st Century Foam quick response crash truck/brush unit. The refurbished vehicle has a diesel engine, 150 GPM Darley pump, 225-gallon water tank, and a 12-gallon foam cell. The unit was delivered by 21st Century Foam. You can download a PDF version of the entire issue from the [journal's web site](#).



*CFRE Journal Photo*

Can someone tell me why the NCSHP needs a brush truck?????

**firebugg** - 01/31/09 - 18:19

The vehicle is described as a "quick response crash truck" as well as a "brush unit." The SHP training facility on Tryon Road is also home to the SHP Aviation Division. At their older hangar, a smaller building at the corner of Garner and Tryon roads, I recall seeing a standard wheeled dry-chemical extinguisher. At their newer hangar, located beside the road course, the above vehicle probably serves as a bigger "wheeled extinguisher."

Aerial view of the area: <http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&safe=0..>

**Legeros** - 01/31/09 - 18:56

...and my apologies to SHP or others amused by my speculations, should they contain slight or gross errors.

**Legeros** - 01/31/09 - 18:59

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## State Highway Patrol Training Academy

01/24/09 118 W, 1 I - + 12 - 15

Speaking of the Highway Patrol, the SBI/SHP campus at [3318 Garner Road](#) is a former state school for blind and deaf black students. The roadside marker notes the school was established in 1869. [Sanborn Maps](#) from 1914 show it located on the block bordered by South, Bloodworth, Lenoir and East Streets. In 1929, the Garner Road campus was established. Sanborn Maps from 1950 show an Administration Building, a Dining Hall, boys and girls dormitories (two each, one for blind, one for deaf), and some support buildings. The school was integrated with the Ashe Avenue campus in 1964, [notes this document](#), and the school's name was changed to the [Governor Morehead School](#).



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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Tractors and Trailers

01/24/09 28 W, 1 I - + 16 - 12

Noticed a new tractor for the [State Medical Assistance Team](#) trailer today at the WakeMed Special Operations facility on Sunnybrook Road. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

[/ Textile](#)

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**After the Fire, 1943**

01/24/09 96 W, 1 I - + 14 - 10

On May 19, 1943, the Big Star Store at 111 W. Morgan Street suffered an early morning fire that destroyed thousands of dollars of food. On July 1 of that year, the following advertisement appeared in the *New & Observer*, announcing the store's reopening. The image was scanned in four parts using a microfilm reader at Olivia Raney Local History Library. To quickly merge the images, the Photomerge feature of PhotoShop Elements 5 was used. Click to see a **very large** version, and click a second time if your browser resizes the image to fit your window:



Man I wish we could have those prices today.

JDSHEP - 01/24/09 - 21:58

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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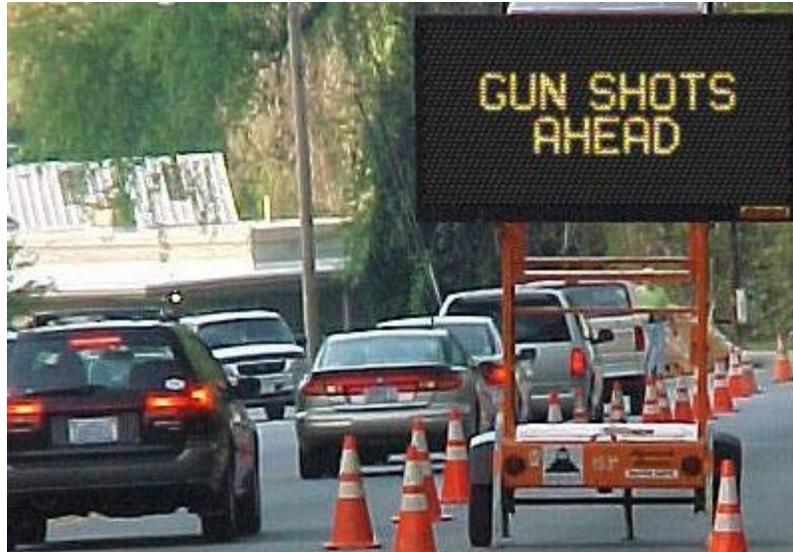
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**Dangerous Driving**

01/25/09 116 W, 1 I - + 10 - 14

Road rage, or maybe just rage, led to a shooting on Wade Avenue Thursday night, reports [this WRAL article](#). One driver shot at another, while driving near Blue Ridge Road. No one was injured. The shooter was arrested. Then this morning, reports [another WRAL article](#), someone saw a single-car accident on the shoulder of the Beltline, between Wake Forest Road and Capital Boulevard. The Outer Loop, those lanes that go that way. Responders found two people in the car, both shot in the back. Both were expected to live. E9, E11, L11, EMS2, EMS3, M92, D2 dispatched to that one. Image courtesy of [this road sign generator](#).



Notice the car slamming on the brakes before passing the sign.....

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 01/28/09 - 23:57

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**City, County Combat Economic Challenges**

01/27/09 116 W - + 13 - 11

Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker delivered a state-of-the-city address Monday, identifying four areas that the city should aggressively address in 2009: implementing the first steps of the updated Comprehensive Plan, provide an in-depth plan for public transportation, renew focus on water and energy, and keep Dix Hill Park in the forefront of workplans. [Read the entire press release](#). The *News & Observer* also [covered the address](#). Wake County Manager David Cooker addressed revenue shortfall's Monday, as this [News & Observer article](#) reported. There's already a hiring freeze in place, but he would ask County Commissioners for a budget amendment, cutting spending in county departments by about 4 percent through June. [Read the entire article](#).

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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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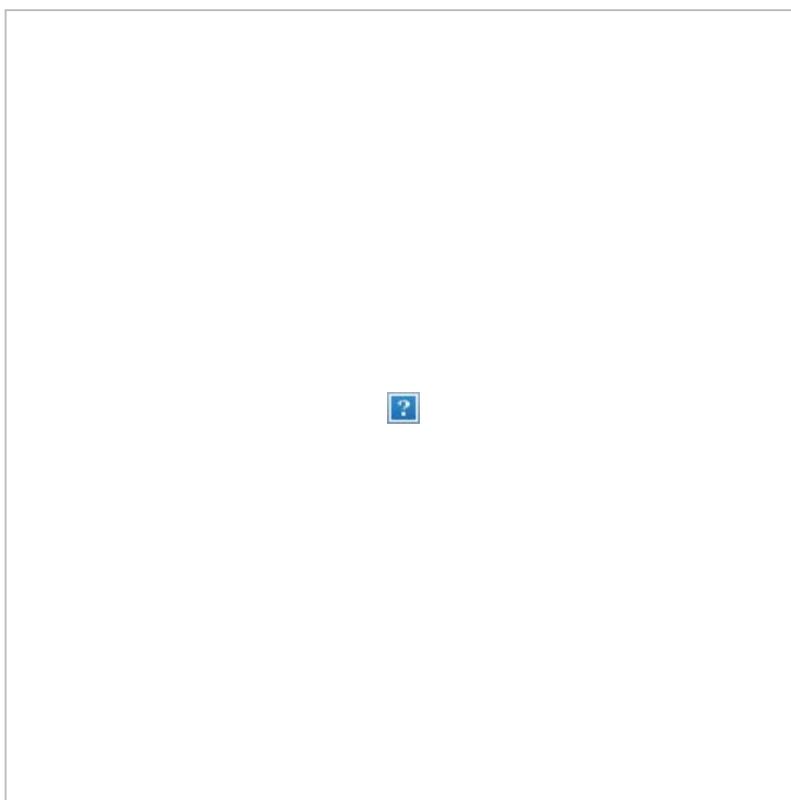
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## Today's Haz-Mat Incident / Battle Bridge Road

01/27/09 84 W, 1 I - + 12 - 11

Fuel spill at the Neuse River Wastewater Treatment Plant at [8500 Battle Bridge Road](#). Fire and EMS personnel on scene since this morning. Extended operations into evening. Fire units have included E2, E8, E25, E26, L20, L22, R14, R19, HM2, HM15, SR2, Decon 1, C74, C4. Medical units have included EMS 2, 7, 13, 64, T1, MD20. Barry's Cafe feeding the firefighters and responders. Read the [WRAL story](#). Read the [News & Observer story](#). Ready the [city press release](#).



*City of Raleigh Photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Last Year's Photos By The Numbers**

01/27/09 183 W - + 17 - 11

Speaking of counting photos, the answer to that question for last year is 15,567. That's the total number of "keepers" taken in 2008. Divided by months and days, that averages 1297 per month, and 42.6 per day. Since I shoot in Canon RAW format, a search of all .CR2 files produced said totals. A cool tool called [SysExporter](#) allowed cutting and pasting from those results. How much disk space does that translate to? Try 126,135,546 KB, or 126 GB.

What were the total number of pictures taken, period? Double, triple, or quadruple that figure. I'm trigger-happy, and plenty were deleted as I went along. What was the average number of "keepers" per incident? Unknown, or maybe TBD. Might try computing if I have extra-extra extra time.

Notable photo projects in 2008 included stock shots for the RFD yearbook, several special events for occasions both happy and sad, and a handful of ride-alongs (WEMS, GEMS, SFEMS, RDU CFR). Day trips around the state, and NCSFA conference are included in the above numbers. Big trips outside the state are excluded.

Navel-gazing concluded.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**Vintage EMS Photos Posted**

01/27/09 71 W, 1 I - + 15 - 12

A few dozen vintage EMS photos have been [posted to the photo site](#). They're scans of 35mm slides from the late 1970s and early 1980s. Benson, Chatham, Durham, Four Oaks, Garner, Goldston, Knightdale, Parkwood, Six Forks, Wake, and Wendell. Plus a dozen unidentified images. Some look like stock shots, others appear "real." Readers, please recollect on the people, places, and events pictured therein. Enjoy!



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GREAT PICTURES!!!! Even saw a Beacon Ambulance patch in one of the pics! Thanks Mike!!!

**Travis Loy** ([Email](#)) - 01/27/09 - 23:34

**Caption This Photo**

01/28/09 26 W, 1 I - + 17 - 13

Seen this evening on Westinghouse Boulevard, right after the Big Blow. I'll go first. Oh crap.



Obviously not built like a brick s\*#&house!

**wake county** - 01/28/09 - 20:28

Now wheel chair friendly!

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 01/28/09 - 23:53

"The 2009 economy on a good day."

**Kermit** - 01/29/09 - 02:13

now, we'll all have to learn to pee like dogs – quick, get the aim right, higher, higher – as for #2, that's another problem, unless sustained wind speeds exceed 60mph, at which point, all things will fly sideways anyway

**cornerhydrant** - 01/29/09 - 02:56

Must have been a top heavy load!

**Travizzle** - 01/29/09 - 09:16

I made a mess on myself

**Apex Batt Chief** - 01/29/09 - 09:49

I knew that chili was a bad idea...

**Barrett** ([Email](#)) - 01/29/09 - 10:29

**Bell Revealed!**

01/28/09 163 W, 4 I - + 13 - 8

We've [seen the first photo before](#), a 1930 view of the Revenue Building with old Station 1 in the left side of the frame. The version we saw before was small. Details were easy to miss. Having obtained a full-sized version of the picture, enlarged views of Station 1 and the fire station tower are shown below. The images reveal the fire bell, atop the tower and entirely exposed. Did it sit without shelter since 1914, the year it was moved there from Metropolitan Hall. TBD. Or maybe never known. For now, we may need to change our language. The bell was not necessarily "in" the tower, but atop it! Another neat detail is the false front opposite the tower, on the fire station. No third story there. Photo courtesy North Carolina State Archives, from Carolina Power and Light (CP&L) Photograph Collection (Ph.C.68). [Read more about the history of the bell](#) . Click to enlarge:



*North Carolina State Archives Photos*

**Raleigh Fire Department, Circa 1913**

01/30/09 376 W, 1 I - + 13 - 9

For your Friday enjoyment, here's an enlarged view of the Raleigh Fire Department from around 1913. The familiar image, from the Barden Collection (N.97.9.127) at the North Carolina State Archives, shows the entire department and apparatus posed in front of Station 1 on West Morgan Street. The photo's been cropped on the top and bottom, producing a panoramic effect. There are 22 firefighters, 4 horses, and 7 vehicles pictured. Far left and far right are the 1912 American LaFrance Type 5 combination chemical and hose wagons that were delivered in February 1913. Two horse-drawn hose wagons are also shown. They're four-wheel wagons, one of which is equipped with a "turret pipe."<sup>1</sup>

In the middle is an automobile, used by Fire Chief Sherwood Brockwell and Asst. Chief Charles Farmer. The 1905 American LaFrance Metropolitan steamer is being towed behind the chemical/hose car on the right. Its used for out-of-city calls, or to supplement hydrant pressure at major fires. The 1890 service ladder truck is in the background. Its longest ladder is 30 feet, and is also towed as needed. At the time of this photo, RFD had three hose companies on West Morgan Street, Fayetteville Street, and East Hargett Street. Hose 3 was horse-drawn. The second hose wagon and horse team is a reserve. RFD becomes fully-motorized the next year, with the delivery of the first pumping engine. The horses are retired in 1915. Click once or twice to enlarge:



*North Carolina State Archives Photo*

<sup>1</sup>From the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map description in 1914: "24 full paid men. Four horses. One Metropolitan 3rd class steam fire engine. Two American LaFrance automobile combination chemical and hose wagons and tractors for drawing steamers, each carrying 1200' 2 1/2" hose, 300' chemical hose, one 40 gallon chemical tank, two 25' ladders, two 12' roof ladders, and two scaling ladders. Two hose wagons drawn by horses each carrying 1000' 2 1/2" hose, two 18' scaling ladders, one 20' ladder and one roof ladder (one wagon equipped with a turret pipe). One city service truck, longest ladder 30'. 7100' 2 1/2" hose in all. One American LaFrance gasoline pumping engine, 800 gallons capacity, has been ordered and will soon be in service. Gamewell fire alarm system. 52 boxes. 29 miles of water pipes, 4" to 16" diameter. 231 double hydrants, 2 single hydrants. City population 26,000."

What a great photo! I love seeing this bit of history. I am a guest editor on 30Threads, so I gave you a link there:

<http://www.30threads.com/2009/01/30/rale..>

**Lisa Creech Bledsoe** (Email) (Web Site) - 01/30/09 - 10:53

Amazing to see how far we've come.

**KOM** (Email) - 01/31/09 - 01:54

**Apex, Fayetteville Awarded SAFER Grants**

01/30/09 64 W - + 14 - 11

The latest round of SAFER grants were announced today on [Firehouse.com](http://Firehouse.com). Two awards are close to home. The Apex Fire Department has been awarded \$1,300,560, for hiring 12 positions. The Fayetteville Fire Department has been awarded \$2,156,208, for hiring 24 (!) positions. [Read the article](#), or see the [list of recipients](#). Or visit the [Apex FD web site](#), or the [Fayetteville FD web site](#).

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Congrats Apex...Scooter can you provide insight as to where the staffing will be placed?

**Silver** - 01/31/09 - 12:07

Congrats... Any idea if those positions will be in place for the opening of Station 4? Or are those the positions being used to open that station?

**Luke** - 02/01/09 - 00:01

With the opening of station 4 slated for mid July they will 9 of them should staff a 3 man engine company there. 1 per shift will be added to our Ladder truck to give it a 3 person crew. With the current budget outlook we were wondering how to staff station 4 without this grant. This will give us a total of five 3 person crews daily and a BC. this will still be supplemented by volunteer duty crews and part time personnel. We are in the planning stages now of developing a training program for them.

**Apex Batt Chief** - 02/01/09 - 14:41

Are you going to have to send them all through a academy or does the grant allow a "short" academy?

**Bob** - 02/02/09 - 06:51

The last comment was not from the Bob of "Pascucci" fame...

**Bob P.** - 02/02/09 - 10:40

That's great to hear Scooter (and Bob of the Pascucci fame). Apex has come a long way since having full-timers at Station 2 and 3 only! How many part-timers work each day? Good luck to all of you in Apex.

**Luke** - 02/03/09 - 18:34

Luke we have 2 part timers per shift.

**Scooter** - 02/03/09 - 19:13

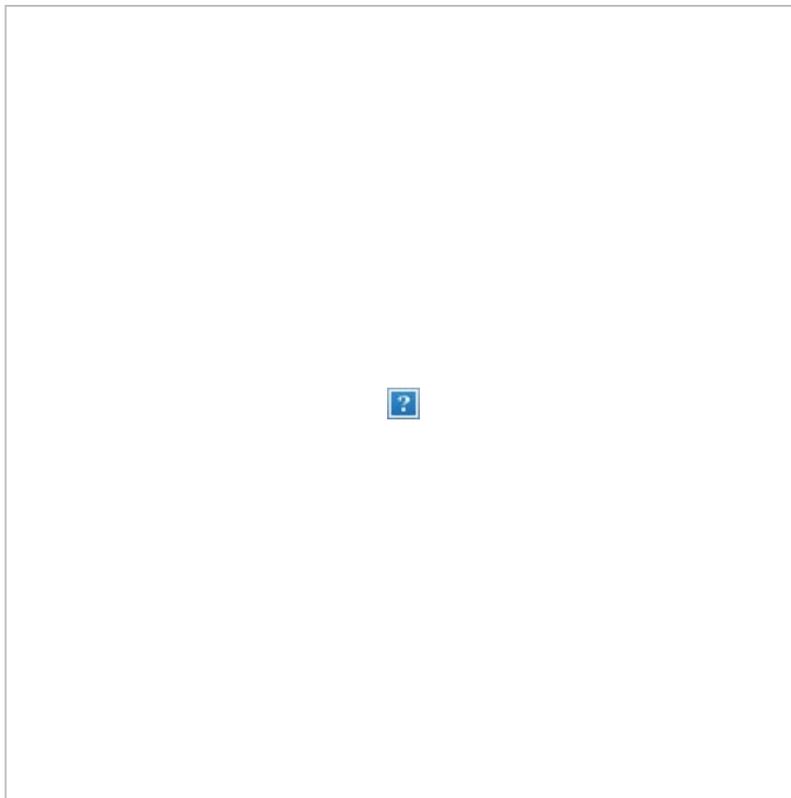
Bob (not Pascucci) we are planning an academy that will be approx 3-4 months. We are in the beginning planning stages of it at this time.

**Apex Batt Chief** - 02/03/09 - 19:15

**Apex Station 4**

01/30/09 46 W, 1 I - + 11 - 11

Speaking of Apex, construction photos of the town's fourth fire station are being [periodically posted on the AFD site](#). The combination fire, police, and EMS facility is being built at 1615 E. Williams Street. That's Highway 55, just south of US. 1.



*Apex Fire Department Photo*

---

The projected completion date is the end of May... the 29th I believe. It's location next to the new Bojangles is very, very dangerous...

**Bob** - 01/31/09 - 08:43

Last completion date I heard was July. I will try to find out a better date this week.

**Apex Batt Chief** - 02/01/09 - 14:42

I stand corrected... I thought they were saying they were ahead of schedule a few weeks ago...??

**Bob** - 02/01/09 - 16:04

If I am not mistaken the July information came from town staff meeting 2 weeks ago. I will confirm this week

**Apex Batt Chief** - 02/01/09 - 18:08

**Back in Time**

01/31/09 160 W, 1 I - + 15 - 9

Sitting in the sun at Station 16 today are two trucks that take us back in time. Engine 123 is a 1990 Pierce Lance, one of two delivered that year. They were the first closed-cab apparatus in the city. Sweet rides that sounded like heavy trucks when they got going. Placed in service as Engine 3 on October 3, 1990, it also served as Engine 8, Engine 17, and Engine 23. [Read more.](#) Its twin served as Engine 5, Engine 19, and Engine 26. Each cost \$218,000. The mini-pumper is a 1986 Chevy Silverado, one of three Chevys placed in service in 1986 and 1987. This one was placed in service as Mini 3 on August 18, 1986. It's also served as Mini 9, and Mini 4. The second Silverado was placed in service on April 24, 1987 as Mini 17, and also served as Mini 9, Mini 4, Mini 24, and Mini 23. The third was a Chevy Cheyenne, placed in service as Mini 9 on May 13, 1986, and removed from service after an accident on March 14, 1997. [Read more.](#)



**Building Prison Buildings**

01/31/09 102 W, 1 I - + 14 - 15

Here's a rear view of the Central Prison construction site. They're building a mental health center, as we [blogged about earlier](#). The historic Montford Avenue bridge is closed, and the rest of the dead-end street has been removed. Read more about the [east side of Central Prison](#) on my outdated Hidden Raleigh site. This picture was taken Friday afternoon, shot straight into the sun. Lens flare prevented with a raised hand that was digitally removed. Look closely and you can see one of the original 1884 walls in the background. [Read more about the Big House](#).  
Click to enlarge:



## **Maxton Military Aircraft Accident, 1943**

01/31/09 155 W - + 15 - 16

What might have be the state's deadliest military aircraft accident happened the morning of Sept. 20, 1943, at Laurinburg-Maxton Army Air Base, two miles from Maxton. On a run to shuttle passengers, cargo, and official mail daily between "Pope Field" and Stout Field in Indianapolis, reported the *News & Observer* (9/20, 9/23), an Army transport crashed after take off. The plane burst into flames in woods near the end of the runway, and all 25 aboard were killed. It was also the first fatality at the base, which had been operating for more than a year. LMAAB was an installation of the First Troop Carrier Command, and was used for training air units including airborne infantry, glider pilots, and paratroopers. Other military aircraft accidents with 20+ fatalities include Camp Lejeune in 1967 (21 killed) and Pope Air Force Base in 1994 (23 killed). Learn more about [deadly plane crashes in our state](#).

---

## Solar Panels at Station 15

01/31/09 41 W, 1 I - + 13 - 13

Here's what the solar panels look like at Station 15 on Spring Forest Road. As we [blogged about earlier](#), they're powering a thermal hot water heating system that supplements the station's natural gas unit. Click to enlarge:



---

would be great to see solar farms in each subdivision – i'd also put panels on my southern roof if they'd let me – i'm no engineer, but we have a huge open corridor running under the power-lines – building code changes need to be made for greater insulation as well, uv tinted glass mandatory – cost and health savings would be great

**cornerhydrant** - 02/02/09 - 22:21

**The History of North Carolina Firefighter Associations**

02/01/09 80 W - + 13 - 14

I have created a page of information on the [history of North Carolina Firefighter Associations](#), with some early information on the North Carolina State Firemen's Association and the North Carolina Colored Firemen's Association. Plus some images and off-site links. The page is needed to consolidate some of the historical stuff that I've been unearthing. More content to be added, as time permits. More polish as well. It's a crude thing at the moment.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Wilkes County Line of Duty Death (Updated)**

02/01/09 92 W - + 9 - 13

[FireNews has more details](#) on the death of Millers Creek Fire Department Firefighter Gray Parsons, who died Sunday morning after responding to a house fire at 172 Amela Drive late Saturday evening. Responding as an apparatus operator, he experienced chest pains and was transported to the hospital by EMS. He was subsequently airlifted to North Carolina Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, where he later died. Parsons was 58 years old, and was a member of the North Carolina Forestry Service. [Visit the Millers Creek Fire Department site.](#)

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

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**Guy Walks Into a Television Studio**

02/02/09 115 W, 2 I - + 16 - 11

The [February episode of FireWatch](#) has been posted to the Raleigh Television Network site. The cable television series, which is produced by the Raleigh Fire Department, is also playing this month on the RTN cable TV channel. Hosed by Fire Educator Ronald Campbell, the segments include Raleigh Fire Department Historian Mike Legeros telling about Raleigh's biggest fires, and Wake County EMS District Chief Jeffrey Hammerstein introducing the Advance Placement Paramedic (APP) Program. That's the IGA Grocery in the image below, which burned in 1992. Then RFD photo unit member Jeff Harkey took that picture. Watch the [FireWatch episode](#), or view the [broadcast schedule](#) 📺.



Mike great suit, but were you expecting a sudden urge to climb a mountain when you finished?????

**shoes** - 02/02/09 - 19:47

great interview Mike!!

**cornerhydrant** - 02/02/09 - 22:11

You know, I was wondering the same thing but didnt wanna upset his hair.

**KOM** - 02/03/09 - 00:43

All in good fun brother.

**KOM** - 02/03/09 - 00:44

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

## Beaufort Hangar Fire, 1943

02/02/09 97 W - + 6 - 20

Interesting fire from down east. November 10, 1943. New \$20,000 Civil Air Patrol hangar destroyed at the Beaufort-Morehead City Airport. Three departments responded, BFD, MHFD, and the 'Navy section base.' Wonder how long the Navy had a fire department in Morehead City? No water is available to fight the fire. The state-built hangar had been occupied for about 6 months. It contained a control tower, six offices, storage space, and room for 16 to 20 planes. Four planes were inside at the time of the fire, and a fifth was burned outside the building. Source: *News & Observer*, November 11, 1943.

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
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Remember personal info?  
Yes  
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## Fayetteville Area Fire Protection, 1943

02/02/09 84 W - + 16 - 21

The origins of rural fire protection in Cumberland County. November 13, 1943. City and county officials and citizens have been working on a plan to provide fire protection for areas outside Fayetteville. A fund of \$5,000 will be raised by property and business owners in the county, to purchase a fire truck designed to fight fires "where no city water lines are available." The truck will be operated and maintained jointly by the city and county. Source: *News & Observer*, November 14, 1943.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**Jim Long Funeral Arrangements**

02/04/09 123 W - + 14 - 10

[FireNews has posted funeral arrangements](#) for former Insurance Commissioner Jim Long, who died Monday after suffering a stroke on January 21. Long had retired two weeks earlier, having served as the state insurance commissioner since 1985. There will be a visitation at Brown-Wynn Funeral Home at [300 St. Marys Street](#) in Raleigh on **Wednesday**. There will be two visitations, one from 2-4 and another from 6-8. There will be a memorial service on **Thursday** at 2:00 at the Hayes Barton Baptist Church at [1800 Glenwood Avenue](#) in Raleigh. The burial will be on **Friday** at the Church of the Holy Comforter Episcopal Church at [320 E. Davis Street](#) in Burlington. There will be a visitation from 10-12 there, and service at 2. [Read the entire article.](#)

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
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No

Comment: [/ Textile](#)

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First Aid Treatment For Burns, 1943

02/04/09 47 W, 1 I - + 13 - 16

Here's another great old ad, this time for Vaseline. The context is first aid and civilian defense. It appeared in the *News & Observer* in late 1943. Next stop for newspaper reading, the first months of 1944! Click once or twice to enlarge:

# A FIRST AID TREATMENT FOR BURNS SO IMPORTANT...

**THE MEDICAL DIVISION OF THE OFFICE OF CIVILIAN  
DEFENSE OFFICIALLY RECOMMENDS IT!**

It is a first aid treatment so simple, so easy to apply that it enables you to give immediate relief to any member of your family who suffers a burn. It is a first aid treatment so effective that it is now being used on Allied battlefronts everywhere. It is Petrolatum . . . better known to millions of people as "Vaseline" Petroleum Jelly.



**ANNALS OF SURGERY TELLS OF ITS USE IN  
COCOANUT GROVE FIRE . . .**

So badly burned were many of the victims in Boston's most terrible fire that the story of their remarkable recovery has made medical history. The local treatment\* given to the burned areas in these cases is another example of the effectiveness of Petrolatum . . . known and available everywhere as "Vaseline" Petroleum Jelly.

**RESEARCH IN ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST HOSPITALS  
REVEALS ITS EFFECTIVENESS . . .**

In a study of the treatment of minor burns in war industries, recently published in a leading medical journal, the most rapid recovery was reported when Petrolatum was used. All this news is vitally important to you in your home. For every year millions of men, women and children are victims of burns requiring first aid treatment. Be prepared! Don't wait until the need arises. Keep a jar of "Vaseline" Petroleum Jelly handy. And look for the trademark VASELINE when you buy. It's your guarantee of absolute purity.



**FIRST AID TREATMENT OF EVERYDAY BURNS IN YOUR HOME**



Cool the burn gently with "Vaseline" Petroleum Jelly and place on burned area.



Reapply frequently-but not too often.



Call your physician immediately if the burn is deep or covers a wide area.

\*NOTE: "Vaseline" Petroleum Jelly (Petrolatum, U.S.P.) gives immediate relief and protection to the local burned area. In addition to this local treatment, serious burns often involve the use of blood plasma, salts and other drugs.



**Vaseline**  
RED. U.S. PAT. OFF.  
**PETROLEUM JELLY**  
**10c**

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Former Rockefeller Family Estate Building Burns at Fort Bragg

02/04/09 155 W, 1 I - + 13 - 20

Cumberland and Harnett county fire departments fought a difficult house fire at a Fort Bragg training facility this morning. Reported at 12:19 a.m., the blaze destroyed a 10,649 square-foot vacant dwelling on the former Rockefeller estate at Overhills. The Bird Song house, [reports this the WRAL story](#), was built around 1962. It had more than 20 rooms and included an indoor swimming pool. The Army purchased over 10,500 acres of the estate in 1997. The burned building had been previously released from historical protection. FBFD was assisted by Anderson Creek, Spout Springs, Benhaven, Spring Lake, and Pope AFB. Crews were hampered by difficult access down narrow dirt roads and no water supply on scene, reports a [Carolinas Fire Page](#) report. Tankers had a four-mile round trip. [Learn more about the Overhills estate](#). Additional incident details from the [Fayetteville Observer](#). Learn about the [Fort Bragg Fire Department](#).



*Dawn Pandoliano / WRAL photo*

And here's an aerial view (I think), <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s..>

**Legeros** - 02/04/09 - 20:47

Name: (real name  
 preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Tornado Staging, November 28, 1988**

02/06/09 158 W, 1 I - + 19 - 16

For your Friday enjoyment, here's an aerial view of the command post and staging area at Townridge Shopping Center on Highway 70, the morning after a tornado plowed through northwest Raleigh on November 28, 1988. The 1:00 a.m. storm struck with virtually no warning, killing two and injuring 102 others. The shopping center was also the site of a K-Mart store that was flattened by the storm. One employee was trapped in the debris for over two hours. [Here's the wider view](#) of the below picture, taken by CCBI photographer Gary Knight. Raise your hand if you're pictured below. Staged fire apparatus and EMS vehicles are easy to spot. Same with fuel trucks. The command post is toward the top, a CAT bus, the RFD command vehicle, and what's probably the Wake SO command bus. News vehicles on the right of the frame. [More about the tornado](#), and [still more about it](#). Click to enlarge:

*Gary Knight Photo*

My strongest memory of that morning, riding around the damaged areas after daylight, was the smell of pine. Everywhere, the smell of pine.

**Legeros** - 02/06/09 - 08:39

Well, Mike...if you tear up a bunch of pine trees, well, you wind up with the smell of pine everywhere...I remember the same thing when they went through Johnston County.

**DJ** - 02/06/09 - 14:06

I was just off the bottom of the photo sleeping amongst the grocery carts at the Winn Dixie with about 100 others who had been up all night. Not comfortable, but at least not standing in turnout boots still.

**Olson** - 02/06/09 - 15:57

I was on duty at station 18 that night. I remember the strong pine smell myself, but my strongest memory, which to this day still haunts me was the temperature. Any night its warm and windy, I remember. I also remember how cold it got afterwards, being wet, and remaining on duty till 3pm.

**[The Rooster]** ([Email](#)) - 02/18/09 - 17:44

Name: (real name  
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

**Opening the Nozzle**

02/06/09 44 W, 1 I - + 11 - 18

Captured on camera at the Keeter Training Center, here's what it looks like a moment after the nozzle's opened. Canon Rebel XT in Program Shift mode, ISO 400. The camera calculated everything: 1/125 sec., at F7.1. Focal length, 40 mm. Click to enlarge:



Mike, when the State Fair opens the photo competition next year, you should consider submitting this for judging... it's a once-in-a-long-while picture, that never ends up as good as you wanted it to.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 02/06/09 - 21:04

I dont know much about the blog scene Mike, but is there a way that you could start a thread where a member can send you ONE picture that THEY took. Like a best picture thread... Just an idea from the sandbox. Awesome picture....

**Kermit** - 02/07/09 - 01:49

That is a good idea for a future thread, and particularly when I next upgrade the blog software. The next version of this blog will allow readers to post images in comments.

**Legeros** - 02/07/09 - 09:25

Here are the rest of Friday afternoon's photos, <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/20..>

**Legeros** - 02/07/09 - 12:54

That is an awesome photo! Great timing with the water coming out.

**Leo** ([Web Site](#)) - 02/17/09 - 19:27

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**This Week's Fires**

02/07/09 227 W - + 16 - 14

Bunch of working fires in Raleigh this week. **Tuesday.** Apartment fire at 1315 N. Raleigh Boulevard. Alarm time 2:43 p.m. Engine 7 arriving with smoke showing from second-story window. Controlled 3:02 p.m. **Wednesday.** House fire at 907 E. Hargett Street. Alarm time 4:22 a.m. Engine 3 with heavy smoke and fire from side of one-story structure. Controlled 4:45 p.m. House fire at 3038 Coxindale Drive. Alarm time 6:08 a.m. Engine 22 arriving with heavy smoke and fire showing from rear of two-story structure. Controlled 6:32 a.m. Apartment fire at 2813 Kidd Road. Alarm time 1:42 p.m. Engine 12 arriving with light smoke showing from one-story structure. Controlled 1:55 p.m. House fire at 3217 Merriman Avenue. Alarm time 2:48 p.m. Engine 5 arriving with smoke showing from one-story duplex. Controlled 3:16 p.m. **Thursday.** House fire at 407 Camden Street. Alarm time 8:45 a.m. Engine 3 arriving with smoke showing from rear corner of one-story structure. Controlled 8:58 a.m. House fire at 501 Solar Drive. Alarm time 2:55 p.m. Dispatched as kitchen fire. Engine 12 first on scene. **Friday.** House fire at 3624 Sue Ellen Drive. Alarm time 10:02 a.m. Engine 19 arriving with smoke showing. **Saturday.** Structure fire at 801 Dixie Trail. Alarm time 1:40 a.m. Engine 6 arriving with a laundry room fire on the first floor of two-story assisted living facility. Quickly controlled. Second-alarm EMS dispatch, with EMS 8, EMS 3, EMS 2, EMS 11, EMS 1, EMS 2, District 1, Medic 91, Truck 1, Car 200, Car 100, and Wake EM.

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Strange Stats, 1944**

02/07/09 67 W - + 15 - 9

Announced January 15, 1944, and reported by newspapers, the leading cause of death in Carteret County<sup>1</sup> in 1943 was plane crashes (!). They totalled 23, followed by second and third leading causes: cerebral hemorrhage and myocarditis. No numbers for those. The county had 580 births that year, and 186 deaths.

<sup>1</sup>This blogger has an affinity for the coastal county, as he attended high school and spent a college summer in Morehead City.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
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No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## State Fair Fire Engine Contests, 1870 & 1874

02/07/09 132 W, 1 I - + 12 - 12

We've mentioned 19th Century fire engine contests at the State Fair before. [Here's a formal compilation](#)  of newspaper notices and accounts from 1870 and 1874. The North Carolina State Fair was ten years old in 1870. The fairgrounds was located east of downtown Raleigh, at the present-day intersection of New Bern Avenue and Tarboro Road. In 1870, contests were held for hand engines and steam engines. [Cities with hand engines](#) that year likely included Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, Salem, Salisbury, Wilmington, and Winston. [Cities with steam engines](#) in 1870 were Charlotte, New Bern, Raleigh, and Wilmington. By 1874, Elizabeth City also had a steam engine. What about other years, you ask? Unknown. None were encountered when I was reading Raleigh newspapers daily from this period, but that doesn't mean they didn't happen.

Thanks for this information that you shared with us. Now I gain more idea about this articles..:)

**Contest-Gal** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 02/22/09 - 22:09

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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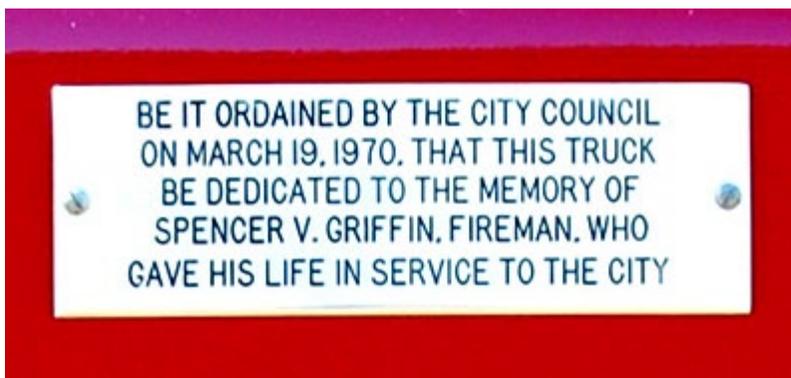
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
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## Rocky Mount's Classic Mack

02/08/09 176 W, 2 I - + 19 - 15

As photographed by Lee Wilson, below is Rocky Mount's restored 1970 Mack. It served as a caisson at Jim Long's memorial service on Thursday. The Mack CF pumper was purchased on February 5, 1970. It replaced Engine 4, an open-cab American LaFrance delivered in 1959. Engine 4 was totaled on January 6, 1970, while responding to a stove fire. The engine collided with a truck at the intersection of Cokey Road and Marigold Street. Driver Spencer Vann Griffin was killed. He was the third Rocky Mount firefighter to die in the line of duty. Other members of Engine 4 received minor injuries. The 1970 Mack was dedicated in honor of Griffin. The classic rig was replaced in 1993 with a 1992 Emergency One pumper. Moved to reserve service, it was subsequently restored. Source: RMFD yearbook. See more [photos from Lee](#). Or read about [other RMFD history](#). What other Mack CF pumpers have served around the state? Raleigh (x15), Six Forks, New Hope, Chapel Hill, Charlotte E17 (with telesquirt), Fayetteville E1, E7, Lexington, Dunn, Bailey (ex-NHFD), Four Oaks (ex-RFD), Knightdale (ex-RFD)...



Lee Wilson Photos

What a beautiful truck! We used to have a 1982 CF Mack just like that at Six Forks FD. 5 speed, 4 wheel disc brakes, 58 mph top speed...drove like a race car (at least in firetruck standards) Ours even had the bubble light on top (which we later replaced with a bar light). Really miss that truck.

**AB** - 02/08/09 - 10:43

We still have our Mack at NH (E1) but it will be put up for sale in about 2 months. Best pumping truck we have.

**AB** - 02/08/09 - 10:45

Greenville Fire/Rescue had a circa 1968/1970 Mack CF. Unit served at just about every station during it's service. Last used as a training

engine, might still exist behind station 6, I don't know. GFR also used to have a Ward LaFrance Engine just like "Emergency" Engine 51 (the second one).

**Steven** ([Email](#)) - 02/08/09 - 10:54

From the CFP mailing list comes an answer from a Parkwood FF, departments that had or have had Mack CF pumpers:

Albemarle (x3, Stanley Co.)  
Bethany (Stanley Co., converted into 3000 gallon tanker)  
Burlington (x5, one still reserve?)  
Haw River (Alamance Co., still in service)  
Lake Tillery (Montgomery Co., still in service, ex-TFD)  
Troy (still in service)

**Legeros** - 02/08/09 - 14:15

I have seen a ton of these engines over the years. And all but a very few were the 'right-out-of-the-box' variety pictured. 1000 or 1250 gpm. 500 or 750 gal tank. Two crosslays or none. One booster or one. Deck gun on the cab roof. Federal #184 beacon on the roof. Usually at Q2B in the front. It was a heeluva design that worked well for large or small departments.

I have seen less than a dozen 'special builds', that included a few with 1000 gal. tanks, one foam unit with a turret on the roof, one old-style 'quad', and a few others. Plus the FDNY units with enclosed cabs.

Just as much a classic as some of the older ALFs, 70th anniversary Seagrave, etc.

**DJ** - 02/09/09 - 11:20

More from the CFP mailing list:

Albemarle (more than one?)  
Alexis  
Conover (donated to Hankins-Northfork, McDowell Co.)  
Enola (Burke Co., ex-Danbury, CT)  
Gastonia (two, one roadside relic, other being converted to caisson)  
Hamlet  
High Schools (had two, sold one)  
Valdese (now collector owned)

**Legeros** - 02/09/09 - 20:07

Vintage postcard of Rocky Mount's Mack on eBay, <http://cgi.ebay.com/ROCKY-MOUNT-NC-1970-..>

**Legeros** - 02/15/09 - 13:03

Few more from the CFP mailing list:

Albemarle had two Mack CF pumpers, bought new in the late 1970s, and sold at auction several years ago. One is sitting on I-95 near Lake Marion, SC.

Spencer still runs a 1978 Mack CF as Engine 753

Cleveland in Rowan County has a 1982 Mack CF that formerly served Welcome, NC

Asheboro ran a Mack CF as Engine 12

**Legeros** - 02/19/09 - 08:22

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

## The Greatest Show on Earth

02/08/09 194 W, 1 I - + 12 - 14

Attended the circus on Saturday night. First time in thirty-some years. Tickets were relatively cheap. Parking, food, and circus crap were the wallet eaters. Doors opened early and kids, parents, and childless adults were invited ringside. Meet the performers. We mingled among the masses, then sampled the bill of fare upstairs. The show opened with the national anthem, accompanied by a scantily-clad woman astride an elephant and carrying an American flag. Unsubtle symbolism there! The circus itself was loud (but never too loud), vibrant, colorful, corny, and enormously entertaining. Live musicians played the score and accompanied a couple songs sung (or lip-synched) by the Ringmaster. Highlights? The motorcycle cage was pretty darn remarkable. Trained tigers are always a hit, and who doesn't like elephants? They even had a RPIT team ready, for what Dumbo left behind. (Rapid Poop Intervention Team.) Two hours, including intermission. Fun all around. No camera was carried, however. Yours Truly experienced the event live, instead through a viewfinder. Well, except for a handful of images snapped with my mobile device, such as shown below. [Here's the circus web site.](#)



Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

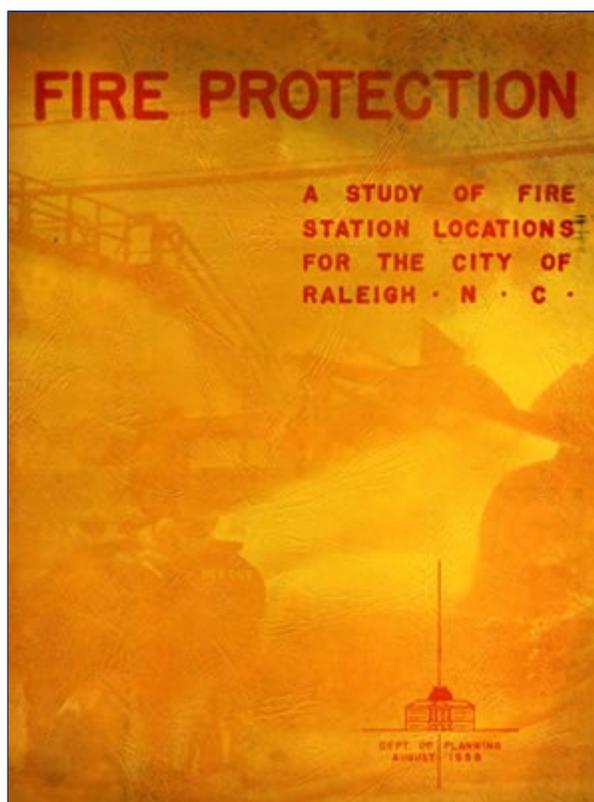
/ [Textile](#)

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## 1958 Fire Protection Study

02/10/09 194 W, 1 I - + 11 - 13

Though a [text version has long been available](#) on my Raleigh Fire Department history site (inside the [Virtual Museum](#)), I've added a full scan of the [1958 Fire Protection Study](#). Users can choose between text only, maps only (large PDF), or entire document (very large PDF). The document remains interesting reading 51 years later. Names on the credits page include one Jesse Helms. Station 3 is listed as housing a 200 gal. pumper, likely the 1946 Ford Auxiliary truck with a 200 GPM pump. Station 5 was planned for an addition, to house an "old" ladder truck. That was probably the prior Truck 1, a 1939/1916 American LaFrance. Not only did the city purchase a new, second aerial ladder, but they rebuilt the building! Station 6, presently the oldest in the city, was 10 years young at the time of the report, and listed as "in need of rather extensive recondition." The report also cited the need for a "small building for classroom training use" to be built near the drill tower. Once Station 2 relocated in 1969, its day room served that purpose until the Keeter Training Center opened in 1982. [Read the rest of the 1958 study.](#)



Mike, would this be the same book I stumbled across in the NCSU library? I don't recall the name of the book, as this was years ago, but it looks familiar. I do remember that the book had never been checked out.

**RFD574** - 02/10/09 - 22:40

Yes, a copy is filed at the NCSU library, call number TH9504 .R34 R3.

**Legeros** - 02/11/09 - 06:15

Something else that's interesting. I've seen road-mile distance cited for station planning, but never "running distance." From page 3: "In general, all high value areas of the city and all places where a major fire would be of special danger should be within 3/4 of a mile, street running distance, from a fire station." And in "medium and low density residential areas, fire stations can cover an area of 1 1/2 miles running distance."

**Legeros** - 02/11/09 - 08:25

A similar study was published in 1970, and included a history section written by Elizabeth Reid. She became Wake County's premiere historian and helped compile the history section in the 1984 yearbook. Her files at the library have since helped Yours Truly further flesh out details about both the volunteer and paid fire department histories. Maybe I can scan the longer 1970 document some time.

**Legeros** - 02/12/09 - 08:18

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preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Alert! Alert! Link Behavior Changes!**

02/10/09 56 W - + 16 - 20

Attention users. All hyperlinks on this blog have been changed and now display results within the same browser window. This change aligns link behavior with the rest of legeros.com. It's also darned good usability. I should've done it ages ago. [Read more about good usability.](#) You may resume normal programming.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## Monday's High-Rise Incident

02/11/09 218 W, 1 I - + 10 - 18

[Lee has posted photos](#) of the reported high-rise fire at the Wake County Office Building at [337 S. Salisbury Street](#) on Monday. Originally reported as black smoke seen from unknown building location, seen from McDowell Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Alarm time 12:02 p.m. Engine 1 reported smoke showing from the WCOB, which added a high-rise assignment to the structure fire response. Source of smoke was boiler activity for annual testing. [See more details on Lee's photos](#). Fire units on scene: E1, E13, E3, E5, E2, L1, L20, R7, A8, B3, B2, B1, C2, C5, C71, and C72. EMS units on scene: EMS1, EMS2, EMS15, M94, T1, D1. Some of the radio traffic is archived at Scan America, on the [Wake County scanner archives site](#). Take a listen! There's also a donation area, which links to Scan America's [operational costs](#). Dig those specs, and the \$1,300+ monthly bill! (Though linked from our photo site, we're not affiliated with them.) On a related note to the above incident, we're closing on the 19th anniversary of the courthouse fire. March 18, 1990. Four alarms, several fires deliberately set, and 191 prisoners evacuated from the jail. Yours Truly was working at Station 15 and rode the old Mack Aerialscope to the scene. That was a long ride from northside.



*Lee Wilson photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Last Night's Major Fire / Tall Timber Drive

02/13/09 90 W, 1 I - + 15 - 14

Two alarms at [4951 Tall Timber Drive](#). Engine 16 first on scene with heavy fire and smoke showing from the roof of a three-story, wood-frame, apartment building with 10,952 square feet. Built 1986. Alarm time 2:26 a.m. Controlled 4:32 a.m. Ladder 4 and Ladder 17 deployed and flowed. Approximately 55 firefighters on scene. Twelve apartments rendered uninhabitable, and 19 people displaced. No injuries. Cause determined as improperly discarded smoking materials. [Watch the WTVD story](#). Or [read the WRAL story](#), or the [News & Observer story](#).



Lee Wilson Photo

Go figure. Charlotte's 3-Alarm apartment fire the other night was also deemed as carelessly discarded smoking material. When will people learn!!

**Luke** - 02/13/09 - 14:05

Photos from Lee Wilson: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/s..>

From his notes, units on scene included: E16, E17, E9, E14, E18, E6, E4, L17, L4, L24 (relief), R14, R7, B4, B3, SR2 (as Air 8), C20, C5, C4, C2, C1, EMS121, EMS2, EMS3, EMS4, EMS13, D1, D5, M92, T1.

**Legeros** - 02/14/09 - 09:32

Where was FC 1?

**Steven** ([Email](#)) - 02/14/09 - 15:54

Is that a smooth bore master stream in operation?

**Smooth** - 02/16/09 - 13:35

Nope, that's a fog tip on the aerial. However, I did hear that E-16 used a smooth bore on the hand line when command called for a defensive attack.

**RescueRanger** - 02/17/09 - 12:09

Name: (real name)

Remember personal info?

## Hybrid Chevrons

02/14/09 68 W, 1 I - + 13 - 14

Here's an atypical fire car, a Toyota Prius seen parked at the Charlottesville Central Station on Friday. [Learn more about CFD](#), including their recently delivered [Pierce PUC pumper](#) in new black-over-red colors. There's also [CFD information](#) on the city's web site, including an interesting study released in 2007, on consolidating city and county fire and EMS services. [Read about that](#).



passes the deuteranope, protanope and tritanope color blind visibility test on Visicheck <http://www.visicheck.com/visicheck/> as does Greenville's Pierce, but the results are quick shocking – check it out

**cornerhydrant** - 02/16/09 - 21:53

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**Careful with Fire**

02/14/09 41 W, 1 I - + 15 - 13

Driving to and from Charlottesville, we saw quite a few road signs from the [Virginia Department of Forestry](#). Their messages included Careful with Fire, Report Fire Setters, and [Smokey](#) Says Thanks.



Those signs have been around in Virginia forever. When my family lived in Richmond from 1963-1968 I remember seeing them.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 02/16/09 - 11:15

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

**Granville County Engine, Siren**

02/14/09 37 W, 2 I - + 14 - 20

Seen at the Bullock Fire Department in northern Granville county, here's a vintage Ford fire engine in yellow and a curious-looking roof siren. Never seen that type before. Click to enlarge both:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Hide email:  Yes, hide my email address.

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## Firefighter Excursions, Conventions, Contents, 1868-1912

02/15/09 233 W - + 10 - 17

Time to get moving on some long-simmering projects. First out of the gate is a load of information about [North Carolina Firefighter excursions, conventions, and contests from 1868 to 1912](#). This new site includes 650 images of newspaper announcements and articles, nearly all published in Raleigh newspapers. From 1868 to 1888, the articles recount the excursions of Raleigh firefighters to other cities, as well as some early fireman's tournaments. From 1888 to 1912, the clippings chronicle the annual conventions and tournaments of the white and black state fireman's associations. The meetings and contests took place throughout North Carolina, and the participating fire companies hailed from many different cities.

In addition to the clippings is a summary document, which watches the events through the eyes of Raleigh's volunteer fire companies. The narrative is a draft document. Beta version, if you will. This is something new, posting a not-quite-finished version. But even a published draft is more useful than an unseen version sitting on a hard drive. The summary document has been in a work-in-progress for a while. The newspaper clippings were compiled during a prior year's research, documenting Raleigh Fire Department history for those years. [See these e-books for more](#). The clippings are large-enough for reading and total about a half-gig in size. Took forever to upload. Enjoy, and advise if you have questions, comments, or problems.

[Read about firefighter excursions, conventions, and contests.](#)

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Youngsville Engine 43 (Updated)**

02/15/09 238 W, 1 I - + 15 - 14

Seen this afternoon at a towing company on Three Sisters Road ~~outside Knightdale~~ in Wendell. Youngsville Engine 43, a 1963 Chevy/Darley pumper of ~~unknown model year~~. A reader has since provided the model year and other information: "It's a 1963 Chevy. 327 cubic-inch engine with electric fuel pump. 750 gallons-per-minute WS Darley pump. 500 gallon tank. The truck passed the annual service test every year it was tested. It was purchased in 1963 and cost the city of Youngsville just a little over \$13,000 including all the equipment. This was one of WS Darley's best pieces of apparatus. About 1998, the truck was sold and with only about 5,000 miles on it. It was used exclusively as a city pumper and had very few hours on it. It was the first "new" engine for Youngsville. Before this truck, all the city ever owned was used and almost worn out equipment. Mr. Jimmy Allen was fire chief in the 1960's and he took very good care of this truck. Nearly every day he went by the fire station, to see that the tires were pumped up and ready to roll in case the city had a call. This truck stood by during his graveside funeral service. His white helmet sat on the hood, just behind the old siren. Chief Allen and this truck (his truck) were both hard to replace." [Learn more about the Youngsville Fire Department.](#) Click to enlarge:



Judging from the grill, it is around 1962, give or take one. It is the same grill that was on Yrac #1 (291) which was a 1962 Chevrolet/ALF. Looks a little like Darley body work.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 02/16/09 - 11:08

There were a bunch of Darleys from this period around. Morrisville, Durham Highway, and Knightdale had them. Morrisville bought two more later. Several of the pumpers that Atlas built had Darley pumps (they were actually pretty good pumps).

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 02/17/09 - 23:56

Are they going to restore the unit or what. I would hate to see it just rust away.

**Christopher Young** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 02/26/09 - 09:40

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

## Faces and Names

02/17/09 278 W, 4 I - + 18 - 9

Raleigh Fire Department training photos from 1976. First photo, Norfleet Jones jumping from the second story of the old drill tower. Holding the net, clockwise from top: Oris Baker, A. L. Perry, R. J. Bullock, W. P. Raynor, Joe Ware, Willie Walter, Tommy Best, Danny Thorton. Normally ten men hold the net. Second photo, Willie Walter sprays water, at 500 gallons-per-minute and 100 pounds of nozzle pressure. [See more photos](#). Third photo, Halbert Howard after wading through foam inside the smokehouse. Fourth photo, T. C. Finch inside the smokehouse. [See still more photos](#). Information from *Raleigh Towne Today*, May 1976. Article titled "Thrills and Drills Pay Firemen's Bills." Photos courtesy Raleigh Public Affairs. Click to enlarge photos:



Additional text: "All firemen are required to go to the fire tower every fourth day for a 3-hour practice drill. They lay lines (hoses) and practice mock-up fires as if they were in the actual situation. [About the life net,] the men holding the net learn to absorb the impact in their arms, rather than in their back. The body must be in the right position to land comfortably on the canvas net. Scott air packs, or breathing apparatus, protects firemens' lungs when smoke and dangerous chemicals are present during a fire. The foam generator shoots a detergent concentrate into the smokehouse at 55,000 gallons perminute. This detergent, which cost \$7 a gallon makes 37,000 gallons of foam when mixed with air. The foam becomes dryer when more air is added to the mixture. It is used on oil fires, or in buildings where the fire is hard to reach. This semi-wet liquid causes little damage to its surroundings."

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
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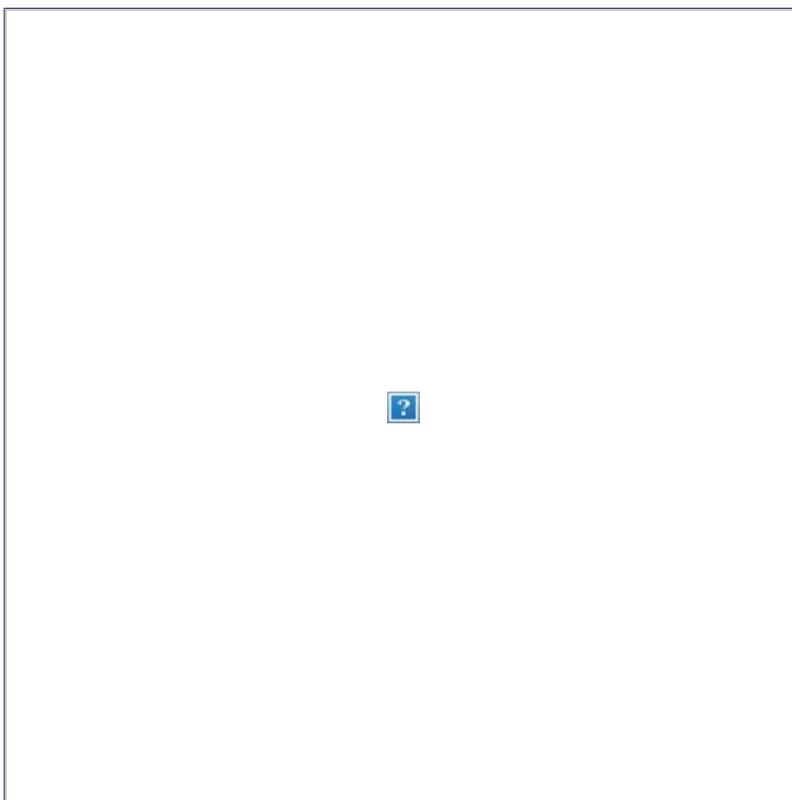
**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

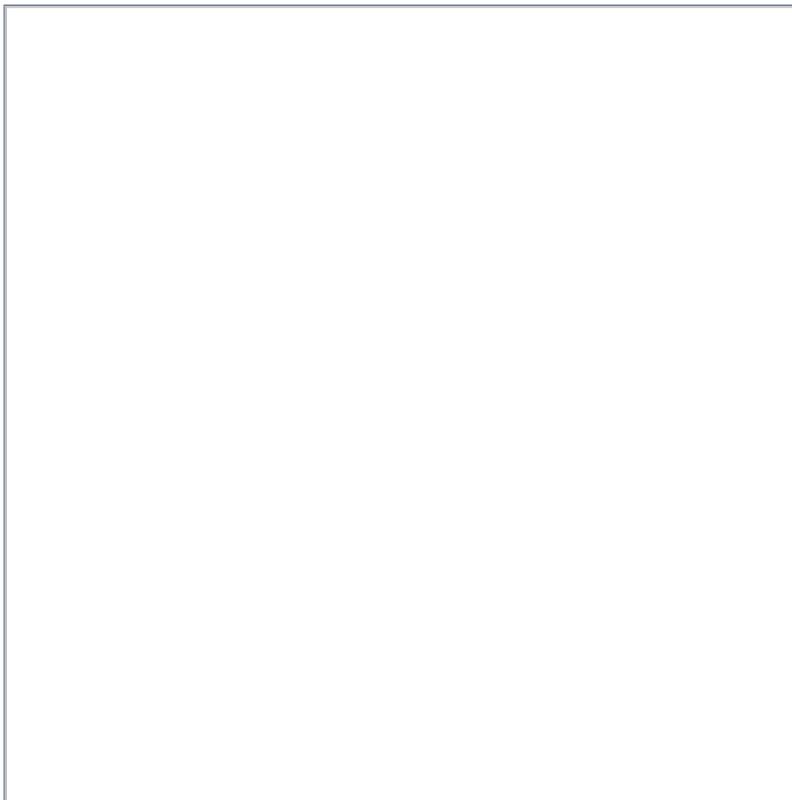
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## Twenty Years Ago

02/18/09 174 W, 2 I - + 14 - 18

On Feb. 15, 1989, nineteen future firefighters reported to the Keeter Training Center for their first day of the 14-week fire academy. City boys and country boys, from in-state and out-of-state. Many with firefighting experience. Some with none. Gattis and Dunn were the instructors, and PT was the first order of the day. 'Twas a smaller training center then, with only a single classroom and a two-story apparatus bay. No USAR area, no mobile classrooms. And some very old apparatus parked outside. We were taught EMT to start, then wet stuff on red stuff. And running. Lots of running. Everyone graduated. Twenty years later, the remaining 14 members consist of two Battalion Chiefs, two Lieutenants, and a mess of Captains. A total of 280 years of service, so far. Some of the gang met for breakfast on Monday, to laugh, tell stories, and take a group photo. Then and now are pictured below. Still a handsome bunch! Click to enlarge, or [see more then and now photos](#). Or browse all [fire academy group photos](#).





---

Mike, is that the old Pirsch pump in the background ?

**Jon C** - 02/19/09 - 21:44

Negative, that's one of the two 1986 Pemfab/EEI pumps, which were built right here in Raleigh!

**Legeros** - 02/21/09 - 08:39

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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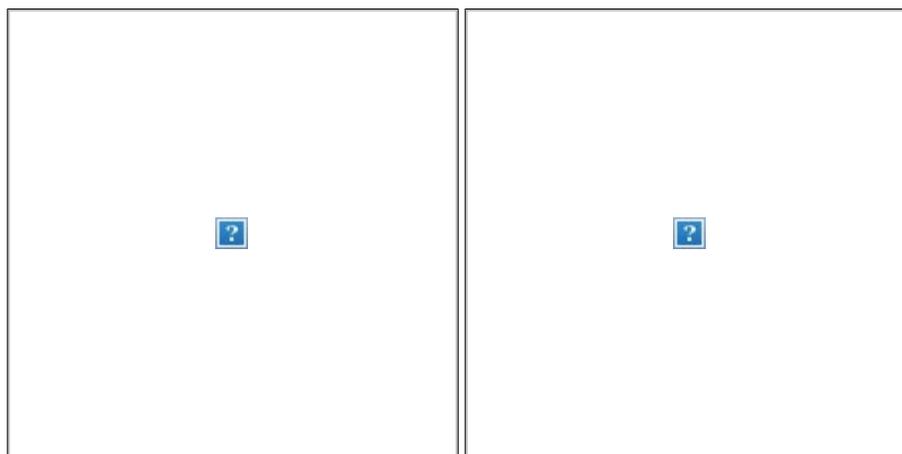
**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

**It Ain't Over 'Till the Fat Boy Sings**

02/18/09 196 W, 2 I - + 16 - 15

Now for some fun stuff. So you want to sing opera? Er, make that light opera. Specifically, the late 19th century operettas of W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, and the many memorable songs therein. You've heard them before, here, there, and everywhere. "Modern Major-General" from *The Pirates of Penzance*. "A Wandering Minstrel I" from *The Mikado*. "A Policeman's Lot" from *The Pirates of Penzance*. Etcetera. Great stuff for singing along, no matter if you're in the car, in the shower, or on stage with a glee club. (Just don't combine all three, as that's likely illegal in one or more states.) Now for the fun part. [The Gilbert & Sullivan Archive](#), billed as the "The Premier Internet Light Opera Website," has a score (ha!) of "web operas." Such as for [H.M.S. Pinafore](#). Click on the song number, and a page displays both lyrics *and* MIDI karaoke files. That's right, musical accompaniment courtesy of the Internet. Go ahead, belt a tune. Costumes and curtain not included. Just duck if the fruits and vegetables start flying.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**Ferrara For El-Roy Times Two**

02/18/09 96 W, 1 I - + 10 - 13

Found on [FireNews](#), the El-Roy Fire Department in Wayne County has received a pair of Ferrara Intruder 2 pumper-tankers. They're equipped with 1,500 GPM Waterous pumps, 1,000-gallon poly tanks, and a rear 5-inch dump. [Read more about them](#). Who else in North Carolina has Ferrara apparatus? Archer Lodge. Bahama. Belfast. Bethlehem. Burnt Swamp. Carthage. Chapel Hill. Creedmoor. Efland. E.M. Holt. Fayetteville. Haw River. Mt. Olive. New River. North Raeford. Patetown. Queheel. Reems Creek. Sumter. Tobermory. Valmead. White Cross. Windsor. Yanceyville. At least as found on the [Ferrara web site](#).



*FireNews Photo*

Halls Fire Department and Turkey Fire Departments in Sampson County

**car3550** - 02/18/09 - 21:37

Puppy Creek in Hoke County

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 02/18/09 - 22:19

Wilson's Mills in Johnston County

**C. Parker** - 02/18/09 - 23:31

Corinth- Holders in Johnston County has one and the City of Wilson just recieved two.

**[house]** - 02/19/09 - 15:24

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

## Dead Drive in Freezer and Other Low-Tech Tips

02/19/09 157 W - + 11 - 15

Yesterday's *New York Times* featured a [nifty article on low-tech fixes for high-tech problems](#). Cellphone losing charge. Remote car key range expanding, which I'd heard about on Car Talk. Dry ink cartridge. Cellphone in the toilet (accidentally). Longer wi-fi reach. Dirty DVD or CD discs, surface not content. Too much flash for cellphone cameras. And the best of the tips, putting a crashed hard drive<sup>1</sup> in the freezer overnight. After it returns to room temperature, the contracting-then-expanding innards may help free bound parts, and let the drive work just long enough to recovery what you needed. Neat-o. [Google for additional information](#).

<sup>1</sup>All hard drives eventually fail. Are you prepared? Got back-ups? Here at Blog Central, our PC content is spread across across six hard drives. Some serve as back-up. One off-site copy of everything is made maybe once or twice a year. In case the house the burns down.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
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**Raleigh-Wake ECC Offering Online Traffic Information**

02/20/09 86 W - + 12 - 18

Raleigh residents can now track local accidents in near real time thanks to an on-line traffic information system provided by the Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center (ECC). Citizens and the local media can access the free service by visiting <http://incidents.rwecc.com>. Accidents are tracked on the site based on incidents reported to 9-1-1. [Read the entire press release](#). There's also a link on the traffic information site to the [ECC's Twitter site](#), where accidents are also being reported.

That's excellent!

**YFD456** - 02/21/09 - 10:47

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Cold Remedies

02/21/09 206 W - + 14 - 11

Rounding the bend on a head cold, here's an evaluation of assorted remedies and their seeming effectiveness. **Cold-Eeze lozenges**, consumed even before the first symptoms, when Mrs. Blogger had her cold. Indeed, it appeared to reduce the duration of what I had. **Sinus Buster**, pepper nasal spray. This stuff's quite a rush and its natural Capsaicin helped a couple times with congestion. Guess I could've just eaten some peppers, but what fun is that? **Generic Ibuprofen**, which helped with the headaches. **Chicken soup** from Panera Bread at the mall, which just tasted good. Helped a bit with congested as well. Order with whole wheat bread, instead of the regular roll. **General comfort food**, heavy on the carbs, which helped keep me sluggish and thus rested. At least, that was the justification. And late in the game, a **neti pot** with pre-measured packets of saline solution. Hot water goes into the pot. Saline powder goes into the water. Lean over sink, with head to side. Salt water goes in one nostril, flushes through sinus cavity, and exits the other nostril. Kinda like getting water up your nose at the beach. Has helped with lingering confestion. Google "neti pot" to see how it works.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Ambulance Service, 1944**

02/21/09 94 W, 1 I - + 18 - 12

Vintage ad, from the March 3, 1944, edition of the *News & Observer*. The city directory of the prior year lists the business as Martin-Yelverton Co, H. Paul Yelverton, Owner., 104 S. Dawson, Dial 7743. Their full-page add includes a sketch of the building and the slogan "The home of courteous, dignified service." How many ambulance services were serving Raleigh that year? The 1943 directory lists Brown Funeral Home (Hillsboro Street), Lightner's Funeral Parlor (Smithfield Street), Martin-Yelverton Co. (S. Dawson Street), and Mitchell Funeral Home (W. Hargett Street).



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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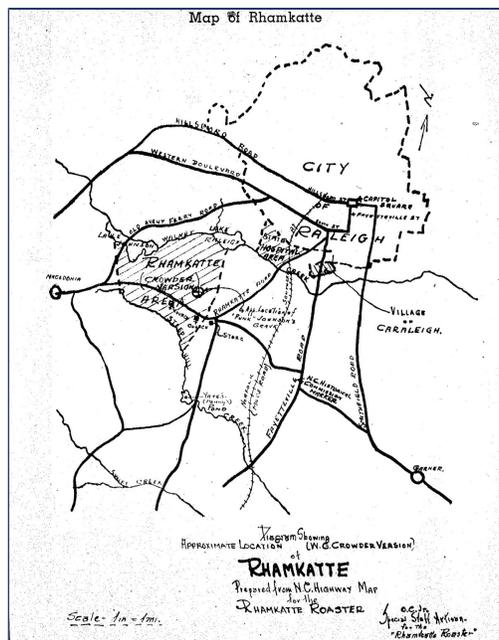
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## Map of Rhamkatte, 1944

02/21/09 170 W, 1 I - + 10 - 22

This interesting map appeared in the March 5, 1944, edition of the *News & Observer*. It highlights the Rhamkatte community southwest of Raleigh, and may be a proposed addition to a North Carolina Highway Map. Other features on the map including the Village of Caraleigh, the State Hospital, and Yates Pond. Rhamkatte was a farming community located in the Swift Creek Township. It's said to be named after a military road, purportedly built by militia serving under Governor William Tryon (1765-1771). The road's name was a corrupted version of Ramsgate. The earliest recorded name for the road is Ramcat in the 1860s, which became Rhamkatte or Rham Katte by the 1870s.<sup>1</sup> Click once or twice to enlarge:



<sup>1</sup>See the notes on Page 53 of *Wake: Captial County of North Carolina, Volume I* by Elizabeth Reid Murray, and pages 692 and 693 of *Wake: Captial County of North Carolina, Volume II* by K. Todd Johnson and Elizabeth Reid Murray for more information.

Rhamkatte Rd looks like Lake Wheeler Rd????

**H20** - 02/21/09 - 19:57

Here's today's map, for comparison: <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=raleigh+nc..>

**Legeros** - 02/21/09 - 22:35

It looks like what are now parts of both Lake Wheeler Road and Tryon Road used to be Rhamkatte Road.

I've been around here for a while and remember when a stretch of what is now Tryon Road used to be called Rhamkatte Road, and in fact many years later when they rebuilt the US 1/64 and Tryon Road intersection in Cary for a very short period of time they put up a sign on US 1 saying Rhamkatte Road was at that exit.

Also, I don't know how accurate it is but there is a mural at the Farmers Market Restaurant showing a country scene many years ago, there is a road sign identifying the road as Rhamkatte Road.

**Jeffrey DeWitt** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 06/21/09 - 18:59

The Carolinian Newspaper in Raleigh used to have a section on news from Rhamkatte many years ago.

**Steven Worthy** - 11/10/10 - 17:20

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Videography From Chicago**

02/22/09 141 W - + 15 - 15

[Dave Statter surfaces this strong video](#) from Steve Redick of a 2-11<sup>1</sup> fire in Chicago on Saturday. The audio includes radio traffic from the fire. It's a well-shot and well-produced clip, maybe a model for such things? See others on his [YouTube channel](#). Mr. Redick, a CFD fire alarm operator, also has a photo site that we've [blogged about](#). It includes superb fire and apparatus photographs from him and his CFD father, and dating back to the 1950s. Lots of vintage rigs featured, and nearly all in color! [Visit his photo site](#), and scroll down to see the galleries.

<sup>1</sup>From this [5-11 club response guide](#), a 2-11 alarm is an extra alarm level, that adds additional units to still or box assignment. What are still and box alarms in Chicago? Read the guide for full details.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

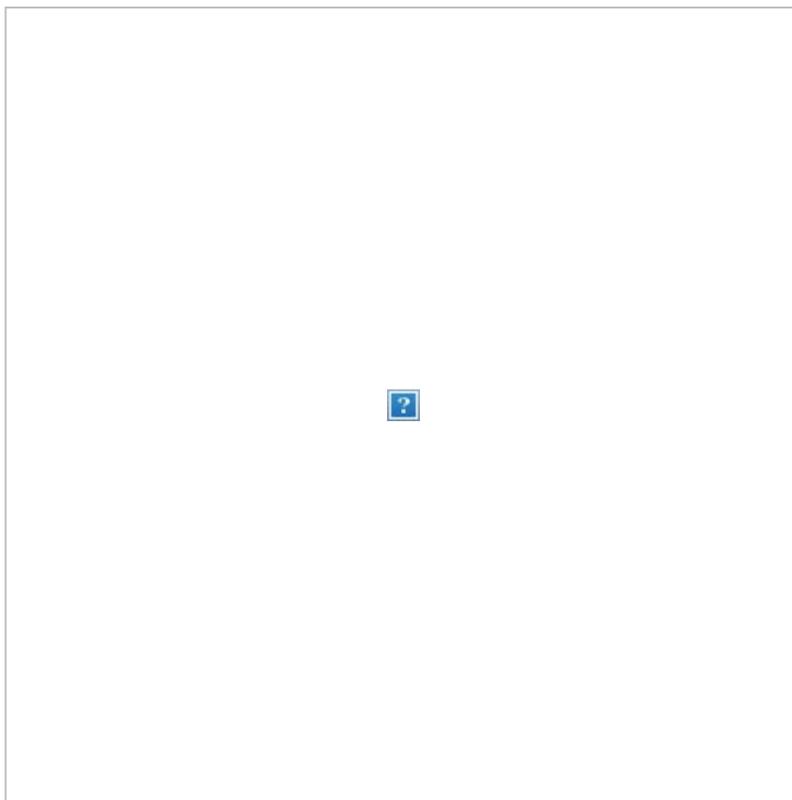
Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Long View Church Fire**

02/22/09 66 W, 1 I - + 18 - 17

[FireNews has posted](#) this strong photo from Catawba County of the Penelope Baptist Church in Long View, taken by LVFD Fire Investigator B. W. Sigmon. Flames consumed the sanctuary of the historic structure last Sunday. The church is 120 years old. [Read about the fire and see other photos.](#) Here's a [related article from the Hickory Record.](#)



*B. W. Sigmon / FireNews photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## North Carolina Forest Fire Lookout Towers

02/22/09 207 W - + 15 - 11

Who hasn't wondered where all the lookout towers are in our state? The [North Carolina Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association](#) has an inventory on their web site. Same is split into three sections. The [Mountain Inventory](#) lists 43 standing, and 43 removed. The [Piedmont Inventory](#) lists 26 standing, and 21 removed. The [Coastal Inventory](#) lists 54 standing, 23 removed, and 15 unknown. All told, there are 121 lookout towers remaining in North Carolina. Chapter director Peter Barr has also written a book on the subject, [Hking North Carolina Lookout Towers](#). How cool is that? Credit to Mrs. Blogger, for finding that.

What about Wake County's towers, past and present? We've had three towers at five sites, one of which is still standing. The Bay Leaf tower was erected in 1937 on Six Forks Road, north of "Six Forks." In 1968, the tower was moved to the present Howard Road site. The Knightdale tower was erected in 1938 on Southside Place, and removed in 1972. It was relocated to Pasquotank County. In 1940, the Apex tower was erected at Oak Grove Primitive Baptist Church Crossroads. In 1951, it was moved to Swift Creek Church-Apex Road. In 1986, the site was sold and the tower removed thereafter. [Read more about Wake County fire towers.](#)

Speaking of fire towers, the controllers at the airport tower saw the structure fire on Nelson Road, and were able to advise CFR 1 accordingly, which was the first unit on scene.

**Legeros** - 02/22/09 - 19:56

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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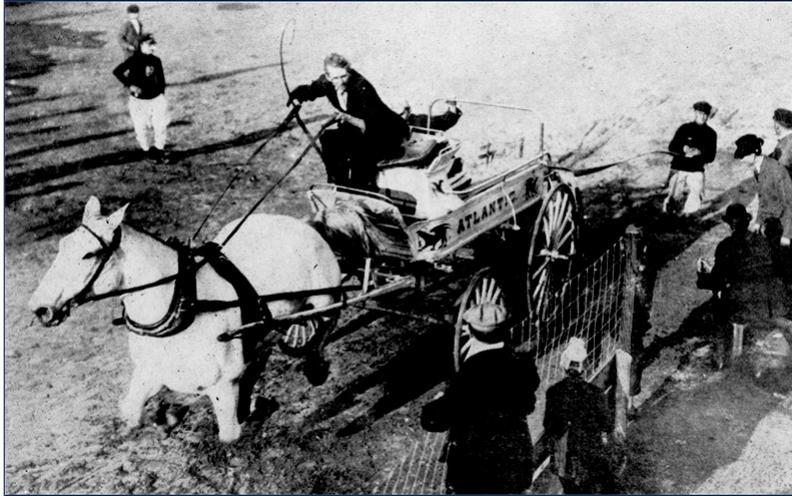
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**Hose Wagon Racing**

02/22/09 51 W, 1 I - + 21 - 20

Random historical image, found during some file cleaning. It's a New Bern Atlantic Fire Company hose wagon participating in a race circa 1900. That year, the state fireman's convention was held in Wilmington. [Read newspaper coverage of the 1900 tournament](#), and other conventions from that decade. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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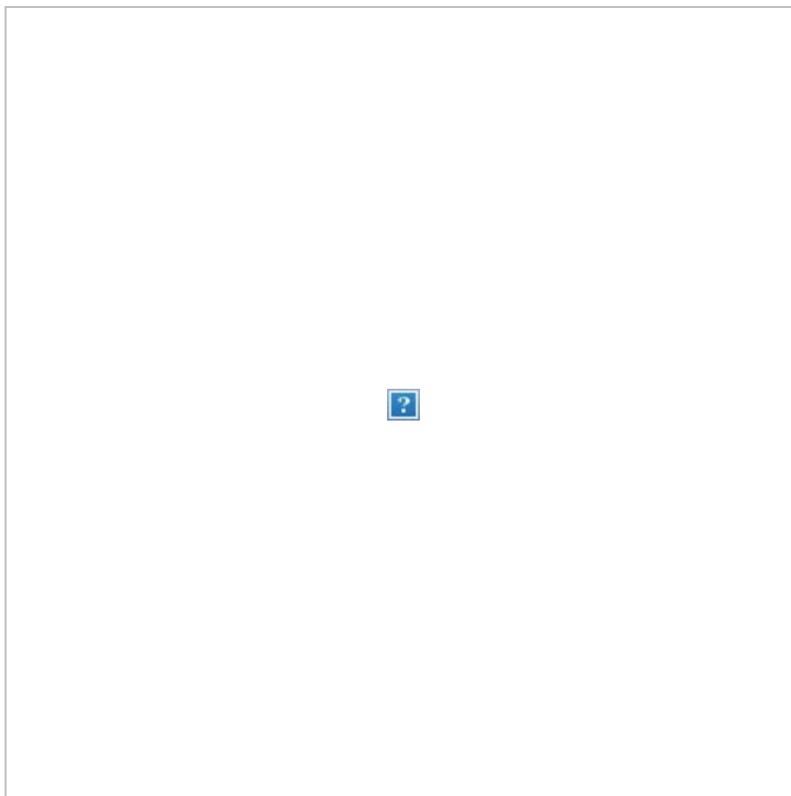
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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

## The Big Fire, Two Years Ago

02/22/09 96 W, 1 I - + 12 - 14

A reader reminds that today is the two-year anniversary of the Pine Knoll Townes fire, one of the biggest in the city's history. Five alarms, 12 structures, 38 homes damaged or destroyed, 29 families and 72 people displaced, \$4 million damage, four engines pumping, four aerial streams flowing, hundreds of firefighters, 13 outside units at Raleigh stations. Read the blog postings from then: [Big Fire summary](#), [Big Fire](#), [Big Fire Resources](#), [Big Views](#). See photos from that day by [Lee Wilson](#) and [Mike Legeros](#). There are also some [aftermath photos](#) and [panoramic photos](#) from Legeros.



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That's one I will never forget. I'm sure anyone that was there will agree.

**AB** - 02/23/09 - 23:33

I will never forget that day!

**Jason Lane** - 02/24/09 - 22:52

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

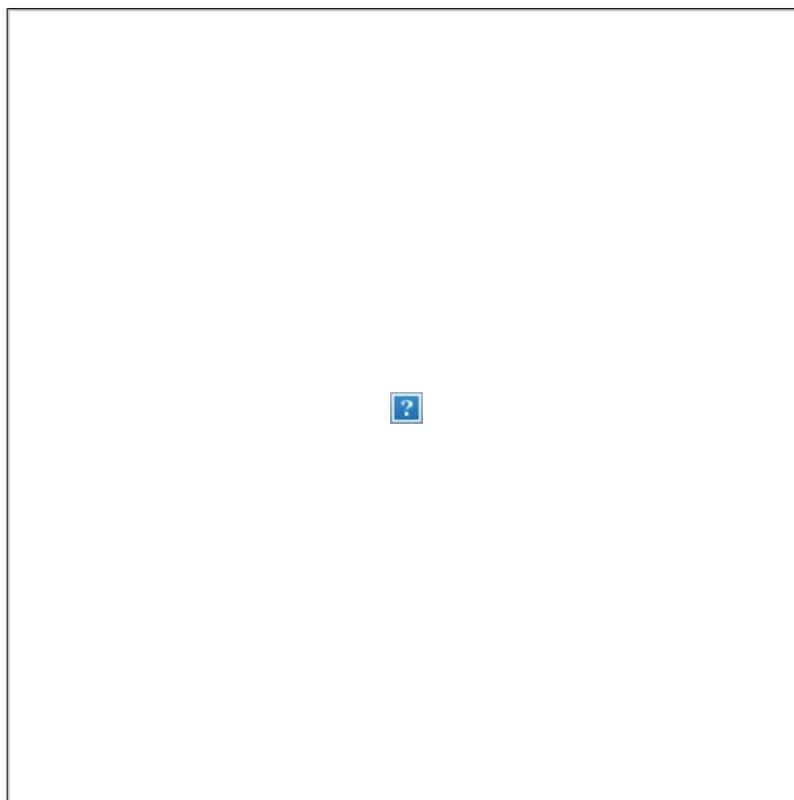
## **Military Plane Crash at Raleigh-Durham Airport, 1953**

02/23/09 508 W, 1 I - + 17 - 17

Just before midnight on January 2, 1953, an [Army C-47 transport plane](#) crashed in Crabtree Park while attempting an emergency landing at Raleigh-Durham Airport. The weather was raining with dense fog. Three of the four crew members were killed. The fourth member survived, T-Sgt. Edward Matus, who walked to the airport, arriving at the Eastern Airlines office at 1:00 a.m. He followed the "sounds of airplanes taking off." He was rushed to Duke Hospital. The crash was the first fatal airplane accident "since the airport came under civilian operation in 1946."

The plane was flying a "routine training flight" from Stewart Air Force Base, in Newburg, NY, to Donaldson Air Force Base, in Greenville, S.C, with a stop at Pope Air Force Base in Fayetteville. They attempted a landing a Pope, but "visibility there was zero." They diverted to Raleigh-Durham, where visibility "was about a one-quarter of a mile." Their last radio contact with Pope was at 10:41 p.m., when the crew reported "icing at 9,000 feet."

Matus remembered being struck and falling to the floor in the plane, then waking up in the wreckage. He followed the sounds of airplanes to the airport. "Bleeding profusely despite a crude tourniquet," the survivor stumbled into the nearly empty office. He was "pale with shock and dazed." He couldn't tell from which direction he had come. He was treated at the hospital for "shock and multiple cuts."



*Wikipedia Photo*

The 100-person search party included "police, Civil Air Patrol officials, and Air Force investigators." After hours of searching, Highway Patrol officers were sent to the hospital, to retrieve one of the survivor's shoes. The lawmen also procured bloodhounds from the "Cary prison farm." They attempted, though unsuccessfully, to retrace the survivor's steps. None of the residents of the area reported hearing a plane crash.

Six hours after they started, a 25-member search party located the wreckage and the bodies of the pilot, co-pilot, and navigator. The plane had crashed in thick woods, some 1,000 yards from the park's picnic area. The wings were sheared by the trees, and the tail section separated. The area "reeked of high-octane gasoline" but there was no fire, as the pilot had cut power. The plane's gear was down. The wreckage was "less

than two miles from the airport's control tower."

The dead airmen were Capt. Louis R. Gossman, pilot, First Lt. Norman W. Joyce, co-pilot, both of Donaldson Air Force Base, and First Lt. Robert W. Shaw, of Pope Air Force Base. The area was subsequently secured, though "crowds of curious persons" had converged on the wreckage earlier, "picking up souvenirs from the broken parts of the plane." Cars also jammed the gate at the park entrance, and caused traffic problems on the highway. The process of moving the wreckage started on January 4.

Sources: *Raleigh Times*, January 3, 1953; *News & Observer*, January 4, 5, 1953.

---

I found this 1953 military crash information on your site. The pilot of the military plane was my Uncle Louis. Is there anymore information that I could find or a source that I could find documents, pictures, reports regarding the crash? Thanks

**carole collett** ([Email](#)) - 10/05/10 - 17:21

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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### Mobile Phone Photo Challenge

02/24/09 120 W - + 13 - 21

Based on a recent suggestion for a featured photo thread, let's let our readers create some photos for a change. The rules. Photo must be taken using a mobile phone. The image must include these three things: a **helmet**, a **vehicle**, and the color **blue or red**. Composition is your call. Indoors or outdoors. Artsy, fartsy, or super-simple. Can include people, plants, kids, barnyard animals, whatever. On scene, at station, or anywhere in-between. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, March 9, at 5:00 p.m. EST. Send photos to mikey "at" legeros "dot" com. **Please indicate photo credit.** Can be full name, first name, or even anonymous. Got it? Go forth and shoot.

This sounds like fun, but let me ask a dumb question...how do I email a photo that I take on my phone??

**Techno Challengo** - 02/25/09 - 14:28

Well, most phones have the option that you can change the destination from phone to e-mail by simply typing in the e-mail address in place of the phone number... this may involve a manipulation of the characters that you can enter by using the menu button or option.

Be advised, sending pictures and other multimedia may incur additional charges on your next billing cycle.

(Couldn't help throwing that in.)

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 02/25/09 - 15:47

How do you want the pictures sent to you, From the phone or threw the computer. I just didnt know how you were going to tell if it was from a cell or not. Some phones have awesome cameras on them now.

**7721** ([Email](#)) - 02/26/09 - 23:15

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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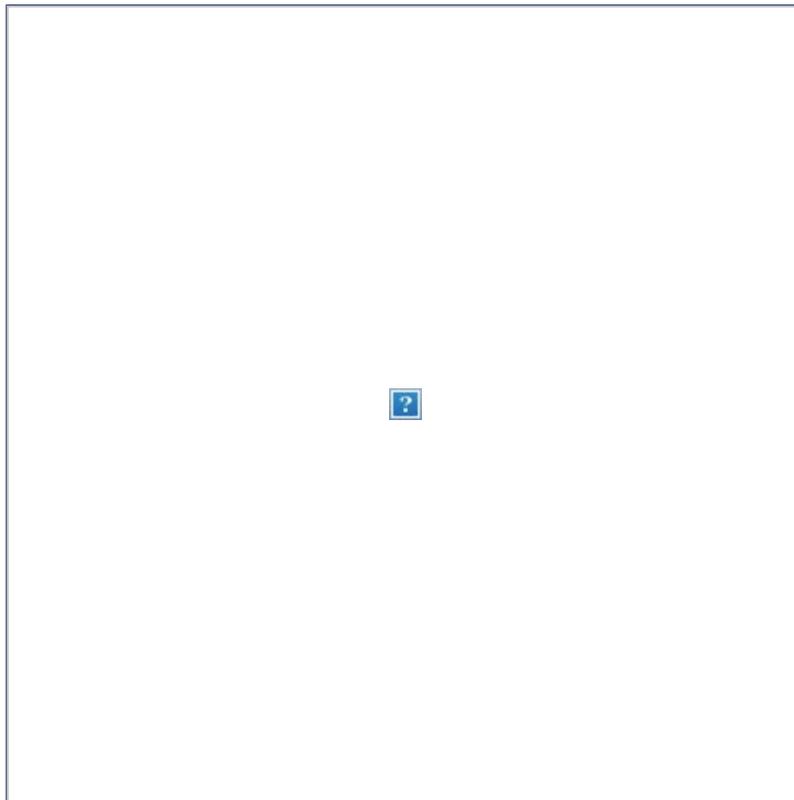
[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

## Really Big Wrecker

02/25/09 49 W, 1 I - + 20 - 17

There are big trucks, and there are *big* trucks. Check out this monster from Massachusetts, a Kenworth/Jerr-Dan 85-ton wrecker operated by Big Wheel Recovery Team in East Freetown, MA. [See more wreckerdriver.com photos.](#) Or read [more information from Jerr-Dan.](#)



wreckerdriver.com Photo

hhhoottt man that thang is hot

country boy ([Email](#)) - 03/14/09 - 14:37

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**Yesterday's Major Fire / Evergreen Forest Way**

02/26/09 79 W, 1 I - + 19 - 14

Two alarms at [5321 Evergreen Forest Way](#). Engine 22 arriving at a two-story, wood-frame apartment building with 12,870 square-feet, and heavy fire in the rear of the structure. Alarm time 5:55 a.m. Controlled 6:44 a.m. Approximately 40 firefighters on scene. Five apartment units rendered uninhabitable and 30 people displaced. No injuries. Cause determined as improperly discarded smoking material. [Read the WRAL story](#), which has quite a few reader comments. [Read the News & Observer story](#).



*WRAL Photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Few More Former Fire Departments

02/26/09 83 W - + 15 - 16

For your hysterical, er, historical amusement, here are a few more former NC fire departments, found today in some records searching. They've been added to [my master list](#).

- Ames FD, formed by 1970. Union County.
- Benton Heights FD, formed by 1940, in Monroe, Union County.
- Dare Beaches FD, formed by 1960, Dare County.
- District #3 FD, formed by 1970, Guilford County.
- Elm City FD, formed by 1970. Wilson County.
- Gold Hill FD, formed by 1965. Rowan County.
- Rutherford College FD, formed by 1960. Burke County.

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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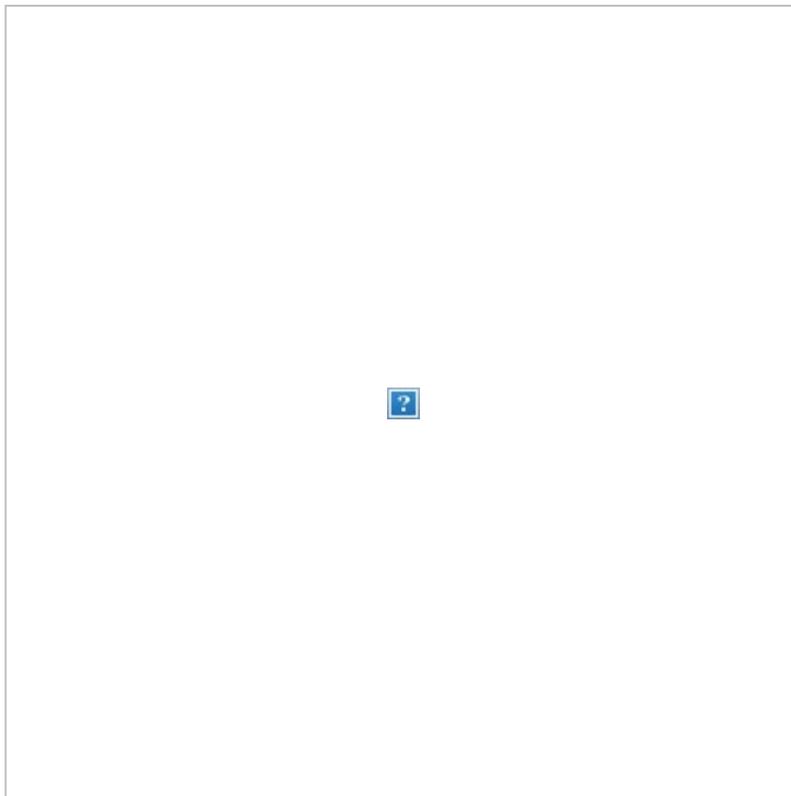
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**New Photos From Denver Airport Plane Crash**

02/27/09 51 W, 1 I - + 15 - 19

We blogged about the radio traffic from the Denver airport crash on December 21. New photos have surfaced as taken by a passenger and showing crash trucks attacking the burning jet. Not something you see every day. Watch the slideshow.



*V. Alves/KMGH-TV Photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## One Man, One Engine

02/27/09 61 W - + 14 - 15

For your Friday morning, as [found on the Firehouse.com forums](#), here's an interesting video that may already be making the rounds. If the on-screen date is correct, the footage was shot in 1993. Location, department, and details unknown. One man, one engine. Plus bystanders, then additional personnel. The clip is just over six minutes in length.

---

I was talking to a buddy of mine yesterday about a department that STILL does this. On the video...did that guy make entry without a pack? in 93?!!.....

**KOM** - 02/27/09 - 13:53

The original post indicates Blue Island Illinois – which is near Chicago. The accents in the video lend credence to this possibility.

**RWECC** - 02/27/09 - 19:42

we need that lady at a fire comission mtg "1 man, 1 truck...what the f\$&K!" That sums it up.

**fi** - 02/27/09 - 23:30

Sadly this has been a reality across the country due to the lack of funding for the fire service. (We're not important until it's too late...) I will say though, my heart goes out to the folks that serve in these type of communities still. They make very tough, potentially life changing decisions alone daily. I've always wondered what I would do if I was the only one to show up or pass by a structure fire like this. Hopefully that never happens...

**YFD456** - 02/28/09 - 09:06

This would rock, just wish you had some way from the inside to tell how much water was left in the booster tank outside.

**Olson** - 02/28/09 - 23:39

Maybe NFPA can comeup with a way to mandate a heads up display for water level at the nozzle!!! only kidding!!!

**Adam Brown** - 03/01/09 - 09:50

In the not too distant past this happened in the Triangle area on a semi-regular basis. I remember pulling up on several fires, way back when, and I was by myself on the engine. Put it in gear, tank-to-pump, throttle up, grab the line (booster or 1 1/2") and get started. You had to have an idea of how long your water would last (never very long).

Maybe wait for help. Maybe attack the fire. The public expected us to do something, so we did.

Fortunately, it worked out for most of us.

It is a shame, though, that there are departments around, including here in NC, that this is everyday stuff.

DJ ([Email](#)) - 03/01/09 - 13:48

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Baldricks Before & After

02/28/09 83 W, 2 I - + 14 - 12

It was firefighters versus clippers at Hibernian Restaurant & Pub this afternoon, with Raleigh Fire Department members raising money for the [St. Baldrick's Foundation](#). The shorn squad included "C" shift personnel from Engine 1, Engine 13, and Ladder 1. [See the team page](#). The hair flew, the deejay riffed, and everyone had a good time for a good cause. And the glare was incredible. Who else is gearing up for cutting down next month? Post details hair. Click to enlarge:



Has there been any females to do this or just males?

**Curious** - 03/02/09 - 09:46

I have quite a few female friends that have done this in years past. A couple of them actually had the St. Baldrick's logo tattooed onto their bald heads!

**CFP 7021** - 03/02/09 - 11:01

Team Garner FD will be getting shaved at the Lynwood Grill on Sunday March 15th, 2009 at 2pm. Come out and join us!!

**GFD** ([Email](#)) - 03/02/09 - 13:03

i was told by one of the team heads that TONS more money could be raised if more women would take it all off (hair that is)

**cornerhydrant** - 03/02/09 - 14:31

longer hair to start off with, will raise even MORE!!

**cornerhydrant** - 03/02/09 - 14:50

Bay Leaf FD members will be shaving theirs heads on Saturday, Mar. 7, at Napper Tandy's Irish Pub between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m., in memory of Paula Sukenik. They will have a truck there at 12 noon for a elementary school.

**Legeros** - 03/02/09 - 21:30

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Route No. 10 Fire Department, 1955

02/28/09 84 W - + 17 - 14

Anyone heard of Route No. 10 Fire Department in Charlotte, from the mid-1950s? They first appear in the membership roster of the North Carolina State Fireman's Association for the year ending June 30, 1955. The chief is listed as R. A. Breyare. For the years ending June 30, 1956, and June 30, 1957, they're listed as inactive. The department disappears from the membership roster in 1958. Other member departments in Charlotte in 1955 were Oakhurst FD, Pinoca FD, Wilkerson Boulevard FD, and Woodlawn FD. [More about former FDs.](#)

Never heard of Route No. 10 FD, but Oakhurst VFD turned in Idlewild VFD which runs with Mint Hill and Matthews in the eastern part of Mecklenburg County.

**DC** - 03/01/09 - 09:05

My grandfather was RA Breyare.

**c. breyare** - 05/30/09 - 16:49

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**This Morning's Fire / Kaplan Drive**

03/01/09 111 W, 1 I - + 17 - 18

Working fire at [4220 Kaplan Drive](#). Engine 20 arriving with smoke showing at a two-story, wood-frame apartment building. Battalion 3 in command. Smoke then fire venting from roof area. Ladder 20 positioned and supplied from hydrant. Two additional engines requested. Interior attack, which controlled fire in attic area. Alarm time 10:16 a.m. Controlled by 10:37 p.m. Fire walls helped contain spread. Nine people displaced. Units included Engine 20, Engine 8, Engine 5, Engine 14, Engine 13, Engine 1, Ladder 20, Rescue 14, Battalion 3, Battalion 2, Battalion 1, SR 2 as air unit, Car 20, Car 5, Car 2, EMS 1, EMS 11, EMS 42, District 1, District 2, Medic 91, Medic 95, Truck 1. "A" shift. Pics from Legeros coming [have been posted](#).



Don't forget Medic 95. You walked right past me.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 03/01/09 - 13:42

D'oh! Corrected.

**Legeros** - 03/01/09 - 13:43

s'right. You know, you do look funny with that red umbrella and the lime yellow coat.

**DJ** - 03/01/09 - 13:49

Dry **and** visible.

**Legeros** - 03/01/09 - 13:52

This just in, rain helped firefighters control this blaze: [http://www.wral.com/news/news\\_briefs/sto..](http://www.wral.com/news/news_briefs/sto..)

**Legeros** - 03/01/09 - 19:07

That's too funny. I Guess the roof and shingles were not doing their jobs.

**gen3fire** - 03/01/09 - 22:24

And to think we wasted all that money on fire trucks.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 03/01/09 - 23:11

Could the ladder company be any further away? I thought the ladders in Raleigh were ordered to take Side A? And Side A being immediately in front, not a block away. By the pics, the ladder is pretty useless where it's sitting...anyone agree?

**Hk&Ldr** - 03/03/09 - 15:19

I disagree, it looks to me like the ladder was placed in the best position. If the ladder had positioned in the parking lot, they would have been too close to the building. Considering the access to the building, it looks like they are in position to go defensive if need be and are out of the collapse zone.

**JB** - 03/03/09 - 16:15

May be one of those "hard to say if you werent there" but I had the same thought watching the wral video of the big fire today, L26 was pretty far away from the building (not so far that the aerial wasnt able to hit the fire, but it was a pretty long arc).

**raleighres** - 03/03/09 - 16:51

If we're talking collapse zones, then what about the 4 engine companies that are all parked closer than the ladder?

**Hk&Ldr** - 03/03/09 - 17:18

The ladder was placed ahead of the fire to stop the potential spread. Cut it off **if** it started running. Looking ahead. Good idea. Also In order to be in a "better" (arguable) position, it would have had to back into place and would have made laying a line, that was further down the road (not pictured) more difficult as there were cars in the parking lot as well. All in all, I think it was the best position given the potential and circumstances. 20 made a GREAT attack on that building as well. Good Engine work, truck work and all around teamwork. My two cents.

**KOM** - 03/03/09 - 17:26

Most of us know, unfortunately, that there hasn't been a focus on truck ops in this area. It's a very "engine based" area until the past maybe 5 years or so. Wake County is slowly seeing the need for more of a focus on truck ops and ladder placement, and please don't "collapse zone" this fire to death. Yes, I recognize the need to be aware of a collapse zone. But, you also have to have proper apparatus placement and put the fire out. Exactly what the crews from the west side did; aggressive interior attack, without the help from the rain!! Good job, good save...

Take a look at previous pics of fires, even single family gigs. Engine companies stopping short, or right in front; all I ask is "remember the ladder please, we're coming". People are becoming more and more aware of placement, but it's still lacking. RIT, park far away; safety engine, park even further; Rescue, find a driveway, sidewalk or whatever. Leave some space for us, we do more than just fans and mops these days; it'll get even more interesting if they add a second ladder on all fires. Where ya' at Burton?

Stay safe...

**Silver** - 03/03/09 - 17:47

When E-20 arrived there were cars in the parking spaces and lined up on the left hand side of the drive (just enough room for the Engine to park). Engine was placed half way down the building (retrospect I probably should have pulled down a little further or even better on Kaplan)but I felt like they were going to get a quick handle on the fire)but i also parked directly across from a hydrant. 3 man Engine that day, 2in. pulled and used 1/4 tank of water (in a hurry). Heavy flow knocked down the fire quickly, we kept the roof on and the Rain out. Ladder 20 would have had no room to put the outriggers out on their arrival. The cars were moved shortly before E-8 layed the line in. Worked out great, but always learn something at any fire.

**gen3fire** - 03/03/09 - 21:03

Interesting topic and some perspectives on this fire and apparatus placement. Since Brother Silver called on me and while I was not there and can only form my thoughts on the available pictures, I will try to add some food for thought... Gen3fire (driver of E-20, I'm guessing from your post) I say that your placement of your engine was good, you left room for the ladder without thinking of it really (according to your words of parking across from a hydrant) not sure why you didn't handle your own water supply but that's no so important. I'm not so sure when L-20 arrived, but if it was in front of E-8, THERE IS NO EXCUSE for not taking the front of the building, in my opinion. If L-20 got there after E-8, there is no excuse for not leaving room for the ladder to get the front of the building. A ladder truck is MORE THAN AN AERIAL DEVICE guys, it should be your biggest toolbox on the fire scene. Therefore, you should leave a parking space for the toolbox so that it can be used. I'm sorry, I don't buy the collapse zone thing on the placement of the ladder for this incident. Like Silver said, this area has been an "Engine Based" area for way too long, but with an influx of people from outside the bubble of Raleigh/Wake County coming here and making a push for COMPANY based operations on fires, there has been a noticable improvement in ladder/truck company operations. But believe me there needs to be alot more! The one big thing that seems to be the slowest to catch on around here is vertical ventilation! Are people scared to get on a roof or what? We are all taught in recruit school/firefighter I/II that heat and smoke GO UP first, THEN mushroom back down! Yet, one still rarely sees or hears about crews performing aggressive vertical ventilation. The biggest excuse I hear is not wanting to do extra damage to the property,

well I ask this...WHAT ABOUT THE EXTRA DAMAGE TO THE PERSONNEL? Actually, putting a hole in the roof saves property in most cases. Why one may ask...it localizes the fire, therefore causing less FIRE damage! Either way, I could go on all night about how ladders/trucks are misused in this area, but I've spoke long enough about it for now. Bottom line the fire went out, no one got hurt, so it was a great job done by the guys that were there!

Stay safe out there guys! And remember....LEAVE ROOM FOR THE TOOLBOX cause it's a bitch to have to carry all of the tools from a block or blocks away!

**Wayne** - 03/03/09 - 21:53

From Gen 3's comments:

In response to:"THERE IS NO EXCUSE for not taking the front of the building, in my opinion"

"there were cars in the parking spaces and lined up on the left hand side of the drive (just enough room for the Engine to park)."

And

"Ladder 20 would have had no room to put the outriggers out on their arrival."

**KOM** - 03/03/09 - 22:07

Just because the outriggers don't go down, doesn't mean you can't USE the toolbox. If the cars were moved, then it would have been no big deal to put them out after. As far as the cars in the spaces, you can always short jack! Speaking as someone who has rode in every seat of a ladder company in a much more urban area with vehicles, tight streets and alleyways, it can be done. I AM IN NO WAY Monday morning quarterbacking this fire or the great job done by the guys. But, as we all know, using pictures like these we can all learn ways to perhaps improve on our operations at fires through healthy discussions (even heated sometimes) like this one started by Hk&Ldr. Although I may be assigned to an engine company right now, I will ALWAYS be a ladder/truck man at heart till the day I die and I ALWAYS preach to my guys...LEAVE ROOM FOR THE LADDER!

Stay safe guys!

**Wayne** - 03/04/09 - 05:17

One last thing, look at some pictures of Boston FD and their ladder placement on calls. There are pictures of them putting 7 aerials up and operating in 1 alley!

**Wayne** - 03/04/09 - 05:20

"I AM IN NO WAY Monday morning quarterbacking".

Yes you are. Pictures are a great resource but doesn't always give the whole story.

"not sure why you didn't handle your own water supply"

3-man Engine with a hydrant 75ft. away across 2 lanes of traffic.

I also enjoyed my time on the ladder and have shared some of the frustrations but i also understand that sometimes things (especially on the fire scene) dont go exactly as a perfect plan.

The amount of area that our ladders have to cover often make them on of the last units on scene, not to mention if the first due ladder in on another call. But unless the city just all of a sudden finds the money to fund 8 more ladders and the money to refurb all the stations (in this economy) that can't fit them we will be an Engine based department, but we are moving in the right direction.

L-20 was roughly 25ft. away from E-20.

E-20 happened to be 3 blocks away clearing from a medical call. In between trying to help pull hose and get water and trying to get people to move their cars Batt. 3 arrived and advised where to place Ladder which arrived about the same time as Batt 3.

**gen3fire** - 03/04/09 - 08:14

Gen3fire-

I am sorry you feel that I am Monday morning quarterbacking this call. I do not feel that I am, I was only sharing my opinions on placement, which I even said came from the pictures. I never questioned the strategy or tactics of this fire, which to me would be Monday morning

quarterbacking, therefore I apologize if you took offense. My comment about the engine getting its on water supply was just a thought. My engine is always a 3 person engine company, but my Lt. and back up driver have both been taught that if there is a hydrant within 150' they hand jack the 5" to the hydrant and we have trained/drilled on it extensively. I agree that more ladders are definately needed in Raleigh and around Wake Co for them to be the MOST efficient but I think we are going to have to just agree to disagree about placement of them on scenes and to the use "engine based" operations. It shouldn't matter when the ladder gets there, it still needs the place/space to do its jobs. Stay safe

**Wayne** - 03/04/09 - 09:47

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Seat Belts Work!**

03/01/09 234 W, 1 I - + 17 - 11

Stony Hill Pumper 264 was involved in a single-vehicle accident while responding to a call on Saturday afternoon. They were dispatched at 1:31 p.m with Wake Forest and Falls fire departments to a reported house fire in Wake Forest at 2120 Purnell Road. No fire was found at the house. While responding, Pumper 264 overturned on its side on Purnell Road, about a half-mile east of Camp Kanata Road. They reported they were overturned about 1:38 p.m. Additional fire and EMS units were immediately dispatched to their accident, including Stony Hill Pumper 262, Falls Pumper 212, EMS 12, EMS 33, and EMS District 6.

Command was assumed by SHFD 101. The three personnel on the pumper were transported to WakeMed with minor injuries. All were wearing seat belts. They were treated and released Saturday evening. Other units on scene included Stony Hill 100, 101; Wake Forest Car 2, Car 4, Battalion 1, Utility 6, Falls Utility 21, Bay Leaf 100, Wake EMS Chief 100, and WC 1. Falls and Wake Forest assisted Stony Hill on scene and also with coverage. They also helped transfer equipment from Pumper 264 back to the station. The 2005 Pierce Contender was up-righted about 3:20 p.m. and removed from the scene after 4:00 p.m. Purnell Road was closed between Camp Kanata and Thompson Mill roads during the operation. Photos by Legeros have been approved for release and ~~are forthcoming~~ [have been posted](#). Archived radio traffic is [available online, as well](#).



I asked Mike to post this info and the pics for the benefit of all. Everybody, please wear your seatbelts at all times. These three guys were wearing theirs and injury was minimized. Here's what happened before any speculation begins: The truck dropped the right front wheel off of the roadway onto the soft shoulder, speed was not excessive, the truck drifted to the right even more after the wheel drop and inertia took over. A nothing showing size-up was given on scene of the dispatched structure fire and P264 had reduced to non-emergency response prior to the accident. Our guys are OK, one has a mild concussion (capt's seat), but otherwise he's doing well and at home.

I had my best driver behind the wheel who I trust 100%, yet the accident still occurred; so I encourage you all to do what's right and try to minimize risk at all levels. Accidents WILL happen no matter what you do to prevent them.

Also, the new NFPA 1901 standard specifies also that equipment will be secured in the cab of fire apparatus. Even though you may have the seatbelt on, and even have airbags for roll-over protection, "flying" equipment WILL injure you in the cab.

Be safe and thanks to all who assisted us on scene.

**A.Rich** - 03/01/09 - 14:13

Thanks, AC. Usually, in my experience, organizations clam up and get real defensive over situations like this. I think it speaks volumes about you and your department to step up like this. Glad everyone is OK.

There have been several of these incidents across the country, and seat belts are MAKING A DIFFERENCE, along with all of the advances in the design of fire apparatus.

AC- in my Power Point presentations I am doing, I always include a safety reminder at the end. Can I use some of the pics of this MVC for those messages?

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 03/01/09 - 15:00

DJ – Feel free to use any pics you want. Any opportunity where the edicts of safety can be reinforced is a good thing.

**A.Rich** - 03/01/09 - 16:40

Pics have been posted.

**Legeros** - 03/01/09 - 16:52

Let me first say seat belts work and will save your life please take the time to use them its the most important decision you can make. I would like to say thank you for all your thoughts and prayers and phone calls. I'm still sore and have a headache but will recover it pays to have a hard head sometimes.

**J. Schwenk** ([Email](#)) - 03/01/09 - 23:22

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**McLemore Fire Department?**

03/01/09 49 W - + 19 - 8

Has anyone heard of a McLemore Fire Department in Johnston County, circa 1985? Perhaps named McLemore FD? This entity is listed in the North Carolina State Fireman's Association membership roster for the year ending June 30, 1985. The chief is listed as D. R. Wells. [More about former FDs.](#)

McLemore is the Cleveland Fire Department district (their tax district name). Such as Clayton has Town district and Claytex district. The current chief is Chris Ellington.

**JD** - 03/01/09 - 18:07

Great, thanks! Clayton question. Did the rural district ever exist as a separate department?

**Legeros** - 03/01/09 - 18:11

Not as a separate department, but on the department there were "town firefighters" and "rural firefighters". The town firefighters were not suppose to answer rural calls and rural firefighters were not supposed to answer town calls. Interesting ways of the past!!

**JD** - 03/01/09 - 19:24

Clarification on first comment, Chris Ellington is the current chief of Cleveland Fire.

**Ooops..** - 03/01/09 - 19:26

Interesting. The NC DOI directory of fire departments from June 1982 lists both a Claytex VFD and a Clayton FD, which was the source of my original question. Hmmmmm.

**Legeros** - 03/01/09 - 19:28

Mike... the State has taken issue with the dual entity that can exist when a town has a municipal fire department and protects a rural district. We have all heard of town trucks and county trucks. This has been a significant issue in departments in eastern NC as I know of this issue in Wilson and Pitt county. Departments now are supposed to be a single entity that contracts with the other district, either a municipal department with a rural contracted district(ie Clayton) OR a rural department that contracts to cover an area that may included corporate limits like a town or city (ie Garner). The issue still exists in some places like Winterville but for the most part it has been changed over the past 20 years.

**D. Cates** - 03/03/09 - 14:02

cleveland volunteer fire dept has never had "town ff" or "rural ff" we have always been in a rural district,, the closest town was clayton, who had their own ff's

**intheknow** ([Email](#)) - 03/03/09 - 22:03

we were established in 19 hundred and 60 one

**CAR4** ([Email](#)) - 03/03/09 - 22:05

Postscript to my Claytex question. The NC Secretary of State site informs that an entity named Claytex Fire District Inc. was incorporated on Dec. 30, 1994, and dissolved on Jul. 11, 1996.

**Legeros** - 03/11/09 - 19:50

Mike- For a time Claytex was incorporated for several reasons. Stop by the station or call me and I will explain the history of the Clayton/Claytex district, the Town and Rural Departments. When I became Fire Chief in 1991 I learned a lot from a DOI Inspection regarding "Hybrid" Departments. We had a lot of administrative and operational procedures to clean up just as D. Cates stated. All of the Corporations, Bank Accounts, Charters, Procedures, etc. were good intentions by the Volunteer Department but you could not be both or have it all. We, as a Department with the Town's blessing and support had to choose what we were going to be, a Department of the Town of Clayton or an Incorporated Department. We, the Department voted to maintain our relationship as we are today which is a Department of the Town of Clayton. Everyone has benefitted from this decision that was made in the early 90's.

**[Lee Barbee]** ([Email](#)) - 03/11/09 - 21:19

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**Lucama Fire Department?**

03/01/09 56 W - + 15 - 10

Next question for Wilson County-ites. What happened to the Lucama Fire Department? They were organized by 1972, and still operating after 1982. (NC DOI directories from those years as sources.) Who protects the wee town of Lucama these days, and did they absorb LFD? Thanks again, from your bookkeeping historian. [More about former FDs.](#)

The fire department in Lucama is named Crossroad Fire. Not sure they merged with Lucama or what?

**Jeff Armstrong** - 03/01/09 - 20:28

That's helpful. Crossroads FD was incorporated in 1980, says the Secretary of State web site.

**Legeros** - 03/01/09 - 21:47

LFD merged with CFD after 1987. Specific service years still being researched.

**Legeros** - 03/08/09 - 08:17

Mike,

Was looking at your former FD page, here is some info you might use. In Beaufort County, Edwards FD is now operated as a sub station of Aurora/Richlands Township FD.

**Steven** ([Email](#)) - 03/08/09 - 11:52

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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## Old Photos From Carteret County

03/02/09 123 W, 1 I - + 19 - 13

We've been sent some [vintage photos from Carteret County](#), showing fires, trucks, and people from the 1950s and 1960s. Beaufort and Morehead City fire departments are featured, along with a couple blazes in Atlantic Beach. The latter might be before ABFD was formed. Only a couple dates and details are known. The Beaufort fire is on Front Street. Dig that ladder truck! The Morehead City Fire Department foam machine is operating at a drugstore on Arendell Street on June 4, 1970. The posed BFD personnel is 1955, and the "pirates" are BFD members in 1960, for the occasion of the first pirate invasion. Can anyone identify others? Images are courtesy of Jesse Chaplain. [See all the great old photos.](#)



Beaufort Fire is January 1952. Departments on scene were BFD, Morehead City, Newport, Cherry Point, and New Bern. The Beaufort ladder truck is a 1941 Dodge, built by firefighters. The town bought the truck and the materials. BFD members also built a 1948 Dodge with a Darley pump into a 500 GPM pumper. More pics coming.

**Legeros** - 03/02/09 - 20:44

Additional photos have been added. The older man sitting on the older fire truck is Sam Pickett, a member of Beaufort Fire Department for many years. He worked with town picking up trash with a horse and cart. During the day, if the fire whistle blew, he would unhook the cart, and take the horse to the fire station to get the hose wagon. He is pictured on a 1927 American LaFrance 1000 GPM pumper. The truck was destroyed when it caught fire on Aug. 4, 1966.

Three pieces of Beaufort apparatus are shown. A 1938 Dodge/Darley, 500 GPM, 200 gallon pumper. A 1941 Dodge ladder truck, with a 55-foot ladder. Built by firefighters, with materials and truck purchased by town. A 1948 Dodge with a 500 GPM Darley pump and 500 gallon tank. Also built by firefighters. Both trucks were built on Front Street, where the Maritime Museum presently sits.

The Morehead City pumper is an FWD, the same pumper that overturned and killed a driver on May 1, 1951, the day of its acceptance tests. Read more, and see an earlier picture here: <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>

**Legeros** - 03/03/09 - 22:24

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Parkwood Assistant Chief Dies

03/03/09 71 W - + 15 - 6

[FireNews has information](#) on the death of Parkwood Asst. Chief Andy Barringer, who died Sunday in West Virginia after experiencing a heart attack. Family visitation is today, Tuesday, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Clements Funeral Home, [1105 Broad Street, Durham](#). The funeral and graveside service is Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. at Richland Creek Community Church, [3229 Burlington Mills Road, Wake Forest](#). His obituary appears in today's [News & Observer](#).

check the Parkwood site for more info on Andy Barringer – <http://www.pvfd.com>

lee - 03/03/09 - 14:40

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**This Morning's Fire / Branch Road**

03/03/09 206 W, 2 I - + 18 - 14

Several departments worked a large house fire at [2400 Branch Road](#) in eastern Wake County this morning. Flames were reported showing by an off-duty firefighter. Eastern Wake Car 1 en route requested an additional tanker, due to the heavy smoke column. Raleigh Engine 26 was first on scene at a fully-involved, two-story, wood-frame structure with 4,221 square-feet. Built 1986, located down a long driveway, and with an ice hazards due to low temperatures. More tankers were requested by command. An aerial stream was utilized from Raleigh Ladder 26. Water was shuttled and hand lines operated. Alarm time 7:40 p.m. The first wave of fire units on scene included Eastern Wake P1, P2, P4, Tanker 3, R11, Brush 7, Car 1, Raleigh E26, L26, Battalion 2, Garner E5, Tanker 7, Tanker 12; New Hope Tanker 11, Tanker 12, Wendell Tanker 117, tankers/pumper tankers from Archer Lodge and Clayton, and WC1. Crews remained on scene through the day. [This WRAL story](#) notes that the house is on a farm that used as a horse-boarding facility, and it's a historic homestead site that includes a Civil War battlefield. This image is from extended aerial footage aired during the incident, and is followed by a Wake County real estate record photo:



*WRAL Photo*



*Wake County Photo*

Family of the founders of Branch Bank & Trust. (BB&T)

**J.S.** - 03/03/09 - 22:35

Ouch...beautiful house. Anyone know the cause?

**Silver** - 03/04/09 - 02:15

One dog found alive in the cinders, reports today's News & Observer: <http://www.newsobserver.com/print/wednes..>

**Legeros** - 03/04/09 - 08:01

I've heard that the water supply was an issue. Any lessons learned that anyone wants to share?

**Trying to Learn** - 03/04/09 - 17:07

Deploy air tankers for fully involved 4,000 square-foot structures on icy mornings in the far corners of the county? But seriously folks, can enough water be brought before there's too much fire?

**Legeros** - 03/04/09 - 20:34

I looked at the sky 5 footage on wral.com. Why did the fire burn all the way down to the BC corner and the garage without trying to be stopped? When the video starts there is roof left. If that was my house I would be mad at looking at the video. I know that there was a problem with water, but where were the drop tanks? And there was a pool in the backyard.

**JR** - 03/04/09 - 21:48

It may have been hard to get access to the pool for drafting. The sides of pools are typically not strong enough to support any weight close by. Drafting out of pools is a sketch move in most cases.

**huh** - 03/05/09 - 00:08

Wouldn't multiple drop tanks and a LDH supply line down the drive way have created a more continuous water flow? As opposed to nursing with tankers to multiple different trucks. A tanker to a ladder doesn't last but a minute or two? Just asking the question

**Questions** - 03/05/09 - 02:00

Some on scene FF's have reported that the fire could've possibly been brought under control early on if they hadn't ran out of water. So, yes, in some cases enough water can be brought and possibly keep it from being too much fire. 'What if' is always a big question, but that's how we learn and become better at what we do.

**Learning** - 03/05/09 - 08:15

There are also 2 ponds close by

**T.W.** - 03/05/09 - 11:24

Were dump tanks used or was this strictly a tanker nurse?

**Dump Tanks** - 03/05/09 - 13:21

No drop tanks used. IC denied request for Idh and drop tanks.

**wcff** - 03/05/09 - 13:27

I agree, the drop tanks would have been a wise move, especially with a 1 lane drive way. I watched this from Sky5 video as well, and didnt see much water flowing (coincides with radio traffic). The fire streams I did see were nice little 1.5" and maybe 1.75" lines that were ineffective. BIG FIRE=BIG WATER PEOPLE!!!

**J.Boggs** - 03/05/09 - 15:41

wcff, any idea why IC denied a request for water? Just curious what the justification would be. Rural fires are almost a struggle because of water supply.

**YFD456** - 03/06/09 - 11:55

no idea. heard it on the radio.

**wcff** - 03/06/09 - 18:11

How about we leave the details of the fire to those who were actually there! I think that is why so many people on here get defensive when

people that weren't there start to assume and speculate what happened and what should have happened.

**John McAdams** - 03/07/09 - 07:31

John, were you there? If so, just curious as to the details of why the nurse tanker method was used? I am in a rural area also and we do it both ways depending on the situation. Just trying to glean from others experience if possible.

**YFD456** - 03/07/09 - 11:01

I don't think anybody is MMQB or placing any blame, just curious to why this tactic was used verses other common tactics.

**Rides An Engine** - 03/07/09 - 13:58

When the use of drop tanks was denied, command stated that the fire was in mop up. However that was only 30 or so minutes into the incident. By the sky 5 coverage there was still extensive fire. Not placing blame just stating what was transmitted over the radio.

**fire guy** ([Email](#)) - 03/07/09 - 20:10

wouldn't the pool have been drained for the winter and bombed with chlorine to winterize? don't know – never had a pool – but what really stands out in my mind and disturbs me the most is the limited accessibility – i keep looking at the picture and seeing a narrow one lane road that's fenced in – speaking of accessibility, anyone try driving through bedford at falls river at night near the clock tower and in the vicinity? give it a try – a huge grass center divider and road as narrow a a toothpick once someone parks on the side, all in the name of "neighborliness" – give me a break – safety comes first!!

**cornerhydrant** - 03/07/09 - 21:41

It wouldn't be drained too much. A mixture of winter chlorine, winter alkalizer, and winter powder will insure that your pool stays clean over the winter and is ready for use in the late spring when the warmer weather arrives. Essentially, these chemicals will put extremely high levels of chlorine, alkaline, and algaecide in the water to prepare for the winter months ahead.

**Just A Eye** - 03/08/09 - 00:53

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Bertie County Firefighter Struck at MVC**

03/03/09 90 W - + 14 - 13

[FireNews has information](#) on Trap Fire Department Firefighter Timothy King who was critically injured at a motor-vehicle accident on Monday. While donning turnout gear at the scene, he was struck by a car that slid on ice. He was trapped between two vehicles, and his legs were both amputated below the knee. He was air-lifted to Pitt Memorial, and has undergone two surgeries. The 27 year-old firefighter has been a member of Trap Fire Department for about two years. [WITN also is covering the story.](#)

That is a sad story. I have been praying for him. I remember a Medic here in Mecklenburg county that had the same thing. He was pinned between the ambulance and a car. Drivers and ice can become a bad combination for us emergency personnel.

Leo ([Web Site](#)) - 03/05/09 - 11:25

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.

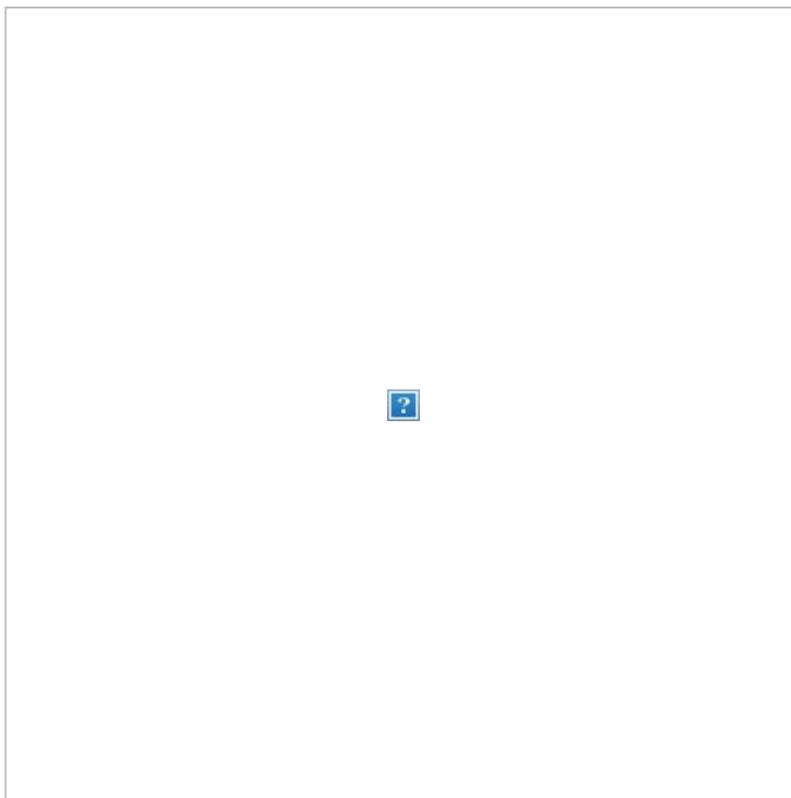
Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Beaufort Ladder Truck

03/03/09 67 W, 1 I - + 9 - 13

Those [vintage photos from Carteret County](#) have been expanded and include some color shots of Beaufort fire apparatus from the 1930s and 1940s. Below is a 1941 Dodge ladder truck with a 55-foot aerial ladder. It was built by firefighters using a truck and materials purchased by the town. Jesse Chaplain provides the pictures and the information therein. [Read more about those old photos.](#)



---

At one time Swansboro had something like this, only it was on a trailer.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 03/04/09 - 22:19

Wonder if that truck's not sitting in someones barn today? What a museum piece it would make.

**Olson** - 03/06/09 - 13:50

Yes. This truck and the 2 pumpers are owned by a gentleman who lives near Beaufort.

**Jesse** - 03/06/09 - 21:36

I heard that this was the new county spec ladder truck.

**ha!** - 03/07/09 - 10:32

Would love to get more info on the 41 Dodge COE, you can give current owner my email. THANKS – Nollie, Collector of Dodge Fire Trucks (Ennice NC)

**Nollie** ([Email](#)) - 12/06/11 - 22:49

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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## Looks Like We Got Us a Convoy

03/05/09 123 W, 1 I - + 13 - 12

North Carolina Urban Search & Rescue Task Force 8 traveled to Charlotte today for a two-day exercise. Here are Raleigh's rigs on Interstate 40, headed to merge with Cary, Chapel Hill, and Durham units. As for the song, C. W. McCall's novelty record was a number-one hit in the US in 1975. [Read what Wiki says](#). The song helped started the CB radio craze, the article notes. Wonder where that fits in the timeline of trucker songs and trucker movies? *Smokey and the Bandit*, by way, was released in 1977. Directed by Hal Needham, who also directed *The Cannonball Run* in 1981. [Watch those great bloopers](#) of Burt and Dom and the rest of the goofy gang. Click to enlarge:



Nice shot...anyway you can do a comparison shot of "where we were when we first started" and "where we are today" with our USAR compliment of equipment?

**Silver** - 03/06/09 - 10:32

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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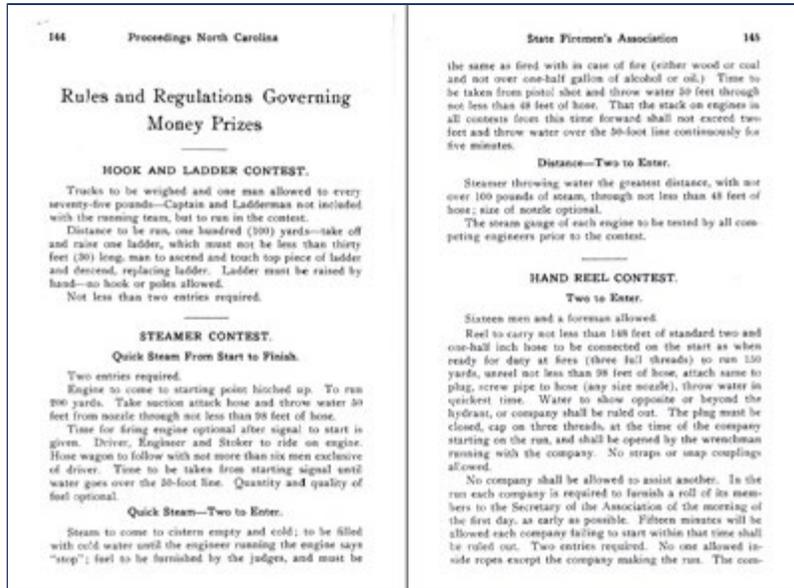
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

**Tournament Rules, 1916**

03/05/09 89 W, 2 I - + 16 - 13

For some 50 years, the North Carolina State Firemen's Association conducted contests at its yearly conventions. Firefighters from across the state competed against each other, making and breaking "world's records" that they proudly boasted about. From the proceedings published after the 1916 conference, conducted in Raleigh on July 18-21, [here's what the rules looked like](#). The contents include hand, horse, and steam apparatus competitions, and a foot, sack, and barrow race. You can also read [newspaper accounts of the tournaments](#), or [learn more about past conferences](#).



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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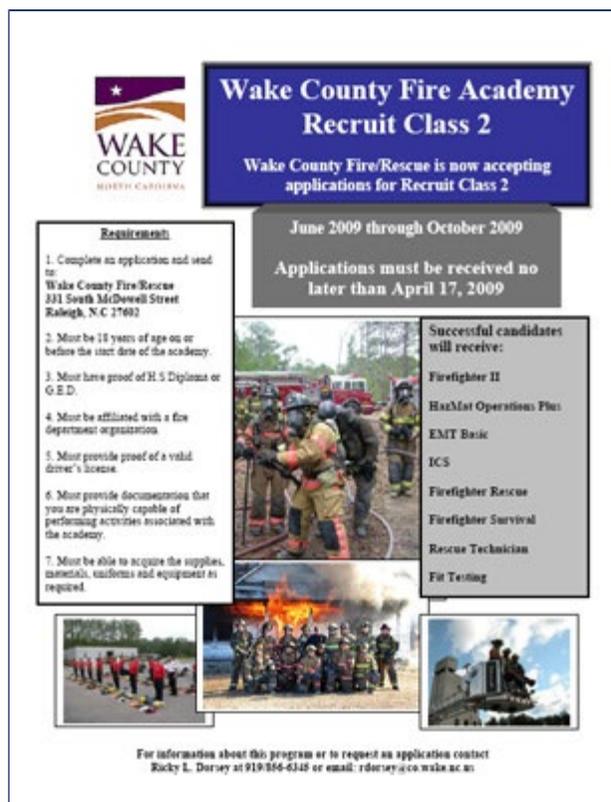
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

## Wake County Fire Academy Now Accepting Applications

03/06/09 82 W, 2 I - + 12 - 7

[Wake County Fire/Rescue](#) is now accepting applications for its second county-wide fire academy, which runs June through October 2009. Applications must be received no later than April 17, 2009. Successful candidates will receive: Firefighter II, HazMat Operations Plus, EMT Basic, ICS, Firefighter Rescue, Firefighter Survival, Rescue Technician, and Fit Testing. See this [PDF flyer](#) for application requirements, such as you must be affiliated with a fire department organization. The flyer also has contact information. Good luck everyone!



**Wake County Fire Academy**  
**Recruit Class 2**

Wake County Fire/Rescue is now accepting applications for Recruit Class 2

June 2009 through October 2009

Applications must be received no later than April 17, 2009

**Requirement:**

1. Complete an application and send to:  
 Wake County Fire/Rescue  
 331 South McDowell Street  
 Raleigh, N.C. 27602
2. Must be 18 years of age on or before the start date of the academy.
3. Must have proof of H.S. Diploma or G.E.D.
4. Must be affiliated with a fire department organization.
5. Must provide proof of a valid driver's license.
6. Must provide documentation that you are physically capable of performing activities associated with the academy.
7. Must be able to acquire the supplies, materials, uniforms and equipment as required.

**Successful candidates will receive:**

- Firefighter II
- HazMat Operation Plus
- EMT Basic
- ICS
- Firefighter Rescue
- Firefighter Survival
- Rescue Technician
- Fit Testing

For information about this program or to request an application contact  
 Ricky L. Dorsey at 919-366-6348 or email: [rdorsey@co.wake.nc.us](mailto:rdorsey@co.wake.nc.us)

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**RAPS Race, Monday, April 27**

03/06/09 83 W, 1 I - + 12 - 11

The next Raleigh Area Public Safety Endurance Race is scheduled for Monday, April 27, 2009, at [Rush Hour Karting in Garner](#). Qualifying begins in the afternoon, with the 90-minute endurance race starting at 6:00 pm. See [www.rapsracing.com](http://www.rapsracing.com) for more information, including entry fee and team specifics. The Raleigh Area Public Safety (RAPS) Racing League is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to building interagency working relationships among public safety professionals, which racing around in wee cars and wearing stylish helmets.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**Back in Time with Back Swamp**

03/07/09 58 W, 1 I - + 13 - 9

Lee Wilson photographed this old Back Swamp FD International/American LaFrance pumper on Highway 301 in Wilson County, just north of Kenly. Model year not known. Back Swamp FD, chartered on Jan. 10, 1975, is located in Richlands, NC. Click to enlarge, or [see more photos of the truck](#).



*Lee Wilson photo*

We would like to know the location of this fire truck. We are hoping we could buy this truck and fix it. We wish to have the older members see and drive the truck during our parade in Richlands next year. We feel it would be a emotional moment to them and a gift for their services. Please reply to me at (910)-548-0903 or at [Zachary.dail40@ocs.gaggle.net](mailto:Zachary.dail40@ocs.gaggle.net) Thank you for your time.

**Back Swamp Fire Dept.** - 05/01/13 - 09:56

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Mobile Phone Photo Challenge Deadline Tuesday, March 10**

03/07/09 75 W - + 13 - 12

The deadline for submissions for the mobile phone photo challenge is Tuesday, March 10, at 5:00 p.m. EST. Photos must be taken using a mobile phone. The image must include these three things: a **helmet**, a **vehicle**, and the color **blue or red**. Send photos to mikey "at" legeros "dot" com. **Please indicate photo credit**. Can be full name, first name, or even anonymous.

Check your date Mike, not sure that 3/6/09 is a Tuesday.

Have you had many photos submitted?

**Date?** - 03/08/09 - 02:23

Thanks, corrected.

**Legeros** - 03/08/09 - 07:57

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Military Fire Departments, Past 'n' Present?

03/07/09 234 W - + 15 - 9

For our Saturday morning musings, what military fire departments have served in North Carolina, both past and present? Here's a starter list of facilities that had or have fire departments:

- Bogue Banks Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field - Built 1942.
- Camp Butner - Built 1942, closed 1947 as Army training facility.
- Camp Lejune, Jacksonville - Built 1941.
- Camp Mackall, Southern Pines - Built 1943. Had FD in 1945.
- Charlotte Army Air Base - Dedicated April 21, 1941, deactivated May 14, 1946. (Or were they served by Charlotte FD?)
- Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, Havelock - Built 1941.
- Elizabeth City Coast Guard Air Station - Opened 1940. Had FD in 1944. Sent one truck to help ECFD with fuel fire on May 31, 1944.
- Elizabeth City Naval Air Station, Weeksville - Built 1944. Closed 1962. Had FD in 1944. Sent two trucks to help ECFD with fuel fire on May 31, 1944.
- Fort Bragg - Built 1918.
- Harvey Point Naval Auxiliary Air Station - Had FD in 1944.
- Laurinburg-Maxton Air Base - Activated 1943, deactivated 1945.
- Morehead City Navy Section Facility - Had FD in 1943.
- North Carolina Air National Guard, Charlotte.
- New River Marine Corps Air Station, Jacksonville - Built 1943. (Served by Camp Lejune FD?)
- Pope Air Force Base, Fayetteville - Built 1919.
- Raleigh-Durham Army Air Base - Operational on May 1, 1943. Used until Jan. 1, 1948.
- Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro - Built 1942.
- Simmons Army Airfield, Fort Bragg - Built 1952. (Served by Fort Bragg FD)
- Sunny Point Marine Ocean Terminal, Southport - Opened 1955.

---

CFD assumed fire protection duties at Morris Field in 1947, says their yearbook.

What about the Charlotte Quartermaster Depot, which operated from 1941 to 1949? Seemed a large facility, by this description:

[http://www.cmstory.org/homefront/places/..](http://www.cmstory.org/homefront/places/)

**Legeros** - 03/09/09 - 20:16

Camp Sutton in Monroe is another notable wartime facility. The training center and POW camp served from 1942 until 1946. Check out the vintage photos at <http://history.union.lib.nc.us/heritager..>, as well as some very old Monroe Fire Department pics!

**Legeros** - 03/09/09 - 20:26

A reader advises that Fort Fisher Air Station had a fire department. Previously named Fort Fisher Army Air Field, the facility operated from the 1940s through 1989. It's presently a recreation area and historic site. Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\\_Fisher..](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Fisher..) The facility was associated with Camp Davis in Holly Ridge, NC. Camp Davis was built in 1940, and two runways were added a couple years later. That section was named Camp Davis Army Air Field, and is presently known as Marine Corps Outlying Field Camp Davis. Source:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp\\_Davis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Davis)

**Legeros** - 03/14/09 - 09:26

As we have likely referenced before, a great reference for former airfields is Paul Freeman's excellent Abandoned & Little-Known Airfields site. Here's his NC page: <http://www.airfields-freeman.com/NC/Airf..>

**Legeros** - 03/14/09 - 09:31

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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### 54 East Fire Department?

03/08/09 64 W - + 14 - 13

Does anyone know the history of the 54 East Fire Department in Swepsonville? They're listed in NCSFA rosters from 1983 to 1985. Fifty-Four East Fire District is listed in the DOI directory of 1982. There's no corporation listing on the Secretary of State site, however. Perhaps it was a district name for another Alamance County FD? [More about former FDs.](#)

Swepsonville FD Now Operates That station..They just built a new station Besides the former 54 East FD

**King** - 03/08/09 - 22:14

It was Station #10 as Swepsonville's sub-station. I don't know if that is still true w/ the new station being built.

**fire1983** - 03/09/09 - 11:17

That is correct it is still 10 with the new station..This station Has three bays Pumper,Tanker Medic truck, Brush truck.

**King** - 03/10/09 - 18:17

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## East Alamance Fire Department?

03/08/09 53 W - + 12 - 11

Here's another mystery department in Alamance County. EAFD is listed in the DOI directory of 1982. No listing in NCSFA rosters. No corporation info. on the Secretary of State site. The DOI directory of 1982 also lists North Eastern Alamance FD, which is still in service today. [More about former FDs.](#)

---

It is or was part of Pleasant Grove FD Station #12.

**fire1983** - 03/09/09 - 11:14

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Old Rex Hospital

03/08/09 109 W, 1 I - + 15 - 8

Found for sale on eBay, here's a postcard view of old Rex Hospital at the corner of Wade Avenue and St. Mary's Street. The hospital operated at that location from 1937 to 1980. When the hospital moved to the Lake Boone Trail location on September 28, 1980, numerous rescue squads assisted with transporting 168 patients to the new building. [This Wikipedia page](#) says Rex is the state's oldest hospital (!), founded in 1894. It was first located on South Street, in the former St. John's Hospital that opened in 1878 by the St. John's Guild of the Church of the Good Shephard. [Here are a few present day photos](#). Click to slightly enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**MERGED - Ca-Vel Fire Department**

03/08/09 42 W - + 16 - 8

This posting has been merged into <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog/pivot/entry.php?id=6923>.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Hide email:    Yes, hide my email address.

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## Yesterday's Major Brush Fire / Marks Creek Road

03/08/09 114 W - + 11 - 13

[FireNews Incident Reports](#) has a detailed, reader-submitted summary of yesterday's major brush on [Mark Creeks Road](#). Eight or more agencies were on scene: Eastern Wake Fire, Wendell Fire, New Hope Fire, Rolesville Fire, Knightdale Fire, Wake EMS, Eastern Wake EMS, and NC Forest Service. Dispatched about 12:00 noon as a fire, nature unknown. First arriving units found several acres ablaze. Fire controlled after a few hours, and with help of a plow-made fire break. The report estimates 12 to 18 acres involved, and counts the total fire apparatus on scene as 7 brush trucks, 1 brush tanker, 2 ATVs, 5 tankers, 2 pumper-tankers, 3 engines, and 1 rescue. [Read the report](#), by scrolling down to yesterday's incident.

Hey, I noticed in a few photos no one was wearing seat belts in the apparatus! Let's be safe out there people.

**fire1983** - 03/09/09 - 11:20

Dude are you serious!? Everybody worked together and got the job done with out injury. So stop nit-picking! You have just shown everyone here that you look for the negative of a situation. What kind of a person looks at a photo to see if everyone has a seat belt on?

**Click it or ticket** - 03/09/09 - 11:43

I wasn't there. And the job got done, the fire put out, and no one got hurt and everyone went home. Everyone deserves a pat on the back, andatta boy, and a high five.

I just quickly looked through the pictures and did not see anything regarding seat belts, other than the ATV. I would hope that the guys riding the ATV were doing so in a safe manner in accordance to their department's SOPs.

But in answer to the question "What kind of a person looks at a photo to see if everyone has a seat belt on?", I would have to say that any fire chief, fire department safety officer, or even fire officer, who is aware of, or made aware of, pictures of their folks riding on fire apparatus without seat belts, at any time, then THEY are the people who should be looking at those pictures. And taking corrective action(s).

I only have two words to offer to back that up- Stony Hill.

BTW, there is a video circulating You Tube that a news chopper caught of an SUV flipping and ejecting the driver, along with the consequences. That can just as easily be a firefighter being ejected from a moving fire truck (or their POV for those departments that still depend upon POV response).

But, like I said, the fire got put out and everyone went home.

This Bud's for you!

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 03/09/09 - 14:44

I agree even in brush truck in the woods everyone needs to wear seatbelts. 4 wheel drive vehicles are very prone to rollover. Be safe

**Apex BattChief** - 03/09/09 - 20:21

Yes, look at the pictures of the men in one the engines and told me what you do not see? Speaking of rollovers ask the men from Texas a few weeks ago that was on the news and yes, the Stony Hill guys. Just want EVERYONE to go home that's all. Thanks

**fire1983** - 03/10/09 - 21:58

All of those trucks were haling water and they were not going over five or ten mph. If you flip a truck going five mph you dont need to be driving. I have to agree stop nit-picking!

JR - 03/11/09 - 15:44

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Facebook Humor

03/08/09 55 W - + 10 - 12

With everyone and their brother on Facebook these days, [here's an amusing video](#) that should generate some laughs. The clip was created by the comedy sketch group [Idiots of Ants](#), for BBC Three. What's is [BBC Three](#)? Looks like an online channel of the Beeb. Embedded version via YouTube is below. Poke!

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Raleigh Fire Department Report, 1958**

03/09/09 286 W - + 10 - 13

At the 71st annual meeting of the North Carolina State Fireman's Association in Lumberton on July 29 and 30, 1958, Raleigh Fire Chief Jack Keeter delivered the following report through his secretary, V. Volentir:

Raleigh Fire Department Activities for 1957-58:

1. The Raleigh Fire Department added one 750 gallon American LaFrance pumper and one 100 foot tractor drawn American LaFrance aerial truck to their apparatus in 1957-58.
2. Bids were received in May, 1958 for Fire Station No. 7, \$77,000.
3. The Fire Prevention Bureau started a Baby Sitter course for young girls in the City of Raleigh. To date 100 girls have completed the course.
4. House to house in-service inspection program was started with the trucks in contact with the dispatchers at all times by walkie-talkie.
5. Fire prevention courses were taught in all the schools and hospitals.
6. The firemen painted toys for the underprivileged children of Raleigh at Christmas and stuffed thousands of envelopes for the Wake County Easter Seal Campaign.
7. The per capital loss was \$7.25 in 1956 and \$2.32 in 1957.
8. The Raleigh Fire Department answered 1130 calls in 1957.
9. Two men retired from the Raleigh Fire Department in 1956-57.
10. The Raleigh Fire Department drill tower was completed June 3, 1958<sup>1</sup>, at a cost of \$26,000 plus paving. The building has five stories above ground and a basement which is used for drafting water. On one occasion, the City Council, City Manager, and other interested citizens were the guests of the fire department for an exhibition drill at the tower. This drill consisted of various drills and evolutions, including rescue and pit fires.
11. A total of 27,984 man hours were spent on classroom study and drill; 18,656 classroom, and 9,328 drill.

<sup>1</sup>Wait, wasn't the training tower built in 1954? Yes, but the training tower grounds were still being worked on. More on this later.

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Interesting how more community-based projects were done back in the day. Too bad the times have required us to get away from that type of customer service. Interesting Mike!

CC - 03/09/09 - 23:02

There are many then-and-now differences. Two shifts versus three. You worked everyone other day. No first responder program. Only the Raleigh Rescue Squad answered medical calls, and a comparatively low call volume. The Fire Prevention Division was less than 10 years old. Those programs were still finding their legs. Two-way radios were new, only on apparatus for two/three/four years. In-service activity was thus a new concept.

Legeros - 03/10/09 - 06:50

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

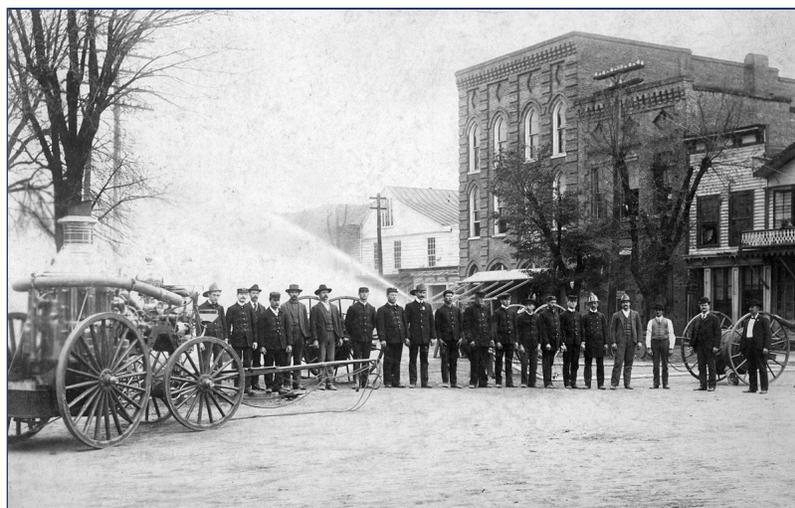
Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

**Monroe Fire Department, Early 1900s**

03/09/09 149 W, 1 I - + 16 - 14

Here's a splendid picture of the Monroe Fire Department on Main Street in the early 1900s. The steamer is a 1886 Silsby, Fifth Size, and still owned by the fire department. [More about NC steamers](#). The vintage image is courtesy of the [Heritage Room](#) in Monroe. They have some 1,300 photographs scanned and [available on the web](#). Their fire department photos number only eight, alas. [See those photos](#). Pictured left to right are Jim Davis, John McCarten, Frank Flow, John Carroll, Bob Wallace, George McCorkle, Brown McCorkle, G. Ed. Flow, Joe Williams, Walter McCorkle, Jack LeChaire, Luther Wallace, Unknown, Unknown, G. Walter Laney, Jim McLeod, Jess Hill, Sam Walsh, Dr. W. B. Houston, Dr. S. J. Welch ?, and William Carroll Click to enlarge this great image:



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

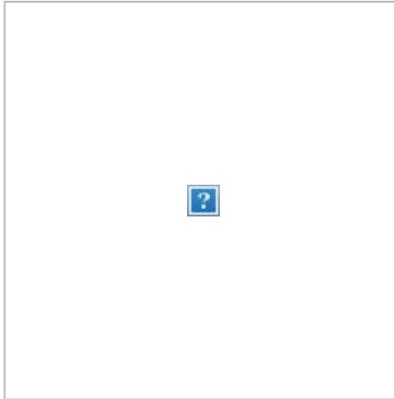
**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Your Blogs / Favorite Blogs

03/09/09 46 W, 1 I - + 12 - 7

Who has started their own blogs out there? We know you're out there. Here's your chance to advertise. Or, what are your favorite blogs? Who are you reading these days? Mr. Blogger tunes into [Firegeezer](#) and [Dave Statter](#) right regular, for starters.



Vententersearch.com, thebravestonline.com, bestfirefightervideo.com

**KOM** - 03/09/09 - 22:50

<http://blog.vincentlaforet.com/> which i started watching/reading during the olympics since i own no tv, and WOW!!

**cornerhydrant** - 03/10/09 - 01:47

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015** - *Wake County Fire* « [Your Blogs / Favorite...](#) » [Rekindle Society Must...](#)  
*Commission Meeting, Thursday, March 19*

**Wake County Fire Commission Meeting, Thursday, March 19**

03/10/09 76 W - + 14 - 10

The [Wake County Fire Commission](#) again descends on the Wake EMS Training Facility on Thursday, March 19, at 7:00 p.m. That's in the bowels of the Wake County Commons Building at [4011 Cary Drive](#). East side of town, right by the [local history library](#). We'll post the agenda, any handouts, odd fliers, or other materials as distributed prior to said meeting. Did I say meeting? [You said meeting](#).

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Rekindle Society Muster, Cheraw, S.C., Saturday, April 4**

03/10/09 106 W, 2 I - + 15 - 10

The [Rekindle Society](#), a Carolinas chapter of [SPAAMFAA](#), is holding a fire apparatus muster and Spring Festival Parade on Saturday, Apr. 4, in Cheraw, S.C. The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. and travels through downtown through town, and ends at the muster site at Cheraw State Park off Highway 52. Visitors are welcome to both events. Pumping and static displays at the muster are free for spectators. Fire apparatus is still needed for both the parade and muster. For more information, visit the [their web site](#), or [see this PDF flyer](#) .



Mike is the date for this not Saturday April 6th because the 4th is on thursday

**Fred E Handsel** ([Email](#)) - 04/02/19 - 05:38

April 4, 2009, was indeed on a Saturday.

**Legeros** - 04/02/19 - 08:53

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

**Mobile Phone Photo Challenge Results**

03/11/09 115 W, 2 I - + 15 - 10

Two weeks ago, readers were challenged to take pictures with their phones. The requirements were that image include a helmet, a vehicle, and the color blue or red. Alas, we weren't exactly flooded with submissions. Exactly... two were received. Like the man said after seeing Dolly Parton, that's a bust. Maybe we can double the number next time. And we still did better than the ill-fated blog dinners of two years ago! Thanks to J. Spero and Todd Deery for the pictures. Both receive their choice of a free subscription to the blog, or a year's supply of breathing air. Click to enlarge:



*J. Spero photo*



*Todd Deery photo*

oh, shucks, i won't have any air to breathe this year – what limited me, was all the great shots were at dusk, and my cell has very bad low light capability

**cornerhydrant** - 03/11/09 - 15:53

Mike,

Could we make it a open photo? Not just cell? I am overseas. No cell phone... but I got some pretty good wake county pics on the computer.

**kermi** - 03/12/09 - 04:21

could we add hydrants to the subject matter?

**cornerhydrant** - 03/12/09 - 04:40

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

## Bridgeton Fire Department History

03/11/09 434 W, 2 I - + 15 - 19

Before 1958, the [town of Bridgeton](#) in Craven County had received fire protection from the New Bern Fire Department for many years. The town was located one mile across the Neuse River from the neighboring city. After some disagreements between Craven County and New Bern officials regarding this service, a group of Bridgeport citizens headed by Edward N. Brinson began planning and creating their own fire department.

While they worked to acquire a truck, build a station, and get organized, town officials made an agreement with New Bern for interim fire protection. The Bridgeton mayor appointed a temporary Fire Chief to organize a department. On August 20, 1958, a group of 36 young men had a meeting and formed Bridgeton Fire Department No. 1. They elected a Fire Chief, Asst. Chief, Captain, First Lieutenant, Secretary, and Treasurer. They also created a committee to investigate acquiring a government surplus truck, but those members reported that a new truck was a better purchase.

The Bridgeton Board of Alderman bought a vehicle suitable for their requirements of a 500 GPM pump and 600-gallon tank, which could draft water from the river, and was equipped for fog or straight streams. The truck was selected to meet the requirements of the North Carolina Rating Bureau. While the young fire department members were awaiting delivery of the truck, they renovated the old city hall and jail. They tore out the jail cells, and turned the building into a suitable fire station. The firefighters provided the labor, and the town provided the materials.

The truck arrived in April 1959, and the fire department was placed in service<sup>1</sup>. The Bridgeton Fire Department operated until 1999, as my records indicate. The town is presently served by the Tri-Community Fire Department. Did BFD merge into said department? The city hall/jail-turned-fire station on B Street<sup>2</sup>, shown below, was still standing a couple years ago. It was built in 1923.



At a later time, the Bridgeton Fire Department moved into a building at 408 Bridge Street. This structure was still standing a couple years ago. There was a Tri-Community Fire Department truck parked inside. Thus the speculation that BFD became (part of?) TCFD. Perhaps our readers can complete the story.



<sup>1</sup>Source: North Carolina State Firemen's Association conference proceedings, 1959.

<sup>2</sup>Sanborn Maps of 1948 show a "town hall & fire dept." at 125 B Street. This should be the same one-story structure still standing today. The population that year was 700, and the fire department was described as "no membership. One 50 gallon chemical hand cart with 100-foot 1-inch hose. Alarm sounded by bell on Bridgeton M.E. Church."

I was told that Bridgeton contracts with Tri-Community for fire protection. They have 4 stations in their "large district." The one above is one of their current stations. Unknown of why the split.

**car3550** - 03/12/09 - 08:56

Ask Chief Brinson at Fairview...

**Guest** - 03/12/09 - 12:43

Bridgeton FD ceased operations and the town does indeed contract fire protection from the Tri-Community FD.

**John Maynard** - 05/14/12 - 00:14

If anyone has any information, or know where I can get information, about one of the last trucks that was purchased by BFD please let me know.

**James** ([Email](#)) - 05/13/15 - 02:09

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Julian Robertson Fire Department? (Rowan County)**

03/11/09 80 W - + 22 - 7

Calling any readers to the west. State fireman's association rosters from 1947 to 1956 list a Julian Robertson Fire Department in Salisbury. Google hasn't help me. Rowan County's too far away for a library visit. Anyone with any knowledge here? Was JRFD a community fire department? Perhaps institutional, protecting a school or orphanage or...? The Nazareth Orphan Home in Rowan County also had a fire department around this time. Perhaps related? [More about former FDs.](#)

Ive been in Rowan County fire service for 30 years and have never heard of Julian Robertson FD. The rural FD history is fairly clear, beginning in 1956. South Salisbury VFD and Union VFD claim to be the "First in Rural Rowan", both forming in 1956. Prior to that, the City of Salisbury was the only FD around- never has there been word of a City station with that name. I will be glad to ask some of my old timer fire friends tho and will report back if there is anything to it. Perhaps the Childrens Home... I will check and report.

**Bob Parnell** - 03/12/09 - 23:07

I should add that Julian Robertson is a local man who is a huge philanthropist from Salisbury. He was credited with turning an 8 million dollar investment into some 28 billion in the 1950s-60s (I am working from memory of articles that I have read years ago)

Also, Salisbury is not "that far" from Raleigh, so feel free to visit.

**Bob Parnell** - 03/12/09 - 23:29

NCSFA rosters list the JRFD fire chief as J. C. Holden, and the secretary as Maynard Newman from 47 to 49. From 1950 to 1955, they are H. L. Brinkley and Maynard Newman. In 1956, the FD is listed, but with no names. Perhaps that was the last year of the FDs operation?

Regarding Rowan County rural firefighting, an article in "The State" magazine of June 19, 1954, titled "Farmes in Red Helmets," tells "Prior to February 12, 1951, rural fire protection in Rowan was limited to that offered by town departments in Spencer, East Spencer, Granite Quarry, Rockwell, Faith, Cleveland, China Grove, and Landis. Salisbury [Fire] Department offers rural fire protection by contract or to charitable and industrial institutions. Cannon Mills, Nazareth Orphan Home and industrial fire departments have also rendered aid to rural areas. These 14 departments constituted the extent of "rural" fire protection before 1951."

So maybe Julian Robertson = Nazareth Orphan Home. If nothing else, expect a visit to the Salisbury library the next time that I am passing through!

**Legeros** - 03/13/09 - 06:18

Thus far, I think only Julian Roberts Jr., the hedge fund guru, has been referenced. From what I have gleaned from the web, his father, Julian Roberts Sr. was also a philanthropist and local Salisbury businessman. To me, the time period of 1947 – 1956 would link the naming of the department with the Senior Roberts. Mr. Roberts, a decorated WWI & WWII veteran, was the president of a Salisbury fabric mill, possibly the North Carolina Finishing Company/ Erlanger Mills.

I wonder if the FD in question might have provide protection for the mill and mill community?

**Todd D.** - 03/13/09 - 11:16

Yes, you are correct, Spencer, East Spencer, Granite, Rockwell, Faith, Cleveland, China Grove, and Landis existed prior to the formation of South Salisbury VFD and Union VFD...(I was remiss not to list the municipal community departments). Also, Spencer Shops Fire Department who protected the NS Railroad yard and Shops (Now the NC Transportation Museum). The Spencer Shops department I guess was decommissioned at the time that the Railroad Shops closed in the 1950/1960s?

In 1941/42 the Firefighters Memorial was erected (still exists)with the following departments engraved on the original memorial: Salisbury, Spencer, East Spencer and Spencer Shops FD. The memorial has markers for the orignal chiefs and officers of all 4 departments.

And, stop by the fire house when in town on your way to the Library.

**Bob Parnell** - 03/13/09 - 11:52

BTW Mr. Legeros- I share with you an interest in Civil War battlefields. I recently read that you toured a few while on vacation, didn't I read that somewhere on this crazy web?

**Bob Parnell** - 03/13/09 - 11:55

Erlanger Mills was located in Davidson County. Sanborn Maps state the machine shop served as fire department, and they had hose reels as apparatus, but that Lexington Fire Department also responded. Nice history here: <http://www.lexingtonnc.net/hpc/erlanger%..>

**Legeros** - 03/13/09 - 22:47

Spencer Shops FD operated from at least 1913 until after 1972, my records suggest. The shop closed in 1960, but the freight yard operated until the 1970s.

South Rowan FD was incorporated on Mar. 8, 1978, in China Grove. What became of them?

Gold Hill FD appeared in NCSFA rosters from 1960 to 1972. Were they renamed, or an alternate name for East Gold Hill FD?

**Legeros** - 03/14/09 - 14:08

Gold Hill exists, I don't know the charter, but Gold Hill is sometimes referred as East Gold Hill VFD.

I think South Rowan was a fire district outside of the corporate limits of China Grove and Landis, in Southern Rowan. The district, still exists outside of CG and Landis, covered by China Grove and Landis FDs. Never was a South Rowan FD, unless the short lived private FD operated by Tony Corriher who owns Landis Pumbing and owns a dozen fire trucks (mostly all more than 50 years old, inoperable antiques) used the South Rowan FD name.

**Bob Parnell** - 03/15/09 - 13:06

Just stumbled upon your sight sir, it's nice to find others as interested in fire service history as I am. If you haven't found your answers yet maybe I can help. The South Rowan FD was an FD on paper only. Once the state allowed VFD's to expand to 5 miles there wasn't much left of their district. Then China Grove and Landis annexed more. Now it's just a patchwork service district served by several departments. The sign for the station location used to be on Kimball Rd, outside of Landis, I believe.

South Salisbury was the first rural VFD in Rowan County, Jan 1951, followed by Franklin, May 1951, and Ellis Cross Country VFD, Aug 1951. The Nazareth Orphanage Home FD was known as the Crescent FD (the home is on Crescent Rd, Rockwell). It was staffed by the older boys of the home and the male staff. A private citizen in Rockwell bought the Ford pumper they used. He housed it in his garage. I'll see if he still has it.

The Gold Hill FD, if it was listed as the Gold Hill Township FD, would have been what is now the Rockwell Rural VFD, When East Gold Hill VFD formed in 1961 or 1964 it's district was formed from the eastern part of the RRVFD. That's why it was named East Gold Hill VFD. But for years after the RRVFD would receive letters addressed to the Gold Hill Township VFD.

Did you find anything on the LinN Mill FD or Corriher Mill FD? They served Landis until 1947.

**Art Delaney** ([Email](#)) - 05/08/09 - 14:42

Hello I used to live in an old fire house located at 1965 E ridge road in Salisbury north Carolina I am wondering if you know anything about its history the building still exists, at least it is on Google Maps from a birds eye view any information you have would be great

thank you

Sabrina

**Sabrina Thomas** ([Email](#)) - 07/31/11 - 15:46

Sabrina,

I am pretty sure that building is the old Ellis Cross Country fire station. If you'll go around the corner to 3420 Old Mocksville Road, that should be the current fire department address.

They should be able to tell you all about the building. Good luck!

[ Sent to Sabrina via private message also ]

**Legeros** - 07/31/11 - 19:34

**Windows Computer Restarts Overnight**

03/12/09 261 W, 1 I - + 14 - 11

Here's the problem, your Windows XP computer restarts overnight. Not every night. Not even every week. Just once in a proverbial blue moon, when your groggy self schleps to the computer room, and is greeted by a logon screen. Virus? Malware? Uncle Fester escaped again from attic? Nope, just a regular ol' Windows automatic update.



Here's how to diagnose:

1. Open your Control Panel.
2. Open **Administrative Tools**.
3. Open **Event Viewer**.
4. Click a category in the left pane.
5. The Event Viewer displays.
6. Click using your secondary mouse button (e.g., right click) on any event in the right pane, and choose **Properties**.
7. The Information Properties window displays.
8. Click the up or down arrow to step through the event messages.
9. If you see the following types of event message, then Windows automatic update is the culprit:

Restart Required: To complete the installation of the following updates, the computer will be restarted within 5 minutes:

- Security Update for Windows XP (KB932168)
- Security Update for Windows XP (KB930178)
- Update for Outlook 2003 Junk Email Filter (KB932330)
- Security Update for Windows XP (KB931261)
- Security Update for Windows XP (KB931784)

To change Windows automatic update settings:

1. On your Desktop, click your secondary mouse button (e.g., right click) on the My Computer icon, and choose **Properties**.
2. The Systems Properties window displays.
3. Click the **Automatic Updates** tab.
4. The Automatic Updates tab displays.
5. If the Automatic setting is checked, click and change to another setting, such as **Download updates for me, but let me choose when to install them**.

---

the same thing happened to me when i was working on the computer yesterday – without warning, my program shuts down and the computer reboots – making the change right away – thanks mike!

**cornerupdate** - 03/12/09 - 18:58

Leaving a computer on is does nothing but waste energy which means higher electric bill. It also subjects your computer to hackers. A hacker wants nothing to do with a computer that is only on when in use.

**RescueRanger** - 03/12/09 - 21:35

go into control panel, network settings, right click on whichever connection type you are using (wireless or lan) and create an icon on the desktop – use that icon to connect and disconnect – immediately disconnect from the internet after checking e-mail and taking care of online business – never leave an internet connection open all the time – as rescue says, it’s asking for trouble

**cornerhydrant** - 03/12/09 - 23:03

control panel/power options – display to sleep at 15 minutes, computer to sleep at 30 (this is default on mine)

**cornerhydrant** - 03/12/09 - 23:09

Or, equally as plausible, Windows has had a fatal error and would have shown you a blue screen of death but the OS is set to reboot whenever a BSOD occurs, so you never actually see it.

On XP you can right-click My Computer, select Properties, go to the Advanced tab, click the Settings button in the Startup/Recovery box and and uncheck the box marked Automatically Restart.

**Paul** - 03/13/09 - 19:37

great tip! made the change right away – this explains a lot of restarts when i was not connected

**cornerhydrant** - 03/13/09 - 20:24

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Wake County Fire Commission Meeting Agenda and Documents

03/12/09 183 W - + 12 - 8

Below is the agenda for the Wake County Fire Commission Meeting on Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m., at the Wake EMS Training Facility, located in the lower level of the Wake County Commons Building at 4011 Cary Drive. See [related documents](#), also released this week. Additional documents will be added if/when made available. See you next week.

### Agenda

- Call meeting to order
  - Invocation
  - Roll of Members Present
  - Approval of Agenda
- Minutes
  - Adoption of Minutes for January 15th, 2009, Regular Meeting
- Regular Agenda
  - Facility Committee
    - Southeastern Wake County Fire Station Project Update
    - Dormitory Project – Consider Request to Bid
  - Staffing Plan Update
    - Reallocation of Positions for Apex Fire Department
  - Equipment Committee
    - Request to Add Cary and Raleigh as Voting Members
  - Compensation Committee
    - Consider Approval of New Salary Ranges
  - Retirement Ad Hoc Committee
  - Apparatus Committee
- Information Agenda
  - Budget Committee Update
  - Fire Tax Financial Report
  - Chair Report
  - Fire/Rescue Services Director Report
- Other Business
- Public Comments
  - 30 minutes maximum time allotted, Maximum 3 minutes per person
- Adjournment - Next Meeting May 7th, 2009 (Note: Date changed due to budget schedule).

### [Related documents](#)

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

## Six Forks Fire Department

03/13/09 317 W, 1 I - + 12 - 12

For your Friday enjoyment, here's a cropped picture of Six Forks fire apparatus in the mid-1970s. Left is a 1971 Ford F-900 / American LaFrance pumper, 750 GPM and 500 gallons. Middle is a 1961 International pumper soon donated to the State. Served at North Carolina Zoo, which started construction in 1974 and opened in 1976. Was first fire engine to serve at Zoo. Right is a 1965 Chevrolet tanker, 1,500 gallons, previously (originally?) painted yellow.

SFFD was originally named Six Forks Road Fire Department. They were incorporated on June 5, 1956, and protected 600 homes in Chestnut Hills, Millbrook, Crestview, Farring Hills, Northwood, and Belview Terrace. SFFD was the first rural fire department in Wake County not affiliated with a municipality. Click to enlarge the photo, which appears courtesy of David Ritchie:



Six Forks fire stations numbered four over time. The first was a converted barn-- or was it a lean-to?-- beside Howells Store on the west side of Six Forks Road just south of Lassiter Mill Road. Firestore Tires was later located there. Within a few years, they moved a few hundred feet north, to the east side of Six Forks Road, to a tin structure with a gravel floor and room for two trucks. In 1962, they moved to 5305 Six Forks Road, a three-bay building that presently serves as Wake County EMS Station #3. The fire department's siren, however, was located farther north on Six Forks Road, near Northclift Drive. There was also a battery powered siren (!) at the fire station.

The fourth and final location, opened in 1974, was a three-bay building at 1431 Lynn Road. Expanded a couple times since, it presently serves as Bay Leaf Station #3 and Six Forks EMS Station #1. The Six Forks Fire Department merged with Bay Leaf Fire Department on July 1, 2002. Readers, please correct or expand this information. It's been a few years since we we [researched these histories](#). And there's a *lot* of history here.

Six Forks fire apparatus, from my outdated list at <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/wake/wake..>

1956 Ford/American/Barton pumper, 500/500, Engine 1, sold to Falls FD

1950s ex-military tanker

1961 International pumper, Engine 2, given to state of North Carolina

1965 Chevy tanker, 1500, no quick dump

1970 Chevy 90 Series van, utility unit

1970 Ford F-900/American LaFrance pumper, 750/500, Engine 1

1977 Dodge Custom 300/American LaFrance mini-pumper, 250/250

1980 Ford C8000/EEI pumper, wrecked 1987

1982 Mack CF/EEI pumper

1985 Mack CF/EEI pumper-tanker

1986 Mack CF/EEI pumper-tanker

1991 Chevy panel van, mobile air (alternate model year 1986)

2002 American LaFrance Eagle pumper

**Legeros** - 03/13/09 - 07:36

ahh...good times and good memories there.

**AB** - 03/13/09 - 09:19

Wow, look at the length of the driveway in that picture. A far cry from the short little pad there now! Yep, the good old days!

**Mike** - 03/13/09 - 10:03

It's like a bad tattoo, it becomes a part of you. And you better wear it with pride because few will understand why.

**[PF]** - 03/13/09 - 16:47

Back when it was Six Forks... Those were the good ole days....

**Mikey H.** - 03/14/09 - 11:54

and the 1982 Mack wasn't an EEI. It was a real Mack. Unsynchronized 5 speed, 500 gal tank, 1000gpm pump. Drove like a sports car compared to those big Pumper-Tankers.

**AB** - 03/14/09 - 14:21

AB you and Bill Stephenson would know how they drove...Our 10-23 times reflected that.

Nothing like the sound of those big MACK engines screaming,the Q wound out and oh yeah....FF Heath spinning!

Yes those were the days.

**jetexas** - 03/14/09 - 19:58

So if the station still exists, why did they merge with Bayleaf after all? Couldn't they have stayed independent if there was enough reason to keep the station there?

**FF4012** - 03/15/09 - 22:11

Yeah... driving the old Mack 122 was fun... a bitch to learn... but once you got it.. it was SWEET!

**Mikey H.** - 03/18/09 - 09:02

As a member of bayleaf F.D, it is great to see the history of Bayleaf Sta 3 (Six Forks F.D).

**Christopher Young** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 03/18/09 - 14:58

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

## Carbon City Fire Department? (Burke County)

03/14/09 67 W - + 15 - 12

For our readers around Morganton, does anyone have history on the Carbon City Fire Department? They were incorporated on April 20, 1970, and they appeared in at least two DOI directories in 1972 and 1982. Highway 70 west is named Carbon City Road, and a number businesses in that area are named Carbon City \_\_\_\_\_. Thanks as always for your help. [Learn more about former fire departments.](#)

I believe this is now Morganton FD Station 2 on Carbon City Rd.

**[bafd424]** - 03/14/09 - 23:13

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Hillsborough Fire Department?

03/14/09 164 W - + 13 - 11

While we're fishing for information, what happened to the Hillsborough Fire Department? Rosters from the NCSFA list an entity named HFD from at least 1930 until at least 1995. Did they merge with [Orange Rural Fire Department](#)? The two departments shared the same station-- formerly a car dealership-- beginning in 1976.

[Sanborn Maps](#) document some of the towns history of fire protection. In 1888, town of Hillsboro had no fire apparatus, nor good water facilities. Population 800. Ditto for the years 1894, 1900, 1905, and 1911. Not much change in the population during those years, either. In 1924, the town used private wells and cisterns for water facilities, and had no fire department. Population 2,450.

In 1943, the town had a water system and a fire department. HFD was a volunteer department, with a Chief, Asst. Chief, and 18 men. They had a 1937 Chevy/Barton pumper, 500 GPM, 100 gallons, with 1,400-feet of 2 1/2-inch hose, and 200-feet of 3/4-inch hose. Fire alarm was by electric siren and telephone. Population 1,232. When was Hillsboro changed to Hillsborough? Unknown.

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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**House Fire, 1944**

03/14/09 228 W - + 15 - 13

On Friday, July 21, 1944, a twelve-room home on "Dixie Trail Extension" was "partially destroyed." The blaze was discovered about 6:30 p.m. by "Professor Brown," one of the residents and a State College faculty member. Three Raleigh fire units responded. Since the stone home was located outside the city limits, crews stretched hose through the woods and pumped water from a nearby lake. Nearby residents were notified of the fire by a neighbor, who drove her car through the neighborhood.

Firefighters were helped by neighbors, Boy Scouts, and auxiliary firefighters in saving all furniture from the first floor. Few of the furnishings on the second floor were saved. Heat melted a bee hive near the top of the house, and the trickle of "scorching honey" kept firefighters from getting close to the flames. Several firemen were overcome by heat.

The Boy Scouts, who were called to the fire, remained on scene until about midnight. They directed traffic, helped firefighters, and assisted the resident in sweeping water from the upstairs rooms. Both the scouts and "Civilian Defense auxiliary firemen" helped crews stretch hose from the lake to the house. Fire Chief W. R. Butts was unable to estimate the damage, and commended the work of his department, the Boy Scouts, and the auxiliary firemen. Source: *News & Observer*, July 23, 1944.

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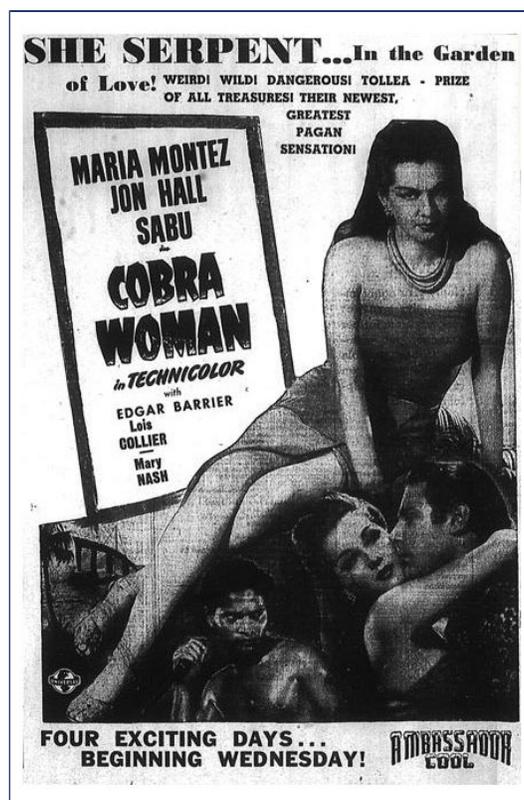
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## Cobra Woman, 1944

03/14/09 134 W, 1 I - + 10 - 10

Reading old newspapers means seeing great old ads, such as this one for a feature film at the Ambassador. The [Internet Movie Database](#) describes Cobra Woman as an adventure/drama with the tagline "STRANGE LOVES, UNBELIEVABLE ADVENTURES in the SOUTH SEAS!" The plot has something to do with a man's kidnapped fiance, her Pacific island-ruling evil twin, and sacrifices to an angry volcano god. (Do they ever make movies about *happy* volcano gods?) The Universal Pictures feature-- in [Technicolor!](#)-- was released in May of that year. This ad appeared in July, hence the frosty treatment of the theater name. Guess they had air-conditioning. The Ambassador was located on Fayetteville Street, no? Read about that theater at the [Cinema Treasures site](#). Click to enlarge, but beware the volcano god:



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**Boston Report**

03/14/09 100 W, 1 I - + 9 - 10

The report on maintenance practices in the [Boston Fire Department](#) was released this week, and can be found around the fire web from [firehouse.com](#) to [Dave Statter](#). It's a short report, only 19 pages. The assessment is an outside review of fleet management organization and staffing, vehicle inspection and defect reporting, preventive maintenance, management of vendor-perform services, and other fleet management practices. Plus recommendations. The study was commissioned after the death of Lt. Kevin M. Kelley, who was killed on January 9, when the brakes failed on his ladder truck and it crashed into a building. [Read the report](#) .

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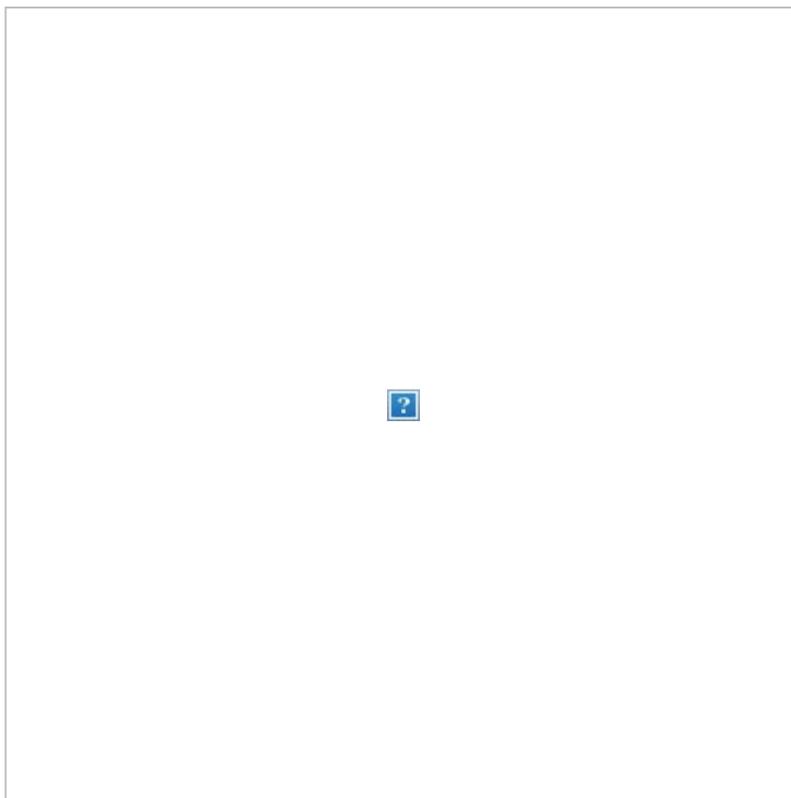
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**German Hose Cart**

03/15/09 84 W, 1 I - + 12 - 9

[Firegeezer](#) posted this piece the other day on the subject of German hose carts. He presentings a posting by Irakli West, the publisher of [FWnetz.de](#). The posting describes shows and tells about the wheeled reels present on German pumping engines. The reels, which have been a staple of European apparatus for decades, carry six or eight 60-foot sections of 3-inch hose. Wonder if such a thing would work for our 5-inch hose? [Read the posting](#).



*Firegeezer / Irakli West photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
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Yes

No

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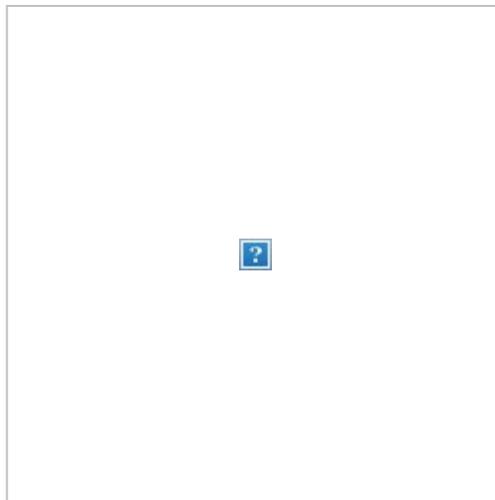
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## Advanced Practice Paramedics 2.0

03/15/09 125 W, 1 I - + 10 - 14

[Firegeezzer](#) yesterday posted a piece on the Wake County's Advance Practice Paramedics program by Mike Ward. It's a short, sweet clinical overview of the program that also includes a five-weeks-later update. (The APP concept is some 15 years old, we learn.) Since the five APP units were placed in service on Jan. 6, 2009, they've handled 2,309 incidents including 99 cardiac arrest responses. (They had their first cardiac save less than four hours after the first units were placed in service.) They've also completed 54 well-person checks, and are compiling case reports therein on the impact on ambulance transport workload. Wake County APPs are reducing operating expenses by reducing the number of transports through at-home assessment and treatment of chronically ill patients. [Read this excellent web article.](#)



I will have to say I am on a really busy truck and I mean busy. So every time I see the Charger Pull Up, their either canceled or you hear them canceled on the radio. I really like the concept and think it does serve a purpose to the EMS system in this county, but majority of you life saving services are hands down provided by the BOYS and Girls that ride the trucks. I see a APP as just another handy tool in a regular medic's tool box.

**#2** - 03/16/09 - 02:03

I think it is interesting that if you take to most of us paramedics on the trucks, the consensus seems to be that the APP program isn't all that great. But yet the administration pumps it up and talks about how great it is. I'm wondering which it really is!?

**Code Blue** - 03/16/09 - 05:58

As a practicing EMT-I and as a Paramedic Student, I find the program has many challenges for both the regular old street medic and for the APP as well.

A great deal of the calls that APPs go to are for the least desirable patient population – those who are non-compliant with their medications or themselves, and become chronic system problems. However, a good bit of the chronic use patients have stopped calling 911 for BS reasons, simply due to the actions of the APPs. In that way, I applaud them for the effort and grief they are getting.

Just as an aside— In 20 years, paramedics will be a bonafide part of the public health prevention matrix. In this way, Wake County is already getting a jump on this bandwagon with the APP program. The upside of all this is, of course, a better level of service for the public that we serve. Why is that a bad thing?

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 03/16/09 - 12:12

Please try to keep in mind that we are now 8 weeks in to a three-year IMPLEMENTATION of the APP program. That means that, at best

(probably longer since the economy tanked) it will take three years to get the correct number of APPs on the streets to even begin to do what the program is supposed to do in an efficient and effective manner.

The short version of that is we are providing APP services to the county with 5 units daytime and 2 nighttime. The plan calls for 14 at full implementation. So that means that the APPs can't get to as many calls as they will, because they are too far away or otherwise busy, AND that they can't prevent as many calls as they will, because they are too far away and otherwise busy.

The program has improved care measurably by

—keeping ambulances available, by preventing calls or releasing ambulance crews earlier than they might be released (called codes, code 7s, non-compliant diabetics, TEMS missions, etc.). Every one of those saves an ambulance unit hour.

—getting patients to the right facility (like Healing Place or Crisis), rather than having them transported, by ambulance, to a place that is unable to handle them well or in a timely fashion. Every one of those saves an ambulance unit hour, AND in some cases saves 10 or 15 ED bed hours.

—providing backup on high-risk refusals. Interestingly, the APPs seem pretty effective at talking people who “should” go but don't want to go in to going. This is very good for the patients, as well as for our risk management program.

Multiply these benefits by 3 (when the program is fully implemented) and it is pretty easy to see that the program will help the EMS system a great deal. “Code Blue,” I think the difference is that we are evaluating the potential of the program to do good for the future, and you and your colleagues are evaluating it as though today was the end-point.

Want to help make it better? Get your radio on the TAC channel and look at the CAD. If an APP is coming and you have assessed the patient, and an APP is not needed, let them know. Don't wait for them to show up to find out that you've got a patient who requires minimal treatment and slow transport. That will keep them available for the next call, that might really require their presence.

You might not want to hear this, but there also HAVE been instances where the experienced and independent clinical evaluation of the APP has made a difference to the patient. You'll just have to take my word for that.

Remember the graphs that Dr. Myers showed before the program kicked off – more “recent critical care” experience improves patient outcome, which is the end-all of why we exist. If the APPs can add that to our service mix, then it's a good thing for everyone.

Stay safe!

Skip

**CHIEF100** - 03/16/09 - 13:14

My system has a supervisor position already in place that I think could very quickly be re-trained and re-accredited to a similar model. Less on the home visits and heavier on the re-routing of citizens to treatment facilities instead of the blanket “patient go to ER” model we have relied on for so long. Thanks for all the resources presented so far!

**the Happy Medic** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 03/16/09 - 19:34

Chief 100 beat me to it (that's what happens when I go out of town, but it was great in Daytona), but here is my belated three cents worth.

First, it is a new program. What we are doing now may be done differently a few weeks or months from now. Change is inevitable (except from a vending machine).

To '#2'- You're right, the APP is another adjunct (I hate the word 'tool' in this context) to good patient care. I am one of those that rides on the car occasionally, and all I am there for is to help out. In my case, I am bringing a couple of extra drugs, a cool car, and 33 years of experience in taking care of people. Most of the medics on calls I go to have less than half of that. That does not make you a 'bad' medic, but it just means I have seen a lot, and more of it, than you have. If you need the experience, it's there. If you don't, then cancel me. I won't get upset. And I am listening to the TAC channel from the get-go. Cancel me. Drop me back to 'cold' response. It's OK. Actually, it keeps me from driving hot (which I do not like) and keeps me available.

I can help in other ways. I can carry equipment. I can write down information. I can be an IV pole. You name it, I am there to help. Nothing more. Me personally, I am not there to take over your call. If you need advice, ask. If you have a question, ask. That's what I am there for.

And, by the way, hands down, the majority of the life saving services in this county are provided by the folks who ride the BRTs (big red trucks) in the form of early chest compressions, continuous chest compressions, and early defibrillation. And don't forget early aspirin, two minute scene times (because they have a backboard and stuff on their trucks). I have worked in other systems, outside of Wake County. Trust me when I say that without them, we would all be just another ambulance service.

To 'Code Blue'- I am on the trucks as well. And anyone you ask who knows me will tell you I will tell you what's on my mind. It's a new program. Some bugs need to be worked out. We'll get there. I remember some of the comments when we first put EMTs on the ambulance and then when we put paramedics on the ambulance. As I remember, those comments were a lot like yours. So, how did that all work out?

In my mind, when APP is fully deployed, and if things are going right, there will be more 'preventive' activity instead of 'reactive' activity. But consider this- a regular in my first due area does not call 9-1-1 anymore. A 30 minute APP visit one afternoon a week has eliminated a CHARLIE or DELTA response every other week or so, in the middle of the night, thereby keeping an engine and an ambulance AVAILABLE. That is what the program is really about. We have to become more proactive in our activities if we, as some put it, want to become a real part of healthcare. We are not going to do it running around with red lights and sirens, taking everyone to the ED.

But to 'Code Blue', I'll also put the same thing out that I said to '#2'. I (when I am on the car) am an adjunct to good patient care. Nothing more. I am bringing a couple of extra drugs. But I am also bringing 33 years of 'been there-done that'. If you need it, fine. It's there. If you don't need it, cancel it. Just don't let your pride get in the way of good patient care.

DJ

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 03/17/09 - 13:05

I forgot to put this earlier, when I posted, but DJ reminded me of it. He hit it perfectly on the head, when he said that "...and 33 years of experience in taking care of people. Most of the medics on calls I go to have less than half of that. That does not make you a 'bad' medic, but it just means I have seen a lot, and more of it, than you have. If you need the experience, it's there." As a student, I take input from everyone, and that includes those that have been there, done that, got the scar to prove it. The APPs are usually folks who have been preceptors and field supervisors, so they know how to give input and give it in a way which will make you better.

All of the APPs I have been around have showed why they were picked for this job. They make it their business to help out everyone. If they have a free moment, they are more than happy to answer questions, take a second to instruct on equipment or porcedures, help you figure out a problem, help with scenarios. Hey, they will just come around to shoot the breeze (during the day – at night, they tend to just "roam", which is a good thing... when my truck broke down on the side of I-540 one night last month while returning from a call, it was an APP which was the first vehicle that showed up to assist). They are good, personable people, and that's part of the reason that they were selected: ability to teach, field experience, and the desire to help the public we all serve.

As a question to CHIEF100 – Sir, as a student, and having learned a lot from just the 3 or 4 APPs that I have interacted with, I find that the teaching opportunities for the APP as a preceptor would be worth looking into. Would there be an opportunity in the future for EMT-P students to ride along with the APP? Since we are going to a different approach in the healthcare, what is your opinion of a student observing, and participating, in the APP process, as it comes to preventative and follow-up visits?

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 03/18/09 - 12:51

now coming from a big city, let me add my perspective on this issue – now that lots of folks are losing their jobs, and subsequently their insurance, there will be an ever increasing need for this service, as many will forgo their medications and doctors' visits due to lack of ability to pay, and as doctors offices become more influenced by the insurance and pharmaceutical industry (and in many instances turn into spas), people will end up in ER for things they don't need to be in ER for (take a look at any of the big cities throughout the US and you will know what I am talking about) – here with the APPs, we are looking at pure medical care, unadulterated and uninfluenced by big pharma or the big insurers – OK, that's my two cents worth

**cornerhydrant** - 03/26/09 - 20:23

## Tournament Scores, 1907-1941

03/15/09 146 W, 1 I - + 14 - 13

Here's a [nifty compilation of scores](#)  from the tournaments at the North Carolina State Firemen's Association conventions. The scores are from the years 1907 to 1941, with a few missing years. The contents are horse hose wagon, hand reel, grab race, and motor apparatus. Absent are the other types of contests held in earlier decades, such as steamer and hook and ladder. The scores appeared in the proceedings from the 1942 convention. The last tournament appears to have been held in 1941. War conditions likely impacted the participation of departments and personnel. War conditions also saw the convention cancelled a couple times that decade. The above document has been added to a [new page about firefighter tournaments](#), that includes compiled scores, rules, and other stuff. Compile scores from 1889 to 1906 are forthcoming, as well as rules for the motor apparatus contests. Plus whatever else Mr. Blogger stumbles across.

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**Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015** - *MOVED - North* « **Tournament Scores, 19...** » **Chestnut Hill, Cannon...**  
*Asheboro Fire Department? (Randolph County)*

**MOVED - North Asheboro Fire Department? (Randolph County)**

03/15/09 22 W - + 8 - 10

This posting has been moved and updated to <http://legeros.com/blog/north-asheboro-fire-department-looking-back/>

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## Chestnut Hill, Cannonville, and Interstate Contests

03/16/09 193 W - + 12 - 8

Looking through old tournament records finds a couple interesting fire company names from the 1900s and 1910s. **Chestnut Hill**, an unincorporated community south of Salisbury, had a fire company from at least 1907 until at least 1912. Named Southside, they won first prizes for each of those years. If memory serves, they were or soon became part of the Salisbury Fire Department. In 1911 and 1912, a fire company from Concord named **Cannonville** competed in the tournament. This was probably the pre-Kannapolis fire department that protected Cannon Mills and the mill village. In 1916, a team with name Kannapolis competed.

These were the years that the tournament also featured **interstate** contests, and fire companies from South Carolina often participated. The interstate horse hose wagon contest on July 25, 1912, for example, featured 18 teams: Bennettsville, S.C., Burlington, Concord, Fayetteville, Goldsboro, Kinston (Caswell No. 1), Kinston No. 2, Marion, S.C., Morehead City, New Bern (Atlantic No. 1), New Bern (Fourth Ward), New Bern (Riverside), New Bern No. 1, Raleigh (Capital Hose No. 3), Raleigh (Rescue No. 1), Sanford, Statesville, and Sumter, S.C. The winners were Goldsboro and Sumter, each with a time of 33 seconds.

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## News & Observer Cuts Jobs, Pay

03/17/09 213 W - + 14 - 11

[WRAL reported yesterday](#) that the *News & Observer* is eliminating 78 jobs, and cutting salaries of anyone earning over \$25,000. The newspaper employees over 600 people, and the cuts represent 11 percent of the staff. The *News & Observer* has reduced its work force by 200+ full-time positions in the last year, the article notes. What has and will this mean for readers? Most obvious has been a reduction in the paper's size. For online readers, the digital version of the print version ([www.newsobserver.com/print](http://www.newsobserver.com/print)) has been shrinking as well. Letters to the editor and other opinion page content disappeared some weeks ago. Today's digital edition features only a sports section. Maybe it's just an error. And we're aware of the irony. Blogging about the online effects of changes to print news, an industry most certainly impacted by news-serving web sites such as blogs. If nothing else, web sites such as ours will get even better at covering fire and EMS stories. Though even that glib observation warrants a more detailed discussion, as does this story and situation. Times are a-changin'. The *News & Observer* dates to 1880, when *The News* merged with *The Observer*. The latter absorbed the *The Sentinel*, which was founded in 1865. Read more history on this [Wikipedia page](#).

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## Full House

03/17/09 49 W, 1 I - + 16 - 9

Here's an early evening shot of Wake County EMS Station 1 at the Public Safety Center on West Davie Street. Parked in front, left to right, are EMS 13, EMS 11, District 1, and EMS 1. For extra credit, name the other trucks in there. Click once or twice to enlarge:



Holy Ambulances, Batman! All three are in the house, along with DC-1. Wow, that doesn't happen to often.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 03/18/09 - 00:23

Truck 1 and one of the 3\_ ambulances maybe? I know the van ambulances come down to the training center for live burns and stuff.

**C. Laird** - 03/18/09 - 02:19

Well, there's 2 van ambulances (EMS 20 and EMS 21), when they're not being used as frontline trucks, in Bay 4. EMS Truck 1 in Bay 3, and what looks like a spare box unit behind EMS 11 in Bay 2.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 03/18/09 - 06:59

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**Sunshine**

03/17/09 46 W, 1 I - + 14 - 13

Finally some sunshine. Five days of rain was plenty and then some! Sunday is shown below, one of the numerous wrecks in south Raleigh that day. Forecast says dry, warm, and sunny through early next week. Welcome spring!



Although it is rainy, the quality of this pic you placed here is very nice. :)

**Joe** ([Email](#)) - 03/19/09 - 23:44

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## Raleigh Fire Department Report, 1962

03/18/09 404 W - + 11 - 11

Here's another annual report from Raleigh Fire Chief Jack Keeter, included in the proceedings from the 1962 convention of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association:

On July 23, 1962, the Raleigh Fire Department answered a call to the Hayes Barton Laundry [at] 1907 Fairview Road. The value of the building was \$70,000, insurance on the building was \$50,000 and damage to the building was \$6,000; value of the contents was \$60,000, insurance on contents was \$55,000, and damage to the contents was \$4,000, making a total of \$10,000 damage to the laundry.

On September 4, 1962, a 6:03 a.m., the Raleigh Fire Department answered a call to the Hayes Barton Church [at] 1800 Glenwood Avenue. The value of the building was \$787,000, insurance on building and contents was \$787,000, and damage to the building was \$370,531; the value of the contents was \$75,000, and the damage of the contents was \$106,924, making a total damage of \$477,455.

There were no unusual deaths due to fires during 1962, and the above two fires were the only unusual fires for the year.

Since June 1962, there has been added to the fire department 11 men, making a total of 160 personnel. The firemen work a 24-hour shift, 24 hours on duty and 24 hours off duty. [They work] 72 hours a week.

There are presently 9 permanent fire stations spaced strategically over the city. Fire Station No. 4 on Jefferson Street was replaced with a new station located on Wake Forest Road at Six Forks Road. Fire Station No. 8 on Kent Road was replaced with a new station housed on Western Boulevard. Fire Station No. 9 (Six Forks Road) was added to the department.

One of the oldest ladder trucks in our department was replaced with a new ladder truck-- Ford chassis-- consisting of the body and compartments designed and equipped by the fire department with all modern firefighting equipment. This truck was placed in service on June 15, 1963, and will serve all of the eastern part of the city, thereby saving our 100-foot aerial truck from responding to [residential] calls all over the city.

We also traded one old 1955 Chevrolet for a new 1963 Chevrolet and added one new 1963 Chevrolet for the fleet of the fire department, [for a total of] four cars in the department at the present time.

We have 10 pumping engines, two 100-foot ladder trucks, one 75-foot aerial truck in reserve; two rescue trucks; one ladder service truck; one squad truck; four automobiles; two maintenance trucks; two reserve pumping engines; and two tankers, a total of 27 pieces of fire apparatus.

Name: (real name preferred)  
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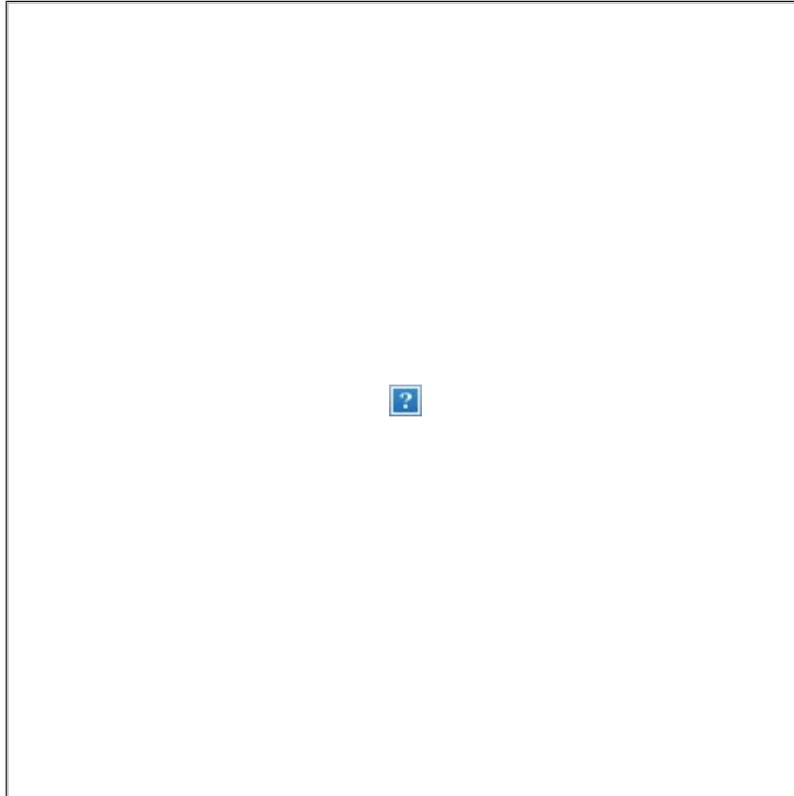
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## Historic Inn Burns in Asheville

03/19/09 123 W, 1 I - + 13 - 11

Asheville's historic [Richmond Hill Inn](#) burned overnight. The Citizen-Times reports crews were dispatched about 1:00 a.m. and found the 1889 structure heavily involved. The front portion of the Inn had already collapsed, and firefighters began both attacking the fire and protecting exposures. Water shuttles were required, to supplement the area's hydrants. Twelve fire departments conducted the shuttle. The Inn was empty at the time of the fire. The Richmond Inn had a big fire before, when a 24,000 square-foot addition was destroyed on April 9, 1995. The \$3 million blaze was the worst in the city's history, surpassing the \$2 million of damage in 1969 when the Bank of Asheville and Dunham's Music House were destroyed downtown. [Read the article.](#)



*Bill Sanders / Citizen-Times Photo*

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## Strip Malls and Shopping Centers

03/19/09 170 W, 1 I - + 12 - 18

'Twas a heavy column of smoke reported from the roof of the Lowes Foods at [2900 East Millbrook Road](#) early yesterday evening. Callers reported multiple locations, including Lowes Home Improvement and Golden Corral, both nearby. Arriving units found ventilation equipment on the roof ablaze. Ladder 11 and Ladder 4 were raised to provide access in the front and rear of the structure, respectively. The fire was quickly controlled. Engine 15, Engine 11, Engine 27, Rescue 19, Battalion 3, Battalion 4, Car 5, Car 20, EMS 5, EMS 16, and EMS District 1 also on scene. Pics from Lee and Mike (below) coming soon.



Speaking of strip malls, what shopping centers around here have burned over the years? In Raleigh, the list includes Quail Corners in 2002 (two alarms), Triangle Town Center in 2001 (two alarms, during construction, roof), Quail Corners twice in 1998 (three alarms, two alarms), the Bryan Building at Cameron Village in 1993 (three alarms), Gateway at Crabtree and North boulevards in 1987, and the Bryan Building at Cameron Village in 1964. Read more [history of Raleigh and fire](#).

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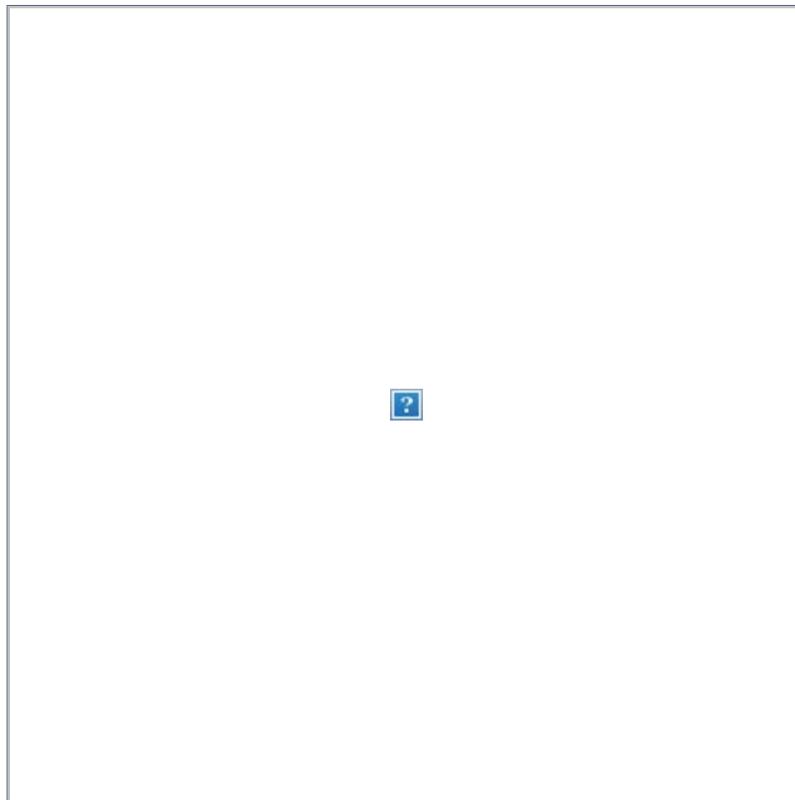
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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

## Mystery Vehicle

03/19/09 41 W, 1 I - + 16 - 12

For your evening amusement, here's another mystery vehicle. What is it and why is it? Firefighting? Military application? Something else entirely? Here's a hint, the thing has five axles. And it's Russian, duh. Er, da. Click to enlarge:



lesopojarniy avtomobil, les=forest pojarniy=pertaining to fire – a wildfire tanker holding 6300 l of water – now, can i have my free year of breathing air back?? i really need it!! (ok, i cheated, i can read the language)

**cornerhydrant** - 03/19/09 - 21:57

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**New Bern Firemen's Museum Opens, 1957**

03/20/09 354 W - + 10 - 15

The conference proceedings of the 1957 state firemen's convention included this announcement of the completion and dedication of the New Bern Firemen's Museum. Mr. Brinson, who provides his address for those requesting information, was a member of New Bern's Atlantic Steam Fire Engine Co. No. 1, and the Statistician of the North Carolina Fireman's Association from 1940 to 1962. Fifty-two years later, the museum is still going strong. [Visit their web site](#), or view some [pics taken in December](#). The announcement from 1957:

The New Bern Firemen's Museum was completed and dedicated on June 24, 1957. The Ambassador from Switzerland, Mr. H. de Torrente, honored the City of New Bern with his presence for the occasion. There was a banquet in his honor at Governor Tryon Hotel by the firemen and City of New Bern. The Ambassador presented the museum with many interesting fire items from the fire department of Berne, Switzerland, a Swiss flag from his country, and a number of beautiful colored pictures of scenes from Berne. He also unveiled a portrait of the Swiss Baron Christopher de Graffenried who founded and settled New Bern in 1710.

Our museum has two world's record pieces of old equipment, a horse-drawn steamer that went into service in 1874, and a hose wagon that established a world record in Charlotte in 1911. In addition to this, we have the Atlantic steamer that went into service in 1879, and another wagon that also made records prior to 1910. Many firemanic trophies, fire items, murals, old pictures, fire bell, fire horse Fred (head mounted), and many, many things of interest. There is no charge for admission at the present and none completed for the near future. You will enjoy a visit to the only exclusive Volunteer Firemen's Museum in the eleven Southeastern states.

If you would like a pamphlet, enclose in a letter a 3-cent stamp and your name and address and mail it to Albert W. Brinson, Secretary-Treasurer, Box 887, New Bern, N.C. The museum is open most of the day and the early part of the evening. It is located back of the Central Fire Station on Broad Street. Everyone is welcome.

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**Unusual Fires**

03/20/09 497 W - + 16 - 11

For your Friday reading, the following are the causes or probable causes of "peculiar or special loss" fires from around North Carolina in the late 1940s. These are quotes from fire chiefs, reported to the State Insurance Commissioner's office, compiled by the previously mentioned state firemen's association Statistician, and excerpted from conference proceedings:

- Painter burning paint off of house, set house on fire.
- Attendant in wash pit, presumably smoking while washing car, set car on fire.
- House set on fire by occupant using wooden fire poker.
  
- Spark from passing train into load of cotton.
- City bus hauling gasoline in open can.
- Belt jumped pulley, friction set fire to building.
  
- Fire originated in a box of children's toys.
- The loss, \$5,263, is the estimated damage caused by burning gasoline flowing in gutters from the Sir Walter Hotel garage, the garage was not damaged, the \$5,263 applying to cars parked in the street. [ Raleigh, 1947 ]
- Person in show room of garage struck match to light cigarette. Set bucket of gasoline on fire.
  
- Sun reflecting on glass vase caused paper to catch on fire. Damage to building \$400, contents \$100.
- Cemetery fire, no further information available. [ Reported directly to statistician. ]
- Sun reflecting on auto mirror set fire to car, \$1,000. Better look out, fellows! You can see things are hot here on Carolina Beach.
  
- Insane person set fire to house.
- Short in light fixture, penny behind fuse in apartments, loss \$900.
- Chemicals in satchel used in giving permanents, loss \$653.
  
- Corn shucks scattered around feed mill, loss \$6,615.
- Glue pot left on too long, water damage \$5,760.
- It is rumored that Boots Shays came home drunk and kicked the stove down. The fire occurred shortly. The local police had him up for questioning two times but could not get proof.
  
- Electric hair dryer caught on fire, "Wonder what happened to the woman's hair?"
- Burning spider with cigarette, loss \$275.
- Dropped acetylene torch on greasy floor, loss \$4,000.
  
- Spark from machine caused dust floor fire, loss \$1,600.
- Laundry fire, loss \$56,500. Employee poured solvent in drain and later threw a match into the drain.
- Smoking while fumigating for rats and insects caused explosion, damage \$400.
  
- Smoking, while unloading gasoline, damage \$120.
- Using torch near open gas, damage \$600. "What could you call it but gross carelessness?"
- Wax fumes, spontaneous combustion, \$94,900 damage.
  
- Malicious incendiarism. During a fit of anger threw oil lamp against wall which set fire to building, damage \$1,276.
- Repairing gas line, lit cigarette, it cost \$25 for one puff.
- Spotlight in department store window shining on fabric, damage \$15,863.67.
  
- Hoboes built fire under bridge, damage \$800.
- Fire in theater projection booth, damage \$1,200.
- Hauling lighted warning torches on truck with barrel of gasoline, damage \$300.

## Last Night's Wake County Fire Commission Meeting / Garner Joint Fire & EMS Station

03/20/09 166 W, 4 I - + 12 - 13

Handouts from last night's Wake County Fire Commission Meeting [are available for viewing](#), along with the [earlier uploaded agenda](#). Among the agenda items was a Facilities Committee update that included a presentation about the Garner Fire & EMS joint substation. The three-bay facility to be built on Spaceway Court will sleep 12 firefighters and five EMS members. The building has separate fire and EMS rooms-- including dual day rooms-- along with shared space, such as a shared kitchen and shared exercise area. Outside the kitchen is a covered patio. The pre-engineered structure is planned with a masonry exterior. The site plan includes room for expansion, if a fourth bay or living space addition is needed. The concrete pad includes parking for visiting apparatus. The project schedule includes: bid opening (Sept. 24, 2009), construction start (Oct. 26, 2009), construction complete (Oct. 2010), and grand opening (Nov. 2010). View the [handouts from the meeting](#) or click to enlarge these smaller views:



Nice looking facility, I however think it's a waste to have a second dayroom for EMS personnel, what's wrong with both fire and EMS using one dayroom. All this leads to more sq. footage increased \$\$\$ to the taxpayers, and not to mention doesn't help in unity and brotherhood. I think all aspects of gov't need to sit back and take a hard look at what wasteful spending is being done from apparatus to facilities. What was wrong with the old days and 2 and 3 story facilities, apparatus bays, offices and bathroom downstairs. And living quarters upstairs (kitchen, dayroom, shower/bathroom/locker room and dorms upstairs). It's cheaper to go up than build out (less land and concrete). It's time to trim back on the Taj Mahal's..

**[jdkay2839]** (Email) - 03/21/09 - 11:38

insurance costs would be through the roof for 2/3 story facilities – pole injury risk too high, and this is the reason it's cheaper to build out than up

see: <http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News..>

**cornerhydrant** - 03/21/09 - 14:02

For what it's worth... here's a general description of methodology and what has been experienced so far at Stony Hill Station #1. It has been in operation for 5 years as a "county built/owned" headquarters station, with the collocation and blended occupation of EMS and Fire. It has worked out very well thus far and I believe is a tribute to the personnel at SHFD and Wake EMS. Although rare, issues do occur, but they are typically minor and are mediated/resolved quickly. The use of a separate day room is a good thing as sometimes the folks need to be separate.

Supply costs are shared proportional to the % of square footage used by each discipline in the station. Wake County GS maintains the structural aspect of the building. The building is primarily of masonry construction (to last) and the intent is for at least 50 years service. Each discipline maintains their own parts of the structure, but we all cooperate to keep it clean. EMS 12 is housed there and EMS 33 is stored there when off line as a "day truck." Due to move ups, EMS 12 is frequently in WF at EMS Station #10, so those guys are frequently busy.

I have found that the current approach of a county owned facility has no significant impact on the services delivered by Stony Hill FD and the collocation of us with EMS has served to actually improve our organization. County ownership of a large, functional facility is a good decision, especially in rural areas that will remain predominately "rural" for some time. The traditional "ownership issues" that seem to plague all

volunteer FD's have to be dismissed for this style of operation to succeed. So far, Stony Hill has succeeded and matured into an organization that is more adaptive to change.

Will Wake County take it over?... well, they are responsible for emergency services in the county; so it is their prerogative. We do not waste time worrying about that issue. Also, the cost benefits of a non-profit providing the services is still great when compared to the government providing it all.

Remember, the merits of an organization are its people, their character, and what they do – not where they “live” and if they own it.

Stay Safe and WEAR YOUR SEAT BELTS !!!

**A.Rich** - 03/22/09 - 10:16

Any word yet if part-time firefighter positions will be affected by the budget cuts??

**P/T FF** - 03/23/09 - 20:07

The one improvement that I hope gets used here that wasn't at Stony Hill and isn't in a lot of depts around this area is the use of commercial kitchen products. As much as we use our kitchen for cooking and fellowship, it would be nice to have commercial stove tops/oven and commercial fridges.

**Mike** - 03/30/10 - 11:35

If you do, be sure to put in commercial sinks too!! It's a major pain washing commercial pots and pans in a regular sink.

**Silver** - 03/30/10 - 12:46

jdkay, in response to the question “what's wrong with both fire and EMS using one dayroom”, from my few years of experience where EMS and Fire co-exist, Some EMS employees will tend to watch tv and lounge around all day while firefighters are out pre planning or doing things in the bay and when John Q Public comes to the fire station and sees folks laying around or sleeping at 10 in the morning or 3 in the afternoon, that sometimes leads to the wrong impression. I know at my station the day room for firefighters normally gets used after dinner where as EMS's day room/bunk room is used all day and is also hidden from normal view. Im not speaking about ALL EMS folks, we have some that rotate in every 3 or 4 months who actually are helping out with things around the station and like socializing with us. Then there are those months where we get the ones that you would have to rescue from the their room if the building ever caught fire. I aint sayin, im just sayin! Stay safe guys!

**CTK** - 03/31/10 - 14:56

CTK, I am sorry that your experience with co-located EMS providers has been less-than-stellar. Question: Have you approached the individuals you find problematic? My experience has been that most folks, if made aware of a problem, will try to remedy and actually appreciate the attempt at resolution.

Remember that most EMS providers have a comparatively high UHU. (I say this as one who did both fire and EMS for 20 years. I always let my EMS crew/s go to bed earlier than the engine/truck/rescues and no one ever griped. When a FF/EMT had to do their tour on the ambulance they got the same bennie and it was appreciated!)

From a safety and risk management standpoint, I don't want a tired provider treating folks. That opportunity exists with the ever-increasing call load, frequent move ups, and the majority of folks still on 24 hour shifts. There is a lot of evidence to support “safety naps”. These are best when done out of sight of the public, of course.

EMS strives to maintain the outstanding working relationship with fire and LE. If there's a problem with one or two people please address it with them. If that doesn't work use the chain of command. Feel free to email me if you wish to discuss offline. Be safe...EGH.

**J.D. McLean** ([Email](#)) - 04/01/10 - 00:08

JD we normally handle this if its happening. we approach the individual and try to let them see where we are coming from. Some just dont care, then we approach the DC, then by that time the individuals will start to see that they have really worn out their welcome and most of the time make sure that they put down a different station for the next rotation. Like i said before, there is only a few who are like that in the entire EMS system. I agree 100% about a safety nap and think it should be in place at each level of the public safety system for those who work 24's. But when u work in a smaller town where the mayor or town manager or any one can just be in the neighborhood and drop in, most of the time they dont know who is sleeping on the recliner in the middle of the day room and it automatically poses the question...if they are sleeping all day, what are my tax dollars doing?

Normal citizens dont think the way we all do. they could care less how many calls we have ran or how long we were on the "big one". You cant really explain this to folks. Sleeping or laying around in the station where the public can see u is just not kosher, atleast where im from.

Granted, EMS is more than likely to be running "BS" calls in the middle of the night and then have a long transport time to Wake, then get hit for another call on the way back, they most of the time deserve a nap. Having a secluded EMS day room/ bunk room seperate from the fire fighters is the way to go i think. Now, in the evening or on weekends i think its fine if work is done and everyone wants to sit down and watch the game or the race or whatever together in the same room. Some folks dont really take pride in areas where us small town boys have grew up. In a town or city where you do everything you can to keep the "image" at it best can really be brought down by someone just wanting a pay check and counting down hours till the next shift arrives.

Didnt mean to get on a soap box, but it feels good to express views and opinions with other people who are civil.

**CTK** - 04/01/10 - 16:33

The EMS Day Room cited above is also the space programmed for the completion of patient records and other items that due to Federal regulations are not be completed or stored in open, public areas of the station. And you don't go up anymore for several reasons: 1) safety – if you go up, you have to come down. Poles are a safety risk and steps tend to slow response to the truck and can be dangerous with multiple folks trying to navigate down at the same time. We have too many facilities today that the biggest hindrance to reflex times is the distance and route to the truck. In addition, these are public facilites and are required to be in compliance with Federal ADA regulations, which would require an elevator. The initial price of a commercial elevator and the on-going cost of ownership (maintenance and repair) would be great given a 30 year (or more) life expectancy of a station.

Rest assured that extensive work has gone into the programming of every square foot of this station to ensure that that the operational needs of both Fire and EMS are accomplished while maintaining the respect of every tax dollar that is funding it's construction.

With the call volume, both response and cover assignments, that we are experiencing in Wake County, the need for "safety naps" is clear. At some facilities, these can be accomplished far from the eyes of the general public (not that we are hiding anything, it's just that first impressions are often lasting impressions), while at others, space limitations just don't allow that to happen. We make the best of and maximize every situation, while not abusing that situation.

**Olson** - 04/01/10 - 20:27

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

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**Mecklenburg County Fire Protection, 1949**

03/20/09 942 W, 1 I - + 12 - 13

Found something interesting this morning at the [State Library of North Carolina](#). *Fire Protection in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County*, by Philip P. Green Jr., and published in 1949 by the Institute of Government at UNC Chapel Hill. Call number G41 11/2:F52. Below is an excerpt from the 89-page document, from a section describing fire protection outside Charlotte. These were small towns, with minimal resources for their volunteer firefighters. There's also a map included, showing five-mile areas around the fire stations.

**Cornelius** has a fire truck purchased from the War Assets Administration in 1947 at a cost of \$2,500. It is equipped with 300 feet of hose, a 250-gallon water tank, and a front pump which can be used to pump water from wells and streams. The overall cost for hose and truck was approximately \$2,800. It is housed in the city hall. The siren on the truck is used to give alarms. The town carries liability insurance for the volunteer company of 15 men, but no compensation insurance. The men receive no pay, but the town pays their dues in the State Firemen's Association, bears their expenses to conventions and required drills, and gives them an annual dinner.

**Davidson** has a fire truck purchased in 1932 for \$3,500. It is equipped with a 150-gallon water tank, a front pump for pumping water from wells and streams, fog nozzles and spray equipment, two asbestos outfits, and oxygen equipment. It is housed by the city. There is a siren alarm system. The town watchman is on duty at all times, which gives the town better fire insurance rates. There is a volunteer company of 23 members who are given a token payment of \$1.00 per year, so as to make them eligible for workman's compensation.

**Huntersville** has a fire truck carrying 1,250 feet of hose, a tank containing 50 gallons of soda acid with a smaller hose, and fire extinguishers; it is not equipped with a water tank or with a pump capable of operating from a stream or well. It is housed and maintained by the city. A siren alarm is used. The volunteer company is made up of 50 to 75 men, for whom the town carries insurance. The chief receives a token payment. In addition to the town equipment, the Anchor Mill possesses a sprinkler system, hydrants, and hoses, and it has its own water supply and pressure pumps which may be thrown into the town system for firefighter purposes.

**Matthews** fire equipment consists of a trailer carrying 500 feet of 2 1/2-inch and 250 feet of 1 1/2-inch hose, whose overall cost was \$1,100. When there is a fire, the first car on the scene hooks onto the trailer and takes it to the hydrant nearest the building. The trailer is housed in a private building in the town. The size of the town renders an alarm system unnecessary. The alarm is spread by word of mouth. The volunteer company receives no pay and is not covered by insurance.

**Pineville** has a truck purchased from the War Assets Administration in 1947 at a cost of \$2,300, to which it has added an extra \$640 worth of equipment. The truck carries 1,500 feet of hose, ladders, fire extinguishers, and for fires where there are no water mains, a 500-gallon tank of water and a front pump which can draw water from a nearby well or stream. The truck is housed in the town's new city hall and maintained by the town policemen. For an alarm, the town has a siren. Calls are telephoned into the switchboard in the city hall and the siren is used to call the firemen. None of the firemen are paid, either for calls or for training sessions. However, the town does carry compensation insurance for them, to cover possible injuries.

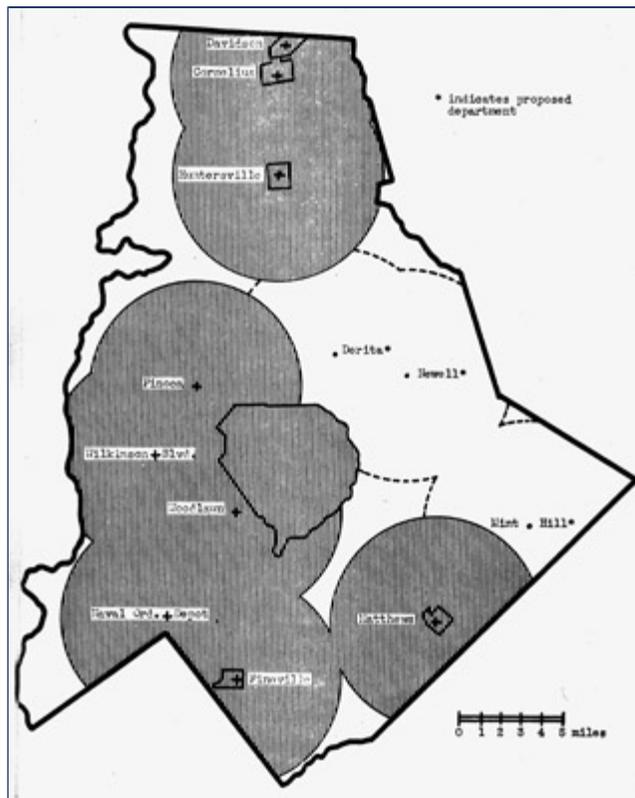
**Mecklenburg County** itself owns no fire protection equipment. However, the County Rural Police are called upon to render some assistance in this field. All rural fire calls to the Charlotte and Davidson fire departments are routed through the Rural Police headquarters. In addition, it is the practice to send a Rural Police car to the scene of each rural fire for the purpose of handling traffic, providing radio communication facilities through which trucks may be kept under control by their home authorities, and otherwise aiding the firefighters.

At present there are volunteer companies at Wilkinson Boulevard, Woodlawn (on the old Pineville Road), and Pinoca (on the Mount Holly Road). Another, designed to serve the Mint Hill community, is in the process of formation. Each of these companies has been equipped through fundraising activities through the communities they serve. The **Wilkinson Boulevard** company, which was the first to be formed, has two pumpers costing a total of \$7,000, purchased from the War Assets Administration. The **Woodlawn** company has a pumper carrying 750 gallons of water, plus a tank truck carrying an additional 1,000 gallons of water.

The **Pinoca** company built its own station at a cost of \$1,500 for materials and converted a surplus Army 6x6 truck into a pump engine carrying 1,250 gallons of water, at an outlay of some \$4,000 addition. The Woodlawn company charges annual dues of \$6 for protection. The Pinoca company charges home owners \$10 for membership fees and the first year's dues, and \$5 per year thereafter; it charges home renters \$5 the first year and \$3 per year thereafter; and it asks business establishments to contribute what they can afford to pay.

In addition to these volunteer companies, the county is further protected by the fire department of the **Naval Ordnance Depot**. Authorities of this depot have expressed willingness to send equipment to assist at fires outside its limits, provided a minimum of equipment is retained for its own safety.

Click once or twice to enlarge map:



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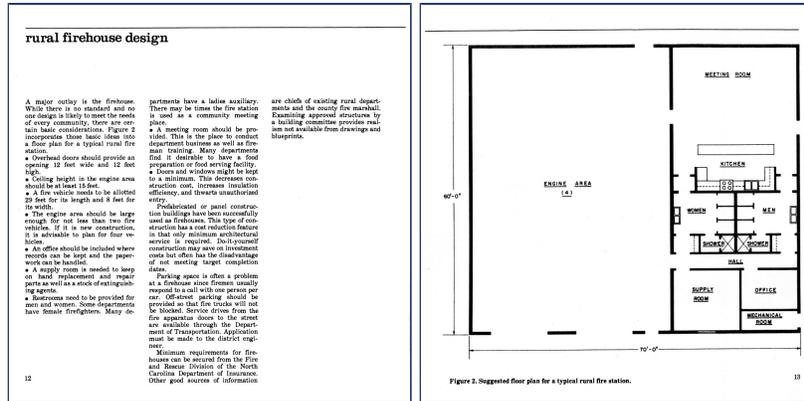
**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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Rural Fire Station Design, 1977

03/21/09 102 W, 2 I - + 18 - 12

Here's another treat that's cataloged at the [State Library of North Carolina](#). Below are a couple pages from *Rural Fire Protection in North Carolina*, published by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service in 1977. It's a 15-page booklet that's printed on a thicker, yellow paper stock, and published as a guide for community leaders interested in organizing a rural fire department. Call number A75 42:2. These pages detail rural fire station design. Bay space, bathrooms, meeting room, and little else. Wonder how many of these things were built in our state since then? Click once or twice to enlarge:



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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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## History of Rural Fire Protection

03/21/09 501 W - + 12 - 18

Also from the aforementioned *Rural Fire Protection in North Carolina*, published in 1977, here's a little history of rural fire protection in our state. It includes legislative milestones, and the organizational forms that rural fire departments can take.

"In North Carolina, rural fire protection is recognized as a function of local government. Historically, fire protection was provided primarily in populated municipalities. But in recent years industrial growth and population spillover into rural areas has increased the need for fire protection outside town and city limits. In response to increasing demands for rural fire protection, legislative provisions have offered organizational alternatives whereby counties or rural communities may establish fire protection.

"The first provisions for county fire service came in 1939 when counties were authorized to contract with municipal departments. In 1945 counties were empowered to establish and maintain their own fire departments. A 1951 statute authorized rural residents to organize rural fire protection districts within which special taxes to support fire services can be levied if such an arrangement is approved by a popular vote of residents in the proposed district.

"The 1973 County Service District Act provided an approach for organizing rural fire protection without a popular vote. County fire protection efforts have been further strengthened in recent years by legislation authorizing the appointment of county fire marshals and by the enactment of county fire prevention codes.

"Any group of concerned rural residents may organize a volunteer fire department by following the provisions of the Nonprofit Corporation Act, (North Carolina General Statute, Chapter 55A). For a small expense, incorporating the fire department has the benefits of freeing the members from legal liability and assures the residents of a perpetual fire fighting organization. These reasons alone make it desirable for new volunteer fire departments to incorporate.

"Volunteer fire departments commonly furnish fire protection for various types of legal districts discussed below. The area serviced by a fire department is generally referred to as a fire district and its boundaries are frequently established by standards of the N. C. Fire Insurance Rating Bureau. The department's legal characteristic as a "nonprofit corporation" remains unchanged. It is therefore governed by the statutes of the Nonprofit Corporation Act rather than by those laws dealing with local governments.

"Because rural areas have a variety of needs and circumstances, organizational forms vary considerably. In rural North Carolina, county fire protection is provided by one or more of the following methods:

- By creating a county fire department;
- By contracting with one or more municipalities or volunteer fire departments;
- By creating one or more rural fire protection districts;
- By creating a county service district or districts to furnish fire protection; or
- By associations formed by groups of citizens to contract for fire prevention service."

Source: *Rural Fire Protection in North Carolina*, published by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service in 1977. Excerpts from page 3, "Organizing for rural fire protection." Copied at the [State Library of North Carolina](#). Call number A75 42:2.

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From "Fire Protection in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County," by Philip P. Green Jr., and published in 1949 by the Institute of Government at UNC Chapel Hill, cites the General Statute that empowered sanitary districts to form fire departments.

G.S. 130-39 (13): [ Sanitary district boards have power ] "To establish a fire department for the protection of property within the district, or to contract with cities, counties or other governmental units to furnish fire fighting apparatus and personnel for use in the district."

Not sure if that GS is included in the above history. Some of the sanitary district fire departments in North Carolina have included Central Falls (Randolph), Kannapolis (Cabarrus), Royal Oaks (Cabarrus), and Yanceyville (Caswell).

**Legeros** - 03/21/09 - 10:02

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**More New Ambulances (Updated)**

03/24/09 59 W, 2 I - + 15 - 11

Here's a ~~low resolution~~ high resolution preview of the latest additions to the Wake County EMS fleet. Two of five commercial chassis ambulances have been delivered. The third is expected in two weeks, and will be equipped with a special bariatric lift device. The remaining two arrive this summer. Click once or twice to enlarge:



I take it that these units were ordered last year, in that the chevrons are blue and yellow. Wouldn't it have been prudent to change to the new color scheme for chevrons now?

**Kurt** - 03/21/09 - 18:04

These new units were recently delivered in all white and decaled/stripped after delivery. I must say they are very sharp looking.

**[jdkay2839]** - 03/21/09 - 19:21

this is our color scheme, and it's color-blind friendly!

**cornerhydrant** - 03/21/09 - 19:50

Nice bus....

**Silver** - 03/21/09 - 20:24

They look good. Same box on a bigger chassis? Where are they going in service at?

**firedriver** - 03/21/09 - 22:27

Hehe, hard to believe that a few years ago we called something very similar to these our "rescue trucks" in the RFD. Thank goodness not anymore! We've come a long way!

**Silver** - 03/22/09 - 00:46

Congratulations WCEMS !! Keep on rolling !!

**A.Rich** - 03/22/09 - 10:17

The chevrons kind of grow on you.

**Mike** - 03/22/09 - 12:48

Hey Silver, I checked the first ten pages just to be sure.....and nope, not one AMBULANCE showed up!! haha

<http://images.google.com/images?gbv=2&hl..>

**RescueRanger** - 03/23/09 - 21:09

But...look what's on the front page if you type "Pus Bus"..... HA!!!!

<http://images.google.com/images?hl=en&q=..>

**Car 4** - 03/23/09 - 22:41

Photos updated, taken today at Fleet Services.

**Legeros** - 03/24/09 - 18:22

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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No

Comment:

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**Mid-Century Modern Houses**

03/21/09 146 W, 1 I - + 12 - 14

Digressing from fire stuff, our attention turns to architecture. Mrs. Blogger brings this topic to our attention. Did you know that the Triangle has the fourth largest concentration of mid-century modern homes in the nation? We learned this in [North Carolina Signature](#) magazine. The March/April 2009 issue features a features on mid-century modern homes. The piece includes a profile of several Raleigh residences, including the [George Matsumoto](#) House at 821 Runnymede Road, shown below. Don't have a subscription to that rag? Check out [Triangle Modernist Houses](#), an extensive resource about the style, the buildings, and the designers. (How many homes are we talking about. They total 626, by their count.) There's even a couple Google tools, to help with the driving tour that you'll want to take. Here's their [annotated Google map](#), and they also have a Google Earth aid. Go forth and discover.



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Remember personal info?

Yes

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Comment:

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## Disaster Genealogy Site

03/22/09 163 W - + 11 - 13

From a reader, here's a [disaster genealogy site](#) that's pretty cool. It's called GenDisasters and compiles "information on the historic disasters, events, and tragic accidents [in the United States and Canada] our ancestors endured." You can browse by disaster, location, or year. For North Carolina, their listed events include air disasters, auto accidents, bridge collapses, building collapses, drownings, earthquakes, explosions, fires, floods, hurricanes, mining explosions and accidents, panics, ship disasters, storms and lightning, tornadoes, and train wrecks and accidents. For fires, they have 35 listed from 1897 to 1996, with most from the 1920s and earlier. There are also community features, including the ability to add comments or more information to existing articles. Cool stuff, and to be integrated to my North Carolina [deadliest disasters database](#) and my [deadliest fires database](#). Also on the horizon is a pending compilation of the state's largest fires, if and when we can make that happen. Anyway, check out that cool web site: [gendisasters.com](http://gendisasters.com).

Random find on that site. Wind storm in Wendell, destroyed 165 (!) buildings:

TWELVE INJURED. Wendell, N. C., April 5. — About twelve persons were injured in and near Wendell late yesterday in a windstorm which demolished 165 buildings, damaged a number of others and played havoc with crops. The loss was estimated at about \$100,000. One hundred barns, fifty dwellings and 15 packing houses were destroyed. Decatur Review Illinois 1923-04-05.

**Legeros** - 03/22/09 - 10:33

Okie-dokie, a quick comparison of my and their data yields the following "deadliest disasters of all time" list for North Carolina:

Air accidents, civil: Henderson, 1967 (82), Charlotte, 1974 (72), Charlotte, 1994 (37), Bolivia, 1960 (34).

Air accidents, military: Laurinburg/Maxton AAB, 1943 (25), Pope AFB, 1994 (23), Camp Lejeune, 1967 (22), Laurinburg/Maxton AAB, 1940 (20).

Fires, structural: Hamlet, 1991 (25), then numerous that have killed 9, 8, 7, etc. people.

Flooding: Eastern NC, 1913 (12?).

Hurricanes: Floyd, 1999 (51), Agnes, 1972 (35), Fran, 1996 (24), Hazel (19).

Military accidents: Bachelor's Creek in Craven County, torpedo explosion, 1864 (40).

MVA: Cumberland County, 1957 (18), Robeson County, 1942 (11), Plymouth, 1997 (10).

Rail: Robeson County, 1943 (74), Hamlet, 1906 (29), Iredell County, 1891 (25).

Tornadoes: Nine counties, 1984 (42), Two counties, 1884 (23), Guilford County (and others?), 1936 (14).

Mines: Chatham County, 1925 (53), Lee County, 1895 (39), Lee County, 1899 (23).

Ships: Steamer Metropolis off Currituck Beach, 1878 (150?), Steamer Constitution off Cape Lookout, 1865 (30?).

Yup, it's Sunday, and Mr. Blogger has plenty of free time.

**Legeros** - 03/22/09 - 10:51

Let's change MVA to MVC. 'Accident' suggests that they could not have been prevented. Not sure about the Robeson incident, but from what I have read, the Cumberland and the Plymouth MVCs could have been prevented, as could 99.995% of all the MVCs I have been to over 33 years...

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 03/22/09 - 12:04

From Wiki; "An accident is a specific, identifiable, unexpected, unusual and unintended external action which occurs in a particular time and place, without apparent or deliberate cause but with marked effects. It implies a generally negative probabilistic outcome which may have been avoided or prevented had circumstances leading up to the accident been recognized, and acted upon, prior to its occurrence".

**Silver** - 03/22/09 - 12:44

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preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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Comment:

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## Nash County Firefighter Dies in Line of Duty

03/22/09 46 W - + 13 - 10

[FireNews has details](#) of Salem Volunteer Fire Department Firefighter Greg Cooke, who died Saturday, March 22, at Wake Medical Center, after suffering an apparent cardiac arrest while working at a woods fire several days earlier. Funeral arrangements are pending.

I found this morning... the arrangements are posted at <http://www.wheelerandwoodlief.com/> (Wheeler and Woodlief Funeral Home, Rocky Mount, NC)

**A.Rich** - 03/23/09 - 08:41

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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**Tokyo Cargo Plane Crash**

03/22/09 73 W, 1 I - + 15 - 12

Footage and photos of the MD-11 cargo plane crash at Narita International Airport, east of Tokyo, have surfaced around the web. [This NECN story](#) has extensive footage, including low-resolution footage of the landing and crash. [This BBC article](#) has 80 seconds of post-crash footage. [This Reuters article](#) has a slideshow of strong images. Alas, can't find any web sites for information on the airport's fire department.

*Reuters/Kyodo Photo*

some pictures from yomiuri, but i'm having a hard time finding the airport fd too

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/feature/graph/2..>

**cornerhydrant** - 03/22/09 - 23:47

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**City Council Approves Hillsborough Street Roundabout Phase 1 Project Bid**

03/23/09 154 W, 2 I - + 15 - 8

From a [Raleigh press release last week](#), the Raleigh City Council approved the bid for the Hillsborough Street Roundabout Project Phase I from Gardner Street to Oberlin Road. The Phase I improvements will convert Hillsborough Street to a two-lane median-divided facility with on-street parking on both sides, with a seven-foot wide raised median, with sidewalk bulb-outs at the intersections and mid-block locations, and adds several pedestrian signals. The project replaces the Hillsborough Street and Pullen Road traffic signal with a dual-lane roundabout. Read more about this project at the city's [Hillsborough Street Redesign site](#). See the last page of this document of [Proposed Streetscape Changes](#) for the roundabout design. Most interesting is the proposed Pullen Road Extension, which will connect Pullen Road and Oberlin Road, and turn the first block of Oberlin Road into a outbound one-way street.



Man, I'm glad we have funding for roundabouts, but not minimum staffing overtime. I'll sleep easier knowing that traffic on Hillsborough St. will flow better; to heck with my fellow Brothers and Sisters having adequate staffing!! Is MY union raising any questions about this?

**Silver** - 03/24/09 - 11:08

Silver...probably not. I don't see the unions around these parts really getting involved, most likely from a lack of support from the majority of the rank-and-file. We are our own worst enemies.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 03/24/09 - 11:47

DJ- You said a mouthfull there!

**firedriver** - 03/24/09 - 20:01

I know DJ, it was a rhetorical question...

**Silver** - 03/24/09 - 22:24

FHA says they're safer as long as people follow the rules ( see chapter 5 at <http://www.tfrc.gov/safety/00068.htm> ), an increase of bicycle injuries of according to the following paper <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?ob..>

personally, i can't stand them since i never see anyone follow the rules!

**cornerhydrant** - 03/25/09 - 17:53



**Apex: 401 Applied for 12 Firefighter Jobs**

03/23/09 106 W, 1 I - + 15 - 13

[WRAL reports](#) that hundreds of firefighter applicants were queued at the Apex Town Hall today, to take the written tests for 12 open firefighter positions. The town took 401 applications for the slots, which were posted Feb. 18, and 260 applicants were eligible to take the written test. The Apex Fire Department is expanding its "36-strong department" with 12 positions funded by a \$1.3 million SAFER grant. The academy starts May 11, and the twelve firefighters are expected on the job on Sept. 11. Good luck, all! [Read the article](#). Or learn more about AFD, on the [town site](#), or the [fire department site](#).



*WRAL photo*

When you show up to apply for a job dressed like that, you should be sent home, no questions asked. If you don't take pride in yourself, how can you be expected to take pride in your department.

**ncff** - 03/24/09 - 15:15

Er, aren't those the folks waiting to take the written exam? But maybe that's a suit 'n' tie situation as well. Hope nobody wore a Hawaiian shirt to the thing. Those types of people are crazy!

**Legeros** - 03/24/09 - 18:05

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

- Yes
- No

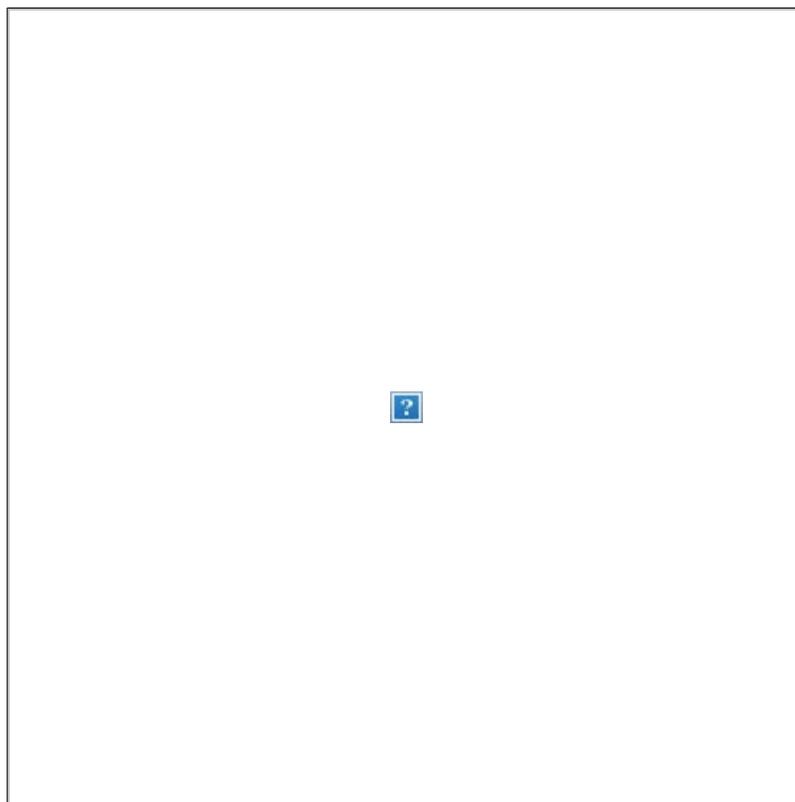
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/ [Textile](#)

## Latest Photos of Apex Station 4

03/23/09 72 W, 1 I - + 12 - 13

Speaking of our friends to the south and west, here's what construction on Apex Public Safety Station 4 is looking like. See more photos on the AFD site. Go through the web site's [front door](#), which shows both navigation links on left and page content on right. Or leap directly to the [construction in progress](#) page. Both roads lead to the same place.



*Apex Fire Department Photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
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Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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**Raleigh Fire Protection Studies**

03/23/09 118 W - + 13 - 13

Scanning has been completed of a trio of fire protection studies, conducted by the city of Raleigh in the 1950s and the 1970s. We blogged about the [1958 report](#) maybe a month ago. The [1970 report](#) was added to the history site a couple weeks ago. The [1977 report](#) was added to the site this evening. The last two are scans of photocopies. Sorry about that. Next up? Maybe full scans of the National Board of Fire Underwriters reports from 1924 and 1931. Or maybe OCR work on the above reports from 1970 and 1977. Add text-only versions to each. We'll see. There's always another geeky task to undertake. Read the docs:

- [Fire Protection Study, 1958](#)
- [Fire Protection Study, 1970](#)
- [Fire Protection Study, 1977](#)

It would be interesting to compare these studies to what stations/units were really built/created.

**Steven** ([Email](#)) - 03/24/09 - 16:50

Name: (real name  
preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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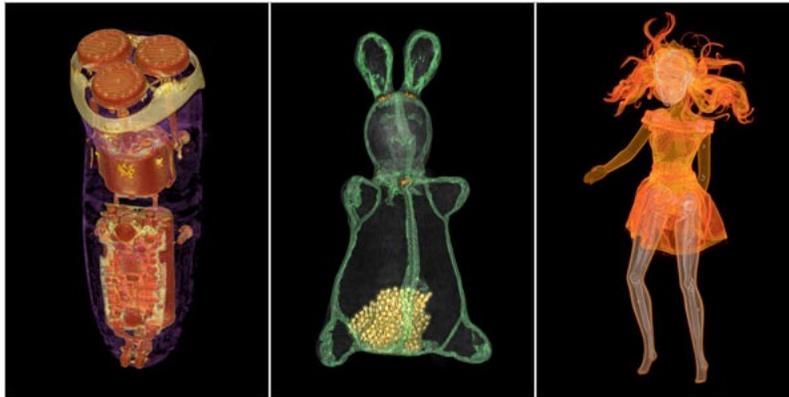
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Medical Technology Makes Art**

03/23/09 72 W, 1 I - + 12 - 11

From [today's New York Times](#), observe the artwork of Satre Stuelke, who has created compelling CT scans of everyday objects such as electric razors, stuffed bunnies, and Barbie Dolls. As is shown below, left to right. [Read the article](#), which also includes a slideshow. How about that funky looking box of Chicken McNuggets? Wonder what a side of fries looks like?



*New York Times/Satre Stuelke Photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
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Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

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## Stimulus Money to Pay For New Greensboro Airport Fire Station

03/25/09 104 W - + 11 - 14

Here comes that stimulus money! FireNews surfaces this [News & Record report](#) that the Piedmont Triad International Airport said Tuesday that the federal stimulus package will pay for a new \$4 million fire station. The facility is planned for the north end of the runway, near the FedEx Express hub that's opening later this year. The station will be big enough to hold five trucks. [Read the article](#). Here's an aerial view of the [current fire station](#) at 7722 Airline Road. It's the square building about 800 feet north east of the map marker "A".

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

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## The First Rural Fire Departments

03/25/09 125 W - + 11 - 11

Question, what were the first rural fire departments in North Carolina? The answer is below, but probably incomplete. Who is missing from that decade, dear readers?

- 1942 - Wilkinson Boulevard FD, Charlotte/Mecklenburg County.
- 1945, by - Bessemer FD, Greensboro/Guilford County.
- 1945, by - North Asheboro FD, Asheboro/Randolph County.<sup>1</sup>
- 1946 - Guilford College FD, Greensboro/Guilford County.
- 1946 - Seagate FD, Wilmington/New Hanover County.
- 1948 - Pleasant Garden FD, Marion/Mitchell County.
- 1949 - Pinoca FD, Charlotte/Mecklenburg County.
- 1949 - Sedge Garden FD, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Also known as North Asheboro/Central Falls FD.

<sup>2</sup>The year 1949 might be the year the Sedge Garden Civic Club started the project that eventually formed SGFD. Another source cites early 1951 as the year Sedge Garden Fire Department formed.

Name: (real name preferred)  
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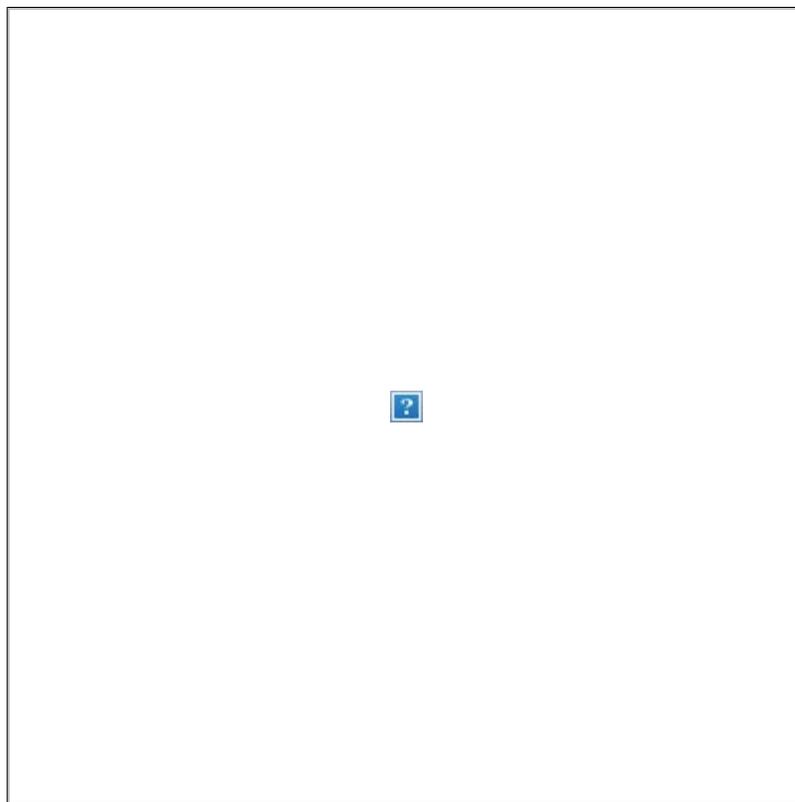
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**New Facility For NC National Guard / EM / SHP**

03/26/09 114 W, 1 I - + 11 - 12

Western Wake and EMS 4 are getting new neighbors. Today's *News & Observer* has the skinny on the \$56 million, stimulus-funded NCNG/EM/SHP facility to be built on District Drive. The 237,000-square-foot structure will serve as headquarters for the National Guard, will house the state office of Emergency Management, and house a regional communications center for the Highway Patrol and other agencies. It'll be built on an 18-acre site. The two-year project will create as many as 4,200 construction-related jobs, says the Gov. [Read the entire article.](#) There's additional information and images from the architects on the [OBrien Atkins web site.](#)



*News & Observer / O'Brien Atkins Image*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Unusual Fires, Part 2**

03/26/09 413 W - + 13 - 17

By presumed popular demand, here's a second installment of "unusual fires" from around North Carolina in the early and mid-1950s. These are quotes from fire chiefs, reported to the State Insurance Commissioner's office, compiled by the North Carolina State Firemen's Association Statistician, and excerpted from conference proceedings:

- Struck match in paint room, damage \$22.
- Light bulb in popcorn machine, damage \$800.
- Cleaning floor with gasoline, spark ignited, \$800 damage.
  
- Smoking in paint shop, damage \$555.
- Oil stove left burning in a closet, \$4,200 damage to house.
- Smoking cigarette set mattress afire, Greensboro city jail. \$6.
  
- Hot plate left on, just a matter of \$9,000 damage.
- Wiping floors with white gasoline, \$1,300 damage.
- Steam pipe leaked on electric water heater, causing electrical arc to trash accumulated around heater, \$2,000.
  
- After a drinking party, one of the drunks sleeping on settee dropped match, \$1,500.
- Rats between walls caused fire of \$3,750 damage to dwelling.
- Rats and matches in an old house, damage \$1,600.
  
- Drop cord nailed to wood ceiling, damage \$1,600.
- Pennies used for fuse plug, damage \$1,750.
- Electric hot plate on bed cooking, \$35 damage.
  
- Stove exploded in whiskey still in shed at rear of house, \$200 damage.
- Cleaning shop window with paint remover, struck match, \$270 damage.
- Completed painting, interior [of] house, no one at home, suspected combustion from paint rags, \$6,000 damage.
  
- Bread left in oven, child turned stove on, damage \$100.
- Welding torch caught spilled gasoline on fire, damage \$50.
- Hauling gas in car, container turned over, loss \$750, probable cause pure carelessness.
  
- Filling tank while motor was running, \$100 damage.
- Family moved into house in cold weather, put up a stove, flue went through the ceiling but not through the roof.
- Termite men treated house in attic, set building on fire accidentally, from information we received. Men left house as soon as fire started. As of yet, have not been able to locate them. Total loss, \$4,500.
  
- Boy looking for football in closet dropped lighted match, damage \$3,300.
- Pouring gasoline in tank from bucket, lighted cigarette lighter, damage \$550.
- Car drove off with hose nozzle in [gas] tank, pulled tank over, short circuit set fire to gas, damage \$500.
  
- Someone stealing gas from truck, barn set on fire, damage \$600.
- Wife claimed husband drunk, set fire to house for spite, loss \$1,750.
- Drawing gas from 50 gallon drum using lantern for light, home total loss, \$6,800.
  
- Pigeon carried lighted cigarette to nest on church, \$500.
- Occupant carried furniture to yard and set fire to same, \$25.
- By-passer stopped, dropped lighted cigarette, loss to freight cars, \$6,750.

---

Adopting a Fire Prevention program, priceless

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 03/26/09 - 19:43

are the fines high enough when they are cited? (hope there were some arrests) – arresting the pigeon would be a good idea, he's turn into a stoolie and rat everyone else out

**cornerhydrant** - 03/26/09 - 20:11

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Western Boulevard Fire Department

03/26/09 193 W, 1 I - + 12 - 14

For your Friday enjoyment, here's a vintage photo from one of Wake County's lesser-known departments. Pictured in 1958 is the Western Boulevard Fire Department. Organized a year earlier, they protected unincorporated areas due west of Raleigh. From a barbecue shed-turned-fire station at the corner of Western and Powell Drive, their 30-some members operated three pieces of equipment: pumper (Chevy, new), tanker (used), and brush truck (Jeep, or "Jeep type"). The department was, alas, short-lived. On April 1, 1960, much of their territory was annexed by the city. They disbanded, and reformed one year later as the Fairground Fire Department. Singular. [Read more history](#), or click once or twice to enlarge:



Shown left to right, are (front row) Henry Garrison, Norman C. "Dick" Massengill, Biff Abbott, Skip Fox, Fred A. Burke, Robert Giddens, C. Mitchell Godwin; (middle row) G. Rex Mann, F. Dale Graham, Ira O. Schaub Jr., James A. "Jimmy" Hewitt, Harold Morris, Edmond L. Johnson, Alex R. Russell Jr., Bill Dupree; (back row) Charlie R. Weathers, Bobby Massengill, Bruce Brundage, Henry Wilder, unidentified, Mitchell Garbelly, Judd Watkins, and unidentified. What a great photo.

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

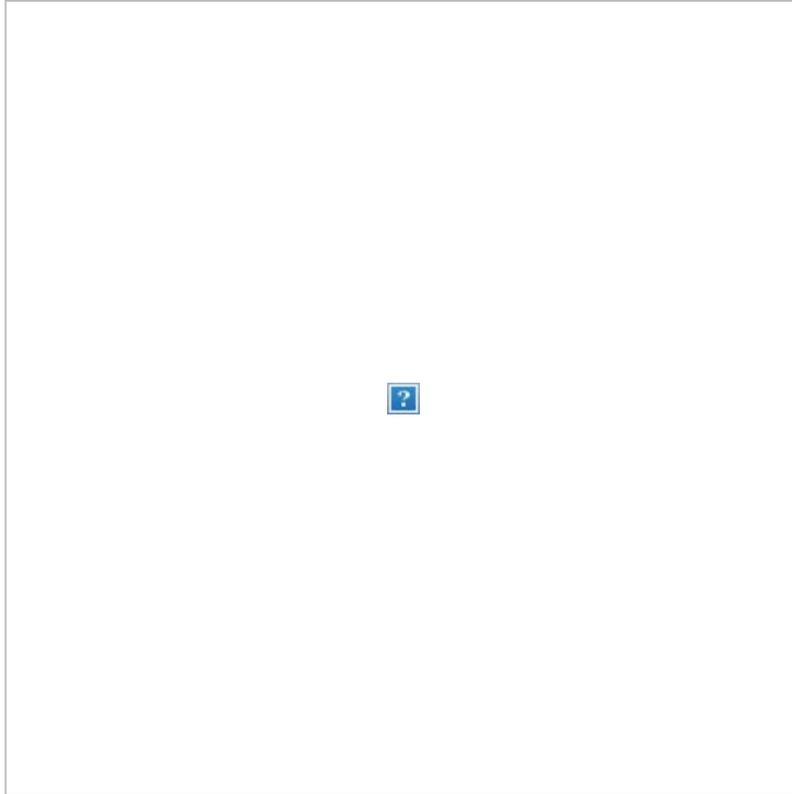
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## St. Agnes May Heal Again

03/27/09 217 W, 1 I - + 15 - 10

Anyone familiar with Raleigh history, or who has strolled the city's east side, is familiar with the skeleton of St. Agnes Hospital on the campus of St. Augustine's College. For fire historians, the first question is usually "when was the fire that reduced the hospital to its bare walls?" The answer is... never. St. Agnes Hospital closed intact in 1961. Why are only walls left? Today's *News & Observer* has an [article on the famous structure](#), and bit about its history. In 1996, the National Park Service granted the college \$769,000 toward restoration repairs. Five years later, work stopped, and perhaps left the structure in its current state.



*News & Observer Photo*

What about fires? On Feb. 2, 1909, two of the city's volunteer fire companies fought a fire at the hospital. St. Agnes and the college was outside the city at that time. Loss about \$1,000. On May 26, 1911, the hospital and the college suffered fires large and small when high-voltage power lines energized the school grounds. On Dec. 16, 1926, the third floor had a fire. College students fought the flames until the fire department arrived. Damage initially estimated at \$25,000. The State Archives also has undated newspaper photos of a smaller fire in the late 1940s or early 1950s. Still trying to find that date.

---

Some pictures of the hospital today, from the Goodnight, Raleigh! site: <http://goodnightraleigh.com/2008/07/the-..>

**Legeros** - 03/27/09 - 07:49

## iControl Interactive Doppler

03/27/09 70 W, 1 I - + 20 - 15

Tracking severe weather, are we? Check out [iControl Interactive Doppler](#) on the WRAL site. It's a beta version, so there may be bugs. You can zoom, pan, filter, and even see projected paths for storm cells. Screen capture is below. For maximum effect, be sure that the television's on, several scanners are squawking, and a weather radio is blaring in the background. Click to get Doppler-ized:



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

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**This Morning's Fire / Nelson Road**

03/28/09 88 W, 1 I - + 13 - 19

Multiple vehicle fire at [5201 Nelson Road](#). Cary Engine 1 arriving at one-story commuter transportation facility, with a number of commercial busses fully involved in a large parking lot behind the structure. Morrisville also dispatched, with Ladder 2 deployed and flowing water. Others on scene included Cary Truck 7, Battalion 1; Cary EMS Medic 91, District 5; WC 1. Alarm time about 5:50 a.m. Call occurred just before shift change, with "C" shift then "A" shift. Photos by Legeros coming.



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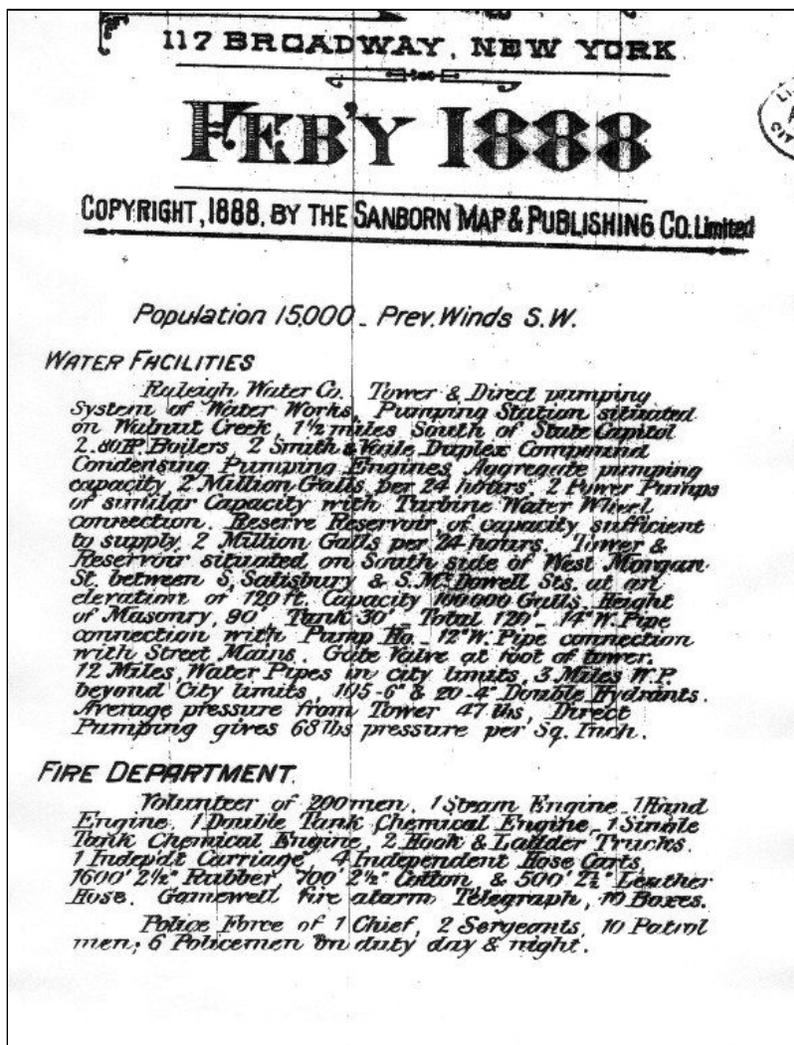
## How to Research a Fire Department History?

03/28/09 183 W, 1 I - + 15 - 11

Question from reader, what's the best place to start researching a fire department history? Answer from blogger, see [these notes on researching fire department histories](#). They're from a presentation delivered in Greensboro at the state convention in 2006. Then, ask Mike any additional questions as needed. We'll get you pointed in the right directions.

Of the resources listed in said presentation, [Sanborn Maps](#) (shown below) are a particularly strong source. Each map summarizes a town or city's water supply and fire department. Then, on the map sheet showing the fire station, there are usually additional details. At a minimum, you'll learn the street address and building construction of the fire station.

Sanborn Maps are available online via [www.nclive.org](http://www.nclive.org), but only by subscription. Your local library typically has access, and you can likely use that access remotely. Once you get a feel for the browser interface, you can easily down PDF copies of map sheets. Mike will be referencing these and other sources in August, at this year's convention in Raleigh. More on that later.



## Airplane Accident Fatalities, 1940s

03/28/09 57 W - + 17 - 12

We [previously reported](#) the curious statistic that the leading cause of death in Carteret County in 1943 was plane crashes. Turns out that quite a few people died in plane crashes in the 1940s in North Carolina. Most were likely war-related activities. Some annual totals from that decade:

- 1943 - 238
- 1944 - 254
- 1945 - 65
- 1946 - 29
- 1947 - 42
- 1948 - 45

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## North Carolina State Firemen's Association History Bits

03/29/09 214 W, 1 I - + 17 - 18

A list of the officers of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, from 1888 to 2000, has been updated to [this history page](#). Looking over the [PDF document scan](#), there have been a number of long-time and very long-time officers over the decades. From a manual count, they include:

- 44 years - Jno. L. Miller, Secretary
- 20 years - Horace Moore, Treasurer (9 years), Secretary (11 years)
- 26 years - Jas. D. McNeil, President
- 26 years - Tyrus Bissett, Statistician
- 25 years - Curtis Flanagan, Secretary
- 22 years - A. W. Brinson, Statistician
- 20 years - Bobby Joyner, Treasurer
- 18 years - Ed. A. Johnson, Treasurer
- 18 years - C. Schnibben, Treasurer

And what's the spread for convention cities, you ask? Whose hosted the most-est?

From this [page of tournament dates](#), the most frequent have been:

- 13 - Greensboro
- 12 - Asheville
- 11 - Wilmington
- 9 - Charlotte
- 9 - Winston-Salem
- 8 - Carolina Beach
- 8 - New Bern
- 7 - Durham
- 7 - Raleigh
- 6 - Fayetteville
- 6 - Morehead City

One-time locations, to date: Gastonia, Greenville, Hamlet, High Point, Lumberton, Pinehurst, Statesville, Wrightsville Beach.

Longest conventions: 1920 in Fayetteville, six days! Then 1929 in Hendersonville, 1967 Asheville, 1974 in Wilmington, five days each. Shortest conventions: 1888 in Greensboro (debut), 1893 in Wilmington, 1917 in Wrightsville Beach, one day each.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Data is incomplete for show durations, so longest and shortest convention data is subject to change.

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**Chicago's Mack CF Rear-Mount Ladders**

03/29/09 96 W, 1 I - + 17 - 9

Over on this [die-cast fire apparatus discussion board](#), the history of Chicago's Mack CF rear-mounts is being discussed. The context is a coming replica from Code 3 Collectibles. One interesting piece of history is that these trucks were delivered with 100 GPM booster pumps, 300 gallon booster tanks, and a pair of booster reels. The pumps and equipment were later removed, and perhaps pretty quickly. One poster recalls the politics involved, e.g. if a truck has a pump, then it's an engine and an engineer should be assigned. [Read the discussion thread](#).



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## Gizmodo, the Gadget Guide

03/29/09 45 W - + 17 - 12

Here's a cool blog called [Gizmodo](#), a guide to gadgets and other goodies. Some of their more intriguing, recent threads:

- [Time lapse digital camera for gardeners.](#)
- [The world's first flying hotel.](#)
- [USB-powered cigarettes.](#)
- [Google captures bladder release.](#)
- [Acne-exaggerating light versus teenagers.](#)

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## NCFFF Seeking Bookkeeping Help

03/29/09 80 W - + 11 - 9

As posted on [FireNews](#), the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NCFFF) is seeking a volunteer to provide bookkeeping services for the organization. The position is responsible for reconciling checking and saving accounts with accounts payable and accounts receivable information provided by the Treasurer, preparing and submitting quarterly sales tax filings, and preparing materials for the organization's CPA for end of year tax reporting. Candidates must have previous bookkeeping experience. See the [FireNews posting for contact information](#).

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**Now That's a Vehicle Fire**

03/29/09 48 W, 1 I - + 23 - 10

Also from [FireNews](#) are some photos of an off-duty firefighter's truck that burned on Monday in Leland. The picture below, one of several, shows the fire as the first engine arrives. [Read the story and see more photos.](#)



*FireNews / Justin Cokes photo*

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## North Carolina Search & Rescue

03/29/09 80 W, 1 I - + 10 - 15

From a reader, [here's a WRAL story](#) on a newly organized search and rescue organization. Called North Carolina Search & Rescue, they're an all-volunteer entity that utilizes resources ranging from cadaver dogs, to low-flying aircraft, to cell phone tracking. Their members include former law enforcement, ex-military, and Coast Guard personnel. They're presently working on a missing person case in... Australia. [Read the article](#), or visit their under-construction web site, [www.ncrescue.org](http://www.ncrescue.org). Neat patch, too!



Any idea where this group is based out of ??

**NH100** - 03/29/09 - 23:21

Looks like they're based out of Hillsborough. The above web site's training calendar lists Hillsborough and Orange County locations. And state corporation records list a same-named entity with an initial office address of Hillsborough.

**Legeros** - 03/30/09 - 06:50

I believe they are based out of Franklinton Area

**Doppler** ([Email](#)) - 03/31/09 - 18:43

Yes Hillsborough is correct, this is a spin off of the troubled Orange County Rescue Squad. View the comments on the WRAL story and you will see they are by the ex-chief of the Orange County Rescue Squad.

**MikeHunt** - 03/31/09 - 21:31

It looks like this group will be a good resource; with their capabilities. I know we will be using them within the state.

**NH100** ([Email](#)) - 04/01/09 - 01:38

How does one become a member of an organization like this one?

**Adam** - 04/01/09 - 10:33

## Camp Mackall Airborne Maneuvers, Fatalities, 1945

03/30/09 135 W - + 17 - 11

Back to the Forties with some more random history. On Sept. 25, 1945, Army airborne maneuvers at Camp Mackall turned deadly when 13 soldiers were killed, and 58 injured. The exercises, which duplicated many of the tactics used by airborne forces in Normandy and Holland, included the night deployment of 184 C-47 transport planes carrying 2,500 paratroopers. The planes raced over the landing areas at approximately 400 feet, and with the moon blacked out by clouds. Most of the parachutists missed the field, and dropped instead into high pines surrounding the area. One person was killed, and 58 were injured. One of the planes crashed, killing 12 aboard: eight paratroopers, and four crew members. Four other parachutists jumped to safety. The maneuvers were said to be the largest ever staged in the United States. Source: News & Observer, Sept. 26, 1945.

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**Mass Shooting / Hostage Drill**

03/30/09 98 W - + 15 - 15

Yesterday in Moore County, responders responded to a mass shooting at a nursing home. Six people died at the scene, and two more passed away at the hospital. [The Pilot of Southern Pines](#) has extensive coverage, including [Carthage Shooting Blog](#). Yesterday in Johnston County, by way of unfortunate coincidence, responders practiced responding to shooting and hostage situation at an industrial plant on Highway 70 East. Several agencies participated including Clayton Police and Johnston County SO special operations teams, Clayton Rescue, Clayton Fire, and Wilson's Mills Fire. Lee Wilson paid a visit and [has posted photos](#).

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## Night Photography

03/31/09 63 W, 1 I - + 21 - 7

Instructions for taking scene shots at night without using a flash or a tripod. Adjust camera sensitivity to highest settings. Adjust shutter and aperture accordingly. Point camera toward lighted areas. Stand as still as possible. Hold camera against face as tight as possible. Will subjects to stop moving (results for this step not guaranteed). Start shooting. Click to enlarge:



no pod? i gotta cut back on the caffeine – am i right in assuming all the latest night shots were also podless? AMAZING!

**cornerhydrant** - 03/31/09 - 09:15

Hello, This is an awesome shot!!!!!! What I would like to know what settings did you use on your camera to get this shot, did you shoot in manual or aperture priority or auto? any information would be appreciated. thank you

**Bob** ([Email](#)) - 01/28/10 - 12:01

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**County-Wide Fire Department Forming**

04/01/09 64 W - + 11 - 12

Plans have been approved by County Commissioners for a unified fire protection area, and are undergoing review by member fire departments. Seven different departments are expected to join the organization, which will include a county-wide apparatus renumbering scheme. Officials are quoted as being influenced by discussions of the issue "that even surface on the Internet." [Read more details.](#)

Outstanding information Mike.....

**H20** - 04/01/09 - 07:15

About time something like this happened!

**Wayne** - 04/01/09 - 07:58

Oh yeah...and all subsequent fire appratus purchased will be lime yellow with black cab roofs.

Good one, Mike.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 04/01/09 - 08:25

That was good.

**KOM** - 04/01/09 - 09:28

got us

**Knightdale** - 04/01/09 - 09:35

sad it's only a joke.

**ncff** - 04/01/09 - 10:06

Mike, you can go to bed tonight knowing that you pranked someone 8000 miles away. All hail the King.

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 04/01/09 - 12:43

Great work mike.... Best one I seen in a while

**Chris** ([Email](#)) - 04/01/09 - 15:39

Mike, that was good. Don't ever do it again.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 04/01/09 - 15:49

We can only dream....

**Rauer** - 04/01/09 - 19:28

That's harsh!! Kinda like saying all nozzles will be switched to smooth bore effective immediately.

**Luke** - 04/02/09 - 05:36

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## New Hanover County Firefighters to Replace Ogden Volunteers

04/01/09 71 W - + 12 - 15

FireNews surfaces this [Wilmington Star story](#), about changes to the Ogden Fire Department in Wilmington. The nearly 60 year-old organization is "effectively going out of business" and its service area will be protected by New Hanover County Fire Services. The county will take over OFD's two stations, equipment, and volunteers. [Read the entire article](#). Or learn more about the [New Hanover FD](#).

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**Gayla Human Bat Kite**

04/01/09 86 W, 1 I - + 19 - 14

Of today's assorted online amusements, this gem is advertised by [Burbank's House of Hobbies](#). The description: "Set of heavy duty 36" bat wings and 80 pound test cord. For use for children or small adults 100 pounds or less. 900' of cord included. Winds must be 60 MPH or higher for best results. Do not fly near trees or power lines." Sale priced at \$1.99! [See other April 1 specials](#). The store is a great source for die-cast and other models, by the way.

Holy Flying Kid Batman....

**Commissioner Gordon** - 04/01/09 - 22:31

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**Dizzying Array of Colors**

04/02/09 86 W, 1 I - + 14 - 13

For some sunshine in spite of rain, here's a rare glimpse into Blog Central. Below is an exclusive photograph of our uniform cache. Each of these silk, rayon, or polyester print shirts is selected for both high visibility when operating in roadways, and appropriate environmental blending in case of inland cruise ship incidents. These mission-critical pieces of clothing can also be called Aloha shirts, Hawaiian shirts, cabana wear, or fat boy frocks. [Read a little history](#). Click for larger (brighter?) versions:



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**The First Retiree**

04/02/09 444 W - + 12 - 15

Who was the first firefighter to retire in Raleigh? The answer is Willis L. Choplin, 59, who retired as a private (base rank of Firefighter) on Feb. 1, 1949, with 34 years of service. He was one of the first 12 city employees to leave their jobs through a recently adopted retirement system. Choplin was the oldest active member when he left, having served under eight fire chiefs.

When he joined, the fire department had only "two stations, two horse-drawn hose trucks and two pairs of steeds for motive power." He recounted "We'd open the stalls when the fire-bell clanged and they'd come tearing out and take their place beside the truck under the harnesses with no directions needed."

Choplin cited his "worst fire" as the Insane Asylum blaze in 1926. While he was "working down the hall with hose on the second floor," he remembered, he caught "hold of a metal pipe which had become charged by an electrical short circuit." The electricity "paralyzed him and he couldn't release the pipe" and "had to be knocked loose with a board wielded by several others" who "came to his rescue."

One of his station mates remembered that Choplin was known as the "only man in the department who could life one of the fire trucks off the bround with his back."

Choplin's story comes by way of his daughter, who talked to a retired fireman, who talked to current member, who talked to Yours Truly. A quick trip to the local history library confirmed his daughter's memories.

The retirement plan, newspaper articles from that period report, was effective Jan. 1, 1949, and the first retirements were made on Feb. 1 of that year. All employees 72 years old or older were required to retire. Voluntary retirements were available at age 55 for fire and police. Retirement was not available to city employees who were age 60 when hired by the city.

Retiring employees, the full list:

- Nathaniel Warren, 80, Asst. Chief of Police, 50 (!) years service, \$70.28 per month pension
- James A. Bailey, 76, police patrolman, 41 years, \$99.60 per month.
- Willis L. Choplin, 59, fire department private, 34 years, \$76.52 per month.
- Jordan D. Crudup, 74, parks maintenance laborer, 16 years, \$1.16 (!) per month.
- Harlie Glenn, 74, city-county mapping clerk, benefits pending.
- Sylvester A. Ivey, 76, sewer laborer, 25 years, \$7.40 per month.
- Charles J. Jordon, 76, City Market night watchman, 5 years, no benefits.
- Dr. John S. McKee, 70, City Physician, 35 years, \$70.23 per month.
- William T. Neal, 72, City Market head janitor, 9 years, no benefits.
- Clarence Simpson, 77, parks maintenance head carpenter, 15 years, no benefits.
- Madison C. Wilder, 73, public works cemetery division laborer, 14 years, no benefits.

Sources: *Raleigh Times* Jan. 31, 1949; *News & Observer*, Feb. 1, 1949.

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## Raleigh Fire Protection Reports

04/03/09 145 W - + 8 - 17

For your Friday enjoyment, numerous vintage fire protection reports have been added to our [Raleigh Fire Department history site](#). Scroll to the lower-right of the site and you'll see three types of reports. First are summaries from **Sanborn Insurance Maps**, for a half-dozen years between 1884 and 1914. These are short descriptions of the city's water system and fire department. Next are reports from the **National Board of Fire Underwriters** for 1924 and 1931, plus a sketch of the 1911 report. These are long, detailed, exhaustive reports about the city's capacity to pump water and fight fire. The full reports are scans of copies of reasonable quality. The sketch is simply text drawn from newspaper accounts. Finally, and as blogged about earlier, are a trio of **Planning Department** reports from 1958, 1970, and 1977. These reports focus on fire station locations. [Read the reports on our history site](#). Enjoy!

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## Raleigh Fire Department Recruit Graduation, Friday, Apr. 17

04/03/09 107 W, 1 I - + 14 - 17

The graduation ceremony for Raleigh Fire Department Recruit Academy 35 is Friday, Apr. 17, at 7:00 p.m. The location is the [Raleigh Convention Center](#), in Exhibit Hall A. The recruits are concluding their 28-week academy, which started on Sep. 29. They'll graduate with certifications in EMT, Firefighter I and II, and Rescue Technician VMR. They also received training on haz-mat operations and awareness, fireground procedures, high-rise operations, rapid intervention teams (RIT), accountability systems, safety companies, engine and ladder company and firefighter safety and survival. [See photos of the academy by Lee Wilson](#). Also, click to enlarge this group photo:



*Lee Wilson photo*

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## Counting Down 100 Years of Firefighting in Mooresville

04/04/09 118 W, 1 I - + 16 - 14

From a reader, the [Mooresville Tribune last month](#) featured a feature on the Mooresville Fire Department and their call for historical help. The department is counting down to their centennial celebration in 2010, and they're hoping the community can help piece together their history. As the article notes, MFD was officially organized on May 10, 1910. That's the date the department's using to commemorate 100 years of service. They're planning to collect photos and memorabilia over the next several months and create a commemorate book, which may include a DVD. [Read the article](#). Here at History Central, we'll dig through our materials and see what we can contribute. [Learn about the Mooresville Fire Department](#).



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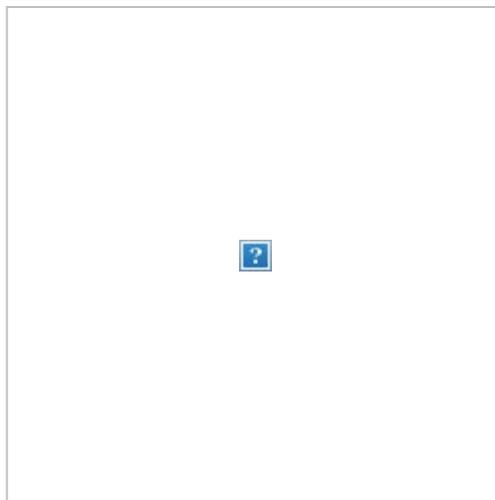
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## Emergency Chaplains

04/04/09 82 W, 1 I - + 11 - 14

The Durham County-based organization Emergency Chaplains [now has a web site](#). The site provides such as who they are, what they do, and their statement of faith. There's also a link to "Chaplain Ralph's" blog, which is [hosted on a separate site](#). Emergency Chaplains was started in 2001 by Ralph and Carter Thompson. They provide both pastoral care for the men and women who answer emergency calls, and assist responders on scene with citizens. [Visit their web site](#).



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## Varmint Mystery Solved, 1944

04/04/09 168 W - + 17 - 14

Here's another vintage gem, from the *News & Observer* on June 21, 1944. "Calm Returns to Western Boulevard Neighborhood as Prowlers Prove Harmless" reads the subhead. Two "night-roving" critters had alarmed residents around the Grove Street section of Western Boulevard. For two months, the mystery creatures had "stalked the countryside by night and remained well-hidden during the day." What were these seemingly harmless animals, reportedly the size of "a couple of fat pigs?" And that "even sounded like pigs?" South American armadillos, it turned out, that had escaped from the "miniature zoo" at the Western Boulevard home of a State College electrician. When they were being removed from their crates, the 'dillos escaped and hadn't been seen by their owner since. Since the creatures were "absolutely harmless" and "helpful in destroying rats," they were allowed to remain in their new residence, in a hole in the yard of one Mrs. Jackson.

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.

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**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Morehead City Ship Explosion, 1961 (Updated)**

04/10/09 1594 W, 3 I - + 19 - 16

On September 26, 1961, at approximately 3:10 p.m., the USNS Potomac arrived at an aviation fuel terminal in Morehead City. The facility was located on Radio Island, across the Newport River channel from the state port. The 15,626-ton, 593-foot, civilian-manned T-5 tanker was anchored with its bow pointing north, toward the railroad and highway bridges that connected the island and mainland.

About 5:20 p.m., the Potomac began discharging its 101,000 gallons of cargo, which consisted of aviation gasoline and JP-5 jet fuel. Around 6:35 p.m., gasoline also started flowing overboard. The ship's port sea suction valve was open, and fuel was flowing from it. The gasoline leaked into the channel, and spread in the direction of the bridges.

At approximately 6:45 p.m., a civilian port employee was parked on the bridge, waiting with other cars while a tug boat passed under the open drawbridge. He smelled the strong odor of a petroleum product. His car was parked about halfway between the open span, and the island. About the same time, the ship's Chief Engineer and Second Asst. Engineer were ashore at the aviation terminal, near the first storage tank. They smelled an usually strong odor of gasoline.

Meanwhile, three men in a 14-foot wooden boat were fishing near the railroad bridge. They also smelled the leaking fuel, that was now floating on the river's surface. As their eyes started burning and their breathing became difficult from the fumes, they untied their boat and headed under the trestle. As they approached the highway bridge, the boat struck a wire cable hanging in the water. The collision stopped their boat, which contained a lighted gasoline lantern in the bottom of the craft. There was a flash, and then a fire started. The three men jumped into the water, and were carried by the tide back to the railroad bridge. Each escaped safely.

The fire on the fishing boat occurred about 6:50 p.m. The flames ignited the gas in the water. In a matter of seconds, blue flames spread some 500 yards and reached the tanker. Within minutes, the bow section of the ship was enveloped in flames.

Having seen the flames spreading on the water, the ship's Engineer and Second Asst. Engineer boarded the vessel, and went straight to the engine room. The general alarm sounded as the two reached the engine room. With the watch personnel, they prepared to get the Potomac moving. The vessel's fire pump was started, and ventilation fans were secured. With the engine turning 60 RPM astern, the ship was rocked by a terrific jolt.

At 6:55 p.m., vapors in the forward empty tanks ignited, causing the first of two violent explosions. This intensified the fire aboard the ship. About ten minutes later, a second explosion occurred as vapors in the aft tanks ignited. The explosions sent burning gas and jet fuel into the water. Black smoke and boiling flames shot more than 1,000 feet into the dusk sky. The force of the explosion bent a warehouse at the nearby State Port Terminals, and even knocked people from chairs at the Morehead City police station two miles to the west. [Click to enlarge:](#)



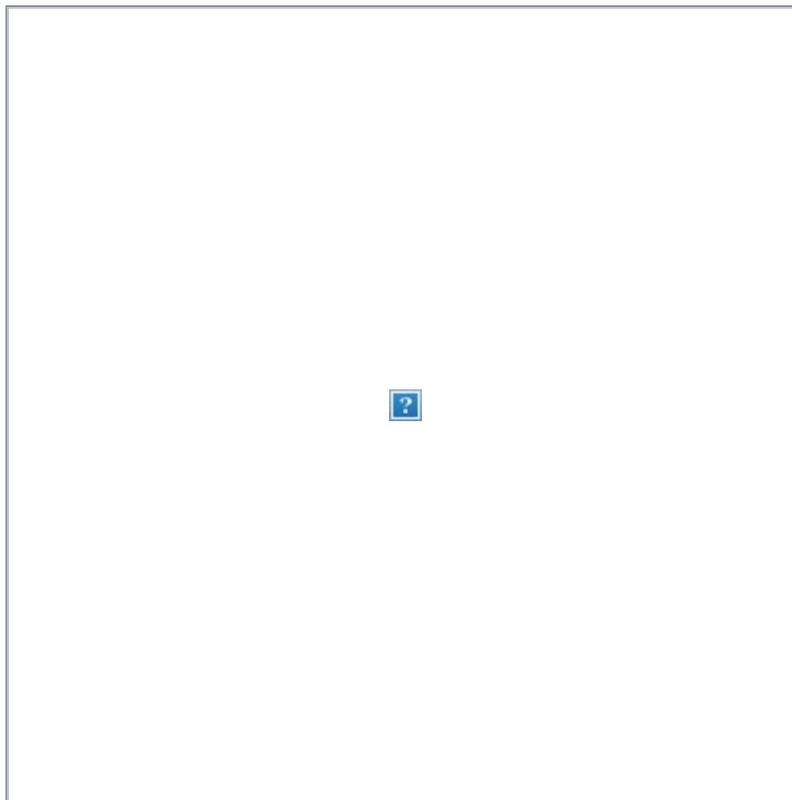
*Carteret County History Place photo*

Twenty of the 44 crewmen were aboard at the time of the explosion. On orders of the skipper, they abandoned ship using the gangplank, or by leaping into the water. One crew member was killed, a seaman later found floating fully clothed and wearing a life preserver. The second crew member, the Radio Officer, who had been directly above the fire in the wheelhouse, was never found. Another 24 seamen were injured, as were three fishermen who received first- and second-degree burns from the flaming fuel that shot several hundred yards by the explosion.

Seven crew members were rescued by the crew of the charter fishing boat Bonnie Too. It braved the blaze, came in close to the stern, and fished the men from the water. The seven were taken to the Morehead City waterfront, to an ambulance waiting by Capt. Bill's. Five other crew members were rescued by a 30-foot Coast Guard patrol boat from nearby Fort Macon. Helicopters soon also circled the scene, looking for survivors.

The four men aboard the Bonnie Too would receive many awards and letters of commendation, including the Andrew Carnegie Endowment Medal. The boat's captain also received the Coast Guard Silver Medal of Heroism. The operator of the Coast Guard patrol boat was also recognized by the Coast Guard for heroism in the face of hazardous conditions.

For almost an hour, the Potomac's whistle blew, as it burned. Click to enlarge:



Other vessels were threatened by the burning fuel, which was carried by the tide and the current. One vessel, an asphalt carrier, was docked at the port, but refused permission to depart, due to the hazard. The railroad bridge also caught fire several times, and 50 feet of a nearby pier was burned.

An employee of the Beaufort & Morehead Railway, which operated a small railroad line between the towns, braved the danger to tow several loaded tank cars to safety. When he returned with locomotive for a second set, he was stopped by police.

The port was soon closed to shipping, though the harbor was filling with fire and rescue vessels. They included the Coast Guard cutter Chilula and a Navy destroyer. Outside the harbor, other ships arrived and stood by, including the aircraft carrier Valley Forge, and two Navy Landing Ship Docks (LSDs).

The Chilulua arrived at 12:03 a.m., and found heavy fire forward of the midships, and considerable fire in the stern. The cutter approached as close as possible, with their fire hoses spraying over the side, fighting the fire on the water adjacent to the Potomac. The Chilulua was designated "on scene command" continued its firefighting efforts through the morning. They made several passes along the tanker, with only five to eight feet separating the ships.

Between 4:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., small boats from the USS Valley Forge, the USS Lindenwald, and USS Terrebonne Parish assisted the Chilula. Fire crews from the various vessels boarded the Chilula, which returned to the Potomac and applied blankets of foam to the midship and stern sections. At 7:40 a.m., a number of Navy units in small boats left the port terminal, to extinguish the many small fires on the water.

Newspapers reported that more than 3,000 civilian and military firefighters from across eastern North Carolina responded to the scene. Some of the firefighters were from fire departments nearly 200 miles away. Ashore, crews worked to prevent the ship and its burning contents from

spreading to the nearby fuel storage tanks. When "heavy firefighting equipment" from Cherry Point Marine Air Station in Havelock arrived, foam was then applied. Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville also sent firefighting equipment.

Over 10 million gallons of aviation fuel was stored on Radio Island, and the three-story high tanks were about 400 yards from the ship. Nearly 5 million gallons of water were applied to the tanks during the first 24 hours of the incident.

As flames leapt hundreds of feet into the air, the column of smoke could be seen from as far away as New Bern. Within a couple hours, the ship had settled into 20 feet of water. Split in two sections, the wreckage was described as a "red hot hunk of steel."



*Carteret County News-Times photo*

Residents of Morehead City feared the fire would spread to the waterfront. The Morehead City-Beaufort causeway was evacuated, with the National Guard patrolling the area and helping to direct traffic.

On Wednesday, Sept. 27, the tanker and surrounding fuel were still burning. Military personnel and fire equipment continued to keep the flames controlled with foam. On the river, when the flaming fuel began to spread, crews climbed back into their boat and pushed the burning slick back with foam. Though the fire was no longer seen as a threat to the nearby storage tanks, crews resumed spraying them that night.

By Friday, Sept. 29, crews had pulled their boats alongside the partly sunken tanker, and dumped foam on the remaining flames. The port was opened on a limited basis.

The wreckage was still burning on Saturday, Sep. 30, and was still considered a threat. The strong odor of gasoline fumes spread through the area, as oil floated on the river. Fire danger was highest during the afternoon flood time. The highway bridge was closed between 2 and 3 p.m. Warnings were issued against open flames or smoking in the port area, or near the bridge.

The ship had been sufficiently cooled, however, to allow boarding. Navy and Coast Guard officials went aboard her stern, and examined the engine and other equipment.

Salvage operations started Sunday morning, Oct. 1, though some fires still burned. The ship and her cargo were considered a total loss. The aviation terminal doc facilities were also extensively damaged by the fire. The fire was finally considered extinguished at 4:35 p.m. that day.

The ship's blackened stern sat in the channel for a year, until it was finally towed away in October 1963. It was transported to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, where it was dry-docked. The stern was rebuilt and became part of the tanker Shenandoah.

The bow of the burned ship remained in the Morehead City harbor until April 1963.

#### Sources:

- *Carteret County News-Times*, Sep 23, 1966; Sep. 28, 2008.
- *News & Observer*, Sep. 27, 28, 29, 30; Oct 1, 2, 1961.
- *Raleigh Times*, Sep. 27, 29, 30, 1961.
- United States Coast Guard, Marine Board of Investigation; fire and explosion on board the USNS Potomac, at Morehead City, North Carolina, on 26 September 1961 with loss of life, May 16, 1963.

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Let's consider the above narrative a draft version. I'll do another pass at another time.

**Legeros** - 04/04/09 - 16:41

Related documentation, that we'll incorporate into the revised version of this story.

USCG medal awarded to Howard Robinson Jones, for heroic actions. <http://www.uscg.mil/history/awards/CGMed..> (scroll to bottom of page)

Marine Board of Investigation report of incident. <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/docs/boards/p..>

Plus this commemorative story, from the Carteret County News-Times: <http://www.carteretnewstimes.com/article..>

**Legeros** - 04/04/09 - 22:05

Second, better version posted. Might need one more pass.

**Legeros** - 04/10/09 - 17:09

If you haven't seen it, the "Images of America" book about Morehead City has some really good photos of this event, both that night and the following days.

**Olson** - 04/15/09 - 22:57

The party boat which helped in the rescue of ship personnel was the Bunnie Too, the captain also named a daughter bunnie.

**James L. Freeman** ([Email](#)) - 01/07/12 - 17:10

i was there on radio island when she blew – we marines were waiting for the USS Lindenwald LSD-6 to come in to pick us up for a caribbean cruise- we saw several people get blown off the ship when they ordered us to grab whatever vehicles we could drive and start evacuation of Moorehead City- After they were able to pull the ship away from the dock our ship came in and we loaded up our gear to cruise off- as we passed the still smoking ship we marines stood on the port deck and saluted her as we passed- I'll never forget this- ed snyder 2nd comm/2nd shore party/ 2nd FMF –

**ed snyder** ([Email](#)) - 01/23/14 - 11:45

My fathers Tugboat, helped to tow her away from the MHC Port. I lived on Shackleford Street.

**CAROLYN W JUBB** - 06/16/18 - 15:01

My wife, a child and inside her home at the time that was over 4 kilometers away, remembers being shaken by the explosion. Here's a link to photos of the ship burning: <https://goo.gl/8R5hiZ>

**Charles Leeuwenburg** ([Email](#)) - 01/04/19 - 11:24

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preferred)

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## Small Eastern NC Fire Department Hopes to Win Big Truck

04/05/09 130 W - + 15 - 10

From a reader, [here's a WRAL story](#) about the Powellville Fire Department in Bertie County, which is one of seven finalists for a free fire truck from E-One. They're hoping to replace a Howe pumper purchased in 1972. The Chief's wife submitted an essay, one of 651 received by E-One. The story notes that Bertie County is the state's second largest, but also one of the poorest. PFD receives \$10,000 annually from the county, which just covers its \$9,000 insurance costs. The department's most recent fundraiser cooked 5,300 pounds of pork in 20 cookers and sold every bit. PFD answers about 30 calls a year, and serves as a severe-weather shelter and distribution center. [Visit the E-One site to read their story and vote online](#) through April 24.

Guys go vote and lets help out a fellow NC department.

**Apex Batt Chief** - 04/05/09 - 09:04

"PFD receives \$10,000 annually from the county, which just covers its \$90,000 insurance costs." This doesn't add up, also it's insurance.

**Kurt** - 04/05/09 - 09:38

Corrected to \$9,000 insurance. Thanks for catching both errors.

**Legeros** - 04/05/09 - 09:41

And... per Firenews.net the Powellville FD won the contest. Glad my vote counted for something!

**Luke** - 04/24/09 - 23:00

Mine too. Congrats to them

**Olson** - 04/26/09 - 18:51

I worked in that area... all the departments up there need help... I'm glad my vote helped.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 04/26/09 - 23:37

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

## Biggest Fires Ever in North Carolina?

04/05/09 574 W - + 17 - 13

It is said that nearly every city and town in the state has suffered at least one devastating fire. These conflagrations of the 1800s and early 1990s typically destroyed dozens or even hundreds of buildings, usually in a business district or the center of town. With improvements in fire protection in the 1910s and 1920s forward, the state's biggest fires shrank in scope, though "big ones" still continued to happen. Below is a starter list of the biggest fires ever in North Carolina. This **excludes** deadliest fires, which are [logged in this database](#). What big honkin' fires do you know about? Please add, correct, comment, or send details in private messages! Let's document yet another piece of our state's fire history.

### 1900-present

- 1900 - Washington - Business district destroyed.
- 1900, Sep. 14 - Washington, several blocks destroyed.
- 1902 - Clinton - Entire southern section of town, including 43 stores.
- 1911, Jun. 12 - Apex (Wake County) - Business district destroyed.
- 1913, Feb. 6 - Rolesville (Wake County) - Business section of town, ten buildings destroyed.
- 1914, Mar. 23 - Durham - Large portion of business district destroyed.
- 1918, July 2 - Charlotte - 48 homes, 250 homeless, started on Caldwell Street.
- 1922, Dec 1. - New Bern, destroyed 40 blocks and left 3,000 people homeless.
- 1923, Fall - Blowing Rock - large part of business district. Led to formation of fire department.
- 1934, Jan. 28 - Wrightsville Beach, northern end of island.
- 1935, Jun. 22 - Washington, Moss Planning Mill Company. Five commercial buildings and four homes destroyed, and one firefighter killed
- 1936, May - Lexington, United Furniture Corporation. Fire fought over 12 hours.
- 1940, Feb. 7 - Knightdale (Wake County) - Business section of town. Six structures destroyed.
- 1941 - Newport (Carteret County), business district.
- 1946, Mar. 7 - Fuquay Springs (Wake County) - Main block of downtown. Four businesses destroyed, five others damaged.
- 1953 - Mar. 9 - Wilmington - Warehouses and other buildings.
- 1961, Sep. 26 - Morehead City - Navy tanker explodes and burns in Newport River, at Radio Island aviation fuel farm.
- 1969, Apr. - Asheville - Bank of Asheville and Dunham's Music House buildings downtown.
- 1985, Apr 13 - Greensboro - Seven buildings at 300 S. Davie Street.
- 1998, Aug. 27 - Winston-Salem - R.J. Reynolds Plant #256, 13 engines, 5 ladders, 9 hours to control.
- 2003, Jan. 29 - Kinston - West Pharmaceutical Plant explosion and fire. Over half of 150,000 square-foot plant destroyed.
- 2003, Sep. 3 - Swannanoa (Buncombe County)- Beacon Manufacturing Plant, 32 fire departments, 24 engines, 7 ladders, 7 tankers, 522 personnel.
- 2007, Feb 22 - Raleigh - Townhouse community, 27 destroyed, 11 damaged, 72 people displaced.

### 1800-1899

- 1816, June 11 - Raleigh, 51 buildings in first two blocks of Fayetteville Street.
- 1819, Nov. - Wilmington - Large section of town.
- 1831, May 29 - Fayetteville - Over 600 structures.
- 1835, 1837, 1843 - New Bern - Several blocks destroyed each time.
- 1849, Jan. - Greensboro - Business district destroyed.
- 1854, Dec. 18 - Statesville, half of town destroyed or damaged.
- 1860s - Washington - Large part of town, after Northern troops set fire to stockpile of naval stores.
- 1864, Nov. 19 - Fire on wharf destroys more than 20 buildings.
- 1869, Sep. 4 - Goldsboro - Wayne House, Masonic Hall, lumberyard, ten warehouses. Source: NYT.
- 1872 - Greensboro - Larger portion of town.
- 1873, Apr. 6 - Enfield - Two railroad warehouses, and other structures.
- 1880, Dec. 1 - Durham - Half of the town, loss over \$200,00. Source: NYT.

- 1886 - Wilmington - Waterfront fire, burned for several days, destroyed many buildings.
- 1886, Nov. 16 - Durham - Large portion of town destroyed.
- 1887, Mar. 27 - Clinton - 49 dwellings, started in F. Reichmann's store.
- 1888 - Durham - Two fires, each destroyed two blocks or more.
- 1892, Jan 7 - Raleigh, 30 buildings.
- 1892, Oct. 5 - Clinton - Entire block of Wall Street.

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Mike,

I believe one of the largest fires in Moore County was the Robbins Mill Fire on 08/17/2008. Firefighters from at least 45 fire departments from five counties fought a very large inferno all day Sunday at a former textile plant near downtown Robbins

**Ted Horvath** ([Email](#)) - 04/06/09 - 12:56

The OSFM newsletter "Fire and Rescue Journal" recalls a number of big fires and major incidents, over several issues. Access the newsletter here: [http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/publications\\_o..](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/publications_o..)

Winter 2005 – May 1925 – Coal Glen-Farmville mine disaster

Fall 2005 – May 25, 1979 – Shelby, explosion and fire that killed four firefighters and destroyed one block. Also referenced: Central Hotel fire of Feb. 23, 1928, First National Bank collapse on Aug. 28, 1928, and Kendall Drug fire on Mar. 7, 1950.

Winter 2007 – Oct. 4, 1989 – Swepsonville, fire at old Virginia Mills plant.

Spring 2007 – Mar. 28, 2006 – Eden, fire at Draper Inn Boarding House.

Summer 2007 – Sep. 3, 2003 – Swannanoa, fire at old Beacon Manufacturing plant.

Winter 2008 – Aug. 28, 1998 – Winston-Salem, fire at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Building 256.

Spring 2008 – Dec. 23, 1964 – Burlington, major fire downtown. Also referenced: downtown fire of 1918.

**Legeros** - 04/06/09 - 20:13

Few more...

1890 – Thomasville, nearly every business on East Main Street.

1899, May 5 – Greenville, 25 stores and offices.

1907, Apr. 7 – Salisbury, five manufacturing plants.

1912 – Black Mountain, most of downtown business district around Depot and Cherry streets.

1944, Apr. 8 – Pasquotank County, Forman-Derrickson Lumber Company. \$450,000 loss.

1949, Jan. 21 – Wilmington, Orton Hotel, plus six adjacent buildings, \$399,298 loss.

1956, Feb. 14 – Winston-Salem, B. F. Huntley furniture plant, \$1,490,000 loss.

**Legeros** - 04/12/09 - 16:18

**Charlotte Fire Museum Closing Its Doors**

04/05/09 155 W, 1 I - + 17 - 16

Today's *Charlotte Observer* reports the regrettable news that the Charlotte Fire Museum is closing. Located at Old Station 4 on Fifth Street, their last day is April 30. [As the article notes](#), the museum is closing after its directors learned that the new property owners wanted to raise the rent. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Fire Education Center and Museum opened in 2002, five years after firefighters started the initiative. Since that time, they've been open three days a week for tours and birthday parties. What becomes of the many antiques items and pictures presently filling the facility? They'll be returned to firefighters, retirees, or family members, or stored at firehouses. [Read the article](#). In December, Yours Truly took a day trip to photograph the museum. [Tour the museum through pictures](#). The three rigs shown below and in the photo set are, left to right, a 1948 Mack, a 1971 Seagrave, and a 1928 American LaFrance.



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**North Carolina Fire Department Statistics, 1940**

04/07/09 121 W, 3 I - + 20 - 14

Here's a treat from the conference proceedings of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association in 1941. This is a [summary of fiire equipment](#) as reported to the state Insurance Commissioner as of October 1, 1940. Cary, population 1,141, had 15 volunteers, 1 paid fireman, 1 auto hose truck, 1,800 feet of hose, and a siren alarm system. Chapel Hill, population 3,654, had 19 volunteers, 2 paid firemen, 1 pumper, 750 GPM capacity, 1,900 feet of hose, and a Gamewell alarm system. Durham, population 60,195, had 65 paid firemen, 1 aerial truck, 1 ladder truck, 5 pumpers, 4,400 GPM capacity, 14,000 feet of hose, and a Gamewell alarm system. Raleigh, population 46,897, had 51 paid firemen, 1 aerial truck, 1 service ladder truck, 5 pumpers, 4,000 GPM capacity, 9,500 feet of hose, and a Gamewell alarm system. [View the report in PDF format](#)

**ABSTRACT FROM STATISTICIAN'S REPORT — AUG. 7, 1941**  
 Summary of the Fire Fighting Equipment in Various Cities and Towns of the State of North Carolina as Reported to the Insurance Commissioner as of October 1, 1940.

Cities and Towns	Population 1940 Census	Volunteer Firemen	Paid Firemen	Aerial Trucks	Ladder Trucks	Auto Hose Trucks	Auto Hose Truck Capacity	Combination Pumps	Pumping Capacity Gallons	Head Reels	Head Reel Capacity	Number Feet Fire Hose	Alarm System	Total Value All Equipment
Aberdeen	1676	18						2	999	1	500	3050	Sirene	\$ 13,000
Absheke	2313	10	2			2	1500	2	850			3000	Telephone	13,900
Albemarle	4960	20						2	1150			4400	Telephone	15,000
Andrews	1520	20						1	400			1800	Sirene	4,900
Angier	1928	26				1	500					1700	Telephone	4,800
Apex	977	26						2	1600			2900	Sirene	4,900
Ashboro	6381	26	3					2	1200			3500	Sirene	23,000
Ashville	51310	26	66	1	1			7	3500			13550	Gamewell	32,500
Ayden	1884	25						1	500	1	300	1900	Telephone	8,600
Beaufort	2272	44	1					3	1850			3200	Gamewell	23,000
Belhaven	2369	38			1			1	300			2300	Sirene	6,000
Beason	1827	10						1	500			3050	Sirene	2,300
Belmont	4526	12	1			1	1200	1	600			2500	Sirene	8,500
Bessemer City	2047	12				1	500			1	500	1400	Sirene	7,500
Bethel	1322	12						1	500	1	500	1500	Sirene	4,000
Blithers Forest	476	20						1	250			2250	Gamewell	4,900
Black Mountain	1942	52	1					1	750			1900	Gamewell	12,000
Blowing Rock	654	20				1	1000					1400	Sirene	3,750
Boone	1728	14	1					1	200	1	500	1400	Telephone	9,900
Brevard	2061	15	2					1	750			1500	Sirene	7,900
Bryson City	1612	18						2	700			4000	Sirene	6,800

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## North Carolina Fire Department Statistics, 1915

04/07/09 101 W, 1 I - + 9 - 14

Let's leap farther back in time, to a report on the state's fire departments in 1915. This again is a statistician's report from the proceedings of the North Carolina State Fireman's Association. That year, Chapel Hill, population 1,500, had 19 volunteers, 1 paid member, 1 motor apparatus, 1 horse-drawn apparatus, 1 horse, and a bell as an alarm system. Durham, population 24,000, had 26 paid members, 4 fire companies, 4 pieces of motor apparatus, 2 pieces of horse-drawn apparatus, 2 horses, and an electric fire alarm system. Raleigh, population 30,000, had 28 paid members, 3 fire companies, no apparatus details, and an electric fire alarm system. [View the report in PDF format](#) .

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

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## Learning About Live Fire Training

04/08/09 73 W - + 16 - 14

From the *Chapel Hill News*, here's a story of [spending a day in the life of a firefighter](#), during live fire training with the Orange Rural Fire Department. The article writer wore the gear and went inside the structure, during a live burn in Hillsborough. On a recent Saturday, they were burning three houses on lots that Habitat For Humanity of Orange County was clearing. [Read the article.](#)

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**Orange Rescue Squad Sues County, ES Director**

04/08/09 81 W - + 16 - 11

Speaking of Orange County, the *News & Observer* reports that the Orange County Rescue Squad has filed a lawsuit against the county and the Emergency Services Director. Last summer, the squad was banned from responding to emergency calls. The suit claims the allegations leading to the ban are false, and demands compensation. The suit also includes a "class action" claim, for those affected by the actions against the squad. [Read the article.](#)

Get `em!

**ncff** - 04/09/09 - 07:52

So lemme guess how morale is in the Public Safety Dept in good Ol' Orange county these days...  
Interesting development in this situation...

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 04/09/09 - 11:33

Name: (real name preferred)  
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## Remembering Mill Hill

04/08/09 160 W, 1 I - + 7 - 20

On a Saturday afternoon in March, 1985, two houses in the 1100 block of Harp Street burned for about three and half hours. The structures, at 1102 and 1104 Harp Street, were a total loss. They were also the last two houses in the community called Mill Hill. One was being demolished, and the other was due. Until the prior summer, Mill Hill comprised 84 buildings on 13 acres behind Peace College. Most of the structures dated to the 1890s, and were homes for workers at Pilot Mills on Haynes Street. The mill closed in 1982, and the buildings were demolished within a couple years. [Here's a nifty page of history about the area](#). It includes a Sanborn Insurance Map except, shown below, erroneously labeled as a Sanford map. Maybe they were thinking of the old Redd Foxx sitcom. That old, fish-eyed fool. [Here's a modern aerial view](#). Looks a lot like the original site! Source: *Raleigh Times*, March 18, 1985.



Name: (real name  
preferred)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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**Bomber Crashes, Charlotte, Henderson, 1944**

04/08/09 253 W - + 17 - 12

On Nov. 30, 1944, a B-17 Flying Fortress crash landed in Charlotte, on a section of Southern Railway tracks, and trapped five Army fliers inside. Next, a fast-moving passenger train came round the proverbial bend, and was bearing down on the crashed craft in the rain and fog. A quick-thinking Eastern Airlines employee (a.) grabbed a broom, in (b.) a nearby guard house, (c.) lighted same from the stove, (d.) ran to a track worker, (e.) gave him the burning broom, (f.) so he signaled the train, and (g.) averted a deadly collision. Said the train's engineer, "there wasn't room for the thickness of my finger between my train and that plane." The aircraft was subsequently cut in half, to allow the train to pass.

On Dec. 13, 1944, a B-24 Liberator was heard circling over Henderson about 8 p.m. No lights were seen from the plane. Some minutes later, a "tremendous flash" was seen in the sky above the Henderson-Oxford Highway. The plane crashed near the highway, four miles from town, and set both the brush and trees on fire, on both sides of the roadway. People gathered at the scene, and fought the fire to prevent the nearby homes from catching. The crew of seven had bailed out of the plane, and three had been accounted for within two hours of the crash. All were presumed safe. The plane was on a routine training flight, from Langley Field, VA. Sources: *News & Observer*, 12/1, 12/14, 1944.

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**Unusual Fires, Part 3**

04/08/09 343 W - + 13 - 18

Third and last installment of "unusual fires" from around the state, from the late 1950s and early 1960s. These are quotes from fire reports to the State Insurance Commissioner's office, compiled by the North Carolina State Firemen's Association Statistician, and excerpted from conference proceedings:

- Poured gasoline on hot exhaust pipe, damage \$750.
- Playing cards in cotton gin room, using candles, damage \$275.
- Men fighting in dwelling knocked over oil stove starting fire, late reporting fire, and it spread to house next door, damage \$2,250.
  
- Boys smoking in barn, damage \$1,100.
- Occupant emptied hot ashes into paper box, loss \$1,204.
- Penny behind fuse, electric short caused cafe and apartment fire, loss \$19,000.
  
- Short circuit in motor, burned dairy barn, loss \$40,000.
- Hot grease from barbecued pigs ignited, loss \$2,150.
- Nail driven through electric light wire, loss \$1,750.
  
- Painter using blow torch, damage \$2,044.
- Thawing water pipes with burning newspaper, loss \$600.
- Short in wiring on electric bag company sewing machine, \$1,493.
  
- Spontaneous combustion, due to poor housekeeping, loss \$2,578.
- Spontaneous combustion, bag of ladies hose in closet, loss \$1,350.
- Careless disposal of cigarette, country club, loss \$230,000. (One cigarette caused nearly a quarter million dollar loss.)
  
- Lighted cigarette carried into birds nest, damage \$737.
- Family left electric roaster plugged in while they went away for weekend, \$3,500.
- Owner struck match in darkness to find light switch, gas fumes ignited, damage \$4,000.
  
- Electric iron on couch, damage \$500.
- Painters burned wasp nest near eaves of house, damage \$5,000.
- One jet airplane crashed near a school, damage to school property \$36,400.
  
- Sun shining through acid jugs, damage \$1,200.
- Child drying hair on sofa, damage to furnishings \$973.
- Cigarette carried to attic by pigeon, result \$2,600 damage.
  
- Smoking in closet while looking for clothing, damage \$1,600.
- Occupant put broom in stove, too out and laid on trunk, damage \$1,441.
- Heating oil to pop corn on stove, went off and forgot about it, damage \$11,716.66.
  
- Sanding floors, lady lit cigarette, cost \$700.;
- Automobile ran through house, damage \$1,218.
- Overhead motor on a cash register, loss \$50,000.
  
- Pile of shucks and corn cobs in alley behind roller mill, probably illegal parker dropped cigarette, loss \$130,000.

Stupidity + People = Job security

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 04/09/09 - 04:55

Name: (real name  
preferred)

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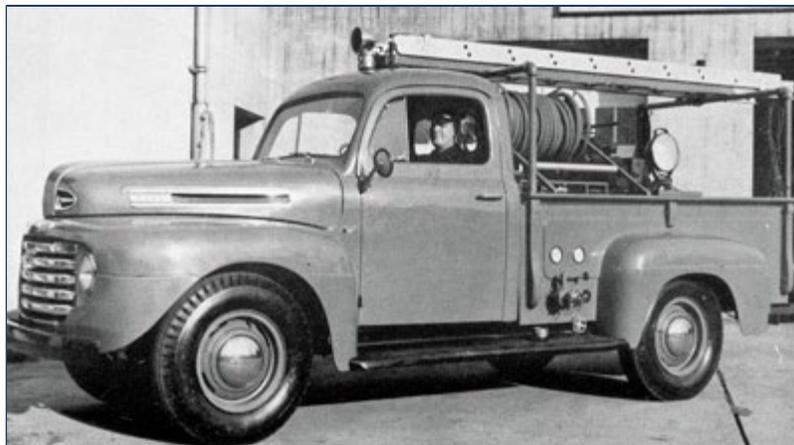
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**Auxiliary Truck**

04/10/09 165 W, 1 I - + 10 - 15

For your Friday enjoyment, here's a nice picture of Raleigh's second mini pumper. The first one, a Dodge half-ton truck, operated from around 1944 until destroyed in an accident in 1947. Below is its replacement, a 1948 Ford F3 "auxiliary truck" or "squad truck." It was equipped with a booster pump, booster reel, and water tank. It also had a ladder, a coil of rope (or is that an extension cord?), a spotlight, and presumably a power source. Wonder what else it carried? The truck was assigned two personnel, and responded to small fires. It was also dispatched to all structure fires, and, for a period, may have been the lone unit dispatched to fires of all sizes in the county. It was housed at stations 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7 over the years. The squad was still in service into the 1970s. This posed photo was scanned from an annual report of the city, hence the reduced quality. Click once or twice to enlarge:



What's the origin of this truck's predecessor? Perhaps it was due to wartime staffing reductions, thus allowing the response of a "reduced staffing unit." Or perhaps it was originally conceived for the city's auxiliary firefighters, the citizen fire companies that were organized and trained for assisting in the event of enemy attack. Or maybe they got the idea from the Durham, which operated a similar-style unit, model year 1942 (right year?). Still researching this.

**Legeros** - 04/10/09 - 07:08

I wouldn't know what the rationale was back in the 40s ([probably the non-availability of personnel due to wartime conditions) but I remember the rationale of the 70s- \$\$\$\$\$.

According to statistical data available back then, it seemed that the vast majority of all fires were extinguished with less than 200-250 gallons of water and at low flows. Hence the idea that a department could send one of these little trucks out, with a crew of two, and save money for personnel (only need a driver for the engine) and wear and tear on the big trucks (all of the major apparatus builders around that time were putting out some pretty non-durable apparatus).

There were departments in this area that, since they could not afford a true mini-pumper, thought they could substitute a brush truck for a mini-pumper. I know of four departments within the local area that responded brush trucks out as a first in unit on everything.

And during the 70s and 80s (and into the 90s), there were lots of foundations and chimneys standing around.

Fire Chief magazine had several articles published by the late Chief Donald Loeb on mini pumpers. Probably the most successful program was in Syracuse (NY). They paired their mini-pumpers (IHC chassis, 300 gallons of water, 475 gpm pump I think) with a mxi-pumper (standard pumper with lots of handlines and a 55' TELESQURT). As I recall there were three personnel assigned to the mxi and two to the mini. The Syracuse set up was also covered in a two-part article by Chief Loeb.

I don't think that true mini-pumpers caught on around here. I know that Six Forks had one, New Hope had one, Township Six had one, and Emerald Isle had one.

**DJ** - 04/10/09 - 09:34

That'd be one sweet ride to have today in your toy garage.

**Olson** - 04/15/09 - 22:59

Name: (real name preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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## Mystery Building

04/11/09 38 W, 1 I - + 14 - 14

What is it, and where is it? Hint, it's above ground. For extra credit, tell more about the thing. When was it built? How big, tall, or wide is the thing? What's its history?



That is the south side of the Wake County Courthouse, looking up from between the Wake County Office Building and the Courthouse, at the skywalk connecting the 6th floor of both buildings.

When was it built? I have no clue. How big, tall, or wide is it? No idea. I do know that walking though it is a great way to drop all cell phone service.

Now, where's my prize?

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 04/11/09 - 15:08

So far all I have found is:

Floors 12

Construction end 1970

Architect:

Olsen Associates

**stretch** - 04/11/09 - 18:39

Don't forget to query the county real estate records, <http://services.wakegov.com/realestate/A..>

276,300 heated square feet

Full basement

Reinforced concrete exterior

Heating **and** air conditioning!

**Legeros** - 04/11/09 - 20:15

So, Mike, even though I didn't get the extra credit, I got the question right... when can I expect my prize?

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 04/11/09 - 21:18

To claim your prize, a free subscription to the blog, click your browser's Refresh button. Thanks for playing.

**Legeros** - 04/11/09 - 22:11

And I was hoping for my year's supply of breathing air...

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 04/12/09 - 00:13

i never got my year's supply of breathing air either, for last week's surprise Russian test – still holding my breath here -hmmmm

**cornerhydrant** - 04/12/09 - 00:41

ps – i was told we are not allowed to photograph the building (troublemaker that i am)

**cornerhydrant** - 04/12/09 - 00:43

If Big Brother objected to every photograph of that building, then Google Earth would never have it on their application... I just don't think they want you walking around it snapping every angle.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 04/12/09 - 11:14

doesn't google earth have everything on it? got reprimanded personally, and told to watch out in the future

**cornerhydrant** - 04/12/09 - 15:16

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
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**Watch Desk > What's News?**

04/12/09 83 W - + 18 - 13

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Let's see if we can generate some participation on the Raleigh-Durham forum on the Watch Desk with an [open thread on what's news](#). e.g., the latest on new deliveries, station construction, department news, etc. City and county and towns and rural departments, and anywhere in-between. Post over there, versus over here. You'll be able to edit and even delete your replies. You can even add e-mail alerts, to be notified when replies are posted! [Go to that thread](#).

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## New Pierce Pumpers For Raleigh

04/12/09 83 W, 1 I - + 15 - 11

Pierce has posted photos of Raleigh's newest engines, a pair of Arrow XT pumpers, 1500 GPM, 500 gallons, with Waterous pumps and Husky foam systems. These are the first Arrow XT engines for the city. Most recently, Raleigh has received Pierce Enforcers. The historical perspective, since the first engine was delivered in 1989: Arrow (4), Lance (2), Dash (2), Sabre (8), Enforcer (7). [See and read more on the Pierce site](#). Two platforms from Pierce are also due later this spring. Click to enlarge:



Nice sharp trucks....glad to see the roll up doors painted red.

Any idea where they will placed in service?

**Buckwheat** - 04/12/09 - 15:14

I like the body colored roll up doors as well.

I've always liked the Arrow XT chassis, one question for the RFD brothers... what is in the diamond tread box on the roof, the one with the single red LED on it?

**CFP 7021** ([Email](#)) - 04/12/09 - 15:49

air condition maybe????

**14 driver** - 04/12/09 - 16:04

Jon. It will still be many many months. It was still at the shop last month waiting to go back to Pierce. Maybe someone can advise if its gone yet or not. Someone said it could be o/o/s for 6-9 months.

**lee** - 04/13/09 - 01:32

There is also a box on the right side of the roof. The shield is slightly different on the door. Theres also a small flag on the side of the cab.

**lee** - 04/13/09 - 01:54

They look great and being a tall guy, I appreciate the raised cab. :) I love a Pierce!

**Leo** ([Web Site](#)) - 04/13/09 - 10:36

Any answer on the box up top? Or is it just a place to mount a warning light?

**ncff** - 04/14/09 - 17:57

Air-conditioning, I believe. See the Arrow XT brochures on the Pierce site.

**Legeros** - 04/14/09 - 18:53

The engines were delivered Monday. They'll be replacing Engine 1 and Engine 20. Old Engine 1 will replace Engine 22. Old Engine 22 and old

Engine 20 will go into reserve.

**Legeros** - 04/14/09 - 19:19

Mike Eng. 22 is not that old in relation to some of the other engines is it???

**[jdkay2839]** - 04/14/09 - 19:29

If my information is correct, it's...

E1 – 2004 American LaFrance Eagle

E20 – 1997 Pierce Saber pumper

E22 – 1997 Pierce Saber pumper

**Legeros** - 04/14/09 - 19:31

From <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/>

**Legeros** - 04/14/09 - 19:34

Interesting replacements. I had heard they were originally going to replace E1 & E13 and 20 would receive old 1 while 22 would receive old 13. Wonder why the sudden change-up? Quite possibly because E13 will soon become E29? Nahhh.

**RescueRanger** - 04/14/09 - 21:00

Miiiggghhhhtttt beeeeeee!!!! Let me pose this question; is it common practice to give your busiest units the newest equipment? Or, is it better (and/or the "right" thing to do) to just put companies on a list and when your time comes up you get a NEW ride? For company pride purposes, my opinion is the latter. Even if you're in the slowest engine company, eventually you'll get a brand new ride versus someone else's rag. I also think, if you know that you're not getting a new ride for, say, 10 years, you're more likely to take care of it. Opinions?

**Silver** - 04/14/09 - 22:15

Silver... I'll agree with option #2, replacing the trucks as they come up on the list to be replaced. That's generally how it is here, there are still some of the busiest trucks waiting for replacement while some of the slowest trucks have new rides.

**Luke** - 04/14/09 - 23:26

I'm with the fire guys on this one, even though I'm in EMS... while there is more ability to truck-swap due to amount of equipment, I'd much rather have a list for replacement, then get someone's old hoopty that is trying to fall apart, while they get a new ride to turn into a POS.

**CJS (Email)** - 04/15/09 - 01:06

Is anyone ever noticed that most of the trucks that break down often, are the the rigs that don't run many fires?

**RT** - 04/15/09 - 01:20

I agree with option #2 as well. You have a sense of pride and ownership for your apparatus and you will tend to care for it more if you know you have to make it last. Additionally, apparatus that's "worked in" does seem to get the job done like no other. I'm sure someone can address this from a financial perspective though. Does it cost more or less to leave apparatus at it's station until the standard replacement period is up regardless of it's run time?

**Car 4** - 04/15/09 - 08:46

Not sure of your point "RT", but if you trace the roots of said apparatus, it more than likely was ragged out before it found its' spot to graze at a slow house.

**Silver** - 04/15/09 - 08:48

If you are looking to achieve a standard "wear out" rate through the average twenty-year life cycle of an apparatus, it does make sense to rotate units from higher volume areas to those that don't run as often. With option #2, you in theory could run a truck into the ground in ten years at one station while at another station, you could probably get 25 years plus out of the same truck. This model would eventually give your busiest houses apparatus that are less dependable, not due to disregard or misuse – they've just been run hard. While your more quiet houses keep a parade unit forever because they just don't see the work. You have to look at it from the perspective of maintaining an overall fleet readiness, rather than station by station. I support rotating units from high demand areas after several years of service to lower demand areas. I think you'll see more of this approach with fiscal tightening in everyones budget. You get the money for a truck – you have to take whatever measures required to ensure you get the years of service you need in return for your investment. This is most evident in situations where the lifespan is anticipated to be 10 or more years and where different station locations experience wide differentials in call volume. I'm sure there are many FDs in America tonite that would like to have 12 year old Pierce Sabers as their reserve fleet.

**Olson** - 04/15/09 - 22:55

I'm going to throw this term out once again...."esprit de corps". It's about company pride folks; if you know in three years you're getting another new ride, why worry about driving habits? If you know that you are going to have this rig for 10 years, you're more apt to take care of it. You speak of years of return in a rig. Engine 20 is a '97 model and is pretty ragged out (12 years of life). Yes, I know some agencies would kill for a 97 model. This isn't about other agencies, it's about us (RFD).

So on your plan Jon, going from a busy house to a slow house (Engine 20), you'll get 12 years out of it. But slow houses get a unit and keep it for 20 years...seems to me that scenario is better for your money.

Oh well, everyone has an opinion. Neither is right or wrong...stay safe.

**Silver** - 04/16/09 - 00:50

One issues that needs to be considered is whether the replacement schedule is solely based on a time frame, or whether it is based on the miles/engine hours of the truck. If you absolutely must keep a truck for a minimum amount of years, then it only makes sense financially to move it to the slower stations to help preserve it. If, however, the schedule is based on miles/hours, then it would not matter if it took E-20 20 years to reach that mileage, or E-1 5 years to reach it....they would both still get a new engine at some point.

**H2O** - 04/16/09 - 11:20

I think that the replacement schedule should be based on miles/engine hours. Yes, this does mean that more than likely the busy houses will get replacements sooner than some of the slower houses. Is it fair that a slower house doesn't get a new truck as often or that they get hand me downs all the time, well no but thats life. Eventually that hand me down will get the miles on it and will be replaced then they will get a new truck. This issue not only relates to RFD Silver, but the to the county also. I don't think these new Pierce Pretenders that the county has choosen will hold up for 20 years, let alone 8-10 years in some county houses. I think that they apparatus committee for the county should consider rotating a truck out to slower county stations after a certain number of miles/engine hours. This will save money and hopefully lead to a longer life out of a truck.

As far as "esprit de corps" Silver, I think that is hard to obtain somewhat in these area departments. This is because personel get transferred to often. I wholeheartedly think that personel should stay at a station for life unless they put in for a transfer or are promoted. But this is completely separate issue.

**Mike** - 04/16/09 - 11:53

I see what you're saying, but, it never works that way. The outer lying companies get the rags most of the time, the busier ones get the new rigs. My opinion, it's sort of a downer for those companies.

As far as transfers, I'd love to see it based on seniority. If I enjoy being at "wherever", then I should have the option to stay. Organize a "bid" type process, do it on seniority, and bid for your spot every few years or whatever. If you get promoted, well, you know there's a chance you're going to get the less desired companies. As you build seniority in rank, you can bid for better companies. If you've worked in a city, you know that some people are better in your "ghetto area", where others just don't need to be down there, and vice-versa. Another way to build "esprit de corps", for the city guys anyway, is to stop referring to your assignment as a "station". Last time I checked, we're all assigned to companies, not stations.

**Silver** - 04/16/09 - 13:45

Personally, I think it just plain makes sense to give the busier companies a new ride just as Mike describes. What sense does it make for 20 to get a brand new ride while E-19 is riding an already wore out Quality that we received as a hand-me down and has twice as many runs as 20?

**RescueRanger** - 04/16/09 - 21:21

I think it make perfect sense. :)

**gen3fire** - 04/16/09 - 21:55

Both Silver and Mike's comments have merit. No one wants to inherit someone else's worn out apparatus and the problems the previous company had with the apparatus now become their's. The best solution is to have a replacement list devised and when the apparatus comes up for replacement then replace it with a new piece of equipment. But the ultimate problem lies solely with the transferring issue. When an individual graduates from the academy their assignment should be their's for their career, unless they promote out or ask for a transfer. Make the transfer request a certain time a year, every year and base the rewarding of the request off seniority. This system is the fairest method. If this is done then it will help to the address the other issue dealing with apparatus replacement and firehouse maintenance.

Individuals want to have pride and tradition within the fire service. But as long as transferring takes place you will never achieve a high level of "esprit de corps" because there is never a sense of ownership. Nobody wants to put their own time, effort, or money into a firehouse or apparatus that they know that they aren't going to be assigned to permanently. If you stop transferring then you create ownership and individuals are more likely to put more pride in the apparatus and house they are assigned to and therefore take better care of both.

**wfd** - 04/17/09 - 09:23

I'm with folks on saying that company assignments are not as long-lasting as they should be, but I draw the line at a career at one place... with the same people... you miss the opportunity to learn new things by going to different places... maybe a 10-year rotation at one place would be a better idea. You still get the ability to have a sense of permanence, and of ownership in the place you live, but with the ability to still see a different place.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 04/17/09 - 09:59

I understand about getting to see different places but that should be up to the individual, that's what the transfer request would cover. If an individual likes where he or she is at then what's the purpose in moving them and possibly transferring them to a house or territory they don't want to be in. If you are at a place you like your moral is going to be high and you are going to really take pride and do the best job possible. If you go somewhere you don't want to be then you aren't going to put as much in your job because you don't want to be there in the first place. Also staying with one crew allows you to learn everyone's strengths and weaknesses and being comfortable with your crew allows the crew to be proficient and to perform their job at the highest level. Also staying at a house a career allows you to know the territory you serve at the highest level which in turn provides the best possible service to the citizens you serve and the citizens deserve that. Switching crews all the time makes it so that you are always starting over and having to relearn all these things again and when you get comfortable, you are moving again. But with that said if staying at a house your career is not a possibility, then 10-years is a good option.

**wfd** ([Email](#)) - 04/17/09 - 11:35

I can see both sides of it... for me, I would not want to see only one place for my career... but I do understand the benefits of working with one crew for the duration.

So, there's pros and cons and in both sides. It all depends on your view.

But back to the main purpose of this thread... they are sharp trucks. I like the roll-up doors painted, and the classic lines of the trucks.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 04/17/09 - 11:47

The trucks do look great. I really like the Arrow XT.

**wfd** ([Email](#)) - 04/17/09 - 12:35

I wish it was like Charlotte in that when a new station opens a brand new piece of equipment is purchased for that station. I am sure I will get to ride on one of those shiny new Pierces in Raleigh but it will be at least 10 years old by then.

**Falls** - 04/19/09 - 17:17

engine 20 is also a beltline company and one of the few left without the foam unit! engine 7 is older and has a lot of miles on it and is surrounded by new engines! For awhile that was a key in where the new engines with the foam went also due to beltline! beltline engines with foam, 9, 11, 12, 8, so now 20 and the only ones left without foam is 16 and 10! I rode on 27 for 3 years and we started with the Pierce and it was past wore out then we got a Pierce Arrow now 125 it was also wore out! Then they got an old quality. So yeah sometimes you need new trucks at slower stations but then again when you are on a busy engine that gets wore out it sucks when you switch out all the time because of your call volume and wear and tear. So it can be a double edge sword! I am just glad we aren't on those open cab macks anymore! good luck and stay safe! love you boys!

**Jason Lane** - 04/19/09 - 18:14

Actually E-10 is the only beltline unit without foam.

**RescueRanger** - 04/19/09 - 19:31

How about 14?

**Silver** - 04/19/09 - 22:00

Hey there...I'm from south Texas and we are looking into an arrow xt. I like the set up and was wondering if I can get a job number from the new engine 11 or engine 13. would love to reference that with my Pierce rep. if any help can be thrown out there I would appreciate it. I know this is an old post but I would love to get that info from one of you guys. thanks a lot....from s.texas

**Jay Dalton** ([Email](#)) - 09/26/11 - 20:53

Thanks for your note, Jay. I will inquire and see if someone can get that for you.

**Legeros** - 09/26/11 - 20:53

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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**Mystery Vehicle**

04/13/09 46 W, 1 I - + 17 - 13

What is it, where is it, why is it? Hint, the thing is used for disaster response. For extra credit, what were the weather conditions at the time of the photograph? Winner sees their winning comment posted.



It's the Rex Hospital Disaster Response Trailer...

Rex ER parking lot... in the same location where the Mobile Imaging trailer usually sits.

Why do they have it? GOK... it may never get used, but my bet is Carter-Finley and RBC Center incidents as a primary and airport incidents as a secondary.

Weather conditions: It is not raining. That much I can say...

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 04/13/09 - 20:37

It's part of the SMAT (State Medical Assistance Team) program, among numerous other things that Rex provides.

**AB** - 04/14/09 - 08:27

weather in the 50s, winds approx 6mph from SE, no precipitation – boy, the prizes get better each week!

**cornerhydrant** - 04/14/09 - 09:32

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - This Afternoon's MVA / « Mystery Vehicle » Another Automobile Re... Davis Drive

### This Afternoon's MVA / Davis Drive

04/13/09 96 W, 1 I - + 16 - 12

Motor-vehicle accident with injuries in Apex at [1343 Davis Drive](#). Loaded dump truck overturned on passenger car. Three patients, one pinned in auto, under the truck. Alarm time 4:06 p.m. Patient extricated 6:00 p.m. Extensive cribbing, shoring, cutting, prying, and lifting, the latter including two enormous wreckers. Transported to nearby WakeMed air ambulance. Units on scene, if recorded correctly, included Apex Engine 1, Rescue 3, Engine 3, Rescue 1, Brush 6 and trench trailer, Battalion 1, Car 1; Cary Engine 5, Ladder 5, Truck 7, Rescue 4, Battalion 2; EMS 51, EMS 55, EMS 54, District 5, and MD 1. Photos by Legeros forthcoming. [Read the WRAL story.](#)



Mike, just so you know the WRAL link goes to Google Maps. Thanks for all you do.

-DHFD

**DHFD** - 04/13/09 - 22:15

Sounded like an excellent response, given the fact that the dump truck was resting on top of the car. How long do most extrications take? The WRAL story mentions that an emergency worker was able to reach the patient while the dump truck was still on top of the car, what type of medical treatment, other than oxygen, would they have been able to give. Again excellent response and prayers for the injured.

**Adam** - 04/13/09 - 22:19

Well, I know me personally, as a (soon-to-be I hope) paramedic, I would try to do a couple of things:

\*\*C-collar – can be done easily, and you can tell the person not to move if they are alert – most patients will not move in these situations, due to pain.

\*\*Oxygen – always in trauma situations

\*\*IV access – Large-bore, and two, if you can...

\*\*ECG monitor – if you can... but a trended vital signs will do better than the monitor will. Also, a BP cuff, watch, stethoscope, and pulse ox will take less room, along with pen and paper.

\*\*Pain management – this is a dicey subject, depending on who you talk to. If you can assess well, find nothing, and have good vital signs, then a small amount of pain management can be considered, especially in a situation like this, where anxiety could be a big factor for the patient.

\*\*Advanced airway management – If it is needed, then you can do it in these situations, especially with the Medical Director on scene, as he

can authorize Rapid Sequence Induction if it is needed. More than one person would be better, but plenty of medics have done RSI with only themselves to do things. Would I want to do it? NO. Could I do it, if I had to? Yes.

The real truth of this is, you can do a lot with a little bit of space, but it takes teamwork and communication from everyone there, especially the person in charge of extrication. It does me no good in the car to try and start an IV, if the extrication team will be punching into the window that I'm closest to.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 04/13/09 - 23:23

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Another Automobile Rescue / National Telecommunications Week**

04/14/09 142 W, 1 I - + 12 - 16

Speaking of extrications, this one made the media rounds last week. Florida woman calls 911. Car won't start. Gasp. Nothing electrical is working. Eek. Doors won't unlock. Help! The dispatcher asks if she can manually unlock the door. Grateful woman exits auto. [Read the Orlando Sentinel story](#). Or [listen to the 911 call](#). It's funny enough and not entirely embarrassing. Sit at a call-taking console for any length of time, and you'll hear people panicking in all sorts of situations.

And on the subject of our friends at the Communications Center, this week is National Telecommunications Week. [Read the city press release](#) that recognizes Kevin Anderson as the Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communciations Center Employee of the Year. Read all about the ECC in their [annual report from 2008](#) . The document is a little large, so wait several seconds for loading.

Psssst....the link about the woman trapped in her car opens to a WRAL page about a dump truck accident!

**Dan** ([Email](#)) - 04/14/09 - 12:02

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## How's Your Web Site Working Out?

04/14/09 223 W - + 11 - 17

Let's turn our attention to ourselves. Web usability, which means, are the other people using your web site actually getting anything out of it? Key word: other people. Not the person or people designing and maintaining the pages, unless they're the sole users of the site. My site looks cool, you say. But is the audience for your web site able to use the thing? Do they get there, try a few links, get frustrated, and go somewhere else? That's the gist of usability. One expert in this field is [Jakob Nielsen](#). He writes a nifty web feature called [Alertbox](#). Two recent postings are pretty interesting. The first examines the [usability of non-profit and charity sites](#). Do people actually perform the desired action, which is donating money? The next one presents findings that, when presenting with a list of links, [users typically see the first two words](#) and that's it. Two words. First 11 characters. So, if you've got links that read "blah blah blah some action," they really should read "some action blah blah blah," or, better, just "some action." Good stuff, both articles. We'll be working on improving our pages at Legeros Central. Do us a favor, and work on yours as well. Everybody wins, when web pages work better.

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial on May 2

04/14/09 107 W, 1 I - + 17 - 13

The Fourth Annual North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial will be held on Saturday, May 2, at [Nash Square in downtown Raleigh](#). The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. and follows Hillsborough Street to Dawson Street. The memorial service starts at 1:00 p.m. Eleven firefighters in North Carolina died in the line of duty in 2008. FireNews has a [list and links](#). For more memorial event information, see [www.ncfff.org](http://www.ncfff.org). The below photo by Legeros is from last year's ceremony. See more photos from past memorials at the [Legeros photo archives](#), or the [Wilson photo archives](#).



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Wreck in Passing**

04/14/09 52 W, 3 I - + 16 - 15

Inner loop of Beltline between Western Boulevard and Hillsborough Street with the double eights, Engine 8 and EMS 8. Alarm time 5:01 p.m. Sorry, didn't stop, was headed to the I-40 wreck with Engine 20 and others. Rain plus traffic equals accidents. Took only 300 shots at the latter! Click to enlarge:



Drive by photography...

**Get down!!** - 04/15/09 - 01:17

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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No

Comment:

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**EMS Worker Says Crawling Into Flattened Cars Is Just Part of Job**

04/14/09 104 W - + 17 - 20

Following yesterday's extended extrication on Davis Drive, after a loaded dump truck overturned on a passenger car, Cary EMS paramedic Lisa Plunkett [talks about the experience to WRAL](#). She's the medic who crawled into the flattened vehicle, to help administer care to the patient. The latter, the 25-year old female subsequently airlifted to WakeMed, was reported in good condition this morning. Kudos to all responders at that scene. [Read the story](#), or watch the [entire interview online](#). Also, all photos from Yours Truly have been posted. Two sets, pre- and post-wrecker arrival.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Pierce Pumpers Delivered**

04/15/09 78 W, 3 I - + 16 - 19

Lee Wilson photographed Raleigh's new Pierce pumpers, which were delivered Monday. The two Arrow XT engines replace Engine 1 and Engine 20. Dig those chevrons, only the second pieces of city fire apparatus to have them. Lee will post these and others later. [See prior thread on this topic](#). Good photos of good looking trucks. And watch for two Arrow XT platforms to be delivered next month. Click once or twice to enlarge:



*Lee Wilson photos*

Is the only red light on the back the led's under the rotators?

**H20** - 04/15/09 - 14:32

Maybe the bottom light of the brake light cluster is an LED flasher too???

**Silver** - 04/15/09 - 14:48

Better off with more amber on the rear than red...

As far as the chevrons go, is it yellow tape on red paint, or yellow tape and red reflective tape?

**harkey** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 04/15/09 - 15:53

If the lighting on the rear follows most of Pierce's packages then yes, the red on the bottom of the signal cluster is for a warning light.

And yes, I too agree that there is a good mixture of amber and red on the back of these rigs and the Chevrons are a welcomed addition. Glad it's finally taking off, and are the correct colors!

**CFP 7021** ([Email](#)) - 04/15/09 - 16:17

Chevrons are tape. See Lee's posted photos.

**Legeros** - 04/16/09 - 06:50

I know the yellow is tape, my question was if the red is base paint or reflective tape?

I **think** the NFPA requirement says both colors should be reflective, but I'm not 100% sure on this.

**harkey** ([Email](#)) - 04/16/09 - 09:06

Both the yellow and the red chevrons are tape.

**Legeros** - 04/16/09 - 12:07

Forgot to say, they look great, regardless of where they're going!!!

**Silver** - 04/16/09 - 13:48

For information... NFPA 1901 (2009ed) "Reflective Striping" excerpt below... Many trucks are perceived as incorrectly striped (i.e. 4" red/white), and they are incorrect per the current standard. However, they were striped from "good intentions" prior to the release of the NFPA 1901 (2009ed.).

15.9.3\* Reflective Striping.

15.9.3.1\* A retroreflective stripe(s) shall be affixed to at least 50 percent of the cab and body length on each side, excluding the pump panel areas, and at least 25 percent of the width of the front of the apparatus.

15.9.3.1.1 The stripe or combination of stripes shall be a minimum of 4 in. (100 mm) in total width.

15.9.3.1.2 The 4 in. (100 mm) wide stripe or combination of stripes shall be permitted to be interrupted by objects (i.e., receptacles, cracks between slats in roll up doors) provided the full stripe is seen as conspicuous when approaching the apparatus.

15.9.3.1.3 A graphic design shall be permitted to replace all or part of the required striping material if the design or combination thereof covers at least the same perimeter length(s) required by 15.9.3.1.

15.9.3.2 At least 50 percent of the rear-facing vertical surfaces, visible from the rear of the apparatus, excluding any pump panel areas not covered by a door, shall be equipped with retroreflective striping in a chevron pattern sloping downward and away from the centerline of the vehicle at an angle of 45 degrees.

15.9.3.2.1 Each stripe in the chevron shall be a single color alternating between red and either yellow, fluorescent yellow, or fluorescent yellow-green.

15.9.3.2.2 Each stripe shall be 6 in. (150 mm) in width.

**A.Rich** - 04/17/09 - 00:19

you mean Stony Hill right?

**wcff** - 04/18/09 - 21:11

Yup, Stoney Hill. Brain damage on a Saturday night kicking in. Sorry

**Jon** - 04/19/09 - 08:42

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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## All Apparatus, All Time

04/15/09 334 W, 1 I - + 15 - 14

Since we're talking fire apparatus, and since this blogger is a historian, let's look back and ponder a question. What brands of fire apparatus have been used in Raleigh and Wake County since the beginning? Meaning, engines, aerials, service ladders, rescue trucks, haz-mat rigs, or specialty pieces. Raleigh is reasonably easy, especially if drawn from this [Apparatus Register web site](#).

- American LaFrance
- American LaFrance/LTI
- Chevrolet
- Chevrolet/Frontline
- Chevrolet/Murphy
- Dodge
- EEI/Pemfab
- Freightliner
- Freightliner/American LaFrance
- Freightliner/Hackney
  
- Ford
- Ford/Reading/Slagle
- FWD
- GMC
- GMC/Alexander
- GMC/Union City
- International
- International/SVI
- Mack
- Mack/American LaFrance
- Mack/Pierce
- Pierce
- Pierce/EEI
- Pirsch
- Quality/Spartan
- Reo
- Seagrave
- Simon-Duplex
- Simon-Duplex/E-One
- Simon-Duplex/LTI
- Spartan/LTI
- Sterling/Hackney
- Volvo/Great Dane

Wake County, including all towns and the airport, is a different challenge. This [master apparatus list](#)  dated 2004 is a good place to start. Readers can add additional information. That is, if inclined.

- American LaFrance
- Autocar
- Chevrolet
- Chevrolet/4 Guys
- Chevrolet/Alexander
- Chevrolet/American LaFrance
- Chevrolet/American/Barton

- Chevrolet/Atlas
- Chevrolet/Bean
- Chevrolet/Darley
- Chevrolet/EEI
- Chevrolet/E-One
- Chevrolet/FMC
- Chevrolet/Howe
- Chevrolet/Pirsch
- Chevrolet/Reading
- Diamond Reo
- Dodge
- Dodge/American LaFrance
- Dodge/Howe
- Duplex/E-One
- E-One
- FMC/Bean
- FMC/Simon-Duplex
- FMC/Spartan
- Ford
- Ford/American LaFrance
- Ford/American/Barton
- Ford/Atlas
- Ford/Bean
- Ford/Darley
- Ford/Darley
- Ford/EEI
- Ford/E-One
- Ford/EVI
- Ford/FMC
- Ford/FMC/Bean
- Ford/Grumman
- Ford/Howe
- Ford/Hunter
- Ford/KME
- Ford/Pierce
- Ford/Quality
- Freightliner
- Freightliner/EEI
- Freightliner/E-One
- Freightliner/S&S
- FWD
- GMC
- GMC/Alexander
- GMC/American LaFrance
- GMC/Darley
- GMC/E-One
- GMC/FMC
- Grumman
- HME
- HME/EVI
- HME/Rescue
- International
- International/4 Guys
- International/ALF

- International/Ansul
- International/Atlas
- International/Bean
- International/E-One
- International/EVI
- International/Howe
- International/Pierce
- Jeep
- Jeep/Hale
- Kenworth
- Kenworth/FMC
- Kenworth/Grumman
- KME
- KME/Grumman
- KME/Hale
- Mack
- Mack/Darley
- Mack/EEI
- Mack/Salisbury
- Nash
- Oshkosh
- Pemfab/Boardman
- Pierce
- Quality/Spartan
- Reo
- Seagrave
- Seagrave/Marion
- Simon-Duplex/Grumman
- Simon-Duplex/LTI
- Simon-Duplex/Salisbury
- Spartan
- Spartan/EEI
- Sterling
- Walter
- Walter/CRES

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Chevrolet/ Ansul. CT-1 (1957 Chev p/u w/ Ansul skid load unit) at RDU up until 1979. Chevrolet/Reading/Ansul from 1979 to late 80s/early 90s at RDU. I drove both of them.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 04/15/09 - 12:01

How about homemade! New Hope Tanker 9 was built by the Department. (Off road tanker with International Chassis) High ground clearance, 250gpm pump. It follows the brush truck in if necessary.

**AB** - 04/16/09 - 13:33

Surely somebody, somewhere had an Oren. Didn't they?

**Firegeezzer** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 04/18/09 - 10:20

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Firematic Flea Market Wanted

04/16/09 134 W - + 18 - 14

Anyone interested in organizing a firematic flea market around here? Yours Truly has perhaps dozens of die-cast fire apparatus models that need new homes. Plus a number of fire books, and some other stuff. With spring cleaning in the air along with all that pollen, perhaps a fire/rescue/EMS garage sale's in order. Or maybe a flea market, if someone's got the indoor/outdoor space? What say readers? Anyone else got crap to unload? I'd rather move everything at once, instead of messing with eBay over weeks or months. And I don't want to start hawking stuff using this blog. Shoot a private message if interested. Maybe we can pull this off, and help un-clutter or re-clutter one another's man caves.

Name: (real name preferred)  
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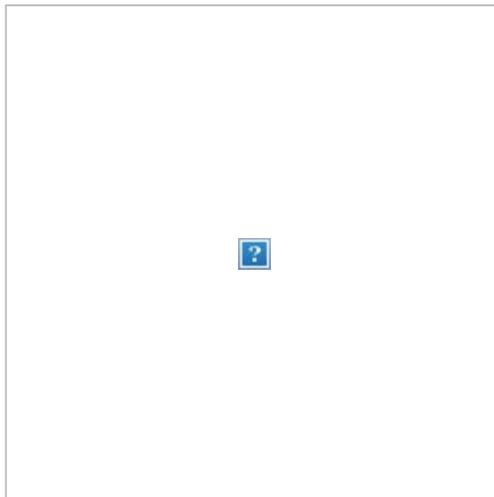
Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

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## Greg Grayson Named New Greensboro Fire Chief

04/16/09 84 W, 1 I - + 20 - 13

[FireNews surfaces the announcement](#) from the *Asheville Citizen-Times* that Greg Grayson has been named the new Greensboro Fire Chief. He starts May 26, and will head a department about twice the size of Asheville's. He's served as Asheville's Fire Chief since 2000, previously led the Burlington Fire Department, was the Wake County Fire and Rescue Director. Greyson replaces Fire Chief Johnny Teeters, who retired last year. [Read the Citizen-Times article](#), or coverage from the Greensboro [News-Record](#). Congratulations, Chief!



An old friend and mentor. He is a great choice and a superb leader. Congratulations to Chief Grayson.

**A.Rich** - 04/17/09 - 00:22

I agree A.C., what a great opportunity for both Chief Grayson and Greensboro FD. He taught my methodology class in Orange Co. back in the early 90's. Surprisingly to me, about 10 years later he came up to me to say hello when we were both at a meeting (in Greensboro oddly enough.) He's truly a nice guy and his career path is quite impressive.

**D.Cates** - 04/17/09 - 11:16

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Very Mini Pumper (Updated)**

04/19/09 125 W, 2 I - + 14 - 12

From the Far East comes this [Tomica Limited Vintage](#) model of a LV-68 Subaru Sambar Pumper, circa 1970 or abouts. The 1/64 scale, die-cast replica measures 47mm long, 24mm wide, and 29mm high, which means the real thing sizes around 9.9 feet long, 5 feet wide, and 6 feet high. That's a very mini pumper! The equipment is pretty simple. One playpipe, e.g. straight-bore nozzle, three sections of hose, one section of rubber suction hose, and one small-looking pump. Plus what might be a bench for seating in the back. It's nice addition to the collection in Mike's man cave. [Read about the Subaru Sambar](#). Updated on Sunday, photographed beside a 1:64 scale replica of a Pierce Quantum pumper by Code 3 Collectibles. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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## Asheville Engine 5

04/17/09 238 W, 1 I - + 18 - 18

For your Friday enjoyment, and speaking of our friends in Asheville, here's a great old photo of Engine 5. The 1927 American LaFrance, which is still owned by the fire department, is pictured at old Station 5 in Biltmore Village. The engine house was a small garage attached to a house. The latter was built in 1895 and first served as a management office for the Biltmore Estate. By 1925, the garage had been added, and the building was also used by the village fire department<sup>1</sup>. In 1929, the city purchased the property. The top floor was converted to living space for firefighters, and the bottom was rented to the Biltmore Company. Station 5 opened on August 29, 1929. The station served at that location until 1975. [Read more Asheville fire station history](#). Or read about [AFD history in general](#). Click once or two to greatly enlarge:



<sup>1</sup>Biltmore Village was created in the late 1890s as a model rental community to the nearby Biltmore Estate. The Biltmore Fire Department was formed around 1910. Within 7 years, it had 10 volunteers operating a hose wagon and a hose reel. A small fire station was located on Brook Street. Following the devastating July 1916 flood, the village was sold in 1920. BFD remained in operation, later obtaining a 1926 Ahrens Fox pumper and relocating to a larger engine house behind the Biltmore Office building. In 1929, BFD disbanded after the city assumed fire protection and took ownership of the Ahrens Fox pumper.

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

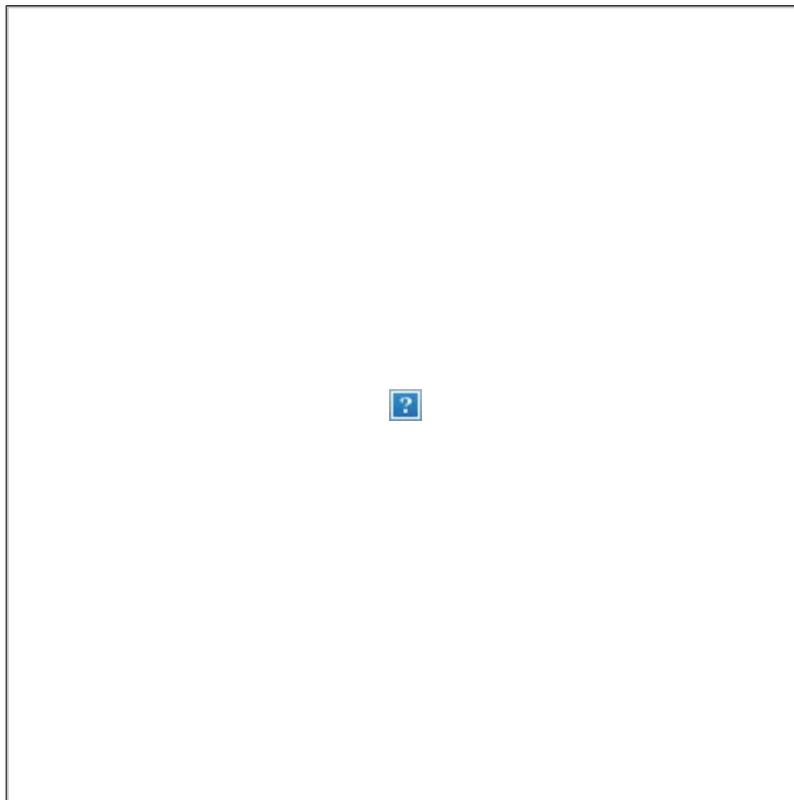
Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Thursday's House Fire in Zebulon

04/18/09 85 W, 1 I - + 14 - 11

Both NBC17 and WTVD have posted a few photos of Thursday's house fire in Zebulon, including a number of viewer-submitted shots. The two-story, wood-frame structure at [3004 Wild Iris Drive](#) was fully-involved on arrival. Alarm time 5:03 p.m. Dispatched address Watsonia Drive and Proctor Street. Units on scene included Zebulon Pumper 94, Engine 91, Ladder 95; Hopkins Pumper 226; Wendell Engine 113; Eastern Wake EMS 61, EMS 68, District 6, and WC 1. See [photos from NBC17](#), or see the [photos from WTVD](#).



*Kevin Bell/WTVD photo*

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What is the deal with people saying fully involved? Look at the pictures from the news sites and even this small one above. There is heavy fire in the house, but it is not fully involved. From NBC's photos, there is a lot of house left. Fully involved is fire coming out of every window, door, nook, cranny and crack of the house, not heavy fire on one side or part of a house.

**Mike** - 04/19/09 - 09:47

I agree Mike. I can remember a fire at my old vollie department, where a size up on a house was given as "fully involved". When we got there third in, I asked "this is fully involved Chief"? "Ok, well, let's get inside this fully involved house and find out where all this smoke is coming from"!! It's a training issue, plain and simple.

**Silver** - 04/19/09 - 10:32

It was "great" to see the cop car in front of the house in one of the photos. I guess he was there to flag down the fire eng, just in case they could'nt find it.

**wheeler** - 04/19/09 - 16:23

It is funny you say that Mike. I thought it was just me that wondered why people mark the fire fully involved when it is partial involved. When firefighters mark it a fully involved house fire, then I say to myself we are going all defensive. While we are on the subject on marking house

fires, Why do people mark a fire "smoke showing." Is it a lot? , little?,does look like a pot on the stove??? what kind of smoke? This drives me crazy. If you have alot of smoke then there is fire more then likley!!!

**Smitty** ([Email](#)) - 04/20/09 - 20:48

I have a better one...saying nothing showing from the outside. Aren't all size-ups from the outside?? Now that drives me nuts!

**Sizeup 101** - 04/20/09 - 23:07

On a positive note, good work keeping the street open for the ladder. That's often difficult on a cul-de-sac.

**Being positive** - 04/21/09 - 07:38

"be advised", "if you would please", "raleigh central dispatch 1", "when you get a chance"...all some of my favorite wake county radio idioms

**J.Boggs** ([Email](#)) - 04/21/09 - 11:20

Be careful with how you talk on radio—dispatcher might complain to personnel about your tone if not careful. Then—look out! Unbelievable reactions!

**FYI** - 04/21/09 - 13:10

Jason, you beat me to it. They all make me shake my head, but don't forget the infamous "at this time".

**Silver** - 04/21/09 - 14:13

"At this time...", "Be advised...", "If you would ascertain..." Yes, absolute classics.

"Nothing showing from the outside".

My favorite size-up of all time- three engines, two ladders, on squad, two ALS ambulances, one battalion chief dispatched for 'multi-story dwelling fire'. I was riding the front seat.

"Fire Alarm.....ENGINE 112.....on location, three story metal frame swelling, heavy fire conditions, assuming Highland Park command, sector 1. Return all other units to quarters"

"ENGINE 112 from Fire Alarm, confirming cancel all responding units?"

"Correct Fire Alarm. Dwelling appears to be a Barbie house. We have a booster line deployed"

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 04/21/09 - 16:57

OOPS...Dwelling

**DJ** - 04/21/09 - 16:59

No one mentioning the first part of the size up? 10-23 code 2, condition red....house fully involved! My personal favorite that always makes me chuckle is the "E-X on scene nothing showing from the outside at this time!"

**Wayne** - 04/21/09 - 20:10

Code 2 Condition Red??? Are you kidding me? Please tell me you're joking. WHEN IS THIS COUNTY GOING TO GET THEIR CRAP TOGETHER AND STANDARDIZE????????????? Wait, that's a stupid question, it'll take someone getting killed for them to review the way they do business.

**Silver** - 04/21/09 - 20:57

Nope, not kidding! I was listening to it on the radio. I don't think it is so much about county standardization as it is people blurting out what they are more comfortable with when they encounter "A BIG ONE", I guess it's like we always say..."when the poop hits the fan, we say what we are used to saying on the radio". I love listening to the radio traffic from around the county,it can provide hours of entertainment and laughter. I always love the one I heard while a department was on a structure fire and someone asked for the Thermal Imager and THE CHIEF'S reply was " I'll send it in but I don't think it will work through all of that smoke" CLASSIC!!!

**Wayne** - 04/21/09 - 21:19

Stop bro, you're killing me

**Silver** - 04/21/09 - 21:49

Standardize? To use your words, ARE YOU KIDDING ME? Very little in this County is standardized; however, the funny thing is that we continue to bash those that do something different than we do. Different is the way we roll. Not right, but the way it is. Department X is wrong because

their engine is number 1 or another is wrong because they used the term major working fire instead of working fire. We shouldn't get caught up in the "if it ain't my department's way it's a joke" crowd. Even if not exactly mainstream, most people have reasons (right or wrong) for the things they do. If things were standardized, then we could expect everyone to act (and react) the same.

**Chris** - 04/22/09 - 07:20

or how about, "she's walking the dog..."

**H2O** - 04/22/09 - 08:00

We all describe things differently, based upon what we are used to, what we learned, or whatever. Does not make it right, wrong, or whatever. As long as we get some sort of idea what may be happening, I guess that is a good thing.

If I am en route to a fire and I hear anything like "working fire", "major working fire", "code 2 condition red", or "she's walking the dog", while I may not know exactly what is going on, I have an idea that it is exciting to someone.

Would it be better if we could standardize our terminology? Sure it would. I have worked in a system where that happened and it worked. Can we get it done here? You tell me.

I do have one thing, though, on a more serious note.

Situation- EMS unit is responding 'hot' to an emergency (matters not what the emergency is, we are already running 'hot').

Action- Off duty EMS/fire/LEO on scene (or on duty EMS/fire/LEO) says "advise EMS to step it up".

Dilemma- Do I engage the nitrous "at this time", or do we deploy the wings and jet engines "at this time"?

(I had to add the "at this time". My apologies.)

Reality- Guys (and gals) I am already on the way to you as fast as I can safely get to you. I'm on the way. Trust me. It'll be OK. Do what you can, we'll do our thing when we get there. Me personally, I am not going to drive any faster, take any more chances, or push the envelope any further. It matters not what is happening, or who is involved (unless it's my mother, my wife, or my daughters- all bets are off at that point. But chances are, I won't know it is them, so it will be 'business as usual').

I can't do you any good if I am involved in an MVC on the way.

Don't ask me to 'step it up'. That is asking me to be 'unsafe' and to take UNNECESSARY risks. I am not going to increase the chance that my mother has to bury another one of her kids.

If you want to say something, give me a size-up on the patient. Are they breathing? Are they conscious? Give me a set of vital signs. Anything, I guess, other than 'step it up'.

I know, I know...I am being sarcastic. I can't help it, I am in a 'mood' today. Still, no need to say "step it up". We already are.

Thanks.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 04/22/09 - 11:40

No Chris, I'm not kidding you. This county supposedly adopted clear text for a reason. If you know me, you know out of all people, I'm open to trying new things on this job. But when it comes to a size-up, one that just tells me that you see red means nothing. That's been a problem in this county for years. NO STANDARDIZATION!!! I'm Chief "A" and want to call my units trucks and engines, and there's Chief "B" who wants to call his pumpers and squads. That was just a start. Chris, use your own advice. Take a look at other combination based, county run organizations that use standardization for bread and butter operations. I'll give you a few places to start; Prince George's County, MD; Prince William County, VA; Montgomery County, MD. They answer a heck of a lot more alarms than good ol' Wake County, and it works. Agencies in this county can't even come up with a standard for helmet colors. One department uses red for an officer, while another uses red for firefighters. It would work a lot better if people would drop the "my ball" attitude. If a majority of your funds are from the county, then you should be standardized by the county system (if they ever had one).

Unfortunately, it'll take someone getting hurt, and a "Routley-type" report to be done here before things would change. Sad, but true...

**Silver** - 04/22/09 - 14:15

Don't misunderstand – I fully support standardization. Unfortunately, I've been a part of far too many standardization attempts here, only to see the "Standardization = Everybody change to do it our way" mentality cause it to fail. We've all got to be willing to learn from others, be willing to give and take, and, consequently, to keep something bad from happening. I think that once that's done, the "standard" way would eventually become second nature (much like Code 2, Condition Red is for some who've been around awhile). My point is this – our current lack of standardization results in people using whatever works for them-right, wrong, indifferent. After the many failed attempts to standardize, it now appears that not adopting standard ways of doing things simply necessitates that people do it their own way.

In the end, we're probably saying the same thing – to be most effective, it's time we standardized things in this county. To any who try to get that ball rolling, good luck.

**Chris** - 04/22/09 - 17:54

Gotcha....

**Silver** - 04/22/09 - 21:28

A couple of things that may have been overlooked... When the Chief arrived his first view was from the rear of the structure where it probably appeared to be fully involved. Next, how about the stop on the fire to keep the D Side exposure from becoming involved?

**Brandon Hopkins** ([Email](#)) - 04/23/09 - 11:14

Your right Brandon, the original house was pretty much a write off due to the extent of the fire. It was very close to involving the D side. Luckily they only lost some siding (on the D side). Looks like another good case for the county to zone more room between houses.

**gen3fire** - 04/23/09 - 11:51

Brandon,

I feel your frustration with these bloggers. Keep in mind most of them have little to no experience and are just being critical to make themselves look good (especially the annoyomous ones). You guys in Zebulon did a great job and keep up the good work.

**John McAdams** - 04/23/09 - 20:00

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preferred)  
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**New Tankers For Rolesville and Fairview**

04/18/09 42 W, 2 I - + 16 - 10

Lee Wilson photographed two new tankers this week. Rolesville's Tanker 158 is 2009 International/KME, 500/2000. Fairview Tanker 6 is a 2009 International/KME, 750/2000. [See more Rolesville photos.](#) Or [see more Fairview photos.](#) Click to enlarge both:



*Lee Wilson Photos*

To the untrained eye it looks like each has a batmobile-style jet exhaust sticking out of it's rear end ... :)

**Paul** - 04/18/09 - 08:33

What is in the rear boxes of Fairview's tanker? Just wondering...

**Chris** - 04/21/09 - 08:47

The boxes on the rear of Fairview's tanker hold 50 feet of 3" supply hose that is preconnected to the rear tank fill and a hydrant valve on each line.

**Car 1** - 04/21/09 - 12:29

Paul's right. Kinda reminds me of this:

<http://www.volkspage.net/artigos/25/Rice..>

**RescueRanger** - 04/21/09 - 20:18

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**Raleigh Fire Department Graduation**

04/18/09 137 W, 1 I - + 15 - 17

Cheers and applause greeted the city's newest firefighters last night in Exhibit Hall C at the Raleigh Convention and Civic Center. The graduation ceremony for Raleigh Fire Department Recruit Academy 35 started at 7:00 p.m., with the 27 recruits escorted by the Wake & District Pipes & Drums band and the fire department Honor Guard. They were flanked by flashing fire apparatus, with the city's newest engines parked on either side. Ladder 1 was parked behind the stage. The ceremony lasted about an hour, and included remarks from the Fire Chief, the Asst. Chief of Training, and the class valedictorian. After family members pinned their badges, and the oath of office was administered, the celebration continued a couple blocks north, with a reception at Station 1. Photos coming from Legeros (shown) and Wilson. Click to enlarge:



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### First Black Firefighters, First Female Firefighters?

04/18/09 118 W - + 17 - 12

Open question, mining minds for a future presentation on the state's fire service history. When were the first black firefighters and female firefighters hired in North Carolina? Though the [history of early black firefighters](#) is well-documented, the first full-time members-- in the bigger cities, for starters-- requires a little more digging. Here's what we've found so far:

#### First full-time black firefighters

- Charlotte, 1967 (1?)
- Durham, 1958 (10), staff Station 4
- Fayetteville, ?
- Greensboro, 1961 (28), staff Station 4, including newly created truck company. GFD integrated 1966.
- High Point, ?
- Raleigh, 1963 (6)
- Wilmington, ?
- Winston-Salem, 1951 (8), staff Station 4. WSFD integrated by 1967

#### First full-time female firefighters

- Charlotte, 1980 (1?)
- Durham, 1975 (first Public Safety FF), 1982 (first DFD FF)
- Fayetteville, ?
- High Point, ?
- Greensboro, 1978 (2?)
- Raleigh, 1978 (8)
- Rocky Mount, 1982 (1?)
- Wilmington, 1983 (1?)
- Winston-Salem, 1973 (1?)

---

Wilmington's first full-time black firefighters were hired in 1898, with the creation of the paid fire department. The eighteen members were also fired within a few months, and replaced with white members.

**Legeros** - 04/18/09 - 11:47

Name: (real name preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

## Fire Destroys Proescher Cafe, 1945

04/18/09 142 W - + 10 - 17

From the *News & Observer* of March 12, 1945, a fast-moving fire destroyed Proescher's Restaurant on March 11. Located on the Raleigh-Cary Highway, the fire started in the barbecue pit about 7:00 p.m. Ignited from hot grease, the flames spread through the entire wooden structure before Cary's fire truck arrived. The nearest hydrant was 300 to 400 feet away, so water pressure was insufficient to fight the fire. Raleigh also sent apparatus, but limited water and the progress of the fire limited their help. The fire raged for about 90 minutes, with flames confined to the main building. Cabins near the cafe were not damaged. Power lines burned, however, and the entire business and residential section of Cary was without electricity for a time. The eatery was owned by Andrew J. "Doc" Proescher Jr., who lived in an apartment above the restaurant.

The Proescher restaurant belonged to my family. This the first time I have see anything about the fire in a newspaper. It confirms the date and year. I remember it so well since I was there.

**Richard Proescher** ([Email](#)) - 02/21/11 - 18:44

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**Raleigh Fire Museum / Station 28**

04/18/09 131 W, 2 I - + 19 - 13

Here's a nice sight, seen this evening while Mr. and Mrs. Blogger were ridin' around. Raleigh Fire Station 28 at [3500 Forestville Road](#), which houses an engine company and the city's fleet of antique apparatus. Inside are a 1905 American LaFrance steamer, a 1926 American LaFrance pumper (center), a 1950 Mack pumper (left), a pair of 1950s rescue boats, and a 1982 Mack pumper. [Read about the three earliest rigs](#) 📷. The active engine is a 1995 Pierce Dash. Nice station, nice crew. Pay a visit and see some history. Why is this posting titled Raleigh Fire Museum? That's for the benefit of Google and other Internet search engines. No fire museum yet exists in the Capitol City, but the Forestville Road fire station is a comparable destination. Click once or twice to enlarge:



what a great picture!!

**cornerhydrant** - 04/18/09 - 23:29

there is room in there for display cases, plenty of room on the walls as well for framed work and more display cases – it would be great!

**cornerhydrant** - 04/19/09 - 12:17

What structures are being considered for housing the Raleigh Fire Museum? Or has things even progressed to this point yet?

**Ben** - 04/19/09 - 22:12

Engine 3's quarters once they get a new house is on a wish list I believe...

**Silver** - 04/19/09 - 23:16

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

TWH + Seagrave

04/20/09 143 W, 1 I - + 15 - 14

Speaking of die-cast models, Seagrave has announced a partnership with TWH Collectibles, to produce 1:50 scale replicas of Seagrave rigs. The first release is a series of tillers, lettered and specifically configured for Redwood City (CA), New London (CT), Somerville (MA), Leesburg (VA), and Washington, DC. Features and functions include "tilting cab revealing a detailed engine and transmission, extendable four section diecast ladder with extending waterway, functional outriggers, 180 degree tractor arc, accurate front bumper design, photoetch steps, diamond plate decking, accurate storage compartment design and detailed Marauder design with all the features." They'll be unveiled at FDIC, at the Seagrave booth. How much will these puppies cost? MSRP is \$290. Definitely not an impulse purchase. [Read the press release](#). Pierce/Oshkosh previously partnered with TWH, as this [FireNews blog talked about](#). Very cool models.



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**First Fire Department Rescue Squads?**

04/20/09 139 W - + 13 - 11

Open question, and one we've touched on before. What fire departments operated the first rescue squads or ambulances in North Carolina? This includes both the "Red Cross era," when that was the medical training available to fire departments, and the "EMS area," after the creation of the North Carolina EMS System in the early 1970s.

1950s - Washington (1951), Raleigh (1953), others?

1960s - Durham (1960?), Goldsboro (by 1962), others

1970s - Fayetteville (by 1970?), Parkwood (1972), Wilmington (1974), Salisbury (1978), others

And which of these were "first aid trucks," versus ambulances, versus heavy equipment trucks? Raleigh's rescue squad, for example, was a two-piece unit. A panel van with first aid equipment, and used for transport if needed, and a Civil Defense truck with the "heavy equipment." Thanks for your help.

---

PVFD started with an 1964 Econoline Van donated from GTE in 1972. The first production ambulance was a 1967 Cadillac bought from PA in 1974. They then got new under grant from Gov. Highway Safety Program in 1976 and 1978. Later They bought Frontline Type I and have since used Excellence brand ambulances since 1998. History is interesting for EMS at <http://www.pvfd.com/html/ems.htm>

**D.Cates** - 04/20/09 - 14:10

Hamlet FD operates (or did up until recently) an ambulance (EMT-P level). Vance County fire operates Vance Co EMS. Atlantic Beach FD has operated an ambulance for some time, as have several other Carteret County departments (Cape Carteret, Wildwood, and I think a couple of others). Westarea FD (Cumberland County) operated a type III ambulance during the 80s (had a short lightbar on the hood).

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 04/21/09 - 17:14

Charlotte/Mecklenburg County had Charlotte Lifesaving Crew that was founded in the late 1940's. It disbanded in the 90's. When my dad was a volunteer in the 1980's, I remember CLS would be dispatched to all pin-ins and entrapments. This was before each fire department carried their own extrication equipment, so CLS was the primary rescue company of the area. If you couldn't get the door open with a crowbar, you had to wait for them to respond. Charlotte Fire Department had only one rescue truck for a long time, which looked much more like a large utility truck, located at Station 1 downtown. I'm not sure what it got dispatched to or how long it was in service, I just remember visiting the station as a kid and seeing it. I know it doesn't even compare to today's heavy-rescue companies.

**Native Charlottean** - 04/21/09 - 18:11

Name: (real name preferred)  
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Yes  
No

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## The History of the Haz-Mat Symbol

04/20/09 270 W, 1 I - + 13 - 14

Here's an interesting bit of North Carolina haz-mat history. On July 9, 1959, the Charlotte Fire Department was dispatched to the old Charlotte Chemical Company on [West Templeton Avenue, just off South Boulevard](#). The building was being demolished, and a large vat of materials had been left in the basement. Crews arrived and found fire within the vat. They thought the burning material was kerosene, and fought the flames as such. Yet the heat and the intensity of the fire increased. The decision was made to apply foam, and then the vat exploded. Thirteen firefighters were injured, several with critical injuries. One firefighter lost both ears and most of his face. He retired from his injuries. Another injured member later committed suicide.

What was learned was that the vat contained a hundred pounds of [metallic sodium](#) sealed in kerosene. Heavy rains, from the remnants of a hurricane earlier in the month, had penetrated the exposed vat. The water reacted with the sodium and ignited the kerosene, which started the fire. The incident had a profound effect on the Charlotte Fire Department. The need for training was made obvious, protective clothing became a priority, and the Fire Prevention inspection program was expanded. Toward the latter, Fire Marshal J. F. Morris developed a marking system to identify hazardous materials inside buildings. The diamond-shaped symbols indicated the presence of haz-mats, and their levels of flammability, health hazards, and reactivity. The symbols were later adopted by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) as [Standard 704](#). And now you know the rest of the story. Source: *Charlotte Fire Department Millennium History 2000*.



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**North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial Internet Broadcast**

04/20/09 66 W, 2 I - + 14 - 14

The Fourth Annual North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial on May 2 will be broadcast on the Internet. Both the 10:00 a.m. parade and 1:00 p.m. memorial service will be broadcast. [See this document for information on connecting](#) . The broadcasts are sponsored by LGFCU Financial Partners, and PHS Mobile Health Solutions. For more information about the events, visit [www.ncfff.org](http://www.ncfff.org).

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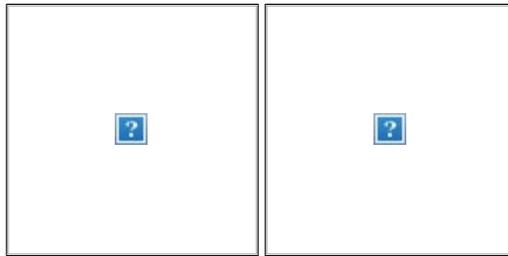
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**Apparatus Accident, Ambulance Accident**

04/21/09 146 W, 2 I - + 15 - 19

FireNews has [posted photos](#) from the *Salisbury Post* of the Woodleaf Fire Department engine that collided with a car early this morning. Engine 771 was travelling on Woodleaf Road when the 2000 Freightliner pumper reportedly crossed the center line and struck an automobile head-on. The drivers of both vehicles were transported to Rowan Regional Medical Center. Neither appeared to be suffering life-threatening injuries. [Read the Salisbury Post story](#) and see additional images. FireNews has also [posted photos of last week's ambulance accident](#), when a Cape Fear Valley Lifelink ambulance left the roadway and struck a parked car at the intersection of I-40 and I-95. Both paramedics were transported, one to Betsy Johnston Hospital in Dunn, and the other with trauma injuries to WakeMed. The car they struck was empty. [Read the WRAL story](#).



*Andy Mooney/Salisbury Post Photo, Carter Rabil/FireNews Photo*

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**Yesterday's Haz-Mat / Wake Forest**

04/22/09 134 W, 1 I - + 11 - 18

Anhydrous ammonia leak inside an industrial plant at [326 Forestville Road](#) in Wake Forest. Material leaking from valve inside facility. Most had leaked out prior to arrival. Building evacuated safety. No injuries. Raleigh and Durham haz-mat units requested. Wake Forest Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary brought food and drinks. Rolesville and Durham Highway provided coverage. Alarm time 10:48 a.m. and command terminated approximately 1:50 p.m. Units on scene included Wake Forest P3, L1, R1, U1, C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, and ATV; Raleigh HM15, HM2, SR22, L20, B1, C71, C72, C4; Durham with two units; EMS 10, 33, 64, District 3, 6, Medic 93, WC, and Wake County EM. Details from Lee Wilson, who was also on scene. Read more and see his photos ([part 1](#) and [part 2](#)). Or read the [News & Observer story](#).



*Lee Wilson Photo*

the Durham units would have been engine 13 and hazmat 13.

**charles snyder** ([Email](#)) - 04/23/09 - 21:41

Durham Highway Moved to WF for coverage, per request of WFC5

**DHFD** - 04/23/09 - 21:44

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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## Program Adds Spanish to 911 Center

04/22/09 88 W - + 18 - 15

From today's *News & Observer*, the Durham 911 Center has added additional Spanish language support, using two trained volunteers on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, the busiest times for call takers. The center has partnered with Durham Technical Community College and El Centro Hispano for this program. Prior to this program, the center used a language line for translation. Some 5,000 Latinos contact the center annually, which received some 300,000 calls last year. [Read the story](#). Or learn about the [Durham 911 Center](#). Or [learn about Spanish!](#)

I just hope we won't need to press 1 for English or 2 for Spanish!

**cornerhydrant** - 04/22/09 - 23:54

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Comment:

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

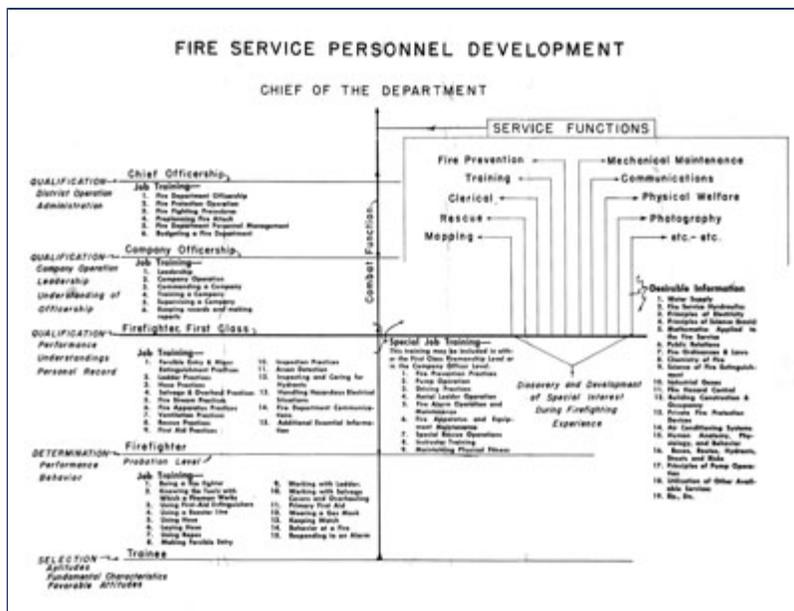
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Fire Service Personnel Development, Circa 1954**

04/22/09 42 W, 2 I - + 16 - 13

Here's an interesting artifact, circa 1954 or abouts. It charts fire service personnel development, both "combat" functions and service functions, and from the rank of Trainee to Chief officer. Click to view [larger PDF version](#) :



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

## Unsafe Fire Truck, 1957

04/22/09 180 W - + 15 - 9

In the Raleigh City Council Minutes of September 18, 1957, the following was recorded: "The City Manager reported that the 1,000 gallon fire truck pumper in service for 21 years has reached a point where it is not safe and dependable as fire equipment, and that it has been pulled back to a stand-by type of equipment to be used for pumping service in case of second or third-alarm fire. Since there is little chance of replacing this piece of equipment in this year's budget he asked that it be borne in mind for the forthcoming fiscal year." This would have been the 1936 American LaFrance 400 Series pumper, which originally served as Engine 1. The stylish, 12-cylinder (!) engine was later stored beneath Station 8, and finally sold as surplus on December 20, 1976. As the story goes, the owner stored same outdoors, maybe Down East. The truck deteriorated beyond any point of salvage, it is said. [See photos of this great old truck.](#) As for a replacement rig, the subsequent pumper purchase was a 1958 American LaFrance, contract dated December 4, 1958. [Read more apparatus history.](#)

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Blue Ladders!**

04/23/09 53 W, 2 I - + 14 - 16

Found on another discussion board, check out these recently delivered Pierce platforms with blue (!) ladders in Colorado and Virginia. [Quantum mid-mount in Arvada, CO](#), and [Velocity rear-mount in Bluefield, VA](#). Larger photos available on the respective web pages. Wonder what other odd colors have been used for aerial devices?



Name: (real name preferred)  
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 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Dozens of Homes Destroyed Near North Myrtle Beach**

04/23/09 88 W, 1 I - + 15 - 8

Some 70 homes were destroyed overnight by a brush fire in Horry County, South Carolina. Another 30 homes in North Myrtle Beach were lost, along with 2,500 people evacuated in the North Myrtle Beach area. The fire started Wednesday afternoon and has burned at least 7,000 to 8,000 acres. [Read the latest from WECT](#), which also includes [dozens of viewer-submitted photos](#). Also read [coverage from the Myrtle Beach Sun News](#). There's also some [golf course-shot video](#) that Dave Statter surfaced this morning.



*WECT photo*

And you can go here and join the 768 listeners!!!!!!

<http://horry.sc.scanamerica.us/index.php>

**Luke** - 04/23/09 - 19:36

Some strong images surfaced by the News & Observer, <http://blogs.newsobserver.com/multi/figh..>

**Legeros** - 04/24/09 - 18:20

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Vacant Citizen Seat on Wake County Fire Commission

04/23/09 80 W - + 13 - 15

With the passing Saturday of Senator Vernon Malone, his citizen's seat on the Wake County Fire Commission is vacant. Those interested in his seat, which the Wake County Commissioners appoint, should [complete this application form](#). For more information on the Fire Commission, [see this web site](#). What if you have already completed an application? Though they're kept on file, it's worth applying again, if you're still interested. Or so we've been told.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## 1927 American LaFrance Type 75 by Yat Ming

04/24/09 125 W, 1 I - + 16 - 17

If you've always wanted to own an early-century American LaFrance pumper, here's a 1:24-scale, die-cast version recently released by Yat Ming . Lettered for Roseland, New Jersey, this exceptionally detailed and reasonably priced (\$50) replica includes extensive "chrome" detailing, working steering, and opening hood. You'll have to make your siren sounds, however, to imitate its hand-cranked warning device. Several small pieces are detachable, including wee extinguishers. See [photos on the Yat Ming site](#). See a [photo of the real rig](#). Same is available from your favorite die-cast retailers, such as [Jeff's Collectibles](#) and [Diecast Direct](#). Looks even better in person, versus photographed in a man cave with harsh lights and bounced flash. Click once or twice to enlarge.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

## Emergency Landing Caught on Tape

04/24/09 62 W - + 13 - 18

This one's making the rounds, the superb split-screen video of two guys in a small plane, who make an emergency landing on Havendale Boulevard in Winter Haven, Florida. They curse, curse again, and calmly coast into the parking lot of a store. Dave Statter's got [good links on this](#). We second the passenger's round of applause.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Fire Box Traps Prankster, 1938**

04/24/09 151 W, 1 I - + 19 - 11

From a reader, and for your Friday enjoyment, here's an advertisement for a false alarm deterrent. To activate this alarm box, you must reach through a "special compartment." When the box was pulled, your hand was locked. Only someone a saw or a box key could release you, e.g. policeman, fireman. But you did get a good view of the arriving fire trucks! By the way, are any alarm systems still in service around our state? **And who has stories to share of pulling a box alarm?** Though they were probably in service in Minneapolis in the late 1970s, Mr. Blogger never reported a fire while "in town" in his youth. Nor could he even run to the nearest station, as the family restaurant at Lake & Hennepin was about 14 blocks from Station 8. But, as usual, we digress. Click to enlarge:



"Boxes" are still in service in my old town in NJ, though rarely used now thanks to the cell phone. At night time, when you look down a block (town was laid out in a perfect grid), the boxes are identified with a solid blue light on their corresponding street posts in which they're mounted. Looked pretty cool...

**Silver** - 04/24/09 - 12:56

Forgot to add; my bet is "no" on the box system anywhere else. Maybe at one time in Charlotte, who still uses the term "box" in their day to day communications....

**Silver** - 04/24/09 - 12:59

Charlotte had the old Gamewell system up until roughly 1979. They were maintained by "Fire Alarm" which was a division within Communications (Headquarters used to be what communications was referred to on the radio). Fire Alarm had a chief over them and operated (I believe) out of a building beside Station 11. They operated "cherry picker" trucks that maintained the lines running to the Gamewell boxes. To this day, Charlotte Fire Communications is known as "Fire Alarm."

Box alarms are anything more than 1 truck. The term "filling out the box" is still used which basically means to upgrade the assignment from a Still Alarm to a Box or to upgrade to a working fire, pin-in, entrapment, etc.

As a side note, we don't have the Gamewell boxes any more; instead we have Callboxes in the front of every fire station. If the trucks are out

of the station and someone needs assistance all they have to do is hit the button and it rings directly into Alarm. We can talk with the person on the other end. Several citizens have used these callboxes to call for help, surprisingly we really don't get that many false call from them.

Here's some more history: <http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/Fire..>

**Luke** - 04/24/09 - 17:25

Raleigh's last box alarm was received on May 14, 1973.

Read that history, <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/h..>

**Legeros** - 04/24/09 - 17:55

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015** - *Fire Commission* « Wake Forest Station 3... » Raleigh Fire Departme...  
*Special Meeting, Thursday, April 30 (Updated)*

**Fire Commission Special Meeting, Thursday, April 30 (Updated)**

04/26/09 121 W - + 23 - 12

The Fire Commission has scheduled a special-called meeting for Thursday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m., at the Wake EMS Training Facility, located in the lower level of the Commons Building at 4011 Cary Drive. The purpose of the work session is for the Fire Commission to receive and consider feedback from the Budget Committee on the County Manager's recommended FY 2010 fire tax budget. Note the earlier time than regular WCFC meetings.

Update: Two documents have been made available, showing the budget recommendation details. However, the documents do not provide context behind the amounts. That information will be presented at the meeting, as well as questions answered by Budget Committee members and county staff. [Read these documents.](#)

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I see the fire commission budget committee recommendation shows "NC forestry-wildlife prevention" in the amount of \$65,000. So tax monies to prevent more animals?

**xwwff** ([Email](#)) - 04/27/09 - 07:26

From a reader, another source of budget information for FY10 is WakeEmployees.com, under the Budget area:

<http://www.wakeemployees.com/budget/>

**Legeros** - 04/27/09 - 07:31

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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### Wednesday's Motor-Vehicle Accident / New Bern Avenue

04/24/09 93 W, 1 I - + 15 - 15

Two vehicles reportedly racing (!) caused a multi-vehicle accident with injuries Wednesday afternoon on New Bern Avenue at Peartree Lane. That is, both at and near the intersection. The alarm time was 4:39 p.m., with Chief 100 arriving first. One car was overturned east of Peartree, with the patient self-extricated. Another vehicle had two subjects trapped, in the center of the intersection. At least two other vehicles were involved, and six patients were transported. The response included Engine 12, Ladder 1, EMS 1, 2, 7, 13, 31, 63, Medic 94, District 1, and Truck 1. [See photos from Legeros.](#)



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

## Needles & Threads

04/24/09 259 W - + 15 - 15

Let's talk about talking. The topic of [last week's fire in Zebulon](#) has spawned 24 responses from 15 unique users since April 18. The zoo crew of comment-makers was the usual mix of named and unnamed entities: Being positive, Brandon Hopkins, Chris, DJ, FYI, gen3fire, H2O, J.Boggs, John McAdams, Mike, Silver, Sizeup 101, Smitty, Wayne, wheeler. What was talked about? Quite a few things, and some topics having longer "legs" than others. In non-sequential order, they included:

- Fully involved, and what arriving units saw.
- Successful stop on D exposure.
- Said stop a good case for zoning change.
- Other comments about the fire.
- Comments about comments about the fire.
- Fully involved, what that language means.
- Size-up language in general.
- Radio language in general.
- Favorite radio idioms.
- Favorite radio exchanges.
- Cautionary warning on radio tone.
- Cautionary warning on radio phrase "step it up."
- Wake County radio standards or lack thereof.
- Affirmations of comments.
- Corrections to comments.

Plus a couple deleted comments, which happens from time to time. What was learned, beyond good job done in Zebulon? Well, as we've long-demonstrated, the original topic often serves as a springboard. Some responses stay on topic, others veer other ways. Discourse stays pretty civil, though passion surfaces from time to time. e.g., Caps key. The "regulars" are quick to opine, and they're not necessarily sitting behind computers in Wake County. The lurkers-- those reading but not commenting-- surely number in the dozens. Maybe hundreds, and don't call me Shirley. They may have things to say later.

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## **New Apparatus For Falls, New Hope**

04/25/09 91 W, 1 I - + 19 - 13

Falls Fire Department received a new pumper-tanker yesterday, a 2009 Pierce Contender, 1250/1000, that replaces Tanker 217, a 1989 Ford / E-One. Also yesterday, New Hope received their new Engine 1, a 2009 Pierce Contender, 1500/1000. It replaces a 1989 Mack/EEI. Both department's old apparatus are being sold. Lee Wilson has taken [preliminary photos of both](#). Watch for other arriving apparatus in the county and city. Bay Leaf has an engine 252 coming. Raleigh has two Pierce aerial platforms pending, and a new Hackney USAR trailer that's here. More later.



*Lee Wilson photo*

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Wondering why 2 stations that are supposedly on the chopping block are still receiving new apparatus? If the trucks are county-owned wouldn't it have been wise to establish a county-wide paint scheme? Are all the county-owned trucks spec'd the same?

**Just curious** - 04/25/09 - 16:15

Which stations are you referring to as "on the chopping block?" While Falls is, and that fact is known to all, until they close, they needed this new tanker to help serve the citizens. When or if they close, the county will absorb the apparatus and place it where it can be used. If you mean New Hope, their station 2 covers a rural district... and Bay Leaf has the same type of rural district...

**CJS (Email)** - 04/25/09 - 17:15

That is a nice looking rig.

**KOM** - 04/25/09 - 19:17

Yeah... the Falls guys did a nice job spec'ing it out... nice lines and a good color scheme.

**CJS (Email)** - 04/25/09 - 19:57

Is New Hope E1 the last remaining CF600 in-service in the County?

**Olson** - 04/26/09 - 18:47

Negative, Knightdale still operates one of Raleigh's old Mack CF pumpers.

**Legeros** - 04/26/09 - 19:08

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Brassfield Fire Department Barbecue Today**

04/25/09 91 W, 1 I - + 21 - 14

Last minute notice for folks in or headed toward Granville County. The Brassfield Fire Department is conducting their 26th Annual Ladies Auxiliary Day Fundraiser at the Brassfield fire station, [1680 Highway 98](#) in Franklinton. BBQ pork and BBQ chicken plates are being sold, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All you can eat! [See this flyer for more information](#). BFD, for the trivia-minded, was the destination of a military truck-turned-fire engine that first served Durham Highway, and then Falls when they started.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

### Wake Forest Station 3

04/25/09 50 W, 1 I - + 16 - 25

Here's what Wake Forest Station 3 is looking like, under construction at [1412 Forestville Road](#). Projected completion is July, or so we've [read on the Watch Desk](#). Here's a [preliminary site plan and design](#), found via Google. Learn more about the [Wake Forest Fire Department](#). Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Hide email:  Yes, hide my email address.

## Raleigh Fire Department Shift History

04/26/09 301 W - + 18 - 16

We've [blogged before](#) about the history of the Raleigh Fire Department shift schedule. The 24-hour shifts appeared as a trial at Station 5 on April 1, 1948. Maybe at other stations, too. But what was the schedule before then? In August 1914, personnel were organized into split shifts. Day shift worked 14 hours, and night shift worked 10 hours. Each fireman got one day off each week. Robert "B" Randolph, employed twice as a fireman, and later with the Police Department, recalled the shift schedule in a *Raleigh Times* article on November 9, 1967.

Speaking about the Yarborough House fire of 1928, he recalled numerous department details. "Four men were assigned to each truck, and they worked on two shifts. It was from 8 to 6, four days a week, then on the fourth day, a shift of 24 hours. Then it was switched, and on the eighth day, it was a full 24 hours." Translation:

- Day 1 - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Day 2 - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Day 3 - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Day 4 - 8 a.m. to 8 a.m.
- Day 5 - 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.
- Day 6 - 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.
- Day 7 - 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.
- Day 8 - 8 a.m. to 8 a.m.
- Day 9 - Start over? Time off?

Other details about working in the late 1920s? The salary for a starting fireman was \$110 a month for the first year that you worked, then \$115 a month in the second year, then \$120 a month in the third year. Helmets weren't worn much. Job security did not exist. This was before Civil Service. "If you voted for the wrong person, you got fired," Randolph said. This is a reason many early Raleigh firemen were hired, released, hired, and released again, in those first decades.

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E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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**Apex Station 4**

04/26/09 45 W, 1 I - + 19 - 16

Here's the latest look at Apex Station 4, under construction at [1615 E. Williams Street](#) and photographed this afternoon. Projected completion is late June. Joint fire, police, and EMS station. Here's the [site plan and design](#), as blogged about earlier. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

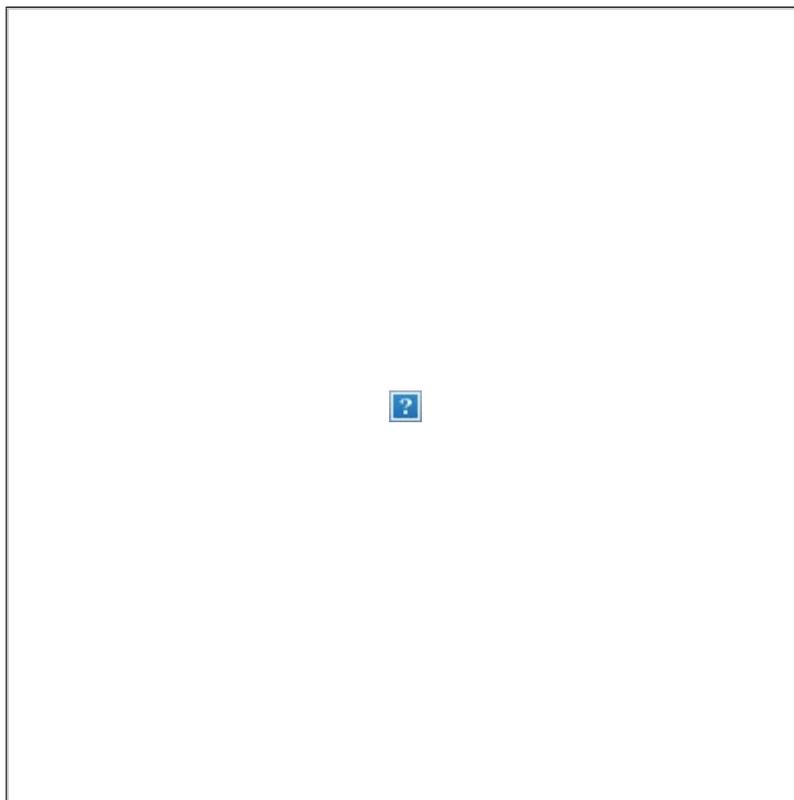
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Big Fire in Faison**

04/27/09 75 W, 1 I - + 14 - 16

[WTVD has some details](#) on the Southern Produce Distributors warehouse at ~~111 W. Center Street in Faison~~ [2434 N. NC 50 and NC 403](#) that burned last night in Faison. The facility, reportedly one of the largest vegetable distribution centers on the east coast, caught fire around 9:30 p.m. WTVD reports some 25 fire stations were dispatched to the fire. Day light and the workday should bring considerably more details, and via other outlets.

*WTVD photo*


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Correct address is 2434 North NC 50 & 403 Hwy, the Center Street address is the offices and the last count I was told a total of 51 departments have responded or are still on the scene. Extensive mutual aid from all Duplin County departments and many departments from Sampson, Wayne, Lenior, Jones, and Onslow.

**Faison Car 2** - 04/27/09 - 12:35

FireNews has a list of the first night's units on scene, [http://firenews.net/index.php/news/news ..](http://firenews.net/index.php/news/news...)

**Legeros** - 04/28/09 - 06:57

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

**Quiz: Roads with Fire Stations**

04/27/09 52 W - + 15 - 20

Monday morning quiz. How many roads in Wake County have more than one fire station on them? Six Forks Road, for example, has Raleigh Station 9 and Bay Leaf Station 1. Roads that change names don't count. There are at least such roads that come to mind. Maybe more?

Norwood Rd. has Bayleaf Station 2 and Durham Highway Station 1

**DHFD** - 04/27/09 - 07:43

Spring Forest Road – RFD #15 and RFD #19

**RFD** - 04/27/09 - 07:49

RFD station #23 and Durham Highway station #2 Pinecrest Rd., Cary station #7 and Morrisville station #3 Carpenter-Fire Station Rd., Cary station #6 and Fairview station's #1 & 2 Ten-Ten Rd., Raleigh station #28 and Wake Forest station #3 Forestville Rd.,

**fqfd** ([Email](#)) - 04/27/09 - 09:07

Raleigh 5 & 6 are not on the same road according to their address, but everybody refers to them as on Oberlin Rd.

**RFF** - 04/27/09 - 14:29

raleigh 29 and bethseda station #2 are or will be on leesville rd.

**crs** ([Email](#)) - 04/27/09 - 16:59

Couple kinda sortas:

Poole Road, RFD 12 and EWFD 1 (faces Clifton Road)

Holly Springs Road, HSFD 1 and SCFD (now addressed Tryon Road)

**Legeros** - 04/27/09 - 18:41

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

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Comment:

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

**This Morning's MVA / Beltline**

04/27/09 85 W, 1 I - + 16 - 15

Motor-vehicle accident with fatality on westbound I-40 just past Gorman Street. Transfer truck struck guardrail and cab apparently caught fire, spreading to trailer. Alarm time 10:58 a.m. Dispatched units included Raleigh Engine 20, Engine 2, Ladder 20, Rescue 7, Battalion 3, Car 5; Western Wake Pumper 196, Tanker 198; Swift Creek Tanker 6; EMS 11, EMS 1, EMS 83, District 1, MD 2, and WC 1. Westbound lanes were closed for three hours, before the roadway was partially opened. WRAL has posted a [couple viewer photos](#). Legeros has [also posted photos](#).



*Anthony Shepherd / WRAL photo*

Swift Creek Tanker 6 was also on scene for water supply.

**CFP 7021** ([Email](#)) - 04/27/09 - 19:25

Wasn't this a different incident than the one that Western Wake and Cary were dispatched to? I thought their incident was just a RV fire at I-40 Westbound and Wade Ave?

**Wayne** - 04/28/09 - 11:04

Correct, Western Wake Pumper 196, Tanker 198, Swift Creek Tanker 6 and Cary Engine 1 had just finished working the RV fire at Wade when this incident happened. The scene had been cleared about 2 or 3 minutes before this incident came in. Reportedly the traffic backup from that fire led to this wreck/fire.

**CFP 7021** ([Email](#)) - 04/28/09 - 11:57

Today's News & Observer interviews a witness to the MVA, and his account of trying to rescue the driver, who was unable to escape the burning cab. <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1..>

**Legeros** - 04/29/09 - 07:34

## Early Incentives to Join Fire Companies

04/27/09 290 W - + 22 - 17

From *Fire Protection in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County*, by Philip P. Green Jr., and published in 1949 by the Institute of Government at UNC Chapel Hill: "The state's first general law dealing with fire protection was the offering of an inducement to join volunteer [fire] companies. In 1829, the General Assembly declared that in return for such service, volunteer firemen would be exempted from militia duty, except in case of war, insurrection, or invasion. In 1870, the General Assembly provided that citizens serving as firemen for seven consecutive years should thereafter be exempted from jury duty and from militia duty except in time of insurrection or invasion. In 1883, this was extended to provide that no member of a fire company should be required to serve as juror.

"Inducements of a different type were provided by the General Assembly in 1891, when it created a state firemen's relief fund, to be used for relief of firemen 'who may be injured or rendered sick by disease contracted in the actual discharge of duty as firemen, and for the relief of widows, children, and if there be no widow or children, the dependent mothers of such firemen.' Originally dependent upon state appropriations, this fund was augmented in 1907 by proceeds of a tax on all fire insurance companies doing business in the state, based upon the amount of premiums they collected. Five percent of this money was turned over to the State Fireman's Association for general purposes and the remainder distributed to local relief funds over the state. In 1917, all cities were granted the power to set up a fund for relief of firemen and police men 'who have become superannuated, disabled, or injured in such service.'"

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**Greenville Fire Department History**

04/27/09 60 W, 2 I - + 14 - 19

Here's another treat, a wee document titled *History of Fire Protection, City of Greenville, N.C.* Published in 1970 by the city's Fire Prevention Bureau, the eight-page pamphlet features historical information compiled and written by Jane Murray. The cover image of an 1853 Latta [correct?] steamer is unrelated to the contents. [Read the document](#) .



Greenville also has a handful of former fire stations that are worth seeking out, including a 1909 old municipal building on East 5th Street. Their 1943 training tower is still standing, as well. See and read more about the buildings: <http://www.legeros.com/history/nc/statio..>

**Legeros** - 04/27/09 - 20:21

Great little publication. The history of the Rough & Ready Fire Brigade has always interested me as has that of the Salamander Fire Company in nearby Washington NC. The early origins of the fire service in NC has some interesting stories. Washington FD has a good historical account at: [http://www.ci.washington.nc.us/fire\\_hist..](http://www.ci.washington.nc.us/fire_hist..) to include information on the Volunteer Motor Company which raised money to buy the second self-propelled motor fire apparatus in the state.

**D.Cates** - 04/29/09 - 11:28

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The Pandemic of 1918

04/28/09 247 W, 1 I - + 19 - 17

On Sunday, November 26, 2006, the News & Observer published a retrospective of the Spanish Flu pandemic that killed at least 13,703 North Carolinians in 1918 and 1919. Nationally, the death toll is estimated at 675,000, with a worldwide estimate between 50 and 100 million. The feature story by writer Jim Nesbitt, with contributions by researchers David Raynor and Denise Jones, is full of fascinating details. In October 1918, a canvass of 3,561 Raleigh homes revealed 1,380 flu cases. The city's death toll was 100 by October 24. Coverage of the pandemic, they found, was a bit buried in the state's newspapers. Front pages were dominated by news of World War I; flu details were found in funeral notices on society pages, or inside stories that catered to the rosy optimism of public officials. Read the feature story.

More recently, the Spanish flu's effects in Raleigh were chronicled in Wake: Capital County of North Carolina, Volume II, by historians K. Todd Johnson and Elizabeth Reid Murray, and recently published. They write that Wake County had the highest death rate in the state in October 1918, with at least 293 deaths that month. Of that total, 102 were in Raleigh, excluding Camp Polk and State College. They also note that by October 1 of that year, 238 people had died in the Capitol City. Their sources include both period newspaper articles, and an apparent Raleigh Times retrospective dated January 27, 1969. Prior blog posting about this book. And here's the easily-found Wikipedia entry on the pandemic, which includes a couple historical photos.



Wikipedia Photo

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Yes  
No

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## Bay Leaf's New Pumper

04/28/09 45 W, 1 I - + 18 - 21

Here's Bay Leaf's new Pumper 252, delivered last week and photographed by Lee Wilson yesterday. The 2009 Pierce Contender, 1250/1000, is already in service at Station 1. Old Pumper 252 has been renamed Pumper 123, and was moved to Station 3. [See more photos.](#)



Lee Wilson Photo

Bay Leaf Members: Is this truck equipped with a combi tool and pump or is that on P258 or non existent at station 1?

**Extrication** - 04/29/09 - 11:49

So is it true blfd is getting a seagrave?

**P. Diddy** - 04/29/09 - 14:34

I heard that Knightdale is getting a Sutphen tower.

**Eastside** - 04/29/09 - 21:38

From my understanding KFD is looking at 3 used, late model aerials. A Sutphen mid-mount, a Pierce rear-mount and a KME rear-mount, and a decision has not been made yet. This is part of a grant that they received.

**CFP 7021** ([Email](#)) - 04/30/09 - 09:24

Yes, this truck is equipped with a combi-tool, pump, and a set of rams. The truck is the rescue pumper that responds out of Station 1.

**Bay Leaf** - 04/30/09 - 15:43

Any specific reason the roll up doors were not painted red or why they chose the roll up doors in lieu of the traditional metal doors?

I believe the other county spec Pierce trucks at Bay Leaf have the painted traditional doors but not sure.

Just curious.

**Buckwheat** - 04/30/09 - 20:27

The other trucks have traditional doors to accomodate a drop tank if needed, drop tank storage is not possible with roll up doors. They are rotated to from time to time from being 1st out duty crew apparatus in an attempt to balance out mileage, etc.

**AB** - 05/01/09 - 06:38

If I read that last statement correctly does that mean that this truck does not have a drop tank? Isn't a majority of Bayleaf's district nonhydranted?

**Hold on...** - 05/01/09 - 11:45

Thanks for the info Bay Leaf nice to know what resources you've got.

**Extrication** - 05/01/09 - 15:17

"Hold on..." Drop tanks are carried on Tankers, not Initial Attack Pumpers. Bay Leaf has multiple tankers with drop tanks.

**Mike** - 05/01/09 - 16:56

All are pumper-tankers, except the new 252, because it doesn't have a jet dump. Each Station has a tanker with a drop tank. 122, 258, 366 are designated as tankers, they carry drop tanks. 123 and 252 are designated as Rescue Pumpers/Engines (whatever you want to call them) they respond to MVA's. 121, 251, and 361 are set up as 1st due Pumpers/Engines and do not carry drop tanks.

**AB** - 05/01/09 - 18:18

So help me understand this, 252 has no jet dump and no drop tank? is that right. another question, how many gallons does the trucks tank hold?

**AD** - 05/01/09 - 21:51

Correct on 252, and all Bay Leaf Contenders are 1000 gallon tanks.

**AB** - 05/02/09 - 08:31

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E-mail: (optional)

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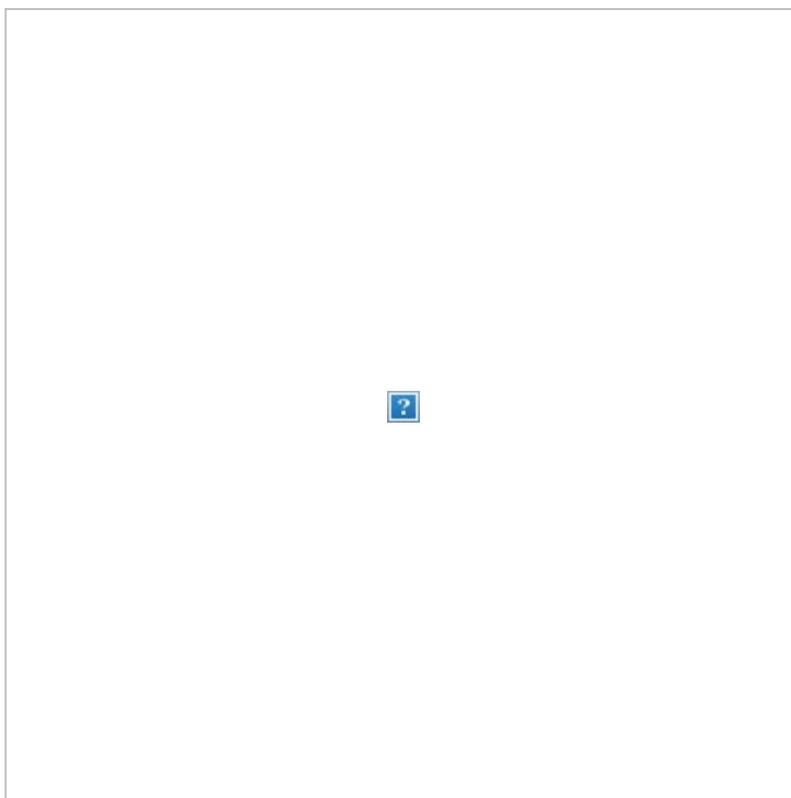
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### Three-Hundred Foot Aerial Platform

04/28/09 78 W, 2 I - + 23 - 14

Found on another discussion board, [check out the brochure](#)  for this 300-foot aerial platform from Germany, used for construction and maintenance work. Mounted on a five-axle, all-terrain crane chassis, the heavy-duty basket can carry up to 1,322 pounds. Wonder if a version's already been adapted for fire and rescue? The company is called [Felbermayr](#), and they specialize in special and heavy transportation on road, rail, and water. Their magazine, [Informer](#), is pretty interesting, too!



---

Bronto Skylift already has a taller device for fire applications, as they put it. The HLA (High Level Articulated) vehicle is available in heights of 69 meters to 104 meters. That's 226 feet to 341 feet capable of reaching the 33 floor. Website address is <http://www.bronto.fi/sivu.aspx?taso=1&id..>

**stretch** - 04/29/09 - 19:55

Ah yes, of course. I wonder if Bronto built the aerial device of the above vehicle!?

**Legeros** - 04/29/09 - 21:55

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E-mail: (optional)

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Yes  
No

**Crashing While Texting While Driving**

04/29/09 86 W, 1 I - + 20 - 20

This one's making the rounds. From NBC13 in Birmingham, AL, here's what it looks like when a San Antonio, TX, bus driver crashes while texting while driving. Two cameras aboard the bus capture both the road view, and the driver's actions before, during, and after his public transportation vehicle slams into stopped cars. Alas, there's no sound, so the driver's verbal response is unknown. Chances are he exclaimed familiar words of the four-letter variety. [Watch the video.](#)



*NBC13 Photo*

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**Mass Casualty Transport Units?**

04/30/09 108 W, 1 I - + 22 - 16

[FireNews](#) has [posted photos](#) from yesterday's bus crash in Charlotte. The pictures, courtesy Charlotte Fire Department, show what looks like a MEDIC mass-casualty transport unit. Tooling over to the [Special Operations page](#) of the MEDIC site, reveals a small photo showing more. Can readers provide additional details? And how many such "buses" presently operate around the state? Fort Bragg has one, that has visited our area for MCI drills at the airport. What others are around? And how many have been built right here in North Carolina, by [Matthews Speciality Vehicles](#)? We've seen those displayed in Baltimore at the Fire Expo.



Here's a neat page of New Hanover County EM equipment, though no MCI buses: <http://www.tmpapps.nhcgov.com/EM/EMequipm..>

**Legeros** - 04/30/09 - 07:57

There are currently buses akin to the Medic model in production by Sartin Services in Archdale, NC for Brunswick County, Guilford County, and Wake County. They each will meet the NIMS typing requirement for a multi-pt transport bus. We expect the Wake bus to be delivered by early July. The buses have been configured to not only be able to transport 14 or more supine patients, they can easily be reconfigured to provide climate-controlled environment seating for up to 24 or more for responder rehab purposes. Will be quite the asset once in service.

**Olson** - 04/30/09 - 08:27

<http://www.sartinservices.com/>

Nice looking equipment. Will be a good resource for us to have in the county.

**CFP 7021** ([Email](#)) - 04/30/09 - 09:20

I must admit, the MEDIC buses were excellently spec'd out. They are a great asset to have, but fortunately they aren't used that often (not that that's a bad thing!!). 36 patients triaged and all transported in roughly 30-45min, excellent work by everyone on scene.

Additionally, CMC and Presby Hospital had some MICUs on scene.

**Luke** - 04/30/09 - 11:31

Cool, glad to see we're getting one here...

**Silver** - 05/01/09 - 09:46

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**Washington Steam Fire Engine**

04/30/09 153 W, 1 I - + 19 - 22

Reporting from the road. Here's the steamer once operated by Washington's Ocean Steam Fire Engine Company. The 1888 Silsby (#899) was rebuilt by American in 1902 after fighting a large waterfront fire. With flames about to overrun the engine, firemen pushed it into the sound. The steamer stayed on the river bottom for a week before being sent for repairs. It was placed in reserve by 1924, last fought fire at the Tayloe Hospital in 1937, and was subsequently used to steam oysters at department events. It's presently displayed inside Washington's headquarters station. Other things to see include a collection of artifacts in the lobby, an 1855 alarm bell outside, the 1902 grave marker for fallen firefighter Edward Peed, and a 1912 American LaFrance pumper. [Read more about WFD history](#). Or read more about [North Carolina steam fire engines](#). More pictures coming. Click to enlarge:



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## Rocky Mount Steam Engine

05/01/09 346 W, 1 I - + 14 - 14

Here's Rocky Mount's old steamer, which we learned was originally operated by the New York City Fire Department. The 1878 Silsby steam engine was rebuilt by American in 1896<sup>1</sup>, and purchased by the Rocky Mount Fire Department for \$2,600. Old Number One had a positive displacement rotary gear pump that delivered up to 650 GPM. It was the department's first pumping engine. In anticipation of the delivery, a mule was purchased in 1895 for \$100. The steamer and mule were first housed in a building near Sunset Avenue and Sorsby's Alley. Live steam was piped into the steamer, from a boiler at the fire station. This improved the response time for heating the steamer's boiler. Upon an alarm, firemen placed wood grain alcohol under the boiler, which ignited the coal, which maintained the steam. The mule (and later horses) were moved into their harnesses as the boiler was being prepared. Hose for steamer was carried on hand reels. Water was largely drafted from cisterns or wells, until the first fire hydrants were installed in 1898. Click to enlarge:



The steamer became a secondary pumper in 1914, when RMFD purchased its first auto fire truck. Old Number One was retired in 1922, after the flues in the boiler burned up at a car show. The steamer remains one of the oldest and most cherished pieces of equipment owned by the Rocky Mount Fire Department. It has been used through the decades as a fire prevention tool, bearing the saying "I've done my part, you do yours, help prevent fires." Source: Display with the steamer, which is housed at the [Rocky Mount Fire Museum](#) at 404 S. Church Street. It's an easy place to find, as it's housed in a former fire station. Read more about [North Carolina steam fire engines](#).

<sup>1</sup> The manufacturer's plaque reads American Fire Engine Company. Mr. Blogger records Silsby as the builder, which perhaps was the original manufacturer? Other records call the steamer an American LaFrance, though American and LaFrance didn't merge until 1903.

**Carolina Township Fire Department**

05/01/09 63 W, 1 I - + 15 - 14

Here's a former fire station found in Pitt County, and located beside the current Carolina Township Fire Department. They were organized in 1959, and this building probably dates from the same time. It's now a community center, and it's available for rental! Directly behind the structure is a considerably newer and larger metal building, housing CTFD.



Interesting note about this building. It also house the local Ruritan Club who meet in the area beside the bays. And there is no passway from the bays to the building, so you had to walk outside and back to the bays to get the trucks. CTFD also has sub station futher out on Hwy 903 near Martin County. If you are listening to the scanner in Pitt County, CTFD is referred to as "Stokes Station 23".

**Steven** ([Email](#)) - 05/01/09 - 19:01

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**Elizabeth City Steam Engine**

05/01/09 102 W, 1 I - + 13 - 16

For our third and last steam engine of the week, here's Elizabeth City's old steamer Inez, a 1902 Silsby named for Chief G. S. Bell's oldest daughter. The steamer was rebuilt that year by Silsby, and was originally a 1873 Silsby that previously served San Antonio, TX. It was acquired by Elizabeth City in 1888. Inez was still on the roster in 1931, towed by motor vehicle. It's presently displayed at the [Museum of the Albemarle](#), where it was photographed on Thursday. That place is pretty cool. Read more about [North Carolina steam fire engines](#). Click to enlarge:



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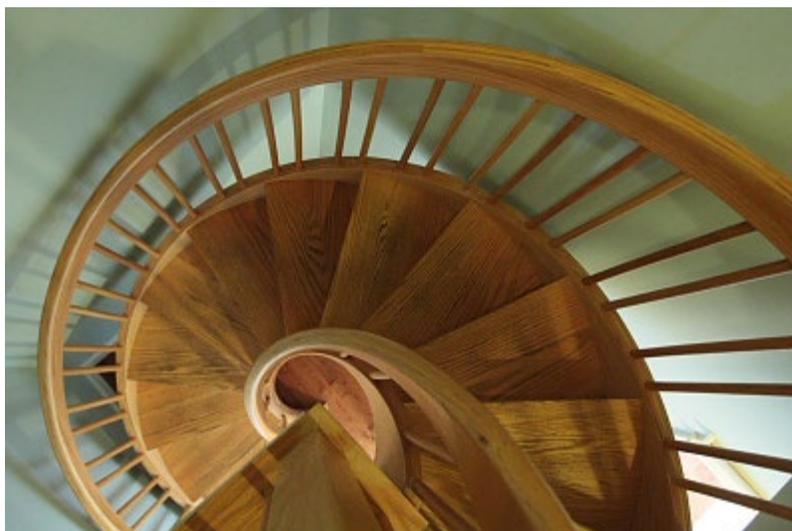
**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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## How About a Fire Pole?

05/02/09 88 W, 1 I - + 17 - 9

We're spending the weekend at a bed and breakfast in Virginia Beach. Our room is the only second story room, on one side of the structure. Access is via spiral staircase, in a spot that seems perfect for a fire pole. Talk about a fun means of egress! How would one get upstairs, with only a pole? That's easy. Emergency Bat Lift. Flip a lever, and you'd even arrive with a change of costume.



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**Norfolk Naval Station**

05/02/09 112 W, 1 I - + 13 - 5

Military bases, naval stations, and government facilities abound in the Hampton Roads area. Army, Navy, NASA, you name it. Though closed to visitors, the area's premiere attraction-- Norfolk Naval Station-- [can be toured by bus](#). The 45-minute guided tour of the world's largest naval base passes a pair of fire stations. Here's a window shot of what appeared to be a combination station, with structural apparatus in the front, and airport crash trucks in the rear. We also passed an air-side station, some several hundred yards away from the road. Didn't get a good shot of that one.



“Though closed to visitors, the area’s premiere attraction— Norfolk Naval Station— can be toured by bus.”

Although this may be true to the “general public”, if you have a relative on base you might(stressing might) be able to get a better tour of the base.

**Joe** - 05/04/09 - 14:42

Hey, that’s my station! When was this taken?

**Josh** ([Email](#)) - 05/08/09 - 20:59

We took the bus tour a week ago Friday, the noon run. How many base fire stations are there, BTW?

**Legeros** - 05/09/09 - 10:42

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Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

## Virginia Beach Former Fire Station

05/02/09 100 W, 2 I - + 11 - 14

This unassuming surf shop at 24th Street and Atlantic Avenue is actually an former Virginia Beach fire station, a fact revealed by a gorgeous painting on the opposite side of the building. Says Google, the artwork was done in 2000 by muralist Todd Alan Lindergh, and his brother Eric, of T. A. L. Ent. The rest of the building is painted to resemble a Polynesian surf hut. As for the fire station, it was built in 1924 and housed what looks like a 1940s Seagrave service truck. Or is that way off? Click to enlarge both:



From a hastily obtained copy of *Virginia Beach Fire Department: A Pictorial History, 1906-2006*, compiled and written by Martin C. Grube, here's some more history. The above building opened in 1925, and was the town's first fire station. The lot cost \$750, measured 28 by 150 feet, and was purchased from Norfolk Southern railroad. It housed the town's first modern fire engine, a 1925 Seagrave Suburban pumper. It also housed the police department, upstairs. The building served as a fire station until 1938, when a larger facility opened on the corner of 20th Street and Artie Avenue. The second station operated until 1997, when Company 11 was relocated to the 800 block of Virginia Beach Boulevard. The old station was demolished. (In a prior decade, all of the Virginia Beach fire departments were consolidated. The town's fire station became Company 11, in a unified VBFD.) The pictured service truck is a 1937 Seagrave combination pumper and service ladder, also known as a "quad." That gorgeous rig is still on the roster, is maintained by a retired firefighter, and is housed at Company 8.

**Legeros** - 05/03/09 - 07:31

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**Watching Yesterday's Fallen Firefighter Memorial Events**

05/03/09 230 W, 1 I - + 13 - 13

Yesterday's fallen firefighter memorial events in Raleigh were both broadcast on the Internet. The recordings have been archived, and [are available for playback](#). The parade started at 10:00 a.m. and travelled down Hillsborough and South Dawson Streets, and featured units from fire departments that have lost members in the line of duty. The service started at 1:00 p.m. at the North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Nash Square. [Read the WRAL story](#). What other media outlets have posted stories?



*WRAL Photo*

The North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Memorial was dedicated on May 6, 2006. The names of 164 fallen members were read, and their survivors were honored. [Read that News & Observer story](#). This year, the names of 11 firefighters who died on the job in 2008 were added to the memorial, along with one from a past decade:

- Paul L. Ellington, Oregon Hill, 1/1/08
- Herman S. Jones, Raleigh, 1/22/08
- James Earl Arthur, Cold Water, 2/11/08
- Victor A. Isler, Salisbury, 3/7/08
- Justin E. Monroe, Salisbury, 3/7/08
- Walter W. Michl, Roanoke-Wildwood, 3/16/08
- Rufus E. Brinson, Jr., Reelsboro, 6/6/08
- Colin Thomas, Verno, 6/14/08
- George Crocker, Pine Level, 6/22/08
- Curtis L. Jessen, Forest Service, 8/21/08
- William T. Barnes, Hope Fire Company/Greenville, 10/9/24.

Visit the [North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#) to see the [full list of memorial names](#). They represent 216 duty deaths from 136 fire departments. Or [read a history of our fallen firefighters](#), compiled in 2006.

**Union Station**

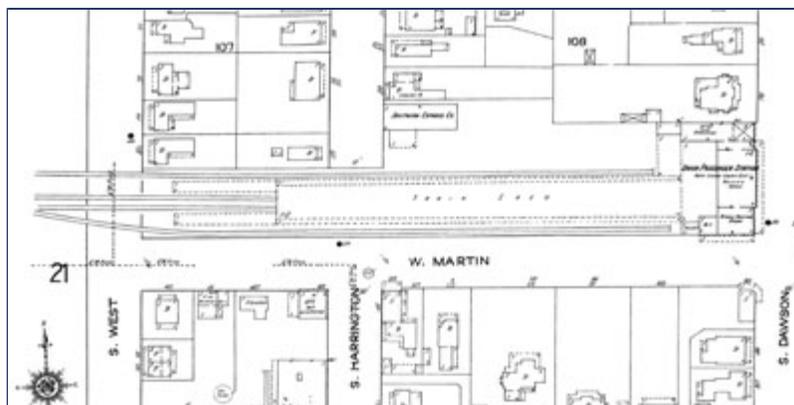
05/04/09 158 W, 3 I - + 15 - 12

Random trivia. The building beside Station 1 at the corner of West Martin and South Dawson streets is a section of Union Station, built in 1890 by the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad. [As this Wikipedia page notes](#), it also served Norfolk Southern and Southern railways, with a total of four tracks. It was a stub-end station, versus run-through, which is why replacements were built in 1942 and 1950. The head-house survives, and is an office building. The platform area behind the original station was redeveloped. Click to enlarge a postcard scan found on eBay, as well as the Wikipedia photo of the current building:



*Vintage postcard / Wikipedia photo*

This Sanborn Map from 1914 shows the above building, the shed and platform, and the tracks that entered the structure. If memory serves, a small section of track is still visible in the pavement. Might be a block west, from the rear of the old platform. Click to enlarge:



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**May Fire Commission Meeting Date**

05/04/09 85 W - + 17 - 15

As previously noted, the Wake County Fire Commission planned to hold its regular May meeting earlier in the month, on May 7, 2009. The date change was for the purpose of accommodating the budget process. As the Fire Commission approved a FY10 budget recommendation to the County Commissioners at a special-called meeting last week, the regular May meeting will be held on May 21, 2009. Please note the schedule change. We'll post another reminder, as well any available documents, closer to the meeting date.

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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**Action!**

05/04/09 81 W, 2 I - + 15 - 11

Here are a couple "spy pics" of a movie scene that's being staged at the dead end of Interstate 540 and Highway 55. Reader Jeff Silver snapped these roadside shots today. The producers of *Main Street*, currently filming in Durham, have permission to close the roadway every night this week. [Read this NBC17 story](#), and see footage of what's being staged. Or, click to enlarge the below pics. Dig those "vintage" rigs!



*Jeff Silver photos*

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## Sneeze

05/05/09 72 W, 1 I - + 16 - 8

Featured in [today's New York Times](#), here's a cute children's [online game called Sneeze](#). The objective? Carefully direct a single sneeze to infect as many people as possible. Pretty cute, with funny sound effects. The article says the game has or maybe was renamed Stop Swine Flu. The game was created to teach young children healthy habits, and was commissioned by Wellcome Trust. [Have a sneeze and start playing](#). Gesundheit!



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Clayton Church Fire

05/06/09 43 W, 1 I - + 11 - 10

WRAL has [posted a photo](#) of a fire that's still working at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church at [5217 Barber Mill Road](#) in Clayton. It was reported around 5:40 a.m., with Garner's ladder dispatched at 5:42 a.m.



Robert Meikle / WRAL photo

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

## Storms

05/06/09 155 W, 1 I - + 12 - 16

Our weather radio works, which we learned four times last night, with three tornado warnings and one flash flood alert. Good photos from the storms [included these at WRAL](#), with some 320 posted so far. As the [television station reports](#), at least a dozen homes were damaged and three minor injuries reported. The Antioch fire station in Johnston County also suffered some minor roof damage, we read last night. On the west side of the state, numerous water rescues were performed around Charlotte. Last night's storms trapped more than 50 people in cars and homes, [reports this Charlotte Observer article](#).

What fires happened? New Hope had a working house fire at 5509 Castlebrook Drive at 7:50 p.m. Raleigh, Wendell, and Falls were also on scene. Numerous others were reported. And this morning, [as WRAL reports](#), five departments fought a fire at a food mart in Zebulon Franklin County about 1:00 a.m. Unknown if storm-related.



WRAL photo

I heard that sweet new Falls Rig was in attendance in New Hope

**Interested** - 05/06/09 - 16:28

Cary & Morrisville had a house fire off of Green Level Ch Rd. MFD E3, E7, E5, L5, T7, R4, BC2. Not sure about any other units.

**fire1983** - 05/06/09 - 22:51

Cary & Morrisville's fire was actually off Futrell Rd (in the county) and was a barn well involved some 1500-1600 feet off the roadway.

Morrisville Car 3, Brush 2 and Cary EMS 52 also responded to the scene.

**CFP 7021** ([Email](#)) - 05/07/09 - 17:44

Apex had an EMS call. Nasty storm comes through and all we get is an EMS call. Bubble is intact

**Apex Batt Chief** - 05/07/09 - 18:06

Good one Scoot, made me laugh. Looked like you could have used a hole on the Horton Rd. job?

**Silver** - 05/07/09 - 21:50

**The Voice Behind Locution**

05/06/09 102 W - + 15 - 13

Well, one of the voices. As Dave Statter [surfaced this week](#), the *Palm Beach Post* profiled Debbie Rohr, who provides the lead voice of [Locution Systems](#). They note that several other women also provide voices for the computerized dispatch systems. Does Debbie do Raleigh? Don't know; perhaps someone else can advise. [Read the story of a person behind a voice](#). With both Locution and the VIPER radio system, we've come a long way, baby, in Raleigh and Wake County. Every dispatch sounds like every other one, and every incident can be heard by everyone else. Good all around.

Ms. Rohr is, indeed, the voice of our Locution.

**RWECC** ([Email](#)) - 05/08/09 - 12:22

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**This Morning's Fire in Apex**

05/07/09 74 W, 4 I - + 11 - 13

Working fire at [9909 Horton Road](#) in New Hill. Apex Engine 2 arriving at a 1,452 square feet, wood-frame house, with heavy fire conditions. Alarm time 8:10 a.m. Units on scene included Apex E2, E3, E5, L1, T1, B1, C5, C6; Moncure Tanker 813; Holly Springs E3, C4; EMS 42, EMS 41, District 2; WC 1. Fairview provided coverage at Apex. Thanks to Apex Fire Department for the photos. [Click to enlarge:](#)



*Apex Fire Department Photos*

Looks like a good one...for the out of towners, that ISN'T a booster (aka red line) on the ground.

**Silver** - 05/07/09 - 20:50

Nice to see a well coordinate attack on a half-story fire with two lines and also good photographs that document the incident and provide good material for future training. Hats off to Apex fire and the other companies at the fire.

John Sachen, Senior Fire Instructor  
University of Missouri – Fire and Rescue Training Institute

**John Sachen** - 05/09/09 - 22:19

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Spencer Fire Apparatus Show, September 12**

05/07/09 124 W, 1 I - + 13 - 12

Been itching for an apparatus muster? The Spencer Fire Department Auxiliary is hosting their first and hopefully annual fire apparatus show on Saturday, September 12, 2009, at the [North Carolina Transportation Museum](#). They're focusing exclusively on pumpers, tankers, aerials, and brush trucks, and pre-registration fees are \$25 per apparatus. After July 31, the registration fee is \$50. The schedule for the day starts with staging at 8:00 a.m., parade at 9:00 a.m., gates to museum opening at 9 a.m., and apparatus judging starting at 10:30 a.m. And with everyone going home by 3:30 p.m. There are eight categories for judging, plus a People's Choice Award and a Best in Show Award. [Read this flyer for more information](#) . Or learn about the [Spencer Fire Department](#).

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Barry Doyle Finalist for Community Celebrity Award

05/07/09 63 W - + 11 - 8

[Feed the Firefighter Foundation](#) founder and restaurateur Barry Doyle is one of three finalists for this year's [Cabot Community Celebrity Award](#). Barry has served over 45,000 meals to Triangle firefighters since forming the foundation in 1998. The winner receives a five-night cruise package for themselves and a guest. [Cast a vote for Barry](#) on the WPTF web site.

Please vote for Barry!

**AB** - 05/07/09 - 22:48

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

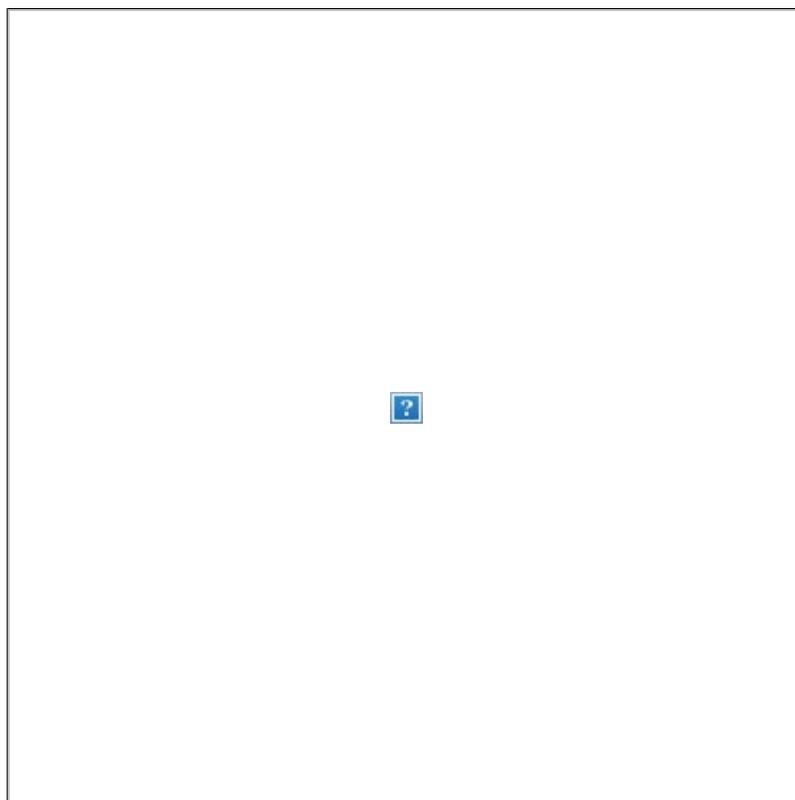
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Falls Fire Department Public Safety Day, Saturday, May 30

05/07/09 109 W, 1 I - + 9 - 11

Public Safety Day returns to [Wakefield High School](#) on Saturday, May 30. Sponsored by the Falls Fire Department, the event is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Games, prizes, free food and drinks, fire extinguisher demos, Sparky the Fire Dog, something called a Fire Truck Pull/Race, and something else called Pie the Fire Chief in the Face. Do you get to choose a chief for the latter event?!? Okay, okay, that one's probably for civilians only. [See this Falls FD page](#) for more, including information for parties interested in business sponsorships. See also Mr. Blogger's [photos from last year](#).



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Overnight Fires**

05/08/09 81 W, 1 I - + 20 - 13

[WRAL is reporting](#) that lightning caused at least two working fires overnight, at [6405 Sylvan Lane in Raleigh](#), and at the [Wendell Country Club](#). Below is a picture of the 60 golf carts destroyed in the structure. There's something you don't see every day. A third overnight fire at an abandoned house on [Thelma Street](#) in Raleigh might have been started by lightning, they report. Or might have been started by homeless people. [Read the story](#).



*Jamie Munden / WRAL photo*

I've heard the story told of a cart barn at North Ridge Country Club, I believe it was, that burned maybe two decades ago. As the story goes, burning carts started rolling out of the barn, and had to be chased down, as the fire caused the motors to engage.

**Legeros** - 05/08/09 - 07:39

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**UPDATED: Elizabeth City Fire Department Postcards**

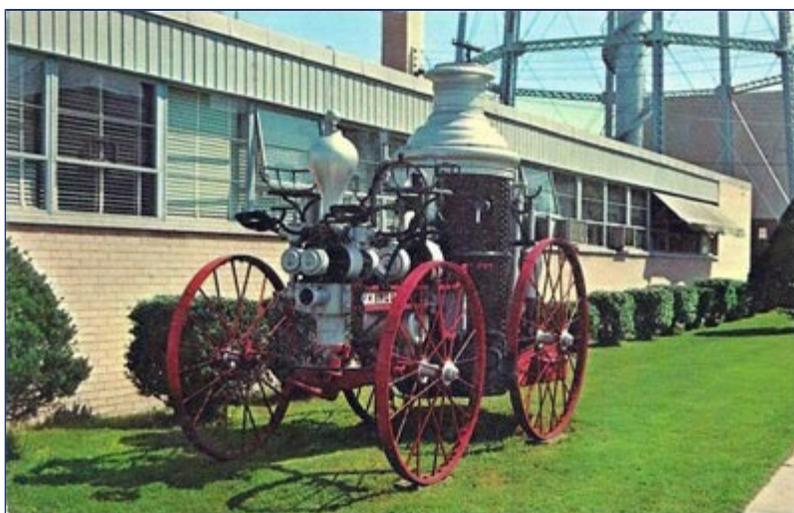
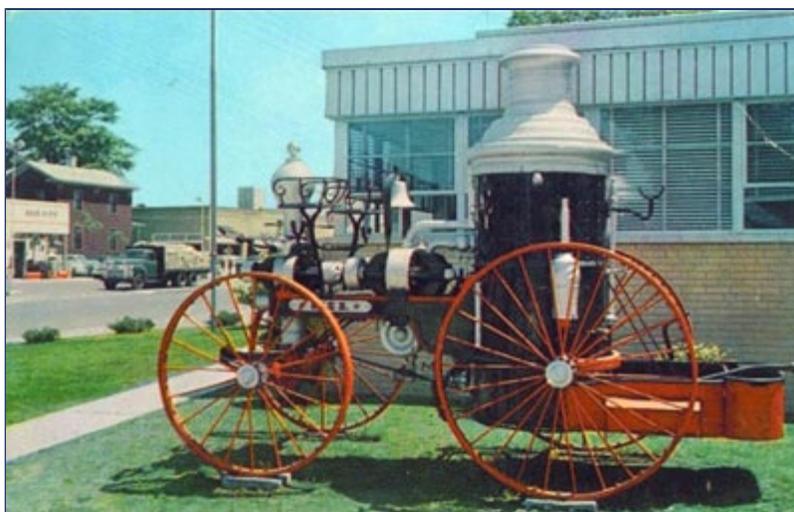
02/15/12 138 W, 3 I - + 14 - 15

February 2012

Updated with two additional postcard images. Click to enlarge each.

May 2009

What we learned last week about Elizabeth City's former fire station on Elizabeth Street helps explain this title of a postcard for sale on eBay [the second postcard shown below], which Mr. Blogger has wondered about for ages. What did this postcard view of an old steamer have to do with a "\$70,000 fire station?" Now we know. The card shows a view of the living quarters of the Elizabeth Street fire station, decades later condemned and removed, and the old steam engine Inez displayed outside. The base of the water tower behind the behind is our clue. The station must have cost \$70,000. There you go. Here's our previous blog postings about ECFD's [old steamer](#) and [old stations](#).





Mike,

I want to thank you for posting these photos. My grandparents lived in Elizabeth City and my father, brother and I visited both stations on each trip. I remember when the newer station (now closed) was originally built. In earlier days we always visited the original firehouse talking with the fire chief and some of his men around an old potbelly stove. My brother and I had our pictures taken on "Old Inez". The pictures bring back many pleasant memories.

Thank you!!

Gary

**Gary Fry** ([Email](#)) - 12/13/13 - 13:01

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

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Yes

No

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**Rolling Bridge**

05/09/09 147 W, 2 I - + 13 - 12

Diverting from fire stuff, let's visit the [Dismal Swamp Canal](#). Opened in 1805 and presently part of the intracoastal waterway, the canal is located on the east edge of the [Great Dismal Swamp](#). The canal was dug completely by hand, and largely using slave labor. The thing took 12 years to complete, and was 22 miles long when opened. Though largely hidden from landlubbers passing on nearby highways, the canal is readily visible to cars with GPS. It appears as two long and very straight blue lines. While rolling to Virginia Beach last week, we found this bridge just south of milepost 21. As [this canal paddling brochure](#) explains, it's a World War II surplus [Bailey Bridge](#) employed by farmers to access their fields. The bridge is rolled by hitching a tractor on the west side, and pushing or pulling the thing back and forth. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

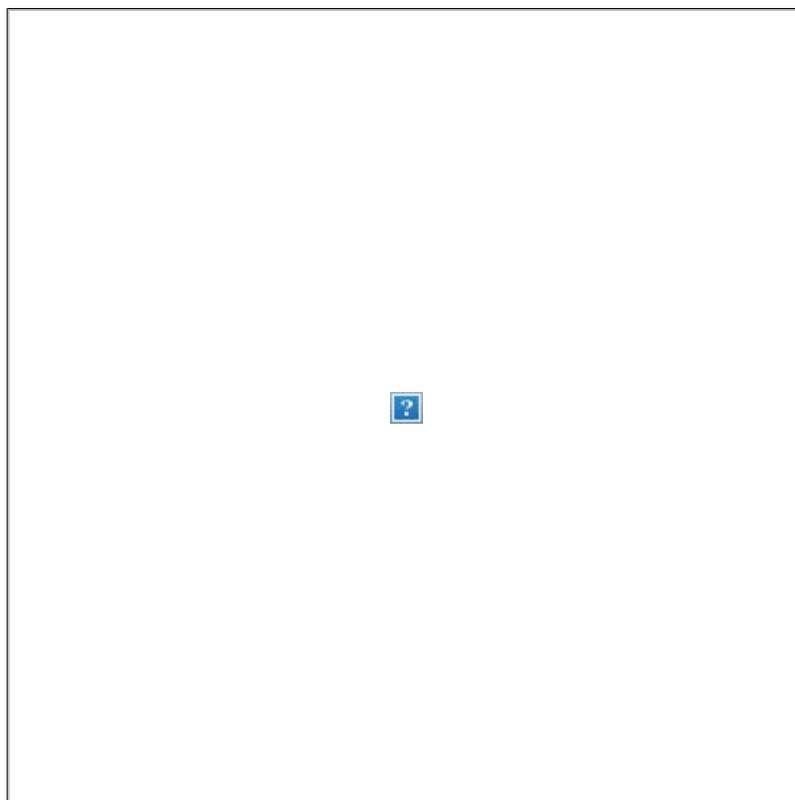
/ [Textile](#)

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## Fallen Firefighter Golf Tournament on June 11

05/10/09 93 W, 1 I - + 13 - 17

The third annual National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament in support of the [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#) is Thursday, June 11, at Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club, [565 Competition Road](#) in Raleigh. Tee time is 10:00. The entry fee is \$80 and guests receive a complimentary breakfast before, and a full meal after, range balls, door prizes and gift bags, pre-game competitions, and trophies. For more information, see [www.fallenfirefightergolf.info](http://www.fallenfirefightergolf.info). The event is hosted by the Raleigh Fire Department. [See photos from prior years](#). Look at the golfs!



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Military Fire Apparatus in Granville County

05/10/09 176 W, 2 I - + 14 - 17

Tooling around Granville County, Lee Wilson photographed two pieces of military or military conversion fire apparatus yesterday. Left is a tanker that served Camp Butner, and is parked with some other vintage vehicles at the North Carolina Army National Guard facility in Butner. [Read some Camp Butner history](#), which notes the Army continued fire and police protection after the camp closed after World War II. The state assumed fire and police services on November 3, 1947. [Read about Butner Public Safety](#), which remains state-run and is presently contracted by the town. Butner was unincorporated until 2007.

Right is a 1944 International that served as the first piece of apparatus for the Stem Fire Department. The truck was obtained in 1959, says this [SFD apparatus page](#). It served until the early 1980s and was sold. It was donated back to the department in 2007, and restored to non-running condition. Read more about [Stem Fire Department](#). See more of [Lee's photos from Granville County](#), which includes Oxford Public Safety Day. Or click to enlarge:



*Lee Wilson photos*

Here in Wake County, both Cary and Six Forks fire departments operated near-identical tankers as the Stem truck. See below. Another half-dozen (at least) military conversion tankers served Durham Highway, Falls, Holly Springs, Wendell, Yrac, and maybe others that I am forgetting.

CFD: <http://legeros.com/ralwake/galleryc/appa..>

SFFD: <http://legeros.com/ralwake/galleryw/appa..>

**Legeros** - 05/10/09 - 08:23

In Duplin County Rose Hill and Northeast Fire Departments run 6×6's similar to these as brush trucks. They were very useful during the Floyd flood in 1999.

**car3550** - 05/10/09 - 14:11

Knightdale had a 'deuce-and-half' until the late 70s or so. Wendell had what I think was a 5-tonner. Morrisville had a couple of deuce-and-halves, and Apex, Rolesville, and Fuquay-Varina, as well.

In Johnston County, Micro had one during the 60s. Down at the coast, Stella had an M530 pumper that they got from somewhere in Craven County.

They were tough, reliable, and versatile trucks. Maybe not pretty without much chrome, but how much fire does the chrome put out anyway?

**DJ (Email)** - 05/10/09 - 14:42

Fairview operated a ex-gasoline tanker. "Big Red" was a 1947 Diamond Rio tanker with a 1000 gallon tank and a 100 GPM pump.

**4447** - 05/10/09 - 19:22

I have ridden in that old 5-Ton pumper. What I know about it is.. that it's Studebaker built, and was Butner Public Safety's back-up tanker/pumper in case Engine 1 went down for many many years. Until it was decommissioned about 4 years ago, it was Active Duty. It was liquidated and put on Auction. MSPL Beal from what I understand purchased the vehicle and then painted it to reflect the old Camp Butner FD's scheme.

**Brian Hicks** ([Email](#)) - 01/18/11 - 20:55

Thanks for the insight, Brian. Need to visit that way some time, and see what historical photos can be found from decades past. Not many military FD historical pictures in my collection.

**Legeros** - 01/18/11 - 21:02

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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## Saturday's Storms

05/10/09 84 W, 1 I - + 19 - 7

Yesterday's thunderstorm was very fast and very windy. Trees and lines were down everywhere. Tones galore. On Capital Boulevard at Huntleigh Drive and Trawick Road, a fallen tree felled both power lines and traffic signals about 6:40 p.m. It was reported as tree versus car, with subject possibly pinned. We passed the scene about 40 minutes later. WRAL has posted viewer photos of area damage, with their [story of the storm](#). At least its cooler today.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

 Yes No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.

## Hawaiian Shirts Still Making Waves

05/10/09 189 W - + 16 - 8

Today's *News & Observers* has an entertaining [feature on tropical shirts](#). The Associated Press story includes a history, noting that the shirts played a role in creating [casual Friday](#). When the city of Honolulu allowed employees to wear Aloha shirts to city offices in 1965, the trend subsequently spread nationwide. The article includes a sidebar of tips, such as "louder is better" and "don't ever tuck them in." Unless you're [Thomas Magnum](#). (Idea for television series: fire buff with hot shirts solves crimes in the Carolinas. Episode 1, Murder at the State Archives.)

Relevant quotes in the article include "the minute you put them on, you feel a little more relaxed" (Doug Wood, Tommy Bahama), "the average man in Hawaii wears an Aloha shirt every day" (Linda Arthur, textile professor), and, what made Mrs. Blogger chuckle, "If you stretch beyond [wearing] three [shirts], people [say] 'It's so sad to see someone give up like that. His poor wife!'" (Greg Chambers, Mad Gringo). How many shirts are hanging at Blog Center, you ask? Ninety or so.

## New Hope's New Engine

05/11/09 28 W, 1 I - + 15 - 12

Lee Wilson has posted posed photos of New Hope's new Engine 1, a 2009 Pierce Contender, 1500/1000, delivered on April 24. [See more photos.](#)



*Lee Wilson photo*

Nice pics Lee. Looks great!

**AB** - 05/11/09 - 09:20

Yes indeed, We are impressed with it, not like the old "pretenders" from previous county specs, Pierce really stepped up their game with these!!!!

**NH300c** - 05/11/09 - 10:58

What is the difference with the old Pretenders as mentioned from previous specs and the new contender from Pierce? Oh by the way...this is a good looking truck! But I do love that MACK still!

**jetexas** - 05/11/09 - 15:49

Fit and Finish better. It's still the Saber Chassis, but TONS more customization possible. We'll see how it holds up. The Mack is sold, it'll be missed.

**AB** - 05/11/09 - 16:05

That's cool...Good to know

How different is this new truck compared to Contender from a couple years ago?

And how did it come about that you could customize the truck a little more than in years past?

Was that a new county change or did they allow each department to design something that better meet their needs?

**jetexas** - 05/11/09 - 17:15

Made many options standard, meets current nfpa 1901, Pierce has expanded their capabilities and increased options. This is pretty much a full

custom now, just not built as heavy as some of the high dollar trucks. Smaller frame rails, TAK-4 not available, no air bags/rollover, etc... Max price is \$320,000, any more than that and the department has to pay for it out of pocket. It's not perfect, but when you're coming off an old Mack, Ford, etc it's a huge upgrade.

**AB** - 05/11/09 - 17:50

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Oxford's Old Station**

05/11/09 109 W, 2 I - + 16 - 13

Photographed in 2007, when Mr. Blogger was returning from the Baltimore Fire Expo, here's Oxford's old fire station at [122 Williamsboro Street](#). The building, built decades earlier, served as a fire station from 1956 to 1993. The fire station was previously part of a City Hall and Armory building, located next door on Williamsboro Street, and just behind the courthouse. That 1908 structure replaced a combination structure on Wall Street, which was rented in 1906. Read more [Oxford Fire Department history](#) 📷. Or [learn more about OFD](#). Or see a big honkin' list of [former fire stations around the state](#). The 1956 fire station building presently serves as county offices. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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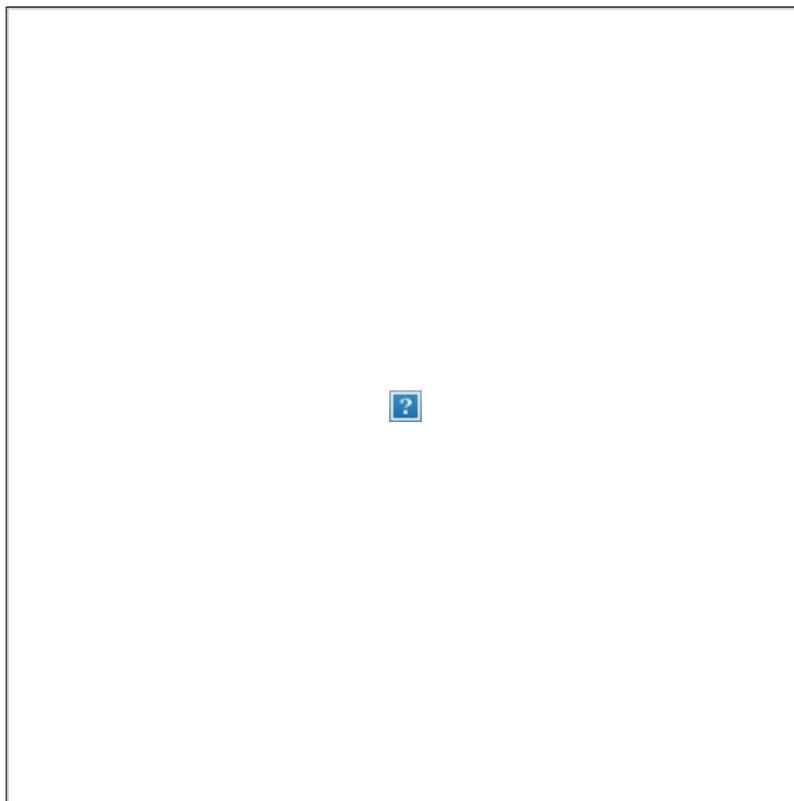
([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

## The Bain Project

05/11/09 145 W, 1 I - + 13 - 12

From a reader, what happens when 12 artists spend nine months interacting with Raleigh's historic E. B. Bain Water Treatment Plant? The result is the Bain Project, which was open to the public last weekend, and opens again this weekend. [Learn about the Bain Project](#). Or read more information from the [North Carolina Museum of Art](#). If you've never been inside the plant, it's definitely worth a visit.

As this [National Park Service page](#) notes, the complex was dedicated in 1940. The Art Deco style building is four stories high in places, has a full basement, and soaring stairways inside the two-story lobby. It was constructed beside the 1887 water plant, the city's original pumping facility, and which is still standing. The Bain plant operated until 1987. The structure is presently planned for reuse, with plans ranging from restaurants to office space.



*Bain Project Photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Google Street View and Former Fire Stations

05/11/09 243 W - + 15 - 15

For some years now, we've been searching the state for former firehouses. Slowly, surely, we've been [documenting and photographing buildings](#) that once served as fire stations. Or, that are still serving as engine houses, but over 50 years in age. That is, they're historic. It's been an interesting project, and requiring only a moderate amount of obsession. Hey, everyone needs a hobby. And though we've photographed quite a few of these in recent years, there are plenty [listed in the database](#) without images. Until now. Until [Google Street View](#). Browsed the streets of smaller towns lately? Seems Google has been very busy in our state. Below are some structures found in less than an hour of browsing. Talk about armchair travel!

- Albemarle, Third and Main Streets, old fire station. [See street view](#). (Correct building?)
- Cherryville, 109 E. Main Street, city hall, fire station until 1943. [See street view](#).
- Convor, 101 1st Street E., old fire station. [See street views](#)
- Gastonia, 240 W. Franklin Boulevard, city hall, fire station until 1950?. [See street view](#). (Correct building?)
- Kernersville, 1780 Union Cross Road, old fire station. [See street view](#). (Correct building?)
- Monroe, 102 W. Jefferson Street, old city hall, fire station from 1880s to 1920s. [See street view](#).
- Pinehurst, 45 Community Road, old town hall and fire station. [See street view](#).
- Seagrove, 106 N. Broad Street, old fire station. [See street view](#).
- Speed, 202 Railroad Street, old fire station. [See street view](#).
- Vander, 3509 Clinton Road, old Station 2. [See street view](#)

Google Street View of Teachey FD old new, <http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&safe=o..>

Todd D. ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 05/11/09 - 21:34

The Gastonia FD picture is the correct building. The smaller portion of the building on the left side is the former fire station.

[\[bcfd424\]](#) - 05/11/09 - 23:00

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s..>

This is the pld fire station in Conover that I know of.

[\[bcfd424\]](#) - 05/11/09 - 23:06

Sorry for the misspelled word in the last comment, I meant old fire station. The bays were on the left long side and were bricked up after the fire department moved out.

[\[bcfd424\]](#) - 05/11/09 - 23:09

Two from Pender County:

Hampstead, Highway 17 just south of Highway 210, old fire station, <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s..> (correct building?)

Penderlea, Dillard Road, old fire station, <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s..>

Legeros - 05/13/09 - 06:51

Few more:

Dobson, Forsyth County, Crutchfield Street, <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s..> (correct building?)

Hickory Grove in Bladen County, old fire station behind newer fire station, <http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&safe=off&client=firefox-a&q=bladen+county+nc&ie=UTF8&split=0&gl=us&ei=k2ILSuGBJZqItgea2ZjFAg&ll=34.748947,-78.423843&spn=0.079409,0.096302&z=13&layer=c&cbll=34.749048,78.42419&panoid=njPaplQgzOyRfcW9PBllw&cbp=12,38.91,,1.6.2>

Newton Grove, Sampson County, Weeks Circle, <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s..>

Shelby, City Hall, also former fire station, <http://maps.google.com/maps?oe=utf-8&cli..>

Summerfield, Guilford County, old fire station, 7400 block Summerfield Road, <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s..>

Wallburg, Davidson County, Motsinger Road, <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=Motsinger+..> (correct building?)

Legeros - 05/13/09 - 21:03

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

## Raleigh's New Pierce Platforms

05/11/09 102 W, 1 I - + 12 - 17

The Raleigh Fire Department has received a pair of 2009 Pierce Arrow XT aerial platforms. The 100-foot platforms, with 1,500 GPM pumps and 400 gallon tanks, were delivered this morning. They'll be assigned to Ladder 20 and Ladder 22, replacing a 1999 American LaFrance platform and a 2005 Pierce ladder, respectively. The ALF platform will be placed in reserve, and the Pierce ladder will become Ladder 24, which is operating a 1988 Pierce Snorkel. These are the fifth and sixth aerial platforms in the city's history. [More apparatus information](#). Lee Wilson was there today, and he'll be posting photos soon. Click to enlarge:



*Lee Wilson Photo*

Those look awesome! I know the boys and girls at the ladders they are replacing will be thrilled!

**jason lane** - 05/11/09 - 21:16

Wow! Any idea on what these 2 beauties cost? Congrats RFD!

**jetexas** - 05/11/09 - 21:27

They do look awesome. I think that the folks at the 2-4 house will be happy to get off the snorkel.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 05/12/09 - 01:10

Very pretty.

**H2O** - 05/12/09 - 09:41

825K each

**ncff** - 05/12/09 - 14:47

Very nice....safe travels to the crews that get them.

As an aside, while fueling up Ladder 4 at the gas station, a fellow brother from Columbus, OH struck up a conversation with us. He couldn't get over the condition of our apparatus and that our rig was nearly 10 years old. My opinion, as much as it's a pain some times, is the miserable "1st Saturday detail" program has its' perks.

Not a lot of your large, city departments "detail" their rigs like we do. Yes, there are more pieces to the puzzle. But, I think a huge help is the fact that once a month, the entire apparatus is gone over and detailed, not just washed. The ol' "white glove treatment" probably isn't necessary anymore and can be considered overkill but the detail program is a good thing to have, in my opinion.

I know in the Bull City, rigs were detailed on Fridays. Has that changed? Any other departments out there that detail rigs? And before the smart a\$\$es comment, yes, when the rig is dirty it gets washed, I understand that.

**Silver** - 05/12/09 - 15:24

You are right Silver in the Bull City F.D every Friday the rigs get detailed and the yards get cut.

**km** - 05/13/09 - 15:09

Just like the ol' times...

**Silver** - 05/13/09 - 15:53

we know that raleigh's current ladder 20 is going to be put in reserve, but when the current L22 becomes L24, will Raleigh put the snorkel back into reserve too, or are they going to surplus auction the rig?

**charlie snyder** ([Email](#)) - 05/15/09 - 16:37

Reserve for now...

**Silver** - 05/15/09 - 23:27

Hopefully one of those fog nozzles will be switched out with a 2" tip...

**Silver** - 05/16/09 - 10:47

Amen Jeff... too many fogs on the master streams at RFD.

**A.Rich** - 05/16/09 - 17:58

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email:  Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Ground Crew to Tower: This Sucks**

05/12/09 79 W, 1 I - + 9 - 11

Firegeezzer found this photo of an incident yesterday at Los Angeles International Airport. Japan Airlines Boeing 747 versus baggage tram container. Suction happened. [Read the Geezer Guy's report](#). As for the below photo, observe one person wearing a medical mask. Someone fearing swine flu? Hasn't the hamdemic threat receded? The pork been pulled, so to speak? It was tail-curling for a while, at least as the media was reporting. You never sausage anxiety.



It's very common to see a large percentage of passengers on flights to and from Japan wearing masks, #1 to hydrate the air, #2 to prevent infection from re-circulated air. You will also see this on buses, downtown in supermarkets and in departments stores. It is considered extremely rude there to cough or sneeze and spread your germs to others. No one even thinks anything of people wearing masks since it is so common.

**cornerhydrant** - 05/15/09 - 23:56

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## Copper Smelting Furnace Fire / Old Guilford College Chemical 19

05/12/09 172 W, 1 I - + 15 - 14

[FireNews Incident Reports](#) has posted details of a copper smelting furnace fire in Stokes County on Monday. The 6:00 a.m. alarm for a building fire at [3990 US 311 Highway N in Pine Hall](#) was first due for Stokes-Rockingham FD. Also dispatched were Walnut Cove FD, Madison FD, and Huntsville FD. Arriving units at a 600,000 square-foot copper tubing plant found fire under and around a smelting furnace. Temperature of the molten materials was 2,200+ degrees, with copper running out of a hole that had formed. The leaking metal melted and ignited machinery wiring and hydraulic hoses. The latter resulted in a hydraulic fluid leak. Water was ruled out for extinguishing, and [Purple-K](#) units were requested from Shiloh FD in Rockingham County and the city of Greensboro. The latter unit, Guilford College FD's old Chemical 19, was about 43 minutes from the scene, says Google Maps. [Read the complete incident report](#). Or click to enlarge this photo, taken many years ago with something called a "film camera":



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

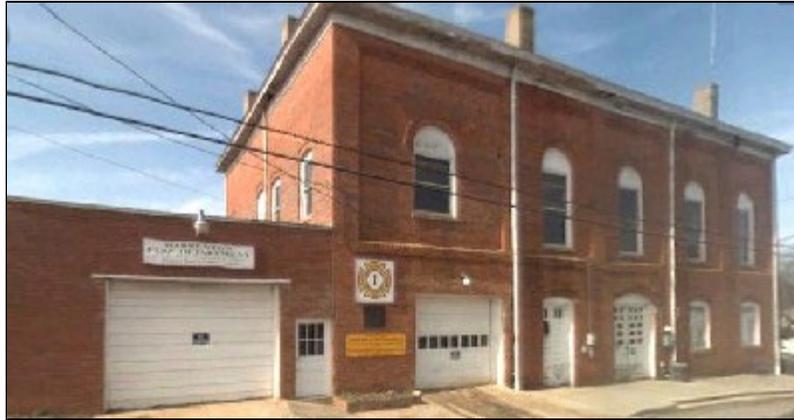
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**Warrenton Former Fire Station**

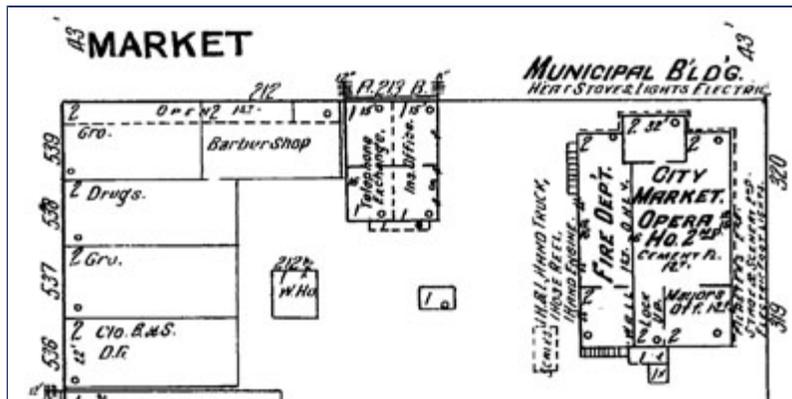
05/13/09 153 W, 2 I - + 17 - 12

Here's a nifty former fire station found via Google Maps Street View. Warrenton's old City Hall and fire station, on [South Bragg Street at East Market Street](#). From Sanborn Maps, it was built by 1912. That year, it also housed the Mayor's office, the "lock up," the City Market, and a second-floor Opera House. The fire department was housed in the rear of the structure, and its two companies of 55 total volunteers had a combination hand and chemical engine, a hose cart, and hand hook and ladder ladder truck. Water was supplied by fire cisterns, and private water tanks and wells. Organized in 1896, Warrenton's municipal fire department retired on July 1, 2004, with one engine, and 15 volunteers. The town subsequently contracted with Warrenton Rural Fire Department for fire protection. [See the Google Maps Street View](#).



Google Maps Photo

Or click to enlarge this 1912 Sanborn Map excerpt:



Sanborn Map

I believe it is now part of the police station and the beginnings of a fire museum

**Mike** - 05/13/09 - 15:12

Updated with Sanborn Map excerpt.

**Legeros** - 05/13/09 - 18:52

**Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015** - *George Crocker* « **Warrenton Former Fire...** » **Big Pumpers and Small...**  
*Memorial Motorcycle Rally, Saturday, June 13*

**George Crocker Memorial Motorcycle Rally, Saturday, June 13**

05/13/09 123 W - + 9 - 11

The [Raleigh Fireman's Club](#) is sponsoring a George Crocker Memorial Motorcycle Rally on June 13, 2009. Registration opens at 11:00 a.m. at the Fireman's Club building at [12601 Bayleaf Church Road](#), in Raleigh. Riders depart by noon. The destination is the Two Wheel Cafe at [1475 W. Market Street](#), Smithfield. There will be music, food, raffles and great memories.

A graveside service follows at Crocker Cemetery in Pine Level at approximately 2:00 p.m. All are welcome. Contact Raleigh Fireman's Club President Michelle Munisteri for more information at (919) 320-4133. George Crocker died in the line of duty on June 22, 2008. The 32 year-old firefighter was the volunteer chief of the Pine Level Fire Department, and a Senior Firefighter with the Raleigh Fire Department.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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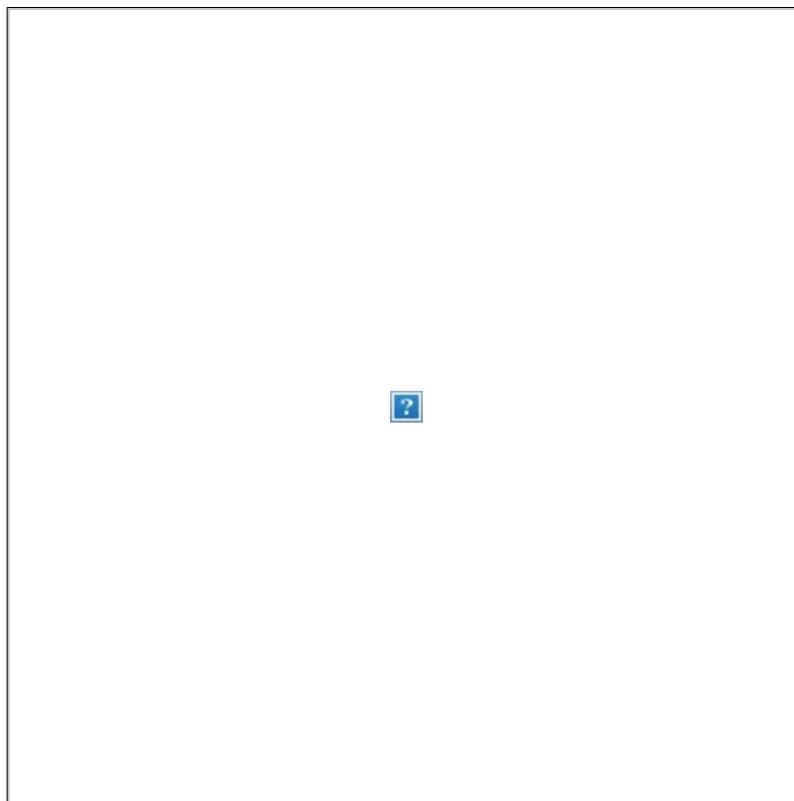
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Big Pumpers and Small Stations in Goldsboro

05/14/09 118 W, 1 I - + 15 - 11

Found via [FireNews](#), this [Goldsboro News-Argus article](#) talks about a perennial problem: fitting newer fire engines in older fire stations. The two of the city's five stations, built in 1966 and 1984, are too small to fit current-sized apparatus, as the picture shows below. That's Engine 3 squeezing into Station 3 on Patetown Road. The context is the department's aging fleet, and a pair of new pumpers in the proposed city budget. GFD's oldest apparatus are a 1976 brush truck, a 1977 snorkel, and a 1979 American LaFrance pumper. Their newest are a 2006 E-One pumper, a 2001 E-One ladder, and a 2000 E-One quint. [Read the article](#). Or learn about the [Goldsboro Fire Department](#).



*Greg Sousa / Goldsboro News-Argus Photo*

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Yeah and before I left Goldsboro their aerial still in service was a 1956 America La France open cab with a 100 stick. Someone finally said something in the paper that made the city order a quint and a new ladder in less than a month.

**car3550** - 05/14/09 - 10:13

Eastern Wake has a big pumper. "I need the big pumper up here, bring me the big pumper" Quote from a recent structure fire.

**ewcar1** - 05/15/09 - 19:52

Thats is Funny there.

**LOL** - 05/18/09 - 22:55

## Fuquay's New Engine

05/14/09 89 W, 2 I - + 15 - 14

'Tis the season for the new deliveries. Here's Fuquay-Varina's new Pierce Contender, 1500/1000, as photographed by Lee Wilson. The engine was delivered on Monday. [See more photos.](#)



*Lee Wilson photo*

Going back in time, here's Fuquay Springs old Engine 1, also photographed this week. The 1945 Mack Type 45 pumper, 800/250, is stored in a building behind Station 1. [See more photos.](#) What other engines from that decade are still around in Wake County? Exactly two: Apex's 1940 Ford/Hunter and Zebulon's 1945 Mack Type 45.



*Lee Wilson photo*

Don't know about others in Wake, but in Johnston, Wilson's Mills not long ago restored their original 1947 Mack. They did not buy it new (they got it in the 70s) but it was their first out for several years, until they bought a 1981 Ford/Atlas, which was featured in national advertising for Atlas at the time. It was the first canopy cab pumper that Atlas made. They still have it.

**DJ** - 05/14/09 - 08:51

Oh yeah, Clayton still has their old Ford.

**DJ** - 05/14/09 - 08:52

we still have our 1961 ford/american lafrance here at cleveland, we are almost finished with the restoration of it

**CAR4** - 05/16/09 - 09:18

This is Engine 5 went in service today 5-23-2009.

**FVFD** ([Email](#)) - 05/23/09 - 19:08

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## History Workshop at Fire Rescue Expo, August 21

05/14/09 149 W, 1 I - + 14 - 8

Mark your calendars; book your rooms. The state fireman's convention returns to Raleigh this year, and Yours Truly is a workshop presenter. On Friday, August 21, at the Raleigh Convention Center, Historian Mike Legeros conducts a workshop on the [history of firefighting in North Carolina](#). The event is 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

He'll present information, answer questions, and lead discussions on the history of fire protection in Raleigh, and other cities and towns. Historical topics to range from fire department to fire apparatus to even researching history itself. Bring your questions, or your own histories, and join the discussion!

Visit the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo web site](#) for more information, including the [full program schedule](#). And watch the blog. We'll post an outline ahead of time, and maybe some other stuff. See you there!



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

**Fire Museum Flickr Collection**

05/15/09 92 W - + 13 - 11

Mr. Blogger has updated his [Flickr collection of fire museum photos](#), taken during travels in recent years. Where are other musuem? See [this directory](#) from the Fire Museum Network. The above Flickr collection features photos from:

- Catawba County Firefighters Museum
- Charlotte Fire Museum
- Chicago Training Academy
- Maryland Fire Museum
- Fayetteville History Room
- Harrisburg PA Fire Museum
- Hinckley MN Fire Museum
- Minneapolis Fire Dept
- Minneapolis Fire Museum
- Museum of the Albemarle
- New Bern Firemen's Museum
- North Charleston Fire Museum
- Philadelphia Fire Museum
- Rocky Mount Fire Museum
- Washington Fire Station

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
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 No

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_ / [Textile](#)

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Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

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### Big Water at Selma Drill

05/16/09 103 W, 1 I - + 11 - 16

[Johnston County Emergency Services](#) provided a pair of special trailers at a water supply drill in Selma today. Left is a motor-assisted hose reel with 3,000 feet of five-inch line. Right is a 3,500 GPM pump, drafting water from a pond at the [gasoline pipeline terminals west of town](#). Ten or so county fire departments participated in the morning exercise, which shuttled from a West Oak Street water point to a quartet of drop tanks on Buffalo Road. Pictures coming. What's the time to deploy both the trailer pump and reel? Say twenty minutes, or so. Click to enlarge:



we have used a wrecker to set that pump on the neuse riverbank during one of the scrapyards fires in smithfield (along with 2000' of 5" before we had the reel trailer)

**JOCO FF** - 05/16/09 - 12:08

I believe we were able to sustain about 1000 gpm for approx. 30 min. Future drills may incorporate different ideas to try an increase of GPMs.

**[house]** - 05/16/09 - 12:47

I thought Johnston Co. has county wide hydrants? Are they weak hydrants?

**firebugg** - 05/19/09 - 21:55

The drill was testing the ability to supplement hydrant pressure, in the event of a major fire at the tank farm.

**Legeros** - 05/19/09 - 22:31

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**Selma's Old Engine**

05/16/09 68 W, 1 I - + 9 - 14

Speaking of older apparatus, here's Selma's 1936 International / American pumper, which served from that year until the late 1970s. It was restored by guests of the state corrections system in 2007, and presently serves as a parade piece. From Sanborn Map information, earlier Selma apparatus included a Reo / Obenchain-Boyer by 1933, two hand-drawn hose reels by 1918, and a hand hook and ladder truck by 1918. Click to enlarge:



Selma also used to have an IHC/Seagrave pumper from the late 40s or early 50s, I think. In later years, this pumper was used by public works. It was also loaned to Wilson's Mills for a short period in 1986 or so. It had a 6-cylinder motor, 500 gpm pump, and GE Powercall siren. By the time WMFD borrowed it, when the pump wa placed in gear, water showered everywhere. I don't know whatever happened to it.

**DJ** - 05/17/09 - 20:18

The IHC/Seagrave was a 1954 model. Served as engine 2, out of service date is unknown right now. As most of the apparatus that has been placed out of service up till recently the town takes the apparatus and determines its fate. Most have been used by the town for a short period of time and then sold at county auction. The fire department has had a vast varied of apparatus. Most equipment has lasted a full twenty years and then some. We currently have one engine that was built in 1984 by EEI, and still serves as a second run apparatus, and served a full 21 years as a front line in town engine. And there isn't any plans on getting rid of it anytime soon. We have been very fortunate over the years to receive gracious funding from the town to purchase new equipment.

Also if anyone has any pictures or information about the Selma Fire Department if you would please email me at [Selmafirehistory@hotmail.com](mailto:Selmafirehistory@hotmail.com) We are coming up on our 100th year of service and are trying to put together as much as possible.

**Adam Brown** - 05/18/09 - 12:56

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

## Tank Explodes, Cameraman Jumps

05/16/09 89 W, 1 I - + 14 - 11

Speaking of tank farms, [here's an interesting video](#) from NewsChannel 11 in Lubbock, Texas, where lightning struck an oil tank in the town of Lamesa on Thursday. Fire started, fire spread, and, ~~one hour~~ two hours later, the tanks exploded. The startled videographer was 200 yards away. Listen as a large piece of metal strikes his van. Talk about a pucker factor! No one was injured, however, at the incident. [Read the story](#). Or watch a [slightly larger version](#) of the footage from CNN.



*CNN Image*

More coverage, starting with the photog's blog. He shows the damage to his van. <http://daviddrummond.com/blog/2009/05/15..>

Dave Statter has more, and links to said blog. <http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blog..>

**Legeros** - 05/16/09 - 18:59

And a good discussion of same on the firehouse.com forums, <http://forums.firehouse.com/showthread.p..>

**Legeros** - 05/17/09 - 17:44

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

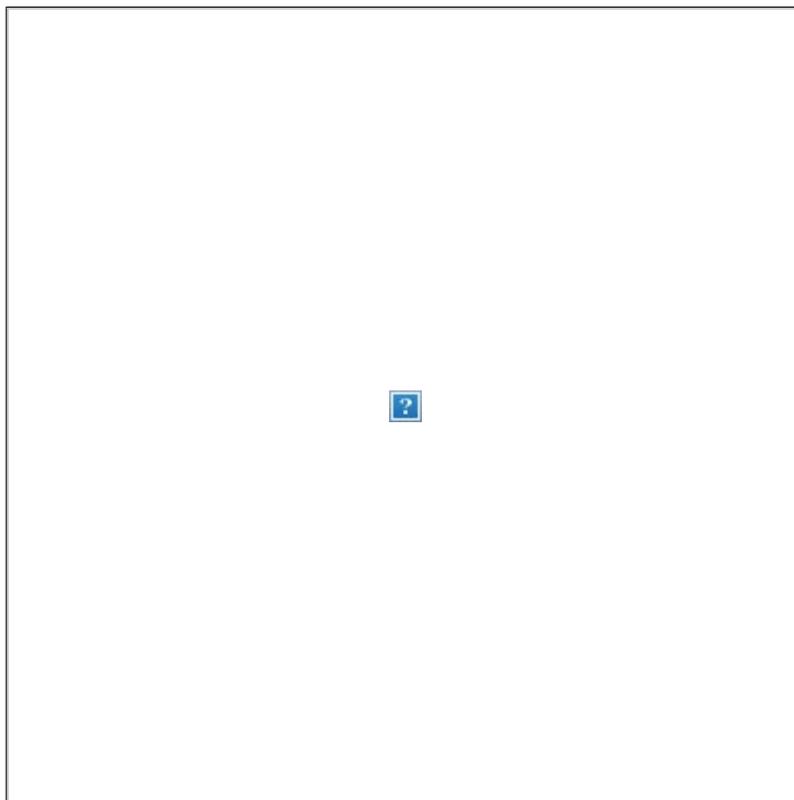
/ [Textile](#)

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## Imperial Tobacco Warehouse in Greenville Burns Again

05/17/09 153 W, 1 I - + 15 - 9

Big fire in Greenville yesterday. Remaining section of the Imperial Tobacco Warehouse, which first burned on April 17, 2008. Arson caused that one, said investigators. Friday, the site's smokestack was demolished. Yesterday, about 4:30 p.m., fire was reported in the remaining structure. Big fire, from the reports. Heavy columns of smoke, some 200 feet high. Defensive mode, as the structure wasn't threatening any other buildings. [FireNews has a couple pictures](#) and a story from *the Daily Reflector*. See the [original story](#) for reader comments and commentary. One person posted pictures of the smoke column on [another discussion board](#). For video footage of the fire, see either [WITN](#) or [WNCT](#). As for last year's fire, a [couple photos can be on Flickr](#). That photographer also has some pictures of the building before it burned. There are probably other good links out there, as well.



*Rhett Butler/Daily Reflector Photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Wake EMS Marks National EMS Week with Survivor Ceremony and Open House**

05/18/09 193 W - + 14 - 13

During National EMS Week, May 17 to May 23, the [Wake County Emergency Medical System](#) celebrates achievements that show dramatic strides in cardiac arrest care. Recently completed data from 2008 shows that Wake's EMS System successfully resuscitated 58 people, an increase from 49 patients saved in 2007.

These accomplishments are celebrated tonight at the Cardiac Arrest Save Ceremony, May 18, at 6:30 p.m., at the Fletcher Opera Theater, in the [Progress Energy Center for Performing Arts](#). Media members are invited to attend as Wake County emergency responders and 2008 cardiac arrest survivors celebrate the achievements of the Cardiac Saves program and the efforts of the emergency medical care system.

The public is invited to tour Wake County's main EMS station on Wednesday, May 20, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., located at [121 W. Davie Street](#) in downtown Raleigh. Visitors will get a firsthand look at the County's cutting-edge EMS equipment. Also at the event are Wake County EMS partners WakeWise Wellness and Wake County Human Services Health Promotion, providing important information on preventing heart disease, high blood pressure, and stroke. The event is free.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Wake County Fire Commission Meeting, Thursday, May 21 (Updated)

05/20/09 189 W - + 10 - 13

The [Wake County Fire Commission](#) meets this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. The place is the Wake EMS Training Facility, which is at the Wake County Commons Building, which is at [4011 Cary Drive](#). Drive all the way around to the back of the building. Look for a large number of red and white sport utility vehicles. They come from a far.

An agenda has been provided for the meeting, along with draft minutes from the prior two meetings. [View those documents](#). The agenda:

- "Call meeting to order
  - Invocation
  - Roll of Members Present
  - Approval of Agenda
- Minutes
  - Adoption of Minutes for March 19th, 2009, Regular Meeting
  - Adoption of Minutes for April 30, 2009, Special Called Meeting
- Regular Agenda
  - Reallocation of FY09 Firefighter Position
    - Recommendation from Staffing Ad Hoc Committee
  - Facility Committee
    - Recommendation on Bid Award – Dormitory Project
  - FY 10 Fire Tax District Budget Follow Up
  - Merger Plan for Wake Forest and Falls Fire Departments
- Information Agenda
  - Fire Tax Financial Report
  - Chair Report
  - Fire/Rescue Services Director Report
- Other Business
- Public Comments
  - 30 minutes maximum time allotted, Maximum 3 minutes per person
- Adjournment - Next Meeting July 16th, 2009

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Mike, did you attend? Can you post a summary of what happened?

**wcff** - 05/22/09 - 09:30

Ask and ye shall receive.

The Commission approved Staffing Ad Hoc Committee recommendations regarding two remaining county-funded FF positions. Fuquay keeps one allocated position, as the town has indicated that it will match the position. The town's commitment to matching the position was previously uncertain, if memory serves. And Fairview acquires a position previously allocated to Apex. After the town received their SAFER grant, AFD returned the county-allocated position. The SAHC recommended reassignment to Fairview, with the proviso that FFD reassign current part-time staffing monies to full-time positions, thus giving 24/7 staffing of at least one engine company.

The facilities committee presented a number of updates, all of which are detailed in their handout. I'm awaiting soft copies for uploading here.

A couple discussions resulted, one involving issues involving a water supply for the sprinkler system at Fairview Station 1. The sprinklers are required by law as part of dormitory upgrades. The water supply issue goes something like this. The fire station is outside the town. But a town

water main runs right in front of the station. The town doesn't want to allow a hook-up, unless the fire station allows its property to be annexed. But the fire department doesn't own the property, the community center does. The latter entity does not desire annexation. Additionally, the property resides in a watershed, so water and sewer developments are restricted.

Another facilities discussion involved the fire station closure list. The county and committees therein have been discussing and examining fire station closures for five years now. To date, only one has been closed, Western Wake Station 2. There are four stations presently on the closure list, which, if memory serves, are Western Wake Station 1, New Hope Station 1, Falls, and Bay Leaf Station 3. It was expressed that those four stations have been sitting in limbo, with regard to such considerations as facility improvements and staff. What happens if none of those four are closed? Will the county and the fire commission retroactively examine and grant funding for facilities improvements, staffing additions, etc.? County staff indicated that progress continues to be made at examining coverage for the territories of the stations on the closure list. County staff indicated that they will provide a recommendation—or maybe something like that—at the next meeting in July. There are still things being examined, discussed, researched, etc. Such as, say, how much the city of Raleigh would charge for protecting contracted areas.

This coming Fire Tax District Budget was discussed, as a follow-up to the previous special-called meeting in April. As the minutes indicate—Yours Truly was out of town—the fire commission passed the budget with two exceptions: do not add six new FF positions, and hold the approximate \$16,000 appropriated per department for operating increases, and hold that amount in a contingency fund for departments to request from, if they have emergency needs. The second item was discussed at length, and also generated public comment at the end of the meeting. There seemed to be two opinions on that issue. One camp sees withholding the monies as a prudent move. The other camp sees the monies as already amply-considered and thus intended for distribution.

Wake Forest Fire Department presented a proposal to merge with Falls Fire Department. See their handout for details, which we'll post when we receive a soft copy. (Or maybe we'll scan same.) They presented a proposal, which was approved. They will return in about three months with a timetable and plan, for the commission to also approve. There are benefits to Falls, to Wake Forest, and to the county. The merger is expected to take two years. FFD people and equipment will transfer to WFFD. The fire station and property will not, at least as proposed, as it belongs to the community. The FFD district will be covered by WFFD Station 2 and Bay Leaf.

Those are my recollections and understandings of what transpired.

Contact the County Fire Marshal's office to request audio recordings of the meeting.

Or ask others.

Or post your own corrections or comments.

Or start showing up!

**Legeros** - 05/22/09 - 18:01

Facilities Committee and WFFD-FFD merger handouts scanned and uploaded, <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>

**Legeros** - 05/22/09 - 18:21

Any idea how many part-time positions Fairview will need to get rid of?

**southern\_wake** - 05/23/09 - 18:18

The remaining handouts from this meeting have been uploaded, <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>

**Legeros** - 06/03/09 - 17:50

"Such as, say, how much the city of Raleigh would charge for protecting contracted areas." -This is what I don't understand. Where would the city have to respond to that they don't currently if a station was closed? Every contracted area I know of already gets a county and city unit which is totally asinine.

**RescueRanger** - 06/03/09 - 22:35

On a related historical note, I've found references to the city being contracted for county fire protection in the 1970s, when RFD covered some areas on Highway 401 south, below Highway 70. From planning documents from that time— and if memory serves— it looks like the city expected to expand in that direction, and even would build a fire station in the area of Highway 401 and Old Stage Road.

**Legeros** - 06/03/09 - 23:14

**Wake Forest / Falls / Apex Mergers**

05/20/09 139 W - + 11 - 11

The [agenda](#) for Thursday's meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission includes "merger plan for Wake Forest and Falls Fire Departments." As many have heard, the Falls Fire Department is ~~planning~~ proposing a merger with the Wake Forest Fire Department. More details as they're known, or at least as presented on Thursday. On a historical note, WFFD once existed as three departments: the town FD, the second town FD (all black), and the rural FD. They merged in the early 1980s. Also on that subject, Apex EMS is merging with Apex Fire Department. Public news is still pending on that one, though the [town's job site](#) notes that EMS personnel become available for town benefits beginning July 1, including participation in the Local Government Retirement System. The town has an open Paramedic position.

I wish all career ff'ers were under the Local Gov Retirement system...

**ncff** - 05/21/09 - 07:39

Would the Apex merger be the first in this area of an EMS and Fire merger?

**JB** - 05/21/09 - 13:39

Prior fire mergers, the full list as memory serves...

- Apex town + Apex rural > Apex town
- Fairgrounds + Yrac > Western Wake
- Fuquay town + Fuquay rural > Fuquay town
- Garner town + Garner rural > Garner rural
- Holly Springs town + Holly Springs rural > Holly Springs PS
- Morrisville town + Morrisville rural > Morrisville town
- Six Forks + Bay Leaf > Bay Leaf
- Wake Forest town + Wake Forest town #2 + Wake Forest rural > Wake Forest town
- Wendell town + Wendell rural > Wendell rural
- Zebulon town + Zebulon rural > Zebulon town

**Legeros** - 05/22/09 - 07:58

So this would be the first involving an EMS agency and fire agency in this area. Didn't RFD once consider this with WCEMS back in the 70's?

**JB** - 05/22/09 - 10:25

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**This Morning's Major Fire / Stockbridge Circle**

05/21/09 111 W - + 14 - 14

Two alarms at [8809 Stockbridge Circle](#), dispatched 3:24 a.m. Engine 4 first on scene at a two-story, wood-frame apartment building. Declared major working fire on arrival, with interior attack utilized. Battalion 1 as command. One apartment heavily damaged by fire, another damaged by water, reports [this WRAL story](#). No injuries. Command terminated 5:59 a.m., with Engine 11 remaining on scene. Units include E4, E18, E16, E15, E23, E9, E22, E11, L22, L4, R19, R14, B1, B4, C5, C4, C20, A8, EMS3, EMS2, EMS4, EMS 122, M92, D2, D3, T1. Listen to the incident on [ScanAmerican Scanner Archives](#). Try the top link, Wake County and Raleigh Fire and EMS. Excellent resource.

Mike,

No longer living in the area I have been wondering about the clarity of the Viper system. On Scan America the voices on fire tacs seem to fade and are very difficult to follow. Locution and EMS voices are clear. Is this how the voices are on Viper or merely a characteristic of the scanner linked to Scan America? Other areas on Scan America that have 700/800 trunks don't seem to have this issue.

**stretch** - 05/23/09 - 14:47

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E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Engine 1 and Station 3**

05/21/09 81 W, 1 I - + 19 - 8

The second oldest active engine house in the Capitol City recently received a face lift. Station 3 personnel detailed the front of their 1951 building, including adding a white background behind the station letters. They copied the style from Station 6, which painted its letters to match Station 5, which had its letters redone last year. Click to enlarge this photo that shows Engine 3 educating Engine 1 on foam operations with their 2009 Pierce Arrox XT pumper that was placed in service today.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

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Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.

## Wake Forest Fire Department #2

05/22/09 149 W, 1 I - + 9 - 12

For your Friday enjoyment, here's a great picture of Wake Forest Fire Department #2, a second town fire department that was operated by black citizens. They were organized in 1942, and operated for a number of decades. They merged with the town fire department around February 1982. The following year, the town and rural fire departments merged. The WFFD #2 station was located on North Taylor Street. It became a community building after the fire station closed, but burned in a suspicious fire a year later.

Pictured with a 1948 Chevrolet pumper that first served WFFD #1 are, left to right, Chief Edward Alston, Matthew Williams, George Massenburg, and Robert Alston. The image was scanned from a halftone image (versus photographic print) at the [Wake Forest College Birthplace Society](#). The picture dates circa 1953. Read [more WFFD history](#), via outdated timeline. Click to enlarge:



*Courtesy Wake Forest College Birthplace Society*

I was wondering what you were calling "Black Station", this post sums it up. WOW! I had no idea there was a such a thing and it being right down the road in Wake Forest. The fire service has sure come a long way!!!!

**firebug** - 05/22/09 - 14:21

Segregated fire stations, fire companies, and fire departments are a common component of the state's firefighting history. In Raleigh's volunteer era, the fire companies were segregated by race. The first black fire company was organized in 1869.

Colored fire companies, as they were called, were present in many cities and towns, for many decades: Beaufort, Clinton, Farmville, Goldsboro, Monroe, New Bern, Rocky Mount, Salisbury, Warrenton, and many others. When the first full-time black firefighters were hired in the 1950s and 1960s, some cities segregated the stations. Winston-Salem Station 4 (1951), Durham Station 4 (1958), and Greensboro Station 4 (1961) are three examples.

To read more about early and later black firefighters in North Carolina, see <http://www.legeros.com/history/ebf>

**Legeros** - 05/22/09 - 17:54

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Yes

E-mail: (optional)

No

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Vass Fire Department**

05/23/09 166 W - + 7 - 11

Turning our attention to Moore County, the town of Vass once had a fire department. Formed before 1949, they operated two hose carts with 2 1/2-inch hose. The carts were pulled to the scene by the first two volunteers with vehicles to arrive at the fire station. In 1949, VFD purchased its first vehicle. By 1958, VFD purchased an American LaFrance pumper. Vass Fire Department operated until around 1992, when they merged with Circle V Fire Department. The town contracted with CVFD for protection, and allowed absorption of the town department. CVFD was organized around 1981, or at least incorporated that year, and opened a Woodlake substation in 1984. Or was the latter its own department? See the [Circle V Fire Department web site](#) for more information. Where was the Vass Fire Department located? Perhaps an old town hall building, with an attached fire station? Unknown, but we're headed to the town this evening for some personal business, and perhaps can inquire. Maybe the former fire station is still standing.

Or, I could just pick up the damn phone. One call to CVFD and the answer presents itself. The old Vass Town Hall and fire station was located across the street from 131 Alma Street. It was built in the 1930s, perhaps, and was demolished in the 1990s. It was replaced by a new town hall. The fire department moved across the street to its present location at that time. Thanks to a CVFD firefighter for the information.

**Legeros** - 05/23/09 - 10:07

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 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## Bomber, Building, Elevator, 1945

05/23/09 263 W, 1 I - + 15 - 18

We've all wondered what happens when an elevator fails and falls several or dozens of stories. On July 28, 1945, when a B-25 bomber [crashed into the Empire State Building](#) in New York City, a 20-year-old "elevator girl" survived a 75-story plunge. As the Associated Press reported on July 31, and which appeared in the *News & Observer*, Betty Lou Oliver of Fort Smith, Arkansas, was working her last week. She was waiting for her sailor husband to return from overseas, and had given notice that she was leaving. She was alone in the elevator car when the plane crashed into the building, and remained fully conscious during the car's "terrifying descent." It "seemed to stop and shudder for a moment," she later told her sister at the hospital, "then it began plummeting downward. I tried desperately to stop it. Then a flash of fire enveloped me and I raised my left arm to protect my face." The fire was over in a moment, and she tried the car telephone, which was dead, and then banged on the floor. During the descent, she recalled having to "hang onto the sides of the elevator just to keep from floating." Most of the car was destroyed, except for the section where Ms. Oliver was standing. The six cables had snapped, and the automatic braking system was destroyed. Only air pressure in the shaft might have slowed the descent, said one expert. Ms. Oliver suffered burns, bruises, and a possible back fracture.



Wikipedia Image

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

War Bonds, 1945

05/23/09 93 W, 1 I - + 14 - 12

[Jack Benny](#) was a popular radio performer during the 1940s, and other decades, and whose stage character was famously thrifty. [War bonds](#) were means of financing military operations, and helping civilians feel involved in the war effort. The two were combined in this "official U.S. Treasury advertisement" that appeared in the *News & Observer* on August 3, 1945. World War II would end within two weeks. Note the names of longtime Raleigh businesses as sponsors, such as Dillon Supply Company, Hudson-Belk, and Jolly's. Click once or twice to enlarge:



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 E-mail: (optional)  
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Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**Plane Crashes**

05/24/09 189 W - + 16 - 9

As Mr. Blogger takes to the air, for a Memorial Day trip to Michigan, his mind turns to plane crashes. Doesn't everyone's? Google finds plenty of information on "how to survive a plane crash," such as [this wikiHow article](#). Step one, wear long pants, long-sleeve tee, and sturdy shoes. Guess we're hosed there, as it's shorts and short sleeves today. Another Google find are a pair of *Popular Mechanics* articles, first on the [safest seat on the plane](#), and second on the [ten crashes that change aviation](#). The incidents date to 1956, when TWA Flight 2 and United Flight 718 crashed over the Grand Canyon, killing all 128 aboard both planes. The accident led to air traffic control system upgrades, and the creation of the FAA. For records of all crashes, worldwide, try [PlaneCrashInfo.com](#) or [AirDisaster.com](#). Though maybe visit those sites *after* you've landed. For North Carolina's worst air disasters, [see our database](#). Finally, for the odds of dying in an air or space transport accident, see [this National Safety Council page](#), for starters. Yeah, the chances are exceptionally slim. Now, let's go buy some lottery tickets.

Safest seat? Look at it this way- there is a reason the black boxes are in the back. I always sit in the every back. Always have, always will.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 05/25/09 - 19:21

Just remember to tuck your thumbs on take off and landings, so they can identify you by your thumb prints

**Mike** - 05/26/09 - 08:45

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Weighmaster**

05/27/09 92 W, 1 I - + 16 - 13

Saw this this morning, outside St. Joseph, Michigan. Vehicle operated by the Berrien County Road Commission, by someone called a Weighmaster. Who or what is a weighmaster? A common definition found via Google is "person who weighs, measures, or counts a bulk commodity, outside of the presence one party to the transaction, and issues a certificate documenting the quantity that is used as the basis of a sale." In the context of roadways, they're probably the person in charge of weighing vehicles.



Name: (real name preferred)  
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Remember personal info?

Yes  
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Comment:

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 Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

## Urban Discovery / House of David

05/27/09 164 W, 1 I - + 17 - 11

One of Mr. Blogger's favorite pastimes while traveling is urban discovery, an activity that falls somewhere between [urban archeology](#) and [urban exploration](#). Basically, searching for modern man-made stuff, and with minimal intrusions on private property. Found during this week's visit to southwestern Michigan were the remnants of a former amusement park along Britain Avenue in Benton Harbor.

Part of the Israelite House of David religious community-- established in 1903 and eventually occupying 300 acres-- the amusement park included miniature trains that operated for sixty-five years. Below is a railroad crossing sign that remains on the property. [Read about the trains](#), as well as the [amusement park's history](#). Another web site has a [aerial tour of the park grounds](#).

[See photos of the site by Legeros](#). Today, the House of David is a historic and educational property, and includes a [museum on the grounds](#). Another House of David museum is [also located in Benton Harbor](#).



Considerably closer to home, what's Heritage USA look like these days, the 2,300-acre religious theme park and complex in Fort Mill, SC? Found this urban exploration site, that includes a photo tour of the present property: <http://www.illicitohio.com/SBNO/heritage..>

**Legeros** - 05/27/09 - 19:43

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Fayetteville Airport Firefighting Facility Gets Stimulus Money

05/27/09 93 W, 2 I - + 11 - 16

[WRAL reports](#) that Fayetteville Regional Airport has received \$1.1 million in federal stimulus funds for their firefighting facility. More information about their ARFF facility can be found on the [airport's web site](#), in their [Executive Summary document](#). The airport has identified the need for substantial renovation and expansion of the airport fire station, as well as the need for a major renovation of the fire training facility. Finally, for a peek at all stimulus-funded airport projects, visit this [Stimulus Watch web site](#).



*Fayetteville Regional Airport photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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## Hillsborough Street

05/28/09 145 W, 1 I - + 13 - 14

This week's *Independent Weekly* has a [feature on Hillsborough Street](#), which it calls the "true main street" of Raleigh. Bob Geary's article provides both a nice retrospective and a look to the future, both of the roadway itself and the properties along the street. Sidebar information includes [Ten Things You Probably Don't Know About Hillsborough Street](#). Best of those odd facts? Both the Wolfline and D.H. Hill library are free to the public. Same for most of the college's parking lots after 5 p.m. and on weekends. As the author observes, "virtually everything that gives Raleigh its identity" is either on Hillsborough Street or connected by same. The Capitol, downtown, the college, the fairgrounds (old and new), etc. Great article. As for the street's original name, Hillsboro Street, [this Goodnight Raleigh posting](#) has some background on that.



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**Event Calendar, 5/29**

05/29/09 38 W - + 20 - 9

Stuff happening this weekend, or next week. Mail Mike if you have future events to be blogged about.

Saturday, May 30 - Falls Public Safety Day  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Wakefield High School  
[More information](#)

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.

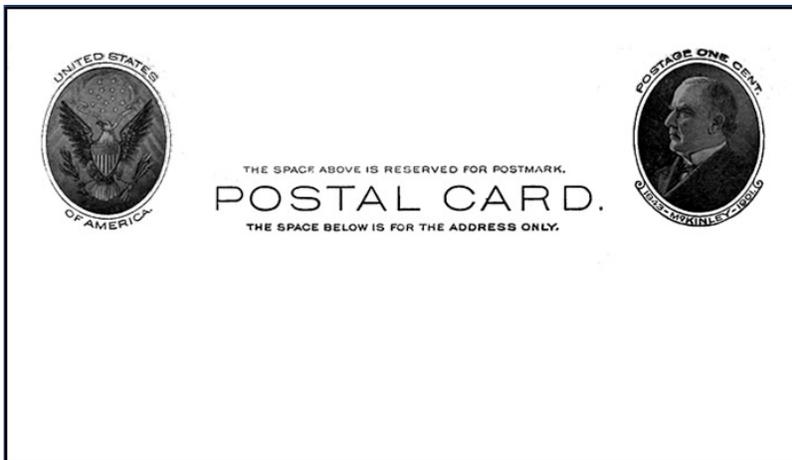
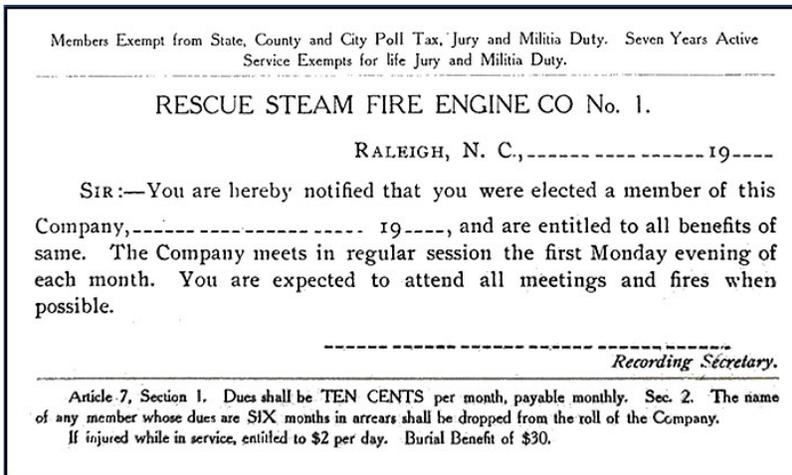
Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

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Rescue Company Postcard

05/29/09 124 W, 3 I - + 14 - 10

For your Friday enjoyment, here's a "postal card" used by Raleigh's Rescue Company around 1907. Though the organization's legal name was Rescue Steam Fire Engine Co. No. 1, they had ceased operating a steamer by that time. Two years prior, the city replaced the old 1870 Gould engine with a 1905 American LaFrance. Another, different company was organized to operate the new engine. At the time these cards were used, the Rescue Company operated a horse-drawn hose wagon. Their station, also built in 1870, was [located on the County Courthouse lot](#), and faced Fayetteville Street. See more artifacts this [Raleigh Fire Department virtual museum](#). Or read more about the Capitol City's [volunteer fire companies](#) and other hysterical, er, [historical information](#). Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

## Fire Station Open House and Birthday Party, Saturday, June 27

05/31/09 126 W, 1 I - + 17 - 15

Raleigh's oldest active fire station celebrates its 60th birthday on Saturday, June 27, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fire Station 6 is located at [2601 Fairview Road](#), at the intersection of Oberlin Road. Food will be provided, and fire apparatus will be displayed for children of all ages. The [1950 Mack pumper](#) will be present, which served as Engine 6 for twenty-five years. Visitors will also see fire education displays and historical materials. Housed in a nearby rented building from 1943 to 1948, the firefighters of Engine Company 6 moved into their new quarters on June 25, 1949. The "corner fire station" has also housed a ladder company, a rescue squad, and a Battalion Chief over the years. [Read more history of Station 6.](#)



NOW that's what I like to see!!! Are any 60th anniversary t-shirts being made up?

**Silver** - 05/31/09 - 10:10

Hey Mike,

On your Station 6 history page, the link to "view plaque" takes you to the plaque for Station 11 instead of Station 6. Just thought you would like to know :)

**PJ** - 06/01/09 - 07:05

Thanks! Memo to self, photograph Station 6 plaque.

**Legeros** - 06/01/09 - 07:25

Speaking of plaques, I hear Station 9 recently refinished theirs...fyi.

**PJ** - 06/01/09 - 10:42

Yes they did...worked at Engine 9 the other day. Plaque looks great...

**Silver** - 06/03/09 - 17:13

Name: (real name  
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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

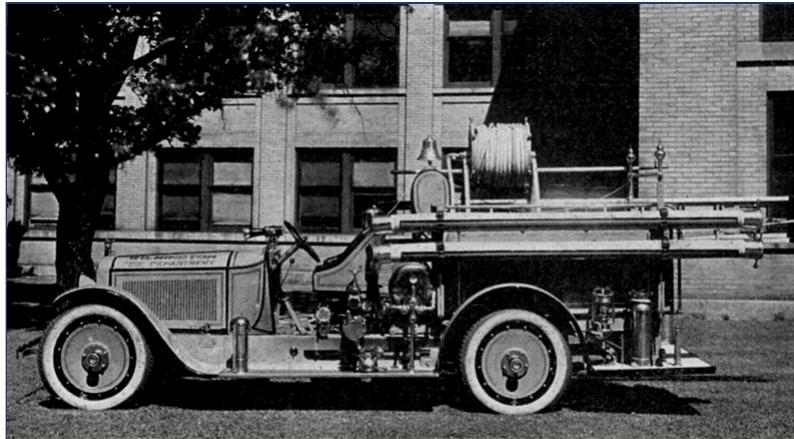
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## Packard-Northern Pumper in Wilmington

06/02/09 97 W, 1 I - + 10 - 10

Scanned from a 1922 issue of *American City* magazine that was bought on eBay is this image of a Packard/Northern triple combination pumper that served Wilmington. The caption reads "the chassis of this machine is a standard twin-six [Packard](#). The equipment consists of a [Northern](#) combination chemical and hose outfit with a 750-gallon pump. The machine can attain a road speed of 70 miles an hour, and in its 12-hour Underwriters' test handled 750 gallons at the standard pumping pressure of 120 pounds." Those [whitewall tires](#) are pretty sharp, too! Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

## Firefox and Spell Checking

06/02/09 125 W - + 13 - 10

You're typing text into a form on a web page displayed using the Firefox browser. On some computers, the browser displays red lines under misspelled words. On other computers, it doesn't. Your workaround is simple, pasting every blankety-blank form entry into Microsoft Word, checking the spelling, correcting the spelling, then pasting back into Firefox. Got it? After a year of this, maybe more, you make a discovery. By right-clicking inside a form field on a web page, and clicking **Check Spelling**, you activate the missing feature. Firefox works like a charm, and you feel like a fool for not figuring this out earlier. Mr. Blogger does. Next step, figure out how to permanently enable this feature, for each web page visited...

Go to file—preferences—advanced tab—in there is a general tab—check the box “Check my spelling as I type”

**Helpful FF** - 06/02/09 - 10:22

In Mozilla FireFox 5.0 for spell checking, Tools-Options-advanced-General tab-sub heading Browsing-Third box down “Check my spelling as I type”

**stretch** - 06/02/09 - 20:04

COOL SITE

**Rob Miller** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 02/16/10 - 01:10

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

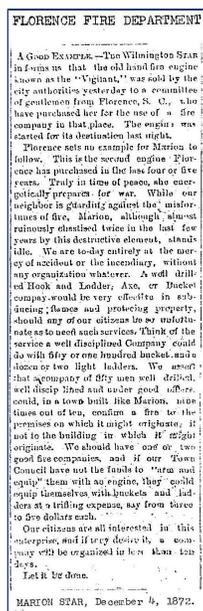
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Wilmington Hand Engine Goes to Florence, 1872

06/02/09 152 W, 2 I - + 10 - 9

Speaking of that coastal city to the south, here's an interesting newspaper clipping from 1872, from the *Marion Star* in South Carolina. It reports that Wilmington's old hand engine, named Vigilant, was sold to Florence, S.C., on December 3, 1872. What make and model was said engine? Unknown. Wilmington had at least two hand engines, an 1820 Hunneman and an 1843 Hunneman, as recorded in Mike's [hand engine database](#). Was either of those the "old hand engine" cited in the article? Maybe. Possibly. How long was the average service life for mid-century hand engines, back in those days? Not sure. Based on Raleigh's history, hand engines lasted at least a couple of decades, if kept in repair. The article comes from the [Florence Fire Department](#), which is presently researching their history. [This chart charts](#)  our city's hand engines, among other milestones. Click once or twice to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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**Public Comments, City Employee Protests on City Budget**

06/02/09 124 W - + 11 - 12

The Raleigh City Council is holding a public hearing is tonight on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2010. The hearing starts at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. [Read the press release](#), which includes links to the budget documents. Or [read prior blog comments](#) from readers on the issue.

[WRAL is reporting](#) that organizations representing police officers, firefighters, and other city workers are planning to attend, and protest the budget. Among the budget proposals include a merit raise cap at 4 percent, elimination of a cost-of-living increase, and increased health insurance premiums.

The hearing will also be broadcast live on cable channel RTN11, and streamed online on the city web site. [Click to view the live streaming site.](#)

waaa. waaa. WCFF's are getting NO merit raise at all, so quit bitching.

**wcff** - 06/02/09 - 21:37

Really? Really? I mean complaining about somebody else doing something you and yours didn't have the desire, want, or gumption to do, and doesn't affect you? Not only that I didn't know there were any WCFF's... just FF's of various departments in the county. Big difference when you are talking about firefighters who are used to raises and cost-of-living increases and standard health insurance rates, and now are getting told they won't be getting them. I feel the pain.

Kudos to the Raleigh brothers and sisters for fighting for their benefits and raises.

And yes I am happy to have a job, and yes I'm upset as well about a possible merit raise cap, and other benefits that are being raised, or eliminated. It's time our public employees stood up for themselves!

**CFP 7021** - 06/02/09 - 22:39

Good question, does the county directly employ FFs? I can't quite tell from the budget docs.

Fire Service full-time employee counts are easy to spot. FY10 proposed, 18.50. FY09, 16. FY08, 17.50. FY07, 17. FY06, 21. FY05, 21. FY04, 22. Source: <http://www.wakegov.com/budget/>

**Legeros** - 06/03/09 - 06:04

Last night's crowded City Council meeting— standing room only— opened with citizen petitions on non-budget matters. Comments on budget opened with remarks from police and fire employees, by way of RPPA and RPPFA presidents. Media coverage includes...

News & Observer – <http://www.newsobserver.com/front/story/..>

WRAL – <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/525..>

WTVD – <http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?sectio..>

NBC17 – <http://wake.mync.com/site/Wake/news/stor..>

**Legeros** - 06/03/09 - 06:29

I believe the County still pays for at least 2 FF's. One in Stony Hill and one in Rolesville

**Mike** - 06/03/09 - 10:24

Yes, I am happy to have a job. My wife works at Wakemed and she is not getting a raise or Wakeshare this year. In Cary we lost our COLA over ten years ago and our raises are now based on merit. The word was when the COLA was done away with, the "then" town manager received a huge raise for saving the town so much money. Anyway, I am glad the brothers/sisters are fighting the system but a 4% raise is better than nothing & you still have a job. We have been told at a recent meeting that "no changes" are planned for the town but the fire chief

he has told himself he probably will not be getting a raise next year. Our health coverage went up this year for the 1st time in four years. Be careful what you asked for. Be safe!

**fire1983** - 06/03/09 - 10:31

Put your name on here if you want to hold any merit, or, let's take it to the watchdesk so you can hide behind your screen name and use really, really bad words, tough guy.

**Silver** - 06/03/09 - 17:16

Expanding on an earlier question. The county does not employ the FFs. ALL are now corporate or municipal employed. The remaining Wake County suppression employees are: 1 Captain at Stony Hill and 1 FF at Rolesville. They are under the county's retirement and benefits systems and the fire tax base pays for their positions and benefits. It's "loop-around" money... the \$\$ are appropriated the FD, then paid back to the county to cover the employee's expenses (salary and benefits).

**A.Rich** - 06/03/09 - 20:03

I was glad to see a well spoken, well thought out statement from our Association made at the city council meeting. It was much needed. Times are tough all around, and it is good to put faces to the lines in the budget proposal. The council members need to realize the impact of their decisions on our everyday lives. As one speaker said- "No one comes to the fire service to get rich. It is a calling." This understanding does not eliminate the right and responsibility to continually attempt to better our circumstances. I for one will see a net decrease in my take home pay, along with many others, and certainly will not be eligible for a 4% merit raise. Very, very few will meet the criteria for that level of increase. Rather than nay-saying and attacking our brothers and sisters who put forth the effort to make things better for all of us, we should be joining together and supporting each other. There is strength in numbers and support, even in a state with labor laws such as ours. How about working with each other for a change?????????????

**Goose** - 06/04/09 - 14:43

Well said. Agree completely.

**F.Fierro** - 06/04/09 - 18:04

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Camp Celebrate This Weekend

06/03/09 143 W, 1 I - + 9 - 8

Folks passing Triangle Towne Center on Friday afternoon will see some two dozen fire engines parked at the shopping mall, along with scores of excited kids. The apparatus, which will proceed in procession to Camp Kanata in Wake Forest, are part of [Camp Celebrate](#), a weekend camping experience for children and adolescents who have survived burn injuries. Most have been treated at the [N.C. Jaycee Burn Center](#), and whose staff will be joined from volunteers across the state including firefighters and Jaycees. This year's 28th annual Camp Celebrate runs June 5 through June 7. The trucks will be parked near Dillards, with apparatus in place by 1:30 p.m. The procession departs at 3:00 p.m. Though the forecast shows rain, expect sunny smiles from the riders as they head to camp. [Read more history of Camp Celebrate.](#)



*Lee Wilson photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
 No

Comment:

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**Chicken Parts Block Fayetteville Street**

06/03/09 69 W - + 10 - 12

That's the year's least-expected [headline from WRAL](#), referring to a street in Fayetteville, in particular Eastern Boulevard, where said poultry transport went a-fowl. No details on the cause. It was avoiding a coupe? The driver was winging it? Someone gave him the bird? Better stop now, lest other fire bloggers are reading. The next headline we read might be Legeros Lays Egg on Blog.

Perhaps his wife laid an egg??

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 06/06/09 - 01:17

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## Special Wake County Fire Commission Meeting, Monday, June 8

06/03/09 123 W - + 12 - 13

The [Wake County Fire Commission](#) is holding a special meeting on Monday, June 8, at 7:00 p.m. The place is the Wake EMS Training Facility, at the Wake County Commons Building, at [4011 Carya Drive](#). There are two agenda items for this meeting:

- Consider Facility Committee recommendation for dormitory project bid award. [See the minutes](#) from their last meeting.
- Consider Compensation Committee recommendation for retirement funding implementation. [See the recommended guidelines](#) for implementing the retirement funding.

The reason for the short-notice is that the commission wants to consider the dormitory bid award and retirement funding in time for a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners meeting on June 15, 2009, which would allow retirement funding to start July 1, 2009.

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

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Comment:

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## Volunteer or Not Volunteer?

06/04/09 99 W - + 12 - 7

From a reader, here's a topic for discussion. Most of our fire departments rely heavily on volunteers. Many are also named "...Volunteer Fire Department." As departments transition to increasing numbers of paid staff, should their names continue to include the word "volunteer?" Is that word helpful with naming and branding, such as when generating public support? Does it ever become less-than-helpful as part of a name? At a higher level, what experiences can readers share about fire department marketing, period? Are there brands, words, or messages that work better than others?

This was an issue that came up in Apex when the "Apex Fire Department" was created, and went from the Apex Volunteer Fire Dept. Inc. The phrase "Continuing A Volunteer Tradition" was added to the rear of the apparatus.

**Silver** - 06/04/09 - 18:27

I think that it does create an 'image'. With the VFD or 'vol.' logo, people have images of the 'minute men', leaving their homes and jobs to dash to the fire station (or fire) at a moment's notice. Sometimes that image persists without the logo in smaller communities. I know that there are still people in some of the communities in Wake County that do not realize that fire and EMS here is heavily dependent on career staff. Whenever I work on EMS9 people still ask how to donate to the Fuquay-Varina Rescue Squad.

As to the current train of thought about people not caring what the name is on the side of the truck, as long as someone is helping them, this is true, to a point. Like the above reference to EMS9, whenever I respond to the Cary area on EMS4, I am asked much of the time (more from the older Cary residents than the new) "where are all of the Cary ambulances?" When I explain all about move-ups, call volumes, etc., the response has always been "well, then, Cary needs more ambulances".

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 06/04/09 - 18:57

Is there actually a true volunteer in Wake County? I think most get paid for duty crew or paid per call.

**WC Paid on Call** ([Email](#)) - 06/05/09 - 07:22

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
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## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Remembering the « This Afternoon's Majo... » Robeson County Firefi... Shelby Fire that Claimed Four Firefighters

### Remembering the Shelby Fire that Claimed Four Firefighters

06/05/09 246 W, 1 I - + 14 - 6

May 25, 2018

Please see this Legeros Fire Blog posting, with working links and slightly higher resolution image: <https://legeros.com/blog/four-shelby-firefighters-killed-in-gas-explosion-may-25-1979/>

Found via FireNews, the *Shelby Star* has [published a retrospective](#) of the fire that killed four firefighters on May 25, 1979. It started as a smoke investigation, with an apparently routine fire in the rear of a clothing store. About thirty minute later, an explosion ripped through the downtown structure. Four Shelby firefighters and a civilian city employee were killed. Another 12 firefighters were injured. Mutual aid from 10 departments brought over 230 firefighters to the scene. Within hours, the entire block was lost. The \$5 million fire was determined as arson, and the store owner was sent to prison. The fallen were buried on Sunday, May 27, and hundreds of residents attended the memorial service.

[Read the \*Shelby Star\* retrospective.](#) Or read an [earlier article about the fire](#) on FireNews, part of a feature on the histories of North Carolina's fallen firefighters. It features photos by Lem Lynch, who was present at the time of the explosion. Only one other time in the state's history have four firefighters died in the line of duty. On September 7, 1982, an early-morning fire at a textile plant in Washington killed four members of the National Spinning Company fire brigade. Read about that incident also, either via the FireNews article, or a [version on our history site](#).



*Lem Lynch photos*

Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

## Robeson County Firefighter Killed Responding to Call

06/05/09 97 W - + 9 - 13

As [surfaced by FireNews](#), Pembroke Fire Department member Matthew Douglas Tramel was killed this morning while responding to a call. About 12:53 a.m., the automobile he was driving struck a tree on Deep Branch Road. The 18-year-old volunteer firefighter, who was not wearing a seat belt, was killed immediately. He was responding to a reported fire on Douglas Avenue when he crashed. Tramel had been a member of the department since April 7, and had also served about four months as a member of Pembroke Rescue. [Read more from the Robesonian](#).

Wear your seatbelt folks, whether in the ladder truck or the pick up truck, it can save your life.

**Olson** - 06/05/09 - 23:25

Slow down. Buckle up. If you are riding the apparatus, either suit up before you leave and then buckle up, or suit up after you get there. But if the truck is moving, then the driver should not move until everyone is in their seat and buckled in. Period. There is no excuse to do otherwise. None. And strap/buckle/nail/tie down all of that stuff in the truck. It will hurt when it hits you.

If you're driving a POV on an emergency response, slow the \*\*\*\* down! It will be there when you get there.

My thoughts are with PFD in this tough time.

**DJ** - 06/06/09 - 14:03

I hold PFD and PVRS in my thoughts during this difficult time.

I was once young... still am. But, a couple of close calls when I was younger helped me to learn to take a deep breath before I head out the door to the truck, be it official or POV. That rush of adrenalin — that's when a small mistake can happen, and it can sit there till just the right time until it turns into a critical error. Not looking around... no seat belt... a missing piece of PPE... it's all the same type of thing... something we normally do and forget in the heat of the moment.

This is just a really bad way to remind us all to make take a look at our daily habits and remember to take that extra second... and I pray with all my heart that we don't have to do it again very soon...

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 06/06/09 - 21:37

we have got to do a better job of "molding our future" in the fire service!, and it all starts with the fact that we are these young folks role models, therefor the "monkey see, monkey do" mentality automatcially should kick in, this kid was so young and i bet very impressionable, so i therefor place some of the blame on his co officers for not emphasizing this basic concept. IF THE VEHICLE IS RUNNING,,, WEAR YOU D@MN SEATBELT!!!

**jhd** - 06/07/09 - 14:20

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Roadway Markings

06/05/09 43 W, 1 I - + 10 - 9

Here's Medic 92 at a motor-vehicle accident on earlier this evening on Ray Road, just south of Strickland Road. Yours Truly didn't even notice the roadway markings that turn the image into something almost artistic.



Great picture Mike, keep em coming!

**[ExplorerRickels]** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 06/09/09 - 15:56

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Web Site: (optional)

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

## Clayton Church Burns Again

06/06/09 82 W, 1 I - + 13 - 8

WRAL has posted a photo of this morning's major fire at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Clayton. Located at [5217 Barber Mill Road](#), the fire reported was around 2:15 a.m. Unlike the May 6 incident, this morning's blaze destroyed much of the structure, including collapsing the steeple. Clayton, Cleveland, and Garner fire departments were among the agencies on scene. [Read the WRAL story](#), which includes video footage. Readers, please add additional incident details as desired.



*Mark Simpson/WRAL photo*

It is Sad to see a church burn down. Especially when it was being repaired from the last fire.

I hope clayton p.d. catches the person, or persons responsible.

It is not right to burn a church. kudos to the Fire fighters who responded to the call and tried to save the church building.

**crs** ([Email](#)) - 06/06/09 - 08:12

Name: (real name  
preferred)

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Yes

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**Camp Celebrate Procession Photos**

06/06/09 83 W, 1 I - + 15 - 5

[Reader Mike Hart shares his photos](#) of yesterday's procession of fire trucks to Camp Celebrate. Read our [prior posting about the camp](#). Participating departments included Bay Leaf (lettered as Six Forks), Belews Creek, Cary, Chapel Hill, Clayton, Durham, Fairview, Granite Quarry, Holly Springs, Knightdale, Morrisville, Northwest Pocket, Northview, Raleigh, Rocky Mount, Rolesville, Roxboro, Stony Hill, Tramway, Wake Forest, Wake New Hope, and Wendell. Wonder how many counties that translates to? Click to view Mike's photos:



*Mike Hart photos*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
No

Comment:

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**Former Warrenton Rural Fire Station**

06/07/09 73 W, 1 I - + 16 - 8

We blogged about [Warrenton's old town fire station](#) a few weeks ago. Here's the old rural fire station, as photographed yesterday by Lee Wilson. The two-story structure is located at 104 College Street, and presently serves a religious organization. Tax records say the 6,400 square-foot structure was built in 1956. Warrenton Rural Fire Department relocated to 236 South Main Street in 2006. [See more of Lee's photos from Warrenton.](#)



*Lee Wilson photo*

thanks for taking these photos,brings back good memories of the old station

**enginedriver1** - 06/07/09 - 13:49

You're welcome enginedriver. If you search my flickr site for Warrenton or go here <http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=warrento..> you can see pictures I took back in 1991 of that station and apparatus. Lee

**lee** - 06/07/09 - 21:19

man! has it really been that long? i cut my teeth on those engines, and let me tell you,tanker 34 couldnt get out of its own way! there have been a many of bowls of deer stew eat in those upstairs of the old station!

**enginedriver1** - 06/08/09 - 00:18

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Rip Current Awareness Week**

06/08/09 132 W, 1 I - + 13 - 9

Found in [this WRAL story](#) about a Kure Beach ocean rescue, the National Weather Service and National Sea Grant Program, in partnership with the United States Lifesaving Association, are working together to raise awareness about the dangers of rip currents.

These powerful, channeled currents of water that flow away from the shore account for over 80% of rescues performed by surf beach lifeguards. Annual deaths due to rip currents exceeds 100 on the nation's beaches. [Read more about this safety campaign](#), including [rip current safety tips](#).

Rip currents are like a treadmill that cannot be turned off, the site notes. Swim out of the current in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to swim out, float or calmly tread water. When out of the current, swim toward shore.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email:      Yes, hide my email address.

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**South African Maxilance**

06/08/09 127 W, 1 I - + 10 - 12

[FireNews](#) Editor Jeff Harkey recently posted a picture of a "maxilance," a major incident patient transporter found in Rustenburg, South Africa. He also includes photos of other rescue and EMS units, and notes that the local emergency telephone number is 10177. Harkey took the photos during a major "football" (soccer) game there recently. [Read his blog posting.](#)



*Jeff Harkey photo*

On a related note, Yours Truly is finishing Paul Theroux's travelogue [Dark Star Safari: Overland from Cairo to Capetown](#). The author and novelist travels the entire continent, and ably observes what he encounters nearly 40 years after he spent time there teaching in the Peace Corps. Recommended reading, and especially if you are unfamiliar with that part of the world.

Name: (real name preferred)  
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## Excursion Train Hit by Car

06/08/09 157 W, 1 I - + 10 - 10

The *News & Observer* reports on yesterday's train/car collision in New Hill, when a New Hope Valley Railway excursion train was struck by a slow-moving automobile at a crossing on Daisy Street. Or, as Google Maps calls it, Daisy Street. No one was injured in the 3:57 p.m. [Read the article.](#)

Yours Truly was on the west side and wandered that way, and photographed fire and EMS personnel assisting passengers disembarking the train. Apex Engine 2 and Apex EMS 41 were on scene. Rescue 1, EMS 17, Medic 94, District 5, and District 2 were cancelled en route. [View the photos.](#)



*Mike Legeros photo*

The accident happened near the site of November's mass-casualty drill, conducted with the New Hope Valley Railway just up the tracks. [See those photos.](#)

How many train/car collisions occur in our state? Reading the results from [this federal database](#), in 2009, at 6,977 crossings, 69 incidents occurred last year. Eight fatalities, and 27 non-fatal conditions.

Nice picture, Mike!

**Mark Turner** ([Web Site](#)) - 06/08/09 - 09:31

Video of the accident:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enkh9A5jd..>

**Matt** - 06/09/09 - 02:25

Well there you go!

**Legeros** - 06/09/09 - 07:11

**Let Me Google That For You**

06/08/09 47 W - + 10 - 12

Mrs. Blogger found this gem. Know someone too lazy to Google for themselves? [LMETFY](#) lets you passively aggressively help your friends. Visit the site, perform a search, then send your friend the results. Such as <http://lmgtfy.com/?q=Legeros>. Hilarious

Name: (real name preferred)  
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Yes  
No

Comment:

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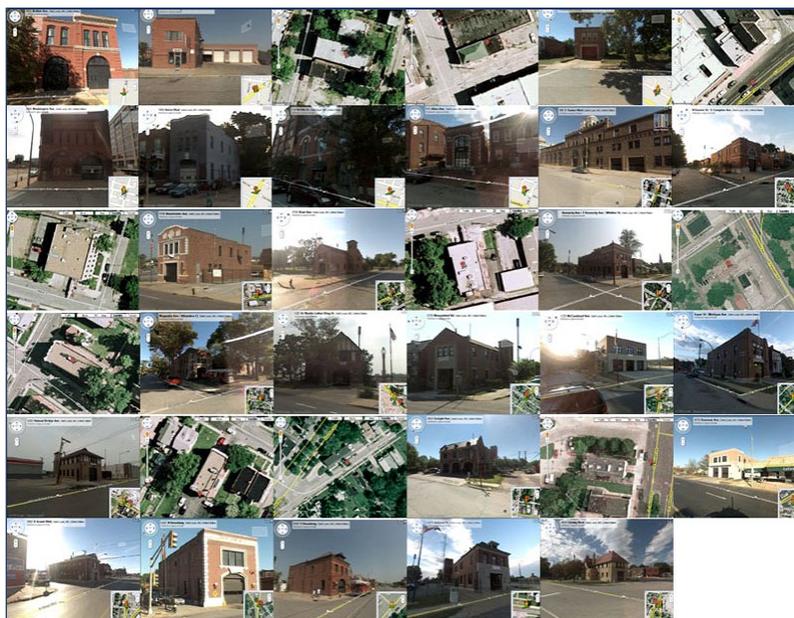
See You in St. Louis

06/09/09 203 W, 2 I - + 9 - 8

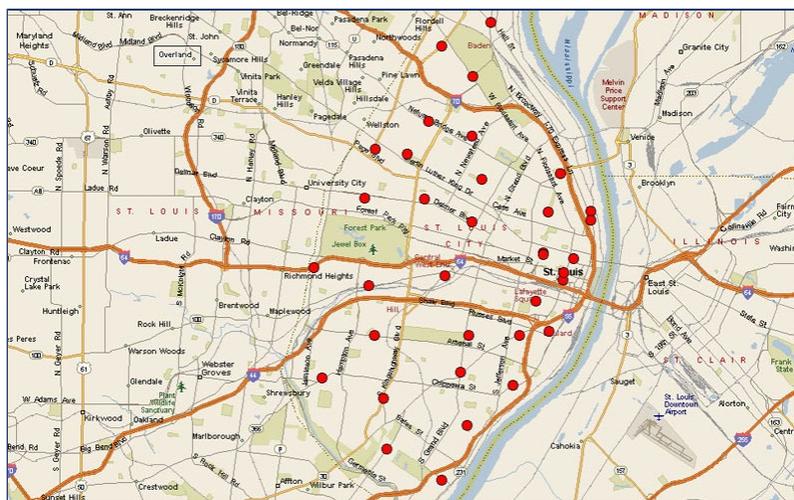
'Tis an upcoming trip with the wife's family. Four days in the Gateway City. Sightseeing. Dining. Gambling. Plus, of course, finding historic fire stations. With a bit research, we've found the addresses and Google street or satellite photos of 35 current or former engine houses older than 50 years of age. Thanks to the [St. Louis Fire Department](#) for their help.

Several houses are pre-1900s: Old 1 (1872), Old 26 (1887), Old 29 (1888), Old 32 (1892), Station 35 (1895), Station 34 (1895), Old 7 (1897), and Station 32 (1899). Another dozen date between 1900 and 1920. In fact, most of the city's active fire stations are historic structures. Only five are "young" buildings, built in the 1960s or 1970s. [Read about their stations.](#)

What do they look like? See the below montage, most with street-level spy photos. Next step, mapping. Paste the addresses into Excel, and import into Streets & Trips. Viola, instant fire station map. FireNews Editor Jeff Harkey taught me that tip. Between the map and our GPS navigator, we'll be good to go. Basically, exploring the entire city while photographing historic fire stations. And the perfect excuse for alone time, when taking a break from the family. Click to enlarge:



Google Maps Images



Microsoft Streets & Trips Map

**Excursion Train Hit by Car, The Video**

06/09/09 26 W - + 11 - 8

Here's a video of Sunday's [car/train collision in Apex](#), as found by reader Matt. Please remain seated.

How do you just DRIVE into the side of a train? Maybe they need to get some flashing lights and some chevrons like Wake EMS has :-)

**Cole** ([Email](#)) - 06/09/09 - 12:43

Thats why we did our drill there last year. There are some people in this world that do not need a drivers license.

**Apex Batt Chief** - 06/09/09 - 18:19

I just spent 30 hours of drivers ed to get my learners permit BECAUSE of people like this.....

**[ExplorerRickels]** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 06/09/09 - 18:38

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
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## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Garner Explosion, « Excursion Train Hit b... » Garner Explosion, Cov... Roll Call

### Garner Explosion, Roll Call

06/09/09 160 W - + 11 - 9

Who responded to the explosion and fire in Garner today? Let's try to compile the list. Dispatched at 11:30 ~~p.m.~~ a.m. Industrial accident at 4851 Jones Sausage Road with multiple victims. Garner E1, C2; Raleigh E26; Garner EMS84; Wake EMS D1, Medic 92. Soon upgraded to building collapse. We'll work on posting photos a bit later, from Legeros and Lee.

Garner Fire - E1, E3, E4, FS1, C2, C1

Raleigh Fire - E26, L26, L20, L11, L1, R7, B2, B3, A8, USAR1, USAR2, USAR3, USAR 801, HM2, SR2, SR3 (bus), SR 22, Decon 1, C71, C4, FC1, fuel truck

Wake Fire - WC1

Wake EMS - EMS1, EMS2, EMS4, EMS8, EMS13, EMS14, EMS16, EMS31, D1, M92, Truck 1, PIO, Chief 100, MD1

Garner EMS - EMS81, EMS83, EMS84, 871, 881, 882, Captain 830, Chief 800

Eastern Wake EMS - EMS61, EMS62

Cary EMS - EMS55

Wake EM - MCP

USAR Task Force 8 - Cary, Chapel Hill, Durham units, including Cary R4, USAR 803 (with E7 crew); Durham E7

---

I heard the first call go out, turned on the news and saw the building I've passed millions of times, falling down! God Bless All EMS, Fire, Police, USAR, and other associated crews working there, and all over the world!!!

**[ExplorerRickels]** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 06/09/09 - 18:50

Was it 11:30 p.m. or a.m. ?

**[house]** - 06/09/09 - 19:48

First alarm went out about 11:27 am according to my clock, and the second that I heard went out at approx. 11:45 am

**[ExplorerRickels]** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 06/09/09 - 20:01

Does anyone have a handle on how many of the hospital based units responded, and who coordinates their dispatch ?

**Jon C** - 06/09/09 - 20:37

Our 911 lines lit up and the first call was initiated in CAD at 11:27 hours. At one point on my CAD I counted 20 Wake County EMS units either enroute, on scene, enroute to the hospital or at the hospital and that did not include the APP's or the supervisors. I know we special called 2 CAT buses for standby and transport. M/A ambulances were brought in from Harnett and Franklin if I remember correctly. WSO handled priority police calls in Garner City limits. WSO, SHP handled traffic and locking down the scene.

**dispatch** - 06/09/09 - 21:41

Bay Leaf Ladder 25 RFD 4, Wake Forest Ladder 1 RFD 19, who else?

**ff** - 06/09/09 - 23:19

usar task force truck from durham and possibly durham engine 16, also cary rescue 2

**crs** - 06/10/09 - 00:52

Garner E4

**Dennis** - 06/10/09 - 04:59

Cary Fire: R-4 (not R-2), USAR-803 (E-4's crew)

Durham E-7

**CFP 7021** - 06/10/09 - 08:23

Durham Engine 7

**Robert** - 06/10/09 - 13:26

Garner- Captian 830

**Dan** ([Email](#)) - 06/10/09 - 17:34

Any Johnston County untis respond to scene or fill in at other staions/departments?

**buckwheat** - 06/10/09 - 21:53

No Johnston County units were requested. You would think with Clayton being 5 miles from there with 3 paramedic ambulances and 50-210 at Cleveland FD about 10 miles away with a Paramedic ambulance, some fill-ins could have taken place at a minimum if not used in the initial response. The mechanism is in place now to communicate via radio with out of county units. It was said on one news source that Franklin County and Harnett County EMS units were used. That is interesting.

**lv4csfire** - 06/11/09 - 23:02

It is possible that they did not want to deplete their closest aid (Johnston) in order to have units to run calls in Wake County other than the ConAgra scene. Most of eastern Wake County was short for quite some time, and it would make sense to call for Franklin and Harnett to transport the non life threatening patients instead of clearing out all of western Johnston. Just my two cents.

**Wake\_Co\_FF** - 06/12/09 - 09:54

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

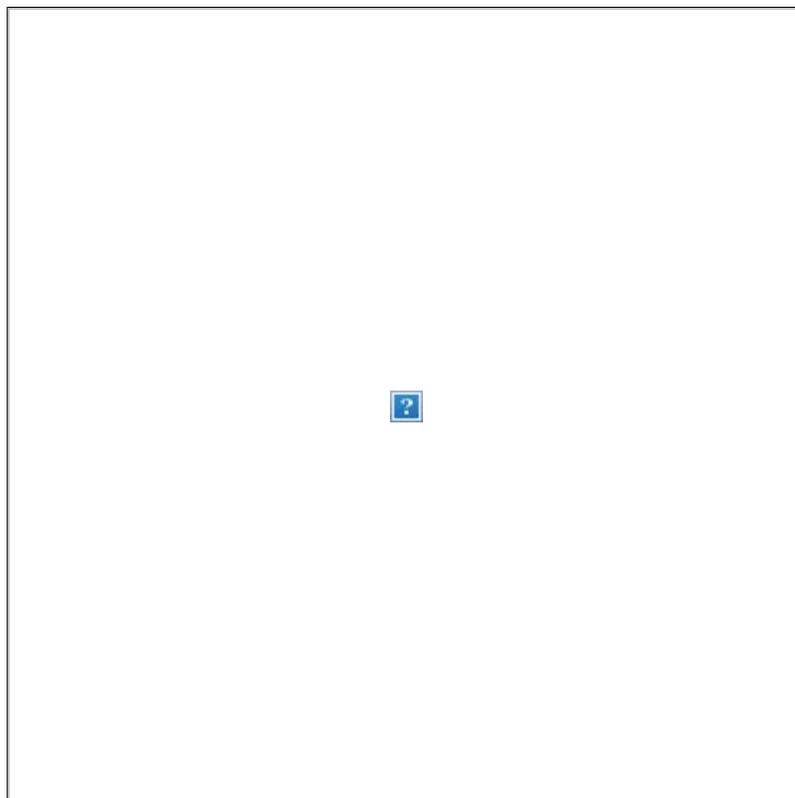
**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Garner Explosion, « Garner Explosion, Rol... » This Evening's Storms... Coverage

### Garner Explosion, Coverage

06/09/09 121 W, 1 I - + 9 - 10

For coverage of the explosion, fire, and collapse at a Garner food processing plant, [FireNews is a good place to start](#). They've posted maps, diagrams, and both ground and aerial photos. Then, proceed to the local television stations. Here's [WRAL coverage](#), [WTVD coverage](#), and [NBC17 coverage](#), for starters. On the print front, here's the [News & Observer story](#). The story's also made national news. Both Lee and Legeros spent several hours on scene. Preliminary photos from Mike [have been posted](#). More later. Many more later. Plus other data and information about the incident, as we have occasion to blog about. Great job by responders, and the many others who provided and are still providing assistance on scene.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## This Evening's Storms

06/10/09 68 W - + 15 - 9

How many working fires have we heard tonight, as thunderstorms passed through Wake County? Three thus far. Outbuilding on Beardsley Drive in Raleigh, dispatched 10:24 p.m. House on Bamburgh Lane in Fairview, dispatched 11:01 p.m. House on North Main Street in Fuquay-Varina, dispatched 12:25 a.m. Crews reporting live ammunition exploding on the last one. Looking at the weather radar, things appear to be calming down.

I believe Cary and Western Wake had one but I don't know the location.

**4447** - 06/10/09 - 08:06

Cary had a small working fire on Hemlock St. Small fire with quick knockdown, Released M/A on Arrival.

**7721** - 06/10/09 - 12:16

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

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Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Ten Questions with Raleigh-Wake ECC Director Barry Furey**

06/11/09 72 W - + 10 - 8

The latest edition of the WRAL feature [Ask Anything](#) features Raleigh-Wake County Emergency Communications Director Barry Furey. He's asked questions ranging from what's "the craziest or oddest call that came in to the center" to what's "the difference between 911 services and E-911 services offered by alternative phone systems." [Read the article with Barry's answers](#). Or learn more about [Raleigh-Wake ECC](#).

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**This Morning's Major Fire / Blount Street**

06/12/09 141 W, 1 I - + 12 - 6

Two alarms at commercial structure at 1316 South Blount Street. Engine 1 arriving with heavy smoke showing at a one-story, wood-frame structure with 6,217 square-feet. Dispatched about 1:30 a.m. Quickly upgraded to major working fire. Interior operations at first. Defensive operations soon started. Deluge guns and ladder pipes used. Ladder 1 and Ladder 20 operated. Water supply problems requiring multiple hydrants. Command by Battalion 2, then transferred to Car 5. Blount, Person, and several cross streets closed. Fire units included E1, E13, E3, E2, E5, E7, E10, L1, L20, R7, R14, B2, B3, C5, C20, A8, C4, C3, C2, C1. EMS units included EMS\_, EMS\_, EMS\_, District 1, Truck 1. See [Google Street View of building](#). Listen to [archived scanner traffic](#). Read news coverage from [WRAL](#). Watch other media outlets as needed. And we await photos from Lee Wilson.



*Jamie Munden/WRAL photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Look at the Golfs!**

06/12/09 323 W, 1 I - + 11 - 9

[Photos have been posted](#) from yesterday's third annual [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournament](#). They're the first sets of photos from Yours Truly, who again served as event photographer. The setting was [Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club](#), south of Raleigh. The occasion was raising money for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Weather was nice, with a strong breeze, good cloud cover, and only a couple hours of blistering sunshine. Mr. Blogger brought a wide hat, but forgot his sunscreen. Just call me red neck.

Two cameras and three lens were utilized. One with tripod at the tenth hole, for team photos. Another for shooting course play, alternating between wide and zoom lens. The former-- a Canon 17-40 f4.0 L-- proved its durability when it fell from the photographer's pocket onto concrete. Only a couple scratches on the body, believe it or not. Even the lens shade stayed intact. As a bonus, the accident happened right before tee time, when the crowd was listening to the day's instructions. Nothing like a public accident. Memo to self, large lenses and small pockets are not compatible.

Most of the action shots were taken at the tenth tee. Tried assorted aperture and shutter settings to "stop the action." Alas, I couldn't cancel the blur of fast-moving clubs or balls. Camera limitation? Operator failure? I am guessing the latter. As for the day's subjects, the camera jokes were continuous. "Did you break the lens" was most popular, with "Better get the wide lens" as a close second. Other jokes about clubs, balls, etc. are best left to the imagination. Heard a number of *Caddyshack* quotes, as well. However, nobody yells "fore" anymore. Wonder why? Large time again had by all. [See more tournament photos](#), from all three years.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**After the Fire**

06/12/09 41 W, 1 I - + 12 - 8

Here's what's left of a street sign on South Blount Street, after this morning's major fire. The two-alarm blaze heavily damaged the building and destroyed four limos. [Read our prior posting.](#)



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

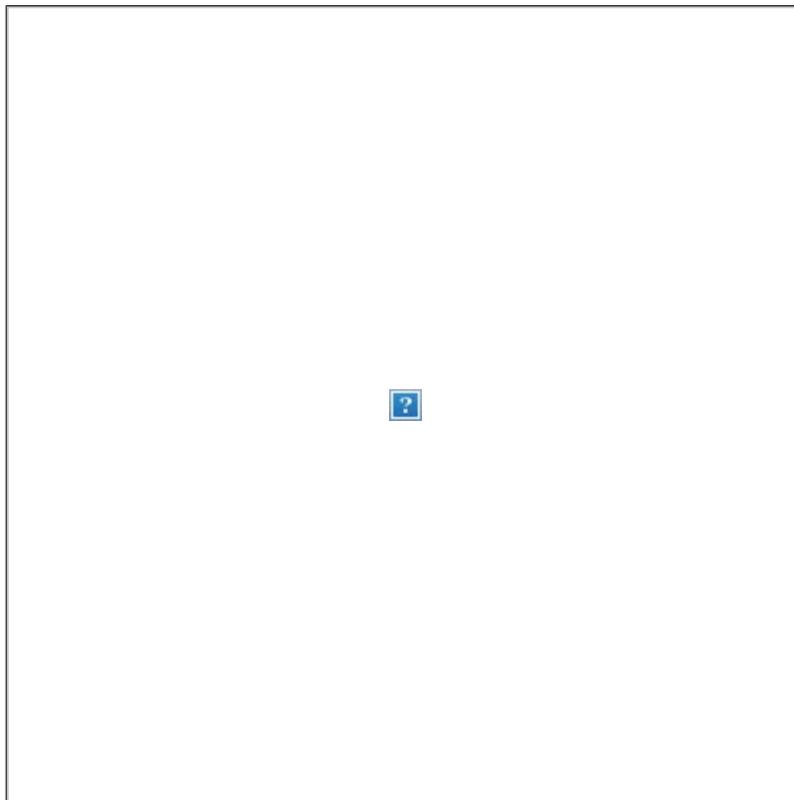
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Barrel Monster**

06/12/09 96 W, 1 I - + 10 - 14

[We blogged before](#) about the web site [No Promise of Safety](#). That site's in the news for documenting the creation of a "barrel monster," a construction barrel-built creation that appeared on Hillsborough Street on May 31. Who knew the roundabouts would lead to a local Internet sensation? Today's *News & Observer* reports that an N.C. State student faces criminal charges in connection with same. [Read the story of the barrel monster](#). Next question, who receives photographer credit for the below picture? Cue [Beer Barrel Polka](#). Frankie Yankovic's version. Or maybe Liberace's.



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I hope they didn't take it down... I want a picture with it... and that guy who made it... charges of theft... like they were really using the stuff to begin with!

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 06/12/09 - 19:07

Same dude (uliveandyouburn) posted up a video of him carsurfing:<http://idek.net/EnV>.  
Dude is artistic and has a great imagination but tends to be reckless. Then again the same was said of me as a kid.

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 06/12/09 - 19:52

Correction: make that URL:

<http://idek.net/EnV>

**Marshall KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 06/12/09 - 19:53

## 911 Hang-Ups are a Problem in Many Areas

06/13/09 100 W - + 10 - 8

Today's *News & Observer* features a Triangle Troubleshooter feature about 911 hang-ups. When there's no emergency, notes Raleigh-Wake ECC Directory Barry Furey, they account for 10 to 11 percent of incoming calls. Last year, the ECC dispatched law enforcement officers to 16,184 such calls, including 13,000 in Raleigh. Furey offers some tips, such as not programming 911 into your phone's speed dial. And what should you do when you accidentally dial 911? Stay on the line, and advise your mistake. And if your dog, cat, or other non-human companion does same? No advice is given there. [Read the entire article.](#)

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## Charlotte-Mecklenburg Special Operations Vehicles

06/13/09 65 W, 2 I - + 15 - 6

FireNews Editor Jeff Harkey has posted photos of a couple Charlotte-Mecklenburg special operations vehicles, seen this week at the 2009 National UASI Conference at the Charlotte Civic Center. [Read the FireNews article](#), or view larger photos at the [FireNews Flickr site](#). There are several viewing options on Flickr, including a [slideshow](#). Or click to see enlarged versions:



*Jeff Harkey / FireNews photos*

CMPD Bomb Squad's truck... fully equipped with a Roto-Ray and Federal Q. (can police really appreciate a Roto-Ray and Federal Q?? ..... kidding)

The two MEDIC buses have come in good use lately. The two pictures on display in front of the bus are from the overturned school bus accident on I-77. On a side note, one of MEDIC's buses were on scene of the overturned tanker truck in Cabarrus County yesterday. It served as the rehab area for the extended operations.

**Luke** - 06/14/09 - 01:45

Hey Luke,  
Any idea when CMPD got that Hackney EOD truck? Hey if MEDIC can put a Q on the Alert truck why not CMPD? Noticed that MEDIC has been using the buses a lot lately do they keep at dedicated crew at MEDIC HQ?

**Duke** - 06/14/09 - 11:05

CMPD got that truck around the beginning of the year. It was initially housed at a fire station when they got it, but has since been moved (as I understand it).

As for the MEDIC buses, I'm willing to wager that there is always someone at/near HQ that is capable of driving one of the buses. I thought I'd heard that one was also stationed down at Mint Hill FD, but don't quote me on that... I'm not sure where they keep all their stuff! I wouldn't say they have a 'dedicated crew' for the buses each day, since they aren't in use everyday, but I don't think they'd have a problem getting one en route to a call.

The joke about the Q on CMPD's truck is because the cops around here like to give the FD a hard time for "making all that noise going to calls." At least, that's what the officers I talk to say..!

**Luke** - 06/14/09 - 19:10

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Tropical Photographer Stalks St. Louis Fire Stations

06/14/09 234 W, 3 I - + 13 - 17

Reporting from the road, where Yours Truly has been exploring the [Gateway City](#) since about 9:30 a.m. Minus time with the Missus and her family, met on the riverfront for a couple hours. There's really no better way to see a city than to leap from engine house to engine house. Or, in my case, every engine house older than 50 years of age. That totals 36 such structures, both active and retired, and all of them two-story buildings of brick, stone, or stucco.

Found 29 today, including three below, left to right: Old Station 28 (built 1961), now the residence of a retired firefighter, I'm told; Station 2 (built 1929), part of a complex that includes the city garage, the fire department shops, and the old training tower; Station 35 (built 1895), one of two active stations built that year. There's a bit of rivalry between Station 35 and Station 36, regarding which was occupied before the other.

In addition to engine houses, St. Louis presents blocks upon blocks of interesting [residential, commercial, and industrial buildings](#). So much variety in age, condition, construction, and style. Who needs the great outdoors when you can explore a great city? Explorations continue tomorrow, with a half-dozen fire stations still to find. Do you suppose Homeland Security issues cautionary warnings about photographers wearing floral prints around public safety facilities? Click to enlarge:



Who is the rivalry between? "There's a bit of rivalry between Station 35 and Station 35, regarding which was occupied before the other."

**stretch** - 06/15/09 - 20:31

Let's try that again. Station 34 and Station 35, both built in 1895.

**Legeros** - 06/16/09 - 08:40

I wish we had more historic houses around here. There is just something about a firehouse that has years and years of history in it that makes it an almost mysterious place.

**H2O** - 06/16/09 - 11:45

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

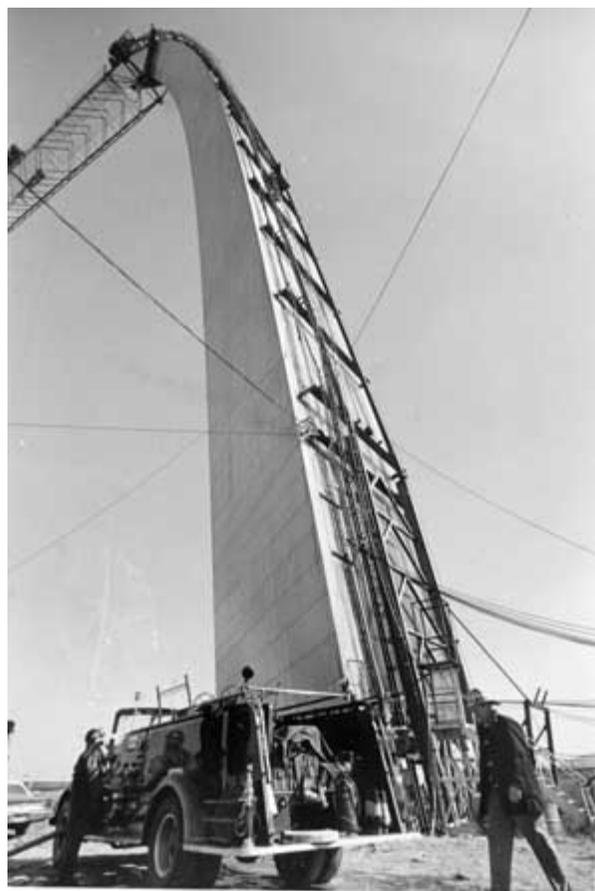
No

/ [Textile](#)

**Building the Gateway Arch**

06/15/09 142 W, 1 I - + 11 - 15

Reporting from the road. Reading the [Wikipedia page](#) about the Gateway Arch finds an interesting fact. When the arch was built, both legs were built up at the same time. When it was time to connect the legs up top, the legs couldn't be precisely aligned. The problem? Thermal expansion from the sunward-facing south leg. The solution? The St. Louis Fire Department sprayed said leg until it cooled sufficient to allow alignment. There's a treasure trove of construction photos by Arthur Witman cataloged and viewable from the [Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-St. Louis web site](#). Though I couldn't find an image of the above event, this photo shows a presumably SLFD engine on scene at the construction site:



*Arthur Witman photo, courtesy Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-St. Louis*

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Photo

**Caption This Photo**

06/17/09 16 W, 1 I - + 13 - 6

See this morning outside St. Louis, on the way to Lambert Field:



"New Gas Grades: Mild, Hot, and Fire!"

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 06/17/09 - 18:05

Bag of nachos – \$1.39

Ice cold soda – \$1.49

Seeing someone blow up a gas pump – Priceless

For everything else, there's Fire Departments

**Mike** - 06/18/09 - 12:26

Run...

**Kermit** - 06/18/09 - 14:59

"Gas..... Its kinda flammable!"

**[ExplorerRickels]** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 06/18/09 - 17:08

D@#\$ smokers!

**gen3fire** - 06/18/09 - 20:38

curious...were they holding a ringing cell phone in hand when it happened?

Discussions, Discussions

06/18/09 134 W - + 10 - 11

Couple discussions we've been watching and enjoying. First from the Watch Desk, from the Raleigh-Durham forum. The subject is a [unified Wake County fire department](#). The usual suspects are present, though the conversation has been progressing slowly. Are folks more cautious on the Watch Desk? Or perhaps the forum isn't widely read. Go figure, as there's no shortage of opinions (and opiniators) around here! [Join that conversation](#).

Next are a pair of comment collection on Firegeezer's blog. First are a handful of responses (so far) to Mike Ward's [commentary on safety blind spots](#). Mr. Ward, AKA FossilMedic, ponders methods of preventing injuries and duty deaths. Second are a dozen-point-five comments on 'geezers posting about the [Morrisville engine collision from last week](#). Lane blocking works, and readers react accordingly. Good reading all around.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Historic Engine Houses in St. Louis**

06/18/09 143 W, 1 I - + 18 - 14

Vacation's over. Photos have been posted. Two flavors are available from Mr. Blogger's family vacation: three-dozen engine houses, plus St. Louis scenery. [See the photo site for that collection.](#) Or just the firehouses and nothing else. [Visit Mike's flickr site for that.](#) 'Twas a grand adventure, spread over some eight hours and across three days. Several were drive-bys, due to rain or time. The block-long building housing Station 2, the shop, and the old training tower was visited several times. Who tires of a busy shop? Thanks to the [St. Louis Fire Department](#) and historian Bob Pauley for the locations and ages of the current and retired houses. And where's the next destination, you ask? Baltimore beckons in another month. Might photograph more [historic BFD houses](#). Click for photos of current and retired St. Louis fire stations:



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
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Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.

## Church Group Rescued From River in Montgomery County

06/18/09 147 W - + 17 - 7

Nine youth members of a church group were rescued from the [Uwharrie River](#) in Montgomery County after multiple boats became separated around noon. A large-scale rescue operation was initiated, with about 50 emergency personnel from Montgomery, Cabarrus, Stanly, and Randolph counties. As this [News & Record article](#) reports, a State Highway Patrol helicopter also participated in the search. The incident was reported at 12:15 p.m., the article notes. The nine boys were located about three hours later about a mile upstream from the Low Water Bridge off Highway 109. Montgomery County established their Emergency Operations Center at the site, which appears to be the massive command trailer pictured in the [WTVD story footage](#). The story is covered on numerous other outlets. The river's name is pronounced yoo-WAHR-ee. It's a tributary of the Pee Dee River. In case you wanted to know.

Charlotte FD sent some of our NCHART members. Departed from Salisbury (via helo) but where turned around after everyone was located.

**Luke** - 06/19/09 - 00:37

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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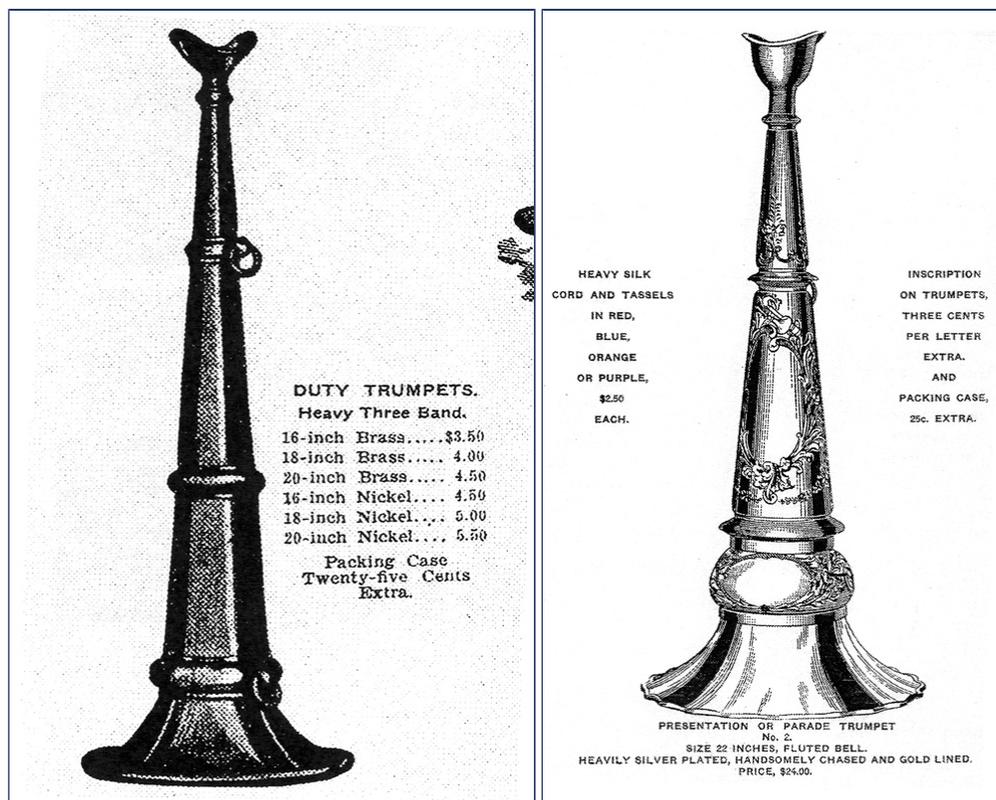
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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Trumpets

06/19/09 157 W, 2 I - + 14 - 13

For your Friday enjoyment, here's a pair of illustrations from a reproduction of the 1912 catalog of the C. G. Braxmar Co. of New York, makers of fire and police department badges and other supplies. Trumpets, or speaking trumpets, served as megaphones on the fireground, so fire company officers could be heard above the roar of flames and the din of crowds. They might ~~below~~ bellow orders, for example, to the dozens of men manning the hand engines. Two types of trumpets are illustrated below, a duty trumpet and a presentation or parade trumpet. The latter is most familiar to most people. These were ceremonial trumpets, often inscribed. They were not intended for use at fire scenes. Many survive today, and are common fixtures at fire museums. What eras were speaking trumpets used? Need to check that. Are speaking trumpets the same thing as bugles on badges? Yes, believe so. Click once or twice to enlarge:



"Are speaking trumpets the same thing as bugles on badges?"

That would be correct. The trumpets came to represent authority and leadership on scene, and that's why it came to be the insignia of FD officers.

**attic.rat** - 06/19/09 - 18:14

You mean "bellow orders", not "below orders"

**Paul** - 06/19/09 - 18:21

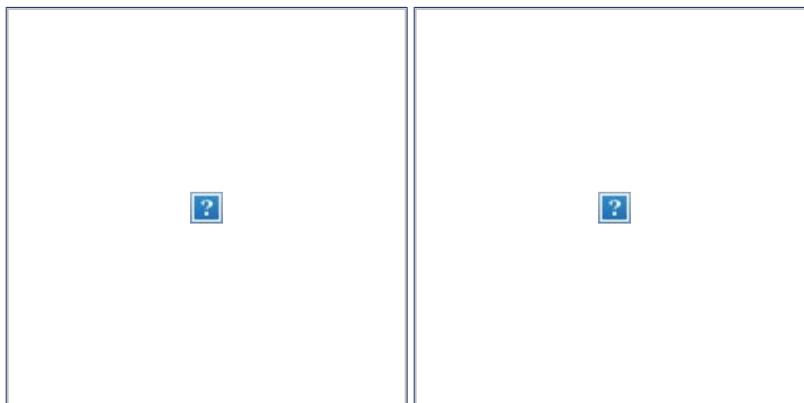
Yup, ditto attic rat. I think it was just someones' error to call them "bugles" and it spread.

**Silver** - 06/19/09 - 21:42

## Ammonia Release at Robeson County Poultry Plant

06/21/09 186 W, 2 I - + 13 - 5

One person was killed and four others were injured yesterday when a high-pressure refrigeration line ruptured just before 10:00 a.m. at a poultry plant on [N.C. Highway 71 in Lumber Bridge](#). The five victims suffered chemical burns from escaping anhydrous ammonia gas. Two were transported to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville, with one transferred to the UNC burn center. Two were transported to Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton. Another 30 to 40 employees also evacuated. The plant employs 2,500 workers. Click to enlarge [aerial photos](#):



*WTVD Photos*

Employees were reportedly performing maintenance on a piece of equipment. The Fayetteville Fire Department's haz-mat team(s) responded to the scene-- including North Carolina Hazardous Materials Regional Response Team (RRT) 3-- along with other fire and EMS agencies. Highway 71 was closed for about a mile during the incident. No evacuations of residents was ordered, however. The leak was contained within a couple hours. The incident also drew immediate comparisons to the recent ConAgra explosion in Garner. Read more:

- [Fayetteville Observer](#)
- [News & Observer](#)
- [Robesonian](#)
- [WRAL](#)
- [WTVD](#) (includes aerial photos)

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**Zebulon's New Rescue**

06/22/09 79 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

[Zebulon Fire Department](#) has taken delivery of a new rescue truck, built by [M&W Fire Apparatus](#) on a 2009 GMC chassis. Rescue 9 was delivered on June 18, and will be lettered and placed in service this week. Equipment from old Engine 92, which has been sold, will be moved to Rescue 9. Features of the new truck include a cascade system, canopy, and light tower. Lee Wilson has [posted pictures of the new rescue](#).



*Lee Wilson photo*

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Nice to see a more cost-effective looking rescue truck compared to the "over-kill" rescues that many area FDs have purchased as of late. Does this truck not accomplish the same tasks as those fancy show pieces?

**Concerned Taxpayer** - 06/23/09 - 16:36

Looks good, Congrats guys and girls! Will this be available as a mutual aid air truck for the east side of the county?

**JBoggs** ([Email](#)) - 06/23/09 - 16:46

Good looking truck fellows.

**JG** - 06/23/09 - 21:12

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015** - *Open House and* « **Zebulon's New Rescue** » *Post-Incident Reporti...*  
*Birthday Party at Raleigh Fire Station 6, Saturday, 11:00 a.m.*

**Open House and Birthday Party at Raleigh Fire Station 6, Saturday, 11:00 a.m.**

06/22/09 86 W - + 11 - 10

Don't forget the open house and birthday party at Raleigh Fire Station 6 this Saturday, June 27, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The city's oldest fire station celebrates its 60th birthday. Station 6 is located at [2601 Fairview Road](#), at the intersection of Oberlin Road. Food will be provided, and fire apparatus will be displayed for children of all ages. Visitors will also see fire education displays and historical materials. [Read the press release](#). See you there.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Post-Incident Reporting

06/23/09 254 W - + 10 - 9

What does the post-incident reporting look like after a major event, such as both ConAgra in Garner and Mountaire Farms in Lumber Bridge? Here's what's been posted on the *News & Observer* site in the past 12 days. These links were located using by both browsing site sections, and using their [site search](#). Duplicates were eliminated. Immediate stories about each incident were also eliminated. Sources include *News & Observer*, *Charlotte Observer*, and Associated Press.

### Mountaire Farms

- [Chemicals a hazard in poultry industry](#) (6/23)
- [Officials: NC plant had previous safety violations](#) (6/22)
- [Chemical accidents overtax agency](#) (6/22)

### ConAgra

- [Agencies not working together on ConAgra probe](#) (6/23)
- [ConAgra blast lawsuit expands](#) (6/20)
- [Chem board: Gas may have been vented into building](#) (6/19)
- [Blood drive set for NC town of Slim Jim explosion](#) (6/19)
- [Explosion may be tied to water heater](#) (6/18)
- [Slim Jim production to resume](#) (6/18)
- [Attorney: 4 not in room where explosion occurred](#) (6/17)
- [Garner pauses to mark blast](#) (6/17)
- [Contractor says its workers aren't to blame](#) (6/17)
- [Firm: Our work not involved in NC plant explosion](#) (6/16)
- [Injured ConAgra workers sue contractor](#) (6/16)
- [NC plant workers to 911: ConAgra just blew up'](#) (6/15)
- [ConAgra workers file lawsuit](#) (6/15)
- [ConAgra explosion investigation could take months](#) (6/15)
- [ConAgra explosion rocks a way of life](#) (6/14)
- [In the days after, worker asks why](#) (6/14)
- [Gas leak triggered ConAgra explosion, ATF determines](#) (6/14)
- [ATF agents talk to ConAgra workers](#) (6/13)
- [Families recall victims killed at Slim Jim plant](#) (6/12)
- [Agents study ConAgra rubble](#) (6/12)
- [Federal investigation into ConAgra explosion begins](#) (6/11)
- [ConAgra family grieves](#) (6/11)
- [ConAgra plant wreckage challenges teams](#) (6/11)
- [Lung damage challenges UNC burn unit doctors](#) (6/11)
- [Future for plant, workers is uncertain](#) (6/11)

---

I think that part of it is due to the remoteness of Lumber Bridge as opposed to the proximity of Garner. Sure, the N&O is read over a large area of the state, but the prime audience is around here as opposed to 'down there'. I would bet that the Fayetteville Observer has more info on the Lumber Bridge incident.

DJ - 06/23/09 - 18:04

## Wake County Fire Department Rescue Units

06/23/09 96 W, 1 I - + 12 - 11

By way of comparison, here's a quick gallery of every Wake County fire department rescue unit. Minus USAR apparatus, reserve rigs, or Cary's newest service truck. Both Cary and Raleigh's identical twin rescues are shown one each, as well. What's missing? Left to right, top to bottom: Apex (2), Bay Leaf, Cary, Durham Highway, Eastern Wake, Fairview, Fuquay-Varina, Garner (2), Holly Springs, Hopkins, Morrisville (2), New Hope (2), Raleigh (2), RDU, Rolesville, Stony Hill, Swift Creek, Wake Forest, Wendell, Western Wake, and Zebulon. Photo credits Lee Wilson, Mike Legeros, and others. Click to enlarge:



Garner FD has a Pierce Heavy Rescue in production as we speak.

**CFP 7021** - 06/23/09 - 19:02

Fuquay also has another rescue at station 3. It is a 1990's model Ford F350 with a closed utility body.

**JG** ([Email](#)) - 06/23/09 - 21:09

Knightdale Public Safety Rescue 132 not shown

**Privette** - 06/25/09 - 09:28

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Questions and Answers

06/23/09 370 W - + 8 - 10

Opening the mailbag, here are some questions recently received from readers, site visitors, and random Googlers. Was my answer wrong, really wrong, or incomplete? Let me know.

Q: What is the definition of a "city service truck?" I worked on several as a fireman in the Los Angeles Fire Department, but never heard a definition of the term. I have been looking through Google, but haven't found a definition that was complete.

A: What's called a city service truck, or a service ladder truck, is simply a ladder truck without an aerial device. If equipped with a chemical tank, such as those in the 1920s, it could be called a combination service truck. If it had a pump, hose, and tank, along with a ladder bed, it was called a quadruple combination, or quad. I tried to find the origin of the term, via Firehouse Forums, some time ago. [Here are those results.](#)

--

Q: [Regarding an] 1882 Silsby 5th 680 [steam engine], could you explain to me the definition of the "5th" and "680".

A: Fifth refers to fifth-size. Steam engines were produced in six sizes, first through sixth, which were largest to smallest. Additionally, an extra first size was even larger than the regular first size. There's a chart of sizes with typical measurements in [this steamer article](#). The number 680 might be the serial number. It's probably not the pump capacity, as fifth-size steamers were rated closer to 450 GPM.

--

Q: Do you happen to have any old photos of the Wake County Sheriff's Office? I see that you have numerous [old] fire and EMS pictures, but not many [old] pictures are around of deputies.

A: Though I do not have any photos that come to mind, I can ask readers of my blog for assistance. **Does anyone have a stash of old Wake SO photos?** Drop a line, if so.

--

Q: Do you have a copy of the Fire Commission minutes for 2009? I am doing a bit of research and couldn't find them on the Wake County web site.

A: What minutes I have posted to my blog are at <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog/wcfc/>.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
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Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Vintage Hose Ad

06/23/09 32 W, 1 I - + 15 - 7

[Seen for sale on eBay](#), here's a 1984 ad for Angus hose that shows the Parkwood Fire Department in action. Pretty cool. Bid or buy now! Click to enlarge:



I remember this ad. Guess what? There is no actual water flowing from the boom or the handline. It's all editing. I was told by someone at Parkwood that actually flowing water caused some sort of visual problems with the film and all...

DJ - 06/25/09 - 10:09

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
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Yes  
 No

Comment:

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**Dial P For Photo**

06/24/09 177 W, 1 I - + 10 - 9

The [New York Times photojournalism blog Lens](#) profiles Shawn Rocco, who works for the *News & Observer*. That's his day job. He's also a photo artist whose medium is the Motorola cellphone. He started taking cellphone photos two years ago, the post notes, though none have been published in the paper. He owns a number of Motorola phones, and shares his stunning results on his blog [Cellular Obscura](#). That tag line? "Exploring the world with the Kodak brownie of the digital age. Or in other words... yes, these are from a mobile phone." One example, also featured in the *Times* post, is this [this shot of the Garland Building](#), which was being razed for the new Wake County Justice Center. Raise your hand, if you also saw this shot, but just kept walking or driving by. (Though the street-level perspective would be different, duh.) At an absolute minimum, Rocco's blog and his work reminds every shutterbug of that old adage "your camera doesn't matter."

*Shawn Rocco photo*

And what exactly is a photojournalist? This Wikipedia definition of photojournalism seems straightforward enough:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photojourna..>

Form of journalism that creates images to tell a news story. Differs from other types of photography by qualities of timeliness, objectivity, and narrative.

**Legeros** - 06/24/09 - 07:00

Is the Justice Center still on schedule or has that also been a victim of the budget cuts?

**Joey** - 06/24/09 - 07:30

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

## North Carolina Protects Portable Potties

06/24/09 127 W - + 13 - 6

Today's *News & Observer* has the poop on a [state law taking effect December 1](#). Portable potties are newly protected against theft, vandalism, or destruction. Dethrone a throne and go to jail. Penalties can include a judge-set fine, or a room at hotel hoosegow. Oh crap, indeed. The narrowly defined crime of can abasement was promoted this spring by the state's portable toilet industry. Unknown if any members are named John. Though intentional abuse of mobile commodes is already covered under existing laws, the industry wanted a law specific to their problems. Insert own joke about additional paperwork. After December 1, the article notes, potty owners can post warnings, cautioning users against untoward toilet behavior. Not everyone's privy to this problem. [Read the article](#).

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
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Remember personal info?

Yes  
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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**This Morning's Major Fire / Shanda Drive**

06/25/09 136 W, 2 I - + 11 - 9

Two alarms at apartments at [6305 Shanda Drive](#). Engine 15 first on scene with heavy fire and smoke showing at a two-story, brick and frame apartment building with 10,872 square-feet. Declared major working fire on arrival. Interior attack to start, then defensive operations with Ladder 4, deluge gun, and hand lines. Dispatched 4:47 a.m. Controlled by 6:30 a.m. Four units reportedly damaged, started in laundry room. Cause determined as discarded smoking materials. Units included E15, E4, E9, E16, E19, E18, E22, L4, L22, R19, R14, B1, B4, C5, C2, C10, C20, A8, EMS7, EMS3, EMS5, EMS16, EMS121, D1, D3, M92, T1. "A" shift working. [Photos by Mike Legeros are posted](#), and shown below. Photos from Lee Wilson are forthcoming.



Wasn't this #2 for the shift for these guys? I thought I heard E16 and the rest of these guys out at about 11:00 PM on another working fire.

**Mike** ([Email](#)) - 06/25/09 - 08:17

That's correct. 2 fires overnight.

**Fierro** ([Email](#)) - 06/25/09 - 09:28

I was Very impressed with the response time of those brave men. i was the one who called 911 when i saw the fire. i owe everything i have left to the firefighters for getting there so quickly. everyone made it out ok because of them and i wish i could shake each and everyone of their hands for their dedicated service and rapid response

**Kyle Wilson** ([Email](#)) - 06/25/09 - 11:11

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

Comment:

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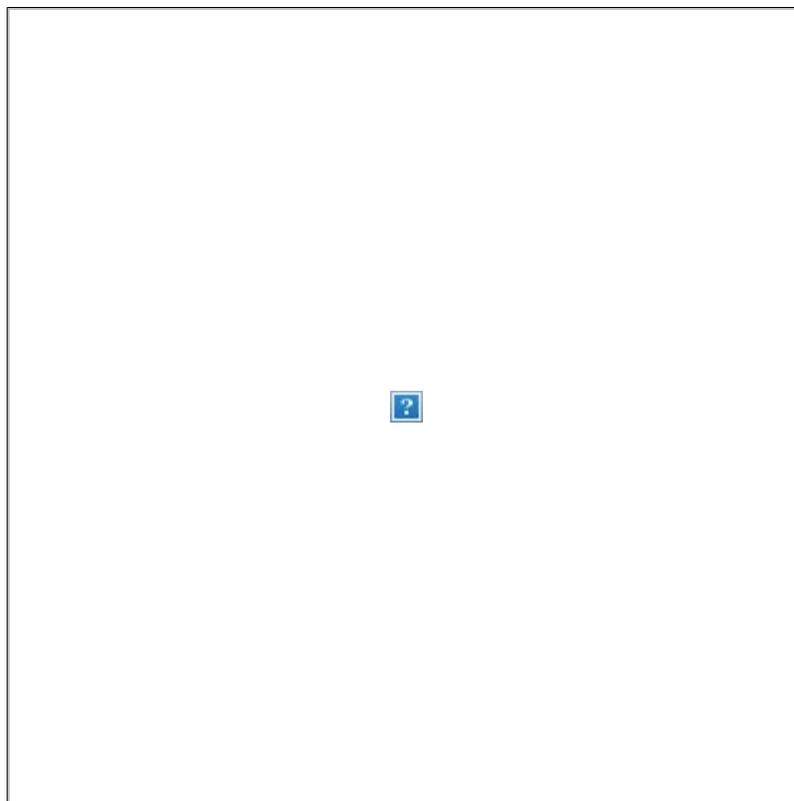
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Terror Drill Tests Agencies

06/25/09 99 W, 1 I - + 14 - 5

The *News & Observer* reports on yesterday morning's [terrorism drill at Carter-Finley Stadium](#). The purpose of the exercise was to train law enforcement officials. Participating agencies included N.C. State University police, the Raleigh Fire Department, and the State Bureau of Investigation, the article notes. The exercise included a response by the SBI bomb squad, and detonation of an explosive inside an automobile. Another exercise was conducted at the university, involving a hostage situation. [Read the article](#), which includes a photo gallery showing the SBI robots in action.



*Chuck Liddy / News & Observer photo*

Western Wake Fire Rescue was also involved in the drill

**CPF 7021** - 06/25/09 - 21:09

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Wake County Scanner Archives Unavailable**

06/25/09 73 W - + 13 - 10

On our [incident photo site](#), there's a link to [scanner archives](#) at ScanAmerica. Previously, Wake County fire and EMS radio traffic was available both as live and archived feeds. Since the merger of ScanAmerica with [RadioReference.com](#), only the live feed has been available. We're told that the site operators are working to restore the archived feeds. Watch this space, and we'll advise when everything's back to normal.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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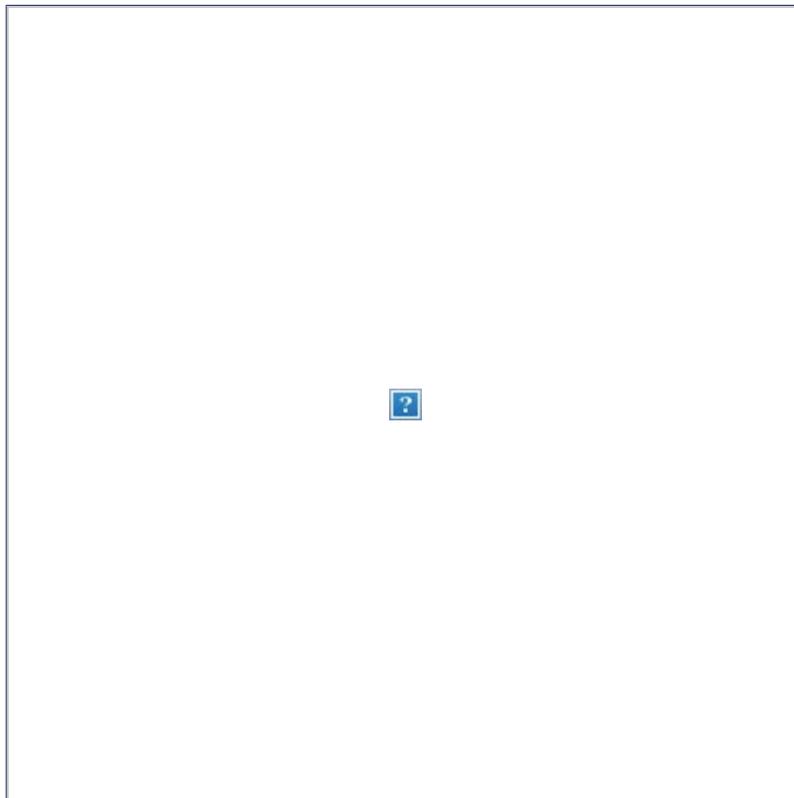
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Black and White Photography**

06/26/09 140 W, 1 I - + 8 - 9

And on the photographic front, here are some [monochrome images](#) for your consideration. These are grayscale versions of recent travel pics. They were created using Canon Digital Photo Professional; with brightness and contrast adjustments accordingly. Converted to grayscale, and then twisted the knobs until each looked artsy. Are they "true" black and white photos, since they weren't shot as such? Probably not. Back in the day-- or, for that matter, for most of the history of the medium-- such photography was the product of (a.) monochrome film, (b.) an eye to contrast (and other considerations) when shooting, and (c.) an expert hand during developing. How do these photos compare with the results of film photography? No idea. That's a future step. Learning what the heck I am doing. For now, [enjoy the photos](#).



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E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Apex Station 4, Wake Forest Station 3**

06/27/09 42 W, 2 I - + 14 - 7

Lee Wilson posted photos this week of Apex Public Safety Station 4 at 1615 E. Williams Street, e.g. Highway 55, and Wake Forest Fire Station 3 at 1412 Forestville Road. Both are nearing completion. [See his photos.](#)



*Lee Wilson photos*

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Wake Forest-Falls Merger in Wake Forest Gazette

06/27/09 113 W - + 9 - 7

[Another article about the Wake Forest/Falls merger](#) was published this week by the *Wake Forest Gazette*. It includes a good amount of detail on the people, equipment, facilities, and territory involved. The article also includes information on Wake Forest Station 3. The Forestville Road facility will be staffed with three fighters per shift. Nine new Wake Forest firefighters graduated on Friday, June 19. How closely do the *Gazette* and *Weekly* articles align? We'll let our readers opine on factual or editorial differences. And it's just great to see coverage of Wake County fire department happenings in the news. Please keep the articles coming. [Read the Gazette article.](#)

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**Antique Fire Engines**

06/27/09 106 W, 1 I - + 13 - 11

These beauties were seen traveling through the Capitol City today, heading to and from Station 6, for the open house and birthday party. The Fairview Road fire station celebrated its 60th anniversary, and the turnout was great. Tons of people. Two pieces of antique apparatus were displayed, a 1926 American LaFrance pumper and a 1950 Mack pumper. They're pictured below, returning to their quarters at Station 28. Also in the picture is the building that housed the first Station 6. Located at 2519 Fairview Road and most recently housing a restaurant, half the building was rented for fire department use from 1943 to 1948. Photos forthcoming from Lee and Mike.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

**Mystery Marker**

06/27/09 22 W, 1 I - + 13 - 11

Where is this marker that read "Durham Hwy?" For extra credit, tell a little about what's nearby.



If I'm not mistaken, that marker is on NC54 near Morrisville F.D. station 1. There is a small turnaround there and a small park with picnic table.

**bd5660** ([Email](#)) - 06/28/09 - 03:08

Negative, that's not the pictured location. The pictured place is not in Morrisville.

**Legeros** - 06/28/09 - 05:42

ON the marker you can just make out.... "..... LL DR" would lead one to believe the name of the road was on the marker as well as "Durham HWY" Just some food for thought on it.

**JJ** - 06/28/09 - 13:06

The cross-street is indeed listed on the marker, and is the road extended into the distance. To the right is a greenway.

**Legeros** - 06/28/09 - 13:26

Can't place it yet, but I do remember when all streets outside of the downtown area were marked with signposts like this one.

**DJ** - 06/28/09 - 16:39

Still thinking. I am going to ask around some more. Glenwood Ave. used to be Durham Highway so....

**DHFD200B** - 06/28/09 - 19:45

Imagine a line that bisects the southwest and northeast corners of the original 1792 city limits. The marker is below that line.

**Legeros** - 06/28/09 - 20:43

I thought it looked familiar, especially since I have driven by it at least 1000 times and "run" by it almost 500 times... Real sneaky Mike (and fun thinking on it). I believe the marker is actually misplaced or has been relocated to its present location as Glenwood Ave. is actually Durham Hwy. Also, there are 4 more markers around it (for some reason). It was probably removed from Glenwood Ave. long ago because it is now located on FAYETTEVILLE STREET !!!! The last clue did not help me, but I was real curious when I saw a City of Raleigh greenway close by. The terrain was then familiar. Here's a link to the Google street view for the others to see. Real good one... do another one!!

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s..>

**A.Rich** - 06/28/09 - 21:13

Oh yeah, its close to KTC. Can I get my prize now???

**A.Rich** - 06/28/09 - 21:19

We have a winner! The marker, one of four, is beside the rear entrance to Mount Hope Cemetery in the 1100 block of Fayetteville Street. The Cemetery is a historical gem, established circa 1782 for the city's black citizens. It's of the first such municipal cemeteries in North Carolina, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Legeros** - 06/28/09 - 21:19

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preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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Comment:

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**Morrisville's New Engine**

06/28/09 89 W, 1 I - + 11 - 12

Here's Morrisville's new Pumper 3, photographed yesterday by Lee Wilson. Delivered on June 2, the 2009 Pierce Contender pumper-tanker has a 1500 GPM Hale pump, 1,000 gallon tank, and 40 gallon foam cell with Husky foam system. Has two, count 'em two, hydraulic ladder racks, and carries a 1,500 gallon drop tank. There's a wetdown ceremony at Morrisville Station 2 on July 4. The engine will be placed in service at Morrisville Station 3/Cary Station 7. [See more photos from Lee](#). There's also a picture on the [Morrisville Fire Department web site](#).

*Lee Wilson photo*

That thing is tall for a pumper! MFD folks, what's the minimum clearance required?

**fd** - 06/28/09 - 07:35

Great looking truck! All the best to MFD!

**A.Rich** - 06/28/09 - 08:38

If it is like the other Pretenders than it is about 10'4" from the factory.

**Mike** - 06/28/09 - 11:46

They aren't all the same anymore, that's why I asked. With those ladder racks it looks over 11ft

**fd** - 06/28/09 - 11:50

Posting corrected. Wetdown ceremony at Station 2, not Station 3.

**Legeros** - 06/28/09 - 12:52

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

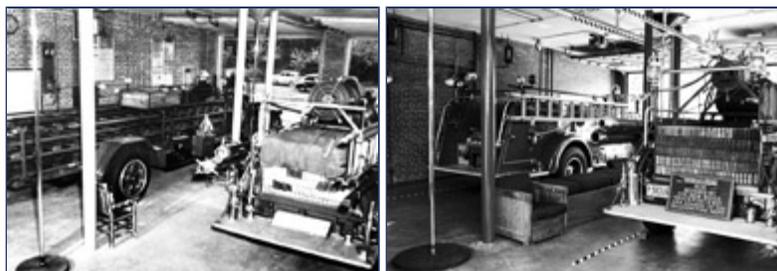
No

**Then and Now**

06/28/09 126 W, 2 I - + 9 - 11

Here's a reasonably replicated then and now photo from yesterday's birthday party at Raleigh Station 6. Left is circa 1950, courtesy of the North Carolina State Archives, and showing a 1922 American LaFrance service truck (left) and what's probably a 1925 or 1926 American LaFrance pumper (right). Right shows a 1950 Mack, and old Engine 4, a 1926 American LaFrance Type 75. How many differences between the pictures can you spot?

Next question, did old Engine 4 serve as Engine 6 for a period? That's one story that's been handed down. Engine 4 received its first [FWD pumper](#) on March 3, 1950. Engine 6 received its [Mack pumper](#) right around the same time. The 1950 Mack was delivered in March. Old Engine 4 might have been moved Station 6 for a stretch. To be determined. Click to enlarge either photo:



For one, they upgraded the bay floor chair to the ever-comfortable This End Up model.

**Rhodes** - 06/28/09 - 09:06

Mike...speaking of the NC State Archives, do you ever submit any of your photos to them so they can be viewed 100 years from now for future generations?

**BP** - 06/28/09 - 09:11

The idea of submitting to the State Archives is a good one. That's something I'll do someday.

**Legeros** - 06/28/09 - 09:32

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
No

Comment:

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## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Fire at Lumberton « Raleigh Fire Units Re... » Saturday's Major Hous... Fertilizer Plant

### Fire at Lumberton Fertilizer Plant

06/28/09 87 W, 1 I - + 15 - 11

The Southern States Cooperative fertilizer plant at [525 S. Roberts Avenue](#) in Lumberton burned this morning. Some 100 firefighters from Robeson and Bladen counties were on scene, including Lumberton, East Howellsville, Britt's, Allenton and Raft Swap, Elizabethtown, Tar Heel, Dublin, and Tobermory. The fire was reported about 9:40 a.m. The plant was empty and the gates were locked. No injuries, nor evacuations. The fire was controlled by early afternoon. [Read this Daily Robesonian article](#), which includes additional photos.



Brian Duckworth / Daily Robesonian photo

WTVD has a slide show of aerial shots, <http://dig.abclocal.go.com/wtvd/gallerie..>

Legeros - 06/29/09 - 06:22

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - [Saturday's Major House Fire at Lumberton Fer...](#) » [Mystery Apparatus Fire in Fuquay \(Updated\)](#)

### Saturday's Major House Fire in Fuquay (Updated)

06/29/09 109 W, 4 I - + 20 - 9

Haven't found any news coverage (yet) of Saturday's major house fire at [7112 Starchase Lane in Fuquay-Varina](#), where heavy fire conditions were battled by crews from Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs, Fairview, and Northwest Harnett. What other fire departments were involved? Deluge operations were utilized, as well as tankers for water supply. The two-story, wood-frame residence with 2,304 square-feet is shown below. Dispatched at 3:56 p.m., the fire was controlled by 6:00 p.m. Readers, please add additional details. Updated at lunch with reader photos, taken of the wife of a Fuquay-Varina Fire Department. She arrived about 45 minutes into the incident. Click to enlarge:



*Reader Photos*

---

Angier Black River from harnett county was on scene, Northwest Harnett Stood by at FVFD Sta. 1. Units on scene FVFD C1,E5,E1,E3,R1,TA1,TA4,TA3,HSFD E2,Fairview TA6,C1, Angier 941 Plus EMS. Special Thanks to Wake County EMS for a job well done on Rehab, you guys helped out alot.

**DM FVFD** ([Email](#)) - 06/29/09 - 09:05

Glad everyone is safe and good job! It was a hot day for you guys. Mike, there was continuous coverage on cable 14 yesterday (Sunday).

**A.Rich** - 06/29/09 - 09:57

Also Fairview Tanker 7. EMS on scene was Wake County EMS 9, 11, 14, 41, Truck 1 and District 2.

**JW** - 06/29/09 - 11:11

My family and I have stared at these pictures of our house for what seems like hours; they are indeed worth more than a thousand words. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of the firefighters and EMS workers who responded. We never imagined that the day would come when we would have to make a 911 call, much less one like this. My daughters and I are planning to visit each individual fire department to personally thank the selfless, skilled, and courageous individuals who came to our aid on Saturday. We could not have asked for more. One firefighter (who I wish I could identify) gave my 7 year-old daughter a pink stuffed bear that she has slept with every night since the fire. I am humbled—absolutely humbled—by the gentleness and reverence that is embedded in the strength of a firefighter. May God bless each of you. You are truly our heroes.

**Nancy Butterfield** - 07/02/09 - 19:08

**Mystery Apparatus**

06/29/09 26 W, 1 I - + 9 - 14

Here's another one for everyone. What's this truck that's pictured in terrifying close-up? Hint #1: It's red. Hint #2: It has at least four wheels.



oh oh oh I know I know!!!!

**CFP 7021** - 06/29/09 - 18:58

Looks like one of the Lights on Western Wakes Brush truck.

**Kermit** - 06/30/09 - 01:19

one of those Whelen lights...

**Joe Brady** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 06/30/09 - 07:09

Right front fender of a Ford F-550 brush truck (given the curvature)???

**A.Rich** - 06/30/09 - 20:22

It is either a Whelen 500 series strobe or LED light. Def an F-550.....

**Graney** - 07/01/09 - 05:57

Winners all around. That's Western Wake's Ford F-550 brush truck, sitting inside the station.

**Legeros** - 07/01/09 - 06:15

Yeah!!!! Do another one daddy!!

**A.Rich** - 07/01/09 - 09:23

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

## Federal Protective Service

06/30/09 37 W, 1 I - + 14 - 15

Numerous police cars patrol the Capitol City. City, county, state, capitol, college, hospital, shopping mall. Here's a new one, not seen before. [Federal Protective Service](#). Are they common around Raleigh? Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

## Build Your Own Fire Truck

06/30/09 34 W, 1 I - + 23 - 22

Found on the Carolinas Fire Page mailing list, here's a nifty application on the Rosenbauer site. It's called [Truck Builder](#). Go nuts.



I love this game

**Mark** ([Email](#)) - 03/20/11 - 18:02

cool

**john** ([Web Site](#)) - 03/09/12 - 18:00

thank you

**Lee Hepler** - 03/24/12 - 18:59

I hope i get to build a fire truck!

**Juan** - 08/16/12 - 23:04

I WANT TO BUILD A TRUCK

**MARK CHAN** - 04/03/13 - 09:03

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

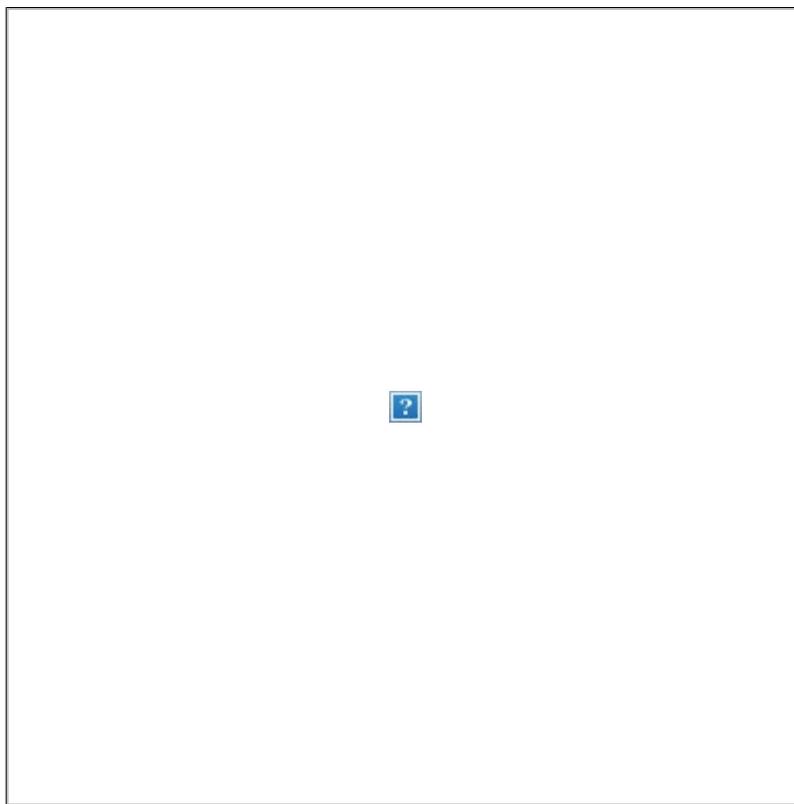
No

/ [Textile](#)

## Turf War at the Hot Dog Cart

07/01/09 202 W, 1 I - + 4 - 14

For your mid-week reading, today's *New York Times* reports on [turf wars between street food vendors](#). In this corner are upscale food trucks, new to the city and operated by "culinary entrepreneurs." In the other corner are older vendors, who've operated their food carts<sup>1</sup> for years or decades, and often at the same spot. There conflict covers the unwritten rules of street vending, as well as the black market for food vending permits. Fascinating story, and ready-made for a longer treatment. Book? Documentary? Mr. and Mrs. Blogger certainly can't wait to see and try these food trucks on their next visit (below photo from 2005 trip). Maybe there's a matzo ball bus up there. [Read the article](#).



<sup>1</sup>On the subject of food carts, mentioned must be made of [Lucky Dog hot dogs](#), sold on the streets of New Orleans, and famously and hilarious chronicled in John Kennedy Toole's *A Confederacy of Dunces*. What, you've never read the story of Ignatius J. Reilly, and his contempt for all things that pass his gaze? Read it immediately, and then read it again. You'll laugh out loud. Here's what [Mike wrote about it](#), years ago.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

## How Do People Survive Airline Crashes?

07/01/09 76 W - + 6 - 10

Also from our morning review of the daily new, CNN inquires about how people survive airline crashes, such as a single child surviving from Tuesday's crash in the Indian Ocean. Since 1970 and not counting that incident, notes an expert, 12 airliner crashes were survived by a single person. The article also discusses the mechanics of how crashes are survived. [Read the article](#). And if you're traveling today, then, well, happy flying!

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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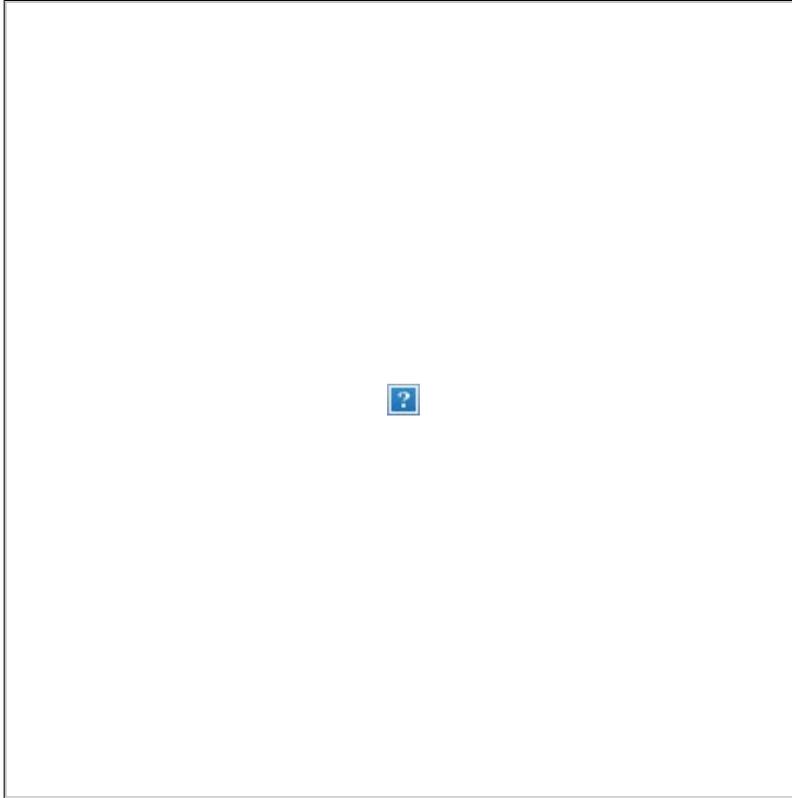
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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Charlotte Flight Diverts After Passenger Dons Birthday Suit**

07/01/09 150 W, 1 I - + 7 - 12

On the subject of things that happen when airborne, [WRAL reports the cheeky story](#) of a U.S. Airways flight from Charlotte that was diverted today after a passenger disrobed and dangled about the cabin. The reason for the clothes expulsion is not known. Adverse reaction to airline food? Peculiar protest to rising ticket prices? Misguided attempt to join the Mile High Club? After the in-flight exposure-- was he sitting in the tail section?-- the coach-class nudist was physically restrained. Cuffed in the buff, if you will. After landing in Albuquerque, Mr. Natural was arrested and taken in custody by the FBI. Unknown if he was issued a blanket, jacket, or fig leaf. No longer facing the moon, the flight continued onto Los Angeles, with remaining passengers presumably clothed, and bloggers everywhere cracking themselves up. The end.



*WRAL Photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Pallet Plant Burns in Rutherfordton**

07/01/09 90 W, 1 I - + 12 - 6

The *Daily Courier* has posted an entirely spectacular photo from this afternoon's big blaze in that destroyed a pallet plant in Rutherfordton. Fed by strong winds and piles of pallets, Carpenter Design at [217 Bell Street](#) was destroyed. Every fire department in Rutherford County was on scene. Several firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion, and one employee received serious burns. He was airlifted from Rutherford Hospital to a medical center in Winston-Salem. [Read the web site story](#), which requires registration.



*Daily Courier/Garrett Byers Photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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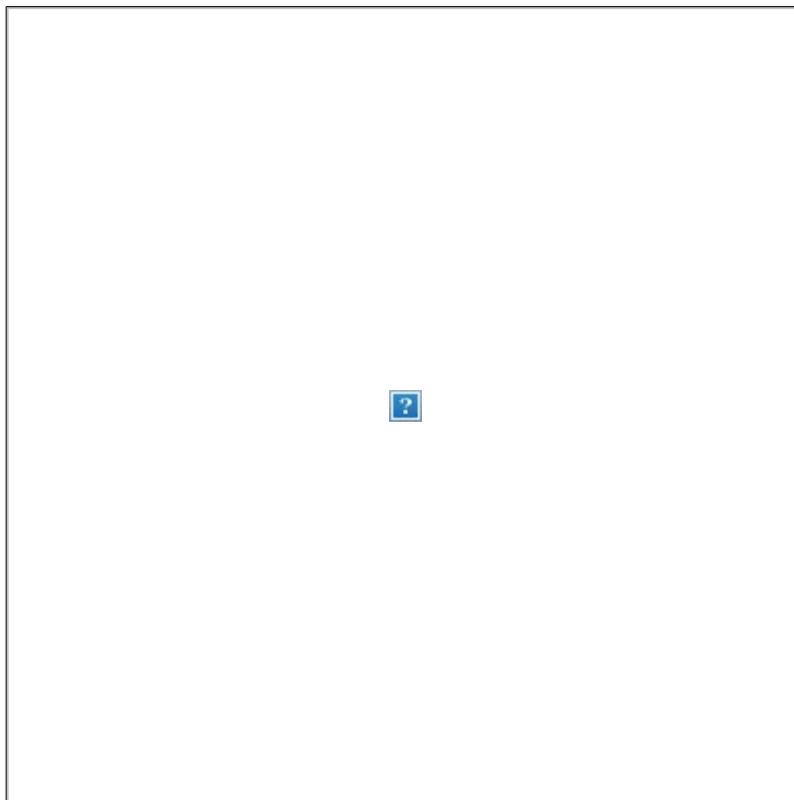
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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## River Rescue in Des Moines

07/01/09 76 W, 1 I - + 18 - 11

There are stunning photos, and there are *stunning* photos. *Des Moines Register* photographer Andrea Melendez took this award-winner yesterday, as a construction worker hanging from a crane rescued a woman from the Des Moines River. Fire department rescue teams had already tried, but couldn't get close enough. The woman's male companion drowned, and was found further downstream. [Read the story and see additional photos.](#)



*Des Moines Register/Andrea Melendez Photo*

Awesome picture!

**Kermit** - 07/02/09 - 01:28

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

## Wake County Scanner Archives Have Returned

07/02/09 134 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

We have good news and bad news regarding the ScanAmerica site and the Wake County scanner archives. (See this [previous posting](#), if we're speaking Greek.) The good news is that the archives have returned. The bad news is that they are practically impossible to find. (Even Mr. Blogger had to ask for directions.) To assist in this endeavor, we have created a [page of instructions](#) on accessing the Wake County scanner archives. It's linked from our [photo site](#), and tells and shows exactly what you need to do. The steps are fairly simply, and should result in the archive feeds playing on your computer. Good luck and happy listening. Thanks as always to ScanAmerica, and the friendly souls who are providing the scanner feeds for listening!

**Click the notepad icon in the Links column**

**Live Feed Listing for Wake County**

To listen to a feed using the online player, choose a feed in the playlist in the above player. To listen using other methods such as Windows Media Player, iTunes, or Winamp, choose your player selection and click the speaker icon to copy the URL.

Premium Subscribers can set their default external medial player format on their MyRR Personalization Page.

Listen	Feed	Genre	Listeners	Player Selection	Link	Status
	Wake County and Raleigh Fire and EMS	Public Safety	3	Windows Media Player		Online
	Wake County Police, Fire, and EMS	Public Safety	5	Windows Media Player		Online

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Web Site: (optional)

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## Middle School Burns in Fayetteville

07/02/09 54 W, 1 I - + 9 - 11

The *Fayetteville Observer* has posted photos of last night's major fire at Douglas Byrd Middle School at [1616 Ireland Drive](#). The blaze started about 10:00 p.m. and destroyed the gymnasium. [Read the Fayetteville Observer story](#), and view the [slideshow of photos by Octavio Jones](#).



*Fayetteville Observer/Octavio Jones photos*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**1972 Fire Engine Meets 1972 Train Engine**

07/03/09 105 W, 1 I - + 16 - 8

From a reader, here's a neat photo of a 1972 American LaFrance 1000 Series pumper and a 1972 Detroit Edison U30C locomotion. The fire engine formerly served Forest Hill, TX, and is privately owned by a collector. The train engine, located in Grandview, MO, was cosmetically restored earlier this year. The photo was taken the night before the latter was scrapped. [Read about the restoration](#). Photo credit to LaFrance owner Anthony Motta in Greenwood, MO. Great shot, they both look like toys. And, really, isn't that where it can start, for both kinds of firemen? Click to enlarge:



*Anthony Motta Photo*

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

## Cheat Sheets for Renumbered Raleigh Units

07/03/09 48 W - + 11 - 10

Here are a pair of [cheat sheets for downloading](#), listing the old numbers, new numbers, and station locations for the Raleigh fire units renumbered effective July 7. The document was created by myself. For more information on the change, [read our prior posting](#).

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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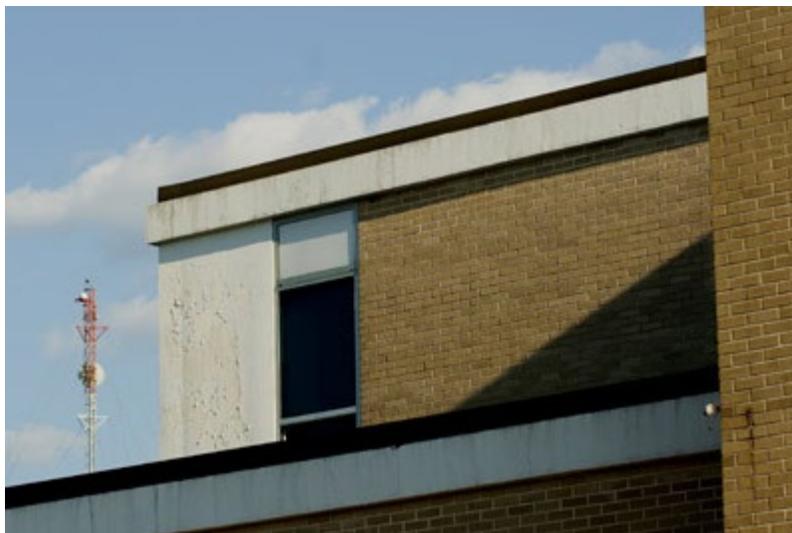
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Mystery Station**

07/03/09 31 W, 1 I - + 13 - 14

What fire, rescue, or EMS facility is pictured below? Hint #1: It's located on a street. Hint #2: It has emergency vehicles parked inside.



That appears to be Raleigh Fire Station #1. Well, one of the sides of it, looking towards the public safety center.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 07/04/09 - 00:11

Negative, not Central Fire Station in Raleigh.

**Legeros** - 07/04/09 - 15:37

Garner EMS?

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 07/04/09 - 22:02

Is it the main station in Durham?

**bd5660** ([Email](#)) - 07/05/09 - 07:11

Main station in Durham? Yeah, I can see that.

**DJ** - 07/05/09 - 07:50

YES has to be DFD station 1.

**BULL** - 07/05/09 - 09:15

We have winners! That is Durham Station 1, the northeast corner of the roof line, and camera facing southeast.

**Legeros** - 07/05/09 - 09:54

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

**Ladder 22 / Ladder 5**

07/04/09 86 W, 1 I - + 15 - 7

One of the city's two new Pierce platforms was placed in service as Ladder 22 on Thursday, July 2, at 5:30 p.m. The 2009 Pierce Arrow XT 100-foot aerial platform, 1500/400, will be designated Ladder 5 effective July 7. Old Ladder 22, a 2005 Pierce Arrow XT 100-foot aerial ladder, 1500/300, will be assigned to Ladder 6 (Ladder 24) in the near future, replacing a 1988 Pierce Arrow 85-foot articulating platform. Engine 22 recently received a new pumper, a 2004 American LaFrance Eagle, 1500/400500, that previously served as Engine 1. [See more photos from Lee Wilson.](#)

*Lee Wilson photo*

Does the new Engine 22 have a 400gwt or 500gwt?

**Steven** ([Email](#)) - 07/04/09 - 09:56

All Raleigh FD engines have 500 gal tanks (standardized).

**A.Rich** - 07/04/09 - 13:01

Very nice looking rigs!

**RidesAnEngine** - 07/05/09 - 12:19

The second platform was placed in service as Ladder 5 at Station 20 yesterday, July 8. Old Ladder 5, a 1999 American LaFrance platform, was moved to Station 11 and is serving as Ladder 2, while the station's 2005 Pierce ladder is repaired. Over at Station 24, Ladder 6 continues to operate a 1988 Pierce platform, while its replacement, a 2005 Pierce ladder, spends a few weeks at the body shop. Repairs to the rear, plus chevrons added.

**Legeros** - 07/09/09 - 21:15

I thought L7 was at station 20?

**??** - 07/09/09 - 22:24

L7 is at Engine 20's quarters....just a little confusion. L5 is at Engine 22's quarters...

**Silver** - 07/09/09 - 22:59

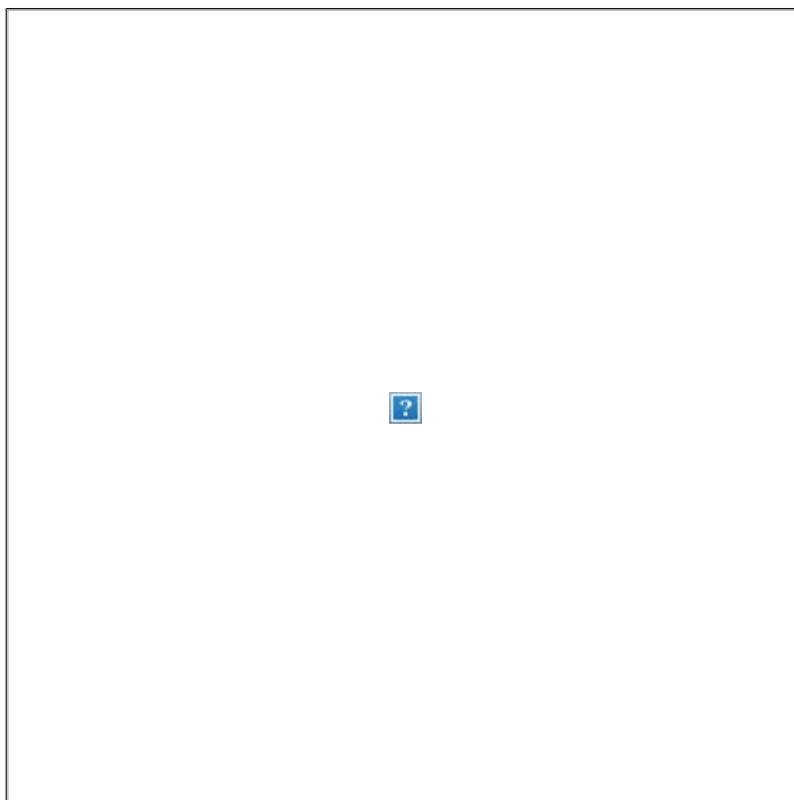
Thanks for catching and correcting.

**Legeros** - 07/10/09 - 06:46

## Ocracoke Ferry Terminal Explosion

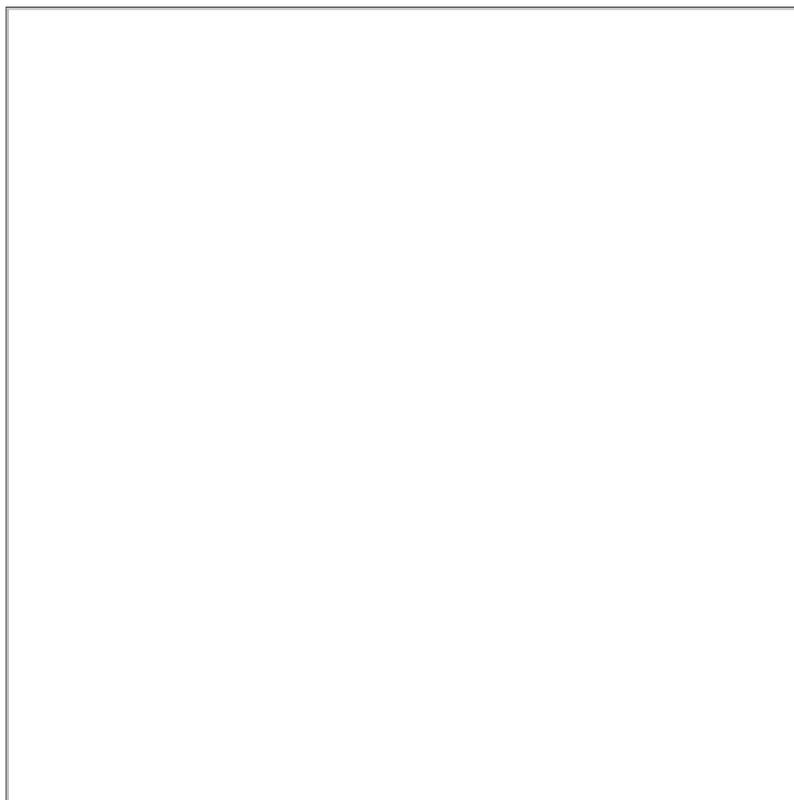
07/04/09 156 W, 2 I - + 19 - 9

WRAL has [posted the first reader photos](#) of this morning's fatal explosion of a fireworks truck at near the ferry terminal on Ocracoke island. They are reporting one fatality and four critical injuries, with three air ambulances from Greenville and Dare County transporting victims. Ferry service to the island was temporarily halted, and Highway 12 has reopened, they report. The truck was reportedly parked and being unloaded when the explosion occurred. WRAL reader Joseph Chestnut took the below photo at 9 a.m., while working an amusement ride.



*Joseph Chestnut/WRAL photo*

Additional details have been reported, and additional photos posted, of the explosion. The *Virginia-Pilot* has [posted quite a bit of information](#), including a half-dozen photos from later in the day. They include a list of responding agencies, including Ocracoke Fire, Hatteras Fire, Frisco Fire, Buxton Fire, Hatteras Island Rescue, Dare EMS, and Hyde EMS.



*Steve Earley/Virginian-Pilot photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Durham's Old Station 1

07/05/09 140 W, 1 I - + 13 - 10

Durham's original Central Fire Station, located at 212 N. Mangum Street, is undergoing renovation. Built in 1890, the structure was extensively remodeled in 1922. From old photos on the excellent [Endangered Durham site](#)<sup>1</sup>, everything above ground appears to have been replaced. (The site offers a wealth of information, including informative reader comments. The roof, for example, straddles the Cape Fear and Neuse River basins.) The engine house operated until 1965, when a new Station 1 opened at 139 E. Morgan Street. [Read more about Durham former firehouses](#). Old Station 1 served as office space for decades, and is presently being repurposed as a restaurant. Click to enlarge:



Other engine houses on the Endangered Durham site: [Old Station 2](#) (West Main Street), [Old Station 3](#) (East Main Street), [Old Station 4](#) (McMannen Street), [Old Station 4](#) (Fayetteville Street), [Station 5](#) (Chapel Hill Road), and the [Old Drill Tower](#).

Thanks for giving some love to the boys in Durham. Nice to see what our neighbors to the west are up to.....

**H2O** - 07/05/09 - 19:38

Updated with additional Endangered Durham articles on old fire stations, and the old drill tower.

**Legeros** - 07/06/09 - 19:09

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Morrisville New Engine Get Wetted Down**

07/05/09 92 W, 1 I - + 10 - 9

Today's *News & Observer* reports on [yesterday's wetdown at Morrisville Station 2](#). Some 200 people attended the afternoon baptism of the town's newest piece of fire apparatus, a 2009 Pierce Contender pumper-tanker. The \$465,000 engine, funded both the town and the county, is 11-feet high, 34-feet long, and weighs 49,000 pounds. It'll serve as Pumper 3 at Station 3 on Carpenter Fire Station Road. Photographer Lee Wilson was also present, and has [posted pictures of the event](#). Durham and Parkwood fire departments, and Cary and Garner EMS also participated.



*Lee Wilson photo*

Congrats MFD! That thing is a monster! BIG!

**wcff** - 07/05/09 - 13:59

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

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**Raleigh Fire Department Mutual Aid by Train**

07/05/09 96 W, 1 I - + 10 - 10

For your Sunday reading, [here's a short history](#)  of "mutual aid by train," when the Raleigh Fire Department assisted cities and towns while apparatus and personnel transported by rail. Corrections and additional information is welcome. The three-page document is PDF format.<sup>1</sup> Learn more about the [history of RFD](#).

<sup>1</sup>Yeah, yeah, the inconsistency of document and page formats is a bit annoying. There are also style differences on the history site. Fonts in Goudy, Tahoma, or Arial. Footnotes here, but not always there. Etcetera. Work in progress.

I thought they also came here to New Bern when we had our big fire.

**joel** - 07/08/09 - 19:39

Did Raleigh respond to the Great Fire of New Bern in 1922? Good question. Looking through my files, in transcriptions of an oral history program in 1992, it appears that town officials sent letters of thanks to Kinston and Washington fire departments for their assistance. (They also voted to replace 450 feet of hose that Washington lost.) Town officials also received a letter of apology from Greenville, whose fire department did not respond, due to factors including poor roads and the unavailability of a railroad flatcar. (Kinston's pumper was driven some 30+ miles to New Bern, while Washington's apparatus arrived by train in reportedly record time. Distance? Probably 40ish miles.) I'll check our newspaper archives at my next opportunity, and see what was happening on our end at the time of the fire.

**Legeros** - 07/08/09 - 20:01

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

## Update on History Workshop, August 21

07/05/09 222 W - + 17 - 9

We're seven weeks away from the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#), where we'll present a workshop on the [history of firefighting in North Carolina](#). The date is Friday, August 21. The time is 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The location is the Raleigh Convention Center. The specific location is to be determined. The dress is probably casual, and the presenter may be disguised in non-tropical attire.

What will we talk about? Expect a solid hour tracing the history of firefighting, fire apparatus, and fire departments from, say, the 1770s to present day. We'll talk about early fire dangers, the first fire companies, hand and steam engines, the horse-drawn era, the arrival of motor trucks, segregated fire companies, technology over the centuries, the impact of World War II, rural fire departments, labor changes over the years, and more.

For the remaining 30 minutes, we'll answer questions and field discussions, and/or present additional history as time permits. The thing'll be based on PowerPoint slides, with lots of pictures. *Lots* of pictures. Plus some corny jokes and/or bad puns. See the [show site](#) for a full list of conference programs. And don't be (too) alarmed if you see Mr. Blogger driving and talking to himself. He's just rehearsing his talk. And hopefully not with his hands.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## That Firefighting Video From France

07/06/09 122 W - + 10 - 9

First found on Firegeezzer, this video of French firefighters is making the rounds in the blogosphere. The nearly 10-minute clip, though not continuous, is narrated in English with some commentary by the videographer on the length of time the firefighters take in their methodical size-up and attack. Very interesting footage, and a very different approach than what's done around here. Great fodder for discussion, and you can read perspectives and viewer comments from [Firegeezzer](#), [Firecritic](#) (neat new blog), and [FirefighterNation](#). Cool seeing those hose reels in action, too. Notice the reel covers have warning stripes. Or click twice on the embedded video to view on YouTube, with its own comments and in a larger format:

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You said it best...“VERY different” from how its done here....better?...worse?...there could be arguments on both sides. My preference is obviously gonna be biased..but I’ll take it the way we do it all day long.

**Fierro** ([Email](#)) - 07/06/09 - 19:26

Gotta say that this appears on the surface to be very different than what we do. However, I wonder if anyone has more info on the actual type of fire they were facing. It’s hard to tell in the video, but the smoke appears to be very light and white in color. Not exactly a “fully involved” fire “from the outside” “at this time” :) I would be curious to know the facts on this one. I did notice the lack of personnel in SCBA though off the bat. (again, would like to know more of the facts). Hose roll cart was quite interesting as well...

**Mike** - 07/06/09 - 22:59

Reminds me of the ol’ Code 2 to Code 3 changeover....looks like a cluster to me. Glad my grandma wasn’t in there and in need of savin’!!

**Silver** - 07/06/09 - 23:20

I agree that it looks like the operation did not go perfectly but it’s far from the worst operations that I’ve seen so I wouldn’t be feeling too high and mighty. After looking at lots of fire ground videos right here in the good old USA, it appears that more departments than not leave a tremendous amount to be desired. Some of the most common and glaring mistakes I see frequently are:

-Failure to vent properly.

- Failure to vent at all.
- Excessive use of fog nozzles on attack lines at structure fires with the resultant lack of reach and penetration.
- Operation of exterior streams into the structure while firefighters are performing an interior attack.
- Use of smaller than 2.5" lines during defensive operations.
- Taking one's sweet time on the fire ground while the fire grows worse by the second.
- Failure to place sufficient number of ground ladders for secondary means of egress for interior forces.
- No clue how to place aerial master streams.

Soooo ... don't pump yer chest out too far cause way too many departments have got lots to learn!

Vern ([Email](#)) - 07/10/09 - 22:56

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

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**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Ocracoke Fireworks Explosion Ruled Accidental

07/06/09 216 W - + 10 - 15

As media reports such as [this PilotOnline story](#) and [this WRAL story](#) say, Saturday's fatal fireworks explosion on Ocracoke Island has been ruled accidental. The investigation is reportedly closed, and investigators have declined to reveal the cause. And readers everywhere are left with questions. Do trucks carrying fireworks just explode? Or are such explosions a factor of human interaction? e.g., during handling, such as loading and unloading? Are trucks carrying fireworks identified as such? With placards and all that? Or are unmarked box trucks the norm? And in particular for island residents, what's the ferry factor? Could this accident have occurred on the ferry? Should island residents become wary or even alarmed on the subject?

This blogger freely admits his ignorance with regard to the North Carolina ferry system and the transportation of dangerous goods therein. A quick check on the [NCDOT ferry site](#) doesn't find anything about commercial vehicles or cargo restrictions. Might be part of the ferry reservation system, which is presently out of service. Nor does a quick Google search find an answer. Perhaps our coastal readers can share their knowledge on this aspect of transportation safety. And we'll probably see these very questions asked in public, as news outlets continue covering the story. Watch the web.

I believe the DOT placarding and regulation will prevail and there are no restrictions, unless NC's ferry have different added restrictions. I would not think so, otherwise how would the OBX folks receive other "dangerous goods" needed or everyday living.

Most display (or demonstration) fireworks are Class 1, Division 1.2 Explosives and are in "Table 1" of the DOT placarding requirements – requiring placarding in any amount. The smaller "fizzle and sizzle" common fireworks are Class 1, Division 1.4 ("Table 2") and only require placarding at the 1001 lb. weight point. They are all stable in storage and transport unless a fire is introduced. The fireworks on this truck should have been Division 1.2. Whether it was placarded or not is questionable, but even still, the materials are stable in storage and transport.

Now for a really profound hypothesis... There must have been a fire prior to the explosion...

**A.Rich** - 07/06/09 - 11:55

Identification of these trucks is a big issue. Just ask anyone who has issued many fireworks permits and they'll tell you that they're typically transported in Ryder or Hertz-type trucks with very little or no placarding. You would be on your toes if it's sitting in the middle of your local community park with racks around it on the 4th of July, but what about everyday transport moving down the road. Just emphasizes the point to be careful around box trucks with unknown cargo.

**Chris** - 07/07/09 - 10:01

Here's how fireworks work, from the locally-founded web site HowStuffWorks, <http://www.howstuffworks.com/fireworks.h..>

**Legeros** - 07/08/09 - 06:54

Unknown cargo- anything that may be carried in any sort of motorized vehilce that has a truck, bed, or container. Can include motorcylices, regular passenger car, station wagon, SUV, van, box truck, bus, tractor trailer, etc.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 07/08/09 - 16:39

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

**The Biggest Hillbilly Broadcast in Dixie, 1945**

07/06/09 152 W, 1 I - + 15 - 10

From our Department of Eccentric Artifacts, here's an amusing *News & Observer* advertisement from December, 1945. It's promoting a [Grand Ole Opry](#)-style stage show at the [State Theater](#). Four big shows every Saturday, and two of them broadcast on WPTF radio. How about that line-up? Smiling Eddie Hall! Little Cliff Beckwith! Looney Luke and Delphine! Okay, okay, the names are corny, but the acts were real. Google finds a few them of them, such as these memories of the [Lone Star Quartet](#). Searching the great [AllMusic site](#), however, finds far fewer. Wonder how many were regional versus local acts? Maybe our readers can provide some cultural or musical context. Wonder what kind of dancing was done, as well? This blogger's favorite is the two-step, has been around since the turn of the last century. Quick, somebody hand me my boots! Click once or twice to enlarge:

ON OUR STAGE TODAY . . . AND EVERY SATURDAY!

**"WPTF'S CAROLINA BARN DANCE"**

**THE BIGGEST HILLBILLIE BROADCAST IN DIXIE!**

—SEE—

SMILING EDDIE HILL—YOUR CLOWNING M.C.  
 JOE SQUASHEAD — COUSIN NIMROD —  
 BERT CARROLL — LOONEY LUKE AND DELPHINE —  
 LONE STAR QUARTET — TENNESSEE HILLBILLIES —  
 LITTLE CLIFF BECKWITH — CUMBERLAND MOUNTAINEERS

**4 BIG SHOWS DAILY!**  
 AT  
 3:30 - 7:15 - 9:15 and 11:15

The 7:15 and 11:15 Shows to Be Broadcast over WPTF. See A Real Broadcast and Meet Stars of WPTF.

ON THE SCREEN BEAUTIFUL . . . BUT SHE HAS A HEART OF ICE <b>'TIGER WOMAN'</b>	ADMISSION 25c 11:00 TIL 1:00 40c 1:00 TIL 6:00 50c 6:00 TIL 11:45	
---	---	--

**COME SEE A REAL SHOW**

Hillbilly music is also called old-time music, and is described in this Wiki article, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old-time\\_music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old-time_music).

Legeros - 07/06/09 - 21:43

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

## Fire in Downtown Sanford, 1945

07/06/09 138 W - + 8 - 12

On Saturday, December 22, 1945, three buildings burned in Sanford's business district. The blaze began about 4:00 p.m., and was controlled about 8:30 p.m. The Sanford Fire Department was assisted by firefighters from Raleigh, Fort Bragg, and Southern Pines. The destroyed businesses were a grocery store, a plumbing and heating company, two barber shops, an ice cream bar, a cafe, the National Bank, several apartments, the Lee County draft board offices, and several law offices. Early Sunday morning, one of the walls of the National Bank building collapsed. A few firemen were on scene all night. Crews returned to the scene at 6:00 a.m., when the ruins rekindled. Damage was expected to reach \$200,000. Source: *News & Observer*, December 24, 1945. The distance to Sanford in present day, from Raleigh (42.9 miles), from Fort Bragg (30.4 miles), from Southern Pines (28 miles).

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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## Raleigh Ladder Histories

07/07/09 194 W, 2 I - + 10 - 11

Today is Ladder Day, when the city's ladder companies (and other units) are renumbered in sequential fashion. Ladder 1 through Ladder 8. Here's the historical perspective on the changes. Note that ladder companies were called truck companies until August 21, 2006. See [these company histories](#)  for more information. Corrections welcome.



### Truck 1/Ladder 1

1916-1942 - Station 1  
1942-1953 - Station 2  
1953-2009 - Station 1  
2009 - Station 4

### Service Truck 1

1922-1941 - Station 1  
1941-1949 - Station 2

### Ladder 2

2009 - Station 11

### Ladder 3

2009 - Station 17

### Ladder 4

2009 - Station 4  
2009 - Station 1

### Truck 5/Ladder 5

1961-1987 - Station 5  
2009 - Station 22

### Truck 6/Ladder 6

1949-1979 - Station 6 (service truck)  
2009 - Station 24

Truck 7

1960-1982 - Station 7 (service truck)

2009 - Station 20

Truck 8/Ladder 8

1981-1987 - Station 8 (service truck)

1987-2004 - Station 8

2009 - Station 26

Truck 11/Ladder 11

1971-1986 - Station 11 (service truck)

1986-2009 - Station 11

Truck 12

1982-1988 - Station 12 (service truck)

Truck 15

1988-1989 - Station 15 (service truck)

1989-2001 - Station 15

Truck 16/Ladder 16

1979-1981 - Station 16 (service truck)

1981-2009 - Station 16

Ladder 17

2009 - Station 17

Truck 20/Ladder 20

2004-2009 - Station 20

Truck 22/Ladder 22

2001-2009 - Station 22

Truck 23/Ladder 23

2006-2009 - Station 23

Truck 24/Ladder 24

2004-2006 - Station 24

2009 - Station 24

Truck 26/Ladder 26

2005-2009 - Station 26

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I wish they were still called trucks. Just a preference I guess.

**Fierro** - 07/07/09 - 16:56

Yeah, I think "Truck" has more "mmpphhh" to it...it's still considered "truck work".

**Silver** - 07/07/09 - 17:58

Correction Mike,

Ladder 2 is housed at Station 11 not Station 2.

**stretch** - 07/07/09 - 19:57

Let me pose this question, while it's a minor one; are fire stations still "numbered" by the engine company in that house? Or, shall we change the term to "Engine 4 and Ladder 1's quarters"? Or, turn to street names? "Northway Court Firehouse" perhaps...

**Silver** - 07/07/09 - 21:44

With the number changes you really can't really refer to the firehouse the way it was such as fire station 4, because it houses two pieces of equipment with different numbers now. The most appropriate way to refer to the house would be like you said the quarters of Engine 4, Ladder 1. Street names would also work, but the first seems a little better. You could also use the borough or community name the house serves for the firehouse designation. Example Briar Creek firehouse.

**wfd** - 07/07/09 - 22:08

Looks like LADDER 4 is going to be out of service for some time since they just had a roll over accident this morning.

**JM** - 07/10/09 - 15:22

While the cab looked pretty much intact, the tiller driver's area looked pretty messed up, wral says 2 to the hospital hopefully nothing too serious. But yes hate to be the shop guys with both the old I-22 and I-11 already down and now this. Someone is going to be riding around on an old ladder for awhile (or longer if this delays the rig at 24 getting replaced).

**JLH** - 07/10/09 - 16:03

Ladders can be replaced, people can't. Called home and heard the guys got banged up a little bit. I wish them a speedy recovery and I am glad to hear nobody got seriously injured.

**Kermit** - 07/10/09 - 16:35

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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## Early Fire Brigades in Raleigh

07/07/09 96 W, 1 I - + 9 - 8

Your historian has been finishing some unfinished essays these days. Here's the next one, a short summary of [early industrial and institutional fire brigades](#) in the Capitol City. This is information recorded by the Sanborn Map company between 1888 and 1914. From factories to schools to hospitals, using pails and extinguishers and even private water systems. Fascinating peek at fire protection systems 100 years ago. Corrections and additional information is welcome. The five-page document is PDF format and even includes a couple diagrams. Learn more about the [history of RFD](#).

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Gastonia Fire Engine Struck by Explosive**

07/08/09 96 W - + 15 - 10

Found on [Dave Statter's blog](#), a Gastonia fire engine was struck Sunday morning by a small explosive device. The truck was struck near the intersection of Dundeen and Belfast drives, while responding to a reported fire. As this *Gaston Gazette* reports, "the device exploded with a loud boom" and sprayed the truck with flames and sparks. The crew wasn't injured, though the firefighters complained of ears ringing. The 2007 Spartan received about \$150 in damage, with reflective stickers damaged and gunpowder residue on the doors. [Read the \*Gaston Gazette\* story.](#)

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## Fireworks Survivor at Burn Center

07/08/09 128 W - + 16 - 12

Today's *News & Observer* reports on the recovery of the Ocracoke fireworks explosion survivor. Four others were killed, one instantly, two at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, and one at the UNC Hospital burn center. The article talks about the survivor's injuries, third-degree burns to arms and hands, along with treatment and therapy. The dangers of lung damage are also referenced, as the center is treating victims from the industrial explosions at ConAgra in Garner and the chicken plant in Robeson County. Both groups are battling lung damage. The center, which is operating at capacity, also admitted two children over the weekend with severe burns from fireworks. [Read the \*News & Observer\* article](#), or learn more about the [North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center](#).

One person can make a difference. As the center's home page notes, the opening on Feb. 23, 1981, was the culmination of John Stackhouse's one-man mission. He owned a Goldsboro electrical contracting company, and after several of his employees suffered severe electrical burns in the 1960s, he learned that North Carolina had no burn center. He determined to improve the state's burn care quality, and pledged \$40,000 of his own money. The Rural Electric Association board voted to match his contribution, as did the state association of volunteer firefighters. In 1973, the Goldsboro Jaycees started selling jars of jelly to help raise money. The state organization joined the effort and the first Jaycee Jelly Week was held in January 1974. State chapters raised nearly \$150,000 by selling \$1 jars of jelly. Stackhouse bought the first jar for \$10,000. Source: <http://www.med.unc.edu/burn>

**Legeros** - 07/08/09 - 06:49

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
 Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

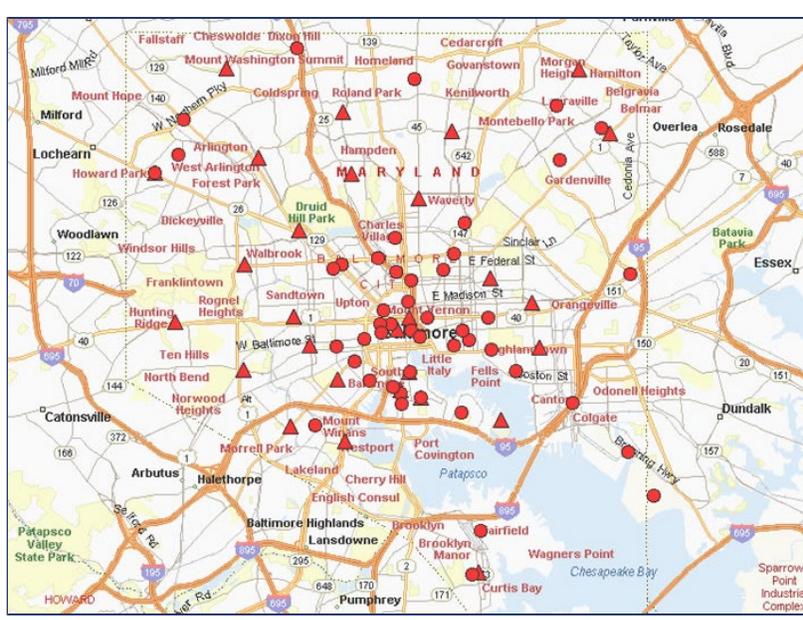
**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

See You in Baltimore

07/08/09 180 W, 1 I - + 16 - 9

We're two weeks away from the Baltimore Fire Expo. For this year's trip, the agenda includes exploring the exhibit floor (as usual), hanging out at favorite booths (such as Firegeezzer and, this year, FireNews), and attending a round table on media relations and "maintaining your reputation." (Loaded topic there!) And, for sightseeing, finding and photographing more historic fire stations. They number about 50, both active and retired. They include a couple old Baltimore County buildings, and even some Salvage Corps quarters.

The project was started last year, and maybe seven or eight old stations were shot. After some research and finding more images, this Historic and Former Baltimore Firehouses site was created. So far, so good. With great expectations for great explorations, shooting starts on Wednesday afternoon, July 22 Tuesday afternoon, July 23. Wave at the guy with the camera. He's the one that looks like a tourist. He'll also be shooting "regular" buildings, and with an eye toward some more artsy black-and-white versions. Click to enlarge, circles are retired houses, triangles are active:



I can't wait to go this year too Mike. It is going to be a lot of fun for me. Have a lot of great things happening for me up there this year. Stay Safe and I will see you up there.

johnson - 07/08/09 - 19:29

See you there!

Silver - 07/09/09 - 10:38

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

**Memories of the Great Fire of New Bern**

07/09/09 154 W, 2 I - + 10 - 13

Referenced in my response to this [posting about mutual aid by train](#), Google finds an online copy of an [oral history program transcription](#) presented at the New Bern-Craven County Public Library in 1992. The PDF document numbers 54 pages, and transcribes records made in a prior year (or decade?) of people still living who remembered the Great Fire of New Bern on December 1, 1922.

What was probably the [largest urban fire](#) in the state's history leveled 40 blocks, destroyed over 1,000 buildings and homes, and left 3,200 people homeless. Burning a quarter of the city, the fire caused an estimated \$2.5 million in damage. We've also [blogged about the fire](#), for the occasion of its 85th anniversary. We also previous found the above PDF document, and had forgotten that fact. Welcome to the world of research. Repeatedly finding the same facts or resources, then discovering the repetition once your files are consulted.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

## Wake County Fire Commission Meeting, Thursday, July 16 (Updated)

07/14/09 173 W - + 14 - 12

The [Wake County Fire Commission](#) holds its next meeting on Thursday, July 16, at 7:00 p.m., at the Wake County EMS training facility, located in the lower level of the Wake County Commons Building at [4011 Cary Drive](#). The agenda has been posted below. See other [associated documents](#).

- Call meeting to order
  - Invocation
  - Roll of Members Present
  - Approval of Agenda
- Minutes
  - Adoption of Minutes for May 21st, 2009, Regular Meeting
  - Adoption of Minutes for June 8th, 2009, Special Called Meeting
- Regular Agenda
  - Report on Evaluation and Application of Fire Commission's Fire Station Closure Criteria
  - Fairview Fire Department Staffing Plan
- Information Agenda
  - Fire Tax Financial Report
    - FY 2009 Report
    - FY 2010 Report
    - Update on House Bill 852 – An Act to Defer a Portion of the Property Tax Due on Real Property Held for Sale by a Builder
  - Update on Retirement Funding Implementation
  - Facility Committee Report
  - Chair Report
  - Fire/Rescue Services Director Report
- Other Business
- Public Comments
  - 30 minutes maximum time allotted, Maximum 3 minutes per person
- Adjournment - Next Meeting September, 17th, 2009

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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**Mystery History Photo**

07/10/09 29 W, 1 I - + 11 - 8

For your Friday enjoyment, identify this locally operated emergency vehicle. Hint #1: It's red. Hint #2: It was photographed using film.



All I know is that it needs to be inspected!

**Joe M** - 07/10/09 - 07:26

Resembles '54 truck owned by Hopkins FD and others.

**Chris** - 07/10/09 - 07:52

I agree with Chris – resembles the unit that was Zebulon Rescue's unit and later Hopkins.

**Jason T** ([Email](#)) - 07/10/09 - 20:01

I'm pretty sure that this at one time was the rescue truck for the Zebulon Range Rovers High Angle Dance Troupe. It's a 1954 Dunwoodie.

**Vern** ([Email](#)) - 07/10/09 - 22:43

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## What Web Sites Do You Read Daily?

07/10/09 87 W - + 7 - 13

Open question. What news or fire-related web sites do you read daily, notably newspapers, news sites, media sites, discussion boards, or blogs? Here's my daily routine, in no particular order:

- [News & Observer](#)
- [New York Times](#)
- [Firegeezzer](#)
- [Statter911](#)
- [FireNews](#)
- [Lee Wilson photos](#)
- [WRAL](#)
- [CNN](#)
- [Drudge Report](#).

Less regular visits are paid to the [Watch Desk local forum](#), [FireCritic](#) (new blog), [9-Echo-1](#) (local EMS blog), [Firehouse Firefighters forums](#), [Firehouse](#), and assorted local newspapers, and local municipality news and meeting minutes sites.

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CNN  
NY Times  
WRAL  
N&O  
NY Daily News  
AJC  
Legeros  
**H2O** - 07/10/09 - 07:41

Thebravestonline.com  
Bestfirefightervideo.com  
brotherhoodinstructors.com  
Firehouse.com  
Vententersearch.com  
Legeros.com  
**Fierro** - 07/10/09 - 08:31

Fox News, WRAL, vententersearch.com, Firehouse.com, NY Post, XM Radio  
**Silver** - 07/10/09 - 09:05

WRAL  
Joel Rosenberg's Weblog  
Drudge Report  
Legeros (and whatever links are posted)  
Fire Engineering  
BBC News  
FOX News  
**Mike** - 07/10/09 - 10:12

I must admit that I normally check out about 40 news websites and Fire websites on average every morning for the websites I run. However, if I had to break it down to several they would be this:

News:

CNN  
Fox News  
NBC WorldNews  
ABC WorldNews  
BBC News  
New York Times  
As well as around 20 of my State's news channels online

Fire:

FireNews.net  
SConFire.com  
PhillyFireNews  
HoopieWorld  
VAFireNews.com  
Statter911  
FireGeezer  
FirefighterHourly  
FWnetz  
Fire Engineering  
TheBravestOnline  
BestFirefighterVideos  
The Housewatch  
Legeros!!!  
Firehouse.com  
Your Happy Medic

Plus I check the RSS Feeds and get news via email that I pick through on what I will check out.

Then I have the viral video sites I check out when I am bored and to see what the idiots are doing:

Break.com  
MachoVideo  
EvilChili  
Nothing Toxic

I am on the computer entirely too much!!! Always looking for new sites!

**Fire Critic** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/10/09 - 13:56

For the fire side of everything I watch: Legeros.com, Firehouse.com, Vententersearch, thebattaliontv.com, emtbravo.com, firevideo.com, firenews.net, fireengineering.com, fdnntv.com, firechief's.com, firelink.org, thebravestonline.com, youtube.com, and firerescue.com. I watch all local channels like ABC11Tv the best. There are so many more.

**johnson** - 07/10/09 - 14:11

Good call on Firelink.com. I check that one as well.

**Fire Critic** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/10/09 - 14:16

Fire sites

lancaster.com Lancaster PA

nycfire.net  
Legeros.com  
firegeezer.com  
firepics.net  
twitter/LAFD  
<http://www.polkfl.com/fire/Default.aspx?..> Polk County Fire CAD  
Popular Science  
Popular Mechanics  
Jokeroo.com  
Facebook  
Myspace

And a handful of local papers from all the places I have lived.

**stretch** - 07/10/09 - 21:04

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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**Motivational Seminar, Saturday, August 1**

07/11/09 135 W, 1 I - + 14 - 8

Durham Highway Fire Department is sponsoring an motivational seminar on Saturday, August 1, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church, [6339 Glenwood Avenue](#). Titled "Pride and Ownership: Ignite Your Love For The Job," the all-day program is led by Lewisville (TX) Fire Chief Rick Lasky. Program features and Chief Lasky's background are [detailed in this brochure](#) . Or see [his web site](#) for more. There is a \$20.00 ticket fee, though Durham Highway Fire Department is making tickets available at no cost any North Carolina firefighter unable to pay. To purchase tickets or for specific event information, see [www.dhfd.org/pride](http://www.dhfd.org/pride). The site includes an FAQ, which notes among other things that food is not provided at the seminar, and that friends and spouses of firefighters can absolutely attend.

Thanks for posting this Mike, it should be a great event for all!

**DHFD** - 07/11/09 - 09:06

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Video of New Hanover County Chimney Collapse**

07/11/09 113 W, 1 I - + 8 - 12

Found on [Statter911](#), here's a short video of a chimney collapse house fire in Wilmington on Tuesday, after what's labeled a backdraft or smoke explosion. The [Wilmington Star reports](#) that four departments responded to the morning fire at [2602 Middle Sound Loop Road](#). Reported about 9:40 a.m., arriving units found heavy smoke and fire in the upper part of the structure. New Hanover County, Ogden, Wrightsboro, and Castle Hayne were on scene. The video description notes that one Lieutenant was slightly injured in the explosion, but has returned to work. Tax records say the two-story, wood-frame structure had 2,852 square-feet and was built in 1979. Click to watch:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Raleigh Fire Department Recruitment Starting

07/11/09 101 W - + 9 - 10

As many have heard, the Raleigh Fire Department is again recruiting. The application period is July 17 to August 28. Employment applications and recruitment flyers will be available at all Raleigh fire stations prior to July 17. Open houses will be held for prospective candidates at all fire stations on two dates: Saturday, July 25, and Saturday, August 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on both dates. See the links below for more information, and good luck to all applicants!

- [Raleigh Fire Department recruitment process](#) (site to be updated by July 17)
- [City of Raleigh employment information](#)
- [Raleigh fire station locations](#).

Thanks for the info. i will get right down to a station and pick one up.

**brad polasik** ([Email](#)) - 07/12/09 - 08:53

Will the applications be available online?

**[fbfrjm837]** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/12/09 - 22:43

What is Raleigh's age requirement for the fire department?

**car3550** - 07/13/09 - 13:51

Have to be at least 21 years old by first day of academy, no age limit.

**BB** - 07/13/09 - 14:28

How many people are they hiring and where are the opening's coming from?

**ECS** - 07/13/09 - 19:25

Applications are only accepted by mail or in person.

**MN** - 07/20/09 - 09:37

Word is hiring 20...just had someone turn in resignation notice, so I guess 21 now!

**Silver** - 07/20/09 - 17:22

Just mailed my application in today.

**A Hopeful** - 07/20/09 - 19:42

just letting prior military know to send in both copies of DD214. i turned in both with my app.

**brad** ([Email](#)) - 07/20/09 - 20:16

A quick question I lived in another state New York prior to moving to NC. Should I have submitted my driving abstract with the application ?

**A Hopeful** - 07/20/09 - 20:43

nope you do not turn in driver record until asked

**brad** ([Email](#)) - 07/20/09 - 20:59

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

## Rescue 1

07/12/09 114 W, 1 I - + 11 - 11

This is a picture of Rescue 1, a 2007 Pierce Enforcer previously known as Rescue 19. It's the Raleigh Fire Department's first Rescue 1 since the mid-1970s. The history of Rescue 1 begins with a 1954 GMC panel truck, the original unit of the two-piece Raleigh Emergency Rescue Squad. The all-white vehicle was placed in service by July 16, 1954. The second Rescue 1 was a 1966 Chevy panel truck, also all-white. It was purchased from Sir Walter Chevrolet on August 18, 1966, and presumably placed in service soon thereafter. The third Rescue 1 was a 1975 Chevy/Murphy ambulance, placed in service in October 1974. This red-over-white unit was moved to Station 3 by November 10, 1976. [Read more rescue unit history.](#)



Hey Mike. I heard from a Raleigh guy that rescue 1 will be out of station 7 soon with full staff and will be a heavy rescue. Also there will be squad 14 and squad 19 and will be rescue engines but will still act as a true engine also. They will be using two of the lafrances cause they have more compartment space until they can approve to buy two spec out rescue engines. Also heard they are adding a fifth battalion and that ladder 3 will now be the technical rescue company. Can you start a thread so we can learn about this?

**jg** - 09/01/12 - 16:13

JG, thanks for the thread request. The department is making those plans, with implementation targeted around the New Year. I am working on a story for the RFD newsletter about the project, and will report back soon enough.

**Legeros** - 09/01/12 - 16:18

Copy that thanks.

**jg** - 09/01/12 - 16:31

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

**Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Cleveland Station 2 Dedication, « Rescue 1 » Parade Registration O... Saturday, July 18**

**Cleveland Station 2 Dedication, Saturday, July 18**

07/13/09 137 W, 1 I - + 8 - 12

The Cleveland Fire Department in Johnston County dedicates their new Station 2 at [13279 Cleveland Road](#) on Saturday, July 18. The ceremony starts at 9:00 a.m., with the raising of a flag that was flown over the United States Capitol. Refreshments will be served, and tours will be given. They'll also be selling CFD t-shirts. The new station was built by Dixie General and measures about 16,000 square-feet. It's capable of operating as a full-time, full-staff station with all amenities. It's presently staffed during daytime hours with two full-time employees and one part-time person. From 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.-a.m., the station is staffed with two volunteers. The [Cleveland Fire Department](#) has been serving the Cleveland community since 1961, and their Station 1 is located at [9039 Cleveland Road](#). Click to enlarge:



*Cleveland Fire Department Photo*

thats 6PM to 6AM staffed with volunteer duty crews

**JDH** - 07/13/09 - 09:48

Will this station be running calls in Wake County? This station is a stone's throw from the county line... It is closer to a lot of Garner's district out that way.

**Gooch** - 07/13/09 - 13:02

still only on mutual aid calls

**JDH** - 07/13/09 - 14:46

13279 cleveland rd

**JDH** - 07/13/09 - 17:07

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes

## Parade Registration Opens Friday for Raleigh Fire Expo in August

07/13/09 137 W, 1 I - + 12 - 13

Registration opens Friday for a fire service parade to be held in conjunction with the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#) at the Raleigh Convention Center on August 22, 2009. Registration opens this Friday, July 17, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. No registrations will be accepted before that date and time. The parade is Saturday, August 22, 2009, and starts at 11:00 a.m. There are spaces for the following slots which will be filled on a first-come, first-registered basis:

- Modern Apparatus (50)
- Antique Apparatus(10)
- Pipe and Drum Bands (3)
- Honor Guards (10)

Full details are available [on this web page](#), including Rules and Regulations of the Parade. All participants are required to register online for a slot. Trophies will be awarded in seven categories. Please direct questions to [parade@southatlanticfirerescueexpo.com](mailto:parade@southatlanticfirerescueexpo.com). See you at the parade!



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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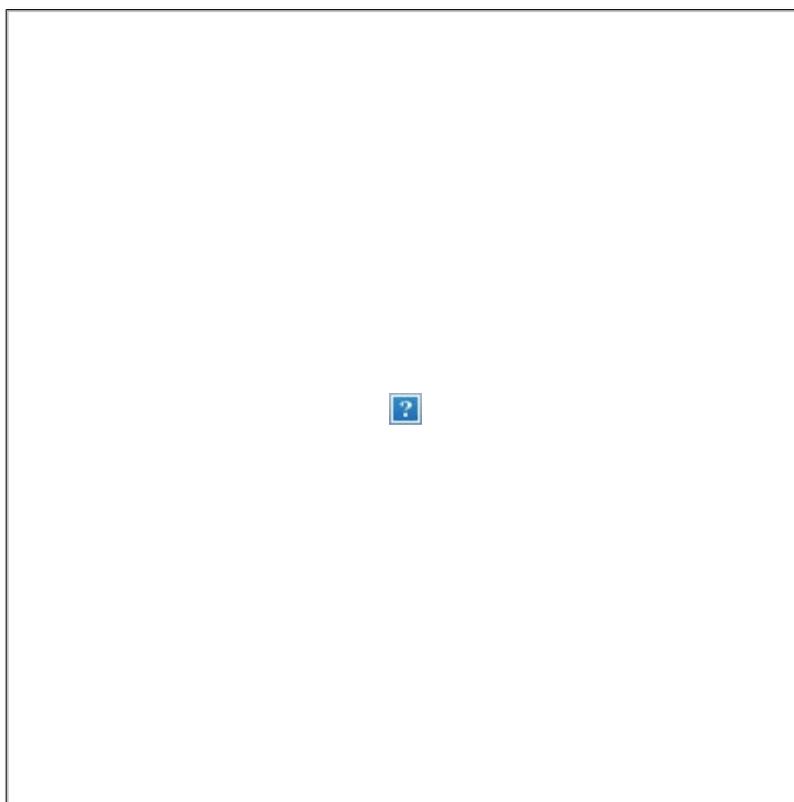
## Havelock Fire News

07/13/09 149 W, 2 I - + 12 - 9

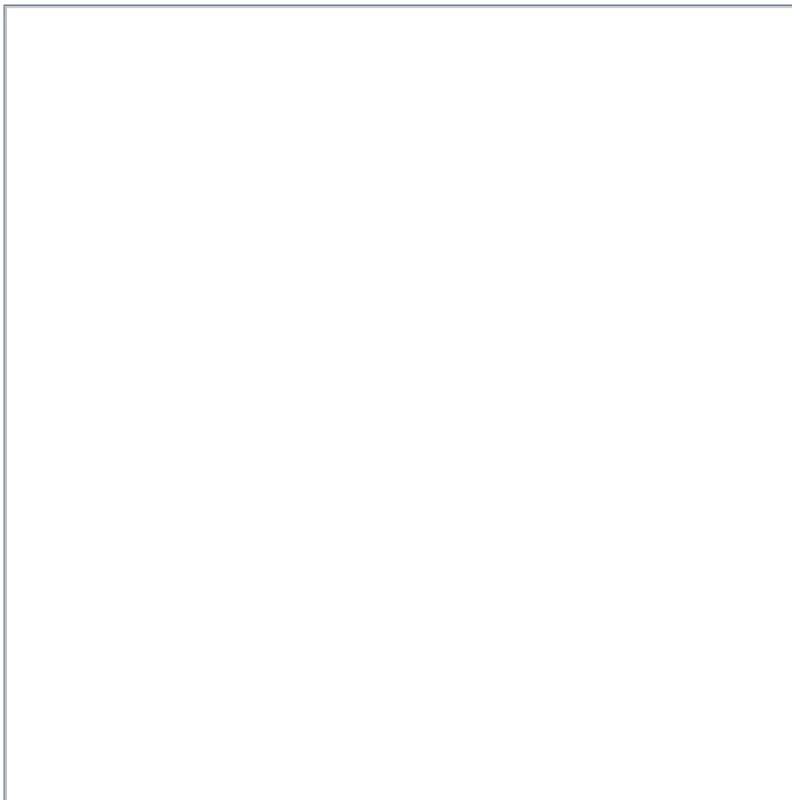
Found on [FireNews](#), a new fire station is rising in Havelock in Craven County, reports this [Havelock News article](#). The \$3.1 million "west end" station is located on Highway 70, and the [entrance to the Tucker Creek subdivision](#). Ground was broken in March, and construction should take a year.

The article also informs that the town has received loans and grants totalling \$900,000 for an ambulance, and the fire department's first ladder truck. HFD has accepted a bid from E-One, and the quint will be housed at the new station. The ambulance will replace an existing EMS unit.

Learn more about the [Havelock Fire Department](#), including their history. They were organized in 1967, so the community was no longer dependent on either Cherry Point or Newport fire departments. [There's also a page about the new station](#), which includes ongoing construction photos.



*Drew C. Wilson/Havelock News photo*



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

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## Station 9 / Engine 9

07/14/09 95 W, 1 I - + 14 - 8

Those funny flags on the roof of Station 9? That's construction of a [green roof](#) at the North Hills fire station. Other sustainability projects at Raleigh fire stations include solar-powered water heating systems and cisterns for harvesting rainwater. The city recently received federal stimulus funding to install addition more rain systems, as this [Raleigh Public Record article](#) notes. Also, Engine 9 recently received their old new pumper. The 2008 Pierce Enforcer was damaged in an accident on December 17, 2008. It was returned to service on June 27, 2009. [More about Raleigh engines.](#)



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

**Mystery Person**

07/14/09 42 W, 1 I - + 12 - 8

Places, things, and now people. Who is this unmasked man or woman who works for a local public safety agency? Hint #1: They have brown eyes, at least in this photo. Hint #2: They're a good sport.



Lt. Edwards, L-4 C

**Jakey** - 07/14/09 - 07:32

I agree. If that's not J. Edwards he has a twin.

**RescueRanger** - 07/14/09 - 11:18

Is that Wesley?

**Rauer** - 07/14/09 - 11:27

Without a doubt Lt. Edwards.

**Fierro** - 07/14/09 - 11:47

Lt. Edwards

**sweaver** ([Email](#)) - 07/14/09 - 15:11

While I do not work in Raleigh, I am willing to wager that it is Lt. Edwards as well. 4 out of 5 can't be wrong. Of course, if Lt. Edwards first name is Wesley then it is 5 out of 5. I am game!!!

**Fire Critic** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/14/09 - 20:55

100% without a doubt J Edwards, C shift L4!

**Ali** ([Email](#)) - 07/14/09 - 20:58

Lt. Edwards, Ladder 4 C-Shift

**dhfd** - 07/14/09 - 22:44

Schwenk from E-2? hard to tell.

**26 house** - 07/15/09 - 01:15

We have winners! The face behinds the eye is indeed Mr. Edwards. Thanks to him and everyone for playing.

**Legeros** - 07/15/09 - 04:18

I have known him since his birth, I knew if that was not him I had been fooled. It was just his likeness.

**rnln** ([Email](#)) - 07/15/09 - 11:36

It could not have been Schwenk, no Stash.

**Stash** - 07/15/09 - 22:30

Without a doubt that is Lieut. (Raleigh), Capt. (Falls,Stony Hill), Asst. Chief(Bearpond) J.B. Edwards

**R. Finch** ([Email](#)) - 07/16/09 - 08:02

Lets not forget Capt Vance County Rescue Squad

**rnln** ([Email](#)) - 07/16/09 - 11:46

How about Timberlake Jr.?

**A.Rich** - 07/16/09 - 22:56

I think he works with Kickboxer. I got an interesting photo game I will send your way Legeros. The "whos who" game featuring the subject of your photo.

**Graney** - 07/17/09 - 16:58

i guess Lt. Edwards

**BJJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/20/09 - 07:20

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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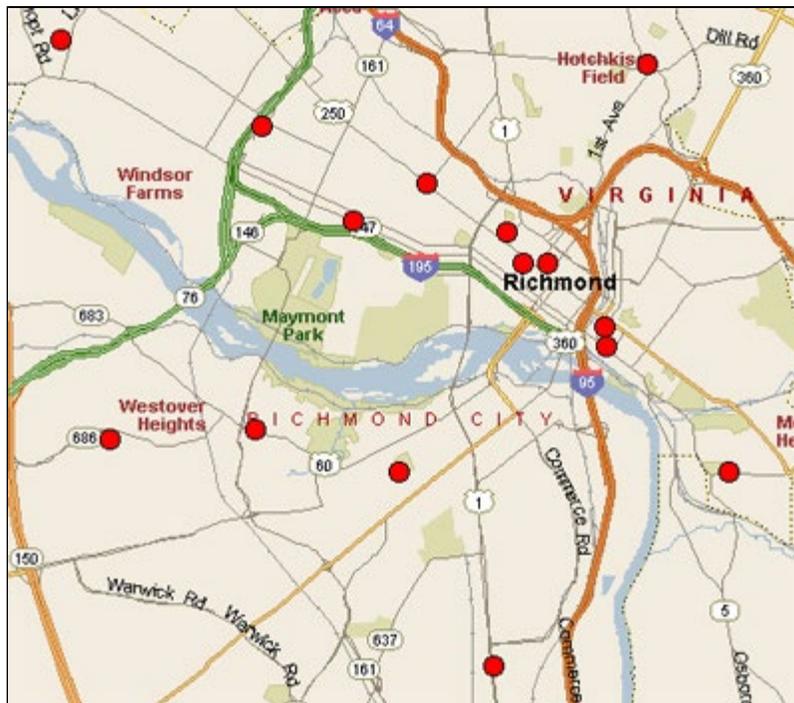
## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Historic and Former* « Wake County Fire Comm... » Vintage Fire Helmet Firehouses of Richmond

### Historic and Former Firehouses of Richmond

07/15/09 151 W, 1 I - + 10 - 9

Also in preparation for next week's [trip to Baltimore](#), Mr. Blogger has been researching historic and former firehouses in Richmond. They total 15, with six still active. The earliest were opened in 1862 (Engine 5) and 1884 (Truck 2); the latest started service 1968 (Engine 3/Truck 3) and 1970 (Engine 23). The last one's also a former vollie house, the old Chesterfield Station on Blakemore Road, built in 1953 and opened as a city station in 1970. See the below map.

Stops are planned both going there and coming back, to photograph the buildings. We've already [built a web page](#), with photos from Google Street View and historical information from a retired Captain. The present schedule has Yours Truly passing through town next Tuesday and the following Monday. Wave at the guy wearing a tropical shirt. [Read about historic and former firehouses of Richmond](#). Or learn about the [Richmond Fire Department](#). See you in Baltimore!



Would Richmond be considered a city comparable to Raleigh? And if so, how do the two fire departments compare with each other, e.g. number of stations, volume of calls, salaries?

**John McAdams** - 07/15/09 - 10:10

Richmond is 62 square miles with a population of 200,000 – depending on who you talk to this number may drop to around 190,000 – the department currently operates 20 stations with 12 stations north of the river and 8 south of the river – Richmond went to quints in the late 90s and currently the department operates 20 Quints, 3 Rescues, 1 A&L, 1 Safety Officer, and 3 Battalion Chiefs – all companies operate with a minimum of 4 with the rescues operating with 5 when manpower allows – the Rescues are assigned one of the special operations missions ie. Water Rescue, HAZMAT, & Technical Rescue

The current structure fire response is 4 Quints, 1 Rescue, 1 Safety Officer, & 1 Battalion Chief – the 2nd arriving Quint Company is designated the truck company on the assignment.

Over the years as the population of the city dropped from a high in population of 240,000 down to the present 200,000 there have been substantial cuts in the department – as late as the 80's and early 90s the department operated 20 Engines, 9 Ladders, 2 Squads, & 4 Chiefs

The Quints have not aged well and it's hard to find anyone who wants to retain the standard quint system – Companies such as Quint#5 are putting over 4000 runs on their truck – when the quints where put in service 11 companies where assigned FRVs – essentially Freightliners with Pierce bodies for use on running medical calls etc. – quickly it was realized every quint needed a second piece and tractional pumpers where retained and where assigned to the Quints that didn't receive FRVs – there are many parts of the city that Quints just won't fit – we have streets that where laid out in the 1700s and especially in the southwest part of the city lot's of roads along the river that are impassable by quints – another significant challenge with the current system is that companies get caught out on the FRVs when they are dispatched on a structure fire assignment – it's not uncommon with quints OOS for maintenance and companies on the air in their FRVs/Pumpers for assignments to receive 1 Quint apparatus on dispatch

There is lots of talk about going to a hybrid Engine/Quint/Rescue system – the current economic conditions have pushed back a major apparatus purchase and with a cut in the OT budget we are generally seeing 1-2 companies OOS every day

Mike – if I can help you out while your here or you want to grab lunch etc. drop me an e-mail – I would be more than willing to wheel you around while your here

**Noah Rogers** ([Email](#)) - 07/15/09 - 11:33

I've been in Richmond for a couple of weeks on business and really appreciate this post and the info from Noah. Something that I've noticed is that there seems to be a lot of high rises here for a city of this size. I wonder if Richmond has had any recent experience with fires in high rises, and what their SOP is for those situations.

**Eric L** - 07/16/09 - 00:01

No recent high rise fires – a couple of very small incidents – I remember an incident at the James Center a few years ago which was handled by the sprinkler & 1st Alarm assignment

In recognition of the hazard level downtown the deptment has moved some apparatus around – the companies that are on the 1st alarm assignment to downtown are now running with conventional Seagrave pumpers instead of FRVs – there was a recognition that a 1st Alarm assignement downtown that had 2-3 FRVs on the 1st Alarm would present some real poblems ie. standpipe etc. – the Seagrave where all purchased in the early to mid 90s and where retained after the department concluded all companies needed a 2nd piece – luckily the decision was reached before they where sold off like everything else

One of the major issues for the department is the lack of a reserve rescue – if a rescue if OOS for maintenance the rescue will utilize the FRV or Engine assigned as the 2nd piece for the Quint Company stationd with the rescue – example if Rescue#1's apparatus is OOS the company will utilize the Seagrave engine that serves as the 2nd piece fOR Quint#1 – it can get complicated when Quint#1's engine is OOS and they are only able to utilize the Quint – the Rescue then has to find another truck

**Noah Rogers** ([Email](#)) - 07/16/09 - 12:47

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

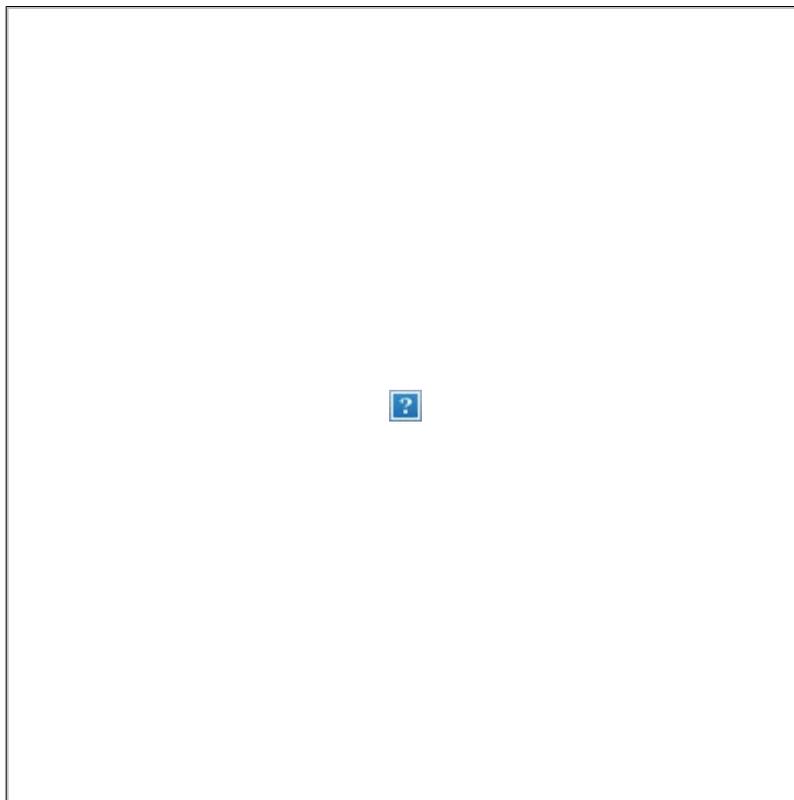
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## Vintage Fire Helmet

07/15/09 28 W, 1 I - + 11 - 7

Here's a neat [artifact for sale on eBay](#), a vintage Bullard helmet from the Troutman Fire Department in Iredell County. Looks like circa 1950s?



---

We were using these as late as 1982 at RDU. I still have my yellow one.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/15/09 - 11:48

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**Cameras and Colors**

07/15/09 293 W, 1 I - + 11 - 12

Earlier this week, Lee Wilson and Mike Legeros [posted their photos](#) from Friday's apparatus accident in downtown Raleigh. They shot the scene soup-to-nuts, from all sides, from every angle, and for the duration of the incident. Lee arrived shortly after Ladder 4 overturned and stayed on scene until the tractor and its trailer was towed away. Mike was present for a portion of the recovery, starting about 90 minutes into the incident.

See [Lee's photos](#) and see [Mike's photos](#), if you haven't already. Now, notice anything interesting? The colors are a bit different between the two sets. Lee's photos have more saturation or perhaps more punch; Mike's photos have a more muted palette. Open both sets side-by-side and the differences are easily spotted. Heck, longtime fans have probably already noticed this in earlier photos.



*Lee Wilson / Mike Legeros photos*

What's happening? It's probably, simply, a Nikon versus Canon thing. Lee shoots with a Nikon D60 (primary) and a Nikon D50 (secondary), both digital SLR cameras. Mike has a pair of Canon Rebel XT cameras, also digital SLR. Lee shoots in JPEG, since you asked. Mike shoots in RAW.

Searching the forums of the great [Digital Photography Review](#) site finds ample discussion on the subject of Nikon versus Canon colors. And more than a few users have noticed similar differences in colors or color saturation. And most of them add "it doesn't matter" as digital photos can be colored any way you want. That's why we perform post-processing.

So, what were the true colors that day? That's a whole 'nother discussion of what the eye see versus the camera sensor captures, including the varied lighting that day, the white balance settings on the camera, and some other stuff.

---

I just bought a SLR camera yesterday (Sony A200) and have been trying to learn a little bit. I thought I was already confused, now I'm thoroughly confused! I just want to be like Mike and Lee when I grow up, thats all!

**Rhodes** ([Email](#)) - 07/16/09 - 07:17

Taking pictures is easy! Just point and press the button! It's looking at the photos later that's the tough one...

**Legeros** - 07/17/09 - 05:57

## Special Response 2

07/15/09 78 W, 1 I - + 15 - 9

This is a picture of SR 3, previously known as SR 22, a 2005 Ford F-550 Super Duty towing unit and cargo trailer for North Carolina Hazardous Materials Regional Response Team 4. It's parked at Station 22 and staffed by Ladder 5. The other recently renumbered Special Response units are SR 1, a 1991 Simon Duplex/E-One haz-mat support unit at Station 2, and SR 2, a 2008 Ford F-350 Super Duty haz-mat recon unit and support trailer for RRT-4.



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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**Raleigh vs. Richmond**

07/16/09 65 W - + 15 - 9

In response to the question asked on [this prior posting](#) about Richmond, here's a comparison of the two departments.

Raleigh:	Richmond:
27 stations	20 stations
28 engines	20 quints
8 ladders	
3 rescues	3 rescues
4 battalions	3 battalions
34,863 calls (2009)	30,000+ calls per year
385,507 (2009)	200,123 (2007)
115.6 square miles	60 square miles (2000)
one engine per 13,768 people	one quint per 10,006 people
one engine per 4.2 square miles	one quint per 3 square miles

Quint concept, yuuccckkk!!!!

**Silver** - 07/16/09 - 16:01

Ditto!

**DJ** - 07/16/09 - 16:21

Yep... is it a ladder, is it an engine, is it a ladder, is it an engine, is it a ladder, is it an engine, is it a ladder, is it an engine???????? Apparatus gender confusion at its best!!

**A.Rich** - 07/16/09 - 22:54

Hate the idea of using quints without having real ladders. Ditto AC!! Wonder how the staffing numbers and budget breakout compares with ours?

**Goose** - 07/20/09 - 09:55

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *First Honor Guards*, « [Raleigh vs. Richmond](#) » [Cornelius-Lemley To P... Haz-Mat Teams?](#)

### First Honor Guards, Haz-Mat Teams?

07/16/09 71 W - + 14 - 9

Help me with my research for history talk in August! When were the first honor guards and haz-mat teams formed in North Carolina? My information so far:

#### Honor Guards

- Charlotte, mid-1970s
- Winston-Salem, 1983
- Raleigh, 1984
- Durham, 1992

#### Haz-Mat Teams

- Charlotte, 1982
- Durham, 1985?
- Greensboro, 1982
- Winston-Salem, 1990

And when were the first state regional response teams formed? Thanks for any help!

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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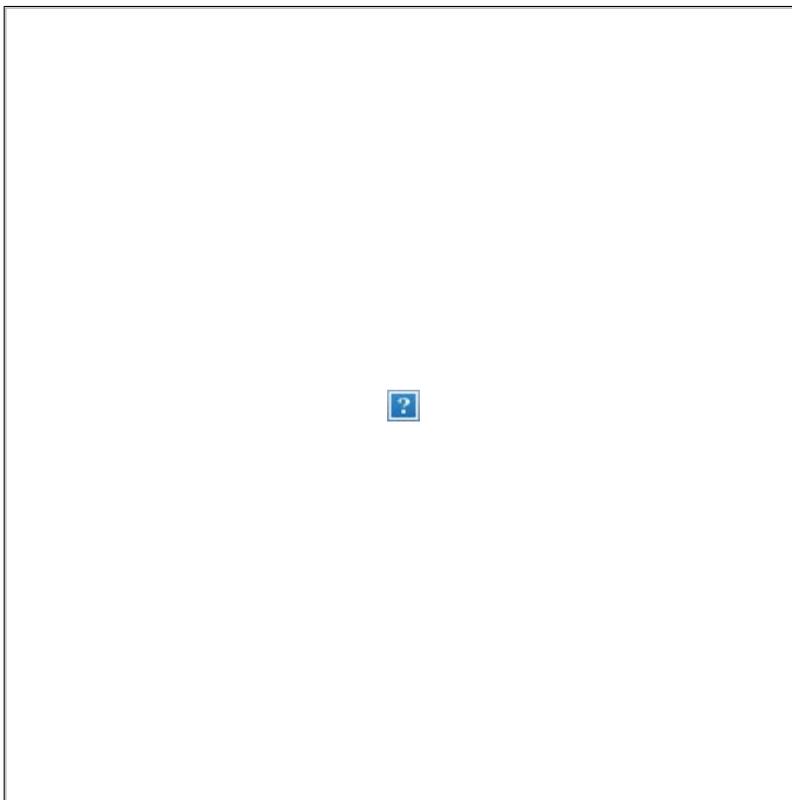
[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

## Cornelius-Lemley To Purchase Fire Boat

07/16/09 135 W, 1 I - + 14 - 9

Found on [FireNews](#), here's an interesting [WSCO-TV story](#) about the planned purchase of a 33-foot fire boat for the [Cornelius-Lemley Fire Department](#) in Mecklenburg County. The \$400,000 watercraft will be used on [Lake Norman](#) (largest manmade body of water entirely within the state, incidentally) and will help protect their dozens of miles of shoreline, which include many large homes and condos. CLFD presently utilizes a 23-foot rigid-hull inflatable boat that's equipped with a 500 GPM pump. The new boat will pump 3,000 GPM, have an enclosed cabin, and be able to transport multiple victims from water rescues. (See also their [Float the Boat page](#).) Funding is half town-funded, and half from grants and department fundraisers. The boat should be in the water by early next year. [Read and watch the story](#).



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Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Producing a Fire Department Yearbook**

07/18/09 116 W, 1 I - + 10 - 11

Since the production of the Raleigh Fire Department's latest yearbook in 2007, others have asked for information on "how we did it." Where to start, who to contact, etc. To help everyone, I've created a page on [Producing a Fire Department Yearbook](#). It covers everything from creating committees to soliciting content to fulfilling orders. There are also some sample pages from our book, which is [still available for ordering](#). The documentation is version 1.0. Expect corrections and perhaps additions. Hope it's useful, and please drop a note if and when your book is published! Mr. Blogger wants to buy one!



Mike, is it possible to order copies of the 1984 RFD yearbook?

**H. Pulley** - 07/20/09 - 20:30

Negative, both the 1984 and the 2002 yearbooks have been out of print since the time that they were published.

**Legeros** - 07/20/09 - 20:31

Name: (real name preferred)  
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Yes

No

Comment:

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## Photography Tip #315

07/18/09 64 W, 1 I - + 10 - 10

When chasing calls in high-humidity conditions, such as yesterday afternoon's thunderstorms, maximize the distance between camera and air-conditioning vents. Otherwise, when you arrive on scene, your lens will simulate atmospheric conditions not actually present. If you also wear glasses, you may experience an added bonus of foggy eye wear when stepping out of your vehicle.



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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**State College Clobbered**

07/18/09 79 W, 1 I - + 15 - 12

Speaking of schoolin', yesterday afternoon's thunderstorms also did some serious damage at North Carolina State University. Whatever blew through took down trees and limbs in the vicinity of [Pullen Road](#). Campus crews are clearing debris already, but a couple of the bigger monsters will wait until Monday, when the really big saws arrive. Right around the bell tower, and where the roundabout is being built. [See more posted photos](#).



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No

Comment:

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

**Report Issued in Texas Firefighter Aerial Platform Deaths**

07/18/09 98 W - + 15 - 15

As this [Firehouse.com article](#) notes, the NIOSH report has been released on the January 25 aerial platform accident that killed two firefighters in Kilgore, TX. The report cites several key contributing factors, including unfamiliarity with the new apparatus, high-risk training prior to familiarity, fall restraints not utilized, and platform design issues. Ladder company operations are a frequent topic of discussion on this blog, and the comprehensively documented findings should be of interest of many. That is, if they haven't read it already. [Read the NIOSH report.](#) It's sobering stuff.

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E-mail: (optional)  
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Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Big City Radio**

07/18/09 63 W - + 12 - 8

For your Saturday evening enjoyment and found on this [Firehouse forums thread](#), here's some very busy radio traffic from FDNY on Wednesday night, including a high-rise fire in the Bronx. Listen to [clip 1](#), then [clip 2](#), then [clip 3](#). They're mp3 files. That's one busy dispatcher! Here are some [FDNY ten codes](#) to help. You're on your own, however, with the accents.

Pretty smooth with the dispatcher giving further pre-plan info over the air...hope I didn't hurt any feelings with that comment.

**Silver** - 07/18/09 - 23:01

I'm with Silver...impressive with the pre-plan info...also impressive was the assignments announced towards the beginning. Lucky I married a New Yorker...the accents weren't so bad...

**DJ** - 07/19/09 - 08:15

I also didn't realize that they send an engine solely as a first responder unit (the term "CFR-D engine" is a certified first responder-defib engine) when the 10-75 is transmitted.

Hopefully my 9-1-1 communicator friend can enlighten; is this for all 10-75's to add to the FAST or is this only on 10-77's?

**Silver** - 07/19/09 - 09:12

The CFR-D is not assigne to every 10-75 or All Hands(Signal 7-5). The CFR-D is assigned to each 10-77 High rise OMD and 10-76 High rise. The CFR-D engine is assigned because " EMS workers are not equipped with SCBA, at high rise fires an engine company is assigned to perform CFRD work on the upper floors where SCBA may be required to operate." So at any box when EMS would be needed inside a fire building high rise or not a CFR-D engine will be assigned.

**stretch** - 07/19/09 - 11:11

Hey silver they went over this bldg in the highrise class. Also wonder if they used the High rise nozzle, Ko blanket. Good to see the plan they went over in the class seems to be working great. Hats of to FDNY members workin this job and to the Dispatcher.

**Bolduc** ([Email](#)) - 07/19/09 - 16:10

Jeff, I love the preplan info given as well. We have some "flagged" addresses in CAD that come across your rip and runs with preplan info but most of the information in there is gate codes, bariatric patients or automatic law enforcement responses. There are very few that are "Fire" related. One I do remember is the hazmat preplan for 1900 S Saunders St at Floserve. Very good info for you guys should you have a fire there. The capability is there for preplans to be in CAD but one big problem is who is going to keep the database up to date? Thats a BIG job even if you only do commercial addresses. The FDNY FAST truck I believe is sent on all 10-75's and I have also heard it special called by the dispatcher before anyone is on scene if the reports they are getting on the phone indicate a working fire. FDNY dispatchers have a LOT of flexibility in tailoring their response for the situation at hand. Sometimes I envy their ability to do that. There have been a few times we have requested from the responding battalion chief permission to send a W/F or a second alarm response due to the number of calls we are getting and what we are being told. I would love to have the ability to do that on our own without having to ask. At least an extra engine and truck. The first due engine can always turn them back. Im sure if we did that nobody would hate us for it but there is nothing in the SOP's for that so you might get it one time and not on another.

**dispatch** - 07/19/09 - 22:33

Bolduc, it seems if you listen closely you hear a request made by a chief to the squad and rescue...I think I heard "blanket" mentioned. Stretch, thanks for clarifying.

**Silver** - 07/20/09 - 01:55

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

**Short Course in Using Your Digital Camera**

07/19/09 67 W - + 16 - 7

[Great site on using digital cameras](#) by Dennis P. Curtin. There's also an accompanying book. The site has seven chapters: controls/creativity, sharpness, exposure, light/color, lenses, flash/lighting, special features. There are also animations in some sections that demonstrate the concepts. Good stuff. Capturing motion was this morning's study copy. Need to get better at shooting people moving fast.

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Remember personal info?  
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Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**Mystery Station**

07/19/09 26 W, 1 I - + 11 - 10

This one's pretty easy. Hint #1: It's open on Sunday. Hint #2: It's open all other days, as well.



EMS Station 1?

**DHFD416** - 07/19/09 - 18:42

Yeah I agree looks like EMS Station 1

**4447** - 07/19/09 - 19:38

Looking thru Mike's photo's, this does appear to be EMS Station 1.

**Rides An Engine** - 07/19/09 - 19:43

Yes, EMS Station 1. <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/20..>

**Legeros** - 07/20/09 - 06:39

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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Yes

No

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**Raleigh Fire Department History, 1880-1899**

07/19/09 87 W, 1 I - + 16 - 13

Here's another sundry document for Sunday reading. [Raleigh Fire Department, 1880-1899](#) . The document's been a work in progress for a few years. 'Twas time to release the thing. The decades of the 1880s and 1890s saw the introduction of hydrants and alarm boxes, the formation of new fire companies, and construction of new fire stations. Plus a few big fires. The PDF document numbers 37 pages. There's no quiz afterward, however. Learn more about the [history of RFD](#).

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Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.

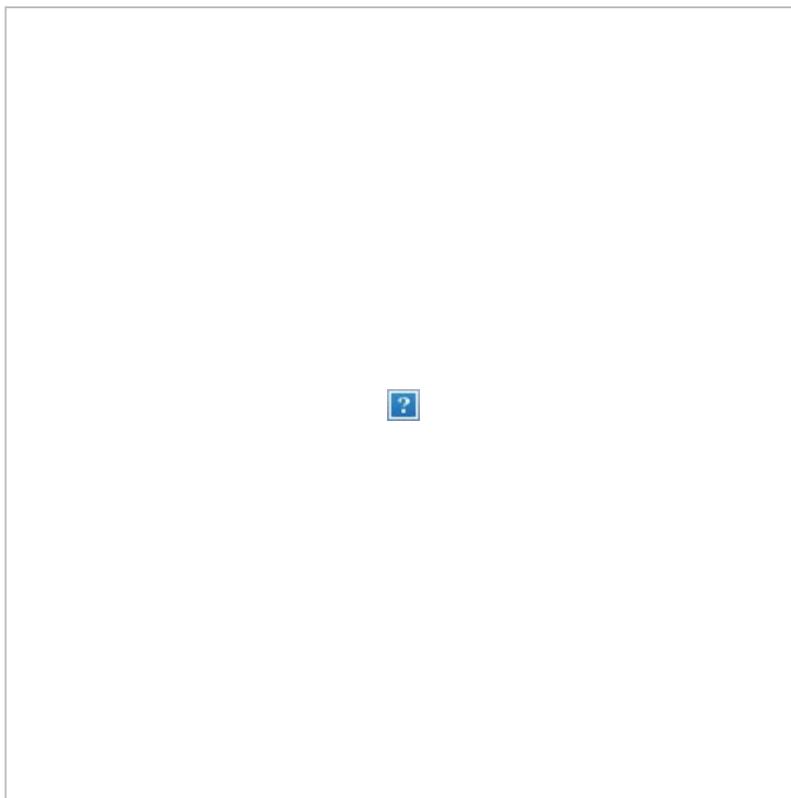
Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

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## Historic Engine Houses in Washington DC?

07/20/09 101 W, 1 I - + 7 - 13

For those passing through the nation's Capitol this week, [DCFD.com](http://DCFD.com) has photos of all [active stations](#). Quite a few are older structures, and some quite stunning. The unofficial web site, subtitled the Real Deal, has a bounty of other riches. Dig that "rescue crane" that's on the roster, in the [apparatus section](#). Maybe that's a project for next year's Expo trip. Catalog all former and historic DCFD houses. For now, watch [this Watch Desk thread](#), where I've posted a query. Butcher, baker, obsessive list maker. See you in Baltimore.



*DCFD photo*

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Remember personal info?

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## New Deliveries at National Guard

07/20/09 41 W, 1 I - + 15 - 12

Trucks on trucks greeting morning motorists on Edwards Mill Road today. Destination [North Carolina National Guard](#) on Reedy Creek Road. One was hauling a HEMTT, the rest were cargo (?) trucks and trailers. Click to enlarge:



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## Holabird Avenue Fire Station

07/22/09 122 W, 1 I - + 15 - 9

Explore the area of the Dundalk Marine Terminal in southeast Baltimore and you'll soon discover an old engine house sitting directly underneath Interstate 95. Engine 50 occupied the station at [4700 Holabird Avenue](#) from 1930 to 1978/79. It was closed, notes this [Monument City web site](#), because the facility's fuel tanks were too close to the overhead highway. Engine 50 relocated a new/newer station at 1601 Broening Highway. The building appears vacant, but Google matches the address to a sign shop. Good excuse for a return visit! Below is a early evening photo from yesterday. Or explore via [Google Street View](#). Read more about [historic houses in Baltimore](#). Only a few dozen more to shoot!



I assume the station was there before the highway? If so, it is interesting they built a highway over a building!

**DS** - 07/22/09 - 08:49

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Yes

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## Ann Street Fire Station

07/22/09 101 W, 1 I - + 12 - 8

Among the many retired engine houses in Baltimore are a handful of former volunteer stations, such as this two-story brick building at the intersection of [5th Street and Pontiac Avenue](#). Built in 1911, it first housed the Brooklyn Volunteer Fire Company of Anne Arundel County. The 100-foot deep lot cost \$3,250, and the building \$5,990. On March 29, 1919, after the area was annexed, it opened as Baltimore Fire Department Engine 35, which was reorganized and placed in service with a 1912 Mack AB combination hose wagon. It also later housed Truck 21. The station was closed in 1961.



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### Card Reader Woes

07/22/09 118 W, 1 I - + 10 - 13

Ever wondered what happens to your external memory card reader, when the CF cards pins get bent? First, it stops working. Next, the user starts cursing. Third, ingenuity appears. Crack open the case and identify the problem pins. With tweezers from your trusty Swiss Army knife, carefully bend the pins back. They'll be further straightened when you insert a card. Did it work? Yes and no. One pin was snapped in half, and only one brand of my cards would work. Presumably the other needs the longer pin. Guess a replacement purchase is the plan for the evening. Thank goodness card readers are pretty cheap.



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## Basic Understanding of the Fire Service for Public and Elected Officials

07/22/09 307 W - + 10 - 13

This conference session on the [Thursday schedule](#) caught my eye. Educating public and elected officials on "what makes a fire department tick." The intended audience includes "policy makers, procurement officers, commissioners, city managers, district managers, city council aides, and congressional aides." They're even admitted free of charge, if accompanied by a Fire Chief or department rep with a conference pass. It's a great idea that could be cascaded across the country. Maybe it already is. The description speaks for itself:

"Have you ever tried to explain to policy makers, elected officials, or budget personnel how and why certain items were needed for the fire service only to have them not understand the reasons behind these necessary and very important decisions? Firehouse Expo has put together a multi-part program to explain many of the mandated and required items that make a department tick, allowing the members to respond to all sorts of fires, emergencies and EMS calls: the protective gear they need to wear, self contained breathing apparatus, apparatus and the process of purchasing and specifying an apparatus.

We will also explain how to teach your officials the reasons they have to provide the equipment, manpower and protect life and property in their individual response area. A host of nationally known speakers will discuss these requirements and after the educational process a tour of the exhibit floor will be conducted to show firsthand the officials the equipment and apparatus. This is a great opportunity to educate and show your officials a wide variety of fire and emergency equipment all in one place and under one roof."

Topics will include:

- ISO
- Show And Tell
- Apparatus Purchasing
- Protective Clothing and Equipment
- NFPA Standards Staffing
- EMS Impact on the Fire Industry.

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## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *Historian in Action* « Basic Understanding o... » Tailboards for Baby S... / Raleigh Fire Department Youth Academy

### Historian in Action / Raleigh Fire Department Youth Academy

07/22/09 178 W, 1 I - + 12 - 9

With significant risk of a broken lens, photographer Lee Wilson captured historian Mike Legeros in action on Monday. Cleverly disguised in non-tropical attire-- though easily identified by his wild hair-- Mr. Blogger was talking to the Raleigh Fire Department Youth Academy at the Kiwanis Park Community Center. The annual camp is a week-long event for 24 youths ages 11 to 14. They learn about the fire department and firefighting. They visit fire stations, the training center, and other facilities. They also have classroom and physical challenge activities that include first aid, fire behavior, fire inspections and code enforcement, fire prevention, fire investigations, and thermal imaging camera demonstrations. [See more of Lee's photos](#), from both Monday and Tuesday. Or learn more about city of Raleigh [summer camps](#). Is there a similar program for adults? Kinda, sorta. The city's [Neighborhood College](#) program includes a class on the fire department. [See some pics](#) of a college class at the training center.



*Lee Wilson photo*

#### I WAS AT THAT CAMP

**max d** ([Email](#)) - 07/28/09 - 18:24

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Remember personal info?

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No

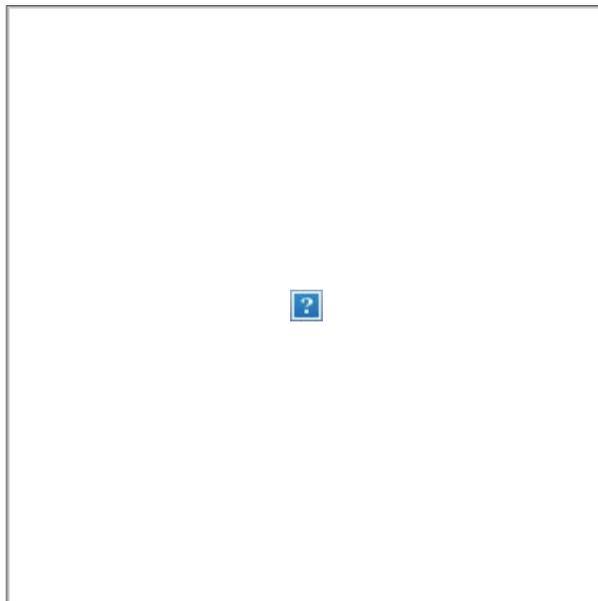
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## Tailboards for Baby Strollers!?!

07/22/09 81 W, 1 I - + 11 - 10

Finally, there this. Tailboards for baby strollers. Saw one in action today. Should have taken a photograph, but this catalog image works fine. Do you suppose they come in diamond-plate? And if they don't, how long until an enterprising firefighter makes (and sells) one? Apologies if this is old news in the baby world. We're out of the loop, as we have an adult child at our house. His name is Mike.



Welcome to my world Mike! The wife talked about getting one but that was before #3 came along so now the seating would not meet company needs. At Target they have such setups on some carts with standing/seating for 2 with a traditional seat for smaller ones in the cart. The problem is the kids want to jump on and off – invariably when the parent is trying to move the cart. The end result is someone is gonna get hurt – either by fall or spanking! I rode tailboard back in the 80's – I don't think it is a great concept for a clumsy toddler or preschooler. However, with the decorations you mentioned the kids would love it and it would look cool!

**D.Cates** - 07/23/09 - 10:06

Right there with you Cates. We've got one too although not decked out with tread plate. Maybe we could get ladder belts for the kids and "secure" them that way... :)

**Mike** - 07/23/09 - 10:20

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Making the Right Impression on Your Fire Station Visit

07/23/09 159 W - + 14 - 11

Here's a [useful article from Firehouse.com](#), for those interested in fire service careers. It's a list of recommendations for fire station visits, beginning with the benefits therein. Why visit? To network, to learn about the job, to meet those doing the job, and meet those newly hired in the job. Writer Steve Przbrowoski gives tips on scheduling, such as calling ahead and even how to find station addresses. He talks about etiquette and how to conduct yourself, and even recommendations for attire. Tank tops and flip-flops are not good. He has suggestions on how to extend interactions, such as mock interviews or asking about other stations to visit. It's a very good article, and with plenty of proactive advice. [Read the article](#). And for any applicants reading here, post questions if you have 'em. Or send as private mail, and we'll repost and ask readers for answers.

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

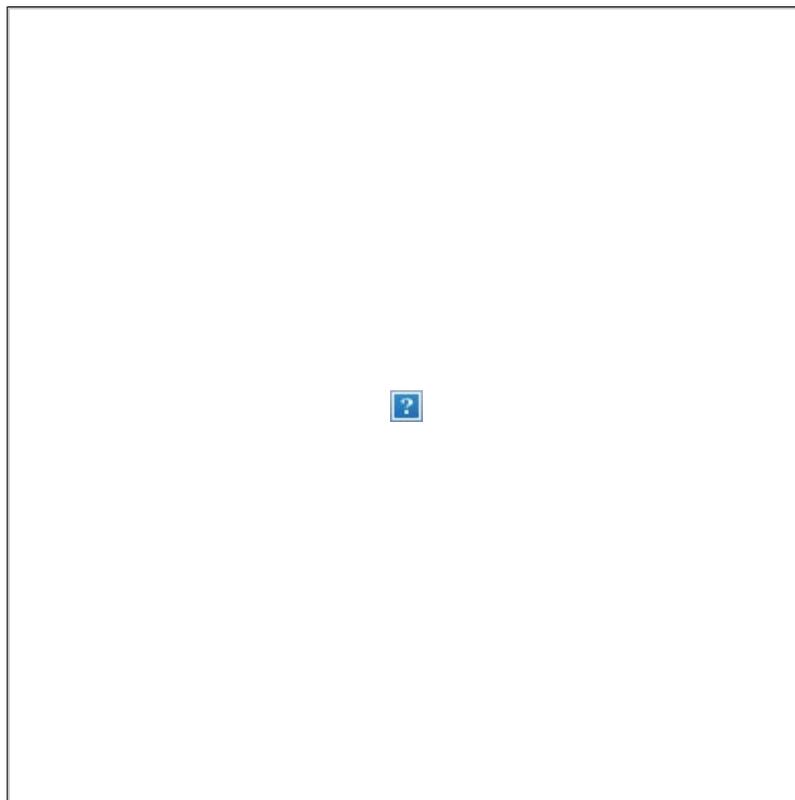
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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## Cherry Point Crash Truck

07/23/09 67 W, 1 I - + 11 - 13

Found [for sale on eBay](#), here's a 1979 postcard photo of an MB-1 crash truck from the Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point. The truck was made by Walter, a brand known well in Raleigh-Durham. The airport operated four Walter crash trucks, beginning with a Class 1500 in 1959. [See some pictures](#), though Walter is incorrectly listed as Walters. Need to fix that.



Yes this is a Yankee Walter MB-1. In fact I was the Crew Chief of this beauty from 1978-80 and I am fairly certain that is me standing to right of of my beloved, "Cherry 11". If memory serves me correctly this picture was taken in the area of the (Fire) Training Pits. A lot of great hours spent in that truck and a lot of great memories with great Marines. When I was discharged in 1980 I turned her over to one of my Crew Members, Cpl. Brad Mix who became the new Crew Chief and flipped it a month later. Something I had come close to doing myself. Haha. She was a great old Truck!

Cpl. S. Newsome. Crash Crew, USMC.

**Sam** ([Email](#)) - 09/21/15 - 23:22

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

## Fire Expo Exhibit Hall Report

07/23/09 427 W - + 12 - 6

Boats. Ladders. Dash lights. Artwork. Burn centers. Architects. Scheduling software. Laptops. Lime yellow Seagrave pumper. Flooring. Hydraulic rescue tools. Tee shirts. Jewelry. Patches, my God, the patches. Boots. Shoes. Hoods `n` gloves. Rescue saws. Rescue vacuums (!). Fire Apparatus Journal, the great. Yellow-orange Pierce pumper. Nozzles. Books. Radio head sets. Magazines. Deluge guns. Insurance. Marketing. Ropes. Fire department management software. Irons. Gauges. Animatronics. Hand lights. Die-cast models. Helmets. CO poisoning detection systems.

Chevrons everywhere. Watertight cases. Pocket CPR coaches. Alert devices for hearing impaired. Light bars. More tee shirts. Some Firegeezers with a blog. Gas detectors. Stretchers. FEMA. GIS systems. Vertical rescue systems. Exhaust removal systems. Manifolds. Military universities. Industrial strength sponges. Fundraising services. Radio straps. Hose carts. Jump bags. Training buildings. Mobile data terminals. Turnout gear. Pages. Foot massage. Jump seats. FireNews, some web site from North Carolina. Cardiac monitors. Fire simulation software. Accountability systems. Forcible entry training. Handheld computers.

Ornaments. Helmet lights. Traffic safety equipment. Thermal imagers. One beautiful 1970 Miller Meteor Cadillac ambulance. Defibrillators. Big, lime, Spartan rescue. Sport-utility vehicle cabinets. Light ropes. National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Race cars. Racing fuel. Mobile phone networks. Mobile command centers. Vests. Professional associations. SCBA emergency filters. Low-frequency acu-therapy. Vehicle-mounted forklifts. Brush trucks. Light towers. Smoke fans. Big, red KME aerial tower. Mobile command centers. Tillers, ladders, and platforms, oh my. Decon tents. Gear racks. Sirens. Air bags. Portable road signs.

Baltimore Fire Department, the host agency. Fire videos. Mobile video solutions. Haz-mat software. Reels for electric cords. Presentation axes. Arson investigation tools. Religious firefighter associations. Flags. Miracle absorbent clothes. Consultants. Propane safety. Two-wheeled upright personal transportation vehicles. Quite a few, um, booth babes. Fire station alert systems and a big honkin' tractor-trailer demo area. Fabrics. Streaming technology. Antique fire apparatus associations. Rescue tape. Fitness equipment. Cancer support networks. Foam. Sculpture. Lots of really big guys. Pumps. Billing software.

Alternators. Furniture. Lock boxes. Still more tee shirts. Text books. Harnesses and escape belts. Lockers. Hose. Revenue management software. Air bottles. Hose testing. Ladder testing. Magnetic door chocks. RIT bags. Air-inflated costumes. Vacations. Uniforms. Leather goods. Disaster management systems. Computer-based learning. Cascade systems. Eye protection. Fire suppression systems. Advertising. Plaques. Decals. Custom stickers. One mean-looking Snuzzle. Rafts. Air masks. Rescue coats. Intercom systems. Hose racks. Publishers. Great accents overheard. Trophies. Inventory software. Reflective tape. Web sites. Accountability software. Colleges. Gutter protectors. Apparatus backing aids. Builders. Brewing companies. Fire education aids. Radiological and nuclear testing sites. Materials testing. Helmet shields. Fire safety trailers. Jacks. Jesus statues. Rappelling demo areas. And a whole lotta chrome.

---

I'm sure I'll go into an epileptic fit from all of the LED lights flashing...ETA 90 minutes.

**Silver** - 07/24/09 - 09:33

It's pretty bad... he has all that listed, and has to take typing breaks to rest his fingers... Kind of like that asthmatic who has to keep taking breaths...

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 07/24/09 - 13:10

Cool,

Keep up the good work,

Anyway, thanks for the post

**Web Development London** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/02/09 - 12:33

**Hollins Street Fire Station**

07/24/09 302 W, 1 I - + 9 - 12

So far so good on the Great Historic House Hunt. Some 63 stations shot, including three retakes due to rain or, say, tour busses blocking the view. The latter at the Great Blacks in Wax museum, housed in an old North Avenue fire station<sup>1</sup>. Had a couple surprises, such as finding one on Liberty Heights Avenue (west side) that I couldn't find on North Liberty Street (downtown). Chance find, that one, though spying the three-story hose tower over the treetops helped. Less than a half-dozen remain to shoot, or reshoot. The city has about 72 active or retired engine houses over 50 years in age, and that includes salvage corps, volunteer stations, and an old airport station. [Here's the list](#), which now needs updating.



This aggressive schedule hasn't allowed much time for inside tours. I've done exactly one, at [1908 Hollins Street](#). The quarters of Engine 14 and Medic 21 is one of the oldest in the city. Built in 1888, it was remodeled in 1902. The two stories are separated by a single, wrought-iron, spiral staircase. Plus four poles, all original. In the back, above the kitchen, is the old hayloft. Another set of stairs leads to the half-basement, and its original 1888 brick floor. Over the apparatus bay is an ornate tin roof. Upstairs, a hanging ceiling covers another tin roof. Four beds in an open dormitory; fifth bed in the engine company office. Plus a gong that still works, and that is still hand-wound. Learn more about the house at the [Fort Hollins web site](#). Includes great old photos. Thanks to the station crew for the friendly tour.

<sup>1</sup>What are the old stations used for? BCFD storage. Private residences. BCFD fire museum. Churches. Community theater. Coffee shop. Union hall. Charity. Commercial. Great Blacks in Wax. Etcetera.

From Raleigh to Arab

07/24/09 55 W, 1 I - + 15 - 8

North Carolina to Alabama, that is. Here's Western Wake's old super tanker, now serving the Four C Fire Department in [Arab, AL](#). Engine 196 was a 1985 Kenworth/Grumman, 1250/2500, that first served the Fairgrounds Fire Department. Thanks to a reader for providing the photo. Click to enlarge:



Frank Wegloski photo

What ever happened to the Kenworth/FMC that Holly Springs used to run as Engine 2? That was a good truck, I pumped my first fire on that truck.

**Donaldson** - 07/26/09 - 23:33

Matt, was that the horse drawn rig they used?

**Silver** - 07/27/09 - 10:34

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**Funny Billboard**

07/24/09 65 W, 1 I - + 12 - 14

Moving from music to painting, Leonardo da Vinci's [famous lady](#) is repurposed in this amusing billboard seen across the street from the [Box 414](#) Fire Museum at old Station 6. What does the 16th Century masterpiece have to do with paternity testing? Who knows. It's famous, and it's [public domain](#). Yes, we are easily amused. Happy Friday.



Name: (real name preferred)  
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Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

## Former Firehouses of Washington, DC

07/26/09 156 W, 1 I - + 17 - 11

Saturday was spent in the nation's capitol, with station hunting in the morning. Nine former houses of DCFD were found and photographed. They date from 1870 to 1908. Below is the old "ten house" at [1341 Maryland Avenue](#), which opened in 1895. Look closely and you'll see a person apparently asleep on the apron. Nothing like local color. And remind me to tell about driving in DC. How many one-way streets does one city need?

We'll have the photos processed and posted in a number of days. Baltimore and Richmond are queued ahead in the line. Station hunting in Richmond resumes Monday, for that matter. Research on the DCFD historic and former houses was conducted using [this Watch Desk thread](#). Thanks so much to those who responded. Expect a return visit, maybe next year. There are also some 17 active stations of an older age to shoot.



Welcome to the DC metro area, it's all one way streets here it seems. You should try and swing over to PG county and photograph some the stations here. Couple of old ones all over the place.

**[PGTruckie]** - 07/26/09 - 02:24

mike, if you have a VHF pager for the county, if you set it on "B" you will be able to hear the DCFD dispatch channel.

**DHFD416** - 07/26/09 - 09:38

Now that's a cool station! Is it butted up against a residence or is it all the firehouse? Looks like the bay portion was an add-on, assuming it's all one.

**Neato** - 07/26/09 - 10:04

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

**Broad Street Fire Station**

07/27/09 77 W, 1 I - + 10 - 13

Here's Richmond's old "ten house," the former quarters of Engine 10 and Truck 3 at [1609 W. Broad Street](#). Opened in 1905, the two-story structure served until 1993. That year, Engine 10 was moved to Hermitage Road, and Truck 3 was disbanded to become Task Force 10. The building has served as a [playhouse](#) since that time. More pictures coming, of all historic active and retired Richmond firehouses. [Learn more](#).



Way back when I was 6 years old, my first grade class toured this station. The engine was a Mack C model and the ladder was a Pircsh tiller.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 07/27/09 - 18:13

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

**Mystery Street**

07/27/09 29 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

What is this street, and what is its history? Hint #1: It was photographed this afternoon. Hint #2: The street is short.



Hint #3. The streets are in Raleigh. Hint #4. The streets start with the same word.

**Legeros** - 07/28/09 - 20:06

Old Wake Forest Rd. at Old Millbrook Rd.

**RescueRanger** - 07/29/09 - 09:48

Correct! Now, who can share memories of Old Millbrook Road, for those of us transplants?

**Legeros** - 07/30/09 - 17:08

I don't remember ever driving down Old Millbrook Rd. It must be some time ago (at least 20 years) when Millbrook was realigned. I do remember an old white house just north of the intersection you photographed on Old Wake Forest rd where the storage place is now that was supposedly haunted. I also remember Old Wake Forest Rd. running parallel to the tracks all the way up to where Litchford Rd. is now. It crossed Spring Forest rd. just east of Goodberry's. I believe there is a still a storage place located next to the RR tracks just south of Spring Forest rd. to give an idea of where the road used to be.

**RescueRanger** - 07/30/09 - 21:24

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**Wall with Door**

07/27/09 85 W, 1 I - + 13 - 12

Retroactively reporting from the road-- Mr. Blogger returned this afternoon-- here's a noise barrier in Baltimore, on a section of toll road. The door is a portal for fire apparatus, presumably to improve response times. That section of roadway only has a handful of entrance ramps. There's also an electronic sign board overhead and, some yards prior, a familiar yellow "firehouse ahead" sign. Yup, we're easily amused. Just call me Rube.



And what's on the other side? Google Street View reveals what's behind door number one, via Old Riverside Road:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=baltimore+..>

**Legeros** - 07/27/09 - 16:28

Here is a better pic.

<http://tinyurl.com/nrwkgf>

**2redline** ([Web Site](#)) - 07/27/09 - 20:21

That is indeed a better view! Thanks for posting. Memo to self, investigate that map site, ASAP.

**Legeros** - 07/27/09 - 21:15

Reminds me of the section off I-440 at Meredith College.

<http://tinyurl.com/mpusuu>

**2redline** - 07/27/09 - 21:42

Here's a bit of info. of mine about Reedy Creek Road, <http://www.legeros.com/hidden-raleigh/ro..>

**Legeros** - 07/28/09 - 06:59

And one anecdote. There was and maybe still is a brand of paper street maps that included fire stations among their many landmarks. The brand name escapes me. Their street map of Raleigh included a fire station at the approximate location of old Reedy Creek Road and the Beltline. Why? Never found an answer, nor readily recall any references to planned stations at that location. It has bugged me for years.

**Legeros** - 07/28/09 - 07:03

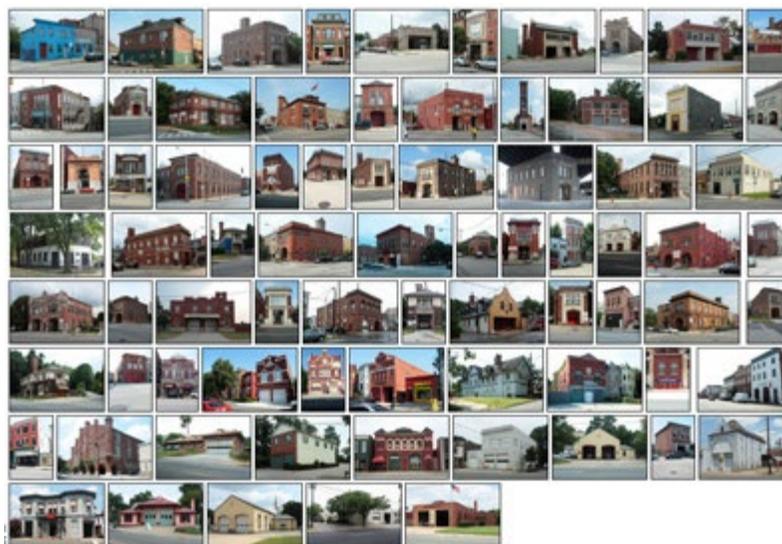
Here is a tunnel you do not have listed on your Hidden Raleigh page.

## Fruits of Labors

07/28/09 205 W, 1 I - + 13 - 10

With 54 plus 9 plus 14 historic and former fire stations<sup>1</sup> photographed last week in [Baltimore](#)<sup>2</sup>, DC<sup>3</sup>, and [Richmond](#), the next steps go something like this. Review the shots and select the keepers. Review the keepers and do another round or two of deletions. Resist the urge to hoard. Next, rename everything. Format includes the street name. Next, perform post-processing. Sharpness, contrast, color, etc. Plus rotation and perspective correction, which adds PhotoShop Elements into the workflow.

Next, export everything as lower resolution JPG. Next, create the slideshows for our [fire photos site](#). During that step, order the photos. Maybe delete some. Next, upload the slideshows. Finally, update said site with thumbnails and links. Phew! Then there's part two, which involves adding links to my [history page](#), and making [Flickr versions](#) of each of the three sets. And, meanwhile, occasionally blog about the whole thing. Click to enlarge:



<sup>1</sup>Houses were photographed if either (a.) active and older than 50 years of age, or (b.) retired and of any age.

<sup>2</sup>And doesn't include a half-dozen shot last year, and two buildings inaccessible at the Dundalk Marine Terminal.

<sup>3</sup>Retired houses only. Another dozen-and-a-half active DCFD houses are 50 years of age or older.

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

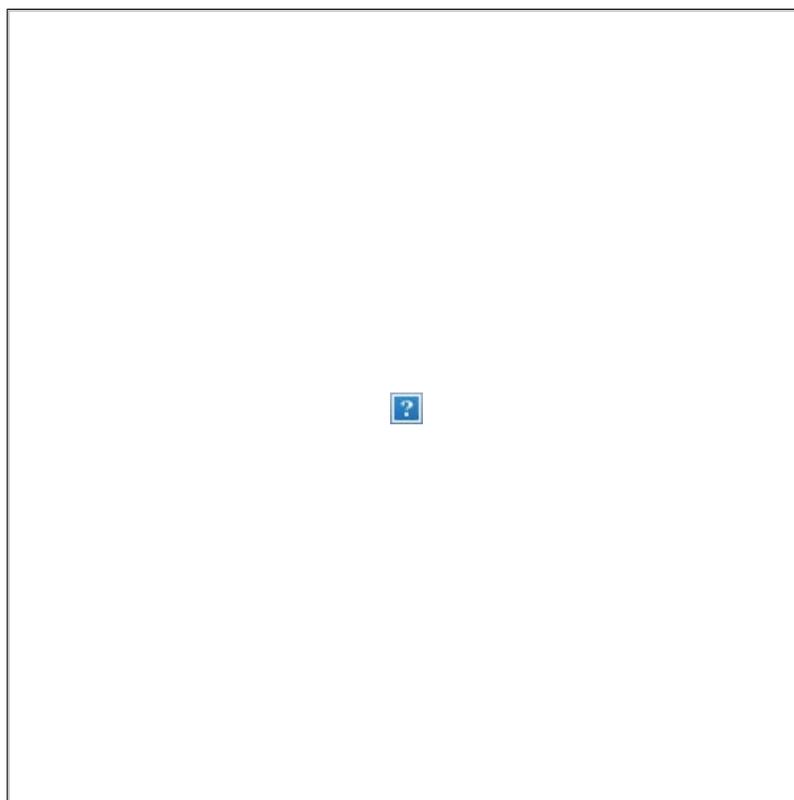
/ [Textile](#)

## Carrboro Starts Work on New Fire Station

07/29/09 198 W, 1 I - + 9 - 12

Construction has started on Carrboro Station 2 at [1411 Homestead Road](#), reports [today's News & Observer](#). The combination fire, police, and EMS facility will be staffed with an engine company and four firefighters. It'll primarily serve the northern area of CFD's district, including Rogers Road, Winmore, Claremont, Wexford, and Lake Hogan Farms areas. This will also be a "green" fire station in its design and construction, including, as [this MyNC.com article](#) notes, "recycled building materials, maximum use of natural light, waterless urinals, high-efficiency lighting, a gray-water retention and filtering system and a solar-powered water heater."

As the [architect's project site](#) adds, "layout of the station was designed in such a way as to minimize harsh southern sun exposure as well create a functional fluid layout that allows for an efficient heating and cooling system." The fire station will have two drive-through bays, with adjacent decon, shop, and storage areas. Living areas will include a watch room, triage room, day room, kitchen, dining/training room, and exercise room. The general contractor is Central Builders of Mebane. The architect is Stewart-Cooper-Newell. [More about the Carrboro Fire Department.](#)



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And announced today, Carrboro Fire Department is receiving a \$646,075 SAFER grant, for hiring 6 firefighters. Congrats Carrboro!

**Legeros** - 07/31/09 - 22:23

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

**Wake Forest Fire Station 3 in Service**

07/29/09 113 W, 1 I - + 9 - 16

Wake Forest's third fire station was placed in service on Monday, July 27, at about 3:00 p.m. Located at [1412 Forestville Road](#), the facility houses Engine 3 and Brush 3. The engine company was previously responding from Station 2 on Ligon Mill Road. Before that, they were stayed at Station 1 on E. Elm Avenue. Before then, they were utilizing a construction trailer. Lee Wilson has [posted photographs](#), from a visit yesterday. Also, Engine 3 is no longer named Pumper 3. [Wake Forest Fire Department](#) has renamed Pumper 1, Pumper 2, and Pumper 3 as Engine 1, Engine 2, and Engine 3. WFFD last renamed all of their units about a year ago, which [we blogged about](#).



*Lee Wilson photo*

Congratulations WFFD! It's been a long time coming and it looks great (Lee's photos)!!

**A.Rich** - 07/31/09 - 14:43

I agree, VERY nice station! Just one question, is it required to have the ever-comfortable This End Up type of furniture in fire stations? Oh well, I suppose it'll keep the FFs from falling asleep!!

**AA** - 07/31/09 - 17:47

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## How I Spent My Summer Vacation

07/29/09 165 W, 1 I - + 13 - 12

We're working through the photos from last week. Four sets have been posted so far: [Baltimore Fire Expo](#), [Baltimore Fire Museum](#), [Charlottesville Rescue Squad](#), and [Richmond historic and former firehouses](#). More Baltimore coming, such as the below dockside shot. DC coming too. Stats from the trip? Drove just under 1,300 miles. Photographed some 77 stations. Stayed six nights in two towns. Paid tolls on roads eight times, including six tunnel trips. Dined in Little Italy three times. Bought two lottery tickets. Visited two fire museums, one zoo, and a IKEA<sup>1</sup>. Listened to 1.25 audio books, Erik Larson's "Thunderstruck" and Bill Bryson's "Shakespeare, The World as Stage." They're about the history of wireless telegraph and the Bard, respectively.



<sup>1</sup>Other attractions included Union Station in DC, downtown Alexandria, VA, and [Cancun Cantina](#) in Hanover, MD. Best country bar ever, that's also smoke-free by law. Two-stepped for hours.

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Here in Cancun we have a different type of Cantinas,(cancun cantina) we need more about the bands, and why do you have that "Cancun Cantina"? anyway is fun, can you please post Cancun cantina videos or picts?

**cancun cantina`** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/25/09 - 14:01

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Bird's Eye Views by Bing**

07/29/09 59 W, 1 I - + 17 - 9

Have you tried the bird's eye views from Microsoft's [Bing Maps](#)? These "angled" perspectives beat the heck out of traditional "flat" aerial views. Below is the Keeter Training Center, from one of four sides. Thanks to our readers for showing the Bing way.



Bing used to be Microsoft Live Maps. Some areas will not have the bird's eye option but it really gives you a better perspective. Glad to see my post has opened up a new perspective for you.

**2redline** - 07/30/09 - 11:51

Older photo. Maybe Winter 2004-2005 due to the lack of the mobile classrooms and no major concrete stains at the service test pit.

**A.Rich** - 07/31/09 - 14:41

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**This Afternoon's MVAs / Interstate 40**

07/29/09 86 W, 1 I - + 9 - 11

Westbound I-40 was closed at Miami Boulevard this afternoon, after 30+ cars and trucks collided in multiple accidents. As [this WRAL story](#) reports, the first occurred about 5:00 p.m. just west of Miami Boulevard. It involved 15 cars. The second occurred near Davis Drive, and involved 18 vehicles, including two big rigs. Several patients were reportedly transported. [This WTVD story](#) includes aerial photos. You can spot Parkwood FD and what looks like Durham FD on scene. Readers, please add details as desired.



*WTVD Photo*

looking at the pictures from wtvd, it is definitely parkwood fire and ems on scene, also appears that durham fire department is on scene as is redwood ems and possibly bethseda ems crews

**crs** ([Email](#)) - 07/30/09 - 03:06

The Redwood EMS truck (AKA the Trauma Twinkie) is what Parkwood station 3 was using. PVFD was down a medic truck yesterday.

**Marc** - 07/30/09 - 08:44

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**History of Forest Fire Prevention Outdoor Advertising**

07/30/09 96 W, 1 I - + 15 - 17

Here's an interesting flier recently received from [M.T. Publishing](#), the company that produced the recently released [Raleigh Fire Department yearbook](#). This one is a full-color pictorial [history of forest fire prevention outdoor advertising](#). The author is Harry McClellan, a 32-year veteran of the USDA Forest Service. The flier, which is soliciting advance orders, indicates that the hardcover book will contain over 200 pages, with "over 600 full-color photographs, posters, announcements, brochures, etc." Neat concept that should translate to a neat book. Click below to [view the flier](#):

Remember...Only You!	Qty	Price	Total
100 copies		\$75.00	
250 copies		\$187.50	
500 copies		\$375.00	
Shipping and handling, \$6.00 per book		\$6.00	
\$4.00 for each additional book		\$4.00	
SUBTOTAL			
Include outside air? (to apply for school order - outside air 25%)	Yes		
Name Shipping: \$4.00 per book		\$4.00	
Handle books added to invoice (to a total)		\$4.00	
TOTAL			

**REMEMBER... ONLY YOU!**  
**A History of Forest Fire Prevention Outdoor Advertising**

Harry "Pawky" McClellan and M.T. Publishing Company, Inc. are joining forces to create a new full-color pictorial and history book *Remember...Only You! A History of Forest Fire Prevention Outdoor Advertising*. The book will be a large 9 x 12 inch volume with a deluxe hardcover and will contain over 200 pages, high quality, double-cream paper will be used for superior photo reproductions. The pre-order cost of this history book is \$75.00. All pre-ordered copies will be combined consecutive editions with a printed personal note from the author.

The objective of this publication is to create a documented history that is as accurate as existing records can provide of Forest Fire Prevention Outdoor Advertising. The book will start with an introduction devoted to how the project got started, the methodology used in development, and an overview of how the use of posters and outdoor advertising became an important part of advertising in America. The remaining six chapters will cover the history of the Forest (Pre-war and wartime campaigns), Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Poster Campaigns, 1944-2008, Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Poster Campaigns (Educational Series, Advertising Council (Outdoor Advertising), Southern Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Poster Program, Smokey Bear Posters (1944-2007), Forest Fire Prevention Posters (General), Smokey Bear Action and Friends, and Wildlife Fire Prevention Signs and Posters. The written history will be complemented with over 600 full color photographs, posters, announcements, brochures, etc.

**Pre-Order Deadline - August 31, 2009**

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question  
**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

**Mystery Stations**

07/31/09 42 W, 1 I - + 19 - 11

For your Friday enjoyment and courtesy of those nifty [Bird's Eye Views by Bing](#), can you identify these four facilities? Hint #1: They're within driving distance of each other. Hint #2: They have street addresses.



The top left looks like Durham Station #2 (from the rear).

**A.Rich** - 07/31/09 - 10:28

That's definitely DFD #2.

**Silver** - 07/31/09 - 12:06

The bottom right is Cary EMS on Medcon Court.

**Donaldson** - 07/31/09 - 20:25

Yes it is Matthew!! That angled apron gives it away.

**Silver** - 07/31/09 - 21:06

Top Right is EMS station (not sure of the number) on Noble Rd.

**RescueRanger** - 07/31/09 - 21:34

Bottom left is Chapel Hill Station 5.

**Donaldson** - 08/01/09 - 07:06

This is indeed a smart crowd. Those are indeed DFD #2, Wake EMS #2, Cary EMS, and CHFD #5.

**Legeros** - 08/04/09 - 05:08

**FireCritic Gets Critical**

07/31/09 102 W - + 18 - 10

Here's something we haven't seen before, or least haven't noticed before: fire bloggers critiquing fire sites. The assessment is performed by FireCritic, in [this review of the FireEngineering.com](#). His capsule review includes comments on "below the fold" content, a definite no-no in the School of Usability. Kudos to the FireCritic for his friendly advice. He states his web site critiques may become an ongoing feature. Hope so. There's certainly plenty of material out there, and plenty of fire sites that could improve their user experiences. And probably starting with our own! [Read his web site critique](#).

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Chief Clack Clicks Off

07/31/09 248 W - + 17 - 12

As covered by Firegeezer last week, Baltimore's Fire Chief Jim Clack posted his last posting on the Watch Desk. He'd been a participant for about a year, reading and posting some 500 times (!) to the Baltimore City forum. He started posting about the same time he started as Fire Chief, and on a discussion board both busier and tougher than the North Carolina forums. (Our Raleigh-Durham forum is a comparative field of friendly crickets. And the issues facing our fire departments are nothing like those up there.)

Why did he leave? Chief Clack cites anonymous posters, and their ability to "rude, obnoxious, defamatory and even openly racist." And the resulting impressions upon readers of the Baltimore Fire Department. (He posted his note on the same day that Dave Statter co-presented an expo session on the subject of social media and fire department reputations. More on that later, hopefully.)

Chief Clack notes that as an alternate, he'll be posting on the IAFF Local 964 forum. That one's moderated and has a code of conduct. Stepping back, what conclusions can/should we draw about discussion boards and anonymous postings? Regionally, or nationally. Can proverbial kitchens get too hot, even for veteran fire chiefs? Or do they take downward and irrevocable spirals when things get (anonymously) ugly? Firefighters play rough, and it should be no surprise that their digital selves are equally or even rougher. Do we need thicker skins online? Better manners? What do readers think?

I feel people who post and do not ID themselves are obviously in one of two categories: (1) they do not know what they are talking about or (2) they just want to stir the pot. Maybe they are in both.

In my opinion, blogs and forums are for learning and not about promoting ourselves or casting stones. They (blogs) are a wonderful tool for sharing ideas and opinions for the benefit of all readers. It's a "good thing" if firefighters will abide by the simple rules of courtesy and respect. People are more apt to recognize honesty and humility as leadership traits rather than arrogance. Are you confident in yourself? If so, then you can discuss a heated topic, take it on the chin as needed, and yet still be a professional in the midst of peers. We (the fire service) have a lot to be proud of without promoting our selfish stupidity on blogs.

A.Rich - 07/31/09 - 14:38

I will agree with AC except that to me the blogs can also be a person's own bully pulpit. Mike maintains one here for the sharing of news and ideas. Unfortunately, as has always been the case, there are many who have a hard time with different ideas. I think it is great that Mike does provide this forum, I just wish we could all use it more without some of the childish bickering that occurs. For the record, the people here that have these `coded screen names'- I pay them no mind at all. Like CPT AC says, they either do not know what they are talking about, are trying to stir the pot, or both.

Now, I maintain one that is for my ramblings, my opinions, etc. I am not beyond discussions, but it is my blog. And I do moderate it, since there have been a couple of "anal openings" that have tried to post some pretty crude stuff. I have only begun to explore some of the blogs out there, and I have been amazed at the quality of information that is out there. I am probably getting ready to add another blog that focuses just on EMS stuff, how to's, tips, tricks, etc. Probably coming out sometime this fall.

I think that the blogs and forums have a tremendous learning potential, we just have to put it to use.

DJ (Email) - 07/31/09 - 17:32

Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info? Yes

**The American Fire Station**

08/01/09 589 W, 1 I - + 11 - 8

The evolution of the American fire station is documented in now-posted photos of Baltimore historic firehouses. Two sets of shots, [active stations](#) and [retired stations](#). Taken last week. Ambitious project, there! But the Fruit Loops helped. We start in the 1850s, with a trio of former firehouses on Ann, Gay, and Montgomery streets. These were built for Baltimore's volunteer fire companies that served prior to the paid department. (The latter starting on Feb. 15, 1859.) The apparatus at these three stations were probably large hand engines, and accompanying hose reels or wagons. Were they horse-drawn yet? Don't know. Steamers were coming soon, as Baltimore's first steam engine was purchased in 1858. It was horse-drawn. A fourth early station on Eutaw Street was built in 1859 and opened as Engine 7 in 1860. That was a steamer, as were all the paid engine companies. The Eutaw Street station had a steeple and a bell that was removed in 1905.

The apparatus space for a hand-engine company was minimal. Room was needed for the engine and a host cart and little else. Then the horses came, and bays became bigger. That is, if the horses were housed at the station, which is likely or certainly the case in Baltimore. Horse stalls were added to apparatus floors, and hay lofts added elsewhere in the building. (The hooks extended from the roofs at the stations on 24th Street and on Fort Avenue were presumably for the purpose of raising bales.) As steam engines replaced hand engines, they also required more room. The houses built in the 1870s, 1880s, and 1890s are considerably larger than those from a couple decades earlier. ([See this web site](#) for dates and other info about historic Baltimore fire stations.)



Motor apparatus replaced the city's fire horses in the 1910s, including tractors for the steamers. This change released more space in apparatus bays. Triple-combination pumpers, for example, were shorter than horse-drawn steamers. Even motor service ladder trucks were likely shorter than their horse-drawn counterparts. Thus, fire stations could be constructed smaller in size. Or utilize smaller spaces, as Engine 40 did in the rear of a community building on Liberty Heights Avenue beginning in 1919. Some of the stations built during the late 1910s and early 1920s were designed to resemble residential homes. See Engine 53 on Swann Avenue, Engine 40's second location on Liberty Heights Avenue, and old Engine 54 on White Avenue. (In other cities, such as Raleigh, bungalow-style stations appeared. These were single-story buildings with an oversized garage.)

Other trends are exemplified in these historic houses. Limited real estate required tall, thin facilities for many fire companies. The volunteer Watchmen house on Montgomery Street was three stories tall. Hose towers are common. Engine 14 on Hollins Street was originally adorned with steeples. Those were removed when the 1888 structure was renovated in 1902. One combination watch and bell tower still stands, at old Engine 6 on Gay Street. That building is probably the most recognizable former firehouse in the city.

Readers are encourage to add their own perspectives or historical knowledge, including Baltimore fire history, hand 'n' horse apparatus, and station design and architecture. The most notable source for the above information is Bill Murray's *The Unheralded Heroes of Baltimore's Big Blazes*. It's an invaluable source that was reprinted in 1995 for Murray's grandsons. They still sell copies each year at the Fire Expo flea market. Also recommended reading is Rebecca Zurier's *The Firehouse, An Architectural and Social History*. That hardcover was published in 1991.

## Digital Forsyth

08/01/09 84 W, 1 I - + 10 - 11

Have you explored [Digital Forsyth](#) lately, an online collection of historical photographs of Forsyth County, NC? Since my last visit, probably many months ago, the grand-funded, multi-year digitalization project has seemingly added dozens of fire department photos. Most/many show the Winston-Salem Fire Department. Below is a fire department parade in 1955. Love that Seagrave tiller! Though the site only shows low-resolution versions, you can request TIFF copies for \$2.00 a piece. Mr. Blogger will be ordering some, that's a given!



FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
DIGITALFORSYTH

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Mobile Nourishment Unit

08/01/09 34 W, 1 I - + 11 - 7

Nothing gets your attention quite like an all-red truck. This one was seen in Durham last night. Business might have been slow, but it sure smelled good! Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: [/ Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Instructional Videos**

08/02/09 207 W - + 8 - 10

In the wake of the Gates arrest, links to How to Talk to the Police videos are making the rounds. These are longer or really long instructional videos that are available on [YouTube](#). Such as the [The Citizen's Guide to Surviving Police Encounters](#). Most or maybe all were created by the [Flex Your Rights Foundation](#), a citizen's advocacy group. The content is certainly interesting, and compels the immediate question of "what does law enforcement think?" Maybe our readers in blue can share their perspective. Does citizen awareness help or hinder your efforts? (And what would police-produced instruction videos look like? Same? Different? Vastly different?)

Watching these also makes me think about applications for fire and EMS. Have fire departments produced and promoted role-playing videos on YouTube, about, say, "what to do if you discover a fire in your house?" With actors and sets and special effects, demonstrating the "right" way to react? Ditto for demonstrating emergency medical situations. "When to call for an ambulance." "How to react in a car accident." "What to do if you feel chest pain." Etcetera. Such content is probably coming. Video production and promotion gets easier every year.

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Fire Hooks**

08/02/09 107 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

One of the earliest tools for firefighting was the hook, which dates to at least the 1600s. Ditto the bucket, ladder, and pick axe. Hooks, or "fire hooks," were iron implements used to pull down roofing materials, roofs, or entire buildings. They were iron hooks attached to chains and then to ropes. They're also the origin of the word "hook and ladder." These hooks are easy enough to imagine, but how about a real picture? Here's one from the [Maryland Fire Museum](#), photographed four years ago. This hook was carried on a hand- or horse-drawn service-ladder truck. Click to enlarge:



Eventually, the chain was replaced by a long wooden handle but the term "hook" remained. Some fire companies over the years changed the term to "pike pole" but "hook" is still the traditional fire service term used to describe this tool of the trade.

**Vern** ([Email](#)) - 08/03/09 - 22:11

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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## Thursday's Apparatus Accident in Charlotte

08/03/09 100 W, 1 I - + 10 - 8

Charlotte Engine 25 was struck by a car on Thursday night at the intersection of [Pleasant Grove Road and Hutchinson Lane](#). The engine was responding to a call, with lights and siren. The two occupants of the colliding vehicle were transported with non-life threatening injuries. No firefighters were hurt. The incident occurred at 8:58 p.m. WBTV has a [short video report](#). Details were also [posted by CFD on Twitter](#). Didn't see any coverage of the incident on Thursday, but some digging days later found the TV and twitter content.



The CFD Twitter site or the Google Alert group are your best bets for accurate/up-to-date information about incidents that CFD is handling. That information is pushed out by our 2 PIOs and 4 of us in Alarm (communications).

<http://www.twitter.com/charlottefd>

<http://groups.google.com/group/Charlotte..>

**Luke** - 08/04/09 - 05:20

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Strange Dispatch**

08/04/09 57 W - + 12 - 4

It's been a while since we've blogged about CAD curiosities. Imagine the double-take upon hearing a motor-vehicle accident at Sunnybrook and Rock Quarry roads dispatched for Raleigh Engine 26, Eastern Wake Rescue 11, and... Swift Creek Engine 3. How long's that run? Google Maps says 7.5 miles. Raleigh and Eastern Wake responded, and Swift Creek was instructed to disregard.

that would have been a long response for swift creek all the way from tryon rd. in cary. especially with station 12 on poole rd, and station 10 on sanderford. plus garner fire and ems would be a closer response than swift creek.

**charlie** - 08/04/09 - 21:44

We get weird rogue recommends from time to time. Often we catch them before they go out. Sometimes we miss it! Last weird one I saw was a few weeks ago was Bayleaf Ladder 25 to Apex on a fire alarm. We overrode it and sent Cary Ladder 5 instead.

**dispatch** - 08/04/09 - 22:43

Stony Hill was dispatched to Jack Ass Rd. in Knightdale once – about 24 years ago. We responded, even after several radio inquiries as to why. We were finally turned back as we were crossing US-401 at Forestville Rd.

Now, who knows where Jack Ass Rd. is (or was)? Yes it was named as such.

**A.Rich** - 08/04/09 - 23:03

It is Old Knight Road Currently (By The Funeral Home) and Ending at Bojangle's

**CT** - 08/04/09 - 23:11

I've heard Fairview get dispatched two or three times to a brush fire with New Hope. Off of Old Milburnie Road. They always are told to return to service right after dispatch.

**4447** - 08/05/09 - 12:46

Would you believe Zebulon to Wake Forest on a structure fire, along with Falls, Rolesville, Bay Leaf, Youngsville, and maybe one other in there?

**Legeros** - 08/12/09 - 19:57

Yep!! It is part of the "Downtown Response Plan" 6 Engines, 2 Ladders, and a Rescue.

**Wayne** - 08/12/09 - 20:53

Giddy-yup!

**Legeros** - 08/12/09 - 21:09

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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After the Fire

08/04/09 30 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

One-story residential structure at 210 Pincroft Drive. Heavy smoke showing on arrival of Engine 9. Alarm time 3:52 p.m. Photo by Legeros.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

## Mayor Proclaims August As Firefighter Appreciation Month

08/05/09 129 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker has proclaimed August as Firefighter Appreciation Month to kick off the Capital City's firefighters Fill the Boot efforts to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Last year, the Raleigh Fire Department raised more than \$45,00 on three Saturdays at 23 locations, an amount that was easily the largest collected by any fire department in the state. This year, firefighters will invite area shoppers to Fill the Boot at several locations from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Aug. 8, Aug. 22, and Sep. 5. [Read the entire press release.](#) And read more about [firefighters supporting the MDA](#). Below are members of Engine 9-B accepting donations at North Hills shopping center last year.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Modern Apparatus Needed For Parade on North Carolina's Main Street**

08/05/09 175 W - + 6 - 8

With just a couple weeks left to the state firefighter's convention, e.g. the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#), the planners of that Saturday's apparatus parade need your help. They're looking for more **modern** apparatus from around the state to participate. The first-annual [North Carolina's Main Street Fire Parade](#) starts at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 22. The rigs'll roll down on the recently reopened Fayetteville Street, starting at the State Capitol. Read this [FireNews article](#) about the parade need.

And for those attending the conference, you can hear about the history of fire apparatus in North Carolina, as part of Mr. Blogger's history presentation on Friday, Aug. 21. Raleigh Fire Department Historian Mike Legeros presents a workshop on North Carolina Firefighting History from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. in Room 306C of the Raleigh Convention Center. We'll cover a couple centuries of the state's fire service history. Just don't be alarmed if the presenter is wearing something other than a Hawaiian shirt. You're still in the right room.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

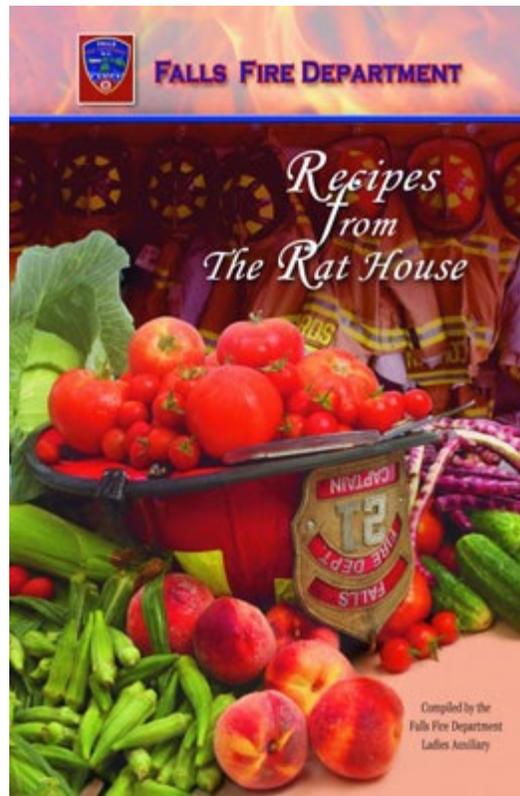
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Falls Fire Department Cookbook Available For Advance Ordering

08/06/09 164 W, 1 I - + 10 - 3

The [Falls Fire Department](#) has produced a cookbook that's available for pre-ordering. Compiled by the Ladies Auxiliary and their families, the softcover, spiral-bound volume features 350 recipes, and includes recipes that appeared in the original Ladies Auxiliary cookbook in the late 1970s/early 1980s. With colored tabs separating the categories, it also includes a history of the department, information about the ladies auxiliary, and other bits. Plus a few pages of local business ads. The price is \$10 for advance orders, or \$15 when the books arrive in October. Here's the stunning cover, created as a collaboration of [artist Diane Henry](#) and [photographer Gregory Wiggs](#). (He's also a veteran fire scene photog.) Great job by both.



To place a pre-order, send your \$10 payment to the below address. Please make checks payable to Falls Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

Melissa Rhodes  
30 Beaver Ridge Drive  
Youngsville, NC, 27596  
mwrhodes2 "at" yahoo.com

---

It seems like it's been a while since a ladies auxiliary cookbook has come down the pike from anywhere in Wake County, or nearby. What's the history of cookbooks around here?

**Legeros** - 08/06/09 - 07:48

Stony Hill's Auxiliary has one, and has for some time... It includes the "secret" beef barbecue sauce recipe too. This one looks good, nice cover!

**A.Rich** - 08/06/09 - 10:44

Good job to our ladies!

**Mystery Apparatus**

08/06/09 86 W, 1 I - + 11 - 6

Let's see if this chump can stump his readers with another red truck. Hint #1: It's number "2". Hint #2: It's parked somewhere. For extra credit, please tell how you deduced the thing. In a moment there will be a knock at the door, heralding the start of this mystery. Answer it. My pants are caught on a nail.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Daffy Duck to Porky Pig. "Deduce You Say," released Sep. 29, 1956. Charles Jones director, Michael Maltese story.

Is it Durham Highway Pumper 2? How, I could tell it was on the side of the cab so I looked through the pics.

**stretch** - 08/06/09 - 19:56

Yep...DHFD P-2...

**DJ** - 08/06/09 - 21:22

Sorry to differ with you, but I'm sure that's Mt. Zebulon's old wagon that used to run out of Pawtaucket Range Rover Station #2 (circa 1988).

**Kahdiddlehoffer** ([Email](#)) - 08/07/09 - 16:37

Don't focus on the "2" or the air vent. Instead, focus on the reflection and you can clearly see the bay of DHFD.

**RescueRanger** - 08/08/09 - 19:30

You are correct, that's DHFD's pumper numbered "2" (and also "4"), that's sitting at Station 23, which is what's seen in the reflection.

**Legeros** - 08/09/09 - 21:11

Sitting at DHFD station 2 Mike.

## History Help Still Wanted

08/07/09 137 W - + 8 - 10

Here are some increasingly last-minute questions and requests for readers. Any help is appreciated. Mail Mike at [this address](#). We're two weeks away from painting the big picture of North Carolina firefighting.

### Questions

#1 - Dates for specialized technical rescue in the big departments?

#### Collapse/Trench

- Raleigh, 1993
- Others?

#### High-Angle

- Greensboro, 1989
- Raleigh, 1995

#### Technical Rescue General

- Durham, 1996

#2 - Explorer Posts

Raleigh's started in 1985. What others originated in that time period, or even earlier?

### Photo Requests

Hurst tools, in the 1970s

Dump tanks/water shuttles in the 1970s

Fire department rescue squads in the 1960s

Fire department ambulance or EMS units in the early 1970s

Rural fire departments in the 1940s, North Asheboro, Guilford College, Seagate, Pleasant Garden, Pincoca, Sedge Garden, etc.

Thanks for any help.

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

## New York in the Eighties

08/07/09 168 W, 1 I - + 8 - 9

For your Friday enjoyment, let's hop into the wayback machine. Or, if you prefer, the cross-dimensional machine, since the world of FDNY is its own reality. These were found on the Firehouse forums, as well as from a reader. [FDNYs Bravest](#), photography by Michael Dick. He's a professional photographer who dedicated seven years to shooting the FDNY, concentrating on Harlem and the South Bronx, and creating some 5,000 color slides in the process. Many were reproduced in black-and-white his book *New York's Bravest, Their Lives on the Line*, which was published in 1987. He's released some images on a [new web site](#), and which appear for the first time in color. Wow is an appropriate reaction, and particularly from the perspective of the photographer. Talk about embedded! There's even a shot seemingly shot on an active roof! Great stuff, warts, victims, and all. Hope he posts more. Note the web site address contains an "s". FDNYsBRAVEST.



I wonder how such strong images would play today, in this Internet age, with insta-comments from readers, sensitivities to privacy, and media members ready to swoop down on anything they deem untoward? Mind you, I am utterly unfamiliar with what's shot and posted from FDNY in present day. Maybe it's the same sort of stuff?

**Legeros** - 08/07/09 - 07:55

Some pretty amazing pictures.

**H2O** - 08/07/09 - 10:18

Wow.....

**Silver** - 08/07/09 - 13:29

It seems the fire service has made great strides in PPE by looking at their turn-outs (jeans with pull-up boots and coat). I wonder what people 20 years from now will say about the photos that are taken today?

**Jones** - 08/07/09 - 16:14

## Wake Forest Fire Station 3 Grand Opening

08/08/09 130 W - + 9 - 6

The Wake Forest Fire Department announces a grand opening ceremony and open house at the new Fire Station 3, [1412 Forestville Road](#), on Monday, Aug. 10, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. The ribbon cutting ceremony at 4:00 p.m. will be followed by refreshments served courtesy of the fire department's Ladies Auxiliary. Everyone is invited to attend and tour the new facility.

The station site previously served as a temporary Station 3, for around two years. The property had a house, which was occupied during day hours by Engine 3. See [photos by Lee Wilson](#) from last August. Or [read a prior post](#) about temporary stations in Wake County. Construction of the new station started early this year, and the facility was placed in service on July 27. [Read that prior posting.](#)

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Way Before Twitter

08/08/09 247 W, 1 I - + 9 - 8

First, a disclaimer. Mr. Blogger doesn't use, nor has ever used Twitter. In fact, he's been known to mistate the Twitter as Tweeter. So far, though, he hasn't called Twitter Twizzler. Which are particularly good with a box of buttered popcorn and a pop at a movie theater. Long before the 140-character limit of Twitter was developed, the practice of extremely terse communication was practiced by telegraphers in the 19th Century.

A recent *New York Times* column by [Ben Schott](#), author of his marvelous "miscellany" books, reprints an 1891 phrase guide from the third edition of "The Anglo-American Telegraphic Code." Learn how such phrases as "aland" meant "advertise liberally but economically," "hurst" meant "the hunting expedition will not set out," and "rooty" meant "I hereby offer my resignation and request its acceptance." [Read Mr. Schott's wonderful column.](#)

Along those same lines, electric telegraph fire alarm systems utilized telegraph keys to transmit signals. Here's an [1887 list of alarm signals](#) used in Raleigh. Inside each alarm box was a telegraph key, which allowed a fire department member to transmit special signals, such as "two blows, repeated twice," which signaled to the water plant to switch to increased "direct pressure" on the city water system. And finally, an anachronistic joke. Did you hear about the telegrapher who named his feline Morse the Cat?



More commonly known as "CW" or "Continuous Wave". Ham Radio For the Win again!  
And for the record yes I am on Twitter @KE4ZNR as well as involved in Ham Radio!

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/08/09 - 22:32

I bet theyve got SCMODS.

**Elwo od** - 08/09/09 - 09:29

State county municipal offender data system.

The light was yellow, officer.

**Legeros** - 08/09/09 - 09:30

Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

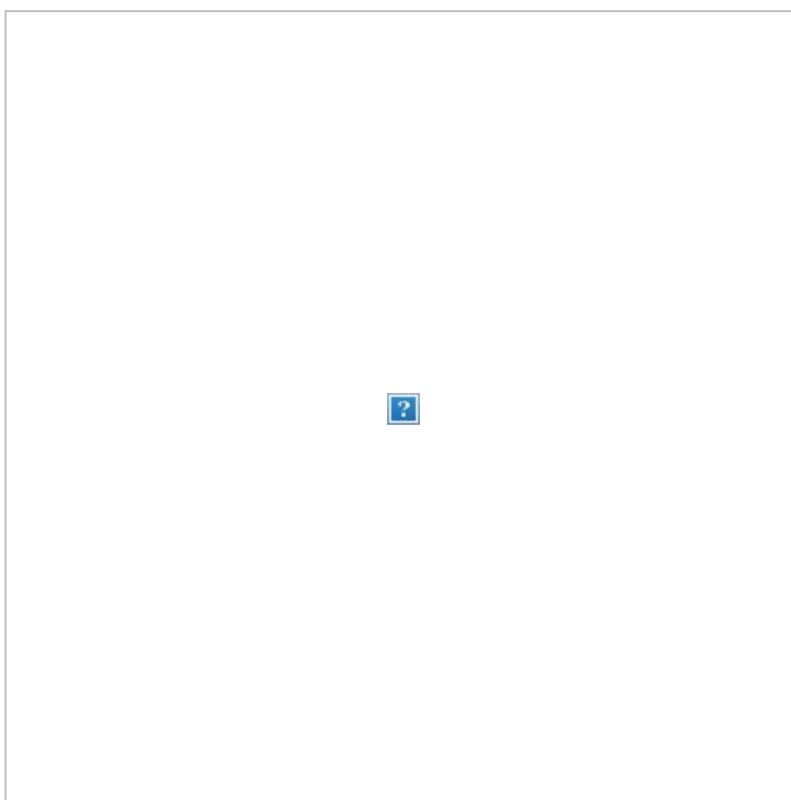
## Fire Station Slide

08/09/09 186 W, 1 I - + 19 - 8

Would you believe a fire station inside a water tower, and with a two-story slide instead of a pole? That's what this [Cincinnati Enquirer article from 2002](#) says, which was found by Mr. Blogger while searching for pictures of station slides. We've been talking about [poles and slides in another thread](#). The below slide is in Dublin, Ohio, inside Station 95.

The slide was added instead of a pole due to the "abnormally tall vehicle storage bay." And why is bay so tall? Because the fire station is inside of a water tower (!), and with a mere million or two gallons of water above the heads of sleeping firefighters. Bet that visit children prefer that station to any other. That is, if they're allowed to ride the slide.

As for fire station slides in general, Google isn't finding any other photos. Readers, feel free to post your examples. [In the other thread](#), a reader informs that Wilson stations 3 and 5 were built with slides. Are slides used elsewhere in North Carolina? Inquiring minds want to know.



*Jester Jones Schifer Architects LTD photo*

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That's awesome...

**Silver** - 08/09/09 - 10:42

Picture of a station slide don't know where.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/navratil/26..>

**stretch** - 08/09/09 - 16:08

The slide has a multi shute attachment selector which allows firefighters to be deposited in their specific riding position on the apparatus. It has resulted in cutting station response time in half.

**Kleetis MacAnurney** - 08/10/09 - 22:16

Now that's funny...I assume that option is extra \$\$\$???

**Silver** - 08/10/09 - 23:01

Just remember, it's all about chute time... :)

**Mike** - 08/11/09 - 08:55

Yes Silver ... the adapter is an 'add on', but many feel that it is a priceless addition. You haven't really lived in the fire service until you see a house turning out on a signal 2-12 full box alarm structural alert ... It's amazing to watch as the personnel are 'shot' out of their respective tubes each landing in their NFPA / OSHA approved positions on their assigned wagons ... truly a thing of beauty!

**Kleetis MacAnurney** ([Email](#)) - 08/12/09 - 19:31

Mike,

Article about fire poles has hidden link in comments about slides on Firegeezer.com.

Link to comments <http://www.firegeezer.com/2009/08/18/res..>

Link to slides article <http://www.firecritic.com/2009/08/fire-p..>

Stretch

**Stretch** - 08/19/09 - 08:19

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Baltimore Rowhouse Burns, The Video**

08/09/09 150 W, 1 I - + 12 - 7

For your Sunday morning viewing, [Dave Statter surfaces this YouTube video](#) of a Baltimore rowhouse that burned about a month ago on East 22nd Street. There's two minutes of footage, showing heavy fire from the second story of an end unit, and filmed beginning about 45 seconds before the first apparatus arrive. Good ladder placement!

The well-shot clip also features some exceptionally colorful narration. As Dave notes, "you are warned that the words spoken on this clip may not be for children and those who are easily offended." You might not even get to eat your gosh-darned donut!

But seriously, it's a good example of the citizen's viewpoint, and how seconds feel like minutes when you're watching an emergency unfold. [Watch the video and read about the fire](#). Or click over to the YouTube version, to read [reader comments over there](#).



*YouTube Image*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

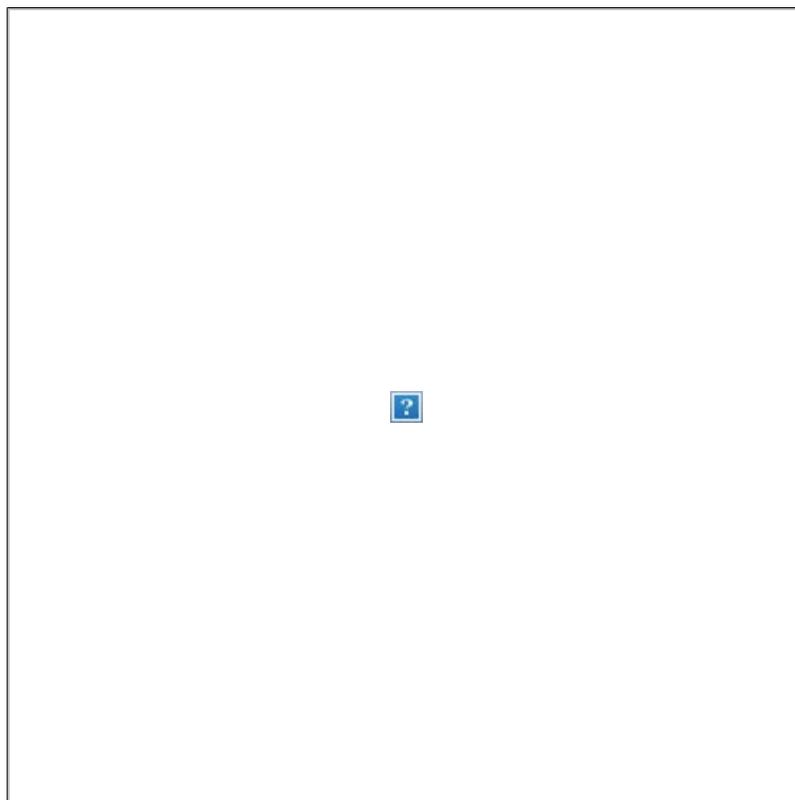
/ [Textile](#)

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**Banners Are Flying!**

08/09/09 69 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

The first banners have been installed on Salisbury Street, announcing the coming [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#), notes FireNews Editor Jeff Harkey in [this blog posting](#). He also adds that you'll be seeing large-sized action photos at the show from Mike Legeros, Mike Porowski (Charlotte), Lee Wilson, and Mr. Harkey. The full installation starts Sunday, August 16. See you there!



*FireNews photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Demolished Baltimore Firehouses

08/09/09 86 W, 1 I - + 9 - 10

We went a little nuts with our post-trip research on historic and former fire stations in Baltimore, and added a list of *demolished* engine and truck houses. They total a couple dozen and can be [viewed on this web page](#), which is linked from the main [Baltimore historic houses page](#). We've even added photos where possible. Interesting history, and one to be soon set aside. At least until next year at this time. Signed, Obsessively Yours.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**After the Fire**

08/09/09 45 W, 1 I - + 11 - 5

Two-story apartment building at 1003 Village Greenway. Nothing showing on arrival of Engine 2. Upgraded after entering apartment. Quickly controlled. Alarm time about 12:39 p.m. Temperature 95 degrees, and heat index 97.5 degrees at 12:51 p.m. Photo by Legeros.



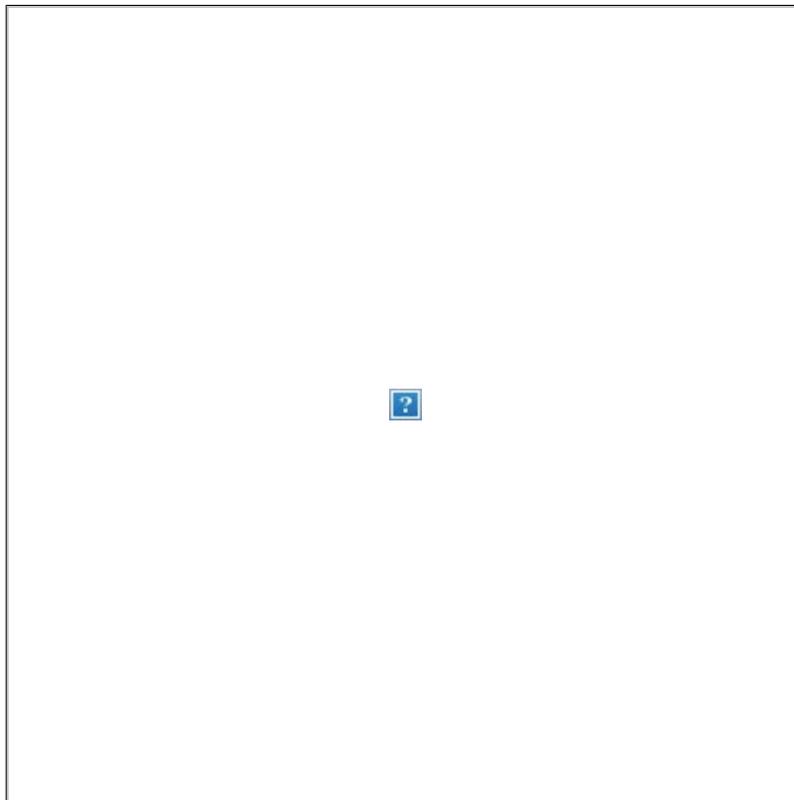
Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

## Fire Truck Rolls Into Home, Knocks Man Off Couch, Shifts Home's Foundation

08/10/09 120 W, 1 I - + 12 - 4

Both [FireNews and the Secret List](#) have surfaced the story of a Mount Holly Fire Department engine that rolled into a home at [307 A. Lanier Ave.](#) early Saturday evening. About 6:00 p.m., a sleeping resident was bounced off his couch and into a wall as the apparatus "plowed into living room." He received bruises and was transported as a precaution. No others were home. The apparatus had been dispatched to a medical call up the street. The truck rolled several hundred feet down a slight hill before striking the home. The Highway Patrol is investigating. [Read the Gaston Gazette story.](#)



*Amanda Memrick/The Gazette photo*

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"The Highway Patrol cited the driver of the truck for leaving it unattended." But then the article goes on to say they are still investigating whether or not there was a brake failure and that the driver "is looking at a potential fine."

Yeah... typical journalism for this area. <http://www.wcnc.com/news/topstories/stor..>

For what it's worth... WCNC is probably the most tabloid-ish news agency in the local area. They are extremely quick to smear any public servant all over the news but tend to be lacking on the "good" stories about local public safety workers. They are seriously lacking in the reporter and editor department as well.

**Luke** - 08/10/09 - 09:44

Wheel chocks!!!!

**Silver** - 08/10/09 - 11:07

Yeah Luke, I have noticed WCNC has a habit of smearing public safety, like their hard hitting story on CFD station 38 and how it was so "extravagant."

**DC** - 08/10/09 - 11:36

Speaking as both someone who wants to consume "good news" stories of public safety, and as someone who dabbles in producing his own public information, here are a couple thoughts on why "bad news" so readily trumps "good news."

First, obviously, what bleeds leads. "Dog bites man" attracts more viewers/readers than "dog licks man." Second, "good news" can be harder to find. Yeah, buildings don't burn down every day, but is that a story with a "hook" for news people? Is that angle right there and ready for them to run with?

I believe a fire department or EMS agency probably needs to be its own advocate with regard to positive publicity. Especially in this Internet and Web 2.0 age. Don't wait for the cameras to come to you. Reach out to the media, to the community. Publish and promote your "good news." Explore and utilize the publishing and communication avenues that are now readily within reach. It takes work, mind you. It is like any other task. It requires ownership, commitment, and regular performance. You have to keep the "good news" flowing.

Along those same lines, that's probably the best approach for "bad news," with agencies taking active ownership when things go wrong, and writing/spinning/handling the story their way. But that's a whole 'nother discussion.

**Legeros** - 08/10/09 - 12:45

I have to agree with Silver on the wheel chocks. Might have prevented it, maybe not. But they sure do not work still in the holder/compartments. Don't know what their staffing is, but I like the idea of leaving someone outside to watch over the engine and my ambulance. If you ain't got the staff, then that goes out the door.

And I have to agree with Legeros about getting our message(s) out and not waiting for them to come to us. And I am not talking about the same old, tired crap we keep sending out. The public has no real idea about our job. They need to be enlightened.

Holy crap...I am being waaaay to agreeable today. Must be the heat.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/10/09 - 12:55

Yes... as DC mentioned, the over-played stor(ies) about CFD Station 38. They never mentioned the firefighters from 38 were the ones that pulled a guy from Lake Wylie around July 4th. No, the man didn't survive, but it was the firefighters from 38 that made the rescue/recovery. After the countless times that they wanted to bring up the station, you'd think they'd pounce on the chance to bring it up again.

As much as our two PIOs reach out to the media in the multiple forms of social media, there are tons of chances for the news agencies to run some good stories. Charlotte is filled with bad things every day, people also like to be reminded that our city is not all about violence and that some good does still exist.... like.... <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/08/0..> which was featured locally on some select, non-tabloid, new channels.

**Luke** - 08/10/09 - 18:39

An interesting foreword by Mike Redding in this article... "<http://stopandsmellthepeople.com/2009/08/06/one-soldier's-death.../>:"<http://stopandsmellthepeople.com/2009/08/06/one-soldier's-death.../>

"I think it's interesting to note this fact: Four soldiers from North Carolina were killed in action on June 29, 2009. One of those four is becoming the first North Carolina National Guardsmen on record to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery... and only one North Carolina TV station, cable News 14, bothered to show up and no North Carolina Newspapers."

Mike Redding is easily the best journalist that we have locally and now his piece on WCNC, "Carolina Traveler," has been cut due to the budget and he is only keeping a website. Just another example of the media going the wrong direction!

**Luke** - 08/10/09 - 18:45

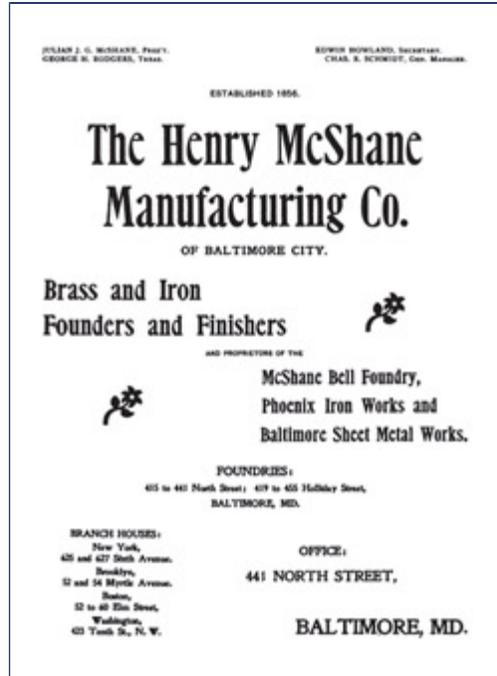
Name: (real name

Remember personal info?

**The Henry McShane Manufacturing Company**

08/10/09 108 W, 1 I - + 9 - 8

Here's a neat advertisement from 1898 that appeared in the back of *An Official History of the Fire Department of the City of Baltimore* by Clarence H. Forrest, which also happens to be available for [online reading and download](#) from Google Books. How cool is that! Among the companies listed in the ad is the [McShane Bell Foundry](#), which cast numerous fire alarm bells delivered to our state. One such bell was recently returned to the Raleigh Fire Department, after spending several decades atop Withers Hall at NC State. The foundry still operates, and their above web site has a history. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

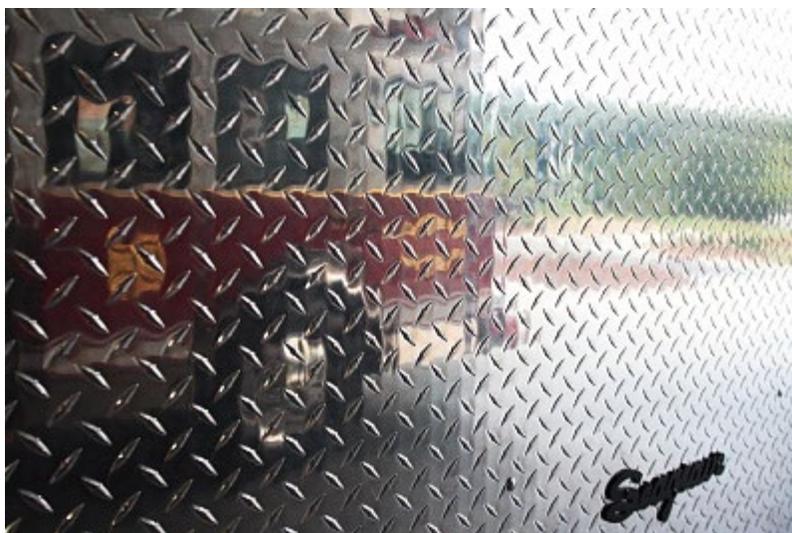
/ [Textile](#)

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**Portrait in Diamond Plate**

08/12/09 19 W, 1 I - + 6 - 7

Engine 3 and Brush 3 at Station 3 in Wake Forest.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Old Engine 5

08/12/09 116 W, 1 I - + 10 - 6

Here's a rare photo of old Engine 5, a 1973 Mack CF pumper, and one of four delivered to the city in October of that year. It carried 500 gallons and was equipped with a 1,000 GPM pump. It was placed in service as Engine 5 on July 22, 1974, and later served as Engine 10 and as a reserve unit. The postcard photo by Kinston Asst. Fire Chief Tony D. Kelly is from the Durwood Barbour Collection of North Carolina Postcards, North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill. Click to enlarge, or view [via the postcard collection site](#).



*Tony D. Kelly photo, Durwood Barbour Collection of North Carolina Postcards, North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill*

Quiz for you, Mike. Just curious as to how that postcard was postmarked "1968" when it's a '73 pumper? 

**RescueRanger** - 08/12/09 - 15:37

Good catch, and great question!

The postmark information is wrong. That's my conclusion. Raleigh received their first Mack CF pumpers in 1970, and Engine 5 received its Mack CF pumper in 1973. It's possible that my records are incorrect, and Engine 5 received an earlier Mack CF. It's also possible that my records are REALLY incorrect, and that (a.) the city received Mack CF pumpers on or before 1968 and (b.) that Engine 5 was also assigned one. That's within the realm of not impossible. Unlikely, perhaps, but not impossible. I've been doing a LOT of digging lo these last years, and no evidence has presented itself of a Mack CF pumper before 1970. The better explanation is, I believe, that the postmark information is wrong.

There are exactly three conclusions to be drawn in this question:

#1 – The postmark information is correct, and Mike's information is wrong.

#2 – The postmark information is wrong, and Mike's information is correct.

#3 – The postmark information is wrong, and Mike's information is wrong.

Explanations for why Mike's information might be wrong are easy enough to imagine, or explain. But how might the postmark information be wrong?

There are some choices here, as well:

#1 – The wrong number was typed, when the postcard information was entered into the library database. Perhaps someone pressed a "6" instead of a "7" as the second-to-last digit in the postmark year.

#2 – The wrong year was determined as the postmark year. Perhaps the postmark was blurry, and the digits of the year were misinterpreted.

#3 – The wrong year was inferred as the postmark year. Perhaps the researcher made a "best guess" in lieu of an actual postmark.

#4 – The wrong year was postmarked. Perhaps the post office made a mistake when the postcard was mailed, such as a rubber stamp changed to an earlier year.

Etcetera.

The best next step is probably to examine the physical postcard, and see if indeed (a.) it is actually postmarked and (b.) what the actual postmark looks like. And/or prepare to be surprised if we learn that the city had Mack CF pumpers prior to 1970!

Here are my records on Raleigh engines: <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/raleigh/a..>

**Legeros** - 08/12/09 - 17:13

Another possible option ? You have the VIN's for those 1970 vehicles. Is there a data base where you can trace them ?

**Jon** - 08/12/09 - 19:35

Possibly find out when vehicle inspection began? I flipped through Vol. 1 real quick and didn't notice any vehicles in the '60s with inspection stickers but vehicles from the '70s had them. Maybe it wasn't enforced back then?

**RescueRanger** - 08/12/09 - 21:20

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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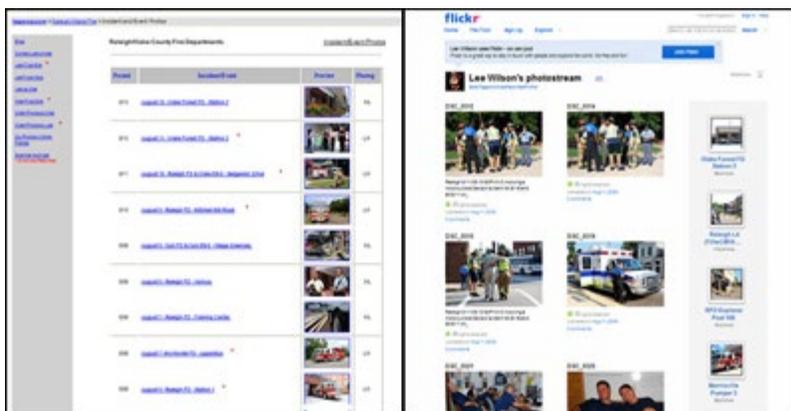
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Your Web Site Wish List?

08/12/09 140 W, 1 I - + 7 - 10

Probably every reader of this blog also views our incident photos, posted on this [Legeros.com page](#), or linked to [Lee's Flickr site](#). Here's a typical series of photos, [Wake Forest station opening by Lee](#), and [Cary structure fire by Legeros](#). The pages and their buttons and controls should be pretty easy to use. But are they really? Are there aspects of using Legeros.com photo pages, or the Flickr galleries, that our readers find frustrating? Do you have a wish list of ways we could make our pages and site better? Please provide examples of other sites that you like, or that work better. Feel free to also opine on other fire and photo web sites. Now's a good time for griping! What is your wish list?



A link to the pics on the top bar, or in the about box since I'm usually online with a 13" laptop. Thanks!

**cornerhydrant** - 08/13/09 - 13:39

Or in the easy address box, right under the web site address.

**cornerhydrant** - 08/13/09 - 13:41

Unable to "fave" my favourite pics of Mike's for later slide-show viewing, as I can with Lee's pics.

**cornerhydrant** - 08/13/09 - 13:47

There has been more options with the flickr site. But both sites are fantastic I think mike has an archive to view alot of his older photos No problem looking up old pics by Mike...

**Chris** ([Email](#)) - 08/13/09 - 18:31

I'm not a big fan of the Flickr site as it is a bit cumbersome. I think Mike's site is a bit more user-friendly so I am more apt to look at the photos by Mike rather than Lee...no offense of course.

**Citizen** - 08/13/09 - 19:46

Agreed that Mike's pics are easier to navigate, but really miss the ability to "share this" to e-mail buddies an instant link of Mike's pics or mark a bunch of favourites for later viewing (which I always set to autoplay as a slide-show, sit back and relax). BTW,I always use Flickr in slide-show mode, which is so much easier than clicking on the smaller image, then enlarging, then going back and doing the same thing over for each pic.

**cornerhydrant** - 08/13/09 - 22:00

You asked, here you go

### Likes

1. I like Flickr's ability to comment on individual pictures.
2. The ability on Flickr to see camera settings.

3. See original size for seeing details.
4. Size of Flickr's slide show pics and ability to change speed.
5. Flickr's ability to RSS feed pics.
6. Flickr's tighter use of space around thumbnails.
7. The ability to use Greasemonkey and scripts to manipulate Flickr.
8. The ability to see the narrative on all pages when clicking through Mike's pages.

#### Dislikes

1. Seeing such long file names on Mike's site.
2. That when clicking through Mike's site the thumbnails on right and left jump so much depending on if portrait or landscape.
3. Long URL to reach. Maybe get a domain name that can re-direct to pics page directly. Long url makes it harder to share and remember with others if not via email or web like in verbal discussion.

**2redline** ([Web Site](#)) - 08/14/09 - 15:13

Great feedback. Thanks for taking the time.

**Legeros** - 08/14/09 - 18:21

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Ladder 6 is Back From Shop**

08/12/09 64 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

Raleigh's Ladder 6 is back from the shop, and received some chevrons while it was gone. Lee Wilson [has posted photos](#) of the 2005 Pierce Arrow XT ladder, which previously served as Ladder 22. It'll be moved to Station 24, where Ladder 6 is presently operating a 1988 Pierce snorkel. For extra credit, how many Raleigh rigs total are sportin' chevrons?



*Lee Wilson photo*

This makes 6 if I am not mistaken.

**CFP 7021** - 08/12/09 - 19:47

well i am going with! the 2 new engines( 1 and 20), 2 new ladders(7 and the ladder at 22) and now ladder 6. for a grand total of 5! that is my guess! be safe brothers!lol

**jason lane** - 08/12/09 - 22:05

Let's not forget FC-1!

**CFP 7021** - 08/13/09 - 09:27

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

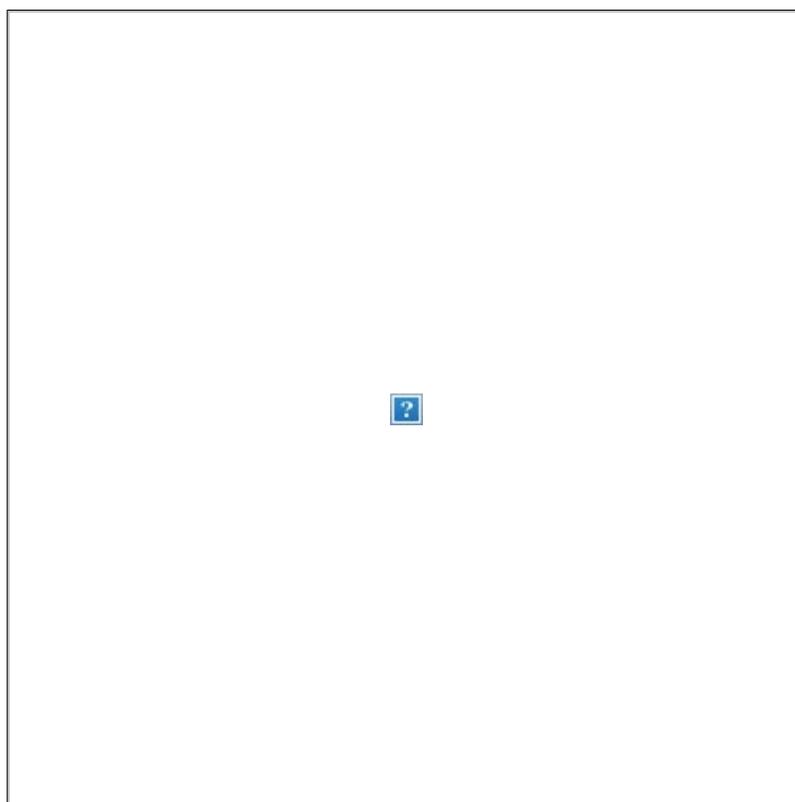
Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Hurricane Rescue Simulation Gears Up in Greenville

08/13/09 224 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

As this [Daily Reflector article from yesterday](#) reports, search and rescue teams from across the state have gathered in Greenville to drill on disaster response. From a base camp at the Pitt County Fairgrounds, they practiced air, water, and rescue operations at sites on Mumford Road on Wednesday. That area was hit hard by flooding during [Hurricane Floyd](#). The newspaper reports the rescues are practicing rescuing people "trapped in vehicles, buildings and trees by high winds and rising flood waters" caused by the fictitious Hurricane Amy. Training props include simulated multi-story homes, which were built for the drill. The victims inside those structures will be rescued by helicopter, by National Guard Helo Aquatic Rescue Technicians (NCHARTs).



*Michael Abramowitz/The Daily Reflector photo*

Participating agencies, as listed by the article include Asheville FD; Burke County EMS; Cary FD; Chapel Hill FD; Charlotte FD; Greenville, City of; Durham FD; Eastern Regional State Medical Assistance Team; Farmville EMS; Gaston County EMS; Greenville FD; NC Baptist Men.; NC DOT; NC Emergency Management; NC Highway Patrol; NC National Guard; New Bern FD; Pitt County Emergency Management; Pitt County EMS; Pitt County Sheriff; Raleigh FD; Roanoke Valley Rescue Squad; Rocky Mount FD; South Orange Rescue Squad; and Transylvania EMS. Now that's a crowd of folks! [Read the entire article.](#)

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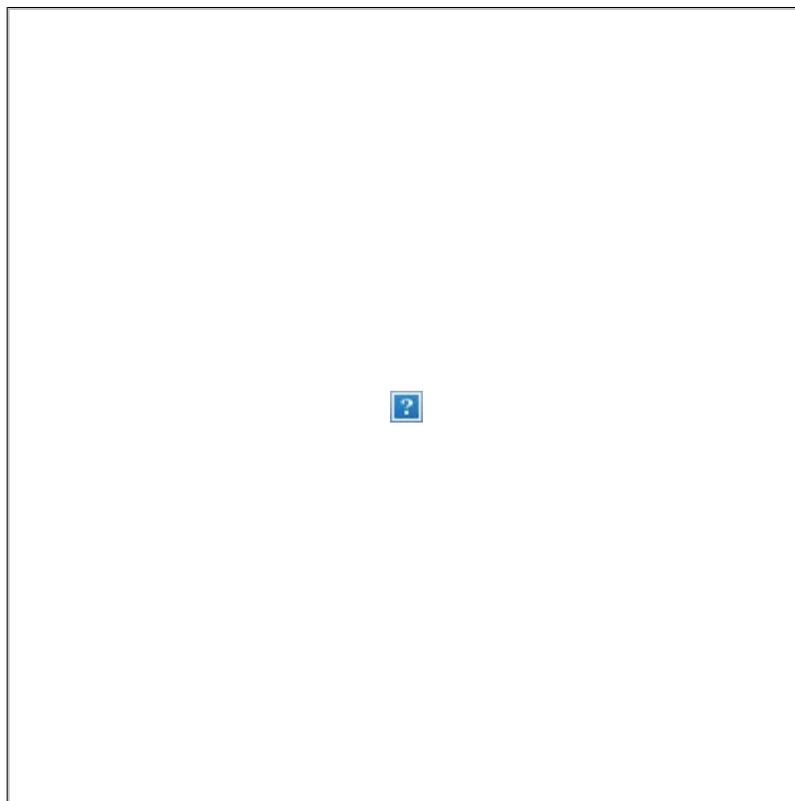
This News & Observer article has a couple photos of the helo team in action, <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1..>

**Legeros** - 08/14/09 - 06:50

## Man Dies Trying to Extinguish Smithfield House Fire

08/13/09 120 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

Never go back inside a burning building. That's the age-old lesson to be taught and retaught by fire educators, and which was tragically demonstrated early Wednesday in Smithfield. After a pot on a stove started a fire at 423 Martin Luther King Drive, four to five residents safely escaped. One man, who awoke everyone and also exited the structure, went back inside to extinguish the fire. He died inside the house. Coverage of the story includes this [WRAL story](#), this [NBC17 story](#), and this [WMPM story](#). "Get out and stay out," a fire safety catchphrase to be taught alongside the familiar "stop, drop, and roll."



*NBC17 photo*

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

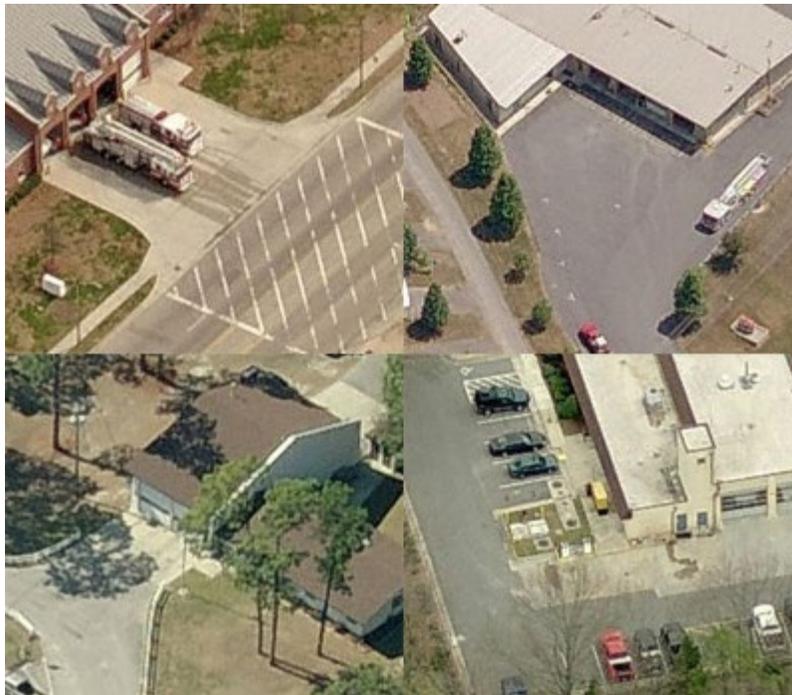
No

/ [Textile](#)

**Mystery Stations**

08/13/09 56 W, 1 I - + 9 - 7

Have we said how much we love Bing Maps and their bird's eye views? Let's go statewide with our quiz. Where the heck are these? Hint #1: They're in North Carolina. Hint #2: They're not in Raleigh. For extra credit, phrase your answer in the form of a question.



What is Fayetteville FD Station 1 in the upper left and what is Wilmington FD Station 4 in the bottom left?

**[bcfd424]** - 08/13/09 - 19:30

Bottom left, Firehouse 4 Wilmington...The Golf Course.

**Ryan** ([Email](#)) - 08/13/09 - 21:54

Another clue. The stations pictured on the right reside in Mecklenburg and Buncombe counties.

**Legeros** - 08/16/09 - 08:28

would the station top left happen to be Pinehurst number 1

**[PGTruckie]** - 08/16/09 - 08:57

Two winners so far. Photos on left are Fayetteville Station 1 and Wilmington Station 4.

**Legeros** - 08/16/09 - 09:02

would the bottom right be Charlotte FD Station 3?

**[bcfd424]** - 08/16/09 - 09:36

And what is Enka Candler FD Station 1 on Pisgah Hwy?

**[bcfd424]** - 08/16/09 - 09:43

BCFD424,

I'd have to say bottom right is in fact CFD #3. I don't know how I missed that one! Guess I should have read Mike's clues.

**Raleigh Recruitment Update**

08/13/09 96 W - + 10 - 10

The Raleigh Fire Department is still recruiting, with applications accepted through August 28. Still looking for more information? Visit the [Raleigh Fire Department recruitment web site](#). Waiting to submit your application? Please send or deliver your application now, instead of waiting until August 28. Applications can be mailed or delivered to these locations:

- Keeter Training Center, [105 Keeter Center Dr.](#), Raleigh, NC, 27601
- City of Raleigh Personnel Office, [222 West Hargett St.](#), PO Box 590, Raleigh, NC, 27602

Applications are also available at both of the above locations, as well as [any Raleigh Fire Station](#). Good luck to all applicants!

I put my application in the day after it opened.

**[A Hopeful]** - 08/13/09 - 19:40

Want a cookie

**doesn't care** - 08/15/09 - 16:01

How many are they going to hire.

**JCFF** - 08/15/09 - 17:30

Last word is between 20-25...

**Silver** - 08/15/09 - 21:57

How many do you think will apply.. im thinking 1,500

**JCFF** - 08/16/09 - 12:13

Who knows? With the economy the way it is, I'm sure more than normal will come out. I hope those that want the gig because their heart is in the fire service have been working out and running, because I suspect it to be super competitive.

Good luck to everyone!!

**Silver** - 08/16/09 - 12:38

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Here Comes The Bus**

08/14/09 130 W, 2 I - + 9 - 6

Wake County EMS has taken delivery of a 2009 International/Sartin mobile evacuation bus. Built by High Point-based Sartin Services, the patient evacuation/triage vehicle was conceived by Ed Sartin, President, after Hurricane Katrina. [Read that story](#) of how he envisioned a vehicle that could both treat and transport large numbers of victims. The newly delivered unit will be lettered and striped next week. Lee Wilson [has posted photos](#), taken at the Wake County Emergency Management warehouse. Sartin buses are already in service in Charlotte and Brunswick County, with others in production for Guilford County, among other locales.

*Lee Wilson photo*

Lee also sneaked a peek at the new Wake County EMS logistics unit, a 2008 Dodge Sprinter. [See more posted photos](#)

*Lee Wilson photo*

the new mass incident bus would have been very handy to have at the garner plant explosion. It looks great. every county in NC should have

one.

**charlie** - 08/15/09 - 08:45

Maybe I'm missing something here, how is one bus going to "transport large number of victims" ? It's only one bus after all.

**Paul** - 08/15/09 - 20:50

I believe these buses can transport 20 to 24 boarded patients at once, which is worthy of the label "large number," especially in comparison with the 1 to 2 capacity of regular ambulances. That's a considerable reduction in the caravan of ambulances required at a scene.

**Legeros** - 08/15/09 - 20:59

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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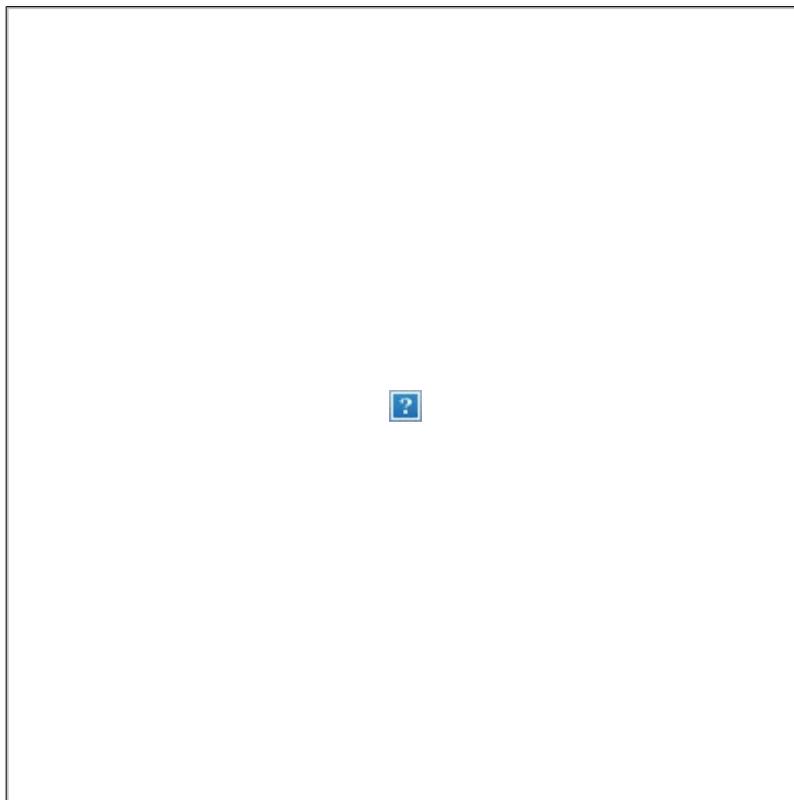
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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## NCHART in Action

08/14/09 105 W, 1 I - + 6 - 7

Here's a great photo by photojournalist Ted Richardson of the state's Helicopter and Aquatic Rescue Team in action. It appears in [this News & Observer article](#) about the hurricane drill in Greenville this week. [See our prior posting](#) about the hurricane drill, or learn more [about NCHART](#). To quote that web page, they are a "highly specialized team consisting of North Carolina National Guard assets matched with North Carolina Emergency Management and local emergency services personnel that form a mission ready package for helicopter based rescues using the UH-60 Blackhawk." Neat patch, too!



*Ted Richardson/News & Observer photo*

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How do you get that gig?

**091504** - 08/14/09 - 12:06

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Billy Blue Hair on Fire Hydrant Colors

08/14/09 116 W - + 8 - 6

For your Friday enjoyment and found on [Dave Statter's site](#), here's an entity called Billy Blue Hair explaining why fire hydrants are different colors. Cute video, but it begs the question: who the heck is Billy Blue Hair? Google finds all sorts of matches, including [his official site](#). Might just have to order the fire truck DVD!

And, one question, related to this subject. While poking around what's left of the Millbrook Community last night with Mrs. Blogger, we noticed a yellow hydrant in the 4900 block of Craftsman Drive. Here's a [Google Street View](#). Is that section of street outside the city, and thus not painted Raleigh red?

---

I like his videos, after watching this one I watched a few others of his.

**[A Hopeful]** - 08/14/09 - 21:09

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

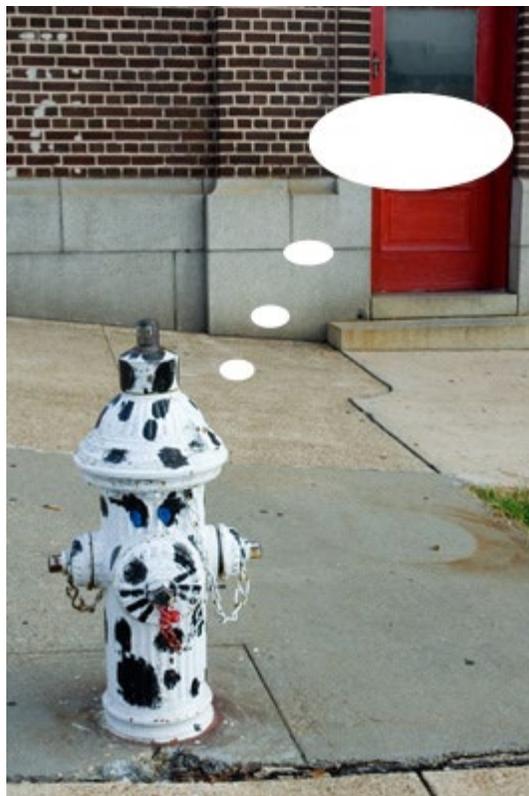
No

/ [Textile](#)

**Caption This Photo**

08/14/09 28 W, 1 I - + 6 - 6

As shot last month in Baltimore. I'll go first. "Who's the joker in the Hawaiian shirt?"



Uh-Oh, Whats gonna pee-pee on ME!?

**ExplorerRickels** ([Email](#)) - 08/14/09 - 12:15

"Uhhh, if I make myself look like a dog, I should be safe, and no one will pee on me, but then again, I have whiskers and eyes like a cat! Oh no, and I can't run away!" "My hands are tied too!"

**cornerhydrant** - 08/14/09 - 13:03

"And I need assistance peeing. I can't go unless a firefighter stops by with the proper tool, so until then, I just have to hold it in!"

**cornerhydrant** - 08/14/09 - 13:05

Here 'lil puppy, pee on me and see what I do to you. **Evil laugh**

**Joe** - 08/15/09 - 23:51

Yes, high PSI pee back !! :)

**cornerhydrant** - 08/16/09 - 00:08

"Who's the jerk who painted me!?"

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 08/16/09 - 01:00

"I've had more pictures taken of me than Paris and Angelina combined"

**JBoggs** - 08/16/09 - 13:07

Just call me the 103'rd Dalmation

**JM** - 08/16/09 - 13:47

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Easy Addresses**

08/15/09 85 W - + 6 - 8

Another easy address to a Legeros web site has been created. Use [www.legeros.com/firepics](http://www.legeros.com/firepics) as an easier way to reach [www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos](http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos). Another easy address is [www.legeros.com/blog](http://www.legeros.com/blog), created earlier as an alias to [www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog](http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog). Maybe later we can work some magic on the server side, so those become the actual addresses, but without breaking every existing link and bookmark in the rest of the world. Any Apache experts out there!?

Thanks! This make it much easier to remember and type the pics address. Now...another wish list, an iPhone version of the blog and photo slide-show!

**cornerhydrant** - 08/16/09 - 00:16

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

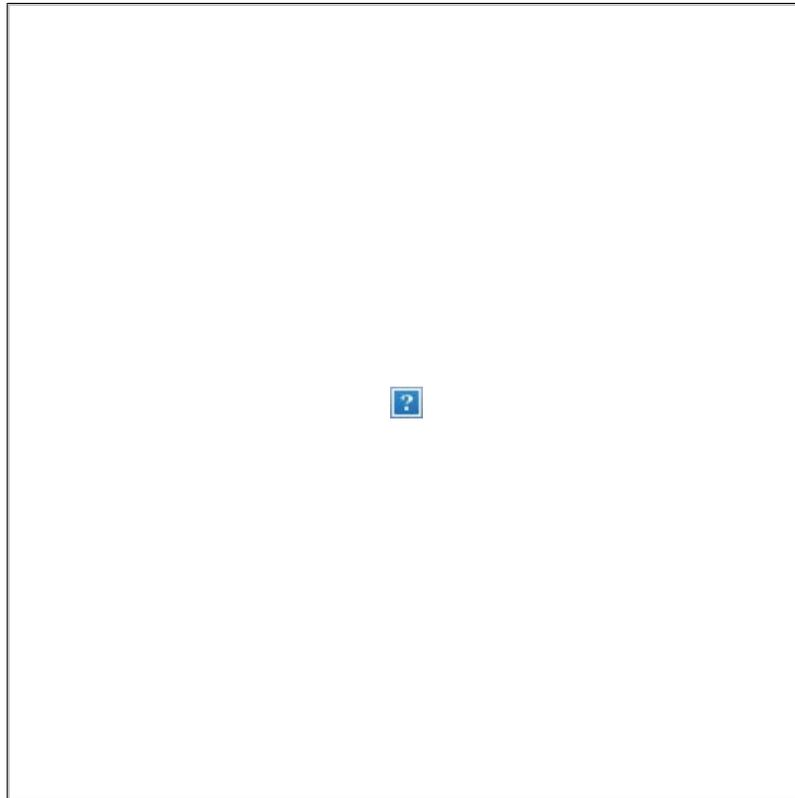
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Medical Flights to WakeMed Climbing Sharply**

08/15/09 113 W, 1 I - + 8 - 9

Just how busy has WakeMed's air ambulance been, since the service started in 2007? Today's *New & Observer* reports that flights to WakeMed facilities have risen sharply in the last couple years. In 2006, the paper reports, the number of flights totaled 99. That's both flying in and flying out. In 2008, the total has jumped to 1,477, a nearly 1500% increase! Nearly all of last year's flights have utilized the WakeMed helo, they note. The totals for this year? As of August 3, WakeMed has seen 832 flights into and out of the system. [Read the entire article](#). Or learn more about WakeMed's [mobile critical care services](#).



*WakeMed/News & Observer photo*

I would be curious to know where the majority of the flights INTO WakeMed originate.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/15/09 - 21:59

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Tips on Using Our Photo Sites**

08/16/09 301 W, 1 I - + 12 - 8

This is version 1.0 of this post.

How to...	Mike's Photo Site <a href="http://www.legeros.com/firepics">www.legeros.com/firepics</a>	Lee's Photo Site <a href="http://www.flickr.com/leewilson">www.flickr.com/leewilson</a>
Search for photos	Not available	Use search box at top of page.
View archives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Click <b>Archives</b> on bottom of page.</li> <li>2. Look through list of incidents.</li> </ol> <p>-or-</p> <p>Click <b>Edit &gt; Find</b> in your browser menu, to search text on the page.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Click <b>Archives</b> at top of page.</li> <li>2. Click month shot or month posted.</li> <li>3. Select date.</li> </ol> <p>Or, use search box at top of page.</p>
View larger version of photos	Not available	Click <b>All Sizes</b> icon above photo.
View a slideshow of photos	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Navigate to individual photo page.</li> <li>2. Click play (▶) icon.</li> <li>3. Slideshow begins.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Click <b>Slideshow</b> at top of page.</li> <li>2. Slideshow begins.</li> </ol> <p>Note: Slideshows are available on the main page only, and in photo sets only.</p>
Add comments to photos	Not available	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Navigate to individual photo page.</li> <li>2. Add comments at bottom.</li> </ol> <p>Note: Step #2 requires that you have a Flickr account and are logged in.</p>
Save a photo as a favorite	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Navigate to individual photo page.</li> <li>2. Use your browser Bookmarks or Favorites features.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Navigate to individual photo page.</li> <li>2. Use your browser Bookmarks or Favorites features.</li> </ol> <p>-or-</p> <p>Click <b>Add to Faves</b> icon above photo, if you have a Flickr account and are logged on.</p>
Send a link to a photo to a friend via e-mail	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Navigate to individual photo page.</li> <li>2. Click either <b>File &gt; Send Link...</b> (Firefox) or <b>File &gt; Send &gt; Link E-mail</b> (Internet Explorer) in the browser menu.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Navigate to individual photo page.</li> <li>2. Click <b>Send to a friend</b> at the bottom of page.</li> </ol>

Subscribe to an RSS feed	Not available	Click RSS icon  on bottom of page.
See camera settings for a photo	Not available, but coming soon!	Click More Properties at bottom of page.

Name: (real name preferred)  
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Remember personal info?

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Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

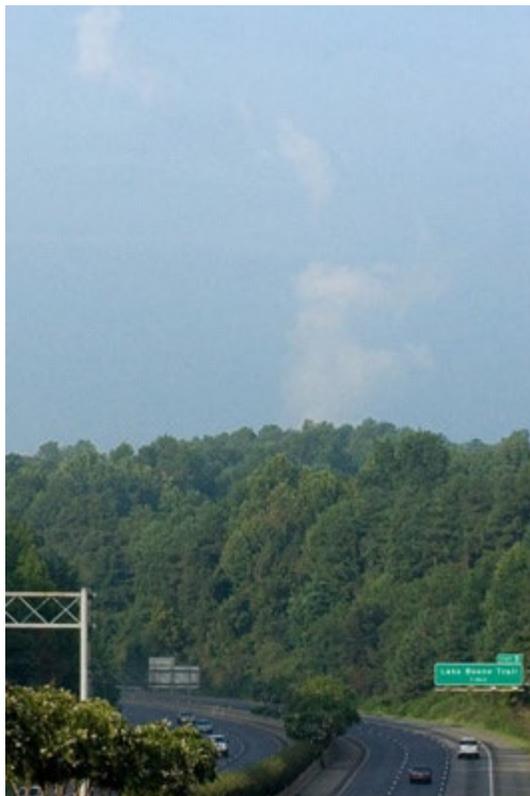
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Morning Plume**

08/16/09 99 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

Did a double-take on the way to breakfast, seeing this big honkin' plume rising west from the Beltline at Lake Boone Trail. Picture doesn't do it justice. Guess it's steam from New Hill, from the nuclear power plant. Then the mind travels back, to memories of chasing smoke plumes in prior decades, before being tuned into Carolinas Fire page, or having mobile devices to check local headlines. Heck, it's a rare treat to be surprised by an engine company running hot, with a scanner in the car at all times!



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Driven to Distraction

08/16/09 274 W - + 10 - 6

In late July, the *New York Times* started an excellent [series of articles on driving and distraction](#). They've published three stories so far, as well as interactive "texting while driving" game. There's also an editorial debate on cellphone use, and if it should be illegal. The [first article](#) in the Driven to Distraction series is an excellent primer on the issue, which is greater than simply texting. There's a big body of evidence that phone use, with or without a headset, is a considerable risk. And, as the lengthy article notes, wide awareness of the dangers does not necessarily translate into wide efforts to curb usage. We may recognize texting while driving as taboo-- or at least taboo for everyone else, since "it won't happen to me"-- but are we willing to regard phoning while driving as such? Probably not. [Read the article series](#).

For discussion, there are many thoughts to have on this issue. Will we as humans become better adapted to operating motor vehicles while also using other devices? Or is there a "cognitive limit" to same? How will smarter cars affect this issue? Say, an automobile with a partial auto-pilot, that takes care of braking for hazards, drifting out of lanes, etc.? Driving is also dangerous, period. How do accident rates compare historically with the introduction of other distractions, such as clocks or radios or more fully-featured dashboards? And, finally, for public safety, are there implications for solo police officers and fire/ems chief officers? (Though they've been driving and using communication devices-- radios-- for decades.) Lots of food for discussion.

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Remember personal info?  
Yes  
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**Outline for Expo Workshop**

08/16/09 267 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

Trying for transparency as we approach [Friday's workshop](#) on North Carolina firefighting history. The nearly finished outline is listed below. Format is lecture using PowerPoint slides, plus questions and discussions as they happen. The schedule includes dedicated time for Q&A and discussion. The audience is encouraged to add, expand, correct, or contradict the material. Both during and after the workshop. That's one of the goals, to improve the accuracy of the materials. The slides will also be available online, after the show. See you Friday at 9:00 a.m. in Room 306C. Come early, and watch old photos, or maybe even old movies.



## Introduction

- Presenter Information
- Agenda
- Learning More

## 1770-1779

- How Things Started
- Raleigh as Example
- Early Legislation
- First Fire Companies
- Insurance Marks?
- Who Were The Volunteers?

## 1800-1899

- Black Fire Companies
- First Fire Equipment
- Hand Engines
- Steam Engines
- Fire Horses
- Water Systems
- Hydrants and Hose
- Fire Apparatus Changes
- Fire Alarm Systems
- Conventions and Tournaments

## 1900-1949

- First Fully Paid Departments

- Motor Apparatus
- Fire Station Sizes
- First Fire Marshal
- North Carolina Fire College
- Early Training Facilities
- Industrial, Institutional Fire Departments
- Labor Changes
- World War II
- Rural Fire Protection
- Fire Prevention Divisions

#### 1950-present

- Rescue Squads
- Trucks and Tools
- Rural Fire Department Growth
- Rural Water Supply
- EMS, EMT, and First Responder
- Black Firefighters
- Female Firefighters
- Labor Changes
- Public Safety Officers
- Lime and Yellow Apparatus
- Hurst Tools
- Honor Guards
- Haz-Mat
- Technical Rescue Teams
- More Developments

#### Lists

- Largest Fire Departments
- Largest Early Fires
- Deadliest Fires
- Deadliest Explosions
- Deadliest for Firefighters
- Deadliest accidents
- Oldest Active Fire Stations
- Oldest Retired Fire Stations

#### Discussion/Filler

- Researching Fire Department Histories

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Name: (real name  
preferred)

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Remember personal info?

Yes

No

## Mystery Station

08/16/09 28 W, 1 I - + 14 - 9

Here's one closer to home, another local fire or EMS station, albeit in extreme close-up. No hints this time.



Wake Forest St.1?

**J.Boggs** - 08/16/09 - 13:03

It does look like WF Station 1

**Graney** - 08/16/09 - 14:33

Stone wall in front of Wake Forest Station 1

**Swiman** - 08/16/09 - 16:31

Yup, you guys got it right again!

**Legeros** - 08/20/09 - 21:10

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preferred)

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**American Fire Marks, A Good Story**

08/16/09 164 W, 1 I - + 10 - 10

Everyone knows the story of fire marks, those metal plates affixed to American buildings beginning in the 1700s, and that indicated which volunteer fire company would fight a fire there. And that they'd receive a reward if they responded. And if a different fire company arrived, they'd let the building burn. Etcetera, etcetera. Good stories, but are they true? Probably not, notes Robert M. Shea in this excellent article [American Fire Marks - A Good Story](#), found at the website [firemarkcircle.org](http://firemarkcircle.org).

The author includes ample footnotes for his research, and concludes that American fire marks served primarily as a sign that the property was insured. A form of advertising, which he calls "one of the longest and successful ad campaigns in America." Fire marks, he notes, were issued by American insurance companies for over 150 years! [Read the article](#) to learn the stories behind the stories.



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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

## Hawaii Mars

08/17/09 138 W, 1 I - + 10 - 5

For your Monday morning reading, here's a [nifty post on the Report on Conditions blog](#), about the aerial tanker Hawaii Mars and its support vehicles from [Coulson Flying Tankers](#). As blogger Capt. Joe Schmoie noted in the July posting, the mammoth craft is one of five [Martin Mars flying boats](#) delivered to the Navy near the end of World War II. Two have survived, and both are operated by Coulson. The pictured plane has been contracted by the US Forest Service for this fire season, and is based at [Lake Elsinore, CA](#), until December 10. It can carry up to 7,200 gallons of a water/gel mixture. And it's a big plane. How big? It's wingspan is five feet longer than a 747, notes Capt. Schmoie. Good stuff, great photos. [Read and see more.](#)



*Report on Conditions Photo*

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Remember personal info?

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## Expo Week

08/17/09 173 W - + 10 - 11

Here are Mr. Blogger's posting and photo plans for the week. Today/tonight, I'll blog a quick list of all expo events, as drawn from the schedule posted on the [expo web site](#). I'll also post a finished photo of [the three-story banner](#) that's been installed on the Salisbury Street side of the Convention Center. It's a stunner that includes a Lee Wilson image from last year's three-alarm fire on Hammell Drive. Later or late in the week, I'll work on shooting a "lay of the land," showing what visitors to center will be seeing. Probably Friday, I'll shoot the exhibit floor up and down. Might take till Saturday, though, to post those pictures. After [Friday morning's history workshop](#), a version of the PowerPoint slides will be posted on [my history page](#). Finally for Saturday, it's tripod time on Fayetteville Street for the "main street" apparatus parade. Plus whatever other Expo activities shot that day. On Sunday, it's rest. That's the plan for now. See you there.

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**Big Picture**

08/17/09 51 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

Photo by [Lee Wilson](#). Banner by [FireSiteDesign.com](#). Looks better in sunshine and without someone walking by. Promoting this week's [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#). What's pictured? Three alarms on Hammell Drive, Sep. 21, 2008. Engine 1, Engine 13, Ladder 1, and a bunch of other "B" shifters. Click to enlarge:



Mike, are you trying to predict the future? I think you meant 2008.

**Drew** ([Email](#)) - 08/17/09 - 18:59

That's an awesome banner...

**Silver** - 08/17/09 - 21:56

always about raleigh....never anyone else

**whatever** - 08/19/09 - 11:23

Wow!! Pretty Cool...with Raleigh Fire out in front. Welcome home NCSFA !!!

**A.Rich** - 08/19/09 - 14:04

"Whatever", when your city/department hosts the convention, then you can put your truck on the banner.

**Grow up** - 08/19/09 - 15:16

Of course Raleigh would be up there. Kinda hard to use a different dept. when every dept. in the state of NC including Charlotte (that's right, I said it) models after Raleigh.

**RescueRanger** - 08/20/09 - 13:32

No doubt Ranger, no doubt...must have been one of those that didn't do so well in the agility?

**Silver** - 08/20/09 - 15:55

Name: (real name

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**This Week's Expo Events**

08/17/09 221 W - + 9 - 5

What's happening this week at the Fire Expo, when the [North Carolina State Firemen's Association](#) and the [North Carolina Association of Fire Chief's](#) convene under the name [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#)? Here's a quick review of the events. See [this detailed schedule](#) for more information, including rooms and times. All locations are at the Raleigh Convention Center, *unless otherwise noted*. And don't forget the Friday workshop on North Carolina Firefighting History by someone we know. It starts at 9:00 a.m.

## Tuesday - August 18

- Golf tournament, *Eagle Ridge Country Club*
- Board meeting

## Wednesday - August 19

- Golf tournament, *Eagle Ridge Country Club*
- Pre-conference workshops, *Convention Center and Keeter Training Center*
- Assorted council and board meetings

## Thursday - August 20

- Breakfast (NCAFC)
- Opening ceremony
- Keynote address
- Assorted meetings and sessions
- North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation memorial service
- Grand opening reception and ribbon cutting ceremony

## Friday - August 21

- Breakfast (Past Presidents)
- Exhibit hall open
- Workshops
- Assorted meetings and receptions
- Dance social

## Saturday - August 22

- Breakfast (25 Year)
- Motorcycle run registration
- Election/voting
- Exhibit hall open
- Honor guard exhibition
- Haz-mat challenge, *McLaurin Parking Lot between South Wilmington and East Lenoir streets*
- Fire apparatus parade, *Fayetteville Street and South Salisbury Street*
- Motorcycle run, *highways, byways, cities, and towns*
- Banquet

## Sunday - August 23

- Board meeting
- North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation devotional

**Signs and Spaces**

08/17/09 37 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

And here's a peek inside the Convention Center, at the signage and the spaces that will be filling with firefighters later this week. [See more photos.](#)



Looks great and what a banner! The picture info link button is much appreciated. Thanks Mike!

**cornerhydrant** - 08/17/09 - 21:22

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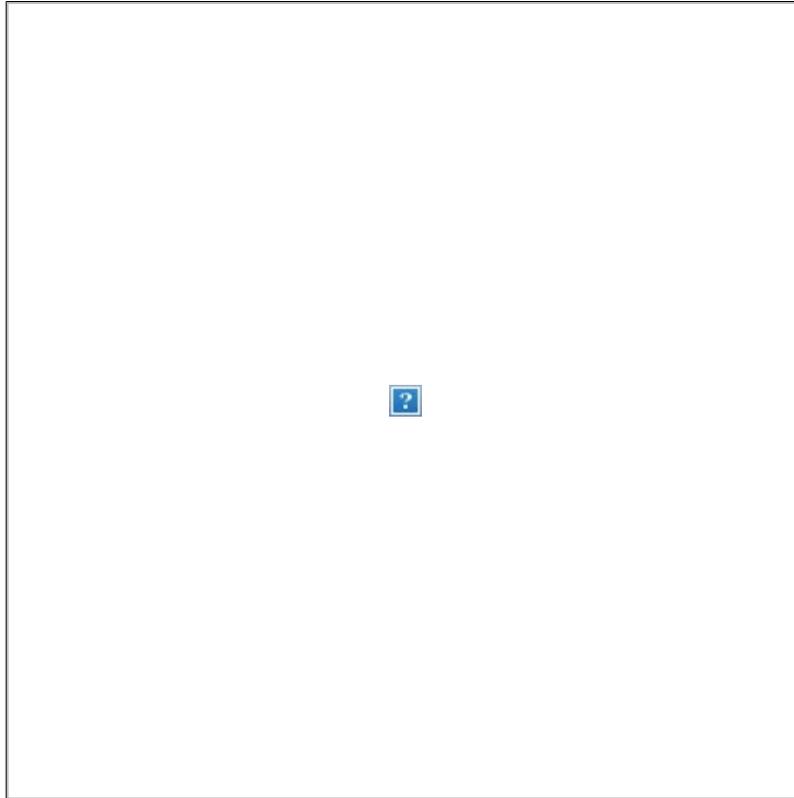
**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

**Construction Nearly Finished on Apex Station 4**

08/18/09 102 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

The [Apex Fire Department web site](#) has been posting construction photos of the town's new public safety station at 1615 E. Williams Street, and a [set of shots from August](#) show that the facility is nearly complete. From the photo captions, the facility includes seven dorm rooms, two laundry rooms, a workshop, and a nice covered patio. There's a kitchen, day room, offices, etc. The grounds also include a retention pond. Haven't seen one of those before at a fire station. The grand opening has been scheduled for September 15, notes the site.



*Apex Fire Department photo*

It's a nice looking firehouse from the outside, and should be a great site for Apex to give it better access to US-1 and the part of town on the east side of US-1. It's been neat to watch it get built over the past several months as I drive past it daily. Congrats to the brothers and sisters of the Apex FD.

As for retention ponds there is also one behind Cary FD Station 7, there were major drainage issues that had to be dealt with on that site.

**CFP 7021** - 08/18/09 - 22:02

There is a retention pond at Fuquay station 3. Great looking station guys yaw should be proud!

**jpg** - 08/18/09 - 22:36

It is a very nice station. I was given a quick walk through the other day and things look great. Apex has come a long way from the 1939 building downtown. They have also done their homework for future expansion and new equipment in the future. I like the traffic lights in the bay to let the driver know the doors are up. I know that sounds crazy, but with the new ladder trucks these days with buckets as wide as the cab, the traffic lights are a nice touch of safety. I also like that the dorms are closer to the bay than the living areas. This should help with turn

**Histories of Firefighter Conventions**

08/18/09 206 W, 1 I - + 9 - 9

We've got a mess of [history on our web site](#) about firefighter conventions in the state. Alas, it's a bit scattered across three areas. Need to fix that. Start with the [History of North Carolina Firefighter Associations](#). Go there first. Among the links therein is a page about [North Carolina Firefighter Tournaments](#). Back in the day, contests were held during the annual conventions. The last NCSFA tournament was in 1941.

And for hardcore history buffs, there's yet another site about [North Carolina Firefighter Excursions, Conventions, and Contents](#). This one includes newspaper clippings from 1868 to 1912, as well as a 37-page summary document. Guess we'll work on better integrating the above pages and sites. Note to self, do that.



How many times has the convention been held in Raleigh? The NCSFA (later bundled with the NCAFC) has met in the Capitol City in 1889 for two days, 1902 for three days, 1916 for four days, 1936 for four days (shown above), 1968 for four days, and 1973 for four days.

The NCCVFA has met in Raleigh in 1892 for two days, 1902 for three days, and perhaps other years after 1912. Haven't had much success finding convention dates for the North Carolina Colored Volunteer Fireman's Association. [See more dates for both groups](#).

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Remember personal info?

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

**From Whence We Came**

08/19/09 70 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

Lest we forget the glorious ungainliness of what came before the Raleigh Convention Center, here's a [Terraserver aerial view](#) of the Raleigh Civic Center and surrounding blocks, dated March 2002. It also shows Fayetteville Street still as a pedestrian mall. Downtown Raleigh's come a long way, baby! Wonder what Andy and Barney would say, if they could see it today?



Alive After Five was always a good time down there. Oh how things have changed....

**H2O** - 08/19/09 - 16:36

Thinking the same thing H2O.....I've got a few stories from those days. Ohhhhh the hot summer evenings and the ice cold beers...

**Silver** - 08/20/09 - 00:22

I moved away from Raleigh two years ago, and was just back downtown the other week for the Sheriff's conference. I was amazed at the transformation that downtown has had just in the past two years. There were actually people out and about in downtown (not just Glenwood South) after 9pm. It was great!

**Barrett** ([Email](#)) - 08/20/09 - 10:42

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Yes

No

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**Load In**

08/19/09 75 W, 1 I - + 14 - 5

Terminology used in event booking. Refers to the time that performers or exhibitors can start carrying their equipment into the venue. Pictured is Morrisville Engine 3 and another unit queued for entry into the lower level of the convention center. Apparatus with water are required to empty their tanks before entry. Support trucks and supply vans also use this entrance. And it was hot as hell outside.



See more photos, <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/20..>

**Legeros** - 08/20/09 - 06:27

This is a very cool photo. I love this shot. A unique view of the city.

**Ginny** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/20/09 - 13:49

How much fuel were these trucks allowed to have on-board?

**Olson** - 08/21/09 - 08:48

Less than 1/4.

**jeff** - 08/21/09 - 14:35

I heard there is a staircase inside the cab to get the top of that morrisville rig.

**ha!** - 08/24/09 - 16:48

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
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Remember personal info?

Yes

No

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/ [Textile](#)

## Paramedic

08/20/09 22 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

EMS 121 and Medic 95 on Duraleigh Road. Medical call, with Engine 17. Flashing lights attract photographers.



Re-name it "Kaleidoscope 95" ... The design makes it look like a taxi cab ...

**Kahiddlehoffer** ([Email](#)) - 08/21/09 - 15:26

Never saw a taxi that looked like that.

What it DOESN'T look like is any of the police cars that prowl Wake County. That was the desired effect. Hopefully we've succeeded.

**CH100** ([Email](#)) - 08/24/09 - 19:05

Name: (real name preferred)  
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Remember personal info?

Yes

No

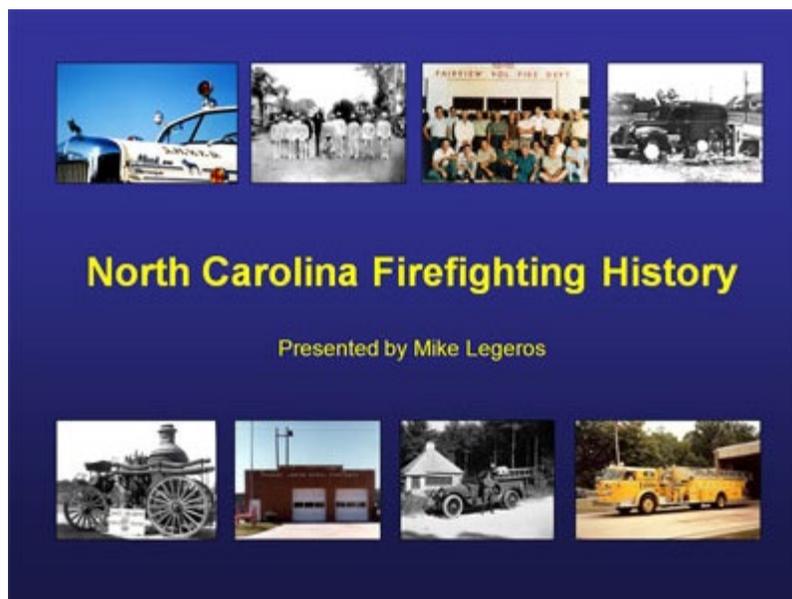
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## Ready to Roll

08/20/09 211 W, 1 I - + 13 - 7

Slides are finished. They number 91 and include front matter and some appendixes. Lists of stuff, at the end. Tomorrow's workshop on the history of firefighter in North Carolina will cover a couple hundred years. We'll start in the 1770s, or abouts. Work our way to present day. Hand engines to steam engines to motor engines. Fire laws to fire companies to fire departments. Trucks and tools and people and places. Paid departments and rural departments. The whole ball of wax, minus whatever's missing. And there are holes. Always are.



With laptop in tow, we'll pack a stack of business cards. Mine read "author, historian, photographer." Original, eh? Handouts, also, with web and e-mail addresses. Note cards, markers, sticky pads, and painter's tape. In case we want to jot and hang stuff. Bottle of water or two. Copy of each volume of *Raleigh & Wake County Firefighting*. Humorous props, perhaps, as well. One or two. Plus the presenter, who is his own amusing sight. Room 306C should be ready for visitors by 8:30 a.m. We'll be playing a slideshow of old photos from around the state. Come early and watch, or chat. Everything should be ready to roll.

Oh yeah!! Stony Hill on the front slide. The old 1954 Mack will be in the parade on Saturday downtown.

**A.Rich** - 08/20/09 - 22:57

Stony Hill, it's always about Stony Hill....hahahahahahaha

**Silver** - 08/21/09 - 01:22

Mike,

Just looking at your presentation. It is a wonderful presentation. Just thought I would share some information about the City of Greenville. The city currently covers over 35 square miles with a population of over 75,000. The combined fire-rescue department has over 140 uniformed employees with 6 active stations, land has been bought for a seventh, and planning has been started for an eighth. They currently staff 1 Engine, 5 75' Quints (Engines), 1 110' Ladder Truck, 1 Rescue Truck, 1 Battalion Chief, 4 EMS Units per shift with a 5th Peak Time EMS Unit. Also the city hosts USAR Task Force 10. The City of Greenville Fire Departments and Rescue Squads were merged in 1978 to create the current City of Greenville Fire/Rescue Department. Thanks!!!

## Video Taping the Saturday Parade?

08/20/09 41 W - + 6 - 6

Is anyone planning to videotape the Saturday parade of fire apparatus on Fayetteville Street? Though we're set for still photographers, who is bringing a video camera to the thing? Post or shoot a private message. Thanks.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Mystery Apparatus**

08/20/09 29 W, 1 I - + 6 - 8

Here's a sneak peek of something shiny and red. Raise your hand if you can identify this one. Happy Friday.



This is Garner Fire Dept new rescue truck probally. I hear it is gonna be nice.

**FVFDA** ([Email](#)) - 08/20/09 - 21:56

Pierce PUC?

**RescueRanger** - 08/20/09 - 22:34

If it is Garners then it is a Velocity

**Wormy** - 08/20/09 - 23:32

So the rest of the County FDs get stuck with these POS Hackney/Spartan rescues and Garner gets a Pierce Velocity?

**WTF** - 08/21/09 - 06:33

Apples and oranges, my friend. Different fiscal years, different funding models, different processes.

**Yes** - 08/21/09 - 06:51

Yes is correct. As memory serves, the Wake County Fire Commission approved a different direction in the previous fiscal year, for replacement of rescue apparatus. There were a couple departments who qualified for replacing rescues. Garner, Zebulon, and... can't remember. The departments sought different sized units, a contrast to the earlier fiscal year, where a county-wide spec served the purpose for replacing rescues at Hopkins, Stony Hill, and Wendell. The same approach to a county-wide spec was used for replacing engines, pumpers, tankers, and brush trucks, and to cost-effective effect. That's the short version of the story. Other readers can expand or correct.

**Legeros** - 08/21/09 - 07:14

Plus they get money from the town of Garner. Sometimes they have to conform to the foolishness of the county and other times they get to operate as a real fire department, making actual intelligent decisions concerning apparatus and other matters.

**Realist** - 08/21/09 - 11:58

Sometimes you gotta know how to play the political game I guess

**FVFDA** - 08/21/09 - 14:10

That's the new Range Rover 5 which will run out of the Gurnzey Blvd. Station on all level 3-12 box alarms. It will be equipped with the high angle spring tool as well as the new hydraulic verner caliper. That new hydraulic V.C. will saves lot's of time on the fire ground as opposed to the older hand cranked version!

Lot's of luck with the new wagon guys!

**Kleetis MacAnurney** ([Email](#)) - 08/21/09 - 15:18

Mike's right. Both Garner and Zebulon were slated to get rescues and both departments' trucks had a non-county share which had to be funded. Better said, the County didn't just pay for the trucks as in most other cases. Zebulon went with a medium duty due to the amount of money available to be contributed by the Town. Garner went with large. The County only paid a portion (based on the size of rescue) – the departments/towns paid the rest. End result – since the County paid its maximum amount on these trucks, they've spent the same money regardless of the make/model. Whew. Kinda confusing.

**Chris** - 08/21/09 - 16:04

Hey, given the economy, I'm glad we are still able to get trucks. Look around the nation for some examples. Therefore, no need to whine. Look at what we do.... Garner FD rescued two the other morning!!! Take a moment and check-up... THAT'S WHAT WE ARE HERE FOR and that's what it is all about. The trucks did not do that work, it was the people. Reflect and consider what is absolutely the most important asset in the fire service.

By the way, the Hackney/Spartans are no POS's. They are good trucks. Drop by Stony Hill sometime and I'll show you (or Wendell and Hopkins). The Spartan cab actually has some better attributes than the Pierce; and Hackney has a proven track record for quality construction. I can see where some folks may be "jaded" when something other than a Pierce is introduced in Wake County however, believe it or not there are other fire apparatus manufacturers out there.

My brother Chris is right... there are now different funding methods that are more efficient overall, so yes, there will be different applications as time moves forward and the economy sways. Y'all stay safe and stay SMART!!

**A.Rich** - 08/23/09 - 10:59

Correct me if I am wrong, but didn't the town fund the Rescue Squads truck as well? Seems like this is a duplication of services. Given the economy, I wouldn't think that this was a smart choice for the taxpayers. Just a few cents worth of my thoughts.

**Curious** - 08/27/09 - 12:30

Name: (real name preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

## After the Dam Accident

08/21/09 125 W, 1 I - + 7 - 7

This strong image appears in today's *New York Times*, in the article [Decaying Soviet Infrastructure Shows Its Era](#), and in the context of the Sayano-Shushenskaya dam accident on Monday that killed 17 workers and left 58 missing. On a related note, an earlier *Times* article [reports that a Russian blogger](#) has been charged with libel, after making claims about the accident. The editor-in-chief of an online publication had his computer seized, and was accused of "discrediting the honor and dignity, and undermining the business reputation, of the leaders of the republic and Sayano-Shushenskaya." The hydroelectric plant at the dam, the fifth-largest in the world, opened in 1978, and was partially reconstructed in 1987, [says this Wikipedia entry](#).



*Ilya Naymushin/Reuters Photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

## Surry County Firefighters Struck By Lightning

08/21/09 122 W - + 11 - 7

Found on [Dave Statter's site](#), two Surry County firefighters were struck by lightning in separate incidents Thursday night. The first strike was at a house fire on Boaz Lane, the firefighter working with the truck at a pond, when a bolt struck nearby. The strike was close enough for the firefighter to feel the effects. The second strike was at a house fire on Tanner Cove Road, where lightning struck about 100 feet from a second firefighter. Both are reportedly fine. The strikes occurred during a period of severe storm activity in the White Plains area. Departments responding to those fires included White Plains, Ararat, South Surry, Franklin, and Bannertown. [Read more from the Mount Airy News.](#)

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
No

Comment:

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**Polite Reminder**

08/21/09 31 W, 2 I - + 9 - 6

As seen at the convention center. Please be aware of your surroundings...



Here's a wider view:



Nice.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/21/09 - 18:45

Through the window we go(with the hose)!!!!

**justkidding** - 08/21/09 - 22:25

Notice by the front tag on the vehicle it is a firefighter also. Like DJ said, nice!

**PD** - 08/22/09 - 07:06

If anyone recognizes whom this vehicle belongs to.....PLEASE post for everyone on this blog to see who the ZERO of a firefighter this is!!!!

**J.W.** - 08/22/09 - 09:24

p.s. So EVERYONE can call this person and let them know what they think!

**J.W.** - 08/22/09 - 09:29

Negative on that. No posting such information, please. Be nice.

**Legeros** - 08/22/09 - 10:16

Aww, come on Mike. Now you know, this is the fire service, and that is what we do. We like to talk junk to our fellow screw ups. I am sure that this person has already heard about this.

**R. U. Serious** - 08/22/09 - 23:08

"These moments do try me"

**Axe** - 08/23/09 - 00:44

"Be gentle now Axe"

**Bull** - 08/23/09 - 00:44

this person probably parks in handicapped spaces and uses the placard.

**lee** - 08/23/09 - 03:08

Is that a police car behind him/her?

**Needs glasses** - 08/23/09 - 16:55

Second view added, adds context. Scroll up.

**Legeros** - 08/23/09 - 17:56

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

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**Found Fire Truck**

08/21/09 50 W, 4 I - + 9 - 8

This 1954 Ford/American pumper was found for sale in western Wake County, and snapped by Jeff Silver. It's lettered for the Olympia Fire Department, presumably the Pamlico County entity. For \$3,500 or better offer and it's yours! Thanks for sending, Jeff. Click to enlarge.



*Jeff Silver photos*

Who is selling the truck

**Christopher Young** ([Email](#)) - 08/21/09 - 19:48

Don't know, call the number and find out!! It was in the Apex area over by 55/ Jenks Rd.

**Silver** - 08/23/09 - 14:58

funny to see this here, I just saw the same truck driving on US 64 west near Jordan Lake this afternoon

**CFP 7021** - 08/23/09 - 16:16

this truck is moving to north Raleigh

**Christopher Young** ([Email](#)) - 08/24/09 - 17:02

Why is it moving to North Raleigh?

**Silver** - 08/24/09 - 20:38

I am guessing it's been SOLD! Finder's fee!?

**Legeros** - 08/24/09 - 20:42

I bought It

**Christopher Young** ([Email](#)) - 08/25/09 - 07:55

## Workshop Slides

08/21/09 88 W, 1 I - + 14 - 12

Thanks to those who attended today's workshop on North Carolina Firefighting History at the [South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo](#). The material passed muster, some good questions were asked, and some neat new people were met. A version of the presentation slides has been [posted on our history site](#). Also available is the presentation from the 2006 convention, on the subject of Researching Fire Department Histories. Below is History Boy in action. Thanks, Tim, for taking some pics! See everyone tomorrow.



Interesting slide presentation Mike. I hate I missed the actual presentation but I was/am feeling under the weather.

**D.Cates** ([Email](#)) - 08/21/09 - 23:45

Some notes about my slides, which I also communicated during the talk.

- One of the reasons for conducting the workshop was to challenge the material. The presenter is merely a collector of information, and hardly the expert on everything contained therein. He hasn't live the years and decades of the job, the with the people and their stories therein. Thus, the audience— as well anyone after the fact— is encouraged to edit, expand, correct, or challenge the material. Everybody wins as the histories are rendered more accurate.

- Most of the historical examples, the cited dates and departments therein, refer to "big city" departments. I apologize for this bias. Comprehensive historical information— soup to nuts, earliest to latest years— has been difficult to easily find. Having yearbook histories in hand for Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro, Raleigh, Rocky Mount, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem made much of the presentation possible. And, more importantly, made it relatively easy to compare when phases or periods of development happened across the state. As did timelines and histories for many other FDs, which I've found on the web, or through personal contact.

- The slides conclude with a list of "what's missing." That could be a much longer, much broader list. As I noted during the workshop, and above, there are many more departments across the state that exemplify the trends and developments of both old and newer days. For example, the first first responder programs, of which I list the "big boys" but not the many other, smaller fire departments that were there from the beginning. Simply, I don't have a source (yet) for that information; for, say, how many fire departments big and small were becoming first responders in those first years.

- In response to an audience member comment, I agree that this sort of historical context is useful for new firefighters. One person asked

about incorporating this material into the Firefighter II curriculum. The value of historical perspective was discussed; I noted that in Winston-Salem, new recruits receive a talk by a member of their FD historical society. Here in Raleigh, the last three recruit academies have had an hour of RFD history by myself. And I strongly suspect that historical information is included in other new firefighter programs in the state.

- The National Fire Heritage Center was also introduced by an audience member, the center's President Ronny J. Coleman, who was the expo's keynote speaker. He offered an excellent perspective on the need for historical preservation, both saving and preserve the documentation of America's fire service, as well as the knowledge within in the generation(s) who are retiring and removing themselves from service. See their web site for more, <http://nationalfireheritagecenter.com/>

- Following-up on Mr. Coleman's introduction of the Center, we spent 10 or 15 minutes near the end speeding and slowing through slides from my 2006 conference presentation on Researching Fire Department Histories. Notably, I talked a bit about "what is a fire department history" and gave an introduction to Sanborn Insurance Maps. Slides from that talk, three years ago, are also available at <http://www.legeros.com/history/>

- And, yes, I am planning a book in the farther future on North Carolina fire history. It'll be a book of historical images. It's five or more years out. Part of the challenge is getting **high-resolution** versions, as required for print publishing. Old pictures as found on the Internet are fine for presentations, but it'll be harder for a printed volume. Any NC fire department with historical images to share is encouraged to contact me. mikey "at" legeros.com.

**Legeros** - 08/22/09 - 09:03

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

Comment:

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**Garner Firefighters Rescue Children**

08/22/09 98 W - + 8 - 4

Two children were rescued by Garner firefighters this morning. The 3-year-old boy and 1-year-old-girl were pulled from a duplex at [901-B Timber Drive](#). Both suffered burns, smoke inhalation, and heat exhaustion, reports [this WRAL story](#). The boy was not breathing on arrival, and revived by EMS. They were transported to WakeMed, and then again to the burn center at UNC. The fire was dispatched at 1:35 a.m., with arriving crews finding heavy flames from the front porch and first-floor front windows. Two adults escaped without injury. Readers can add additional incident details as desired.

Great Job Brothers!

**Rides An Engine** - 08/22/09 - 16:02

Outstanding work

**Swiman** - 08/22/09 - 16:21

It is always good to hear when firefighters training pays off. My hats off to the Garner FD for a job well done!!!! As a parent of two small children, I have to say it again, Great job GFD!!!

**Chris Smith** ([Email](#)) - 08/22/09 - 18:17

Job well done brothers.

**E Mohn** - 08/22/09 - 23:24

Great job guys, was this a V.E.S. operation?

**Silver** - 08/23/09 - 14:59

No, they went through the front door.

**Mike** - 08/23/09 - 17:06

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Tactical Fire Fighting Truck

08/22/09 152 W, 1 I - + 14 - 9

There's wow and there's WOW. This behemoth from Oshkosh/Pierce was part of this morning's fire apparatus parade, that ran the length of Fayetteville Street and concluded at the convention center. Called a Tactical Fire Fighting Truck and utilizing an Oshkosh HEMTT chassi, the eight-wheel wonder serves the National Air Guard facility at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Some specs, from a [brochure on the official site](#): 210-inch wheelbase, all-wheel drive, 445-HP engine, 400-mile cruising range, 48-inch fording clearance, six-person capacity, five with SCBA, 1,000-gallon tank, 2,000-feet of hose, 1,000-GPM pump, roof and bumper remote-controlled turrets, numerous compartments and many tools, including hydraulic rescue equipment. There's also a water-tender version, called the HEWATT, that carries 2,500 gallons of water. [Read about that](#). There are two such trucks in the state, we're told. The second is in Salisbury, at an Air Guard facility there. Parade photos coming later. Click to enlarge:



Updated with better picture.

**Legeros** - 08/22/09 - 22:35

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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## Pipes Band

08/22/09 50 W, 1 I - + 7 - 7

Let's call this the Parade Cam view. That's the Wake & District Public Safety Pipes and Drum band marching west on Davie Street, between Fayetteville and Salisbury streets. The spotlight of a 1926 American LaFrance pumper shines behind them. That's Raleigh's old Engine 4. Click to enlarge:



You guys are awesome!! Thanks for your service to us all!!

**A.Rich** - 08/23/09 - 11:01

Thanks for the comment A.Rich

We're simply trying to do the right things for the right reasons.

The band is truly honored to serve those who serve others.

**Joe Brady** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/24/09 - 16:48

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

**Discussions on Driving**

08/23/09 218 W - + 8 - 5

In Austin, TX, the fire department has a new policy on driving. Responding apparatus must obey speed limits, and come to complete stops at intersections. Previous, they were allowed 10 MPH over the speed limit, and could not be required to stop at intersections, provided other drivers were aware that they were coming through. The Austin firefighter's union doesn't agree with the new policy. The perspectives on both sides have made the news, such as in [this Austin American-Statesman article](#).

Perhaps most interesting are reader comments, which offer frank perspectives from both firefighters and citizens. Over 150 have been posted so far. The comments cover all sorts of ground, from response times to firefighter safety to criticism of the Fire Chief. On Firehouse.com, Billy Goldfeder offers [his opinion on the policy](#), as well as the larger issue of picking your battles against command decisions. Good reading, and even better as food for discussion.

Late Sunday update: our own paramedic blogger [9-ECHO-1](#) has also been posting about this subject. [Read his first posting](#), then [read his second posting](#). We know him as DJ, a frequent commenter on this blog. He's stayed on top of the issue, and has links to other Austin media that's covered the story. He also offers his own opinions, and pull no punches therein.

---

Anyone know about a medic unit involved in an accident yesterday? My cousin said he witnessed an wreck yesterday involving one. Is the medic ok?

**AB** - 08/23/09 - 13:51

Whats the points of having lights and sirens!?

Mind as well buy some minivans for the FD/EMS in Austin. There gonna get to a scene as fast as ya could in one!

**Cole Rickels** ([Email](#)) - 08/23/09 - 18:05

I think that Chief Kerr is possibly going to re-write some of the policy to allow 'discretion' on the subject of speed limits, based on some of the reports in the Austin media. After all, Texas law does allow up to 10 mph over the limit. But in one of the reports, she says that if you get in a crash and it's your fault, then you are probably on your own. As it should be.

But it all goes to one thing I have noticed. That is that in no EMS protocols or policies, nor in any fire department SOP/SOG have I ever seen the phrase or term "Drive real fast". And unfortunately, you do not have to look far to see examples of people, in EMS, the fire service, and in law enforcement, that apparently believe they have seen it written somewhere.

Watch the news. Way too many of us are getting hurt and killed every year responding to calls. And there is always someone else, in another vehicle, that suffers as well. And way too many times, it's because we are driving too fast.

To me, if you are in town, then 10 mph over the limit is pushing the limit a little too far.

As to the rule about stop lights and stop signs, I agree 100%. Before you proceed through any intersection where you have a red light or stop sign, you should come to a complete stop and not proceed until the way is clear, meaning that all other traffic has stopped.

All it will take is one fire truck, ambulance, or police car to breeze through an intersection and smack a minivan driven by a soccer mom taking her kids and their friends to the movies for a birthday party.

It's not our fault that the world is combustible and stuff does burn. Nor is it our fault that some people do in fact die. This despite our best intentions and efforts.

So slow down.

Stop at the stop lights and stop signs.

And as Chief Goldfeder says- pick your battles.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/23/09 - 19:46

Thanks Dale. I have updated my posting with links to your blog, and your expanded comments on this issue.

How do citizen expectations affect this issue? Reading reader comments in the Austin American-Statesman, it sounds like Mr. and Mrs. Six Pack entirely expect fire and EMS vehicles to be racing to scenes as quickly as possible. Do the phones ever ring "downtown," reporting engines or ambulances driving unsafe? Or does the general public give fire and EMS driving a free pass, if you will?

**Legeros** - 08/23/09 - 21:08

You make your time getting to a call by getting out of the station quickly not flying down the road. That is a proven fact. Lights and siren benefit you during congested intersections and heavy traffic, but you still are not going but so fast. If you are on a fire dept. (volunteer or paid) just so you can drive a big red fire truck with lights fast get off now before you hurt someone.

**gen3fire** - 08/23/09 - 21:20

Amen KC, get your butt out of the house faster and you'll be Johnny On the Spot!

**Silver** - 08/23/09 - 23:02

Mr & Mrs Six Pack have three speeds when it comes to emergency vehicles-

1. When they see you driving down the street, you're driving too fast.
2. When you pass them on the road, you're driving way too fast.
3. When you are coming to their "emergency" it is not physically possible to drive fast enough. That is, until you wreck. Then it is automatically your fault because you were driving too fast.

Silver and gen3fire are correct- you make up for response time by turnout time. THings like your station is engineered to get you from your quarters to your apparatus. Things like when you get into the vehicle you start and go, because you know where you are going because you are familiar with your response area, not having to stop, look it up in the map book, or figure out where the computer is sending you.

So when you pull out into traffic, slow down, stop at red lights and stop signs, sit down, buckle up, stow everything away, etc.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 08/23/09 - 23:53

AB – one of the APP units was struck by a driver who did not yield at NC 55 and US 1 on Saturday. The medic unit was stopped or nearly stopped, clearing the intersection at the time of the collision. The paramedic operating the vehicle is fine. The driver of the other vehicle was transported as a precaution. Thanks for asking.

**CHIEF 100** ([Email](#)) - 08/24/09 - 13:55

Chief 100-Thanks. Glad to hear your folks are ok.

**AB** - 08/24/09 - 17:21

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

## Raleigh to Hire 14 Firefighters

08/23/09 53 W - + 5 - 7

Several readers have inquired about the number of firefighters being hired in Raleigh during the current recruitment period. [This WRAL story](#) reports the number is 14. Applications are being accepted through August 28. [See our prior posting](#) for more information, or visit the [Raleigh Fire Department recruitment web site](#). Good luck!

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

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**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Reflections

08/23/09 122 W, 1 I - + 12 - 5

There's nothing as shiny as freshly washed fire truck. That's [Wilson's Mills](#) first engine, a 1947 Mack pumper that was recently restored by inmates at the Piedmont Correctional Center in Salisbury. The truck was first purchased by the fire department in 1973, for \$4,000. It was sold in 1981, then found in a field in Lumberton in 2002. The price this time was \$600. The restoration was funded with firefighter and community donations totaling \$18,000. The vintage engine appeared at Saturday's fire apparatus parade on Fayetteville Street. [See those photos](#), the full series having just been posted. Now, back to the Mack. Here's an [older WRAL story](#) about the truck. Next question, where did it serve prior to 1973?



is that picture in the door of DHR5?

**jpg** - 08/24/09 - 16:42

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

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/ [Textile](#)

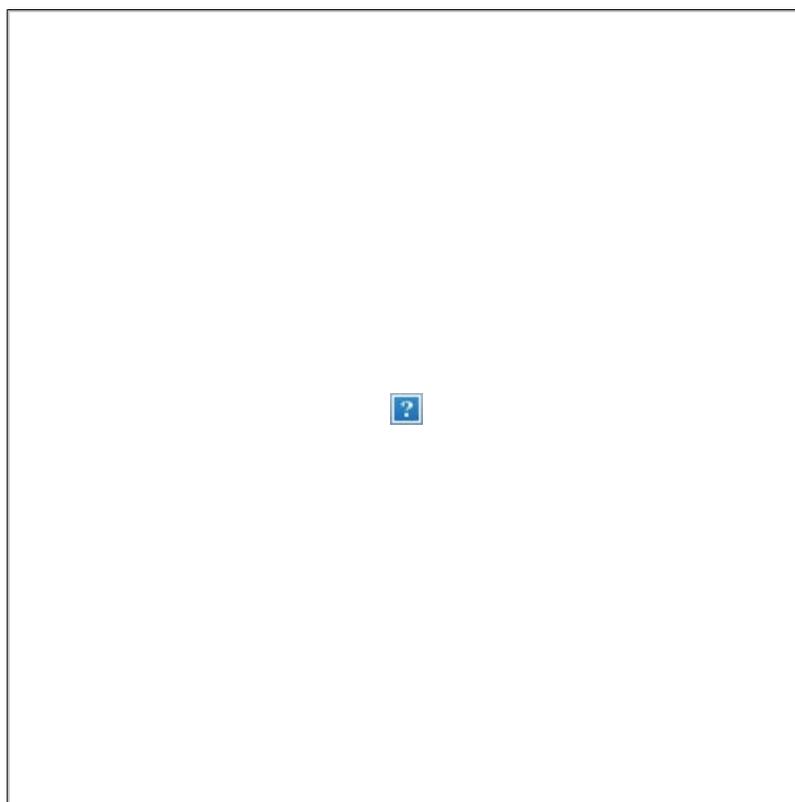
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**Drivers Can't Trust School-Zone Signs**

08/24/09 190 W, 1 I - + 11 - 4

In the wake of last weeks' incident involving a six-year-old child struck and killed after exiting a school bus on North Hills Drive on Wednesday, news stories have been examining aspects of the accident. The age of the 83-year-old driver has been a frequently topic, and revived discussions of upper-age limits for driving. Another issue, the time of the accident, is featured in today's *News & Observer*. [The paper reports](#) on the Wake County School System's new early release policy, which requires that all students be sent home an hour early on Wednesdays. Additionally, they're kept another 10 minutes in most schools, the other four days of the week. Thus, all existing school zone signs list the wrong times, when motorists must slow down for students coming and going to school. In Cary, the changes are not a problem, as the town relies on signal lights instead of signs. They can be reprogrammed. In Raleigh, which has 109 of the county's 159 schools, the changes aren't as easily solved. The city is mulling its options. [Read the article](#) to learn more.



*Ethan Hyman/News & Observer photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Fire Station Rainwater Harvesting Project**

08/25/09 157 W - + 9 - 10

Several Raleigh fire stations, along with some Wake County facilities, are receiving (or have received?) rainwater harvesting systems and rain gardens. The city and the county are partnering to sponsor twelve project locations to receive a network of cisterns, which will collect draining rainwater from rooftops. The collected water can be used for training or washing equipment, and reduces the demand on drink water supplies. Harvesting rainwater also decreases the volume of storm water runoff, which helps in other ways. Five project locations will also receive rain gardens. Those are mulched flower beds that further reduce storm water runoff.

Sites with cisterns and rain gardens:

- Raleigh Fire Station 6
- Raleigh Fire Station 22
- Raleigh Fire Station 27
- Raleigh Fire Station 28
- Wake County EMS Station 8

Sites with cisterns only:

- Raleigh Fire Station 8
- Raleigh Fire Station 23
- Raleigh Fire Station 24
- Raleigh Fire Station 25
- Raleigh Fire Station 26
- Fuquay-Varina Fire Station 3
- Wake County Animal Shelter

[Read the entire press release.](#)

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

**Streets, Spellings, Address Locating**

08/25/09 113 W - + 9 - 9

Also on the subject of dispatching, we missed [this WTVD story](#) last week about a fatal house fire in Durham on Monday night. Lebanon, Eno, Bahama, and Durham City responded to the fire at 118 Chanticleer Place. However, they were dispatched several extra minutes after the fire was first reported. The story includes audio of the caller spelling the street name. Units were initially sent to similar sounding, but different address. Is this a simple case of a cell phone caller, with no automatic address locating? Versus someone using a land line and which automatically displays the street name to dispatchers? Readers, please offer perspectives as desired. [Read the story.](#)

Hey Mike... you even got the street name wrong! The story has the address as Shantercliff (which your spell checker doesn't like!) I'm sure most of us at sometime have heard the name/word Chanticleer and the sound of shantercliff would likely lead one to expect the other. With that said the story left out the phone provider when stating that the caller was working to determine why the address didn't register. I suspect that they had some form of VoIP phone service that inhibited the enhanced 911 from picking up the correct street. Combine that with phone service that doesn't work when the power is out and what has been a reliable and beneficial system to emergency services is compromised or lost. The thought of saving money with bundled services has been a thought but with kids at home it is not worth considering anymore. Any telecommunicators out there that can comment?

**D.Cates** - 08/26/09 - 12:48

I've been using Vonage for 5 years. I, too, assumed the caller has some form of VoIP but didn't set it up correctly. When you set up the account a message box pops up explaining about the E911 and that your address will not show up if you don't set it up correctly. It was pretty easy to set it up. I even called the non-emergency number to RWECC and they verified my correct address.

**RescueRanger** - 08/26/09 - 19:39

As surfaced by FireNews, this Durham Herald story continues the story, [http://firenews.net/index.php/headlines/..](http://firenews.net/index.php/headlines/)

**Legeros** - 08/28/09 - 06:24

I'll defer from direct comments on the Durham call, but speak to VoIP and technology. There were significant documented issues with VoIP early on, including the routing of VoIP emergency calls to seven digit numbers that rang on empty desks. MOST of those VoIP problems have been corrected, and MOST VoIP calls get properly directed, BUT with more than 700 VoIP providers nationwide, who knows who does it right and who doesn't? For example, Time Warner assigns addressable modems, and your service is tied to your install record. Vonage is an add-on to whatever ISP you are using, so the customer must correctly fill out the E 9-1-1 information. If you make an error – or move without changing the address (even overseas) your call will not be routed to the proper PSAP. Then there's Magic Jack and the like; an entirely different challenge altogether. Been following the talk about texting 9-1-1? Great concept, but it would be really nice if texting provided a call-back number and a location. The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) has adopted the credo, "Emergency Help, anywhere, anytime, any device." Sounds great, but it's about as possible right now as guaranteeing that the first due engine will "put out every fire, anytime, anywhere, no matter what's burning." We are trying to manage 21st. century consumer electronics on 1960's vintage networks.

**[RWECC]** - 08/28/09 - 09:25

The N&O is reporting that the dispatcher involved has been fired.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/145/story/16..>

**Paul** - 08/29/09 - 09:43

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

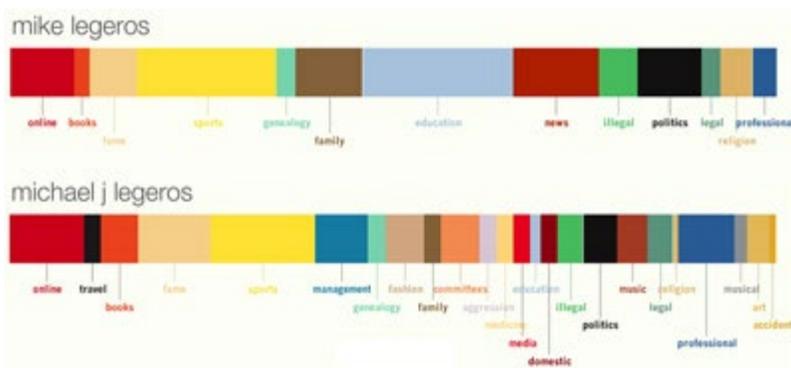
Yes

No

**Personas**

08/25/09 54 W, 1 I - + 8 - 12

Mrs. Blogger found this site: <http://personas.media.mit.edu>. Called Personas. How does the Internet see you? Enter your name and data (ch)art is created. Pretty cool. Here's are the results for both of my names. Notice the strong fashion component! Personas was created by Aaron Zinman. **Click to enlarge:**



I guess this explains the Hawaiian shirts (sorry Mike, I couldn't help myself)

**cornerhydrant** - 08/25/09 - 17:57

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
 Hide email:  Yes, hide my email address.

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## Fire Watch at Shearon Harris

08/25/09 144 W - + 13 - 14

Leading [this New York Times article](#) about high-tech fire detection at the nation's nuclear power plants is a curious factoid about Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant. They have three workers, around the clock, who perform fire watch. Really. As the article describes their job, they pace miles every day, "up and down stairs and through vast halls and narrow passages" and "visit crucial locations at least once an hour to make sure fire has not broken out." Who would have thought? One worker says "he covers 12 miles each day, including 60 flights of stairs." How many pairs of worn out sneakers does that equate to? Two or three a year. [Read the entire article](#), which talks about movement in the industry and government to automate fire detection. Or [learn more about the Harris plant](#).

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Report Released on Ocracoke Fireworks Explosion**

08/26/09 139 W - + 11 - 7

As [this Virginia-Pilot article](#) reports, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives has identified the source of the fatal fireworks explosion on Ocracoke Island. The [July 4 explosion](#) killed four of five workers preparing for a fireworks show. The fifth member survived with burns to 20 percent of his body. The report says that the crew was inside of a truck filled with explosives, and they were inserting electric igniters into the fireworks when a small explosion occurred, and which led to a larger explosion. Why were they working inside the truck? The reason might have been that the ground was wet, having been sprayed by the fire department. However, notes one industry professional, the dangerous work of a fireworks team is typically done outdoors, for obvious safety reasons. [Read the entire article.](#)

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Foam

08/26/09 17 W, 1 I - + 16 - 5

Vehicle fire on Interstate 40 with Engine 20, Engine 2, and Ladder 7.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Camera Phone

08/26/09 33 W, 1 I - + 11 - 5

Is there anything more fun than taking a picture of someone taking a picture? For extra credit, who's that guy and what's he riding?



That would be Mike Duda from Western Wake and it appears that he is on P-196

**Wayne** - 08/27/09 - 00:28

yup, that is Duda for sure and I would say 196 as well.

**Kermit** - 08/27/09 - 01:18

for bonus points who's helmet is in the picture and who is the driver in the background?

**CFP 7021** - 08/27/09 - 16:25

IDK about the helmet but could that be Mr. Boshart up in the driver's seat?

**Wayne** - 08/28/09 - 00:16

I don't think I'm allowed to participate in this contest. But I know who changed the reflective tetrahedrons to black on his helmet and I know who was driving 196 at our training Wed. night with RFD. Thanks to all WWFR personnel who made it and the RFD A shift personnel from E8, E14, R3, L7, and A1, along with B3 and C10. I hope I didn't forget anyone!

Wayne is right... Boshart is the driver!

**D.Cates** ([Email](#)) - 08/28/09 - 00:31

I would say that is Mark Hill's Helmet. Bosheart is in the drivers seat.

**Kermit** - 08/28/09 - 01:39

And I just destroyed boshart's name, sorry about that buddy.

**Kermit** - 08/28/09 - 01:42

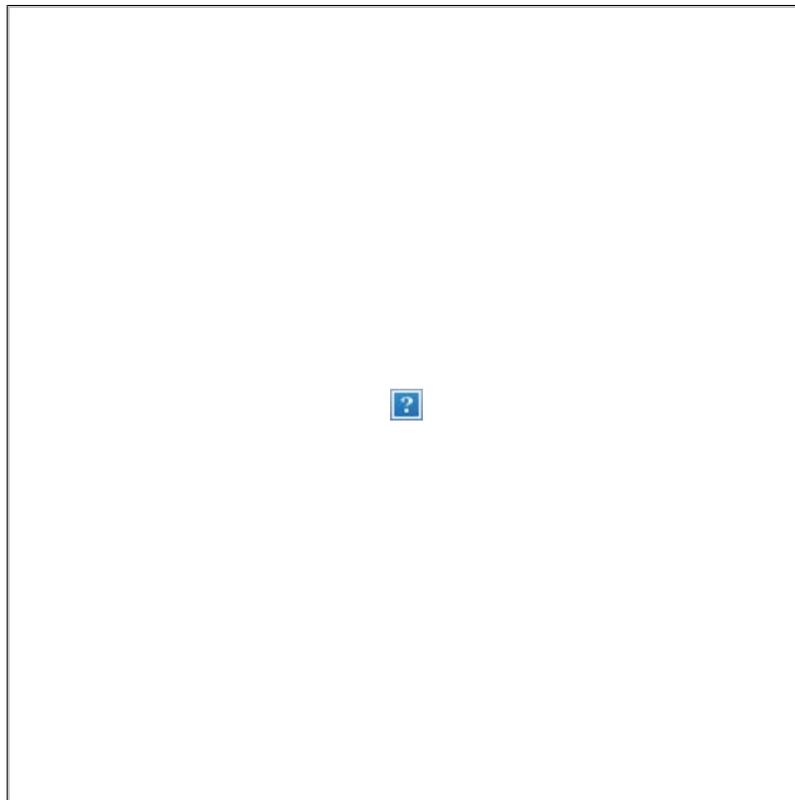
It was a great night of training and we're looking forward to doing it again very soon!!

**A.Rich** - 08/29/09 - 16:32

## Fayetteville's New Rescue

08/27/09 49 W, 1 I - + 11 - 9

Found on the Pierce New Deliveries page is this picture of Fayetteville's new rescue, a 2009 Pierce Impel heavy-rescue. It was delivered in June. [Read more information](#), or see a larger version. Readers, please add additional information. Where is it stationed, what did it replace, etc.



Anyone from Cumberland County; does Fayetteville staff this with a full crew? Also, is Fayetteville still running a few 2-man squads?

**Silver** - 08/27/09 - 21:06

We do run 2 guys on the S/R's. If I'm not mistaken the two heavy rescues we have, S/R 8(the one above) and S/R 14, if they have to respond to a heavy rescue call or anything requiring more manpower the engine company stationed with those rescues will mark out of service and jump on the rescue truck. I think that may still be up in the air though. That rescue truck is nice though it's got everything you need. If you have any questions about it I'll try and answer them all. It's at station 8 right now. It replaced S/R 5 also another heavy rescue and it's crews moved from station 5 to station 8 with the truck. I can't remember where the old s/r 5 is going to but it's not staying at Station 5.

**Frick** - 08/27/09 - 22:44

The squad trucks themselves you guys previously ran, were they two man cab Internationals? Also, describe the roles of the squads in Fayetteville if you don't mind, especially on the fire ground.

Appears the rescue pictured above has a bumper mounted hydraulic reel(s). If so, that's always nice for ease of extrication equipment placement. Plus, it has ladder storage which is good nowadays for ISO purposes. Nice rig...

**Silver** - 08/27/09 - 23:36

Our S/R downtown is a two man cab international and we have a couple others. We also have an old converted beer truck from an annexed county station at station 17. Our current first alarm assignment is 3 engines, 1 truck, 1 s/r, and a BC. They just did change that, 2 s/r's was the norm for a while til now. S/R's are mainly a manpower truck persay. S/R's can be anything from RIT, on the first line in, or anything really. Just

depends on when they arrive on scene, but of course their main purpose is a support role on the fireground. There is a combi tool with a reel. Underneath the tool tray is the access for the winch. It has all your attic ladders, roof, and extension ladders. It's got the vertical pull out tool trays it's got a nice light tower, more hurst equipment in the back with the capability to run all 3 tools at the same time. It's got an arsenal of rescue jacks and confined space equipment. It's just an all around heavy rescue. Only 8 and 14 are heavy rescues, the other s/r's we like to consider bandaid trucks. If a station has an s/r in house, it's first out for all medical calls.

**Frick** - 08/28/09 - 00:36

Cool, thanks for sharing...

**Silver** - 08/28/09 - 00:46

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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Back in the Day in Carthage

08/28/09 145 W, 1 I - + 12 - 10

For your Friday enjoyment, here's a historic postcard image of firefighters in Carthage circa 1904 to 1918. The volunteer firefighters have emptied their hand reel, and their hose lines are operating with hydrant pressure. There's also a ladder wagon in the picture. With the introduction of water systems and fire hydrants in the late 19th and early 20th century, firefighting in North Carolina's cities and towns was "easy" as having a hand reel and hose. No hand or steam engine required. Just people and hose. [Read more about the photo](#), which is by E. C. Eddy and from the Durwood Barbour Collection of North Carolina Postcards, North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill. Click to enlarge:



*E. C. Eddy photo, Durwood Barbour Collection of North Carolina Postcards, North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill*

This picture was part of my state firefighting history workshop last week. See those slides at <http://legeros.com/presentation/ncsfa-20...> Learn more about NC fire history at <http://www.legeros.com/history/>

**Legeros** - 08/28/09 - 07:25

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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## Mystery Shirt

08/28/09 37 W, 1 I - + 11 - 7

I guess the identity of this person is pretty easy to figure out. Happy Friday.

Extending the color range of the universe, one Hawaiian Shirt at a time...



It burns... it burns...

**Count D.** - 08/28/09 - 08:15

Is that NFPA compliant?

**Buckwheat** - 08/28/09 - 10:19

I heard that the NFPA 1901 Technical Committee is considering this design as a new retro-reflective decal for the rear of fire apparatus at the next revision cycle of the standard...

**A.Rich** - 08/28/09 - 23:17

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

## Which Department to Work For?

08/29/09 140 W - + 7 - 16

The blogger [FireCritic](#) has posted an interesting list of [Top Ten Considerations on Which Department to Work For](#). He offers on comment on each, which are recruit school and training, salary, median age of employees, department history on layoffs, city paid benefits, staffing / stations / apparatus, contracts / union / arbitration, health insurance, disability retirement, and retirement pension. In the comments of the post, the blogger [Joe Schmoe](#) adds his two cents, with his own recommendations for prospective firefighters. Notably, he suggests taking the first job that you are offered. Then, identify three to five goal departments, based on criteria. And, if you never reach your goal department, you're still working in the fire service. Which is better than not, no? What would our readers add or subtract, for job seekers in the Carolinas? [Read the FireCritic posting.](#)

Name: (real name preferred)  
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## Parasailing Accident Kills Two

08/29/09 93 W - + 15 - 8

Turn our attention to the coast, the Myrtle Beach *Sun News* has details on a [fatal parasailing accident](#) on Friday afternoon in Ocean Isle, NC. Two women died after the rope connecting them to the tow boat broke. The article offers a detailed and entirely harrowing account of both the parasail's crash, and the attempts of the tow boat to reach and rescue the victims. Upon the arrival of land-base rescuers, the women were extricated from the parasail and removed to shore. Neither was conscious. [Read the entire account.](#)

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

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## Mystery Building

08/29/09 22 W, 1 I - + 15 - 8

Where is this building, and what is it used for? Hint: It's air-conditioned.



I would guess some type of entry control point (not armored). I have no idea where it is at.

**Kermit** - 08/30/09 - 01:39

I believe it is the guard shack at the old Square D plant on Knightdale Blvd., in the 8000-or-something range.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 08/30/09 - 02:49

Nope, not Knightdale.

**Legeros** - 08/30/09 - 18:37

Hint #2: Firefighters pass this every day. Hint #3: It's hiding in plain sight.

**Legeros** - 08/31/09 - 17:05

Its the rear entry control point for RDU on International Drive.

**Smoketamer** - 08/31/09 - 19:50

We have a winner! So, is it used? Ever?

**Legeros** - 09/04/09 - 12:35

Not as of yet. It was built after the last increase in the threat level.

**Smoketamer** - 09/04/09 - 20:33

**Last Week's Haz-Mat Challenge**

08/29/09 354 W, 1 I - + 16 - 9

Last week's South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo concluded with a Haz-Mat Challenge on Saturday, an annual competition sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Hazardous Materials Responders. This was the fifth year for the contest, which is held in conjunction with the annual firefighter's convention. This year's challenge was conducted around the corner from the Raleigh Convention Center, in a parking lot on Lenoir Street. Eight teams from across the state competed in a series of timed evolutions, with penalties for incorrect techniques.

*Lee Wilson Photo*

The results, including times for the first three teams:

1. Fayetteville (4:56)
2. High Point (5:22)
3. Raleigh Team #1 (6:02)
4. Greensboro
5. Wilmington
6. Asheville
7. Raleigh Team #2

The evolutions:

1. Application of Chlorine C Kit on Railcar Protective Housing Simulator, provided by HEPACO, Inc.
2. Overpack of Drum
3. Placing Overpack and Drum on Dolly and Transporting 100 Feet
4. Sampling Using a Coliwasa Tube
5. Victim Removal Using Stokes Basket

Each four-person team was divided into two-person elements. Time started when the first two-person element placed their accountability tags on the starting table. Evolutions #1 and #2 were executed, with the second element entering the course and starting #3 upon the return of the first element to the starting table and retrieving their tags. The second element were required to place their accountability tags on the starting table prior to entering the course. The time stopped when the second element fully crossed the finish line with the victim. They also had to retrieve their accountability tags to avoid a penalty.

The first-place team from Fayetteville received four scholarships to Railcar Specialist School at TTCI in Pueblo, CO, and sponsored by Norfolk-

**Durham Police Department Special Units**

08/29/09 89 W, 2 I - + 20 - 8

Speaking of haz-mat, these special units were seen this evening in Durham. First is the police department's Biological Chemical Emergency Response Team. The DPD web site [tells about the BCERT teams](#), which number two and are on call 24 hours, seven days a week. Each BCERT team includes one lead criminal investigator and two hazardous materials investigators. The second unit, also seen parked at the police station, is no mystery vehicle. It's purpose is pretty obvious. [Learn more about DPD vehicles](#). Click to enlarge:

Name: (real name  
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

## Friday's Furniture Factory Fire in Morganton

08/30/09 292 W, 1 I - + 15 - 9

Seven fire departments fought a massive blaze at an old furniture plant in Morganton on [East Fleming Drive and Hogan Street](#) early Friday morning. The former Drexel Heritage plant was reported ablaze just after 3 a.m. Morganton, Valdese, Longview, Gamewell, Oak Hill, Glen Alpine, and Salem fire departments were on scene, reports [this Morganton News Herald article](#). Due to the current condition of the building--dilapidated walls and floors, three levels, etc.-- the operations were defensive only. A number of aerial streams were utilized. As flames shot dozens of feet into the air, all surrounding roads were closed. The fire was contained by Saturday morning, reports the paper, and most of the crews had cleared by noon. The building had been commercially vacant for years, though some of the structure was used for storage. That area was not burned.



*Jennifer Frew/News Herald photo*

When was the plant built? Tax records say 1901, which might be accurate. Sanborn Insurance Maps show the core section present in 1924, and somewhat larger in 1931. How big was the present plant? Maybe 500,000 square-feet? More? The tax record property card breaks the building into segments, but also includes free-standing structures. Must have been a nightmare to pre-plan. And our state's Piedmont region is absolutely full of such factories, both vacant and operational. Maybe our readers can share some experiences. Could be a good research project, as well, come to think of it. Largest factory fires in North Carolina history. That would be an interesting list to see.

Notable links:

- [Aerial footage from WCNC](#)
- [Aerial map from Google](#)
- [Charlotte Observer story](#)
- [Drexel Furniture Company history](#)
- [FireNews story](#)
- [News Herald story](#)
- [News Herald slideshow](#)
- [Tax records, property card](#)
- [WSCO story](#)
- [WSCO slideshow](#)

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**American Tobacco Historic District**

08/30/09 140 W, 1 I - + 19 - 12

Speaking of factories and history, Saturday night saw Mr. and Mrs. Blogger exploring the [American Tobacco Historic District](#) in downtown Durham. The registered historic site was part of the [America Tobacco Company](#), once the largest tobacco company in the world. The completely renovated commercial and entertainment campus dates to the early 20th century, with the first buildings built in the late 1870s. [This incredibly detailed Endangered Durham posting](#) tells and shows the story of the complex. The posting has maps and diagrams and both street-level and aerial photos. Two stunning photos show before and after the facade of the Old Bull building(s) was covered with pink metal in 1965. That hideousness was removed in recent years. Pay a visit, then read about the history. It's well worth your time.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**After the Accident**

08/30/09 65 W, 1 I - + 15 - 11

Raleigh police officers clearing the scene of a train accident, north of the intersection of Hoke and Blount streets. Pedestrian struck and injured. Engine 1, Engine 3, Ladder 4, Rescue 2, EMS \_\_, and District 1 (and others?) on scene, with a bunch of other units returned to service. Dispatched 4:53 p.m. Photos from Legeros (below) and Lee later. Or, [read the WRAL story](#). Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *This Morning's Major Fire / Paula* « After the Accident » Disco Inferno Street

### This Morning's Major Fire / Paula Street

08/31/09 98 W, 1 I - + 18 - 7

Two alarms at [2408 Paula Street](#). Engine 11 arriving at a one-story, metal commercial building with heavy fire showing through the roof in the rear. Building with 6,856 square-feet, built 1971. Used as entertainment facility. Declared major working fire on arrival. Dispatched 4:55 a.m. Controlled 5:44 a.m. Units on scene included E11, E9, E6, E7, E3, E13, E1, L2, L4, R2, R1, B2, B1, C10, C20, A1, EMS 11, EMS 1, D1, D5, T1. [Preliminary photos posted by Legeros](#). More later, and photos from Lee also forthcoming. He arrived much earlier.



Ironic that the club's name was/is "Fuego Fuego". I scoped that place out last year on a lazy day of cruising around the city. My first thought was, if that place ever goes up, I hope it's after hours. Three sided view last year showed no windows, just a few doors. Anyone that was there, can you provide a description of the layout of the inside?

**Silver** - 08/31/09 - 12:23

Why in the world does radio reference now require a premium subscription to listen to the archives!!! What about this fire constituted the request of a second alarm, out of curiosity?

**Adam** - 08/31/09 - 14:57

Silver...Interior B side wall: Pool tables up to the door on same side. Accessed by the door on the left....misc seating along interior D side wall, accessed by door on right. "Apartment" (or so I was told and HARD to see by what was left) attached in the back where the heaviest damage shown. Bathrooms and bar along interior C side wall. Setup left the "main floor" open for patrons. Adam...I thought the best practice was to call for alarms by its "potential" in order to keep from playing catch-up if the fire gets away from you. In my opinion, using that logic was a good one and needed in this case due to the fact that it was a somewhat large commercial building with large truss roof and open floor. Had the fire gotten into the overhead it could have been much worse to say the least. Great job by the first arriving companies both in setup and attack and its upgrading to a second alarm. Better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it. Be safe brothers.

**KOM** - 08/31/09 - 16:22

I meant to say "Large \*span truss roof".

**KOM** - 08/31/09 - 16:24

Ewwwww, span truss roofs...goes to show, you never know if someone is living in a place or not, hence the "apartment" that was inside.

**Silver** - 09/01/09 - 21:43

**Disco Inferno**

08/31/09 41 W, 1 I - + 20 - 12

From this morning's fire on Paula Street. As defined by Merriam-Webster: "incongruity between the actual result of a sequence of events and the normal or expected result." What is irony?



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
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No

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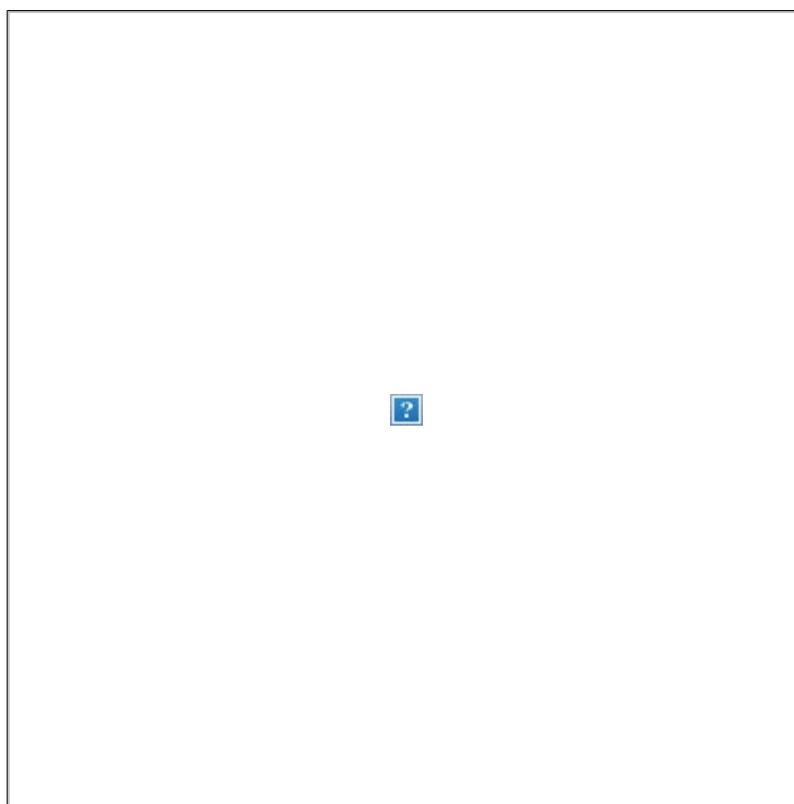
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**Fire Extinguished at Raleigh Mayor's House**

09/01/09 185 W, 1 I - + 13 - 10

Last night's working fire at [324 S. Boylan Avenue](#) was at the home of Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker, as [this WRAL story reports](#). He was reportedly eating dinner about 9 p.m. and "had some power surges." He went into his television room, and noticed smoke and flames from "an adjoining storage room." Firefighters arrived "in about 90 seconds," he notes in [this News & Observer article](#). "Real quick," said Mayor Meeker. The electrical fire was quickly extinguished, reports [this Associated Press story](#) via DanRiver.com and as [surfaced by Dave Statter](#). Wonder how many other local or national outlets carried the story?

Dispatched at 8:35 p.m., Engine 13 arrived with light smoke showing from a two-story, wood-frame structure with 2,831 square-feet. The call was upgraded to a working fire, and extinguished within minutes. It was controlled at 8:48 p.m. Fire units on scene also included Engine 1, Engine 5, Ladder 4, Rescue 2, Battalion 3, Car 10, Car 20, and Air 8. The house is located in historic Boylan Heights. It was built in 1914.



*Ethan Hyman/News & Observer photo*

As bonus entertainment, read some of the reader comments on the WRAL site: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/590..>

Mr. & Mrs. Six Pack don't understand at all.

**Legeros** - 09/01/09 - 17:05

As entertaining as those comments are, it is also frustrating even from an average citizen, much less a firefighter. The complete ignorance of people is just amazing. Like one of the posters on that site mentioned, why do some feel the need to post things that aren't true rather than ask a question if they do not know. I suppose that would also go for many posters on this site as well.

**John Q. Public** - 09/01/09 - 19:20

Mike, I wish you did not post the bonus entertainment! I did read the comments and I would rather of not known that there are people that ignorant!!! I like(not really) the comment that one post said something like he/she only saw 8 to 10 firefighters on the scene when the upstairs of their neighbors house caught on fire. That is because the other 10 or 15 firefighters were inside working their butts off to save his/her neighbor's house or search for victims.

**FireBugg** - 09/02/09 - 21:24

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Scanner Archives Now Require Subscription

09/01/09 104 W - + 8 - 11

As reported by a reader in [this blog thread](#), the [Wake County scanner archives](#) at RadioReference.com are now only available to "premium subscription" members. And how much might the previously free service cost? One year is \$30.00, half year is \$15.00. Payment via PayPal. The live feed, however, remains free for everyone. Thanks for that, both to the site and the scanner feeders, whoever they are. Guess that's the cost of business. We last [blogged about the scanner archives in June](#), after the ScanAmerica site merged with RadioReference.com, and the archived feeds were unavailable for a period.

---

As the provider of the Wake County Fire and EMS feed on RadioReference.com, we were not advised in advance that listening to the archives is now done at a price.

We have been working behind the scenes to secure as many NC fire feeds onto the service as possible. If you look at the North Carolina section, there's pretty good coverage at this point.

I'll be contacting our person at Radio Reference about this, and if it's possible for US to cover the cost, so that the archives are once again available to listeners at no charge.

Stay tuned, and thanks for listening.

Harkey

**harkey** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/01/09 - 08:42

Just curious as to what the costs really are for these types of sites that provide the link to the feeds. In other words, John Doe supplies the site with the feed using their own computer and scanner. The site itself is supplying a place to find the feed. What is the site doing that deems it fit to charge people for something that is GIVEN to them free of charge? Seems like they are just making a buck off other peoples work,... Does the person supplying the feed get money for supplying it to the site?

Just some questions that have made me go hmmm.

**JM** - 09/01/09 - 20:17

Sites like RadioReference do have legitimate overhead costs... that site doesn't happen by itself. And I would bet that the more people that use it and listen to the feeds, it will cost the owner(s) more in terms of bandwidth. In the past, when it was on Scan America, we would donate funds to help defer the costs.

And no, feed providers do not receive any compensation for providing the feeds.

**harkey** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/01/09 - 21:51

JM-

Plug in Radioreference.com to Wolfram Alpha and you get the following:

<http://idek.net/SLO>

Approximately 170,000 Daily Page Views.

Approximately 47,000 Daily Visitors.

Radioreference.com is the Largest online source for Public Safety Communication info.

We were that large before we acquired Scanamerica. Lindsay Blanton (owner) has always maintained that the database would be free and it has always remained free.

But saving large archive audio files is a whole different bandwidth concern. Lindsay has maintained that the live feeds would always be free.

I guess my main comment is Lindsay has always been upfront and honest about how Radioreference.com is run. He has always had the monitoring communities' best interest at heart.

How about we give him the benefit of the doubt until he proves he deserves otherwise?

Disclaimer: I am a volunteer NC/KY database administrator & forum moderator at Radioreference.com.

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/02/09 - 14:52

Oh and for Mike: The RR.com leadership team and their bios:

<http://www.radioreference.com/apps/conte..>

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/02/09 - 15:01

It would be nice if you could actually lock in on a tac channel and listen to a fire without all the ems crap or other fire calls interrupting it.

**Mike** - 09/02/09 - 18:58

Ha ha, that would be quite a feat, considering that the only connection from the feeding scanner to the web site is an audio cable.

Now, if someone out there wants to offer their scanner for another feed, AND be there to pause and lock on a Tac channel for each and every fire, that's another matter entirely!

Kudos the site, as the live and archived feeds have been well-appreciated locally.

**Legeros** - 09/02/09 - 19:11

Actually what Mike is asking for is possible with the right software and radios:

<http://www.butel.nl/products/scanstation..>

BuTel offers the Scannerstation package which allows someone to control a remote Uniden scanner. MetroNetworks is using this package to monitor Central NC scanners (rumor has it) along with the Radioreference.com feeds.

Thanks for the kind words Mike. We Radioreference.com folks try to do as much as possible to support all aspects of Public Safety. And of course I am always available to help new people get started in the radio monitoring hobby. You only get something out of the hobby if you contribute your knowledge to those just starting.

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/02/09 - 19:27

I created a thread a couple days before we restricted the info to premium subscribers, i admit it was a short notice but i created it just as soon as i found out. Thats, why its important to keep of with the threads. People, understand RR.com does not run for free. Lindsay needs to make some sort of income to keep the site going and anyways its only 15\$ for half a year. Save 5\$ each payday and you will have it in 3 weeks.

**Kendrik(RR.com Live Audio Admin)** ([Email](#)) - 09/06/09 - 19:06

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

## The Battle of New Orleans

09/02/09 122 W - + 8 - 6

Time to take a trip down the mighty Mississip', with animated Legos and music by Johnny Horton. Why are we listening to this particular song tonight, written by Jimmie Driftwood and released in 1959 as a Horton B-side on Columbia Records? 'Cause [Mr. John Gale Horton](#) also recorded *Sink the Bismark*, another battle song that was covered decades later by the Blues Brothers. The tune, which we were listening to tonight, can be [found around the 'net](#). It was recorded for the movie *The Blues Brothers*, for a sequence filmed at Bob's Country Bunker. You know, where they played both kinds of music. The footage was cut, and is believed destroyed. Anyway, this is fun stuff. Enjoy.

---

Okay. We gotta figure out something these people like and fast.

**Elwo od** - 09/02/09 - 22:30

This is totally cool... but someone had way too much time on their hands.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 09/03/09 - 15:33

Go to You Tube and check out the other Lego War movies. They have a "Saving Private Lego" and Battle of Bunker Hill. They are pretty funny but the Battle of New Orleans is the best.

**Jakey** - 09/03/09 - 22:40

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Mr. and Mrs. Blogger are planning their annual fall trip to Western North Carolina. As usual, one goal is to visit and photograph any and all former or historic firehouses. Any building that used to be a fire station, or that's still a fire station but 50 years or older. [See this master list for more information.](#) Our route includes the following counties. Can you add any others that we can watch for? Thanks for your help.

### **Contents**

Buncombe County  
 Burke County  
 Cabarrus County  
 Calwell County  
 Catawba County  
 Cleveland County  
 Gaston County  
 Henderson County  
 Iredell County  
 Lincoln County  
 McDowell County  
 Mecklenburg County  
 Polk County  
 Rowan County  
 Rutherford County  
 Stanly County  
 Wilkes County

### **Buncombe County**

Asheville - All historic and former fire stations already cataloged  
 Biltmore Forest Old Sta - Vanderbilt Avenue  
 Black Mountain Old Municipal Building - 223 W. State Street  
 Others?

### **Burke County**

Broughton Hospital Old Sta - Security Lane  
 Morganton Old Sta - 203 W. Meeting Street  
 Valdese - 121 Faet Street - Section of building built 1932  
 Others?

### **Cabarrus County**

Coldwater Old Sta - Highway 73 and Gold Hill Rd  
 Concord Sta 1 - 31 Church Street N. - Built 1941  
 Flowes Store Old Sta - beside new station at 8623 Flowes Store Rd, Concord  
 Kannapolis Sanitary District Old Sta / Kannapolis Old Sta 1- Behind new Station 1  
 Pitts Old Sta - 170 Pitts School Road - Built 1971? Opened 1991 as Concord Sta 5  
 Poplar Tent Old Sta - on Poplar Tent Rd near the intersection with Rock Hill Church Rd  
 Winecoff Old Sta - 328 Stewart Street - Built ? Opened 1999 as Kannapolis Sta 4

### **Caldwell County**

North Catawba Old Sta - at Connely Springs Rd and Cahah Mountain Rd  
 Patterson Old Sta - near new station on Roby Martin Rd  
 Sawmills Old Sta - Address? - Now Town Hall - beside new station on Highway 321A

### **Catawba County**

Catawba Old Town Hall - 108 N. Main Street  
Conover Old City Hall - 101 1st Street E.  
Hickory Old Municipal Building - 30 3rd Street NW  
Hickory Old Sta 3 - 1400 block 1st Avenue SW  
Long View Old Town Hall - 139 24th Street  
Mount Holly Old Sta - 131 S. Main Street  
Viewmont Old Sta - 23rd Avenue NE  
Others?

### **Cleveland County**

Shelby Old Sta - 300 S. Washington Street  
Others?

### **Gaston County**

Agriculture Center Old Sta - at Dallas Cherryville Hwy and Old NC 277 Loop  
Alexis Old Sta 1 - 4221 Charles Raper Jonas Hwy (Highway 27)  
Belmont Old Sta - Downtown Belmont  
Catawba Heights Old Sta - East Main off Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd.  
Chapel Grove Old Sta - 111 Camp Rotary Rd  
Cherryville Old Town Hall - 109 E. Main Street - Built 1826  
Cherryville Old Sta - 116 South Mountain Street - Built 1940, Closed 2008? correct  
Community Old Sta - Woodlawn Ave just off Belmont Mount Holly Rd  
Dallas Old Sta - W Church St / S Oakland St  
East Gastonia Old Sta - Ozark Ave near I-85 in Gastonia  
Gastonia Old Sta - 240 W. Franklin Boulevard - Built 1926, relocated 1953  
Gastonia Old Sta 1 - 117 W. Second Street - Built 1953, relocated 2002  
Gastonia Old Sta 3 - 1502 W. Franklin Boulevard - Built 1952, relocated 2002  
Gastonia Old Sta 4 - Address? - Relocated 2002 - 1012 S New Hope Rd  
Lowell Old Sta - S Main St between W 1st St and the R/R tracks  
Lucia-Riverbend Old Sta - Lucia-Riverbend Hwy near Stanley-Lucia Road  
Mount Holly Old Sta - 309 North Main Street - Built 1963  
Rhyne Old Sta - W. Davidson near I-85 in Gastonia  
South Gastonia Old Sta - York Hwy (Highway 321) / Davis Heights Dr  
South Point Old Sta - 2000 block of South Point Rd  
Stanley Old Sta - Downtown Stanley now Police Department  
Others?

### **Henderson County**

Hendersonville Old City Hall - 145 Fifth Avenue E.  
Others?

### **Iredell County**

Lake Norman Old Sta - 1206 Brawley School Rd  
Mooresville Old Sta 1 - 300 block N Main St beside new Mooresville Station 1  
Mount Mourne Old Sta - 1500 block of Mecklenburg Hwy (Highway 115) diagonally across from new station  
Statesville Sta 1 - 316 S. Meeting Street  
Others?

### **Lincoln County**

Boger City Old Sta - 2498 E Main Street - Built 1959 (front), 1977 (back), relocated 2003  
Denver Old Sta - 4600 block of Highway 16 just south of new station

North Brook Old Sta - 996 Highway 274

South Fork Old Sta - Long Shoals Rd and Southside Rd

### **McDowell County**

Cross Cotton Mills Old Sta - Webb Street

Marion Old City Hall - 130 N. Logan

Old Fort Old Sta - 102 S. Catawba Avenue

Old Fort Old Sta - Main Street

PG Old Sta - 52 PG Baptist Church Road

Others?

### **Mecklenburg County**

Carolina Old Sta - Providence Rd West and Old Audrey Kell Rd

Charlotte - All historic and former fire stations already cataloged

Derita Old Sta - 2715 W. Sugar Creek Road

Long Creek Sta - 6328 Beatties Ford Road - Built 1946

Moore's Chapel Old Sta - 9872 Rhyne Road, Charlotte

Newell Old Sta - 8500 block Old Concord Road - Gas station, one bay used for fire truck

Pinoca Old Sta - Hovis Rd and Salem Church Rd just off Brookshire Blvd (Highway 16)

Statesville Road Old Sta - 3366 Lake Road off Statesville Rd

Wilkinson Boulevard Old Sta - Little Rock Road and Wilkinson Blvd

Woodlawn Old Sta - 8100 block Nations Ford Road - Also former Medic station

Others?

### **Polk County**

?

### **Rowan County**

China Grove Sta - 333 N. Main Street - Built 1957

Faith Old Sta - Near new station in downtown Faith

Franklin Old Sta - Near 3975 Statesville Blvd., Sailsbury

Ellis Old Sta - E. Ridge Road and Old Mocksville Road

Kannapolis Sanitary District FD Old Sta - 933 Floyd Street - Built 1968

Landis Sta 58 - 136 N Central Av

Liberty Old Sta - Stokes Ferry Road and Liberty Road

Locke Township Old Sta - Beside new station at 5405 Mooresville Hwy

Millers Ferry Old Sta - Long Ferry Road not far off I-85

Rockwell Rural Old Sta - 198 China Grove Hwy, Rockwell

Salisbury Old City Hall - 117 S. Lee Street

Salisbury Old Sta 2 - 1400 block S. Main Street

Salisbury Sta 3 - 1604 W. Innes Street - Built 1953

Spencer Old Sta - S. Yadkin Avenue and 4th Street

Union Old Sta - Ridgecrest Road off Bringle Ferry Road (correct?)

Others?

### **Rutherford County**

Cherry Mountain Old Sta 1 - Bostic Sunshine Rd near Duncans Creek Rd

Forest City Old Sta - Near E. Trade Street and N. Powell Street

Rutherfordton Old City Hall - 134 N. Washington Street

Spindale Old City Hall - 400 Spindale Street

Others?

### **Stanly**

Albemarle Old Sta 1 - N. 3rd Street near E. Main Street

Albemarle Sta 2 - 607 Concord Road - Built 1940  
Bethany Sta - 118 Bethany Road - Built 1952  
Endy Old Sta - Highway 24/27 near new station  
New London Old Sta - 112 W Gold Street  
Richfield Misenheimer Old Sta - 134 N Highway 49, Richfield

### Wilkes County

Millers Creek Old Sta - near 4210 Boone Trail  
Moravian Falls Old Sta - Moravian Falls Rd / Old Highway 18  
Others?

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### Gaston County:

Old Rhyne VFD on W. Davidson near I-85 in Gastonia.  
Old East Gastonia VFD on Ozark Ave near I-85 in Gastonia.  
Old Mount Holly Fire at 309 North Main.  
Old Catawba Heights VFD on East Main off Belmont-Mt Holly Rd.  
Old Lucia-Riverbend VFD on Lucia-Riverbend Hwy near Stanley-Lucia Road.

**[rocket33]** ([Email](#)) - 09/03/09 - 07:39

I think the original New Hope FD Station is still standing on the SE corner of New Hope Rd and Beatty Rd. Been a few years since I was there

**Olson** - 09/03/09 - 09:52

The old New Hope FD is gone. Now a parking lot for a church.

**[bcfd424]** - 09/03/09 - 10:38

List updated with dozens of more old and former fire stations, found on BCFD424's photo site, <http://picasaweb.google.com/bcfd424>

Thanks for all the address help. I'll be adding the above info. and photos to my catalog/database, at <http://www.legeros.com/history/nc/statio..>

And what a great list of things to explorer, as we work our way westward next month!

**Legeros** - 09/03/09 - 17:05

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

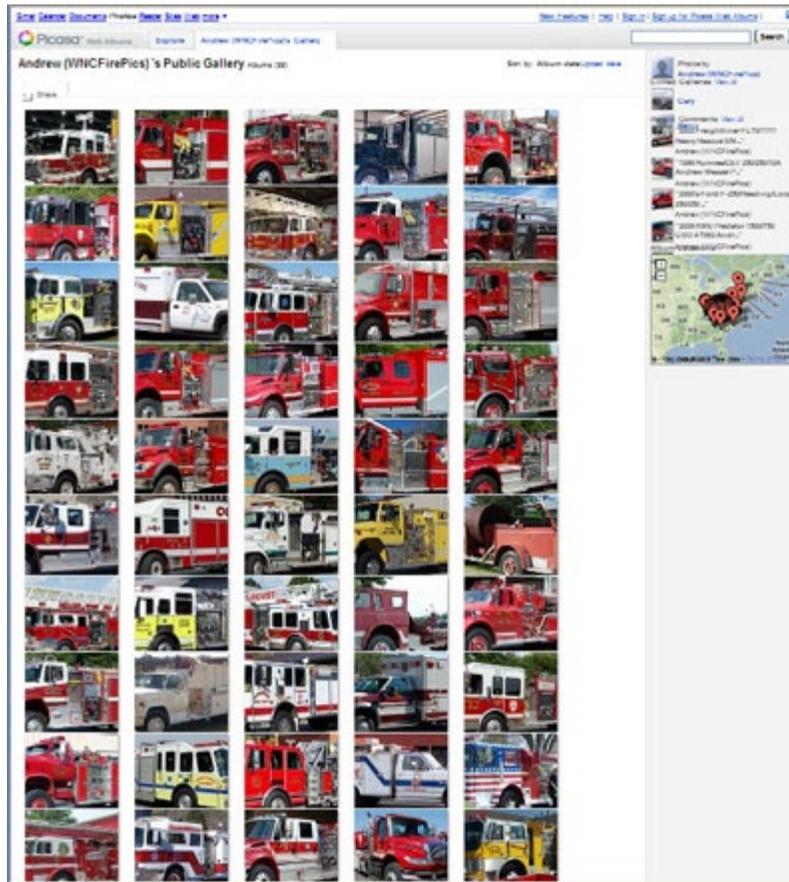
**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

**Western North Carolina Fire Apparatus Photo Site**

09/03/09 74 W, 1 I - + 16 - 8

From reader comments in the [Post Your Rosters](#) thread, check out these [fire apparatus pictures from Western North Carolina](#). The site is hosted on Picasa, which is Google's image site. Nice categorization by county. Some other states are there, too! The albums total 99 and the pictures total in the hundreds, maybe thousands. The photographer, Andrew, has been logging some serious miles in his picture-taking!



Also check out

<http://www.picasaweb.google.com/bcfd424>

**[rocket33]** - 09/03/09 - 07:31

Great site!! And station photos, too! That helps with my trip question about station buildings in those parts.

**Legeros** - 09/03/09 - 07:39

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

### The First Rural Fire Station?

09/03/09 101 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

Was Wilkinson Boulevard Fire Department in Charlotte, organized in 1942, the first rural fire department in the state? Maybe. Possibly. Likely. We've blogged before about the [first rural fire departments](#). Turns out the old WBFD station is still standing in the 2900? block of Little Rock Road, north of Wilkinson Boulevard. Benjy Grice took the below photo in June 2007. The two-bay, single-story, brick building looks like it's being used by a trucking company. Here's a [Bing Maps bird's eye](#), and a [Google Maps street view](#). Click to enlarge, or [See more photos from Benjy](#).



Benjy Grice photo

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

**Western Wake Anniversary Ceremony & Flea Market, Postponed**

09/09/09 224 W, 1 I - + 12 - 12

This event has been postponed until Saturday, November 21.

Watch for another round of announcements closer to the date.

Updated event information to be posted at <http://www.westernwakefirerescue.com/fleamarket>.

Contact [fleamarket@westernwakefirerescue.com](mailto:fleamarket@westernwakefirerescue.com) for more information.

**Original Announcement**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, ~~October 3~~, November 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for the Western Wake Fire Rescue Anniversary Ceremony & Firematic Flea Market. Celebrate over 50 collective years of fire protection in western Wake County, with a ceremony honoring past and present members of the Cary Rural, Fairgrounds, Yrac, Western Boulevard, and Western Wake Fire Departments.

Plus a flea market, where you can buy, sell, trade, or ask about "firematic" merchandise. You know, stuff related to firefighting. Mr. Blogger will have a booth, with such items for sale as a giant Gamewell gong, maybe some nozzles or extinguishers, numerous die-cast fire models from Code 3, Corgi, Del Prado, Siku, etc., and a mess of firefighting books, including some Japanese-language picture books. Full sale list later.

The location is the Western Wake fire station at [4021 District Drive, Raleigh](#). The flea market starts at 10:00 a.m., and the ceremony starts at 12:00 p.m. Anyone and everyone is invited. Revised flyer and additional information to be posted later.



Bumped to the top. Added info. on stuff I'll be selling.

**Legeros** - 09/09/09 - 06:16

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

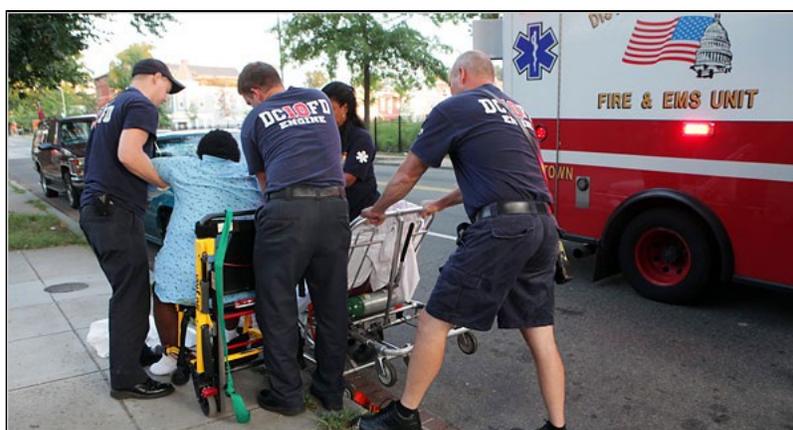
/ [Textile](#)

## Firefighters Become Medics to the Poor

09/04/09 180 W, 1 I - + 14 - 8

That's the headline in today's *New York Times*, for an article on fire department first responders and the burdens they face as one of the "hidden costs of health care." In Washington, D.C., as an example, Engine 10 responds to medical emergencies about 80 percent of the time. That company serves one of the poorest areas. Fire departments across the nation responded to three times as many medical calls as fire calls in 2008, compared to 1980.

This shift in firefighter duties, they note, "has been occurring for decades." And it has an up side for fire department. With better consumer protection rules and improved fireproofing technology, the frequency of fires has dropped. Thus, first responder calls "have helped keep firefighters employed." There are no reader comments, however. It would be interesting to hear from John Q. Taxpayer, though we probably know what he'd say. "Why did a fire truck show up when I called for an ambulance?" [Read the article.](#)



*Doug Mills/New York Times photo*

After reading the article..sounds like RFD E3.

But it's not just Raleigh...it's in every city....big or small it makes no difference.

Sad but true!

**Buckwheat** - 09/04/09 - 17:59

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Speaking of the OSFM, it's time to praise their newsletter. The *Fire & Rescue Journal* is published quarterly by the [Office of State Fire Marshal](#), which is part of the North Carolina Department of Insurance. Started in 2001, the full-color, 12-page publication is a quality work and one that interests Mr. Blogger for its historical perspectives. Since 2007, every issue has featured a major or notable incident from years or decades past. Below are the issues available from the OSFM's [publications web site](#). I've indicated which issues include history pieces. They are all PDF format. Good reading!

**November 2016 - See this new page for copies of the stories: [www.legeros.com/history/osfm](http://www.legeros.com/history/osfm)**

- Vol. 8-4 (Winter 11)- The History of Steam Fire Engines in North Carolina (by Mike Legeros)
- Vol. 8-3 (Fall 10)
- Vol. 8-2 (Summer10)
- Vol. 8-1 (Spring 10) - Pine Knoll Townes, Raleigh, Feb. 22, 2007 (by Mike Legeros)
- Vol. 7-2 (Spring 09) - Hotel Lafayette, Fayetteville, Feb. 8, 1995
- Vol. 7-1 (Winter 09) - High-rise rescue, Hickory, Sep. 2, 2004
- Vol. 6-4 (Fall 08) - Mitchell's Department Store, Sanford, Mar. 14, 1980
- Vol. 6-3 (Summer 08) - USN Potomac, Morehead City, Sep. 26, 1961
- Vol. 6-2 (Spring 08) - Downtown Burlington, 1918 and Dec. 23, 1964
- Vol. 6-1 (Winter 08) - R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Winston-Salem, Aug. 28, 1998
- Vol. 5-3 (Summer 07) - Beacon Manufacturing, Swannanoa, Sep. 3, 2003
- Vol. 5-2 (Spring 07) - Draper Inn, Eden, Mar. 28, 2006
- Vol. 5-1 (Winter 07) - Downtown Swepsonville, Oct. 4, 1989
- Vol. 4-2 (Fall 06)
- Vol. 4-1 (Winter 06) - Downtown Shelby, May 25, 1979

These issues are no longer available online:

- Vol. 3-2 (Fall 05)  
Carolina Coal Mine, Farmville, May 28, 1925
- Vol. 3-1 (Winter 05)
- Vol. 2-2 (Summer 03)
- Vol. 2-1 (Winter 02-03)
- Vol. 1-2 (Summer 01)
- Vol. 1-1 (Winter 01)

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**1966 Batcycle**

09/04/09 78 W, 1 I - + 11 - 11

Here's the second coolest law enforcement vehicle ever designed, after the George Barris Batmobile, [which we blogged about](#) when a 1:18 die-cast version was released last year. Are you ready for another sweet ride from that [fondly remembered television series](#)? Here's a 1:12 die-case Batcycle, with sidecar and removable Batcar. Again made by Mattel under the Hot Wheels moniker. Bought mine at Toys 'R' Us in Cary. \$39.99. You know you want one.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

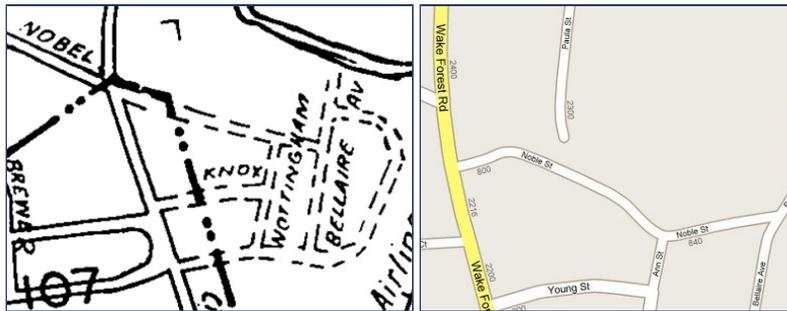
**Mystery Streets (Updated)**

09/07/09 91 W, 5 I - + 13 - 6

Identify these two streets that looked like they once connected. Hint #1: They're in Raleigh. Hint #2: ~~At least one has undergone a name change, I think.~~ It's inside the Beltline. Click to enlarge:



Now that the streets have been identified as Paula and Ann streets-- good job, A.C.-- here's the next question. Was the planned Noble Road ever created that even contemporary maps show as connecting the two? Below is a Sanborn Map from 1950, and a Google Map from today. Click to enlarge:



Connected, that is, by way of a third street that's no longer there.

**Legeros** - 09/04/09 - 17:58

I'll take a guess... the dead end of Paula St?... and the other street is Ann Street, dead end via the non-existent Noble Street (Google Maps!!)

**A.Rich** - 09/04/09 - 20:19

Bingo! Fess up, how did you figure it out?

**Legeros** - 09/05/09 - 15:31

Well, a recent MWF was a clue, so I looked at Google Maps to see if my hunch was correct. I compared the "tree layout" from the aerial photography on Google to the trees and parking entrances from the mystery photos. All one has to do is follow your photo trail!!!

**A.Rich** - 09/05/09 - 22:15

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

## Lenoir City Hall and Fire Station?

09/05/09 65 W, 1 I - + 12 - 14

Before the fire station relocated to Harper Avenue in 1969, the Lenoir Fire Department was housed at City Hall. Can anyone advise if this 1935 structure is still standing? Before this building, the fire department was located on North Mulberry Street. Is that building-- an earlier City Hall, built 1912?-- still standing, by chance?



Don't know about the buildings, but check out the Ford C cab with the quad headlights, no roof light, and the sirenlight on the nose.

**DJ** (Email) (Web Site) - 09/09/09 - 21:23

The 1935 structure has been demolished but the 1912 structure on Mulberry Street is still standing. It has been renovated over the years with a different front facade. City of Lenoir Public Information

**City of Lenoir Public Information** (Email) (Web Site) - 10/07/09 - 16:14

Thanks for the info! From Sanborn and Google Maps, it looks like the old Mulberry Street station is the building with the Tax Express photo in this Street Maps view, <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s..>

**Legeros** - 10/07/09 - 20:50

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## State Crackdown Stymies Retirement Plans of Raleigh Workers

09/05/09 152 W - + 8 - 7

That's the headline from [yesterday's WRAL story](#) about a surprise change to the benefits of City of Raleigh employees. For decades, firefighters, police officers, and other city workers have been banking their sick time to apply toward retirement. This week, the Department of the State Treasurer notified city officials that that practice is illegal. The problem, notes the news story, is that city works accrue sick time in intervals, versus on a monthly basis. Both city and state leaders plan to meet next week, to see about working on a compromise. For now, the state is grandfathering all existing retirees, so they won't lose the benefit. [Read the article](#), which includes an interview with a firefighter close to retirement and immediately impacted by the new rule. We're also watching for coverage from other outlets, to learn more and read more details about what's happened.

Well, there goes retiring in 8 years... Gotta work one year more now. This really sucked for many of my coworkers who were planning to retire within the next 6 months. ...and it inadvertently affects the upcoming promotional prospects too.

There's a new Sheriff in town and her name is Bev! I believe if you look between the lines, you'll see a underlying motive for cost savings at the state level – related to the retirement system. Go figure... it's not been illegal until now.

**A.Rich** - 09/05/09 - 22:24

Not being a Raleigh employee but working with a lot of them, my \$0.02 worth. You cannot tell me that they did not see this before now. There are all sorts of documents forms, files, etc. AC is right, this is nothing more than a ploy to save money at one end to spend/waste it on another.

Unfortunately, I believe you will see more crap such as this in the future- certification fees, fees for training, and more.

Just wait. BOHICA!

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/06/09 - 10:17

What I don't understand is, if you let that \$75,000 a year employee retire, you can hire one in their place for \$32,000. Isn't that significant savings?

**Silver** - 09/06/09 - 11:51

You're right Silver, it saves the City a ton of money in salary and benefit contributions, however I feel the driving factor is the STATE's ability to save a little money by not paying out of the retirement system as early as planned, thus making THEM more interest. Just an apparent assumption... although there are probably many more perspectives and facts.

**A.Rich** - 09/06/09 - 12:48

Technically you couldn't replace an employee until they are officially retired not just out on sick leave. Maybe I'm not understanding this correctly but isn't that how people actually "retire" early?

**RescueRanger** - 09/06/09 - 16:03

DJ, I haven't heard BOHICA since I was in the Army...nice.

**Kermit** - 09/07/09 - 02:00

RescueRanger,

That's not how it works. They are able to use accumulated sick leave to count towards their years of service. Thus when they have 1 year of sick leave they are able to retire with 29 years on the job and get credit for 30 years of service. It's kind of like them turning the leave in in exchange for that much service time. The pay is still based on the average of the highest 3 years. Your retirement is official at that time, it just gives you that much more years of credit in the system using your sick leave. The agency can then immediately replace that employee as they are no longer on the roster.

I just cannot understand how the City HR people did not know about this, or if they have since changed the policy themselves... or if they're going to try to get people grandfathered in, or what the next step is, as it is completely unfair to the employees, who could do nothing about how they accumulate their sick leave, and thought all this time they were going to have the same benefit as those that came before them cashing in their sick leave to retire early!

**CFP 7021** - 09/07/09 - 02:32

I thought it was if you have 1 or 2 years of accumulated sick leave you could use it for retirement but you could not leave early. For example, with 2 year of sick leave you could retire after 30 years but get credit for 32 years. That is at least how I was told it works. So I guess it would not really be fair for the state to allow Raleigh to do it that way and not any one else.

**Spanky** - 09/07/09 - 09:22

How long has this practice been going on, 30+ years? New State Treasurer comes along and her office says they only learned of it in July. It took 30 years to realize its illegal. BULL. Someone has to sign off on every retirement paper that comes along. Ms. Cowell, our esteemed State Treasurer, served how long on the Raleigh City Council. Why didn't she bring it up then. No wonder this done quietly, with no notice given?

**Jakey** - 09/07/09 - 14:39

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Blaze Destroys Big Moving Van, 1944**

09/05/09 205 W - + 11 - 11

Load of Furniture Consumed by Fire on Highway Nine Miles From Raleigh reads the second headline in the December 13, 1944 edition of the *News & Observer*. Packed with furniture, a "huge moving van" is destroyed by fire on Highway 1 "about nine miles from Raleigh near the Neuse River." The fire, blown by strong winds, spreads to a field and threatens a house and a gas station.

Raleigh firefighters extinguish the blaze, and save the buildings. Engine 4 might have responded, from Jefferson Street. Or maybe the auxiliary truck. Crews saved a new set of tires, and removed the tractor. The trailer and its contents were a loss. Traffic on the highway was blocked until the pumper's arrival. Waiting vehicles included "an Army convoy and a number of school busses."

The contents of the destroyed van? "Eleven pianos, ten living room suites, two sets of mahogany bedroom furniture with poster beds, several gas stoves and coal cooking stoves, several sinks, and a number of odd pieces of mahogany and walnut antique furniture." The G. R. Grubs Motor Lines van was headed to the Used Furniture Dealers Supply Company in Raleigh from New York.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**Ladder Truck**

09/05/09 36 W, 1 I - + 11 - 12

So what's the record for ladders stacked on a paint van? Or maybe it's a prototype for an ultra-cheap service ladder truck. Just add lights and lettering.



How bad would it suck if you needed the ladder on the bottom??

**Bangor** - 09/05/09 - 18:31

Actually I heard that's the new county spec for rescues. Goes well with the Pierce Pretenders...

**Glimmer of truth** - 09/05/09 - 19:55

I've know SEVERAL Raleigh Fire members (past and present) that had/have vehicles lookin' the same. Ms./Mr. Glimmer, now that's funny!!

**A.Rich** - 09/05/09 - 22:18

glad i'm not behind them on I-40

**AB** - 09/06/09 - 07:20

Due to budget constraints and our current state of the economy, this will be RFD Ladder Co. #9

**Silver** - 09/06/09 - 11:48

That's nothing! There's a red Ford F-350 truck that parks off Woodbend Dr. that is almost 13ft. high with the number of ladders stacked on top! I know because curiosity got the best of me one day and I measured it! I'd swear the truck would tip over if a turn was taken at a speed anymore than a crawl.

**RescueRanger** - 09/06/09 - 16:06

## Old Silver Lake Fire Station

09/06/09 82 W, 1 I - + 13 - 9

Reporting from Nash County, here's the Silver Lake Fire Department's old station on Home's Church Road outside Wilson. The 1961? building sits beside the new station, and is presently filled with decorations for the [New Hope Acres Haunted Hayride](#). The fundraising event is sponsored by SLFD. The ladies auxiliary uses the old station, and stores a unit in the far bay. The rest of the year, the building also houses a Sheriff's Department unit. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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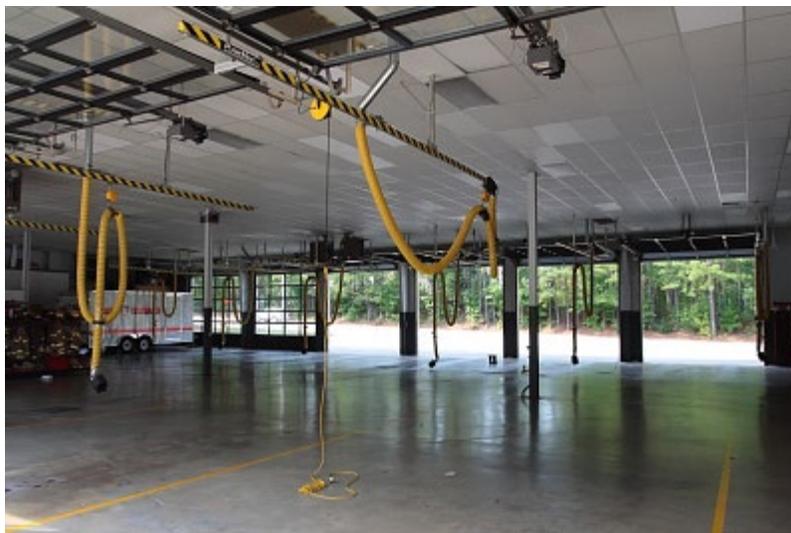
[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

## Empty House

09/06/09 27 W, 1 I - + 14 - 6

Wake Forest Fire Station 1, during the house fire on Wild Duck Court. Look at all that floor space.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

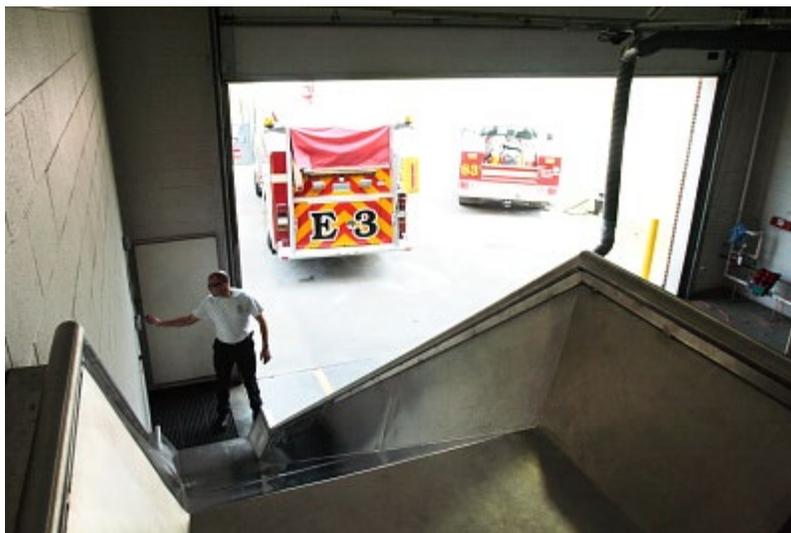
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Fire Station Slides in Wilson

09/07/09 100 W, 1 I - + 10 - 12

As discussed in a [prior posting](#), slides were installed instead of poles in a pair of Wilson fire stations. These stainless-steel chutes are present at Station 3 and Station 5, one each. They effect rapid egress from bedrooms to apparatus floor. That is, very rapid egress. There's wall padding waiting at the bottom. [See more including one in action](#), or learn more about the [Wilson Fire Department](#). This roving report was sponsored by a craving for corn sticks and chicken at [Parker's Barbecue](#) on Sunday afternoon. And they were *good*.



And one joke. What did the firefighter say after he landed wrong at the bottom? Chute!

**Legeros** - 09/07/09 - 09:11

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

**Lists of Stuff**

09/07/09 458 W - + 12 - 6

As presented in Mr. Blogger's history workshop at the convention. View the presentation slides at [his history site](#).

**Largest Fire Departments (in 2007)**

	Population	Sq. Miles	Personnel	Stations	Engines	Ladders
Charlotte	658,848	280.5	1083	38	39	14
Raleigh	367,995	139.9	553	27	28	7
Greensboro	267,072	136.9	476	22	22	7
Winston-Salem	221,014	133.2	340	19	18	5
Durham	212,568	104.0	301	15	15	5
Asheville	74,307	58.2	228	9	9	5
High Point	95,630	70.0	224	14	13	3
Wilmington	98,529	54.3	220	11	11	2
Cary	122,333	53.4	209	7	7	3
Concord	65,431	58.9	161	8	8	2
Gastonia	70,243	49.3	145	8	6	3
Hickory	43,422	42.6	126	7	6	1

**Largest Early Fires**

- 1816 – Raleigh – 51 buildings
- 1831 – Fayetteville – 600+ structures
- 1849 – Greensboro – Business district
- 1854 – Statesville – Half of town
- 1880 – Durham – Half of town
- 1886 – Wilmington – Waterfront
- 1887 – Clinton – 49 buildings
- 1918 – Charlotte – 48 homes, 250 homeless
- 1922 – New Bern
  - 40 blocks
  - 1,000+ buildings
  - 3,000 homeless

**Deadliest Fires**

- Hamlet , Sep 3, 1991 – 25 died in factory
- Charlotte, Mar 15, 1940 – 9 died in apartment
- Asheville, Mar 10, 1948 – 9 died in hospital
- Maxton, Nov 18, 1989 – 9 died in mobile home
- Laurinburg, Mar 17, 1996 – 8 died in nursing home
- Bakersville, May 5, 2005 – 8 died in jail
- Asheville, Apr 3, 1903 – 7 died in residence
- Henderson, Jan 22, 1985 – 7 died in residence
- Rocky Mount, Nov 11, 2000 – 7 died in residence

**Deadliest Explosions**

- Chatham County, May 27, 1925  
53 killed in mine explosion
- Craven County, May 26, 1864  
40 killed in munitions railcar explosion

- Lee County, Dec 19, 1895  
39 killed in mine explosion
- Altapass, May 11, 1907  
9 killed in explosion during railroad tunnel construction
- Johnston County, Mar 7, 1942  
7 killed in munitions truck explosion Over 100 injured

### **Deadliest for Firefighters**

- Four killed, May 25, 1979  
Shelby FD, explosion and building collapse
- Four killed, Sep 7, 1982  
National Spinning Company Fire Brigade, smoke blast
- Three killed, Jan 1, 1926  
Lexington FD, engine collided with car
- Two killed  
Jul 1, 1914 – Charlotte FD, explosion at barn fire  
Nov 19, 1973 – Forest Service, plane crash  
Nov 6, 1998 – Arrington FD , Thoroughfare FD, trapped in warehouse fire  
Sep 7, 2000 – Forest Service, helicopter crash  
Mar 7, 2008 – Salisbury FD, trapped in plant fire

### **Deadliest Accidents**

- Hendersonville, Jul 19, 1967 – Plane crash kills 82
- Rennert, Dec 16, 1943 – Train crash kills 74
- Charlotte, Sep 11, 1974 – Plane crash kills 72
- Charlotte, Jul 2, 1994 – Plane crash kills 37
- Brunswick County, Jan 6, 1960 – Plane crash kills 34
- Hamlet, Jul 22, 1906 – Train crash kills 29
- Statesville, Aug. 26?, 1891 – Train crash kills 25
- Maxton, Sep 20, 1943 – Plane crash kills 25

### **Oldest Active Fire Stations**

- 1908 – Henderson – Station 2
- 1924 – Asheville – Station 1
- 1929 – Charlotte – Station 5, Station 6
- 1935 – Charlotte – Station 7
- 1935 – Lillington FD
- 1942 – Fayetteville – Station 2
- 1948 – Charlotte – Station 8
- 1949 – Raleigh – Station 6

### **Oldest Retired Fire Stations**

- 1803 – Old Salem – Old Market Firehouse
- 1818 – New Bern – Old City Hall
- 1848 – Monroe – Old City Hall
- 1884 – Washington – Old Town Hall
- 1887 – Raleigh – Old Capital Hose House
- 1890 – Durham – Old Station 1
- 1891 – Goldsboro – Old Station
- 1893 – New Bern – Old Station
- 1894 – Asheville – Old Station 5
- 1895 – Kinston – Old Station 1

**This Morning's Fire in Apex**

09/07/09 107 W, 1 I - + 12 - 8

House fire in the L'Hermitage at Beaver Creek subdivision off the [1000 block of Olive Chapel Road](#). Two-story, wood-frame, vacant structure with 3,500 square-feet. Fully-involving upon arrival of Apex fire units. Mutual Aid from Cary and Fairview. Aerial operations with what looks like Ladder 1 and Ladder 3. Roof and second floor collapsed. Apex, Cary, and Wake EMS on scene. Dispatched at 3:00 a.m. Fire appeared suspicious, with investigators waiting until daylight to look for evidence. Building was unoccupied, and part of an abandoned housing development. [Watch footage from WTVD](#). Or also [watch footage from WRAL](#). Readers, please add details as desired.



WTVD image

If you're ever in Apex, you need to drive through this neighborhood. It's just off Highway 55, on Olive Chapel Rd. Looks like a ghost town, because when this hood was being built, the builders just picked up and left. There are houses that are huge, just sitting. Brand new townhomes, upscale that is, vacant. The community pool has weeds growing up all around it. And then you have the two poor souls that actually bought houses in this community...

If I were a homeless man, this place would be a best kept secret. Maybe a good field trip for Mikey L to take?

**Silver** - 09/08/09 - 11:37

Silver is correct. It is a shame that you have 500,000 homes sitting vacant. This development was supposed to be very upscale now most of them have damages due to being vacant and will have to be torn down. It is amazing how teenagers can carve Apex Rules into nice cherry cabinets. Luckily this neighborhood was just purchased out of foreclosure and should start up again.

**Apex Batt Chief** - 09/09/09 - 20:54

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Black Helicopters...**

09/07/09 65 W, 1 I - + 11 - 8

...well, green, actually. [This WRAL story](#) reports that today a trio of Chinook choppers landed in a field in Rolesville. No details yet, but this viewer photo has a neat, grainy, conspiratorial feel. If we were located a bit closer to military facilities, who knows what stories might be supposed. Bet those things were *loud* as they landed.



*Tyler Williams/WRAL Photo*

They're not gonna catch us. We're on a mission from God.

**Elwo od** - 09/07/09 - 22:14

Was anyone near there when this was going on? It sounds like (according to WRAL's story) that the local law enforcement agents were in on this but no military is owning up to it? Just curious if anyone was actually out there and saw what was going on.

**Mike** - 09/07/09 - 23:59

Mike, they are loud and have a distinct sound, we always know when the mail would get to our base. The Chinook is my favorite bird to fly in.

**Kermit** - 09/08/09 - 02:03

Looks like the spec ops version of the standard CH-47, refueling probe, and winch from what I can see. Back in the mid to late 90's Delta Force or some other Spec Ops group decided to conduct training exercises in downtown Charlotte using Little Birds and other helicopters... Scared a lot of people, then again not every day you have armed helicopters buzzing around with men firing automatic weapons...

**DC** - 09/08/09 - 08:05

I wonder if this is the same trio that was seen flying over Waxhaw, NC (Union County, S. of Charlotte) yesterday. They were quite low to the ground here as well; Everything in the firehouse rattled and shook.

**Rides An Engine** - 09/08/09 - 14:06

They are very loud, especially when our fire station is next to the flight line. They make our rooms shake, very irritating at 3 in the morning.

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 09/08/09 - 14:13

There was a pair of them flying down off of Tryon Rd yesterday around 4pm. Very low to the ground

**Country** - 09/08/09 - 17:37

Just saw this footage on WRAL.com

**091504** ([Web Site](#)) - 09/08/09 - 22:45

From what i was told, they were ordered to land due to inclement weather in the area

**Doppler** ([Email](#)) - 09/09/09 - 15:47

The Wake Weekly has a story, <http://wakeweekly.com/>, and some video footage at <http://www.wakeweekly.com/~weekly/index...>

LOUD helicopters

**Legeros** - 09/10/09 - 05:24

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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**Prunes and Corks and Sink Holes, Oh My**

09/09/09 272 W, 1 I - + 11 - 11

'Tis is a weird week around the fire web. First found on firehouse.com, the *Enterprise Record* in Chico, CA, has the [scoop on spilled prunes](#). Seven boxes that fell from the back of a semi-truck, snarled traffic, and sent firefighters to work with shovels. The result? Two hours of traffic delays and four collisions related therein. Plum story, to be sure. Next, would you believe flying corks at a vehicle fire? Firehouse.com also served up this [AP story of a truck fire](#) in Wamsutter, WY, where exploding wine bottles sent corks flying at responders. "My trooper got hit in the arm with one," notes a Highway Patrol member. Vintage story, there. And [also uncorked by Firegeezzer](#).



*Ty Barbour/Enterprise Record Photo*

Then there's that sink hole, which nearly swallowed an Los Angeles engine company, and inspired fire bloggers to new levels of **punditry**. [Firegeezzer](#): Fire Engine Gets That Sinking Feeling. [Dave Statter](#): I Sink, Therefore I Am. And so on. The crew escaped, the truck was recovered, and everyone snapped amazing pictures. Deep story, we'll call that one. Dave has also surfaced a neat video from New York City of a flaming taxi in midtown Manhattan. As he notes, "there's nothing spectacular about the video," but it's "what's going on around the fire" that's great. He and we are easily amused. Watch below or click for [slightly larger version on YouTube](#). And a joke. What's worse than raining cats and dogs? Why, hailing taxis, of course.

**Coming Events?**

09/09/09 137 W - + 17 - 5

'Tis the season for fire prevention days, as well as the official week in October. Who is having what and where in the coming weeks? Please add your information!

**Sep 12 (Sat)**

New Hope Live Burn, Park Hill Drive, 8:00 a.m. until  
[Spencer Fire Apparatus Show](#), NC Transportation Museum, 9:00 a.m. parade

**Sep 15 (Tue)**

Apex Station 4 Open House

**Sep 19 (Sat)**

Durham Highway Public Safety Day, Leesville High School

**Sep 26 (Sat)**

Warrenton Fireman's Day

**Oct 3 (Sat)**

[Garner Fireman's Day](#)  
 Zebulon Public Safety Day  
~~Western Wake Ceremony & Flea Market~~, Moved to Nov. 21 (Sat)

**Oct 4 (Sun)**

[Bay Leaf FD Open House](#), 1:00-5:00 p.m., Station 1  
 Raleigh FD Open House, 2:00-5:00 p.m., all stations

**Oct 8, Oct 9 (Thu, Fri)**

Raleigh FD at Crabtree Valley Mall

**Oct 10 (Sat)**

Raleigh FD at Crabtree Valley Mall

**Oct 11 (Sun)**

Fairview FD Open House

---

Fairview's Open House is on October 11(Sun)

**4447** - 09/09/09 - 06:40

Bayleaf openhouse Sunday Oct.4 11:00am till 5:00pm

**Christopher Young** ([Email](#)) - 09/09/09 - 09:14

Correction on the Bay Leaf Open House Time, It's From 1:00p to 5:00p! Sunday October 4th, Station One, 11713 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC, 27614

**Jonny** - 09/09/09 - 13:16

Not an open house, however New Hope has a Live burn Sept 12th 8am till.... The burn will be on Park Hill Dr.

**4908** ([Email](#)) - 09/09/09 - 15:56

This Saturday, Sep. 12, is the Spencer Fire Apparatus Show at the NC Transportation Museum. Parade at 9 a.m. Flyer, <http://rekindlesociety.com/uploads/SFDA..>

**Legeros** - 09/09/09 - 19:40

Wake & District Public Safety Pipes and Drums

4th Annual Tartan Ball

Friday, November 13, 2009 from 8-Midnight

Downtown Raleigh Sheraton Hotel

**Joe Brady** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/09/09 - 20:49

Sep. 11 anniversary moment of silence at Raleigh fire stations, tomorrow at 9:59 a.m., <http://www.raleigh-nc.org/portal/server...>

**Legeros** - 09/10/09 - 07:33

Morrisville has their public safety day on Oct. 3 at the new Walmart/ Sams Club located on Highway 54 close to Durham.

**Spanky** - 09/10/09 - 10:12

Creedmoor Fire Dept. Fireman's Day Saturday 10/10/09, Fire Apparatus Parade at 3:30 p.m. on Main Street. Dinner following at South Granville High School. BBQ, Stew, Cole Slaw eat in or take out \$7.00.

**Robert W** ([Email](#)) - 09/14/09 - 07:53

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Raleigh Fire Department Marks Anniversary of Sep. 11 Terrorist Attacks**

09/10/09 121 W - + 8 - 8

The Raleigh Fire Department will hold a moment of silence Friday to remember the civilian and uniformed victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The observance honors those who lost their lives in New York City, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. For one minute beginning at 9:59 a.m., apparatus and personnel at all [twenty-seven fire stations](#) will be present on each station's apron. Personnel will stand at attention and apparatus will have their warning lights activated. The remembrance takes place at the time of the collapse of the South Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. It was the first tower to collapse following the terrorist attack.

Hey Lee, Just wondering if you made it out to a station to take a picture of the moment of silence?

**ExplorerRickels** ([Email](#)) - 09/11/09 - 13:59

How many county departments joined this event. I think Stony Hill and RDU...anyone else?

**Smoketamer** - 09/11/09 - 17:51

Wake Forest joined in the event with both fire and police.

**Wayne** - 09/11/09 - 20:16

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## FDNY Fireboat Three Forty Three

09/10/09 135 W, 1 I - + 7 - 8

As [this Firehouse.com article](#) reports, a ceremony of another sort takes place tomorrow in Panama City, when FDNY officials launch the department's first new fire boat of its size in five decades. The 140-foot, 500-ton craft is named Three Forty Three, a reference to the number of firefighters and paramedics killed on September 11, 2001. The new boat is also larger than any other fire boat in the United States. With a pumping capacity approaching 50,000 (!) gallons per minute, the Three Forty Three should arrive in New York City in December. It'll be assigned to Marine 1 on the Hudson River, and replace the John D. McKean. [Read the entire article](#), or learn more at the web site [nycfireboat.com](#), which includes this neat computer-generated image:



Some videos of the launch, from Dave Statter: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blog..>

That thing is HUGE.

**Legeros** - 09/12/09 - 09:36

There was an interesting story on a retired FDNY fireboat on CBS Sunday Morning yesterday. They talked about it, what is is doing now and a how it was put in to action on 9/11. The website for it is [fireboat.org](#)

**D.Cates** ([Email](#)) - 09/14/09 - 10:07

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Blogfest with FireCritic**

09/10/09 72 W - + 14 - 10

What does a day of concentrated fire blogging look like? FireCritic took the taste taste. Twelve hours and twenty-six posting later, [read the results of his blogfest](#). As he notes, some are serious, some are funny, and some are in-between. Legeros was mentioned somewhere in there, so this reader's happy! Next question, who's gonna try a full-shift 'fest? e.g., twenty-four hours of continuous blogging? We await a contender.

Full shift blogging fest....I might be up to the challenge! What are your thoughts on what it would encompass? I have an idea, but I would love to hear what your ideas are in that head of yours!

**Fire Critic** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/11/09 - 14:27

Hmmmmm. Hafta think about that.

**Legeros** - 09/12/09 - 07:38

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

September 11, 2001

09/11/09 13 W - + 12 - 11

A moment of silence. A day of reflection. A lifetime of remembrance.

Lets Roll!

09/11/2001 - 09/11/09 - 08:18

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## This Afternoon's Fire in Cary

09/11/09 90 W, 1 I - + 13 - 6

Two alarms (?) at [10820 Penny Road](#). Engine 6 arriving at a three-story, wood-frame retirement home with 99,330 square-feet. Built 2003. Working fire in laundry room on first floor. Controlled without extension. Evacuation of first floor residents performed, with second and third floors sheltered in place. Extended salvage and overhaul, with room-by-room ventilation. Dispatched about 3:06 p.m. Units included E6, E3 (using T6), E2, L5, L1, T7, R4, B1, Fairview E1, EMS 42, 41, D2, D5. Readers, please correct details. Photos from Legeros forthcoming.



Dispatched at 15:01 as a commercial fire alarm, E6, E3, L5, B1, upgraded to a structure fire shortly after dispatch with B1 requesting a second alarm upon his arrival. Fairview Car 1 was also on the scene.

**car3550** - 09/11/09 - 18:27

Dirty Dryers Cause Fires!!! Coincidentally, I'm available for dryer vent cleaning services...

**Silver** ([Email](#)) - 09/12/09 - 10:31

I am a reader not a poster, but that is funny Silver. Nice Plug.

**NHL** - 09/12/09 - 11:05

Spero has a vent cleaning business... he did my moms house. Pretty cool tools.

**Kermit** - 09/12/09 - 12:33

Veni, vidi, venti

I came, I saw, I cleaned the dryer vent

**Legeros** - 09/12/09 - 13:06

Gotta get them in when I can...Triangle Vent-Clean is a full service dryer vent cleaning company, and that's all "we" do!!

**Silver** - 09/12/09 - 14:30

## Southeastern Fire & Rescue Expo in Raleigh, August 1987 ?

09/12/09 56 W - + 11 - 8

Does anyone remember an event in Raleigh called the Southeastern Fire & Rescue Expo? Held at the Fairgrounds, in August, 1987. One person remembers it was held, or planned to be held, for two or three consecutive years. Another person remembers it as a one-time deal. Any help is appreciated.

---

I remember the event, I know it was for one year not sure if any more than that. I went to the event that was sponsored by Southeastern Emergency Equipment and went all times they had it. Check with Donald Pleasants with SEE for details. Also Steve Acai that was with NCOEMS might have some pictures of the event. I remember a huge rescue truck from Maryland was there that was something/

**rnln** ([Email](#)) - 09/13/09 - 15:07

Don't remember the name exactly, but there was an expo. I remember because Zebulon's ladder was on display.

**Chris** - 09/14/09 - 02:45

Reader David R. remembers attending fire expos at the Fairgrounds in August 1987 and May 1988. He'll look through his pictures for specific dates.

**Legeros** - 09/17/09 - 19:31

Update on this. Found dates mentioned for a National Fire Expo at the Fairgrounds, April 1 to April 3, 1987. The same animal?

**Legeros** - 01/16/10 - 15:32

And found another set of dates for 1988, Southeastern Fire/Rescue Expo 88, April 22-23 of that year. Held at Fairgrounds.

**Legeros** - 02/01/10 - 21:31

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

Hand Line

09/12/09 13 W, 1 I - + 8 - 11

From today's live burn at New Hope. Click to enlarge:



Thank you Mike & Lee. We appreciate all the pictures you took today.

Doppler (Email) - 09/13/09 - 01:29

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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**Charlotte Fire Department Rules & Regulations, 1940**

09/12/09 16 W - + 9 - 10

This posting has moved to <http://legeros.com/blog/charlotte-fire-department-rules-regulations-1940>

August 5, 2017

There are quite a few gems in here, and which were probably present in most department's rules and regs in that time. Once a week, company officers were required to visit personnel who were sick, and report on their condition. Off duty members wanting to leave the city were required to get permission. And keep in touch at all times by telephone. Since, in the event of second or general alarm fires, they were required to report for duty. And, my favorite, "proper decorum must be observed at all times, no altercations or ungentlemanly, profane, abusive or improper language or disorderly conduct will be permitted at any station upon the part of any officer or member of the department at any time."

**Legeros** - 09/12/09 - 22:10

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Deadlier Roads?**

09/13/09 100 W - + 10 - 12

Are fatal accidents on the rise, or are they just getting more coverage? Today's *News & Observer* reports on four fatal incidents from Friday and Saturday. [Driver rear-ended and killed](#) on Strickland Road near Lead Mine Road on Friday night. [Pedestrian struck and killed](#) on Garner Road near Tryon Road on Friday night. [Groom killed hours before wedding](#), ejected in a collision at Glenwood Avenue and Westgate Road Saturday morning. [Boy on a skateboard struck and killed](#) on Council Gap Court in Cary on Saturday afternoon. Two have resulted in DWI charges. That's a rant for another day, there.

---

Cary E6 had a MVA involving a motorcycle on Penny Rd. near Ederlee last night. Pt. died on the way to WakeMed Trauma.

**fire1983** - 09/13/09 - 13:13

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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**Remembering Floyd**

09/13/09 251 W - + 8 - 13

Today's *News & Observer* has a [tenth-anniversary retrospective of Hurricane Floyd](#). The 300-mile wide storm with 110-mph winds was the worst natural disaster in the state's history. Floyd landed on September 16, 1999, and soaked a state already overflowing from Tropical Storm Dennis from two weeks before. As the feature by Martha Quillin notes, "Floyd filled creeks and rivers and lakes until they overflowed. Then it filled the neighborhoods around them, and downstream from them, from Raleigh to the coast." The storm killed 52 people in our state, and caused \$6 billion in damage. Here are the story links:

- [Feature story: 'The flood' 10 years later: Ruin, renewal](#)
- [Photo gallery: Hurricane Floyd a decade later](#)
- [Seven Springs: Flood drove many off for good](#)
- [Swansboro: 'She will always be five'](#)
- [Kinston: Neighbors left, he stayed](#)
- [Princeville: Drowned town stayed, rebuilt](#)

The pre-Floyd event, Tropical Storm Dennis, struck the state on September 5, 1999. The eye made landfall on the southeastern coast with 70 mph winds at 3:00 p.m. The eye of the storm passed northeast of Raleigh about 1:00 a.m. on September 6. Two weeks later, Hurricane Floyd made landfall as a Category 2 storm near Wilmington at 3:00 a.m. on September 16. The eye of the storm passed east of Raleigh about 9:00 a.m. that morning. As the [Hurricane Floyd Wikipedia page](#) notes, resulting rains caused "widespread flooding over a period of several weeks; nearly every river basin in the eastern part of the state exceeded 500-year flood levels."

What do responders remember from that time?

---

I was working in Goldsboro back then and remember getting off on the morning before it came in and we were told to call before leaving home. That next morning I called in at 6 AM and was told to stay home until it passed. By 8 AM I was able to leave home but my town was shut down literally because of the flooding swamp and trees across the roads in multiple areas. I helped clear roadways until I was able to leave town on Hwy 50 North and venture all the way to Newton Grove in order to get to Goldsboro. Finally got to Station 4 about 1 PM. We ran numerous calls that day and night, mostly due to electricity coming back on and other calls. Went on 4 day break the next day and that's when the Neuse crested and flooded alot of the city. When I came back off of 4 day I had to go all the way to Smithfield come down 70, go on 581 to Nahunta then to Pikeville just to get to Goldsboro. It was a very tough week or so in that city before things returned to normal.

**car3550** - 09/13/09 - 17:52

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**This Afternoon's Industrial Accident / Atlantic Avenue**

09/13/09 60 W, 1 I - + 14 - 10

Wall collapse at [4808 Atlantic Avenue](#). One-story automotive center with construction on an additional vehicle bay. Concrete wall collapse, one fatality on arrival. Extended extrication of victim with Engine 15, Ladder 2, Rescue 2, and EMS 5. Other units on scene included Battalion 1, District 1, Medic 93, and EMS 16. Dispatched 1:28 p.m. Pics forthcoming.



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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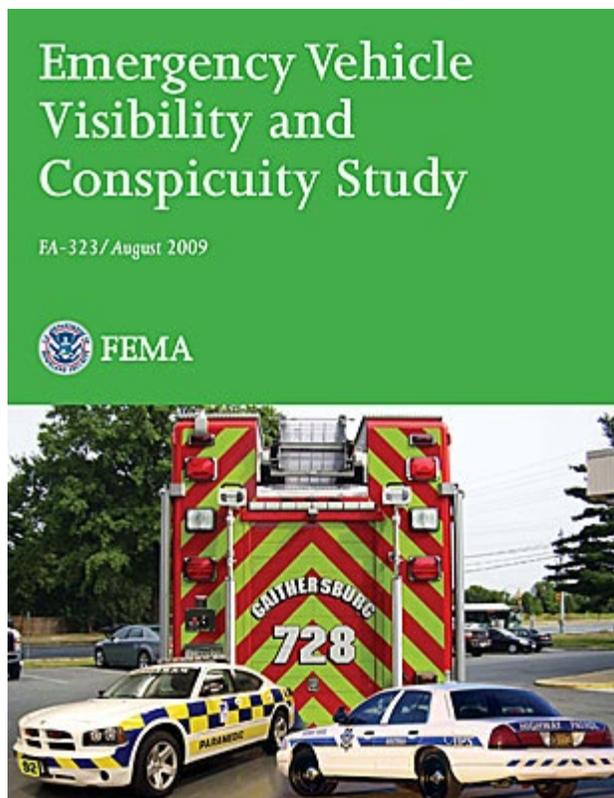
[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

## Emergency Vehicle Visibility and Conspicuity Study

09/14/09 117 W, 1 I - + 10 - 9

As this [Firehouse.com article reports](#), the United States Fire Administration (USFA) released a study of emergency vehicle visibility and conspicuity<sup>1</sup> in August. The 45-page study details "best practices in emergency vehicle visibility, including discussions about retro-reflective striping, chevrons, high-visibility paint, built-in passive light and other reflectors for emergency response vehicles." Exceptionally interesting reading, and with a cover that includes a certain local paramedic car. The now-familiar Battenburg pattern is discussed on pages 14 and 15, and includes a pair of pictures. Our portfolio is growing! [Download the report](#), or click the cover to access:



<sup>1</sup>For extra credit, say conspicuity ten times fast.

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

**Emergency Communications Center Employees Receive Honors**

09/15/09 111 W, 1 I - + 6 - 9

Two employees of the Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center (ECC) have been honored as being the best in the state at what they do. Chris Walton, a supervisor in the ECC, was presented the Supervisor of the Year Award by the North Carolina chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Officials (APCO) International. Craig Schulz, a technical services supervisor in the ECC, was named Support Person of the Year by the North Carolina NENA chapter. A third employee, Deputy Director Kelly Palmer, has been recognized for her work on behalf of the North Carolina chapter of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA). [Read the entire press release.](#)



Congratulations Chris!

**jetexas** - 09/15/09 - 14:40

To all honorees... CONGRATS!! You and your ECC colleagues are the best!

**A.C.Rich** - 09/16/09 - 16:14

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## September Fire Commission Meeting Cancelled

09/15/09 24 W - + 14 - 2

The [Wake County Fire Commission Meeting](#) on Thursday, September 17, has been cancelled. This regularly scheduled meeting will be rescheduled.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Mistakes in My Books

09/15/09 349 W - + 8 - 11

When you write a book, you make mistakes. Most of the errors are corrected before publication. Others are discovered after publication, some times soon, some times years later. My two *Images of America* books about Raleigh and Wake County firefighting contain errors. In lieu of the ability to alter reality and correct every printed copy that exists-- still waiting on that magic wand-- a pair of web pages exist with corrections. They're found on each book's web site: [Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#). Dedicated readers can amend their copies as desired. What were the notable errors and omissions?

### [Raleigh & Wake County Firefighting](#) (2003)

- Raleigh Fire Chief Sherwood Brockwell incorrectly cited as the first paid, full-time fire chief in America. This is also remembered by some readers as "first paid fire chief in America." Both are incorrect. There were paid chiefs and full-time chiefs long before Mr. Brockwell. The source for the erroneous fact was another local history book. Its author may have misheard, misread, or misinterpreted a different and more likely truthful fact about Brockwell, which was "youngest full-time fire chief in America" at the time.
- Old Station 2 / Old Station 2 incorrectly addressed as 212 S. Salisbury Street, instead of 412 S. Salisbury Street.
- Corrections to a sign shown at the Longbranch, after a fire, and involving barmaids and their buns.
- Old Station 6 incorrectly pictured. The [correct building](#) is next door.
- Walter crash trucks incorrectly pluralized as Walters.
- Names, dates, etc.

### [Raleigh & Wake County Firefighting Volume II](#) (2004)

- Five people named in a picture showing four people. D'oh!
- Humor on the subject of flea markets.
- Punctuation, spacing, etc.
- Names, dates, etc.

And while we're on the topic, here are a couple frequently asked questions about the books and my authorship therein.

Q: How many copies were printed?

A: If memory serves, the quantities were 2,100 for the first volume, and 1,200 for the second.

Q: How many copies were sold?

A: Don't know. Most of them.

Q: Are they still available?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you become famous?

A: No.

Q: Did you become rich

A: Hell no.

---

Great set of books! Thanks Mike!

**Travis Loy** - 09/15/09 - 14:10

Mistakes or no mistakes, still I want to thank you and Lee for what both of you do for the Wake/Raleigh fire departments. I thank you for writing the books. Funny that you mentioned the first paid fire chief in America. I have told many that Raleigh had the first paid fire chief in America. They probably called me an idiot as I walked out of the room. OH WELL!! HAHAHA

**Chris Smith** - 09/15/09 - 17:39

Hey, at least you didn't publish that untruth in print!

**Legeros** - 09/15/09 - 17:50

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Renovations at Fuquay-Varina Station 1

09/15/09 67 W, 1 I - + 11 - 11

Lee Wilson took this photo of the renovations underway at Fuquay-Varina Station 1 at [301 South Fuquay Avenue](#). The 4,342 square-foot addition will nearly double the size of the 30 year-old facility. Exterior improvements will create an obvious front door to the building. Interior renovations will rearrange and expand the living area. [See more photos](#). Read more about the [Fuquay-Varina Fire Department](#).



*Lee Wilson photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Working

09/16/09 14 W, 1 I - + 11 - 9

From yesterday's fire on Millbrook Road.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Mystery Stations**

09/17/09 26 W, 1 I - + 13 - 9

Bird's Eye with Bing Maps again. Hint #1: They're not in Raleigh. Hint #2: They're not in Wake County.



Any chance the bottom picture is Greensboro Station#17

**Noah Rogers** ([Email](#)) - 09/17/09 - 08:16

The top right picture is the Duck Fire Station in Dare County (OBX). Almost all fire stations on the OBX have their own helo pad.

**Adam Brown** - 09/17/09 - 09:48

Yes, that's Duck and Greensboro. What's in the upper left? Hint #3: Mill.

**Legeros** - 09/19/09 - 14:21

I can guess what the helo pads are used for in such remote locations but what are the details on their use? Medical evacs no doubt but what else? And how often are they used?

**Andrew** - 09/19/09 - 19:39

The helo pads vary in use from station to station and between the two counties of Dare and Currituck. In Corolla we use our helo pad for roughly 45-60 a year some years better than others. The local hospital in the OBX is mostly for sick calls and ob calls. So most other calls need to go to norfolk sentara or another hospital in the tidewater region. During the tourist season we fly anything from an active MI to seziures. It is all up to the medic on the call if a helicopter is requested or not. Drive time from Corolla to Norfolk is roughly an hour and forty five minutes on a good day and three hours on days that guest are leaving.

Now, Carova Beach Vol Fire Dept. is actually off of the paved road about 10 miles north of Corolla. There anything that may the slightest bit need to go somewhere other than a band-aid station gets flown out. The flight time ranges anywhere from 25-45 mins depending on where the helicopter is coming from. Two helos serve the OBX one based out of Manteo at the airport operated by Dare County EMS and another at Norfolk Sentara called Nightangale. Both services provide outstanding service and don't mind coming to anything they are called for. I know us in Corolla receive several spinal injuries during the tourist season from beach activity that usually end up taking a flight out of precautionary

measures.

Also the Coast Guard provides an helicopter if requested for anything from transports of patients to the hospital (be ready to lose your medic, because the CG requires the medic to fly in, and also be ready to send a driver to go get the medic) To assisting Ocean Rescue personnel in missing swimmer and/or missing boater searches. If you have any more questions about the OBX feel free to shoot me an email and I will be more than happy to try and answer them!

**Adam Brown** ([Email](#)) - 09/20/09 - 03:12

Is the top left Kannapolis Station 1 and training grounds?

**Josh** ([Email](#)) - 09/23/09 - 18:28

Correct!

**Legeros** - 09/23/09 - 20:49

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Fourth Annual Tartan Ball, Friday, Nov. 13

09/17/09 203 W, 1 I - + 9 - 9

The [Wake & District Public Safety Pipes and Drums](#) Fourth Annual Tartan Ball is Friday, November 13, 2009 from 8:00 p.m. to midnight at the Downtown Raleigh Sheraton Hotel. Tickets are now on sale, available exclusively through PayPal. This year's guest band is the North Carolina State University Pipes & Drums, under the direction of Pipe Major John Sprague. The evening will also feature the Inis Cairde School of Irish Dance, Raleigh Scottish Country Dancers, and Jo Moore Kalat School of Scottish Dance. Adult kegged beverages and appetizers are included as part of the ticket. A full-service cash bar is also available.

The Tartan Ball is **limited to only 320 tickets**. That is, 318 tickets, as Mr. Blogger bought two. As soon as the last ticket is sold via PayPal, no more will be made available, and you'll have to wait until their fifth anniversary party in 2011. To purchase tickets, visit [www.ForOurFallen.org](http://www.ForOurFallen.org) and click the PayPal link. Note that a PayPal account is not required to purchase tickets, which will be **waiting for you at the door**. See you there!

Next question, who's the piper behind the mask in this cool poster? Click to slightly enlarge:



I bought my ticket, and I know who is under the mask. I only wish I was there to see Lloyd Johnson standing in the fountain to get the picture.

**Mike** - 09/18/09 - 11:16

I've got mine as well, and also know who's under the mask... awesome poster, and can't wait for this year's Tartan Ball.

**CFP 7021** - 09/18/09 - 12:30

Corrected the posting title, which inexplicably read Nov. 18. Just call me Bad Typist.

**Legeros** - 09/19/09 - 14:21

Ok brothers and sisters tickets are selling, so don't miss out on one heck of a good party! Beer, food, music, dancing, raffle prizes and more! So don't wait get your tickets now!

**Jason Lane** - 09/27/09 - 21:30

And all those legs, my god, the legs on display!

Real men wear kilts.

**Legeros** - 09/27/09 - 21:35

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Objects Are As Close As They Appear

09/17/09 49 W, 1 I - + 12 - 9

Reader David R. passes along this photo of an Iraq fire engine. He's in Baghdad at the moment and that blurry object in the foreground is indeed a rifle barrel. Thanks for thinking of us, and stay safe. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

**Ferrells FireDog One**

09/18/09 177 W, 3 I - + 11 - 11

Our friends at [Ferrells Fire Rescue](#) in Nash County pass along photos of a unique special unit. Below is FireDog One, a mobile hot dog stand that's the brainchild of Ferrells Fire Rescue Auxiliary President Robbie Tippett. During the department's last fundraiser, a golf tournament at Zebulon Country Club, a stationary hot dog stand served hungry golfers. This worked well for those near the stand, and not so good for those out on the course. Robbie was in charge of the event, and had an idea: make the hot dog stand mobile.

Some weeks later, he spotted an EZ Go XI-875 Industrial Burden Carrier at a government surplus warehouse on Garner Road. The Auxiliary purchased same and provide Robbie with a budget. The unit is nearly completed, and is expected to make its first public appearance at a **Ferrells Firemen's Day** fundraiser this Saturday, Sept. 19. For those in and around rural Nash County, the fire station is located at [9589 West NC 97](#) in Middlesex. And serving BBQ pork and chicken, too! Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)

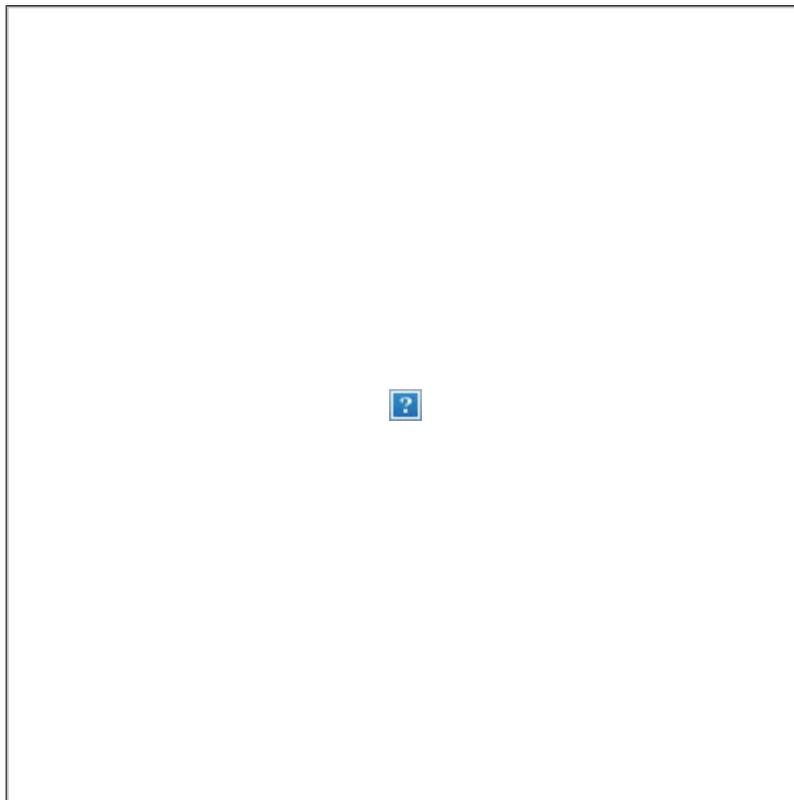
Remember personal info?

Yes

**Durham Highway Public Safety Day on Saturday**

09/18/09 86 W, 1 I - + 6 - 13

Durham Highway Fire Department hosts Public Safety Day 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday at Leesville Road High School, [8409 Leesville Road](#) in Raleigh. They'll have educational displays and exhibits, with Smokey Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog along with plenty of fire, police, and EMS vehicles for exploration. They'll demonstrate extrication, live firefighting, and even bring a medical helicopter to the event. Free hot dogs and soda, too! See their flyer on the [DHFD web site](#).



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Two-Stepping**

09/18/09 172 W, 1 I - + 7 - 13

Since it's Friday, let's extol the virtues of a new country bar in Wake Forest. Called [Crossroads Entertainment](#), they're located at [413 Brooks Street](#). They've been open about a month, and they're the latest, greatest place for two-stepping in the Triangle. Built inside a renovated strip mall, in the old Winn Dixie, the place is big, clean, and well-attended on the weekends. New furniture, nice decor. Really a nice-looking place, and non-smoking at that!

The main room has a generous-sized dance floor, and a good sound system. And it's attracting all the country dancing regulars who you'll recognize from T.J.'s or the old Longbranch. Swinging, waltzing, line-dancing, it's all there. The club has two smaller rooms, one of which is a sports bar. Friendly staff and friendly faces. They have a [web site on MySpace](#) with a their calendar and other details. Look for "Boots" Blogger on the odd Tuesday or Friday night. He'll be the one wearing a Hawaiian shirt.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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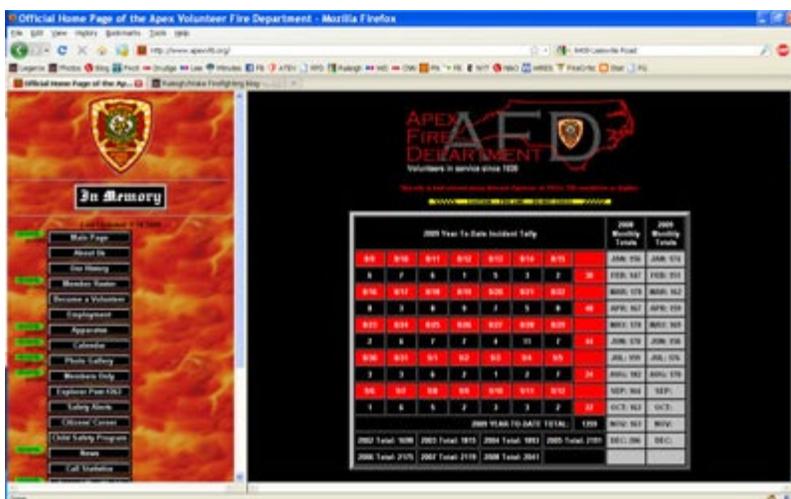
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**Below the Fold**

09/19/09 266 W, 2 I - + 14 - 5

Let's talk usability. Raise your hand if you've seen a web site that requires scrolling down to see the latest updates. Instead of the latest, greatest, newest content positioned at the top of the page, it's located farther or maybe further down. Maybe the top of the page has big banners, or splashy graphics, or unchanging "about this web site" information. This type of page design is challenging for users. If they don't scroll down, to see what has changed, they might think the site is inactive. And thus stop visiting. Plus, that most valuable of real estate-- the top of the site-- is largely wasted. Once you've seen the banner, or read the introduction, it's no longer useful for repeat visitors.

The [Apex Fire Department web site](#) has been modified to address this issue. Here's the "before" version, as shown on Mr. Blogger's desktop resolution of 1400x900. Run totals are at the top of the page. Big honkin' table of numbers. Below that are photo updates, and then the latest announcements. Chances are, most users are scrolling down, past the run numbers, to see what's new on the site. What new photos have been posted, what new announcements are listed.



Here's the "after" version, with the run totals moved to the bottom of the page. Photo updates are at the top of the page. Below them, "below the fold" alas, are the latest announcements. Simple fix. Great improvement!



Hey Mike! Thanks as always for the input and feedback. I used to be a computer programmer but, did mostly behind-the-scenes stuff so I certainly cannot make any claims to being a "web site usability" expert. The AFD web site started out 8 years ago as a little side project for me to learn HTML, I had no idea it would end up being an almost-daily labor of love and that I would be posting as many pictures, etc. as I have. The site is long overdue for a re-design, which I will be working on in my spare time. At the risk of opening a pandora's box, I would request that if anyone has other feedback they are willing to share on the site – good, bad, or indifferent – bring it on! :-)

**NCFirewolf** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/19/09 - 10:46

The beauty of web page updates is that they're usually easy to revert. If you learn that your users need the run totals back at the top, no problem. Or maybe something else at the top is even more valuable to them.

Mind you, reading the minds of users is its own challenge. Web site users rarely send unsolicited feedback on design issues, in my experience. Formal user testing is best, but who has time or resources for that?

One thing I do is discretely watch the folks at fire stations, when they're viewing my sites. I can learn a lot and it always challenges my assumptions of how people use and navigate my sites.

Fire web sites often are labors of love, as web resources are probably usually a lower priority. And they can get developed in vacuums. Sites are designed a certain way because the web person thinks it's coll, versus because users need fast and easy access to something.

**Legeros** - 09/19/09 - 11:06

I thank all of you who keep up websites related to the service. Just being able to look out there and get the information I want and much more is really great. Thank you Sue-Lynn and thanks Mike and others.

**H2O** - 09/19/09 - 16:28

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**Mystery Apparatus**

09/19/09 15 W, 1 I - + 10 - 9

This one is probably pretty easy.



Well Michael that appears to me to be the Forrestry Services truck.

**M. Legeros** - 09/19/09 - 22:34

NC State Forest Service Tractor

Tows a low-boy with a dozer on it!

**ExplorerRickels** ([Email](#)) - 09/20/09 - 19:29

Correct! It's a 2008 Sterling tractor used in Orange County, <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/20..>

**Legeros** - 09/21/09 - 06:57

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**McDowell County Firefighter Struck on I-40**

09/20/09 107 W - + 10 - 11

[FireNews has reported](#) on a McDowell County firefighter who was injured on Interstate 40 early Friday morning. Crooked Creek Fire Department member Kirk Lunsford was working in the median at an accident scene near mile marker 70 near Old Fort when he was struck by a vehicle. He suffered serious injuries to his legs as well as a head injury, and underwent surgery Friday evening. He was listed in good condition Saturday, reports [this Citizen Times article](#). Full recovery of his legs, however, is uncertain, the article reports. The original accident involved an overturn tractor-trailer truck. Two others were transported from the scene.

Very sad news to hear about this. My thoughts and prayers are with him, his family and department. Does anyone know if they were using the new DOT vests or positioning of the apparatus' on scene?

Speedy recovery Kirk!

**CTK** - 09/21/09 - 12:58

according to the news he was in his POV and had just witnessed the initial wreck (in the eastbound lane) and:

"After Lunsford exited his vehicle, a westbound vehicle driven by Shawn Buchanan slammed on his brakes and swerved to avoid a slow-moving vehicle in front of him, Dowdle said. Buchanan lost control and struck Lunsford, pinning him against the median."

No idea if he was wearing an ANSI approved vest or not, or honestly if it would have made a difference. Remember it is a combination of all of those things we do for our safety on the roadway. Proper blocking positioning, cone placement creating taper to and from the workzone, proper scene lighting, taking an extra lane, proper advanced warning, and the use of traffic safety vests.

My thoughts go out to FF Lunsford and his family.

**CFP 7021** ([Email](#)) - 09/21/09 - 17:48

Thanks for the update Shev. Its terrible that this has happend yet again in the fire service and north carolina. Everyone remember to be careful and be aware of your surroundings and keep in mind what can happen..paid and volunteer...we are all here for the same reason.

**CTK** - 09/21/09 - 22:56

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Agency Archives Are History in the Making (Updated)**

09/25/09 208 W - + 11 - 9

Here's a [great article from Fire Chief magazine](#) from April 2009, on the subject of fire department history. Author Ronny J. Coleman, a California fire service veteran and president of the [National Fire Heritage Center](#), advocates that every fire department should have both a historian and an official archive. He notes that the word "archive" means "the very perishable written or printed documentation that is maintained by a department" and which is entirely different than a firefighters' museum.

Writes Coleman: "An archive preserves primary-source documents that accumulate over the course of an organization's lifetime. A museum usually focuses on the hardware." His excellent editorial expands on these needs, and provides action steps for fire departments. Such as compiling or updating the department's written history, processes to preserve documents after their legal retention requirements have expired, and collecting those memos, letters, photos, and other materials are usually "right in front of the department's own nose, but often [get] tossed away."

The article also includes a [sidebar on Archival Tips](#), and a link to a related article from October 2009, by our own Ken Farmer, called [Remember the Past to Protect the Future](#). Good reading, all.

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Bumping back to the top because, ahem, I forgot to include the article link. It's there now.

**Legeros** - 09/25/09 - 20:33

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Tradition

09/20/09 43 W, 1 I - + 9 - 13

Great quote, found elsewhere on the *Fire Chief* magazine web site. "Tradition is what we call something that we do, when we don't know why we do it." Discuss as desired. Updated with Topol. The other [Tevy](#).



I can't say anything against that. It actually sounds pretty great.

I do know that some traditions in the fire and rescue service are no longer safe, but are so fun to talk about. Think of riding on the tailboard of an engine... something we don't do now, but is considered one of the staples of the fire service. The tradition of the firehouse dalmation – has gone out of style due to who knows what. In EMS, we have the tradition that the more blood you get on you, the more work you have done – that's dangerous and stupid now (by the way, I agree with this one changing to a bad thing).

I know for certain that I don't have the best standing to talk about this, since I am a relative toddler in public safety, and there are others who are have been doing this for much longer. Please speak up and join the discussion.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 09/21/09 - 15:26

Tradition today was necessity in the past lots of times. We rode rear steps (tail boards) because that was the only place to ride. Nothing like the rush you get from watching the pavement fly by just below your feet at any speed (responding to a call, returning to quarters, even proceeding in a parade) to make you hang on. Laying a supply line was even more fun, hanging on to the side of the rear of the truck, so you didn't get whacked in the knee by a hose coupling. Oh the joys of firefighting before the enclosed cabs. And Pets, we had a Boston Terrier that was trained to get in his crate when the bells sounded..... GOOD DOG.

**Jon C** - 09/21/09 - 19:13

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

## Speeding the Loading of Firefox

09/20/09 75 W - + 10 - 11

Does the Firefox browser take forever and a day to load, when you first open the application using Windows XP? Here's a tip to speed the thing:

1. Right-click on the Firefox shortcut icon.
2. Click **Properties**.
3. In the resulting dialog box, click the **Compatability** tab.
4. In the Compatability mode section, check the box beside **Run this program in compatability mode for**.
5. Also select **Windows 2000** from the drop-down menu.
6. Click **OK**.
7. Giddy-yup.

---

Nice little bit of info. Works like a charm.

**JM** - 09/20/09 - 22:12

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Hard Drive Docking Station**

09/21/09 71 W, 1 I - + 14 - 4

Mr. Blogger is enlarging his secondary hard drive. Out goes 500 gig, in goes 1,000 gig. e.g., terabyte. For the arduous task of copying everything over, a [Thermaltake hard drive docking station](#) was used. This thing's a gem. Just insert the internal drive and power on the docking station. Just like that. No hard drive enclosure required. Bought mine on Amazon.



Any hints on price and purchase location? Or was it an internet purchase?

**Paul** - 09/21/09 - 19:40

Bought mine on Amazon. Price range \$40ish, if I recall.

**Legeros** - 09/21/09 - 19:43

got mine on amazon too – about the same price – works like a charm!

**cornerhydrant** - 09/21/09 - 20:56

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

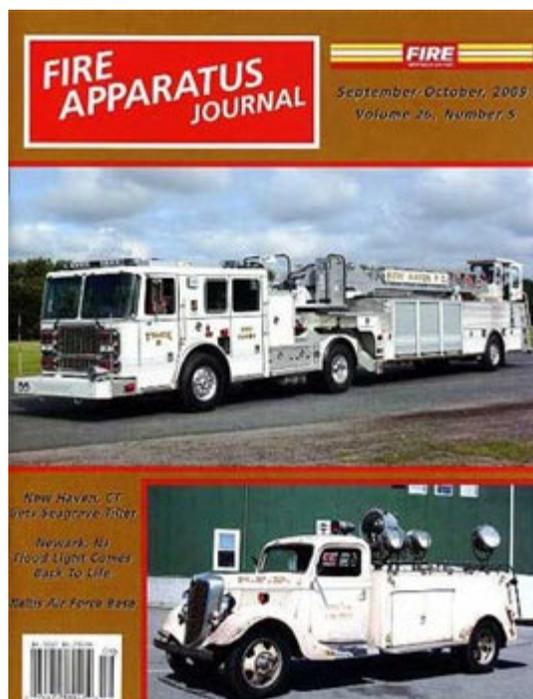
No

/ [Textile](#)

## Fire Apparatus Journal

09/21/09 134 W, 1 I - + 13 - 3

Everybody here has a subscription to [Fire Apparatus Journal](#), right? **The** magazine for American apparatus buffs. Published every other month, edited by John A. Calderone, and featuring 100+ color photos each issue. Regular columns include cross-country news updates, fire department profiles, airport apparatus, fire boats, rehabs, and apparatus models. This is their twenty-fifth year, having published their first issue in June 1984. If memory serves, I learned of the magazine while poking around a fire station in Minneapolis. Immediately ordered a subscription and haven't missed an issue since. Even bought a collection of back issues, to complete the run. To this day there are few things that bring a bigger smile, than finding that familiar envelope in the mailbox. [Visit their web site](#) for more information.



Long time subscriber to this excellent magazine. Also, I have purchased all of their quality books. Life pretty much comes to a halt when each issue arrives and I read it cover to cover. The articles on refurbis is of most interest to me.

**[truck56]** ([Web Site](#)) - 09/22/09 - 23:55

Its my favorite day of the month. Long time subscriber and i too have bought many of there books.

**Doppler** ([Email](#)) - 09/24/09 - 08:16

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

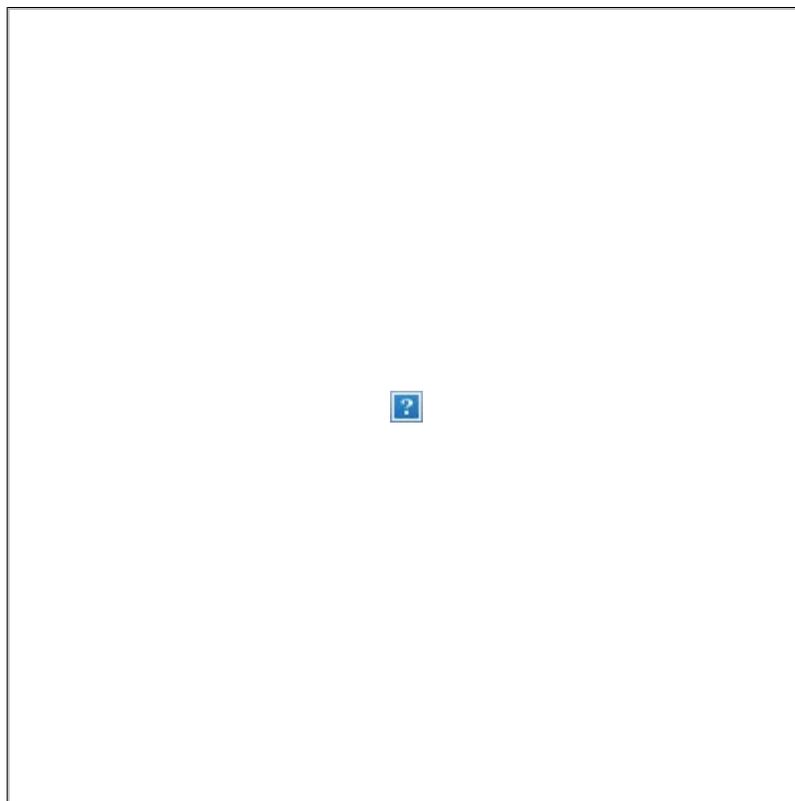
Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

**Big Fire in Chadbourn**

09/22/09 93 W, 1 I - + 7 - 14

As [found on FireNews](#), that's Carolina Tire Sales of Chadbourn ablaze at [314 N. Wilkes Street](#). The 60,000 square-foot building, full of tires and occupying a former sewing plant, burned early this morning. Every fire department in Columbus County responded, along with five Bladen County and three Robeson County trucks. Plus a ladder from Loris, S.C. More than 150 firefighters were on scene, and from at least 31 departments. [Read the FireNews article](#), which compiles coverage from the *Whiteville News Reporter* and the *Fayetteville Observer*. Great photos, too!



*News Reporter photo*

---

Check out the pics on firenews.net. Is it me, or do the gentlemen in the bucket look a little underdressed for the party? Just sayin', from the looks of the pic they are. Maybe my eyes are playing tricks on me, it HAS been a long day. Someone please tell me I'm wrong....

**Silver** - 09/22/09 - 23:02

No helmets... but the one does have a traffic vest on! Look at the pics of the structure fire in Duplin County with the guys venting the roof... We have gear for a reason, and SCBA's help your chance of returning home to your loved ones!

**Bob P.** - 09/23/09 - 08:04

Can you imagine keeping accountability on something this big with so many different departments and possibly different accountability systems?

**KOM** - 09/23/09 - 09:20

As for Silver and Bob P.'s comments, I agree with both. I know the Loris firefighter that was in the bucket, that was one of a couple of times he took his mask and helmet off. He should have come down the ladder first but manpower was getting short about that time. Not trying to

justify his action just trying to explain. As for the guy in the traffic vest, if memory serves me correct; he was one of the many ATF, SBI, or EPA people that arrived about day break.They kept going up and taking pictures and some kind of readings.

My department was on the second alarm and it was a long drawn out operation, but accountability was handled by sector and it worked out once enough support personnel arrived. The biggest concern other than the fire itself was the massive amount of tankers shuttleing water from different locations. The operation was a success due to the Klondyke-Chadbourn Fire Chief's decision to go defensive early on. Sure a few mistakes may have been caught on camrea, and people will learn from them. It was just great that there was not a single injury with as many personnel and apparatus operating.

Just a side note: The Loris Ladder Truck is former Morrisville L-2, if anyone didn't recognize it.

**[jeremy822]** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/25/09 - 10:23

Thanks for the clarifying Jeremy! As a side note, how busy is Chadbourn FD? I always pass through on my way to the beach and think; "I wonder how much work these guys catch".

**Silver** - 09/25/09 - 10:44

This fire turned out to be arson. Three people have been arrested and one was a firefighter. What a shame!! It really gives our brother and sisterhood a black eye when its one of our own that starts fires!!

**hardhead** - 10/14/09 - 21:18

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## Warren County Fireman's Day on Saturday

09/22/09 109 W - + 10 - 10

This Saturday is Fireman's Day in Warrenton, which is about an hour north of Raleigh. The Warren County Fireman's Day Parade starts at 11:00 a.m. at [South Main Street and Cousin Lucy's Lane](#), across from the fire station. The procession travels north on Main Street, with units from all Warren County departments, as well surrounding counties and even Virginia. We're told to bring ear plugs. Apparatus starts lining up at 10:00 a.m. Fireman's Day continues at the Lion's Club Fairgrounds at [West Ridgeway Street and Fairlane Drive](#), with competitions and other festivities continuing for the rest of the afternoon. Should be a blast.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Pink Heals Tour Stop, Sunday, October 4**

09/23/09 117 W, 1 I - + 9 - 8

On Sunday, October 4, the Pink Heals Tour, formerly the Pink Ribbon Tour, is appearing at Triangle Towne Center from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. They'll be parked on the west side of the shopping center, between Dillard's and Macaroni Grille. The Raleigh Fire Department is hosting the event, and invites everyone to attend.

The [Pink Heals Tour](#) is a non-profit organization founded firefighter Dave Graybill. They drive pink apparatus across the country to support women who fighting cancer, and inspire men to become involved. This year's tour includes three pink fire trucks and the sculpted Ribbon of Hope. [See photos from last year's visit.](#)



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Remembering Hugo

09/23/09 140 W, 1 I - + 13 - 5

As found on [Firegeezzer](#), who found it on [SConFIRE.com](#), the Charleston *Post and Courier* has published an [excellent retrospective of Hurricane Hugo's strike](#) on September 21-22, 1989. While Charleston was battered-- with more than half of the city's 4,000 historic structures suffering damage-- the suburban communities and surrounding lowcountry suffered the worst damage. On Folly Beach, about 80% of the homes on the island were destroyed.

The Charleston area also recorded a tidal surge of nearly 20 feet, which is the record for the highest Atlantic surge in the United States. The Category 5 storm saw winds as high as 140 mph. In the United States alone, damage totaled \$7 billion, then the costliest hurricane in the country's history. A total of 37 people were killed in the states from the storm. [Read the Wikipedia entry on Hugo](#).



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
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Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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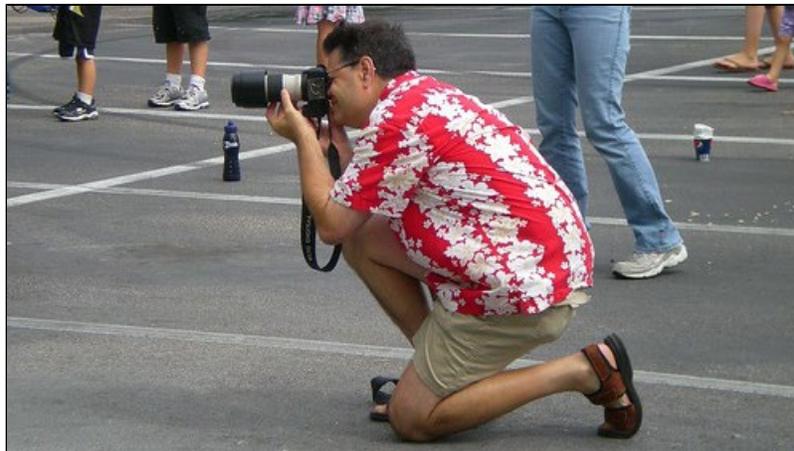
To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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## Caption This Photo

09/24/09 36 W, 1 I - + 9 - 6

Reader and photographer John Franks captured this photographer in action at Saturday's Durham Highway Public Safety Day. He looks a little familiar. [See the rest of John's excellent photos.](#)



*John Franks photo*

I bet his feet don't hurt!

**RescueRanger** - 09/24/09 - 20:57

"Taking a cue from the chevron approach, Mike now comes equipped with red and white Hawaiian shirt for high visibility in crowd situations."

**Dan** ([Email](#)) - 09/25/09 - 23:47

"Short skirt, twelve-o'clock!"

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 09/26/09 - 22:44

"I knew I should have got a bigger zoom!"

**Donaldson** - 09/27/09 - 14:47

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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**Michigan Fire Hydrant**

09/24/09 38 W, 1 I - + 13 - 6

Reader Scot Rademacher photographed this fire hydrant while visiting Michigan for a football game. He reports that all of the plugs outside the "big house" are painted as such.



*Scot Rademacher photo*

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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**New Jersey Tiller**

09/24/09 39 W, 3 I - + 12 - 13

Reader Jeff Silver found this beauty after a parade up in Jersey, a Seagrave tiller retired from Alexandria, VA. Either Ladder 203 or Ladder 205. Buy it and surprise your wife. Click to enlarge:



*Jeff Silver photos*

THos would make a great addition to Raleigh's fleet, possibly as Ladder 9 or as the replacement for ladder 4.

**charlie** ([Email](#)) - 09/25/09 - 08:32

I did that once, bought a truck and surprised my wife. My son wanted a fire truck birthday for his fourth birthday, and I got it on e-bay for next to nothing. It was former Kinston Engine 5, Hugo FD, and Harrell's FD Engine 211. Was a 1954 Seagrave. I miss that truck, was all of fun, especially as a tailgate vehicle for Hurricanes playoff games! Worked out good, sold it to a collector in Florida who was going to restore it to Kinston Engine 5. Last I heard, he had it down to the frame and was getting ready to reassemble it. But a Tiller! Now that would be one awesome tailgating vehicle. Set up the ladder and let your team flag fly! Lots of storage for drinks, food, grills, generator for a big screen, and satellite receiver. Oh the possibilities, my wife may get surprised again!

Disclaimer: The views I post here are my own views and opinions and do not represent any company, employer, or affiliation that I may have. If you find anything I say offensive or if you have a problem with my posts, then I encourage you to post a rebuttal argument, or come to me personally.

**Donaldson** ([Email](#)) - 09/27/09 - 14:45

**Learn Pet Fire Safety at Responsible Dog Ownership Day**

09/24/09 94 W, 1 I - + 11 - 11

The American Kennel Club invites Raleigh dog owners to learn pet fire safety on Saturday, September 26, from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Holshouser Buiding at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds. Look for the firefighters and dalmatians, along with a Western Wake fire engine. They'll be discussing pet fire safety, and how window clings help rescuers locate pets in a fire. The event is part of [Responsible Dog Ownership Day](#), which takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. [Read the press release](#) . Woof.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Bad Usability Calendar

09/24/09 54 W, 4 I - + 13 - 7

We're covering a bit of everything tonight. For the web designers in the audience, here's something fun. The [Bad Usability Calendar 2009](#), from NetLlife Research. Classic design mistakes made simple, often hilariously so. Here are quick links for the previous year's calendars in English, and all PDF format: [2008](#), [2007](#), [2006](#). Good stuff, man.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

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**Once a Brush Truck, Always a Brush Truck**

09/25/09 49 W, 1 I - + 19 - 7

Reader Jon Olson photographed this familiar vehicle on New Bern Avenue. No mystery apparatus this time. That's Yrac's old Brush 299, later Western Wake's brush truck, a 1970 Chevy C20 originally equipped with a Darley pump. Click to enlarge:



*Jon Olson Photo*

That truck was so much fun to drive. If I had the money I would have picked it up... I know some of the guys put in a lot of wrench time, wish we could have kept her.

**Kermit** - 09/25/09 - 09:56

heartbreaking...

**CFP 7021** - 09/25/09 - 10:16

I have seen it around, a lot around F-V and Holly Rock. I think I know where it lives now. I have been watching it. IF he puts it up for sale I know where it is going.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/25/09 - 10:49

DJ, It's going in my soon to be.... well I don't have a house right now, but I will appreciate the call you are going to give me when it goes up for sale. Shev, you can go buy it... and Keep it in your hood until I get back... haha

Reduced to a lawn mower hauler.... not even a trailer. Edelbrock right? I bet it gets put to good use pulling the lawn mower. Anybody remember what it sold for?

**Kermit** - 09/25/09 - 11:49

next to nothing... only one bid put in...

**CFP 7021** - 09/25/09 - 12:03

Kermit, I will call you so you can step out to see me drive by in it...

**DJ** - 09/25/09 - 15:52

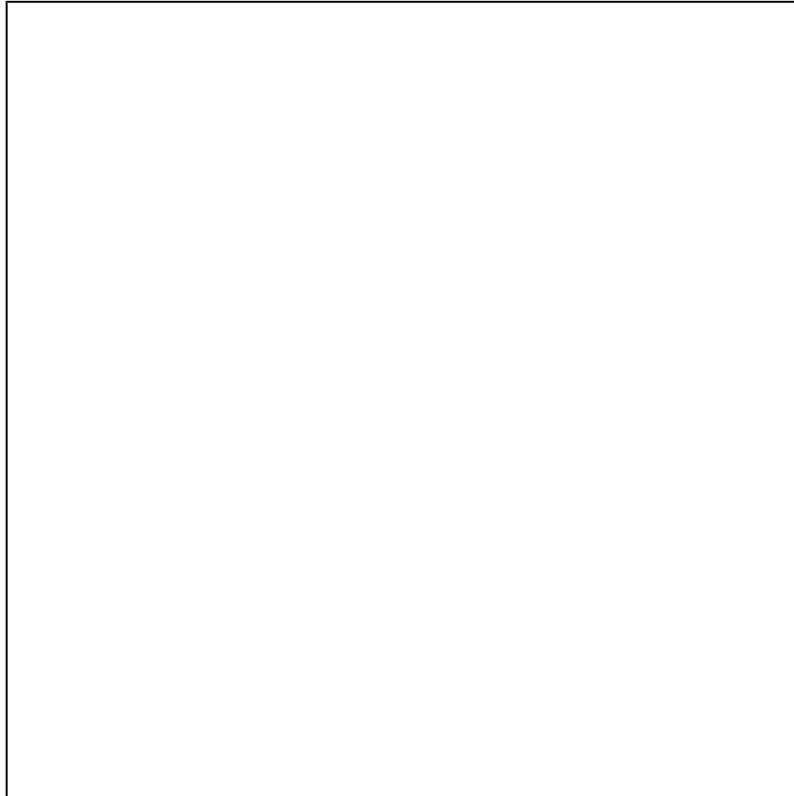
Bring it by YRAC and I will help you wash it down, maybe put a cooler of beverage behind the tailgate...

**Kermit** - 09/25/09 - 16:14

## Roof Work in Hendersonville

09/25/09 117 W, 1 I - + 12 - 7

As [FireNews has also surfaced](#), the Hendersonville *Times-News Online* reports on [Thursday's morning fire at the Caldwell Inn](#). At least seven people leaped to safety from the second-story of the historic structure at 719 Maple Street. (See [bird's eye view](#) of structure from Bing Maps.) They were transported with a variety of injuries, including hip, head, and broken legs. Firefighters from Hendersonville, Valley Hill, and Blue Ridge fire departments responded. There are quite a few strong photos posted. [See the slideshow](#) from *Times-News* photographers Mike Dirks and Michael Justus. Or learn more about the [Hendersonville Fire Department](#). Check out their reserve fleet, which includes an open-cab American LaFrance engine!



*Mike Dirks/Times-News photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Vance County Firefighters Cruizin' For a Cure This Weekend**

09/25/09 312 W - + 8 - 12

This weekend, Vance County volunteer fire departments are hosting a county-wide boot drive to raise money to battle breast cancer. Called Cruizin' for a Cure, the event a joint project of the Instruments of Shining Hope Cancer Ministry of South Henderson Pentecostal Holiness Church and Maria Parham Medical Center Oncology Center.

Events started at 3:00 p.m. today (Friday), when two Henderson policemen were "jailed" for 24 hours and have to raise their own bail. The "cell" is located at the City Operations Center on Beckford Drive, which is the location for Saturday's events. The policemen, Lt. Charles Pulley and Detective Kendall Riddick, will use their cell phones to call for help. According to Pulley, the pair of Henderson's finest want to raise \$3,000 each.

The benefit continues Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with raffles, games, food and music. Other activities for the day include:

- Pink boot drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Firefighters will take donations at various intersections in and around Henderson.
- Dunk a fireman. The dunking booth will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Generator raffle by Vance County Sheriff's Office.
- Fire engines on display.
- Enter for a chance to win a recliner donated by Sams Furniture.
- Raffle for a chance to ride along with a deputy.
- Bid for a chance to shave the head of Emergency Operations Director Brian Short.

Music will be provided by Steve Wilson of Wildlife Entertainment. Proceeds from the benefit will be used to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer prevention, detection and support. The goal is \$10,000, a portion of which will be used to provide mammograms for women who cannot afford them. Cash will be accepted during the benefit, and checks should be made to the Maria Parham Health Care Foundation.

Heard last night that boot drive took in over \$7,000.00 for this Cancer awareness project.  
It's good for a community to come together for such a worthy project.

**rnl**n - 09/29/09 - 12:00

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

**The Toss**

09/26/09 17 W, 1 I - + 16 - 9

From Fireman's Day today in Warrenton. Good example of stopping action. Click to enlarge:



nice roll patrick! longbridge #1

robert ([Email](#)) - 09/27/09 - 19:41

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No

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**The Splash**

09/26/09 18 W, 1 I - + 12 - 13

Also from Fireman's Day today in Warrenton. *Excellent* example of stopping action. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

## Fort Bragg Fire Department, 1951

09/27/09 132 W, 1 I - + 9 - 9

Here's a treat from the [North Carolina State Archives](#), a panoramic photo of the Fort Bragg Fire Department in 1951. Call number N.2006.7.16. Caption reads "Presentation of National Fire Protection Association award to Fort Bragg Fire Dept. by Lt. General John W. Lenand, Fort Bragg, NC." The photo is dated March 30, 1951. The photo is numbered 3553 by Rell Clements.

There 57 members pictured, if counted correctly. Left to right, the vehicles are: chief's car, alarm maintenance truck, two small trucks, stake truck (?), six pumpers, an equipment or crash truck, and a second chief's car. Wonder how many fire stations they had? And are these all full-time firefighters? Perhaps our military readers can add some history or perspective. Click once or twice to enlarge.



*Courtesy North Carolina State Archives*

I'm the committee leader of the Fort Bragg Fire Historical Society Committee. IF anyone that see this has any pictures, newspaper articles and any other Fort Bragg Fire Dept related items that they would like to contribute/share please contact me at [wesley.s.ingram.civ@mail.mil](mailto:wesley.s.ingram.civ@mail.mil). We are looking for any information that is associated with the Fort Bragg Fire Dept. Thank you.

**Wesley Ingram** ([Email](#)) - 02/03/18 - 10:08

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

No

Comment:

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## Camp Butner Fire Department, 1942

09/27/09 100 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

Here's a lower-resolution photo of the Camp Butner Fire Department in 1942, the year the base opened. Seven vehicles are pictured with some 51 men. Looks like seven pieces of fire apparatus, with a pair of American LaFrance 600 Series engines, perhaps? That would make it a pretty big department for its day. By way of comparison, Raleigh had five engines in 1942, plus two ladder trucks. Again, wonder how many of the members were full-time firefighters? [We've blogged about Cbfd before](#), which became Butner Public Safety. Perhaps readers can add more details. Click once or twice to enlarge:



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No

Comment:

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## Next Weekend's Events

09/27/09 175 W - + 10 - 12

Here's what next weekend's looking like, as Fire Prevention Week begins. We'll post another list later, of the second weekend's events. What's missing?

Saturday, Oct. 3

- Buies Creek FD - Open house, times? Buies Creek Fire Department, 112 Marshbanks Street,
- Garner FD - [Fireman's Day](#), 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Parade at 2:00. Garner Fire Station #1, 503 W. Main Street.
- Micro FD - Fireman's Carnival, 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Food, games, music, cake auction, more. Micro Fire Department, 321 Highway 301 South
- Morrisville FD - [Fire Prevention Day](#) - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Wal-Mart/Sam's Club, 11124 Chapel Hill Road.
- Pilot FD - BBQ Sale, beginning 11:00 a.m. Also community yard sale. Pilot Fire Department, 8028 Highway 39.
- Zebulon FD - Public Safety Day, 11:00 a.m.? to 4:00 p.m.? Wal-Mart, 841 E. Gannon Avenue.

Sunday, Oct. 4

- Bay Leaf FD - [Open house](#), 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bay Leaf Station #1, 11713 Six Forks Road.
- Pink Heals Tour, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Triangle Towne Center, near Dillard's.
- Raleigh FD - Open house, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. All fire stations.

Also saturday oct. 3rd is Buies Creek's open house

**PGtruckie** - 09/28/09 - 04:42

Another live burn @ Park Hill Dr. This one is hosted by Wake Forest on Sat Oct 3

**Doppler** - 09/28/09 - 22:13

Zebulon times are 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

**Zeb** - 10/02/09 - 08:59

Name: (real name preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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## Interesting News Story

09/27/09 121 W - + 18 - 8

[Dave Statter is reporting](#) on a Pennsylvania fire department that's feeling the heat on sick leave and overtime. The local paper's done some investigative reporting, and even published a database of personnel information, including name, salary, selected sick leave usage, and overtime amounts. And that's the interesting aspect, here. Sure, attention has been increasingly turned toward spending and overspending, these days. And many an official or employee has been cited in papers. But naming every member and their details therein? That seems like something new. Did the newspaper go too far? It's public information about public employees, so it passes that smell test. And maybe it's a sign of where public accountability is headed. What do readers think?

---

WRAL did it with the City of Raleigh and Public Schools employees a few years ago. I think they still have the database on their web site, with the names removed. They only removed the names after the backlash. Yes, it's public information, but it seemed to many people WRAL only did it for the shock/embarrassment value of being able to publicly name people and their salaries. People, who up to that point, were just making a living and enjoying relative anonymity.

**rfburns** - 09/27/09 - 22:49

Each year, the Rhino Times in Charlotte publishes the name and salary of each city employee that makes over \$60,000. It's public record. I think publishing how much sick time you've used is a little excessive.

Something else done by the Charlotte Observer, was to publish the name of each employee of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools that got laid off this year due to budget cuts. Anything to create drama and gain a few readers.

**Rides An Engine** - 09/28/09 - 00:38

right now on the news and observer's website you can look up the name, title and salary of every state employee. You can also find employees of the university system, and the towns of Knightdale, Zebulon and Wendell.

Yes WRAL did publish the names and salaries of all of the City of Raleigh, Town of Cary and I think Wake County employees a number of years ago. It is public record, and you can obtain it by calling city/town hall, they have to give it to you.

I do agree though on going a bit too far with the use of sick leave, etc. To me couldn't that almost fall under HIPPA or something?

**CFP 7021** - 09/28/09 - 14:08

I have been a government employee for most of my career. I have always understood that my salary and such is public record. I know that there are some things that are not public record, and rightly so. But IMHO, anything directly related to the 'cost' of a public employee to the taxpayer is public record. To me that would include my salary, how much OT I made, and what it costs to employ me, including sick leave I take, since someone has to work in my place. I know other folks don't feel the same, but that's OK.

But I also think that we, as taxpayers, deserve to know where our money goes when it applies to contracts and stuff. I want to know how much of my money is actually going to goods and services.

I guess I am really concerned on how the stewards of my money actually spend it, although it is very disheartening at times.

HIPPA only applies to medical records. But here's a twist. EMS' records on patient encounters are subject to HIPPA, but RW911's tapes are not.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/28/09 - 19:35

HIPPA applies to medical records by medical **providers**, no? The ECC is not a provider, unless, I guess, you count the self-care that they direct via EMT-D.

**Legeros** - 09/28/09 - 19:38

I believe just because something is legal, or available, does not make it right for an entity to capitalize on the backs of public servants. I realize

my job is public record-still pretty crass of some paper or tv station to publish my info for the world to see. I firmly believe they would come unglued if same was done to them. I rank those that do so right down there with the Enquirer!!

**Goose** - 09/28/09 - 23:32

Another note-I agree with wanting to know how my tax money is spent. Far more is being wasted and mismanaged in programs and contracts and services than on our salaries as worker bees. That is on the local, county, state, and especially federal level!!!

**Goose** - 09/28/09 - 23:34

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preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Let the Games Begin!

09/27/09 216 W, 1 I - + 16 - 8

Er, that is, let the viewing of the games begin! [Photos have been posted](#) of Warren County Fireman's Day, held yesterday in Warrenton. Was the twenty-sixth year for the event, which drew departments from near and far. Sharpsburg from Nash County was likely the longest haul. The parade on Main Street started at 11:00 p.m. Before and after, the trucks were judged and in several categories. The lone antique was the town's 1938 Ford/Oren pumper. Next stop was the Warren County Fairgrounds, just outside town. There the judging continued, and firefighters, friends, and families settled in for a fun day of games.

The tournament started about 1:30 p.m. Five events, each with multiple teams. First was fastest dressing, complete with clouds of lubricating baby powder. Second was the hose team. Six men, three sections, one nozzle. Third was the bucket brigade. Muddy event, that one. Fourth involved two blinded hose teams trying to fill kiddie pools, with verbal orders from guys standing said pools. Wet one, there. Fifth was the familiar tug of war, with a beer key suspended on wire. Plus a contest for junior firefighters called "one man hose company." Great fun, great time. [View the photos](#). See you next year.



glad to see its still going on!! in my earlier days it was probably the most anticipated event of the year,, got to talk a lot of smack prior to and after the events!! just sad to see lack of participation/representation from the other depts in the county

**JDH** - 09/28/09 - 09:51

that dude on the right is rrrready!

**Barney Fife** - 09/30/09 - 09:21

This is definitely an event that has been lost in time locally, maybe due to our urbanization and the increasing number of paid FFs; or just plain ole apathy and community decentralization. Many folks used to flock to Warrenton for this day and the associated competitions in years past. There are a lot of local "digital age" FFs who are completely unaware that these events used to take place locally too. Tradition (or even "Paradise") lost... Like my daddy used to say, "Y'all don't forget where you come from..." Stay safe!

**A.C. Rich** - 10/03/09 - 10:55

Here's a nice article from VANCNews listing all the winners of the event: <http://www.vancnews.com/articles/2009/10..>

**Legeros** - 10/04/09 - 10:54

## Donald's Fire Haven Museum

09/28/09 116 W, 2 I - + 18 - 4

The [latest issue of the Fire and Rescue Journal](#), published by the Office of the State Fire Marshall, finds a feature on a fire museum in Pleasant Garden, NC. That's just south of Greensboro. Called Donald's Fire Haven Museum, it's a personal collection of fire service veteran Chief Donald E. Whitaker. He built a 2,400 square-foot structure behind his home, and it's filled with nearly 50 years worth of souvenirs and mementos. The museum's been open to the public since 2003, and Chief Whitaker is the tour guide. Admission is free and all donations go the Muscular Dystrophy Association. [Visit the web site to learn and see more.](#)



Update on this posting. WRAL recently visited Donald's museum and produced this video profile: <http://www.wral.com/lifestyles/travel/vi..>

**Legeros** - 01/14/10 - 07:41

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

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Yes

No

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## Trauma

09/28/09 83 W - + 11 - 14

As found on [FireCritic](#), Editor-in-Chief of JEMS and Firefighter Nation A. J. Heightman has [posted a critical review](#) of the new television series *Trauma*. The show is airing on NBC and is an action-drama about paramedics. It's also apparently utterly unrealistic, and a world away from the inspiring, accurate world of *Emergency!* Sounds like the show is good for some laughs, or groans. We don't watch much television, so we'll rely on readers to report on its awfulness. [Read the review](#).

And that's different than every other cop, fire, medical, or ANY other show.... how? :)

**rfburns** - 09/28/09 - 09:24

What would you say is the most realistic TV show/movie about fire/ems/medical to date?? Or can a truly realistic show even be produced that is also entertaining to the masses? If you talk to people in the CSI business, they will quickly tell you how unrealistic those shows are...unless you have an unlimited budget. But if those shows were realistic, how entertaining would they really be??

**Regular Joe** - 09/28/09 - 16:20

If they are entertaining, they will not be realistic. If they are realistic, well, who want to see DELTA responses to sore throats? Even the EMERGENCY! was a stretch, because those guys on Squad 51 had one heck of a fist due area. Probably the most realistic cop shows were DRAGNET and ADAM-12.

But in this world of ours where shows like "America's Next Top Model", "American Idol", "The Biggest Loser", and "Wife Swap" are such big ratings getters, does society really care what we do and how we do it.

On the other had, maybe it's not so bad that they think we really do all of that stuff. Of course, it would make for some really gross ambulances...But I wish my social life had ever been that exciting...

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/28/09 - 18:30

I always liked Code Red from the early 80's, also Third Watch was a pretty good show in the early 2000's

**JM** - 09/28/09 - 23:18

Entertaining TV shows and realistic TV shows are not necessarily the same thing.

Given the state of current TV it's obvious that entertaining TV shows are hard enough; adding realism is (a) more work (b) more expensive and © probably not going to be noticed by the general public.

At the other end of the spectrum a truly realistic TV 60 minute show about medics could easily end up being 45 minutes of them watching daytime Oprah, followed by 15 minutes of dealing with an incontinent 80-year old who pooped their pants – who would want to watch that?

**Paul** - 09/29/09 - 18:14

I know it's a cop show, but, in talking with a federal agent friend as well as a few RPD guys, First 48 (one on my DVR list) is a pretty good one.

**Silver** - 09/29/09 - 20:05

Also a fan of First 48. I wish they hadn't gotten rid of Firehouse USA Boston or the Bravest. You can watch all Episodes of Firehouse Boston on Youtube, where the now passed Captain Kelly is in a lot of episodes. "Brotherhood: Life in the FDNY" is a great post 9/11 documentary on just that. "Into the fire" presented by the Fireman fund is another really good one. I used to be a fan of the Battalion series online but there just wasn't enough fire.

**KOM** - 09/29/09 - 21:08

Name: (real name  
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

**Photography Tip #549 (Updated)**

09/29/09 141 W, 2 I - + 16 - 11

The objective? Shoot the nearly completed green roof at Station 9. The challenge? Getting high, and in a vertical and not vegetative sense. The solution? Proceed to the sidewalk that's beside and slightly above the station. Take one tripod and extend to maximum height. Switch your camera to timer mode and manual focus. Set the latter for infinity and beyond. Buzz Lightyear voice optional. Mount camera on tripod. Activate shutter. As timer starts beeping, raise tripod above head. Hold very steady. Wait for the snap. Don't drop the thing. Results are shown below. Next time, we'll add sunlight and a stepladder. Meaning, a ladder that has remarried.



Here's a second shot, with stepladder and a daring sense of balance. Sun's behind clouds.



Is that red crushed brick being used as landscape covering? If so, that is another example of an application that has a higher initial cost which is cheaper in the long run as compared to reapplying mulch or pine straw every year. Looks good!

**GB** - 09/28/09 - 19:57

This may have been discussed in a previous post and perhaps this is a stupid question, but will this grass need to be mowed or otherwise trimmed, or will they just let it grow until it reaches mature height?

**Native Charlottean** - 10/01/09 - 12:53

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**Ladder 1 at Station 1**

09/28/09 77 W, 1 I - + 14 - 15

While the downtown ladder was testing hose today, one of the northside companies spent some time at Station 1. That's a 2001 Quality/Spartan with a 75-foot stick, 1,500 GPM pump, and 300 gallon tank. It's the tallest of the city's ladders, and rides even higher than the new Pierce platforms. It's also the only two-axle truck in the fleet. The apparatus previously served as Ladder 4, Ladder 23, Truck 23, Truck 24, and Engine 23.



So much for "like" numbers not running together...

**round the way** - 09/30/09 - 13:43

No one ever said they would not, only that the instances would be reduced. From an earlier entry- "reducing the number of duplicate unit numbers on scene".

,

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 09/30/09 - 17:02

Could sure make an interesting photo, though!

Engine 1  
Ladder 1  
Rescue 1  
Battalion 1  
Air 1  
Mini 1  
Haz-Mat 1  
USAR 1  
Car 1

**Legeros** - 09/30/09 - 19:41

Mike, It is not the tallest of the city's ladders. Also, it is the only single axle truck in our fleet. Drank one to many when you wrote this one I believe. HAHAAHA

**Chris Smith** - 10/01/09 - 22:15

I butchered this one. I read and responded before it sunk in. I reread you post Mike and you were right. I was thinking of rear axles and the actual ladder. Sorry!

**Chris Smith** - 10/02/09 - 06:02

Yes, Ladder one rides the highest of any of the city's aerials. And it's the only single rear-axle ladder in the fleet!

Have a drink on me!

**Legeros** - 10/02/09 - 06:26

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - American LaFrance« Ladder 1 at Station 1... » 2009 Malibu vs. 1959 ... From Summerdale, NJ?

### American LaFrance From Summerdale, NJ?

09/29/09 68 W, 1 I - + 9 - 12

There's a 1971 American LaFrance 1000 Series pumper from Summerdale, NJ, that's been seen driving around the state. Supposedly still has the department name on the side of the rig. A retired SFD member who lives in the Carolinas would love to talk to the owner. Anyone know anything? Drop a line to [alfowners@live.com](mailto:alfowners@live.com). Thanks in advance.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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2009 Malibu vs. 1959 Bel-Air

09/29/09 103 W, 1 I - + 11 - 12

This is probably old news to the gearheads, but the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has [released a gallery of images](#) showing a modern Chevy versus a vintage Chevy. They'd already shared the video, and have now released still images. Cool stuff, and an apt demonstration of just how safer our automobiles are. Admittedly, the apples are not entirely equal. The Bel-Air does have 40 years of age on the thing. But the images speak for themselves. Combine crash protection with today's emergency medical system, and the odds favor your survival. [See the pictures.](#)



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

[/ Textile](#)

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Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**Caption This Photo**

09/29/09 44 W, 1 I - + 12 - 26

From a couple months ago on Pleasant Valley Road. Engine and ladder have just left the station. It's behind the trees, behind the ladder. White van sees an opening. Photographer blogger captures the moment.



Damn Fred I told you we were going to run out of gas!

**JM** - 09/29/09 - 21:23

oh heck,, its just a firetruck,, he can wait for ME this time!!!

**JDH** - 09/30/09 - 08:53

Gotta pee, gotta pee, gotta pee!

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 09/30/09 - 11:24

Ha, I've got headlights and a horn too... "honk honk" (Flashing headlights on and off)

**JJ** - 09/30/09 - 23:46

"Hey look, He's got a ladder on top of the his truck too!!! Just like us! I wonder why the red truck has all those flashing lights?"

**smitty** - 10/01/09 - 22:10

Ohhh Snap!!! Buy one Get one, Sausage Egg and Cheese!

**CTK** - 10/02/09 - 23:06

Hey lets add ourselves to the call...they may need some extra help, grab my air pack for me

**CTK** - 10/02/09 - 23:08

Give a Hoot Don't Pollute!

**the guys** - 10/04/09 - 01:45

**Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015** - *Wake County Fire Commission* « **Photography Tip #549 ...** » **Soul City Meeting, Thursday, October 8**

**Wake County Fire Commission Meeting, Thursday, October 8**

09/29/09 72 W - + 12 - 15

The [Wake County Fire Commission](#) is holding a special-called meeting on Thursday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m., at the Wake County EMS training facility, located in the lower level of the Wake County Commons Building at [4011 Cary Drive](#). The purpose of the meeting is to consider a recommendation for a bid award to construct the new fire station in southeast Wake County. e.g., Garner Station 4.

did this pass and get awarded

**brad** - 10/11/09 - 20:52

The Fire Commission approved a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to award the bid, and who will consider the bid award next Monday.

**Legeros** - 10/12/09 - 19:03

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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## Fewer Ambulances on Swain County Motorcycle Route

09/30/09 169 W - + 16 - 11

[WTVB has posted an interesting story](#) about reduced responses on a well-known motorcycle route in western North Carolina. Highway 129 starts in Blount County, TN, and features 318 curves in 11 miles. It's called the Tail of the Dragon, and at least two people are killed on the North Carolina section each year. Responses from Robbinsville in Graham County take about 22 minutes, while a run from Bryson City in Swain County can take as long as 50 minutes. Effective January 1, Graham County is discontinuing emergency service to the highway. County leaders say it costs too much, with about 30 calls a year totaling about \$100,000 annually. During the meeting that decided this action, the Swain County Manager offered a concession to Graham County, a discounted rate for housing their inmates in the Swain County jail. The offer was declined. The article notes that Swain County had been paying Graham County an annual fee for garbage pick-up, but not for emergency services or law enforcement. [Read the entire story.](#)

And here's an interesting web site on Tail of the Dragon, <http://www.tailofthedragon.com>

Includes a list of fatalities since 1995, and with a map, no less! See [http://www.tailofthedragon.com/maps/map ...](http://www.tailofthedragon.com/maps/map...)

**Legeros** - 09/30/09 - 21:15

And here's the original Citizen-Times article, with some reader comments to add perspective, <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/200..>

**Legeros** - 09/30/09 - 21:19

Deals gap is one of the best roads to ride in the US.

**Kermit** - 10/01/09 - 08:30

I am not trying to start an argument in any way, but how do 30 calls total around \$100,000 a year?(out of curiosity)

**Adam** - 10/01/09 - 16:05

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**At 60 M.P.H., Office Work Is High Risk**

10/01/09 183 W - + 16 - 5

The *New York Times* continues its excellent Driven to Distraction article series with a feature on the [perils of mobile officing](#). The second paragraph describes the situation perfectly: "He grabbed his cellphone [...], cradling it between his left ear and shoulder, and with his right hand e-mailed [...] from his laptop computer — all while driving [...] in a construction zone on a two-lane highway in North Carolina."

There are fascinating factoids a-plenty. Using a phone while driving increases your crash risk four-fold. Some families of victims have successfully sued the employers of multitasking crashers. Your brain is actually bad at doing several things at once. And the productivity boost from mobile working might be its own illusion.

As the article notes. Exxon Mobile ran a pilot program in 2004, restricting some employees from phoning while driving. It found no drop in productivity, and immediately initiated a ban for all workers and contractors. What's this all mean for first responders, beyond job security from continued and perhaps increased crashes? [Read the article](#), and offer your opinion.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Mystery Apparatus**

10/01/09 32 W, 1 I - + 15 - 12

Here's one in super-close-up. Too hard? Probably too easy, for those one, or two, or twenty people that recognize the thing right away.



No takers? Let's pull the camera back a bit.

**Legeros** - 10/02/09 - 18:23

Wild guess Durham Highway Rescue 9 ?

**Stretch** - 10/02/09 - 20:10

old ass electronic siren and OLD mounted red incandescent...probably an old ford

**huh** - 10/02/09 - 23:49

Thats is Durham Highway Rescue 9 and yes it is an old Ford

**Kick** - 10/03/09 - 10:27

Def DHFD Truck 9

**Graney** - 10/05/09 - 22:15

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**Blog Mugs?**

10/02/09 50 W, 1 I - + 13 - 8

[Firegeezer](#) started the trend, making and selling branded mugs. [Firecritic](#) is now onboard, with mugs, tees, and even thongs! We'll have some fun with that one later. What would a mug look like for our blog here? Click and see...



Happy Friday.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**Old Photo of Station 6**

10/02/09 248 W, 1 I - + 13 - 10

For your Friday enjoyment, here's an old photo that many have seen before. It shows firefighters at Station 6, circa 1948. That's the year that building opened, so it might be showing the original engine and ladder crews. Wearing white on the left is Fire Chief Alvin Lloyd. He served from 1947 to 1955, and died in office. Lloyd joined RFD in 1919.

On the right is Asst. Chief R. Lee Matthews. He joined in 1926 and retired in 1963, and subsequently served as interim fire chief in Cary. He was hired in 1967. Two other Cary chiefs have ties to RFD. Cary Fire Chief C. F. Ayscue, who served 1967-68, left and joined and later retired from Raleigh. And longtime chief Ned Perry was a Raleigh Captain who was hired by the town in 1975 and served until 1993.

Sitting in the engine is Driver Vernon J. Smith, who would be seriously injured on November 14, 1952, while operating Engine 6 which was operating a reserve pumper. It overturned while returning from a call, and Smith died of his injuries four years later. He was Raleigh's first duty death. [Read more about his story.](#)

The complete who's who: (front row) Joe Hobby, Capt. John Harrison, Clyde Carter, Chief Alvin Lloyd, Asst. Chief Lee Matthews, Capt. Jack Crabtree, and Bill Durden; (back row) Roy High, Harold Stephenson, Eugene Alford, James Strickland, Thomas Gates, Todd \_\_\_\_\_, and Frank Beecham; (sitting in apparatus) Vernon Smith and Wade Watkins.

Read more [history of the Raleigh Fire Department](#). Click to enlarge:



How difficult is it to identify people in pictures of years past?

**Joey M.** - 10/02/09 - 16:07

It can be pretty hard. In this case, to identify these guys, I took enlargements of their heads/faces, and showed them around at the monthly retiree breakfast. That was a few years ago, when I was writing my first Raleigh/Wake history book. The retirees were able to tell who was who, and even point to themselves in at least one case! Now with a few years of photo research under my belt, I can recognize some of the past guys myself. In best case scenarios, photos are labelled and the names match with who people today recognize as people then.

**Legeros** - 10/02/09 - 17:06

**Fireman's Daze**

10/03/09 136 W, 1 I - + 12 - 7

The night was dark, the sky was blue, the smell of cows was wafting through. That's a field cum parking lot in Micro, North Carolina, where the 16th Annual Fireman's Carnival was held this evening. By the light of a full moon and the Dollar General sign next door, there were games, rides, auctions, and even dancing at MFD. 'Twas our conclusion for a date night, after movie and a dinner. Nothing says romance like rural Johnston County. Well, that and a slow dance under the stars. And what was the name of that band? They were great! Pics are coming, along with the day's earlier stops in Garner, Cary, and Morrisville. Alas, didn't get to Zebulon. Tomorrow there's more, and as well as next weekend. Daze for firemen, indeed! Click to enlarge:



How many photos did I take, between the four events? Just over 900. Was a light day.

**Legeros** - 10/03/09 - 23:16

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

**Bay Leaf Pumper Dedication**

10/03/09 93 W, 1 I - + 17 - 11

Tomorrow's open house with the [Bay Leaf Fire Department](#), from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Station 1, includes a dedication of their newest pumper in honor of Paula Sukenik. The dedication ceremony takes place at 2:00 p.m. They'll unveil a permanent plaque mounted on Pumper 252 in honor of Paula's service to the department. She passed away last year, after a courageous battle with cancer. Pumper 252 is a 2009 Pierce Contender that was placed in service earlier this year. Bay Leaf Station 1 is located at [11713 Six Forks Road](#) in Raleigh.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**Distortion**

10/04/09 78 W, 2 I - + 13 - 9

Simple example of lens distortion from Morrisville Fire Prevention Day yesterday. Canon Digital Rebel XT using 17-40mm lens. Top photo shows focal length of 26mm. Bottom photo shows focal length of 17mm. As the lens shoots wider, the pumper's rear grows larger. However, the shots are not entirely apples to apples. Mr. Blogger stepped forward a few feet, before shooting the second photo.



I think only you and maybe Lee really cares about this post, but thanks for the info!! Just kidding!

**Smitty** - 10/05/09 - 20:31

Thats kinda weird how even though you stepped closer and the back of the Engine got larger the Ladder seems to have gotten smaller.

**KOM** - 10/07/09 - 00:20

**National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service**

10/04/09 113 W, 1 I - + 11 - 9

Live coverage of today's National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg is available at [STATer911.com](http://STATer911.com), who has partnered with [Firehouse.com](http://Firehouse.com). The service starts at 10:00 a.m. Live coverage started at 9:30 a.m.



Nine North Carolina firefighters who died in the line of duty last year are being added to the memorial: James Earl Arthur (Cold Water), George Everett Crocker Sr. (Pine Level), Victor Anthony Isler Sr. (Salisbury), Curtis Jessen (Forest Service), Herman S. Jones (Raleigh), Walter William Michl (Roanoke-Wildwood), Justin Edward Monroe (Salisbury), Carol Irene Taylor (Goldsboro) and Colin Gene Thomas (Verona).

[Watch live coverage.](#)

[Learn more at the NFFF web site.](#)

---

Service starting **now**. Live coverage started at 9:30 a.m.

**Legeros** - 10/04/09 - 10:01

Excellent service and good feed on web. Our fallen N.C. brothers and sister were well honored. I hope there is an archive version posted somewhere for others to see at their convenience. In their honor, stay safe!

**A.C. Rich** - 10/04/09 - 12:23

Wake & District Pipes & Drums have been and participated for the past two years in this weekend event. It is a great honor to take part the weekend and I encourage everyone to make the trip up one year to participate or just watch.

**Mike** - 10/06/09 - 10:32

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

## Henderson Fire Department Open House, Saturday, Oct. 10

10/04/09 86 W - + 10 - 9

Numerous agencies are participating at the Henderson Fire Department Open House, next weekend on [Saturday, October 10](#). The location is 205 N. Garnett Street, the time is 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. All fire departments in Vance County are participating, along with numerous other agencies and organizations. They'll have numerous vehicles and apparatus on display, a fire safety house, a moon walk, and other activities. Free hot dogs, chips, snacks, and drinks. Door prizes for gift certificates from local businesses, too!

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

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**In The Pink**

10/04/09 145 W, 1 I - + 11 - 9

Not sure how we caption this one. Is it a wayward troupe of firefighters-turned-chorus dancers? Or perhaps a corrections facility fire brigade that doubles as nightly prison entertainment? The bright gear and brighter truck are part of the [Pink Heals Tour](#), which made an appearance today at Triangle Town Center. Formerly named the Pink Ribbon Tour, it's a non-profit organization that tours the country to raise cancer awareness.

The Raleigh Fire Department sponsored today's event, with participation from agencies including Falls, New Hope, Rolesville, and Wake Forest fire departments, and Six Forks and Wake County EMS. Who's who in the pictured dancing crew? We'll name no names, but it includes a number of chiefs, one fireman's association president, and some blogger/photographer guy. The other pics are equally fun. Thanks for everyone's support. Click to enlarge and chuckle.



*Lee Wilson Photo*

Updated with a better (pinkier?) photo from Lee Wilson.

**Legeros** - 10/05/09 - 18:52

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Fire Prevention Week Events**

10/05/09 92 W - + 18 - 11

Thursday, Oct. 8

- Raleigh FD - Fire Prevention Display, Crabtree Valley Mall

Friday, Oct. 9

- Raleigh FD - Fire Prevention Display, Crabtree Valley Mall

Saturday, Oct. 10

- [Creedmoor Fireman's Day](#), 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., parade at 2:30 p.m. on Main Street, dinner at South Granville High School
- Henderson FD - Open House, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., 205 N. Garnett Street
- Raleigh FD - Fire Prevention Display, Crabtree Valley Mall

Sunday, Oct. 11

- Clayton FD - [Open house](#), 1:00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m., Clayton Station 1
- Fairview FD - Open house, Fairview Station 1

Mike,

Just for giggles... Since you go to so many of the area public safety days, fire prevention events, open houses, carnivals, fairs, suppers, etc., which ones did you enjoy the most? And which ones had the most public support/participation?

**John W. Franks** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/05/09 - 14:12

Which were the most fun? That's a tricky question, really, 'cause I am kinda sorta on assignment at these things. The lone lark, if you will, was the Micro Fireman's Carnival. And that was great fun. It was at night, so that damn hot sun was down. There was local color and then some. There was a good band. And dancing, too. Night shooting made the thing more difficult, but pleasantly challengingly so.

Fun is a relative concept. If there's good lighting, interesting things or people to shoot, and maybe some folks that I know, then I'm a happy camper. I am told that life is even more fun when experienced without a camera. I plan to test that theory some time.

That said, another absolute treat was downtown Warrenton, with a seemingly endless parade of apparatus passing with their sirens and horns on high.

Calculating public support and participation is trickier. Garner's looked like it was starting well, and Morrisville's looked like it ended well. Cary's event seemed to have a steady stream of kids, though they weren't swamped with wee ones. And maybe that's a good thing? Their combat challenge course takes a few minutes per-child to complete. Bay Leaf's open house had good a crowd, too. Same for Durham Highway a couple weeks ago. Warrenton's event had a LOT of people last week, but maybe they were mostly FFs and their families?

**Legeros** - 10/05/09 - 17:09

Mike, you should have been a politican! haha, just kidding

**John Edwards** - 10/05/09 - 18:47

Name: (real name)

Remember personal info?

**Fire on the Water**

10/05/09 68 W, 1 I - + 18 - 8

Cameras are everywhere these days, as this viewer photo from WRAL reminds us. That's a burning boat off the Crystal Coast, about 35 miles north of the Beaufort inlet. The 35-foot craft reported a distress call about 3:00 p.m. yesterday. The Coast Guard rescued two people, and the boat sank after burning for about 45 minutes. [Read the article and see more photos.](#)



*WRAL photo*

This is a bad day fishing...

**Olson** - 10/07/09 - 23:46

Is this where the adage "A bad day fishing beats a good day at the office" is false?

**Duda** - 10/08/09 - 09:47

Bingo. "A bad day fishing beats a good day at the office, unless your boat a) catches on fire, b) sinks, c) anything else occurs that eliminates you putting your boat back on the trailer/lift"

**Olson** - 10/08/09 - 11:06

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

## Students Stuck on Bus After Stop-Arm Breaks

10/06/09 128 W, 1 I - + 12 - 17

Conveniently reported in time for today's school board elections, WRAL is reporting the curious story of a [school bus incident in Morrisville](#). A number of high school students were kept aboard a bus for over an hour yesterday after the stop-arm stopped functioning. As it's against the law to transport students without a working stop-arm, the driver pulled over and parked. School officials sent a repair person to the scene, but getting the thing fixed took a little while. Says a school system spokesperson, the safest place for students was on the bus and not on the street. Good thing the weather was cooler! Wonder what other regulations impact the regular operation of buses? [Read the WRAL story](#).



*WRAL photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Wind + Tree + Electricity

10/06/09 34 W - + 17 - 9

[Dave Statter surfaces](#) this shocking video of a frying fir (?) in Bellingham, WA. From the audio, there was quite a crowd there. Watch and listen what happens at about 3:55.

---

I was surprised nobody got hurt in this video.

A simple comment to the "public" that was taping this, Try picking up the cell phone before the video cameras next time and call it in, you'd be amazed what dialing the FD has to do with a response....

Nice video post.

**JM** - 10/06/09 - 23:29

After looking into this further, I've learned from the person that made this video, that the FD was notified approximately 10 mins prior to the beginning of the video. The video is about 5 mins long and the FD didn't show up on scene until 5 mins after the video ends. That's a 20 min response for the FD. What FD takes 20 mins to respond to numerous 911 calls stating there is a fire??? Ridiculous!

**JJ** - 10/12/09 - 00:06

As to the video, before I make comments about whether this response was ridiculous or not, I would have to see the dispatch records. What I have learned over the years that a bystander's or even the caller's version of how long the respnse takes is usually a five minute to five second ratio. For every five seconds that go by after they actually call, they think five minutes goes by.

Not everywhere has the abundance of resources that we have here. For the record, I am not sure about that particular location or how they operate. But we have places here in NC that a 20 minute response time would be the norm. I have been out west and fire stations are miles

and miles apart and cover vast areas of countryside. For these folks ISO's 6-mile districts are nothing more than fantasy. They do not all have career staff, and for most of the departments in this country that is not even an option.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 10/12/09 - 10:06

WTF is the "fire Dept" gonna do..i mean really, we get calls for transformer fires, power lines down, trees on power lines....seriously, call the power company. All we are gonna do is get a pole number. "oh my God!! Wheres the Fire department?@!" Take your dumb @\$ back in the house and call somebody who gives a crap. "Oh my God, i cant belive our taxes are goin up to pay firefighters better or to get more of them" Its for stupid people like that in the video.

my 2 cents

**CTK** - 10/12/09 - 13:58

DJ – True, the dispatch tapes/records would tell the complete story without a doubt. The 20 mins was probably 6 or 7 mins in reality.

CTK – The fact of the matter is FD is there to respond to help protect life and property. There could have been lives at risk with all the "site seer's" just watching in awe at how "awesome" the site was. The FD would have been able to take control of the scene and establish a protective area where nobody would have been near that general area. The PD should have also responded within a decent time frame to assist with the crowd if the FD didn't want anything to do with it. The power company can "flip a switch" somewhere to avoid the whole thing from getting as far as it did. Should have, could have, would have, but the video shows that the response by ANYONE was not sufficient. The bystanders were lucky the situation didn't get worse than it was where someone could have been killed. Glad that tree didn't break while it was on fire and land on a house.... WTF would the "Fire Dept" do then not being on the scene.... let the building burn. Great 2 cents you have there bud. Protect your own "time" instead of life and limb. Blah!

There's my 2 1/2 cents on this, I'm out.

**JM** - 10/12/09 - 17:02

i guess it all boils down to stupid people equals job security. I guess the response time wasnt good enough, the closest unit may have been on a "real emergency". If those folks in the video are too stupid to realize that all that electricity running through the tree wouldnt be enough to kill or hurt them, maybe they needed to have some since "shocked" in to them. Sometimes people need to take into consideration that if it seems dangerous then it probably is. I know my job is to help people in need and the comment "Protect your own "time" instead of life and limb" really...? we get put in dangerous situations all the time duh, but protecting my "own" time....seriously?

**CTK** - 10/13/09 - 12:13

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

## EQ Class-Action Settlement Approved For Apex Evacuees

10/07/09 118 W - + 12 - 9

Can you believe it's been three year since the chemical explosion and fire in Apex on October 5, 2006, that sent fireballs into the sky, drew dozens of responders, and compelled as many as 15,00 residents to evacuate? Yesterday, a class-action suit seeking compensation for evacuees was approved. Households and business owners have two weeks (!) to file a claim, and they'll receive \$750 or up to \$2,200, respectively. As [this New & Observer article](#) reports, about 1,900 of the 3,000 eligible households have already filed claims.

More information for claimants is available at [www.apexfiresettlement.com](http://www.apexfiresettlement.com).

For recaps and summaries of the incident, see these pages from the [Apex Fire Department](#), as well as the [Chemical Safety Board](#).

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Durham Apartment Fire

10/07/09 79 W, 1 I - + 11 - 16

WRAL has posted an appealingly grainy viewer photo-- wonder how many people will read that as appallingly?-- of an apartment fire at Royal Oaks Apartments in Durham last night. Two apartments burned, and others were damaged with water. No injuries. Reported just before 11:00 p.m. The viewer photo is probably from a mobile device, or lower-resolution camera. It has an appealing "you are there" quality, certainly! [Read the WRAL story.](#)



*WRAL photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Bodies on Television?**

10/07/09 68 W - + 12 - 12

Question of the day. Do our television stations typically show dead bodies in footage from local stories? Despite his seemingly 24/7 media awareness, Mr. Blogger rarely watches newscasts or video clips. Thus the surprise this morning, seeing a[n apparent] body in the street, shown in the [WRAL coverage of a fatal shooting](#) in Fuquay-Varina. Is that common these days? Showing a deceased person on screen?

Whats the saying in the news media??? If it bleeds, it leads.

Welcome to the over hyped sensational world of todays news, and yes even little WRAL is playing the game.

**Buckwheat** - 10/07/09 - 21:42

Pretty sure that was the victims coat.

**DM** ([Email](#)) - 10/07/09 - 22:16

But of course. Victim's coat.

Disregard entire posting.

**Legeros** - 10/08/09 - 05:16

Yes, it was the victim's coat. In some video a body under a sheet was visible. It's nothing new. The 1979 shootings in Greensboro were examples, showing multiple bodies on the street. On a side note, I have my own take on these guys to take out their girlfriends/spouse/ex-spouse like this. It's up on my blog.

**DJ** - 10/08/09 - 13:11

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Durham Firefighters Trim Flu Season Schedule**

10/08/09 204 W - + 14 - 12

From [today's News & Observer](#), the Durham Fire Department begins limiting non-essential public contact in November. Because of concerns about contracting swine flu, firefighters will stop attending community events. This includes school events. Such requests average about 40 per month. The department will continue to allow station tours, but require that visitors first wash their hands or use a hand sanitizer. Tours will be conducted outside the station only, and children will not be allowed inside the trucks, nor permitted to touch face masks or other personal protective equipment. The Chapel Hill Fire Department is taking similar precautions, the article notes. Durham firefighters will also be required to get flu shots. [Read the entire article.](#)

It's worth noting that similar precautions have been implemented by local health care providers. Restrictions have been announced at central North Carolina hospitals, as [this WRAL story reported](#). Young people represent the highest risk for the H1N1 virus, and people under 18 years of age are no longer allowed to visit Duke University Hospital and WakeMed hospitals. At Rex hospitals, visitors must be over the age of 12. At Halifax Regional Medical Center in Roanoke Rapids, visitors must be over the age of 5. Etcetra, etcetra.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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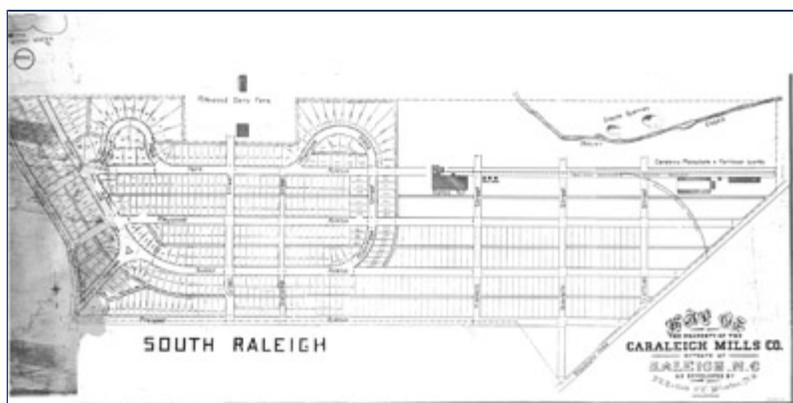
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## Old Map of Caraleigh

10/08/09 114 W, 2 I - + 14 - 8

Here's a great find from a fellow history buff, an old map of the unincorporated community of Carleigh. Date unknown, perhaps 1900s? Many of the streets are still there, as well as the original [Caraleigh Mills building](#). Most of the map was scanned from a copy at [Olivia Raney Local History Library](#), with the rest photographed from a physical copy. Caraleigh and other sections of South Raleigh were annexed in the 1960s.

Click the second image **once or twice** very large versions, including an overlaid satellite image from [Google Maps](#). Or see Sanborn Maps from 1914 in PDF format, showing some streets and buildings: [index map](#), [detail map 1](#), [detail map 2](#).



Since I didn't see one in the links above, here's a linkable version:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s..>

Paul - 10/08/09 - 16:02

Loved these old maps. My grandparents moved to Caraleigh in the 1930s & I still live there. Love the history of the area!  
Do you have any other maps or links that would help me?

Connie Crumpler - 09/28/11 - 12:51

Thanks for your note Connie. I recommend paying a visit to Olivia Raney Local History Library in Raleigh, as they have a plethora of interesting old maps. They can also recommend other sources of Caraleigh history. Their web site with information is

<http://www.wakegov.com/images/library/lo..>

**Legeros** - 09/28/11 - 18:51

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - District Chief Position Created at « Old Map of Caraleigh » Trailer Fire Six Forks EMS

### District Chief Position Created at Six Forks EMS

10/08/09 163 W, 3 I - + 9 - 13

On Tuesday, October 13, at 0800 hours, [Six Forks EMS](#) will place a new District Chief unit in service. Numbered District Chief 4, the unit will respond primarily in the north and northwest region of Wake County. The Wake County EMS System presently has five District Chief units, three operated by Wake County EMS (DC1, DC2, DC3), and two operated by contracted EMS agencies (Cary, DC5 and Eastern Wake, DC6).

District Chiefs serve as first-line supervisors to EMS personnel, and also respond to larger incidents involving multiple EMS unit and high-acuity clinical responses, such as cardiac arrest and severe respiratory distress. They also supplement Advance Practice paramedic units, and perform many human resource management and administrative functions as well. The District Chief 4 vehicle, a Dodge Ram covered pick-up, is pictured below at Six Forks EMS Station 1. Read [this press release](#) from July for more information.



**Trailer Fire**

10/08/09 58 W, 1 I - + 16 - 15

This is the trailer that burned this evening at [1820 New Hope Church Road](#), and which was adjoining a commercial structure at the corner of St. Albans Drive. The response included E11, E15, E9, E19, L2, R2, B1, C10, C20, A1, EMS 1, EMS 5, EMS 3, D1, T1. Dispatched 7:31 p.m. Click to enlarge this photo from Legeros:



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Western Wake Firefighter Struck on I-40 (Updated)**

10/08/09 192 W, 2 I - + 11 - 17

The driver of Western Wake Pumper 196 was injured this afternoon at a vehicle fire on westbound Interstate 40 just east of Harrison Avenue. The Western Wake engine and its three-person crew was dispatched at 4:13 p.m., along with Cary Engine 1. Callers reported a Chevy Blazer on fire in the vicinity of Wade Avenue. Pumper 196 arrived within minutes, and a line was pulled to extinguish a small amount of fire. The two firefighters on the line were wearing full protective gear, while the driver/operator was wearing his helmet and a traffic vest.

About that time, an apparently out of control truck skidded into the scene, and struck Lt. S. M. Shrum. He was thrown clear of the vehicle, which also collided with the apparatus. EMS was immediately requested, and he was transported to WakeMed in Cary, and treated for a minor injury. A second vehicle accident also occurred at the congested scene. The EMS response included EMS 8, EMS 51, and Medic 91. Western Wake Rescue 295 also responded, and relieved Cary Engine 1.

Updated October 9, with photos from readers, shot about 45 minutes into the incident. Click to enlarge:



Damn scary story. Glad you're okay, Shev!

**Legeros** - 10/08/09 - 21:19

Damn Shev, when I got your blackberry messenger contact request I would have chatted earlier, had I known! Glad to hear you're ok bro...

**Silver** - 10/08/09 - 23:45

Shev-

Glad you are okay and NOT another statistic! Hope you get better soon!

Stay safe out there folks!

**Wayne** - 10/09/09 - 01:06

Just another reason to remember to always watch your back. Idiots are everywhere. Glad you are ok Shevais.

FTM-PTB

**H2O** - 10/09/09 - 07:48

Shevais- Really glad you are ok brother. Call or email me if you need anything.

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/09/09 - 08:21

Glad that you are ok LT. Just shows that people do not pay attention while driving! We all always need to watch out for each other!

Fayetteville Fire / Rescue

Dunn Fire / Rescue

**Mark W.** ([Email](#)) - 10/09/09 - 15:47

Shev did a double back flip round house Chuck Norris style over the truck. Then made sure everybody was alright!

Good talking to ya, get well.

**Kermit** - 10/09/09 - 16:31

Shev, thank GOD you are ok brother!!!! big man up stairs loves us! i hope SHP charges the da driver with some serious stuff! enforce the move over law! again God bless you brother, If ya nedd anything halla! J

**Jason Lane** - 10/09/09 - 17:29

thanks for all of the well wishes. The ankle/foot is not broken as they first thought but is pretty well bruised up and sprained. Should be back to work next week. I appreciate all the calls, visits and messages. The brotherhood is still alive and well in this area.

Just goes to show that no matter how safe we try to be we can't control what the other drivers out there do. In this case the driver said he saw us, so visibility was not a factor. Be careful out there and keep your eyes and ears open!

**shevais** - 10/14/09 - 11:29

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**See You at the State Fair**

10/09/09 95 W, 1 I - + 17 - 10

Mr. Blogger has again entered the Arts & Photography competition at the [North Carolina State Fair](#). Amateur category, where the premiums range from \$120 to \$55. Entries must be framed and wired for hanging. That's a 16 by 20-inch digital print, with store-bought frame. This year's submission was shot at a live burn in Knightdale in November 2008. It'll be hanging with good company in the Scott Building. See you at the Fair. And for extra credit, identify the pictured firefighter. That is, the soon-to-be-famous firefighter.



I know I know!!!!

**CFP 7021** - 10/09/09 - 17:52

gonna say Andrew Coley...

**C.Parker** - 10/09/09 - 18:46

Good Luck Mike!

**091504** - 10/09/09 - 20:59

Boggs?

**Kermit** - 10/10/09 - 02:28

This SAME picture taken by a Local Photographer has been entered into the fair as well. I wonder if they will place both photos next to each other.

**RNT** - 10/10/09 - 23:28

If they do, they'll be in good company!

**Legeros** - 10/10/09 - 23:30

I belive it may be J Boggs...?

**CTK** - 10/11/09 - 17:13

Who is it Mike?

**Kermit** - 10/14/09 - 15:18

Here's the original version, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/legeros/317..>

Based on the reflective striping on the gear, and the type of helmet, the pictured entity is identified as A. Coley.

**Legeros** - 10/14/09 - 20:10

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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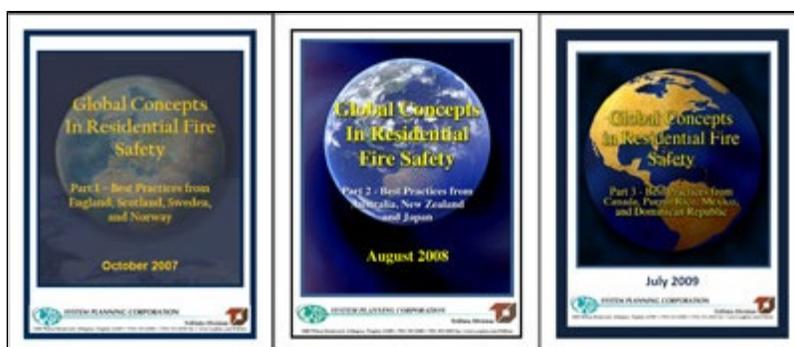
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**Fire Prevention Around The World**

10/09/09 175 W, 1 I - + 10 - 12

[This Firehouse.com article](#) reports on the final installment of a three-year study examining how fire prevention is handled in ten countries: Australia, Canada, Dominican Republic, England, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Puerto Rico, Scotland, and Sweden. The third installment was released this summer. The report was commissioned by the CDC, and researched and written by TriData. The 300-page report has been downloaded 12,000 times, notes the article. And it sounds like compelling reading, with all sorts of examples of how fires are prevented in other countries.

In England, the article cites as an example, a firefighter strike in 2003 caused a dramatic reduction in fires and fire deaths. Why? People had to be more careful. In Canada, some firefighters are required to spend two hours each day doing fire prevention field work. In Australia and New Zealand, home fire safety vans have compartments simulating rooms in a home. In Scandinavia, candle wicks are self-extinguishing. And so on, and so on. Looking forward to reading it. [Learn more about the report.](#)



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: [/ Textile](#)

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**White Balance**

10/09/09 208 W, 3 I - + 13 - 14

For your Friday enjoyment, here's a bit of camera play. Here's an image from last night's commercial structure fire in Raleigh. The camera is a Canon Digital Rebel XT, in Program AE mode, at 1600 ISO. The file format is RAW. The flash hasn't fired. This is the image without any adjustments:



Pretty cool photo, no? The chief and the vehicle look like they're bathed by emergency lights. Let's add some post-processing, including color, contrast, and sharpness:



Still pretty cool. But is it real? Did the chief and that vehicle really look that orange? Did our eyes actually see such tinting? Or is the orange-ness actually a product of the camera? Let's adjust the white balance, and we'll reach something closer to reality.



Not nearly as cool, but considerably closer to what we were seeing on scene. Which version is better? Well, that's an eye of the beholder thing. In fact, filters are frequently used to produce this very type of tinting. Adds an artsy effect. Which version will we post? Wait and see.

[Read more about white balance](#), also called color balance.

---

I hate to disagree with you Mike, but the human eye/brain has an incredible white balance system and our eyes acclimate to see a scene as neutral after a while, even when lit by colored light. Red light will always cast a red tint on everything, as will yellow light. So yes, #3 is what the eye saw after it acclimated itself, but #2 is closer to reality.

**c.hydrant** - 05/12/10 - 12:49

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Raleigh Fire Department Office Move

10/10/09 181 W, 1 I - + 14 - 12

The administrative offices of the Raleigh Fire Department have been temporarily moved to the Keeter Training Center at [105 Keeter Center Drive](#). Administrative and Prevention division staff occupy a trio of classroom trailers, while the Fire Chief has moved into the training center building. Renovations are pending for their existing offices on the second floor of the Dillon Building on West Martin Street. Construction is expected to be completed by Christmas. Visitors to the relocated offices are encouraged to make appointments, as parking at the training center is limited. [See photos of the news and existing space.](#)

For most of the prior century, fire department administrative officers were located in three incarnations of Station 1 on West Morgan Street, South Salisbury Street, and South Dawson Street. Later locations have included the Keeter Training Center building (1982?-1984?), the Raleigh Municipal Building (1984-1991), the Professional Building on West Hargett Street (1991-1994), and the aforementioned Dillon Building (1994-present). Old Station 4 on Wake Forest Road was also utilized as a Career Development Center from 1993 to 1997.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Everybody Loves a Parade**

10/10/09 60 W, 1 I - + 9 - 16

Downtown Creedmoor. Fireman's Day. Units from CFD and Bahama, Bethesda, Brassfield, Bullock, Butner (lot of B's!), Corinth, Cornwall, Durham, Durham Highway, Oxford, Providence, Redwood, Stem, Stony Hill, Townsville, Watkins, and Virgilina fire departments. Ton of people, ton of candy. Lot of fun. Pics coming from Lee and Legeros (below).



Name: (real name preferred)  
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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

## Alligators

10/11/09 174 W, 1 I - + 11 - 12

On Thursday, a golfer was attacked by an alligator near Hilton Head, SC. He lost his arm below the elbow, [reports this newspaper story](#). There are alligators in the Carolinas? What? And are they lurking in *North* Carolina?<sup>1</sup> Looking around the web, it appears that 'gators have been sighted as far north as the Great Dismal Swamp near the Virginia border. Others report seeing basking beasts in the canal along Highway 64 between Columbia and Mann's Harbor. The state's southern counties have the highest percentage of alligators. On the USS North Carolina in Wilmington, a sign warns visitors that the things are dangerous. Implied is that they are also nearby. Next question, how far inland are they found? Readers, please advise.

<sup>1</sup>Having lived in North Carolina for 29 years, including high school on the coast, I probably already knew there were alligators here. Just hadn't thought it lately. Too much time at the computer can do that. Plus, the question makes for a good posting.

<sup>2</sup>Yes, alligators are not crocodiles. But the mug is cute.

---

My family has a beach house on Harbor Island near Beaufort, SC and Alligator sightings are pretty common. Usually if you leave them alone they will leave you alone. At least on the coast of SC they are pretty common.

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/12/09 - 09:51

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**Vitriol**

10/11/09 134 W - + 15 - 11

On Wednesday, [Statter911 surfaced the story](#) of a fire prevention demonstration in Washington, DC with live fire that went wrong. One firefighter received burns on his cheek and hands, and was admitted to a burn center. His story includes a complete video of the demonstration, and the footage and story is making the rounds on news and blog sites. On Statter's site, nearly [100 comments have been posted](#) and they represent a range of passionate opinions and perspectives. Some take swings at the department, others at fire officials. Career versus volunteers is lobbed out. Suppression techniques are argued, as are safety practices. And, of course, anonymous versus named posters. It's virulent stuff, and perhaps characteristic of online discussions in the DC/Baltimore area. Such as their Watch Desk forums, which are also quite... colorful.

---

Colorful is putting it very, very nicely....

**Silver** - 10/11/09 - 18:40

That was actually an awesome demo of sprinkler, had it gone well.. Honestly these guys were just doing what anyone else probably would have done, but I do agree with some of the posts that extinguishment from a slightly farther distance might have been a better option.

**Mike** - 10/11/09 - 20:25

That was a great demo. The failure came when the attack team didn't take into account that: 1. The plastic was on fire, and 2. They put themselves right under the melting/burning plastic. Along with that, the person in charge of sending the hose team in for extinguishment \*should have noted that situation and alerted the nozzleman to it in case he didn't see it himself.

I'm not laying blame at all. But there were those and possibly more lapses in judgment that led to the firefighter getting burned. Add to the attack team's placement, the safety team wasn't paying attention enough to see that the attack team was on fire.

Now I know in our line of work, we're taught to go into harm's way. But in training, we're taught techniques and skills that should help us stay safer in those situations. And even in demonstrations such as these, we ALL need to fall back on our training and operate as safely as possible, especially when the situation is "controlled" as in this case.

Comment as you will. This is my opinion.

**Duda** - 10/12/09 - 15:52

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
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Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**Lego Oshkosh P-15**

10/11/09 54 W, 1 I - + 20 - 11

Found on a model apparatus collector's board, would you believe a 1:30 scale Oshkosh P-15 airport crash truck built entirely of Legos? And one that rolls, steers, *and* pumps. The project took the Danish builder six months of researching, planning, building, and rebuilding. [Read more and see more.](#) I want one!



I remember crewing this vehicle, the top turrets could deliver around 2500GPM or so combined.  
Don't know how many are still around with USAF

**Dan Bennis** - 07/08/14 - 22:31

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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## Remaking Downtown Raleigh

10/12/09 293 W - + 17 - 7

The latest issue of the *Independent Weekly* has a [fascinating feature on urban planner Dan Douglas](#) and his vision for remaking downtown Raleigh. He believes a nonprofit development corporation is the answer, similar to the one that created the RTP. The corporation partners would be the city, county, state, Progress Energy, PSNC, the three railroads (CSX, Norfolk Southern, North Carolina Railroad), and Triangle Transit. Why those partners? Because they own 120 acres of vacant or underutilized land that runs right through the heart of the city. (What is underutilized, you ask? For example, there are 18 acres owned by the city on the west size of Capital Boulevard, where vehicles are parked. The old baseball stadium site.)

His idea is simple. The partners donate their land to the development corp, which then uses the land to leverage private and public development. Such as by holding an international competition to produce the best master plan possible for downtown development. With these ideas, based on research spent in European cities that have successfully revitalized similar areas, he believes 46,000 additional jobs and 8,500 housing units for 15,400 people could be located in that corridor's 369 acres. Total value of \$7 billion, with tax value to the city and county of \$73 million annually. At current rates.

What exactly would Douglas do, in downtown Raleigh? Well, he'd tear apart Capital Boulevard from Peace Street to Atlantic Avenue. In place of that "grungy highway," he'd install a "tree-lined boulevard with stoplights, sidewalks, and cross streets." The latter would connect to new frontage roads parallel to the railroad tracks. His other ideas including adding nine new public squares, six green streets, a new "grand central station" for the city, and a new downtown arena.

[Read the article.](#)

Name: (real name preferred)  
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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

## Mystery Apparatus

10/13/09 23 W, 1 I - + 14 - 9

Who will be the first person to identify this apparatus? Hint #1: Hose. Hint #2: Bed.



I'll bite... WW B299?

**CFP 7021** - 10/13/09 - 22:35

a kps engine, maybe the squirt

**lee** - 10/14/09 - 22:19

It is a KPSD unit

**Truckie** - 10/14/09 - 22:24

Its Knightdale Engine 133.

**Shimmy** ([Email](#)) - 10/15/09 - 12:30

Pumpa!

**HGH** - 10/15/09 - 17:53

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

## Buy Your Tartan Ball Tickets

10/14/09 88 W - + 11 - 16

The Fourth Annual Tartan Ball on Friday, November 13, has sold only half of its 320 tickets. What are you waiting for? To purchase the \$20 tickets, visit [www.ForOurFallen.org](http://www.ForOurFallen.org) and look for **Tickets Here**. Show your support for the [Wake & District Public Safety Pipes and Drums](#). The event is again at the Downtown Raleigh Sheraton Hotel, from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. There's a guest band, featured dancers, adult kegged beverages and appetizers, and a full-service cash bar. Come and join the fun.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

TriData, Again

10/14/09 112 W, 2 I - + 13 - 12

For fellow report junkies, we've uploaded the entire Wake County Fire/EMS Capital Facility and Equipment Study that was presented to the Wake County Fire Commission in January 2004. (Gads, have I really been attending those meetings for over five years now!?) The report was prepared by TriData of Arlington, VA. It is important to note that the commission voted to **not** move the study forward.

[View the report](#), which includes some very large PDF files .

[View the summary presentation](#), shown to the fire commission in 2004 .

[Read our recap and discussions from 2007.](#)

See earlier county studies by TriData of the [EMS service in 1999](#) and the [fire service in 1994](#).

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**This Morning's Major Fire / Wingate Drive**

10/15/09 140 W, 2 I - + 10 - 12

Two alarms at [4508 Wingate Drive](#). Engine 9 arriving at a two-story brick residence with heavy fire showing through the roof and second-story windows. Building with 2,733 square-feet, built 1985. Second alarm requested within minutes. Interior attack through garage and into kitchen. Subsequent defensive attack including aerial stream from Ladder 2 and deck gun from Engine 9. Residents safely escaped. No injuries. E9, E15, E11, E19, E16, E4, E6, L2, L1, R1, R2, B1, B2, C10, C20, A8, EMS16, EMS3, EMS121, D4, D1, M91, T1. Dispatched 5:05 a.m. Second alarm companies released within about an hour. Salvage and overhaul continued through change of "A" shift to "B" shirt. Late incident pics from Legeros coming. [See NBC 17 coverage](#). Or watch [fire footage from WTVD](#).



**State Fair Fire Department**

10/16/09 149 W, 1 I - + 15 - 12

Western Wake is again providing contracted fire protection at the State Fair. Same place as always, based at a trailer over toward the Village of Yesteryear. They'll respond on fire and EMS calls. That is, fire and a lot of EMS calls. Staffing numbers 13 from morning till late night, and four from late night till morning. The Greenville Fire Department [Fire Safety Clown Troupe](#) makes an appearance ~~today~~ next Friday, October 23. They'll have three shows: 11:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. The Fair guys are also distributing fire prevention materials donated by LGFCU and VFIS. The Western Wake crews are easy to spot, as they're typically being bothered by a guy with a camera in a Hawaiian Shirt. And don't forget your fair food, which this year reportedly includes chocolate-covered bacon and deep-fried Ho Ho's. See you at the next cardiac saves ceremony!



I have always wondered how much income does WWFD receive from the contract at the fairgrounds? Is this an open bidding process where other fire departments may submit or is it exclusive?

**wondering** - 10/16/09 - 23:46

I mean, it is there original district, isn't it?

**Silver** - 10/17/09 - 01:00

Wondering-

I can't remember how much the income is from the fair, I used to know, but can't remember now. I'm sure that someone out there knows and MAY be willing to share. No, it is not an open bidding process, Silver is correct in that the fairgrounds fall within Western Wake's fire district. But that would be an interesting topic for discussion, boy I could some heated exchanges about that!

**Wayne** - 10/17/09 - 01:46

Updated with corrected information about the Greenville Clown Troupe, which appears next Friday, not this past Friday.

**Legeros** - 10/18/09 - 14:49

These guys and gals do a great job at the NC State Fair!!

Although, as controversy would have it on Mike's blog; I have heard stories of clandestine midnight cow-tipping excursions (from an anonymous "statuesque" WWFD Captain who shall remain nameless for now...)

**A.C. Rich** - 10/18/09 - 21:41

wondering... To answer your question, the fair is a "pass-thru" type event. As Silver said it is WWFR's district, therefore we receive funding from the county to protect the fairgrounds and the football complex. As such we do not charge the NC State Fair or NC State University(football events) for services outside actual cost of delivery. Specifically, we do not charge a fee for apparatus committed to the fair. We commit E191, C19 (Kawasaki Mule) and B299 for the entire event, and TA198 every day the fair is open. As is done for law enforcement and EMS, funds are available from the NC State Fair for personnel costs for enhanced coverage requested by the State Fair. The decision on staffing is based on what we deem necessary with final approval by the NC State Fair. Yes, the personnel bill is quite hefty but it goes right back out to the personnel who log so many hours at this event.

If a private contractor were to do what we do you would see charges for apparatus, personnel, equipment and supplies. Think about how much that would cost for the 15 days that we have units on site.

Finally, under the county funding model, ANY funds generated by a department go against expenses of the department. So, if money were made on any such event it would be logged as income and decrease the amount of funding the department would receive for operating from the county.

If you're at the Fair, stop by and say hi we're down the hill from the NCSU ice cream booth just past the Village of Yesteryear along with units posted around the fairgrounds. Also, Mike has been out and spent part of a day with us and will be posting photos soon.

**D.Cates** - 10/19/09 - 10:56

I miss the NCSU Ice cream booth. Somebody please grab me a bowl and send it on over. I am sure A.C. or BIG can rig a container with liquid nitrogen or something.

**Kermit** - 10/19/09 - 17:19

Dry Ice will work just fine for ya!! ...and it's less problematic than nitrogen!! Also, David – good info. You guys really deserve more!

**A.C. Rich** - 10/20/09 - 22:36

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point**

10/16/09 293 W, 1 I - + 14 - 19

For your weekend enjoyment, let's take a [Bing Maps Bird's Eye tour](#) of Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point in Brunswick County. Opened in 1955 and located on a 16,000-acre Army-owned site, Sunny Point is the largest ammunition port in the nation. It's also the Army's primary east coast deep-water port. The facility provides worldwide trans-shipment of DOD ammo, explosives, and other dangerous cargo. There's a port with three docks and a temporary holding area for munitions. The latter are likely those many concrete-padded parking areas with raised earthworks around them, to protect in the event of explosions. The facility has 100 miles of railroad tracks, and the rail yard(s) are easily seen in aerial views. [On this GlobalSecurity.org page about Sunny Point](#), it notes some 27,000 railroad cars were unloaded during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Desert Sortie.

Sunny Point has a federal fire department on site with two? stations. In July 2001, they and numerous other fire departments fought an engine room fire on a loaded ammunition ship. The fire started about 4:10 p.m. on July 14, aboard the 950-foot container ship SSG Edward A. Carter Jr. The ship was moored at the south wharf. It was Saturday, and explosive cargo was not being handled. Eighteen crew members were aboard at the time the fire started. Two were killed. SPFD arrived within 10 minutes of the first alarm. Southport Fire Department responded next, after the request for mutual aid. Five counties worth of personnel and equipment eventually participated. Nearly 150 firefighters from 30 departments. Marine assistance included a 32-foot fireboat from Wilmington. The fire was controlled within six hours, and extinguish at 1:30 a.m. the next morning. [Read an excellent account of the incident from Industrial Fire World](#).

*Bing Maps Photo*

Yes sir, two fire stations serve Sunny Point at this time, they are about to have a third engine company up and running and are discussing going EMT-I though I believe they already run paramedics on their ambulance...

**blah** - 10/16/09 - 23:22

im from belltown station 2 lancaster county south carolina vol. dept. love your brush truck more info. please.

**billmatthews** ([Email](#)) - 12/26/11 - 11:56

Name: (real name  
preferred)

Remember personal info?

## Firematic Racing

10/17/09 116 W - + 14 - 11

Found by a reader, here's something fun called [firematic racing](#). Old-school competitions with teams racing up ladders or quickly flowing water or so forth. Just like the stuff we watched in Warrenton a couple weekends ago, and which dates-- in North Carolina, at least-- back to the 1880s and earlier. In New York state they are *serious* about their racing. Check out the site for the [New York State Drill Teams](#). They have an [information page about the races](#). And [they have superb videos](#), which include motorized events that must be seen to be believed. Like the drag-racing ladder and hose wagons in this clip of the Hampstead Invite 2009. Start watching about 1:15. Hilarious!

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

## Clayton Fire Department Crop Tops Saturday, October 24

10/17/09 92 W - + 15 - 8

Clayton Fire Department members are shaving their heads to support a local family with a child being treated for cancer. Their tops get cropped at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 24, at the Flipside at [105 S. Lombard Street](#) in Clayton. The event is sponsored by the St. Baldrick's Foundation, which raises money to combat childhood cancer research. Meet the shavees, donate money, and read Bo's story at the [event web site](#). Even Chief Barbee is going under the blade! Expect great fun for a great cause.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**First Annual Rolesville Public Safety Golf Tournament, Wednesday, October 21**

10/17/09 100 W, 1 I - + 10 - 10

Speaking of charity events, Rolesville area responders are sponsoring a golf tournament at Zebulon Country Club on Wednesday, October 21. Fire, EMS, and law enforcement members from around Rolesville have formed a charity group to help people in need. Some of their activities including providing Thanksgiving dinners, and adopting families at Christmas. They also donate money raised at their annual softball tournament to the Wake County 200 Club. The tournament starts at noon, with registration and lunch at 11:00 a.m. Though the deadline has passed for entry, [here's a flyer with more information](#) .

We can still take teams if anyone is interested....contact me  
**lprice** ([Email](#)) - 10/17/09 - 17:22

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

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## Tunnel Response Truck

10/17/09 65 W, 2 I - + 12 - 12

Here's an interesting apparatus innovation, found in this flyer for a [Camiva/Iveco/Magirus tunnel response truck](#) from France. Check out the roof-mounted hose tray, that allows a supply line to be pulled from the front of the vehicle. The bulk of the hose is stored behind the cab, atop the unit. Never seen that before.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**Saw You at the State Fair**

10/17/09 39 W, 1 I - + 15 - 9

Megan Young from Knightdale took the picture on the left. Mike Legeros from Raleigh took the picture on the right. They're displayed at the Scott Building.



Great Job to the Both of You! Both have a great eye for fire photography!

**Bobby R.** - 10/20/09 - 17:05

When will the awards be given?? Keep us posted as to how you both do. Great photos!

**A.C. Rich** - 10/20/09 - 22:32

Ribbons are awarded prior to the start of the fair. Neither of these appealing photos were winners.

**Legeros** - 10/21/09 - 07:35

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Wake County Firefighter's Association Meeting, Tuesday, November 10**

10/19/09 44 W, 1 I - + 15 - 11

The quarterly meeting of the Wake County Firefighter's Association is Tuesday, November 10, at Rolesville Fire Department. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. The agenda is forthcoming. [Visit their web site](#) to review minutes from previous meetings.



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Western Wake Anniversary Ceremony & Flea Market, Saturday, November 21**

10/19/09 186 W, 2 I - + 12 - 8

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for the [Western Wake Fire Rescue Anniversary Ceremony & Firematic Flea Market](#). Celebrate over 50 collective years of fire protection in western Wake County, with a ceremony honoring past and present members of the Cary Rural, Fairgrounds, Yrac, Western Boulevard, and Western Wake Fire Departments.

The event also features a flea market, where you can buy, sell, trade, or ask about "firematic" merchandise. You know, stuff related to firefighting. I'll have a booth with stuff for sale such as a giant Gamewell gong, maybe some nozzles or extinguishers, numerous die-cast fire models from Code 3, Corgi, Del Prado, Siku, etc., and a mess of firefighting books, including some Japanese-language picture books. Full sale list later.

The location is the Western Wake fire station at [4021 District Drive, Raleigh](#). The flea market starts at 10:00 a.m., and the ceremony starts at 12:00 p.m. Anyone and everyone is invited. For registration information and event rules, visit [www.westernwakefirerescue.com/fleamarket](http://www.westernwakefirerescue.com/fleamarket). Also available is this [flyer about the event](#).



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

## This Morning's Major Fire in Morrisville

10/20/09 141 W, 1 I - + 14 - 10

Crews are still on the scene of an apartment fire at [2100 Summit Ridge Loop](#) in Morrisville. Three-story, wood-frame apartment building with 18,630 square-feet, built 1998. Dispatched 1:46 a.m. with Engine 1 arriving with heavy fire through the roof. Some reports of flames as high as 30 feet. Interior attack with multiple lines, as well as aerial operations with Morrisville Ladder 2. Units included Morrisville E1, E3, L2, Car 3; Apex E3, L3; Western Wake P196, R295; Swift Creek E1, Bat 27; Cary E5, L5, T7; Durham E12; EMS 54, EMS 51, EMS 41, D1, T1; WC1, WC2. [WRAL is reporting](#) that the fire started on a third floor deck, took four hours to control extinguish, gutted four units, damaged others, and displaced about 50 people. [WTVD is reporting](#) that the apartments had sprinklers, but were limited in effectiveness by the collapsing roof.



*WRAL photo*

Good job to all.

**Apex Batt Chief** - 10/20/09 - 07:39

Updated with additional info.

**Legeros** - 10/20/09 - 07:46

Damn shame and prayers to all who lost everything at this job. It happens all too often, we've all seen it; "the fire started on the outside porch". I'm grateful that my condo has a sprinklered porch, but when it comes to the almighty dolla' bill, developers often avoid the expense and roll the dice. Sad, very sad.

If any push was made in Congress for sprinklers, it should be for multi-family dwellings to have sprinklers inside and out!!!

**Silver** - 10/20/09 - 16:20

A better push would be to require that all renters purchase renter's insurance. It would be a whole lot cheaper than having to pay the increased rent on buildings that had to retrofit or the cost to install them on new construction. Somebody's got to pay for those sprinklers and I assure you it won't be the builder or the landlord.

**RescueRanger** - 10/20/09 - 21:22

**After the Fire**

10/20/09 19 W, 1 I - + 15 - 8

Tool of the trade, as seen after this morning's apartment fire in Morrisville.



Sure that wasn't an antique a resident had on a shelf?

**Whoops** - 10/20/09 - 17:30

Is that a 1 1/8" tip? I hope that wasn't being used on a 2" line! If so, talk about an ineffective stream pattern. Been there, done that. And it doesn't work!

**RescueRanger** - 10/20/09 - 21:19

Mo'ville runs three cross lays. The 2 1/2 has a 1 1/4 tip on it. One of the 1 3/4 cross lay lines has a 7/8 tip and the other 1 3/4 cross lay has a fog nozzle.

**Sparky** - 10/20/09 - 21:59

Now there's a nice mix!

**Silver** - 10/20/09 - 22:23

We run the same at Apex- 7/8" smooth bore and a fog on our two 1 3/4" cross lays.

**Bob P.** - 10/20/09 - 22:25

I agree. Nice setup.

**RescueRanger** - 10/21/09 - 08:57

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

## Launching Fireworks

10/21/09 61 W, 1 I - + 15 - 11

Here's what launching fireworks looks like at the State Fair. The picture was taken on the bridge by the lake, with the photographer facing west. The launch site was the jetty that extends from the south shore of the lake. Personnel and units were staged at both the launch site, and around the fallout zone. [Click to enlarge:](#)



Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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**Blogger Comments on Blogger Comments**

10/21/09 115 W - + 14 - 12

[Statter911 blogger](#) Dave Statter offers a useful perspective on blog comments. He's had almost 12,000 posted to his site since May 2007. He moderates each and every one. He begins "The comments on this blog bring a lot comments to me. I catch a lot of grief from friends, enemies and strangers for allowing comments, allowing anonymous comments, allowing personal attacks and allowing crude language. I see everyone's point on this and it is an issue I wrestle with daily." [Read his entire remarks](#), which conclude with the helpful suggestion to be nice, deal with the facts, and try to discuss the issues and not the personalities.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**Smithfield Emergency Services Open House, Saturday, October 24**

10/21/09 125 W, 1 I - + 17 - 7

[Smithfield Emergency Services](#) holds an open house this Saturday, October 24, from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the fire station, [111 S. 4th Street](#). During the event, the department's 1927 Seagrave pumper "Big Bill" will be rededicated. Smithfield's first piece of motor apparatus was recently restored. It event responded to Raleigh back when, assisting at the Yarborough House fire in 1928! There'll be plenty of other fire and EMS vehicles for show, and displays from the Red Cross, Johnston County Sheriff's Office, Johnston County Emergency Services, and the Johnston County 911 Center. Plus plenty of other things happening. The event is open to the public. Big Bill will be rededicated at 10:30 a.m.



WTSB Radio photo

Early Seagraves are also rare in North Carolina. The dominant deliveries in the 1920s were American LaFrance triple combinations. Who else receive Seagraves back in the day?

**Legeros** - 10/21/09 - 20:36

Answering my own question, with an assist from <http://www.legeros.com/history/then-now/>, Asheville, Fayetteville, and High Point had Seagrave combination chemical and hose wagons in the 1910s. So that's a start. Also see some Reo rigs from that era, in Asheville, Marion, Old Fort, and Wilson.

**Legeros** - 10/21/09 - 20:45

RFD had a beauty!! '86(?) I believe. I realize you want old, old rigs, but I enjoyed my time on it so I figured I'd throw it out there. I'd love to see them venture out and try one again at the RFD, but with pump and small tank of course. In your research Mikey, any reason why they just bought one Seagrave, and a ladder at that? I mean, it was pretty reliable when we had it, just a little dated.

**Silver** - 10/21/09 - 23:05

Yes, we had a 1986 Seagrave straight stick. How we did get our one and only Seagrave? As we blogged about before (<http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog/pivot/entry.php?id=171>), the city to receive both a Pirsch pumper and ladder in 1985 or 1986. The engine was delivered and placed in service as Engine 13. The ladder didn't make. One or more of the bid competitors filed a complaint about the bid process. After the dust settled, Seagrave supplied the rig. The Pirsch ladder was sent to Chicago, and was photographed by myself a couple years ago: [http://www.legeros.com/photos/midwest06/..](http://www.legeros.com/photos/midwest06/)

**Legeros** - 10/22/09 - 06:51

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

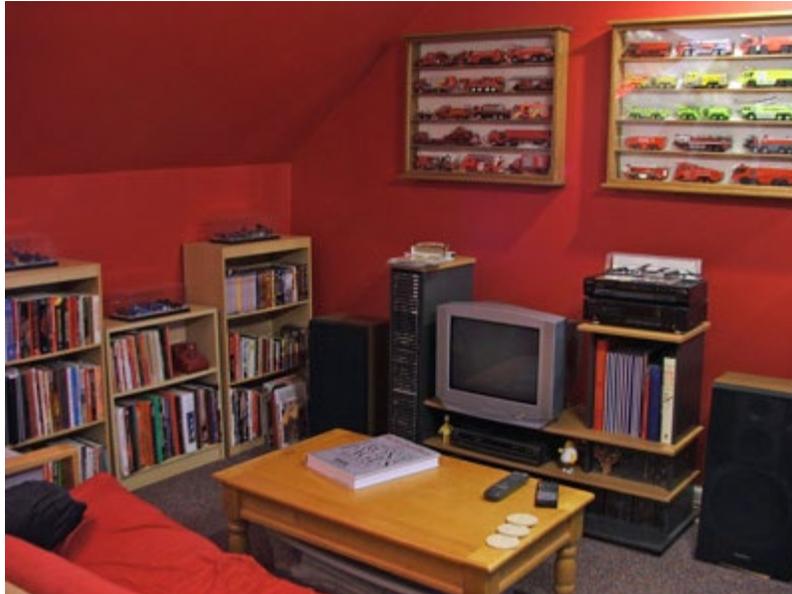
Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Your Fire Cave Photos Wanted**

10/21/09 93 W, 1 I - + 16 - 7

*Man cave.* Room, space, or section of a dwelling that's serves the solitary male, to be removed from the rest of the house and pursue all things related to himself. *Fire cave.* Same as a man cave, but with firematic decorations. Helmets, nozzles, extinguishers, alarm boxes, models, display cases, etc. You get the picture. Now take that picture and [send a copy](#). Include the citation. Full name, part name, or no name. Send your pics by Friday, November 6. We'll post 'em.



this your cave?

**KOM** - 10/22/09 - 11:16

Yes, that's one corner of Blog Central.

**Legeros** - 10/22/09 - 12:41

I was expecting some sort of tropical theme somewhere. But alas....

**KOM** - 10/23/09 - 17:25

I'll e-mail you some pics. Any size requirements?

**Duda** - 10/26/09 - 21:19

Bigger is better than smaller, especially if any cropping is required.

**Legeros** - 10/26/09 - 21:20

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

## Gregson Street Guillotine

10/22/09 97 W - + 15 - 14

That's [blogger Dave Statter's name](#) for the low bridge in Durham that infrequently decapitates unsuspecting tall trucks. Check out the latest and most spectacular video to date from Jurgen Henn, who runs the cameras (now plural!) that capture the drivers who ignore the big yellow sign reading 11 feet 8 inches. His website is appropriately named [11foot8.com](#). And while we're at Brightleaf Square, let's put in a plug for [Satisfaction Restaurant and Bar](#), site of the best pizza in the Triangle. Mr. & Mrs. Blogger make the drive there at least once a month.

---

Heres your sign!

**091504** - 10/22/09 - 18:36

Maybe they need to make the height limit a lot lower, like 8" or so, and then it would be more obvious that trucks won't get under it.

**Paul** - 10/22/09 - 19:10

DANG!! You know his insurance company just increased his rates!

**Jason Lane** - 10/25/09 - 23:38

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

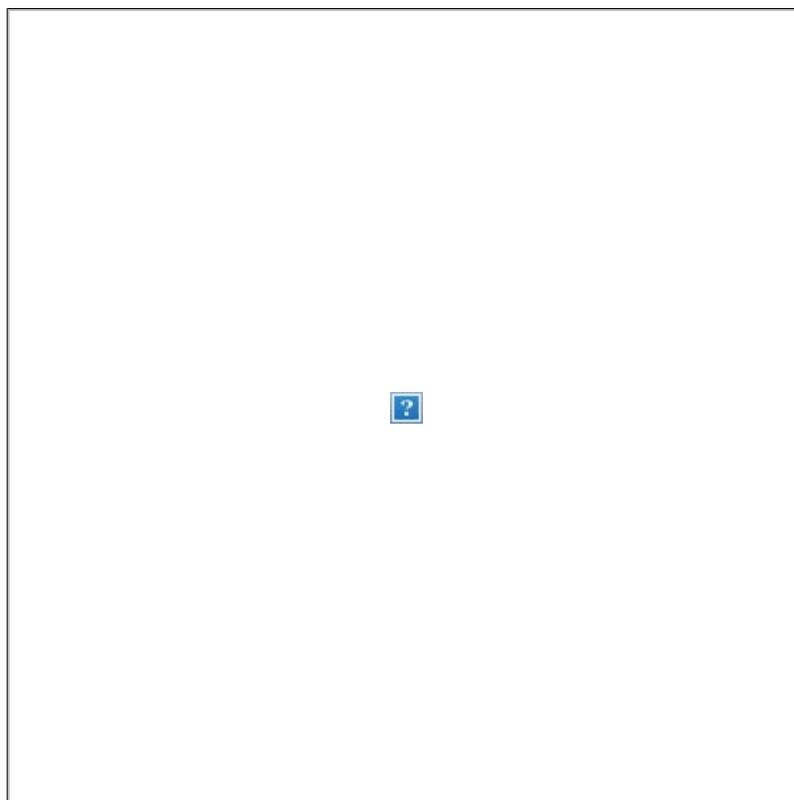
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## Thursday's Fire in Chapel Hill

10/24/09 10:11 W, 1 I - + 16 - 9

Another major apartment fire blazed in Chapel Hill on Thursday morning. Crews rescued two residents trapped on a third-floor balcony at [208 Conner Drive](#). The fire was reported at 4:32 a.m. Thirty-three people and several pets evacuated safely, [reports this WRAL story](#), but two people couldn't get out of their front door. Firefighters raised a ladder to their balcony and brought them down. Twelve of the 24 units were extensively damaged. Chapel Hill, Carrboro, New Hope, and Durham fire departments responded, reports WRAL. The *News & Observer* also [posted this photo](#).



*Chris Seward / News & Observer photo*

GREAT JOB!!

**AB** - 10/25/09 - 19:19

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Two Train Collisions within Four Hours in Fayetteville

10/24/09 116 W - + 16 - 9

Or perhaps better titled Job Security for First Responders. Twice overnight in Fayetteville, vehicles were struck by trains after becoming stuck on railroad trucks in road construction zones. Both times, the driver ignored and drove around construction barriers. The first collision occurred at [Moore and Orange streets](#) around 9:30 p.m. Three injuries included two children, and one still in serious condition. No injuries on passenger train. The second collision occurred at [121 Whitfield Street](#) about 1:20 a.m. Driver left scene. No injuries on passenger train. And readers everywhere the next day were shaking their heads. [Read the WRAL story](#). The first accident is also [reported by the Fayetteville Observer](#).

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

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**Mystery Location**

10/24/09 19 W, 1 I - + 15 - 15

Where is this place? Hint #1: It's old. Hint #2: It's closed.



Bain Water Treatment Plant on Fayetteville Street

**Jake** - 10/24/09 - 17:58

is this a scene from the new SAW VI movie?

**Joe Brady** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/25/09 - 01:04

Correctamundo, it's the old water plant, and one of the sites of a USAR school being conducted by Task Force 8 and the Raleigh Fire Department last week and this week.

**Legeros** - 10/27/09 - 06:18

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

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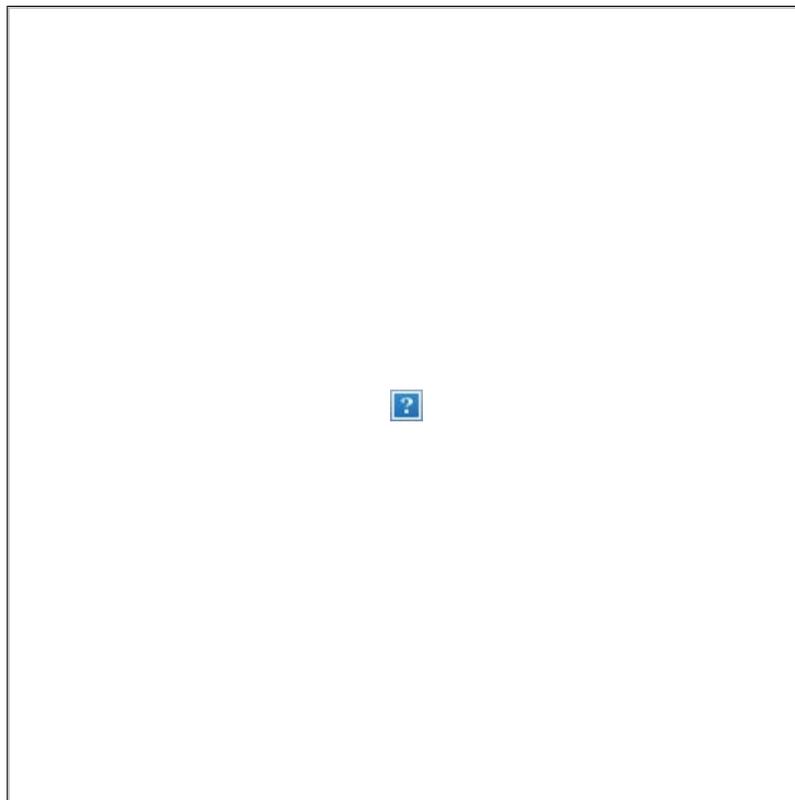
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Road Closed!**

10/26/09 56 W, 1 I - + 13 - 14

NBC17 has a photo of the rock slide that's closed all lanes of Interstate 40 near the Tennessee state line. Several months might be needed to remove the slide and restore traffic. [Read the story](#). Wonder what the impact is on responders, beyond the obvious? Perhaps some western readers can provide details.

*NBC17 photo*

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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**Let There Be Rock**

10/26/09 399 W, 3 I - + 11 - 10

Now for a musical interlude. Veteran hard-rockers AC/DC appeared at Greensboro Coliseum last night. They're touring to support their latest album, *Black Ice*. The Australian band was formed in 1973 by Scottish-born brothers Malcolm and Angus Young. AC/DC released their first album with their second singer Bon Scott in 1975. Current singer Brian Johnson has been aboard since the release of *Back in Black* in 1980. AC/DC has released fifteen studio albums to date, not counting the quasi-compilation *Who Made Who* in 1986. They're the fifth best-selling band in US history, and ninth best-selling articles, having sold more than Madonna or Michael Jackson.



Sunday night's show opened with an animated film involving a demonic Angus driving a steam locomotive with a passenger train. Enter a pair of seductive female fans, who overpower the red-skinned guitarist. The wee one is bound and the ladies begin pulling on levers. That is, pulling levers in suggestive fashion. The train moves faster, the station gets closer. At the last moment, Mr. Young breaks free, grabs his guitar, and leaps from the cab. Explosions on stage, the projection screen parts, and a giant locomotive prop pushes into view. With sparks and steam everywhere, the band appears, playing "Rock 'N Roll Train." The first single from last year's *Black Ice*.



Mr. Blogger brought a camera, a Fuji FinePix S5100 that's several years old. Though professional cameras were banned, smaller point-and-shoot cameras were tolerated. The camera is a 4.0 megapixel model. Program Shift mode, with 400 ISO. Camera held as steady as possible.

[See more pictures at this Flickr site.](#)



The set list as best recalled:

- Rock 'N Roll Train (*Black Ice*, 2008)
- Hell Ain't A Bad Place To Be (*Let There Be Rock*, 1977)
- Black Ice (*Black Ice*, 2008)
- Back In Black (*Back In Black*, 1980)
- Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap (*Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap*, 1976)

- Big Jack (*Black Ice*, 2008)
- Thunderstruck (*The Razors Edge*, 1990)
- Jack, The (*TNT*, 1975)
- Hells Bells (*Back in Black*, 1980)
- Shoot To Thrill (*Back in Black*, 1980)
- You Shook Me All Night Long (*Back in Black*, 1980)
- War Machine (*Black Ice*, 2008)
- TNT (*TNT*, 1975)
- Whole Lotta Rosie (*Let There Be Rock*, 1977)
- Let There Be Rock (*Let There Be Rock*, 1977)
- Highway To Hell (*Highway To Hell*, 1979)
- For Those About To Rock (*For Those About To Rock*, 1981)

Name: (real name preferred)  
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**Flag Building Sky**

10/26/09 55 W, 1 I - + 16 - 14

Downtown Raleigh was wide-open if under-attended on Saturday night when this photo of Ladder 2 at the corner of Davie and Fayetteville streets. The fire department bike team was there, too, and sporting their nifty new uniforms. Pictures of those are coming soon. Always more pictures.



Mike, Did you get curious as to why we (E16) pulled out behind you to head downtown to be in the parade but you never saw us in it? I find it interesting and feel that others may also to the reason behind that. We were supposed to be in the parade and were even staged. When it was our turn a city engineer ran up and stopped us. He advised we couldn't participate due to the fact that the new section of Fayetteville St. was only designed to support 15 tons and since our truck exceeded the weight limit we ran the risk of falling through to the parking deck below! I find it extremely hard to believe the city would design and construct a road that is supposed to be the city's flagship and you can't even put a fire engine on it but that's what the man said and, yes, he showed id.

**B.Winn** - 10/27/09 - 09:55

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

**Rethinking Laundry**

10/27/09 145 W - + 23 - 11

Here's an interesting [New York Times collection of editorials](#) on rethinking laundry in the 21st century, and notably through air-drying instead of machine-drying. Notes Alexander P. Lee, executive directory of [Project Laundry List](#), "the tumble dryer is the second largest energy-consuming appliance and the leading cause of house fires among appliances." The machines aren't efficient, and he says look to other countries for ideas. "Look to Italy and Denmark for guidance. In Italy, only about three or four percent of households own a dryer. In Denmark, newly constructed student housing included space for indoor drying. In China, the bamboo shaft is still a ubiquitous clothesline. In the United States, approximately 80 percent of households own a dryer." [Read the entire collection of editorials](#). Interesting perspectives, and with an obvious tie to the fire service. Fewer dryers equals fewer dryer fires.

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Super Crazy Fire Toys

10/27/09 59 W, 1 I - + 17 - 14

Dig these toys from Takara Tomy in Japan. Part of their Hyper Rescue series. Not sure if it's just a product line, or also a television series. And light years removed from Mr. Blogger's childhood memories of Tonka, Nylint, Tootsietoy, and Matchbox. See more super crazy fire toys.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
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**Keep The Cave Photos Coming!**

10/27/09 43 W, 1 I - + 15 - 12

Deadline is Friday, November 6, for sending photos of your "fire caves." Please indicate if your name, your first name, or no name should be cited. [Send your pictures.](#)



There is one in Cleveland,(JOCO)that is AMAZING!!!!

**JDH** - 10/27/09 - 16:38

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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Yes

No

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**Miller's Ferry Ladder 64**

10/27/09 50 W, 1 I - + 20 - 14

Reporting from the road. Here's an interesting aerial found in Rowan County at the Miller's Ferry Fire Department. It's a 100-foot platform on a 1992 Mack CF chassis. The apparatus was acquired by MFFD in 2007, [says their history site](#). Prior owner(s) not known. Click to enlarge:



That is absolutely beautiful! Nice Rig.

**AB** - 10/28/09 - 07:50

It is from Blue Ash, OH. It was assigned to Ladder 13. Here are the specs:

1982 Mack CF / Pierce (2000 Pierce refurb)

1250 / 500 / 100' LTI TL

Mack Chassis # 1022

Pierce Job # E-1511

Piece Refurb #'s F-4456 and F-4509

**[bcfd424]** - 10/28/09 - 10:16

agreed, that's a sharp looking rig!!!

**CFP 7021** - 10/28/09 - 10:19

I agree, Rowan's got some beautiful trucks, and ladder 64 is DEFINATLY among them!

**Jeremy** - 01/09/10 - 11:32

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

## Rockwell Brush Truck

10/27/09 50 W, 1 I - + 10 - 9

Here's another interesting find from Rowan County. Recognize this 1977 Dodge Power Wagon? It's a former Charlotte Fire Department airport unit, Blaze 8. It's presently operated by the municipal [Rockwell Fire Department](#), though owned by the North Carolina Forest Service.



Other than the fact that a fire truck should be red, that looks like a decent brush truck. Not to bash our county spec brush trucks or anything...

**Bob P.** - 10/28/09 - 11:58

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
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Comment:

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## Statesville Road Fire Station

10/28/09 112 W, 1 I - + 11 - 13

Moving onto Mecklenburg County, here's the old station of the Statesville Road Fire Department, one of 30+ volunteer fire departments that served the county at their peak. The department was organized after the community, which depended on Derita and Long Creek for aid, experienced several fires. They formed the fire department within a year, in 1957, and built the station within two years. Statesville Road Fire Department disbanded in 1989, after annexations left little remaining of their territory in northwest Mecklenburg County around Lakeview Road and Highway 115. The old station at 3315 Lake Road presently serves as a community center. [Read more about former fire departments.](#)



Name: (real name preferred)  
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Remember personal info?

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## Forest City Engine 1

10/28/09 94 W, 1 I - + 14 - 10

Reporting from Rutherford County, here's the first motor engine of the [Forest City Fire Department](#). It's a 1928 GMC/Boyer triple combination with a Buick inline, six-cylinder engine, and a Hale Type S, two-stage 500 GPM pump. The apparatus was restored in recent years by Alloy Welding Company in North Wilksboro, NC. Click to enlarge. More pics of this beauty later, which is housed at the Forest City fire station. Nice guys, there. For more pictures of Boyer fire apparatus, check out these [discussion forums on youngstownfire.com](#).



Beautiful truck and the area of the state you are in. The folks in Rutherford and neighboring Cleveland County are a great bunch. I sold several trucks in that area back in the early 1990's... Sandy Mush, Cleveland, Grover #7, Waco. I'll have to check your photos out for this trip!

**D.Cates** - 10/28/09 - 23:05

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Heavy Rescue

10/29/09 127 W, 1 I - + 11 - 14

This Freightliner/American LaFrance rescue pumper (?) serves the Saluda Fire Department in Polk County. I'm guessing the short, raised wheelbase helps with tight mountain curves, snowy surfaces, and weight-limited bridges. The fire department dates to the early 1900s, has a single station with eight or so pieces of apparatus, and a district that covers over 51 (!) square-miles in Polk and Henderson counties. Their current station at 191 Walnut Street opened in 2003. Their last station serves as a senior center, and the prior (?) and first fire station on Main Street still serves as City Hall and the police station. Pictures coming, of course. [Read more about SFD and other Henderson County fire departments.](#)



This truck is a beast! It has a big Detroit Diesel and is one loud truck when it gets warmed up. For those wanting specs, this truck is a 1999 Freightliner/American LaFrance 1000/1250 4x4.

**BFD1151** - 10/29/09 - 18:48

I have noticed fire apparatus from the mountain region haven't the high fronts..Wouldn't that make the rig more top heavy...Can someone explain for me?

**CKING** - 10/30/09 - 20:30

The Westren NC trucks with the high fronts are 4 wheel drive. The axle is not drop axle like a usual front axle, so the front of the truck is in the air more. This does make it a little more top heavy, but it gives the truck a better approach angle (Can drive up steeper hills) and more ground clearance, especially in the center of the truck.

The front headlights are put in the bumper to lower the headlight height and not blind everyone on the road.

**gavan** ([Email](#)) - 10/31/09 - 16:36

the truck is rescue 23-2, former engine 226. its an american lafrance pumper/tanker powered by cummins, it pumps 1500 gpm has a 1250 poly tank and is the 2nd or third out truck to a wreck next to our smaller rescue truck, rescue 23, and engine 23. this truck also responds to structure fires as well due to the fact its a pumper/tanker. any questions feel free to email.

**saluda fire 2366** ([Email](#)) - 07/15/10 - 04:36

## History and Annexations

10/30/09 592 W, 1 I - + 18 - 12

Why are we blogging about former fire departments of Mecklenburg County? Mostly, it's just general historical research. Adding additional information to our [slowly expanding database](#). But there's also current relevance, at least in the case of Charlotte annexations. Perhaps we can gain some insight in Wake County from how fire departments in Mecklenburg County adapted to the expansion of the city limits.

Take the case of the Sharon Fire Department, as profiled in the *Charlotte Observer* on April 9, 1980. Fire Chief Don Creason noted his 25-member department had relocated three times in seven years. The department, which organized in 1959 and protected areas along Sharon Road south of Charlotte, operated their first station at the corner of [Fairview and Sharon Roads](#). They moved south in 1973 to a new station near [Sharon Road and Champaign Streets](#), after annexations in 1970 (?) took many of the homes it served. And the station land.

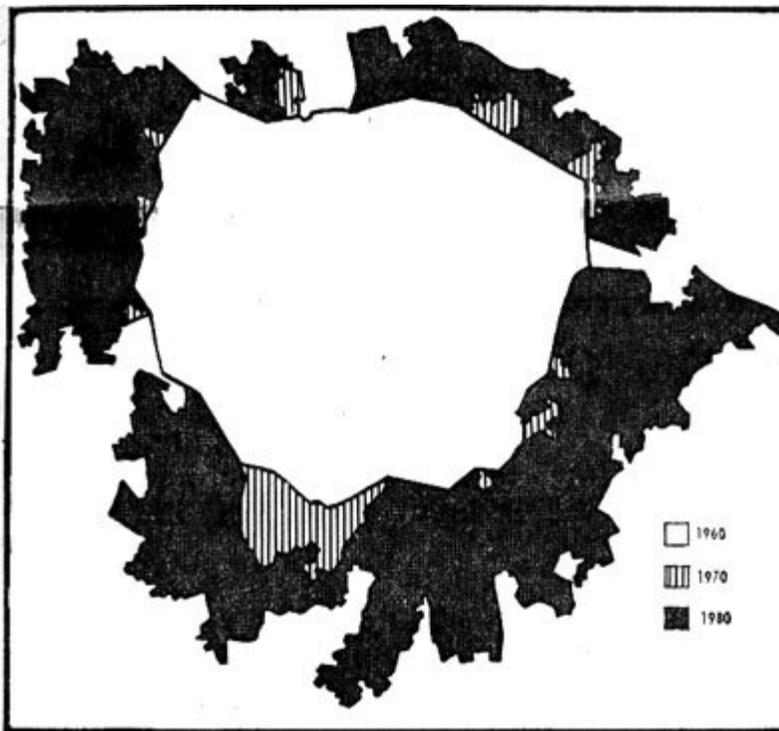
Within a few years, however, the new station location was again annexed. In 1978, the department began building a third station at [6325 Carmel Road](#), and after assurances by city planners that they'd be safe from annexations for about five years. The \$100,000 building was occupied January 1, 1980. Exactly two weeks later, the city announced plans to annex the station and most of its service area on Carmel Road Extension on June 30, 1980. Creason noted that the department was in debt about \$11,000 for the building. Their operating expenses were about \$12,000, and they received about \$4,800 a year from the county. Resident's contributions typically made up the difference.

What happened next? By the time of a *Charlotte News* article on fire departments and annexations on March 27, 1984, Creason was chief of the Carmel Fire Department, renamed from the Sharon Fire Department. He noted that call volume was unpredictable. They "might not get a call for two weeks and then get four in one day." The article also notes that some of the volunteer fire departments had added rescue squads, and trained members as EMTs to provide additional services for their communities. Carmel Fire Department remained in operation until 1994 or 1995, when it merged with Carolina Fire Department. Source for that is a *Charlotte Observer* article dated July 20, 1994.

The *Charlotte News* article from 1984 also detailed the disposition of Wilkinson Boulevard and Moores Chapel fire departments, which merged on January 1, 1984, to form West Mecklenburg Fire Department. The old stations were still being used, with MCFD as Wbfd #1 and Wbfd as WMFD #2, while a new station was being built for the 66-member department on Sam Wilson Road. Fire Chief Herb King of West Mecklenburg #2 recalled that four of five years ago, Wilkinson Boulevard, which itself had relocated further west prior to 1967, answered 170 calls annually. In the past year, they responded to fewer than 50. "It's hard to keep up morale and training and interest with so few fires," he noted. He added that the merger and relocation would likely lead to resignations from members who live too far from the new station.

The article also notes that a state law was enacted during the last session of the General Assembly-- is that 1983 or 1984?-- that requires an annexing city to contract with a volunteer fire department to continue providing service to the annexed area, and for five years, if the volunteer department requests such a contract. This law provided a way for fire departments to recover revenue lost in annexation. Is this law still on the books today? Not known.

Here's an annexation history map from the 1980 article:



Observer Map By GEORGE BREISACHER

**The white area shows Charlotte city limits as of April 1960. The lined areas show sections annexed by April 1970 and the gray areas show land annexed by April 1980.**

Name: (real name preferred)  
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**Mt. Pisgah Academy Fire Department**

10/30/09 164 W - + 13 - 21

Reporting from Buncombe County, where an *Asheville Citizen* newspaper article of May 17, 1959, tells of a Mt. Pisgah Academy Fire Department. The institution is a four-year secondary-education boarding school in Candler. The fire department was organized in 1952, with facility and students serving as members. In 1959, the department had one truck and was led by Fire Chief L. C. Rilea, and Asst. Chief C. E. Davis. Their fire district was the same as the four-mile district served by the fire department of the American Enka Corporation. The Enka Fire Department dates to 1926. They had 24 volunteers and three trucks in 1959, and were contracted by the county to provide fire protection for that four-mile district. The town of Candler subsequently organized a fire department in 1961, reported the February 14 edition of the *Asheville Citizen* of that year. Today the area is protected by the Enka-Candler Fire Department, which was organized in 1987. How long was Mt. Pisgah Academy FD in operation? Maybe readers can advise.

Candler Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated March 22, 1961, says the state's corporation database.

**Legeros** - 11/01/09 - 18:03

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preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

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## After ICC Vote, Fire Sprinkler Mandate Stands

10/30/09 84 W - + 15 - 16

Firehouse.com reports on Wednesday's vote at the International Code Council's annual conference in Baltimore that retains a requirement that all new homes have sprinklers by 2011. The nation's home builder's had lobbied the ICC to kill the requirement. Two other provisions, that weakened the sprinkler requirement, were also voted down. Firefighters and burn survivors from across the country descending upon the event, including nearly a dozen members of the Raleigh Fire Department. [Read the Firehouse.com article.](#)

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## House Fire on Oberlin Road

10/30/09 47 W, 1 I - + 20 - 13

WRAL has posted reader photos and footage of today's house fire at [1009 Oberlin Road](#). Dispatched about 10:30 a.m., the blaze at the single-story structure closed Oberlin Road. No injuries were reported. [Read more and see video footage.](#)



*Jason Edwards/WRAL photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
No

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## Children's Museum

10/31/09 136 W, 1 I - + 13 - 19

That's a vintage American LaFrance pumper behind glass at a children's museum in downtown Rutherfordton. Asked about its origins, one of the employees didn't think it was a town truck. The model and year is likely a 700 Series from the 1950s. The truck is truncated, attached to a wall just past the pump panel. Children can activate a beacon atop the windshield. The room contains wee turnout gear for donning, a pole with a short riser, and a bell with a long cord. Kids seemed to love the place. Interior photos were not available, due the presence of said children. The museum's web site [provides a photo](#), however. And doofus that he is, Mr. Blogger forgot to check the cab for a registration number. D'oh!



Name: (real name  
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## American LaFrance Pumpers

10/31/09 59 W, 1 I - + 18 - 14

Have seen a number of later-era American LaFrance pumpers still in service around these parts, seeming Series 900 or Series 1000 models. Such as Saluda (below), Rutherfordton, and Forest City. Who else still has them around western North Carolina, or at least the eastern side of western NC?



Wonder as well what other brands of custom apparatus were popular with small towns and departments in the 1970s and 1980s, when these ALFs likely appeared? Seems like LaFrance was pretty popular statewide, from that era and going back to the 1920s and 1910s.

Search Senor Wilson's site on LaFrance for a TON of pictures of those 700/800/900/1000 series pumpers and ladders:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/leewilson/>

**Legeros** - 10/31/09 - 08:15

Sweet color scheme!!!

**Silver** - 10/31/09 - 13:17

Wilson Mills has an ALF 900 at station 2. It used to be a Smithfield Engine. It looks pretty good

**Doc** ([Email](#)) - 10/31/09 - 17:19

The WMFD engine is one of two ALF Century pumpers that Smithfield bought around 1977 or so. These can be recognized by the bluge in the cab just behind the front doors to provide more room for the firefighters in the jump seats to don SCBA. ALF 900s can be recognized by the lack of diamondplate behind the front bumper.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 10/31/09 - 19:47

I seem to recall that the Town Of Blowing Rock had/has a nice Century Series truck with silver over red paint scheme...

**MTH** - 10/31/09 - 22:12

Blowing Rock does have a very nice ALF with silver top. I took some pic's of it in Sept.

I recall someone w/ SFD telling me once that the Smithfield ALF's were originally supposed to be for Raleigh. Can anyone advise on that?

**lee** - 11/01/09 - 00:02

At least one was a demo. One of their former chiefs told me that it was shown to SmFD and they said "Find us another one and we'll take

both". ALF found another one and SmFD bought both. Both were bought around 1977 or so and they went through an on-house 'refurb' during the late 90s. That is when they got the white over red paint and strobe lights.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/01/09 - 15:11

Woodfin FD in Buncombe County still has a 1984 in service. Valley Hill in Henderson County has a couple.

**Charlie** - 11/01/09 - 21:33

There should be two sitting in Hope Mills either at The Station (HMFD#21) or in the Town Garage. One was Rescue Pumper and the other was a straight pumper to be used as a reserve. Both were purchased in 1999-2000 from some department in New York state.

Art Gordon (the old CFP#733)

**Art Gordon** ([Email](#)) - 11/03/09 - 07:16

Asheville had a few ALFs over the years, unfortunately they are all gone. Hendersonville still runs an open-cab 1000 series ALF as a reserve, Morganton and Spruce Pine still have 900s, Concord has a 1000 that is currently OOS, as well as Franklin's 1000 series Aero Chief snorkel. Granite Falls, Shelby, Cullowhee, and Savannah (Jackson Co.) still run Century series engines. FYI, the Saluda engine is a Century and was bought from Blue Ridge in Henderson County.

**BFD1151** - 11/03/09 - 15:31

Thought of a few more in WNC in case anyone cares: Mountain Home and Etowah in Henderson County both have ALF Century 75' Water Chief quints. Sunny View VFD in Polk County has a Century pumper that came from Delmar, NY. Finally, Zionville in Watauga County still runs an ALF Century engine.

**BFD1151** - 11/04/09 - 14:21

engine 23-5- 1500 gpm pump, 500 gallon tank, detroit powered, federal q siren, painted steel wheels, kickass lettering.

**saluda fire 2366** ([Email](#)) - 07/15/10 - 04:47

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.

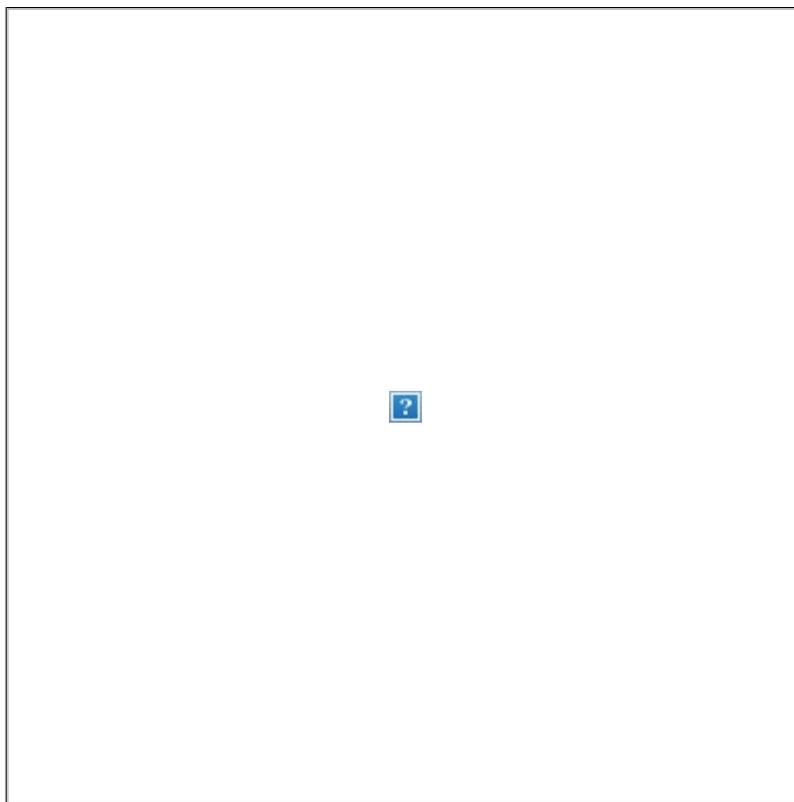
Hide email:  Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**The Politics of Buildings Roads and Rockslides Therein**

11/01/09 99 W, 1 I - + 9 - 17

Today's Asheville *Citizen-Times* has an [interesting article on the politics](#) behind the building of Interstate 40 through Pigeon River Gorge in Haywood County, where a massive rockslide has currently closed the roadway. There have been at least 10 such slides that have closed the road since 1972. The article details the politics behind the decisions that built the road, and even some of the geology of the region. There are a number of photo galleries, including aerial shots, and related articles about the rockslide. Check it out.



*Lester Bishop/Citizen-Times photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Haw Creek Fire Department / Asheville Station 12

11/01/09 213 W, 2 I - + 19 - 9

One of Buncombe County's rural fire departments closed its doors this summer. Haw Creek Fire Department ceased operation on July 1, 2009. The district was split between Asheville and Reems Creek. Or, specifically, Reems Creek's second station at Beaverdam. (Did Riceville also receive some of their district?) The building at [880 New Haw Creek Road](#) and two pieces of apparatus were transferred to Asheville, which opened the facility as Station 12<sup>1</sup>. A third piece of apparatus, a pumper-tanker, was transferred to Reems Creek. Haw Creek's fourth piece of apparatus was sold to Fairview Fire Department. HCFD was organized in 1962 by a dozen charter members, and originally answered calls from the city limits around Tunnel Road to as far out as Swannanoa and Fairview. They had some 20-25 members on the roster at the end, paid and volunteer. The Asheville *Citizen-Times* covered the closing, and here's a [gallery of photos](#) of the closing dinner at HCFD. Sources are varied for this one, so western readers please correct as needed.



<sup>1</sup>Google finds a [city planning document](#) that tells of additional AFD station plans, including a pilot project utilizing old Station 4 at 300 Merrimon Avenue as Station 13, and purchasing land on Sand Hills Road for Station 14.

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Remember personal info?

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**Fire Station and...?**

11/02/09 159 W, 2 I - + 20 - 11

These are mobile phone photos of Asheville Station 7, which was built with an adjoining two-story community center. Municipal multipurpose buildings that include fire stations were pretty common in prior decades. Everyone's seen a town hall slash jail slash fire station slash police station. Those date to the 1900s and earlier. Other combinations we've all seen include fire stations and libraries, fire stations and police stations, and even fire stations and auditoriums. Er, rather, auditoriums with a fire station. See Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium, built 1932 and serving as Station 2 until 1969. What sort of "fire station and..." buildings are being built these days? Besides the obvious "public safety stations" that combine fire, EMS, and police? One that comes to mind is Raleigh's Station 26, built a couple years ago with a reserve communications center attached. What are some others? Are there many others in these days of departments needing larger (and more secure) facilities?



Durham EMS has a EMS station/community center or clinic, I forget which.

**Mike** - 11/02/09 - 10:27

I don't remember where, but there is one in Connecticut- fire station/ gas station/ deli/ post office/ town hall/ post office.

I got one of the best roast beef sandwiches there I have ever ate. And there was a really neat Mack CF open cab with a Mack L series.

I wish I could remember the name of the place!

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/02/09 - 15:55

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

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**Carbon City Fire Department**

11/02/09 342 W, 1 I - + 14 - 15

Reporting from Burke County, where we learned about the Carbon City Fire Department. Their story begins in 1969, when the city of Morganton announced late that year that MFD would no longer protect property outside the city limits. A number of community groups began discussing forming fire departments. One group of property owners and corporate representatives from around Carbon City Road, west of the city, held a meeting in late December 1969.

They elected a chairman, proposed a fire district, and planned to ask county commissioners for a special election for support, reported the *News-Herald* on December 31. The proposed district had a tax base of \$24 million, and would be one of the highest in any unincorporated area in Burke County. This was due to the large amount of industry. Manufacturing plants in the proposed district included Southern Devices, Great Lakes Carbon Corporation, Inmont (formerly Interchem and Wolverine Finishes), and Henredon.

By July 8, 1970, as the *News-Herald* reported, the Carbon City Fire Department had 18 members trained in "basic firemanship" and four members with "pump training." They had two trucks, and a four-acre property on Carbon City Road planned for a station. Work on the \$35,900 building would start within weeks. The completed station was addressed [801 Carbon City Road](#).

Their success was short-lived, as the city annexed much of their territory on June 15, 1972. Reported the *News-Herald* on July 3, a merger was subsequently proposed between Carbon City and Morganton fire departments. Some of the particulars included retaining all CCFD members as MFD volunteers; naming the station Carbon City Company; accepting all assets and debts; assigning at least two paid personnel to the station; keeping the existing apparatus at the station, with exception of a 1,000 GPM pumper moved to Central Station; continuing to protect the remaining CCFD district, with continued tax levy.

The departments did merge, and the station was known for years as the Carbon City Company, or the Carbon City Substation. Below is the building today, now known as Morganton Public Safety Station 2.



Name: (real name  
preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

**Fire Apparatus Journal, November-December 2009**

11/02/09 76 W, 1 I - + 16 - 11

The latest issue of [Fire Apparatus Journal](#) contains some local coverage. There's a pair of photos by Lee Wilson, of Engine 20 and Ladder 7, as well as some general apparatus updates for the Capitol City. Great seeing local shots, and hope we'll see more! For those who don't subscribe, you might be able to buy copies at [Borders bookstores](#). For a while, local stores were carrying the mag. Maybe they'll still do.



Nice, so what else in this issue, we dont get the FAJ until 2nd month here in Canada. I see that there is Chilliwack BC listed. How is that?  
Thanks for any preview you can give ....

**Taylor** - 11/06/09 - 17:34

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
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**Cave Photos Due Friday**

11/02/09 40 W, 1 I - + 13 - 16

Final reminder that Friday, November 6, is the deadline for sending pics of "fire caves." Remember to indicate if you want to be named. [Send your pictures.](#)



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
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**Matchbox Pierce Quantum Ladder**

11/03/09 64 W, 1 I - + 14 - 14

Check store shelves for the latest variation of the Matchbox Pierce Quantum aerial ladder, part of their Real Working Rigs series. They're scaled around 1/70 or 1/80, and are priced about \$5.00. Three versions are available in red, white, and yellow. The white version is a fictional department. More Pierce replicas are coming in 2010, we're told!



And we'll see the real thing soon, when Knightdale Public Safety takes delivery of a refurbished Pierce Quantum ladder in a few more weeks.

**Legeros** - 11/03/09 - 19:25

I have all three color variations of the matchbox pierce quantum ladder.

**charlie** - 11/04/09 - 04:02

Looking for ladders and fire engines

**Chuck Best** ([Email](#)) - 04/24/18 - 17:49

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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## Midway Fire Department in Drexel?

11/04/09 91 W - + 15 - 14

Burke County readers, have you heard of a Midway Fire Department, organized in 1961? They were formed to serve the rural areas outside the town of Drexel. They elected directors and officers in February 1961, with W. P. "Pete" Ballew as Fire Chief and Harold Pruett as Asst. Chief. The impetus for organization was the town announcing that they would discontinue answering fire calls outside of town. Nothing found in the state corporations database. Were they a precursor to Triple Community FD, who where incorporated January 1962?

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**Metropolitan Hall Didn't Burn**

11/04/09 155 W, 1 I - + 15 - 13

For years, my [Raleigh Fire Department timelines](#) have included the event "Metropolitan Hall Burns" in the year 1920. The exact date wasn't known, nor were details available. As memory serves, I had tried and failed a couple times to find details of a fire there. Turns out, the building never burned. Instead, it was simply demolished in 1920. The structure was built in 1870, to replace the original City Market slash municipal building that burned two years earlier. Metropolitan Hall was a three-story structure on Fayetteville Street that housed the mayor's office, the jail, the city market, a couple engine houses, the fire alarm bell in a clock tower, and more. The fire department vacated their rooms by the 1890s. Most of the building was vacated in 1914. But it didn't burn. Source: Elizabeth Reid Murray Collection files on Metropolitan Hall at Olivia Raney Local History Library.



*North Carolina State Archives photo*

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Yes

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## Medics

11/04/09 36 W, 1 I - + 14 - 13

Units arriving at a motor-vehicle accident this afternoon on Creedmoor Road north of Crabtree Valley Avenue. Motorcycle versus minivan. Three transported, included two trapped. Pics by Legeros later.



Does raleigh no longer require a protection line to be on the ground when an extrication is taking place?

**SOP Question** - 11/05/09 - 12:37

All of our DOI's are in the process of being rewritten and i can't remember if there is an active "SOP" in there so i will have to check. For the 12 years I have been there, all active extrications have had a safety line pulled and should in my opinion.

**gen3fire** - 11/05/09 - 19:28

...just popping a door.

**Not Extrication** - 11/05/09 - 20:15

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

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Yes

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## Fuquay-Varina Station Renovation

11/05/09 52 W, 5 I - + 14 - 16

Our friends in Fuquay-Varina pass along these photos of the renovations at Station 1. The new wing should be completed in mid-December, with the renovations of the old wing starting after Christmas. Everything should be completed by mid-March. Click to enlarge or [read a prior posting](#) about the work:



Name: (real name preferred)

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**Wake County Firefighter's Association Meeting Agenda, Tuesday, November 10**

11/05/09 94 W - + 18 - 14

The tentative agenda has been made available for the quarterly meeting of the Wake County Firefighter's Association is Tuesday, November 10, at the Rolesville Fire Department at [104 E. Young Street](#). The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. [Visit their web site](#) to review minutes from previous meetings.

- Return Thanks
- Meal
- Call Meeting to Order
- Roll Call
- Attendance Award
- Financial Report
- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Old Business
  - Dues
  - Conference
- Agency Reports
- Committee Reports
- Committee Volunteers
- New Business
- Election of Officers
- Door Prizes
- Guest Speakers
- Presentation on Firefighter Life Safety

Name: (real name preferred)

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Web Site: (optional)

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Yes

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**Facebook Discussion on Discussing Apparatus Accidents**

11/05/09 148 W - + 17 - 13

Trying something new, we started a discussion earlier today on Facebook, on the topic of discussing apparatus accidents. The question, complete with misspellings in the original posting, was this: Should apparatus accidents be talked about or kept hush hush? Is there greater good from shared experience and safety tips; or is it more bad press and embarrassing than anything else?

[Read the responses and join the discussion](#), which requires two things (a.) logging onto Facebook (which requires free membership) and (b.) sending a friend request to Mike Legeros (if you are not a friend already). Apologies to those who wish to remain anonymous and participate. And feel free to unfriend Yours Truly after the discussion runs its course!

In a perfect world, we'd have a separate Facebook account for this blog, and it wouldn't requiring friending for reading. We'll work on that.

## Union Cross Deputy Chief Dies After Shift

11/05/09 87 W - + 13 - 16

[FireNews](#) has [posted details](#) on the death of Union Cross Deputy Chief Chad Eric Greene, who died Wednesday after responding to a vehicle accident and completing a shift with Union Cross Fire Rescue. Green, 34, was found unresponsive at his home about noon, and was pronounced dead at North Carolina Baptist Hospital at 12:30 p.m. Greene was an 18-year veteran at Union Cross, as well as a 13-year veteran of the High Point Fire Department. His rank was Fire Equipment Operator.

Name: (real name preferred)

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## October FireWatch

11/05/09 101 W, 1 I - + 15 - 14

The latest episode of the Raleigh Fire Department monthly cable television show FireWatch is [available for online viewing](#). It also airs each week on [RTN Channel 11](#). The October edition features an interview with Bonnie Woodruff, a well known advocate for home sprinkler systems. In 1996, her son and four others were killed in a fire at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house in Chapel Hill. Since that time, she's been a tireless advocate for stronger fire safety measures. The October episode also includes a segment with North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance Wayne Goodwin.



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## Kannapolis Reel Team, 1928

11/05/09 98 W, 1 I - + 12 - 13

The [Kannapolis Fire Department](#) was formed in 1916. They operated a hand reel for nearly two decades, not acquiring their first motor pumper until 1934. Their proficiency as a reel team was demonstrated in 1929, when Kannapolis tied with East Spencer for first place in the hand reel contest at the annual state fireman's tournament. Kannapolis took exclusive first place in 1930, and continued first place wins for every subsequent year until the hand reel contest was discontinued in 1937. [Learn more about the tournaments](#). Pretty cool picture, courtesy of the Kannapolis Library. Click to enlarge:



*Courtesy Kannapolis Library*

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Remember personal info?

Yes

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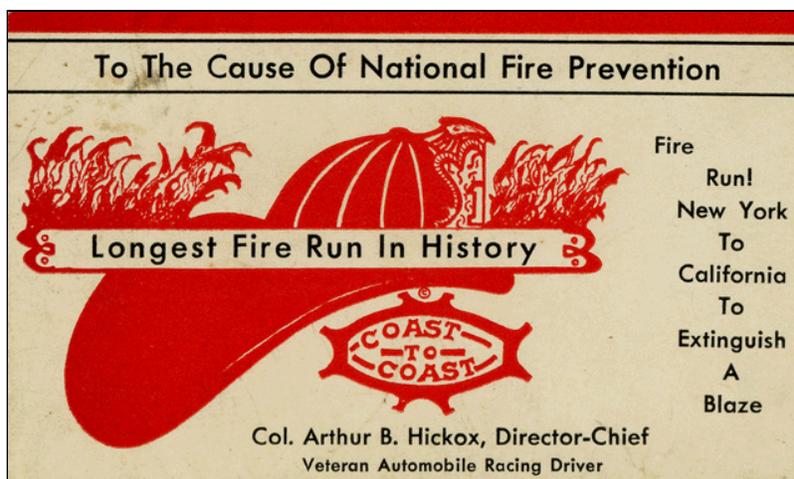
**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

## 1939 Coast to Coast Fire Run

11/06/09 97 W, 1 I - + 19 - 10

From a reader, have you ever heard about the coast-to-coast fire run of 1939? 'Twas a fire prevention promotion that began on August 12 at the World Exposition in San Francisco, where a fire was lit and a call was made to the other World's Fair in Flushing Meadows, New York. Five volunteer firemen hopped aboard a new 1939 Mack pumper and "responded." They arrived five weeks later, having traveled 5,890 miles and with stops including Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, Wichita, Oklahoma City, and Los Angeles. [Read this remarkable story](#), and see numerous pictures.



My father was one of the volunteers and he told many great stories of this adventure. A very cool thing for me and it may have had some influence on me, I am a 22 year veteran professional firefighter.

**Robert Bensch** - 06/19/11 - 16:04

This is an absolutely AMAZING adventure! The webpage link Mike has posted above is a must see/read! Thank you Mr. Bensch for providing us this vantage point into history!!

**A.C. Rich** - 06/19/11 - 17:56

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Yes

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**Western Wake Anniversary Ceremony & Flea Market, Saturday, November 21**

11/06/09 126 W - + 12 - 10

We're two weeks away from the [Western Wake Fire Rescue Anniversary Ceremony & Firematic Flea Market](#) on Saturday, November 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They're celebrating over 50 collective years of fire protection in western Wake County, with a ceremony honoring past and present members of the Cary Rural, Fairgrounds, Yrac, Western Boulevard, and Western Wake Fire Departments. And they're hosting the area's first "firematic" flea market. You can buy, sell, trade, or ask about "firematic" merchandise. The location is the Western Wake fire station at [4021 District Drive, Raleigh](#). The flea market starts at 10:00 a.m., and the ceremony starts at 12:00 p.m. For registration information and event rules, visit [www.westernwakefirerescue.com/fleamarket](http://www.westernwakefirerescue.com/fleamarket).

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Remember personal info?

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## Reflections on Research

11/06/09 440 W - + 17 - 13

In addition to finding and photographing all those former and historic firehouses in central and western North Carolina, this year's trip to the mountains also included stops at libraries, history rooms, and historical societies in Asheville, Charlotte, Gastonia, Hendersonville, Kannapolis, Morganton, and Salisbury. The same question was asked at each stop. Do you have historical information on local fire departments? The results were varied; treasure trove here, crickets chirping there. The vertical files at the Burke County headquarters library were well-stocked, as were the files at the main Charlotte-Mecklenburg branch. The availability of a computer and scanner at the latter saved me many dollars on copies.

Asheville's Pack Library has copied and bound their vertical files-- which are collections of clippings and other paper materials-- and the volume about fire departments was reasonably rich. Other places, alas, had thinner files. The history room at the Cabarrus County system's Kannapolis branch yielded a few photos in addition to some useful clippings. They too had a computer and scanner for patron use. Time didn't permit a visit to the Concord branch and their history room, however. That's the place with county-wide information, and not just about Cannon Mills and Kannapolis.

But even the best results at these places still paint an incomplete picture. There are other sources to consult, and most notably the fire department itself. Usually someone on staff has compiled a department history, or can put their hands on such a history, or knows one or two people who know the history. That's what happened in Tryon in Polk County, where police department personnel pointed me in the direction of a downtown hardware store. The owner had been long-involved with the fire department, they advised, and could answer my questions about the location of prior stations.

Said store owner wasn't present, but his daughter was there. She showed a nifty picture of the Tryon Fire Department from a prior decade. Wish I had had a laptop and scanner handy. But that's how it goes, digging for historical gems statewide. Sometimes they're collected in a single place; in history rooms, in libraries, in files at fire departments. Sometimes they're scattered around; on the walls, in the homes, in the memories of former members.

But we're making progress. Slowly but surely, Yours Truly is methodically piecing together the history of the fire service in our state. Best of all, the more I learn about other departments, the better I understand my department. It's all relates.

---

...she must do a lot of shopping while your are excavating history.

**Olson** - 11/06/09 - 22:50

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## Tar No Far

11/06/09 71 W, 1 I - + 12 - 11

[WRAL posted this photo](#) of the tar truck that overturned this morning in Apex on Highway 55 near Highway 1 this morning. The driver was not injured, and no other vehicles were involved. Responding agencies, as memory serves, included Apex Fire, Apex EMS, Cary Fire, Cary EMS, and the county fire marshal. Alarm time about 6:39 a.m. Looks like a sticky situation. [NBC17 has a ground-level photo](#).



WRAL photo

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Papa John's Pizza for NC Fallen Firefighters Foundation, November 9 to 15**

11/06/09 99 W, 1 I - + 14 - 10

Papa's in the Fire House is special promotion next week at all Papa John's Pizza stores in Wake, Durham, and Orange counties. Order the \$24.99 special-- one large specialty pizza, buffalo wings or other side, and a two-liter Coke product-- and Papa John's will donate \$5 to the [North Carolina Fallen Firefighter's Foundation](#). The promotion runs Monday to Sunday, from **November 9** to **November 15**. Papa Johns has set an ambitious goal of raising \$20,000 for the NCFFF. Spread the word, order the special, and contribute to a good cause. [View a promotional flyer](#) .

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E-mail: (optional)  
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Yes  
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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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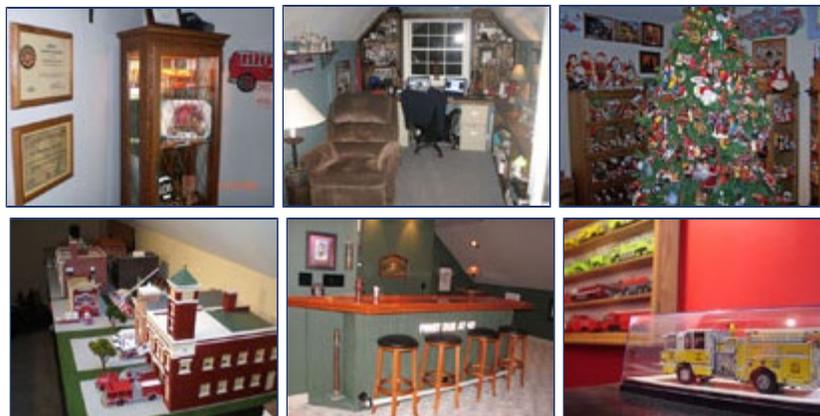
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**Every Man Needs a Cave**

11/07/09 129 W, 6 I - + 18 - 12

[Presenting the fire caves](#), as shared by readers both near and far. Barry's cave contains mementos from service as fire officer in three states prior to North Carolina. His Christmas tree stays standing 365 days a year and contains some 400 ornaments, with more added every year. J.D.'s cave reflects his service at Cleveland and Holly Springs fire departments. Bill's cave consumes his entire bonus room. Love that rack of vintage radio equipment! Allen's cave reflects his service both in North Carolina and Iraq. A. Reader's cave combines his passions of firefighting and baseball. Mr. Blogger's cave is a combination computer room, research room, drum room, and die-cast display room. That's his helmet on the wall from his Raleigh years. [View the photos:](#)



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## Knightdale's New Aerial Ladder

11/07/09 120 W, 1 I - + 16 - 12

[Knightdale Public Safety](#) took delivery today of a 1997 Pierce Quantum aerial ladder, 105-foot, 1500 GPM, 300 gallons, and two 25 gallon foam cells. The refurbished apparatus previously served as Ladder 8 in [Madison, WI](#). The broker was an apparatus dealer in Alabama, and the rig arrived on a flatbed this afternoon. Designated Ladder 135, it replaces a 1973 Ford/Pierce 50-foot telesquirt that was placed in service when KPS was established in 2002. The squirt was purchased from the city of Greensboro, and formerly served Guilford College Fire Department. Trivia question, was the first aerial apparatus to serve the town of Knightdale, and where is it today? Pics of the new truck from Legeros (below) and Lee coming soon. Click to enlarge:



As for the inevitable question regarding staffing of the ladder, I have it on good authority that personnel will be aboard the truck whenever it responds to calls.

**Legeros** - 11/07/09 - 23:38

1990 E-One pumper with 75 foot aerial ladder.

Selma Fire Department.

**NcFireArt** - 11/08/09 - 07:51

Yes its a 1991 Eone Cyclone some changes made by Selma. A booster reel added in a rear compartment two rear middle facing seats taking out and a few other small changes. Has been an awesome truck here and will continue to serve the citizens of Selma greatly. Any questions regarding this ladder feel free to ask!

**Adam Brown** - 11/08/09 - 20:05

Good for K-dale. I hate to say it, but that ladder they had before was not a ladder truck. I am glad they got a good ladder they can depend on.

**Chris** - 11/10/09 - 22:50

Placed in service the afternoon of 11/25/09, just in time for a Kitchen Fire.

**J.Boggs** - 11/26/09 - 11:12

J, how many you guys staffing it with?

**Silver** - 11/26/09 - 11:59

Nice rig hopefully the town will hire more firefighters to meet staffing needs.....

**Philly** - 11/28/09 - 18:24

Any idea where the Guilford College tele squirt ended up?

**jay** - 10/20/10 - 15:29

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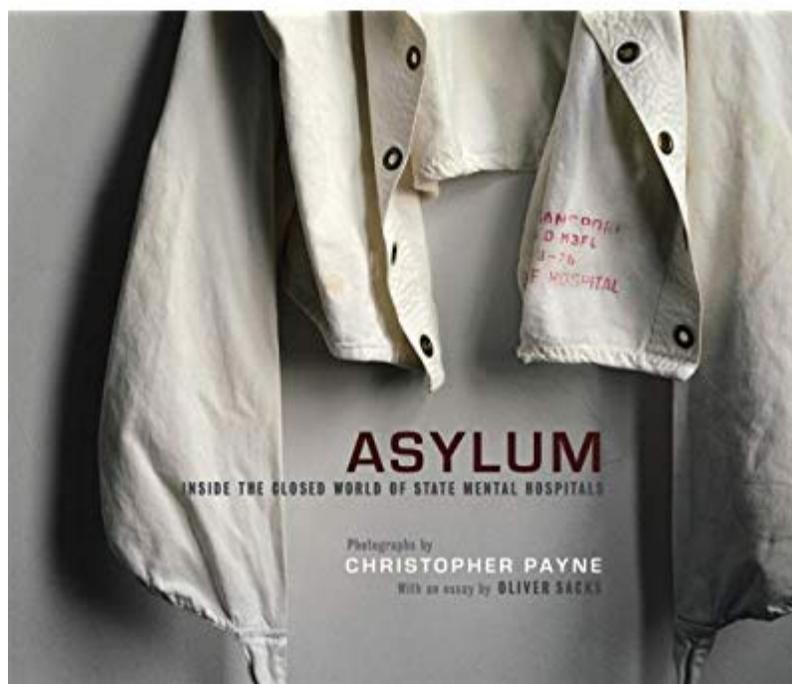
**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Asylum: Inside the Closed World of State Mental Hospitals

11/08/09 279 W, 1 I - + 18 - 19

Browsing at [Quail Ridge Books](#) last night, we came upon a splendid book by photographer [Christopher Payne](#) titled *Asylum: Inside the Closed World of State Mental Hospitals*. The 216-page hardcover, published by MIT press in coffee-table size, collects his photos of these beautiful, decaying institutions. Cherry Hospital (Goldsboro) and Broughton Hospital (Morganton) are included. Didn't see Dorothea Dix in there, but might have missed it. The book includes a number of historical postcards and a handful of historical images. The rest-- the bulk-- were shot in recent years by Payne, and document all aspects of asylum infrastructure.

As the author notes, these hospitals were designed as self-sustaining communities, with facilities for growing food, treating water, and even fighting fires<sup>1</sup>. One piece of hospital fire apparatus is pictured. [Oliver Sacks](#) provides an introduction and cautions against romanticizing the images. These were sad places that served the nation's needs as best as medical knowledge knew. The book is a must read for anyone with a historical interest in such places, and their buildings. And it's a good reality check. The brain is a delicate instrument and one that often requires adjustment or accommodation at some point in our long lifetime.



<sup>1</sup> Broughton Hospital formed a fire department by the 1900s, with hand-pulled equipment followed by a 1920s American LaFrance pumper. They stayed in operation until around 1970. Their old station is still standing. Cherry Hospital had a fire department by 1924, with nine members and three hand hose reels. No further information known. Dorothea Dix had a fire department by 1895, with two hand hose reels. That department was likely disbanded within a couple decades.

**N.C. Assistant Chief Busted For Speeding to Apartment Fire**

11/08/09 157 W - + 15 - 17

From a reader, that's the provocative headline from firehouse.com, [reprinting a Burlington Time-News story](#) about a Gibsonville Asst. Chief charged with fleeing/eluding arrest in the course of responding to the fire station, to respond to an apartment fire on October 9. The veteran volunteer firefighter was responding in the family's third car, and one without any emergency lights. He hit his hazards and headed to the fire station from his shop in Elon. Along the way, an Elon University Police unit pulled behind him, and was flashing its lights. The firefighter thought the officer was responding to the fire. The officer was trying to pull the firefighter over, and subsequently charged the Asst. Chief with the felony as well as five traffic charges. The felony charge was dismissed on Oct. 15. The other charges are still pending, with a court date of December 10. [Read the entire story.](#)

Red lights in your vehicle doesn't give you any special priveledges. It merely asks for the right away. The fact that he had no red lights in his vehicle makes this even more wrong. He should be charged. I think the misdemeanor charges of failing to stop at a red light, and illegally passing should be held up. He as the Asst.Chief should definitely think about what he is doing. He was in a vehicle with no warning lights or siren. Drive like it. Before people jump, I was a volley at one time and definitely drove like an idiot while going to the station running my red lights. But I would definitely drive different today than when I was 19 years old.

**Mike** - 11/08/09 - 21:53

Sounds to me he should have bought a dash light. LOL

**Graney** - 11/09/09 - 12:47

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Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

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## Zaxby's Offer Free Meals to Local Heroes

11/08/09 164 W - + 9 - 13

Speaking of food service promotions, in observance of Veteran's Day, eleven Zaxby's locations in the Triangle are honoring all community heroes, including police officers, firefighters, EMTs and military servicemen and women during its Community Heroes Celebration. On that day, Wednesday, November 11, all men and women in uniform will receive one free Meal Deal at the following locations:

- 4150 Fayetteville Road, Raleigh
- 8812 Harvest Oaks Drive, Raleigh
- 2901 Hillsborough St., Raleigh
- 1341 N. Main St., Fuquay-Varina
- 12857 U.S. Highway 70 W., Clayton
- 501 E. Jackson Blvd., Erwin
- 1405 Walter Reed Road, Fayetteville
- 3015 N. Main St., Hope Mills
- 6702 U.S. Highway 64 E., Knightdale
- 1410 Jefferys Road, Rocky Mount
- 1703 E. Market St., Smithfield

The restaurant is also sponsoring a sock drive for soldiers in conjunction with [Military Missions in Action](#). Fill the Footlocker runs November 9 to November 13, during store hours. White athletic socks are the top-requested care item by soldiers serving overseas. Guests who donate a package of same will receive a free Nibbler sandwich.

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
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 Yes  
 No

Comment:

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**This Morning's Mass Casualty and Haz-Mat Incident in Knightdale**

11/08/09 160 W, 2 I - + 10 - 10

Hazardous exposure inside the McDonald's at [7141 Knightdale Boulevard](#). Multiple patients complaining of chemical odor and coughing and irritated throats. Dispatched 10:11 a.m. and second EMS alarm soon requested. Knightdale Public Safety established fire branch outside building, with Knightdale 100 soon assuming command. Eastern Wake District 6 established medical branch in Walgreens parking lot, beside McDonald's. Total of 31 patients, all green tag. ThreeSix transported. Patient evaluation area subsequently moved to Wake EMS Truck 1, parked behind the Walgreens. Raleigh haz-mat team special called, and investigating cleaning chemicals as possible source. No other buildings evacuated. Fire units included Knightdale E131, E132, T138, 100; Raleigh Haz-Mat 2, Battalion 2; EMS units included EMS 7, EMS 11, EMS 15, EMS 31, EMS 62, EMS 63, EMS 68, EMS 124, M93, D1, D2, D3; D6, MD1, Truck 1. Who else? Pics from Legeros later. See any news station for current coverage.



And here's a hasty panorama. Click once or twice to enlarge:



For those of us not up to speed on terminology, what's "green tag" ?  
I'm assuming it means some kind of minor injury not needing transportation?

**Paul** - 11/08/09 - 13:51

Ive heard of EMS box alarms but was told they were done away with. What is included in an EMS first alarm? If that terminology is even right.

**KOM** - 11/08/09 - 14:24

The Wake County EMS System recently implemented alarm levels, and we haven't had a chance to post about it yet. Information forthcoming.

**Legeros** - 11/08/09 - 14:34

Under triaging there are generally four types of patients-

Green – aka Walking Wounded, Minor Injury or Illness, Non Life Threatening, can be transported via bus or mass transit if needed.

Yellow – Intermediate (NOT EMT-I), Have injuries or illness, but can wait until the most life threatening are treated.

Red – Immediate, Life Threatening Injuries, 1st Care Priority

Black – Deceased or So Injured as to be consider not viable to use scare EMS resources when that is the case.

**Steven** ([Email](#)) - 11/08/09 - 17:20

Four of six district chiefs at this incident with all pt's reported as green tags? Sure hope there weren't any cardiac arrests or other serious calls during that time.

**Joe** - 11/08/09 - 23:29

So what exactly was it that caued it?

**KOM** - 11/09/09 - 09:29

The AP has reported that the cause was pepper spray placed as a prank on a hand dryer in the men's restroom, and which spread through the restaurant.

<http://www.thesunnews.com/564/story/1157..>

**Legeros** - 11/10/09 - 06:52

...while the N&O says the substance remains unidentified, [http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local\\_s..](http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local_s..)

**Legeros** - 11/10/09 - 07:02

OK, here's the facts.... It was a top secret government experiment on the effects of mind control coupled with fast food consumption. (Gotcha, right?...) There are two things that can cause a crowd to have scratchy throats and watering eyes in public venue... (provided they are not flopping around on the ground or complaining of a STRONG chemical odor).... #1 is pepper spray and #2 pepper spray.

**A.C. Rich** - 11/12/09 - 21:19

HAZMAT MINDS UNITE!!

**Silver** - 11/12/09 - 22:04

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No

Comment:

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## Mystery Thermostat

11/08/09 29 W, 1 I - + 15 - 13

Where was this photo taken? Hint #1. The building is over 50 years old. Hint #2. There are big red vehicles parked inside.



Raleigh Station 1 Headquarters?

**BFD\_FF** - 11/08/09 - 19:12

Raleigh Station 6?

**Kurt** - 11/09/09 - 00:28

Facing the rear of the building that thermostat is located on the first support column between E13 and now L2.

**RescueRanger** - 11/09/09 - 22:30

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

## Apparatus Updates

11/09/09 300 W - + 15 - 9

Let's start the week with some apparatus updates. Raleigh has awarded Pierce the bid for replacing Ladder 4, the 2004 Pierce Arrow XT tiller that overturned in July, and injured three firefighters. The 100-foot aerial ladder, which was also equipped with a 1500 GPM pump and a 300 gallon tank, was totaled.

The city also recently placed an order for a pair of Pierce pumpers, to replace a pair of front-line engines. Two Pierce Arrow XT engines, 1500/500/30, were delivered earlier this year, and are assigned to Engine 1 and Engine 20.

Also in Raleigh, NC Task Force 8's new USAR 1 was recently placed in service. The 2009 Hackney trailer with a 2005 Volvo cab was delivered in May. It replaces a 1974 Hackney beverage trailer with a 1998 Sterling cab. [Read prior posting](#). Old USAR 1 has been designated USAR 7, carries a reserve cache of equipment, and will be staged in Durham. Also, USAR 1, USAR 2, USAR 3, and USAR 5 are presently parked at the Keeter Training Center, while upgrades are being done.

Cary has two Pierce Velocity 1500/500/30 pumpers in production, and they'll be the first for the town with speed lays. Cary engines all have rear lay configurations. They'll also have through-the-tank ladder compartments, which is also first. The town has also awarded Pierce the bid for a third pumper.

Also, the Cary Fire Department recently acquired an 18-wheeler to replace their technical rescue trailers. Drivers are being trained, and the equipment storage configuration is being designed.

Knightdale took delivery on Saturday of a refurbished 1997 Pierce Quantum aerial ladder, 105-foot, 1500 GPM, 300 gallons, and two 25 gallon foam cells. And a bell on the bumper! Designated Ladder 135, it replaces a 1973 Ford/Pierce telesquirt. [Read prior posting](#).

Falls Pumper 212 was seriously damaged in a single-vehicle accident last week. No firefighters were injured. The 2007 Pierce Contender has been sent to the factory for repairs.

---

Any word on Engine 8 that was involved in a MVC earlier this year? Or the Stony Hill unit that was also? If you have already updated and I missed it, sorry. Thanks!!!

**Steven** ([Email](#)) - 11/09/09 - 18:14

Also I have noticed that the Mobile Command Post, the 1988 Chevy/Grumman converted unit, is not responding to all that calls, any reason? Thanks!

**Steven** ([Email](#)) - 11/09/09 - 18:15

Do you mean Engine 9, Steven? In this blog posting, <http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..> in July, we reported that Engine 9 had been returned to service on June 27, 2009, after its accident on December 17, 2008.

**Legeros** - 11/09/09 - 18:16

Mike, will the new ladder 4 also be a tiller?

**[house]** - 11/09/09 - 18:25

Yes, a new tiller is being ordered.

As for Field Comm 1, same is in service at Station 1. It continues to respond when requested to major fires and other incidents and events. There just haven't been any barn burners in a while. But with cold weather coming...

**Legeros** - 11/09/09 - 18:32

I think Fuquay has been approved to start with the ordering process of 2 new tankers to replace Tanker 1 and Tanker 4 at station 1.

**TTaylor** - 11/09/09 - 19:07

Any plans of replacing Field Comm 1 in the near future?

**BJ** - 11/09/09 - 21:17

Thanks for the info!

**Steven** ([Email](#)) - 11/10/09 - 08:42

Will Ladder 2 continue to stay at Station 1 until the new tiller is delivered, or will Ladder 4 return to station 1?

**BW** - 11/10/09 - 12:47

i thought ladder 4 was operating with a reserve apparatus until the new tiller came in. if not, what happened to the reserve apparatus that was at station 1. If ladder 2 is at station 1 now, did the reserve apparatus operating as ladder 4 go to station 11, or is it out of service for repairs? If out for repairs, why not just put another reserve ladder, like the snorkel, in service as ladder 4?

**charlie** - 11/10/09 - 18:24

Charlie, The reserve American LF is in the shop for repairs, the coolant fan lost a bearing and they have to make the part because it's American lafrance part. (Old truck 16) the rear mount ladder was put into service as L-4 caught on fire in the station and they had to call on a engine company to come put it out. Yes, both Engines were out of the house. The snorkle is broke down also. Ladder two is at station 1 until futher notice.

**Chris** - 11/10/09 - 22:42

what happens if another front line ladder goes to the shop, will they assign the ladder crew to a reserve engine since all the reserves are broke? i know durham used to do the reserve engine running as a ladder truck if a ladder went down, but they would still dispatch another ladder truck to any structure fire call where the reserve engine was first due.

**charlie** ([Email](#)) - 11/10/09 - 23:17

Charlie, I would hope they would institute automatic aid dispatching for surrounding ladder trucks, but who knows..

**ncff** - 11/10/09 - 23:36

How about an emergency expenditure for a few new pieces?

**Silver** - 11/11/09 - 00:38

the emegency expenditure idea would be nice, especially since the tiller is on order already, and raleigh wants a ninth ladder. placing the order now for ladder 9 would be a good idea, but in the meantime i hope they get the reserve fleet fixed soon. bethseda, cary, morrisville, bay leaf, knightdale, wake forest, eastern wake and garner, all have laddr trucks that can respond automatic mutual aid within 5 minutes of raleigh city limits, but it would be nice for a large city like raleigh to be self reliant.

**charlie** - 11/11/09 - 10:53

They probably will float the crew out if no ladder. Raleigh ladders will respond before any mutal aid ladders are called. You have L-7, L-2, an L-8 that can respond if need be. This is just a temporary situation.

**Chris** - 11/11/09 - 22:19

Also, Cary has ordered a new engine for Station 8 that is due in next year. The 2 new engines will be here in mid December.

**fire1983** - 11/12/09 - 12:47

What's the latest on Cary Station 8, including location?

**Legeros** - 11/12/09 - 18:18

Hey Chris – The fire on Reserve Ladder-111 was extinguished by E-13. They were in the station (fortunately). E-1 was out. I was there on B-3 doing the mail thing and we used extinguishers for the bulk of the extinguishment, then switched over to the booster to finish it off. Electrical harness fire on driver's side chassis rail extended to the engine compartment. Was scamper time for a few minutes...

**A.C. Rich** - 11/12/09 - 20:42

Orrrrrrrr.....to add on to my above comment, how about purchasing a couple plain jane, no frills ladder trucks for reserves?

**Silver** - 11/12/09 - 22:05

AC, I was going off the rumor mill again. It is amazing how the story changes until you talk to someone that was there. I guess it was their

story and they were going to tell it like they wanted to-haha Thanks for the correct info.

**Chris** - 11/12/09 - 23:10

I'm kind of curios, like mike, about what the latest is on Cary's station 8. Anyone have any insight?

**Adam** - 11/13/09 - 00:24

The Request for Proposals have been received and the architect firms are in the process of being selected. Cary has put a hold on all capital expenditures until Jan 1, 2010. At that time they will re-evaluate all projects for continuation. It is expected that the Council/Administration will give a go ahead for Firehouse 8 to proceed with design and contractor selection. As noted the pumper for this station has been ordered and has an estimated delivery of May-July 2010. The other two pumpers are due in December 2009.

As for location it will be located on land already owned by the Town off of Green Level to Durham Rd and Mills Park Dr.

**CFP 7021** - 11/13/09 - 01:20

Sounds like Cary will have an Engine with out a home. Will Engine 8 run out of station 7? If they run out of station 7 then thats going to be a busy station with Mo'ville already there. I guess its time for Cary to take over that county land out there, not to open that can of worms again.

**Sparky** - 11/13/09 - 07:40

The word on the street is that the new pumper will make its rounds within the department. This could allow for some of the front line engines to go to the shop and have all of the issues taken care of while the crew can ride a nice reliable truck. Who knows they could also put it in service at one of the stations, then when the station is built E-8 would get whatever truck it replaced.

Right now there is notenough people to staff it as E-8, nor are there any concrete plans to hire any personnel.

The biggest reason the truck was ordered early is to save tens of thousands before some of the new EPA and NFPA rules have to be met. It also allowed for a piggy back onto the other two pumpers, once again saving time and money in the process.

**CFP 7021** - 11/13/09 - 08:24

What is the time frame on the Raleigh's new tiller?

**Hunter** - 11/15/09 - 23:34

6 months supposedly

**RescueRanger** - 11/16/09 - 10:58

Any information on the APP wreck in Zebulon?

**Rauer** - 11/17/09 - 13:44

Car is totaled... medic is okay... car as been replaced by one of the older SUV's that admin had.

The medic was treated and released at the hospital... he is at home recovering with bumps and bruises. You can replace a car... you can't just replace the people. That's the important thing to remember.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 11/17/09 - 15:31

nice to see that ladder 4 is back in service with their reserve 1999 alf ladder.

**charlie** - 11/18/09 - 09:05

Name: (real name  
preferred)

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No

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## External Flash and How Much Light?

11/09/09 175 W, 1 I - + 15 - 10

Here at Blog Central, we attempt to answer the unanswerable. Those difficult questions that elude even the most enlightened day room discussions. How should Wake County fire apparatus be numbered? What is the effect on fire load if straight-bore aerial streams are debated the next day? If a passenger train leaves Raleigh toward Durham at 5:25 p.m., and a freight train leaves Durham toward Raleigh at 7:16 p.m., how many anonymous posters will leave negative comments before either train departs?

Today we solve the mystery of camera flashes. Specifically, external camera flashes. Have you ever wondered just how much light an external camera flash produces? We have found the answer. Here's an external flash in action, as photographed earlier this year. The results speak, er, show for themselves. Pretty cool photo. Next up for the blog brain trust, how many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop? Hope Statter or 'Geezer doesn't get there first. One... two... Click to enlarge:



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## Wake County EMS System Alarm Levels

11/09/09 284 W - + 12 - 7

On September 15, the Wake County EMS System implemented an EMS alarm system. For those listening closely, this is reason you've heard so many EMS units dispatched to certain calls, such as structure fires at nursing homes.

- Box Alarm: 2 EMS units, 1 District Chief
- First Alarm: 3 EMS units, 2 District Chiefs, 1 APP, Truck 1
- Second Alarm: 6 EMS units, 3 District Chiefs, 2 APPs, MD1 (Medical Director)
- Each additional alarm adds 3 EMS units, 1 APP, 1 District Chief.

What are the dispatch criteria for these alarm levels? They are listed below. The box alarm is a familiar one, but the first alarm dispatch criteria are notably new for high-rise and high-risk structure fires. Note that CAD only initially recommends EMS alarm levels up to a second alarm. Anything above that is requested by the EMS District Chief or Medical Branch Director.

Also, note the absence of RDU alert levels. The airport fire department is changing/has changed to requesting EMS resources using alarm levels, based on the resources they determine are needed for the type of incident.

### Box Alarm

- Cardiac arrest
- Shooting
- Stabbing
- MVC pinned
- First Alarm
- MVC bus
- MVC train
- Technical rescue
- Haz-mat
- MPI Level 1 event (3-5 patients)
- High-rise structure fire
- High-risk structure fire, such as nursing home.

### Second Alarm

- MPI Level 2 event (6-10 patients)
- High-rise working fire.

### Third Alarm

- MPI Level 3 event; (11-20 patients).

### Fourth Alarm

- MPI Level 4 event (21-40 patients).

### What are MPI event levels?

- MPI Level 1 – More than two (2) and up to five (5) patients total.
- MPI Level 2 – From six (6) to ten (10) patients total.
- MPI Level 3 – From eleven (11) to twenty (20) patients total.
- MPI Level 4 – From twenty-one (21) to forty (40) patients total.
- MPI Level 5 – More than forty (40) patients total.

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Hey... don't forget Hazmat incidents in the EMS "box"

**A.C. Rich** - 11/12/09 - 21:09

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

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Yes

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**Bird Strike Grounds Duke Medical Helicopter**

11/09/09 118 W, 1 I - + 9 - 16

[WRAL reports](#) that a chicken hawk brought down a Duke University Medical Center helicopter on Sunday. The aircraft was returning from Danville, VA, where it had picked up a patient. The bird flew into the tail and damaged the craft, which landed safely in a Yanceyville neighborhood. No one was injured, and a UNC Air Care helicopter was dispatched to continue the patient's flight. Also see [this WFMY story](#), which includes additional photos and details about the neighbors reaction. Said Joyce Mitchell, who lives next door to Mae Long, who was in her kitchen at the time of the surprise landing, "that's a helicopter." Glad everyone's safe.



*WRAL photo*

how long is it going to be out of service

**just wondering** - 11/15/09 - 00:31

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

## Sutphen Pumpers Delivered in Durham

11/10/09 79 W, 1 I - + 20 - 8

The Durham Fire Department has received a pair of Sutphen Shield Model SR pumpers, each equipped with Hale 1,500 GPM pumps, extended front bumpers with 1 3/4-inch discharges, and booster reels in a rear compartment. They're also equipped with 40 gallon foam tanks. They'll be assigned to Engine 9 and Engine 13. tanks. Engine 4 will receive the current Engine 9, a 2008 Sutphen. [Read more on the Sutphen site](#), or click once or twice to see a larger photo:



it is nice to see durham getting new apparatus. e13 was a 1994 truck, that had been assigned originally to station 1. engine 9's truck is a newer truck so sending it to station 4 is weird, but station's 4 rig was a 1998 truck. now the only older model truck they have as front line engine is engine 5. now the reserve fleet should have nothing older than a 1990 E-One truck,[RE 1] assuming they retire from reserve status the reserve ford engine. [RE 3]

**charlie** - 11/10/09 - 18:33

Nice engines! Are those red and white chevrons? Non-NFPA compliant?

**stretch** - 11/10/09 - 21:45

all of durham's ladder trucks are sutphen. engines 1,3,6,and 9 are sutphen. the new engine 9 and 13 are sutphen and the ladder trucks that run as engine 16 and 7 are suthphen.

**charlie** - 11/10/09 - 23:05

engine 9 is getting the new truck with the foam tank because the garbage dump is in their primary district. A few years back the dump had a smoldering fire burn for a couple of days.

**Jeff** - 11/11/09 - 10:06

Stretch:

You are correct, those colors are non-compliant.

With the booster reel in the back, if they are operating in a roadway using the booster line (and the compartment is up), the unit won't have ANY chevrons showing. Additionally, it doesn't look like that the compartment door would account for 50% of the area of the rear vertical

service. For chevrons to help serve their intended purpose, it is much better to have them extend to the edges/sides of the rear of the vehicle.

**harkey** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/11/09 - 13:32

Open question to apparatus spec'ers out there. What are typical reasons for shrinking or omitting chevrons on a piece of apparatus that you're ordering? I'm entirely curious, as others probably are.

**Legeros** - 11/11/09 - 21:29

Winston Salems recieved two new Sutphens this week. Two more on order due sometime later 2010. These will be the first with chevrons in the fleet. The two delivered this week don't have chevrons as they were ordered prior to the requirement. Pics will be sent to Firenews for posting.

**[WSfireguy]** - 11/11/09 - 21:36

The style/placement of the chevrons may be a result of the timing on the apparatus order and the relationship to the NFPA 1901 2009 editions effective date (the 2009 edition of the 1901 was approved on July 18th, 2008). The new 1901 standard requires 6" solid color stripes alternating between red and either yellow, fluorescent yellow, or fluorescent yellow-green. Red-white does not meet current standard. Also, the striping must cover at least 50% of the rear of the vehicle. Who knows... DFD may have taken exception to the standard (in writing to the manufacturer). The NFPA 1901 2003ed did not specify chevrons, however many manufacturers placed them on apparatus before the standard was in effect (Stony Hill's Rescue is an example of a red/white 4" scheme prior to the new standard).

**A.C. Rich** - 11/12/09 - 21:06

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

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**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Cary's Technical Rescue Truck

11/10/09 54 W, 2 I - + 11 - 12

As noted in [our apparatus update](#), the Cary Fire Department recently acquired an 18-wheeler to replace their technical rescue trailers. Drivers are being trained, and the equipment storage configuration is being designed. Here are a couple pictures:



kinda resembles one of the raleigh 18 wheelers

**charlie** - 11/10/09 - 18:37

Looks pretty darn close to Decon 1 (RFD).

**Silver** - 11/10/09 - 21:34

Why the change to an 18 wheeler? what was wrong with the trailers? Or did they just want more space?

**adam** - 11/10/09 - 23:49

Simple why they wanted an 18 wheeler: It can pull double duty as a moving truck and can be used to help move Northerners into the Containment Area for Relocated Yankees. (I kid, I kid!!)

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/11/09 - 10:17

Hahahahahahaha!!!! Move `em out of here!! Oh wait.....hahahahahahaha.

**Silver** - 11/11/09 - 12:20

Yes, The department wanted to put everything in one truck. This was to save space at Station 4, easier, safer, quicker to get to scenes w/o having to hook up to a trailer with the brush truck or BC's truck (in the past that were overweight) and USAR figured into the factor to.

**fire1983** - 11/12/09 - 12:41

This truck will hold all of the technical rescue equipment with the exception of the water rescue resources. This includes the confined space and trench equipment and associated lumber. It will also store and transport the polaris UTV. In addition it provides a vehicle within the FD fleet that can transport the gooseneck Public Fire Education trailer.

I don't know if I agree about the easier or quicker part about getting it to a scene, but I guess that is yet to be determined. But yes the goal was to have all the equipment on one truck ready to go and making sure nothing got left behind, or relied on trucks being in service or available to pull the trailers to a call (for example if the brush truck was in the shop or on a call, or the USAR water rescue truck was at training).

A custom built rescue trailer was considered, but in today's tough budget time it was cost prohibitive. As mentioned the equipment storage is being designed and driver training is ongoing.

**CFP 7021** - 11/13/09 - 01:31

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**Mystery Machine**

11/10/09 48 W, 1 I - + 12 - 12

Here's a wicked looking piece of apparatus, found with a bit of general web surfing. What's this thing do? Specialized emergency vehicle? Some sort of construction equipment? Something else, altogether? (Say the last line in unison. You know, altogether.)



It is a Sakai ER500F road planer for removing damaged layer of pavement before resurfacing.

**Wallace** - 11/11/09 - 07:42

Here are some pictures from Japan, <http://www.ogiken.co.jp/siryou/sessakuki..>, and here's the official product site, <http://www.sakainet.co.jp/english/catalogo..>

Unlike the planers that you've seen parked around Wade Avenue for that resurfacing project, the ER551F has pneumatic tires, so the thing can be driven versus transported to job sites, albeit with a top speed of 15.5 mph.

**Legeros** - 11/11/09 - 08:21

Thanks, I tried to find the exact site without success.

**Wallace** - 11/11/09 - 08:40

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preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

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**Ida Red**

11/11/09 56 W, 1 I - + 17 - 11

Heavy rain and high wind is the predication as the remnants of Hurricane Ida turn their attention to the Carolinas. Flash flood watches and wind advisories have been posted by the [National Weather Service](#). We'll see what happens. If you can't stay dry, at least stay safe...



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
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Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**USS New York**

11/11/09 103 W, 1 I - + 12 - 16

A reader passes along the timely information about the USS New York, one of three new amphibious assault ships named after the places in three states that experienced the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. As this [USS New York web site](#) notes, special features of the ship include her bow stem that includes seven and a half tons of steel recovered from the World Trade Center's twin towers. Earlier this month, the USS New York was welcomed at its namesake city. [Read this AP/NBC story](#) about the ship and its crew and its visit to New York City.



Happy Veterans Day to all those who have served and are serving. Thank you for your service.

-Combat Veteran OIF/OEF

**091504** ([Email](#)) - 11/11/09 - 18:42

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

Chicken Barbecue

11/11/09 157 W, 1 I - + 15 - 9

Please don't droll on your monitor. Those trays of heavenly 'cue were served last night in Rolesville at the quarterly meeting of the [Wake County Firefighters Association](#). The English language is insufficient to describe the culinary quality of said entree. 'Twas served with the regular fixin's, boiled potatoes, slaw, etc. And, of course, loaves of white bread at each table. While Mr. Blogger's fondness for barbecue chicken is well-known in Johnson County, particularly at Stephenson's on Highway 50, his love of chicken barbecue is even greater. And fittingly, he first tasted same in a firehouse, some twenty years prior as a probie in Raleigh. The recipe's easy enough. Grill chicken, remove bones, add sauce. Unfortunately, there aren't any restaurants in Raleigh that serve same. And Mikey rarely takes the time to cook. Thus we return to the firehouse kitchen. What better place for eating chicken barbecue? Count me in.



AKA Dynamite Chicken!!!! Yummy!!!

Silver - 11/12/09 - 00:39

Lee Price makes some of the best barbeque chicken I have ever had... it's in the sauce.

CJS ([Email](#)) - 11/13/09 - 07:24

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

## Highway Patrol Fire Apparatus

11/12/09 126 W, 2 I - + 13 - 9

[We blogged before](#) about a quick-response crash truck delivered around January to the North Carolina Highway Patrol Training division. Lee Wilson has snapped some photos, while recently shooting some helicopter training off Garner Road. This 1995 F-350/21st Century Foam unit is a refurb, with a 150 GPM Darley pump, 225-gallon tank, and a 12-gallon foam cell.

What other odd pieces of fire apparatus are serving around Triangle, outside of fire departments? Twenty years ago, IBM had a Ford C pumper protecting their RTP facilities. The Harris Plant also had an engine on site. What's around these days? The only thing that readily comes to mind is the Oshkosh/Pierce 8x8 tactical fire truck at the Air National Guard base. Click to enlarge:



Forgot to type Merk in Durham.

**Chris** - 11/13/09 - 13:36

I am going to try this again: Merk in Durham has a jump cab Class A pumper that they have parked by their back up water storage tanks by their fire pump. I do not know what brand, but it has to be a 70's or 80's model.

**Chris** - 11/13/09 - 13:39

GSK (Glaxo) in Zebulon had their own fire brigade and they had a cool mini pumper like the one pictured above. Haven't been on campus since 1997 so not sure if they still have it. It was their own quick response vehicle until Zebulon arrived.

**Jason Lane** - 11/16/09 - 01:44

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

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Comment:

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**Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015** - *Wake County Fire* « Highway Patrol Fire A... » Yesterday's Major Fir...  
*Commission Meeting, Thursday, November 19*

**Wake County Fire Commission Meeting, Thursday, November 19**

11/13/09 59 W - + 17 - 11

The next meeting of the Wake County Fire Commission is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, at 7:00 p.m. Same location as always, the Wake County EMS training facility in the lower level of the Commons Building. We'll post an agenda a couple days prior. This is the regular scheduled meeting of the commission.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
No

Comment:

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## Yesterday's Major Fire in Henderson

11/13/09 121 W, 1 I - + 16 - 10

[WRAL has posted some video footage](#) from yesterday's major fire at the old J. P. Taylor tobacco plant at [800 J. P. Taylor Road](#) in Henderson. The three-story (?) building, presently a Pacific Coast Feather storage facility, was reported on fire at 3:34 p.m. Vance County FD was first on scene with heavy smoke showing. Crews commenced an interior attack for 30 to 45 minutes, reports [this Henderson Dispatch article](#). Subsequent aerial operations utilized trucks from Henderson and Oxford. Over 100 firefighters were on scene from Vance, Granville, Warren, and Franklin Counties. Fire departments included Vance County, Bear Pond, Watkins, Kittrell, Henderson, Cokesbury, Kerr Lake, Epsom (Franklin), Louisburg (Franklin), Franklinton (Franklin), and Oxford (Granville).



*Daily Dispatch/Ashley Steve Ayscue photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Barstow, CA: 2,554 Miles**

11/13/09 106 W, 1 I - + 13 - 13

The [News & Observer reports](#) that the *Wilmington Star* reports that everyone's favorite sign where Interstate 40 starts at the coast has been stolen for the fourth and last time. There's also a similar sign at the other end on the west coast, and it also has had problems with thievery. Raise your hand if you're ridden the entire length. And share your stories, you lucky b&stards. Mr. Blogger has made exactly one coast-to-coast trip, but that was [Seattle to Raleigh in 2000](#). Some 4,000 miles driven, 30,000 words written, and 90 rolls of film shot. You remember film?



You mention the sign was stolen for the 4th and "last" time...are they not putting up another sign or is it anchored in a way not to be stolen?

**curious** - 11/14/09 - 10:29

The article cites a state official who says the sign is not going to be replaced.

**Legeros** - 11/14/09 - 13:31

I've been to Barstow and Fort Irwin four or five times. Twice I started out in Wilmington. There is/was a small grill in Shamrock, TX that served an awesome breakfast steak and eggs!

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/14/09 - 22:37

Just drove by the Barstow Cali sign on 40 and it was there. Guess someone higher up than whoever said that it wasnt going to be replaced decided it needed to be put back.

**Adam Brown** - 11/20/09 - 17:36

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**Large Time Had By All**

11/14/09 109 W, 1 I - + 13 - 22

Last night's Fourth Annual Tartan Ball was the expected blast. This year's guest band was the North Carolina State University Pipes & Drums, which performed several well-received sets. There were Irish and Scottish dancers, too. And, of course, the [Wake & District Public Safety Pipes and Drums](#), who sponsored the event. Photos from Legeros (below) and Lee are coming. Pictures of pipers piping, dancers dancing, people watching, people watching other people, people taking pictures of people, and even a little disco action on the dance floor. Beware the guy in a Hawaiian shirt doing the electric slide.



Thanks for coming out and having a ball with us last night Mike – can't wait to see the pictures!

On behalf of the District – I would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has been a supporter of the band in one way or another these past 4 years; we are honored to serve all of you.

**Joe Brady** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/14/09 - 14:21

Updated with scary photo from Lee.

**Legeros** - 11/18/09 - 08:41

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

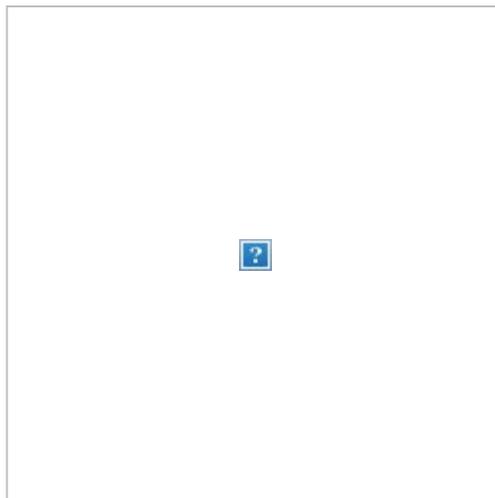
Comment:

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## How To Wear Your Radio Strap

11/15/09 71 W, 1 I - + 19 - 22

From a reader and by way of the RadioTech web site comes this [demonstration of how to wear your radio](#) when using an New York-style strap. The author is a Virginia firefighter, who advocates the safety of wearing the strap inside your turnout coat. Have a strap, but do something different? Don't have a strap? Share your techniques for keeping your radio handy.



---

I dont use the strap. I go about it the NFA way with the radio in the pocket, speaker facing the body and mic clipped on the coat, leaving only the mic and antenaa exposed. With the radio facing forward, you can trace the antenna down and your finger ends up on the EIB.

**KOM** - 11/15/09 - 12:47

I have a strap, use the strap and put it under my coat. Less of an entanglement hazard. I too leave the mic hanging. If for some reason I need to change the channel, then I simply reach down and do so. The radio is right at the bottom of my coat.

**Mike** - 11/15/09 - 13:18

Strap under the coat for the past twelve years, mic clipped onto the radio tab by the radio pocket. I've experimented with ditching the strap, and using the radio in the pocket, mic going around the back of the neck and clipped on the opposite side. I always come back to the radio strap, it just works!

**Silver** - 11/15/09 - 13:28

I have a strap, wear it outside the coat with the waist strap of SCBA holding in place for the past 13 years or so and have the mic clipped onto the strap. In all of theses years, haven't had a problem yet. I love mine!

**Wayne** - 11/15/09 - 14:26

been using a radio strap for 6 or so years. Wear it under the coat with the radio exposed just below the coat. Mic hanging out the top of the coat or clipped into the mic tab (depending on which make/model/set of gear I'm wearing). Never had a problem, no entanglement hazards.

**CFP 7021** - 11/15/09 - 15:38

Just me personally, not a big fan of outside the coat. I like the idea of the radio being protected to the max. Wearing the strap on the outside really exposes it to the elements and lets it take a beating.

Funny though, when you look at FDNY and surrounding areas, they wear them inside. When you move further down the east coast, like Maryland, D.C. and No.VA, they wear them on the outside. To each is own I guess, whichever way you're comfortable.....

**Silver** - 11/15/09 - 18:26

I've been using one for about 8 years. When I worked in an EMS system that did not provide turnout gear I just wore it outside. But here in this county, since they actually provide turnout gear, I have gone to the inside wear, after trying outside. It was a pain using the stabilizer strap, it flopped around, etc. Wearing it inside the turnout or rain coat just seems to work better.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/15/09 - 19:47

Wear it inside coat with mic either clipped on jacket mic holder or just hanging, depends on the gear. Radio hanging just to the bottom of coat, helps in case I need to adjust volume or confirm channel selection.

**Smoketamer** - 11/15/09 - 20:39

Depends on the type of call. Fires inside mostly, MVA/EMS outside depending on weather. Also depends which SCBA I'm in...SCOTT inside w/mike just hanging out, MSA have to clip the mic to something (coat,mic strap) because the MSA mask/reg assembly is so freaking long.

**AB** - 11/15/09 - 21:03

Okay... so I viewed the tutorial, valid points. But if you wear it under your gear, do you really need the reflective striping?

**D.Cates** - 11/15/09 - 23:27

No...the reflective striping is a moot point then, but hey, it looks cool, and I am gonna have some pretty cool stuff...

**DJ** - 11/16/09 - 11:05

My butt's too wide to wear it under the coat... it gets caught between the "Enforcer" seat and the door. I guess the expected sequence is supposed to be: ...Boots/pants donned beside engine; throw strap/radio over; put on coat; get in engine; right SCBA strap over shoulder, seatbelt on; (apparatus begins moving); (somewhere in the sequence – press DEK button, talk on radio); hood on; left SCBA strap over; and do other assorted officer stuff. In the meanwhile, the radio that was placed on PS TAC13 for the incident has now been toggled to FD OPS1 due to being squished in between the door and my fat butt, and is under the coat making it hard to adjust with the SCBA on (and the strap is extended out to the last hole and is still not exposed for us taller people)... alas, I still manage and wear it outside of the coat!!!! (Hahahahaha... I'm a wreck... Y'all enjoy!!)

**A.C. Rich** - 11/18/09 - 18:45

Hahahahahaha....

**Silver** - 11/18/09 - 19:09

C'mon, AC. My a\*\* is fatter than yours and I don't have no problem. And my trucks are smaller than yours. You gonna let yourself be outdone by a measely paragod?

Actually, I just about peed my pants just picturing you going through that whole sequence at 0330 in the morning.

Have a good one!

**DJ** - 11/18/09 - 19:15

Hey, ...not to mention, on top of all that,... when I get to the incident and pull the "rip cord" to release the SCBA, the release strap gets caught on the SCBA frame; so there I am dangling out of the door, still connected to the truck, hanging by my SCBA straps. Yes it really happened(s). If it were not for my Lt., I would still be hanging there. I have a hard time to say the least! BTW-the Pierce Enforcer cab on the Capt's side has NO room – seriously. (The Pierce "pretenders" actually have more).

**A.C. Rich** - 11/22/09 - 22:56

No way... the "pretenders" have more room than the enforcer... Damn. Sounds like the days of old when the engine was between the guys riding in the rear. Parkwood's aerial had no shoulder room to even get your arms in the air pack straps. That was 20 years ago, needless to say I was significantly lighter then, hell my rear might not fit now...

**D.Cates** - 11/23/09 - 11:03

Arrow XT not much better, just more leg room. Takes less time to just take the SCBA out of the jump seat once on scene and don it while walking. Defeats the purpose but I'm not in that seat alot anyway. :)

**gen3fire** - 11/23/09 - 20:24

Hahaha!! I guess we're just getting older (and "larger")!

**A.C. Rich** - 11/24/09 - 08:59

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

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Yes

No

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**Departments with Opportunities for College Students?**

11/15/09 93 W - + 16 - 15

Received a question from a high-school senior and a junior firefighter who has applied to be an adult firefighter at his department. His question is about opportunities for college students in fire departments about the Triangle, and or central Piedmont. Question #1, what departments have part-time employment opportunities for night-time coverage? Question #2, what departments have residency programs that allow students to live at the station for free, and while providing night-time coverage? Thanks for any input. Feel free to post your suggestions, or [mail Mike directly](#). Thanks.

I believe Fayetteville FD and the community college have something worked out in their area to accomidate this

**Mike** - 11/15/09 - 13:15

We have almost a dozen members in college, as far as an actual live-in program there is none currently, but there is also no restriction on how many nights you can stay. Also once you are off probation you are eligible for the night duty stipend of \$50 a night for 3 people per night. Any questions please contact the station at 919-676-4187.

**DHFD** ([Web Site](#)) - 11/18/09 - 00:33

Western Wake FD has an extensive history of NCSU students being part of the department. I would venture to say that over 75% of the membership over the years have been NCSU students. Some stay around after graduation, some venture off to start a new life, but it mostly has been a great way to retain members. There is no live-in program but firefighters are allowed to stay at the station as much as they want, and after they are off of probation they are expected to pull a certain number of duty crews for a stipend. The department provides a place to get away from the hustle and bustle of school and the use of the various facilities that are available such as washer/dryer, wireless internet, etc.

Any interested member should attend a Wednesday night meeting to obtain further information or call the firehouse at 919-836-1900

**CFP 7021** - 11/18/09 - 07:31

Its outside the area but Sloops Point, near UNCW has a residency program.

**Dop** - 11/19/09 - 18:52

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E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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Comment:

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## Reader Mail

11/15/09 343 W - + 17 - 14

Opening the mailbag again, with more letters from readers, site visitors, and random Googlers. Was my answer wrong, really wrong, or incomplete? Let me know.

Q: Can I still receive Cary Fire Department dispatches on a regular, non-trunking, non-digital trunking scanner?

A: Don't think so. For some years after CFD migrated to an 800mhz radio system, their dispatches were simulcast on 154.235. Don't believe that's available, nor has been available for a while. But you still can listen to Raleigh and Wake County fire dispatches on 154.370 and 154.190, if that's any consolation!

Q: What's happening at the Swift Creek fire station, with all the excavators and construction equipment. Looks like perhaps hydrant fill pipes?

A: SCFD recently allowed themselves to be annexed by the town of Cary, so they could have a water source for the sprinkler system that's planned as part of their dormitory renovations. That's likely what's happening.

Q: Our department's have a drill / live burn / fundraiser / open house / etc... we would love for you and Lee to come and take pictures...

A: Thanks for letting us know, and please keep letting us know. Our schedules and free time are different between the two of us. We'll try to make it.

Q: I was at the State Fair and there were two women arguing over your photo and the second photo [both of which show the same view of a Knightdale firefighter at a live burn]. They were like "how the [bleep] did two different people get the same photo. The person's the same. The fire's the same. I just don't get it."

A: Hilarious!

Q: What's Lee Wilson's e-mail address?

A: CFP702 "at" aol.com.

Q: Can you tag a photo of me that you took on Facebook?

A: Since I rarely upload incident or event photos to Facebook, here's what you need to do:

1. Download the photo to your computer. Just right-click on the picture, and save same somewhere.
2. Log into the Facebook web site.
3. Upload the photo to your Facebook account.
4. Tag yourself.

---

Your first answer is correct about Cary 800Mhz. You will at the least need an analog Trunktracker to be able to monitor them. VHF/UHF only does not work for Cary anymore.

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/15/09 - 15:32

You are correct about Swift Creek. The work is associated to the dorm project.

**Correct** - 11/16/09 - 13:21

You can listen to Cary's dispatch, well at least still with my Dual Trunking scanner that I have had for about five years through a variety of codes. Here's the thing at night you will be listening to CPD and CFD which can be a lot to listen to if you into the whole police thing, plus there's a lot of jumping around. During the day you could be listening to CPD, CFD, or public works, this is where the analog scanner comes into play to eliminate all that unwanted radio traffic. At night if your bored it's something to do and you can some what find out what's going on in the City oh wait Town of Cary.

**Noneego8baller** - 11/16/09 - 21:39

**Next Weekend's Flea Market**

11/15/09 221 W, 1 I - + 14 - 18

Who's got stuff to sell? On Saturday, November 21, the area's first "firematic" flea market opens at Western Wake Fire Rescue in Raleigh, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Booths are available for individuals or vendors who have large quantities of items to sell or trade. Several general tables will also be available, for folks who have 5 or 10 items that they want to sell. You can just bring your stuff and show up!

What does "firematic" mean? Anything related to the fire service, be they books or models or helmets or old equipment. Have some old nozzles and extinguishers to unload? Want to buy Code 3 or Matchbox models? Maybe you're a dealer of fire and public safety equipment, and want a full-fledged booth. More information is available at [www.westernwakefirerescue.com/fleamarket](http://www.westernwakefirerescue.com/fleamarket).

Feel free to post your sale list here, to give folks a heads up. Mr. Blogger will be bringing toys and books, for starters. [His stash looks something like this](#). He'll probably add an old Gamewell gong, and some other goodies.

The flea market is being held in conjunction with an anniversary ceremony celebrate 50 years of fire protection by Western Wake, Yrac, Fairgrounds, Cary Rural, and Western Boulevard fire departments. [Read more about the events](#).



For those that have never sold items at a flea market, such as myself, here are some things to bring, that I found listed on another web site:

- o tarp large enough to cover merchandise in a downpour, along with dry towels
- o roll of duct tape
- o at least a dozen assorted spring loaded metal clips and clothes pins to hang and secure items as needed
- o folding chair
- o umbrella
- o cash box and a starting "bank" of at least \$75 in ones and fives, and rolls of coins
- o table clothes
- o rubber bands
- o at least one hundred shopping bags, paper or plastic
- o small trash receptacle
- o counterfeit bill detector pen

o business cards.

**Legeros** - 11/15/09 - 14:48

Mike, I will be home for R&R during this time frame... I have my eye on one of those trucks you have in the pictures!!!

**Kermit** - 11/16/09 - 10:08

Mike, I haven't gotten to a photo yet, but my list is as follows:

- o old hand extinguishers
- o soda acid extinguisher
- o glass fire grenades with fusible link wall holders
- o Dash Laser
- o Whelen 4 way strobe pack
- o FD signage

Still debating on items needing restoration; fd pedal car, gamewell fire pull station with internal components

I also have a new hospital crash cart that I bought to use as a toolbox that could go if there were interest but I really don't want to have to load it! Bought off fed. surplus at Durham VA, includes O2 bottle holder, IV pole and short backboard for CPR. One shelf is out of adjustment.

Anyone with any stuff to sell, please bring it out Saturday. Otherwise come and look, visit... buy!

**D.Cates** - 11/19/09 - 16:16

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Bethesda Fire Department Christmas Tree Sale

11/16/09 63 W, 1 I - + 20 - 19

Starting the day after Thanksgiving, November 27, the Bethesda Fire Department in Durham County is again selling Christmas trees at Station 2 at [7305 Leesville Road](#) in Durham. They also have a limited number of wreathes. The sale continues until their stock is gone. [See this web site for prices](#). Uno! Dos! Trees!



Mike, map and address are wrong. Try it with a durham address, not Raleigh.

**bvfd** - 11/16/09 - 21:40

Fixed, thanks!

**Legeros** - 11/16/09 - 21:43

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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**Mount Airy Museum / Other Old Fire Apparatus? (Updated)**

11/17/09 189 W, 3 I - + 16 - 17

Readers Doug Carter and Rob Mitchell send some photos from Andy Griffith's hometown of Mount Airy, where this 1926 American LaFrance triple combination sits in the basement of the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History. That institution also has the primo web domain of [www.northcarolinamuseum.org](http://www.northcarolinamuseum.org). Two other pieces of fire apparatus are also parked in the museum.

Left is a 1910s (?) American LaFrance pumper that Sanborn Maps from 1922 said was equipped with a 750 GPM pump, 1,250 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose, a 40-gallon chemical tank with 200 feet of "chemical hose," two 2 1/2-gallon chemical extinguishers, and two 36-foot ladders. Right is probably a 1950s American LaFrance.

Question for readers. What other museums around the state are showing antique fire engines? That is, in addition to the fire museums in Catawba County, Charlotte (now closed), Kinston, New Bern, Rocky Mount, and Warrenton (in progress)? ([See photos from some of them.](#))

Some that come to mind include the Chapel Hill Museum ([see photos](#)), the Graham Historical Museum, and the Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City ([see photos](#)). Click to enlarge:



I believe Kings Mountain has a museum that is at station 1 with an antique truck. I'm sure there may be more, this was the only one I could think of off the top of my head.

**BFD1151** - 11/17/09 - 10:16

I think Albemarle has a 1920' vintage pumper. It used to be housed in a glass enclosure at their old station 1. I dont know where it is now.

**a reader** - 11/17/09 - 12:42

Two (2) of Salisbury's antique/older pumpers are now owned by a private individual including a 1922 LaFrance and a 1942 LaFrance. Not in public view, but the owner often shows them in parades and will occassionally allow for private visits. He owns a couple more pumpers also (like a 1921 and a 1944, all LaFrance)

**a reader** - 11/17/09 - 12:46

Updated with additional photos.

**Legeros** - 11/17/09 - 19:53

For those rail buffs, the NC Transportation Museum in Spencer has a few fire trucks, including a 1922 ALF from Lexington, a 1918 Brockway city service truck from Elizabeth City and a 1949 Mack that formerly served Spencer. However, there is no mention in the museum of the Spencer railway shops fire trucks, who built at least 5 fire truck bodies in the 1950s-60s for several Rowan County VFDs.

**BFD1151** - 11/20/09 - 22:38

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

[/ Textile](#)

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**After Fighting Fires 39 Years, Falls Station May Close (Updated)**

11/20/09 390 W, 2 I - + 18 - 15

Thanks to our reader Paul, who [found the online version](#) of Wednesday's *News & Observer* story on the possible closure of the Falls Fire Department. The story appeared in the paper's Midtown section, and notes the Falls fire station is one of four<sup>1</sup> that a recent evaluation shows could be closed to "save money and better use equipment by contracting more of its services to nearby municipal fire departments." Population growth, operating costs, and annexations are cited as the context. Falls firefighters and nearby residents believe "removing the department would do a disservice to the surrounding community."

Falls has been serving from their station since 1970<sup>2</sup>. Their first pumper was Six Forks Fire Department's first pumper, in fact. But we digress. Residents of Bedford at Falls River recently collected donations for FFD, the article notes. And on the [fire department's web site](#) is a letter urging citizens to contact the county commissioners. The Fall Fire Chief is also quoted, and says the station's staff will soon petition the Wake County Fire Commission<sup>3</sup>. They have 50 volunteer and part-time staff members, and the station responds to about two calls a day.

The county Fire Marshal notes that "full-time staff and resources from stations that close would be transferred to other departments." However, Falls doesn't have full-time members. "We're looking at that data, too, and trying to fight this," says the Fire Chief. [Read the article.](#)



*Takaaki Iwabu/News & Observer photo*

<sup>1</sup>The four stations being evaluated for possible closure are Bay Leaf #3, Falls, New Hope #1, Western Wake. [Read this prior posting](#) for the last update on the closure process. It includes [this presentation](#)  made to the Board of Commissioners.

<sup>2</sup>When did the other three stations being evaluated open? Bay Leaf #3 opened as Six Forks Fire Department in 1974, the department's fourth location since forming in 1956. New Hope #1 opened circa 1958, the department's second location after forming in 1956. Western Wake opened as Western Wake Station 1 in 1998, established as a merger of Fairgrounds and Yrac fire departments.

<sup>3</sup>Relevant to discussions of closures are the two TriData studies that have analyzed the county's fire service system. In fact, the 1994 study led to the creation of the fire commission. [See this prior posting](#) to learn about and read both studies.

---

Today's News & Observer has a county-wide variation of this article, including quotes from the Western Wake Fire Chief:  
[http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local\\_s..](http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local_s..)

**Legeros** - 11/23/09 - 08:25

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Tonight's Fire Commission Meeting Agenda

11/19/09 119 W - + 14 - 19

Here's the agenda for the Wake County Fire Commission meeting tonight, Thursday, November 19, at 7:00 p.m., at the Wake County EMS training facility in the lower level of the Commons Building. Note that the fire station closure process is **not** on the agenda tonight. We'll post the handouts from tonight at a later time.

### Agenda

- Call meeting to order
  - Invocation
  - Roll of members present
  - Approval of agenda
- Minutes
  - Adoption of minutes for July 16, 2008, regular meeting
  - Adoption of minutes for October 8, 2008, special called meeting
- Regular Agenda
  - Proposed fire contract revisions
- Information Agenda
  - Calendar year 2010 meeting dates
  - Fire tax financial report
  - Facility Committee report
  - Chair report
  - Fire/Rescue Services Director report
- Other business
- Public comments
- Adjournment

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

## November 19 Fire Commission Meeting Highlights

11/21/09 363 W, 1 I - + 15 - 18

The night was dark, the sky was blue; there were a bunch of chiefs, and a few others, too. [These handouts](#) were made available. This was [the agenda](#) .

### Contract Revisions

The majority of the meeting involved a lengthy review, discussion, and approval of revisions to the Wake County Fire Protection Contract. Some of the revisions included

- adding language that allows billing for certain services, on approved fee schedule
- adding language that provides governance for fire departments that fail to operate in provisions of contract
- excluding regular scheduled part-time employees from serving on a department's Board of Directors, in addition to Fire Chief and full-time members
- requiring departments to obtain a minimum ISO rating of 6. Currently 11 of 19 departments have a 6 or higher, it was noted.
- added language about participating in automatic aid, which is already being done but just wasn't part of the contract
- adding training and incident review requirements for members and departments.

See [the handouts](#) for a complete list of revisions, as well as a presentation about the contract revision process.

### Facilities Reports

The Facilities Committee reported that the Board of Commissioners awarded the construction contract for Garner Station 4 on October 19. The projected completion date is October 5, 2010. The station is expected to open in 2012. The committee also reported that dormitory renovations are progressing at Fairview Station 1, Fairview Station 2, Swift Creek, and Stony Hill. See [the handouts](#) for more information from the Facilities Committee.

### Station Closures

The Fire Marshal presented an update on the station closure process. Their office is still waiting on the Raleigh Fire Department to return their proposal for providing suburban fire protection to the areas covered by the stations being evaluated for closure. That information is expected soon, and a special-called Fire Commission meeting is expected in December. At that special-called meeting both Falls and Bay Leaf fire departments are expected to make presentations to the Fire Commission. The Fire Marshal's office is also planning information workshops for citizens, perhaps in January. They're also planning to create an e-mail address and voicemail number, for citizens to provide feedback.

### Reality Check

Attendees are encourage to correct the above information, which includes paraphrasing by Yours Truly.

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015** - *Wake County* < **November 19 Fire Comm...** > **Wake County Fire Acad...**  
*Fire Academy Graduation Tonight, 7:00 p.m.*

**Wake County Fire Academy Graduation Tonight, 7:00 p.m.**

11/23/09 58 W - + 14 - 17

Recruit Class 2 of the Wake County Fire Academy graduates tonight at 7:00 p.m. at the Student Services building on the Wake Tech main campus at [9101 Fayetteville Road](#). The recruits have completed six-months of training that included certifications in Firefighter II, Rescue Technician, EMT Basic, and Haz-Mat Operations Plus. Congratulations all!

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Wake County Fire Academy Graduates

11/24/09 276 W, 1 I - + 17 - 20

Congratulations to Recruit Class 2 of the Wake County Fire Academy, which graduated last night in a 7:00 p.m. ceremony at the Student Services building at Wake Tech. The recruits completed six-months of training that included certifications in Firefighter II, Rescue Technician, EMT Basic, and Haz-Mat Operations Plus. They came from Carrboro, Durham Highway, Garner, Hopkins, Morrisville, Northwest Harnett, Pilot, Stony Hill, Swift Creek, and Wake New Hope fire departments. The ceremony opened with a presentation of colors by the Morrisville Fire Department Honor Guard and Pipes and Drums, and an invocation by Chaplain Dr. Ted Edwards, also from Morrisville Fire Department.

Remarks were made by Wake County Fire/Rescue Training Director Ricky Dorsey, Wake County Board of Commissioners Vice Chair Lindy Brown, Retired Raleigh Fire Department Captain Wilbert "Tramp" Dunn, Wake Technical Community College President Dr. Stephen Scott, Wake County Fire/Rescue Training Specialist Joe Knurowski, and Wake County Fire/Rescue Director Ray Echevarria. (All correct?) Plus remarks from recruits, including highlights of their more "memorable" moments.

Congratulations all, and good luck as you embark on your fire service careers. Perhaps our readers can contribute to the sagely advice that you're receiving. Mr. Blogger only adds "don't believe everything you read a blog."

Pictured not in order are Michael Boyce (DHFD), Ryan Downs (CFD), Michael Henderson (DHFD), Bryce Overton (GFD), Mitchell Prince (NHFD), Alexander Reynolds (DHFD), Patrick Schams (CSFD), Thomas Schwenk (SHFD), Ryan Scott (PFD), Jamison Stafford (MFD), Nicholas Tart (WNHFD), Brittany Temple (HFD), and instructors Joe Knurowski and David Zoltoski. (Spelling corrections welcome.) More pics from Legeros and Lee forthcoming. Click to enlarge:



A wonderful ceremony and a great group of folks. Hats off to Wake Co. Fire/Rescue Training and best wishes to all!!

**A.C. Rich** - 11/24/09 - 09:02

Nice to see the academy concept in Wake County. Congrats to the graduates; stay safe Brothers and Sister as you start your journey.

**Silver** - 11/24/09 - 17:50

**Smoldering Businesses / Fire Inspections in Winston-Salem**

11/25/09 279 W - + 18 - 17

Let's turn our attention to another vital service of the fire service, fire inspections and code enforcement. [FireNews](#) found this [Winston-Salem Journal article](#) with the provocative headline "Smoldering Businesses: 20,850 Violations of State Fire Code Recorded in 2008." And that's a 70 percent increase since 2001. Has the city to the west suddenly become less fire safe? No, rather the city is conducting more thorough inspections. Until 2002, most fire inspections at businesses were performed by firefighters from the local fire stations.

Then came a "spectacular fire" in July 2002 at P&B Distributors, which brought 50 firefighters to the daytime blaze. And it was discovered that no "safety inspector" had ever visited the warehouse, to see that chemicals were being stored safely.

In the aftermath of the fire, the city changed its practices and began conducting more thorough inspections. They began using inspectors in the Fire Prevention Bureau, who are trained to perform level-three inspections. (Firefighters are certified for level-one and level-one.) Guess what happened next? Businesses began being cited for violations that had gone either unnoticed or without citation for years prior. And they're not happy, having to spend thousands of dollars on issues that "had never been a problem before."

In fact, due to the amount of complaints, the city even formed a Fire Code Task Force earlier this year, to help business owners and fire inspectors "agree on the regulations of the fire-inspection program and to improve relations."

[Read the entire story](#) on the *Journal* site, which includes three pages of reader comments, also from business owners. The story [also appears on FireNews](#).

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

 Yes No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email:  Yes, hide my email address.

## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - *This Afternoon's Plane* « Smoldering Businesses... » Don't Be a Turkey! *Crash in Chatham County*

### This Afternoon's Plane Crash in Chatham County

11/25/09 149 W, 2 I - + 18 - 18

Both [WTVD](#) and [WRAL](#) have posted viewer photos of today's fiery plane crash in Chatham County. Both occupants escaped unharmed after their emergency landing in a horse pasture off 7691 Highway 751 around noon. Parkwood, North Chatham, and Durham fire departments responded, along with other responders. The fixed-wing, single-engine Cessna 170B departed Cox Airport in Apex, bound for Charlottesville, VA. Shortly after takeoff, smoke and flames filled the cabin. The pilot landed as quickly as possible, his craft crashing through a fence and catching (or continuing) on fire. Said one caller to dispatchers, "it's on fire real good." [View the WTVD photos from Douglas Pietrowski](#), who captured the craft seemingly from first flames to full involvement.



Photo Credit: Douglas Pietrowski

*Douglas Pietrowski/WTVD Photo*

WRAL subsequently showed the extinguished aircraft from the air, after foam operations from Parkwood and assisting units:



*WRAL photo*

**Don't Be a Turkey!**

11/26/09 142 W - + 16 - 19

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Drive safe, if you're heading out of town. Be safe, if you're working, and responding to the inevitable fryer fire. Then we'll compare notes after Black Friday, and see what we bought and the crowds we fought. Let's start our day with a little entertainment, an appropriate clip from the 1993 movie *Addams Family Values*<sup>1</sup>, and featuring the song "Happy Turkey Day" written by composer Marc Shaiman and screenwriter Paul Rudnick. Says Pugsley playing the lead bird, "Eat me!"

<sup>1</sup>The Addams Family was a group of ghoulish characters created by cartoonist Charles Addams, and that originally appeared in the *New Yorker* magazine between 1938 and 1988, the year of Addams' death. They inspired the subsequent and popular television series in the 1960, and were adapted for other media, including two feature films.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**Matchbox Cadillac Ambulance**

11/27/09 46 W, 1 I - + 24 - 17

Here's a perfect stocking stuffer, a Matchbox replica of a 1963 Cadillac ambulance. The construction is die-cast. The scale is 1:81. The price is about a buck. Available at stores everywhere. Model number #56 in the 2009 series of releases.



Got one! Actually rode a couple of calls in one just like it. Well...not the small 1/81 scale, but a full sized one...

**DJ** - 11/28/09 - 12:58

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

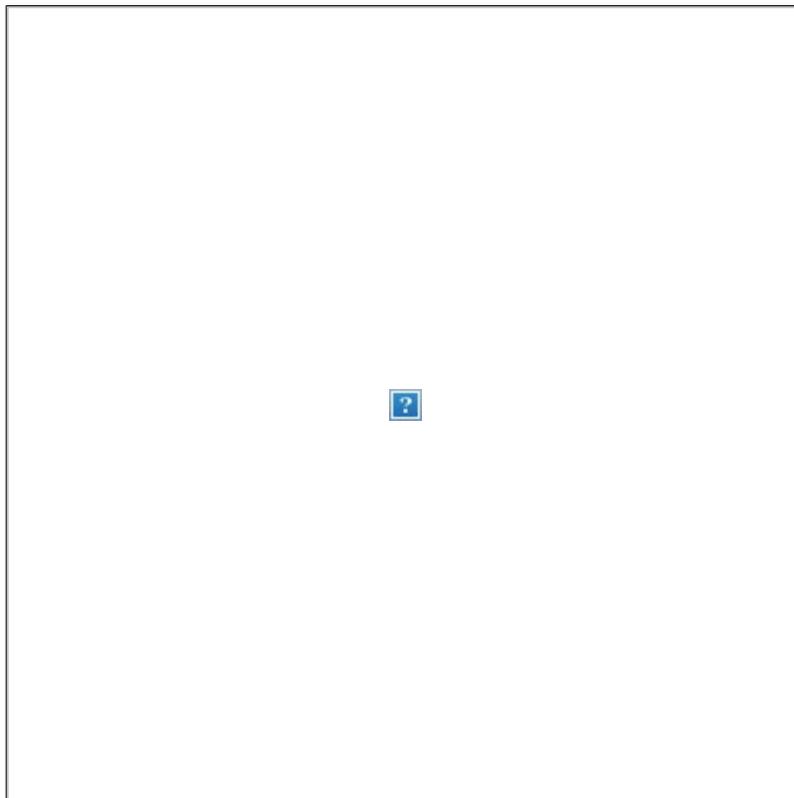
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Fire on the Moutain**

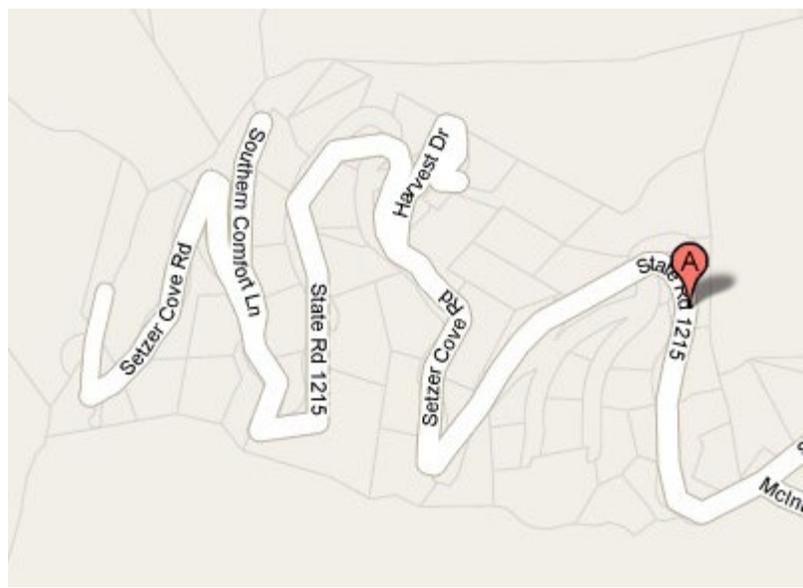
11/28/09 158 W, 2 I - + 20 - 19

The Asheville *Citizen-Times* has [details and a photo](#) of a house fire in Haywood County that destroyed a ridge-top home in Maggie Valley on Wednesday. Flames and smoke could be seen for miles, and drivers through the valley stopped to watch. The three-story log home was fully involved upon arrival of the [Maggie Valley Fire Department](#) Fire Chief, who was there within minutes. Crews protected exposures, and also doused a woods fire that resulted.



*Citizen-Times / Jon Ostendorf photo*

Some 30 firefighters from Maggie Valley, Jonathan Creek, and Waynesville fire departments responded. The Fire Chief said about 25,000 gallons of water were brought up the mountain and sprayed on the fire. The structure was the last house in a gated community on the twisting Setzer Cove road. Check out this [Google Maps view](#), which shows the many [switchbacks](#) (or hairpin turns) on the route. Click to activate:



Another example of a growing problem in the mountains: people want to build these mansions on the tops of ridges so they can have a breathtaking view but fail to think about fire protection. When the roads being built to these houses are just a little wider than a pickup truck, they might as well write off their house if it catches fire because we (the FD) can't get to it, not to mention the water supply issues.

**BFD1151** - 11/28/09 - 18:52

you'd thing if you spent that kind of money for a dream home you'd add the small amount that it would cost for a residential sprinkler system. From NFPA residential sprinkler cost assessment study..."with the average cost being \$1.61 per sprinklered square foot."

**D.Cates** - 11/28/09 - 21:23

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

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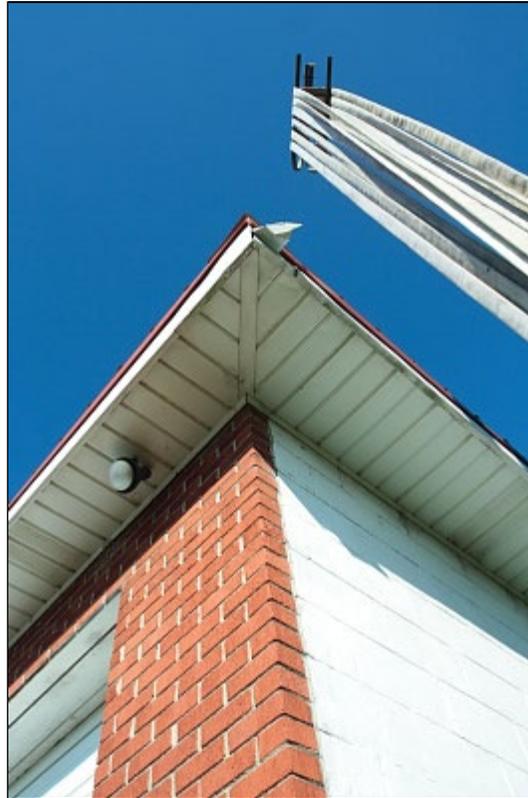
[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**Mystery Station**

11/28/09 17 W, 2 I - + 17 - 21

Where is this place, and what are we looking at? Hints forthcoming as needed.



---

Hint #1. It was the best of tines, it was the worst of tines.

**Legeros** - 11/29/09 - 16:58

The what, I recognize it is the where I can't figure. It must be difficult drying hose in the rainy season!

**stretch** - 11/29/09 - 19:08

Old Stony Hill Station 1?

**Rauer** ([Email](#)) - 11/30/09 - 11:35

What is now EMS Station 3. At the time it was Six Forks' old station on Six Forks Road

**D Price** - 11/30/09 - 14:42

Hint #2. You don't have to be old to be it.

**Legeros** - 11/30/09 - 19:58

Hint #3. The station is located outside Wake County.

**Legeros** - 12/01/09 - 08:25

Not Stony Hill (sorry). Ours does not have an overhang.

**A.C. Rich** - 12/01/09 - 17:11

Mmmmm... "tiNes" What are you trying to say Mike? Where has Mike been lately...

**A.C. Rich** - 12/01/09 - 17:34

Definition;

tine (tn)n.

1. A branch of a deer's antlers.
2. A prong on an implement such as a fork or pitchfork.

**Silver** - 12/01/09 - 17:45

I have Great Expectations for the solving of this mystery. Ha!

**Legeros** - 12/01/09 - 18:37

Definitely something Charles Dickens based....marshy area?

**Silver** - 12/01/09 - 18:54

It's all there in the clues!

**Legeros** - 12/01/09 - 18:55

Kill Devil Hills?

**Silver** - 12/01/09 - 18:57

Portsmouth Island, NC?

**Silver** - 12/01/09 - 18:59

Is it on the coast?

**Adam Brown** - 12/01/09 - 19:58

To make these hints seem even stranger, one of them is also an allusion to the title of a heavy-metal song.

That might just give it away.

**Legeros** - 12/01/09 - 21:48

Nope.....still nothin.

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 12/01/09 - 22:51

Guns and Roses, "Use Your Allusion Two"????????????? I'm lost.....

**Silver** - 12/01/09 - 22:55

The building looks a little like the simple brick stations that used to be all over Wayne County. OF course, there is no long a "Fork" fire station. Maybe it is the Rosewood station, since it took over from Fork.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/01/09 - 23:40

Hint #4. Second photo added.

**Legeros** - 12/02/09 - 08:09

Could it be Wyse Fork FD?

**Chris** - 12/02/09 - 08:55

No doesn't look like Rosewood's station they have a mostly metal building

**car3550** - 12/02/09 - 18:31

Yeah...Wyse Fork, down off of US70 just east of Kinston. That could coincide with Mikey's jaunt down to the Crystal Coast. As I recall it is just a simple brick building.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/02/09 - 19:22

Wyse Fork it is!

Here's an explanation of the clues...

"It was the best of tines, it was the worst of tines" – Tines, or part of a FORK. Also an allusion to the Charles Dickens novel.

"You don't have to be old to be it." – WISE. Also, the title of a song by Judas Priest, "You Don't Have to be Old to be Wise," from their 1978 album "Stained Class.

WISE FORK.

**Legeros** - 12/02/09 - 21:24

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Six Forks Fire Department, Circa 1974**

11/28/09 153 W, 1 I - + 15 - 20

Don't believe I have blogged about nor shown this photo before, which comes courtesy of the Raleigh-Wake Emergency Communications Center. The image shows the Six Forks Fire Department around 1974. That's the year they moved from their three-bay station at 5305 Six Forks Road (now EMS Station 3) to 1431 Lynn Road (now Bay Leaf Station 3 slash Six Forks EMS Station 1). The three-bay building measured 50 by 50 feet, and the siren was left at its prior location on Six Forks Road, near Northclift Drive. (It would be moved to outside the station a couple years later, as the stories have been told to me.) This building has been renovated four or five times, with added bays on either side of the original three, added bays in the rear, demolition of the added bays in the rear, and construction of a two-story structure in the rear. [Read more SFFD history](#). Click to enlarge:



As it happens, these photos were posted a couple years ago, <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2007-0..>

They're from slides that ECC staff found. Good stuff.

**Legeros** - 11/28/09 - 22:56

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**Forest City Fire Department, Old Photo**

11/28/09 120 W, 1 I - + 22 - 18

From our friends at the [Forest City Fire Department](#) in Rutherford County, here's a nifty vintage photo. The picture was probably made in the 1940s or 1950s. One of our readers can probably identify the automobile. Love that Mack Model B that's parked on the apron. The fire department has since moved twice, and the old town hall and fire station are both still standing. Look closely and the edges of the image appear to have been matted or perhaps concealed by a frame, with the rest of the photo likely lightened due to exposure to ultraviolet light. Photographic prints can indeed grow lighter, as they're exposed to, well, light. Click to enlarge:



Mike, the car is a 1946, 1947, or (less likely)a 1948 Pontiac or Chevrolet. Pontiac and Chevy shared the same body those years and the three model years a almost identical also. That wide chrome band down the center of the hood leads me to bet on "Pontiac."

Bill S.

**Firegeezzer** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 11/29/09 - 17:48

The building was built in 1928, and is located on North Powell Street, and still serves as City Hall.

The Mack pumper is a 1937 model. Thanks to FCFD for that information, as well!

**Legeros** - 12/02/09 - 21:30

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

## My Kingdom For Improved GPS

11/28/09 249 W - + 19 - 18

Mr. Blogger's Black Friday shopping including the purchase of a second GPS unit. Though there's already a Garmin Nuvi in the Blogmobile, it's user interface has been just annoying enough to warrant the trial of another. Here's the problem with Garmin GPS units. They don't have any options or features allowing for repeated same-city directions. Every address requires the unwanted actions of (a.) confirming that I am still in North Carolina and (b.) entering or choosing a recently entered city name.

On Black Friday, a Tom Tom was purchased, as some in-store testing shows that their address entry mode minimizes some of these steps. There's no confirmation of the state, and the current city is listed as your first option. Bravo. Post-Thanksgiving testing also revealed that Tom Tom GPS units are a world more customizable than Garmin models. Maybe three-dozen or more configurable options. Unfortunately, other aspects of the new unit proved less than desirable to this user. Guess I am just used to Garmin.

But back to the issue at hand. For people who repeated search for addresses in the same city-- such as taxi drivers and, oh, say, emergency responders-- the ideal GPS unit would probably have an "in-town mode" that would bypass entry of both state and city. And maybe an icon that could be clicked, to quickly change cities. That's my wish. At least the line at the store was shorter later that day at the return counter...

---

And the above issues notwithstanding, I entirely love Garmin GPS units. And, yes, I am spoiled by technology. Whoda thunk we'd have touch-screen navigation computers in our cars, and available in price ranges that nearly anyone can afford?

**Legeros** - 11/28/09 - 20:16

Ordered a Garmin from Best Buy in a black friday internet special. Seems that the Garmin also has the best mapping technology that is also used by Magellan. I've read the same concerns you have about your Garmin... seems like that should be a function it should have. My brother has a Garmin and had no complaints.

**D.Cates** - 11/28/09 - 21:14

We've got a Garmin 255W at Ladder 1. Love the fact that, for the most part, it holds a signal inside the firehouse. We leave ours on the screen that asks for the house number. When we clear a run, we just go back through the few screens of "state", which brings us to "city" (push little folder icon and first is Raleigh), then leave it sitting on the "number address" screen. Like anything, the driver has to train with it and become proficient, as it's just another tool in the box. But, I can say it helps dramatically as we have over 1,000 streets in our response area.

**Silver** - 11/29/09 - 21:33

Plus, love the fact that it announces the street name for which you are to turn, versus just "turn right".

**Silver** - 11/29/09 - 21:35

Now that's a cool trick. I am not smart enough to think of that workaround!

I did send a suggestion to Garmin, however!

**Legeros** - 11/29/09 - 21:40

I have a Garmin Nuvi (model number escapes me right now). We had a call out in a rural part of our county last week, and I couldn't think what the town was for the postal address for that part of the county. Tried a couple times and failed, then I just entered the closest intersection and it found everything for me — no town info needed. It does know where you are ...

In my area, I might be responding to any of at least eight and likely more towns that correspond to postal addresses. Now, I'm going to have to go run some tests with my Nuvi. I suspect there are more workarounds for your use-case. That said, I gather you use yours more than I use mine.

(BTW, I work in the software industry and volunteer as a PIO in my county. I have been impressed with the usability of the Nuvi.)

**jcollins** - 11/30/09 - 13:46

how are you going to hear when to turn left or right and on what street when you are suppose to have hearing protection on much less the siren doing it's job? on board computers are coming! it is a great aid but the drivers need to be watching the road! ask how many police officers who don't have co- pilots about close calls due to watching their lap tops!

**Jason Lane** - 12/01/09 - 01:08

Our hearing protection hasn't worked in years on our apparatus. Has it been written up? Yes, numerous times.

Second, yes the MDT's will be great. While they do have mapping software as well as hydrant info, they don't speak. When it comes to our safety, we operate very safely, but efficiently. We get dressed fast (prior to boarding the rig) and get out of the house fast. We do watch the road; scanning left, right and mirrors. We use our seatbelts. Like I said earlier, our GPS speaks street names as well as the direction, so there's not really a need to look at it. Plus, when you check your mirrors it's for a mere second of taking your eyes off the road, just like the occasional peak at the GPS (it's mounted between the 1 and 2 o'clock position as the driver sits). In my opinion, you might actually be safer having the GPS on board, as there's no confusion about where you're going and which way to get there, thus providing a more efficient service to our customers.

We have over 1,000 streets in our response area. Learning your territory is a stretch, especially with moving members every 3 years or so. That's a whole different topic....

**Silver** - 12/01/09 - 12:58

Our siren has a shroud, focusing the output forward so there's not a lot of siren noise in our cab. With the GPS volume at 100%, it puts it at a perfect sound level during emergency responses.

**Silver** - 12/01/09 - 13:00

Those "shrouds" were originally installed to decrease the in-cab noise but have actually been proven to be ineffective on focusing the sound. In fact, they actually decrease the decibel output and cause the sound waves to scramble and lose directionality whereas a mechanical siren by design sends the sound waves forward without a "shroud" or sound director. The newer apparatus have stricter in-cab db reduction requirements which is why you don't see the sound director installed and why the "Q's" sound louder.

**RescueRanger** - 12/02/09 - 19:33

Interesting. Well, we don't have much cab siren noise. Maybe it's the cab design, maybe it's something else. Comparing the ALF which didn't have a "shroud" and the Quality that does is night and day in the cab....just sayin'.

**Silver** ([Email](#)) - 12/02/09 - 21:14

I would imagine it is a lot quieter in the Quality vs. ALF if L1 has the sound director installed. R1 is a lot quieter inside with the windows up compared to E19. R1 does not have a sound director on the Q while E19's does. Quite a bit difference in interior sound db reduction between the two! The sound director DOES work on reducing the cab noise but does NOT work on enhancing the Q's sound.

**RescueRanger** - 12/03/09 - 12:47

Ok, I see what you're saying. I'd have to say, R1's overall construction of the rig itself, is probably much better than E19's with the in-cab noise restrictions now in place. Either way, we don't have any problem hearing the voice of Miss Garmin. I was comparing the ALF and Quality since they're both older rigs, same siren, but one with shroud and one without.

**Silver** - 12/03/09 - 13:03

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Remove Those License Plate Frames

12/01/09 78 W - + 11 - 8

As [this Fayetteville Observer article reports](#), among the new North Carolina laws that take effect today-- including one that bans reading or sending text messages while driving, though exempts emergency responders-- is legislation that prohibits license plate frames that obscure the state name or expiration date sticker. For the first year of the law, violators will be warned only. Beginning December 1, 2010, the penalty is a \$100 fine plus \$130 in court costs. Don't get framed!

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Atlantic Beach Rescue 34**

12/01/09 83 W, 1 I - + 12 - 9

Photographed early Friday morning at a Morehead City gas station, this is [Atlantic Beach Fire Department's](#) Rescue 34, a 2006 Mack/Hackney heavy rescue with a Mack MRU612 tilt cab and a Hackney DF0973R body with recessed roof storage. [Read more about the apparatus.](#) ABFD operates from a single station and includes EMS services. Their fire apparatus also includes a 2004 E-One 75-foot quint, and a 1991 KME 55-foot quint. More pics from down east forthcoming.



That's one sharp looking truck, looks like it meets the needs without being over the top. I have a soft spot for those Mack cabs

**CFP 7021** - 12/01/09 - 13:45

So do I Shev...I think in part it's the "go to hell" bumper.

**Silver** - 12/01/09 - 14:48

^ Silver actually had me laughing out loud (LOLLer) at the "Go to hell" bumper reference. I think my exwife actually had one of those on her car if memory serves me right...glad I no longer have to pay for her car insurance ;)

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/01/09 - 22:58

LOL!

**Silver** - 12/01/09 - 23:28

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Lightner Public Safety Center Update

12/02/09 82 W, 1 I - + 10 - 7

[This News & Observer article](#) reports that the Raleigh City Council yesterday approved \$2.9 million for design and pre-construction costs for the Clarence E. Lightner Public Safety Center. The 17-story structure will replace the current police department headquarters on the northwest corner of Hargett and McDowell Streets, and house the police, fire, emergency communications, and information technology departments. Search the [City of Raleigh web site](#) for more information about the project. The below image is from WRAL:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

**New York City Police Badges**

12/02/09 110 W - + 9 - 10

[Here's a fascinating article](#) from Monday's New York Times about fake badges in the New York City Police Department. Seems unauthorized replicas are common in the department, with officers keeping the originals safely stowed at home. Why wear a dupe instead the [real McCoy?](#) 'Cause loosing one means "paperwork and a heavy penalty, as much as 10 days' pay." Some say the practice is waning; others say its still going strong. But as one person notes, it's just as problematic if you lose a fake badge, and someone returns the thing to headquarters. Then they *really* have to account for themselves. Very interesting reading.

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For those interested in the badges of the New York City Fire Department, do a web search on the book title "Badges of the Bravest" by Gary R. Urbanowicz, which was published in 2002 by Turner Publishing Company.

**Legeros** - 12/02/09 - 08:04

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_ / [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

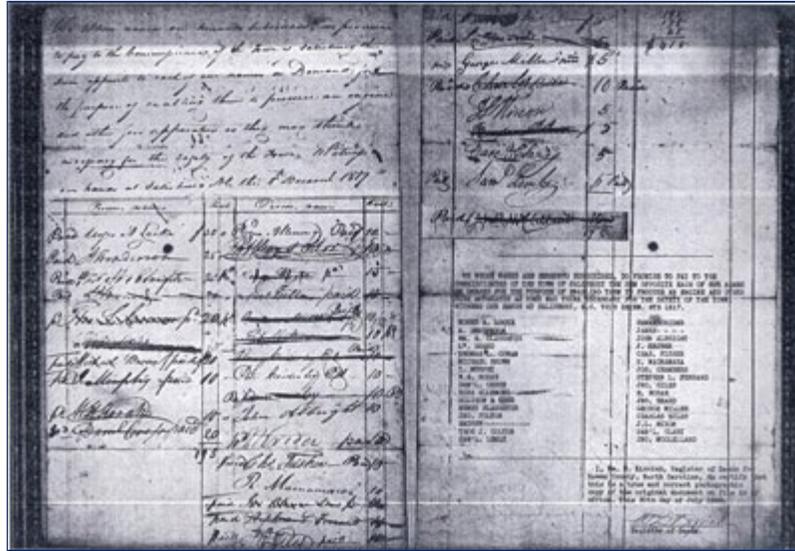
Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Salisbury Purchases Fire Engine, 1817

12/02/09 134 W, 1 I - + 9 - 7

Our friends at the [Salisbury Fire Department](#) send this scan of a photo of a nearly 200 year-old county record of the first fire engine purchase, when 32 citizens contributed \$175 dollars to "procure an engine and other apparatus." The action was recorded by the Rowan County Register of Deeds on December 8, 1817. What was bought? According to [this SFD history page](#), they obtained a single hand pumper (both hand-powered and likely hand-pulled), leather hose, and leather buckets. However, the first formal fire company was still a few decades away, with the formation of the Salisbury Vigilant Fire Company in 1855. Salisbury was also only one of some 20 cities and towns in the state that operated a steam engine in its day. [Read more SFD history](#). Click once or twice to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?

## Yesterday's Fire in Wake Forest

12/03/09 110 W, 1 I - + 8 - 19

[WRAL has details and footage](#) of yesterday evening's fire at The Home Depot at [11915 Retail Drive](#) in Wake Forest. Agents with ATF and SBI will be at the store this morning, working to determine what cause bags of charcoal to ignite in a storage area. They quickly set of alarms and sprinklers in the 150,000 square-foot building. The fire also filled the store with a heavy amount of smoke. Units were dispatched at 6:35 p.m., including Wake Forest E1, E2, L1, R1, B1, Falls P212, EMS 12, EMS 64, D3. Readers can add additional details about the incident as desired. [Read more about the fire.](#)



*WRAL photo*

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Any move ups for coverage?

**ncff** - 12/03/09 - 15:37

Just curious as to why Raleigh E25 wasn't dispatched when their territory stops about 1/4 mile from there?

**RescueRanger** - 12/03/09 - 20:41

Just wondering why Wake Forest wasn't dispatched any time somethings burned in 25s area?, or why weren't county units dispatched to their last reported house fire even though they're a ridiculous amounts closer than most of their backup units?, here's another question, why is the city being dispatched into areas without hydrants? We can do this all day. The answer is because things just aren't set up that way. The only time Ive seen a TRUE united fire service in this area is when Raleigh had their Oneonta Fire. Other than that, it's business as usual.

**devilsadvocate** - 12/03/09 - 20:54

devil is right. and computers can't do everything, they only do what they are programmed for, believe it or not you do have to think on your feet sometimes, and that just doesn't happen often

**amen** - 12/03/09 - 21:41

Why do people keep asking "Why wasn't Raleigh dispatched? Why wasn't Raleigh sent here, why wasn't Raleigh sent there?" County FF's are trained just as well as city FF's. Some of them have more training and experience! I am sick and tired of everyone thinking that Raleigh has to be everywhere.

P.S.

I am in no way bashing Raleigh Fire Dept.

**Terry** - 12/03/09 - 23:46

In reference to amen's comment, I currently and have worked in a 911 center for several years and I totally agree that sometimes you have to think on your feet, but with every day that passes, management discourages that more and more. Politics, standardizations and liability have all turned the tables from a 911 center operator who makes decisions and thinks on their feet to computers who shouldn't be questioned even when something seems ridiculous. Passing the buck seems to be the alternative for human judgement sometimes. Not to say that telecommunicators don't still think on their feet, but from what I have seen and been told, "The computer is saying that for a reason...do what the computer says..."

I think a great deal of this lessening of actual human reasoning and leaning more on computer systems is due to several factors. Low pay for qualified professionals, a flood of mostly unqualified job applicants and lack of passion to learn and do well and not just collect a pay check. I think most telecommunicators do a great job and are highly undervalued and do a job that is always questioned by those in the field who constantly hear their voices. I am just saying that we can learn from the past, give them more responsibility and education on the job so they can think on their own and use our computer systems as a resource and not a crutch.

**Robot** - 12/04/09 - 06:38

Bay Leaf was moved up to Falls, Rolesville to WF sta 3, Stoney Hill to the fire scene and in turn sent directly to a MVC.

**Mike** - 12/04/09 - 07:32

Terry-

I don't think RescueRanger was asking why E-25 wasn't dispatched has more to do with its location to the incident, not simply because it is a Raleigh unit.

I agree with both RescueRanger and Devilsadvocate in their statements, E-25 is closer than both Falls and Stony Hill but the systems in place do not look across those silly jurisdiction lines, so we continue to do the best that we can.

**Wayne** - 12/04/09 - 13:09

As a taxpayer and former volunteer, maybe the best option is to go to a consolidated city/county department like Metro in Nashville, TN. More cost efficient and it'll cut out all this good ole boy political junk.

**Charlie** - 12/04/09 - 13:42

Would never happen....

**Silver** - 12/04/09 - 14:29

guys, there are bigger things to worry yourselves with today.

and Jeff is right, it will never happen, too many municipalities in this county already. If you are a member of one of these stations/departments work to get closest station signed off on. There are depts/stations in this county that run that way every day.

And Robot, we appreciate you and realize the handcuffs by which you are limited by

**CFP 7021** - 12/04/09 - 14:59

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**Havelock Fire Department Update**

12/03/09 193 W, 2 I - + 5 - 12

Below is the [Havelock Fire Department's](#) West End Fire Station that's being completed on Highway 70 at Tucker Creek. As [this FireNews article reports](#), completion is due in March. The \$3.5 million, three-bay station will house the department's first ladder truck<sup>1</sup>, an E-One quint that's due for delivery about the same time. HFD has also taken delivery of a 2009 Ford E-450/Wheeled Coach ambulance. Medic 234 is one of four paramedic ambulances operated by the city. And it's the first such red rig. The others are white. The \$110,000 vehicle included an additional \$50,000 of equipment, including an AutoPulse unit that can perform chest compressions. Like the E-One in production, the new Medic unit will also be stationed at the new station.



*Mike Legeros photo*



*FireNews/Havelock Fire Department photo*

<sup>1</sup>What aerial apparatus has the fire department at the Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station operated over the years and decades? As [their web site indicates](#), they currently have three stations, with apparatus including two pumpers, a telesquirt, a heavy rescue, and a light rescue/brush truck. Then there's the Crash Fire Rescue department, which has its own station and equipment, correct?

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

**New Bern Firemen's Museum Unveils Exhibit Plans**

12/03/09 142 W, 1 I - + 9 - 12

FireNews also finds this [New Bern Sun Journal story](#) on the unveiling of exhibit plans at the [New Bern Firemen's Museum](#). On the anniversary of the Great Fire of 1922, the museum presented plans on Tuesday for an interactive exhibit about the fire. It'll be housed next door in the soon-to-be-restored Central Fire Station at 420 Broad Street. The 1928 structure was closed in 2000, after Station 1 was relocated to 1401 Neuse Boulevard. (Learn more about [New Bern's former firehouses](#).)

The planned exhibit will include a four-foot-wide model of what New Bern looked like in 1922. Also planned for the firehouse building is a second-story children's museum that focuses on teaching fire safety. The projected budget for the project is \$483,000, and \$220,000 has been raised so far. The firehouse building is scheduled to open by next year. [Read the entire article](#).



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

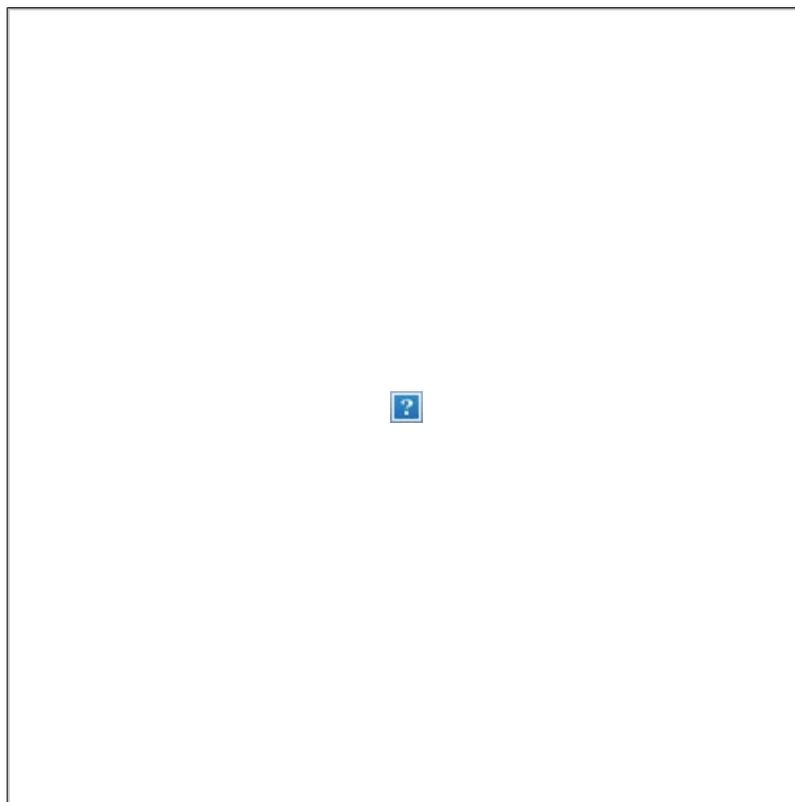
/ [Textile](#)

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**Now This is a Central Station!**

12/03/09 76 W, 1 I - + 18 - 14

Newly dedicated Orlando Fire Department Station 1 at 87 W. Central Boulevard. Also houses administration offices. Three-story structure with 60,000 square-feet. More than three times the size of the old Station 1 at 439 S. Magnolia Avenue, built 1969. Houses three shifts of 25 firefighters, plus 50-member administrative staff. Plus speciality units, including haz-mat, dive rescue, arson team, and bomb squad. Price tag? Merely \$21 million. [Read the Orlando Sentinel article.](#)



*Red Huber / Orlando Sentinel Photo*

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Love the photo – can you post a hi-res (or larger) version of this one? You have a wonderful blog/site/resource – I read it often. I'd love to share some of my firehouse/station photos with you at some point – I'll send you some links to my Picasa galleries.

Thanks for all you do.

-Trevor James  
Fire Station enthusiast, Frederick MD  
**Trevor James** - 12/08/09 - 00:00

Ah – I see that it's an Orlando Sentinel photo. I'll contact them and see if they can get me a hi-res. Sorry – I just assumed you had taken this photo!

My bad-

Trevor

**Second Beltline Fence is Planned**

12/04/09 213 W, 1 I - + 10 - 14

[Today's News & Observer](#) has details on a second fence now planned on the Beltline bridge over Crabtree Creek, where a bystander died on Friday night, after falling through the gap between the bridges. He along with others had stopped to assist at a series of car accidents. A second person also fell through the gap, but only suffered minor injuries. The death was similar to one in 2005, when a bystander fell between the four-foot gap after stopped at a early morning crash.

Since the time fo the first fatality, a high metal fence was erected the inner-loop side of the bridge. Transportation officials at the time concluded that the single fence was sufficient, and today's article even traces an e-mail discussion on the matter! The article also and perhaps bizarrely includes information about the most recent victim's criminal history. Not sure the relevance there. Yesterday, the DOT announced that a second fence will be erected, and will be completed by February 1. [Read the article.](#)

The below photo was taken atop the bridge on Friday by Legeros, and show the split median and inner-lane fence. Officials closed all lanes of the outer loop as the vehicle and pedestrian accidents were investigated.



They include the criminal history, because when they (news media) run out of things to say, they can always hit the free criminal history checks they have. These days, whenever someone is arrested, they go straight to "the suspect was already on probation for blah blah.."

**rfburns** - 12/04/09 - 08:21

You nailed it...when "run out of things to say"...they wouldn't be a news outlet if they didn't dwell on the negative aspect of the story to draw more ratings

**BW** - 12/04/09 - 08:36

Firefighter sitting on the edge of a 70' bridge, so much for safety.....

**Orange helmet** - 12/04/09 - 12:37

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Kannapolis Fire Department Historical Photos**

12/04/09 43 W, 7 I - + 15 - 10

And here are some photos to accompany the prior posting. Captions forthcoming. Also pictured are the old Kannapolis Sanitary District Fire Department stations, and the old Royal Oaks Sanitary District Fire Department station. Click to enlarge:



Top left, 1933. Top right, 1926.

Top middle, date unknown, left to right:

First row, E. H. Cannon, J. F. Kennerly, C. H. Donahue, C. A. Cannon, D. S. Holt, F. L. Wilson, P. E. Hudson, C. W. Leonard, R. B. Roberts, R. C. Deyton.

Second row, A. R. Biles, W. M. Ward, R. P. Foil, B. B. McGuire, H. R. Greeson, F. W. Overcash, N. R. Black, W. B. Ward, S. S. Griffin, A. C. Dempsey.

Bottom middle, 1978.

Bottom left, right, middle, 2009.

**Legeros** - 12/13/09 - 13:17

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Helicopters

12/05/09 24 W, 1 I - + 15 - 6

Two helicopters were parked at WakeMed today. Wonder how often they're double-parked like that? That's Omniflight on the right. Click to enlarge:



wheres Omniflight from?

**Jake** - 12/05/09 - 19:21

they were that way tarheel 1 and wake med on the pad when i got discharged from the trauma center

**anomous** - 12/05/09 - 20:00

Unless I am mistaken, Omniflight is the company currently contracted by WakeMed to provide the helicopter service. They provide the helicopter they use, that's why when the the one painted for WakeMed is being serviced its always a generic Omniflight one that takes its place.

**Joey** - 12/05/09 - 20:32

As I understand it, when a helicopter is landed in the county, it considered a "disturbance in the force". I wonder what the line of thinking is in that? wouldnt a 2 minute response time to the hospital be better than a 15-20 minute one? I know its crowded in there, but couldnt that be overlooked? Im in no way sayingI think that, that line of thinking is wrong...Im truly just trying to understand it.

**Jake** - 12/05/09 - 20:44

I've seen 3 parked at Columbus county hospital and it was a site to see! They had us to come out and stand by due to multiple ones landing. When we got there 1 was on the pad, then 1 landed on the grass, then the next one came in and landed on the pad beside the first to our amazement! We held our breath til he was down!!

**captain02** - 12/05/09 - 21:32

Air Mobile 1 is having some maintenace done and the second helicopter is being used, it's call sign is Air Moble 3.

**R. Warner** ([Email](#)) - 12/05/09 - 23:31

There has been a lot of research completed on the proper time interval between time of injury and arrival at the hospital. The latest is at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19783...>. Basically, the research suggests, more and more, that rapidness does not translate to improved outcomes. What is the best interval? No one at this time knows for sure. But it has been proven that faster is not always better.

The "Golden Hour" that we have heard so much about for so many years has been pretty much debunked. It was probably nothing more than a marketing ploy to get the State of Maryland to fund the Shock Trauma hospital in Baltimore and the Maryland State Police helicopter program.

Yes, we need to get to the hospital with trauma patients, but is the helicopter ride of clinical benefit to the outcome of the patient? Again, the research points to it not being the case, as has my own experience of the past 20 or so years of dealing with helicopter evacuations in some way, shape, or form.

The whole idea of saving time is usually done at great peril. There is a certain element of hazard in helicopter transport. Is it safe? I would like to think so but a lot of them sure have been crashing lately. And at the end, does the time savings matter? The science says it does not. My experience of 34 years says it does not.

Helicopters have their place. When there is a need to cover long distances (like maybe the expanse of eastern and south eastern North Carolina, or maybe the mountains) then comparing a ground transport of 1 ½ – 2 hours verses air transport of 45 minutes when dealing with a stroke or heart attack, then aeromedical evacuation is a good option.

But here in the Triangle area? The benefit just is not there. That's not my opinion. The science bears it out.

**DJ** - 12/07/09 - 18:41

You know, and unrelated to helicopter issues, there are also quite a few reports of ambulances crashing, at least if you read, say, Firegeezzer.com each week!

**Legeros** - 12/07/09 - 20:28

This is true also, Mike. Too many people driving too fast. And we still expect EMTs and paramedics (and accompanying fire fighters, as well) to try and take care of people while standing up or otherwise not restrained in the back of a rolling, fragile box. It goes back to that research thing. Faster is not always better, on the ground or in the air.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/07/09 - 23:26

Very much appreciated.

**Jake** - 12/08/09 - 09:18

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

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**Rain**

12/05/09 24 W, 1 I - + 10 - 12

Apartment fire with Ladder 2, Engine 11, and Battalion 1 on Wake Forest Road on Monday night. Plus one slightly soggy photographer. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**New Hanover/Pender/Brunswick County - Former Departments & Stations**

12/07/09 455 W - + 13 - 9

This is the first of several postings in preparation for Christmas vacation wanderings. Corrections and additions are encouraged. Help me get my information straight!

**Brunswick County - Former Firehouses**

- Old Oak Island FD - 101 E. Oak Island Drive - Built 1958 - Moved ?
- Old Ocean Isle FD - 3 W. Third Street - Built 1995 - Moved ? - Presently police station.
- Old Shallote FD - 113 Wall Street - Built 1953 - Moved 2007.
- Others?

**New Hanover County - Former Firehouses**

- Old Federal Point FD - 9 S. Dow Road - Built 1970 - Moved ? - Presently Carolina Beach station.
- Old Myrtle Grove FD - 5544 Carolina Beach Road - Built 1945 - Moved ?
- Old Ogden FD - 6102 Market Street - Built ? - Moved?
- Old Seagate FD - 6102 Oleander Drive - Built 1956 - Closed 2005 - Presently Wilmington Station 9.
- Old Wilmington Station 2 - 602 S. 5th Avenue - Built 1915 - Moved 1956.
- Old Wilmington Station 3 - 602 N. 4th Street - Built 1907 - Moved 1975.
- Old Wilmington Station 5 - 1702 Wrightsville Avenue - Built 1931 - Moved 1966.
- Old Wilmington Station 6 - 302 Willard Street - Built 1942 - Moved 1976.
- Old Winter Park FD - 4601 Park Avenue - Built 1983? - Closed 2005.
- Old Wrightsville Beach Station 2 - 5 Live Oak Drive - Built 1972 - Closed 1984.
- Others?

**Pender County - Former Firehouses**

- Old Hampstead FD - Highway 17 just south of Highway 210 - Moved 1990s - Presently community building.
- Old Penderlea FD - Off Highway 11 in town - No other info.
- Others?

**Brunswick County - Former Fire Departments**

- Holden Beach FD - Listed as corporation from 1968 to 1997 - No other info.
- Long Beach FD - Formed by 1976 - Renamed Oak Island FD after merger of towns of Long Beach and Yaupon Beach in 1999.
- Town Creek FD - Appears in NCSFA rosters in 1972 and 1979 - Listed in town of Winnebow. No other info.

**New Hanover County - Former Fire Departments**

- Fort Fisher Air Station FD - Formed by 1944 - Disbanded by 1989, when subsequent radar facility closed.
- Figure Eight Island FD - Listed as corporation from 1983 to 1988 - No other info.
- North Wilmington FD - Renamed from South Wilmington FD in 1990 - Dissolved in 1993, after county cancelled its contract - Station on Highway 421 later used by NHCDFD.
- Seagate FD - Formed in 1946 - Disbanded 2005, after last of territory was annexed in 2000.
- South Wilmington FD - Incorporated 1956 - Renamed 1990 as North Wilmington FD - No other info.
- Winter Park FD - Formed 1951 - Disbanded 2005, after annexation impact.

**Pender County - Former Fire Departments**

- Topsail Island FD - Incorporated 1966 - Renamed 1972 as Surf City FD - No other info.
- Scotts Hill FD - Incorporated 1977 - Disbanded 1990? - No other info.
- Shiloh FD - Appears in NCSFA rosters in 1972 - Now Shiloh-Columbia FD? - No other info.

Ocean Isle Beach's former station is now the police dept. The PD is actually on Causeway Dr, on the left after going across the bridge onto the island. Holden Beach FD I'm guessing merged in 1997 to form Tri-Beach. I don't know the full story between Long Beach and Yaupon Beach, but as far as I know Yaupon Beach VFD still exists and protects the northern part of Oak Island. It is my understanding Oak Island FD has 3 stations (1 on the mainland & 2 on the island) and Yaupon protects the northern part of the island while Oak Island FD protects the southern and the incorporated parts of the mainland. Corrections welcome...

**BFD1151** - 12/10/09 - 11:40

Oh, forgot to mention there is a volunteer water rescue unit on the island as well. I don't know how they fit into the mix but that makes Oak Island FD, Yaupon Beach VFD, and the water rescue unit all on a 8-10 sq. mile island

**BFD1151** - 12/10/09 - 11:46

Yaupon Beach FD is still their own department with 4 trucks, 3 engines and one SUV, they are in a Oak Island FD on the island that is brand new and are leasing the building from them for 10 years at the rate of \$1 per year. An Oak Island quint is in the station for some reason and a Brunswick County EMS unit. I was told by their safety officer that they respond with Oak Island to help with providing manpower on the scene but I'm still a little foggy on the are they responding as automatic aid or as a part of Oak Island FD.

**car3550** - 12/10/09 - 17:54

Ok, so Yaupon's station is owned by Oak Island? Where do they keep the quint and Brunswick EMS unit? When I drove by over the summer, it didn't look like YBVPD had any extra room. The best I remember, the station had 4 bays and all of them were full.

**BFD1151** - 12/14/09 - 20:28

Yeah they had 2 engines in the Oak Island Fire Station along with OI's quint and BEMS ambulance. They kept another engine and SUV at the old OI Rescue Station is what I was told. It kinda confused me how the arrangement was but I guess if it works then oh well.

**car3550** - 12/14/09 - 20:33

Man, sounds like a really weird setup. Yaupon and Oak Island must have moved things around a bit since my visit. When I was there, Oak Island sta 1(formerly Long Beach VFD) had a Spartan/E1 engine, Spartan/Rosenbauer 75' quint, Ford C/Grumman 50'tele-squirt, an ambulance (OIFD owned), and pickup. The Yaupon Beach station (the one with the red metal roof on the main drag) had a Ford C engine, Spartan engine, Ford F450/E1 mini-pumper, and a SUV or pickup. They told me they had another engine but it was in the shop at the time and I was under the impression it was kept there. Looks like I need to go back sometime to get the full story.

**BFD1151** - 12/15/09 - 14:53

Yeah they had a Spartan Engine and a E-One Rescue Pumper in that station, a Gruman Ford cab over Pumper and older Chevrolet Suburban at the other station.

**car3550** - 12/15/09 - 17:32

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Blocking the Interstate in Charlotte**

12/08/09 41 W, 1 I - + 12 - 9

[Firenews has details and images](#) of an motor-vehicle accident on Interstate 77 on Charlote on Monday. Engine 20, Engine 16, Engine 30, Ladder 4, Rescue 10, Haz-Mat 1, and Battalion 5. Plus Medic units. Accompanying traffic camera images show apparatus blocking in action:



Exactly! Our safety comes first.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/09/09 - 11:46

Smooth.

**Silver** - 12/09/09 - 12:28

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## Train Versus School Bus in Onslow County, 1983

12/08/09 274 W - + 9 - 13

On the afternoon of Friday, January 14, ~~1980~~1983, at a rural rail crossing some 11 miles north of Jacksonville, N.C., a home-bound school bus was struck by a Seaboard Coast Line freight train. The bus was carrying 55 students, and was struck in its middle. The bus was travelling between 0 and 5 MPH, while the train was moving at an estimated 20 MPH. The impact dragged the bus 218 feet along the tracks, and bowing the frame from the collision.

Forty-two students were injured, with the most serious transported to Onslow Memorial Hospital with a crushed pelvis. Another 11 were admitted for broken bones and other injuries. The rest were treated and released after examination in the emergency room. None of the six crew members on the train were injured, no did any of the 10 cars derail. No fire occurred, either.

Said a Highway Patrol officer, the rail crossing was in a wooded area, where vehicles had to stop close to see down the tracks. The train engineer said the bus had stopped at the tracks when the train was 3,000 feet away. And it was still stopped when the train was 200 to 300 feet away.

The engineer blew the whistle. When the train was about 100 feet away, he saw the bus jerk and jump in front of the train. The engineer pulled the emergency break, but it was too late.

The driver, a teenager, had thought she was too close to the tracks, and attempted to get go backwards. But she had the bus in forward gear instead of reverse, and the bus jumped into the path of the train. Source: *News & Observer*, January 15, ~~1980~~1983.

---

It was actually in 1983.....I was on that train. From the poeple that stopped to help.....the first responders on the scene....and everyone else involved....everyone was very wonderful. Not glad that it happened but I am very thankful to everbody that stopped to lend a hand. Strange to see my life posted on the internet.

**Donald Norris** ([Email](#)) - 08/25/12 - 23:26

Thanks for the date correction, Donald.

The original article can be found via Google News, if you use the right combination of search words. Found it last night, but can't find it now!

**Legeros** - 08/26/12 - 14:30

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Kissinger Family Care Fund Established**

12/08/09 87 W, 1 I - + 13 - 4

Raleigh Public Affairs announced today that a special account has been established with [First Citizens Bank](#) to accept donations for the family of Lt. Harry "Flip" Kissinger, the Raleigh firefighter critically injured in a [motor-vehicle accident on Friday](#). Donations can be made at any First Citizens Bank branch. Just ask to donate to the Kissinger Family Care Fund account. The family will be the sole beneficiary of all proceeds. [Read the press release.](#)



The Raleigh F.D. personnel are forgoing exchanging gifts at the station/company level and contributing to the fund. For example, if each RFD person gives \$10.00, a total of \$6,000 would be raised. If more is given, well, you can do the math... Maybe more FDs in Wake can do the same for Flip. Thanks !!

**A.C.Rich** - 12/08/09 - 22:17

Also, last time I looked there were about 6000 members on the Facebook site. If all those people could do the same, the impact would be great for Lt. Kissinger and his family. We should back up our words with some action to help out.

**Charlie H.** - 12/09/09 - 03:53

will be getting help from JOCO as well!!!! Lets get some challenges going guys!!!

**JDH** - 12/09/09 - 10:22

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

**Wild Weather Wednesday**

12/09/09 84 W - + 7 - 8

Thunder today means snow in ten tomorrows? Since winter doesn't start still December 21, we probably can't count on a white Christmas. (Wonder how many white Christmases we've had in the last, say, hundred years.) Still, our forecast for fluctuating temperatures and strong winds is a world better than a blizzard. That's what they're getting up north, with that monster weather system. That's one of the reasons this Minnesota boy likes living in North Carolina. It's Hawaiian shirt weather nearly every day!

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**Wilmington High-Rise Fire, 1983**

12/09/09 451 W, 2 I - + 11 - 11

On Tuesday, February 15, 1983, a high-rise apartment fire in Wilmington killed three elderly residents, and displaced more than 160. The fire was reported around 10:40 p.m. on the top floor of the Harry M. Solomon Towers at [15 Castle Street](#). Built in 1971, Solomon Towers was operated by the Wilmington Housing Authority, and served as housing for low-income citizens ages 40 to 70. The building did not have sprinklers, but was equipped with standpipe stations on each floor.

When the first companies arrived about about 10:46 p.m., flames were showing in the upper southwest corner of the building. Second and third alarms were issued, which summoned all available manpower and equipment. Some off-duty personnel were also recalled, and several others reported to the scene on their own.



*Bing Maps photo*

Command posts were established for both firefighting and rescue (medical) operations. While evacuation procedures were being underway, other personnel began attacking the fire using the building's standpipe hose. Two fatalities were discovered on the 11th floor, where the fire originated in room 1003. The heat was intense enough to melt the plastic name tags on fire helmets. Thick smoke filled the 11th floor, and parts of the 10th floor.

Six people were rescued by passer-bys, including one woman in a wheelchair who was carried down six flights of stairs. Another was found in her room on the 11th floor, unconscious. She was revived. Seventeen others were transported and treated for smoke inhalation. Fourteen were released, and three remained in the hospital the following day. Some 80 residents were treated at the Rescue Command Post, and were transported by bus to a Red Cross shelter established at Hoggard High School.



*Wilmington Fire Department photo*

Evacuation of the building was completed in 40 minutes, with the assistance of police and bystanders. The fire was controlled in under an hour. The quick evacuation and low death rate were attributed to the pre-planning and regular fire escape drills conducted by the Wilmington Fire Department.

Two died of smoke inhalation, females aged 49 and 68. The former was a disabled resident, who lived in the apartment where the fire was believed to have started. She was found just outside her apartment, in the hall. The latter was found in her apartment. The third victim, a male aged 72, died later of an apparent heart attack.

Notes:

- How big was the Wilmington Fire Department in 1980? At least six stations? And thus six engines? One tiller, and maybe another ladder. Midi-pumper/QRV. Ambulance(s), too? Fireboat, also.
- Readers near and far, please add perspectives and remembrances.

Sources:

- *News & Observer*, February 17, 1983.
- [High-Rise Fire and Life Safety: Hazards and Education For Older Adults](#) by William F. Blackley, December 2006.
- *Wilmington Fire Department 1897-1895* by Wilmington Fire Department, 1985.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

## Cherry Point Telesqurt

12/10/09 116 W, 1 I - + 12 - 6

In a footnote to our posting of [Havelock news](#), we wondered what aerial apparatus has served the town through the military base. Here's Lee Wilson's photo of Squad 2, a 1987/88 Pierce Arrow with a 1000 GPM Waterous pump, a 500 gallon tank, a 100 gallon foam tank, and a 50-foot Telesqurt. Twenty-eight such rigs were placed in service in 1987 and 1988, as part of the Marine Corps single largest acquisition in their history. It was part of an aggressive replacement plan that the USMC embarked upon in 1987, writes Tom Shand in an article on U.S. Marine Corps Structural Firefighting Apparatus in the March-April 1997 issue of *Fire Apparatus Journal*. Camp Lejeune also received one. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

## You'll Shoot Your Eye Out!

12/10/09 86 W, 1 I - + 10 - 3

[Firehouse.com reports via KPTV](#) that Vancouver, WA, firefighters helped rescue a boy's tongue stuck to a flag pole Wednesday morning. The unidentified lad reportedly received a "triple-dog dare" prior to his winter physics lesson. Extrication at the middle school involved warm water, with subsequent patient treatment including hot chocolate and cookies. No further medical attention was required. Everyone went home and perhaps watched *A Christmas Story* another time. Ho. Ho. Ho.



Mitro!!!

**Silver** - 12/10/09 - 10:57

Everyone has a twin!!!!

**Jakey** - 12/10/09 - 18:06

Yes I was thinkng Mitro also Silver

**Apex Batt Chief** - 12/12/09 - 17:47

I didn't give him that nickname in the academy for nothin'!!!

**Silver** - 12/12/09 - 23:27

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**Cumberland County - Former Departments & Former/Historic Stations**

12/10/09 468 W - + 13 - 6

Second of several postings in preparation for Christmas vacation wanderings. Corrections and additions encouraged!

**Cumberland County - Former Fire Departments**

- Bonnie Doone FD - Formed 1956 - Disbanded [1998] - Assets to Fayetteville FD.
- Cedar Creek FD - Formed by 1994 - Station on Tabor Creek Road - No other info.
- Falcon-Godwin FD - Presently Godwin-Falcon FD?
- Fayetteville Airport - Formed ? - Merged ? with Fayetteville FD - No other info.
- Lafayette Village FD - Formed 1956 - Merged 2004 with Fayetteville FD.
- Lake Rim FD - Formed 1974 - Merged 2004 with Fayetteville FD.
- Lake Upchurch FD - Formed 1980 - Disbanded 1988 - Assets to Stoney Point FD.
- Lakeview FD - Formed 1963 - Renamed 1968 as Manchester FD.
- Manchester FD - Formed 1968 - Disbanded 1998 - Assets to Spring Lake FD.
- Raeford Road FD - Formed 1956 - Disbanded 1997 after annexation.
- Yadkin Road FD - Name of second Bonnie Doone FD station. Also appears as FD name in DOI directories and other records.
- University Park FD - Appears 1982 in DOI directory, in town of Moyock. No other info.

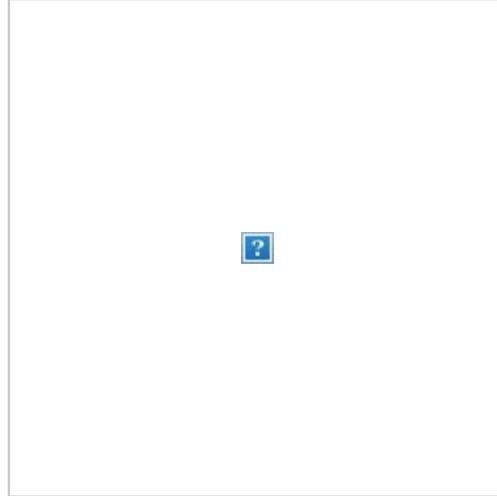
**Cumberland County - Former and Historic Fire Stations**

- Old Bonnie Doone, Sta 9 - 5091 Santa Fe Drive - Built 1976 - Closed 1996 - Presently Fayetteville Station 9.
- Old Bonnie Doone, Sta 8 - 140 Swain Street - Built 1958 - Moved 1986 - Presently auto repair.
- Old Bonnie Doone, Sta ? - 402 Brunswick Road - Built 1963 - Closed 1976 - Presently auto repair.
- Old Carver's Creek, Sta 15 - 4811 Rosehill Road - Built 1956? - Moved 1976 - Presently auto repair.
- Old Cotton, Sta 4 - 4776 Cameron Road - Built 1958 - Moved 1984?
- Cumberland Road, Sta 5 - 3543 Cumberland Road - Built 1955?
- Old Eastover, Sta 1 - 4021 Dunn Road - Built 1956? - Moved 1978 - Presently empty.
- Old Fayetteville Sta 3 - 1314 Hillsboro Street - Built 1948 - Moved 1975.
- Fayetteville Station 2 - 101 Olive Road - Built 1942
- Old Fort Bragg Sta 3 - Butner Road and Ogden Street - Built ? - Moved 2004 - Still standing?
- Old Hope Mills - 5511 W. Patterson Street - Built 1948 - Moved 1983 - Presently offices.
- Old Lafayette Village, Sta 17 - 301 Hope Mills Road - Built 1964 - Closed 2001 - Presently Fayetteville Station 12.
- Old Lafayette Village, Sta 17 - 6701 Bailey Lake Road - Built 2001 - Closed 2004 - Presently Fayetteville Station 17.
- Old Lake Rim, Sta 11 - 7690 Raeford Road - Built 1990 - Closed 2004 - Presently Fayetteville Station 11.
- Old Lake Rim, Sta 11 - 7720 Hazelwood Avenue - Built 1952 - Moved 1997? - Presently church.
- Old Manchester - 1475 E. Manchester Road - Built 1962 - Closed ? - Presently storage for SLFD.
- Old Pearces Mill, Sta 3 - 1722 Gillespie Street - Built 1955 - Moved 1979 - Presently HVAC business.
- Old Raeford Road, Sta 6 - 105 Faison Avenue - Built 1952 - Closed 1997? - Presently auto repair.
- Old Spring Lake Town Hall - 11 Spring Avenue - Built 1950 - Moved 1978 - Presently police.
- Old Vander, Sta 2 - 3509 Clinton Road - Built 1955? - Moved ?
- Old Westarea, Sta 10 - 3816 Murchinson Road - Built 1955 - Moved 1983 - Presently church.

## Onslow County Firefighter Dies On Duty

12/10/09 76 W, 1 I - + 13 - 10

[FireNews](#) has [posted details](#) of a firefighter fatality this morning in Onslow County. White Oak Volunteer Fire Department firefighter Fire Chief Jimmy Davis Sr. suffered a medical emergency while responding to a call. He was found by a family member near his truck, after leaving his house to respond, but returning before leaving again. Further details and funeral arrangements for Chief Davis are forthcoming. [Read the FireNews story.](#)



We have updated our article; the individual involved was the Fire Chief. Initial information was conflicting, so we had to wait and confirm some of the details.

We are told arrangements will be made available Friday morning, and we'll post them then.

Harkey

**harkey** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/10/09 - 23:35

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Fundraisers For Flip**

12/10/09 74 W - + 14 - 6

This is an open thread for posting information about fundraisers for the Kissinger Family. Here are two coming events. Feel free to add others.

**Fill the Boot For Flip**

Durham Highway Fire Department  
Harris Teeter Parking Lot, [9810 Leesville Road](#), Raleigh  
Saturday, December 12, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Friends for Flip**

Live Music with Triple Threat Band  
The Sports Page, [835 N. Smithfield Road](#), Knightdale  
Saturday, December 26, 9:30 p.m. until...  
<http://friendsforflip.com/>

---

Harris Teeter is located at 13210 Strickland Rd. at the intersection of Strickland and Leesville.

**DHFD200B** - 12/11/09 - 15:14

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

**The Passing of a Friend**

12/11/09 136 W, 1 I - + 9 - 7

Husband, father, son, friend, firefighter Lt. Harry P. "Flip" Kissinger IV passed away today at WakeMed. The Raleigh Fire Department announced the news, the awful news, early this afternoon. Flip was 35. He was hospitalized one week ago, critically injured while heading home from Station 6. In the seven days since the accident, those touched by Flip and his family have joined in heart and soul, and body and mind. They stood en masse at the hospital; they prayed together; they hoped. Thousand have expressed their sympathy and support online. The brotherhood. The family. The community. Flip is survived by a wife and two daughters and so many others. Arrangements are pending. Read the [press release](#). See coverage from [WRAL](#), [WTVD](#), [NBC 17](#), and the [News & Observer](#).

*Lee Wilson photo*

the Raleigh fire department has truly lost a hero. To the family, I am praying for you all to be comforted during this time.

**charlie** - 12/11/09 - 23:29

May he rest in peace.

**DC** - 12/12/09 - 00:49

My heart and prayers go out to the family and friends of a fellow brother! Even though i didnt know you, i am saddened at your passing and hope that your family will be lifted up in prayer through this differcult time. God speed my "brother"

**Capt1202** - 12/12/09 - 21:42

**Here Comes History**

12/12/09 49 W - + 8 - 8

Though this blog is already history-minded, expect a bit of inundation in the coming days and weeks. The holidays mean free time, and free time means research. We'll be the North Carolina Fire History Blog from time to time. Do not attempt to adjust your browser.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**Fayetteville Station 3**

12/12/09 80 W, 2 I - + 11 - 7

From the August 1956 issue of *Hose & Nozzle* magazine comes this photo of Fayetteville Station 3 at [1314 Hillsboro Street](#). It opened in 1948 with an engine company operating a 1923 American LaFrance engine. In the 1970s, a medical unit was added. In 1975, the station was relocated to [3225 Rosehill Road](#). The 2,483 square-foot structure was photographed a couple years ago, and was used as a storage facility for the city parks department. Learn more about [old firehouses in Fayetteville](#). Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
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Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify:  Yes, send me email when someone replies.  
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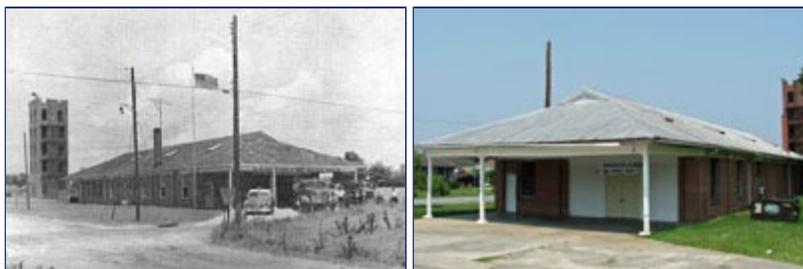
**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Greenville West End Station

12/12/09 103 W, 2 I - + 11 - 9

Also from a 1956 issue of *Hose & Nozzle* magazine is this image of Greenville's West End Station at [1710 Chestnut Street](#). This was their second station, built in 1930 (?). The station was relocated in 1977 to [2407 Memorial Drive](#), and again in 2000 to [2490 Hemby Lane](#). The 5,200 square-foot building was photographed a couple years ago.

The tower behind the building was added in 1943 (?). It was closed in 2005, when a training center opened at [3375 E. 10th Street](#). Though Greenville's great Central Station was demolished some years ago, the city has three other old stations still standing. They're [listed in our database](#). Click to enlarge:



Mike

I was just looking at your history web site. Nice. Just one thing about Greenville F/R Station 3. I am pretty sure the current station opened in 1988-1989 time period. I am currently trying to find confirmation. Thanks.

**Steven** - 12/12/09 - 18:48

Thanks Steven! I am also searching for any general GFD history docs, if they're out there. Haven't found any nice/detailed overviews or chronologies to date.

**Legeros** - 12/12/09 - 19:13

Mike-

If you are ever in the Greenville area, stop by Station 1. In the front they have some historical artifacts displayed including some old books from the fire department. If you ask they might let you look through them.

**Steven** ([Email](#)) - 12/13/09 - 08:35

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

Four Ingredients

12/12/09 31 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

Commonly found at local incidents: light, tape, bystanders, photographer. Three transported from Creedmoor Road north of Milbrook Road this afternoon. More later.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**Firefighters Raise over \$7,000 for Kissinger Family**

12/13/09 154 W, 1 I - + 13 - 6

The Durham Highway Fire Department yesterday sponsored a fundraiser for the family of "Flip" Kissinger at the Harris Teeter grocery store at Strickland and Leesville Roads. He passed away Friday, and is survived by a wife and two children. Durham Highway firefighters and family members were assisted by Raleigh firefighters from Station 18, Station 23, and Station 24. The all-day event raised \$7,302, which was delivered to the Raleigh Fire Department.

Says Durham Highway member Michael Greenham, who helped organize the fundraiser, "We know this money will not fill the hole that's been left in the hearts of his family, but we hope they'll accept this gift with the love and respect we have for Flip." [NBC 17 also reported](#) on the event. [See photos from Lee Wilson.](#)

The Durham Highway Fire Department thanks everyone who contributed, and to all who helped man the boots.



*Lee Wilson photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Lenoir Tanker, 1956**

12/13/09 60 W, 1 I - + 8 - 7

From the September 1956 issue of *Hose & Nozzle* magazine is this Lenoir Fire Department Ford tanker of unknown model year and capacity. The photo may also be older than 1956. Says the caption, it was built to the department's specifications, and has been "examined and copied by many." Click to enlarge:



*Hose & Nozzle photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Charlotte Fire Apparatus, 1955

12/13/09 68 W, 1 I - + 8 - 9

The May 1955 issue of *Hose & Nozzle* magazine featured this promotional page about Charlotte fire apparatus. The context was the state fire school being held in the city. American LaFrance, Mack, Oren, Seagrave. Now that's a classic line-up! Don't know if the photos were all taken that year, or if they were "stock" from earlier years. Click once or twice to enlarge:

**Charlotte Has Equipment  
To Interest Every Fireman**

Visit While Attending The Fire College

	
Truck No. 4, Loaned No. 4 Station American La France 47' Aerial	Lighting Truck, No. 1 Station
	
Truck No. 2, Loaned No. 4 Station American La France City Service	Old Steamer, At Morris Field 800 Used In Parades, Etc.
	
Truck Co. No. 3, Loaned No. 3 Station Seagrave 17' Aerial, Booster, Hose Body, Pressurized Lines	Engine No. 8, No. 8 Station 750 Mack, First fully enclosed unit in United States
	
Engine Co. No. 11, Loaned No. 1 Station Seagrave 200 GPM Engine	Special Crash Unit, Morris Field 500 Green Ford, High Pressure

Anyplace where someone can look at old copies of "Hose & Nozzle"? Is it still published? Thanks!!!

Steven ([Email](#)) - 12/13/09 - 13:17

Old copies of *Hose & Nozzle* are available for reading at Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. They're part of the North Carolina Collection. Bound editions are available for select years, including the mid-1950s, the late 1960s, and the 1970s.

Legeros - 12/13/09 - 13:19

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Broughton Hospital Poultry Barn Burns, 1972

12/13/09 466 W - + 11 - 4

On Wednesday, December 20, 1972, a large poultry barn was destroyed at Broughton Hospital in Morganton. The damage was estimated at \$45,000, including the loss of 5,200 young hens. The fire was so intense that apparatus was watered down to prevent damage.

A night watchman spotted the fire shortly after 9 p.m. The Morganton Fire Department was notified at 9:09 p.m. Arriving units found the building "on fire from one end to the other." Four pieces of apparatus and 42 firefighters from Morganton, Morganton's Carbon City station, and Salem Fire Department battled the blaze for three hours.

In addition to the intense fire, water pressure was a problem. The hydrants at the scene were fed from a six-inch water main that was gravity-fed from a nearby water tower. Fire Chief Carroll M. Sullivan later commented that the pressure was barely enough to supply a single two-and-a-inch hose.

There was 40 pounds static pressure at the hydrant, a captain said the next day, but only 10 pounds residual pressure.

An articulating platform from Morganton's Carbon City station was deployed. After the hoses were connected, and the nozzle aimed at the two-story, 275-foot long burning building, the water "ran about two or three seconds and then just petered out." Added the observer who reported the above, "[and] much to [Fire Chief's] disgust."

Crews saved a nearby barn and its contents, consisting of several hundred older chickens. Those lost in the blaze were young birds, and just beginning to lay eggs.

Walls of the structure also collapsed.

Firefighters were further hampered by construction on the access road to the building. Arriving units were forced to back up, and approach from a different direction.

The fire could be seen over the most of the city. Some 200 to 300 people gathered to watch, and traffic to the scene was congested "from the Mull Store along Enola Road to the I-40 entrance." Burke County Rescue Squad members assisted by directing traffic, as people arrived to watch the fire.

The hospital's manager, when asked about the water system, noted that other areas of the campus-- those with patients-- had larger water mains. There was also a power failure at the time of the fire, and a pump that supplied water from an underground tank didn't operate. This contributed to the lack of water.

Only engine was able to pump, and a single two-and-a-half inch line could be supplied.

Fire officials called the inside of the chicken house likely "very inflammable," due to the creosote that's sprayed inside each the building was cleaned out. The creosote serves to mitigate mites, dust, and feathers.

Broughton Hospital was built in 1875, and the campus had a fire department from the turn of the century until around 1970

Source: *News Herarld*, December 21, 1972.

Name: (real name preferred)

Remember personal info?

Yes

**Dumpster Fire**

12/13/09 81 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Engine 11 in the rear of apartments on Navahoe Drive. The lighting in the parking lot seemed sufficient, until we started taking pictures. ISO at 1600, program shift mode, camera held steady. No problem for a stationary burning dumpster. Not so good for people in motion, pulling trash lines, grabbing pike poles, etc. Adding the scene lights into the frame helped immensely. Maybe it's time for a new body, one with ISO of 3200 or 6400.



Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
 Yes  
 No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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**Kissinger Funeral Arrangements (Updated)**

12/14/09 123 W - + 10 - 5

Updated with burial and parking information. Arrangements for Lt. Harry P. "Flip" Kissinger VI:

**Visitation**

Tuesday, December 15  
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.  
Richland Creek Community Church  
[3229 Burlington Mills Road](#), Wake Forest

**Funeral**

Wednesday, December 16  
1:00 p.m.  
Richland Creek Community Church

**Burial**

Following funeral  
Pine Forest Cemetery  
[770 Stadium Drive](#), Wake Forest

**Parking**

No special parking for firefighter's personal vehicles. Prepare to be directed to general parking.

Regarding the procession, the Raleigh Fire Department is planning a modest tribute with Flip's engine company as the only participating apparatus.

Finally, a reminder that donations to the Kissinger family can be made at First Citizens Bank branch. Ask for the Kissinger Family Care Fund. The family is the sole beneficiary of all donations.

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**Hamlet Aerial Ladder, 1956**

12/14/09 104 W, 1 I - + 11 - 8

Here's an interesting piece of apparatus, a Dodge/Maxim 65-foot aerial ladder at the Hamlet Fire Department and as pictured in the June 1956 issue of *Hose & Nozzle Magazine*. Mounted on a Dodge chassis, the apparatus was owned by Gibbons Fire Apparatus Company. The town was storing same, and could use the apparatus as needed. Company owner Phil Gibbons was an active member of the department. HFD had two stations that year, with three engines, a pumper-tanker, a rescue truck, and a chief's car. Next question, is that old station shown still standing? Click to enlarge:



*Hose & Nozzle photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
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Yes

No

Comment:

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**Rats Do Start Fires, 1914**

12/14/09 147 W - + 8 - 4

From *North Carolina Department of Insurance News Bulletin* No. 4, circa 1914:

Rats Do Start Fires-Caught in the Act

From the *New York Times*

Rats do sometimes steal matches and start fires. Proof for skeptics:

For an hour yesterday afternoon from nobody knew where sifted smoke through the six story tenement house at 134 Cannon Street, on the East Side. Persistent sniffing traced it to the kitchen of Solomon Lichblaum on the third floor. It was curling through a crack under the sink.

Solomon called the firemen. They tore up the floor and fond a rat's nest made of rags. The rags were smoldering. In another hour the rat family would have had no home.

"All my life people have been telling me that rats are responsible for some tenements fires, but I never believed it until now," said Battalion Chief Helm.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
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Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## Forsyth/Guilford County - Former Departments & Former/Historic Stations

12/14/09 747 W - + 8 - 8

Third of several postings in preparation for Christmas vacation wanderings. Corrections and additions encouraged!

### Forsyth County - Former Fire Departments

- Forest Hill FD - Organized 1953 - Moved 2007 to Stokes County - Disbanded by 2008.
- Forsyth County FD - Appears in NCSFA rosters and DOI directories in 1980 - Was there a county-run FD?
- Hanes Mill FD - Appears in NCSFA rosters from 1949 to 1956 - No other info.
- Mt. Tabor FD - Incorporated 1952 - Merged in 1990s with Vienna FD - No other info.
- Sedge Garden FD - Organized 1949 - Reorganized 1953 as Triangle FD.
- South Fork FD - Organized 1951 - Merged 1990 with Clemmons FD.
- Triangle FD - Organized 1953 - Disbanded 2004 after years of annexations.

### Guilford County - Former Fire Departments

- Battleground FD - Organized 1954 - Merged 2002 with Summerfield FD.
- Bessemer FD - Organized by 1954 - Listed in NCSFA rosters until 1958.
- 10-A FD - Organized 1955 - Reorganized 1980 as Hasty FD.
- Deep River FD - Organized 1959 - Merged 2005 with High Point FD.
- District 3 FD - Listed in NCSFA roster in 1970 - No other info.
- District 5 FD - Listed in DOI directory in 1982 - No other info.
- District 14 FD - Organized 1954 - Merged 2005 with Greensboro FD.
- Friedena FD - Listed in DOI directory in 1972 - No other info.
- Guilford College FD - Organized 1946 - Merged 2001 with Greensboro FD.
- Jamestown FD - Organized by 1955 - Merged 2003 with Pincroft-Sedgefield FD.
- Northeast FD - Appears in DOI directories in 1979 and 1982 - Now Northeast Guilford FD?

### Forsyth County - Former and Historic Fire Stations

- Old Dobson - Crutchfield Street - Built 1965 - Relocated 2000?
- Old Salem Market/Firehouse - Salem Square - Built 1803 - Reconstructed 1853.
- Old Salem Town Hall - 301 S. Liberty Street - Built 1912 - Closed 1976 as part of Winston-Salem Station 2.
- Old Walkertown - 5135 Main Street - Built 1953? - Moved 1999.
- Old Winston-Salem Station 2 - 300 S. Main Street - Built 1959 - Closed 1976 - Presently commercial space.
- Old Winston-Salem Station 2 - 2050 Griffith Road - Built 1980 - Moved 2004 - Presently commercial space.
- Old Winston-Salem Station 4 - 214 N. Dunleith Road - Built 1923 - Moved 1980 - Presently church.
- Old Winston-Salem Station 5 - 450 E. Devonshire - Built 1924 - Moved 1974 - Presently apartments.
- Winston-Salem Station 7 - 100 Arbor Road - Built 1951.

### Guilford County - Former and Historic Fire Stations

- Old Battleground - 5103 Michaux Road - Still standing?
- Old Bessemer - 610 Elwell Avenue - Built 1940 - Closed ? - Presently commercial space.
- Old Colfax - Market Street - Built ? - Moved ?
- Old Fire District 14 - 820 Franklin Boulevard - Built 1960 - Closed 2005 - Presently Greensboro Station 56.
- Old Greensboro Central Station 318 N. Greene Street - Built 1926 - Moved 1980 - Presently hotel space.
- Old Greensboro Sta 3 - 2315 Yanceyville Street - Built 1948 - Moved 1980 - Presently daycare center.
- Old Greensboro Sta 4 - 414 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard - Built 1904-05 - Moved 1964 - Presently community development center.
- Old Greensboro Sta 5 - 549 S. Mendenhall Street - Built 1897 - Moved 1919 - Presently grocery.
- Old Greensboro Sta 5 - 442 S. Mendenhall Street - Built 1919 - Moved 1964 - Presently residence.
- Old Greensboro Sta 5 - 1816 W. Friendly Avenue - Built 1964 - Moved 1992 - Presently salon.

- Old Greensboro Sta 8 - 1735 W. Lee Street - Built 1926 - Moved 1970 - Presently empty?
- Old Greensboro Sta 11 - 2606 Elm- Eugene Street - Built 1960 - Moved 2005 - Presently VFW.
- Old Greensboro Sta 17 - 4614 Lake Brandt Road - Built 1973 - Opened 1984 - Moved 1987 - Presently owned by school.
- Old Guilford College - 6405 Old Oak Ridge Road - Built 2000 - Closed 2001 - Presently Greensboro Station 17.
- Old Guilford College - 201 College Road - Built 1971 - Moved 1987 - Presently church.
- Old Guilford College 302 College Road - Built 1949 - Moved 1971 - Presently residence.
- Old Guil-Rand - South Main Street - Built 1986 - Moved 2001 - Presently auto repair.
- Old High Point Sta 1 - 212 N. Wrenn Street - Built 1905 - Moved 1975 - Presently commercial space.
- Old High Point Sta 4 - 1329 N. Main Street - Built 1925 - Moved 1986 - Presently salon.
- Old High Point Sta 5 - 513 Oakview - Built by 1957 - Moved 1986.
- Old Jamestown Town Hall - 301 E. Main Street - Built 1966 - Moved 2001.
- Old Kernersville - 1780 Union Cross Road - No other info.
- Old Oak Ridge - Linville Road - No other info.
- Old Oakview - 513 Oakview - Built by 1957 - Closed ? - Became High Point Station 5.
- Old Pinecroft-Sedgefield Sta 22 - 5500 block Harvey Road - Built ? - Moved 1984 - Presently storage.
- Old Pinecroft-Sedgefield Sta 25 - 1300 block Bennetts Chapel Road - Built ? - Moved 2003 - Presently church.
- Old Stokesdale - Off Main Street - Presently HVAC business.
- Old Summerfield - 7000 block Summerfield Road - Built ? - Moved 1990 - Presently storage.

Name: (real name  
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Remember personal info?  
Yes  
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Comment:

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## High Pressure Fog Fire Truck For Sale, 1955

12/15/09 89 W, 1 I - + 14 - 8

Here's another *Hose & Nozzle* magazine excerpt, this time an advertisement for a "high pressure fog fire truck" circa 1955. Advertised as an airport crash truck with a heavy-duty piston-type pump and a 400 gallon tank, same is likely a military surplus unit. Probably or certainly 1940s. We can probably identify same at the excellent [Fire Trucks at War](#) web site. Raleigh-Durham Airport's first crash truck was one of those. [Here are a couple pics](#). Click once or twice to enlarge:

**FOR SALE**

**High Pressure Fog  
Fire Truck**



Airport Crash Truck; Ideal  
Rural Fire Truck; Heavy Duty  
Piston Type Pump 400-Gal.  
Water Tank; Fog Foam Dis-  
penser; Fog Gun, Etc.

**\$1200.00**

L. A. REYNOLDS COMPANY  
11 W. 1st St. - Dial 5-3523  
WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

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**Charlotte as Finalist for Social Media Responder of 2009**

12/17/09 184 W, 1 I - + 9 - 4

The [Charlotte Fire Department](#) is one of six finalists for Social Media Responder of 2009, an award sponsored by [PIO Social Media Training](#). The other finalists are Bellevue PD, Chronicles of EMS, Eric Neitzel (Show Low, AZ), Los Angeles Fire, and Montgomery County Fire Rescue.

The Charlotte Fire Department has been actively engaged in social computing for some time, using numerous applications to communicate with the public, news media, fire service news media, and other emergency responders. They've set a high bar both regionally and nationally.

The CFD Office of Public Affairs is operated by Captain Rob Brisley and Captain Mark Basnight. [Vote for them online at the awards site](#). You can vote once every 24 hours. The polls close at midnight on December 29.

Follow the Charlotte Fire Department on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/CharlotteFD>, or read their News and Information Blog at <http://www.charlottefiredept.blogspot.com>.

The [Carolinas Fire Page mailing](#) list passed along this information, which is reprinted nearly verbatim. Thanks to the original author.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

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**AutoStitch**

12/17/09 95 W, 2 I - + 12 - 6

Found a good and insanely easy application for photo stitching the other day. [AutoStitch](#), which has a free demo version available for Windows. Below is a panorama created from several shots from two days after the [Pine Knoll Townes fire](#) of February 2007. Needs a little sharpening, though. [See an earlier version](#) created using PhotoShop Elements. Click once or twice to enlarge.



Updated with a second and more upbeat image. Here's a dam nice view from somewhere in western North Carolina. Can you name the place? Click once or twice to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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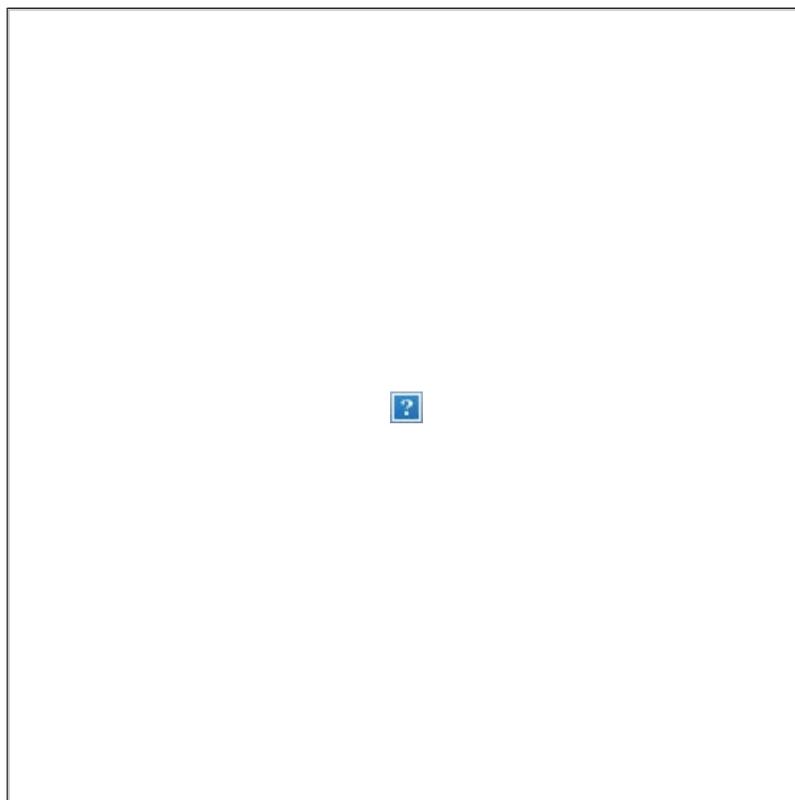
**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

## Close Call For Erwin Firefighters Caught in Flashover

12/17/09 143 W, 1 I - + 7 - 5

[Statter911](#) has surfaced several strong photos from a firefighter close call Monday morning at a house fire at [1105 Denim Drive](#) in Erwin. Brian Haney snapped the shots and wrote the article for the Dunn *Daily Record*. Erwin firefighters Will Gregory and Michael Bradley were inside the 1,282 square-foot structure when they were caught in a flashover. They "tumbled out the front door, rolling on the porch," Haney writes. They were also on fire, as Haney's photos captured. Neither was injured, though their thermal imager's exterior was mostly melted. Dunn Emergency Services and Coats-Grove Fire Department were also on scene. Six family members were displaced by the blaze, which extensively damaged the structure. The house was built in 1920, say county real estate records. Read the [Daily Record account](#). And see more [photos on Statter911](#).



---

whats up with the uncharged handline? Glad Will and Bradley are both ok!!

**JDH** - 12/18/09 - 07:52

Who knows, maybe a water supply wasn't established, maybe they just got it in place. Looks like the tip man is giving a look for water....

**Silver** - 12/18/09 - 12:31

maybe so,,, still dont look good though

**goober** - 12/18/09 - 12:58

it is just amazing that a fire fighter comes out of a house fire on fire and gets hosed off, receives no burns and continues to fight the fire. God was watching after those firemen that day.

picture looks like it could have been far worse than it was.

**charlie** ([Email](#)) - 12/18/09 - 13:04

I think that part of the outcome can be attributed to the many, many advances in PPE. Way back when, that situation would have guaranteed neck and ear burns, and who knows what to the body (I can't really tell a lot from this picture) with the cotton duck outer shells and nylon liners we used to have.

And I still cannot fathom why some guys will take their ear flaps out of their helmets.

Glad everyone is OK. And I think that Silver makes a good point- this is only a momentary snapshot. We don't know what was happening just prior to and just after the picture was taken.

Also glad no one seems to be making snap judgements of line placement, water supply, proper ICS structure, proper ladder placement, etc., etc., etc.

And on that note, I am outta here!

Ya'll have a safe and Merry Christmas. I'll see ya'll around!

Command terminated, clear the TAC, 9-ECHO-1 clear and available!

**DJ** ([Email](#)) - 12/18/09 - 13:41

Sorry DJ, but I gotta say it, and this may not be the case here, but it is an opportune time to discuss. Ventilation is important to help diminish or even avoid flashover situations (vertical, windows, etc.). We as FFs are inclined (or even more significantly... "conditioned") to enter fires all too often before adequate ventilation is established. I feel we mimic our acquired structure live fire training all too often. Now, I too am guilty of his behavior, so this is very objective and reflective. Think about it. I'm glad the guys are safe in Erwin. Slow down, not only on the road, but on the fireground. Stay Safe!

**A.C. Rich** - 12/18/09 - 23:34

On Statter's site, reader comments offer some passionate perspectives on the perils of interpreting the photos and the incident account, as reported by the news. <http://statter911.com/2009/12/17/special..>

**Legeros** - 12/19/09 - 09:06

Well put A.C. Hopefully our new truck ops plan will help establish said ventilation earlier and more aggressively than before, and not just relying on "the fan". It's amazing how fast horizontal venting helps when performed the right way, and in conjunction with the hose team.

**Silver** - 12/19/09 - 10:24

Yep. Statter is all over the place, but no Staubach here, just something for the FF readers to consider in their tactics. Our local "traditional" style of fire attack may need some re-thinking at times. It sure makes me think of my own "fireground behavior" too!

**A.C. Rich** - 12/19/09 - 10:48

My name is Will Gregory I'm the firefighter in the photo that was taken on Monday December 14 2009. Just wanted to say thank you for the comments and concerns that everyone has posted concerning the fire that I was involved in on Monday morning. In my 18 years of service I have had some close calls but nothing like Monday morning, to answer some questions yes there were some problems with some things that could have been corrected. Water Supply wasn't a factor we caught our own line going in, but the experience at the pump panel caused some problems. Understand if you are paid or volunteer you need the knowledge and training to keep up with your skills as a Firefighter or Driver Operator. Some departments are still stuck in old school ways for example knocking out windows as you do your walk-around, without communicating with your suppression crews, becomes a problem with the interior crews inside. Yes the lord was on my side that day and I also feel like I had someone else that was looking over me as well, my true friend and father Connie Beasley. Never take things for granted things can go wrong fast. Thank you all and stay safe.

**Will Gregory** ([Email](#)) - 12/19/09 - 13:41

Thanks for posting Will and I'm glad you're safe and OK! What you guys experienced is something for us all to consider, regardless of what the photos suggests and the critics say. I feel many don't understand what I was indicating earlier ...and it is EXACTLY what you've stated. This incident made ME think about my own approaches on the fireground. Heck, after 25 years, I'm still learning everyday. I hope everyone sees what really being said here and it enhances their safety somehow. R.I.P. Connie Beasley.

**A.C. Rich** - 12/20/09 - 10:40

Will- Glad everyone is alright. The picture looks pretty spectacular.

AC- I think you might have misunderstood me a little. I was not commenting on tactics. I am a little out of the loop on that, having last rode an engine back in 1993. And just for the record, I have been in a couple that were ventilated (supposedly) that flashed over on the first floor. That was pretty spectacular, too. I was just making the observation that this was a snapshot of a moment in a long string of events. Too many times, too many try to make major judgements on thsoe snapshots without knowing what was really going on. The other part of my comment was aimed at the developments in PPE, no matter the tactics, that is has improved a lot and can save your butt when things do go wrong, whether by accident, misfortune, or mismanagement.

And everyone makes the point that we need to keep up the training and education. AC, I have been taking care of people for 34 years and I am STILL learning as well.

Ya'll be safe out there.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/20/09 - 22:20

Nah DJ, we're all on the same sheet here! I figure all who read this posting need to rethink what we do from time to time. I'm not ashamed one bit to say I'm still learning too. There is no such thing as a perfect firefighter! Whew...34 years...you're OLD!!

**A.C. Rich** - 12/21/09 - 17:49

Yep...I AM old. Of course, it is better than the alternative. You just better hope you can hang when you are my age!

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/22/09 - 00:02

You're my hero (don't care what anyone says)!!

**A.C. Rich** - 12/22/09 - 11:12

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Highland Hospital Fires

12/17/09 510 W, 2 I - + 11 - 6

Firenews found this [Citizen-Times story](#) of a fire on the historic grounds of Highland Hospital in Asheville. Arriving units at the old hospice building Tuesday night found flames coming from the roof. The blaze was quickly extinguished with water cans, and contained to one corner of the roof. The building and the grounds were owned by Duke University until the 1980s, and presently serves as office and shopping space.



*John Coutlakis/Citizen-Times Photo*

Highland Hospital was named in 1912, having moved from a downtown location in 1909. The hospital was also the scene of a fatal fire that killed nine patients in 1948. That incident is one of three in the state's history that killed nine people, as happened in Charlotte (1940) and Maxton (1989). Only the Imperial Food Products fire in Hamlet (1991) has exceeded that number of fatalities, killing 25. Below is a quick summary of the 1948 fire in Asheville.



*Courtesy University of North Carolina*

On March 10, 1948 at 1:00 a.m., a fire alarm was received from the Highland Hospital campus on Zillicoa Street. Arriving units found the main hospital building heavily involved with fire. The four-story, wood-frame and stone structure was a sanatorium that treated patients with mental disorders. The windows were covered with bars, and the doors fortified with steel slabs. The arriving crews began both pulling lines, and attempting to rescue patients and staff.

Screams of the trapped women carried across the hospital grounds as doctors, nurses, firemen, and policemen ran through the burning building. Twenty people were rescued, but seven others were trapped on the upper floors and died. Two rescued patients also soon died. One of the victims was the wife of author F. Scott Fitzgerald. Firefighters later recounted how they watched patients die in front of them, as they worked in vain to remove the bars from the windows.

The fire was discovered about midnight, having started in the kitchen of the hospital's main building. The blaze quickly spread to an elevator shaft, and was burning the building's roof when firefighter's arrived. Every available piece of apparatus was sent to the scene, and off-duty firefighters also rushed to the hospital. The blazing building illuminated a large section of the city. Spectators numbered about 1,000, milling about and many wearing pajamas.

The estimated loss was \$300,000. The fire was the third at the hospital in less than year. Two had started in April 1947, one burning a

mattress and the other starting from oily rags under a stairwell

The inquest after the incident praised the firefighters for their actions, despite the area having water problems and the fire department receiving a late alarm. Had the fire alarm been immediately transmitted, no deaths would have likely occurred. What was the size of the Asheville Fire Department in 1948? The department had five stations with five engines, an aerial ladder, and a service ladder. Maybe a third ladder as well. Personnel numbered around 60.

Sources:

A History of the Asheville Fire Department, Jim Causey, 1994.

*Asheville Fire Department*, 2005.

*Florence Morning News*, March 12, 1948, [via web site](#).

*The Robesonian*, March 11, 1948, [via web site](#).

---

Updated with corrected FireNews article link, [http://firenews.net/index.php/news/news\\_..](http://firenews.net/index.php/news/news_..)

**Legeros** - 12/18/09 - 07:31

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Med Sled Assists with Hospital Evacuations

12/18/09 86 W, 1 I - + 13 - 8

Here's an [interesting story from WRAL](#) on the Med Sled, used at WakeMed as an emergency evacuation device. Ten of them are placed around the hospital. They are "rolled up like sleeping bags" and can be quickly deployed to slide patients down stairwells. They were obtained after evacuation drills conducted two years ago found that hospital beds wouldn't fit down stairwells. [Read the story](#). Or learn more about the product on the [Med Sled site](#).



*WRAL photo*

To clarify – 10 MedSleds are placed around patient care floors at WakeMed Cary Hospital. There are many more in patient care areas on WakeMed Raleigh Campus.

**Heather Monackey** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/21/09 - 10:05

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**North Carolina Fire Prevention Bulletin, April 1931**

12/18/09 63 W, 4 I - + 10 - 4

For your Friday enjoyment, here's the April 1931 issue of the *North Carolina Fire Prevention Bulletin*. Same was a publication of the state Fire Prevention Bureau, part of the Department of Insurance. This copy was made at Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina, home of the North Carolina Collection. Click once or twice to enlarge:



Context for this bulletin. The North Carolina Firemen's Association in their 1931 convention proceedings lists 152 membership departments, including a couple non-municipal departments, such as the Oteen Veteran's Hospital in Asheville and the Spencer Shops in Spencer.

Legeros - 12/19/09 - 09:02

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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## Shoes

12/18/09 110 W, 1 I - + 9 - 2

Footware from EMS 15 on Capital Boulevard at this morning's working fire at the Guitar Center. Engine 11 with heavy smoke showing from one-story metal commercial building with 15,641 square-feet. Built 1971. Fire found in the "recording room," as [this WRAL story reports](#). The fire was contained to the room, but the rest of the building suffered significant smoke damage. That story also inaccurately reports that "thirteen fire engines" were on scene, and which have resulted in some colorful reader responses. Units on scene: E11, E19, E7, E9, L2, R1, B1, C10, C20, A1, EMS 15, EMS 16, D1, T1. Pics from Legeros coming.



Here's a flowchart on how to tell if a news story is inaccurate:

Is the story being reported by the news?

|

Yes

|

The story is inaccurate.

**rfburns** - 12/18/09 - 23:50

Figured out where the reference to **13** came from.

If I look at the CFP alert ([www.carolinasfirepage.com](http://www.carolinasfirepage.com)) sent on the incident, I didn't have ALL of the units, just a partial.

I had "E11 E19 E7 L2 R1 BC1 EMS5 T1 D1 EMS16 EMS11 C10 E9" in my alert.

Our stuff goes directly to WRAL. By my count, in the alert, I listed 13 apparatus.

Mystery solved?

[700]

**harkey** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/19/09 - 00:32

honestly thirteen engines would be half or almost half of the city's engine companies.that would be a lot of man power for a 15,000ft building

with fire contained to one room with heavy smoke damage.

**charlie** ([Email](#)) - 12/19/09 - 03:49

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Black Mountain Fire Aid, 1930**

12/19/09 319 W - + 5 - 6

From the *North Carolina Fire Prevention Bulletin*, April 1930:

#### Fire Aid to Black Mountain Township

The Black Mountain Fire Department will be able to respond to alarms from almost any point in Black Mountain township if residents of the township cooperate with the department in putting into effect a plan worked out by the firemen during the past few weeks. The plan involves the purchase of a fast, light truck designed to operate over all roads in any weather, and equipped with a chemical outfit and emergency water pump particularly suited to conditions in the outlying country where water mains and hard surface roads are not available.

Study of the fire department records for the past few years has shown that two out of every three calls come from territory outside the town limits. Despite the fact that the costs of the fire truck and the maintenance of the department are borne by the town of Black Mountain and not by the township, excepting in one or two individual instances, calls outside of the city are cheerfully answered, in many cases however, it is impossible to use the big LaFrance pumper because of the lack of water mains, and at times the heavy truck is unable to reach the fire because of the poor condition of the country roads.

The plan is believed to provide cheap insurance for country residents at the cost estimated, and the firemen are showing their good will in the matter by their offer of better service, and their willingness to assume the additional work and responsibility the additional truck will entail. The firemen plan to start work on their project within the next few weeks.

Did the plan come to fruition? Unknown. The [Black Mountain Fire Department history page](#) makes no mention of the truck, but the above implementation may have also escaped historical record. Perhaps some western readers can advise.

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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([Register your username](#) / [Log in](#))

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**Help Available For Charlotte, 1930**

12/19/09 210 W - + 9 - 6

From the *North Carolina Fire Prevention Bulletin*, January 1930:

Help Available 15 Towns if Fire Hits Charlotte

Charlotte, in the event that the city fire department is rendered helpless by a conflagration such as might easily have resulted from the spectacular gasoline fire here during the past week, can call on 15 neighboring towns within an hour and half, which, coupled with Charlotte equipment, can shoot 60 streams of hose carrying 25,200,000 gallons of water on a fire a day.

Trucks from Mount Holly, Monroe, Concord, Gastonia, Rock Hill, Mooresville, Belmont, and Lincolnton can arrive within an hour, while it only takes a half-hour longer for the Wadesboro, Chester, Salisbury, Statesville, Hickory, Shelby, and Albemarle trucks, he said.

These fire trucks can furnish 44 streams of water pumping 11,100 gallons of water a minute, while Charlotte's eight engine companies, exclusive of truck companies, can supply 26 streams of water carrying 6,500 gallons a minute, a total of 60 streams carrying 17,600 gallons a minute, or 1,056,000 gallons an hour, or 25,344,000 gallons a day.

Hose lines on all but three of the 15 non-Charlotte trucks fit hydrants here and adapters have been purchased for the others.

What was the spectacular gasoline fire referenced by the article? Don't know. Again, maybe readers have some historical information that they can share.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**History and Skeletons**

12/19/09 174 W - + 7 - 5

Found a couple photos of apparatus accidents from the 1950s and 1960s. They're from departments in North Carolina, and depict atypical accidents. Ladder truck tipped over. Bridge broken by another ladder truck. Neither resulted in fatalities, nor serious injuries. The photographs are compelling, and for a couple reasons. Historical perspective. Uniqueness of incident. But Mr. Blogger has stayed his hand.

His sympathetic side sees that even forty and fifty years out, these are still skeletons. At their time, the accidents were probably well known. Today, they're likely forgotten, except in the lore of the local department(s).

What's the value in presenting them today? Don't know. If we were, say, compiling a book on the history of firefighting in the state, such pictures would be part of the mosaic. As incidental (ha) blog postings-- even in a season of heavy historical research-- they're far more out of context.

What's the statute of limitations on skeletons? And how useful is the occasional opening of closets containing same? It's a good question.

---

Everyone (and every department) has done some pretty stupid sh\*\* over the years. If you say otherwise, you are fibbing! I'd say the statute of limitations is limited to immediate memory. And even then, if nothing really constructive can come of it, then file 'em away.

DJ ([Email](#)) - 12/19/09 - 10:42

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Newport Fire Department, 1956**

12/19/09 89 W, 1 I - + 12 - 5

From *Hose & Nozzle* magazine, April 1956. Caption reads "Newport, N.C. firemen demonstrate their 1,200 gallon tanker, reworked from an Army-surplus gas truck." And to which the editor adds that other departments are in the process of rebuilding the same types of surplus equipment. Indeed, we saw nearly identical trucks in Wake County, on the rosters of the Cary and Sixk Forks Road fire departments. 'Twas the first rural fire apparatus for many departments at the time. [Click to enlarge:](#)



*Hose & Nozzle photo*

Bet that truck handled nicely

**Olson** - 12/20/09 - 21:06

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

## Wilmington Fire Boat, 1956

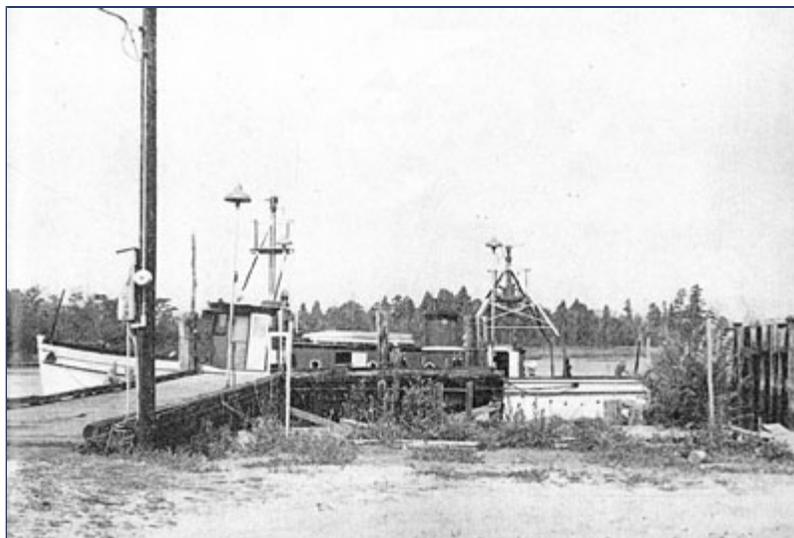
12/19/09 248 W, 1 I - + 13 - 6

The cover of *Hose & Nozzle* magazine, July 1956, featured this photo of Wilmington's fire boat Atlantic. The magazine also included a feature on the Wilmington Fire Department, which tells that the boat was built in Brownsville, Texas, in 1943, for "government patrol duty." The city acquired same in 1949, and the craft was "literally stripped" in conversion to a fireboat.

The specs: 65-foot wood hull. 230 HP Superior diesel engine. 44-inch propeller with 36-inch pitch. Two Mack 150 HP gasoline marine engines driving two 1,000 GPM two-stage Hale pumps. Capacity in excess of 2,500 GPM. Pump delivered through headers to eight 2 1/2-inch outlets, plus two tower-mounted deluge guns. The tower nozzles had "full transverse and elevation controls."

At one time, the boat answered within a district, as any engine company did. By 1956, it was special-called. The pilot was kept on duty at the dock station house. When he received an alarm, he "warm[ed] the engines, [took] aboard two men from a land company to serve as deckhand and engineer, and report[ed] to the scene of the fire."

Wilmington's first fire boat, the original Atlantic, was placed in service in 1907. It consisted of the boiler and pump from a steam fire engine in a wooden craft and propelled by a two-cylinder Globe gasoline engine. Speed of 8 miles per hour. Atlantic II was placed in service in 1914. The below boat was thus named Atlantic III. Click to enlarge:



*Hose & Nozzle photo*

Sanborn Maps from 1955 show the fire boat station as a two-story building sitting apparently in the center of Grace Street, just prior to the river. That year the fire department had six stations, 87 firemen, and three chiefs. Apparatus were 7 engines, one aerial ladder, and the aforementioned fire boat.

**Legeros** - 12/19/09 - 10:20

Old, then new.

The newest Wilmington Fire Department Fire Boat-Renamed Atlantic 5.

<http://farm2.static.flickr.com/1309/9740..>

**Ryan Young** - 12/19/09 - 18:44

**1972 Mack For Sale**

12/19/09 35 W, 1 I - + 8 - 8

From a reader, here's a 1972 Mack CF pumper for sale in Charlotte. Pretty cheap, it seems. Six-cylinder turbo diesel. Bright yellow paint scheme. You know you want one. [Read the listing.](#)



Interesting! This truck used to belong to the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at UNC-Charlotte. It was bought supposedly by the incoming pledges and they went to the BJW Vol. Fire Co in Pennsylvania to pick it up. I certainly wouldn't buy it after some drunk frat guys "decorated" and pretty much trashed it.

**BFD1151** - 12/21/09 - 23:14

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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**Caption This Photo**

12/19/09 22 W, 1 I - + 11 - 8

Taken with Lee's camera at the Explorer banquet a couple weeks ago:



Magnum P.I. makes cameo appearance at Explorer banquet.

**091504** - 12/20/09 - 16:31

"Hey kid, you'll shoot your eye out"!!!

**JDH** - 12/20/09 - 22:51

Name: (real name  
preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**Firematic Flea Market in Review**

12/19/09 194 W - + 11 - 7

Last month, the first firematic flea market in our area was attempted as part of an anniversary celebration at Western Wake Fire Rescue. The event was scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the ceremony at high noon. The flea market lasted a solid four hours. How did it go? It was a wee success.

There were a handful of vendors, including Mr. Blogger. One seller brought a trailer-based apparel booth. Two sellers brought a bunch of antique and old equipment, including signs, extinguishers, light bars, and even a vintage stretcher!

One charter member of the Western Boulevard Fire Department brought a spotlight from the original Wbfd engine! How cool is that?

Traffic was mild, maybe two or three dozen people browsing and buying. Some attended specifically for that portion of the day's events.

Who's ready for the next one? With a little more hype and a few more sellers, this could be a fun and perhaps regularly occurring feature in or around Wake County.

What's needed? First, a venue. Second, a sponsor. Third, some people. Well, and smart scheduling. Seasonable weather, no competing events, etc.

Any takers?

---

Any time, as long as it is not an A shift day...

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/20/09 - 22:12

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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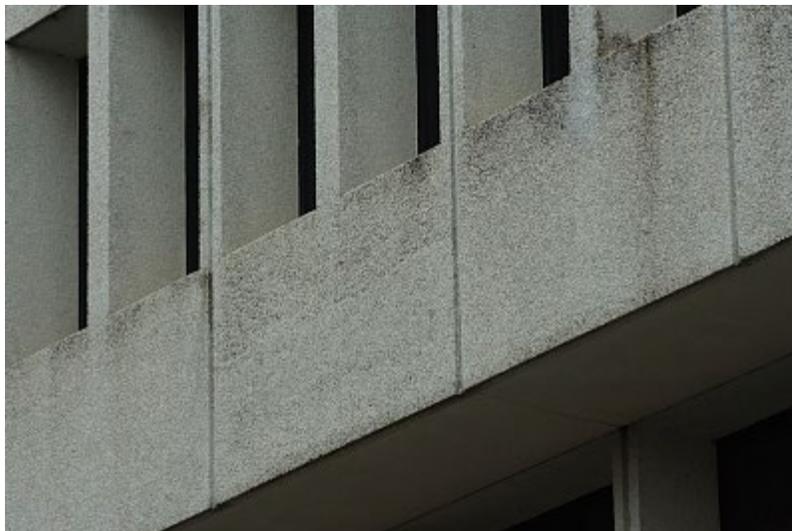
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

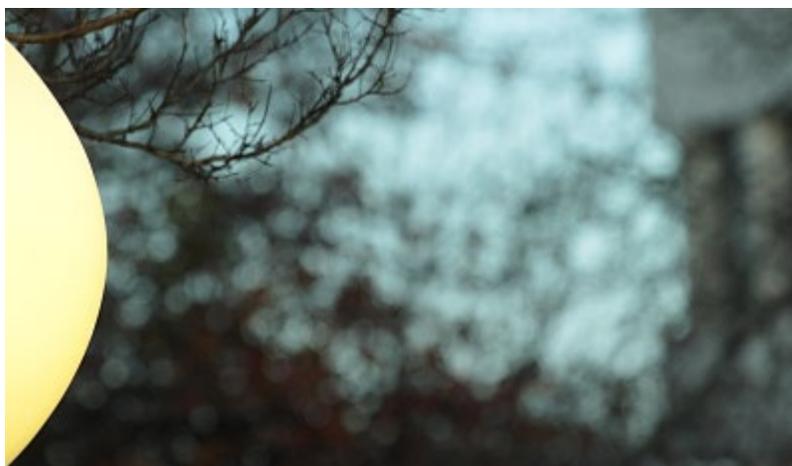
## Mystery Building

12/19/09 35 W, 2 I - + 8 - 8

We're overdue for mystery photos. Recognize this building in Raleigh?



Here's a second image, to help things along...



---

building beside wake county courthouse

**anonymous** - 12/19/09 - 17:13

It does look like that downtown building, doesn't it? But it's not downtown.

**Legeros** - 12/19/09 - 17:42

Its a building on NC States campus

**NCSU Student** - 12/19/09 - 19:20

Rex Hospital?

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 12/19/09 - 20:27

Not Rex.

But it is within long walking distance of a college.

**Legeros** - 12/19/09 - 22:31

Is it at the fairgrounds?

**rfburns** - 12/20/09 - 00:30

Kerr Scott?

**Silver** - 12/20/09 - 00:42

I thought Kerr Scott, too, but Googled some pictures of it and it doesn't seem to match. I feel like I see this darn building every day, though. Like it's on the tip of my tongue...

**rfburns** - 12/20/09 - 00:50

I think maybe on DDH campus

**WWhite** - 12/20/09 - 10:08

Wake Health Services Building beside Wake Tech HSC campus

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 12/20/09 - 17:26

Is this building on Oberlin??????????

**Silver** - 12/20/09 - 17:56

Second photo added.

**Legeros** - 12/20/09 - 18:07

SECU HQ?

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 12/21/09 - 12:14

More clues? Another picture? Stalemate?

**rfburns** - 12/21/09 - 20:52

The building is, I believe, visible from an interstate.

**Legeros** - 12/21/09 - 23:29

Still unsolved? This should give it away. The building is the following driving distance from the following fire stations:

Station 6 – 3.0 miles

Station 9 – 4.4 miles

Station 14 – 0.6 miles

Can you triangulate and solve?

**Legeros** - 12/22/09 - 20:32

North Carolina Museum of Art is the only thing that I can think of that would match those distances and clues... probably wrong, though.

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 12/22/09 - 21:05

2610 Wycliff Road

**Station 9** - 12/22/09 - 23:07

Google Earth much?

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 12/23/09 - 00:10

No, not Google Earth...it's called pre-planning and knowing your territory.

**Station 9** - 12/23/09 - 10:46

Touche.

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 12/23/09 - 12:23

Okay, so help the rest of us out... what is the building at 2610 Wycliff Rd? I'm formerly with EMS around the county — we don't have first-dues like Fire does...

**CJS** ([Email](#)) - 12/23/09 - 12:31

It's an office building that used to house Progress Energy back when they were called CP&L, if not mistaken.

Beach, don't be so sensitive! We're sorry you guessed repeatedly without success. You would have figured it out eventually, there aren't too many buildings in Raleigh you didn't mention. haha Just kidding with you, stop by and see us sometime brother!

**Station 9** - 12/23/09 - 15:01

LOL! You got me! It's cool, I only cried for a few mins.....

**Beach** ([Email](#)) - 12/23/09 - 15:37

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

## Apparatus Deliveries, 1971

12/20/09 61 W, 1 I - + 10 - 9

Here's another historical treat, from the November-December 1971 issue of *Hose & Nozzle* magazine. Darley and Bean apparatus deliveries from around North Carolina. Wonder who the dealer was? Our own Wake-New Hope FD is pictured. And two of the departments are since defunct: Western Carolina University and Yadkin Road. Click once or twice to enlarge:



*Hose & Nozzle photos*

Don't know about the Bean or Darley but I know my volunteer department had a Howe which I see like the one above and it was sold by then Lee Fire Equipment out of Kinston, NC.

**car3550** - 12/20/09 - 21:40

Lee Fire Equipment sold Howe for years, then Pierce. Their main sales guy was Pete Dixon. Slagle sold John Bean, later FMC, and their main sale guy was AC Hall. CW Williams sold Darleys, I think, and later Zimmerman-Evans.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/20/09 - 21:57

The Reems Creek truck is still in-service, although more or less as a parade piece now. The yellow WCU Ford/Darley is also still around, owned by Cullowee VFD.

**BFD1151** - 12/21/09 - 23:19

Hmmmmmm. Wonder if Cullowee FD is descended from WCU FD?

**Legeros** - 12/21/09 - 23:28

That is entirely possible Mike, I really do not know much about that area.

**BFD1151** - 12/21/09 - 23:43

Holly Springs' 1st brand new pumper was a John Bean just like the ones shown above. It was a 1972 model that was still in service in 1995 when I moved to Apex. It had two pumps on it, a 750 GPM two stage pump and a high pressure piston pump. I learned to drive fire apparatus on that truck and pumped many a brush fire on that thing. It was a blast to drive once you learned how to go through the gears!

**Donaldson** - 12/22/09 - 00:30

I think the HS pumper is no more. Seems like they converted it to a rescue truck of sorts. I think it has gone to the happy firehouse in the sky. There were a BUNCH of those John Beans around. F-V had two or three, NH had at least one, WF had some, BL had one, Yrac had one,

## Describe This Smoke

12/20/09 105 W, 1 I - + 9 - 7

Surrounded by scanners at home, at work, and in the car, Mr. Blogger listens to a *lot* of fires. Or at least as many workers as happen in Raleigh and Wake County. And with each working fire comes at least one description of smoke conditions. Might be arriving units. Might be command. The most popular adjectives are probably "heavy" and "thick." Below is a random smoke shot. How would you describe it? And how does your description differentiate from other types of smoke conditions? Share your vocabulary. Have a vowel movement.



I'd mark it a working fire with light smoke showing from the front of div.2.

**RescueRanger** - 12/20/09 - 20:07

Definitely a working fire, but wouldn't add on the "light smoke". Not trying to start a pissing contest "RR", just saying it's my opinion. My justification is because you've got smoke showing from multiple floors...

**Silver** - 12/20/09 - 20:44

Let me clarify my question. How would you describe the smoke coming from the front top floor? What words would you use?

No matter if arriving or already on scene.

**Legeros** - 12/20/09 - 20:47

Does that include commenting on what appears like positive pressure ventilation happening?

**slayer** - 12/20/09 - 21:26

Well, 'light' is the opposite of 'heavy'. And since there doesn't appear to be lots of smoke, and what there is is paler in colour than (I guess) it could be, I think RR is spot on.

But I also drive a desk for 12 hours a day, so what the hell do I know? :)

**Paul** - 12/20/09 - 21:29

In the vocabulary of Dave Dodson ("The art of smoke reading")...light, volume pushed, smoke...would I use that on the radio? No. Especially in this area. But that's definitely what it looks like. I could be very wrong though, seeing as how in a still shot you can't really judge its velocity and

other determining characteristics.

**KOM** - 12/20/09 - 22:20

Well...way back when it would be "10-23, CODE TWO, CONDITION RED!" (yelled into the radio). When I was in Maryland in the 90s it would have been "on location, smoke showing sector A, passing command". But I am like Paul, except that I start IVs and stuff 24-36 hours at the pop, so what do I know.

**DJ** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/20/09 - 22:26

I believe it isn't "heavy" smoke but there is a moderate amount to make it more than "light" I would keep the radio traffic detailed enough to pass along proper information, but brief enough as not to ramble...and in a professional, non-yelling manner.

**rookie** - 12/21/09 - 07:41

Well put Rook'...definitely not heavy, nor light. Sort of hard to determine the rate at which it's "pushing" from the 2nd floor by a picture. Closer to the window, it does still have a darker color which would tell us all that there's still a little somethin' goin' on! Looks like they had a fire on the first (look at A/B corner window) and maybe this is extension to the second or smoke venting from PPV.

Since we're just "havin' fun" with the pic, and we can learn something from EVERY job we take in; if the smoke was indeed a result of PPV, both windows on the upper should be open, preferably from the top. If not, open them both up from the bottom, as high as they'll go. Great job putting a ground ladder in place for egress. My opinion on ground ladder placement; if the job is big enough for us to be throwing ladders, I'm going to make an opening for those crews inside as well. If the "you know what" hits the fan, I'd prefer my Brothers and Sisters to be able to just bail out, versus having to tangle with taking out a window, and then bailing out. Glass is cheap, and that's why they have insurance. Our safety is paramount!

**Silver** - 12/21/09 - 11:27

Im also a fan of the above mentioned taking of the window. Sashes shouldnt get in the way of rapidly exiting firefighters. That being said. Bestfirefightervideo.com has a video of what appears to be an OVM attempt gone wrong. Im not sure why he takes the windows but theres arguments on both sides for keeping the glass and taking it.

**Devilsadvocate** - 12/21/09 - 13:42

Wow!!! Watched the video, thanks for sharing. Definitely a great example of where not to vent horizontally when no line is on the fire yet. The point is to draw the fire/heat/smoke/steam away from the advancing line, not to them!

Training is a priority versus just taking windows all over. If you had a knockdown, and a line or two on the fire, if your guys are getting steamed hard, let them take some from inside and/or communicate with your OVM on where to take them out. Taking those windows, he brought everything that was still burning right to him. And to think, the comments during the video said three guys were doing a primary!! Also, watch at around 7:28 on the video, it appears there's a line inside making a push due to the steamover you see. Then, guys come around FROM THE OUTSIDE and start flowing water. That's a "situation" they've got there....

**Silver** - 12/21/09 - 14:34

Coordinating vent with attack is something I feel we are all weak in. Jeff, will the upcoming RFD Ladder Ops guidelines/procedure address this deficiency? ...or take a stab at placing a greater emphasis on coordinating these efforts?

**A.C. Rich** - 12/21/09 - 17:59

Cap'.....while the new ladder ops procedures will definitely meet some resistance due to change, you'll see more communication in this area, no doubt. The new directives/training manual will help us to operate more efficiently on the fireground when it comes to truck ops, incorporating the rescues too. Members, especially those with experience, will definitely have to be on their "A-game", because they might have to make a few decisions on their own based on their training and knowledge when it comes to venting (O.V. position). But, communicating said moves to the interior will be "muy importante" as well, and members will be trained in their new expectations in due time.

**Silver** - 12/21/09 - 20:51

Thanks!! I am looking forward to the changes because we definitely need it. It is my hope that "function will follow function" in this case and the other departments in Wake Co. will hopefully model the same approach. This situation is one where a real positive change can be made in our fireground operations.

**A.C. Rich** - 12/21/09 - 21:01

I agree 100%.

**Silver** - 12/21/09 - 22:18

## Legeros Fire Blog Archives 2006-2015 - Westarea Station 10 < Describe This Smoke > How To Organize a Vol... to Close in Cumberland County

### Westarea Station 10 to Close in Cumberland County

12/20/09 86 W - + 10 - 4

FireNews has surfaced a [Fayetteville Observer article](#) on the planned closure of a Cumberland County fire station. Westarea Fire Department Station 10 at 4820 Rosehill Road will close on December 31. The department's board has determined that maintaining the station is not feasible, reports the *Observer*. Once the station closes, the area will be protected by county contract with the Fayetteville Fire Department. The closure leaves WFD with two other stations. [Read the article](#), which includes a number of interesting reader comments.

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
Yes  
No

Comment: / [Textile](#)

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## How To Organize a Volunteer Fire Department, 1970

12/20/09 302 W - + 7 - 6

From the March-April 1970 edition of *Hose & Nozzle* magazine, and as prepared by the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau.

1. Have a meeting of interested persons.
2. Elect a steering committee.
3. Decide whether to form a tax district (G.S. 69-25) or public subscription district (G.S. 153.9 (39)). Consult county attorney.
4. Decide best location for fire station.
5. Measure on automobile speedometer 3 miles distance on each road from fire station location.
6. Obtain a State Highway Commission map of county with scale of 1 inch - 1 mile and place these points on each road on map. Show the manes of roads as well as state numbers.
7. Write a description of the boundaries of the district using these points. Avoid reference to properties, such as "John Stone's store," "The Old Fisher Place", or "Tim Brown's house."
8. Determine if your Board of County Commissioners has taken steps toward forming a central County Fire Commission. If not, this must be done.
9. Refer to the minimum requirements for personnel, equipment, and alarm previously set forth in this publication.
10. Form and incorporate the fire department, and if other than tax district, start raising funds.
11. Submit map and description of boundaries to this bureau for comments before adoption by the County Commissioners. This may prevent doing this over to correct errors. Show location of the fire station on the map.
12. Have Board of County Commissioners establish the district boundaries.
13. Obtain minimum equipment and provide proper housing.
14. Start training firefighters. Ask for help from other fire departments.
15. Request this bureau for inspection, stating that all standards have been met, giving information as to what has been provided on Rural Fire District Data Sheet which will be furnished on request. Send copy of approved boundary description and map with request for inspection.

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

## Dog Plays Smoke Detector, Saves Family in Zebulon

12/21/09 101 W - + 10 - 7

Death didn't collect four clients in Zebulon this morning, after the family dog alerted the father of three children that their house was on fire. As [this WRAL story reports](#), the residence at 515 Derby Place did not have working smoke detectors. The family of four was asleep around 3:45 a.m. when the fire started. The father was awakened by the dog, Maggie, as the house was filling with smoke. The four escaped without injury, but their home was rendered unlivable. [Read the story](#), then get cracking on checking your smoke detectors.

---

Fire Alarm does work here at my place but I also have this as a front line defense as well: <http://idek.net/pQz>  
That would be my "Bongo Alarm".

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/21/09 - 23:22

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
No

Comment:

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## Cary's New Engines

12/21/09 32 W, 1 I - + 7 - 9

Two Pierce Velocity 1500/500/30 pumpers were delivered to the Cary Fire Department today. Below is the factory pic. Better shots and specs forthcoming.



nice apparatus.

**charlie** - 12/22/09 - 11:42

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

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Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

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**Draper Chemical Car, 1955**

12/21/09 134 W, 1 I - + 11 - 5

The October 1955 issue of *Hose & Nozzle* magazine featured this picture of a 1919 Ford Model "T" / American LaFrance chemical car that appears to be the first fire truck of the Draper Fire Department. They were organized in 1948 as a private corporation, the magazine notes, protecting a community of approximately 4,000 people. Draper was incorporated as a town in 1949, and the fire department turned over its assets to the town in 1953, but still retained some influence.

In 1955, the department had 27 men, including two paid personnel, and a 1948 Chevrolet / Oren pumper as the primary engine. Another photos shows a utility panel van in the fleet. Draper Fire Department merged with Leaksville and Spray fire departments to form Eden FD, after the communities merged in 1967. Click to enlarge:



*Hose & Nozzle photo*

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

**Spray Fire Department, 1955**

12/22/09 276 W - + 11 - 6

Speaking of what were once called the Tri-Cities in Rockingham County, Hose & Nozzle magazine featured the Spray Fire Department their October 1955 issue. They were formed in 1950 as a community effort to promote fire protection. In 1951 the town was incorporated, and the private corporation fire department turned over its apparatus and equipment.

By 1955, they had two stations sitting next to each other. Both were built by firemen, one funded by public subscription, and the other using town-furnished materials. Though the article doesn't say so, these were probably serving separate town and rural districts.

Apparatus consisted of a 1954 American LaFrance pumper, 750/150, with 1,250 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose, 300 feet of 1 1/2-inch hose, 150 feet of booster hose; and a 1947 Ford pumper with a second Chrysler engine powering a 500 GPM pump and equipped with a 1,000 gallon water tank. Other equipment included two air packs, and two-way radios on each truck.

Alarms were received by telephone, over a party-line that was monitored day and night. An electric siren notified the 31 volunteers of fire calls. Water was supplied by 127 hydrants, which were part of a water system that was interconnected with Leaksville and Draper.

The three departments answered calls with each other, and cooperated so closely that "they actually function almost as a single unit." When the merged city of Eden was created in 1967, the three fire departments merged. SFD became EFD Station 2.

That is, the municipal fire districts merged.

Leaksville Rural FD and Draper Rural FD operate today. Were they formed post-merger? Don't know. Spray Rural FD was organized in 1984 and operated until an unknown time. When disbanded, its rural district was split between LRFD and DRFD.

---

Eden FD's fire district extends 2 miles out from the actual city limits. Draper Rural is housed in the same station as Eden station 2, while Leaksville rural has a new station a couple of miles outside of Eden. I don't think Spray rural existed any after Eden incorporated (they would have had no fire district). I don't know for sure, but I don't believe the "rural" designations came until after the formation of Eden from the 3 separate towns.

**Jason** ([Web Site](#)) - 11/21/10 - 14:08

Also, Spray FD's building (district is now served by Eden station 3), doesn't exist (as least as a fire station) anymore. Eden station 3 is a newer station. However, Eden station 1 uses Leaksville FD's old building and the same for station 2 and Draper.

**Jason** - 11/21/10 - 14:12

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## Hillsborough Fire Department History?

12/22/09 215 W - + 7 - 7

Closer to home, let's ponder the history of the Hillsborough Fire Department. They were originally named Hillsboro FD, and appear in NCSFA rosters as early as 1930. There was no fire department in 1924, as Sanborn Maps indicate. The town name was also shorter.

By 1943, says Sanborn, the volunteer department had a chief, asst. chief, and 18 men. Their apparatus was a 1937 Chevrolet/Barton 500/100. The fire alarm was electric siren. The fire station was located on or near the northwest corner of King and Churton streets.

HFD appears in NCSFA rosters through at least 1995. Then what happened? The town today is protected by Orange Rural Fire Department, which was organized in 1968<sup>1</sup>. They moved into an old car dealership on South Churton Street in 1976, which the town purchased for their use. ORFD added paid personnel in 1996 and started providing 24/7 paid coverage one year later. [Read their history.](#)

What happened then to the Hillsborough Fire Department? Readers, please expand accordingly.

<sup>1</sup>The March-April 1968 issue of *Hose & Nozzle* magazine further muddies this history. That year, leading citizens launched plans to create a volunteer fire department to replace the "present 17-year old system." The proposed coverage area extended several miles from town. And the current Hillsborough Rural Fire Department would continue to respond to outside calls.

---

That's about the time OSFM said you shouldn't have 2 department's with one organizational structure. As for the specifics I will have to defer to some of the Orange County folks. Mark Gordon who does a lot of the vehicle lettering and goldleafing is a past chief there and could provide some information if you run in to him.

**D.Cates** - 12/23/09 - 21:55

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
No

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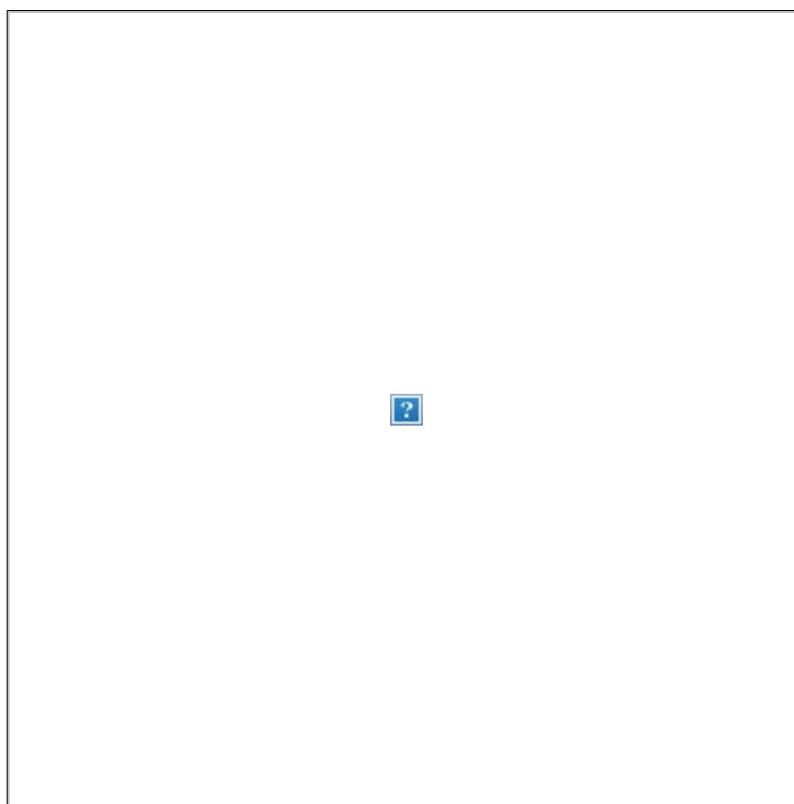
Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

## Raleigh City Council Faces Vote on Public Safety Center

12/22/09 184 W, 1 I - + 9 - 5

Today's *News & Observer* talks about the January 5 meeting of the Raleigh City Council, where they're decide to proceed with construction of the Clarence E. Lightner Public Safety Center. The price tag of \$205 million, making the building the city's most expensive, means a likely property tax increase for funding. Giving the green light means good and bad. Construction costs and interest rates are down. As is the economy, which presumably won't be helped by higher taxes<sup>1</sup>.

The 17-story, 300,000 square-foot building will place the city's fire, police, emergency communications, traffic operations, and IT departments under one roof. The city has already spent over \$20.8 million on associated costs, including design work and purchasing two buildings to temporarily relocate police operations. The new building will be located on the site of the present police station at the corner of Hargett and McDowell streets. [Read the entire article.](#)



*News & Observer/Klingstubbins image*

<sup>1</sup>This blogger is neither an economist nor plays one on television. Is that an accurate statement of mine about the impact of higher taxes?

Name: (real name  
preferred)

Remember personal info?

**Firefighters Struck on Interstate in Buncombe County**

12/22/09 61 W - + 8 - 8

[FireNews](#) reports that the *Asheville Citizen-Times* reports that [two Enka-Candler firefighters were injured](#) on Interstate 40 last night. They were working at an accident scene at mile marker 46, near the junction of I-240, when they were struck by another car. The firefighters were hospitalized, but the extent of their injuries had not yet been reported.

Both firefighters were released early this morning, <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/200..>

One was hospitalized twice that day, having suffered smoke inhalation at a house fire earlier!

**Legeros** - 12/22/09 - 19:58

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

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Comment:

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**Feasibility of Police-Fire Consolidation in Gastonia, 1976**

12/22/09 195 W, 1 I - + 9 - 3

'Tis indeed the season for history here at Blog Central. From the North Carolina Collection at Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina comes this *Report to the Manager: Feasibility of Police-Fire Consolidation in the City of Gastonia*. Dated June 1976, the document presents perspectives on new programs to "maximize the manpower of both the police and fire departments" and thus increase their service levels.

The 35-page report is a nifty snapshot into public safety programs, which had their heyday in the 1970s. Some 125 municipalities around the country were using them by 1976. The report lists different types of public safety programs. There's also an fascinating "fact sheet" based on Durham's experiences with the program, as well as case studies of both Peoria, IL, and Boulder, CO.

From then to now, cities and towns that have utilized public safety officers-- personnel performing both police and fire duties-- have included Butner (still active), Chapel Hill, Durham, Knightdale (still active), Morganton (still active), Washington, and Winston-Salem. Who else?

Did Gastonia adopt the program? Don't know.

[Read the document](#)  (PDF, 2.9M)

Havelock?

**Silver** - 12/22/09 - 20:30

Long Beach, NC, prior to the consolidation of those municipalities into the town of Oak Island, had a PSO, program. RDU looked at it and even had firefighters riding around with police officers at night for a while. Holly Springs also did it for a little while recently.

**DJ** - 12/25/09 - 11:28

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
No

Comment:

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Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.

**Surplus Equipment, 1970**

12/22/09 18 W, 1 I - + 11 - 2

Contact your local Civil Defense director. From *Hose & Nozzle* magazine, January-February 1970. Click to enlarge:



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

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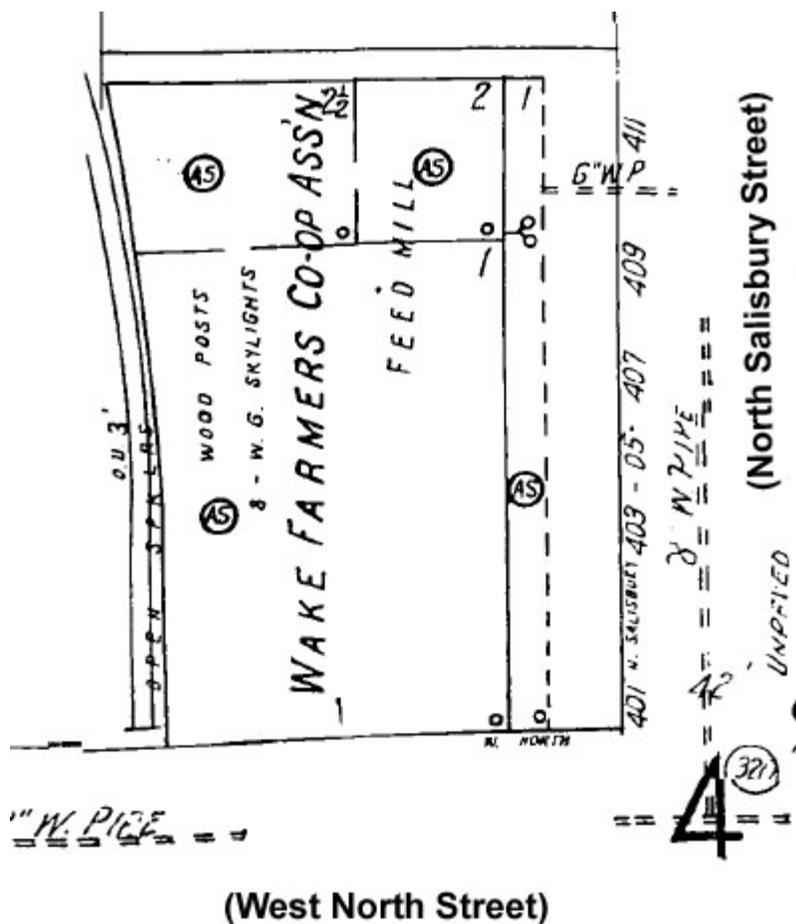
## Mystery History (Updated)

12/25/09 59 W, 2 I - + 9 - 5

Ready the wayback machine! What and where was this Raleigh structure? Photo circa 1971. This image appears courtesy of the Elizabeth Reid Murray Collection at [Olivia Raney Local History library](#). More about that fantastic collection, and images therein, later.



Here's the answer:



Cargill?

**KOM** - 12/22/09 - 21:17

No takers? Same has been updated with a 1950 Sanborn Map drawing. The building is the Wake Farmer's Cooperative Association feed mill, at the northwest corner of Salisbury and North streets.

**Legeros** - 12/25/09 - 16:04

i dont remember this huge thing. wow.

**lee** - 12/25/09 - 17:08

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Comment:

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

/ [Textile](#)

**More About Cary's New Engines**

12/22/09 98 W, 1 I - + 8 - 6

Two 2009 Pierce Velocity pumpers, each with 1,500 GPM Waterous, single-stage pump; 500-gallon water tank; Husky 12 foam system with 30-gallon Class A and 25-gallon Class B foam cells; Detroit Series 60, 515 HP engine; Allison 6 speed transmission; TAK-4 suspension; front and side air bags; seat-belt monitoring system; Harrison 8 KW hydraulic generator; Whelen light package; LED compartment lighting; backboard compartment on hose bed cover; lights on hose bed cover; through-tank ladder storage; speedlays, the first for Cary pumpers. Expected in service in late January. [See more photos by Legeros.](#)



Anyone know if Cary will be hiring soon?

**091504** - 12/22/09 - 21:49

Does anyone use two-stage pumps anymore? Not that I am suggesting it, my curiosity got going when I read the part about a single stage pump. There are only a few departments I know of that have dual stage pumps and those are pretty dated. I know with advances in fire pumps it has probably phased them out a little but I didn't know if anyone had any specific reasons. Some of you experienced guys (not to be confused with old) chime in.

**rookie** - 12/23/09 - 06:48

Rookie, the actual reason for two-stage (and multi-stage for that matter) is to get more pressure by allowing pressurized water to flow from one impeller to the other, there by stacking (not exactly but you get the point) the pressure. Centrifugal pumps are capable of pumping significant volume at pressure, after a point (generally 150psi for fire service purposes) you begin to lose volume capacity with pressure. Conversely, a 1000 gpm pump rated at 150psi can give more than that volume but at lower pressures. As a note to this, this is at draft, so if you are using a pressurized hydrant system you could do even more volume and pressure if the system had the volume capacity.

As for the reason for two-stage pumps. If you need pressure you use series/pressure mode and the engine doesn't have to work as hard. Conversely, if you need volume you let the impellers work in parallel/volume mode. As for why you see less these days, the modern diesel engine is capable of its horse power output at much lower RPM's than the gas engines of the early fire service years and into the 1970's. The 1980 and later diesels you see with two stage pumps are usually due to the previous necessity that was continued (tradition?) on new acquisitions. You can still find them in use today. In the early 1990's when the Bank of America building in Charlotte was built Charlotte FD ordered 2 E-One engines with two stage pumps that were custom designed by Hale to deliver 600 psi if I remember correctly. They wanted to be able to pump the towers in the event the fire pumps failed in the building. I don't think I would want to be around that pump or the FD connection and supply hose if they had to use it.

**D.Cates** - 12/23/09 - 21:51

I think another factor is the cost savings of a single stage versus a two-stage pump. Cates, isn't there a significant difference between the price of the two?

**Dean Witter** - 12/24/09 - 07:45

I'm sure there is a difference since you are dealing with two impellers, volutes/housings and the change over valve. But the amount I can't exactly say, my guess would be \$2K-3K difference. It's been so long since I sold trucks and in the 4 years I did, I never sold a two-stage.

**D.Cates** - 12/24/09 - 11:40

Cool, here is a question for somebody, "what kind of pumps do the big cities like New York, Chicago and others have to pump on their high rises". I heard someone say Chicago has a couple pumpers that can pump crazy pressures but i cant remember!

Thanks and be safe over the holiday! Merry Christmas!

**jason lane** - 12/25/09 - 00:59

Great looking trucks. Congrats to Cary FD! Some departments (i.e. FDNY) have three-stage pumps and/or tandem pump to overcome elevation issues. I know many already know this aspect, but you can "tandem pump" with two single-stage pumps to create a "two stage" set up; or create a "four stage" layout with dual two-stage pumpers interconnected. Caution to the discharge gauge lines – sometimes gauge lines may blow off as you extend to higher pressures (plastic gauge lines are a weak link)! The pumps and fittings are tested to 500psi (NFPA 1901) and should withstand the extra pressure, but there is a pucker factor present (like Chief Cates said). HO-HO-HO.....MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL!!

**A.C.Rich** - 12/25/09 - 09:13

Several years ago I had a conversation with a FDNY Battalion Chief about high rise rigs in Manhattan. He told me that there are several rigs that are capable of very high pressure ( 700 psi's) but to his knowledge they had never been used due to possible damage that could be caused to the stand pipe systems when charged. Further, he told me that you needed permission from a Battalion Chief to flow these units at such pressures. I guess asking permission prior to hooking to the system.( wonder if they believe in the "asking forgiveness then permission" clause ) I know of one of these units. E-54 has a Ferrara High pressure rig. FDNY.....Home of the seagraves, getting Ferrara rigs with every bid.....

**Chris Gibbons** ([Email](#)) - 12/26/09 - 19:30

I work for Mo'ville and have seen those trucks. They are really nice. I got a question though. I have noticed on the new trucks that LDH discharges and deck guns have crank handles. I am assuming for how slow you can open them. Is this some new NFPA regulation or just how the county trucks were spec so thats what everybody went with? By the way, kudos to A.C. for mixing in the words "pucker factor". Any time you do that you get extra points!

**Spanky** - 12/27/09 - 12:15

The slower opening (and closing) discharges and intakes have been NFPA requirements on larger pump capacities (and therefore plumbing sizes). I have seen them on many of the 1500 gpm pumps around here.

**CFP 7021** - 12/27/09 - 13:52

Hahaha!! "Pucker factor" (extra points again, right!!). Yeah, Spanky there is a requirement for the type of valve and its closing capability. The NFPA 1901 standard requires a discharge of 3" or greater to use a "slow opening valve." Hand crank valves are the most common (some are air, hydraulic, electrical, or "slow pull"). You see these valves on all larger diameter discharges and on most deck guns nowadays. Better control of larger quantity water flow and water hammer are the concerns. NFPA 1901 (2009ed) 16.7.5.2 is the reference (cuz I ain't that smart).

**A.C. Rich** - 12/27/09 - 15:11

Shev, any word on the new rescues?

**Silver** - 12/27/09 - 15:32

Nope, there hasn't been any word about them.

However another pumper (pretty much identical to these two) is on order/in construction.

We should know more about other capital projects (Firehouse 8) after the first of the year, as they have been under a freeze.

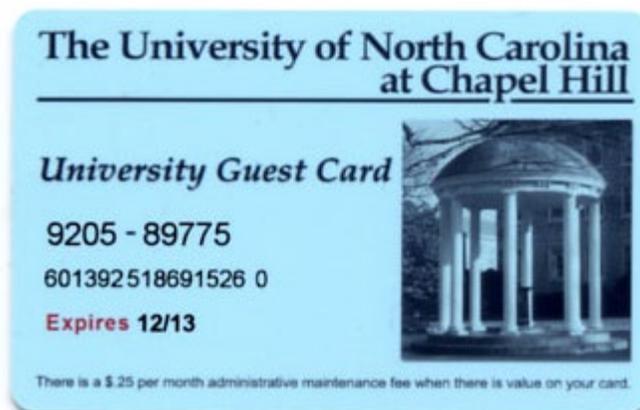
**CFP 7021** - 12/27/09 - 15:56

## Usability

12/22/09 127 W, 1 I - + 8 - 5

Everything can be improved. This electronic card was purchased on December 11, during a library visit. Mr. Blogger read the expiration date of 12/13 and thought, okay, it's a two-day card. Inconvenient, but not a problem. He made a couple back-and-forth trips to the machine, adding more money as he made more copies. Didn't want leftover cash expiring in two days.

On Sunday, he went back to the library. He bought another card, because the last one had expired, right? But the new card showed the same date. Okay, 12/13 means the card expires in four *years*. That's better, but still not the best. Ideally, the thing should read "Expires 12/2013" or even "Expires Dec 2013." Everything can be improved.



But why would you want it to say "expires December 2009" when it actually expires December 2013?

**Let Mikey Try It!** - 12/23/09 - 08:29

Correct! Post corrected!

**Legeros** - 12/23/09 - 08:44

Well, maybe I am just being the devil's advocate or think with the other side of my brain, but I understand the initial expiration. Similar to my credit card which says "Expires 12/11", I didn't expect a new card to arrive on 12/12/09. I guess I just assume that with the shortened format (12/13) that the day had been dropped. I would speculate that the date the card was issued could have lead to easier misunderstanding, as opposed to say, having the card issued on the 20th day of december and then reading: Expires 12/13 which would, to me, be more obvious that it was the year and not the day. Final conclusion after all this rambling...without previous "experience" in card expiration date reading, I could see where it would be confusing. 12/2013 would be a much clearer alternative.

**rookie** - 12/23/09 - 09:57

I think everyone is missing the bigger picture here Mike: why would you want something affiliated with the Tarholes in the first place? ;) Of course I say this being the only Clemson fan I know of on this site. Happy Holidays everyone and IPTAY!

**Marshall Sherard KE4ZNR** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 12/23/09 - 10:58

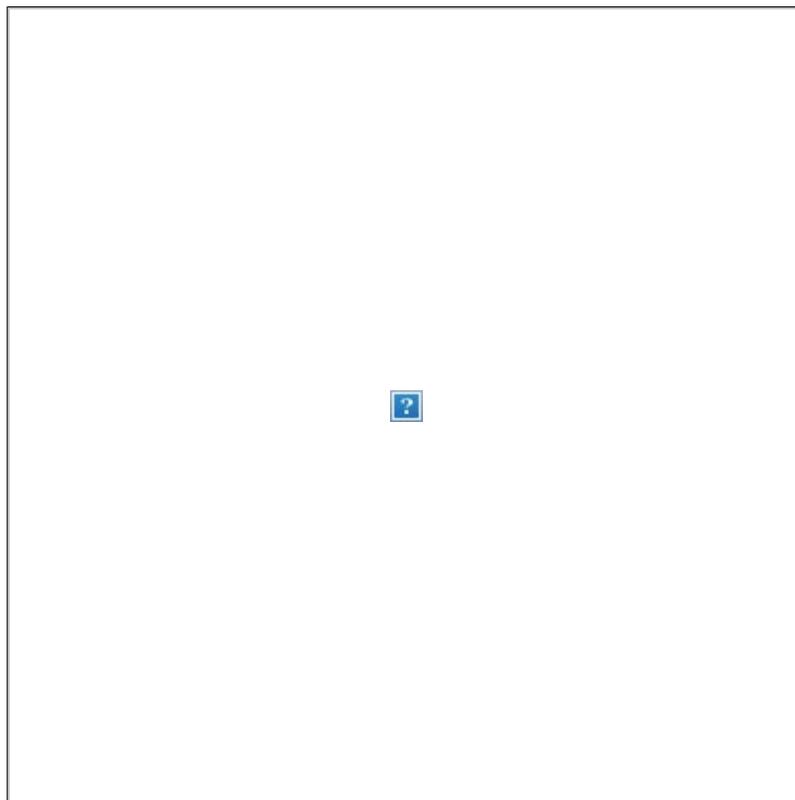
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**Round and Round**

12/23/09 88 W, 1 I - + 10 - 9

Raleigh's first roundabout on a major road opened yesterday, [reports today's News & Observer](#). The big circle is part of a \$9.9 million project that's the first phase of a Hillsborough Street renovation. A second roundabout just north on Oberlin Road opened a few weeks ago. Only one lane is open on the Hillsborough Street circle, but the whole thing should be completed by the summer. And they're ahead of schedule! Ted Richardson took this nifty photo at dusk:



*Ted Richardson/News & Observer photo*

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**Bessemer Fire Department**

12/23/09 199 W, 1 I - + 10 - 10

We're still trying to crack the nut of the Bessemer Fire Department in Guilford County, likely the county's first rural department, and one of the state's first. Today's trip to the [Greensboro Public Library](#) added a few more facts. Here's what's known. They protected the unincorporated community of Bessemer, on the east side of the city.

They operated from around 1945 to around 1958. Their one-story, concrete-block station at [610 Elwell Avenue](#) was operational by 1950. That year, say Sanborn Maps, the volunteer department had a Chief, Asst. Chief, Captain, 31 men, a "station man" on duty at all times, alarms sounded by telephone, and a 1942 Chevrolet/American 500/200 pumper as apparatus. The building was built in 1940, say tax records.

What happened after about 1958? Don't know, but nearby District 14 Fire Department had formed in 1954. They were located-- or later located-- at 820 Franklin Boulevard, merely 1.6 miles away. Perhaps the older department became part of the newer department? District 14 FD merged with Greensboro FD in 2005. Their old station is now GFD Station 56.

Here's the old Bessemer fire station, now a barber shop and beauty salon. The identity of the pictured patron is not known.



I can tell you what happened as I'm a lifelong Bessemer resident. Annexation of the Bessemer Community by the City of Greensboro was completed in 1958, the fire station was closed by the City as was the Bessemer Community Center and numerous other community supported functions which would not return until decades later.

The Franklin Blvd Fire Department was a Guilford County department and until the 1980s the city and county did not answer calls in each others' territories. Fire control for our community was moved to the fire station on the corner of Wendover and Gatewood some years after the Bessemer Fire Department was closed.

**Billy Jones** - 05/15/15 - 02:22

Thank you, Billy. I've found precious little about the Bessemer Fire Department over the years.

**Legeros** - 05/15/15 - 21:41

and here's a later blog posting, showing the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the fire station location,

<http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/we..>

**Legeros** - 05/19/15 - 08:15

**Special Operations**

12/23/09 52 W, 2 I - + 12 - 12

Parked behind Greensboro Fire Station 5 at [1401 Westover Terrace](#), which houses Engine 5, Rescue 5, and a tractor-drawn USAR unit. The Greensboro Fire Department operates NC USAR Task Force 6. There might be other goodies parked in the rear, as well. And there's still snow on the ground, as well! Click to enlarge:



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## Nuclear Nightmares

12/24/09 171 W - + 8 - 9

The *Independent Weekly* wraps the year with a story on stories. [Project Censored: The Top Ten Stories Not Brought To You by Mainstream News Media in 2009](#), which appeared in yesterday's issue. The [Project Censored](#) group has spent 13 years spotlighting the most significant new stories that the mainstream press has largely ignored or misrepresented.

One such story is about the radioactive-waste storage pools at the Harris plant and the hidden fire risks therein. The *Independent Weekly's* source is Project Censored, whose source is a [CounterPunch article from 2008](#).

Radiation plus fire. That gets anyone's attention, or at least the guys and gals responding to the thing. How's the science behind the doomsday scenario? Don't know. There's a lot of politics and passion involved in perspectives on nuclear power. Even a discussion of the subject begs a question.

Can we talk about such scenarios and still be socially responsible? What happens when fire service person publicly opine on such topics? Seems like of all possible sensitive topics, this might be the granddaddy.

---

Makes me think of the Chernobyl Firefighters who had to face that exact scenario. They all died and are all considered heroes. Them and what were called "liquidators", those charged with cleaning up the MASSIVE fallout. I did some independent reasearch on the subject and the cleanup and the ongoing health effects to those who responded. Massive and unfortunate are the only words I can use to describe it. God forbid something like that happen here.

**KOM** - 12/24/09 - 17:43

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preferred)  
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## Chapel Hill Fire Department at the Chapel Hill Museum

12/24/09 179 W, 2 I - + 14 - 5

Returning from Greensboro, Mr. Blogger paid a visit to the Chapel Hill Museum at [523 East Franklin Street](#) and its fine fire department display<sup>1</sup>. The centerpiece is a [1914 Ford Model T hose car](#), the town's first fire engine. The museum's had that truck for some time, and added a permanent exhibit on the history of the fire department in August 2007.

The multimedia exhibit includes a documentary film featuring interviews with retired firefighters, a [timeline of the department's history](#), and numerous artifacts. As [this press release on FireNews reported](#), the exhibit was designed and curated as a collaboration between CHFD First Sergeant Chris Bradley and museum director Traci Davenport. Alas, the museum was closing as [these pictures were taken](#). Good excuse for a return visit!



<sup>1</sup>Note the effectiveness of the display within a relatively small space. Thinking about a historical display for your fire department? Lots can be done with minimal space. Here's what Fayetteville's [history room looks like](#). Er, what it did look like, a couple years ago.

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## Christmas Day in the Morning

12/25/09 100 W, 1 I - + 11 - 5

Happy holidays from ours to yours. Thanks for your gift of service. Thanks for my gift, your support of my service. What's happening at your station on Christmas Day? Feel free to post.

At Blog Central, we're settled in with pajamas and presents. And probably more blogging. The morning excursion found Waffle House hopping on Capital. Standing room only as the Chipmunks crooned on the juke.

Here's Engine 11 arriving at a car fire on Hodges Street a couple hours ago. Hopefully there won't many be blue Christmases today.



I bet your pj's are worse off for our eyes than your shirts. not that we want to see them though.

**lee** - 12/25/09 - 17:03

Working Engine 9; a nice lil' breakfast, three runs (house fire, MVC, MVC), and a nap so far. Right now we're dipping into some oysters, that hopefully weren't brought in from Louisiana.

**Silver** - 12/25/09 - 18:22

Hangin' out in The Peak, me and Hockey Dude. Providing compassion, hand holding, oxygen, and a diesel drip for those in need since 2200 last night. Transfer, sick call, respiratory distress, sick call...that's it thus far...

**DJ** - 12/26/09 - 00:10

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**History Bits**

12/25/09 809 W - + 12 - 7

Random fire department facts, found in recent research and notably those handy *Hose & Nozzle* back issues.

American LaFrance-Foamite Corporation advertised having a representative in Asheville in the *Hose & Nozzle* issues in 1952. Ads for Howe and Oren ("The south's only fire truck manufacturer") were also placed.

Burgaw Volunteer Fire Department changed its name to Pender Central Fire Department by June 1971. They either reverted back, or formed a second department, as BFD appears to exist today.

East Spencer moved into a new station by April 1968, relocating from their Henderson Street station to the town garage on Spencer Street. They answered 27 (!) alarms in 1967. Read some [early history of ESFD](#) and their black firefighters.

Eureka Fire Hose advertised in September 1952. Located in Charlotte, their manager was Sherwood Brockwell Jr. Son of the state's longtime fire marshal.

Motorola Communications & Electronics Inc. announced its moving in May 1953 from the Capital Club Building in Raleigh to East Trinity Avenue Extension in Durham.

Mt. Airy was building a new fire station in September 1952. Cement block building, 40 by 50 feet, built with community labor and donations. And to be used for recreation and community activities.

**Public Safety Departments**

- Chapel Hill town officials finalized plans to implement a public safety department effective January 1, 1976. Some of the factors leading to the merging of fire and police services included public demands for better service, employee demands for better wages and working conditions, and new federal laws requiring reduction of hours for fire personnel, as well as additional compensation for police and fire personnel required to work overtime. The Asst. Town Manager for Public Safety will manage both fire and police departments.

The PSO will serve as a police officer, except when reporting to a fire scene. After completion of those duties, he reverts back to a police officer. The schedule has three men on eight-hour shifts. Fire personnel hours would be reduced from 60 to 42 hours per week. Sleeping quarters in fire stations would be converted into office and training space for PSOs.

- Durham City Council voted to partially merge police and fire effective January 1, 1971. The action came after a long, special session that aired the matter before an audience of several hundred people, and most of whom opposed the move. The new public units would be based at the North Duke Street fire station and Swathmore Road fire station. Ten remaining fire companies would be manned by regular firefighters, whose hours changed from 72 to 66 hours per week.

**Riots**

- In the wake of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on June 8, 1968, ten towns reported 108 fires reported that weekend: Raleigh (40), Charlotte (19), Wilmington (7), Greensboro (3), Greenville (1), Durham (18), Goldsboro (13), Wilson (3), Kinston (2), Concord (2).
- Wilmington firefighters were assisted by police and National Guard soldiers that weekend.
- Greensboro firefighters were also assisted by Guardsmen, who were stationed at engine houses and protected them while calls were ran.
- Charlotte firefighters on that Saturday night answered 28 false alarms, 10 fire bombings, and 15 miscellaneous fires. Three or four police cars were present at each fire.
- Durham firefighters were armed with automatic rifles (!) to provide protection.

Roseboro was building a new fire station in September 1952. Built by firefighters, not the town.

Scott Air-Paks were sold by Southern Oxygen Company in Greensboro in 1952. They also sold Onan "electric plans." Portable!

Stationary! Standby! The company had been selling for 24 years.

#### Shift Changes

- Durham completed a study in early 1970 that recommended adding 35 men and reducing their hours from 72 to 56 hours. The study author was Sherman Pickard of the Public Administration Service. Within a year, however, they'd pursue a public safety program. See above.
- Gastonia initiated a 56-hour work week effective April 15, 1970, with firefighters divided into three shifts, working 24 on/48 off. The plan also added personnel.
- Greensboro added a third shift in February 1970. Personnel changed from 24 on/24 off, with a "kelly day" received every fifth day, to the schedule 24 on/48 off. This reduced their work schedule from 66 to 56 hours per week. Ten men were added.
- Raleigh reduced its working hours from 72 to 66 hours effective February 1, 1970. The change added an estimated 24 men. They further reduced their hours to 56 and added a third shift in September of that year.

Siler City in September 1952 had 26 members with four vacancies. Men were paid 50 cents each meeting, and 50 cents per call where water was used. They answered approximately 15 (!) calls per year. Apparatus: 1926 International/Foamite-Childs hose wagon, 1942 Seagrave pumper. Fire alarm by street boxes, electric siren, and a radio station (!) that interrupted local programming.

Washington was authorized by Beaufort County commissioners to purchase a rural fire truck by April 1968. The county was funding the truck which would allow WFD to continue to protect residences and industries outside the city limit. The board also agreed to pay the city approximately 20 percent of the fire department's operating expenses on a month-to-month basis, until other arrangements could be made for rural fire protection.

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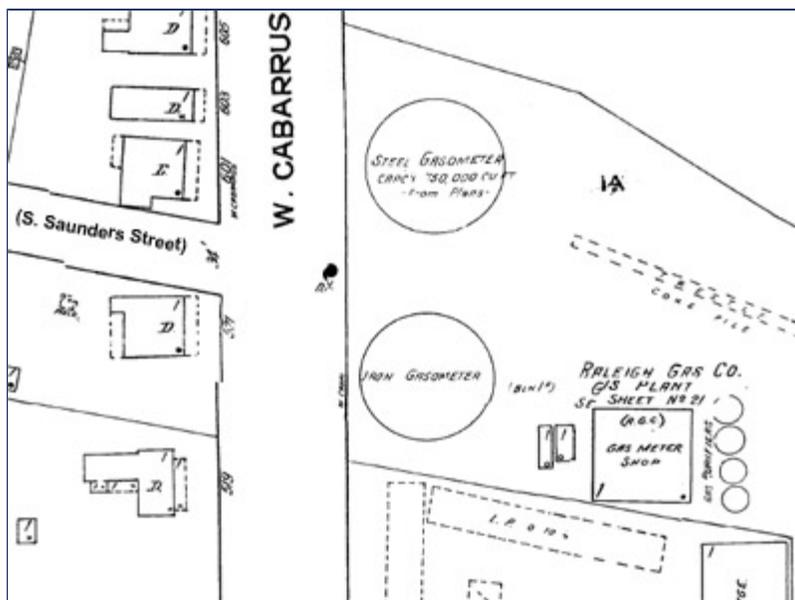
## More Mystery History

12/26/09 68 W, 2 I - + 10 - 6

Here's another memory of older Raleigh. Who remembers this structure? Tell about it. The picture appears courtesy of the Elizabeth Reid Murray Collection at [Olivia Raney Local History library](#). More about that collection still later.



Correct, that's one of the old gas tanks on Cabarrus. Here's a Sanborn map image from 1950. [Click to enlarge:](#)



This looks like the old NC public gas tower off cabbarus street near where the amtrak station is now located

**Donnie** - 12/26/09 - 11:07

That is what it is all right. When I first moved to NC I worked for an HVAC contractor. There was a business just west of there and I had to pick up supplies from. Never felt comfortable parking next to that rusty tank.

**stretch** - 12/26/09 - 11:45

You see them all over the place in England. Now I've seen a photo of one, I realise that you don't get them in the US (at least, not very often)

**Paul** - 12/26/09 - 12:04

So what the heck is a gasometer, as those tanks have been called? Here's a Wiki page on same: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gas\\_holder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gas_holder)

**Legeros** - 12/26/09 - 14:36

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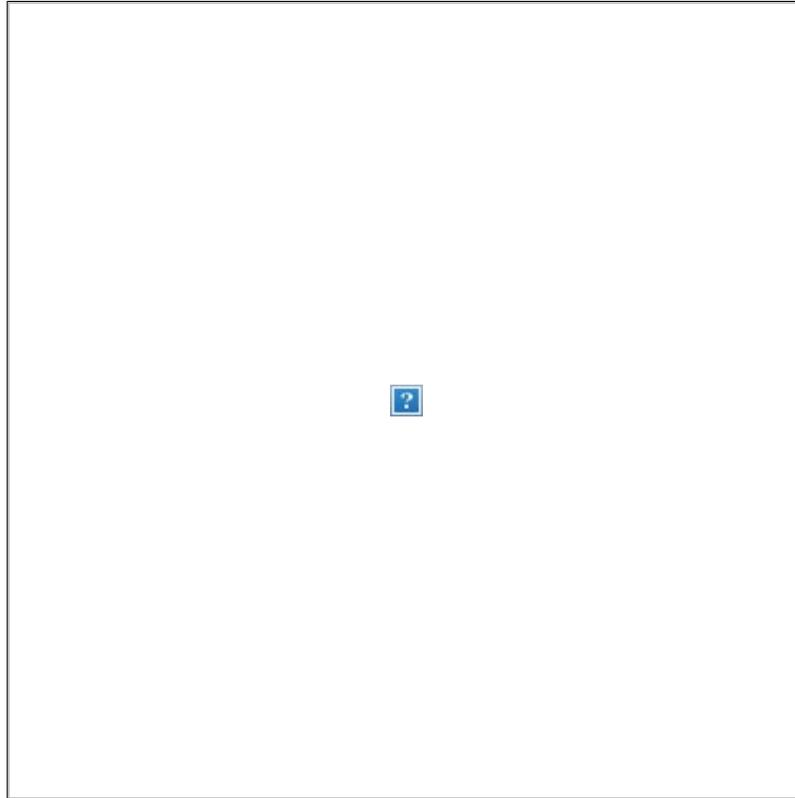
**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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**Yesterday's Ambulance Accident in Johnston County**

12/26/09 104 W, 1 I - + 12 - 4

[WTSB radio has posted details and pictures](#) of yesterday's ambulance accident involving a 50-210 Fire Department unit. The ambulance was struck by an automobile and then hit a sport utility vehicle about 3:30 p.m. at the intersection of Highway 210 and Old Fairground Road. The EMS unit was responding to a vehicle accident on Old Fairgrounds Road. The three EMS workers were transported to WakeMed in Raleigh. Three others were also transported, including one extricated by 50-210 firefighters. None of the injuries were believed life-threatening. [FireNews also has posted a photo](#), along with the WRAL story.



*WTSB photo*

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**Sunday's House Fire in Raleigh**

12/28/09 137 W, 1 I - + 10 - 9

WTVD has posted a number of strong shots from Sunday morning's house fire in very north Raleigh. The reader-submitted photos show conditions right after Engine 28 arrived at [3713 Blue Blossom Drive](#). They were originally dispatched with Ladder 5 as a fire alarm about 1:45 a.m. The incident was upgraded shortly after the fire alarm dispatch. Arriving units found the garage fully involved at a two-story, wood-frame dwelling with 1,956 square feet. Ladder 5 was deployed, and helped extinguished the fire that had spread into the attic space. The fire was controlled at 2:34 a.m. Three people were displaced. Units on scene included E28, E22, E27 for relief, L5, L2, R1, B1, C10, C20, A1, New Hope E8, E3, R14, Tanker 10, EMS 64, EMS 5, D3. [See more photos by Gary Mazzeo](#). Good shots!



*Gary Mazzeo/WTVD photo*

Well Capt. Holden retired on a high note! One last working fire for the old geezer! LOL Capt. good luck and happy retirement!

**Jason Lane** - 12/30/09 - 02:35

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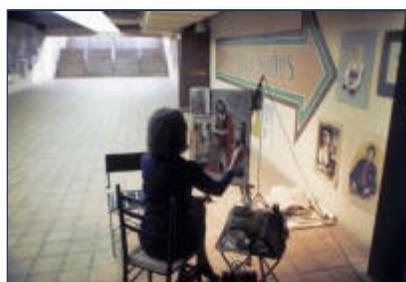
**Vanished Raleigh**

12/29/09 156 W, 8 I - + 11 - 6

Here's a really special treat. The [Elizabeth Reid Murray Collection](#) at the [Olivia Raney Local History Library](#) includes a collection of slides that Ms. Murray photographed, predominantly in the 1960s and 1970s. They number some 4,500 images, most of which are structures and places around Raleigh and Wake County.

The slides have been digitized, but you have to both (a.) visit the library and (b.) bring a laptop to view individual images. There's also a paper index of thumbnails that you can browse at the branch. The library is working to improve access to the digitized images, however.

Yours Truly has copied a couple dozen images, and created a web site for them called [Vanished Raleigh](#). The images are all copyrighted and courtesy of the collection and the library. Do you like the site, and the images therein? Maybe I can add a few more of my favorites. Click any image below to access:



Love the images. Gives a great perspective on how far Raleigh has come. I think the most beneficial part is the dates and exactly where the

building was/is. Thanks!

**H2O** - 12/29/09 - 12:50

Definitely like the site.

**KOM** - 12/29/09 - 13:38

cool

**lee** - 12/29/09 - 13:46

Geez, I'm old...I remember a lot of this stuff.....

**DJ** - 12/29/09 - 17:24

Great idea, Mike. Thanks for the compilation. I would love to see old photos of Crabtree mall. I remember some mounted on the wall in the security office years ago but I stopped by about a week ago and they are all gone.

**RescueRanger** - 12/29/09 - 19:04

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## Visitor Parking

12/29/09 56 W, 1 I - + 13 - 5

Found while passing through Fayetteville yesterday, the old training tower is presently serving as visitor parking for the next-door [Cape Fear Botanical Gardens](#). And also a disposal site for Christmas trees. Readers, can you advise the history of the tower, as well as the [current training center](#)?



Can not tell you much on the history of either building. Both were being used when I worked in Cumberland County in 1995-2000. We used the old training tower for our annual pump testing. It has an underground cistern in which allowed us to do the testing at. I also know at one time Fayetteville PD used the building for some of its training (PD training grounds are across the street). The new training building/grounds are located on the property of Fayetteville Regional Airport. That is where the city did their recruit training at. It also hosted several ARFF courses there with its LP fired aircraft props. I have taught several FF and D/O classes at the new facility years ago for county departments in the area.

**Swiman** - 12/29/09 - 19:38

Mike,

What did they do with Durham Fire Departments training tower that used to be next to the old ball park.....

**Chris King** - 12/29/09 - 20:48

Same is still standing. See [http://www.legeros.com/history/stations/..](http://www.legeros.com/history/stations/) for more info.

It was built in 1926, closed in the early 1970s, and had the exterior renovated in more recent years.

**Legeros** - 12/29/09 - 20:49

They just closed that tower down after our academy went through. (Aug 09) New training tower is in the works for the training center at the Airport.

**Frick** - 12/30/09 - 22:29

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

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No

Comment:

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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.

**Small print:** All html tags except <b> and <i> will be removed from your comment. You can make links by just typing the url or mail-address.

Mobile Command Center

12/29/09 50 W, 1 I - + 12 - 9

Saw this mobile command center at the Cape Fear Valley EMS fleet maintenance (?) center in downtown Fayetteville. Was in a hurry and didn't take other pics of the various transport units, and a couple support vehicles that were also there.



The facility is the Cumberland County (Cape Fear Valley) EMS Base. The County relinquished EMS to the Hospital System in 1994. The vehicle you photographed was acquired some time within the last two years, after I left the department, and was transferred from another Hospital department (I believe it was an occupational health mobile screening unit).

Lots of good paramedics and EMT's in Cumberland who have historically worked very hard with too few assets, but I understand big steps have been taken to increase unit hours, and reduce individual crew workloads. I still have many friends who work there, and can facilitate a tour/photo session if you are interested.

[SB] - 12/29/09 - 21:52

Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

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Yes  
No

Comment:

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**Mystery Apparatus**

12/29/09 41 W, 1 I - + 12 - 8

What do sheep say to shepherds at Christmas time? Season's Bleatings! How do sheep say Merry Christmas in Mexico? Fleece Navidad! What's red, white, and blue at Christmas? A sad candy cane!



looks to be an HME cab whatever it is...Probably a Chapel Hill FD rig, let's go with E-35?

**CFP 7021** - 12/29/09 - 18:39

scratch that, it is an HME... but let's go with Western Wake Rescue 295.

**CFP 7021** - 12/29/09 - 20:31

Let's give a clue with this one. Bagels.

**Legeros** - 12/29/09 - 20:34

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No

Comment:

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**Ambulance and Fire Engine**

12/29/09 36 W, 1 I - + 13 - 11

EMS 15 and Engine 12 on Trawick Road just north of New Bern Avenue, and prior to the arrival of the second EMS unit. Three people transported.



Name: (real name preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

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[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify:            Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email:        Yes, hide my email address.

## Former Wendell Fire Chief Featured

12/31/09 164 W, 1 I - + 15 - 10

From a reader, former Wendell Fire Chief Dover Hinton is featured in this week's Eastern Wake News. Hinton, who came to town in 1936 as a young man looking for work, began his career as a grocer. After serving in World War II, he owned and operated a cleaners for nearly 38 years. He served in the fire department-- joining in the day when car and truck-drawn hose reels were still used<sup>1</sup>-- and later became the department's third chief. He also served on the town's Board of Commissioners. He is 97 years old. [Read the nice article.](#)



*Wendell Fire Department Photo*

<sup>1</sup>The Wendell Fire Department was one of the county's early "town" fire departments, along with Apex, Cary, Fuquay Springs, Wake Forest, and Zebulon. They also had one of only three electric telegraph fire alarm systems in the county, along with Raleigh and Wake Forest. [Read some history](#) that Mr. Blogger compiled some years back.

Name: (real name preferred)  
 E-mail: (optional)  
 Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes  
 No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

## History Week

12/31/09 338 W - + 18 - 13

For travel during the holidays, Mr. Blogger has been visiting libraries and local history rooms therein. So far he's travelled to Burlington, Durham, Fayetteville, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem. (Plus Wilson Library's North Carolina Collection at UNC.)

Unlike Raleigh, however, which has its local history collection in a small branch library, the others are at main libraries. Which are smack downtown, and which has made for some interesting people watching. Bus terminals, train stations, and public libraries. The true cross-section of America.

There was even some guy walking around in a short-sleeved Hawaiian shirt!

What is Mike researching? General fire history for North Carolina, plus any new bits about both city and county departments. Sure, it's more scratching the surface than anything, but it's a heck of a fun diversion. Some of what was found, and what'll largely be shared over time, includes:

- Black firefighter histories in Durham and Fayetteville
- By-Laws of the Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department (1909)
- *Charlotte Observer* history of fire horses in North Carolina (1966)
- Civil Defense in North Carolina (Planning Guide, 1956)
- Constitution and By-Laws of West End Hose Company of Greensboro
- Durham Public Safety Department: A Comprehensive Analysis (1985)
- Durham County Volunteer Firefighter's Association booklet, with histories and photos (1988)
- *Fayetteville Observer* anniversary account of 1831 conflagration (1966)
- Fire Ordinance and Building Law for the City of Greensboro (1900)
- Forsyth County Volunteer Firemen's Association booklets, with histories and photos (1985, 1990)
- The Gamewell Fire alarm Telegraph System: An Untold Story by Paul B. Calhoun in Greensboro
- Greensboro Fire Department Training Center Open House Program (1956)
- *Hose & Nozzle* articles (1950s-1970s)
- National Board of Fire Underwriters Reports for Durham, Fayetteville, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem (1940s-1950s)
- Nash County architecture book, with old Nashville and old Rocky Mount Station 2 photos and information.
- Newspaper clippings a-plenty
- *News & Observer* anniversary account of Great New Bern Fire (1930)
- North Carolina Fire Chief's Association History (1951)
- North Carolina Department of Insurance publications (1910s)
- Phone book listings for fire departments in Fayetteville, Greensboro (1950s)
- Report of Fire-Police Cooperation, Winston-Salem (1958)
- *Thirty Years of Firefighting in Catawba County* (1988)
- Winston-Salem Fire Department Annual Report, 1962

Name: (real name preferred)

E-mail: (optional)

Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?

Yes

No